First Two Presidents of the Republic of Texas

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Trouble with the Army

- Many soldiers joined too late and did not get the chance to fight in the revolution
  - These people wanted action
  - Called for an invasion of Mexico

- President Houston sent all 600 soldiers home and never called them to duty
What about the Indians?

• Indians resented the newcomers and began a series of raids that lasted several years
• President Houston called on the Texas Rangers to patrol central Texas
• Lamar was not in favor of negotiating with the Indians

Poor Sam

• When Sam Houston became president, the debt was $1.25 million
• At the end of his first term as president, the debt for Texas was $2 million
• Congress took steps to raise money and placed a tariff, or tax, on various goods
  – These taxes were difficult to collect

Texas gets a new President

• Houston could not be re-elected as President after he served two years because the Constitution of 1836 forbid him from doing so
• Texans elected Mirabeau B. Lamar
Lamar

- Opposed annexation
- Moved the capital to Austin
- Reversed Houston’s policy toward Native Americans
  - Ordered the Texas Army to attack the Cherokees and forced them out of Texas
- Rebuilt the Navy
- Lamar is known as the “Father of Education” in Texas
  - Congress set aside land in each Texas county for public schools
  - Congress reserved public land in central Texas for 2 universities

Santa Fe Expedition

- Lamar sent an expedition to Santa Fe, New Mexico with orders to control the region and begin trade with New Mexico
- The Mexican army forced the Texans to surrender and marched them 1,000 miles to Mexico City.
  - Many died on the way or died in the Mexican prison
  - The few that survived were eventually released
- This angered the Mexicans

Poor Lamar

- Lamar caused Texas to sink deeper in debt
  - Spent $2.5 million on the Indian wars
  - Bought several ships for the Navy
  - Issued redbacks, but they shrank in value
    - Redbacks: Additional money issued to help ease the large public debt
    - A paper dollar in Texas at the end of Lamar’s term was only worth 15 cents
  - Failed in attempts to borrow money from other nations
  - Public debt was now $7 million
Sam Houston is Re-elected

- Sam Houston replaced Lamar as President
  - During a message to Congress, Houston stated, “there is not a dollar in the treasury... we are not only without money, but without credit.”
  - Eliminated several government positions
  - Cut the size of the army
  - Tried to sell the navy ships (the people of Galveston prevented this from happening)
  - Renewed peace with the Indians

References