

The Road to Revolution

The Revolution Begins

In January 1835, Santa Anna decided to strengthen his control over Texas. He sent more Mexican troops and tax collectors into Texas. Once again, there was conflict between Texans and Mexican officials at Anahuac.

New Conflict at Anahuac

The commander of the customs house in Anahuac was a Mexican captain, Antonio Tenorio. Tenorio arrested a merchant, Andrew Briscoe, for refusing to pay custom duties to the Mexican government. A meeting was held at San Felipe de Austin to talk about the arrest at Anahuac. William B. Travis organized a group of people who wanted to take immediate action in response to the arrest. Travis and about 25 supporters marched on the customs house demanding the surrender of Tenorio. Tenorio agreed to lay down his arms and leave Texas. As a result of Travis' actions, the official in charge of the province of Texas, General Martin Perfecto de Cos, was angered. Cos demanded that the Texans arrest Travis however even though many Texans disagreed with the actions at Anahuac, they were not willing to turn their friends over to Cos.

The Consultation

Reports that General Cos was bringing in more troops upset the Texans even further. They decided to call a meeting to discuss matters. They called the convention the Consultation. Two groups held different ideas about the coming Consultation. One faction, or group, argued that Texans should remain calm. This "peaceful" faction wished to keep peaceful relations with Mexico. Another group, the "war" faction argued for Texas independence from Mexico. William Travis and William Wharton led this group. While the debate over the Consultation continued, Stephen F. Austin returned from imprisonment in Mexico. The people of Texas looked to Austin for guidance. Austin declared his support for the Consultation. He explained that the people of Texas must stand against the dictatorship of Santa Anna and prepare for the army of General Cos.

The Battle of Gonzales

Two weeks before the Consultation was to begin, Texans and Mexicans clashed at Gonzales. The Battle of Gonzales took place on October 2, 1835. It was the first battle of the Texas Revolution. At the Battle of Gonzales, the Texans obtained a valuable brass cannon. It was loaded on a wagon and loaded with iron balls and pieces of chain. Flying above the cannon was a white flag bearing the words "Come and Take It". The Texans had challenged Mexican military authority at the Battle of Gonzales. Most citizens in Texas now realized that there was no turning back. A war had begun.