

Chapter 6 – Spanish Settlement

Spain Responds to a French Retreat

Texas lay between French Louisiana and Spanish Texas

French Explorer La Salle built Fort St. Louis in 1685. The fort was not successful.

1689 – de Leon found Fort St. Louis and destroyed it.

De Leon explored the rest of East Texas. He met the Caddoes and called them Tejas.

1690 – San Francisco de los Tejas, 1st mission in East Texas
*Santisimo Nombre de Maria, 2nd mission in East Texas

Domingo Teran de los Rios- built 8 more missions and became governor of Tejas.

Failed Missions

1691- San Francisco de los Tejas
*Went to shambles but was not a total failure
*Drought and disease killed the settlers

1693- Spanish lost interest
*Less money for support
*No more French threat

Return of the French

1699- French set up trading post closer to Texas and Father Hidalgo worried.

1713- Hidalgo's letter- asked Governor Cadillac to send French Priest;

Spanish government did not know of request.

1714- French enter Texas, Priest St. Denis

St. Denis not only crossed into Spanish Territory but brought goods to trade, both against the law. He was arrested and sent to Mexico City. St. Denis pleaded his case and set free.

Spain had their doubts about the French, and the Viceroy opened more missions in Texas.

1716- Ramon expedition,
*Mission: 1st – Reopen San Francisco de los Tejas
*Built 6 missions

Father Antonio de Buenaventura y Olivares and Martin de Alarcon were in charge of getting supplies to new missions

1718- Mission San Antonio de Valero was established as the midpoint settlement

Presidio San Antonio de Bexar was established.

- *Families settled around the presidio.

- *San Antonio de Bexar became the most important Spanish colony in Texas and later the city of San Antonio.

Alarcon established another mission at the former site of Fort St. Louis.

Frightened Spaniards

New missions were not successful.

1719- War between French and Spanish in Europe

French attack the Spanish and capture the mission near Nacogdoches

- *Scared, all Spaniards retreated to La Villa at San Antonio de Bexar.

- *Known as the “Chicken War”

- *Spain had looked foolish surrendering Texas to 7 French soldiers and vow to take back Texas

Spain Returns with Vengeance

Marques de San Miguel de Aguayo took charge to reestablish Spanish authority.

- *Made governor and captain general of the province of Texas

- *Paid the cost of the expedition

- *Built Mission San Jose y San Miguel de Aguayo- became the most successful of all Spanish missions in Texas

Denis agreed to leave East Texas

All 6 abandoned missions are reopened after the “Chicken War”

Mission Los Adaes was built and became the capital of the province of Texas. It was Spain’s “eyes and ears” for French activity.

New presidio built to show Spanish force.

Spain now had 10 missions and 4 presidios to keep Texas secured.

New Colonist Arrive

1719- Aguayo asked for 400 settlers

- *12 years passed before all details were worked out

- *Only 55 people were sent (15 families)

- *Colonist formed a church, village government, and built **1st school in Texas**

Spain Reexamines

Cutbacks on cost

- *Combine East Texas missions
- *Instead they reduced number of military force - missions were left vulnerable to attacks. (Apache threat)
- *Missions moved

French No Longer a Threat

Arroyo Hondo (a stream) became the unofficial boundary between Spanish Texas and French Louisiana

French continued trade with Caddoes and opened trade with Wichitas, Tawakonis, Orcoquizas, and Bidais

Spain ended French trade in Texas

Northward Expansion

Since the French were no longer a threat, Spain could expand its northern boundaries

There was a new threat

- *The Native American groups in the north and west challenged the Spaniards for control.

Tonkawas needed protection from the Comanche.

- *Reluctant to ask Spain but had no other choice

Spain's Opportunity to expand

- *Built 3 missions and a Presidio

Expansion Failure

- *Priest of mission and commander of presidio began having disagreements
- *Attack by the Apache all but destroyed San Xavier

Expanding Spain's Control

Mid-1700s Spain began last expansion with two goals

- *Run French traders out of Texas
- * Secure Spain's claim on S. Texas

Expansion led by Count Jose Escandon

- *3000 settlers, soldiers and priest to settle land between Rio Grande and Nueces Rv.
- * 15 missions
- *20 towns- one is Laredo
- *profitable ranches (some still in S. Texas today)

Trouble in the West

Unsuccessful northward expansion, Spain moves northwest

- *establish Presidio San Luis de las Amarillas and Mission San Saba de la Santa Cruz (San Saba)
- *Friends with Lipan Apache to protect against Comanche and Wichitas
- *Comanche trick the Spaniards and burn the mission

Spaniards Seek Revenge — More Problems

Colonel Ortiz Parilla led over 500 to attack and punish Comanche

- *fought with force, but Parilla was defeated and abandoned Mission San Saba
- *Missions moved south but later abandoned

Rubi Inspects Spanish Territory

Rubi did not like what he saw

- *Recommended all Spanish settlements in E. Texas be moved to San Antonio
- *Moved the capital from Los Adaes to San Antonio
- *Apache the real threat...It would be wise to form an alliance with the Comanche and Wichita

Spain makes changes

Rubi recommendations accepted

- *Not easy to carry out
- *More missions abandoned

Apache Troubles Continue

- *Still causing problems
- *Comanche declared war on the Lipan Apache
- *Lipan Apache leaders came to Spain seeking peace agreement

