



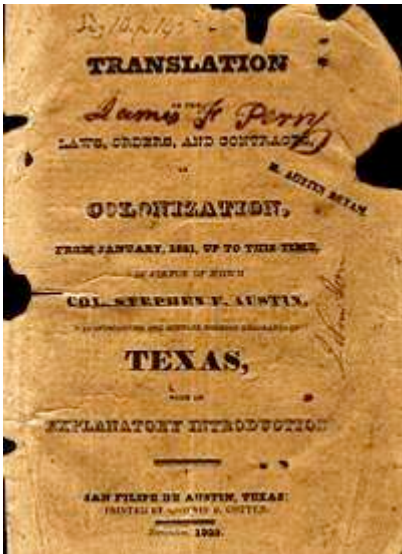
## Timeline of Independence

### Political Timeline



1821

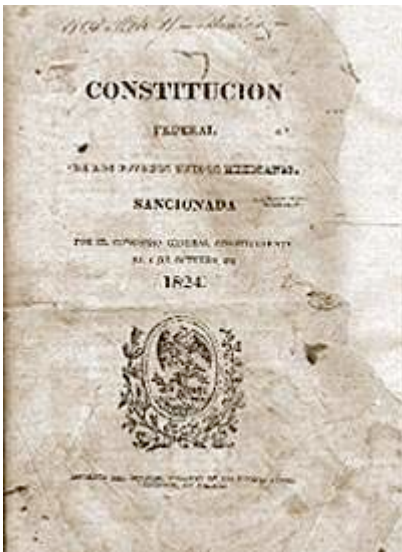
With the signing of the Treaty of Cordoba, Mexico is free from Spanish control after 300 years as a Spanish colony and 11 years of revolution.



1823

Mexico passes the General Colonization Law, formally opening Texas to colonization. Presenting empresario grants to individuals, the hope is to encourage settlement and economic growth in the remote Mexican land of Texas.

Colonization Laws



1824

The Mexican government adopts the Constitution of 1824. Based on the United States constitution, Texians are, for the most part, in favor of the document. Texas and Coahuila are joined as a single Mexican state.

Mexican Constitution of 1824



## TEXAS INDEPENDENCE



Manuel de Mier y Teran

1828

Mier y Teran is sent on a fact-finding mission to Texas by the Mexican government. Because of U.S. interest in Texas and the large number of Anglo settlers flowing into Mexico, the government is anxious to assess the situation.

1829

In his report to the Mexican government, Mier y Teran recounts that the Americans living in the Nacogdoches area outnumber Mexicans 10 to 1 and American influence is apparent throughout Texas.



Mexican Soldier

1830

In response to Mier y Teran's report, the Mexican government enacts the Law of April 6th. This law prohibits the immigration of any more Americans into Texas, places taxes on goods coming into Texas from the U.S., prohibits slaves from entering Texas from the U.S., and deploys Mexican troops for permanent duty station in Texas.



## TEXAS INDEPENDENCE



Presidente Bustamante

1832

In June, Anglo-American settlers rebel against the Bustamante government and its violations of the Mexican Constitution of 1824. They adopt the Turtle Bayou Resolutions, pledging support for the constitution and urge all Texians to support the patriots fighting under Santa Anna to defeat military despotism.

1832

In October, Texians convene in San Felipe de Austin for the Convention of 1832; they organize municipalities and adopt a series of resolutions, the most controversial being a request for separate statehood from Coahuila. The Mexican government claims the meeting is unauthorized and illegal and does not recognize the resolutions.



Presidente Santa Anna

1833

Texians convene in April in San Felipe de Austin for the Convention of 1833. Delegates write a state constitution for Texas and send Stephen F. Austin to Mexico City with a petition for statehood. Their countrymen elect Santa Anna as the Federalist president of Mexico.



## TEXAS INDEPENDENCE



Stephen F. Austin

1834

Stephen F. Austin is arrested and imprisoned in Mexico City. Though accused of trying to incite insurrection in Texas, no charges are made against him, no court will accept jurisdiction of his case, and he remains a prisoner, shifting from prison to prison, from January until December 1834, when he is released on bond.



Presidente Santa Anna

1834

Santa Anna becomes dictator of Mexico, replacing the Federalist government with a Centralist government and disregards the Constitution of 1824.

1835

The first governing body of Texas, the Permanent Council, acts decisively as it awaits a quorum for the November Consultation at San Felipe: it creates a postal system, plans for the Navy, and requests a loan from the United States. When the Consultation convenes, it adopts a revised constitution and creates a provisional government.



