

# • TREE TALK •

Volume 41 Issue 3

Spring 2016

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## Editor's Letter

The 180th Cherokee County Committee has scheduled many events to celebrate the 180th anniversary of the Independence of Texas.

Jacksonville College hosted one of the first events on February 23, 2016. The Summers A. Norman Library was open for tours. The Newburn-Rawlinson House was open for a reception. A frontier photo booth was available in the lobby of the Mary S. Lewis Theatre. The winners of the Anderson Chapter of the Walter Prescott Webb Society's Texas History Essay Contest were announced. Former Jacksonville College student Brett Eckles presented his paper on Sam Houston in the Mary S. Lewis Theatre. We are honored to publish Mr. Eckles paper here beginning on page 76.

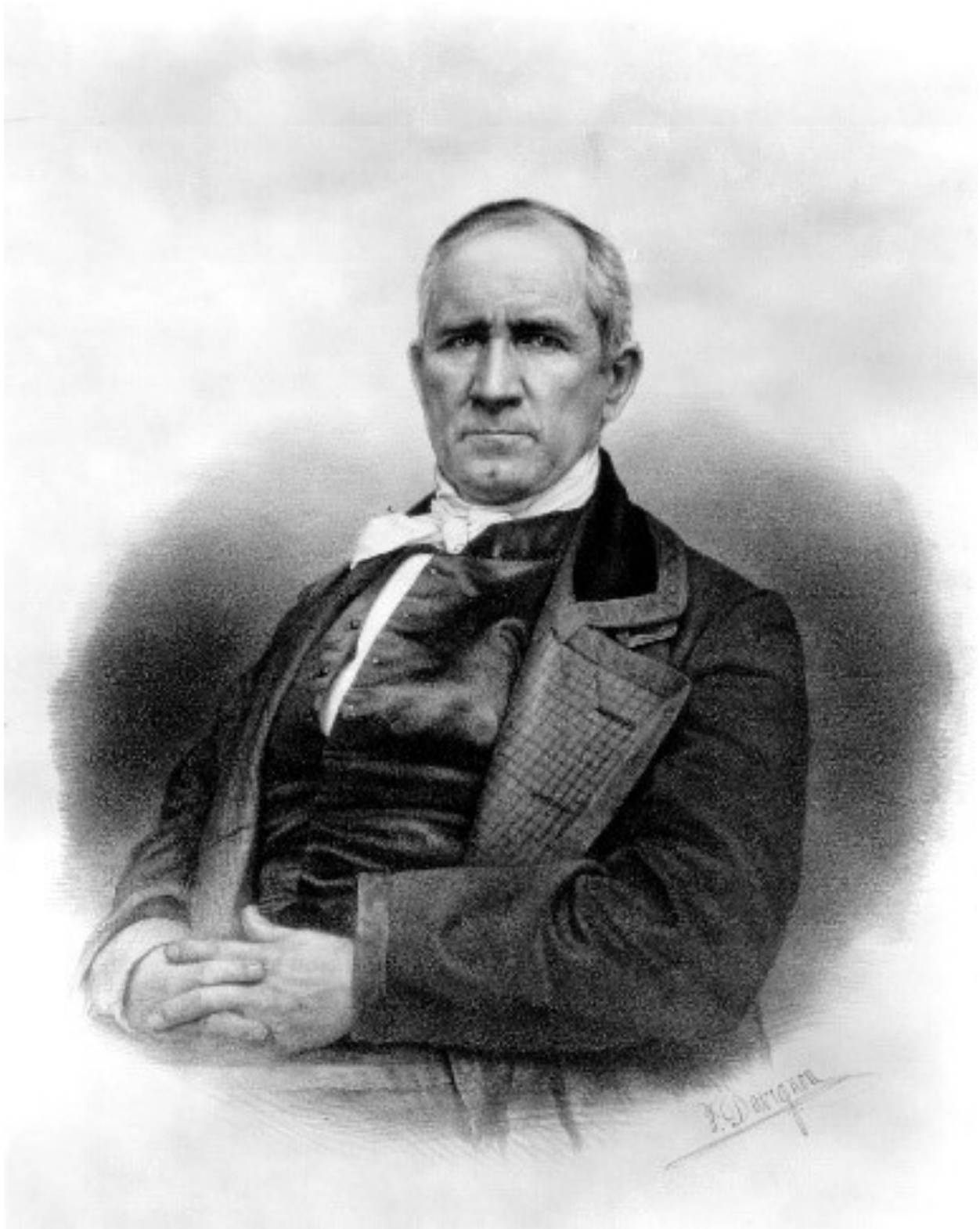
The Cherokee County Historical Commission and the Cherokee County Genealogical Society continue their project to find and visit all the cemeteries in Cherokee County. When I visited Grimews Cemetery, I saw that one of the contact people for the cemetery was Nathan Grimes. When I called him he told me that he had a current list of the burials in the cemetery. He gave the list and a plat of the cemetery to the Historical Commission and allowed us to publish the list and plat. The Grimes Cemetery list begins on page 95.

**Gordon Bennett**  
**Editor**

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**Sam Houston**



*Sam Houston*. April 27, 1848. Library of Congress Prints and Photographs Division, Library of Congress, Washington, D.C.

**Sam Houston: Life and Politics Before and During the Civil War**

By Brett Eckles

“He was Sam Houston. He had won Texas her independence in battle and, as president of his nation, had engineered her entry into the American Union. He had represented her in the U.S. Senate for thirteen years. Now he was called upon either to lead her out again or be forced from public life amid the hoots and catcalls of his enemies. He must either swear his allegiance to the dandies and firebrands and slave drivers whom he had vilified during all of his political career, or go in exile and disgrace.”<sup>1</sup>

Many Americans, but mostly Texans, know of the heroic leadership of Samuel Houston during the Texas Revolution and the Republic of Texas. From the Battle of San Jacinto to the president of a new nation, he undoubtedly would be on the “Mount Rushmore of Texas” if there was one. So why is it that not much is talked about after his time on the battlefield and his two terms as president? Did he die? Did he become a hermit and disappear from the public eye? While the latter question would make for a very interesting story, neither of these questions are the case. Houston was very much a part of the political sphere of influence, not only in Texas, but in the United States and Confederate States as well, and doing so, led a very controversial life. So where did Houston align himself in the politics leading up to the Civil War?

Houston once said, "I would lay down my life to defend any one of the States from aggression, which endangered peace or threatened its institutions. I could do more for the union, but I wish to do more; for the destruction of the union would be the destruction of all the States. A stab in the heart is worse [than] a cut in a limb, for this may be healed." As seen in this quote, Houston was strongly opposed to secession, and naturally leaned closer to the Union side

<sup>1</sup>James L. Haley, *Sam Houston* (Norman, Oklahoma: University of Oklahoma Press, 2004).

<sup>2</sup>Sam Houston and Madge Thornall Roberts, *The Personal Correspondence of Sam Houston* (Denton, Texas: University of North Texas Press, 1996).

