

JAMES BOWIE

THESIS

Presented to the Faculty of the Graduate School of  
Southwest Texas State Teachers College  
in Partial Fulfillment of  
the Requirements

For the Degree of

MASTER OF ARTS

By

Fannie Boyd Boyce, B. A.  
(San Antonio, Texas)  
San Marcos, Texas  
April, 1939

~~12710~~

## INTRODUCTION AND ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

A survey in the historical field pertaining to James Bowie's life revealed an abundance of interesting events. It also showed that a complete biography has never been written.

The problem of this thesis consists of an organization of biographical sketches into a complete biography in language simple enough for intermediate grades to read. The children of the intermediate grades need to read the life of a great Texan and this must be written in simple language for comprehension, enjoyment, and appreciation.

The writer is indebted to Dr. E. O. Wiley of the Education Department of the Southwest Texas State Teachers College, San Marcos, Texas, and Chairman of the Committee, who gave helpful suggestions. His untiring assistance and guidance are appreciated.

Grateful acknowledgments are also made to Dr. J. L. Rogers of the Education Department and Dr. Claude Elliott of the History Department, members of the Committee, who spent valuable time and effort in checking the details of this biography.

Fannie Boyd Boyce

San Marcos, Texas  
April, 1939

# CONTENTS

Chapter	Page
I. THE CHILDHOOD OF JAMES BOWIE .....	1
A. Date and place of his birth .....	1
B. His ancestors .....	1
C. His parents .....	2
D. The Bowie home .....	3
E. James Bowie's education .....	4
F. The Bowie family move to Louisiana .....	4
G. His mother .....	4
H. James Bowie as a boy .....	6
II. THE YOUTH OF JAMES BOWIE .....	8
A. Character sketch of James Bowie .....	8
B. His occupations .....	9
C. His amusements .....	12
D. The Bowie Knife .....	14
E. The Wells-Maddox Duel .....	15
F. When and why James Bowie came to Texas .....	16
G. His journey to Texas .....	18
H. Bowie made use of the colonization law of 1825.....	19

III. BOWIE'S MANHOOD .....	21
A. His search for the mines of the San Saba .....	21
B. Bowie's Romance and marriage .....	27
C. The tragedy of the Bowie family .....	34
D. James Bowie joins the Texas Revolution .....	36
E. Bowie's death and the fall of the Alamo .....	39
F. Why Bowie is remembered .....	44
G. How Texas has honored Bowie .....	45
APPENDIX .....	46
BIBLIOGRAPHY .....	56

# JAMES BOWIE

## CHAPTER I

### THE CHILDHOOD OF JAMES BOWIE

James Bowie, pronounced as if spelled "Boo-ee," was the second son of Rezin and Elvira Apcatesby Jones Bowie. The exact date and place of his birth are not known. However, most authorities agree that he was born in 1796, in Burk County, Georgia.<sup>1</sup> He was said to have been born well since

---

1. Williams-McCullough, Martha, "A Man and His Knife," a passage from Life of Bowie in Harper's Magazine, Vol. XCVII, (June to November 1898), pp. 223-224.

---

he was a descendant of the famous Bowies of Maryland who were Scotch Highlanders of the McGregor Clan. His ancestors emigrated from Scotland and settled in Maryland in 1705.<sup>2</sup>

---

2. Chabot, Frederick C., With the Makers of San Antonio Genealogies of Early Latin, Anglo-American and German Families With Occasional Biographies, April, M-DCCCC.XXXVII, p. 224.

---

They were distinguished for their wealth, their education,

their political and social standing, and their skill in legal science.<sup>3</sup>

---

3. Biographical Souvenirs of State of Texas, p. 100.

---

Bowie's father, Rezin Bowie, had fought in the Revolutionary War. He was wounded in action at Savannah, Georgia. During his illness, he was fortunate in securing the services of a splendid nurse, Elvira Apcatesby Jones. As Miss Jones was interested in her patient, he received the best of care and attention. Rezin and Elvira became the best of friends. They grew fond of each other and in about 1778 they were married.<sup>4</sup>

---

4. Chabot, Frederick C., With the Makers of San Antonio Genealogies of Early Latin, Anglo-American and German Families, With Occasional Biographies, April, M-DCCCC.XXXVII, p. 244.

---

James Bowie's parents were typical citizens of the frontier. They were both born in the state of Georgia. During their lifetime, they lived in the states of Tennessee, Missouri, Kentucky, and Louisiana.<sup>5</sup> Rezin Bowie was a man

---

5. Southwestern Historical Quarterly, "James Bowie," Vol. 37, (July 1933-April 1934), p. 90.

---

of strong mind and very sound judgment. His wife was a lady of good character, sincere piety, keen intellect, and fair education. Five sons were born to Mr. and Mrs. Bowie. They were David, James, Rezin, John J., and Stephen. It was believed that these children inherited their remarkable energy of character from their mother.<sup>6</sup>

---

6. Texas Biography With a Short History of Texas Flag, (Reprinted from Texas Almanac 1857-1861), "James Bowie," Southwest Texas Teachers College, San Marcos, Texas 1935, p. 10.

---

The Bowies had a typical southern pioneer home. It was about the best that the family could afford. It consisted of one large log room with two windows, one door, and a dirt floor. A blanket or patchwork quilt often served as the door. This home was poorly furnished. To make a bed, wooden forks were driven in the floor and springy poles were placed across them to a convenient crack. Across this crude pole structure was placed either a shuck mattress or a feather bed. Besides the bed, the chairs were some wooden blocks which were chopped from logs. Across one end of the room was hearth of stone or clay. The kitchen utensils, and iron pot and a skillet, hung on one side of the fireplace. On a large log table were some dishes of pewter or stone

ware. The most important of all of the furniture were the mother's spinning wheel and the father's rifle. Besides the household goods there were a cow, a calf, and several pigs.<sup>7</sup>

---

7. Williams-McCullough, Martha, "A Man and His Knife," passage from Life of Bowie in Harper's Magazine, Vol. XCVII, (June to November 1898), pp. 223, 224.

---

The Bowie family lived in the wild regions. Thus the Bowie children had a very small opportunity to obtain an education from books. Mrs. Bowie had double duty to perform as she was both the teacher and mother for her boys. From her instructions, her sons secured the rudiments of their education. Letters and documents which James Bowie has written show that he was well learned in English, Spanish, and French. Hence he was considered to be well educated as compared to other men of his time.<sup>8</sup>

---

8. Chabot, Frederick C., With the Makers of San Antonio Genealogies of Early Latin, Anglo-American and German Families, With Occasional Biographies, April M-DCCCC.XXXVII, p. 244.

---

In 1802, before James Bowie was large enough to hold a plow or rifle, his father moved his family to Catahoula Parish, Louisiana. Rezin loved hunting and adventure and he did not



think about providing for his family.<sup>9</sup> His family seemed to

---

9. Ibid., p. 224.

---

have fared very well in their home in spite of Rezin's laziness.

They thrive and prospered there in Catahoula Parish, but after a modest and mannerly fashion. Land might have been had for a song, the finest in the world; but hunters born of the Bowie pattern rarely yearns to become a territorial magnate.<sup>10</sup>

---

10. Williams-McCullough, Martha, "A Man and His Knife," passage from Life of Bowie in Harper's Magazine, Vol. XCVII, (June to November 1898), p. 223.

---

Riches could have been made from either cane or cotton plantations. Rezin Bowie lacked the means and the will to engage in either the sugar cane or cotton occupation. He liked to take his boys hunting and leave the home responsibilities to his wife. Mrs. Bowie was both brave and determined so she and the slaves together carried on the work very well.<sup>11</sup>

---

11. Ibid., p. 224.

---

Rezin found that he had to stay at home closer to protect his land from squatters. One day, in protecting his property against intrusion, Rezin killed one of the squatters.