## TEXAS INDEPENDENCE



William Fairfax Gray, Courtesy of Christ Church Cathedral, Houston, Texas

Feb 29, 1836

William Fairfax Gray, a Virginia land agent who traveled to Texas in 1836 searching for land deals, recorded some of Texas' most historic moments in a diary. His daily entries give a look into the tension and turmoil he witnessed at the Convention of 1836. On this day, he writes, "A warm day, threatening rain from the south. Many other members are coming in, and it is now evident that a quorum will be formed tomorrow."



Burl Courtney, n.d.: Dawn of the Signing

Mar 1, 1836

The Fourth Convention is held at Washington-on-the-Brazos. It will declare independence, write a constitution for the new Republic, and elect an ad-interim government that controls Texas until regular elections can be held in the fall.

"Notwithstanding the cold, the members of the Convention,...met today in an unfinished house, without doors or windows. In lieu of glass, cotton cloth was stretched across the windows, which partially excluded the cold wind."

—William Fairfax Gray



## TEXAS INDEPENDENCE



George Childress; Courtesy of the Dolph Briscoe Center for American History

Mar 2, 1836

"Mr. Childers, from the committee, reported a Declaration of Independence, which he read in his place. It was received by the house...and unanimously adopted, in less than one hour from its first and only reading."

—William Fairfax Gray



Texas Declaration of Independence, Courtesy of the Texas State Library and Archives Commission, Austin, TX

Mar 3, 1836

Convention delegates sign the Texas Declaration of Independence. This document draws heavily on the Declaration written sixty years earlier by Thomas Jefferson. It proclaims that the Mexican government "ceased to protect the lives, liberty, and property of the people, from whom its legitimate powers are derived" and complains about "arbitrary acts of oppression and tyranny". The declaration officially establishes the Republic of Texas.

Mar 6, 1836

From Gray's diary: "This morning, while at breakfast, a dispatch was received from Travis, dated Alamo, March 3. The members of the Convention and the citizens all crowded to the Convention room to hear it read, after which Mr. Potter moved that the Convention organize a provisional government and adjourn and take the field."

In a separate letter to Jesse Grimes, also dated March 3rd, Travis states, "Let the Convention go on and make a declaration of independence, and we will then understand, and the world will understand, what we are fighting for. If independence is not declared, I shall lay down my arms, and so will the men under my command."



## TEXAS INDEPENDENCE



James Mathewuse, 1973; pastel of Lorenzo De Zavala

March 1836

Lorenzo de Zavala plays a key role in the Constitutional Convention of 1836. He is unanimously elected to serve as Vice President of the Republic of Texas. Zavala proposes a resolution that the constitution and laws of Texas be translated into the Spanish language.



Constitution of the Republic of Texas, Manuscript draft, Courtesy of the Texas General Land Office, Austin, TX

Mar 7, 1836

"The Convention proceeded to work on the Constitution. It is reported in part only. Mr. Thomas is the chairman, or organ of the committee who reported. It is awkwardly framed, arrangement and phraseology both bad."

—William Fairfax Gray



## TEXAS INDEPENDENCE



Charles Shaw, 1988: Drawing of the Convention of 1836

Mar 16, 1836

"The Constitution not being quite ready, they adjourned to 10 o'clock. At 12 o'clock the Constitution was finally adopted.... An ordinance organizing a provisional government was then adopted, consisting of President, Vice President, four Secretaries, and an Attorney General.... The new officers were sworn in at 4 o'clock in the morning, and the Convention adjourned until tomorrow."

—William Fairfax Gray



Shaw, Runaway scrape

Mar 17, 1836

"The [Convention] members are now dispersing in all directions, with haste and in confusion."

—William Fairfax Gray



## TEXAS INDEPENDENCE



President Sam Houston

October 1836

In early October, the first Congress convenes in Columbia. At the end of the month, Sam Houston defeats Stephen F. Austin to become the first regularly elected President of Texas. He works to demilitarize Texas, establish peace with the Indians, and annex Texas to the United States.

1837

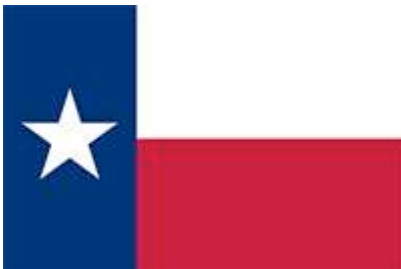
The Republic of Texas is officially recognized by the United States, and later by France, England, the Netherlands and Belgium.



Mirabeau Lamar

1838

After serving as Sam Houston's vice president, Mirabeau Lamar succeeds Houston as President of the Republic of Texas. His greatest contribution to Texas is his vision for an educational system endowed by public lands.



