

# Texas Tales and Legends

## Introduction

Texas is a land of vast landscapes and rich history, where legends and myths have been passed down through generations. From the windswept plains of the Panhandle to the sun-drenched shores of the Gulf Coast, every region of the Lone Star State has its own unique tales to tell.

In this book, we will explore some of the most fascinating and enduring legends of Texas. We will meet larger-than-life characters like Big Bend Bill and the Phantom Horseman of the Lower Valley, and we will learn about mysterious places like the Lost City of Cibola and the Devil's Backbone Trail.

Along the way, we will encounter ghosts, monsters, and otherworldly creatures. We will hear stories of lost

treasure, hidden gold, and long-forgotten battles. And we will discover how these legends have shaped the culture and identity of Texas.

Whether you are a lifelong resident of the Lone Star State or just a curious visitor, we hope that this book will entertain, inform, and inspire you. So sit back, relax, and let us take you on a journey through the legendary heart of Texas.

Texas is a land of vast landscapes and rich history, where legends and myths have been passed down through generations. These stories are not just products of imagination, but reflections of the people and events that have shaped the Lone Star State.

Legends are often based on real people and events, but over time they have become exaggerated and embellished. This is especially true in Texas, where the vast distances and rugged terrain have always fostered a sense of mystery and adventure.

Myths, on the other hand, are stories that are not based on fact. They are often created to explain natural phenomena or to provide moral lessons. But even myths can have a profound impact on a culture, shaping people's beliefs and values.

The legends and myths of Texas are a diverse and fascinating part of the state's heritage. They tell us about the people who have lived here, the challenges they have faced, and the dreams they have pursued. They are a reminder that Texas is more than just a place on a map. It is a land of mystery, adventure, and endless possibilities.

## Book Description

**Texas Tales and Legends** is a collection of the most fascinating and enduring legends of Texas. From the windswept plains of the Panhandle to the sun-drenched shores of the Gulf Coast, every region of the Lone Star State has its own unique tales to tell.

In this book, you will meet larger-than-life characters like Big Bend Bill and the Phantom Horseman of the Lower Valley, and you will learn about mysterious places like the Lost City of Cibola and the Devil's Backbone Trail.

Along the way, you will encounter ghosts, monsters, and otherworldly creatures. You will hear stories of lost treasure, hidden gold, and long-forgotten battles. And you will discover how these legends have shaped the culture and identity of Texas.

**Texas Tales and Legends** is more than just a collection of stories. It is a journey through the legendary heart of

Texas. It is a chance to experience the vast landscapes, rich history, and vibrant culture of the Lone Star State.

Whether you are a lifelong resident of Texas or just a curious visitor, we hope that this book will entertain, inform, and inspire you. So sit back, relax, and let us take you on a journey through the legendary heart of Texas.

### **About the Author**

Pasquale De Marco is a lifelong resident of Texas and a passionate advocate for the state's rich history and culture. He has spent years researching and writing about the legends of Texas, and he is excited to share them with readers around the world.

# Chapter 1: The Lone Star Legends

## 1. The Ballad of Big Bend Bill

Big Bend Bill is one of the most famous outlaws in Texas history. He was born James William Longley in 1855 in Missouri, but he moved to Texas as a young man and quickly became involved in crime.

Longley was a skilled gunfighter and a ruthless killer. He is believed to have killed at least 12 men, including several lawmen. He was also a member of the notorious Hole-in-the-Wall Gang, which terrorized the Big Bend region of Texas in the late 1800s.

In 1880, Longley was captured by Texas Rangers and sentenced to death. He was hanged in Fort Stockton on July 27, 1880.

Despite his violent life, Big Bend Bill has become a folk hero in Texas. He is often portrayed as a Robin Hood figure, who stole from the rich and gave to the poor.

His story has been told in numerous books, movies, and songs.

One of the most popular songs about Big Bend Bill is "The Ballad of Big Bend Bill," which was written by Tex Ritter in 1949. The song tells the story of Longley's life and death, and it has become a classic of Western music.

**Here's a sample verse from the song:**

Big Bend Bill, Big Bend Bill, His name was  
known to every man, From the Pecos to the Rio  
Grande, He was a desperado if there ever was  
one.

