

LEQ: From what country did Texas gain its independence?

Mexico



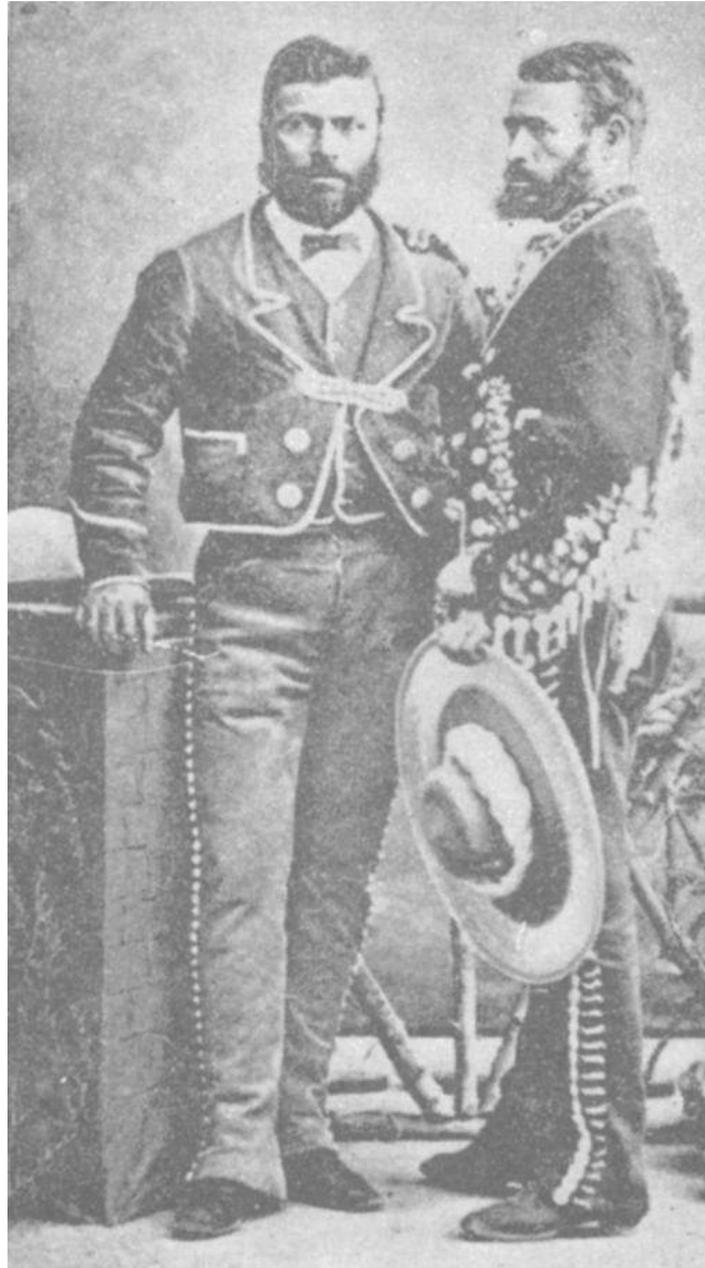
This map shows the present day boundaries of Texas. It also shows the territory of Texas during its Revolution, and that territory is shaded in red/pink on the right of the map. This image is courtesy of latinamericanstudies.org.

The Texas Revolution



This image shows Texas General Samuel Houston at the Battle of San Jacinto. It is a detail from the painting titled *The Battle of San Jacinto* which hangs in the Texas State Capitol. This painting was created in 1898 by Henry Arthur McArdle (1836-1908). This image is courtesy of Wikimedia Commons.

In 1820 Texas included a handful of Americans and about 3000 Tejanos.



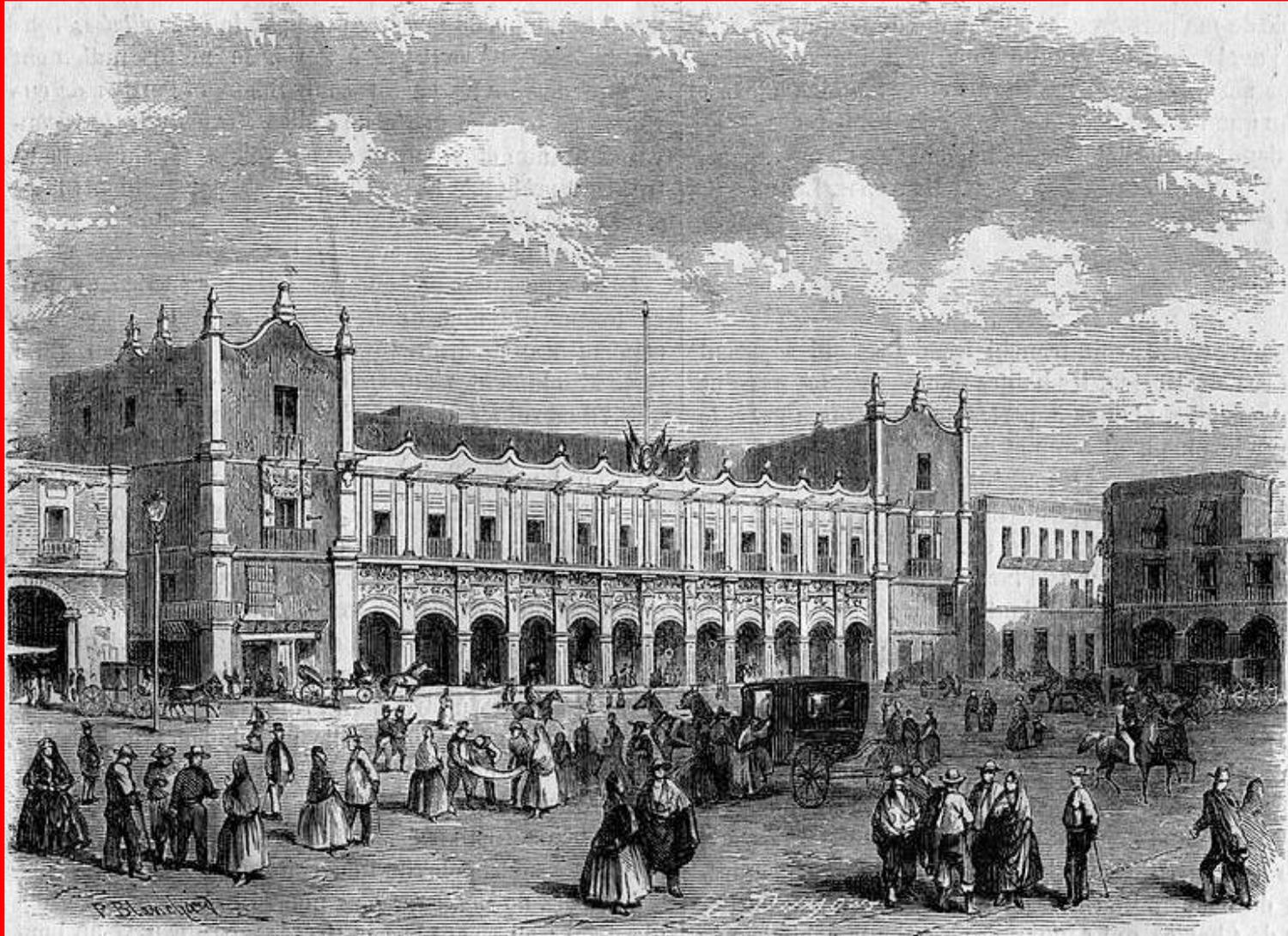
Tejanos are people of Mexican heritage who consider Texas to be their home. This image is courtesy of tamu.edu.

At first, most of Texas belonged to Native Americans-- Comanche, Apache, and others—who fiercely resisted colonial settlement.



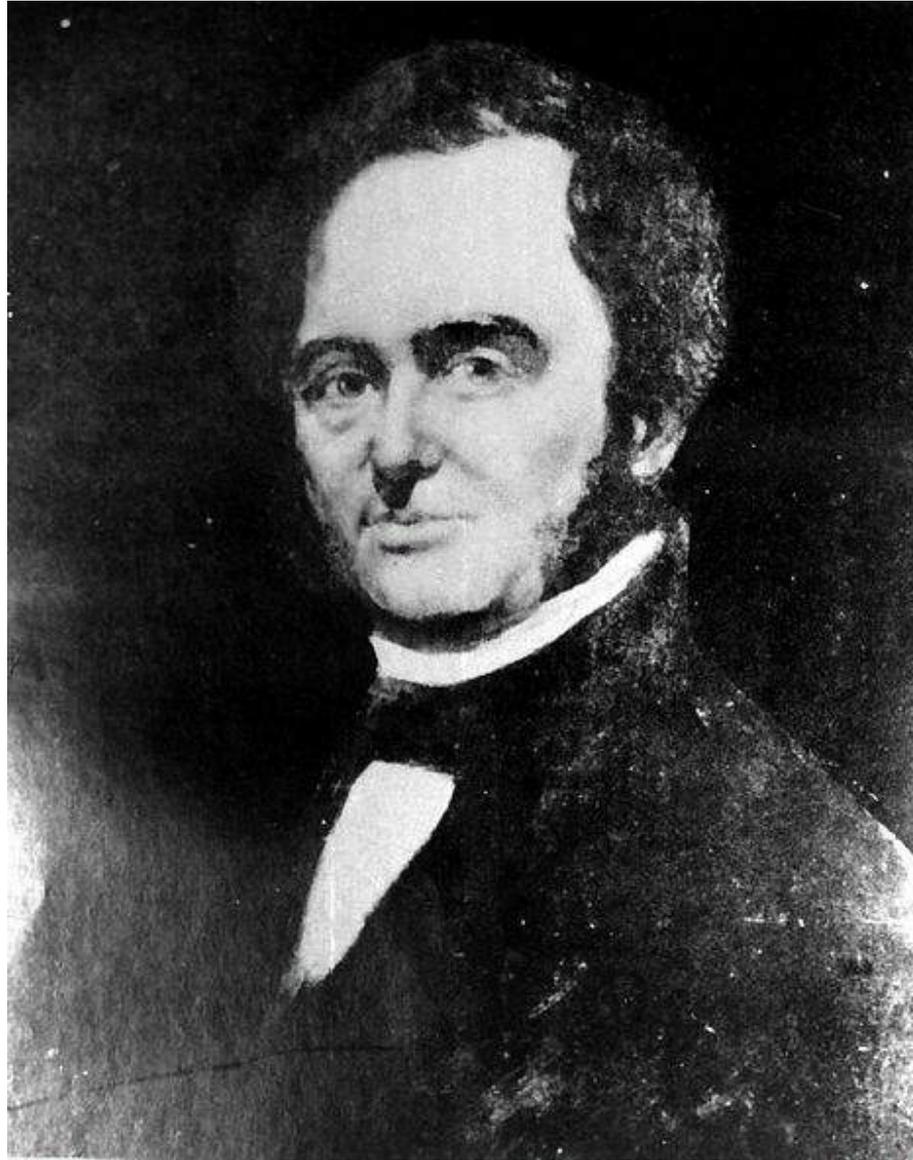
This image is titled *Comanche Village*. This image was created by George Catlin (1796-1832). This image is courtesy of georgecatlin.org.

Spanish officials, who controlled Texas, believed they might lose control of Texas unless they lured more settlers into the territory.