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of the conflict. As Dale Baum points out in his book: *The Shattering of Texas Unionism: Politics in the Lone Star State During the Civil War Era*, Unionism in Texas represented a large force in the state's politics.<sup>3</sup> He asserts that voters hostile to pro-slavery extremism and talk of disunion rallied behind Sam Houston. In a sense, Baum sees Houston's leadership standing as a continuation from the politics of personality that dominated Texas's Republic period. The public still saw Houston as the hero that won independence for Texas several years earlier, and it helped get him elected governor in 1859.<sup>4</sup> However, Baum also shows that Houston was not the same leader he once was during the 1830's and 1840's. After the election of Abraham Lincoln in 1860, it was inevitable that Texas was heading towards rebellion, and with rebellion, the Houston voters.<sup>5</sup> Baum shows that public opinion in Texas at the time could flip-flop easily, and Houston's political career would come to an end because of this.<sup>6</sup>

While Baum saw Houston as a politician basking in the glory days, B.P. Galloway sees him as the "Hercules of the Lone Star State," stating that most of his success was thanks in large part to his egotistical personality. In Galloway's book: *Texas, The Dark Corner of the Confederacy: Contemporary Accounts of the Lone Star State in the Civil War*, he writes that during his campaign for governor of Texas "[h]e often appeared in his old military uniform he had worn in 1836 at San Jacinto," and that he "wrote his name so that it read 'I am Houston,' scrawling his first name in such a way that the 'S' in 'Sam' looked like an 'I'." Galloway sees Houston as an old man with nothing to lose, citing that "even threats on his life did not deter the

<sup>3</sup> Dale Baum, *The Shattering of Texas Unionism: Politics in the Lone Star State During the Civil War Era* (Baton Rouge, Louisiana: Louisiana State University Press, 1998).

<sup>4</sup>Randolph B. Campbell, *Gone to Texas: A History of the Lone Star State* (New York, New York: Oxford University Press, 2003).

<sup>5</sup>Charles P. Waldrop, "A Fallen Raven: Sam Houston Battles His Texans." *Civil War Times Illustrated* no. 12 (December 1986): 40.

<sup>6</sup>Baum, *The Shattering of Texas Unionism*.

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old general from his continuing battle for the Union.”<sup>7</sup> This is the account of Houston that embodies who the Texans at the time were voting for. Both Baum and Galloway prove that Houston was a man driven by his past success.

On another hand, James Haley, author of the book *Sam Houston*, focuses more on his life rather than his politics. Haley says in his book, “the great mystery of Sam Houston is not political, but human.”<sup>8</sup> Despite this argument, politics are still a great part of Haley’s treatment of Houston’s life. Like Baum and Galloway however, the human side of Houston was still the driving force behind the decisions he made while in every office he held. One can almost think of Houston’s leadership as a “cult of personality” based on the writings of most historians on Houston. So how did Houston come to embrace this enigmatic reputation?

Houston’s political beginnings started as a United States Representative from Tennessee, where he was a great supporter of fellow Tennessean Andrew Jackson. Houston was even considered Jackson’s protégé, although there were some issues such as treatment of American Indians that they differed on. Houston once said, “This feeling has been impressed my heart by the instruction and example of the great man (Andrew Jackson) whom when I was a boy, I followed as a soldier.” Houston was only a congressman in Tennessee for four years (1823 to 1827) before he declined reelection to run for governor of Tennessee. Houston won the gubernatorial election and wound up serving only a year and a half (1827 to 1829), but even after his short political career in the Volunteer State, his political stance was set and would continue to affect his choices all the way to his death in 1863.<sup>9</sup>

<sup>7</sup>B.P. Galloway, *Texas, The Dark Corner of the Confederacy: Contemporary Accounts of the Lone Star State in the Civil War*. 3<sup>rd</sup> ed. (Lincoln, Nebraska: University of Nebraska Press, 1994).

<sup>8</sup>James L. Haley, *Sam Houston*.

<sup>9</sup>Sam Houston and Donald Day, *The Autobiography of Sam Houston* (Westport, Connecticut: Greenwood Press, 1980).

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The main reason for his short time as Governor of Tennessee was due to controversy. Houston had planned on running for reelection in 1829, but he was soon beset by multiple rumors of alcoholism and infidelity. Houston resigned from office after his then wife, Eliza Allen, left him shortly after their wedding and made public statements in an effort to embarrass him.<sup>10</sup>

After his tenure as governor of Tennessee, more controversy erupted. Houston visited Washington D.C. on two separate occasions to expose the frauds which federal agents committed against the Cherokee. While he was there, anti-Jacksonian Congressman William Stanbery made accusations that Houston and fellow Congressmen John Van Fossen and Robert S. Rose were supplying rations to the various tribes of Native Americans who were being relocated as a result of Jackson's Indian Removal Act of 1830. Houston confronted Stanbery after he refused to answer any of Houston's letters about the accusation, and proceeded to beat Stanbery with a cane. In the confrontation, which occurred on Pennsylvania Avenue just down the road from the White House, Stanbery drew a pistol in self-defense, but the gun misfired. On April 17, Congress ordered the arrest of Houston. During his trial, he pleaded self-defense, and hired the famous writer of the Star Spangled Banner, Francis Scott Key, as his lawyer. Houston was later found guilty, but thanks to highly placed friends in Washington like James K. Polk, he was lightly reprimanded. Stanbery ended up filing charges in civil court, and Judge William Cranch found Houston liable and assessed him a \$500 fine in damages. With this decision, Houston fled the United States for Mexico without paying the fine.<sup>11</sup>

While Houston was escaping his political misfortune in the United States, this did not mean he wouldn't get swept up amidst the politics in the Mexican state of Coahuila to which he

<sup>10</sup>Marquis James, *The Raven: A Biography of Sam Houston*. Collector's ed. (Norwalk, Connecticut: Easton Press, 1988).

<sup>11</sup>Ibid.

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moved. As a representative for Nacogdoches at the Convention of 1833, Houston emerged as a supporter for independence of Texas from Mexico. This was the more radical position of American settlers and Tejanos in the region. Houston would also attend the Consultation of 1835, which served as the provisional government of Mexican Texas, but was then commissioned as Major General of the Texas Army to fight Santa Anna.<sup>12</sup>

After Texas won its independence from Mexico under the leadership of General Houston, he was elected president of the newly formed republic. In the 1836 election, Houston defeated the “Father of Texas” Stephen F. Austin in a landslide victory. Thanks in large part to his popularity after the war, he was able to win 79 percent of the vote in Texas’ first election. Initially, Houston sought for the United States to annex Texas; he believed this was an unrealistic goal and that the U.S. Senate would not pass it because of the hostile situation between Mexico and the newly independent Texas. However, Houston was a true politician, and as such he sought to preserve his career by endorsing the support of Texas being annexed into the United States. Without his endorsement, congress in Texas would have put the question to a public vote, and upon the likely passing of the measure, would have likely destroyed Houston’s career as a Texas politician. To help preserve his political reputation, Houston sent James Pickney Henderson to Washington D.C. to help advocate the annexation of Texas into the United States.<sup>13</sup>

Houston became a long time United States Senator after the annexation of Texas in 1845. Throughout Houston’s several terms in the Senate, he spoke out many times against the growing sectionalism in the United States. Texas was beginning to show signs that it wanted to

<sup>12</sup>Randolph B. Campbell, *Gone to Texas: A History of the Lone Star State*.

<sup>13</sup>Joanne Mattern, *Sam Houston a Fearless Statesman* (Huntington Beach, California: Teacher Created Materials, 2013).



