

Meeting Schedule

2025

Jan 13, 2025 Sam Houston
Publisher of the Hood
County News (as "the" Sam
Houston)

Feb 10, 2025 Dr. Charles
Gear "Sam Houston and
the fate of Texas"

Mar 13, 2025 Dr. Julie
Holcomb, Baylor University

Apr 14, 2025 Pat Falci (as
A.P. Hill)

May 5, 2025 Dr. Curt
Fields (as Gen Grant)

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Jan 2025

North Central Texas Civil War Round Table

<http://www.ncentexcwrt.com/>

Granbury, Texas

Next Meeting: 13 January at Spring Creek BBQ

Program starts at 6:30

**Sam Houston, will speak on:
"Sam Houston's Relationship with the Union"**



The talk will be about Sam Houston's relationship with the Union. How even though he was raised in the south, had slaves, and was part of southern culture, he steadfastly supported the Union, even when it made him an outcast in his home of Texas and lead to his removal as governor.

Sam Houston is a award winning newspaper columnist, and newspaper executive, and serves as the Chief Operating Officer of the Hyde Media Group, LLC. This media organization owns and operates the Hood County News, The Gatesville Messenger, the Tri-County Reporter, as well as the printing press

operation based in Granbury.

Born in Missouri, Houston is a graduate of Westminster College and of the Oklahoma City University School of Law.

He is a Board Member of the Granbury Chamber of Commerce, the Granbury Education Foundation and is an honorary member of the David Crockett Chapter of the Sons of the Republic of Texas, He is also a director of the East Texas, and the West Texas Press Associations.

He is the playwright, producer, and actor of a one man play entitled, "The Lion of Texas-A Conversation with Sam Houston", which has been performed throughout Texas including sellout crowds right here in Granbury.



He and his wife Teresa live in Granbury, Texas. He has two children, two stepchildren, three grandchildren, and three ugly dogs.

Sam Houston: 1793-1863

Our purpose is education and information. From our inception we have kept a calculated balance mixing subjects, people, events and battles so as to appeal to all interests. If you examine our schedule of past speakers which is available on this website you will find this to be true. Speakers have included authors, professors, lecturers, dramatists, curators, and others who have some expertise in the subject of the Civil War.

Did You Know?

Texas in the Civil War

Texas State Library and Archives Commission

Sixteen years after Texas joined the United States, in January 1861, the Secession Convention met in Austin and adopted an Ordinance of Secession on February 1 and a Declaration of Causes on February 2. This proposal was approved by the voters, but even before Texas could become "independent" as provided for in the text of the Ordinance, it was accepted by the Provisional Government of the Confederate States of America as a state on March 1, 1861.

The Secession Convention, reconvened on March 2, approved an ordinance accepting Confederate statehood on March 5. Texas delegates to the Provisional Confederate Government had already been elected, and they were among those who approved the proposed Confederate Constitution. Their action was confirmed by the Secession Convention on March 23.

Sam Houston

(From the Texas Monthly, March 1993 by Anne Dingus)

No one ever called Stephen F. Austin "Steve," or Charles Goodnight "Chuck," or Lyndon Baines Johnson "Lyndy." But Sam Houston was always just Sam. Texas' greatest hero crushed Santa Anna's army at San Jacinto, a feat that propelled him into a lifetime of political service as our president, governor, and U.S. senator. Yet Sam Houston never lost the folksy charm and human flaws that made him a sort of Texas Everyman.

Sam was born two centuries ago this month [1793], and the state is gearing up for a full-fledged shindig to mark the occasion: more than fifty events in sixteen locales, from a graveside memorial service in Huntsville to a re-creation of the Runaway Scrape in Gonzales County. Simultaneously, the hefty library of Sam Houston literature is gaining two brand-new biographies (reviewed here, along with eight other significant Sam books). No other Texan has ever received such a tribute, but no other Texan has ever embodied so fully the fundamental virtues (and vices) that define the state. Like so many other ragtag émigrés, Sam had "G.T.T." (Gone to Texas) to escape an unfortunate past (in his case, a scandalous failed marriage while the governor of Tennessee). In some ways he behaved shockingly—boozing it up in public, flaunting his affection for the Indians—but he nonetheless managed to turn a beleaguered wilderness into a functioning republic recognized worldwide. He was tall, friendly, and brave, with a tendency to embroider the tales of his many exploits. Herewith, a selection of the accomplishments, embarrassments, imbroglios, and other moments of truth in the life of the ultimate Texan.

