With perhaps 2,000 men-- though American reports double the number-- Armijo seems to have marched out to Apache Canon with the avowed intention of meeting the enemy; but on the last day, in consequence of differences of opinion between the general and his officers, the former dismissed the auxiliaries to their homes, and with his presidial troops retreated to the south by way of Galisteo, near which point he left his cannon. Armijo was blamed by the many who were hostile to the invaders and who were ashamed to see their country thus surrendered without a struggle....

Captain Emory on the 19th selected a site for a fort, and four days later work was begun on Fort Marcy, an adobe structure commanding the city from an adjoining hill. The animals were sent to the region of Galisteo to a grazing camp guarded by a detachment under Lieutenant-Colonel Ruff. [Bancroft, Hubert Howe]

Overview: Galisteo

After the reconquest, many of the Tano pueblos in the Galisteo basin were abandoned, and Governor de Vargas seized the remaining farms. In 1709, the Spanish government resettled the area of Galisteo with genizaros, or Christianized Indians. The genizaros continued raising crops and livestock, and trading with the comancheros, or buffalo hunters, of the Plains. Comanche attacks and smallpox devastated the area during the 18th century, but de Anza's treaty with the Comanches allowed settlers--mostly Hispanic farmers and ranchers-- to return to the area by the early 19th century. [Bureau of Land Management, New Mexico State Office]
Quote: I settled the old pueblo of Galisteo with one hundred and fifty Christian Indians of the Tano nation who were found dispersed since the year 1702 and living in other Pueblos. They are very happy in their pueblo entitled Santa Maria de Gracia de Galisteo, and it has been completely rebuilt and also the church and convento, but there is no minister, church bells, or ornaments.
--Governor Francisco de Cuerbo y Valdes, 1709 [Bureau of Land Management, New Mexico State Office]

Links:

2: Vegas

1846

General Kearny first declared New Mexico to be part of the United States in a rooftop address over the plaza in Las Vegas. The alcade and the captains of the militia unhappily swore an oath of allegiance to the United States and the Army of the West proceeded to Tecolote and San Miguel without the battle they were expecting, and General Kearny repeated this speech. [Emory, William H]

Quote: (15 August 1846) Mr. Alcade, and people of New Mexico: I have come amongst you by the orders of my government, to take possession of your country, and extend over it the laws of the United States. We consider it, and have done so for some time, a part of the territory of the United States. We come amongst you as friends-- not as enemies; as protectors-- not as conquerors. We come among you for your benefit-- not for your injury.

Henceforth I absolve you from your allegiance to the Mexican government, and from all obedience to General Armijo. He is no longer your governor; (great sensation.) I am your governor. I shall not expect you to take up arms and follow me, to fight your own people, who may oppose me; but I now tell you, that those who remain peaceably at home, attending to their crops and their herds, shall be protected by me, in their property, their persons, and their religion; and not a pepper, not an onion, shall be disturbed and taken by my troops, without pay, or by the consent of the owner. But listen! he who promises to be quiet, and is found in arms against me, I will hang!

From the Mexican government you have never received protection. The Apaches and the Navajoes come down from the mountains and carry off your sheep, and even your women, whenever they please. My government will correct all this. It will keep off the Indians, protect you in your persons and property; and, I repeat again, will protect you in your religion. I know you are all great Catholics; that some of your priests have told you all sorts of stories-- that we should ill-treat your women, and brand them on the cheek as you do your mules on the hip. It is all false. My government respects your religion as much as the Protestant religion, and allows each man to worship his Creator as his heart tells him is best. Its laws protect the Catholic as well as the Protestant; the weak as well as the strong; the poor as well as the rich... There goes my army-- you see but a small portion of it; there are many more behind-- resistance is useless.
--General Stephen Watts Kearny. [Emory, William H]

Overview: Las Vegas

Residents in the 18th and 19th centuries called it Vegas (or Begas) de las Gallinas or simply La Gallinas, The Santa Fe Trail, the AT&SF railroad, and I-25 helped this cluster of ranchitos grow into today's city.

Images:

Man in Las Vegas driving a burro loaded with firewood

Links:
Quote: In the valley of Jemez there are seen the ruins of several villages; and in various sections of the country inhabited by the Navajo Indians still more extensive ruins are found. There is one feature connected with these ruined towns worthy of note, and that is the great scarcity of water near them. In some instances, the nearest water, at the present day, is several miles off, and difficult of access. This could not have been the case when these towns were peopled, as it is well known that nearness to water is the first consideration with all mankind in locating their habitations. We can come to no other conclusion, then, than that the springs and streams have dried up and ceased to flow since these villages were deserted. This would argue that the face of the country since that period has undergone great physical changes, of which there seems great probability, as exhibited by the traces of recent volcanic action in different parts of the country. [Davis, W.W.H.]

Overview: Jemez Pueblo

Jemez (from Ha'mish or Hae'mish, the Keresan name of the pueblo - Bandelier). A village on the north bank of the Jemez River, about 20 miles northwest of Bernalillo, New Mexico.