Texas flag

Jan 25, 1839

The Republic of Texas adopts its new flag.



November 1839

The Texas congress first meets in Austin, the frontier site selected for the capital of the Republic.



President Sam Houston

1841

Sam Houston serves a second term as President, striving to repair Texas' financial system, reestablishing peace with the Indians and averting war with Mexico.



President Anson Jones

1844

Anson Jones is sworn in as President of the Republic. He rouses ire among Texians as he remains silent on the matter of annexation, awaiting receipt of a treaty from Mexico recognizing Texas' independence. He offers the Texians annexation or independence.

Mar 1, 1845

The US Congress passes a "Joint Resolution for Annexing Texas to the United States."

Jul 4, 1845

The Texas Constitutional Convention votes to accept the United States' annexation proposal. It drafts an Annexation Ordinance and State Constitution to submit to the voters of Texas.



## TEXAS INDEPENDENCE

Oct 13, 1845

The Texas voters overwhelmingly approve annexation, the new state constitution and the annexation ordinance.

Dec 29, 1845

US President James K. Polk signs the "Joint Resolution for the Admission of the State of Texas into the Union" thus making Texas the 28th state of the United States.



Feb 19, 1846

The Republic of Texas officially draws to a close. President Anson Jones states, "The final chapter of this great drama is performed. The Republic of Texas is no more."

Flag lowering

Feb 2, 1848

The Treaty of Guadalupe Hidalgo is signed, ending the Mexican War. This treaty established Texas' southern boundary at the Rio Grande.



## Military Timeline



Texians defending their cannon

Oct 2, 1835

The first clash between Texian settlers and Mexican cavalry occurs at Gonzales when Lt. Francisco de Castañeda attempts unsuccessfully to repossess a small cannon from settlers. Unhappy with the Centralist government of General Antonio López de Santa Anna, the settlers skirmish with the soldiers and refuse to give up their cannon.

Oct 9, 1835

Near Goliad, 51 Texians storm the Presidio la Bahía and overrun a small detachment of Mexican soldiers occupying the fort. Goliad, a strategic location between the coastal port at Copano and the principal city of San Antonio de Béxar, is key to interrupting supplies to the Mexican army.



Jim Bowie

Oct 28, 1835

Texian forces led by Stephen F. Austin advance to San Antonio where General Martín Cos and 750 Mexican soldiers occupy the city. A small group of 90 Texians, led by Jim Bowie and James Fannin, scout for a defensive location, settling on Mission Concepcion. Cos surprises the scouts, but the Texians drive off the Mexicans, thus beginning the siege of Bexar.

Nov 26, 1835

The "Grass Fight" near San Antonio is the second engagement in the siege of Bexar. Texians camping outside of San Antonio skirmish with Mexican cavalry forces accompanying a supply train, only to discover that the "supplies" are bundles of grass to feed the army's animals.



## TEXAS INDEPENDENCE



Rio Grande

Dec 5-9, 1835

Three hundred Texian volunteers storm Bexar and conquer over 1000 Mexican troops holding the town. This ends the first major campaign of the Texas Revolution. General Cos surrenders and agrees to withdraw his troops south of the Rio Grande.

Feb 16, 1836

Santa Anna crosses the Rio Grande and heads toward Bexar; General José de Urrea crosses down river the next day near San Patricio. Together, they begin a two-pronged invasion of Texas.



Feb 24, 1836

Santa Anna arrives in Bexar and the siege of the Alamo begins. The next day, Col. William Barret Travis assumes command of the Alamo and writes a letter to the people of Texas declaring "Victory or Death."

Letter from Travis, Courtesy of the Texas State Library and Archives Commission.

Mar 2, 1836

At Agua Dulce Creek, General José de Urrea ambushes and defeats Texians being led by James Grant. Five who escape are later killed at Goliad.



# TEXAS INDEPENDENCE

## ARMY ORDERS.

Convention Hall, WASHINGTON, MARCH 2, 1836.

War is raging on the frontiers. Bejar is besieged by two thousand of the enemy, under the command of general Siermas. Reinforcements are on their march, to unite with the besieging army. By the last report, one force in Bejar was only one hundred and fifty men strong. The citizens of Texas must rally to the aid of our army, or it will perish. Let the citizens of the East march to the combat. The enemy must be driven from our soil, or desolation will accompany their march upon us. Independence is declared, it must be maintained. Immediate action, united with valor, alone can achieve the great work. The services of all are forthwith required in the field.