The squatters took Rezin to prison. Elvira took a brace of pistols and one of the trusty slaves and went to the jail and demanded Rezin's release. She went into the jail and gave one of the pistols to Rezin and kept the other one. They both walked out of jail and went home together.<sup>12</sup>

---

12. Dobie, J. Frank, "Bowie and the Bowie Knife," Southwest Review, Vol. 16, (Spring 1931), p. 352-353.

---

James Bowie lived with his parents untill he was about eighteen years of age. He was poor, proud, humble, and a very honest lad. He was very determined to succeed in business for himself so he worked hard daily.<sup>13</sup> He was the type

---

13. Chabot, Frederick C., With the Makers of San Antonio Genealogies of Early Latin, Anglo-American and German Families, With Occasional Biographies, April M-DCCCC. XXXVII, p. 244-245.

---

of boy that fitted the times. As Bowie's personality increased with the years, he grew up to be both strong and handsome.

His faults were those of his time; his virtues came of nature and heredity. He was part and parcel of the rough and ready era when life or death, or fortune, or honor hung often upon the string and ping of bullets, the flash of a blade.<sup>14</sup>

---

14. Williams-McCullough, Martha, "A Man and His Knife,"  
from Harper's Magazine, Vol. XCVII, (June to November 1898),  
p. 226.

---

## CHAPTER II

### JAMES BOWIE'S YOUTH

Bowie was striking in both his face and figure. Historians have described him as follows:

James Bowie was six feet tall, of fair complexion, with blue eyes, not fleshy but well proportioned; stood erect, had rather a fierce look; was not quarrelsome, but mild and quiet, even at the moment of action.<sup>1</sup>

---

1. Texas Biography With A Short History of Texas Flag, (Reprinted from Texas Almanac 1857-1861), Southwest Texas State Teachers College, San Marcos, Texas, p. 10.

---

He was sociable and disposed to intemperance but was never drunk. He was friendly and possessed the art of winning people. He was brave, high spirited, generous, and prodigal with money. He was frankly good-natured and very scornful of deceit.<sup>2</sup> He was a man of matchless courage and did not

---

2. Wooten, Dudley G., A Comprehensive History of Texas 1865-1897, Vol. I, p. 132.

---

know what the word "fear" meant.<sup>3</sup> In anger, he appeared like

---

3. Southwestern Historical Quarterley, Vol. 37, (July 1933-April 1934), p. 103.

---

an enraged tiger.<sup>4</sup> His bold and daring spirit won for him

---

4. Dobie, J. Frank, "Bowie and the Bowie Knife", Southwest Review, Vol. 16, (Spring 1931), p. 353.

---

the name, "Fighting Devil."<sup>5</sup>

---

5. Southwestern Historical Quarterley, Vol. 37, (July 1933-April 1934), p. 99.

---

About 1814, he went to Bayou Boeuf in Rapids Parish. There he cleared and tilled a small tract of land. His chief income was money received from the sale of lumber from his land. He sawed his lumber with a common whip ripsaw. The logs were floated down the Mississippi river to the nearest market, New Orleans. He had to work very hard with his lumber since he possessed neither rich family connections nor influence. He was determined to succeed. Because of the rapid colonization of nearby lands, his land was increased in value. Bowie saw a chance to make a profit so he sold his land.<sup>6</sup>

---

6. Chabot, Frederick C., With The Makers of San Antonio Genealogies of Early Latin, Anglo-American and German Families With Occasional Biographies, April, M-DCCCC.XXXVII; pp. 224-225.

---

In 1819, following the sale of his land, James entered business with his brother. These brothers were loyal and cooperated with each other in every way. James had the utmost confidence in his brother's wisdom and sought his council on many occasions. They purchased and operated a sugar plantation. They continued this vocation for seven or eight years. As profits increased, they were able to buy more plantations. They developed several valuable estates in the La Fourche, the Rapids, and the Opelousas districts. On the Arcadia plantation, the Bowie brothers introduced the first steam mill, for grinding sugar cane that was ever used in the state of Louisiana. Soon the Arcadia District was sold for \$10,000. The brothers kept several other plantations but they wanted to have other sources of income.<sup>7</sup>

---

7. Ibid., p. 245.

---

They therefore decided to engage in the slave-trading thinking that this side-line business would net a nice profit. Slaves could be secured from Jean Lafitte. Lafitte and his privateers were harrying all of the commerce on the Gulf. Often the slave ships sailing under Spanish flags were captured.

Since Lafitte had established his headquarters together with a pirate colony at Galveston, the slaves were transported to this town. There the slaves were sold or traded to southern planters or buyers.<sup>8</sup>

---

8. Ibid., pp. 245-246.

---

James and Rezin Bowie became agents who paid Lafitte on the average of \$140 per head for slaves. The slaves were shipped by small boats to the mouths of the Calcasieu and Sabine rivers. There the slaves were taken on foot through the swamps of east Texas and Louisiana to a custom official. The negroes were auctioned off. For the second time the Bowies became the purchasers. After this double dealing had been completed, the slaves were turned over to the Bowies to sell anywhere in the south.<sup>9</sup> The slavery business was risky

---

9. Chabot, Frederick C., With the Makers of San Antonio Genealogies of Early Latin, Anglo-American and German Families, With Occasional Biographies, April, M-DCCCC.XXXVII, p. 245.

---

since there was not at all times a ready market for slaves and besides the transportation risks were heavy. The Bowie brothers received about \$65,000 profits from this business.<sup>10</sup> James Bowie

---

10. Ibid., p. 246.

---

decided not to continue in the slavery business but to turn his attention to the purchase and sale of land.<sup>11</sup>

---

11. Bancroft, Hubert Howe, History of Texas and the North Mexican States, Vol. II, p. 175.

---

He decided to speculate with Louisiana land. In this wild territory, his life was in constant danger from Indians and wild beasts.<sup>12</sup> He realized quite a nice profit from land

---

12. Southwestern Historical Quarterly, Vol. 37, (July 1933-April 1934), pp. 353-355.

---

making between 15,000 and 20,000 dollars.<sup>13</sup>

---

13. Chabot, Frederick C., With the Makers of San Antonio Genealogies of Early Latin, Anglo-American and German Families With Occasional Biographies, April, M-DCCCC.XXXVII, p. 246.

---

During his leisure moments, he enjoyed hunting wild animals of the forest. He was an excellent marksman and an expert with the lasso. Chabot, J. Frank Dobie, and Wooten



have written accounts about his most popular sport, Alligator-Riding. Alligator-Riding was a popular sport among Louisiana planters. Bowie, according to historical reports, roped and rode wild alligators, wild horses, and steers. James was accompanied by his brother, Rezin, on his hunts. They would shoot a wild cow and ride by her quickly and stab her with their hunting knives. Deer and buffaloes were killed in like manner. The brothers not only enjoyed hunting for a sport but they also enjoyed the meat of the animals for food and their skins for clothes and shoes.<sup>14</sup>

---

14. Dobie, J. Frank, "Bowie and the Bowie Knife", Southwest Review, Vol. 16, (Spring 1931), pp. 353,355.

---

Rezin Bowie often rode a white mule when he hunted.<sup>15</sup>

---

15. Hunter, Theresa M., "Grandson's Own Story of the Bowie Knife," The Dallas Morning News, January 12, 1930, p. 3.

---

One day he saw a ferocious bull. He thrust his hunting knife forward to stab the bull. The bull lunged forward and caused the flexible blade to give a twist and bounce off. It bounced on Rezin's hand and cut it severely. As he was both surprised and provoked, he began planning a new type of knife since

the old one had failed. It must be discarded. He thought about the matter all of the way home.<sup>16</sup>

