

GENERAL SAM HOUSTON.

Of the hundreds of descendants of Col. John Houston, who came to this country in 1785, none of the name or blood has become so distinguished as Gen. Sam Houston, and a few salient points in his career are here in order. He was a cousin of my mother, and I have heard her speak of him often as a visitor at her home. For the facts about Sam Houston, as well as much of the data concerning the Houston family, I am indebted to Rev. Samuel Rutherford Houston, D. D., of Pickaway, West Virginia, who, in 1882, published a history of the "Houston Family." Sam Houston was an odd, unique character, but forceful and influential. He was born March 2, 1798, in Virginia. His father died in 1807. Soon after this they moved to Blount county, Tennessee, and located on a farm. He cared not for books, but loved the wildness of the woods and the romance of Indian life. He was a born soldier, and when 18 years of age engaged in the war of 1812 under Gen. Andrew Jackson. In 1818 he studied law, and was soon admitted to the bar. His natural ability enabled him to master anything he undertook. He afterwards was elected to Congress, and became one of the most effective Speakers of the House. About 1826 he was elected Governor of Tennessee and soon thereafter contracted an unfortunate marriage. He sep-