

NATION: Texas Wins Independence

Texas Wins Independence—Becomes a New Country

San Jacinto, Texas, 1836

Texans lost to the Mexican army at Goliad. Texans lost to the Mexican army at the Alamo. But Texans at San Jacinto have sent **Santa Anna** and the Mexican army running back across the Rio

Grande River. The Americans living in Texas have won independence from Mexico. Texas is a new country!

For 300 years, Texas was part of Mexico. Mexico belonged to Spain. Spain would not let any

Americans move to Texas.

But in 1821, Mexico broke free from Spain and became the **Republic of Mexico**. Then the new Mexican government opened Texas to Americans.

TEXAS: The Fight for Independence From Mexico

Lone Star Republic 5 1836

American settlers now free. They call Texas an independent republic—a new country. Texas now:

- makes its own laws.
- calls itself the "Lone Star Republic."
- votes **Sam Houston** president of Texas.

Gonzales: "The Lexington of Texas" 1 1835

- The first battle between Texas and Mexico. Texas wants to be independent from Mexico. But Mexico wants to keep Texas.
- Texans have cannons. Mexican soldiers tried to take the cannons.
- Texans send the Mexicans running back to San Antonio.

San Jacinto 4 1836

- The last big battle.
- **Sam Houston** wins for Texas. Takes **Santa Anna** prisoner.
- **Santa Anna** let go with promise to free Texas.

Battle of the Alamo 2 1836

- 3,000 Mexicans kill 200 Texans.
- The place—The Alamo, an old mission church.
- Heroes killed include: **Davy Crockett, James Bowie, Colonel William Travis.**
- Leads to the war cry, "Remember the Alamo."

Goliad Massacre 3 1836

- The second place where the Mexican army killed all the Texans.

Presidents in the News

1837-1841 Martin Van Buren
1841 William Henry Harrison
1841-1845 John Tyler
1845-1849 James Polk

PEOPLE: Newsmakers in Texas

Stephen Austin was one of the first Americans to start a settlement in Texas. He settled on land Spain had given his father, **Moses Austin**, in 1820.

By 1830, there were five Americans for every Mexican living in Texas. The Mexican government was afraid the Americans would soon take over all of Mexico.

So the Mexican government made rules:

■ No more Americans could come to Texas.

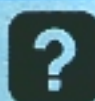
■ No more slaves could be brought to Texas.

Texans did not like these new laws. So they went to war with Mexico to fight for independence.

Now that the Texans have gotten this independence, they call their country the **Republic of Texas**. They have a constitution like the U.S. **Sam Houston** is

their first president.

Texans also call their country the "Lone Star Republic." They gave it this name because the Texas flag has only one star on it. But Texans do not want to be alone—Mexico may start another war. Texas wants to become a state in the U.S.



Should Texas be Added?

Washington D.C., 1836

Texas wants to join the U.S. as a new state. Some Americans want to add Texas as a state—some do not. Here is a look at who is for and who is against annexation (adding on land to a country).

FOR: *Southerners* because

■ Texas is a slave state. People in other southern states own slaves. These Southerners want to be able to move to Texas and take their slaves with them.

■ Texas is big enough to make into four or five states. These states will have slavery. These new slave states will balance [equal] any free [without slavery] states added in the North. Then North and South will still have the same power in Congress.

FOR: *Expansionists* because

■ They believe America should expand [get bigger]. They think it is America's right [manifest destiny] to own all the land between the Atlantic and Pacific Oceans. Texas is part of that land.

AGAINST: *Northerners* because

■ They do not want any more slave states to join the U.S.

■ They do not want war with Mexico. But Mexico might go to war with the U.S. because Mexico has never accepted Texas' independence.

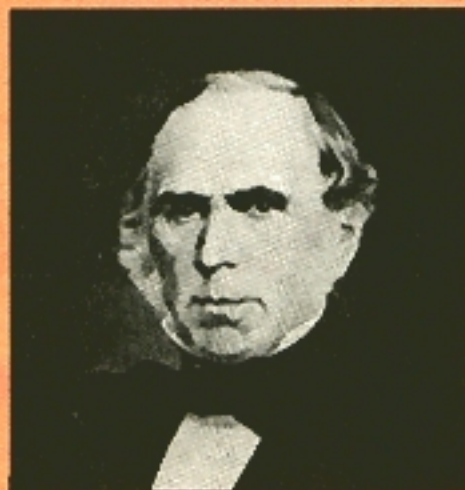
Moses Austin:
First Texas Land Grant
Spain agreed to let Connecticut-born Moses Austin settle in Texas (1820). He planned to bring a few hundred families with him. He died before he could get his settlement started.



Stephen Austin:
First American Settlement
Stephen Austin carried on his father's plans. He built a settlement of Americans in Texas (1821). After Mexico got its freedom from Spain, Austin's settlements became part of Mexican Texas.



Davy Crockett:
First Texas Hero
Davy Crockett died at the Alamo (1836). Crockett was a frontiersman and senator from Tennessee. He helped Americans in Texas get their freedom from Mexico. Besides Crockett, James Bowie and William Travis were killed by Mexican soldiers at the Alamo. So were the other 200 Texans hidden behind the walls of the Alamo.



