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Between Woke and Whitewash

Issue 28



Tales of Texas Newsletter



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This issue of Tales of Texas details a long-forgotten battle in American History with ties to my new book, *Isobel's Song*.

Above photo is Fort Mims Historic Site.

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The Fort Mims Massacre and the Creek Indian War

Hey y'all, welcome to another issue of Tales of Texas! This month, we're diving into a story that's as dramatic as any Texas legend, but it happened far east of our border—at Fort Mims, Alabama, in 1813. Why does it matter to Texans? Because the shockwaves from this tragedy

helped shape the South we know today.

Creek Civil War: Back in 1813, the Muscogee (Creek) Nation was torn in two. The Red Sticks wanted to keep their traditions alive and push back against American expansion. The Lower Creeks, on the other hand, were open to trade and change. Tensions rose as settlers moved in, and soon, violence was everywhere.

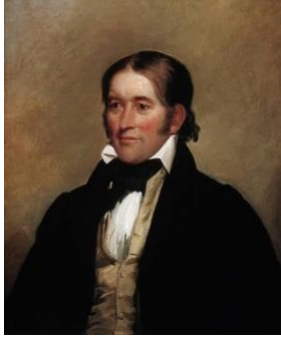
Hundreds of folks—settlers, mixed families, and enslaved people—crowded into Fort Mims, hoping for safety. But on August 30, 1813, Red Stick warriors attacked. The fort fell, and about 250 people lost their lives. News spread fast, and fear swept through the frontier.

The massacre at Fort Mims turned a local fight into a full-blown war. State militias and volunteers rushed in, including a tough commander named Andrew Jackson. Jackson's campaign was

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David Crockett, U.S. Congress



Sam Houston, U.S. Senate

ruthless—villages burned, supplies destroyed, and at Horseshoe Bend, Creek resistance was crushed. After the war, the Treaty of Fort Jackson forced the Creek Nation to give up more than 20 million acres. Even Creeks who fought alongside the U.S. lost their land. The message was clear: Native alliances wouldn't stop American expansion.

The shock of Fort Mims did more than rouse militias. It drew into the conflict two men whose paths would later cross again on very different ground: David Crockett and Sam Houston.

Both served under Andrew Jackson during the Creek War, though neither was blind to its cost.

David Crockett, then a Tennessee frontiersman and militia scout, witnessed the grim realities of frontier warfare firsthand. He later wrote of scenes that troubled him deeply—villages burned, families displaced, and a cycle of violence that offered little room for mercy. Though loyal to his comrades, Crockett emerged from the war with a growing unease about how power was used against Native peoples. That unease would later shape his political career and his opposition to forced removal.

Sam Houston's experience cut even closer. Adopted in his youth by the Cherokee and fluent in Native languages, Houston fought bravely at the Battle of Horseshoe Bend, where he was badly wounded. He earned Jackson's respect, but the war sharpened an inner conflict that never left him. Jackson's respect for Houston allowed him to become a mentor to the young Tennessean, despite their differences on Indian policy. Houston understood both the demands of the American frontier and the dignity of the Native nations being crushed beneath it.

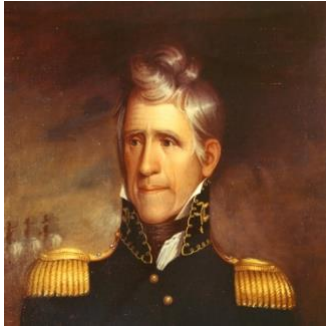
For both men, the Creek War was formative. It forged reputations, hardened convictions, and planted moral questions that followed them west.

Years later, when Crockett fell at the Alamo and Houston stood at San Jacinto, the echoes of Fort Mims and Horseshoe Bend still lingered. The same frontier logic—land, fear, honor, survival—had simply moved from Tennessee to Texas. Fort Mims shaped not only national policy, but the lives and consciences of men who would later help define the American frontier itself.