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be independent again, echoing its independent past, but Houston saw the importance of remaining loyal to the US as a whole. Houston once said, "Whatever is calculated to weaken or impair the strength of [the] Union, whether originating at the North or the South, whether arising from the incendiary violence of abolitionists, or from the coalition of nullifiers, will never meet with my unqualified approval."<sup>14</sup>

Houston's stance on many major issues during his tenure as Senator alienated him from the Democratic Party that he belonged to for so many years. One such issue was the Kansas – Nebraska Act of 1854 which he opposed. In an event that would later be considered one of the sparks that led to the Civil War, the Kansas – Nebraska Act allowed white settlers in the Kansas and Nebraska territories to choose (by popular sovereignty) whether they would allow slavery or not.<sup>15</sup> This obviously threw up red flags in the eyes of Houston because he wanted to see the gradual end to slavery. Houston correctly predicted that this act would cause another sectional rift in the country that would eventually lead to war, saying: "... what fields of blood, what scenes of horror, what mighty cities in smoke and ruins, it is brother murdering brother... I see my beloved South go down in the unequal contest, in a sea of blood and smoking ruin." He saw popular sovereignty as destabilizing to the nation, citing that while it provided stability in the region for a short time, in the long run it would lead to conflict on the national scale.<sup>16</sup>

In Houston's autobiography, he passionately writes about his opposition to the Kansas – Nebraska Act, saying that the bill had "in it the seeds of dissension that would eventually bring about disunion." He goes on to say that the "first shots of the Civil War were fired in Kansas

<sup>14</sup>James L. Haley, *Sam Houston*. 42.

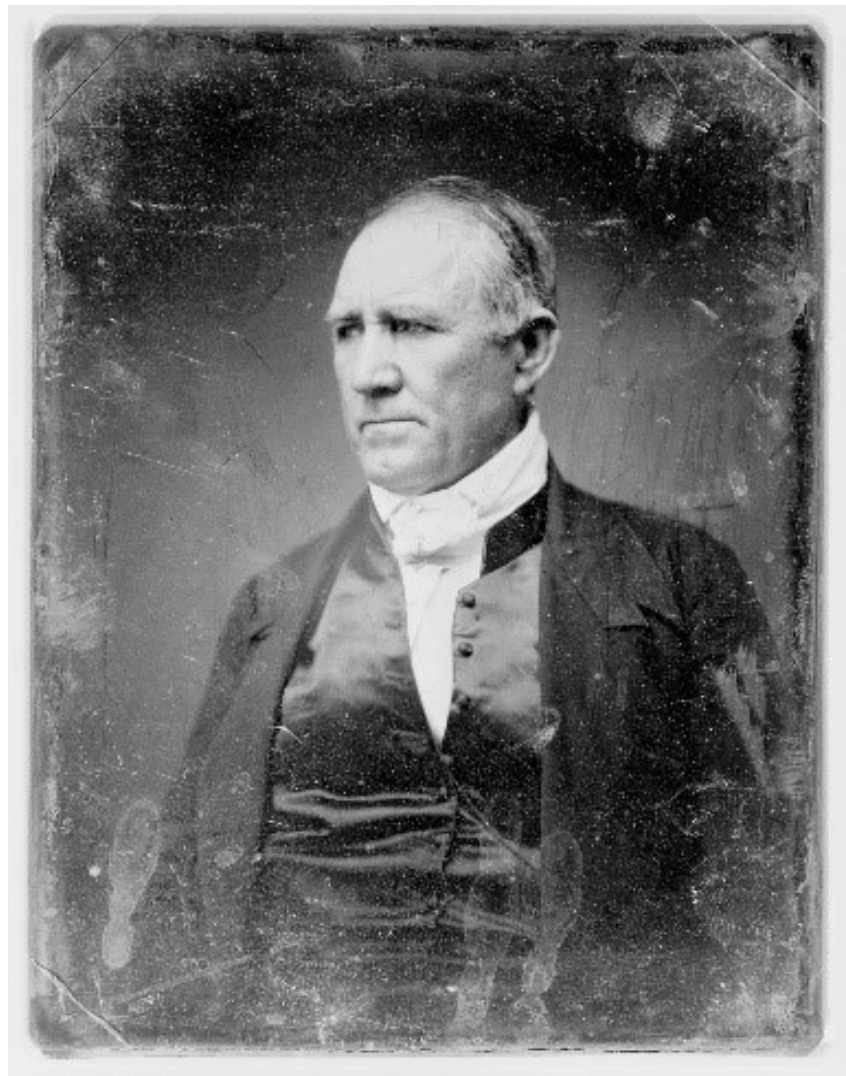
<sup>15</sup>Kenneth E. Hendrickson, *The Chief Executives of Texas From Stephen F. Austin to John B. Connally, Jr.* (College Station, Texas: Texas A&M University Press, 1995).

<sup>16</sup>Sam Houston and Donald Day, *The Autobiography of Sam Houston*.

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and not in South Carolina.” It is interesting to note that in his agitation of the act, Houston pointed out the fundamental similarity in the position of the extremists in both the North and the South. He notes that they both maintained that it was the “principle” in the bill they wanted, not the fact.<sup>17</sup> Essentially, Houston viewed the extremists like we now view the Nazis and Communists during World War II. They were polar opposites of each other, however, they were extremely alike when it came to their fundamental desires.

Another issue that Houston and most Southerners did not agree on was the Compromise of 1850. In this case, Houston supported the compromise, which in the simplest terms was designed to ensure sectional harmony in the Union. Many Southerners, especially Texans hated the compromise because of the loss of the New Mexican land, the admission of California as a free state, and the big step towards a slave free society.



<sup>17</sup> Ibid.

Brady, Mathew. *Sam Houston, Half-length Portrait, Three-quarters to the Left, in Civilian Dress, Clean Shaven*. 1848-1850. *America's First Look into the Camera: Daguerreotype Portraits and Views*, Library of Congress, Washington, D.C.

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free society. Houston famously said in one of his speeches supporting the Compromise of 1850, "A nation divided against itself cannot stand."<sup>18</sup> Several years later, Abraham Lincoln would use this same quote in his famous "House Divided Speech."<sup>19</sup>

Due to his pro-Union views on slavery and states' rights, Houston began to move away from the Democratic Party in favor of the new American Party, also known as the Know-Nothing Party. This move infuriated many Southerners who saw him as a Yankee and not a true Texan. This culminated in his Senate career being affectively ended when the Texas legislature officially condemned his position on the Kansas – Nebraska Act. As a result, Houston became a "Lame Duck" Senator, so he decided to focus solely on running for the office of Governor. He was defeated in the gubernatorial election of 1857 by Democrat Hardin R. Runnels, and later predictably did not win reelection in the Senate.<sup>20</sup>

Now that he was out of the Senate, Houston again ran for Governor in 1859. Again he would face off against incumbent Hardin R. Runnels who was nominated for a second time by the Democratic Party. Like in the past, Houston campaigned for remaining in the Union, and with a combination of luck and Runnels poor record for his first term in office, Houston won the election with a 57 percent majority. Upon his election, Houston became the only person to ever be elected governor of two different states. Houston's election was surprising, especially since only two years earlier he had been nearly run out of town by his Unionist views, but as Frank H. Smyrl put it in his article "Unionism in Texas," he was mostly elected because of his personal popularity.<sup>21</sup>

<sup>18</sup>Sam Houston, *The Writings of Sam Houston, 1813-1863*. Edited by Amelia Williams and Eugene Barker. Vol. 8 (Austin, Texas: University of Texas Press, 1943) 302.

