

⇒ THE AUTOBIOGRAPHY OF SAM MCCULLOCH ⇐

Samuel McCulloch was born in South Carolina in 1810. He moved with his white father (Samuel, Sr.) to Alabama when he was 5. (There is no mention of his mother in any official records). In May 1835, Sam's father moved Sam and his three sisters to Texas. Sam and his sisters were considered free blacks. The McCulloch family settled on the Lavaca River in what is now Jackson County.

On October 5, 1835, barely five months after moving to Texas, Sam, Jr. joined the Matagorda Volunteer Company as a private to fight in the Texas Revolution. On October 9th, two days short of his 25th birthday, Sam and 50 other men attacked the Mexican army garrison at Goliad. According to eyewitness testimony, he was the first soldier to enter the fort. During the attack, Sam was severely wounded in the right shoulder by a musket ball. He is believed to be the first person wounded in the Texas Revolution. Sam was transported by wagon to his father's home in Jackson County, where he began a long period of recuperation. He later had to evacuate his home in April 1836 during the Runaway Scrape, to escape Santa Anna's army. The musket ball was not removed from his shoulder until July, nine months after he was wounded. The wound left Sam an invalid for over a year and he remained handicapped for the rest of his life.

Sam married in 1837 and he and his wife raised four sons. He became a farmer and a rancher and lived most of his remaining life in Medina County, a few miles southwest of San Antonio.

Sam's handicap did not keep him from serving Texas again as a soldier. He fought in the battle of Plum Creek in 1840 against Comanche Indians, and also served as a spy for the Army of the Republic of Texas during the Mexican invasion of San Antonio in 1842.

In his later years, Sam attended reunions of old soldiers and pioneers and died at the ripe old age of 83.

*Adapted from the **Handbook of Texas**.*