SAM. HOUSTON,

Commander-in-Chief of the Army.

P. S. It is rumored that the enemy are on their march to Gonzales, and that they have entered the colonies. The fate of Bejar is unknown. The country must and shall be defended. The patriots of Texas are appealed to, in behalf of their bleeding country.

S. H.

Mar 4, 1836

At Washington-on-the-Brazos, Sam Houston is appointed Major General of the Army of the Republic of Texas and is charged with organizing the regular military as well as volunteers and militia.

Call to Army



Mar 6, 1836

At dawn, 1800 Mexican troops storm the Alamo and kill all rebel combatants in a battle that lasts only ninety minutes. A handful of women, children and slaves are the only survivors.

Storming the Alamo



## TEXAS INDEPENDENCE



General Sam Houston

Mar 11-13, 1836

Sam Houston arrives in Gonzales hoping to join the Texian troops there with Fannin's troops and go to the relief of the Alamo. Susanna Dickinson arrives with news of its downfall and warns of the approaching Mexican army. Houston orders Gonzales burned and retreats to the Colorado River. Colonists flee the Mexican army, heading eastward in a month long retreat known as the Runaway Scrape.

Mar 17-19, 1836

Houston's army arrives at Burnham's Ferry on the Colorado River. The ad-interim government leaves Washington and travels downriver toward the coast. Houston then leads Texian forces downriver to Beason's Crossing on the Colorado River, camping there until March 26th when the Mexican army approaches.



Col. James Fannin

Mar 19-20, 1836

Ordered by Sam Houston to retreat from Goliad, Col. James W. Fannin and his men are trapped by Mexican forces in the middle of a prairie near Coleto Creek. Outnumbered and with no protection, the Texians surrender to General Urrea.

Mar 27, 1836

Mexican soldiers, following Santa Anna's direct order, execute James Fannin and 344 of his men near Goliad. Twenty-eight Texians escape and tell of the Goliad Massacre. The volunteers in Houston's army are outraged.



## TEXAS INDEPENDENCE



Groce's plantation

Mar 28, 1836

Sam Houston and his army retreat northward, arriving in San Felipe de Austin. The next day Houston abandons San Felipe, orders the town burned, and retreats to Jared Groce's plantation further north.



Groce's plantation

Mar 30-Apr 12, 1836

Houston's troops rest and drill at Groce's plantation. On April 12, they cross the Brazos River on the steamboat Yellowstone and head towards Harrisburg.

Apr 7-15, 1836

Santa Anna reaches San Felipe, crosses Fort Bend on the Brazos River, and burns Harrisburg.

Apr 17, 1836

Texian troops come "to the fork in the road" and take the road to Harrisburg. Settlers move on the fork to Louisiana.

Apr 20, 1836

Houston and his army arrive outside Harrisburg, moving to Buffalo Bayou after a few days. Texian artillery and cavalry skirmish with Santa Anna's troops but the clash is indecisive.



## TEXAS INDEPENDENCE



Santa Anna surrenders

Apr 21, 1836

Texian soldiers attack and rout Santa Anna's detachment at San Jacinto, killing 650 enemy troops while capturing another 700. The next day, Santa Anna, hiding and disguised in a dragoon private's uniform, is captured.



President David Burnet

May 14, 1836

Santa Anna and David G. Burnet sign the Treaty of Velasco ending the Texas Revolution.

May 26, 1836

General Vicente Filisola begins withdrawing Mexican troops from Texas.

Jun 15, 1836

Lead elements of the Mexican Army cross the Rio Grande at Matamoros.

Nov 10, 1837

Ten rangers and fifty Indians die in the Battle of Stone Houses in Archer County.

Mar 19, 1840

Peace talks between the Comanche and the Texas government turn into a fight at the Council House in San Antonio. During the fight 35 Comanche are killed, as are 7 Texans.



Jun 24, 1840

Colonel Henry Wax Karnes calls for a volunteer army to "fight Indians, Mexicans and the lawless elements on the frontier."

Aug 11, 1840

The Battle at Plum Creek near Lockhart sees the white man defeat the Comanche, pushing the Indians farther to the west. This ended the boldest and most penetrating Comanche challenge to the Texas republic.

Mar 25, 1843

The prisoners of the Mier Expedition draw white and black beans from a pot; the 17 who draw black beans are executed by the Mexicans under order of Santa Anna.

Apr 25, 1846

A border skirmish over claims to Texas boundaries near Brownsville marks the beginning of the US war with Mexico. President James K. Polk's war message went to Congress declaring that, "American blood has been shed on American soil."