Sam at a Glance

1793: Born in Rockbridge County, Virginia.

1809: Runs away to live with the Cherokee.

1813: Joins the U.S. Army.

1814: Severely wounded during the Battle of Horseshoe Bend.

1823: Elected U.S. representative from Tennessee.

1827: Elected governor of Tennessee.

1829: Marries, then loses, Eliza Allen; returns to the Cherokee.

1832: Arrives in Texas.

1835: Named commander in chief of the Texas military forces.

1836: Routs Santa Anna's army at the Battle of San Jacinto; elected president of the Republic of Texas later that year.

1840: Marries Margaret Moffette Lea.

1841: Reelected president of the Republic.

1846: Elected U.S. senator from Texas; serves thirteen years.

1859: Elected governor of Texas.

1861: Refuses to swear an oath of allegiance to the Confederacy; the Texas legislature declares his office vacant.

1863: Dies at home in Huntsville.

Best Books on the Life and Times of Sam Houston
(from the Texas Monthly, March 1993 by Anne Dingus)

Some of the best books about Sam Houston:

The Raven

Marquis James (Grosset and Dunlap, New York, 1929). The most famous biography of Sam Houston won its author a Pulitzer prize. James's highly readable history was the first to place Sam Houston in a national context, as opposed to merely a Texan one, and also to examine in detail Sam's Indian years, until then sketchily documented. More-recent historians, however, have charged that much of James's material was made up of whole breechcloth, and the author himself acknowledged in re-searching the work that "everywhere I have gone I have talked to old people" but "have not sought facts from their lips, especially."

Sword of San Jacinto

Marshall De Bruhl (Random House, New York, 1993). Starting with its romantic title—which the poetic side of its subject would have endorsed—this biography marks its author as a fan of Sam's. De Bruhl doesn't sugarcoat Houston's flaws and failings; of Sam's tendency to see his totem bird at watershed moments in his career, he writes that the raven appears "almost on command—of his imagination perhaps." But he clearly admired the man and his accomplishments. The biographer balances elegant reportage (particularly on the somewhat murky events that took place in Texas between the fall of the Alamo and the rise of the Confederacy) with lively personal details. The reader would have welcomed even more, as when, for example, the author writes that lusty Sam had "known . . . patricians and white trash, whores and unfaithful wives, Creoles, Indians, mulattoes, and black slaves."

The Eagle and the Raven

James Michener (State House Press, Austin, 1990). The author's first impulse, a sound one, was to cut the entire 230 pages of this novel from his 1985 saga, *Texas*. Make that 194 pages; perhaps to placate fans expecting the usual Michener megatome, the publisher fattened up the volume with pen-and-ink drawings, a facsimile of Travis' Last Letter and a sampling of Sam's correspondence, and even a spiffy color section crowned with a painting of the author himself.

Sam Houston: American Giant

M. K. Wisheart (Robert B. Luce, Washington, 1962). Based on the eight-volume *Writings of Sam Houston*, this bio strives for thoroughness, even noting the 1843 purchase of "4 Bolts of linen Diaper" for the giant's first child, Sam Junior. Benefiting from the advice of J. Frank Dobie and Walter Prescott Webb, author Wisheart chose to "give [Houston] the floor," so the great man's flowery, impassioned quotes carry many chapters. Wisheart's work is of especial interest to Civil War buffs; it offers a thorough analysis of the Jacksonian Democrat's pro-slavery, anti-secession stance (in protest to which seething crowds gathered everywhere he traveled, shouting, "Kill him! Kill him!"). Small wonder that Sam's consideration of an 1860 bid for the U.S. presidency died an abrupt death.

Sam Houston: The Great Designer

Llerena Friend (University of Texas Press, Austin, 1954). Sam would have loved the little irony that underpins this historian's history. Friend wrote the biography in part because the Daughters of the Republic of Texas awarded her the Clara Driscoll Scholarship for Research in Texas History two years in a row. But after extensive combing of public records nationwide (and even detailing a friend to "cut for Sam's sign" in England), the author ultimately portrayed Sam not as a Texas hero but as an American patriot. Declining to dwell on his shortcomings, she hews to the path of Sam's political vision. In her straightforward interrogative style—"What the devil was Sam Houston doing in Texas?"—she separates fact from folklore and draws convincing conclusions. Two thirds of Friend's book focuses on Sam as senator and governor, which provides significantly more than the casual reader might care to know about, say, the Kansas-Nebraska Bill, but the author leavens the academic stretches with funny tidbits about Sam's family life or juicy remarks by Sam-baiters.