The Ietan are the only tribe besides the Pueblos that Pike met in person. In other sections of his narrative, he also comments on the slave trade conducted between the Ietan and the Spanish.

Quote: The Ietans, or Camanches, as the Spaniards term them, or Padoucas as they are called by the Pawnees, are a powerful nation which are entirely erratic, without the least species of cultivation, subsisting solely by the chase. Their wanderings are confined to the frontiers of New Mexico on the west, the nations on the Lower Red river on the south, the Pawnees and Osage on the east, and the Utahs, Kyaways and various unknown nations on the north. This nation, although entirely in our territories, is claimed exclusively by the Spaniards, and may be said to be decidedly in their interest, notwithstanding the few who lately paid a visit to Natchitoches. They are the only nation who border on the Spanish settlements, which that government treats as an independent people. They are by the Spaniards reputed brave; indeed they have given them some very strong evidences of this.

When I first entered the province of New Mexico, I was shewn various deserted villages and towns beaten down, which had been destroyed by the Ietans in an invasion of that province, when they were at war with the Spaniards about ten years since. From the village of Agua Caliente they carried off at one time two hundred head of horses, but they are now on an excellent understanding with the Spaniards, which Don Faciendo Malgares's late expedition has served very much to strengthen. [Pike, Zebulon Montgomery]

Overview: Comanche

The Comanche were important in New Mexico's history, although their range extended far past today's state borders. Trade with the buffalo-rich Comanche was critical to the New Mexican colonies, and so they tolerated
the raiding, although several settlements on the eastern fringe of the state ended up depopulated because of the pressure of Comanche raiding.

In 1787, Governor deAnza secured some decades of peace with the Comanche after his defeat of Comanche chief Cuerno Verde. That cleared the way for the Arapaho and the Cheyenne to move onto the plains and trade peacefully with the Spanish comancheros and ciboleros riding out of Santa Fe and Taos.

One of the southern tribes of the Shoshonean stock, and the only one of that group living entirely on the plains. Their language and traditions show that they are a comparatively recent offshoot from the Shoshoni of Wyoming, both tribes speaking practically the same dialect and, until very recently, keeping up constant and friendly communication. Within the traditionary period the 2 tribes lived adjacent to each other in southern Wyoming, since which time the Shoshoni have been beaten back into the mountains by the Sioux and other prairie tribes, while the Comanche have been driven steadily southward by the same pressure....

The Kiowa say that when they themselves moved southward from the Black-hills region, the Arkansas was the northern boundary of the Comanche.

In 1719 the Comanche are mentioned under their Siouan name of Padouca as living in what now is western Kansas.... At that time, they roamed all over the country about the heads of the Arkansas, Red, Trinity, and Brazos rivers, in Colorado, Kansas, Oklahoma, and Texas. For nearly 2 centuries they were at war with the Spaniards of Mexico and extended their raids far down into Durango. They were friendly to the Americans generally, but became bitter enemies of the Texans, by whom they were dispossessed of their best hunting grounds, and carried on a relentless war against them for nearly 40 years.

...By the treaty of Medicine Lodge in 1867 [they] agreed to go on their assigned reservation between Washita and Red rivers, southwest Oklahoma; but it was not until after the last outbreak of the southern prairie tribes in 1874-75 that they and their allies, the Kiowa and Apache, finally settled on it....

The Comanche were nomad buffalo hunters, constantly on the move, cultivating little form the ground, and living in skin tipis. They were long noted as the finest horsemen of the plains and bore a reputation for dash and courage. [Hodge, Frederick Webb]

05 March 1968:

Quote: (Aunt Sarah is going to tell us the story that her father told her about killing his first buffalo. He was about 15 or 16 when this happened in eastern part of Texas Panhandle).

He said, when they were going on buffalo hunt they chose four of them to go along, same age. So they said, "You watch very close." Now you just stand there and watch. We going run." And says, "Then you see how this first one done." So this man went running over there and he missed his buffalo. And he told those boys to come along.

