

Antonio López de Santa Anna

Antonio López de Santa Anna was born on February 21, 1794 in Veracruz, Mexico. He fought for Mexican independence from Spain in the War for Mexican Independence.

During his early political career, he was a popular federalist who supported the rights of the people and the states. He was elected president in 1833. At that time, Mexico was faced with a number of political, economic, and military challenges. Many in Mexico believed that federalism couldn't fix the problems in the country, so centralism began to grow more popular for some people.

Santa Anna joined a growing centralist rebellion that overthrew his own federalist government. The new centralist government abolished, or got rid of, the Federal Constitution of 1824. They also limited the powers of the people and the states, granting more power to the central government.

Several Mexican states rebelled against Santa Anna's centralist government. In October 1835, Texians fought centralist troops at Gonzales. Then they marched to San Antonio, driving the centralist army out of the city. Santa Anna responded by personally leading 6,000 Mexican troops to Texas in the middle of winter. His army defeated the Texans in San Antonio at the Alamo on March 6, 1836.

Next, Santa Anna led his army east to try to capture the Texas government and fight the Texas army under Sam Houston. He wanted to end the rebellion as quickly as possible. To try to move faster, he divided his army into smaller groups as he chased after Sam Houston. This allowed Sam Houston an opportunity to attack Santa Anna at San Jacinto. Santa Anna was defeated and captured at the Battle of San Jacinto on April 21, 1836.

The Texians forced Santa Anna to sign the Treaties of Velasco before releasing him to return to Mexico City. While Santa Anna was away from Mexico, however, the Mexican government removed him from power. Mexico did not recognize Texas independence until after the Mexican American War of 1846. Santa Anna would go on to be president of Mexico seven more times by 1855.

Sam Houston

Sam Houston was born in Virginia on March 2, 1793, but they moved to a small farm in Tennessee in 1807 after his father died. As a teenager, he ran away and lived with the Cherokee Indians of Tennessee for three years. A Cherokee chief named Oolooteka adopted him and gave him the Indian name *Colonneh*, or "the Raven."

For a brief time, Houston worked as a teacher and then a lawyer. He also served in government as a state attorney general, a congressman, and the governor of Tennessee.

Houston was briefly married to a young woman named Eliza Allen. When that marriage failed, he went again to live with his adopted Cherokee father, Oolooteka, whose tribe had been forced to move to Arkansas and present-day Oklahoma.

Houston eventually moved to Texas in 1832. Like many Anglo Americans who flooded into Texas during the 1830s, Houston saw Texas as a land of opportunity and new beginnings. He settled in Nacogdoches, where he opened a law office.

When the centralists overthrew Mexico's government in 1835 and abolished the Federal Constitution of 1824, many Texans, including Houston, were very angry. Houston served as a delegate at the Convention of 1833 and at the Consultation in 1835. Delegates at the Consultation established the Texas army and appointed Houston as its commander.

In February 1836, he helped negotiate a peace treaty with the Cherokee Indians living in Texas. The treaty said that the Cherokee would not take up arms, or fight, against the Texans in their war with Mexico.

Houston also served as a delegate to the Constitutional Convention of 1836, where the Texans wrote the Texas Declaration of Independence. The Convention appointed Houston major general of the newly created army of the Republic of Texas.

After the fall of the Alamo, Sam Houston led the army east away from Santa Anna. He knew the army was not yet ready to face Santa Anna's approaching forces, so he moved and waited for the right opportunity to confront the centralist forces. When Santa Anna divided his army to move faster, Sam Houston took the opportunity to confront the smaller centralist forces. Then on April 21, 1836, Houston and his men defeated and captured Santa Anna at the Battle of San Jacinto. This ended the Texas Revolution.

Houston was elected the first president of the Republic of Texas. He served two terms as president. In 1836, the city of Houston was established in his honor, and it served as the capital of Texas for a short time.

James Bowie

James “Jim” Bowie was born in Kentucky in April 1769. Bowie’s family lived in Spanish Missouri and then Louisiana, in the U.S., where they ran a cotton and sugarcane plantation and took part in the slave trade. They even worked with the French privateer and slave trader, Jean Lafitte.

In early 1830, Bowie immigrated to Texas and settled in San Antonio. Bowie became a Mexican citizen and married Maria Veramendi, the daughter of an important Tejano family in San Antonio de Béxar. In September, 1833, Bowie’s wife and child died of cholera, which devastated Bowie.