---

16. Dobie, J. Frank, "Bowie and the Bowie Knife," Southwest Review, Vol. 16., (Spring 1931), p. 355.

---

When he arrived home, he called for a piece of paper and a pencil on which to draw a diagram of the new knife which he had in mind. Rezin realized that he was too nervous to draw, so he called his daughter, Mattie, to draw for him and gave her directions of how the new knife must be made. Then the plantation blacksmith, Jessie Cliff, together with his assistant, Sam, were summoned. They were told to bring a twelve inch file with them.<sup>17</sup> From this file, the new knife

---

17. Hunter, Theresa M., "Grandson's Own Story of the Bowie Knife," The Dallas Morning News, January 12, 1930, p. 3.

---

was made nine and three quarter inches long, one and one half inches wide with a single edge and a very strong blade. They had made a real hunting knife which would stand the test with either man or beast. It took the name of "Bowie Knife." Many more such knives were made and sold throughout the South.<sup>18</sup>

---

18. Kennedy, William Esq., Texas; The Rise, Progress and Prospects of the Republic of Texas, Vol. II, p. 127.

---

Among the states in which the "Bowie Knife" was used extensively was Arkansas. As Arkansas was called the "Toothpick State", the Bowie Knife was often spoken of as the Arkansan Toothpick.<sup>19</sup>

---

19. Dobie, J. Frank, "Bowie and the Bowie Knife", Southwest Review, Vol. 16, (Spring 1931), p. 356.

---

James Bowie lived in Vividalia in Louisiana which was opposite Natchez, Mississippi. It was during his stay in this town the he formed friendships which later involved him in some serious trouble. The most serious trouble in which he was involved was the Wells-Maddox duel which took place on September 19, 1827, on a sandbar near Natchez. Twelve men were engaged in this bloody fray. Among the twelve men was James Bowie who fought for the Wells side. The outcome of the duel was two dead men and two wounded men. One of the most seriously wounded was James Bowie.<sup>20</sup> He probably would

---

20. Demark Van, Harry, "When Bowie Used His Bowie Knife," Bunker's Magazine, Vol. II, (July--December 1928) pp. 102-105.

---

have lost his life if he had not had the "Bowie Knife."

Rezin saw a need for his brother, James, to take the knife to the duel. It was his only protection.<sup>21</sup> According to

---

21. Southwestern Historical Quarterley, Vol. 37, (July 1933--April 1934), p. 94.

---

Rezin's story, the knife was used in one and only one duel.

Colonel James Bowie had been shot by an individual with whom he was at variance; and I presumed a second attempt would be made by the same person to take his life. I gave him this knife to be used as the occasion might require, as a defensive weapon. Sometimes afterwards (and the only time the knife was used for any other purpose than that for which it was originally destined) it was resorted to by Colonel James Bowie in a chance medley or rough fight between himself and certain other individuals to whom he was then inimical and the knife was used only as a defensive weapon, and not until he had been shot down; it was the means of saving his life. The improvisement in its fabrication and the state of perfection which it has acquired from experienced cutlers were not brought about by my agency. I would here assert also, that neither Colonel James Bowie nor myself, at any period of our lives, ever had a duel with any person whatsoever.<sup>22</sup>

---

22. Kennedy, William Esq., Texas; The Rise, Progress and Prospects of the Republic of Texas, Vol. II, p. 128.

---

Bowie had decided to leave Louisiana after the Wells-Maddox duel. He heard that Texas offered both wealth and adventure.

So in 1828, he sold his land and negroes and planned to buy more land in Texas. Texas interested him further since he had read some old Spanish records that told about some silver mines which were supposed to be near the San Saba river.<sup>23</sup>

---

23. Southwestern Historical Quarterley, Vol. 37, (July 1933--April 1934), p. 95.

---

It was during the year 1828 that Bowie arrived in Texas. He made his headquarters at Bexar. He became very much interested in Catholic religion while here and decided to become a member of the Catholic Church. On June 26, 1828, he was baptized by Refugio de la Garza, one of the priests.<sup>24</sup>

---

24. Chabot, Frederick C., With Makers of San Antonio Genealogies of Early Latin, Anglo-American, German Families With Occasional Biographies, April, M-DCCCC.XXXVII, p. 246.

---

In 1830, he went back to Louisiana. During the same year, Bowie came back to Texas. He brought a letter of introduction from Thomas F. McKinney of Nacogdoches to Stephen F. Austin. The letter read as follows:

Permit me to introduce to you Mr. James Bowie, a gentleman who stands highly esteemed by his acquaintances and merits the attention particularly of the citizen of Texas as he is disposed to become a citizen of that country and will evidently be able to promote its general

interests. I hope that you and Mr. Bowie may concur<sup>25</sup>  
in sentiments and that you may facilitate his views.

---

25. Ibid., p. 246.

---

While returning to Texas in 1830, after he had crossed the Mississippi river, he met a Methodist parson. The Methodist Conference had appointed the parson to go to Texas. This minister was glad to travel with a man of Bowie's type who knew the geography of the country. Bowie was a very pleasant companion to travel with also. The preacher described Bowie as a man clad in buckskin, armed with a rifle, a pistol, and a knife. They traveled on until they came to a settlement which was filled with desperadoes from many states. The preacher decided that a sermon might do the people good so they stopped there.<sup>26</sup>

---

26. From a legend.

---

He was among the first Methodist preachers to be sent to Texas. He posted the time of his services in the courthouse. At the appointed hour, the congregation gathered. Men made up his audience in its entirety. All of the men joined in his song service. The text was then announced. It did not appeal

to this masculine crowd as some of them brayed like an ass while others hooted like an owl. The poor parson was interrupted many times. James Bowie grew tired of the rudeness displayed by the audience. He saw a need of the word of God and was determined to make this congregation listen to the sermon. With his very strong voice he said:

Men this man has come here to preach to you. You need presching to, and I'll be---- if he shan't preach to you. The next man that disturbs him shall fight me. My name is James Bowie.<sup>27</sup>

---

27. From a legend.

---

The minister said that his congregation became attentive and respectful to his sermon. James Bowie had splendid influence over the rough and reckless element of humanity.<sup>28</sup>

---

28. Ibid.,

---

James Bowie continued his journey until he arrived at Bexar. It was in the same year of 1830 that he invested \$1,000 or \$1,500 in Texas lands. He readily made friends with the most useful families of Bexar and was popular in both business and social circles. While there, he took advantage of the colonization law which had been passed about

1825. This law made a provision which gave the state government authority to sell land to Mexicans upon such terms as they might see fit. As much as eleven leagues, about 48,712 acres of land could be sold in a single grant. Numerous grants sold for as low as \$100 per league. Bowie journeyed down to Saltillo and induced various Mexicans to apply for eleven league grants. When the grants were made, Bowie purchased the certificates and they were sold about and locations made under them. Such transactions disturbed many of the colonists as locations under these large grants bearing Mexican names often conflicted with the little land holdings of the stockman farmers.<sup>29</sup>

---

29. Wharton, Clarence R., Texas Under Many Flags, Vol. I, p. 224.

---



### CHAPTER III

#### THE MANHOOD OF JAMES BOWIE

When James Bowie first came to San Antonio, he noticed that the Indians exchanged crude silver for arms and blankets. He was interested to know where they got this precious metal. He began to think, plan, and scheme. Finally he worked out a unique plan. He remembered that the chief, Xolic, came often to San Antonio. Bowie decided to become a very good friend to this Lipan chief. Everytime that Xolic came to San Antonio, Bowie gave him a very cordial welcome. Xolic grew to admire and like his new white friend, James Bowie.<sup>1</sup>