<sup>19</sup>Marquis James, *The Raven: A Biography of Sam Houston*. 397.

<sup>20</sup>Kenneth E. Hendrickson, *The Chief Executives of Texas From Stephen F. Austin to John B. Connally, Jr.* 33

<sup>21</sup>Frank H. Smyrl "Unionism in Texas, 1856-1861." *Southwestern Historical Quarterly* 68, no. 2 (October 1964): 174.

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One of the first major political issues that essentially put Houston on the door out of the Governor's mansion was the John Brown Raid on Harpers Ferry. This event, which took place in mid-October 1859, was an attempt to start an armed slave revolt, and was obviously condemned by the significant majority of Southerners. Houston had only been in office for two and a half months when the raid broke out, and since it was led by Unionists, he took lots of heat. With the event, Unionism lost much of its support throughout Texas, mostly because abolitionism had been linked to Unionism due to a small group of insurrectionists (Brown and his men) in Virginia.<sup>22</sup>

When the aforementioned events began to cool down, Houston refocused on the nearing presidential election of 1860. With the state Democratic Party in the hands of the state rights faction, Texan Unionists turned to the newly organized Constitutional Union Party to appoint delegates to be representatives at the national convention being held in Baltimore. First, a convention in Tyler, Texas was held to find the candidates that would be sent to Maryland, but with a very small turnout it was far from successful. Democratic newspapers ridiculed the Tyler convention, calling the meeting "an Uprising", and "upheaving the friends of Sam Houston."<sup>23</sup> In spite of their failure at the Tyler convention, Texas was still represented by four delegates at the Baltimore National Convention by A.B. Norton, A.M. Gentry, Benjamin H. Epperson, and Lemuel D. Evans. Their intention was to get the party nomination for Sam Houston. Houston ended up running second in the balloting, losing out to John Bell of Tennessee who would go on to carry Virginia, Kentucky, and Tennessee in the final presidential election. Houston remained on the ballot as an independent for a short time, but dropped out of the race on August 18<sup>th</sup>. His near candidacy received favorable mention by people in many regions throughout the

<sup>22</sup>Ibid.

<sup>23</sup>*Texas Republican*, May 12, 1860.

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nation who longed to prevent sectional strife, which was Houston's main running objective in the first place.<sup>24</sup>

In Texas, there were many different parties jockeying for political dominance. Of these, five rose to the forefront. First there was Nullification Party led by John C. Calhoun, who was pro-secession and thought that the only way to Southern Independence was through the medium of slavery. Second was the more numerous Southern Democratic Party, who accepted the doctrine of secession as the only way in which the rights of the South could be preserved. The third party believed in the preservation of the Union, arguing that even with the loss of some of their rights as Southerners, their rights as Americans could be maintained by staying "in the Union and under the old flag." A fourth party said "Let slavery slide, for it is not worth shedding blood over, but let us have Union." The fifth party, which was the position of the old General Houston, opposed secession under any circumstance. They argued that secession was suicide, and that to pursue it would guarantee the loss of all rights.<sup>25</sup> Houston sums up their party's position perfectly when he said, "To secede from the Union and set up another government would cause war. If you go to war with the United States, you will never conquer her, as she has the money and the men. If she does not whip you by guns, powder, and steel, she will starve you to death. It will take the flower of the country; the young men."<sup>26</sup>

Although Houston and Abraham Lincoln opposed secession, they were by no means on the same page politically. The main difference in their views was the abolition of slavery. Houston happened to be a slave owner, which was the main platform Lincoln was running on to try and abolish. Nevertheless, not long after Lincoln's election, Governor Houston was urged

<sup>24</sup>Frank H. Smyrl "Unionism in Texas, 1856-1861."

<sup>25</sup>B.P. Gallaway, *Texas, The Dark Corner of the Confederacy*.

<sup>26</sup>Sam Houston, *The Writings of Sam Houston, 1813-1863*.

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to call a special session of the Texas Legislature.<sup>27</sup> He knew that to do so would be asking for certain secession, and hoped that stalling would allow tempers to cool down, just like when he was elected governor. Houston had certainly not wanted Lincoln to be elected, but he and most conservative Unionists felt that since the election was constitutional there was no need to secede. They felt that Texas could still do better in the Union rather than out of it, and after all, it had only been fifteen years since Texas joined the United States in the first place.<sup>28</sup>

Lincoln's election was undoubtedly the hardest single blow to Unionism in Texas up to this point, only to later be exceeded by the future firing on Fort Sumter. Houston called for an emergency meeting of the "Union Club" on December 22, 1860, of which its basic planks read: "That we believe our Constitutional rights can be maintained in the Union; and that we are in favor of a consultation of all the slaveholding States, for the accomplishment of that object."<sup>29</sup> South Carolina, however, had already seceded seven days earlier, so Houston's proclamation for an election of delegates to a Southern convention, not to mention cooperation among all the Southern states was already hopeless.

Only days later, the Secession Convention convened and on February 1, 1861, voted to secede from the United States. In Washington D.C., the president along with his high command followed Houston's struggle against the secession movement in Texas with much interest. Lincoln was already engaged in a fierce struggle to keep the Border States apart of the Union, and if he could help Houston keep Texas in the Union as well, the new Confederacy would be crippled from the outset. United States Colonel Frederick W. Lander was sent by the president offering 50,000 troops to prevent the secession of Texas, but to avoid bloodshed Houston

<sup>27</sup>*San Antonio Ledger and Texan*, November 30, 1860.

<sup>28</sup>Frank H. Smyrl "Unionism in Texas, 1856-1861."

<sup>29</sup>*Southern Intelligencer*, January 2, 1861.

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declined saying, “Allow me to most respectfully decline any such assistance of the United States Government.”<sup>30</sup>

One month later on March 2, Texas joined the newly formed Confederate States of America. Houston insisted that the convention that removed Texas from the Union was exceeding its authority by joining them to the rebel cause. On Friday, March 15, delegates from Texas swore an oath of allegiance to the Confederacy, followed by men being sent to the Governor’s Mansion to inform Houston that he would be required to follow suit shortly. George Chilton, the man dispatched to the General’s home, met with Houston and desired an immediate answer, but was turned away with none. Houston needed time to think over such a momentous decision, and Chilton agreed that he could give his answer at noon the next day, which was also the time the legislature had already appointed for him to appear and swear the oath.<sup>31</sup>

The following morning, Houston appeared before his wife saying, “Margaret, I will never do it.” The date was March 16, 1861 and as Houston arrived at his office in the capital he awaited the inevitable. When the time came for him to appear before the legislature, Houston remained in his office, silent and immovable.<sup>32</sup> It was at this moment that the office of the Governor of Texas was declared vacant, and Houston was replaced by his Lieutenant Governor Edward Clark. After refusing to take the oath of loyalty to the Confederacy, Houston wrote, “Fellow-Citizens, in the name of your rights and liberties, which I believe have been trampled upon, I refuse to take this oath. In the name of the nationality of Texas, which has been betrayed by the Convention, I refuse to take this oath. In the name of the Constitution of Texas, I refuse to take this oath. In the name of my own conscience and manhood, which this

<sup>30</sup>James L. Haley, *Sam Houston*.