Jim Bowie, like many other Anglos who immigrated to Texas, saw it as a land of opportunity. He led men on several expeditions around Texas searching for gold and silver and exploring American Indian lands.

In 1835, fights broke out between Anglos and centralist troops at forts Anahuac and Velasco. As a result, the military at a fort in Nacogdoches demanded that the people there surrender their firearms, or guns. When Bowie heard this, he went to Nacogdoches to join the militia who fought against the centralist troops. The Texian militia attacked and drove the Mexican army out of the city.

When Santa Anna and the centralists took over the federal government, Bowie sided with the War Party in Texas. He believed that Texas should go to war with Mexico. Bowie joined Stephen F. Austin’s militia at the rank of colonel.

Bowie was involved in a few fights against the centralist army. He fought in the Battle of Concepción and the Grass Fight, before arriving at the Alamo at San Antonio de Béxar. Bowie commanded the volunteer troops at the Alamo, but he became very sick early in the siege and was unable to leave his bed. It is likely he had tuberculosis.

He was killed in his bed during the final attack on the Alamo on March 6, 1836.

William Barret Travis

William Barret Travis was born in August 1809 in South Carolina. The Travis family moved to Alabama in 1818. He became a lawyer, started a newspaper publication, and joined the Alabama militia. During that time, he married Rosanna Cato, and they had a child, Charles Edward Travis. A year later, in 1831, Travis abandoned his pregnant wife and their son. He then immigrated to Texas by himself.

Travis received a land grant from Stephen F. Austin and settled first in Anahuac, opening a law office there. In 1832, several enslaved people escaped from a man named William M. Logan. They had fled to Fort Anahuac where they were housed there under the protection of Colonel John Davis Bradburn. Bradburn was an Anglo man serving in the Mexican military. Logan hired Travis to get the enslaved people returned to him.

Travis sent false information to Bradburn warning that a large group of armed men were marching on Fort Anahuac to take back the runaway slaves. When Bradburn discovered it was a lie, he arrested Travis and his law partner, Patrick Jack, and kept them as prisoners at Anahuac.

Word spread of the arrest, and small fights broke out at other nearby locations, like Velasco and Nacogdoches. A group of Anglo settlers even tried to attack Anahuac with a cannon to free Travis and Patrick Jack. Colonel Bradburn recognized that the Mexican forces at Anahuac were outnumbered, so he released Travis and Jack. This incident became known as the Anahuac disturbances.

Travis later took part in the Consultation of November 1835 and then accepted a military position as a lieutenant colonel in the new Texas army. After the Texans drove centralist troops out of San Antonio in December 1835, Travis and a small group of men went to reinforce the Alamo. He was placed in charge of the regular army at the Alamo, while James Bowie commanded the militia.

Travis wrote letters during the Alamo siege desperately requesting reinforcements. In his most famous letter written on February 24, 1836, he wrote "To the People of Texas and All Americans in the World," describing the siege, and begging for reinforcements. In the letter he declared he would "sustain himself as long as possible and die like a soldier who never forgets what is due to his own honor and that of his country – victory or death."

Travis was killed at the very beginning of Santa Anna's final attack against the Alamo on March 6, 1836, as he fought on the northern wall. After the battle, Santa Anna ordered all the bodies of the Alamo defenders to be burned.

Juan Seguín

Juan Seguín was born on October 27, 1806, into the prominent San Antonio family of María Josefa Becerra and Erasmo Seguín. Erasmo was an early advocate for, or supporter of, Anglo colonization of Texas. He had developed a close relationship with Stephen F. Austin and the Anglo colonists.

Juan Seguín also supported Anglo colonization of Texas. He became an active political and social figure in San Antonio. He held many important political positions in San Antonio as a young man. He was elected to the city council, served as the *alcalde*, or mayor, and later as the political chief of the department of Béxar.

At 19, he married the daughter of a prominent ranching family, María Gertrudis Flores de Abrego. María was a descendant of the Canary Islanders on her mother's side. All four of María's brothers fought for Texas during the Texas Revolution. María supported her husband's career and together they had ten children.

Seguín joined Stephen F. Austin's volunteer army as a captain in 1835. He took part in the battle to drive centralists forces out of San Antonio in December 1835. He was with the men who went into the Alamo when Santa Anna's army arrived in February 1836. He was later sent out of the Alamo as a courier with one of Travis' letters asking for reinforcements. He then joined up with Sam Houston's army in Gonzales and led a company of men who served as the rear guard of Houston's troops as they retreated to the east.

