



American Legends: The Life of Jim Bowie

Charles River Editors

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*Discusses some of the legends and controversies surrounding Bowie's life, including the origins of the Bowie knife and Bowie's fate at the Alamo.

*Includes pictures of Bowie and other important people and places in his life.

*Includes a Bibliography for further reading.

"I'll wage they found no bullets in his back." - Jim Bowie's mother after hearing of his death at the Alamo. A lot of ink has been spilled covering the lives of history's most influential figures, but how much of the forest is lost for the trees? In Charles River Editors' American Legends series, readers can get caught up to speed on the lives of America's most important men and women in the time it takes to finish a commute, while learning interesting facts long forgotten or never known.

Jim Bowie is one of 19th century America's most famous names, even if what's known about the man is more legend than fact. Like Daniel Boone and Davy Crockett, Bowie has come to represent the pioneering spirit of the frontier, along with the masculinity, machismo and swagger that earned him a reputation for fighting. And like any good legend, he is perhaps best remembered for his death at the Alamo than for any aspect of his life. Bowie's death and the defenders' defeat at the Alamo did not have a decisive impact on Texas' War for Independence, but it became a poignant rallying cry in the immediate aftermath of the battle, and to this day Americans associate it with patriotism, bravery and determination. "Remember the Alamo" is still a widely used part of the English lexicon today, and the Alamo is a cherished piece of Americana. Much of Bowie's participation in the Alamo is still controversial, and fittingly he was known across America before that for another controversy. In what became known as the notorious Sandbar Fight of 1827, a duel between two men turned into a large fight that included Bowie, who was shot and stabbed during the melee but still managed to stab to death the sheriff of Rapides Parish in Louisiana with a large knife that has since become universally known as the Bowie knife. Between that fight and his death, Bowie became one of the Western frontier's most celebrated folk heroes.

American Legends: The Life of Jim Bowie chronicles the life, myths and legends of the frontier folk hero, examining the known and unknown in an attempt to separate fact from fiction. Along with pictures of important people and places, you will learn about Bowie like you never have before, in no time at all.

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