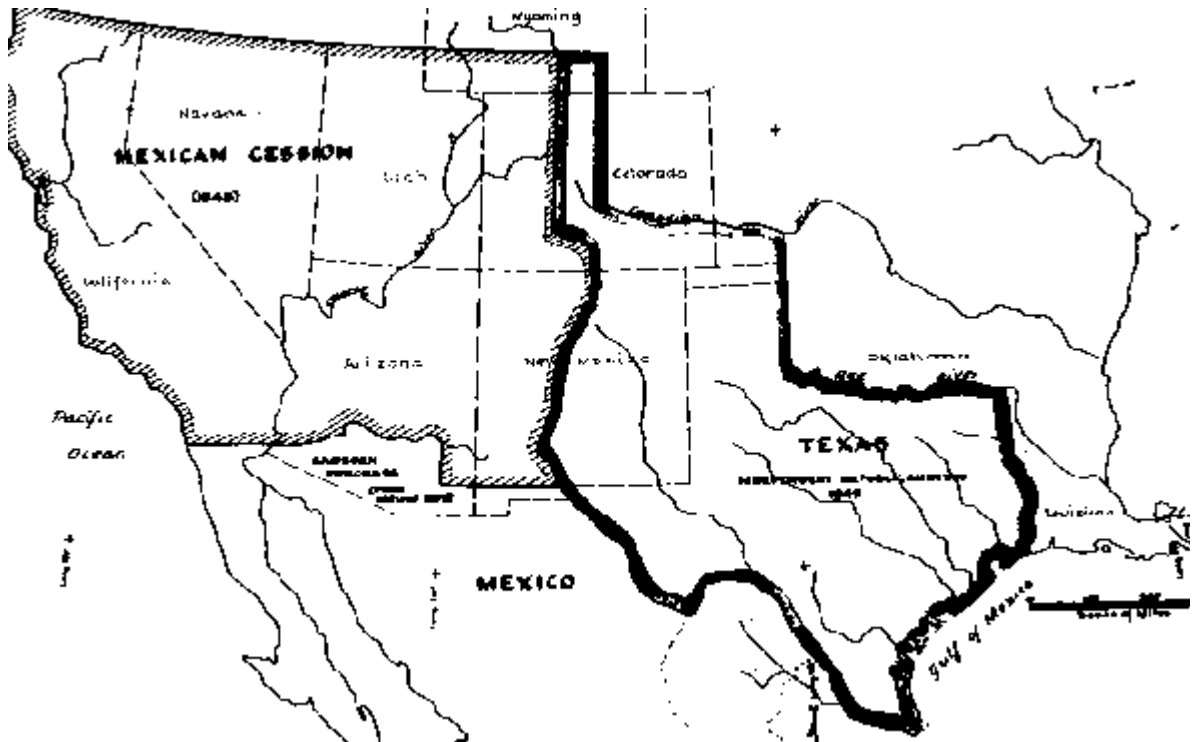


# Texas Timeline

A Timeline of the Historic Events Affecting Texas and the United States

**Bold Type** corresponds with the dates featured on the  
20" x 30" Texas Timeline on the back of the beautiful  
*Lone Star State Flag Print*



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c.1000 Viking Leif Erickson starts settlement in Newfoundland  
1095-1270 The Crusades spark exploration and conquest  
c.1150 Founding of Hopi village of Oraibi; oldest continuously occupied town in the U.S.  
1215 Magna Carta grants liberty in England  
c.1230 Gunpowder first used in China  
1231 Medieval Roman Catholic Inquisitions begin  
1271-95 Venetian author and adventurer Marco Polo travels to China  
1290 Jews expelled from England  
1309 Jews expelled from France  
1325-55 Moroccan explorer and author Ibn Battuta [also spelled Buttuta] travels the world  
1347-53 Black Death/Plague; kills one third of Europe's population; 25 million people  
1431 French heroine Joan of Arc burns at the stake as a heretic  
c.1436 German Johannes Gutenberg's invents movable type for printing  
1441 African Slaves first brought to Portugal  
1478-1808 Spanish Inquisitions  
1492 Moors (Spanish Arabs/Muslims) and Jews expelled from Spain  
**1492** Italian explorer Christopher Columbus (in Spanish Cristobal Colon) reaches America  
1497-98 Italian John Cabot (in Italian Giovanni Caboto) explores the New World for England searching for Northwest Passage  
1499-1501 Italian explorer Amerigo Vespucci's voyage  
**c.1500** Approximately 30,000 Native Americans, including the Caddo, Arkokisa, Attacapa, Karankawa, Coahuiltecan, Lipan Apache, Comanche, and Tonkawa tribes already live in Texas when the Europeans come; the Caddo tribes have formed the Hasinai Confederacy  
1507 German mapmaker Martin Waldseemuller first calls the New World America after Amerigo Vespucci  
1513 Spanish conquistador and explorer Vasco Nunez de Balboa reaches Pacific Ocean at Isthmus of Panama  
1513 Spanish explorer Juan Ponce de Leon explores Florida searching for the legendary fountain of youth  
1519-22 Portuguese explorer Ferdinand Magellan circumnavigates the world; names the Pacific Ocean  
**1519-21** Spanish explorer and map-maker Alonso Alvarez de Pineda maps the Texas coast and claims it for Spain  
**1521** Spanish conquistador Hernan Cortes conquers Mexico and claims for Spain; captures the Aztec Capital Tenochtitlan; establishes Mexico City  
**c.1525** Apaches Indian tribes migrate to the Texas panhandle region from Canada and keep spreading farther south until they occupy the Texas Hill Country  
**1528-36** Spanish explorer Alvar Nuñez Cabeza de Vaca is shipwrecked in East Texas and treks across Texas, New Mexico and Arizona to Mexico City; De Vaca and his fellow travelers were the first Europeans to see the American buffalo herds  
1532-33 Spanish conquistador Pizarro conquers Inca Empire  
**1539** Spanish Franciscan priest Fray Marcos de Niza travels the Southwest and reports to have seen the extraordinarily rich fabled "Seven Golden Cities of Cibola" in what is now the western part of New Mexico; the following year Coronado's expedition found them to be poor Zuni Indian pueblos  
**1540-42** Spanish explorer Francisco Vazquez de Coronado with a group of 300 hundred of Spanish soldiers and hundreds of enslaved natives travels through much of North America's Southwest (including north Texas); his expedition introduces horses, mules, pigs, cattle, and sheep into the American southwest

1540 The Indian Wars in the area of the present-day United States begin when the conquistadors of Francisco Vazquez de Coronado clash with Zuni warriors of the pueblo of Hawikuh

1539-42 Spanish explorer Hernado de Soto discovers the Mississippi River and explores the southeastern U.S. (including northeast Texas)

1542 Portuguese explorer Juan Cabrillo discovers and claims California for Spain

1543 Polish Cleric and Astronomer Nicolaus Copernicus's publishes his heliocentric (sun centered) theory of planetary motion

**1544** Spanish Franciscan priest Fray Juan de Padilla is killed by plains Indians; is revered as the first Christian martyr in Texas

c.1550 Potato introduced to Europe from the Americas

**1565** Spanish sailor Captain Pedro Menendez de Aviles establishes St. Augustine in Florida; first permanent European settlement in North American

1588 English defeat Spanish Armada

**1598** Brutal Spanish conquistador Juan de Onate leads 400 Spanish pilgrims into New Mexico; creating the first permanent European settlement in the American West

1604 Oñate explores westward through Arizona to the Gulf of California

1607 English adventurer and soldier Captain John Smith establishes Jamestown in Virginia; the first permanent English settlement in North America

1608 French explorer and navigator Samuel de Champlain establishes Quebec in Canada, first permanent French settlement in North America

**1609** Spanish Governor Don Pedro de Peralta establishes Santa Fe in New Mexico; oldest continuous seat of government in the U.S.

**1619** First Africans brought to Virginia Colony

1619 The Virginia House of Burgesses, the first representative assembly in America, meets for the first time

1620 English ship the *Mayflower* lands at Plymouth Rock; Pilgrim emigration to New England for religious freedom begins

1650 North American colonial population is estimated at 50,400 people

1664 English seize New Amsterdam (city and colony) from the Dutch and rename it New York

1673 Canadian explorer Louis Joliet and French Jesuit priest Father Jacques Marquette become the first Europeans to journey down the Mississippi

1675 New Mexican Governor Juan Francisco de Treviño begins a brutal campaign against Pueblo religious practices

**1680** Pueblo Uprising against the Spanish in New Mexico is the most successful Indian revolt in North American history, Santa Fe is sacked and burned, 2000 Spanish colonists retreat to the El Paso area

1681-82 First Spanish mission in what will become Texas, Corpus Christi de la Isleta, is established a few miles from present-day El Paso; it is considered the oldest European settlement in Texas

1681-82 French explorer Robert Cavelier Sieur de La Salle canoes down the Mississippi River to the Gulf of Mexico, claiming the whole Mississippi Basin for France and naming it Louisiana after King Louis XIV

**1685-87** Robert Cavelier, Sieur de Lasalle established Fort St. Louis after mistakenly landing in Texas at Matagorda Bay (near what is now Houston); later a group of five mutineers shot and killed La Salle (near Navasota, Texas) on March 19, 1687

**1686** Monclova, Coahuila, Mexico, becomes the first provincial capital for the area that becomes Texas

1690 Father Father Damián Massanet founds San Francisco de los Tejas; the first mission in East Texas; abandoned in October

**1691** Domingo Teran de los Rios, the first Spanish provincial governor of what is now Texas, blazes El Camino Real (The Old Trails Road, King's Highway or Old San Antonio Road); used by Indians in early times for their travels between villages; the road leads from Mexico City through San Antonio and on to the border of Louisiana

**1692** Diego de Vargas leads a band of 200 soldiers from El Paso to Santa Fe and reimposes Spanish rule over New Mexico

1692 Salem witchcraft trials begin in New England

1695 First Jewish synagogue founded in America in New York

1699 French settle Mississippi delta area

1699 Spanish declare Florida a safe refuge for escaped slaves

**c.1700** Comanche Indians migrate south and chase other tribes except the Kiowa out of the whole panhandle region; Apaches are forced south and west in two groups, the Lipan Apaches into south Texas and the Mescaleros Apaches into west Texas areas

1701 English impose royal governments on all English colonies but Massachusetts, Connecticut and Pennsylvania  
1708 First regular colonial newspaper, the *Newsletter*, is published in Boston

**1716-89** Spain establishes Catholic missions and presidios (a garrison or fortress to protect the mission) in Texas; along with them the towns of San Antonio, Goliad, Nacogdoches and others are developed

**1718** Acequias of San Antonio begun; one of the earliest recorded uses of engineered water and irrigation systems in the U.S.