Seguín commanded the only company comprised of all Tejano soldiers during the Battle of San Jacinto. He then accepted the surrender of the Mexican army that had remained in San Antonio on June 4, 1836, and served as the military commander of the city through 1837. During that time, he arranged for the burial of the remains of the men who had died defending the Alamo.

Seguín was elected to the Texas Senate in 1837. Relations between Anglos and Tejanos grew tense, and he was accused of being a spy for Mexico, and he fled to Mexico for safety. After the U.S.-Mexico War of 1846 to 1848, he settled in Nuevo Laredo in Tamaulipas, Mexico. He died in Tamaulipas on August 27, 1890. His remains were eventually returned to Texas in 1974 to be buried in Seguin, a Texas town named in his honor.

David “Davy” Crockett

David “Davy” Crockett was born in Greene County, Tennessee, on August 17, 1786. At 12 years old, David’s father sent him to work as a cattle driver. Later, he ran away for two and a half years, taking various jobs to support himself. In 1806, he returned home, and married Mary “Polly” Finley and they had two sons.

In September 1813, Crockett enlisted in the Tennessee militia and took part in several campaigns during the War of 1812 against the Creek Indians in Alabama and Florida. While he was away, his wife died in 1815 of unknown causes. He then married Elizabeth Patton, and they moved to Lawrence County, Tennessee. Crockett then began a career in politics. He served several terms in the Tennessee House of Representatives, then several terms in the U.S. House of Representatives, where he worked to pass laws that would support poor western farmers.

Over the years, Crockett developed a reputation as a frontiersman, sharpshooter, hunter, and storyteller. This reputation turned him into a celebrity. Many people wrote stories to tell stories of his adventures – although many of the stories were not true.

Crockett abandoned politics in 1835 after losing a reelection campaign for the U.S. Congress. He decided to move to Texas, reportedly telling the Tennessee voters who didn’t reelect him, “...you may all go to hell, and I will go to Texas.” He arrived in Nacogdoches in January 1836 and swore allegiance to the provisional government of Texas, not to Mexico.

Crockett arrived in San Antonio de Béxar in early February and joined William B. Travis at the Alamo before Santa Anna’s arrival. William B. Travis wrote in one of his letters that Crockett was everywhere during the siege, encouraging the other men to fight.

Like all the other defenders of the Alamo, Crockett did not survive the battle.

Susanna Dickinson

Susanna Wilkerson was born in Tennessee in 1814. When she was 19 years old, she married a man named Almeron Dickinson, and they moved to Gonzales, Texas, arriving on February 20, 1831. On May 5, 1831, she and her husband received a land grant from Green DeWitt who was the empresario of Gonzales. Susanna and Almeron had their only child, a girl named Angelina, on December 14, 1834.

Susanna's husband fought in the Battle of Gonzales. It is not clear what Susanna and her young daughter did during the battle. Like many other residents of the town, she and her daughter probably took shelter in the trees along the Guadalupe River during the fight. Two weeks later, her husband marched off with Texan to confront centralist troops in San Antonio, leaving Susanna and their baby Angelina alone in Gonzales.

Just a few weeks later, in November 1835, some Anglo troops on their way to San Antonio arrived in Gonzales and looted Susanna's home. This means that they entered her home without consent and stole items. That experience surely scared Susanna, so she left Gonzales and took her daughter to San Antonio where they could be with Almeron.

In San Antonio, Susanna and her daughter stayed with a local Tejano family who ran a boarding house, which is similar to a small hotel. She supported herself by doing the laundry for the people who stayed there, or the boarders. One of the boarders was David Crockett, who would go on to fight and die at the Battle of the Alamo.

When Santa Anna's army arrived in San Antonio on February 23, 1836, many San Antonio residents – including Susanna and her daughter – took shelter at the Alamo. Susanna and Angelina lived through the thirteen-day siege of the Alamo and the battle that took place on March 6.

After the battle, Mexican soldiers found Susanna and several other women and children who had been sheltering at the Alamo. Susanna was brought to Santa Anna, who reportedly took an interest in little Angelina. He offered to adopt her, promising to provide her with a good life. Susanna refused his offer.