---

1. Hunter, J. Marvin, "James Bowie" Frontier Times, Vol. 5, (Feb. 1928), p. 194.

---

He wanted to insure a greater friendship with the Lipan Chief so he thought of a tactful and politic plan. He thought that Xolic would like a beautiful silver mounted rifle and ample ammunition. Bowie gave this beautiful and elaborate present to his Indian friend. Xolic was surprised and over-

joyed. He decided that he would like to ask Bowie to become his adopted son. To this suggestion, Bowie readily consented. At sunrise one day at San Pedro Springs, in the prescende of Xolio's band and with all display of a foreign ceremony, Bowie became a member of the Lipan tribe. He was interested to live among the Indians so that he could learn the secret of the lost silver mines. He lived among them eleven months during which time Bowie helped the Lipans against their enemies, the Commanches and Apache tribes. They praised Bowie for both his courage and bravery.<sup>2</sup>

---

2. Ibid., p. 194.

---

Bowie watched and listened so as to find out the concealed secret of the silver mines. At last he accomplished his purpose. How he did it, no one ever knew. Bowie had to keep this information quiet for he probably would have lost his life had the Indians known that he knew the whereabouts of the silver mines. Since he did know the long desired secret, Bowie was ready to return to San Antonio.<sup>3</sup>

---

3. Ibid., p. 195.

---

The Indians learned that James Bowie had planned to leave them and they did not want him to go. About this time, Chief Kolic died from an old wound and was succeeded by a new chief, Tresmanos. Tresmanos suspected that Bowie knew the secret of the location of the silver mines. He warned Bowie not to tell the secret. Bowie was reprovved very harshly by him because he wanted to desert the Lipan tribe. Both a quarrel and a fight ensued. Tresmanos would have killed Bowie if some of Bowie's friends had not saved his life.<sup>4</sup>

---

4. Ibid., p. 195.

---

James Bowie was determined to find the silver mines. He organized a small company of about eleven men and set out on an expedition in 1832.<sup>5</sup> One day while in camp, the party

---

5. Belton, Herbert Eugene, and Barker, Eugene C., With The Makers of Texas, p. 131.

---

noticed that they were surrounded by Indians. Rezin Bowie was a member of the party. It was decided to let him make a compromise with these savages so as to avoid a battle. Rezin accompanied by David Buchanan met them and asked to speak to their chief. The Indians spoke English back to them

and fired about twelve shots at Rezin and David. David Buchanan's leg was broken by the bullets. Rezin then fired back at the savages. They returned a heavy fire which wounded Buchanan in two more places but still Rezin was uninjured.<sup>6</sup>

---

6. Sowell, A. J., Rangers and Pioneers of Texas, p. 46.

---

Eight of the Indians ran after Rezin with their tomahawks to cut up the paleface wizard. James, with the rest of the party, rushed out from camp and killed four Indians. While engaged in this fray, the party noticed a hill to the northwest that was red with Indians. Their chief was mounted on a horse and he was riding swiftly about urging his men to attack the whites. When the whites opened fire, the chief was shot off of his horse and many of his men were killed. The redmen realized that they could not dislodge the whitemen from the thicket. The Indians now planned to conceal the number of their dead ones. They wanted to kill as many of the white enemy as possible.<sup>7</sup>

---

7. Ibid., p. 47.

---

They contrived a very treacherous plan which was to set the grass on fire. The thick smoke concealed the dead Indians as they were carried off of the battle field. The Bowie party scraped away all of the leaves and grass around the camp thus keeping the fire away from the wounded. Besides this, they threw up breastworks of brush and rocks. Since the wind was blowing from the west, all of the grass burned as far as the creek except about five acres.<sup>8</sup>

---

8. Ibid., p. 48.

---

The Indians made another attack fighting from rocks and trees. As the wind had changed to the south, fire was set to the grass again. So many sparks of fire were flying about that the Bowie party dared not open their powder horns. Instead, the palefaces decided to fight bravely and quickly with their knives. In case the fire should reach the camp, it could be smothered out with buffalo, deer, and bear skins or wet blankets. The white men fought the Indians from sunrise until sundown for about eight days. There were only eight white men to fight about one hundred sixty-four Indians.<sup>9</sup>

---

9. Ibid., pp. 49-50.

---

This battle, which is known as the Calf Creek Battle, was the most heroic and stubbornly contested battle ever fought on Texas soil. According to Hunter's story it surpassed the Fall of the Alamo or the Battle of San Jacinto.

It may be said that the heroes at the Alamo contended against greater odds and that the patriots at San Jacinto bared their breasts under like conditions, but at Calf Creek Bowie and his men fought twenty to one. The Battle of Calf Creek closed the chapter of the "Lost Mines" which were called "Bowie Mines". James Bowie knew the secret of their location but his efforts were lost to open up the Almarges Mines.<sup>10</sup>

---

10. Hunter, Marvin J., "James Bowie," Frontier Times, Vol. 5, (Feb. 1923), p. 197.

---

James Bowie and his party returned to San Antonio. On Sunday morning he could hear church bells ringing from San-Fernando. People could be seen hurrying to and fro. Some of them were civilians, and others were soldiers. Now and then a few closed carriages drove up to the church. Near the center of the plaza were some horsemen watching the throng. Their very air marked them Americans. They were gentlemen adventurers from both the northern and southern states. Lure of adventure and a desire for wealth had drawn them here.<sup>11</sup>

---

11. Hunter, Theresa M., "James Bowie's First Badge of Courage," The Dallas Morning News, Dec. 2, 1928, p. 6.

---

The coach of Vice-Governor Veramendi drove up. He stepped out to assist Senora Veramendi. About the time that she stepped out of the coach on the ground, the horses became frightened at an umbrella which a small child was carrying. They lunged forward and jerked the reins out of the driver's hands and ran away with the coach. The spectators were filled with fear at the scene of the runaways.<sup>12</sup>

---

12. Ibid., p. 6.

---

At last a horseman stepped in front of the runaways. He caught the horses with a sure and tight grasp and stopped them. The rescuer hastened to the side of the carriage and lifted out the frightened occupant.<sup>13</sup>

---

13. Loco Op. Cit.

---

The occupant of this carriage was a slender maiden of nineteen years. She was delicate and graceful, lovely brown-eyed Ursula Veramendi, the daughter of Don Juan Martin Veramendi, the Vice-Governor of Coahuila and Texas, and her

rescuer was tawny blue-eyed James Bowie. The Vice-Governor reproved the awkward driver and patted his beloved daughter on her shoulders. Then he expressed deep gratitude to Bowie for his act of heroism. The Vice-Governor asked the gallant hero his name. The reply was "James Bowie formerly from Louisiana but now from Texas." Then Bowie was given a very pressing invitation to visit the Vice-Governor's palace on Soledad Street. Bowie was impressed with the picture of the frightened Ursula who showed such an appeal in her eyes the day he saved her life. Because of this fact, he was very anxious to become acquainted with her and her family so he gladly accepted the invitation.<sup>14</sup>

---

14. Ibid.

---

The time soon came for Bowie to visit the Veramendi Palace. It was an old building which had been erected in 1716. He noticed that it was a long low adobe building whose walls looked low and forbidding. Iron grates were over the windows and its doors were massive. As Bowie approached its interior, he noticed an abundance of beauty and luxury. The welcome extended by the Vice-Governor to Bowie was as pleasing to him as the beauty and charm of the beautiful inside attractions



of the palace.<sup>15</sup>

---

15. Ibid., p. 6.

---

Martin Veramendi was curious to know as much about Bowie as he could possibly find out. He was able to find out some facts about the new guest after asking some very pointed questions concerning Bowie's ambition, his career, and why he came to Texas. The Vice-Governor had heard about Bowie's bravery at the Battle of Calf Creek. He wanted to learn more about the facts of this battle which had won both fame and recognition for James Bowie. Deep gratitude was again extended Bowie for his act of kindness to his daughter, Ursula.<sup>16</sup>