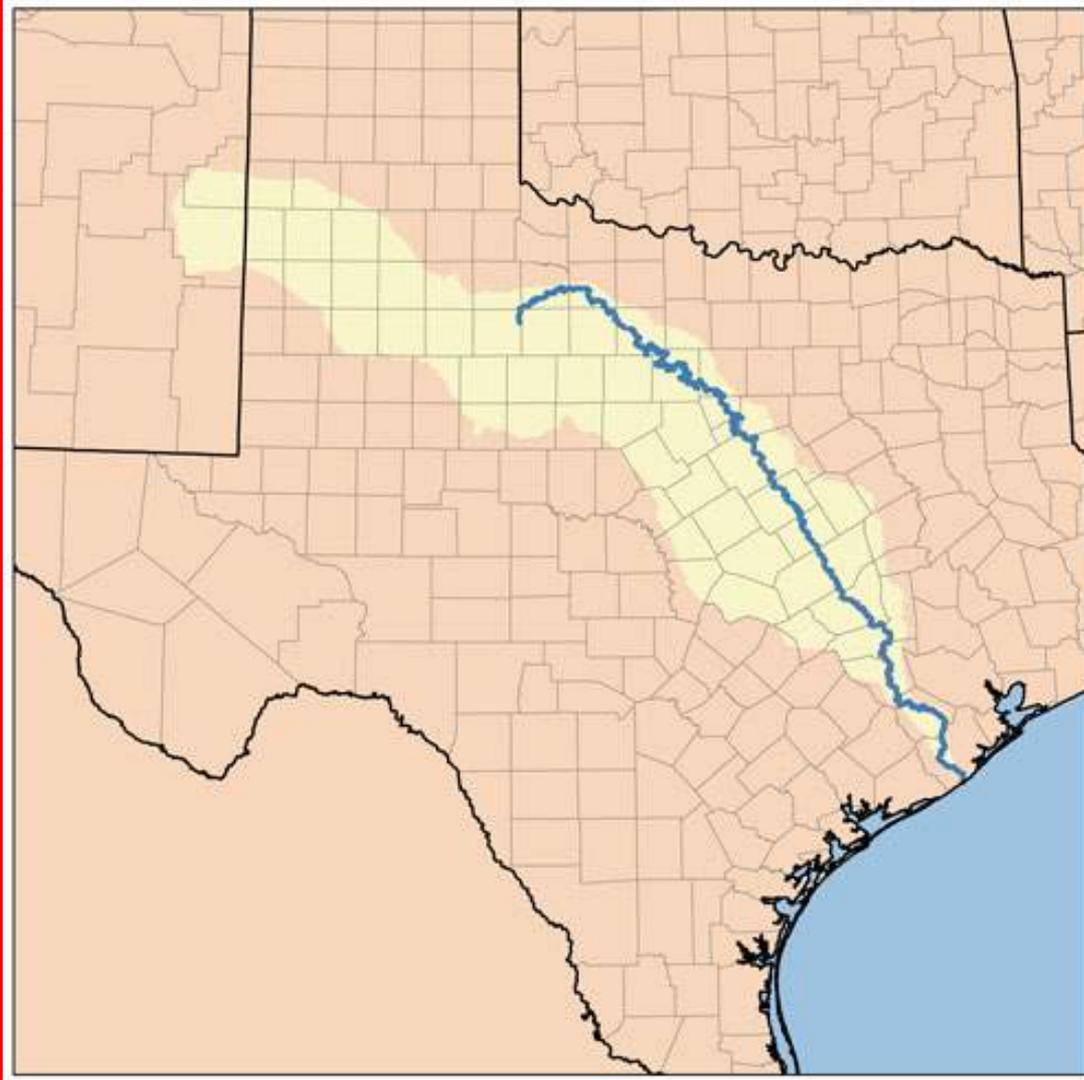
This is the "old" Federal District Building on the south side of the Zocalo (main plaza, square) in Mexico City. This Palacio de Ayuntamiento or Palacio de Diputacion was constructed from 1720-1724. This image appeared in the February, 1862 edition of *L'illustration, Journal Universel*. This image is courtesy of Wikimedia Commons.

In the early 1800s, the Spaniards decided to offer large tracts of land to empresarios— people who agreed to recruit settlers.



News of the offer caught the attention of Missouri businessman Moses Austin. This image shows Moses Austin before he died in 1821. This image is courtesy of Wikimedia Commons.

In 1821 Austin convinced the Spanish government to give him a huge tract of land along the Brazos River.



In exchange for the land along the Brazos River (highlighted here), Austin promised to bring 300 families to his colony. Moses Austin died before he could organize his colony. His son, Stephen F. Austin, carried out his plans. This image is courtesy of Wikimedia Commons.

Stephen F. Austin established the first Texas colonial settlements along the Brazos and the Colorado Rivers.



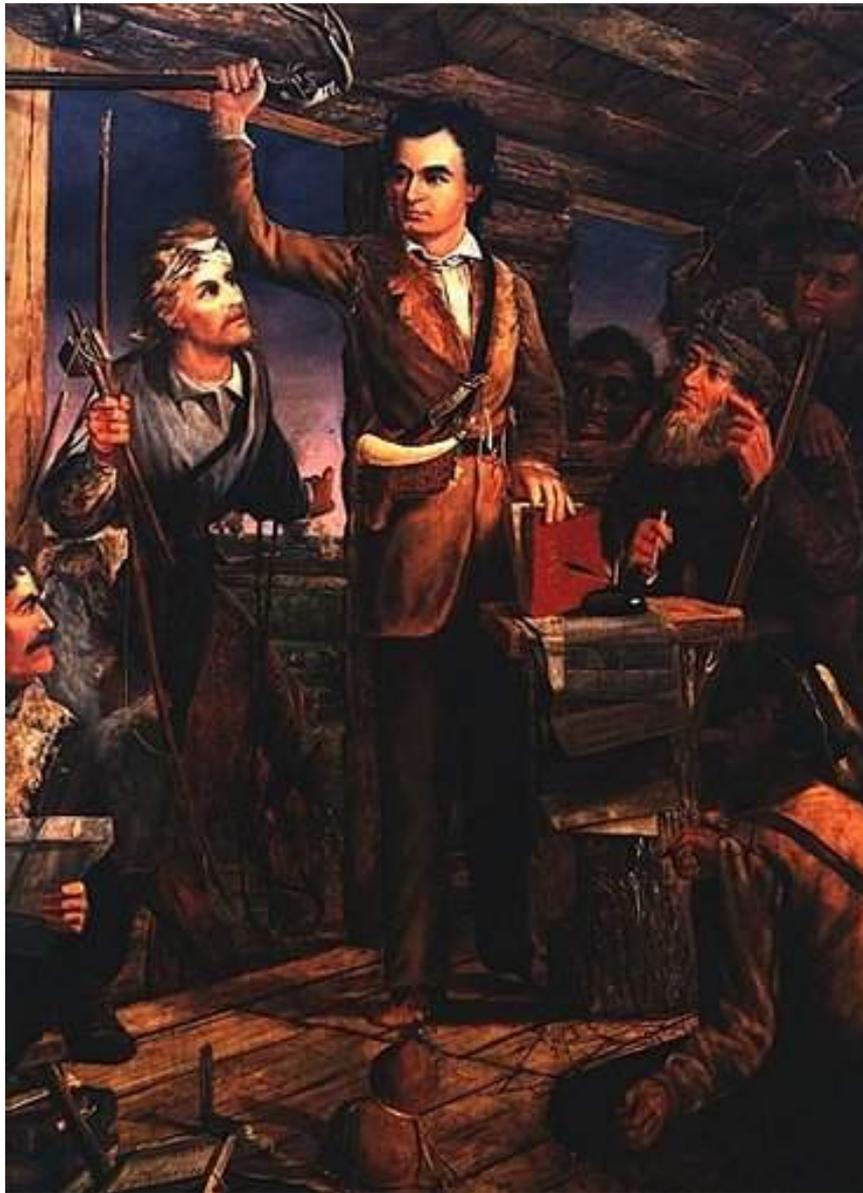
This image shows the Brazos River below Possum Kingdom Lake in Palo Pinto County, Texas in 2009. This image is courtesy of Wikimedia Commons.

About this time, Mexico won its independence from Spain.



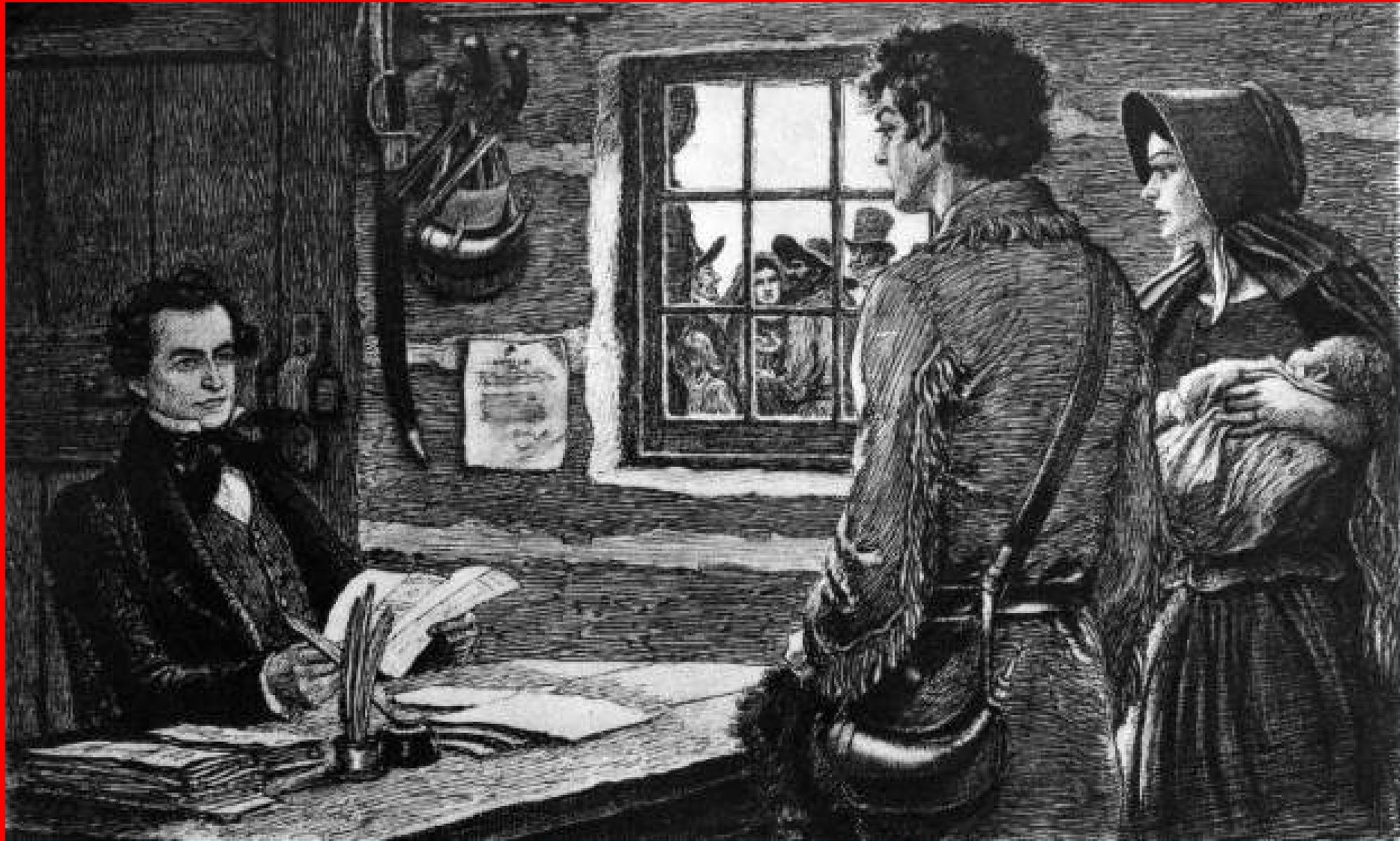
Mexico soon issued new land grants to Stephen F. Austin and extended the boundaries of his colony. The Treaty of Cordoba, which recognized Mexico's independence from Spain was signed on August 24, 1821. This image shows the Mexican military, known as the "Army of the Three Guarantees" marching into Mexico City on September 27, 1821. This image was created circa 1865 by Ramon Sagredo (1834-1872) This image is courtesy of Wikimedia Commons.