Santa Anna gave each of the women a little money and a blanket before he released them. He sent Susanna with a message for Sam Houston: Santa Anna and his army were coming for the rest of Texas and would take no prisoners. On her journey to Gonzales, she ran into Joe, an enslaved man who had also survived the Alamo siege and battle. They continued traveling together until they reached the Texas army in Gonzales. There she delivered Santa Anna's warning to Sam Houston. She likely then followed Houston's army as it retreated east during the Runaway Scrape.

James Fannin

James Walker Fannin, Jr., was born in Georgia in January 1804. He was adopted by his grandparents and raised on their plantation near Marion. He married a woman named Minerva Fort, and they had two daughters. Fannin moved his family in 1834 to Velasco, Texas, where he took part in the slave trade and probably ran a plantation.

Fannin supported a war against Mexico for Texas independence. He was involved in the first fight of the Texas Revolution at the Battle of Gonzales. After Gonzales, Fannin and another Anglo volunteer, James Bowie, served as scouts for the Texan militia and marched to confront centralist troops in San Antonio. Along the way, both Fannin and Bowie fought in what became known as the Battle of Concepción on October 28, 1835. In late 1835, Fannin took a position as a colonel in the Texas Regular Army under Sam Houston.

By 1836, Fannin became a colonel of the Provisional Regiment of Volunteers at Goliad. When William B. Travis was under siege at the Alamo, he sent urgent requests for reinforcements to Fannin at Goliad, but Fannin declined to send help. After the fall of the Alamo, Houston ordered Fannin and his men to leave Goliad and retreat east to meet up with Houston's army, but Fannin delayed his retreat for several days. This proved to be a deadly mistake.

By the time Fannin began to lead his men out of Goliad, one of Santa Anna's generals -- General José de Urrea -- reached Goliad. Urrea found Fannin and his men in an open field. Urrea surrounded Fannin's men, forcing him to surrender at the Battle of Coleto Creek. General Urrea then marched Fannin and his men back to Goliad where they were held as prisoners of war. Urrea sent a letter to Santa Anna recommending mercy for Fannin's men, but Santa Anna refused the request. Nearly 400 Texan prisoners of war were executed on March 27, 1836 on Santa Anna's orders. Fannin was executed separately from his men. Today we call this the Goliad Massacre.

Many Texans were terrified by the news of the Goliad Massacre and began joining the masses of people fleeing east toward Louisiana in the Runaway Scrape.

Lorenzo de Zavala

Lorenzo de Zavala was born on October 3, 1788 in the state of Yucatán, Mexico. During Zavala's childhood and young adulthood, Mexico was still a colony of Spain under the rule of the Spanish king. Zavala opposed the Spanish monarchy. When he was only 19 he created a newspaper that publicly supported the rights of the people.

During the War for Mexican Independence, Zavala was arrested and imprisoned for three years because of his opposition to the Spanish. During his time in prison, he became a doctor and taught himself English. When he was released, he served in the government of Yucatán.

When Mexico won its independence, Zavala served in the Mexican National Congress and as the governor of the state of Mexico. He also served as the Secretary of the Treasury under Mexico's second president, Vicente Guerrero. In 1829, a rebellion forced Guerrero out of office and targeted leaders in his government like Zavala, who was placed under house arrest. Zavala fled to New York where he worked to find Anglo men to take part in the empresario system in Texas.

Zavala returned to Mexico in 1832 and became the Minister to France under the new federalist president, Antonio López de Santa Anna. Zavala moved to Paris in 1833, but when Santa Anna later joined the centralist takeover of the government, Zavala spoke out against Santa Anna and resigned his position.

Zavala then moved to Texas in 1835 where he served as a delegate to the Consultation and the Constitutional Convention of 1836. He signed the Texas Declaration of Independence and helped George Childress draft the Texas Constitution. He was highly respected among the Texan delegates, who elected him provisional vice president of the Texas Republic.

Zavala served as the vice president of the Republic of Texas after the Texas Revolution, however, he resigned his position as a result of poor health. Shortly after, he contracted pneumonia and died on November 15, 1836. In addition to Zavala's political achievements, he also authored many significant works including a two-volume history of Mexico.

José Domingo de Ugartechea

José Domingo de Ugartechea's date of birth is unknown. As a young man, he served in the Spanish military during the War for Mexican Independence. In 1813 he was a young soldier under the command of Joaquín de Arredondo and took part in the bloody Battle of Medina to end the rebellions in Texas against the Spanish government.