1718 New Orleans is established by the French

**1718** Spanish Governor of Coahuila and Texas Martin de Alarcon and Franciscan Father Antonio de San Buenaventura y Olivares establish the mission of San Antonio de Valero (later known as The Alamo) and San Antonio de Béxar Presidio

**1721** Wealthy new Governor Marqués de San Miguel de Aguayo with 500 men reestablish abandoned missions in East Texas

**1721** Spanish ranching in Texas begins with the arrival of livestock brought (and bought at his personal expense) by Governor Aguayo; 2,800 horses, 4,800 cattle, and 6,400 sheep and goats

**1722** Governor Aguayo establishes the presidio of Los Adaes east of the Sabine River on the site of present-day Robeline, La.; Los Adaes becomes the capital of Texas and remains so until 1772

1722 Captain Domingo Ramón, under orders of Gov. Aguayo, begins construction of Nuestra Señora del Espíritu Santo de Zúñiga Mission and Nuestra Señora de Loreto Presidio; both commonly called La Bahía, at the site of La Salle's Fort St. Louis

**1731** The first civilian settlement in Texas begins with the arrival of fifty-five Spanish colonists from the Canary Islands; they establish the Villa of San Fernando de Béxar (today's San Antonio)

1731 In the first election held in Texas; voters choose officials of the municipal government of San Fernando

1738-41 French fur traders Pierre and Paul Mallet complete a 2,000 mile trek, they "discover" the Rocky Mountains

**1747-55** José de Escandón, governor of the recently established province of Nuevo Santander, founds twenty-four towns and fifteen missions; he also moves the mission at La Bahía to the site of present Goliad

1751 Benjamin Franklin experiments with electricity

**1754 -63** The French and Indian War (The Seven Years War)

1755 A land grant on the Rio Grande that becomes the founding of Laredo completes Escandón's colonization

**1757** Col. Diego Ortiz Parrilla and Franciscan missionaries headed by Father Alonso Giraldo de Terreros set up San Luis de las Amarillas Presidio near the site of present Menard

1758 Comanche Indians attack the Santa Cruz de San Sabá Mission in great numbers, killing Father Terreros; it becomes the only mission in Texas to be destroyed by outright Indian attack

1759 Spanish troops and their Apache allies led by Colonel Ortiz Parrilla are defeated by Indian residents of a large encampment at Spanish Fort in present-day Montague County

**1759** Comanche attacks destroy two missions on the San Saba River in central Tejas a Spanish force of 600 marches north to the Red River; the Spaniards are routed and Comanche raids become a perpetual threat

**1762** France cedes Louisiana, its colonial territories west of the Mississippi to its ally Spain

1763 The Treaty of Paris ends the French and Indian War; France cedes its Canadian territories to England

1765 Parliament passes the Stamp Act

1766 Texas' first recorded hurricane strikes near Galveston

1769 Father Junipero Serra, establishes Mission San Diego de Alcalá near the site of present-day San Diego; first permanent Spanish settlement in California

1770 Boston Massacre; Crispus Attucks, an African American, is the first to die when British soldiers fire upon American colonists

1772 San Antonio becomes the capitol of Texas until 1824; for two short periods during this time, the administrators of

Coahuila and Texas conducted business from La Casa Piedra (the Old Stone Fort) in Nacogdoches

1773 Baron Juan María de Ripperdá, the governor of Texas, orders the closure of missions in East Texas, removal of the entire Spanish population, and designation of San Antonio as capital

1773 The English Parliament passes the Tea Act

1773 Boston Tea Party; patriotic Americans pitch 342 cases of tea into Boston Harbor to protest the Tea Act

1774 Continental Congress convenes in Philadelphia

1774 The Continental Congress issues the Declaration of Rights and Grievances

1775 Patrick Henry gives “Liberty or Death” speech

**1775-83** American Revolution; the War of Independence fought between Great Britain and the 13 British colonies

1775 April 18, The Ride of Paul Revere

1775 April 19, The Revolutionary War begins with the battles of Lexington and Concord; “The Shot Heard Round the World”

1775 George Washington appointed Commander-in-Chief

1775 British win Battle of Bunker Hill

1776 Thomas Paine publishes *Common Sense*

**1776 July 4** The Declaration of Independence is signed

1776 Washington crosses the Delaware to surprise and defeat the Hessians at Trenton

1777 Americans defeat General Burgoyne at Saratoga

1777 June 14 The Continental Congress passes the first Flag Act; “Flag Day” celebrates this act each year

1778 Treaty of alliance with France is concluded

1778 British Captain James Cook discovers Hawaii

**1779** A group of settlers led by Antonio Gil Ibarvo establishes a civilian community near an abandoned mission site; the new town is called Nacogdoches

1781 The Articles of Confederation are ratified

1781 General Cornwallis surrenders at Yorktown marking the end of the American Revolutionary War

1785 Georgia charts first state university

1789 George Washington becomes the first President of the United States

1790 Philadelphia becomes the nation's capitol

1791-1803 Slave revolts in Saint Domingue (Haiti); 500,000 black slaves rebel against their French masters; Toussaint L'Ouverture, a former slave, takes control and restores order to the country; Napoleon I comes to power in France in 1799 and sends an army to restore colonial rule; many of the French soldiers catch yellow fever and die, and the rebels defeated the weakened French army in 1803; Napoleon I, at war with England and now short of cash from this costly uprising in Haiti, agrees to sell Louisiana to U.S. President Jefferson for about four cents an acre

1791 Vermont becomes the first new state to join the original thirteen United States

1791 The Bill of Rights becomes part of the United States Constitution

**1793** Eli Whitney invents the cotton gin; cotton quickly becomes a major Texas crop and American export

**1793 March 2** Sam Houston is born near Lexington, Va.; he will become the dynamic man that leads the fight for Texas' independence from Mexico, U.S. Congressman and Governor of Tennessee, first President of Republic of Texas, U.S. Senator and Governor of Texas; the only state in the Union to enter as an independent nation

**1793 November 3** Stephen Fuller Austin is born near Austinville, Va.; he will become the visionary founder of the principal settlements of English-speaking people in Texas

1793 Congress passes the first Fugitive Slave Act

**1795** The Treaty of San Lorenzo establishes the border between the United States and Spanish territories along the Mississippi

1800 Mexican-descent population of Spanish Texas is only 5000 people

1800 The new city of Washington, D.C. becomes the United States capital

**1800** The secret Treaty of San Ildefonso transfers the Louisiana Territory from Spain back to France

1801-05 First Barbary War, “to the shores of Tripoli,” President Thomas Jefferson declares war on North African pirates

1802 U.S. Congress establishes the United States Military Academy at West Point, N.Y.

**1803** Louisiana Purchase - United States more than doubles its size by buying over 820,000 square miles of land from France

1803-06 Lewis and Clark Expedition explores the American West

1806 Captain Richard Sparks and frontiersman Thomas Freeman explore the Red River region along the U.S. border with Texas

**1806-07** American explorer and military officer Zebulon Pike’s Expedition takes him into Colorado, New Mexico and eventually Texas

1807 American inventor Robert Fulton's steamboat, the Clermont, makes its first run from New York to Albany

1808 The United States prohibits the importation of Africans for enslavement

1810 Father Miguel Hidalgo y Costillo and several hundred of his parishioners seize the prison at Dolores, Mexico; beginning Mexico's struggle for independence from Spain

1810-13 Young Sam Houston, living in Tennessee, runs away from home and is adopted by Cherokee Indian Chief John Jolley

**1812-14** The War of 1812

**1812** Gutierrez-Magee Expedition; José Bernardo Gutiérrez de Lara and Augustus W. Magee lead an insurrection against Spanish rule in Texas; the rebels cross the Sabine River from Louisiana and capture Nacogdoches, La Bahía, and San Antonio

**1813** Battle of Medina River, General Joaquín de Arredondo defeats the fractured remnants of the Gutierrez-Magee Expedition; restores Spanish rule and executes 300 of the insurgents, including some Americans

**1813** Texas' first newspaper, *Gaceta de Texas*, is founded by José Alvarez de Toledo in Nacogdoches

1813-14 Creek Indian War; in the decisive victory at the Battle of Horseshoe Bend in Alabama, Sam Houston, a third lieutenant in the U.S. Army, is wounded 3 times and distinguishes himself to his commanding officer, General Andrew Jackson

**1817-20** Famed French pirate and savior of New Orleans in the War of 1812, Jean Laffite, and 1000 of his followers occupy Galveston Island

**1818** A large body of French Napoleonic émigrés attempt to establish a colony on the Trinity River at a site called Champ d'Asile (Field of Asylum); soon they give up and retreat to Galveston Island with their countryman, the pirate Jean Laffite

**1818** Cherokees and others of the “Five Civilized Tribes” from the Southeast U.S. accept the federal government’s offers of resettlement and begin arriving in East Texas; settling on lands north of Nacogdoches

**1819** Adams-Onís Treaty between Spain and U.S., negotiated by John Quincy Adams, brings Florida under American control; the United States renounces all claims to Texas, the Sabine and Red Rivers marks the Texas-Louisiana border

**1820** The Missouri Compromise brings Missouri and Maine into the union and slavery to the American West

1820 Only approximately 3500 Spanish/Mexican settlers live in all of Texas

1820 By this time more than 20,000 Indians live in virtual slavery on the California Spanish missions

**1821** Long Expedition; organized by Americans displeased by the boundary set by the Adams-Onís Treaty, James Long with 300 men and citizens of Nacogdoches try to organize a provisional government; Col. Ignacio Pérez with more than 500 men drive Long out of Texas

1821 William Becknell leads a trading expedition from Franklin, Missouri; blazing a new path that becomes the Santa Fe Trail

**1821** Spanish authorities in Mexico issue a land grant of 200,000 acres to American Moses Austin for a settlement of 300 American families in Texas

**1821** Mexican War of Independence concludes and brings Texas under that new nation, Mexico; officially named United Mexican States; Texas is again united with the State of Coahuila and the city of Saltillo is the capital

1821 English mathematician Charles Babbage, “father of computing” invents first successful automatic calculator

**1822** Stephen Austin establishes the first settlement of 300 American families in Texas on land granted to his father; this group, known as the “Old Three Hundred”; Austin assigned tracts of land in his colony centered around San Felipe de Austin

**1822** Planter Jared Ellison Groce, the wealthiest settler in Stephen F. Austin's colony, arrives in Texas with 50 wagons and 90 slaves and establishes Bernardo Plantation south of present-day Hempstead; he cultivates what may be the first cotton crop in the Austin colony and becomes an important leader in the Texas Revolution

**1822-23** Empresario (colony owner and promoter) Stephen Austin, disguised as a beggar to fool bandits, travels overland 1200 miles to Mexico City to reapply for land grants with the new Mexican government; he successfully returns 16 months later

1823 President James Monroe proclaims the “Monroe Doctrine” against European intervention in the Americas

**1824** Constitution of 1824; Mexico adopts a republican constitution modeled after the U.S. Constitution

**1824** Martin de Leon founds City of Guadalupe Victoria, the only predominantly Mexican colony in Texas

1824 The Bureau of Indian Affairs is established within the U.S. War Department

**1825** The federal government adopts a policy of “exchanging” Indian lands in the east for public land in the west

**1826** Fredonian Rebellion; the Declaration of Independence of the short-lived republic of Fredonia is signed at Nacogdoches; this is a feeble attempt by empresario Haden Edwards to separate his “colony” from Mexico.

1927 The Fredonian rebels flee when approached by 250 Mexican troops and 100 of Steven Austin’s colonists

1828 The U.S. Senate ratifies a treaty setting the Sabine River as the border between Mexico and the U. S.

1829 Mexico refuses an American offer to buy Texas for \$5 million

**1829** The first of several large groups of Irish immigrants arrive to settle in South Texas

c.1830s By this time, most southern states have laws forbidding teaching people in slavery to read.