---

16. Ibid.

---

At this time a servant served the host and guest some cakes and wine. The Vice-Governor was impressed with Bowie's courteous manners, dignity, and keen sense of observation. He then invited his guest to take a walk and visit his rose garden.<sup>17</sup>

---

17. Ibid.

---

Bowie amused his host by telling him about a very attractive flower fete which he had recently seen in New Orleans. This gave the Vice-Governor an idea that such an entertainment might be held in Bexar. Facilities were available to plant rose gardens for this occasion.<sup>18</sup>

---

18. Ibid.

---

James Bowie was restless, disappointed, and bored because Ursula had not appeared. He was about ready to leave for home when he noticed an object far in the distance. As it came closer to his view, he saw that it was the lady whom he had rescued from the runaways. She was introduced to Bowie as Ursula Veramendi, the daughter of the Vice-Governor Veramendi. Her father told her that Bowie had saved her life. She expressed deep gratitude to her new friend for his act of heroism. As a badge of courage, she gave Bowie a crimson rose which he placed in the lapel of his coat. He told Ursula that such a rose was symbolic of true love. She wished to entertain Bowie further so she played some guitar music which was accompanied by her brother, Carlos, who played his violin.<sup>19</sup>

---

19. Ibid.

---

Bowie was very much impressed with his new friend and she was equally impressed with the handsome young alluring American. Thus their romance began. Bowie often visited Ursula and wooed her. It was not long until they became engaged.<sup>20</sup>

---

20. Chabot, Frederick C., With the Makers of San Antonio Genealogies of Early Latin and Anglo-American and German Families with Occasional Biographies, April, M-DCCCC.XXVII, p. 251.

---

They announced their wedding which took place on April 22, 1831. It was solemnized by Refugio de la Garza, the same priest who had previously baptized Bowie in the Catholic Church.<sup>21</sup>

---

21. Bancroft, Hubert Howe, History of Texas and the North Mexican States, Vol. II, 1801-1889, p. 75.

---

The Vice-Governor had arranged a feast and a dance which lasted for days. All of the guests seemed to enjoy the wedding. It was a splendid entertainment. The charming bride

and handsome groom were admired by everyone. James loved his bride dearly and she loved him equally in return. They went to New Orleans on their honeymoon.<sup>22</sup>

---

22. Biographical Souvenirs of the State of Texas, p. 101.

---

While in the city, Ursula met and enjoyed many of her husband's friends and relatives. Beauty experts regarded Ursula as one of the most beautiful women in New Orleans.<sup>23</sup>

---

23. Chabot, Frederick C., With the Makers of San Antonio Genealogies of Early Latin, Anglo-American and German Families With Occasional Biographies, April, M-DCCCC.XXXVII, p. 247.

---

The Bowie's trip to New Orleans was a series of ovations. They decided to return to the Veramendi Palace to make their home. Bowie adopted his wife's people as his own and considered himself as one of the Veramendi sons. As a foreigner could not engage in manufacturing within Mexican territory, Bowie took Martin Veramendi as his partner. They established cotton mills at Saltillo. Soon the Congress of Coahuila granted Bowie the right of citizenship. The cotton mills were turned over to Martin Veramendi because Bowie had other pressing business to attend to.<sup>24</sup>

---

24. Ibid., p. 247.

---

The Bowie family was indeed happy, their happiness being increased by the birth of a daughter in 1832. She was christened Elvie Marie. She was such a bright and adorable child that her parents were happier than ever. Their happiness did not last long because duty called Bowie away from his family and home.<sup>25</sup>

---

25. Hunter, Theresa M., "James Bowie's Badge of Courage," The Dallas Morning News, Dec. 2, 1928, p. 6.

---

Hostile Indians were harrassing the colonies about 1833. They stole both their cattle and goods. Sam Houston, a friend with whom James Bowie had eaten Christmas Dinner several years previously, trusted and believed in Bowie.<sup>26</sup> Houston appointed

---

26. Ibid., p. 6.

---

him to lead an expedition against the hostile tribes.<sup>27</sup> As

---

27. Limrock, Bernhardt Wall, and Williams, Amelia, Following General Sam Houston from 1793-1853, p. 75.

---

he led his band of men down Soledad Street, he was anxiously watched by his wife and baby. He gave an order to his men and rode aside. He put his arms around his wife and child, caressed them, and promised a safe and speedy return. He told them that he would soon drive the savages away and be at home again.<sup>28</sup>

---

28. Hunter, Theresa M., "James Bowie's First Badge of Courage," The Dallas Morning News, Dec. 2, 1928, p. 6.

---

When he had accomplished his task, he was very glad to return home. Upon reaching the palace, he noticed that the doors were locked and no one was at home. Bowie was very much puzzled over the situation and began to make inquiry about his family. He was told that the Vice-Governor, Don Juan Martin Veramendi, had orders to go to Mexico as the Mexican Government charged that he was in sympathy with the rebels. Together with his wife, daughter, and granddaughter, he had gone under military guard to Mexico.<sup>29</sup> This worried

---

29. Ibid., p. 6.

---

Bowie so much that he was dazed. He sought the help of Austin who promised to aid him.<sup>30</sup>

---

30. Chabot, Frederick C., With the Makers of San Antonio Genealogies of Early Latin, Anglo-American and German Families With Occasional Biographies, April, M-DCCCCXXXVII, p. 247.

---

Austin tried to get in touch with the Mexican Government, but received very little attention. The Mexican Government's attention was turned to the many unsettled conditions which existed at that time. Austin was discouraged as he was anxious to lend Bowie a helping hand in anyway that he could.<sup>31</sup>

---

31. Hunter, Theresa M., "James Bowie's First Badge of Courage," The Dallas Morning News, Dec. 2, 1928, p. 6.

---

James Bowie anxiously waited to receive a letter from his family. It seemed as if he would never learn about their whereabouts. One day he was made very happy when the postman handed him a letter. His joy was turned to sorrow because when he opened the letter and read it it bore the bad tidings that Don Juan Martin Veramendi and the rest of the family had contracted Asiatic Cholera and died. This bitter tragedy was such a shock to Bowie that it upset the rest of his life. He was not interested in any of life's offers. He lost all interest in business and sold out his manufacturing

interests at a very great loss. He was blue, sad, and restless. He finally decided to go back to Louisiana. He thought that he might forget some of his troubles.<sup>32</sup>

---

32. Chabot, Frederick C., With the Makers of San Antonio Genealogies of Early Latin, Anglo-American and German families With Occasional Biographies, April, M-DCCCC.XXVII, p. 247.

---

After the death of his wife and baby, Bowie decided to go to Natchez, Mississippi on October 31, 1833, and make his will. An inactive life did not satisfy him and he soon learned that he could not bear inactivity. He decided to visit old friends in 1834 in Saltillo, Monclova, New Orleans, and Bexar. He could not forget Texas so in 1835 he came back. It was at this time that the Texas Revolution broke out.<sup>33</sup> James Bowie wished to join the Texas Revolution for

---

33. Ibid., p. 247.

---

two reasons one of which was a patriotic cause and the other to forget the loss of the beloved Bowie and Veramendi families.<sup>34</sup>

---

34. The Southwestern Historical Quarterley, "James Bowie," vol. 37, (July 1933-April 1934), pp. 99-101.

---



Bowie took part in the Battle of Nacogdoches in 1832 and helped to drive the Mexicans out under the command of Piedras. Piedras evacuated the town and left behind all of the wounded and dead men, public stores, and threw all of his ammunition in a well.<sup>35</sup>

---

35. Yoakum, H. Esq., History of Texas, Vol.I, p. 298.

---

According to history, there was no definite commission given to Bowie. It was rumored about the camp that Bowie felt hard toward Stephen F. Austin because of this fact. Bowie served the Texas Army as a sort of a guide or an adviser.<sup>36</sup>

---

36. Chabot, Frederick C., With Makers of San Antonio Genealogies of Early Latin, Anglo-American and German Families With Occasional Biographies, April, M-DCCCC.XXXVII, p. 248.