<sup>31</sup>*Ibid.*

<sup>32</sup>*Ibid.*

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Convention would degrade by dragging me before it, to pander to the malice of my enemies, I refuse to take this oath. I deny the power of this Convention to speak for Texas... I protest... against all the acts and doings of this convention and I declare them null and void.”<sup>33</sup> A young Houston would have defied the convention, but the now-elderly man had no more fight left in him. When he found Edward Clark, his former Lieutenant Governor sitting at his desk the morning of March 17, 1861, Houston meekly gathered his papers and left.

On April 12, 1861, Confederate cannons fired upon Fort Sumter in Charleston Harbor, South Carolina, and three days later the Union declared war on the seceded states. Again, Houston decided to speak his mind on the growing conflict, this time in Galveston. “Some of you laugh to scorn the idea of bloodshed as the result of secession. But let me tell you what is coming. Your fathers and husbands, your sons and brothers, will be herded at the point of the bayonet. You may, after the sacrifice of countless millions of treasure and hundreds of thousands of lives, as a bare possibility, win Southern independence, if God be not against you, but I doubt it. I tell you that, while I believe with you in the doctrine of state rights, the North is determined to preserve this Union. They are not a fiery, impulsive people as you are, for they live in colder climates. But when they begin to move in a given direction, they move with the steady momentum of a mighty avalanche. My fear is, they will overwhelm the South.”<sup>34</sup>

One of the more interesting side notes to Houston being removed from office was that of his son, Sam Houston, Jr., joining the Confederate army, despite his father’s pleas not to enlist. Nevertheless, Houston, Jr. is rushed off to battle. Despite Sam the elder being a devout Unionist, he was still a father that loved his son, even if Junior was fighting for the same people

<sup>33</sup>Sam Houston, *The Writings of Sam Houston, 1813-1863*.

<sup>34</sup>Sam Houston and Donald Day, *The Autobiography of Sam Houston*.



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that got his father kicked out of office. In a letter that Houston sent to his son, he wrote, "It is many man's duty to defend his Country; and I wish my offspring to do so, at a proper time, and in a proper way." Houston, Jr. would go on to fight in the battle of Shiloh, where he would be taken prisoner and later spend several months at Camp Douglas.

Houston's removal from office was effectively the end of his political career. He still made public appearances and made speeches, but more often than not, was poorly received. At a Waco appearance he talked mostly about himself and his previous experiences, but when there was a proposal for applause in honor of the events that had taken place at Fort Sumter in South Carolina, there was thunderous applause. Houston was no longer for the cause of the people.<sup>36</sup>

The once great General, President, Senator, and Governor would go on to live the remainder of his life in isolation. Now in his hometown of Huntsville, Houston endured petty harassment at the hands of Confederate detectives, who were in a sense a kind of secret police that questioned his loyalty to the new rebel regime. Houston was reduced to selling firewood to make a living, but ironically this drastically deteriorated his health when he contracted pneumonia in mid-July. On July 26, 1863, with his wife Margaret by his bedside, Houston died at his famous "Steamboat House."

Houston was buried in Huntsville, where he lived after his retirement. His tombstone reads:

A Brave Soldier. A Fearless Statesman.

A Great Orator—A Pure Patriot.

A Faithful Friend, A Loyal Citizen.

A Devoted Husband and Father.

A Consistent Christian—An Honest Man.<sup>37</sup>

<sup>35</sup>Sam Houston, letter to Sam Houston, Jr., May 22, 1861.

<sup>36</sup>Frank H. Smyrl "Unionism in Texas, 1856-1861."

<sup>37</sup>Marquis James, *The Raven: A Biography of Sam Houston*.

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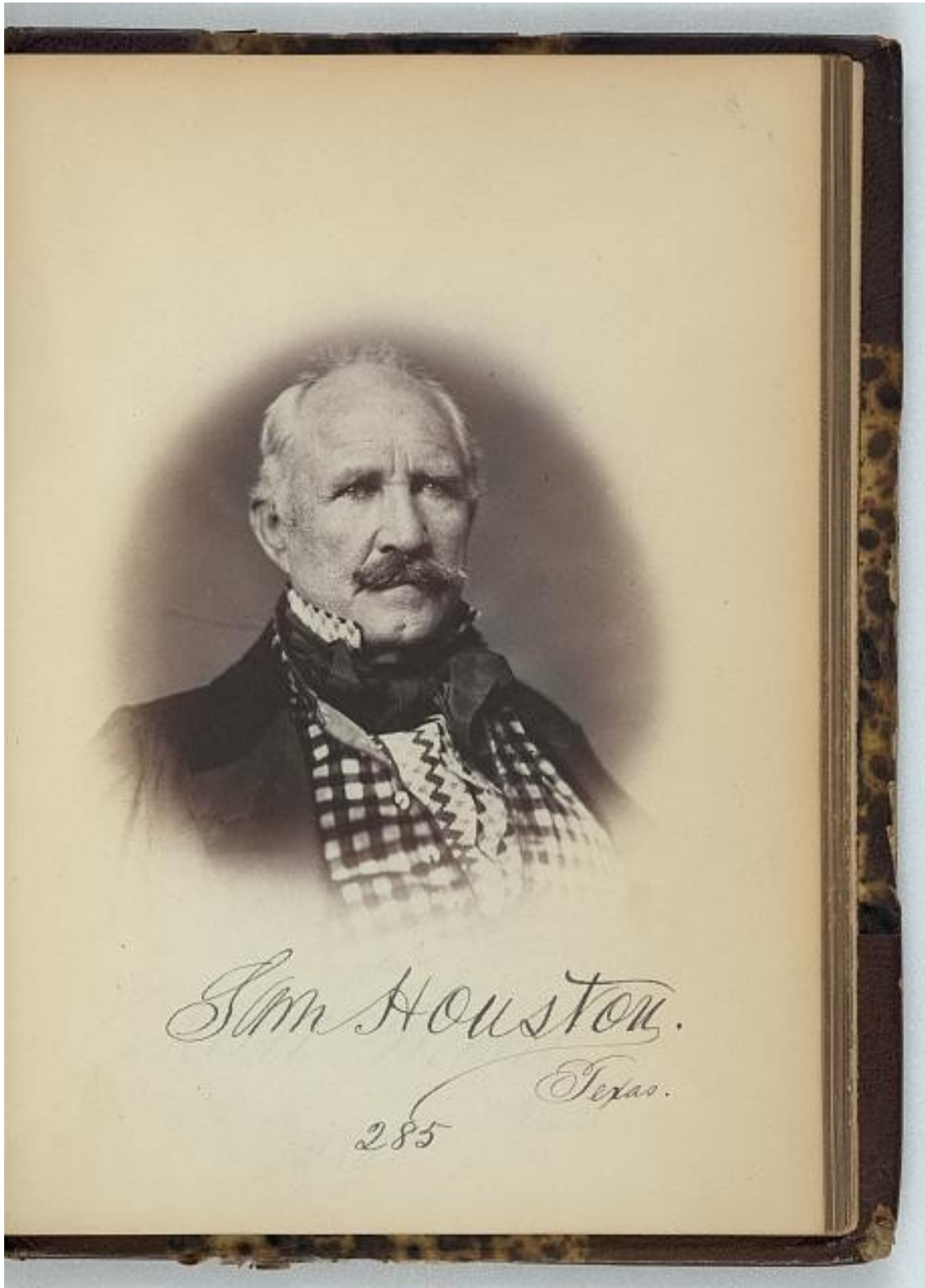
If there was one thing that Houston would agree with that is written on his tomb, it would be “a Loyal Citizen.”