The Mexican government granted each settler in Texas large tracts of land.



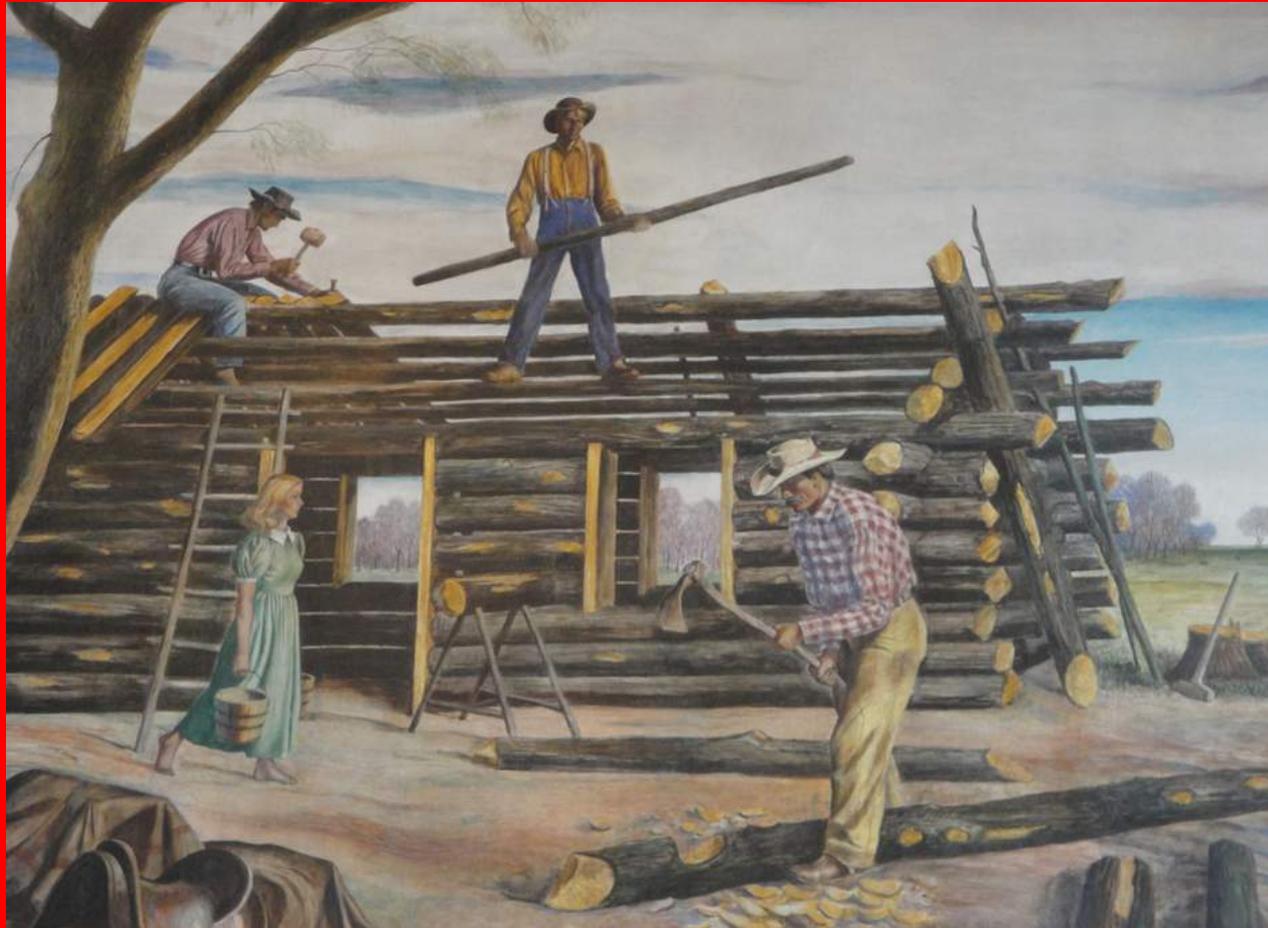
In exchange, the colonists promised to become citizens of Mexico, obey Mexico's laws, and accept the Roman Catholic faith. This image is titled "The Settlement of Austin's Colony." This image was created by Henry A. McCardle (1836-1908) in 1875. This image is courtesy of texas.gov.

Stephen F. Austin chose his first group of settlers carefully.



Stephen F. Austin did not like people who lied, who used bad language, or who drank alcohol. He wanted only “civilized and industrious” settlers for his new colony. This image shows Stephen F. Austin interviewing potential settlers for his Texas colony. This image is titled “Stephen F. Austin Issues a Land Title to a Texas Colonist of 1822.” This image was created by Herman Price. This image is courtesy of the University of Texas.

Austin issued land titles to almost 300 families.



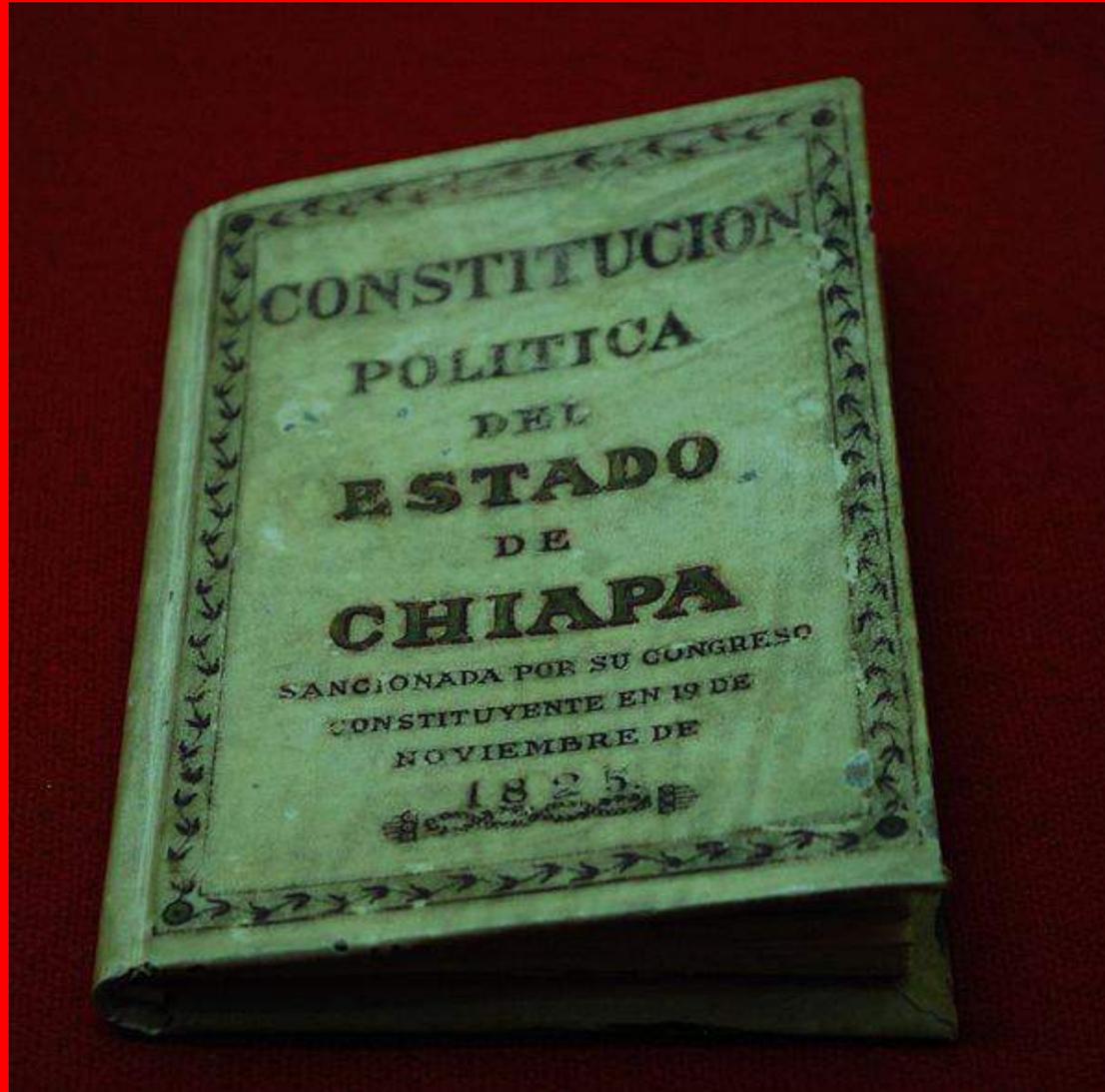
The colonists paid Austin 12 and a half cents an acre, which was a tenth of the cost of an average acre in the United States during this time period. If a family declared themselves to be farmers, they would receive 177 acres. If they declared themselves to be ranchers, they received 4428 acres. Many classified themselves as ranchers just to acquire more land. Austin's handpicked pioneers later became known as the "Old Three Hundred" although there were only 297 in the original colony. Austin later obtained three more contracts to settle a total of 900 additional families. This is a detail from a mural titled "Pioneer Home Builders." It was created in 1940 by Peter Hurd as a Works Progress Administration (WPA) project. The mural hangs in the Dallas Terminal Annex Building in Dallas, Texas. This image is courtesy of texasescapes.com.

The Mexican government used the empresario system to ensure loyalty from the settlers.



Meanwhile thousands of United States' settlers moved into Texas without Mexico's permission. This is a detail from a mural titled "O Pioneers Democracy Finally Rests Upon Us, and Our Visions Sweep Through Eternity." It was created in 1939 by Peter Hurd as a Works Progress Administration (WPA) project. The mural hangs in Big Springs, Texas Post Office. This image is courtesy of texasescapes.com.

Unlike Austin's colonists, these new arrivals from the United States never promised to uphold Mexican laws or to accept the Roman Catholic faith.



These new settlers wanted to keep their own culture, or ways of living. Even the Old Three Hundred had scattered clashes with the Mexican government. This image shows the Constitution of the Mexican State of Chiapas. The constitution was written in 1824. This image is courtesy of Wikimedia Commons.

Colonists on the Brazos River were using slaves to grow cotton in 1829 when the Mexican government prohibited slavery.



The cotton growers protested so vigorously that the government decided to permit slavery in Texas, at least temporarily. Slaveholders balked at the idea that the government might deprive them of their human "property." This image shows African Americans picking cotton near Houston, Texas in 1913. This image was created by Jerome H. Farbar. This image is courtesy Wikimedia Commons.

Settlers from the United States also had quarrels with the form of government in Mexico.