They rushed over there and my father - he said he had selected one that was - looked like was nice big one - so he rushed up there and after while he got his arrows out and make a good aim that he was taught to hit the buffalo right on the lower part of the ribs. And he shot and his arrow went through and he said the buffalo topple over and fell on this arrow and broke it. So he was talking about his arrow and the man that was teaching them told him, "Never mind about your arrow. You killed the buffalo. That's the first buffalo you kill."

So, when there was, course somebody to get the buffalo skin and bring it home. So he came home. And when he got home why all the Indians would see a person bring something - a deer or buffalo, what not, then they would all go over there and get a piece of that meat. So, when they got it why, somebody came along and says, "you got your first buffalo." And he said they had their drum. They were all ready to dance because it was his first buffalo. And they had a big dance about him killing a buffalo - his first one to kill.

So that was his lesson. You cannot say that only white people teach you something. The Indians teach them what to do - how be a warrior, how to kill a buffalo, how to be a horseman, and how to do this and that, everything. So they have gone to school that way. There was always one man to teach them what they could do.

And the same way with girls....The girls were taught to cook and they were taught to sew something and they were trained to tan hides and put up teepees and pack on the travois, to sew shoes - moccasins they called them - and learn lot of things that a woman could do. and the could go to the creek and bring their wood on their back - lota things that we learned to do was just like going to school. So we are just as human as anybody that could be taught. So, anyway, that's all the things the Indians do is what they learn from old people. We are a race of people that as God made us and we are here to live the way we like to live on the prairie. But the white man got us and put us in houses and we learned to do what ever they tell us to do. Lota things like sewing and cookin' and learning how to write. And my wishes are that all my children learn the white way because they are going to live with the white people. But the old Indian ways are gone. I am an old lady and I will live my life the way I want it because I am almost through with this world.

--Sarah Pohocsucut, age 72. Comanche from Lawton, OK. Bob Miller, interviewer. [Oklahoma Western History Collection]
2: Albuquerque

1807

Quote: (07 March 1807) Marched at nine o'clock, through a country better cultivated and inhabited than any I had yet seen. Arrived at Albuquerque, a village on the eastern side of the Rio del Norte. We were received by Father Ambrosio Guerra in a very flattering manner, and led into his hall, from thence, after taking some refreshment, into an inner apartment, where he ordered his adopted children of the female sex to appear, when they came in by turns. They were Indians of various nations-- Spanish, French, and finally two young girls who, from their complexion, I conceived to be English: on perceiving I noticed them, he ordered the rest to retire, many of whom were beautiful, and directed these two to sit down on the sofa beside me. Thus situated, he told me that they had been taken to the east by the letans, passed from one nation to the other until he purchased them, (at that time infants) but they could recollect neither names nor language.

...At Father Ambrosio’s was the only chart I saw in the province; and it gave the near connection of the sources of the Rio del Norte, and the Rio Colorado of California, with their ramifications.

Both above and below Albuquerque the citizens were beginning to open the canals, to let in the water of the river to fertilize the plains and fields which border its banks on both sides: we saw men, women, and children of all ages and both sexes, at the joyful labour, which was to crown with rich abundance their future harvest, and ensure them plenty for the ensuing year. These scenes brought to my recollection the bright descriptions given by Savary, of the opening of the canals of Egypt. The cultivation of the fields was now commencing, and everything appeared to give life and gaiety to the surrounding scenery. We crossed the Rio del Norte, a little below the village of Albuquerque, where it was four hundred yards wide, but not more than three feet deep, and excellent fording. [Pike, Zebulon Montgomery]

Overview: Albuquerque

Albuquerque was founded as a villa in 1706 in a rich agricultural region of New Mexico. Its Old Town plaza was the original town center. Evidently, the decision to settle the "Bosque Grande de Doña Luisa" was made in 1698. A manuscript from February 1706 showed that Governor Cuervo y Valdés authorized the actual settlement, which took place shortly thereafter. A church, dedicated to Saint Francis Xavier, was later rededicated to San Felipe, in honor of His Majesty the King.

