

# We won, but now what?

 After gaining independence, Texans faced the challenge of building a new nation



President Sam Houston



Vice President Mirabeau B. Lamar

## Trouble with the Army

- Many soldiers joined too late and did not get the chance to fight in the revolution
  - These people wanted action
  - Called for an invasion of Mexico
- President Houston sent all 600 soldiers home and never called them to duty



## What about the Indians?



 Indians resented the newcomers and began a series of raids that lasted several years



 President Houston called on the Texas Rangers to patrol central Texas

Lamar was not in favor of negotiating with the Indians

## Poor Sam

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

# Texas gets a new President

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



President Mirabeau B. Lama

#### Lamar

- · Opposed annexation
- Moved the capital to Austin
- Reversed Houston's policy toward Native Americans
  - Ordered the Texas Army to attack the Cherokees and forced them out of Texas
- · Rebuilt the Navy

- Lamar is known as the <u>"Father of Education"</u> in Texas
  - Congress set aside land in each Texas county for public schools
  - Congress reserved public land in central Texas for 2 universities





# Santa Fe Expedition

- Lamar sent an expedition to Santa Fe, New Mexico with orders to control the region and begin trade with New Mexico
- The Mexican army forced the Texans to surrender and marched them 1,000 miles to Mexico City.

  Many died on the way or died in the Mexican prison

  The few that survived were eventually released
- · This angered the Mexicans



#### Poor Lamar

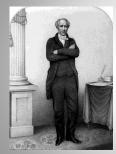
- Lamar caused Texas to sink deeper in debt
  - Spent \$2.5 million on the Indian wars
  - Bought several ships for the Navy
  - Issued redbacks, but they shrank in value
     Redbacks: Additional money issued to help ease the large public debt
    - A paper dollar in Texas at the end of Lamar's term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







## Sam Houston is Re-elected



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

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