

⇒ SAM'S INTRODUCTION: A FICTIONAL ACCOUNT ⇐

“Hello, I’m Samuel McCulloch, Jr., and I have a story to tell you. Some people believe that I was a genuine Texas hero. There were times when I wondered whether it was true or not, but I’m getting ahead of myself. By now you should have figured out that I am of African descent, and that fact is important to my story.

“Although my life had its share of ups and downs, I lived during some very exciting times in Texas history. I arrived in Texas in May 1835, just as the conflict between Texas settlers and the Mexican government was about to escalate into all out war. The talk among volunteer soldiers was that if we lived through the fighting, we might get some land as payment for our military service. I also heard that we could get land as new settlers too. It was then that I made the fateful decision to fight for Texas independence from Mexico. That decision would affect the rest of my life.

“Your assignment is to piece together my experience as a free black person in Texas. I’m going to give your teacher some copies of some old documents I’ve kept over the years. These documents are important to me because without them, my story might have been lost forever.

“The first thing I want you to do is read my autobiography. This will give you some general information about me. Be sure to answer the accompanying questions.

“Although my autobiography has some useful information, it doesn’t tell the story about the peculiar situation I found myself in during the early days of the Republic of Texas. It is up to you to figure it out. Let’s get started.

“Oh, and remember what I said about getting some land to call my own when the fighting was over? Well, it got a little complicated ...”

Sam