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Go Ahead, Davy Crockett!

Walter E. Bezanson

Abstract

Bezanson, who founded an undergraduate major in American Civilization at Rutgers, investigates the Library's "Crockett's Almanac: Scenes in River Life, Feats on the Lakes, Manners in the Back Woods, Adventures in Texas, &c, &c.," (Philadelphia and New York, 1846), for sources of the Davy Crockett myth.

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Davy Crockett. Be always sure you are right, then go ahead. - David Crockett. Early on. Rebecca Crockett gave birth to David in a tiny cabin in upper East Tennessee on August 17, 1776. During their sons' absence, Davy's grandparents, David Crockett Sr. and Elizabeth, were murdered by Creek and Cherokee Indians. All of David's uncles also were slain, except for Joseph and James, and one aunt, who was brutally scalped, but survived. Joseph and James were taken captive by the Creek Indians. By the age of 12, illiterate David "Davy" Crockett was already doing men's work. On a cattle drive to Front Royal, Virginia, he was forced to work past his contract with the drive. So one night during a snowstorm, he escaped. David Crockett (17 August 1786 – 6 March 1836), usually referred to as Davy Crockett, was an American frontiersman, soldier and politician. After serving as a US Congressman for the state of Tennessee, he joined in the Texas Revolution and died in the Battle of the Alamo. I would rather be beaten and be a man than to be elected and be a little puppy dog. I have always supported measures and principles and not men. I have acted fearless[ly] and independent and I never will regret my course. I would