Fifteen years later, after the Law of April 6, 1830, Ugartechea was placed in command of Fort Velasco just south of present-day Houston. Fort Velasco was one of several forts that Mexico established in Texas to make sure Anglo colonists in Texas followed the Law of April 6, 1830. This fort was approximately 50 miles south of Fort Anahuac.

When the commander at Fort Anahuac arrested and imprisoned William B. Travis in 1832, many Anglos began organizing a militia, or a volunteer force, to confront the soldiers at Anahuac. Ugartechea tried to stop the Anglo militia who were on their way to join the fight at Anahuac, and a fight broke out called the Battle of Velasco. Ugartechea was defeated, and he and his men evacuated their fort.

When the centralists took control of the Mexican government, Santa Anna converted the states into military departments and placed Ugartechea in command of Coahuila y Tejas. Ugartechea was stationed in San Antonio de Béxar with limited supplies and troops. As tension grew in Texas, Ugartechea tried to avoid conflict and stop rebellions among the Tejanos and Anglos in the region.

One step Ugartechea took was to order the arrest of people that he believed were causing problems in Texas, like Lorenzo de Zavala. These arrest orders only made many Anglos and Tejanos more upset, however.

In October, 1835, Ugartechea sent a small cavalry unit to Gonzales to retrieve a cannon that Mexico had loaned to the people of Gonzales. A fight broke out known as the Battle of Gonzales. This battle started the Texas Revolution.

Ugartechea was defeated at the Battle of Concepción in October 1835. When the Texas Revolution ended after the Battle of San Jacinto, Ugartechea continued fighting for the centralist cause in Mexico. He was killed on May 24, 1839 in a conflict with federalist rebels in Saltillo, Coahuila.

Stephen F. Austin

Stephen Fuller Austin was born in Virginia on November 3, 1793. He and his family immigrated to Spanish Missouri in 1798 to take part in lead mining. Stephen served in the Missouri militia and in the legislature. When his father, Moses Austin, passed away in 1821, Stephen took over his father's plans to bring Anglo empresarios into Texas with the support of the newly independent Mexican government.

Austin was the most successful empresario in Texas, settling the first 300 Anglo families in the region, or "the Old 300." Over time, he was able to settle more than 10,000 people into Mexican Texas by working closely with important Tejanos in the region. He strongly supported the Mexican government and worked for the development of American colonies in Texas, encouraging the production of cotton for economic growth.

As the centralists grew in power in Mexico City, Austin continued his work to grow the Anglo colonies in east Texas. The centralist government passed the Law of April 6, 1830, prohibiting new Anglo immigration. Many in Texas were angry about this law, and Austin was able to get the law repealed, or taken away, in December, 1833.

Austin served as the president of the Conventions of 1832 and 1833 where Texans wrote a list of requests for the Mexican government. One important request they made was to ask for separate statehood for Texas. Austin brought these requests to Mexico City to present them to the new president, Santa Anna. Santa Anna denied the requests, so Austin wrote a letter encouraging the Texans to establish their own government anyway. His letter was intercepted, and he was imprisoned for treason for a year and a half without a trial.

During his time in prison, Austin began to support the idea of fighting the centralist government to restore the Federal Constitution of 1824. He was released from prison in December, 1834, but he was not able to return to Texas until August 1835. Two months after he returned to Texas, the Texas Revolution began with the Battle of Gonzales.

During the Texas Revolution, Austin briefly led the volunteer army and then served in the provisional government as commissioner to the United States. As commissioner, he worked to secure financial support for the Texas rebels. He also tried to gain political support for the Texas Revolution from the U.S. government, but he was unsuccessful.

After Texas won its independence, Austin served in the Republic of Texas government as the secretary of state under President Sam Houston. He died of pneumonia only three months into his service on December 27, 1836 at the age of 43.

Martín Perfecto de Cos

Martín Perfecto de Cos was born in Veracruz, Mexico, in 1800. He joined the Mexican army in 1820 at 20 years old. When Santa Anna became president in 1833, Cos had risen to the rank of brigadier general.

In 1835 Santa Anna sent General Cos to Texas to increase the centralist army in the region. Cos took action to stop the growing rebellion in Texas. He established his headquarters in San Antonio de Béxar and disbanded, or got rid of, the congress of Coahuila y Tejas. He issued arrest warrants for important federalists in Texas who were critical of Santa Anna, like a prominent Mexican man named Lorenzo de Zavala.