The settlers from the United States wanted to have the same voice in government that they had enjoyed in the United States. Mexican officials, however, insisted on tight political control. This is an image of the capitol building of Mexico. This image is courtesy of 2cgmexico.wikispaces.com.

By 1830 more than five times as many Anglos, or United States settlers, lived in Texas as Tejanos.



The Mexican government worried that Texas would become a part of the United States unless the American flow of immigrants to Texas was halted. This image is titled “Map of the United States of Mexico.” This map was created in 1847. This image is courtesy of sonofthesouth.net.

Eventually the Mexican Congress banned further “Anglo” immigration.



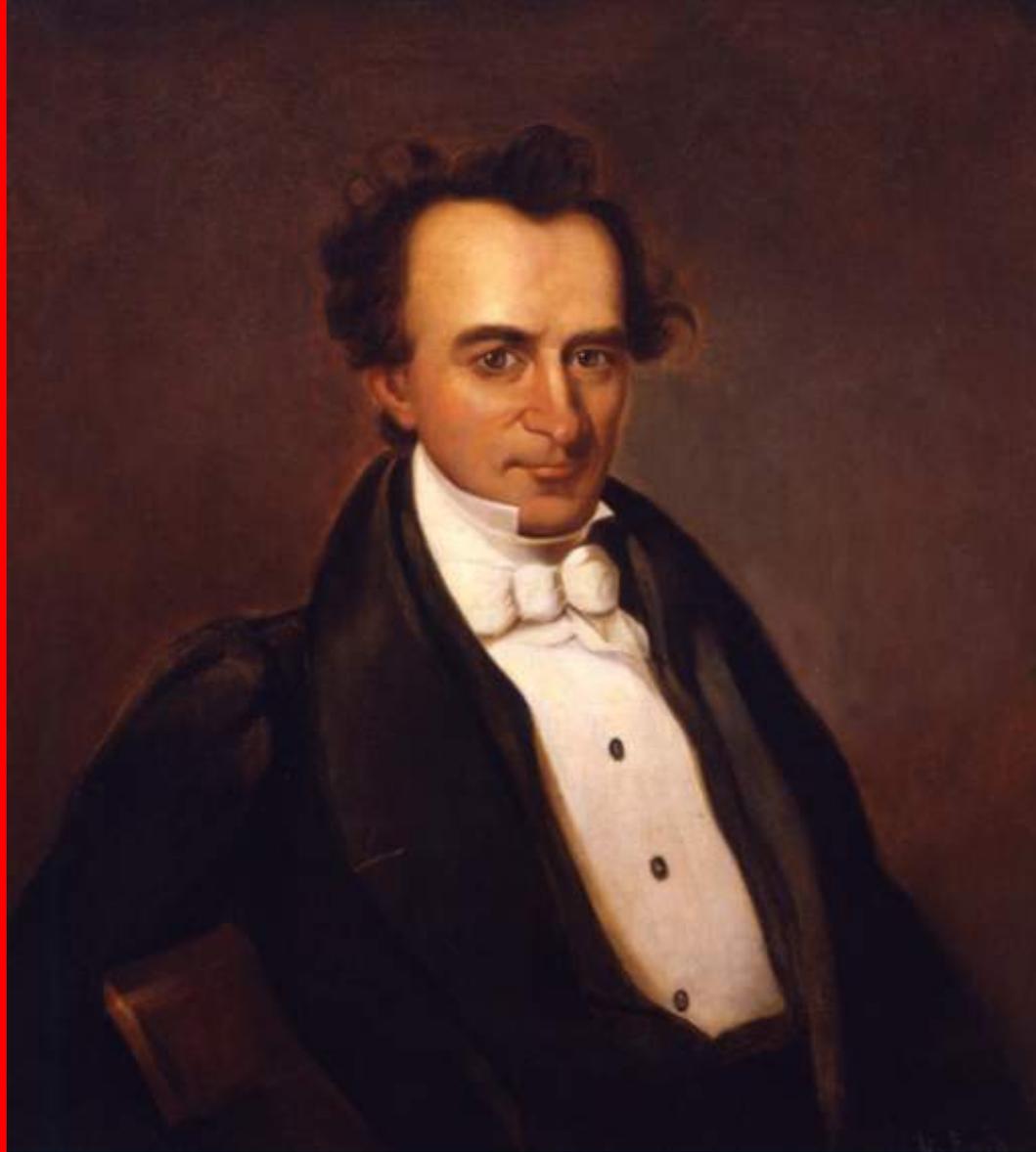
The Mexican government also ordered the construction of five new army posts in Texas to enforce Mexican laws. Mexico banned the Anglo immigration in 1830. This image is titled “The Emigrant Wagon is a Familiar Sight There.” This image was created in 1875 for Edward King (1848-1896) and James Wells Champney’s (1843-1903) book *The Great South; A record of Journeys in Louisiana, Texas, etc...* This image is courtesy of docsouth.unc.edu.

These actions by the Mexican government against the Americans brought furious protests from Anglo settlers.



Many Anglos spoke about the need to defend their rights. A few even talked about splitting Texas off from Coahuila, the Mexican state to which it belonged. This image shows delegates signing the Texas Declaration of independence on March 2, 1836. This image is courtesy of markandlauren.org.

Stephen F. Austin traveled to Mexico city with a petition.



The petition listed reforms, or improvements, demanded by both Anglos and Tejanos. Austin made this journey in 1833. Stephen F. Austin (1793-1836) probably had this portrait painted in 1836 in New Orleans, Louisiana. At that time he was the minister to the United States for the Republic of Texas. This image is courtesy of lrl.state.tx.us.

The reforms in Austin's petition included repeal of the ban against immigration and creation of a separate Texas state.

Apr 14
Montreney 15 January 1834

Mr Geo. Fisher
Matamoros

Don Fri.

The affairs of Texas, which have given me labor, and vexation enough for ^{two} 13 years past, are likely, as it seems to ~~put~~ me in difficulties for some time to come. The fact is, that during the last year of general convulsions, it has been almost impossible for any one who occupies any space in Society, to keep clear of entanglements of some kind. - I have been arrested by an Order from the Minister of War, on an accusation made by the State Government, and I leave to morrow, I presume for Mexico.

All I can be accused of is that I have labored diligently and faithfully and with pure intention to cover the Wilderness of Texas with an Agricultural and usefull population, and to make it a State of the Mexican Republic, separate from Coahuila. This is no crime, it is quite the reverse.

I have sent some claims in that Comisario, to D. W. Smith, to collect, and as you are the Comisario, I recommend them for pronto despacho.

I am much pleased with the new Comandante General, Don Pedro Lopez, and I recommend him as a man of high honor & liberal principles and a Gentleman.

The letters I wrote to Texas from Matamoros in your favor caused a great excitement there, in many, against me. - If you go

1864-11

This is the first page of a letter that Stephen F. Austin wrote to George Fisher on January 15, 1834. At this time, Austin had presented his petition to Antonio Lopez de Santa Anna, the new leader of Mexico. This image is courtesy of tsl.texas.gov.

Austin waited for months to present his petition to General Antonio Lopez de Santa Anna (1794-1876), the new head of the Mexican government.



When they finally met, Santa Anna insisted that Texas would not have a separate state government. This image is courtesy of Wikimedia Commons.

Austin wrote a letter urging Texans to go ahead with breaking away from Mexico and forming their own country.



When the letter fell into government hands, Santa Anna threw Stephen F. Austin into prison. Austin was released eight months later. This image of Stephen F. Austin was painted in Mexico City in 1833. This image was created by William Howard. This image is courtesy of Wikimedia Commons.

However, by this time, Santa Anna had suspended the Mexican constitution and assumed the powers of a dictator.



Many Texans now believed that the time had come to break away from Mexico. This drawing of Santa Anna was created by A. Hoffy of Philadelphia in July, 1847 "From An Original Likeness Taken From Life at Vera Cruz." This image is courtesy of Wikimedia Commons.

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This map shows the present day boundaries of Texas. It also shows the territory of Texas during its Revolution, and that territory is shaded in red/pink on the right of the map. This image is courtesy of latinamericanstudies.org.

News of unrest in Texas reached Santa Anna in Mexico City.



In October 1835, he ordered Mexican soldiers to seize a cannon at the Texas town of Gonzales. When Mexican troops arrived, they faced dozens of Texas volunteers. This image is from a reenactment of the Battle of Gonzales, on or near the spot where this incident occurred. This image is courtesy of alamosports.proboards.com.

Over the cannon, the Texans in Gonzales had defiantly hung a flag that read “Come and Take It.”



COME AND TAKE IT

The Battle of Gonzales was fought on October 2, 1835. The cannon had been given to the settlers of Gonzales in 1831 to help protect them against raids of the Comanche Indians. This image is courtesy of Wikimedia Commons.

After a brief skirmish, the Mexican soldiers left without the cannon.



Today many Texans consider the fight at Gonzales “The Lexington of Texas,” or the first battle in the Texas war for independence. This cannon is on display at the Gonzales Memorial Museum in Gonzales, Texas, and may have been the original cannon over which the battle was fought. This image is courtesy of Wikimedia Commons.

Santa Anna did not intend to surrender Texas without a fight.



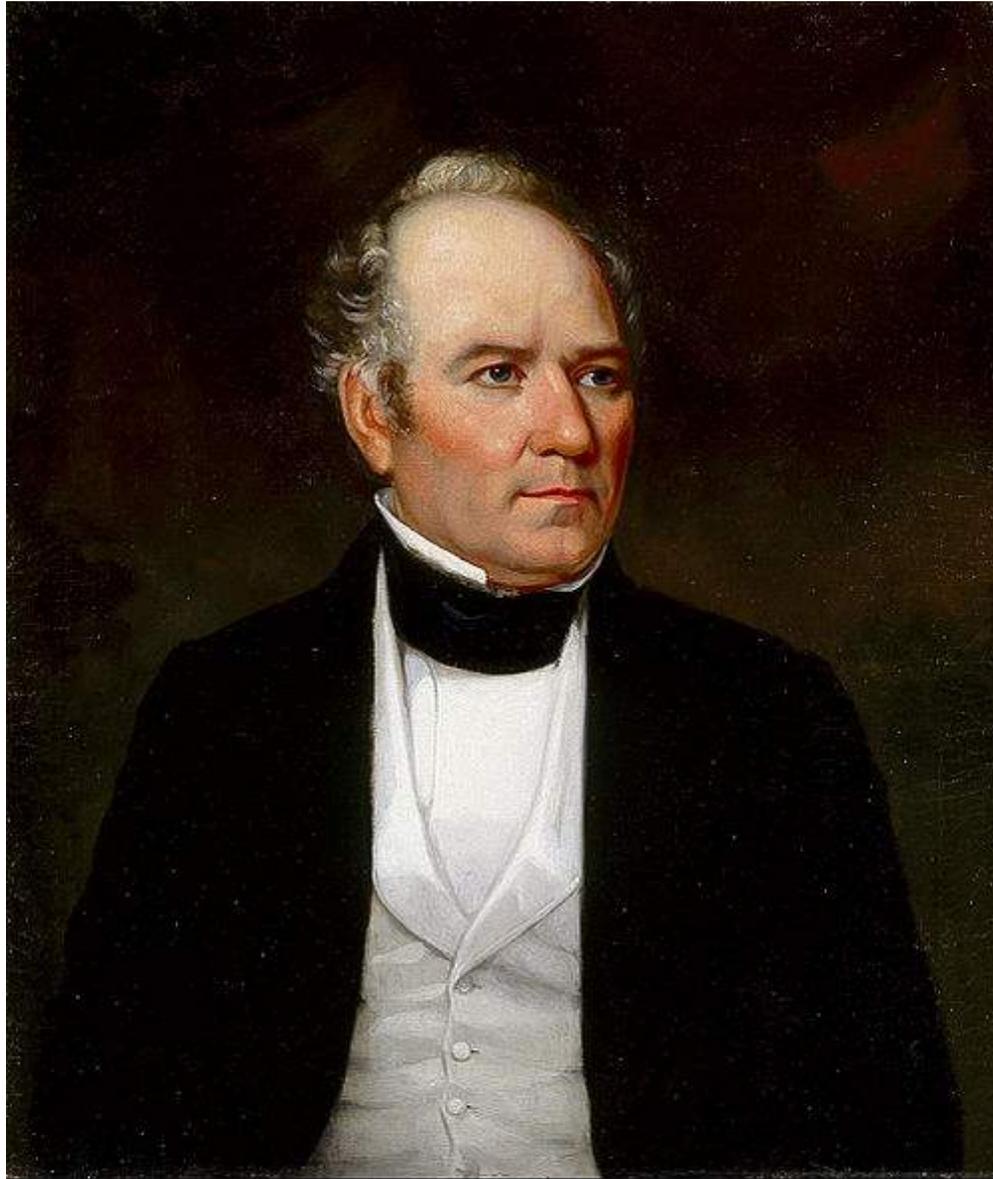
Santa Anna ordered Mexican troops to occupy the Texas town of San Antonio. The Texans started to surround the Mexicans in San Antonio. This image is courtesy of sanjacinto-museum.org.