---

Since Bowie's ingenuity had helped to win the battle of Nacogdoches, he was more encouraged than ever to continue his efforts against Mexico in The Texas Revolution. In 1835, he displayed his military efficiency in helping win another victory in the Battle of Concepcion, Bowie showed great skill, tact, and bravery in every respect.<sup>37</sup>

---

37. Wooten, Dudley G., A Comprehensive History of Texas, 1865-1897, Vol, I, pp. 185-186.

---

In 1835, the "Grass Fight" took place. James Bowie helped win this battle. The Texans captured a large number of horses, mules, saddles, bridles, and bags. It was thought at first that the bags were full of silver. However, they were a disappointment because they contained only grass. It had been gathered to feed the starving Mexican horses which were awaiting some feed. Many starving animals of this kind were to be found at Bexar.<sup>38</sup>

---

38. Ibid., pp. 192-193.

---

James Bowie was determined to help Texas gain her independence so he joined Travis at San Antonio in the Alamo. Many more men were needed to fight the Mexicans here and Travis called for men everywhere. Bowie was trying to help feed the men who were at the Alamo. He had one of his detachments busy gathering corn while the other one drove in cattle for food.<sup>39</sup>

---

39. Strumberg, Robert, History of San Antonio and the Days in Texas, St. Joseph's Society, San Antonio, Texas, 1920, p. 74.

---

Time passed on and Travis still called for more men to defend the Alamo. The Mexicans were encroaching nearer each day and their army was very large too. The Mexicans had Mexican officers with weapons to force them to scale the walls and fight the Texans. Travis tried to be brave and not tell just how he felt about the situation. At last he told of the disaster which faced the Alamo. Bowie was now confined to his cot very ill with consumption. The whole situation was a very unpromising and gloomy one.<sup>40</sup>

---

40. Thrall, Homer Rev., History of Texas, 1878, p. 242.

---

Travis now drew a line and called for volunteers and every man was said to have crossed the line to help but one, a Mr. Rose, who fled into the timber and was never heard of anymore. Even poor sick James Bowie had his cot moved across the line. Bowie was now very weak from that terrible malady. Realizing this fact he would raise up from his cot and fire at the enemy from his window, and then fall back exhausted in his bed.<sup>41</sup>

---

41. Ibid., p. 245.

---

The brave little band of Texans fought bravely and well at the Alamo. However, they were beaten before they started as they were greatly outnumbered by their enemy, the Mexicans. The Mexicans were not willing to fight and they stood back and had to be forced by Mexican officers to scale the walls and engage in the fray. So on March 6, 1836, one of the most bloody defeats known in Texas History took place when the Alamo fell.<sup>42</sup>

---

42. Garrison, George P., Texas, A Contest of Civilization, pp. 207-208.

---

Anna J. H. Pennybacker described the attack at the Alamo as follows:

While it was yet dark (March 6), the Mexicans surrounded the Alamo. The infantry were supplied with crow-bars and ladders for scaling the walls. Back of these were cavalry, who were ordered to kill any soldier that shirked the fight, and to see that no Texan escaped. At dawn a single bugle blast, the signal for battle rang out. Amidst the roar of cannon, "the trumpets sounding the awful notes of the dugello (day-gway-lo), signifying no quarter," Santa Anna's troops advanced to the attack from three separate directions. The Texans received them with a terrible volley of musketry and artillery. Back rushed the Mexicans before the fire. Again they advanced, planted their ladders and tried to mount. The fury of despair nerved the arms of Travis's men, and again they hurled back the foe. The Mexicans, bleeding, wounded, and shattered, hesitated to renew the attack but the stern command of Santa Anna, and the flashing sabres of cavalry, forced them on. Be tens by hundreds, they swarmed the ladders. Down fell the first, the second crushing

all beneath them, while the Texans stood their ground, but there is a limit to all human power. What could one hundred and eighty-two men, worn out by eleven days of constant effort, do against so many fresh troops? The Mexicans were pushed forward over the dead bodies of their comrades. Now they were on the walls, now noble Travis fell, now Bonham, The enemy was in the convent court. The outer walls were abandoned, and the Texans were pushed backwards, to the barracks and church. Every apartment was a battle-field, every room a fortress where death alone was conqueror. Crushing through the massive stone walls came the cannon balls from their guns, now turned against them, yet our heroes struggled on till they were literally cut to pieces. But they fell not avenged. The court ran with blood, but resistance did not cease until every one of the noble band lay a bleeding sacrifice upon his country's altar. "Death and Santa Anna held the place."

The storming of the Alamo occupied less than one hour. By order of Santa Anna, the bodies of the Texans were collected in a huge pile and burned, while the dead Mexicans were taken to the cemetery for burial. As the Sabbath sun sank slowly in the west, the smoke from the funeral pyre of heroes ascended as incense to heaven.<sup>43</sup>

---

43. Pennybacker, Anna J. H., History of Texas Revised, pp. 132, 133, 134.

---

Historians think that this disaster could have been averted had Houston's orders been obeyed. Houston had ordered the small army to evacuate the Alamo, blow it up, and come on and meet him. It seemed that this order was unheeded.<sup>44</sup>

---

44. Crane, William Carey, Life and Select Literary Remains of Sam Houston, of Texas, 1884, p. 59.

---

The fighting in the Alamo was bloody and cruel according to Thrall who stated that numerous distinguished gentlemen gave him information concerning the Fall of the Alamo. Thrall could not find space to mention names of his helpers. The Mexicans rushed upon sick Bowie and he was slain in bed. It was said that he killed two or three Mexicans with his pistol as they broke into his room.<sup>45</sup> Then he drew out his

---

45. Thrall, Homer Rev., History of Texas, N. D. Thomson Co., St. Louis, Missouri, 1878, p. 245.

---

famous Bowie Knife and stabbed some of them. Some Mexicans finally riddled him with bullets. After every Texan had been massacred, Santa Anna, the Mexican General, ordered their bodies disposed of. Two large wooden pyres were built upon which to place their bodies. Alternate layers of men and wood were laid. Then grease and oil was poured over the pyres. Torches were applied. It took two days to consume the corpses of the noble dead.<sup>46</sup> As Santa Anna was a God-

---

46. Barnes, Charles Merritt, Combats and Conquests of Immortal Heroes, Guessaz and Ferlet Company, San Antonio, Texas, 1910, pp. 36-37.

---

father to Ursula Bowie, he had Bowie's body placed in an unmarked grave. Such was the siege of the Alamo and the end of our brave hero, James Bowie.<sup>47</sup>

---

47. A Legend.

---

The Fall of the Alamo as well as the death of James Bowie was reported to his mother. This was a message to break the heart of any mother. Mrs. Bowie was a woman of Roman sternness and was as brave as could be. It was said that when this message was reported to her that she was sure that Jim had not died from a wound in his back. She then went about her duties.<sup>48</sup>

---

48. Ibid.

---

Bowie's career closed at the age of forty. He was a hunter, an Indian fighter, a social lion, and a business man, all of which were a combination in pioneer days. He was a man of his people in his aims, achievements, passions, and desires.<sup>49</sup>

---

49. Williams-McCullough, Martha, "A Man and His Knife," (a passage from Life of James Bowie), Harpers Magazine, June to November 1898, Vol. XCVII, p. 229.