According to tradition the Jemez had their origin in the North, at a lagoon called Uabunatota (apparently identical with the shipapulima and Cibobe of other pueblo tribes), whence they slowly drifted into the valleys of the upper tributaries of the Rio Jemez - the Guadalupe and San Diego - where they resided in a number of villages, and finally into the sandy valley of the Jemez proper, where they now occupy, their habitat being bounded on the south by the range of the west division of the Rio Grande Keresan tribes - the Sia and Santa Ana.

Castañeda, the chronicler of Coronado's experience of 1541, speaks of 7 pueblos of the Jemez tribe in addition to 3 others in the province of Aguas Calientes, identified by Simpson with the Jemez Hot Springs region. Espejo in 1583 also mentions that 7 villages were occupied by the Jemez, while in 1598 Oñate heard of 11 but saw only 8.

...the Jemez were induced to abandon their pueblos one by one, until about the year 1622 they became consolidated into the two settlements of Gyusiwa and probably Astialakwa, mainly through the efforts of Fray Martin de Arvide. These pueblos are supposed to have been the seats of the missions of San Diego and San Joseph, respectively, and both contained chapels probably from 1618.

Astialakwa was permanently abandoned prior to the Pueblo Revolt of 1680, but in the meantime another pueblo (probably Potoqua) seems to have been established, which became the mission of San Juan de los Jemez.

About the middle of the 17th century the Jemez conspired with the Navajo against the Spaniards, but the outbreak plotted was repressed by the hanging of 29 of the Jemez....

When Vargas came in 1692 the Jemez were found on the mesa in a large pueblo, but they were induced to descend and to promise the Spaniards their support.

The Jemez, however, failed to keep their word, but waged war during 1693 and 1694 against their Keresan neighbors on account of their fidelity to the Spaniards....In July 1694, he [Vargas] again went to Jemez with 120 Spaniards and some allies from Santa Ana and Sia. The mesa was stormed, and after a desperate engagement, in with 84 natives were killed, the pueblo was captured. In the month following, Vargas (after destroying this village, another on a mesa some distance below, and one built by their Santo Domingo allies 3 leagues north) returned to Santa Fe with 361 prisoners and a large quantity of stores.

From this time on, the only then existing pueblo of the Jemez reoccupied was San Diego, or Gyusiwa, which was inhabited until 1696, when the second revolt occurred, the Indians killing their missionary and again fleeing to the mesas... but in June of the year mentioned they were repulsed by a small detachment of Spaniards...

The defeated Jemez this time fled to the Navaho country, where they remained several years, finally returning to their former home and constructing the present village, called by them Walatoa, "Village of the Bear."

In 1728, 108 of the inhabitants died of pestilence. In 1782 Jemez was made a visita of the mission of Sia. [Hodge, Frederick Webb]

07 October 1971:

Quote: During the expansion of the American frontier the Indian was always in the way... they moved him out of the way, transported him away from his natural home ground... and on the way they made him forced him to forget his culture, he lost his language and his culture and what little he had left he practiced it, maybe wherever he was moved to... and so they don't have all of what they had originally and just about every Indian nation had a conflict with the American government one way or another, everybody had it. they lost, all of them lost a good bit of their land except the pueblos.
We never had any conflict with the American government because we were first under the care of the Spanish government and then the Mexican government and then after the Mexican American War the Guadalupe Hidalgo Treaty made it possible or kept the American government from doing what they did to other Indian tribes.

See, Guadalupe Hidalgo Treaty granted that we lived as we always have. The American Government does not interfere with us... and because of our relationship with the Spanish for so long since 1600... more or less, let's say, peacefully.... although there were some problems before 1680... after the revolt or after 1692 and very possibly, let's say, 1700... there was relatively peace and little more understanding between the pueblos and the Spanish... which again led to the pueblo peoples' displeasure of the Navajos or Apaches.... or even the Kiowa and Comanche because those were nomadic Indian who raided the pueblos who the pueblos were then forced to be in alliance with the Spanish. Therefore, the Spanish begin to live with the pueblos very closely as far as the, getting equal voting rights... and everything about the pueblos and the Spanish was equal... a bill was passed at one time denying Indians to buy liquor but that bill said, but not the pueblo Indians that live among us, because they were equal to the Spanish.

And we were not considered Indians until 1912... pueblos because we had lived with the Spanish people called that, Barbarios... barbarians... and we were, pueblos, Indios de los Pueblos... Indians of the Towns. Therefore, you know our living styles were closer together... in fact it is proved that these two groups developed... you know, this is what we have today, native food, what most people call "mexican food," which is a combination of pueblo and Spanish.

....What we say also is that we benefitted by Spain losing some of their early battles you know, in Europe... because during all the English Spanish wars, you know they were so, all their attention was there and they more or less neglected the colonies out here and that was our good luck because we almost converted the Spanish colonies to the pueblo life.

But this is the system that we both have you know when Mexico took over... you know... New Mexico life I guess you can call it... and Mexico took over after the Spanish government was unable to do much in this area... and Mexican government took over and they didn't do any more than take administrative control.. and things were status quo and I don't think they have brought about any improvements and I don't think that they took anything away either.