**1830** James Bowie enters Texas and becomes a citizen

**1830** Steam locomotive invented by New Yorker Peter Cooper; the Tom Thumb was the first American-built steam locomotive

1830 Joseph Smith publishes the *Book of Mormon* and establishes the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints

1830 The Indian Removal Act authorizes the federal government to negotiate treaties with eastern tribes exchanging their lands for lands in the West

**1830** Law of April 6, 1830; alarmed at growing Anglo-American colonization in Texas; Mexico imposes sharp limits on immigration and slavery

**1831** Greenbury Logan, one of the first free blacks in Texas, settles on Chocolate Bayou in Austin's third colony; in 1835 he joins the Texas army and volunteers for the siege of Bexar; Logan is wounded in his right arm and crippled for life

1831 German family of Johann Friedrich Ernst are the first to arrive in Texas, settling in present-day Austin County; Ernst writes a long letter to a friend in Germany describing Texas as an earthly Eden; the letter is widely circulated, persuading a small but steady stream of German families to migrate to southeastern Texas

**1831** Cyrus McCormick invents the mechanical reaper

1831 In *Cherokee Nation v. State of Georgia* the Supreme Court denies Indians the right to court protection

1832 In *Worcester v. State of Georgia*, the Supreme Court rules that the federal government, not the states, has jurisdiction over Indian territories; Indian tribes must be treated "as nations"

**1832** Battle of Velasco, this Texan victory saw the first bloodshed between Texas and Mexico

**1832** The Convention of 1832 was called by Texans to ask for reforms in government policy towards Texas; however Mexican leadership is in turmoil and the reform requests never reach Mexico City

**1833** General Antonio López de Santa Anna leads a revolution against Anastacio Bustamante and is chosen President of Mexico

**1833** The capital of the Mexican State of Coahuila Texas is moved to Monclova; Texas’ government is administered from there

**1833** The Convention of 1833; repeats the more important petitions of the previous convention and also included is a constitution (drafted in part by the newly-arrived Sam Houston) that is patterned after the United States; Stephen Austin is elected to deliver the petitions and argue for their approval.

**1833** Stephen Austin persuades the Mexican government to repeal the Law of April 6, 1830, and to promise important reforms in Texas local government

1833 First Coeducational College was Oberlin Collegiate Institute (know as Oberlin College since 1850) in Oberlin, Ohio

**1833-1907** Yellow Fever epidemics, the first outbreak of yellow fever in Texas occurs in 1833 in present-day Brazoria County and it plagues Texas, mostly along the Gulf coast, for decades

**1833** Samuel Colt develops his revolver; which will become standard issue in the Texas Rangers

1833 The Choctaw Indian Tribe completes their forced removal to the West under U.S. Army guard

**1834-35** Returning home from Mexico City, Stephen Austin is arrested at Saltillo, Mexico, for suspicion of trying to incite insurrection in Texas, he is taken back to Mexico City and spends 11 months in prison (first 3 months in solitary confinement) and 7 months free on bond before he is released and allowed to return to Texas; the imprisonment ruins his health and leads to his early death

1835 The Florida Seminoles reject forced removal to the West and begin a seven-year war of resistance under Chief Osceola

1835 The Cherokee finally sign a treaty of removal, giving up their lands in Georgia for territory in present-day Oklahoma

**1835** The Texas Rangers are organized

1835 Gail Borden begins publishing the "Telegraph and Texas Register" newspaper at San Felipe de Austin

**1835** Mexican Capt. Antonio Tenorio surrenders at Anahuac to Texas volunteers commanded by William B. Travis  
**1835-36** The Texas War for Independence, begins with the battle of Gonzales and ends with the Battle of San Jacinto

**1835** Mexican President Santa Anna proclaims himself dictator and attempts to disarm the Texans

**1835** The Real Yellow Rose of Texas; a 20 year old mixed-race woman named Emily (West) Morgan comes to Texas from New York as the indentured servant of James Morgan; described as a pretty, intelligent and sophisticated woman, she is captured (or she “captures” him) by Mexican General Santa Anna at New Washington and keeps him preoccupied before the Battle of San Jacinto; the song was first published in 1853 by an author identified only as "J.K."; in 1955 *The Yellow Rose of Texas* is a chart-topping recording hit for Mitch Miller and the Gang

**1835 October 2** Texas Volunteers were fired at when they refuse to surrender a cannon to a Mexican detachment at an engagement near Gonzales on the Guadalupe River, first battle in the Texas Revolution; Gonzales is enshrined in history as the "Lexington of Texas”

**1835 October 9** The Battle of Goliad takes place and ends with a victory for Texas

**1835 October 28** Texans are victorious at the Battle of Concepcion; the opening engagement in the Siege of Bexar; despite being outnumbered 5 to 1

**1835 November** the Consultation held in San Felipe de Austin; members of Stephen Austin's American colony issue a "Declaration of the People of Texas” and the delegates, by a vote of 33 to 14, endorsed establishment of a provisional government upon the principles of the Constitution of 1824

**1835 December 11** the Siege of Bexar; the first major campaign of the Texas Revolution, ends with the surrender of Gen. Martín Perfecto de Cos (Santa Anna’s brother-in-law) and 650 Mexican soldiers, ironically, at the Alamo

**1836** Frontiersman David (Davy) Crockett arrives in Texas

**1836 Feb. 24 - March 6** The Alamo; Santa Anna leads a force of 5,000 troops into San Antonio; after a siege of 13 days, the Mexican soldiers overwhelm 187 Texans at the Alamo

1836 March 1 Washington-on-the-Brazos is the capitol of the provisional government of the Republic of Texas for 2½ weeks

**1836 March 2** The convention at Washington-on-the-Brazos is held and the delegates adopt George C. Childress's suggestions for independence that follow the outline and main features of the U.S. Declaration of Independence; the Texas Declaration of Independence is signed and adopted by 58 delegates and the Republic of Texas is born

**1836 March 4** Sam Houston elected commander-in-chief of the army

**1836 March 10** General Houston abandons Gonzales and retreats eastward to avoid the advancing Mexican army; panicky settlers in the area flee as well in an exodus called the “Runaway Scrape”

**1836 March 16** The convention at Washington-on-the-Brazos concludes as the Republic of Texas approves a new constitution

**1836 March 20-27** Goliad Massacre; 350 Texans, commanded by James W. Fannin, are defeated and captured near Goliad; Mexican General Santa Anna orders them all executed as traitors instead of being considered as prisoners of war

**1836 April 15-26** Texas President David Burnet and part of his cabinet board the steamboat *Cayuga* at Harrisburg; making it the de facto capital of the Republic of Texas; the capital then moves to Velasco until October

**1836 April 21** Battle of San Jacinto; Shouting, “Remember the Alamo!” and “Remember Goliad!” Texans led by Sam Houston defeated the Mexican army under General Santa Anna at San Jacinto; Texas wins independence from Mexico!

**1836-45** Republic of Texas

**1836 May 14** Santa Anna and Texas' provisional president David Burnet sign two Treaties of Velasco; one treaty is made public, the other kept secret; this officially ends the Texas Revolution.

1836 U.S. President Andrew Jackson, exploring annexation, sends Henry M. Morfit to Texas to collect information; Morfit reports Texas population at 30,000 Anglo-Americans, 3,478 Tejanos (Mexican Texans), 14,200 Indians, 5000 black slaves and a few free blacks

**1836** The first Congress of the Republic of Texas convenes at Columbia, the new Capitol of Texas

**1836 September 5** Sam Houston is elected the first President of the Republic of Texas; Lorenzo de Zavala, Vice President

**1836 Dec. 27** Stephen F. Austin (43), founder of Texas, dies in Columbia and is buried with military honors

**1837** U.S. President Andrew Jackson (on his last day in office) and Congress recognize the Republic of Texas; new President Martin Van Buren rejects any proposals for annexation

1837 U.S. Congressman and former president John Quincy Adams denounces the annexation of Texas; he “talked it to death” by filibustering

**1837-39** The newly founded town of Houston serves as the Capitol of the Republic of Texas

1837 Oberlin Collegiate Institute in Ohio becomes first Co-ed College in the U.S.

**1838** General Winfield Scott oversees the forced removal of the Cherokee from Georgia to the Indian Territory of the West along the "Trail of Tears"

**1839** The Texas Congress adopts the "Lone Star Flag" and the Texas Seal for the new republic

**1839** Austin becomes the new Capitol of the Republic of Texas; when Mexican troops threaten San Antonio, the government meets in Houston and at Washington on the Brazos between 1842 and 1845

**1839** Texas Governor Mirabeau B. Lamar drives the Cherokee from Texas at the Battle of the Neches River

1839 Ohio becomes the first state to adopt a bilingual education law; authorizing German-English instruction at parents' request

**1839** First Houston ship channel opens as a simple dredged channel, a modern channel opened in 1914

**1839-44** Regulator-Moderator War; a feud that erupts into a war in East Texas; the Regulators are vigilantes that the Moderators want to regulate; finally in 1844, Sam Houston sends the Texas militia to end the fighting

c.1840 Over a million Irish immigrants arrive in the United States; driven out of Ireland by the potato famine

**1840** Council House Fight; after meeting under a flag of truce, Comanche Chiefs are taken prisoner and some are killed; Indian raids begin across Texas; Texas Rangers and a volunteer army defeat the Comanche at Plum Creek near Lockhart

**1841** The Santa Fé Expedition leaves to establish trade with and solidify Texas' claims to territory around Santa Fé; they are taken prisoner by Mexican troops; marched to Mexico City and imprisoned; finally released in 1842

**1842** Large-scale German immigration to Texas begins when a German society, the Adelsverein, purchases land for settlements in Central Texas

**1842** Mexican forces invade Texas and capture San Antonio; Texan Volunteers win the Battle of Salado Creek and the Mexican Army withdraws

**1842** Dawson's Massacre, Captain Nicholas M. Dawson and a fifty-three-man company of volunteers are defeated by 500 Mexican Troops

**1843** Mier Expedition; 300 Texan Volunteers organized under Col. William S. Fisher cross into Mexico and are captured; seventeen Texans draw lots by picking black beans from a jar and are executed by Mexican firing squad

**1844** Samuel Morse demonstrates telegraph; the telegraph will eventually transform communication in the West

**1845** Baylor University is founded at Independence (Waco) by the Texas Union Baptist Association

1845 U.S. Congress passes a “Joint Resolution for Annexing Texas to the United States”; the State of Texas retains ownership of all of its public lands

1845 The first of many large groups of Germans arrive in Central Texas, settling at New Braunfels

**1845** Texas Constitutional Convention votes to accept the United States annexation proposal and drafts an Annexation Ordinance and State Constitution to submit to the voters of Texas; voters overwhelmingly approve

**1845 Dec 29** Texas (comprised of the present State of Texas and part of CO, NM, OK and WY) is admitted as the 28th state; U.S. Army assumes responsibility for defense of Texas frontiers and relations with Indians

**1846-48** The Mexican War

1946 John O. Meusebach, acting on behalf of German settlers, signs treaty with the Comanche; more than 3 million acres of land opens up to settlement

**1846** Comanche War Chief Buffalo Hump signs a treaty with the U.S. government at Council Springs; three years later he leads the Comanche to the Brazos River reservation

