



# **The Life of Sam Houston: (The Only Authentic Memoir of Him Ever Published) (1855)**

*Charles Edwards Lester*

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Charles Edwards Lester (1815–90) was an American author and diplomat who was also admitted to the bar in Mississippi and later was ordained a minister in the Presbyterian church.

Samuel "Sam" Houston (1793 – 1863) was an American politician and soldier, best known for his role in bringing Texas into the United States as a constituent state. His victory at the Battle of San Jacinto secured the independence of Texas from Mexico. The only American to be elected governor of two different States, he was also the only governor within a future Confederate state to oppose secession (which led to the outbreak of the American Civil War) and to refuse an oath of allegiance to the Confederacy, a decision that led to his removal from office by the Texas secession convention.

He was one of the nation's first expansionists, one always ready to fight the devil with fire, whether he appeared in the form of a Mexican general or a political opponent. He ran away to live with the Indians at thirteen, fought the slave traders at a little later period of his life, became a common soldier, studied law, fought duels, was the friend of General Jackson for life, went to Congress, made a romantic but unfortunate marriage, was libeled for corruption, caned a Senator, was tried before the bar of the Senate, led the Texans against the best Mexican generals and defeated their armies, avenged the slaughter of the Alamo at the battle of San Jacinto, brought Texas into the Union, was sent to the Senate, was Governor of the State, President of the Republic, and during all this time was honest and kept his administration out of debt and saved the State credit at all times. He ended his life with a happy home, a wife and nine children.

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