But these are things that was in favor of the pueblos the fact that Spain was involved in their wars in Europe,...and we were able to , you know, adjust our lives to live with the Spanish.

--Joe Sando, Jemez. Margaret Szasz, interviewer. [University of New Mexico, Department of History]

Images:

Ruins of the Jemez Church of San Diego at Gyusiwa

Links:
Office of State Historian: N Scott Momaday on Jemez --
http://www.newmexicohistory.org/filedetails_docs.php?fileID=1608

4: Ruins of Pecos

1857

Quote: As we approached the ruins of the ancient town of Pecos, a large, fat fellow, mounted on a mule, came towards us at full speed, and extending his hand to the general, congratulated him on the arrival of himself and his army. He said, with a roar of laughter, "Armijo and his troops have gone to hell, and the Canon is all clear." This was the alcade of the settlement, two miles up the Pecos from the ruins, where we encamped, 15 3/4 miles from our last camp, and two miles from the road.

Pecos, once a fortified town, is built on a promontory or rock, somewhat in the shape of a foot. Here burned,
until within seven years, the eternal fires of Montezuma, and the remains of the architecture exhibit, in a 
prominent manner, the engraftment of the Catholic church upon the ancient religion of this country. At one 
end of the short spur forming the terminus of the promontory, are the remains of the "estuffa," with all its 
parts distinct; at the other are the remains of the Catholic church, both showing the distinctive marks and 
emblems of the two religions. The fires from the "estuffa" burned and sent their incense through the same 
altars from which was preached the doctrine of Christ. Two religions so utterly different in theory, were here, 
as in all Mexico, blended in harmonious practice until about a century since, when th etown was sacked by a 
band of Indians.

Amidst the havoc of plunder of the city, the faithful Indian managed to keep his fire burning in the "estuffa"; 
and it was continued till a few years since-- the tribe became almost extinct. Their devotions rapidly 
diminished their numbers, until they became so few as to be unable to keep their immense estuffa (forty feet 
inch diameter) replenished, when they abandoned the place and joined a tribe of the original race over the 
mountains, about sixty miles south. There, it is said, to this day they keep up their fire, which has never yet 
been extinguished. [Emory, William H]

Overview: Pecos Pueblo

Thanks to its propitious location at the nexus between the Rio Grande pueblos and the buffalo-rich plains 
tribes, for centuries the Towa-speaking Pecos controlled trade, and became one of the richest and most 
powerful pueblos. Early Spanish explorers quickly ran into conflicts with the pueblo's powerful leaders. Disease, 
particularly smallpox, ultimately decimated the population- mostly adults, as many children had been 
vaccinated- in the early 19th century. A few survivors resettled with the Jemez (possibly in 1838), bringing 
their important fetishes, societies, and patron saints.

Today, the National Park Service manages the mission and the Pueblo ruins as a national historic site. Visitors 
can tour the ruins and learn more about Pueblo and mission life in the visitor center.

The ruins of Cicúique are still to be seen at the site where Alvarado visited it, close by the modern town of 
Pecos. This is one of the most historic spots in the Southwest, for in every era since it was first seen by 
Alvarado as the guest of Bigotes, it has occupied a distinctive position in all the major developments of the 
region. It was the gateway for Pueblo Indians when they went buffalo hunting on the Plains; a two-way pass 
for barter and war between Pueblos and Plains tribes; a portal through the mountains for Spanish explorers, 
traders, and buffalo hunters; for the St. Louis caravan traders with Santa Fe; for pioneer Anglo-American 
settlers; for Spanish and Saxon Indian fighters; for Civil War armies; and for a transcontinental railroad 
passing through the Southwest.[bimsplit] Herbert E. Bolton, Coronado, Knight of Pueblos and Plains, 
1949 [Bolton, Herbert Eugene]

27 April 1968:

Quote: A: ... I do not have any story about Comanches attacking the Zia Pueblo.

Q: But all three of the other [Apache, Navajo and Ute] did?

A: Yes, especially what we heard about Pecos Indians. When the Pecos are still at their, living at Pecos the 
Comanches used to make war on them and there is a story about them in the Zia Pueblo.

Q: About the Pecos?

A: About Pecos, yes.

Q: Is it, the way that we hear it is that one of the reason Pecos was abandoned was because of the 
Comanches, is this, does this fit the Zia story?

A: Ues, they have something a story something like that. That the Pecos warriors or the Pecos Indians could 
no longer protect themselves form Comanches and they had to abandon that village. And as you know as the 
story goes on part of them join the Northeen Indians and part of them join the Jemez.

Q: On their way from Pecos to Jemez, did they stop off at Zia for any length of time?

A: I think they did ask permission that the story tells us that they first came down to Santo Domingo but for 
some reason they were refused, they were not welcome there. And then they went to other pueblos then to 
Zia and of course zia I guess at that time was with many peopl at that time the Zia felt like they shouldn't 
allow any more Indians to that territory into that country there because their land become so small so they 
went on up on to Jemez. They even say that they offer many of their sacred things like masks of different 
kinds and other things what they use in their ceremonial doings.