In early December of 1835, hundreds of Texas volunteers attacked the Mexican Army in San Antonio.



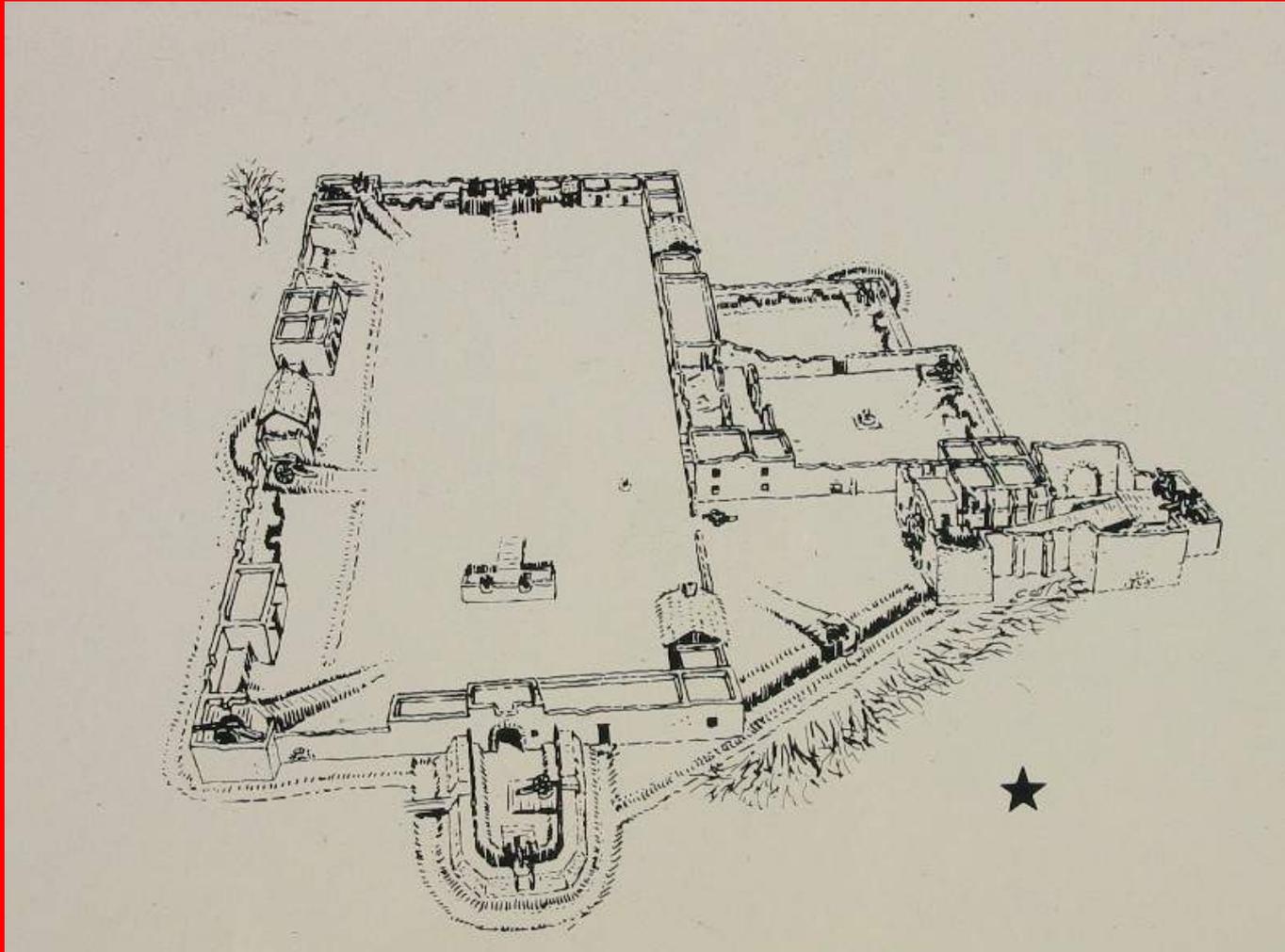
After five days the Texans drove out the Mexicans. The Texas Revolution was becoming a very serious matter. It is approximately 160 miles from San Antonio to the Rio Grande River, which is not the border between Texas and Mexico. It is 689 miles from San Antonio to Mexico City. This image is courtesy of Wikimedia Commons.

On March 2, 1836, Texans met at Washington-on-the-Brazos.



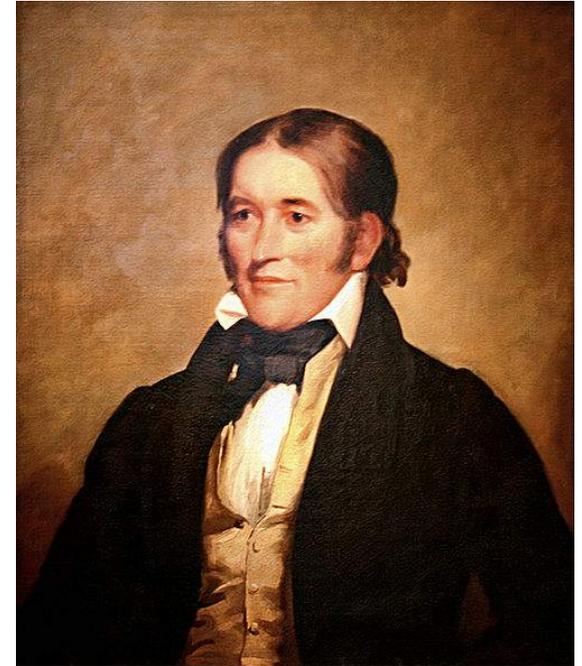
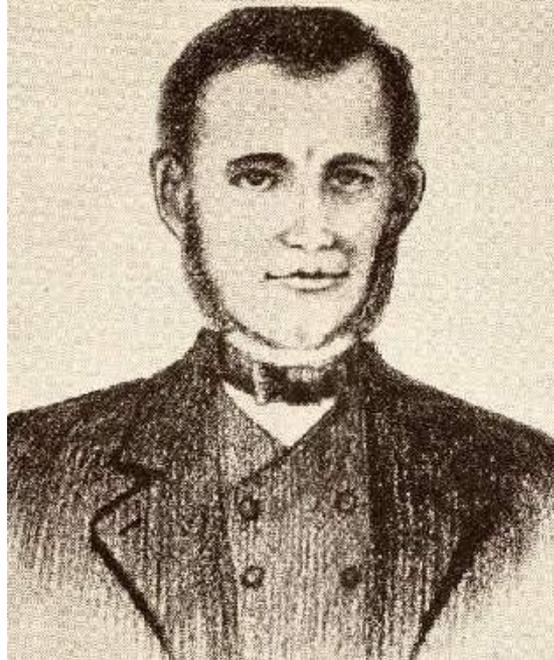
At this meeting, they announced the creation of the Republic of Texas. They placed Sam Houston (1793-1863), a former governor of Tennessee, in command of the army. This image was painted by Thomas Flintoff (1809-1892) circa 1851. This image is courtesy of Wikimedia Commons.

Meanwhile, in San Antonio, less than 200 Texas soldiers took cover in and defended an empty mission called the Alamo.



The Alamo was originally known as Mission San Antonio de Valero. It was built by Spanish priests to convert Native Americans to Roman Catholic Christianity. The mission was under construction from approximately 1718-1762. The mission was abandoned in 1793. In 1803 it was occupied by the Second Flying Company of San Carlos de Parras, from Alamo de Parras in Coahuila, Mexico. Locals called them the "Alamo Company," and the complex took its name from them. The perspective is facing north. This image is courtesy of bucknell.edu.

The Alamo leaders included three “Colonels.”



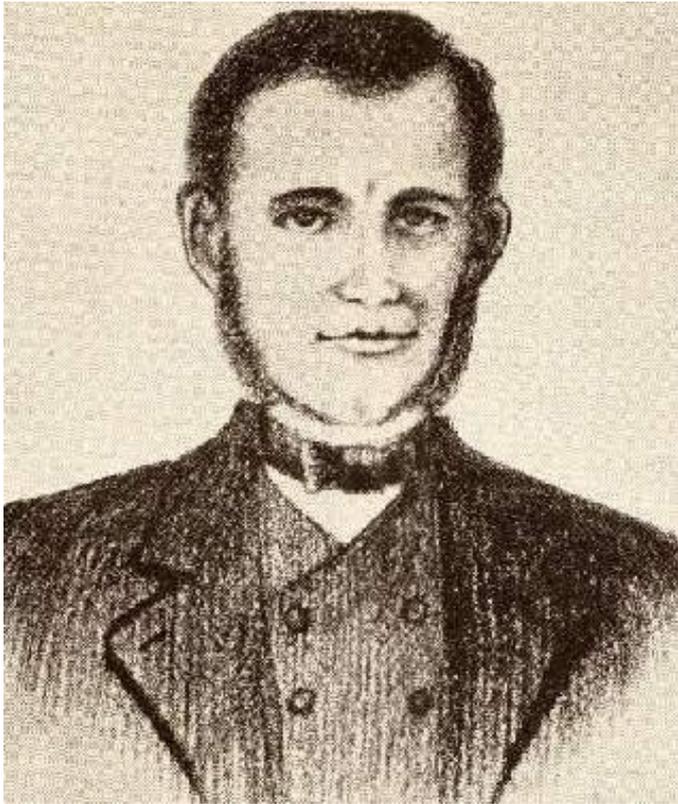
On the left is Jim Bowie, who came to Texas from Louisiana, The portrait was painted circa 1894 by George Peter Alexander Healy (1818-1894). This image is courtesy of Wikimedia Commons. In the center is William Travis who came to Texas from Alabama. This image might have been created of Travis in 1835. This image is courtesy of Wikimedia Commons. On the right is David “Davy” Crockett who came to Texas from Tennessee. Crockett’s portrait was painted by Chester Harding (1792-1866) in 1834. This image is courtesy of Wikimedia Commons.