In his book *Sam Houston*, James Haley suggests that the great “what if” of Houston’s life was that if he had been elected president in 1860, he might have been able to prevent the Civil War. However, Houston had never participated in party building, as Haley notes, and indeed scorned the new methods of campaign organization and tactics. Consequently, he had scant national following beyond a smattering of followers in New England. Even if he had accepted the nomination of the Constitutional Union party, it is hard to see how Houston could have succeeded in preventing a Civil War, though he probably would have been a much stronger candidate than John Bell.<sup>38</sup> Actually, Houston’s great “what if” was his refusal to take the 50,000 men Abraham Lincoln had offered to him. Had he done so, this more than likely would have crippled the Confederacy in Texas at its birth. The symbolism alone would have been an effective weapon against the rebellion. Houston, however, chose to keep the peace and be deposed as governor.<sup>39</sup>

<sup>38</sup>James L. Haley, *Sam Houston*.

<sup>39</sup>Ben A. Riley, 1985. ““I Had it in My Power” - Sam Houston, Texas Secession, and Federal Offers of Military Aid.” *Journal of the West Virginia Historical Association* 9, no. 1: 13-25.

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*Sam Houston, Senator from Texas, Thirty-fifth Congress, Half-length Portrait. 1859. Library of Congress Prints and Photographs Division, Library of Congress, Washington, D.C.*

**Sam Houston: Life and Politics Before and During the Civil War**

In conclusion, one can see that Sam Houston's life was much more than his role in the Texas Revolution, especially since there is not much more than a peep about that time in this paper. It is interesting to look back on his life and see how Houston became the politician and man we know him as today. From his time in Tennessee politics and beating up rival senators, to the leader of a new nation and the outcast when another was created, Houston certainly saw every part of the political spectrum. In summarizing his entire political philosophy, Houston once said, "I have ever been opposed to banks, opposed to internal improvements by the general government, opposed to distribution of public lands among the states, opposed to taking the power from the hands of the people, opposed to special monopolies, opposed to a protective tariff, opposed to a latitudinal construction of the constitution, opposed to slavery agitation and disunion. This is my democracy. Point to a single act of my public career not in keeping with these principles."<sup>40</sup>

<sup>40</sup>Sam Houston, *The Writings of Sam Houston, 1813-1863*.

**Sam Houston: Life and Politics Before and During the Civil War**

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**Sam Houston: Life and Politics Before and During the Civil War**

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**Grimes Cemetery, Jacksonville, Texas**  
**Compiled by Nathan Grimes**

Facts

- 1      All distances are measured from the east fence and the north fence.
2.      The cemetery is not square.
3.      All plots are as close to 5 feet X 9 feet as possible.
4.      All plotted objects are accurate to within 3 inches.
5.      One inch equals eight feet.
6.      Initials below correspond to initials on plot.
7.      Data below matches tombstone as close as possible.
- 8      Items in italics added by Nathan Grimes.
- 9      Inscriptions are in quotes.
10.    First number on each entry is the lot number.
11.    Compiled by Nathan Grimes, 366 County Road 4105, Jacksonville, TX  
75766-8296, Ph. 903-589-3403, email nate@hal-pc.org

Assumptions

1.      All fences are straight
2.      The northeast corner is a right angle (90°)
3.      All tombstones are one foot thick, and, therefore, are drawn one foot thick.

Accurate as of 1/4/2016, Nate Grimes

**Grimes Cemetery, Jacksonville, Texas**

Plot #      Name, Birth and Death Dates, Epitaph, Grimes Relationship

Row 1 (next to road)

101 HSG    Henry Stephen Grimes

Feb. 4, 1878      Feb 4, 1959

Henry Stephen Grimes, son of Benjamin Franklin Grimes, son of Isaac Grimes, son of James Grimes, Sr., son of Hugh Grimes, son of Walter Grimes, son of James Grimes, Sr., son of Hugh Grimes, son of Walter Grimes

102 CGG    "Ella" Casandra Gabriella Grimes

Feb. 7, 1866 Apr. 20, 1883

"First Grave in Grimes Cemetery"

Casandra Gabriella (Ella) Grimes, daughter of Benjamin Franklin Grimes, son of Isaac Grimes, son of James Grimes, Sr., son of Hugh Grimes, son of Walter Grimes, son of James Grimes, Sr., son of Hugh Grimes, son of Walter Grimes

103    MSG Martha Samantha Grimes

Oct. 6, 1873 Feb. 12, 1947

Martha Samantha Grimes, daughter of Benjamin Franklin Grimes, son of Isaac Grimes, son of James Grimes, Sr., son of Hugh Grimes, son of Walter Grimes

104    MJG Mary Jane Grimes -- wife of B. F. Grimes

Jan 29, 1842      Mar. 2, 1921

"Gone but not forgotten"

Mary Jane Wallace, wife of Benjamin Franklin Grimes, son of Isaac Grimes, son of James Grimes, Sr., son of Hugh Grimes, son of Walter Grimes

105    BFG Benjamin Franklin Grimes

Mar. 29, 1839      Feb. 19, 1890

Benjamin Franklin Grimes, son of Isaac Grimes, son of James Grimes, Sr., son of Hugh Grimes, son of Walter Grimes

106    Available



**Grimes Cemetery, Jacksonville, Texas**

107 Available

108 Available

109    JPM    Jas. P. McElyea

born June 2, 1848 died Mch 5, 1902

Jas. P. McElyea, husband of Sarah McElyea and Father-in-law of Robert Franklin Grimes, son of Robert Sherwood Grimes and Anna Emagene Grimes, daughter of Isaac Grimes, son of James Grimes, Sr., son of Hugh Grimes, son of Walter Grimes

110    SM    Sarah McElyea

Mar. 39, 1863      Sept 14, 1945

Sarah Ellen Grimes McElyea, daughter of Benjamin Franklin Grimes, son of Isaac Grimes, son of James Grimes, Sr., son of Hugh Grimes, son of Walter Grimes

111    ECM    Edward C. McElyea

June 18, 1880      Jan 27, 1905

Edward C. McElyea .son of James Preston McElyea, husband of Sarah Ollie Grimes, son-in-law of Robert Sherwood Grimes and Anna Emagene Grimes, daughter of Isaac Grimes, son of James Grimes, Sr., son of Hugh Grimes, son of Walter Grimes

112 Available

113    ASG    Arra Smith Grimes

1885 - 1947

Arra Smith Grimes, second wife of Robert Franklin Grimes, son of Robert Sherwood Grimes and Anna Emagene Grimes, daughter of Isaac Grimes, son of James Grimes, Sr., son of Hugh Grimes, son of Walter Grimes

**Grimes Cemetery, Jacksonville, Texas**

114    MEG Mollie E. - wife of B. F. Grimes

Feb. 10, 1876      July 21, 1910

Footstone "MEG"

Molly E Grimes, second wife of Benjamin Franklin Grimes, son of Isaac Grimes, son of James Grimes, Sr., son of Hugh Grimes, son of Walter Grimes

Mollie would have been 14 years old when B.F. died at age 51

!!! Research it!!