Q: The Zia's turned it down?

A: The Zia's would offer, but I don't believe that they took any of their things from the Pecos.

Q: Did any of the Pecos people ever come to live at Zia after?

A: No.

Q: So Jemez is the only place where they lived?
A: Yes, Jemez is the only place where the Pecos, we know the Pecos Indians lived in Jemez only. 
--Anonymous informant, Zia Pueblo. Jerome J. Brody, interviewer. [University of New Mexico, Department of History]

Images:

Ruins of Pecos Mission: Emory  
Ruins of Pecos Pueblo  
Ruins of Pecos Mission: National Park Service

Links:
Kiva, Cross, and Crown -- National Park Service online book --  
http://www.nps.gov/history/history/online_books/kcc/index.htm
Pecos National Historic Park -- http://www.nps.gov/peco/

5: Santa Fe

1857

Quote: On leaving the narrow valley of the Santa Fé, which varies from a thousand feet to a mile or two in width, the country presents nothing but barren hills, utterly incapable, both from soil and climate, of producing anything useful...

The population of Santa Fe is from two to four thousand, and the inhabitants are, it is said, the poorest people of any town in the province. The houses are of mud bricks, in the Spanish style, generally of one story, and built on a square. The interior of the square is an open court, and the principal rooms open into it. They are forbidding in appearance from the outside, but nothing can exceed the comfort and convenience of the interior. The thick walls make them cool in summer and warm in winter. [Loyola, Sister Mary]

Quote: Santa Fe, or, as it sometimes is written, Santa Fe de San Francisco, the city of the Holy Faith of Saint Francis, is the capital of the Territory of New Mexico, and has been the seat of government of the province since the Spaniards first settled the country....

A good deal of uncertainty and doubt hang over the first settlement of Santa Fe both as to time and persons. I was informed by an old resident of the place that six men who belonged to one of the early Spanish expeditions into the Floridas, and which was wrecked and broken up, wandered, in pursuit of game and adventure, through what is now New Mexico, and were the ipjst Europeans who passed near where Santa, Fe stands....

The city occupies very nearly the same site as the ancient capital of the Pueblo Indian kingdom. Here upon the surrounding hills these people had constructed several of their quaint-looking buildings, and when the Spaniards first came to the country they found this point the centre of their strength. In the vicinity of the town pieces of painted pottery are still found, and parts of two of the old buildings are standing on the west side of the river, on the road leading to San Miguel. ...

Along the principal streets the houses have portales in front, after the plan of colonnades in some of the European cities. They are of very rough workmanship, but are an ornament to the place, and a convenience to the inhabitants, as they afford a sheltered promenade around the town in the rainy season. A row of portales extends around the public square. The Plaza is the main thoroughfare, as well as the centre of the business of the city, and fronting upon it are most of the stores and shops of the merchants and traders, and some of the public buildings. The public edifices in Santa Fe are few in number and of rude construction. The government palace, a long, low mud building, extends the entire north side of the Plaza, and is occupied by the officers of the territorial government, and is also made use of for purposes of legislation.

Near by, and on the street that leads out at the northeast corner of the square, is the court-house, where the United States, District, and Supreme Courts hold their sessions. On the south side, and opposite the palace, stands the old Mexican Military Chapel, now in the possession of the Catholic Church, and in which the bishop of the diocese officiates. About one square to the east of the Plaza is the parochial church, much improved within two years, and adjoining are convenient buildings for a boarding-school for boys; and on the north bank of the Rio Chiquito is situated the boarding and day school for girls, under the management of the Sisters of
Charity. The building is a large two-story house, and was erected a few years ago for a hotel. Both the institutions were established by Bishop Lamy, and are in as flourishing a condition as could be expected. They number forty or fifty pupils each, who are instructed in ancient and modern languages, music, drawing, and other branches of a useful and polite education.

Three years ago the American Baptist Board of Home Missions caused to be erected in Santa Fe a small but neat place of worship. It is a combination of the Gothic and Grecian styles, built of adobes, and is quite an ornament to the part of the town where it is situated. " The Odd Fellows have erected a new hall for their order, one square from the Plaza, in the street leading to San Miguel.

On a vacant lot north of the palace, and near the American Cemetery, a new state-house is in course of erection, at a cost of near a hundred thousand dollars, which, when completed, will make a handsome and imposing edifice, and of which the Territory stands in great need. Near by, and a little to the northeast, is the site of the new Penitentiary, also in course of erection.

Such an institution is badly wanted, and the country abounds with admirable subjects for it. On a hill to the northeast of the town are the ruins of old Fort Marcy, built during the late war with Mexico, but which has not been occupied since the conclusion of peace. In addition to the two churches already mentioned, there is one on the west side of the Río Chiquito, dedicated to Our Lady of Guadalupe, and a fourth on the street of San Miguel, in both of which service is held upon certain occasions.