Colonel Jim Bowie was the highest ranking officer. He was well known for using a large knife in fights, known as the Bowie Knife.



Jim Bowie (1796-1836) was born in Kentucky, but lived for a long time in Louisiana before coming to Texas. He was a soldier, smuggler, slave trader, and land speculator, who married into a wealthy Mexican family. He had an illness, possibly tuberculosis, which left him bedridden at the Alamo. The portrait was painted circa 1894 by George Peter Alexander Healy (1818-1894). Both images are courtesy of Wikimedia Commons.

Lieutenant Colonel William Travis was a lawyer who had left his pregnant wife and child in Alabama to come to Texas.



William Travis (1802-1836) was not well liked by the men in the Alamo. He took command of the garrison after Colonel Jim Bowie was too ill to perform his duties. Travis is most famous for writing a letter from the Alamo addressed "To the People of Texas and All Americans in the World" in which he asked for reinforcements, and stated that he would not surrender or retreat. On the outside of the envelope delivering his message were the words "Victory or Death." This image on the left might have been created of Travis in 1835. This image is courtesy of Wikimedia Commons. The image on the right shows Travis writing his letter "To the People of Texas and All Americans in the World." The image on the right is courtesy of thealamo.org.

Colonel David “Davy” Crockett was well known for his tall tales and his ability as a hunter. He had recently lost his seat in the U.S. Congress.



David Crockett (1786-1836) was the most famous person in the Alamo. He was from Tennessee, and later became known as the “King of the Wild Frontier.” Stage plays about his life helped him to be elected to Congress. His opposition to the Indian Removal policies of President Andrew Jackson eventually led to his defeat during the 1835 election. He then decided to make his fortune in Texas, and arrived at the Alamo on February 8, 1836. The portrait on the left was painted by Chester Harding (1792-1866) in 1834. The portrait on the right was painted by John Gadsby Chapman (1808-1889). Both images are courtesy of Wikimedia Commons.

Santa Anna's forces surrounded the Alamo, and for 12 days used their cannon to send cannon balls into the mission.



Defenders inside the Alamo were exhausted, but held out, and attempted to send messages to Sam Houston and other Texas soldiers to come to their aid. This iron cannon is on display at the Briscoe Western Art Museum in San Antonio, Texas. This cannon is said to be used by Mexican forces at the Battle of the Alamo in 1836. This image is courtesy of blog.texashighways.com.

Finally, on March 6, 1836, Santa Anna ordered an all-out attack.



The Mexican infantry attacked the Alamo in different groups, first from the northwest, then from the north. Later they attacked from the northeast and the south. The Mexicans knew there were not enough defenders in the Alamo to man all the positions, and they wanted them to move around and not be in a set position. This image is courtesy of alamosports.proboards.com.

Eventually, Mexican soldiers swarmed over the walls of the Alamo.



The fighting became hand to hand in many instances. This image is titled "Dawn at the Alamo." This image was created by Henry McArdle in 1905. This image is courtesy of the Texas State Library.

Lieutenant Colonel William Travis was one of the first defenders killed as he fired at Mexicans from the north wall.



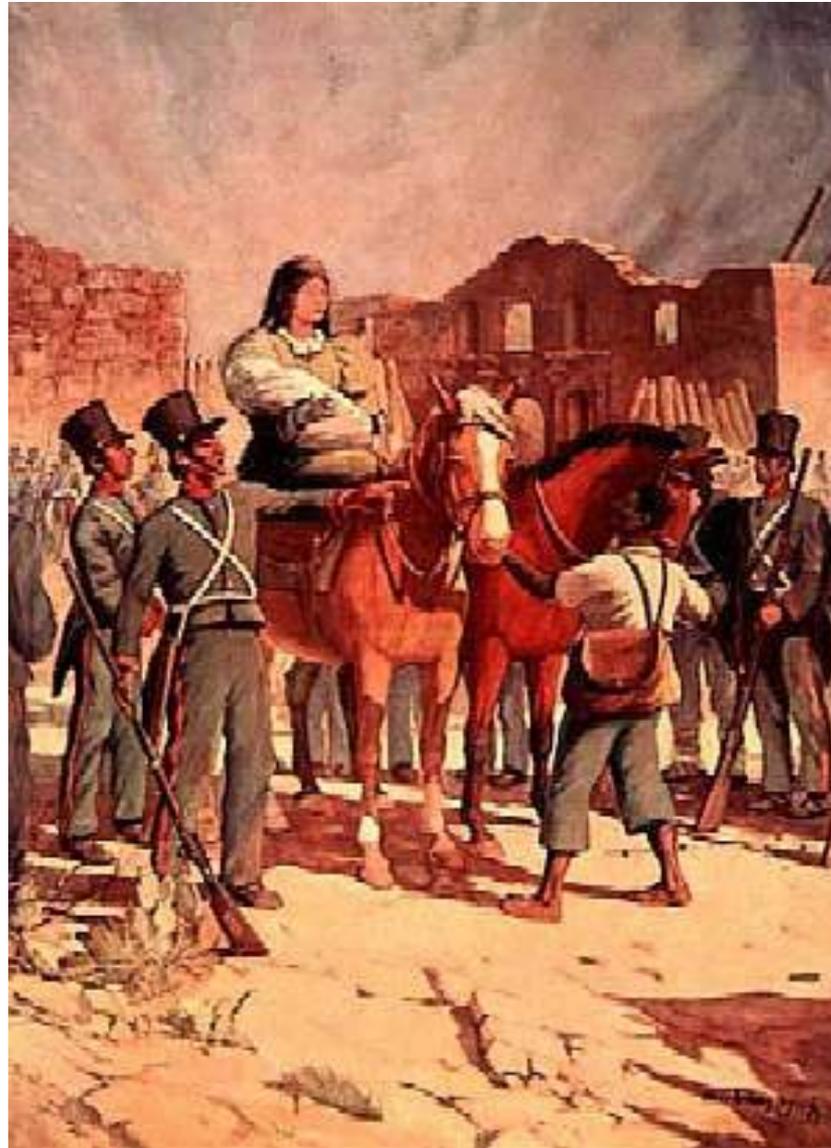
William Travis (1802-1836) is most famous for writing a letter from the Alamo addressed "To the People of Texas and All Americans in the World" in which he asked for reinforcements, and stated the he would not surrender or retreat. On the outside of the envelope delivering his message were the words "Victory or Death." This image is titled "The Death of Travis." This image is courtesy of theconservativetreehouse.com.

The fate of Davy Crockett is debated. Some accounts say he died in the fighting. Others say that he was captured and was executed while begging for his life.



David Crockett (1786-1836) was the most famous person in the Alamo. He was from Tennessee, and later became known as the "King of the Wild Frontier." Stage plays about his life helped him to be elected to Congress. His opposition to the Indian Removal policies of President Andrew Jackson eventually led to his defeat during the 1835 election. He then decided to make his fortune in Texas, and arrived at the Alamo on February 8, 1836. This image is titled "The Fall of the Alamo." This image was created in 1903 by Robert Jenkins Onderdonk. This image is courtesy of latinamericanstudies.org.

By 9:00 AM all of the Alamo defenders had been killed because **the Mexicans would not allow them to surrender.** Santa Anna allowed the women, children, and slaves to be free to leave the Alamo.



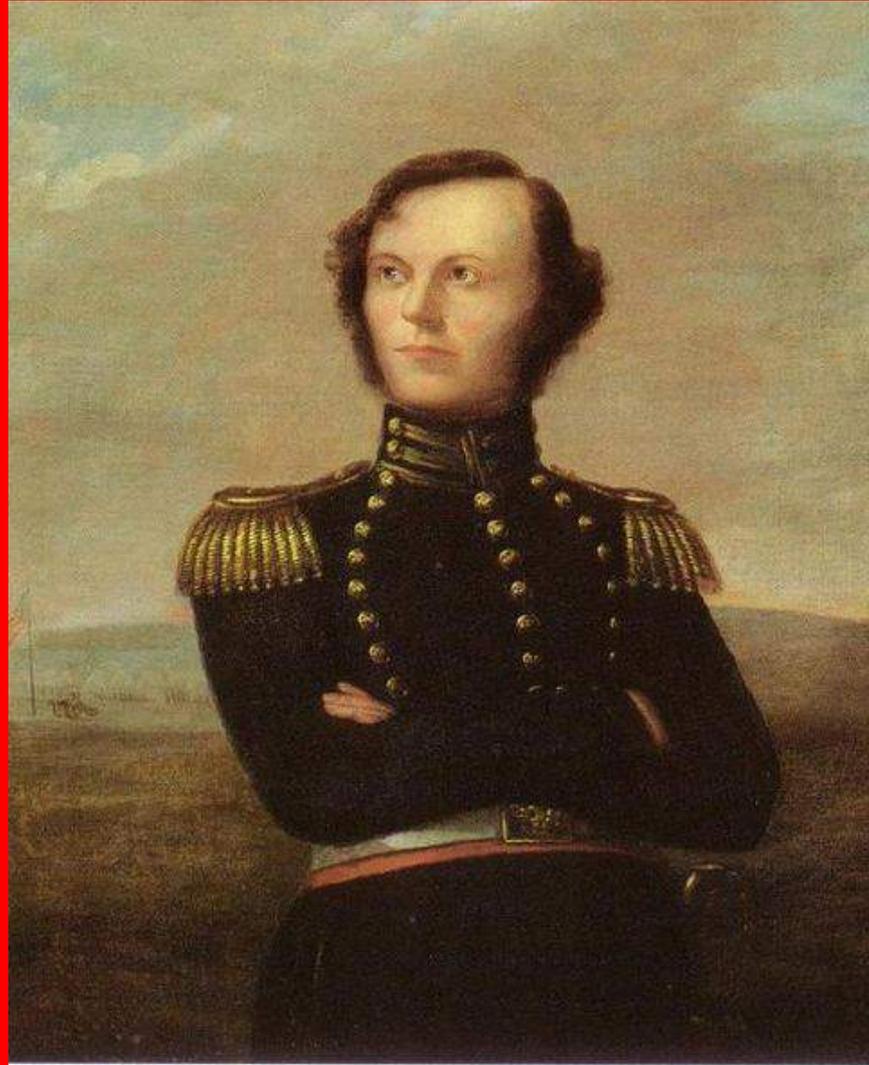
Since most of the male defenders had been killed (some had left as messengers before the final attack), the most reliable accounts of what happened in the Alamo came from the women and the male slaves who lived to tell the story. This image is courtesy of tamu.edu.

The fight at the Alamo angered and inspired Texans.



To learn firsthand about the Alamo, Sam Houston met with Susanna Dickinson (1814-1883), one of the survivors, in Gonzales. After hearing Dickinson's account of the final battle, Houston vowed to prevent other Alamos. This image is courtesy of the Texas State Library and Archives.

General Sam Houston sent word to one of his commanders, James Fannin, to abandon a fort in Goliad, Texas.



James Fannin (1804-1836), however, waited several days before obeying the order. Fannin had enrolled at the United States Military Academy at West Point, New York on July 1, 1819 under the name "James F. Walker." However, he resigned from West Point because of poor grades, absences, and tardiness. This image is courtesy of the Dallas Historical Society and of Wikimedia Commons.