1846 The Texas state government was formally installed in the new state capitol, Austin

**1846-61** Texas legislature charters 117 schools, including 40 academies, 30 colleges, and 7 universities

1846 U.S. Army establishes Fort Brown near mouth of Rio Grande

**1846** Thornton Affair, South Texas; Mexican troops crossed the Rio Grande River and attack U.S. troops under the command of Gen. Zachary Taylor

**1846** Siege of Fort Texas (Fort Brown)

**1846** The Battle of Palo Alto near Brownsville is the first major battle of the two-year Mexican War

**1846** U.S. declares war against Mexico

1846 U.S. troops occupy Matamoros, Mexico

1846 U.S. Naval forces occupy Monterey, California

1846 U.S. forces under General Stephen W. Kearny occupy Santa Fé, New Mexico

1847 10,000 U.S. troops landed on beaches by Navy at Vera Cruz; city is sieged and surrenders

**1847** Battle for Mexico City; "From the Halls of Montezuma," Gen. Winfield Scott ends the war with his victorious march from Vera Cruz to capture Mexico City

**1848** The Treaty of Guadalupe Hidalgo is signed; ending the War with Mexico and giving the United States over 500,000 square miles of territory in the Southwest including Texas; U.S. agrees to prevent Comanche, Kiowa raids into Mexico

1848 At the time of Treaty of Guadalupe Hidalgo, approximately 80,000 Mexican citizens live in the ceded territory, which comprises 4 percent of Mexico's population; almost all choose U.S. citizenship

**1848** U.S. Army establishes Fort Martin Scott at Fredericksburg, Ringgold Barracks on Rio Grande and camps at Austin, San Antonio, and on the Colorado and Bosque Rivers

1848 German political theorist Karl Marx publishes *The Communist Manifesto*

1848 Women's Rights convention is held at Seneca Falls, New York

**1849** Neighbors & Ford, with Guadalupe, the captain of a Comanche band, blaze an upper trail to El Paso

**1949** U.S. Army establishes prairie and plains Forts, Worth, Graham, and Gates; hill country Forts Croghan, Lincoln, and Inge; Rio Grande Forts McIntosh and Duncan; Trans-Pecos Fort Bliss

1849-52 California Gold Rush - 80,000 people rush to California after gold is discovered

1850 Texas has 97 school academies

1850 33,000 Germans have immigrated; comprise one-fifth of the population of Texas

**1850** U.S. Army establishes Fort Merrill on the Nueces River

**1850** The Compromise of 1850; Texas gives up 100,000 sq. mi. of land that includes portions of what is now CO, NM, OK and WY in exchange for the United States' assumption of \$10 million in debt

**1850** Congress passes a second, more severe Fugitive Slave Law; it requires that escaped slaves be returned to their owners

**1951** U.S. Army begins abandonment of first prairie and hill country forts; new Forts Belknap, Phantom Hill, Mason established

**1852** Harriet Beecher Stowe publishes *Uncle Tom's Cabin*; it galvanizes Northern opposition to slavery; laws are passed in the South forbidding the book; punishment of up to six years imprisonment

1852 Massachusetts passes first school attendance law in America

1852 U.S. Army continues abandonment of early forts, establishes new Forts McKavett, Chadbourne, Terrett, Ewell, and Clark

**1853** The 825,000-acre King Ranch is founded in South Texas

1853 One-third of the U.S. Army is stationed in frontier outposts in West Texas and on the Mexican border

**1853** Mexico agrees to the Gadsden Purchase; land running along Mexico's northern border between Texas and California

**1853** The first railroad in Texas, the Buffalo Bayou, Brazos and Colorado, begins operation

1854 U.S. Army establishes Fort Davis in the Davis Mountains near San Antonio-El Paso road; second generation Forts<sup>3/4</sup> Phantom Hill, Terrett, Ewell are abandoned

1854 Texas Legislature authorizes federal authorities to establish Indian reservations on state lands

**1855** Indian reservations open on Brazos River near Fort Belknap for small non-Comanche bands, including Tonkawa and on Clear Fork of Brazos for southern Comanche

1855 U.S. Army establishes Fort Lancaster near Pecos River on San Antonio-El Paso Road

1855 Financier Ezra Cornell begins a national telegraph system, the Western Union Telegraph Company

**1855** A new Capitol building is completed and serves until it is destroyed by fire in 1881; a temporary building is used until the new present Capitol is completed in 1888

**1855** The first of 70 camels arrived in Indianola; this Texas Camel Experiment, proposed by U.S. Secretary of War, Jefferson Davis (soon to be president of the Confederacy), are used the animals to transport supplies over the "Great American Desert"

**1856** The 2nd Cavalry, one of the most celebrated units in the history of the U.S. Army, arrives in Texas to deal with the Plains Indians challenge; hand-picked by U.S. Secretary of War Jefferson Davis, the officer corps includes 16 future Civil War generals, among them Robert E. Lee, Albert Sidney Johnston, William J. Hardee, Edmund Kirby Smith, John Bell Hood, and George Thomas

1956 U.S. Army establishes Camp Cooper as a 2nd Cavalry post on Clear Fork Comanche reservation; other primary posts include Fort Mason, Fort Clark, and Camp Verde, base for the army's "camel corps."

1856 Wilberforce University established in Ohio; the first institution of higher education owned and operated by African Americans in the United States; named after 18th century English abolitionist, William Wilberforce

**1857 *Dred Scott Decision***, the Supreme Court denies African Americans the rights of American citizenship and made slavery legal in all U.S. territories

**1857** Texas Almanac begins publishing

**1858-61** Butterfield Overland Mail stagecoaches cross Texas; carrying mail, cargo and passengers 2700 miles from St. Louis to California

1858 U.S. Army establishes Fort Quitman near San Antonio-El Paso road

**1859** Cortina's War, Juan Cortina, member of a prominent Mexican family living near Brownsville on the Rio Grande border, leads an uprising against the mistreatment of Mexicans by Texans. He and his supporters occupy Brownsville and proclaim the Republic of the Rio Grande with the shout, "Death to the gringos!;" Cortina defeats a force of Texas Rangers and local authorities, but when they are reinforced by army troops, he retreats into Mexico where he continues his guerilla war against Anglo injustice for another ten years; Juan Cortina's life has been enshrined in Mexican-American popular culture as a symbol of militant resistance to Anglo racism

1859 John Brown, an abolitionist, leads an unsuccessful slave revolt and attack on the Federal arsenal at Harper's Ferry, Va.; He is later executed

1859 Fort Stockton is established at Comanche Springs near intersection of San Antonio-El Paso road and Comanche raiding trail to Mexico

**1859** The drilling of an oil well in Titusville, Pennsylvania, changes the way most Americans light their homes, as kerosene made from the oil replaces whale oil and candles

1860 U.S. Army Lt. Col. Robert E. Lee and four companies of 2nd Cavalry are deployed to Brownsville to end cross-border raids by Texans and Mexicans

**1860** Abraham Lincoln elected 16th President (Republican)

**1861** Confederate forces fire on Fort Sumter in Charleston, South Carolina

**1861-65** The Civil War (also called The War Between the States) U.S. Federal Government vs. the Confederate States of America, 11 states that asserted their right to secede from the Union; Texas was the 7th state to secede

**1861** Texas joins the Confederacy, forcing its founder but Unionist governor, Sam Houston, out of office.

**1861** Maj. Gen. David Twiggs, a southern loyalist from Georgia, who commands the U.S. troops stationed in Texas, surrenders U.S. forces to Texas state troops at San Antonio, surrenders all federal property in Texas and agrees to evacuate the 2700 Union troops scattered in the forts around the state

**1862** Sibley's Brigade, an army of Texas Confederates invades New Mexico; they defeat a Union force at Valverde; then they are defeated by a Union force at Glorietta Pass, "the Gettysburg of the West"

1862 U.S. Congress authorizes the Union Army to accept African-American soldiers

1862 U.S. Congress passes the Homestead Act

**1863** Battle of Galveston restores the island to Confederate control after several weeks of Federal occupation of Texas' most important seaport

**1863** President Lincoln issues the Emancipation Proclamation

**1863** Union forces prevail at the Battle of Gettysburg

**1863 July 26** Sam Houston (70) dies in Huntsville

1863 The U.S. Congress organizes the Arizona Territory

1864 French military forces install Archduke Maximilian as Emperor of Mexico

**1864** Elm Creek raid is the largest Indian raid in Texas since 1840 when 500 to 700 Comanche and Kiowa warriors attack settlements in Young County

1864 Colonel Kit Carson punishes Navajo raiding parties in northwest New Mexico, he marches 8,000 of the tribe on a grueling "Long Walk" across New Mexico to a reservation near Fort Sumner on the Pecos River

**1865** The Confederate surrender at Appomattox Courthouse, Virginia, brings an end to the Civil War, approximately 90,000 Texans saw military service in the war

**1865** An assassin kills President Abraham Lincoln five days after the Civil War ends; Andrew Johnson succeeds

**1865** U.S. Gen. Gordon Granger arrives at Galveston to announce that slavery has been abolished, an event commemorated today by the festival known as Juneteenth

**1865-77** Reconstruction

**1865** 13th Amendment abolishes enslavement in the United States

**1865** Freedmen's Bureau is established to aid freed African Americans

**1866** Cattle drives begin, Charles Goodnight and Oliver Loving blaze the first cattle trail from Fort Belknap to the Pecos River, then north to Fort Sumner, New Mexico, driving a herd of 2,000 longhorns; by the end of the year over 250,000 cattle went over the trails; the "Goodnight-Loving Trail" allows cattle to be driven to market in Denver, Colorado, without traveling through Indian Territory

**1866** U.S. Army establishes Fort Richardson near Jacksboro by companies of 6th Cavalry; companies of 4th Cavalry are assigned to Fort Martin Scott, Fort Mason, Fort Inge, Fort Clark, and Camp Verde

**1866** Ku Klux Klan founded, in Pulaski, Tenn. as a vehicle for Southern white underground resistance to Reconstruction; the influence of this first early Klan peaked between 1868 to 1870 (see 1915)

1866 14th Amendment grants all persons equal protection and due process

1867 Reconstruction Act

**1867** U.S. 9th Cavalry "Buffalo Soldiers", black enlisted men commanded by white officers, are first posted to Texas to subdue Indians raiding parties and Mexican bandits, eventually serving at most of the frontier forts in West Texas and other states

**1867** First herds of Texas cattle reaches railheads in Abilene, Kansas, by way of the "Chisholm Trail"; the trail passes through Indian Territory to the east of the Comanche and Kiowa reservations

1867 U.S. Army establishes Fort Concho near the junction of the main and north forks of the Concho River; companies of 6th Cavalry establish Fort Griffin on the Clear Fork of the Brazos River

1867 United States purchases the 586,000 sq. mi. Alaska territory, ("Steward's Folly") from Russia

**1867** The Medicine Lodge Treaty of 1867 installs two reservations in Indian Territory, one for the Comanche and Kiowa and another for the Southern Cheyenne and Arapaho; according to the treaty, the government would provide the tribes with a variety of basic services and the Indian tribes would be allowed to continue to hunt buffalo to survive