The city also contains one hotel, one printing-office, some twenty-five stores, numerous grog-shops, two tailoring establishments, two shoe makers, one apothecary, a bakery, and two blacksmith’s shops. The present military garrison of the place is one company of the third United States Infantry, whose barracks are just in rear of the palace, and it is also the military head-quarters of the department.

-W. Davis was a U.S. attorney stationed in the Territory between 1853-1855 [Davis, W.W.H.]
Taos, giving in their allegiance and asking protection from the Indians. That portion of the country seems the best disposed toward the United States. A Taos man may be distinguished at once by the cordiality of his salutation. [Emory, William H]

Overview: Ranchos de Taos

For centuries, regular fairs in the Taos Valley attracted many merchants. New Mexican traders met with Comanches, Apaches, Utes, Navajos, and others who brought buffalo hides, deerskins, blankets, and captives to be sold or exchanged as slaves. They bartered horses, knives, guns, ammunition, blankets, aguardiente (alcohol), and small trinkets.

In the early 19th century, Taos drew French, English, and Anglo-American traders and trappers who initiated immigration from and trade with the United States.

Throughout colonial and territorial history, Taos was periodically a hotbed of rebellion. Taoseño rebel leaders overthrew the government three times: the Spanish government in 1680, the Mexican government in 1837, and the American government in 1847.

Images:

7: Fort Massachusetts

1853-1856

Quote: We harnessed up about sunrise, and drove eighteen miles to Rock Creek to graze and breakfast, but continued on to One Hundred and Ten before we halted to dine. Here flows a small stream of clear water, fringed on either side with cottonwood-trees, and close to the road were the log cabins of a settler with an Indian wife. In the timber were encamped a party of discharged soldiers on their way home to the States from Fort Massachusetts, in New Mexico. They had made their way alone across the prairies to this point without accident, partly on foot and partly mounted. They invited us to partake of their homely fare, which we declined, as our own pot was simmering over the fire, and, besides, we did not desire to reduce their scanty store, which was no more than enough to last them into the States. [Davis, W.W.H.]

Overview: Fort Massachusetts

Fort Massachusetts was established in 1852 to protect the San Luis Valley. The soldiers stationed there had a few engagements with nearby Ute and Jicarilla Apaches, but in 1856 the poorly-sited fort was abandoned and the troops moved to nearby Fort Garland.

Images:
Boundary with Kansas, Utah, California

1850

The stretch across the southern Rockies was left indefinite on this map, as the directions are slightly vague. This area was surveyed in 1868 and 1878. Today, New Mexico’s northern border goes straight across at the 37th North Parallel.

Quote: ...[from 38º North latitude); thence west with said parallel to the summit of the Sierra Madre; thence south with the crest of said mountains to the thirty-seventh parallel of north latitude; thence west with said parallel to its intersection with the boundary line of the state of California; thence with said boundary line to the place of beginning- be, and the same is hereby, erected into a temporary government, by the name of the territory of New Mexico. [Statutes at Large, vol. 9 (1851), pp. 446-458, 462-465, 467-68.]

International Border with Mexico

1853-1857

The Boundary Commission headed by Emory and Salazar completed an epicly-heroic task in surveying nearly 2000 miles of the Mexican-American border from the Gulf of Mexico to the Pacific Ocean.

They were hampered by bureaucratic inefficiency and difficulties in communicating with Washington, rough terrain, extreme weather, depredations by hostile tribes, and defective instruments (in the case of the Mexican survey team).

Emory clearly takes pride in the precision of his observations, and draws stark contrasts between the Commission he heads, and the original commission headed by John Bartlett, who purportedly spent a half a million dollars and still picked the wrong starting place on the Rio Grande, but whose widely-read tale of adventures in the southwest influenced popular opinion favorably towards him.

Quote: (15 August 1854) On the 15th August, 1854; I received from the President of the United States, through the Hon. Eobt. McClelland, Secretary of the Interior, the appointment of commissioner " to survey and mark out upon the land the dividing line between the United States and the republic of Mexico, concluded on the 30th of December, 1853, the ratifications of which were exchanged in the city of Washington on the 30th day of June, 1854." At the same time I received special instructions from the Secretary of the Interior, and a copy of the treaty... [Emory, William H]

Quote: On arriving at the cañon about seventy miles below El Paso, I left my escort and train, with directions to proceed slowly up the river, while I went to make such arrangements with the Mexican commissioner as would enable me to move the parties directly on the new line, and commence operations.

I accomplished this with the Mexican commissioner satisfactorily; although winter had now set in with severity, and the small-pox showed itself in our camp, and we had just accomplished a journey of sixteen hundred miles [on foot and mule], every assistant and man took the field as cheerfully as if he had just left his barracks.

Each one of the principal assistants was selected upon the estimate of his professional abilities, derived from personal knowledge, and I had no reason to make any changes of importance from the beginning to the end of the work. My own expectations, and I hope those of the government, were entirely fulfilled in the manner in which the work was accomplished.