May 8, 1846

The battle of Palo Alto, the first major clash of the Mexican War, results in a US victory.

May 9, 1846

General Zachary Taylor defeats Mexican troops in Texas at Resaca de la Palma.

Apr 18, 1847

General Winfield Scott and Santa Anna battle at Sierra Gorda. The American victors capture Santa Anna's wooden leg.



## Cultural Timeline



Land grant to settler

1821

The first Anglo settlers arrive in Texas under Stephen F. Austin's contract with the Mexican government which allowed him to settle 300 families in Texas. Among the "Old Three Hundred" is Andrew Robinson from Georgia, who settled in the area along the La Bahia Road and the Brazos River that eventually became the town of Washington.



Cotton boll

1822

Andrew Robinson opens a ferry at the "La Bahia Crossing on the Brazos." Settlement continues with ongoing granting of empresario contracts. Jared E. Groce, a member of Austin's colony, arrives and sets up a home on the banks of the Brazos River. Among his belongings is a supply of "native" cotton seed—the first in Texas.



## TEXAS INDEPENDENCE



Battling Indians

1823

Austin's colony experiences raids by the Comanche, Tonkawa, and Karankawa Indians. Austin called for, "ten men...to act as rangers for the common defense...The wages I will give said ten men is fifteen dollars a month payable in property."



Stephen F. Austin

1824

Stephen F. Austin establishes his headquarters at San Felipe de Austin on the west bank of the Brazos River at the Atascosita Road crossing.



## TEXAS INDEPENDENCE



Cotton ginning

1825

By the end of the year, Mexico awards 25 empresario contracts. Small, new towns are settled throughout Texas and improved transportation is seen in ferries across major rivers. Jared E. Groce builds the first cotton gin in Texas on the banks of the Brazos River.



Social life

1828

San Felipe has a population of 200 and the town is comprised of 3 general stores, 2 taverns, 1 hotel, a blacksmith shop, and some 40 or 50 log cabins.



1829

The first of several large groups of Irish immigrants arrive to settle in South Texas under the empresario, James Power. In San Felipe, Thomas J. Pilgrim establishes the first school and Godwin B. Cotten publishes the Texas Gazette.



Settlement on the Texas frontier

1831

It is estimated that 20,000 Anglos lived in Texas. Due to repeated Indian raids into the area, the citizens of Gonzales are given a 6-pound cannon for defense of the community. Johann Frederick Ernst, his wife and five children are the first German family to arrive in Texas, settling in present day Austin County.



Mary Austin Holley

1833

Mary Austin Holley publishes Texas Observations, the first book published in English about Texas. Cholera appears in Texas. Cotton becomes the main export. In 1833, 4,000 bales of cotton are exported from Texas. The town of Washington is surveyed into blocks and lots and sold at auction.



Picking cotton

1834

The total amount of cotton exported from Texas rises to 10,000 bales. Frances Trask Thompson opens the first girls' school in Independence.



# TEXAS INDEPENDENCE



Telegraph and Texas Register

1835

Gail Borden begins publishing the Telegraph & Texas Register in San Felipe. The town of Washington is incorporated. The provisional government establishes the Texas Rangers.



San Antonio

1836

The population of Texas has grown to 35,000 inhabitants, including some 5,000 slaves. Trade along the coast as well as up major rivers has increased. Galveston Island and Anahuac, at the mouth of the Trinity River, are major stopping points, as are the towns of Indianola at Matagorda Bay and Velasco near the mouth of the Brazos River. A mail route is established from San Felipe to Nacogdoches, by order of the provisional government. San Antonio is the largest town in Texas with a population of 2,000.

1837

Financial panic in the United States results from increased land speculation and an executive order requiring that government land be paid for in gold or silver. A depression and high unemployment sends people to Texas looking for cheap land.

Jan 26, 1837

The steamship Laura successfully navigates the Buffalo Bayou but misses the new city of Houston due to dense vegetation.



Texas currency

1841

Texas currency, issued as interest-bearing promissory notes from 1837-1839, is reissued without interest in 1839 and subsequently plunges to its lowest value of two cents in specie (gold or silver) to every American dollar.



Early Houston

Dec 31, 1842

Tensions with Mexico and a subsequent invasion by Mexican troops prompt President Houston to move the Republic's archives from Austin to Houston. Fearing that the capital will be moved to Houston, vigilantes prevent the records from reaching Houston and they are returned to Austin.



Feb 1, 1845

Baylor University is founded.



Emigrants to Texas

1845

Organized mass migrations of Germans to Texas results in over 5,000 colonists arriving between October 1845 and April 1846.