**1868** Irrigation on a large-scale begins in Texas when canals are built in the Del Rio vicinity

**1868** Black composer and pianist Scott Joplin, the "King of Ragtime" music, is born near Linden, Texas; his best known compositions are the *Maple Leaf Rag* and *The Entertainer*; his music is featured in the motion picture, *The Sting*, which wins an Academy Award for its film score; Joplin posthumously wins the coveted Pulitzer Prize in 1976 for his opera, *Treemonisha*

**1868** The 14th Amendment grants rights and privileges of American citizenship to African Americans

1868 Ulysses Grant elected 18th President (Republican)

**1869** Texas voters approve a new state constitution

1869 First transcontinental railroad is completed with "The Golden Spike" at Promontory Point, Utah

1869 The National Woman Suffrage Assoc. is formed with Elizabeth Cady Stanton as its first president

1869 John Wesley Powell leads the first recorded voyage through the Grand Canyon of the Colorado River

1869 Wyoming Territory becomes the first place in the United States where women have the right to vote

**1870** President Ulysses Grant signs the act readmitting Texas to Congressional representation

**1870-76** El Paso Salt War, a struggle to acquire title to salt deposits east of El Paso which broke into open warfare

**1870** Waco Suspension Bridge opens across the Brazos River

1870 A California court rules in *White vs. Flood* that a black child may not attend a white school, setting the legal precedent for school segregation

1870 15th Amendment guarantees that no male citizen will be deprived of the right to vote because of race, color or previous condition of servitude

**1872** German-born sculptor, Elisabet Ney, one of the first professional sculptors in the state, moves to Texas; she completes many important works, including statues of Stephen Austin and Sam Houston for the state Capitol; four years after her death the Texas Fine Arts Association<sup>is</sup> founded in her honor in 1911

1873 "Buffalo soldiers" in the 10th Cavalry are transferred from Fort Sill, Indian Territory, to Texas posts Fort Richardson, Fort Griffin, and Fort Concho

**1873** R. A. Baird organizes the first Texas Grange, an educational and social group for farmers, at Salado; the Texas Grange claims 40,000 members in 1,275 lodges at its peak in 1875

**1874-75** Red River War; after attacks by a large force of Cheyenne, Comanche, and Kiowa, General Philip Sherman orders five army columns from Indian Territory (Oklahoma), Kansas, New Mexico, and Texas into the Texas Panhandle; the seven-month campaign ends with the southern Plains Indians submitting to reservation life, making settlement possible in the West Texas and the Panhandle

**1874** The Frontier Battalion, composed of six 75-man companies of Texas Rangers, is organized as a result of a recommendation of Governor Richard Coke that Texas organize its own force to protect the frontier

**1874** Battle of Palo Duro Canyon is the last and most critical battle of the Red River War, U.S. soldiers capture 1,400 Indian horses and burn 5 villages, including the Indians' winter food supply

**1874-78** Commercial buffalo hunters ignore the terms of Medicine Lodge Treaty and move into the area promised to the Southern Plains Indians; The southern herd of American bison is all but exterminated in just four years

**1874** Reconstruction in Texas ends when Democrat Richard Coke is elected governor; Democrats will control state government for the next century; winning the Democratic primary is tantamount to winning the election

**1874** Illinois farmer Joseph Glidden invents Barbed wire ("devil wire" to cowboys); it transforms the West

**1874** Mennonite immigrants from Russia arrive in Kansas with drought-resistant "Turkey Red" wheat, which will help turn the one-time "Great American Desert" into the nation's breadbasket

1875-76 "Buffalo Soldiers" in the 9th Cavalry are transferred to New Mexico to subdue the fiercely independent Apaches; eighteen buffalo soldiers on the Western frontier will become Congressional Medal of Honor Recipients

**1875-1900** Railroads change the face of Texas; spurred on by state land grants of over thirty million acres, railroads grow from 1,650 miles of track to 9,867, railroads have a big impact on farming and ranching but doom the need for cattle drives

**1876** The Agricultural and Mechanical College (later Texas A&M University) opens at College Station; becoming the first public institution of higher learning in the state

**1876** First cattle ranch in the Panhandle, JA Ranch in Palo Duro Canyon, is established by Charles Goodnight

1876 University professor Alexander Graham Bell invents the Telephone

1876 Lt. Col. William Shafter leads two expeditions of buffalo soldiers into Mexico returning with prisoners and captured horses and mules

1876 Battle of the Little Big Horn Battle in Montana; Sioux and Cheyenne Indians defeat Lt. Colonel George Custer and the U.S. Seventh Cavalry

1877 Rutherford B. Hayes inaugurated as 19th President (Republican)

1877 President Hayes withdraws the last federal soldiers from the South, leaving the rights of African Americans unprotected

**1877** The Texas and Southwestern Cattle Raisers Association is formed to end unbridled livestock theft

1877 John Wesley Hardin, a Texas gunfighter who claims to have killed more than 40 men, is sentenced to 25 years in the Texas State Prison

**1878 March 31** Famous African American boxer, Jack Johnson, is born in Galveston

1878 Thomas Edison invents the phonograph

1879 Thomas Edison invents the Light bulb

1879 Indian Boarding Schools; the first students, a group of 84 Lakota children, arrive at the newly established United States Indian Training and Industrial School at Carlisle, Pennsylvania, a boarding school founded by former Indian-fighter Captain Richard Henry Pratt to remove young Indians from their native culture and refashion them as members of mainstream American society; over the next two decades, twenty-four more schools on the Carlisle model will be established outside the reservations, along with 81 boarding schools and nearly 150 day schools on the Indians' own land

1880-1931 Prohibition movement (legally preventing alcohol) begins when Kansas Governor John St. John forces through prohibition legislation, making Kansas the first state in the nation to "go dry"

**1880-1960s** "Jim Crow" laws enforce legal segregation, especially in the Southern states; laws forbid intermarriage; order business owners and public institutions to keep their black and white clientele separate; laws pertain to trains, buses, hotels, hospitals, schools, libraries, parks, rest rooms, cemeteries, theaters and restaurants

1880 James A. Garfield elected 20th President (Republican)

**1881** Era of the open range and cattle drives ends; since Texas cowboys first hit the trail, as many as two million longhorns have been driven to market in Dodge City, Kansas

**1881** Fire destroys the State Capitol Building in Austin

1881 President Garfield murdered, Chester Arthur succeeds

**1882 January 6** Sam Rayburn is born in eastern Tennessee, serves in U.S. Congress 1913-1961 and in 1941, "Mr. Sam" becomes Speaker of the House of Representatives, a position he holds for 16 years, longer than any other person in U.S. history

**1882** Kentucky-born Judge Roy Bean is named Justice of the Peace; he becomes known as "The Law West of the Pecos"; he is celebrated for is sometimes harsh and capricious rulings

1883 Texas purchases The Alamo from the Catholic Church to preserve it as an historic shrine  
1883 Cowboys went on Strike in the Panhandle in the Tascosa area; demanding a raise to \$50.00 per month for hands and \$75.00 for foremen  
**1883** The University of Texas opens at Austin  
**1884** Fence-cutting wars prompt the Texas Legislature to pass a law making fence-cutting a felony  
1884 Grover Cleveland elected 22nd President (Democrat)  
**1885 Feb. 24** Chester William Nimitz is born in Fredericksburg; in World War II, he is designated as Commander in Chief, Pacific Fleet; advances to the rank of Fleet Admiral and on 2 September 1945, is the United States' signatory to Japan's terms of surrender aboard the battleship *USS Missouri* in Tokyo Bay (see 1945)  
**1885** XIT Ranch is established on 3,000,000 acres in the Texas Panhandle; the land was exchanged for money to build the new Texas Capitol in Austin  
1886 American Federation of Labor formed  
1886 The Statue of Liberty, a gift to the United States from France, is unveiled in New York City harbor  
1886 Apache chief Geronimo is captured in Arizona, after a decade of guerilla warfare against American and Mexican settlers in the Southwest  
**1886** The Dallas State Fair & Exposition, to which the present State Fair of Texas traces its beginnings, opens  
1887 Congress passes the Dawes Severalty Act; imposing a system of private land ownership on Native American tribes for whom communal land ownership has been a centuries-old tradition; individual Indians become eligible to receive land allotments of up to 160 acres, together with full U.S. citizenship; tribal lands remaining after all allotments have been made are to be declared surplus and sold, when the allotment system finally ends, Indian landholdings are reduced from 138 million acres in 1887 to only 48 million acres in 1934  
**1888** The present Texas state capitol is dedicated in Austin after seven years of planning and construction  
1888 Harrison elected 23rd President (Republican)  
1889 Oklahoma Land Rush; 50,000 settlers swarm into Oklahoma to homestead two million acres of Indian lands, many of the most desirable plots are taken by "Sooners," so called because they crossed into the territory sooner than was permitted; Oklahoma's lands were opened in five land runs, land lottery, land auction and enlarged by a decision of the U.S. Supreme Court that ceded Greer County, Texas to Oklahoma because of an error by the surveyor of the region  
1889 Wovoka, a Paiute Indian holy man, awakes from a three-day trance to teach his tribe the Ghost Dance, with which they can restore the earth to the way it was before the whites arrived in the West; his teachings soon touch many tribes across the West, stirring a spiritual revival that whites nervously misinterpret as a return to hostilities  
1890 Famed Chief Sitting Bull is murdered in a confrontation at the Standing Rock Reservation when Lakota policemen attempt to arrest him as part of a federal crackdown on the Ghost Dance  
**1890** The U.S. military post at San Antonio is designated Fort Sam Houston, in honor of Gen. Sam Houston, by President Benjamin Harrison; in 1940 the fort was the largest army post in the U.S. and served as a major internment center for German and Italian POW's during World War II  
**1890 October 14** Dwight D. Eisenhower is born in Denison  
**1890** First native-born governor of Texas, James Steven Hogg, is elected on a campaign platform calling for the regulation of railroads and big business  
1890 Famed Chief Sitting Bull is murdered in a confrontation at the Standing Rock Reservation when Lakota policemen attempt to arrest him as part of a federal crackdown on the Ghost Dance  
1890 The Indian Wars in the area of the present-day United States end when U.S. cavalry troops almost wipe out Chief Big Foot's band of Sioux at Wounded Knee Creek on the Pine Ridge Reservation in South Dakota; the troops were called in to stop the tribe from practicing the Ghost Dance  
**1891** The Railroad Commission is established to regulate railroads and eventually oil and gas production; it becomes one of the most important regulatory bodies in the nation, influencing the supply and price of oil and natural gas throughout the U.S.  
**1891** Daughters of the Republic of Texas founded; the oldest patriotic women's organization in Texas and one of the oldest in the nation.  
1891 Congress passes the Forest Reserve Act, which authorizes setting aside public forests in any state or territory to preserve a timber supply for the future; the law marks the first step in a process that will steadily place more and more Western land in the hands of the federal government while leaving less and less available for private purchase and use; federal priorities in the West shift from selling public land to managing public resources  
1892 Cleveland elected 24th President (Democrat)

1893 Experts estimate that less than only 2,000 buffalo remain of the 20 million that once roamed the plains

1894 Oil is discovered at Corsicana becoming the first small step in Texas' rise as a major oil producer

1894 German immigrant William Gebhardt of New Braunfels produces the first packaged chili powder

1895 Texas Society Daughters of the American Revolution (TSDAR) is organized in Galveston

1896 Klondike Gold Rush in Alaska

**1896** *Plessy v. Ferguson* decision; the U.S. Supreme Court rules that the state of Louisiana has the right to require "separate but equal" railroad cars for Blacks and whites; this decision means that the federal government officially recognizes segregation as legal; one result is that southern states pass laws requiring racial segregation in schools