---

Frank Dobie says that Bowie is remembered for his connections with the lost mines of the San Saba, with the famous "Bowie Knife" by which so many people symbolize his character, and lastly for his bravery at the Fall of the Alamo.<sup>50</sup>

---

50. Dobie, J. Frank, "Bowie and the Bowie Knife," Southwest Review, (Spring 1931), p. 1.

---

The heroes who lost their lives at the Alamo were honored by a monument which was placed at the old capitol entrance. It is described by Anna J. Pennybacker as follows:

At the entrance to the old capitol at Austin stood a monument built from the ruins of the Alamo, and dedicated to the heroes who perished there. The names Bowie, Travis, Bonham, and Crockett stood in bold relief, on each side. The north side bore this inscription, "To God of the fearless and the free is dedicated this altar, made from the ruins of the Alamo." The east front: "Thermopylae had her messenger of defeat, but the Alamo had none." The west front: "Blood of heroes have stained me; let stones of the Alamo speak that their immolation be not forgotten." The south front: "Be they enrolled with Leonidas in the host of the mighty dead."

This monument was destroyed at the burning of the capitol in 1881. A new monument now stands on the capitol grounds.<sup>51</sup>

---

51. Pennybacker, Anna J. H., A Revised History of Texas, pp. 134, 135.

---



John Henry Brown in his account of Bowie said that Bowie was the bravest and coolest of men and was destined to become a martyr of the Alamo. Besides the kind expressions, the monument which has been mentioned, Bowie is honored and loved by the state of Texas as a whole. There is both a town and county which bear his name. His heroic deeds are sung and praised by all Texas School Children who study the history of Texas.<sup>52</sup>

---

52. Biographical Souvenirs of the State of Texas, p. 102.

---

## APPENDIX

No. 253

(1835 Oct. 28, James) Bowie and (James W.) Fannin  
(Mission Concepcion, Bexar, Texas) to (Stephen  
Fuller Austin, Bexar, Texas)

Report of an engagement with a Mexican detachment at  
Concepcion, Oct. 28, copy. 4p.

In no. 2178, p. 20-23.<sup>1</sup>

---

1. Gulick, Charles Adams Jr., Assisted by Elliott, Katherine, archivist of Texas State Library, Papers of Mirabeau Buonaparte Lamar, Edited from original papers in Texas State Library, A. C. Baldwin and Sons, Austin, Texas Copyright date not given, Vol. I, p. 247.

---

## No. 308. Citizens' and Soldiers' Meeting

At a large and respectable meeting of citizens and soldiers of this place, held this 26th day of January, 1836 to take into consideration the recent movements at San Felipe, J. C. Neill was called to the chair and H. J. Williamson was appointed secretary. The object of this meeting having been started by this chair; on motion of Col. J. B. Bonham, a committee of seven was appointed to draft a preamble and resolution for the consideration of the meeting; where upon the following gentlemen were appointed by the chair.<sup>2</sup>

Chairman of Committee	J. B. Bonham
	Jas. Bowie
	G. B. Jameson
	Doctor Pollard
	Jessie Badgett
	J. N. Seguin
	Don Gasper Flores

---

2. Ibid., Vol. V, p. 93.

---

No. 249

1835 Oct. 24, James Bowie and (James) W. Fannin, Jr., Mission  
Of Espada (Texas) To (Stephen Fuller) Austin, (Camp  
Salado, Texas).

Requesting additional reinforcements and orders; an attack  
threatened by Baron (Barragan) ; Suggestion for Bowie's  
successor.

Copy. 1p.<sup>3</sup>

---

3. Ibid., Vol. I, p. 245.

---

## CONTRACT CONCERNING MARRIAGE DOWRY

In the city of San Fernando de Bexar April 22, 1831, before me, sole constutational alcade of said city and proper witnesses for lack of a public scribe as the law prescribes, appeared C. James Bowie, bachelor 32 years of age and a native of the United States, who is about to contract legal marriage, and he is the son of C. Renzin Bowie and Elvy Apactesby Jones Bowie, both citizens and residents of said U. S. A. and said C. James Bowie said: That being about to contract marriage in church with Miss Marie Ursula de Veramendi, native maiden of this city and legitimate daughter of C. Juan Martin de Veramendi and Maria Josega Navarro residents and natives of the said city, and well due consideration for virtue and other praiseworthy qualities of his said wife, he offered in addition to her dowry by way of marriage to make whatever use she may of it and in case the marriage shall be consumated the sum of 15,000 pesos which may be selected from his possessions and which be list before me as follows:

In the territory of Arkansas in the U. S. 70,000 arpents of land of 4 reales each at the lowest price.

In legal obligations and sufficient notes made by C. G. Walker and Wilkins Brothers residents of Neches and of the

United States.

Certain individual notes in judgment or suit. Sums due the government of the U. S. cotton and wool machinery in possession of C. Angus McNeil in Boston (he calls in the state of Boston), trans.

Besides certain furniture and articles in use in his house, land under contract and to be acquired, in this country (Reserving for the terms of two years certain goods shall be excluded out of the said dowry because he has not yet been established in this country to which he has recently emigrated and safe conduct had in accordance with the laws of the Federation to his new adapted country.

So he finds himself to pay in money to his future wife or her representative in case the marriage shall be terminated for any legal cause the prescribed sum of 15,000 pesos or in goods or equivalent value, binding himself of all rigor following clauses described of enforcing dowry, trans. and waiving all laws in his favor he signed and delivered this document to which I attest before the witnesses--C. G. Jose Manuel de la Garza, Jose Marie de Cardenas of the city today, the date mentioned.

Besides the property mentioned he has good title to 15,000 arpents of land on the banks of the Colorado river,

in Tachita in Louisiana valued at 5 pesos each, in all 75,000 pesos.<sup>4</sup>

Signed--Jose Marie Salinas

James Bowie

Probated Oct. 11, 1838

Witnesses;