Sam Houston:
First Lone Star President
Sam Houston defeated the Mexicans at the battle of San Jacinto (1836). There he captured the Mexican leader, Santa Anna. Houston freed Santa Anna when Santa Anna made a promise. The Mexican president promised to get the Mexican government to give Texas its independence. But Santa Anna broke his promise. Texas declared independence anyway.



General Santa Anna:
Mexican Leader
Santa Anna became president of the free nation of Mexico. He thought there were too many Americans living in Texas. He feared the American government would cause trouble with Mexico. So he led Mexican soldiers against the American settlers. In 1848, the U.S. won the war with Mexico. Then, Santa Anna gave the United States some land. He gave Texas, New Mexico, and Upper California.

NATION: The Mexican Cession and Oregon

President Polk Adds Oregon to U.S.

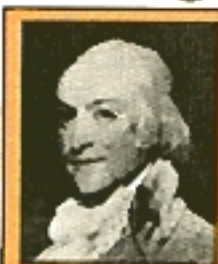
Washington, D.C., 1846

At last, Americans living in the **Oregon Territory** are part of the U.S. In the Treaty of 1846, England has given up its claim to the Oregon Territory south of **49° north latitude**.

Both the U.S. and England wanted the Oregon Territory. This territory runs from the northern border of California to the southern border of Alaska. England started the Hudson's Bay Company there. This company made a lot of money selling furs from the animals in Oregon.

Then Lewis and Clark found a route over the land to Oregon. American fur traders followed. They made money selling furs, too.

Soon American farmers rolled in on wagon trains. They came



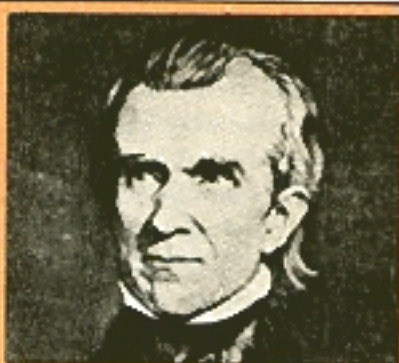
John Jacob Astor:
 ■ American fur trader in Oregon.
 ■ Wanted to get Oregon Country from England.

over the trails made by the fur traders. These American farmers wanted their new homeland to be part of the U.S. They also wanted the English to leave. The English did not want to go.

So President Polk compromised with England:

- England moved out of Oregon.
- The U.S. had to take less land than it wanted.
- The border between the U.S. and Canada is set at 49° latitude.

Now Americans in Oregon can work to join the U.S. as states.



James Polk:
 ■ Expansionist.
 ■ Became president with the slogan, "Fifty-four forty or fight!" His slogan meant that the U.S. was willing to fight if England did not agree to set the border for the Oregon Territory at 54°40' north latitude. Once president, Polk got England to agree to a compromise:
 ■ The border between Oregon and Canada was set at 49°.
 ■ England gave up all fur trading posts in the Oregon Territory.

Treaty Ends War with Mexico—U.S. Gets All of Southwest

Guadalupe Hidalgo, Mexico, 1848

After two years of war with Mexico, the U.S. has won all of the land in northern Mexico.

By the **Treaty of Guadalupe Hidalgo**, Mexico has given the U.S.:

- Texas, with the **Rio Grande River** as the border between Texas and Mexico.

- The Territory of Upper California.

- The Territory of New Mexico.

All of this territory is called the **Mexican Cession**.

The **Mexican War** broke out in 1846. President Polk sent **General Zachary Taylor** with an army to the Rio Grande River. Because Mexico said this was Mexican land, the two countries fought.



Taylor Leads U.S. Army in Border War



Border Battles: The U.S. and Mexico are fighting over land and borders. Both countries say they own the land between the Nueces River and the Rio Grande River.

The U.S. went to war with Mexico because:

- The U.S. thought the Rio Grande River should be the border between Mexico and the U.S. Mexico said the Nueces River further north was the border.

- Americans were moving into California and New Mexico territories. The U.S. tried to buy

these territories. Mexico would not sell them. So President Polk went to war to win the territories.

- The expansionists thought it was America's manifest destiny to own all of the land between the Atlantic and Pacific Oceans. The only lands left to get were California and New Mexico.

NATION: Manifest Destiny—A Dream Come True**Gadsden Purchase Fulfills Manifest Destiny**

Washington, D.C., 1853

"So much money for such a small strip of land!" some Americans are crying. But the U.S. government wants to build a railroad to California. So President Pierce sent James Gadsden to buy land for the railroad from

Mexico. Mexico has sold the small strip of land south of the Gila River to the U.S. for \$10 million.

Southerners are happy with the Gadsden Purchase. They want a railroad running through the South to California. South-

erners can now move to California. California will vote in Congress like Southerners vote.

Expansionists are also happy. Their manifest destiny dream has come true. America now owns all the land from the Atlantic Ocean to the Pacific Ocean.

Mapping Out Our Land Gains