**1896** Crash at Crush, a publicity stunt brings nearly 50,000 people to a stretch of Texas prairie near Waco to witness two 35-ton locomotives, each pulling seven boxcars, collide head-on at a combined speed of 120 miles per hour; debris is hurled hundreds of yards and 2 spectators are killed and a few more seriously injured

1896 William McKinley elected 25th President (Republican)

**1898** Spanish-American War

**1900** The "Great Hurricane," the greatest natural disaster in human terms ever to strike North America, destroys much of Galveston and leaves an estimated 6,000 people dead; later a seawall 17 feet high, 10 miles long is built

1901 William McKinley murdered, Theodore Roosevelt succeeds to presidency

**1901** A gusher of "black gold" at the Spindletop oil field near Beaumont launches Texas into a century of petroleum exploration

**1901** The Texas Oil Company (Texaco) is formed in Beaumont by Joseph S. "Buckskin Joe" Cullinan and Arnold Schlaet as the Texas Fuel Company; a merger in 2000 created ChevronTexaco Corporation

**1901** The Bluebonnet is adopted as the Texas State Flower

1903 Henry Ford founds Ford Motor Company

1903 Wright Brothers fly the first airplane at Kitty Hawk, North Carolina

1905 Niagara Movement, is founded; it is composed of 59 leading African American intellectuals, writers and newspapermen; it's the forerunner to the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP)

1906 San Francisco earthquake sets off fires that burn out eight square miles, kills 700 people, leaves 250,000 homeless and does \$400 million property damage

**1907 Sep 29** Gene Autry (d.1998), singing cowboy, is born in Tioga, Texas

**1907** Neiman Marcus is founded in Dallas by Herbert Marcus, his sister Carrie, and her husband A.L. Neiman

**1907** Texas Anti-Saloon League is established with Benjamin F. Riley, a Baptist clergyman, as superintendent

**1908 Aug 27** Lyndon B. Johnson (d.1973), 36<sup>th</sup> U.S. President (1963-1969), is born in Gillespie County

1908 Taft elected 27th President (Republican)

1908 Henry Ford introduces the Model T car

1909 Lone Star Gas is organized as a utility company to transmit natural gas across Texas; in 1975 the company changed its name to Enserch Corporation, with headquarters in Dallas

**1909** Devastating fire in downtown Fort Worth guts a 20 square-block area; the fire motivates the construction of a dam on the West Fork providing the resulting Lake Worth, a reliable water supply

1909 National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP) is founded to fight southern lynching and racial segregation

**1910** Black boxer Jack Johnson knocks out white boxer Jim Jeffries in the 15th round of a heavyweight boxing match; this prompts whites to riot against blacks all over the United States

**1910-20** Mexican Revolution, a long and bloody struggle that establishes a constitutional republic in Mexico; 900,000 legal Mexican immigrants come to the United States for refuge

1910 Boy Scouts of America founded

**1911** The twenty-two story ALICO (Amicable Life Insurance Company) building in Waco is completed; the building was once the tallest in Texas and the tallest west of the Mississippi River

**1912** The Battleship Texas is launched from Newport News, Virginia; when the USS Texas is commissioned in 1914, she is the most powerful weapon in the world

**1912 Aug 13** Ben Hogan, PGA golfer (US Open winner 1950, 51, 53), is born in Dublin

1912 The ocean liner Titanic strikes an iceberg on its maiden voyage and sinks within hours; 1,517 of 2,100 passengers drown

1912 Girl Scouts of the U.S.A. founded

1912 Woodrow Wilson elected 28th President (Democrat)

1913 16th Amendment; the basis for all federal income tax legislation and 17th Amendments; direct popular election of U.S. senators, instead of being elected and sent to congress by state legislatures

1914 U.S. President Woodrow Wilson sends U.S. Marines to the Mexican port of Veracruz

1914 Panama Canal opens

**1914** Modern Houston ship channel opens

**1914-18** World War I

**1915** "Plan de San Diego", one of the most intense episodes of racial violence in United States history is set against the backdrop of the Mexican Revolution; Plan de San Diego called for the overthrow of U.S. rule in Texas and all the Southwest and began with a series of raids by ethnic Mexicans on ranches and railroads in the southern tip of Texas; local violence quickly erupts into a regional rebellion and in response, Anglo vigilante groups and the Texas Rangers stage an even bloodier counterinsurgency, culminating in forcible relocations and mass executions

**1915** Unnamed hurricane strikes Galveston and despite the 10-foot-high seawall built after the 1900 hurricane, kills 275 people

**1915** Ku Klux Klan is reorganized at Stone Mountain, Ga., by Colonel William J. Simmons, a preacher; this second Klan peaks in the 1920s, its membership 4,000,000 nationally, an estimated 400,000 Texans belonged to the Klan at one time or another

**1915-30** The Great Migration, almost one million Southern Blacks begin migrating to northern cities when war industries seek employees

**1916 June 10** Trammell Crow is born in Dallas; he becomes a CPA, serves as a Commander in the Navy during World War II and in 1948 founds the Trammell Crow Company, the largest real estate company in the U.S.

**1916-17** U.S. General John J. Pershing leads 10,000 American soldiers into Mexico in retaliation for a raid on Columbus, New Mexico by General Francisco "Pancho" Villa

**1917 Feb 27** John Connally, Texas Governor, wounded in the assassination of President John Kennedy, is born on a farm near Floresville

1917 Dec 29 Tom Bradley, the future five-term mayor of Los Angeles, is born on a cotton plantation in Calvert

**1917** U.S. declares War on Germany and enters World War I

**1917** Houston Riot of 1917 was started by about 150 black troops from Camp Logan; the riot is the culmination of hostility following the establishment of the camp and results in the many deaths; military tribunals deal harshly with the 110 soldiers found guilty

**1917** Governor James E. "Pa" ("Farmer Jim") Ferguson is impeached by the Texas Senate; he is able to continue his influence through his wife, Miriam A. "Ma" Ferguson, when she is elected governor in 1924

1917 Communist Vladimir Lenin leads a Bolshevik rebellion to oust the post-czarist Russian government

**1917** The driest year in Texas history when only a little over 14 inches of rain fell

1918 A pandemic of Spanish influenza sweeps the globe killing 21 million people; 1% of the world's population

**1918** Annie Webb Blanton becomes state superintendent of public instruction; first woman to win a state office

**1918** Nov. 11 World War I ends, Armistice signed at 11:00 am

**1919** The Longview Race Riot of 1919; a white mob burns buildings in Longview's black district before the state militia restores order

**1919** Texas League of Women Voters (now League of Women Voters of Texas) is founded by Jessie Daniel Ames, a Texas suffragist and civil rights leader

**1919** TSDAR completes the marking of the El Camino Real (Old San Antonio Road); the road is marked with granite monuments at five-mile intervals from the Sabine to the Rio Grande Rivers, for a total of 123 markers across the state

**1919** 18th Amendment; Prohibition: prohibits the manufacture, sale and transport of intoxicating liquors

1919 The first ever play-by-play radio broadcast of a football game takes place at College Station between the University of Texas and the Agricultural and Mechanical College of Texas

**1919** The Pecan is adopted by the legislature as the state tree; by 1945, there are over 3 million Pecan trees cultivated in Texas

**1920** First American radio broadcast station opened by Westinghouse, in Pittsburgh

1920 One of the earliest radio stations in the U.S. and first in Texas, city-owned WRR in Dallas, begins broadcasting

**1920** 19th Amendment to the Constitution; Women get the vote

1920 Better Schools Amendment to the Texas Constitution removes limitations on the tax rates allowable to support schools; a vigorous campaign was led by Annie Webb Blanton

**1920** Galveston longshoremen go out on strike; Governor William P. Hobby places the city under martial law

**1920** The Cowtown Coliseum in Fort Worth hosts the world's first indoor rodeo

1920 Warren Harding elected 29th President (Republican)

1921 Aug 19 Gene Roddenberry, television writer and producer, best known for "Star Trek," is born in El Paso

**1922** Edith Wilmans of Dallas becomes the first woman elected to the Texas House of Representatives

1923 Apr 12, Ann Miller, [Lucille Ann Collier], dancer, is born in Cherino

1923 Mar. 8, Tula Elise Finklea, later known as actress and dancer Cyd Charisse, is born in Amarillo

1923 President Harding dies, Calvin Coolidge succeeds

**1923** White Primary Law; Texas legislature passes a law barring blacks from voting in Democratic primaries

1924 An act of Congress makes Native Americans U.S. citizens for the first time

**1923-24** The most snow fall in Texas history in one season with a total of 65 inches

**1924 Jun 20** Audie Murphy (d. 1971) is born in Kingston; he becomes the most decorated American soldier of World War II, writes a book and stars in a movie about his war experiences called "To Hell and Back"

**1924** Texas' first woman governor, Miriam A. "Ma" Ferguson is elected

**1925** Texas' All-Women Supreme Court; three women, Nellie Gray Robertson, Hortense Sparks Ward and Ruth Virginia Brazzil comprise a special Texas Supreme Court for five months; first all-woman high court in the U.S.

1925 The first national congress of the Ku Klux Klan opens; 200,000 members march in Washington, D.C.

1925 Scopes (evolution teaching) Trial in Dayton, Tennessee

**1926** Margie E. Neal of Carthage becomes the first woman to be elected a Texas state senator; serves four terms

1926 Ford Motor Company introduces 8-hour day and 5-day week

**1927** *Nixon v. Herndon*, U.S. Supreme Court unanimously declares the Texas white primary statute unconstitutional for violating the "equal protection" clause of the Fourteenth Amendment; suit is brought by Lawrence A. Nixon, a black physician and member of the El Paso chapter of the NAACP

1927 American aviator, Charles Lindbergh flies solo across the Atlantic from New York City to Paris

**1927** The Mockingbird is adopted by the legislature as the Texas State Bird

1928 Herbert Hoover elected 31st President (Republican)

**1929** "Texas, Our Texas" is adopted by the legislature as the Texas State Song

**1929** League of United Latin American Citizens (LULAC) is founded in Corpus Christi

**1929** Delta Kappa Gamma Society (for women educators) is founded in Austin by 12 women led by Annie Webb Blanton

1929 Wall Street Crash; "Black Tuesday," the country plunges into the Great Depression

**1930** East Texas oilfield discovered near Henderson in East Texas; wildcatter Columbus Joiner strikes the largest oil pool discovered in the world to that time; it is the largest and most prolific oil reservoir in the contiguous U.S.