Under all circumstances-- during the cold winter exposed upon the bare ground of the bleak plains, and in the summer to the hot sun blazing over the arid desert-- every order was executed with fidelity, and the work was completed within the time, and largely within the amount appropriated by Congress.

We passed the entire width of the continent and returned with the loss only of two men, and without losing a single animal, (except those worn out by service), or suffering a stampede by the Indians ; at the same time that our co-operators on the Mexican commission were twice robbed of every hoof by the Apaches, and extensive losses were sustained by other detachments of United States troops, and by our citizens traversing this region. [Emory, William H]
Line Agreed on by Condé and Bartlett

1850

The Treaty of Guadalupe Hidalgo stipulated that the boundary described in the treaty be surveyed, but the map on which the treaty was based (Disturnell, 1847) proved to be inaccurate, and resulted in another two laws; one, the Boundary Compromise of 1850, specified the starting point, which Commissioners Conde and Bartlett tried to identify. But surveys done for the purpose of finding a southern transcontinental railroad route showed that the U.S. needed land just a bit farther south, which the nation eventually purchased from Mexico in 1853, in what is called the Gadsden Purchase.

The first boundary commission, for which Emory served as the American astronomer, was tasked with setting that line at 36º30'. As Emory points out, Condé and Bartlett actually set the line 36º22', which required later correction (marked as treaty line on the map).

Quote: Under the date of December 3d, 1850, I spoke of the meetings of the Joint Commission, and of the difficulties that lay in the way of a speedy agreement as to the boundary between the Rio Grande and the Gila, in consequence of two gross errors in the map [by Disturnell] to which the Commissioners were confined by the treaty. It was discovered that the Rio Grande was laid down on this map, more than two degrees too far to the eastward -- the river, where it is intersected by the southern boundary of New Mexico, being really in 106º 40' west longitude, instead of 104º40'. The other error was in the position of the town of El Paso, which appears on this [Disturnell's] map to be but seven or eight minutes below the 32nd parallel, while its actual distance is thirty minutes further south. After several meetings, involving much discussion, the Joint Commission agreed to fix the Initial Point on the Rio Grande at the latitude given by the map, without any reference to its distance from El Paso; and to extend it westward from that point three degrees, without reference to where the line so prolonged should terminate.

This being agreed upon, the acting Chief Astronomer, Lieutenant A. W. Whipple, on the part of the United States, and Don Jose Salazar, the Chief Astronomer on the part of Mexico, were directed to "measure, according to Disturnell's Map, edition of 1847, the distance between latitude 32º and the point where the Rio Grande strikes the Southern Boundary of New Mexico ; and also the length of the Southern Boundary line of New Mexico from that point to its extreme western termination," and to report the result of their examinations to the Commissioners at the earliest period practicable. [Bartlett, John Russell ]

Quote: Mr. Bartlett's principal achievement on the boundary was the agreement with General Conde, the Mexican commissioner, fixing the initial point on the Rio Bravo, in the parallel of 32º 22', instead of a point as laid down on the treaty map about eight miles above El Paso, which would have brought it to the parallel of 31º 52'. That agreement is no less remarkable than the adroitness and success with which Mr. Bartlett convinced the authorities at Washington of its correctness. ...

I refused to recognise the act as that of the joint commission, and signed the map as the order directed, carefully and studiously attaching a certificate that it was the initial point of the two commissioners; and to prevent the possibility of misconstruction, an agreement in writing was entered into with Mr. Salazar, and our signatures attested by witnesses, showing that the map was only that of the boundary agreed upon by the two commissioners, and nothing else. This course, while it permitted me to obey a specific order in writing from a superior, left the government free to act, and repudiate the agreement by the two commissioners, as it subsequently did.

It is evident that any other course would have resulted in committing the government, irretrievably, to an erroneous determination of our southern boundary. It is but just, however, to Mr. Bartlett, to state, that so far as the facility for a route for a railway to the Pacific was considered, the line agreed to by him was no worse
than that claimed by his adversaries. My own reports, based upon previous explorations, had presented the whole case very clearly to view.

Yet these reports were overlooked, and it was ignorantly represented that while Mr. Bartlett’s line lost the route for the railway, the other line secured it. I will not here fatigue the reader by a topographical description of the country, showing where the obstacles to a railway route exist; but he will see by a glance at the map, that the practicable route so adjudged by myself, and by other officers who retraced my steps and re-surveyed this country, is to the south of both these lines of boundary claimed under the treaty of Guadalupe Hidalgo. [Emory, William H.]