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Fort Mims and the World of *Isobel's Song*



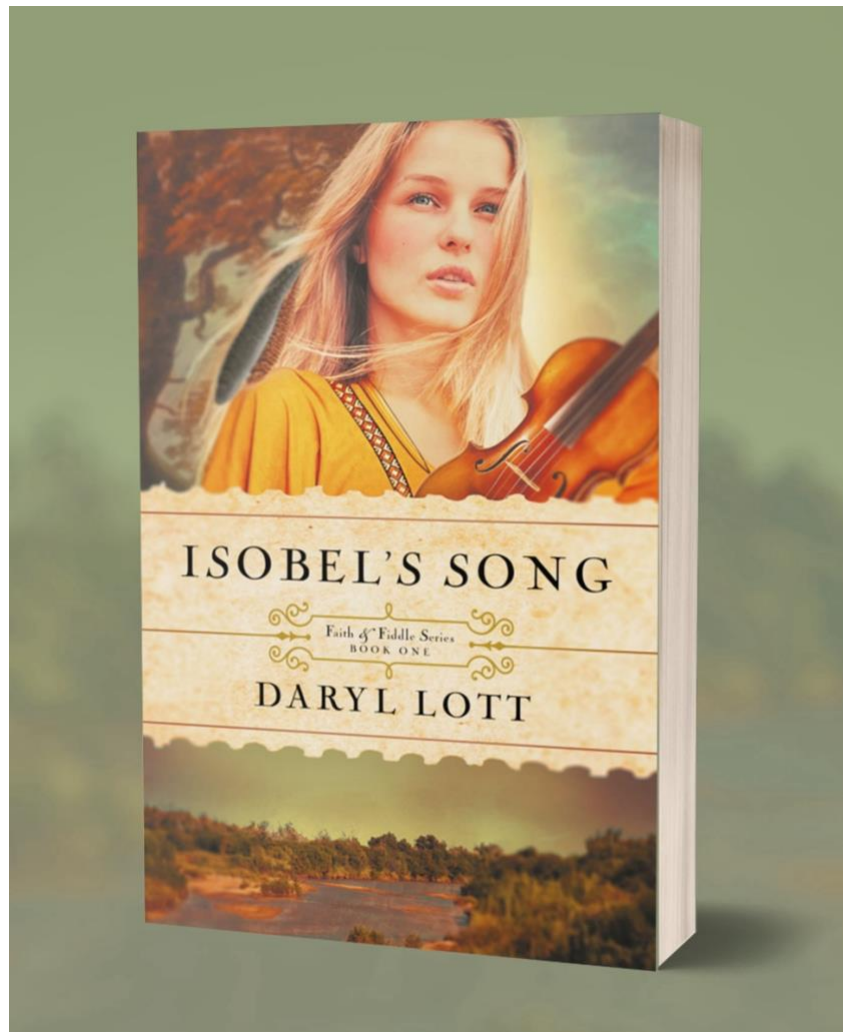
General Andrew Jackson

The Fort Mims Massacre is not only a historical turning point—it is also the event that ignites the opening scene of my new book ***Isobel's Song***. The novel begins in its long shadow, when news of the slaughter reaches the frontier and alters the course of one family's life. From that moment forward, the story follows the ripples of violence, faith, courage, and moral reckoning as they move westward—into Texas, into revolution, and into the lives of people history often leaves unnamed. While Fort Mims is rarely discussed in Texas history classrooms, its consequences shaped the men, policies, and fears that ultimately reached Texas soil. *Isobel's Song* retells

those lesser-known currents through the eyes of those who lived with their consequences.

Although the protagonist is a woman, *Isobel's Song* is not a romance, not a Hallmark-style story, and not “chick lit.” It is **historical fiction written from a Christian worldview**, grounded in documented events and real historical figures. The novel contains no profanity, no graphic violence, and no sexual content, making it suitable for readers of all ages and for both men and women. This is the first volume in a planned series, with subsequent books scheduled for release at six-month intervals. Together, the series explores faith, conscience, frontier survival, and the unseen cost of nation-building—telling the story of Texas not as legend, but as lived history.

The book releases in March in all four formats: Kindle e-pub, Paperback, Hardcover, and Audiobook. Available at Amazon and Audible.



One woman. One song. One revolution that changed everything.

In the turbulent years of the Texas Revolution, young Isobel MacDonald hears a melody no one else can—the haunting tune of a divine Fiddler calling her toward courage, mercy, and a destiny she cannot yet see. From the hills of Tennessee to the war-torn plains of Texas, her journey intertwines with heroes, outcasts, soldiers and saints. When faith is tested and blood is spilled, Isobel learns that freedom’s song demands more than bravery—it demands grace.

Rich with history and spiritual depth, *Isobel’s Song* reveals how God’s unseen hand weaves redemption through war and loss, guiding one woman to discover that the faintest tune of hope can endure beyond the bitter heartbreak of Goliad and the Alamo.