**1930 Mar 26** Sandra Day O'Connor, first woman US Supreme Court Justice, is born in El Paso

**1930 May 6** A day of Texas tornadoes, total of eighty-two persons lose their lives and damage totals almost \$2.5 million from a 12 hour marathon of turbulence across the state

**1930** Assn. of Southern Women for the Prevention of Lynching (ASWPL) Founded by Jessie Daniel Ames

**1930 June 27** H. Ross Perot Born in Texarkana

**1930** "Friendship" is adopted by the legislature as the Texas State Motto

**1931 August 16 11:40 A.M.** Earthquake; in terms of magnitude and damage, this is the largest earthquake (Magnitude 5.80) known to have occurred in Texas happens near Valentine

**1931 Sept.12** George Glenn Jones, country singer, is born in Saratoga

**1931 Oct 31** Dan Rather, news anchor (CBS News), is born in Wharton

**1932** Elmer Doolin of Texas gives a border cook \$100 for a corn chip recipe that becomes Fritos; the Frito-Lay Corp. today controls over fifty percent of the world's snack market; Frito-Lay corporate headquarters are in Plano

**1932-34** Bonnie and Clyde's crime spree; native Texans Clyde Barrow and Bonnie Parker begin a series of violent holdups before being killed in Arcadia, Louisiana by a posse led by former Texas Ranger Frank Hamer

**1932** Franklin D. Roosevelt is elected 32nd President (Democrat) and John Nance (Cactus Jack) Garner of Uvalde Vice President; Garner is a 30 year U.S. Congressman and becomes the most powerful Vice President in U.S. history and the second most important politician in the United States during the Great Depression of the 1930s

**1933-42** President Roosevelt's New Deal programs greatly benefit Texas

**1933** 21st Amendment repeals 18th; Prohibition ends

**1933 February 8** Texas records its coldest temperature ever with a reading of -23 degrees F in Seminole

1933 Apr 26 Carol Burnett, comedian, actress is born in San Antonio

**1933 April 30** Singer Willie Nelson born in Abbot

**1933 Sept.1** Ann Richards, former Governor, is born in Lakeview

1934 Adolf Hitler becomes President of Germany

**1934** Dust Bowl migration westward begins

**1936-39** San Jacinto Monument built; at the time, the world's tallest (570 feet tall) free-standing concrete tower

**1936 April 23** Roy Orbison (d. 1988), entertainer, singer, songwriter, is born in Vernon

**1936 August 12** 120° F (49° C), Seymour, Texas state record high temperature

**1936 September 7** Rock legend Buddy Holly (d. Feb 3, 1959) is born Charles Hardin Holley in Lubbock

1937 February 25 Bob Schieffer, newscaster (CBS News), is born in Austin

**1937** 298 people, mostly students, are killed in a gas explosion at a school in New London, it is the worst school disaster in U.S. history; U.S. Government passes laws that the an early warning agent (odorants) must be put into natural gas to give it an identifying smell

**1937 June 15** Waylon Jennings (d.2002), country singer, is born in Littlefield

**1938 August 21** Kenny Rogers, singer, is born in Houston

1938 Flamboyant Businessman Pappy O'Daniel is first elected Governor, in 1941 he is elected U.S. senator

**1939 February 28** Tommy Tune, dancer, choreographer, is born in Wichita Falls; this talented dance master is the winner of nine Tony Awards and the only person in theatrical history to win in four different categories

**1939** San Antonio's River Walk opens; the Works Progress Administration (WPA) built the original River Walk to combine flood control with graceful design

**1939** World War II begins; Great Britain and France declare war on Germany

**1939 December 1** Golf professional Lee Trevino is born in Dallas

**1941** M. D. Anderson Hospital is founded in Houston, now the M. D. Anderson Hospital for Cancer Research

**1941** Doris "Dorie" Miller, an African American sailor from Waco, is serving on the battleship *West Virginia* when the Japanese attack Pearl Harbor in December 7, 1941; as the ship sinks, he mans a 50 caliber Browning anti-aircraft machine gun until he runs out of ammunition and is ordered to abandon ship; in May 1942, he becomes the first African American to be awarded the Navy Cross; the medal is presented to him by Texan Admiral Chester Nimitz on board aircraft carrier USS *Enterprise*; in November 1943, Dorie Miller is killed when the *Liscome Bay* is struck by a Japanese torpedo and sinks in the South Pacific; in 1973, the USS *Miller* is named in honor of Dorie Miller; in the film *Pearl Harbor*, released in 2001, Cuba Gooding, Jr. plays the part of Miller

**1941-45** U.S. in World War II; Texas begins industrialization; with its military bases and factories, 400,000 newcomers migrate to the state; 600,000 Texans serve in the Armed Forces

**1941** The wettest year in Texas history with a total of 42.6 inches of rain.

**1942** Fort Hood (originally Camp Hood) opens near Killeen; it will become the nation's largest navy base. Today Fort Hood cover 335 square miles; over 70,000 personnel are on base on any given day

**1943** A surprise hurricane hits the Houston area; though it is only a Category 1 storm, it causes major disruptions of war production; this storm is also famous as the storm that Col. Joseph Duckworth and Lt. Ralph O'Hair flew into in an AT-6, single-engine training airplane to become the first people to fly into a hurricane's eye

**1943** Over 30 POW camps in Texas house almost 80,000 German and Italian prisoners

1943 Maitre d' turned into spur-of-the-moment chef Ignacio "Nacho" Anaya invents his namesake dish, nachos, at the Victory Club in Piedras Negras, a Mexican border town near Eagle Pass, Texas

1944 June 6, 1944 Normandy, France, Allied invasion of Europe during WW II; leads to defeat of Nazi Germany

**1945** Corporal Harlon Henry Block, a U.S. Marine from Weslaco, was one of six men who were immortalized in Associated Press photographer Joe Rosenthal's Pulitzer Prize-winning photograph of the flag raising on Mount Suribachi, Iwo Jima on February 23, 1945 during World War II; Corporal Block helped with the flag raising by stooping and guiding the base of the pole into the volcanic ash while the other five men heaved the flag upward; Corporal Block never saw the famous picture, he was killed in action on March 1, 1945; in 1995 Block's body was moved from a gravesite in Weslaco to the Marine Military Academy in Harlingen to commemorate the fiftieth anniversary of the battle of Iwo Jima; Corporal Block is buried beside the Iwo Jima Memorial on the academy grounds; Semper Fidelis (Always Faithful)

**1945** Denison Dam on the Red River completed; at the time it is the largest rolled-earth-fill dam in the U.S.

**1945** World War II officially ends when Fleet Admiral (and Texan) Chester Nimitz presides as the United States' signatory to the Japan's surrender terms aboard the battleship *USS Missouri* in Tokyo Bay

1945 UN Charter signed

**1946** Herman Marion Sweatt, a black man, applies for admission to the University of Texas Law School; State law restricts access to whites, and Sweatt's application was automatically rejected because of his race; the university attempts to provide separate but equal facilities for black law students (see 1950)

1947 Tornadoes strike West Texas, Kansas and Oklahoma; 169 people are killed and 1,300 injured

**1947** The French ship Grandcamp, carrying ammonium nitrate fertilizer, catches fire, explodes and devastates Texas City; the following day another ship, the Highflyer, explodes; death toll is 576; thousands left homeless

1947 Truman Doctrine; assists governments resisting communism; the Cold War begins and last 40 years

1947 Marshall Aid Plan begins; former top WW II general, Secretary of State George Marshall's foreign aid plan rebuilds Europe

**1948** The first television station in Texas, WBAP-TV begins broadcasting in Fort Worth

**1948** The Battleship USS Texas is decommissioned and becomes the first battleship memorial museum in the U.S.; The USS *Texas* is now a shrine moored at the site of the San Jacinto battlefield in La Porte

**1948** Dr. Hector Garcia founds American G. I. Forum, an organization for Mexican-American veterans

1948 U.S. recognizes Israel

1948 U.S. fights communism in Germany with the Berlin Airlift

**1948** "Landslide Lyndon", Lyndon Johnson's nickname, is coined because of his slim victory in the 1948

Democratic primary election for the senate, He won the majority of the more than 1 million ballots cast by a mere 87 votes but then won in the general election by a "landslide"

**1949** The first round-the-world airplane flight originates from Carswell Air Force Base in Fort Worth; the *Lucky Lady II* of the 43rd Bomb Group with a crew of 14, refuels 4 times in the air; the trip takes 94 hours, 1 minute

**1949** Felix Longoria Affair, a funeral home director in Three Rivers refuses the use of his chapel for the funeral of Private Felix Longoria; U.S. Senator Lyndon B. Johnson arranges for the burial at Arlington National Cemetery

**1949** Gilmer-Aikin Laws reform educational practices in Texas

**1950-53** The Korean War; the UN, led by the U.S., fights to save South Korea from the invading communists

**1950** *Sweatt vs. Painter*; landmark U.S. Supreme Court decision rules that a separate Black Law School at the University of Texas fails to measure up; Sweatt enrolls at the beginning of the 1950-51 school year

1952 Puerto Rico becomes 1st U.S. commonwealth

1952 Texas-born Dwight D. Eisenhower elected 34th President (Republican)

**1953** A tornado hits downtown Waco; kills 114 people and leaves 597 injured

**1953** President Eisenhower signs a bill that restores the Tidelands to the states; the Tidelands controversy involves the title to 2.4 million acres of submerged lands in the Gulf of Mexico between low tide and three leagues (10.35 miles) from shore; Texas had reserved this land when it became a state in 1845, and its ownership of the land was recognized by the United States in the annexation treaty; when oil was discovered in the Gulf, the federal government moved to seize the Tidelands of Texas.

**1953** Falcon Dam on the Rio Grande River south of Laredo is dedicated by Mexican President Adolfo Ruiz Cortines and President Dwight D. Eisenhower

**1953** Oveta Culp Hobby becomes the first secretary of the new Department of Health, Education, and Welfare

1954 Apr 9 Dennis Quaid, actor, is born in Houston

**1954** *Brown vs. Board of Education of Topeka*; the Supreme Court unanimously agrees that segregated schools are "inherently unequal" and must be abolished.

