

Sam Houston

Texas' first and third president who established peace with Indian tribes, reduced the size of the government, dismissed the army, and advocated for annexation.

Mirabeau Lamar

Texas' second president who waged a war of extermination against Indian tribes, moved the capital to Austin, sent the Santa Fe Expedition, and attempted to expand Texas.

Anson Jones

Texas' fourth and final president who maintained peace with Texas Indians, limited spending, and oversaw Texas' annexation to the United States.

Texas Rangers

A group of volunteers who protected Anglo settlements, fought Texas Indians, fought invading Mexican troops in 1842, and captured suspected thieves and smugglers.

Chief Bowles

The primary peace leader of the Cherokees in east Texas. He signed a peace agreement with Houston. Some of his tribe took part in the Córdova Rebellion. He was killed at the Battle of the Neches.

William Goyens

A free African American businessman who lived and worked in east Texas. He owned a large amount of property and fought for his rights as a free person.

Mary Maverick

A Texan settler who kept detailed journals about her time in Texas, including her experience during the Council House Fight in San Antonio. She worked to preserve Texas history in her later years.

José Antonio Navarro

A Tejano man who served as a representative to San Antonio on the Texas Congress. He worked for Tejano rights, was a delegate at the Convention of 1845 that accepted annexation and helped write the state constitution of Texas.

John “Jack” Coffee Hays

The most well-known Texas Ranger who led rangers in fights against the Comanches, Mexican soldiers, and suspected thieves and smugglers.

Córdova Rebellion

A group of east Texas Tejanos teamed up with some Indians to oppose the Texas government and lead attacks on Texan settlers in 1838. The rebellion was ended by Thomas J. Rusk’s volunteers.

Council House Fight

An 1840 meeting between Comanches and Anglos in San Antonio turned violent when the Comanches did not bring all Anglo captives to the meeting. All Comanches were killed or captured.

Santa Fe Expedition

President Lamar sent a large group to New Mexico to try to establish trade and persuade New Mexico to join Texas. The attempt failed, and the members were captured and imprisoned in Mexico.

Somervell Expedition

Houston authorized this event in response to Mexico's two invasions of Texas in 1842. Texan volunteers captured the border towns of Laredo and Guerrero, then were ordered to return home.

Mier Fight

After being ordered to return home, many volunteers continued the expedition and took part in this battle. The Texans were defeated, captured, and imprisoned. Some were executed.

Slavery

Texas cotton plantations often used this type of labor. This caused the U.S. to oppose annexation twice, and cause Britain to oppose establishing commerce with Texas.

Annexation

The act of joining some territory to a country. Most Texans wanted this for Texas in order to provide more stability, protection, and economic success to Texas.

Debt

Owing money.
Texas had a lot of this from the large loans it had taken out to finance the revolution. When Texas was annexed, the United States did not take responsibility for this.

Republic

A type of government in which people elect representatives to work in their interests. Texas (and the United States) have this type of government.

Abolish / Abolition

To officially get rid of something. Britain wanted Texas to get rid of slavery in order to form a commercial partnership.

Commerce / Commercial

Doing business, buying and selling, taking part in trade. Great Britain would not take part in trade with Texas unless Texas abolished slavery.

Texas Navy

This branch of the military tried to protect the Texas coastline. They also attempted to provide support for federalist uprisings in Mexico. It was very costly to Texas.

Administration

This term is used to refer to the people working in the government of a specific leader, like Sam Houston or Mirabeau Lamar.

Revenue

The income, or money made, by a large company or organization. Today, a lot of the income produced by public lands is the result of oil and natural gas.

Treaty

An agreement between two or more parties (groups) establishing a peaceful diplomatic or economic relationship. Houston established these agreements with Texas Indian tribes.

Congress

A group of government officials elected to create legislations (laws) for a state or country. The U.S. group denied Texas annexation twice before accepting the third application.

Oppose

To be against something. Many in the U.S. government were against annexation because it would probably lead to war with Mexico and cause problems between slave and free states.

Advocate for

To publicly support something. Houston publicly supported and worked for Texas annexation.

Extermination

To completely destroy, kill, or wipe out. Lamar stated he would wage this type of war against Texas Indians.