
PEOPLE TO KNOW

BIOGRAPHIES FOR CHAPTER TEN

As you read, consider three things:

- 1. Who were these people: lawyers, adventurers, generals, priests, monarchs, business people, etc.*
- 2. What did these people do that was important in their time?*
- 3. How did these people affect others in their time and possibly today?*

David Crockett

David ("Davy") Crockett (1786-1836) grew up in the backwoods of eastern Tennessee. In his teens he left home to go exploring and hunting along the frontier. He gained fame as a bear killer. Between 1826-1834, Crockett served in Congress first as a Democrat supporting Andrew Jackson and secondly as a Whig opposing Andrew Jackson.

Myths and tall tales about Crockett's adventures on the frontier made him one of the first national heroes in America. Many talked about Crockett running for president until he lost re-election in 1834. Disgusted and looking for a new political future, he told his constituents "you may all go to hell and I will go to Texas." He joined the Texas Revolution and was killed defending the Alamo against the Mexican army of Santa Anna.

Santa Anna

Antonio Lopez de Santa Anna (1794-1876) served in the Spanish military before changing sides to fight for Mexican independence. The new Mexican government was unstable. Santa Anna often switched sides depending upon who he thought would gain power. After being elected president in 1833, he quickly set up a military dictatorship.

In 1836, Santa Anna tried to end the Texas Revolution but was

captured at the Battle of San Jacinto. In exchange for his life, he granted Texas its independence. Several years later he would fight against the United States in the Mexican-American War. Santa Anna spent the rest of his life in and out of power in Mexico. Mexico eventually tired of Santa Anna and blamed him for everything wrong with the country.

John Sutter

John Sutter (1803-1880) was a Swedish immigrant who settled in Mexican California and established Sutter's Fort in the Sacramento Valley. He intended to create a farming empire. Under United States control, Sutter's Fort became a destination for settlers to get supplies on their way through California. In 1846, Sutter contributed supplies and rescue workers for the Donner Party that got stranded in the Sierra snows.

In 1848, Sutter ordered a sawmill constructed on the American River. An employee, James Marshall, discovered gold nearby setting off the California Gold Rush. The thousands of 49ers followed to seek their fortunes ultimately destroying his crops, killing his cattle, and taking his land. John Sutter died in poverty.