

Lecture 4.2

“Remember the Alamo”

- As word of the Texas revolution spread across America, many famous Americans like **Jim Bowie**, **Davy Crockett**, and **Sam Houston** went to join in the fight.
- Many Tejanos also joined the revolution. The most famous was **José Navarro** and **Juan Seguín**.
- In January of **1836**, Texas officially declared its independence from Mexico.
- In February, in the first major clash of the war, Santa Anna and the Mexican army defeated a sizable number of Texans at the famous **Battle of the Alamo**.
- One month later, Mexican troops executed 425 Texan prisoners at the **Goliad Massacre**.
- The losses at the Alamo, and Goliad galvanized the Texas revolutionaries, and all across Texas **“Remember the Alamo”** became the battle cry of the revolution.
- After Goliad, and the Alamo, Sam Houston led the Texans on a fighting retreat which allowed them to reform their army.
- In April, the reformed Texan army surprised the Mexican army at **San Jacinto**, and decimated Santa Anna’s command.
- Santa Anna himself was captured, and in order to secure his own release, the Mexican president secretly agreed to recognize Texas as an independent nation.
- The **Treaties of Velasco** ended the fighting, the Mexican army returned to Mexico...
- ... and the Republic of Texas was born! Sam Houston was chosen as the first president.
- Almost immediately after gaining their independence, the people of Texas began to talk about joining the U.S.
- They were wise to seek an alliance with the U.S. For eight years the Mexican army sent expeditions into Texas to test it’s military capabilities. Mexico definitely wanted Texas back one day!
- In Washington D.C. many American politicians began to discuss whether they should try to annex Texas.



Who is this?

Personal Reflection:

annex:
to acquire land by mutual agreement

Lecture 4.4

War with Mexico

- **1846:** Mexico and the U.S. are on the brink of war because ...
 - (a) Mexico is upset that the U.S. annexed Texas
 - (b) many Americans think that Mexico is standing in the way of our manifest destiny
- That same year, President **James K. Polk** convinces Congress to declare war on Mexico.
- However, the nation as a whole, already divided by the issue of slavery, is split on whether there should be war.
- Seeing the opportunity to expand the “cotton kingdom” and further their wealth and political influence, most *Southern* states supported the war.
- Most *Northern* states opposed the war because they wanted the West kept open for wage labor and expansion of industry, or because they didn’t want slavery to expand.
- Once Congress declared war against Mexico, the U.S. military moved quickly to win the war.
- In **1847**, two American armies cut off California and New Mexico Territory from Mexico.
- At the same time, a combined navy-army force drove into, and captured, Mexico City.
- By **1848**, the war was over, and Mexico **ceded** California and New Mexico to the U.S.
- Importance of the Mexican-American War:
 - It was America’s second invasion of a foreign nation.
 - 1,700 U.S. soldiers die in combat; another 11,000 die from diseases like yellow fever
 - Over 20,000 Mexicans (mostly civilians) are killed.
 - The war “professionalized” the Army, and served as a training ground for a new generation of young career army officers like Robert E. Lee and Ulysses S. Grant.



Which branch of the U.S. military was created in 1834?

Personal Reflection:

cede:

to give up land as part of the terms of surrender in a war

Lecture 4.6

For God & Gold

The Mormons

- In **1830**, **Joseph Smith** founded the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints. The Latter Day Saints are more commonly known as the **Mormons**.
- The targets of religious persecution, the Mormons were forced to move from New York to Ohio ... then to Missouri ... and then again to Illinois.
- Smith was murdered in 1844, and three years later, the new church leader, **Brigham Young** decided to lead all 15,000 of the Mormons to a new home in the West.
- After a two year trip by foot and cart, the Mormons founded Salt Lake City in a territory that they called “**Deseret**”.
- In 1850, the U.S. govt. created the territory of Utah, even though the Mormon church refused to recognize U.S. authority in their land.
- For years, politicians in Washington compared Mormon **polygamy** to slavery, and the Army was even sent to Utah to “remind” the Mormon that they weren’t their own nation.
- The tension reached a peak in 1857 when a group of Utah militiamen killed over 100 non-Mormon pioneers at the **Mountain Meadow Massacre**.

Gold Fever

- In 1848, a workman named James Marshall discovered gold while digging a ditch at Sutter’s Mill near Sacramento, CA.
- Within days, word went out that there was gold in California!!
- In **1849**, 80,000 people flooded into California seeking their fortunes.
- These “**49ers**” came from everywhere: the U.S., Europe, Australia, China, South America. Even runaway slaves came west during the California gold rush.
- Very few people struck it rich in California, but the Gold Rush did attract people, and by **1850** the population was large enough that Congress made CA the 31st state.



What do the “B” and “Y” stand for in BYU?

Personal Reflection:

polygamy:
the practice of a man having more than one wife