**Links:**
- Texas Archives: Daniel Webster’s copy of 1850 Boundary Act --
  http://www.tsl.state.tx.us/treasures/earlystate/boundary-01.html
- The Handbook of Texas Online: Bartlett-Garcia Condé Compromise --
  http://www.tshaonline.org/handbook/online/articles/BB/nbb2.html

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**Texas Border**

01 August 1850

*In the Treaty of Velasco, signed after the decisive battle at San Jacinto but never ratified by Mexico, Texas had claimed the Rio Grande as its western and southern boundary. After long and angry debates, Congress passed the Boundary Compromise of 1850, which forgave Texian debt to the U.S. in exchange for dropping their claim to the lands between the 100th meridian and the Rio Grande.*

*Emory surveyed the starting point of this line but not the rest of the border.*

*Quote:* (01 August 1850) The state of Texas will agree that her boundary on the north shall commence at the point at which the meridian of one hundred degrees west from Greenwich is intersected by the parallel of thirty-six degrees thirty minutes (36°30') north latitude, and shall run from said point due west to the meridian of one hundred and three degrees west from Greenwich; thence her boundary shall run due south to the thirty-second degree of north latitude; thence on the said parallel of thirty-two degrees of north latitude to the Rio Bravo del Norte, and thence with the channel of said river to the Gulf of Mexico. [Statutes at Large, vol. 9 (1851), pp. 446-458, 462-465, 467-68.]

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**Treaty Line**

1848

*This is apparently the line that Emory believes to be the true line designated by the Treaty of Guadalupe-Hidalgo. By the time he had created this map, the treaty had already been superseded by the Gadsden Purchase, so the inclusion of this line on the map seems to be mostly about scoring points against former commissioner John Bartlett, who wrote unflattering things about Emory in his book, and who, in Emory’s view, failed to properly survey the line.*

*Quote:* In reference to the importance of the point [at 36°22', agreed on by Condé and Bartlett], I think it as well to state that the line agreed upon by the commission, April, 1851, is about 33' north of the line contended for [in the Treaty of Guadalupe Hidalgo], as that laid down by Disturnell’s map, but it reaches about 16’ of arc further west; and as both lines run 3° of longitude west, the difference of territory is 3° of longitude multiplied by about 40’ of latitude, each having a middle latitude that may, for the purpose of computation, be assumed at 30°.

Neither line gives us the road to California, and the country embraced in the area of the difference, with the exception of a strip along the Rio Grande about nine miles long and from one to two wide, is barren, and will not produce wheat, corn, grapes, trees, or anything useful as food for man, or for clothing.

Neither line will give us a channel of communication for posts along the frontier, without which it is impracticable to comply with the XI the article of the treaty, which enjoins the United States to keep the Indians out of Mexico.

When originally on the work, before the point was determined, having a knowledge of the country from previous reconnaissance, I had the honor of asking the attention of your predecessor to this very subject, in a communication dated April, 1849, San Diego, California, which was subsequently printed by the Senate. I then pointed out what I believed to be the only view taken of the treaty, which would have given us the road, it being, in truth, the only important matter involved in the question. [Emory, William H.]
About this Map

William H. Emory: Map of The United States and Their Territories Between The Mississippi & the Pacific Ocean And Part Of Mexico : 1857

William H. Emory, Major, 1st Cavalry, and then United States Commissioner for the Boundary Survey directed preparation of this Map of the United States and Their Territories Between The Mississippi and the Pacific Ocean And Part of Mexico Compiled From the Surveys Made Under The Order of W.H. Emory...And from the Maps of the Pacific Rail Road, General Land Office, and the Coast Survey.

Emory's map was included with his Report on the United States and Mexican Boundary Survey submitted to the House of Representatives 34th Congress, Ex. Dox 135.

Atlas Citation: [Eidenbach, Peter]
Map Credits: Rumsey Collection Image Number 0263001

TIMELINE: AGE OF TECHNOLOGY

1846
President Polk declares war with Mexico; US forces led by General Stephen Kearny seize New Mexico, which surrenders without a shot being fired. Colonel Doniphan writes code for governing the Territory of New Mexico. New Mexico designated Ninth Military Department.

1847
Philip St. George Cooke blazed the first wagon road from New Mexico to the West Coast.
New Mexico formally annexed; slavery issues had prevented formal annexation until this point.

1848
Mexico signs the Treaty of Guadalupe Hidalgo, which cedes lands in California, Nevada, Utah, Colorado, Arizona, and New Mexico to the United States (Statute 922 App I). The international boundary designated as the intersection of 32° N and the Rio Grande to intersection of Choctaw Creek with Red River.

1849
Simpson made a map previously shows town of Rito- Rito is a ruin by the time Whipple arrives because the upstream people took all the water. He traveled through Albuquerque to Pueblo de la Laguna and passed Covero (Cubero), Mount Taylor (named by Simpson in 1849 for Zachary Taylor), and Agua Fria, the last spring before the Continental Divide. Whipple used Sitgreaves' 1851 map as a reference also Walker's 1851 map.

1850
New territories admitted, including New Mexico (including modern Arizona), purchase of additional lands from Texas, boundaries adjusted. El Paso becomes part of Texas.

1851
Sitgreaves' official report, Report of an Expedition Down the Zuni and Colorado Rivers in 1851, was published in 1853. The report explored possibility of using this route for military transport.

1852 Survey
1st international boundary commission established in accordance with the Treaty of Guadalupe Hidalgo. Emory is the designated astronomer. The survey run into difficulties, which are resolved with the purchase of more land from Mexico.