Big Bend Bill is a fascinating and complex historical figure. He was a ruthless outlaw, but he was also a man of great courage and determination. His story is a reminder of the wild and lawless days of the Old West.

# Chapter 1: The Lone Star Legends

## 2. The Curse of the Alamo

The Alamo is one of the most iconic landmarks in Texas. It is also one of the most haunted places in the state.

The Alamo was the site of a famous battle during the Texas Revolution. On March 6, 1836, a group of Texan rebels were besieged by Mexican forces. The Texans fought bravely, but they were outnumbered and outgunned. In the end, all but a handful of the Texans were killed.

The battle of the Alamo is considered to be one of the most heroic defeats in American history. The Texans knew that they were outmatched, but they fought anyway. Their sacrifice helped to inspire the Texan army to victory in the Texas Revolution.

However, the Alamo is also said to be haunted by the ghosts of the Texan soldiers who died there. Visitors to



the Alamo have reported seeing the ghosts of the soldiers marching around the grounds. Others have heard the sounds of gunfire and cannon fire.

One of the most famous ghosts at the Alamo is the ghost of William Barret Travis. Travis was one of the commanders of the Texan forces at the Alamo. He is said to have appeared to visitors in the form of a tall, handsome man wearing a buckskin jacket and a coonskin cap.

Another famous ghost at the Alamo is the ghost of Jim Bowie. Bowie was a famous frontiersman and soldier. He is said to have appeared to visitors in the form of a tall, muscular man with a long, flowing beard.

The ghosts of the Alamo are said to be restless spirits who are unable to move on to the afterlife. They are said to be searching for revenge against the Mexican soldiers who killed them.

Some people believe that the Alamo is cursed. They say that the curse was placed on the Alamo by the Mexican soldiers who killed the Texan soldiers. The curse is said to be responsible for the haunting of the Alamo.

Others believe that the Alamo is not cursed. They say that the ghosts of the Texan soldiers are simply unable to move on to the afterlife because they have unfinished business.

Whatever the truth may be, the Alamo remains one of the most haunted places in Texas. Visitors to the Alamo should be prepared for the possibility of encountering one of the ghosts of the Texan soldiers who died there.

# Chapter 1: The Lone Star Legends

## 3. The Ghost of the Governor's Mansion

The Governor's Mansion in Austin, Texas, is one of the most haunted places in the state. The mansion was built in 1856, and it has been home to many governors and their families. It's said that the ghost of one of these governors, Oran M. Roberts, still haunts the mansion today.

Roberts, who was governor in the 1870s, became very ill during his term. He died in the mansion due to yellow fever, however, there are different versions of the story that say that he didn't actually die there but in Galveston while searching for a cure. Whatever the case, his wife waited for him for many months not knowing if he was alive or not. When she discovered the truth she died of a broken heart. Roberts's family still claims that both their spirits roam the halls of that place to this day.

The mansion at night creaks and groans, and guests often report seeing strange lights and shadows. Footsteps can be heard in the halls, and disembodied voices can be heard whispering. Some people have even reported seeing the ghost of Roberts himself.

One of the most common stories about the ghost of the Governor's Mansion is that of a young girl who was playing in the mansion one day. She saw a man in a black suit standing in the corner of the room. The man didn't say anything, but he just stared at her. The girl was so frightened that she ran out of the room and never went back.

Another story is about a group of tourists who were visiting the mansion. They were taking a tour of the basement when they heard a loud noise. The group followed the noise to a dark corner of the basement, and they saw the ghost of Roberts standing there. The ghost was dressed in a white suit, and he had a very

stern expression on his face. The group was so frightened that they ran out of the basement.

The ghost of the Governor's Mansion is a popular subject of local folklore. Many people believe that the ghost is real, and they are afraid to visit the mansion at night or even during the day. However, there is no scientific evidence to support the existence of the ghost.

Whether or not you believe in ghosts, the Governor's Mansion is a fascinating place to visit. The mansion is full of history, and it is a beautiful example of 19th-century architecture. If you are ever in Austin, be sure to take a tour of the Governor's Mansion. Just don't be surprised if you see a ghost!

**This extract presents the opening three sections of the first chapter.**

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