**1954** *Hernández vs. the State of Texas*; the first Mexican-American civil-rights case decided by the United States Supreme Court; Chief Justice Earl Warren delivers the unanimous opinion of the court that Mexican-American exclusion from jury duty in Texas is unconstitutional

**1954** Operation Wetback begins; a military-like operation of search and seizure of all illegal immigrants from the Southwest, the INS claims as many as 1,300,000 illegal aliens are forced to leave by the operation

**1954** General Motors opens an assembly plant in Arlington; the facility has expanded seven times to 250 acres; the 27 GM plants in Texas \$4 billion economic impact on the state

**1955** Belaire School in San Angelo is the first air-conditioned public elementary school in the nation; with eight air-conditioned classrooms

**1955-56** Montgomery Bus Boycott begins when Mrs. Rosa Parks, an African-American seamstress, is arrested in Montgomery, Alabama, for not standing and letting a white bus rider take her seat; this incident ignites the Civil Rights Movement

**1956** Mansfield School Desegregation Incident; Mansfield school district is the first in Texas ordered by a federal court to desegregate, angry mobs of 300 to 400 whites ring Mansfield High School and prevent the enrollment of the three black students; Governor Allan Shivers defies the federal court order by dispatching Texas Rangers to uphold segregation; U.S. President Dwight D. Eisenhower does not intervene (see 1957)

**1956** Henry B. Gonzalez from San Antonio elected to the Texas Senate; first Mexican-American in modern times

**1957** Hurricane Audrey slams coastal Texas and Louisiana; more than 500 people are killed

**1957** Canyon Dam, 30 miles NE of San Antonio, is completed

1957 A federal court orders integration of Little Rock, Arkansas public schools; Governor Orval Faubus sends his National Guard to physically prevent nine African American students from enrolling at all-white Central High School; President Dwight Eisenhower responds by sending federal troops to protect the students; the crisis shows America that the president can and will enforce court ordered integration with federal troops

**1958** The Van Cliburn International Piano Competition begins in Fort Worth

1959 Fidel Castro leads a communist revolution with Russian support that takes Cuba

1959 The last civil war veteran, Walter Williams, dies at age 117 in Houston

**1959** Statehood for Alaska and Hawaii; Alaska displaces Texas as the largest state; The state song, *Texas, Our Texas*, is changed; phrase "largest and grandest, withstanding every test" is changed to "mightiest and grandest"

1960 John F. Kennedy is elected 35th President (Democrat)

**1960** The Dallas Cowboys football team is formed with Tom Landry as head coach

**1961** The reverse side of the Texas Seal is adopted; the Daughters of the Texas Republic proposed the design

**1961** Henry B. Gonzalez from San Antonio elected first Mexican-American U.S. Congressman from Texas; retired in 1998 after 37 years on Capitol Hill

**1961** John Tower is elected the first Republican U.S. Senator from Texas since 1870

1961 Jul 23 Woody Harrelson, actor, is born in Midland

1961 Berlin Wall built by communist East Germany to stop its citizens from escaping to freedom

**1962** NASA opens the Manned Spacecraft Center in Houston; from the early Gemini, Apollo and Skylab projects to today's Space Shuttle and Space Station Programs, the Center leads NASA's efforts in space exploration

**1962** César Chávez organizes the National Farm Workers Association (NFWA) in Delano, California

1963 Martin Luther King leads record Civil Rights march on Washington

**1963** President John F. Kennedy is assassinated in Dallas; Texas Governor John Connolly is wounded; Vice-President Lyndon B. Johnson is sworn in as the 36th President of the United States

1963 Jack Ruby shoots Lee Harvey Oswald, accused assassin of President Kennedy, at Dallas Police Department

**1964** Civil Rights Act of 1964 ends legal segregation in the U.S.

**1964** 24th Amendment - Voting Rights

**1964** Lyndon B. Johnson elected President of the United States in a landslide

1964 Martin Luther King wins Nobel Peace Prize

1965 Historic Civil rights march from Selma to Montgomery, Alabama

**1965** Houston Astrodome opens

**1965** Voting Rights Act enacted; empowers the federal government to oversee voter registration and elections; bans discriminatory literacy tests and expands voting rights for non-English speaking Americans

1966 Charles Joseph Whitman, shoots and kills 16 people and wounds 31 people from the University of Texas tower; one of the worst mass murders in U.S. history

**1966** Barbara Jordan is elected to the state Senate and Curtis Graves and Joseph Lockridge to the state House; they are the first African-Americans since 1898 to serve in the Texas legislature

**1966-67** The Starr County Strike; a bitter dispute between farm workers and owners of melon farms in the lower Rio Grande valley; picketing and arrests begin and the farm workers' union marches all the way to the state capital in Austin

**1967** A record 232 tornados touch down in Texas this year; a record 67 in one day on Sept.30,1967

**1968** Mexican American Legal Defense and Educational Fund (MALDEF) is founded in San Antonio and begins to represent Mexican Americans in civil-rights lawsuits

**1968** World's Fair in San Antonio

**1968** Martin Luther King murdered in Memphis, Tennessee; resulting in riots in 125 cities nationwide

1968 Robert F. Kennedy, U.S. Senator and presidential candidate, is murdered while campaigning in California

1968 Richard Nixon elected 37th President (Republican)

**1969** Texas Legislature passes 5 bills that dismantle Jim Crow laws and end legal segregation in Texas

1970 Kent State shootings; 5 college students killed by Ohio National Guard at rally protesting the Viet Nam War

1971 26th Amendment; Voting age begins at 18

**1971** Sharpstown Stock-Fraud Scandal; changes the face of Texas politics when almost all incumbents are voted out of office, including Governor Preston Smith; investigations charge that state officials had made profitable quick-turnover bank-financed stock purchases in return for the passage of legislation desired by the financier, Houston businessman Frank W. Sharp

**1971** *Cisneros v. Corpus Christi ISD*, is the first case to extend the U.S. Supreme Court's *Brown v. the Board of Education* decision (1954) to Mexican Americans to prohibit segregation by recognizing Hispanics as an identifiable minority group

**1971** The Washington Senators baseball team moves to Texas and become the Texas Rangers

**1971 Sept. 18** Lance Armstrong, nicknamed "Toro de Texas" or "Texas Bull" is born in Plano; He beats cancer and goes on to win the Tour de France multiple times.

1972 President Nixon visits China

1972 Watergate break-in discovered; it will eventually result in the resignation of President Nixon

**1972** Barbara Jordan Elected to U.S. Congress - First African American from Texas - First African American Woman from Deep South

**1973** Dallas-Fort Worth International Airport opens

**1973** The Manned Spacecraft Center in Houston is renamed the Lyndon B. Johnson Space Center

1973 Last U.S. troops leave Vietnam

1973 Senate Watergate hearings

1973-74 OPEC (the Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries) Oil Embargo; as a result of Arab-Israeli border conflicts, Arab oil producing countries impose an oil embargo on the U.S.; while increasing prices by 70% to America's Western European allies; this leads to more oil exploration and price controls in the U.S.

**1974** Mexican American Women's National Association (MANA) established to enhance the status of Mexican American women

1974 Richard Nixon resigns Presidency; Gerald Ford succeeds as 38th President

**1976** Reclusive Texan billionaire Howard Hughes dies in route to Houston

**1776** Barbara Jordan is chosen as keynote speaker for the Democratic National Convention (1976 and 1992); she became the first black and the first woman to deliver a key note address to any major political convention

1976 James (Jimmy) Carter elected 39th President (Democrat)

1979 Three Mile island nuclear plant accident

**1979** The tanker *Burmah Agate* collides with the freighter *Mimosa* off Galveston Bay and spills 2.6 million gallons of oil

1979-81 Iran Hostage Crisis

1980 The federal Tribal Colleges Act establishes a community college on every Indian reservation, which allows young people to go to college without leaving their families

**1980** *Ruiz vs. Estelle*; a 1980 case brought by inmate David Ruiz through which William Wayne Justice, Senior Judge of the U.S. District Court assumes decades-long control over the Texas prison system, stripping the Texas Legislature of its authority; first filed in 1972, it becomes the longest-running prisoners' lawsuit in U.S. history

1980 Mt. St. Helens erupts in Washington State

**1980** Ronald Reagan elected 40th US President (Republican); Texan George H.W. Bush Vice-President

1981 Texas state economy booms as wellhead oil prices peak

1981 Iran hostages released

1981 President Reagan shot by John Hinckley; the President will fully recover

**1981** First space shuttle flight

**1982** Texas reinstates the death penalty; leads the U.S. in executions ever since, averaging more than 15 per year

**1983** Hurricane Alicia slams into the Texas coast; leaves 22 dead and causes more than \$1 billion in damage

1983 Car bomb destroys U.S. Marine barracks in Beirut

1983 Martin Luther King honored with federal holiday

**1984** Educational Reform Act; Dallas billionaire H. Ross Perot heads a select committee to formulate school reform; House Bill 72 places guidelines on teacher certification and initiates competency testing; the reforms also adopt the "no-pass, no-play" rule, which prohibited students who scored below 70 in any class from participating in any extracurricular activities

**1984** Michael Dell, age 19, a student at the University of Texas, founds Dell Computer in Austin

**1985** 137 people are killed when a Delta Air Lines jumbo jet crashes at Dallas-Fort Worth International Airport  
**1987** Texas Courts uphold an \$8.5 billion fine imposed on Texaco for the illegal takeover of Getty Oil  
**1987** A deadly tornado devastates the small town of Saragosa in West Texas, killing 30 people and injuring 162  
 1987 Texas' Hispanic voter registration is 47.2 percent of the voting-age population or 15 percent of the state's registered voters; 1,572 of the nation's 3,314 Hispanic officeholders are Texans  
**1988** Texan George H.W. Bush elected 41th U.S. President (Republican),  
**1991** Persian Gulf War  
 1992 Bill Clinton Elected President  
**1993** NAFTA Approved; the North American Free Trade Agreement calls for the gradual removal of tariffs and other trade barriers on most goods produced and sold in North America; it effects Canada, Mexico, and the U.S.  
**1993** Texas Horned Lizard, known as the "horny toad" is adopted by the legislature as the Texas State Reptile  
**1993** Texas Red Grapefruit is adopted by the legislature as the Texas State Fruit  
**1993** ATF Agents raid the ranch of the Branch Davidian sect under David Koresh in Waco; a 51-day standoff begins; it ends badly as fire destroys the structure and dozens of people are killed  
**1995** The Texas Longhorn is adopted by the legislature as the Texas State Large Animal  
**1995** The founder of her fan club shoots Mexican-American singer Selena Quintanilla Perez, age 23, to death in Corpus Christi; Yolanda Saldivar is subsequently convicted of murder and sentenced to life in prison  
**1996** *Hopwood vs. Texas*; U.S. 5th Circuit Court overturns affirmative action in higher education in Texas and bans race-based admissions in Texas; the case began in 1992, when Cheryl Hopwood was denied admission to the Univ. of Texas Law School  
**1997** A rare "F-5" 265 mph tornado cuts swath from Austin to Waco; kills 27 people in Williamson Co.  
 1997 King of the Hill debuts on the Fox network; telling the daily life of Texan, Hank Hill, in Arlen, Texas  
**1997** The \$83 million George Bush Presidential Library and Museum is dedicated on Texas A&M University at College Station  
**1997** The Texas Sweet Onion is adopted by the legislature as the Texas State Vegetable  
**1998** A jury in Amarillo, Texas, rejects an lawsuit brought by Texas cattlemen who blamed Oprah Winfrey's talk show for a price fall after a segment on food safety that included a discussion about mad-cow disease  
**1999** In College Station, Texas, a pyramid of logs for the traditional football bonfire collapses and kills 12 students and injures 27 more  
**2000** Texas Governor George W. Bush is elected President  
**2001** The Texas Pecan Nut is adopted by the legislature as the State Health Nut  
**2001 September 11** One of the most shocking days in American history; armed terrorists hijack four passenger jets and use them as weapons against the United States  
**2002** Military operations begin in Afghanistan to combat terrorism  
**2003** Texan U.S. General Tommy leads troops into Iraq  
 2004 George W. Bush is re-elected President

Friends,

Please call or drop me an Email if there are any events, people or places that should be added to this timeline.

Thanks, Phil Heineman

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The **Texas History Timelines** are printed on the back of the laminated and loose *Lone Star State Flag Prints*.

A **Texas Timeline** on the reverse of the large print features portraits and photos of forty prominent people that helped to shape Texas and the United States. On the back side of the small print is an informative tribute, the **Sam Houston Timeline**. Pictured on the following page are Economy Classroom Frames. They are laminated prints mounted on foam core. The metal frames match the color of the lettering, Gold (US), Silver (TX) and Black (Timelines). The economy frames each cost only — Large \$40; Small \$20. Laminated Prints each cost — Large \$15; Small \$6. Loose Prints each cost — Large \$12; Small \$5.