Initial point on the Rio Grande (determined by Commissioners Condé and Bartlett according to the Treaty of Guadalupe-Hidalgo) proves to be in the wrong place. Surveyor AB Gray says 32° 22' is wrong, 31° 52' is right. Commissioners Emory and Salazar (astronomers from the first Boundary Commission) later determine the starting point of the line at 32°47'.

1852

New Mexico legislature passed a single act creating two new counties, redefining five of the original counties to extend across the limits of the territory, and eliminating all non-county area.

1853

Gadsden Purchase from Mexico resolves boundary issues, and give the U.S. the land necessary to build a southern transcontinental railroad. (GP Statute 1031 App II).

1855 Survey

US Commissioner: William H. Emory
Mexican Commissioner: José Salazar y Larregui

Emory and Salazar survey the entire Mexican-American border, including the new area included by the Gadsden Purchase.

The Americans made nearly a dozen monuments along the border to mark the sites, but many were destroyed by surrounding tribes, so the Mexicans rebuilt many and added some. Later surveys added over two hundred more, and rebuilt them as more permanent monuments.

1855 railroad surveys

The U.S. Government commissioned a number of surveys, spaced along parallels, to determine the best route for a transcontinental railroad.

Emory & Parke: 32nd parallel
Whipple & Ives: 35th parallel
Beckwith & Gunnison: 38th-39 parallel

1857 and 1858

Ives' Report upon the Colorado River of the West

1859

Marcy publishes The Prairie Traveler

1861

Colorado territory established; New Mexico's northern boundary reduced.

Residents of the Mesilla Valley declared their allegiance with the Confederacy and separated from the Union. They hoped the Confederacy would recognize them as the state of Arizona, which they imagined would reach to the Colorado River.

Civil War starts. Confederate troops gather at Fort Bliss and take Fort Fillmore. The plan is to seize New Mexico, and then march on to take the gold fields of Colorado or California. Indian raids on settlements step up as U.S. Army soldiers turn their attention to other matters.

1862

Homestead Act: free 160 acres offered after 5 years cultivation. Later modified to offer 320 acres, and the Desert Lands Act offered 640 acres.

Henry H. Sibley, commander of a brigade of mounted regiments from Texas, marched from Fort Bliss near El Paso up the Rio Grande: taking Fort Fillmore, defeating Union troops at Fort Craig, taking Albuquerque and Santa Fe, and finally defeating the Union troops at Glorieta Pass, near Pecos. By this time, the Confederate troops were starving and without clothes or ammunition, so they retreated back to Fort Bliss.

1862-1871

Railroad Land grants: the Federal government gives away 128 million acres of land to the railroad companies, as an incentive to build railway lines all over the country. The railroad companies sold many of these parcels to homesteaders.
1863
Arizona Territory created by the United States from the western portion of New Mexico Territory and a part of present Nevada. Present New Mexico-Arizona boundary established.

1864-1866
"Long Walk"- Navajo and Mescalero Apache forcibly relocated to Bosque Redondo reservation; The Apache escaped, and the Navajo signed a treaty of nonagression and returned to their homeland in 1868.

1864-1890
Indian Wars throughout the West. Destruction of the bison herds.

1867
Hayden, King, Wheeler, Powell Surveys map the west comprehensively, while cataloguing flora, fauna, and geology.

1868
Navajo chief Barboncito, along with numerous other leaders, sign a treaty with General William T. Sherman, agreeing to peace with the Americans in exchange for rights to return from Bosque Redondo to their new reservation: a small area within their traditional homeland.

1869
Fort Bliss renamed Fort Bliss.
Cochise and Apache guerrillas active 1871- 1879.
The war to save the buffalo 1874-1880.

1878-1879
Fort Bliss permanently established in current location.

1878
The Atchison, Topeka and Santa Fe (AT&SF) railroad crosses the Raton Pass into New Mexico, reaching Las Vegas, its first destination in New Mexico, in 1879.

1879
USGS established.

1880
The Southern transcontinental railroad traversed the region.

1884
New boundary treaty: the boundary, where marked by the Rio Grande, adheres to the center of original channel as surveyed in 1852 even if the course of the river changes. Boundaries on international bridges at center point.

1886
Geronimo surrenders to General Crook in southern New Mexico. The remaining members of the Chiricahua and Mimbres bands are removed first to Florida, and finally to Fort Sill, Oklahoma.

1889
US/Texas/ New Mexico/Mexico border resurveyed; discovered bancos or alluvial deposits changing land mass on either side of the border.

1891
Forest Reserve Law, designating forest preserves; forerunner of current National Forests.

1905
National Forest service created.

1906
Antiquities Act. Allows a president to protect areas of public land by executive order.

New treaty with Mexico on water rights for irrigation
1912
New Mexico becomes the forty-seventh state of the Union.

1916
National Park Service created.

1924
Gila Wilderness established.

1925
U.S. Supreme Court decision in New Mexico v. Colorado dismisses New Mexico's claims and establishes current boundaries between the states.

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