

Sam Houston's Perseverance

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- 1 After the battle he laid back his head
All bloody and dizzy from pain
They said, "He'll not live, just leave him for dead"
And he laid there all night in the rain
- 2 But live, yes he did, and rose to go home
Though his sword he no longer could draw
Rather than sulk and pitifully moan
He decided to study the law
- 3 To Congress he went! Then Governor was he!
And he married a young, pretty girl!
She left him and he fell down on his knees
And was crushed by the weight of the world
- 4 He drowned all his woes with whiskey and gin
While he lived with his Indian friends
They called him "Big Drunk" and helped him to see
That he had to get back up again
- 5 Back up, yes indeed, he shook it all off
And he helped with the Indian's plight
Bad men accused him of stealing and graft
But he fought them and was proven right
- 6 To Texas he rode to live life in peace
On the grasslands made green from the rains
All warm in his fleece, with fat deer and geese
He shared its spectacular plains
- 7 But a tyrant said, "You'll do what I say!"
And then murdered a bunch of his friends
So he led the fight to set it all right
And to start making proper amends
- 8 A President now he! Hero and star!
Annexation was his lofty goal
It took him ten years of anguish and tears
But now Texas was safe in the fold
- 9 When disunion loomed he thunderously warned
Of a tragic and bloody long war
"He's mad!" they declared, but soon all despaired
For the friends that they'd laugh with no more
- 10 Knocked down, each time he'd get back up again
All the blessings he worked for are ours
Houston's dream then, drawn with gun, voice and pen
Is a flag that's now spangled with stars

Challenge Words

Draw
Plight
Graft
Fleece
Tyrant
Amends
Annexation
Anguish
Fold
Disunion
Mad
Spangled

1 & 2

Sam was gravely wounded at the Battle of Horseshoe Bend during the War of 1812 fighting under General Andrew Jackson. (Site: In today's Alabama.)

3 & 4

Sam's marriage to Eliza Allen collapsed after only 10 weeks and he resigned as Governor of Tennessee due to the scandal. He was at the lowest point in his life and went to live with the same Cherokee tribe that he had lived with for three years as a teenager.

5

Houston uncovered some corruption in the Indian Affairs Department and his enemies in Washington tried to blame it on him. He fought the charges and was cleared.

6 & 7

Houston came to Texas and received a land grant from Stephen F. Austin. When Santa Anna canceled the Mexican Constitution of 1824, seized power and ransacked Texas, killing everyone at the Alamo and Goliad, Houston led the Texas Army to victory over him.

8, 9, 10

As President of the new country Texas, Houston tried to get it admitted to the United States as a new state and was eventually successful. When the Civil War loomed he desperately tried to stop it but couldn't. His predictions came true, including the war's outcome, and though he died before the war was over his beloved Union emerged intact.