115    LAG Laura Anna Grimes- dau. of R. F. & M. L. Grimes

born Mar. 9, 1904 died Feb 1913

Footstone "LAG"

Laura Anna Grimes, daughter of Robert Franklin Grimes, son of Robert Sherwood Grimes and Anna Emagene Grimes, daughter of Isaac Grimes, son of James Grimes, Sr., son of Hugh Grimes, son of Walter Grimes

Died of burn injuries from jumping over a fire.

116    RFG Robert Franklin Grimes

1874-1945

"Gone but not forgotten"

Footstone "RFG"

Robert Franklin Grimes, son of Robert Sherwood Grimes, son of Bryant Grimes; and Anna Emagene Grimes, daughter of Isaac Grimes, son of James Grimes, St., son of Hugh Grimes, son of Walter Grimes

117    Connie May GRIMES Walker

Connie May Grimes, daughter of Fredrick Sardin Grimes, son of Robert Franklin Grimes, son of Robert Sherwood Grimes and Anna Emagene Grimes, daughter of Isaac Grimes, son of James Grimes, Sr., son of Hugh Grimes, son of Walter Grimes

118    FSG Fred S. Grimes

Oct. 9, 1897      April 4, 1970

Fredrick Sardin Grimes, son of Robert Franklin Grimes, son of Robert Sherwood Grimes and Anna Emagene Grimes, daughter of Isaac Grimes, son of James Grimes, Sr., son of Hugh Grimes, son of Walter Grimes

**Grimes Cemetery, Jacksonville, Texas**

119    MLG Mattie Lou Grimes

Dec 22, 1900      May 19, 1990

Mattie Lou Tishy Williamson, wife of Fredrick Sardin Grimes, son of Robert Franklin Grimes, son of Robert Sherwood Grimes and Anna Emagene Grimes, daughter of Isaac Grimes, son of James Grimes, Sr., son of Hugh Grimes, son of Walter Grimes

120    BEG Bertie E. Grimes

Jan 19, 1895

June 7, 1981

Footstone "Mama"

Bertie Elizabeth Gregory, wife of James Frank Grimes, son of Robert Franklin Grimes, son of Robert Sherwood Grimes and Anna Emagene Grimes, daughter of Isaac Grimes, son of James Grimes, Sr., son of Hugh Grimes, son of Walter Grimes

121    JFG James Frank Grimes

Nov. 26, 1895      May 11, 1976

Footstone "Daddy"

James Frank Grimes, son of Robert Franklin Grimes, son of Robert Sherwood Grimes and Anna Emagene Grimes, daughter of Isaac Grimes, son of James Grimes, Sr., son of Hugh Grimes, son of Walter Grimes

122    Reserved for Spraggins Family

123    Reserved for Spraggins Family

124    Reserved for Spraggins Family

125    Reserved for Spraggins Family

126    Reserved for Spraggins Family

127    Reserved for Spraggins Family

128    Reserved for Spraggins Family

**Grimes Cemetery, Jacksonville, Texas**

129      Reserved for Descendants of Robert Franklin Grimes

130      Reserved for Descendants of Robert Franklin Grimes

131      Reserved for Descendants of Robert Franklin Grimes

132      Reserved for Descendants of Robert Franklin Grimes

133      Reserved for Descendants of Robert Franklin Grimes

134      Reserved for Descendants of Robert Franklin Grimes

135      Reserved for Descendants of Robert Franklin Grimes

136      Reserved for Descendants of Robert Franklin Grimes

137      Reserved for Descendants of Robert Franklin Grimes

Row 2

201 Available

202 Available

203 Available

204 Available

205 Available

206 MG Minnie Grimes

Died 1946

Minnie Ella Sledge, second wife of George Parks Grimes, son of Benjamin Franklin Grimes, son of Isaac Grimes, son of James Grimes, Sr., son of Hugh Grimes, son of Walter Grimes

206 GG George Grimes

Died 1932

George Parks Grimes, son of Benjamin Franklin Grimes, son of Isaac Grimes, son of James Grimes, Sr., son of Hugh Grimes, son of Walter Grimes

207      Orval Ray Grimes

Orval Ray Grimes, son of Albert Edward Grimes, son of George Parks Grimes, son of Benjamin Franklin Grimes, son of Isaac Grimes, son of James Grimes, Sr., son of Hugh Grimes, son of Walter Grimes

**Grimes Cemetery, Jacksonville, Texas**

208      Beverly Ann JUSTICE Grimes

Beverly Ann JUSTICE, wife of Orval Ray Grimes, son of Albert Edward Grimes, son of George Parks Grimes, son of Benjamin Franklin Grimes, son of Isaac Grimes, son of James Grimes, Sr., son of Hugh Grimes, son of Walter Grimes

209 Available

210 VCJB Virginia Christine JOLLY Boggs

Oct. 30, 1921 - May 8, 2003

"Beloved Mother"

Virginia Christine Jolly, daughter of Eddie Orene McElyea, daughter of Sarah Ollie Grimes, daughter of Robert Sherwood Grimes and Anna Emagene Grimes, daughter of Isaac Grimes, son of James Grimes, Sr., son of Hugh Grimes, son of Walter Grimes

211 OEJ      Orene E. Jolly

1905 - 1908

Footstone "Mother"

Eddie Orene McElyea, daughter of Sarah Ollie Grimes, daughter of Robert Sherwood Grimes and Anna Emagene Grimes, daughter of Isaac Grimes, son of James Grimes, Sr., son of Hugh Grimes, son of Walter Grimes

212 JMJ      John M. Jolly

1896 -1963

Footstone "Father"

John M. Jolly, husband of Eddy Orene McElyea, daughter of Sarah Ollie Grimes, daughter of Robert Sherwood Grimes and Anna Emagene Grimes, daughter of Isaac Grimes, son of James Grimes, Sr., son of Hugh Grimes, son of Walter Grimes

213 JBA      Jimmy Bernice Ash Grimes

Jan 12, 1928

Oct. 1, 2015

Jimmy Bernice Ash, wife of John Newton Grimes, son of Charles Edward Grimes, son of Robert Franklin Grimes, son of Robert Sherwood Grimes and Anna Emagene Grimes, daughter of Isaac Grimes, son of James Grimes, Sr., son of Hugh Grimes, son of Walter Grimes

214 JNG      Reserved for John Newton (IN) Grimes

Nov. 13, 1927

John Newton Grimes, son of Charles Edward Grimes, son of Robert Franklin Grimes, son of Robert Sherwood Grimes and Anna Emagene Grimes, daughter of Isaac Grimes, son of James Grimes, Sr., son of Hugh Grimes, son of Walter Grimes

**Grimes Cemetery, Jacksonville, Texas**

215 JAG      Jim Arnold Gregory  
Sept. 14, 1954      Feb. 11, 1958  
Jim Bo, Our Darling Baby  
Footstone "JAG"

Son of Glenna Deloris Grimes, daughter of Charles Edward Grimes, son of Robert Franklin Grimes, son of Robert Sherwood Grimes and Anna Emagene Grimes, daughter of Isaac Grimes, son of James Grimes, Sr., son of Hugh Grimes, son of Walter Grimes (Jim Gregory died in fire with his mother)

216 DGG      Deloris Grimes Gregory  
July 5, 1932      Feb. 20, 1958  
"A Little time on Earth she spent  
Til God for her his angel sent"  
Footstone "DGG"

Glenna Deloris Grimes, daughter of Charles Edward Grimes, son of Robert Franklin Grimes, son of Robert Sherwood Grimes and Anna Emagene Grimes, daughter of Isaac Grimes, son of James Grimes, Sr., son of Hugh Grimes, son of Walter Grimes (Deloris died in fire with her son Jim.