Texan volunteer fighters formed a militia and resisted many of General Cos' actions. After the Battle of Gonzales, Stephen F. Austin led a militia to San Antonio. They carried out a siege of Cos' troops in San Antonio from late October to early December of 1835. During that time, the Texans received reinforcements including James Bowie, Juan Seguín, and James Fannin.

Several small fights broke out between the Mexican army and the Texan volunteers during the Siege of Béxar. The Texans fought and defeated some of Cos' troops at the Battle of Concepción on October 28. Volunteers under William B. Travis successfully captured hundreds of mules and horses belonging to the Mexican army. Texan volunteers under Erastus "Deaf" Smith stopped a delivery of hay to feed the Mexican army's starving horses at a conflict known as the "Grass Fight."

Finally, on December 5, 1835, the Texans stormed into San Antonio and began a street battle for the town. Over the course of five days, Cos and his men took heavy casualties as they steadily lost soldiers and control of the city. Finally, on December 9, 1835, General Cos surrendered San Antonio. The Texans were victorious!

Cos and his men were ordered to leave Texas and never return, but he later came back with Santa Anna and took part in the siege and Battle of the Alamo. Cos was later defeated and captured with Santa Anna at the Battle of San Jacinto in April 1836.

After the Texas Revolution, Cos returned to Mexico. He took part in the U.S.-Mexican War of 1846 to 1848, then returned to his home in Veracruz where he later died in 1854.

George Childress

George Campbell Childress was born on January 8, 1804, in Nashville, Tennessee. He became a lawyer in 1828 and married a woman named Margaret Vance later that year. Margaret died in 1835, only a few months after giving birth to their son, Charles.

Childress worked as a lawyer and editor of the newspaper *The Nashville Banner and Nashville Advertiser* from 1834 to 1835. During that time, his uncle Sterling C. Robertson established a colony in Texas under the empresario system. Childress visited his uncle's colony in December 1834, and then returned home.

When the Texas Revolution began in October 1835, Childress raised money and recruited volunteers for the Texas army while living in Tennessee. He then moved to his uncle's colony in Texas in December, 1835.

Even though Childress had just arrived in Texas, he was soon elected to serve as a delegate at the Constitutional Convention of 1836. Childress helped lead the convention and was the primary author of the Constitution of the Republic of Texas.

On March 19, 1836, the provisional Texas president, David G. Burnett, sent Childress to the United States to gain support for the war from the U.S. president, Andrew Jackson. Burnett wanted Childress to convince President Jackson to recognize Texas independence from Mexico. Childress was unsuccessful, however, and returned to Texas in May 1836 after the Battle of San Jacinto.

After the Texas Revolution, Childress married a woman named Rebecca Stuart Read Jennings. They had two daughters, Annie and Ellen. Childress attempted to open several law offices in Houston and later Galveston, but his businesses were unsuccessful, and he struggled to support his family. He died on October 6, 1841.

David G. Burnet

David Gouverneur Burnet was born on April 14, 1788, into a prominent family in New Jersey. His parents died when he was three years old, and he was raised by his older half-brothers, who were very politically active in the government of the new United States of America.

As a young man Burnet studied law in Ohio and worked as a clerk in New York. In 1817 he moved to Louisiana and traded with the Comanche Indians.

In 1826, he received a land grant from the government of Mexico to settle Anglo colonists in Texas. He then went back to Ohio to try to recruit settlers to move to his colony. He had little success, however. He then partnered with a Mexican man named Lorenzo de Zavala who was also struggling to recruit settlers in America for his own land grant in Texas. Together, the two men were able to sell their land. Burnet moved back to Texas in April 1831.

Burnet was elected to serve as a delegate to the Convention of 1833, where he helped write the request for Texas statehood. When the centralists took over the federal government of Mexico, some Anglos began arguing in favor of war for Texas independence. Burnet was initially opposed to a war for Texas independence.

Burnet was not chosen to serve as a delegate to the Consultation or the Constitutional Convention of 1836 because of his lack of support for the war. Even so, he attended the Constitutional Convention anyway. When the time came for the delegates to elect a provisional president, they decided that they did not want the person they chose to be a delegate from the meeting. As a result, Burnet convinced the delegates to elect him to be the provisional president.

Burnet was the president of the provisional government from March to October of 1836. He faced many challenges, and many of his actions angered the government, the army, and the Texas people. He left office, but later returned to serve as the second vice president of Texas under President Mirabeau Lamar. He stayed active in politics during the time of the Republic of Texas as well as after Texas joined the United States.