When Fannin finally led troops from Goliad, they ran into a Mexican army on the Texas prairie.



After a short fight near Goliad, Fannin surrendered his force. Goliad is located approximately 90 miles southeast of San Antonio. This image is courtesy of cah.utexas.edu.

A week later, the Mexicans began to execute the prisoners.



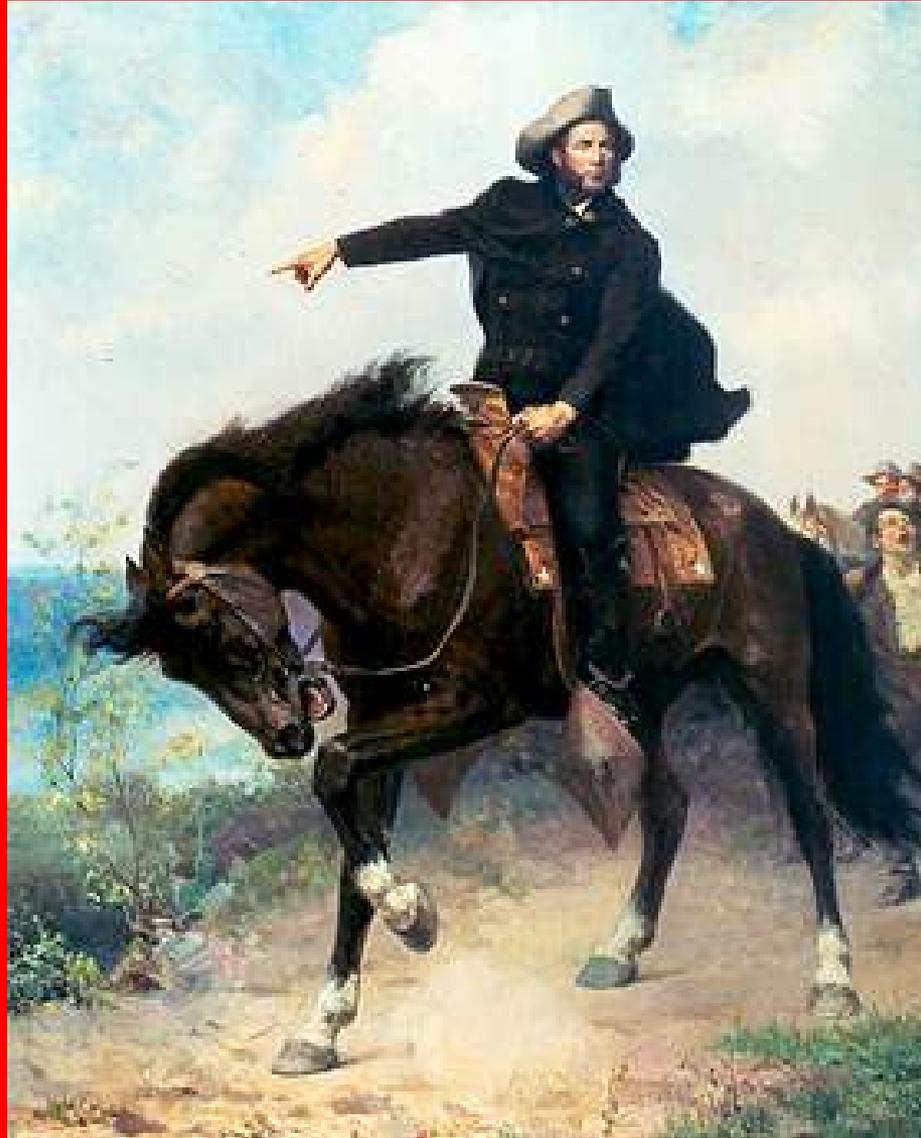
Some prisoners escaped, but Fannin and some 350 others fell before Mexican firing squads. Any of those still living after being hit with musket fire were clubbed or knifed to death. This monument marks the location where most of the Texans from the Goliad Massacre are buried. This image is courtesy of Wikimedia Commons.

News of events at the Alamo and Goliad spread quickly among Texans.



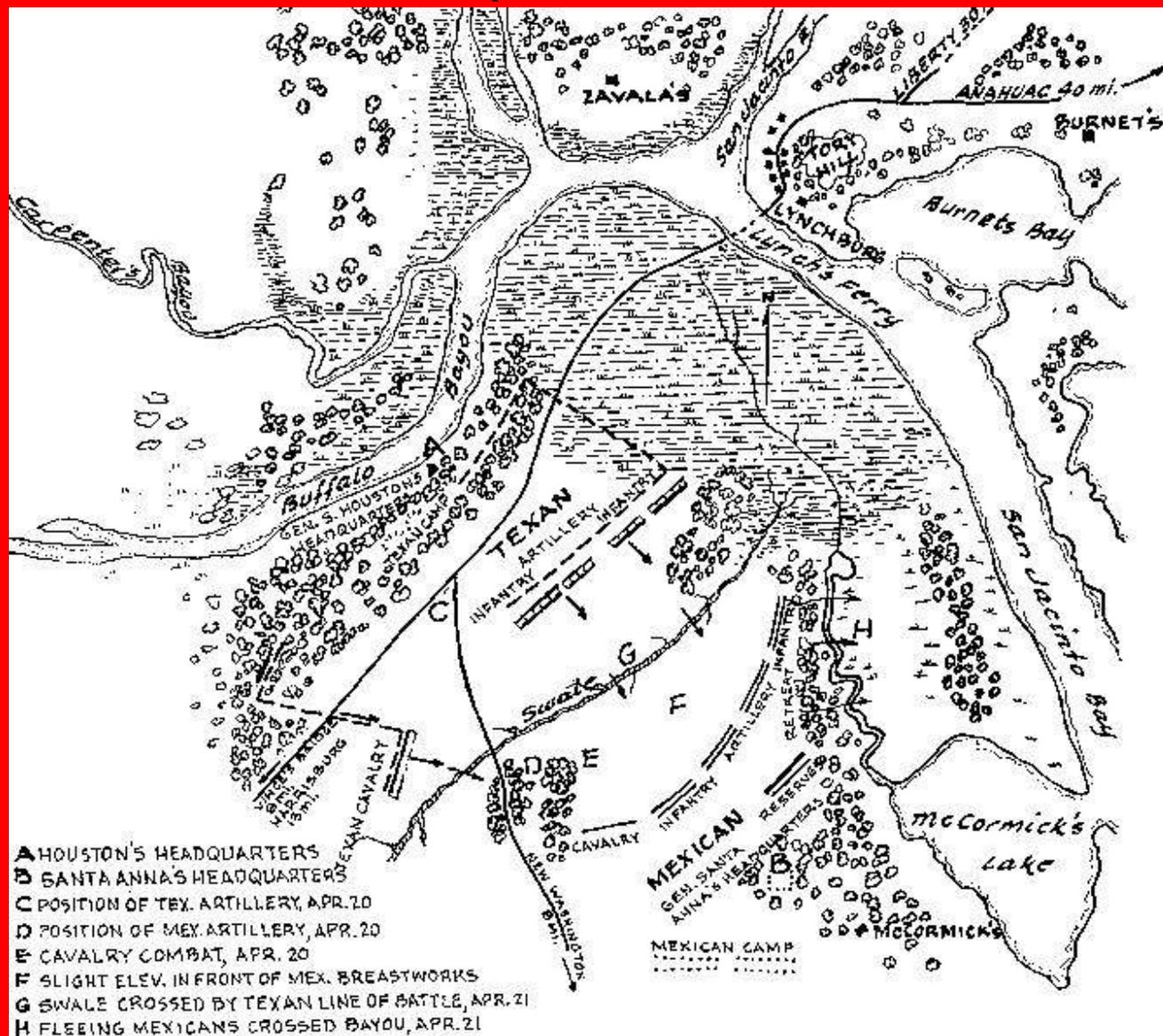
Approximately 1400 volunteers rushed to join Sam Houston, who did not strike immediately. He took time to build an army. He used spies to help him keep track of the movements of the Mexican army. These uniforms were not used by the Republic of Texas Army in 1836. These uniforms were issued to the Grand Army of Texas in 1845. This image is courtesy of forum.paradoxplaza.com.

In April 1836, instead of constantly retreating, Sam Houston turned his army around and decided to strike.



Houston moved his troops onto the prairie just west of the San Jacinto River. This image is courtesy of sanjacinto-museum.org.

On April 21, 1836 the Mexican soldiers settled down for an afternoon siesta or nap beside the San Jacinto River.



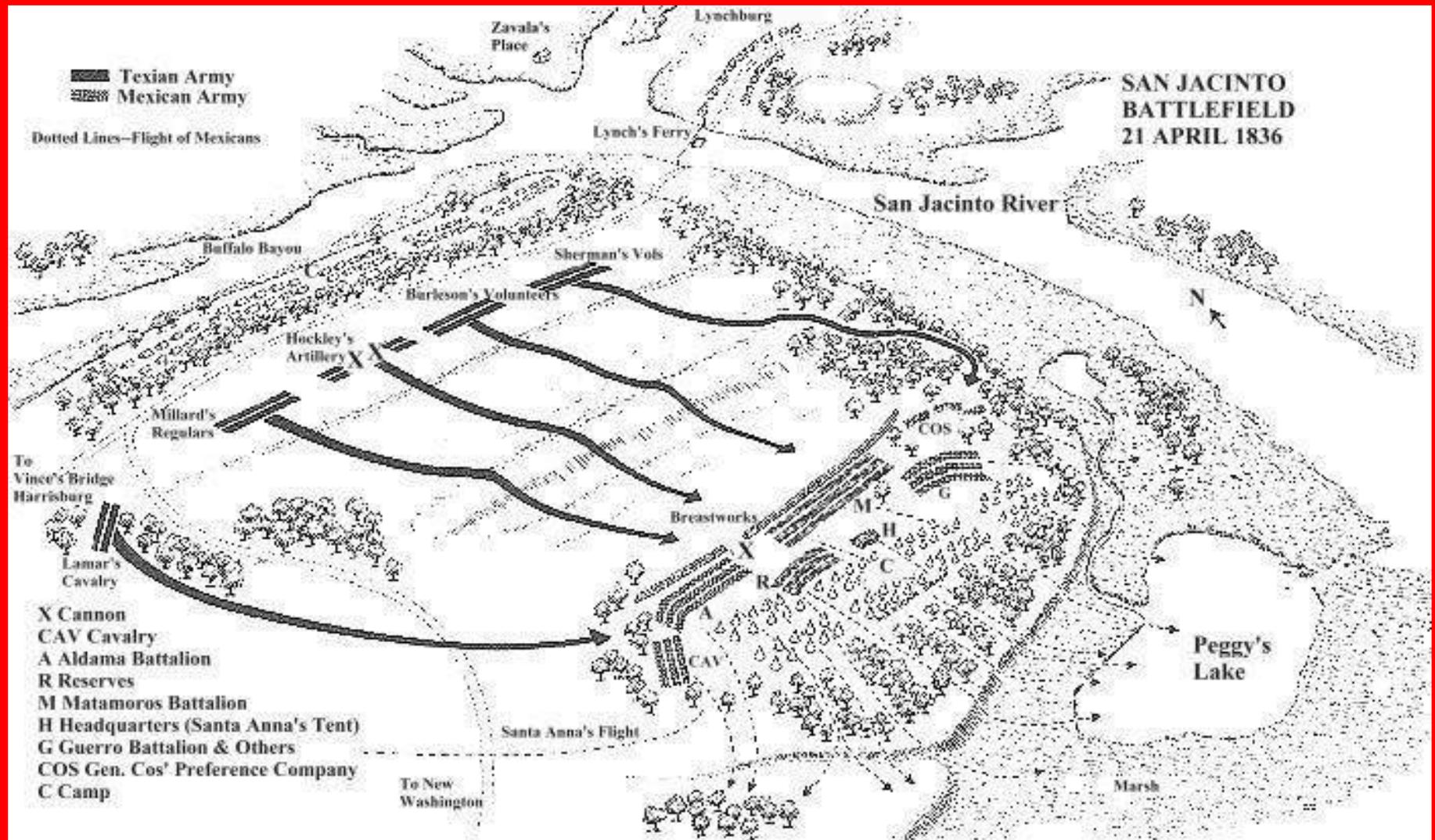
At that moment, Houston ordered the attack. This image is courtesy of awesomestories.com.

