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Sam Houston – II

Lead: His marriage to Eliza Allen in tatters for mysterious reasons and hounded by malicious gossip, Governor Sam Houston of Tennessee resigned in disgrace and headed west to pick up the pieces of his life.

Intro: *A Moment in Time* with Dan Roberts

Content: As a youth, Sam Houston had spend three years with the Cherokees and grown to love their life and culture. With his 1829 marriage over and his political career imploding, Houston headed crossed the Mississippi into Arkansas, found

healing in the company of many of his old Indian companions, particularly that of the stunning and lovely Tiana Rogers, ancestor of Will Rogers, but he also medicated himself against depression with lots of liquor. For a time the Indians took to calling him The Drunk.

By 1833, restored to his former vigor, he had left Tiana and was in Texas scheming, probably in concert with his old mentor and friend and now President Andrew Jackson, for the eventual annexation of Texas. He eschewed the moderate course of original colonizer Stephen B. Austin and, taking the side of hard-liners, began to agitate for more independence for provincial Texas

within the Mexican Republic.

When the government of President Antonio Lopez de Santa Anna resisted and then stationed troops to enforce Mexican control, Houston and the Texas patriots began to push for the vote for independence. They succeeded on March 2, 1836. There followed the seven-month war for Texas' freedom, the massacre at the Alamo, Houston's brilliant retreat which, though unpopular with many hot-heads at the time, was essential for the eventual defeat of Santa Anna at San Jacinto and the treaty giving Texas independence. Houston was overwhelmingly elected President of the new Texas Republic. Next time: Annexation, Senate service and the

Union forever.

**At the University of Richmond,
this is Dan Roberts.**

Resources

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