Also, Glenna Deloris Grimes, wife of Glenn James Gregory, son of James Mulkey (Jim) Gregory, brother of Bertie Elizabeth Gregory, wife of James Frank Grimes, , son of Robert Franklin Grimes, son of Robert Sherwood Grimes and Anna Emagene Grimes, daughter of Isaac Grimes, son of James Grimes, Sr., son of Hugh Grimes, son of Walter Grimes

217 GJG      Glenn James Gregory  
Texas AMM1 U. S. Navy  
World War II  
Dec 12, 1920      Jan 30, 1969

Glenn James Gregory, son of James Mulkey (Jim) Gregory, brother of Bertie Elizabeth Gregory, wife of James Frank Grimes, s son of Robert Franklin Grimes, son of Robert Sherwood Grimes and Anna Emagene Grimes, daughter of Isaac Grimes, son of James Grimes, Sr., son of Hugh Grimes, son of Walter Grimes

Also, Glenn James Gregory, wife of Thelma Deloris Grimes, daughter of Charles Edward Grimes, son of Robert Franklin Grimes, son of Robert Sherwood Grimes and Anna Emagene Grimes, daughter of Isaac Grimes, son of James Grimes, Sr., son of Hugh Grimes, son of Walter Grimes

218 MG      Mildred Grimes  
Sept. 8, 1908      Oct. 3, 1999  
Married June 27, 1925  
Footstone "Mother"

Mildred Birdette Wilson, wife of Charles Edward Grimes, son of Robert Franklin Grimes, son of Robert Sherwood Grimes and Anna Emagene Grimes, daughter of Isaac Grimes, son of James Grimes, Sr., son of Hugh Grimes, son of Walter Grimes

**Grimes Cemetery, Jacksonville, Texas**

219 EG Ed Grimes

Nov. 1, 1906 Mar. 29, 1982

Footstone "Daddy"

Charles Edward Grimes, son of Robert Franklin Grimes, son of Robert Sherwood Grimes and Anna Emagene Grimes, daughter of Isaac Grimes, son of James Grimes, Sr., son of Hugh Grimes, son of Walter Grimes

220 OFG              Oliver F. (Pat) Grimes

Feb. 21, 1901      Jan. 8, 1983

Married July 5, 1922

Footstone "Daddy"

Oliver Farris (Pat) Grimes, son of Robert Franklin Grimes, son of Robert Sherwood Grimes and Anna Emagene Grimes, daughter of Isaac Grimes, son of James Grimes, Sr., son of Hugh Grimes, son of Walter Grimes

221 SJG              Sarah J. (Dollie) Grimes

Dec. 18, 1903      Apr. 18, 1983

Footstone "Mama"

Sarah Jane (Dollie) Henry, wife of Oliver Farris (Pat) Grimes, son of Robert Franklin Grimes, son of Robert Sherwood Grimes and Anna Emagene Grimes, daughter of Isaac Grimes, son of James Grimes, Sr., son of Hugh Grimes, son of Walter Grimes

222A      Reserved for Spraggins Family

223A      Reserved for Spraggins Family

224A      Reserved for Spraggins Family

225A      Reserved for Spraggins Family

226A      Reserved for Spraggins Family

227A      Reserved for Spraggins Family

228A      Reserved for Spraggins Family

229A Reserved for Descendants of Robert Franklin Grimes

230A Reserved for Descendants of Robert Franklin Grimes

231A Reserved for Descendants of Robert Franklin Grimes

232A Reserved for Descendants of Robert Franklin Grimes

233A Reserved for Descendants of Robert Franklin Grimes

234A Reserved for Descendants of Robert Franklin Grimes

235A Reserved for Descendants of Robert Franklin Grimes

236A Reserved for Descendants of Robert Franklin Grimes

237A Reserved for Descendants of Robert Franklin Grimes

222B Reserved for Spraggins Family

*Editor's note: Plots 101 through 121, 201 through 221, 301 through 321 are not uniform in size. Plots 122 through 137, 222A through 237A, 222B through 237B, 322 through 337 are as close to 5 feet X 9 feet as possible. Plots 222B through 237B lie west of plots 222A through 237A.*

**Grimes Cemetery, Jacksonville, Texas**

223B SSS      Stacye Spraggins Sutliff

Sept. 28, 1956      Nov. 3, 2010

Stacye Spraggins Sutliff, daughter of Jay D. Spraggins, Son of Mary Jane Alexander, daughter of Emma Ophelia Grimes, daughter of Benjamin Franklin Grimes, son of Isaac Grimes, son of James Grimes, Sr., son of Hugh Grimes, son of Walter Grimes

224B MJS      Mary Jane Spraggins

Jan. 5, 1899      Feb. 1, 1978

Married Dec. 21, 1919

Mary Jane Alexander, daughter of Emma Ophelia Grimes, daughter of Benjamin Franklin Grimes, son of Isaac Grimes, son of James Grimes, Sr., son of Hugh Grimes, son of Walter Grimes

225B JDS      Jesse David Spraggins

Mar. 26, 1898      Mar 19, 1973

"Pops"

Jesse David Spraggins, husband of Mary Jane Alexander, daughter of Emma Ophelia Grimes, daughter of Benjamin Franklin Grimes, son of Isaac Grimes, son of James Grimes, Sr., son of Hugh Grimes, son of Walter Grimes

226B? PAS      Patsy Anita Shuptine

Aug. 13, 1931

"Granny"

Patsy Anita Shuptine, wife of Jay D. Spraggins, son of Mary Jane Alexander, daughter of Emma Ophelia Grimes, daughter of Benjamin Franklin Grimes, son of Isaac Grimes, son of James Grimes, Sr., son of Hugh Grimes, son of Walter Grimes

227B JDS      J. D. "Jay" Spraggins

Jan. 2, 1926

Jay D. Spraggins, son of Mary Jane Alexander, daughter of Emma Ophelia Grimes, daughter of Benjamin Franklin Grimes, son of Isaac Grimes, son of James Grimes, Sr., son of Hugh Grimes, son of Walter Grimes

2288      Reserved for Spraggins Family

229B      Reserved for Descendants of Robert Franklin Grimes

230B      Reserved for Descendants of Robert Franklin Grimes

231 B      Reserved for Descendants of Robert Franklin Grimes

232B      Reserved for Descendants of Robert Franklin Grimes

233B      Reserved for Descendants of Robert Franklin Grimes

234B      Reserved for Descendants of Robert Franklin Grimes

235B      Reserved for Descendants of Robert Franklin Grimes

2368B      Reserved for Descendants of Robert Franklin Grimes

237B      Reserved for Descendants of Robert Franklin Grimes



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