Texas volunteers raced into battle, screaming
“Remember the Alamo” and “Remember Goliad!”



The Texans are attacking from left to right. This painting is titled *The Battle of San Jacinto*. It hangs in the Texas State Capitol. This painting was created in 1898 by Henry Arthur McArdle (1836-1908). This image is courtesy of Wikimedia Commons.

The Battle of San Jacinto lasted only 18 minutes.



The Battle of San Jacinto was the decisive battle of the Texas Revolution. This image is courtesy of tamu.edu.

More than 600 Mexican soldiers died.



Hundreds of Mexican soldiers were wounded or captured. This painting is a smaller alternate version to *The Battle of San Jacinto*. It hangs in the Texas State Capitol. This painting was created in 1901 by Henry Arthur McArdle (1836-1908). This painting was found in an attic in West Virginia in 2010. This image is courtesy of artandseek.net.

Mexican soldiers shot two horses from under Sam Houston before a musket ball finally shattered his ankle.



This image shows Texas General Samuel Houston at the Battle of San Jacinto. It is a detail from the painting titled *The Battle of San Jacinto* which hangs in the Texas State Capitol. This painting was created in 1898 by Henry Arthur McArdle (1836-1908). This image is courtesy of Wikimedia Commons.

When the battle ended, only nine Texans had died.



This is a detail from the painting titled *The Battle of San Jacinto* which hangs in the Texas State Capitol. This painting was created in 1898 by Henry Arthur McArdle (1836-1908). This image is courtesy warfarehistorianblogspot.com.

Santa Anna escaped during the battle, but he was found the next day in a Private's uniform, hiding in a marshy area.



Santa Anna's identity was verified when he was brought in as a prisoner, and other Mexican soldiers kept saluting him. This image shows Santa Anna before General Sam Houston, who is laying down because of a wound that he received during the battle. This image is titled "Surrender of Santa Anna," and it hangs in the Texas State Capitol. This image was created by William Henry Huddle (1847-1892) in 1886. This image is courtesy of Wikimedia Commons.

The war for Texas Independence was over.

1836 NOV 125
7 MAY 14 246

— Public Agreement —

Articles of an agreement entered into between his Excellency David G. Burnett of the President of the Republic of Texas of the one part & His Excellency General Antonio Lopez de Santa Anna President General in Chief of the other part —

— Article 1st —

General Antonio Lopez de Santa Anna agrees that he will not take up arms nor will he excite his influence to cause them to be taken up against the People of Texas during the present War of Independence —

2

All hostilities between the Mexican & Texian troops will cease immediately both on land & water —

3

The Mexican troops will evacuate the Territory of Texas passing to the other side of the Rio Grande de Santa Fe

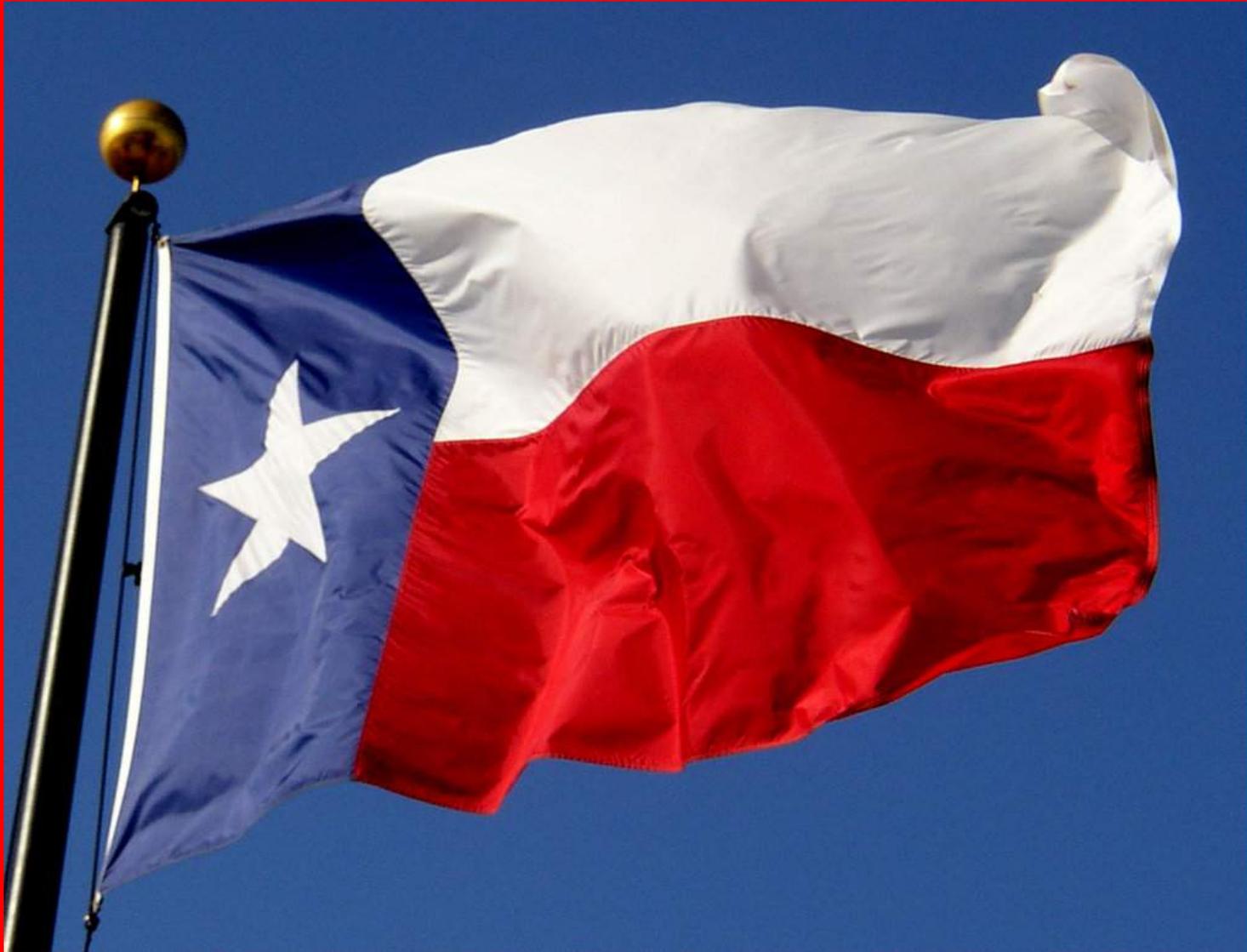
4th

The Mexican Army in its retreat shall not take the property of any persons without his consent & just indemnification, using only such articles as may be necessary for its subsistence; in cases where the owner may not be present & committing to the Commandant in Chief of the Army of Texas or to the Commission to be appointed for the adjustment of such matters an account of the nature of the property consumed, the place where taken & the names of the

1-67

On May 14 Texans forced Santa Anna to sign a peace treaty. He also signed a secret treaty promising to support Texas independence. The treaties were called the Treaties of Velasco. This is an image of the “Public Treaty.” This image is courtesy of the Texas State Library and Archives.

In September 1836, Texans elected Sam Houston president of a new independent nation—the Republic of Texas.

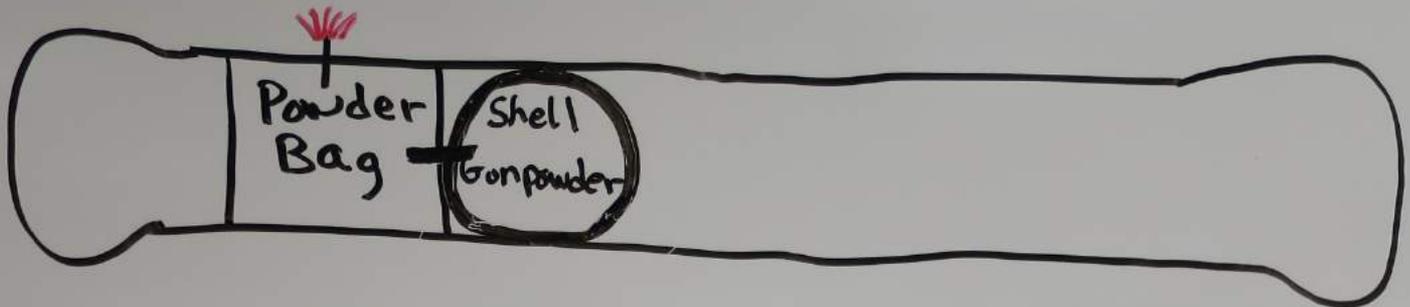


The Republic of Texas was known as the “Lone Star Republic” for the single star on its flag. The Republic of Texas lasted from 1836-1845 when Texas became the 28th State of the United States. This image is courtesy of lonestarbannersandflags.com.

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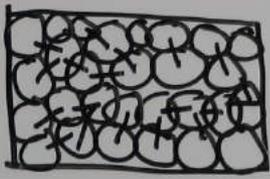
shell



Solid shot



Grape shot



Siege of Alamo 13 Days
February 23 - March 6, 1836

② ↑ North
400 Col. Duque

① 400 Gen. Cos

③ ←
400 COL Romero

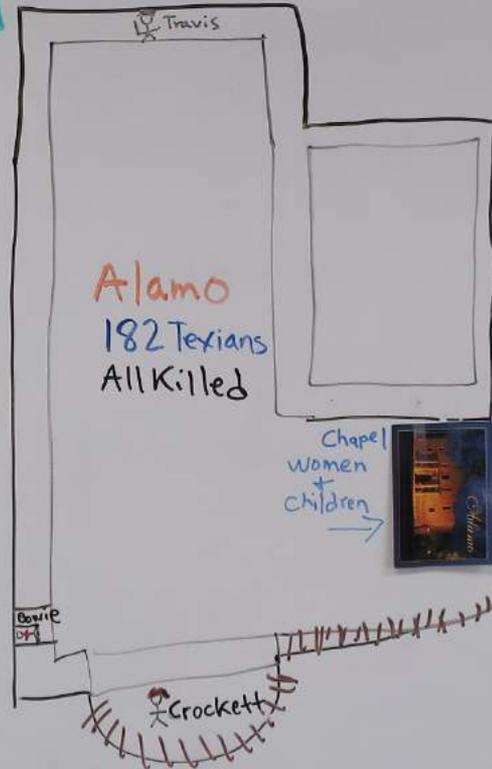
Approximately
500 Mexicans
Killed

1500 Mexicans
Antonio Lopez de Santa Anna

San Antonio
de Bexar



San Antonio River



④ ↑
300 COL Morales