J. G. Hood, Administrator

Jose Maria Flores

James Bowie

Ingacio Frechey

---

4. Copy from the original copy of Bowie's Marriage Contract in the San Antonio Public Library.

---



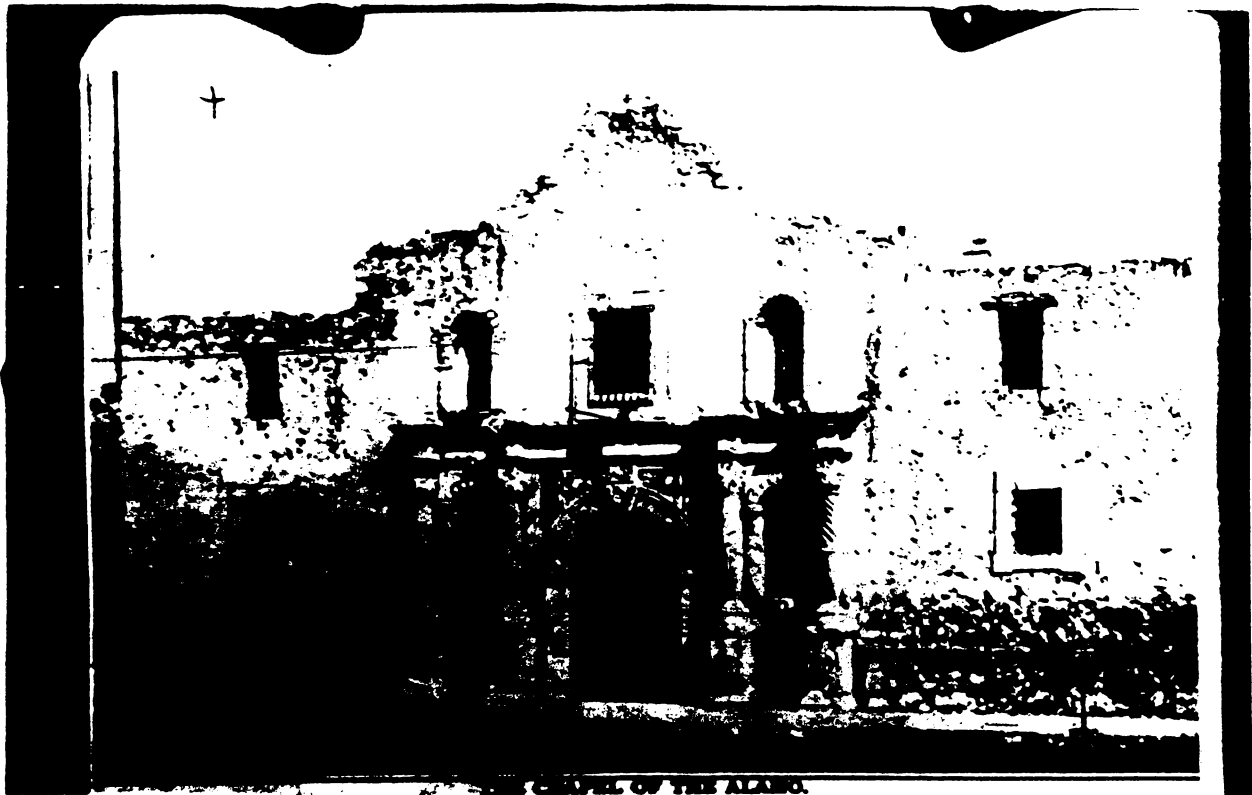


Colonel James Bowie,  
hero of romance and  
gallant soldier of Texas.  
An immortal of the Alamo—



THE VERAMENDI PALACE.

It was the home of  
Ursula Vermandi who  
became Mrs. James Bowie



THE CHAPEL OF THE ALAMO.

The chapel of the Alamo  
where James Bowie was  
slain by Santa Anna's  
horde



A Picture of Madame Landelaria  
at the age of 113. She is said to  
have nursed the sick soldiers at  
the Alamo. She is holding a Mexican  
hairless dog which slept at her  
feet, curing her of rheumatism

## BIBLIOGRAPHY

## BOOKS

- Baker, D. W. C., A Texas Scrap Book Made up of the History, Biography and Miscellany of Texas and its People, A Facsimile Reproduction of the Original, The Steck Co., Austin, Texas, 1933, 269.
- Bancroft, Hubert Howe, History of Texas and the North Mexican States, The History Company, Publishers, San Francisco, 1889, Vol. II, 1801-1889, 75.
- Barnes, Charles Merritt, Combats and Conquests of Immortal Heroes, Guessaz and Farlet Company, San Antonio, Texas, 1910, 34-40.
- Biographical Souvenirs of the State of Texas, F. A. Battey Company, Chicago, 1889, 101-103.
- Bolton, Herbert Eugene, and Barker, Eugene C., With the Makers of Texas, Gammet-Statesman, Publishing Co., Austin, Texas, 1904, 131-135.
- Chabot, Frederick C., With the Makers of San Antonio Genealogies of Early Latin, Anglo-American and German Families, With Occasional Biographies, Each Group Being Prefaced by A Brief Historical Sketch and Illustrations, by Artes Grafias, San Antonio, Texas, April, M-DCCC.XXXVII, 243-253.
- Crane, William Carey, Life and Select Literary Remains of Sam Houston, of Texas, J. B. Lippincott and Co, Philadelphia, 1884, p. 59.
- Ellis, Edward S., The Life of Colonel David Crockett, by Goates, Philadelphia, 1884, 212-259.
- Garrison, George P., Texas, A Contest of Civilization, Houghton Mifflin Co., Boston and New York, 1903, 204-208.

- Gulick, Charles Adams, Jr., Assisted by Elliott, Katherine, Archivist of Texas State Library, Papers of Mirabeau Buonaparte Lamar, Edited from original papers in Texas State Library, A. C. Baldwin, and Sons, Austin, Texas, Copyright date not given, Vol. I, 245, 247, Vol. V, 93.
- Kennedy, William Esq., Texas: The Rise Prospects of the Republic of Texas, R. Hastings, 13 Carey Street, Lincoln Inn, London, 1841, Vol. II, 121-129.
- Limrock, Bernhardt Wall, and Williams, Amelia, Following General Sam Houston from 1793-1853, The Steck Co., Austin, Texas, 1935, 75.
- Newton, Lewis W., and Gambrell, Herbert P., A Social and Political History of Texas, Southwest Press, Dallas, Texas, 1932, 147, 154, 155.
- Pennybacker, Anna J. H., A History of Texas Revised, Copyright 1895, 1900, 1907, and 1902, by Mrs. Pennybacker, Austin, Texas, Mrs. Percy Pennybacker Publisher, 132, 133, 134, 135.
- Sowell, A. J., Rangers and Pioneers of Texas, Shepherd Bros., and Co., Printers and Publishers, San Antonio, Texas, 1884, 46-51.
- Stephenson, Nathaniel W., Texas and The Mexican War, Yale University Press, New Haven, Brooks Co., Toronto, Glasgow, Humphrey Milford, London, Oxford University Press, 1921, 45-73.
- Strumberg, Robert, History of San Antonio and the Early Days in Texas, St. Joseph's Society, San Antonio, Texas, 1920, 72-79.
- Texas Biography With A Short History of the Texas Flag, (Reprinted from Texas Almanac, 1857-1861), "James Bowie," Southwest Texas State Teachers College, San Marcos, Texas, 1935, 10.
- Thomson, Holland, The Book of Knowledge, XXI, The Book of Texas, "James Bowie," The Grolier Society, Mercantile Bank Building, Dallas, Texas, 1929, 279-299.
- Thrall, Homer Rev., History of Texas, N. D. Thomson Co., St. Louis, Missouri, 1878, 506-507.

- Wharton, Clarence R., Texas, Under Many Flags, American Historical Society, Chicago and New York, 1930, Vol. I, 121, 122, 254.
- Wooten, Dudley G., A Comprehensive History of Texas, William G. Scarff, Dallas, 1898, Vol. I, 131, 132, 137, 142, 146, 170, 185, 186, 192, 193, 211, 217, 241, 242.
- Wortham, Louis J., A History of Texas, Wortham-Mulyneaux Co., Fort Worth, Texas, 1924, Vol. I, 374, 382, 387.
- Yoakum, H. Esq., History of Texas, Redfield, 34 Beekman Street, New York, 1856, Vol. II, 282, 372, Vol. II, 18.

#### PERIODICALS

- DeBow, J. D., "Texas," A Province Republic, A State, DeBow's Review, (S. C., 1820-67), 1857, 239-262.
- Demark Van Harry, "When Bowie Used His Bowie Knife," Bunker's Magazine, Vol. II, (July-Dec., 1928), 102-105.
- Dobie, J. Frank, "Bowie and the Bowie Knife," Southwest Review, Vol. 16, (Spring 1931), 351-368.
- Holland's Magazine, "Bowie," Farm and Ranch Publishing Co., Dallas, Texas, Vol. 55, (Jan, 1936), 24.
- Hunter, J. Marvin, "James Bowie," Frontier Times, Vol. V, (Feb. 1928), 193-198.
- Hunter, Theresa M., "James Bowie's First Badge of Courage," The Dallas Morning News, Dec. 2, 1928, 6.
- Hunter, Theresa M., "Grandson's Own Story of "Bowie Knife," The Dallas Morning News, Jan. 12, 1930, 3.
- Williams, Martha McCullough, "A Man and His Knife," Harper's Magazine, Vol. XCVII, (June-November 1898), 225-229.
- Williams, Amelia, "A Critical Study of the Siege of the Alamo and of the Personnel of Its Defenders," Southwestern Historical Quarterley, Vol. 37, (July 1933-April 1934), 90-103.

## PAMPHLETS

Texas, "Its History and Its Heroes," J. Frank Davis, Published  
in 1936 in observance of Centennial of Texas Independence,  
1936, 15.