Burnet died decades later on December 5, 1870, in Galveston, Texas.

Dilue Rose

Dilue Rose was born in St. Louis, Missouri on April 28, 1825. In 1833 when Dilue Rose was 8 years old, her family moved to Texas and settled in Stafford's Point, near Houston today.

When the Texas Revolution broke out at the Battle of Gonzales in 1835, Dilue was 10 years old. Decades later, she wrote about her experience during the Texas Revolution. Her writings provide valuable information about what life was like for civilians during the war. The information below was taken from her interview.

Dilue remembered how delegates at the Consultation had sent out a call for volunteers for the Texas militia after the Battle of Gonzales. She said that schools in her town closed as many young men went off to join the militia. On small farms, which typically did not have enslaved people, women and children like Dilue worked to finish harvesting cotton.

Dilue described hearing rumors about Santa Anna's army marching to Texas. She said many people did not believe the information because there had been a lot of different rumors about Santa Anna's movements. When the news was finally confirmed, Dilue described how a lot of families in the area were scared, so they began packing their most valuable things to try to go to Louisiana for safety.

One day a courier brought William B. Travis' letter asking for help at the Alamo. Dilue's mother read the letter out loud, then gave it back to the courier who continued to deliver the news to more people. Dilue helped her mother sew clothes and make bullets for her uncle, James Wells, who had decided to join the Texas army.

Dilue remembered receiving the news that the Alamo had fallen. General Houston ordered all the people of her town to evacuate for safety. She recalled, "Then began the horrors of the 'Runaway Scrape.'" Dilue, her mother, father, and infant sister left at sunset that night. Soon, there were thousands more people fleeing for safety. Many brought their slaves with them. Dilue stated that there were soon more enslaved people than Anglos. She described how an enslaved man called Uncle Ned was often placed in charge of the women and children when the Anglo men had to leave.

During the Runaway Scrape, they struggled with freezing temperatures, muddy roads, dangerous river crossings, lack of food, the measles, "and every other disease known to man." Dilue's baby sister died on the journey. She remembered the day an Anglo soldier arrived shouting the news that the Texans had defeated Santa Anna at San Jacinto; it was safe to return home! The man who brought the news was an Irishman who had fought in the battle. That night, he described and even acted out stories from the battle for the people there. It was the first time that her mother laughed since her little sister's death. The next day, Dilue and many others began making their way back to their homes.

José Antonio Navarro

José Antonio Navarro was born in San Antonio de Béxar on February 27, 1795. His father was from Corsica, an island off the coast of Italy. His mother was a descendant of a noble family of Spain. When José was a child, his father served as the *alcalde*, or mayor, of San Antonio.

Young Navarro grew up in San Antonio at time of growing opposition to Spanish rule. During the War for Mexican Independence, Navarro supported the Gutierrez-Magee expedition that was part of the rebellion against Spain. The Gutierrez-Magee expedition ultimately failed, and Spain took harsh revenge on the rebels and their supporters. Navarro fled to the United States for safety. He returned three years later in 1816 at the age of 21.

Navarro was an early supporter of Anglo colonization of Texas, and he developed a strong friendship with Stephen F. Austin. He served in the state congress of Coahuila y Tejas and later in the national Congress where he advocated for, or supported, policies that would increase Anglo colonization. One of the policies he worked for was separate statehood for Texas.

During the Texas Revolution, Navarro supported Texas in its war against Mexico. He and his uncle José Francisco Ruiz both served as delegates to San Antonio at the Constitutional Convention of 1836. Navarro and his uncle both signed the Texas Declaration of Independence. He also helped draft the Constitution of the Republic of Texas.

Navarro continued to be politically active after Texas won its independence from Mexico. He served in the Congress of the Republic of Texas as the representative to San Antonio, where he worked for Tejano rights.

Under Texas' second president, Mirabeau Lamar, Navarro was chosen to participate in the Santa Fe Expedition. The goal of this expedition was to establish a trade route that would connect to Santa Fe in New Mexico, which belonged to Mexico at the time. Unfortunately, the expedition encountered many challenges. When they arrived in Santa Fe, the Mexican government had them arrested and brought to Mexico City. Navarro was charged with treason, imprisoned in Vera Cruz, and held in terrible conditions awaiting execution.

