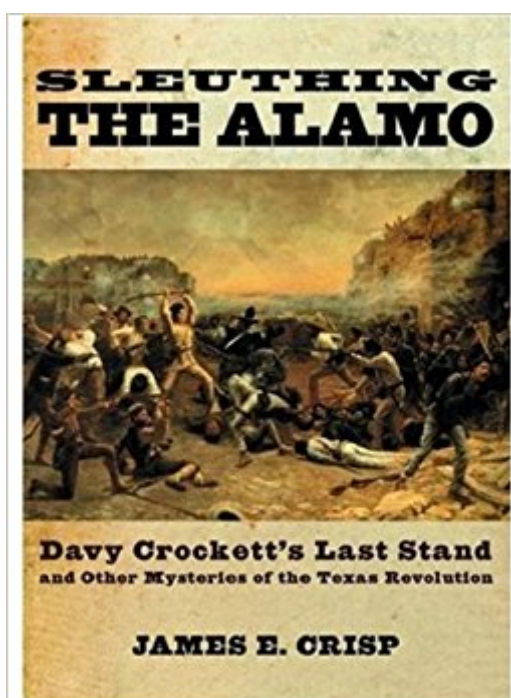


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# Sleuthing The Alamo: Davy Crockett's Last Stand And Other Mysteries Of The Texas Revolution (New Narratives In American History)



## Synopsis

In *Sleuthing the Alamo*, historian James E. Crisp draws back the curtain on years of mythmaking to reveal some surprising truths about the Texas Revolution--truths that are often obscured by both racism and political correctness. This engaging first-person account of historical detective work illuminates the methods of the serious historian who searches for the more complex truths behind the glorious myths. Beginning with a personal prologue recalling both the pride and the prejudices that he encountered in the Texas of his youth, Crisp illustrates how he discovered documents that have been distorted, censored, and ignored. In four chapters focusing on specific documentary "finds," he uncovers the clues that led to these archival discoveries. Along the way, the cast of characters expands to include: a prominent historian who tried to walk away from his first book; an unlikely teenaged "speechwriter" for General Sam Houston; three eyewitnesses to the death of Davy Crockett at the Alamo; a desperate inmate of Mexico City's Inquisition Prison, whose scribbled memoir of the war in Texas is now listed in the Guinness Book of World Records; and the stealthy slasher of the most famous historical painting in Texas. In his afterword, Crisp explores the evidence behind the mythic "Yellow Rose of Texas" and examines some of the powerful forces at work in silencing the voices from the past that we most need to hear today. An indispensable resource for anyone interested in the Alamo or historical detective work, *Sleuthing the Alamo* is also ideal for undergraduate courses in historical methodology, southwestern borderlands, the American West, Texas history, American expansion, Mexican-American history, race relations, and Southern history.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

"Jim Crisp takes us on an intriguing and fascinating historical adventure, bringing his inquiring intellect to bear on such tried and true topics as Sam Houston, racism and the Texas Revolution, the de la Peñ a diary, and David Crockett's death. Weaving this complex historical narrative into a wide-ranging discussion of cultural change in Texas over more than a century and a half, Crisp shows us how little we know about such familiar events and personalities and suggests challenging implications for his new findings." --Ron Tyler, Texas State Historical Association,"Rarely has a historian uncovered such fabulous mysteries, worked so tenaciously to solve them, or told of his pursuits with such clarity and grace. Sleuthing the Alamo is as absorbing as the best fictional detective stories, but it is true!"--David J. Weber, author of *The Mexican Frontier* and other award-winning books on southwestern America" Just when we thought that there was nothing new to say about the Alamo and the Texas Revolution, along comes James Crisp. These essays, based on painstaking research, remind us that that even the most intensely-studied historical topic can still yield new secrets if the historian is willing to dig deeply enough."--Gregg Cantrell, Texas Christian University"Far more than a tour de force of Texas history, Crisp's narrative is eloquent, sophisticated and totally engrossing. It is a superb example of how to practice history, as well as a must-read for all Americans interested in the significance of race and culture in our past and present."--Linda K. Salvucci, Trinity University

James Crisp is at North Carolina State University.

In this delightful, unusual little book, a native Texan combines memoir and original research as he takes up a few specific questions regarding the Texas Revolution. For example, was Sam Houston an anti-Mexican racist, or did someone else put words in his mouth? Did Davy Crockett really go down fighting at the Alamo, or did he surrender to the army of Santa Anna? Along the way, Crisp uncovers long-lost evidence, detects mistranslations, reveals secrets, and teaches the reader some of the deeper significance of history. He concludes that when, for whatever reason, we attempt to silence the past or fail to accurately present the past, we inadvertently diminish ourselves.

A must read for those who want the most recent unfiltered discoveries in Texas History. Crisp is dead on in exposing the would-be "Disneyland" historians and their vain attempts to silence the real

truth about how Crockett died at The Alamo. Finally the naysayers and proponents of 1950's-era mindsets with regard to the Texas Revolution cannot deny the truth nor cower behind their anti-revisionist ilk. No longer will this thinly-veiled racism pass for Texas History or slither under the guise of patriotism..

Originally assigned to me for reading in one of my History classes. It proved to be an enjoyable piece in which Crisp reflects upon the historiographical process he embarked upon throughout his career. He generally pokes fun at the popular celebratory narrative of the Alamo and Texas Revolution with it's inaccuracies. James Crisp is considered one of the key modern historians on the Texas Revolution. This is largely reflective so if you are looking for a narrative on the Texas Revolution this is not the book for you. However, this is a great historiographical piece that gives the reader a greater understanding into the process of history writing and interpretation.

Crisp's unique historical perspective of inserting his experience of growing up in Texas to the history and legends of the Alamo makes this one of the best historical books I've ever read. This is part history, part detective story, part biography. If you're a fan of or curious about Texas history, I highly recommend it.

Just when you think you know one of the most famous stories in American history... The author does a great job of researching all the different myths and legends, and showing why he thinks they are (or aren't) what actually happened. Great book.

Well done

good

Thank youÃ Â Â^Â

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