He managed to escape and return to Texas where he continued to be politically active. He wrote historical accounts of Tejano contributions to the Texas Revolution. He died in 1871 at the age of 76.

Who's Who of the Texas Revolution Grade Level

Joe

Joe was a young, enslaved man in his early 20s during the Texas Revolution. Because he was an enslaved person, we do not know much about his early life. We do not know his date of birth, where he was born, or where he grew up. The only name we have for him is Joe.

Joe may have originally been from Alabama. He was brought to St. Louis, Missouri, and then New Orleans, Louisiana, before finally being brought to Texas in 1832 or 1833 by an Anglo colonist named Isaac Mansfield. Although slavery had been outlawed by the state legislature, or congress, of Coahuila y Tejas, Mansfield used a legal loophole called Decree 56 to bring Joe into Texas by claiming he was a contract worker, rather than a slave.

Mansfield began having financial problems, so he decided to sell Joe. Joe escaped, possibly intending to travel back to Alabama where his family may have lived at the time. Joe was caught, however, and William B. Travis rented him for a short time before he was sold at auction in 1834, then Travis bought him in 1835 to be his personal servant.

Travis brought Joe with him when he received his orders to San Antonio. They both took refuge in the Alamo when Santa Anna's army arrived on February 23, 1836. Joe lived through the terror of the thirteen-day siege of the Alamo.

When Santa Anna's army began its attack in the early morning hours of March 6, 1836, Joe was asleep near Travis on the west wall. The men woke to the sounds of screaming. Travis grabbed his shotgun and ordered Joe to get a rifle and follow him to the north wall. Travis was shot and killed almost immediately in the fight. Joe retreated back to the west wall and took shelter. He recalled firing two shots into Santa Anna's army when they broke through the Alamo walls.

After the battle, Joe was almost killed by two of Santa Anna's soldiers, but a third soldier saved his life and protected him. He was then directed to identify the bodies of Bowie and Travis before being taken to Santa Anna, who interviewed him and the other civilian survivors, including an Anglo woman named Susanna Dickinson.

It is not clear whether Joe was released by Santa Anna or if he escaped, however, we do know that he made his way east. He ran into Susanna on the journey, and they traveled together to Gonzales. The Texas military and government interviewed him about his experience at the Alamo.

After the Battle of San Jacinto, Texas won its independence. Joe, however, remained enslaved. On the one-year anniversary of the Battle of San Jacinto, Joe escaped. He was never captured.

José Enrique de la Peña

José Enrique de la Peña was born in Jalisco, Mexico around the year 1807. He joined the Mexican military in 1825, and began serving under Santa Anna in 1828. In 1836, Santa Anna ordered his army to march nearly 700 miles to Texas to put down the rebellion there. Peña kept a detailed journal during the Texas Revolution, which was later published. The following information comes from that journal.

The march from Mexico City to San Antonio was full of hardships. The army had brought very little food or water, and many people got sick and died of disease on the journey. They marched through fierce winds, snow, and freezing winter temperatures that left their hands too numb to gather firewood. Horses, mules, and people froze to death.

When Santa Anna arrived in San Antonio, Peña's unit was still nearly a week behind the general. He and his men finally arrived in San Antonio on March 3. He had not been present for most of the siege, but he recalled making preparations for the final attack on the Alamo.

Peña was present at a meeting between the generals to make plans for the attack. He said that the generals argued over what to do with any men who surrendered. Some of the generals argued for the humane treatment of prisoners, however, Peña wrote that Santa Anna did not listen to them.

Just before dawn on the morning on March 6, 1836, Peña took part in the attack on the Alamo. He described the fighting as chaotic, terrifying, bloody, confusing, and furious, especially after Santa Anna's army broke through the north wall. The killing finally ended around 6 am, when he stated that about six men who had survived the battle, including Davy Crockett, were brought before Santa Anna, who ordered them to be executed. Peña said, "I turned away, horrified, in order not to witness such a barbarous scene."

Peña's unit then marched east with the rest of Santa Anna's army. On the march Peña saw the abandoned homes of people who had fled on the Runaway Scrape. He saw the ruins of towns like San Felipe de Austin, which had been burned by the Texas army to keep it out of Santa Anna's hands. Peña and his unit were camped at the Brazos River, unable to cross, when they received word that Santa Anna had been defeated at San Jacinto.

After the war, Peña was imprisoned for opposing the centralist government in 1838. He died in prison several years later.