The name was changed to Albuquerque after the United States militarily occupied New Mexico. [Long Distance Trails Group--Santa Fe, National Park Service, New Mexico State Office, Bureau of Land Management]

Images:
3: Tousac and St. Fernandez

1807

Quote: (08 March 1807) Marched after taking breakfast, and halted at the little village of Tousac [possibly Bosque Farms area], three miles distant, situated on the western side of the Rio del Norte. The men informed me that on their arrival over night they had been all furnished with an excellent supper, and after supper wine and a violin, with an assemblage of the young people to a dance. When we left this village, the priest sent a cart down to ferry us over, as the river was nearly four feet deep.

When we approached the village of St. Fernandez [possibly Los Chavez], we were met by Lieutenant Malgares, accompanied by two or three other officers: he received me with the most manly frankness and the politeness of a man of the world, yet my feelings were such as almost overpowered me, and obliged me to ride alone fora short period, in order to recover myself. My sensations arose from my knowledge, that he had now been absent from Chihuahua ten months, and it had cost the King of Spain more than ten thousand dollars to do that which a mere accident, and the deception of the Governor, had affected. Malgares, perceiving I did not find myself at ease, took every means in his power to banish my reserve, which made it impossible on my part not to endeavour to appear cheerful. We conversed as well as we could, and in two hours were as well acquainted as some people would be in the same number of months.

Malgares possesses none of the haughty Castilian pride, but much of the urbanity of the Frenchman; and I will add my feeble testimony to his loyalty, by declaring that he was one of the few officers or citizens whom I found loyal to their King, felt indignation at the degraded state of the Spanish monarchy, and deprecated a revolution or separation of Spanish America from the mother country, unless France should usurp the government of Spain. These are the men who possess the heads to plan, the hearts to feel, and the hands to carry this great and important work into execution.

In the afternoon our friend wrote the following notification to the Alcaldes of several small villages around us:

"Send this evening six or eight of your handsomest young girls to the village of St. Fernandez, where I propose giving a fandango, for the entertainment of the American officers arrived today."

(Signed) Don Faciendo.

This order was punctually obeyed, and poursrays more clearly than a chapter of observations the degraded state of the common people. In the evening, when the company arrived, the ball began after their usual manner, and there was really a handsome display of beauty. [Pike, Zebulon Montgomery]

Overview: El Cerro Tomé

Tomé Hill, a natural landmark, served all travelers from prehistoric times into the historic period. A seventeenth-century road ran to the east of the hill. After the river changed its course in the early eighteenth century and the town was founded (in 1740), the main road shifted to go along the valley and by the plaza. [Long Distance Trails Group--Santa Fe, National Park Service, New Mexico State Office, Bureau of Land Management]
4: St. Thomas

1807

*Quote:* Passed a village called St. Thomas [possibly Belen], one mile distant from the camp. The camp was formed in an ellipsis, the two long sides presenting a breastwork, composed of the saddles and loads of the mules, each end of the ellipsis having a small opening to pass and repass at. In the centre was the commandant's tent. Thus in case of an attack upon the camp there were ready formed works to fight from.

[Spanish captain] Malgares's mode of living was superior to anything we have an idea of in our army, having eight mules loaded with his common camp equipage, wines, confectionary &c. But this only served to evince the corruption of the Spanish discipline, for if a subaltern indulged himself, with such a quantity of baggage, what would be the cavala de attending an army?

Dr. Robinson had been called over the river to a small village to see a sick woman, and did not return that night. Distance advanced, twelve miles.

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**Overview:** Belén

Belén was constructed on the west bank of the Río Grande. Colonial travelers saw it from their camps across the river while later users of the west bank road stopped within the town.

Given that most colonial traffic passed along the east bank of the Río Grande, the most used caravan paraje would have been opposite the town of Belén.

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5: Sibilleta

1807

These names, unlike the three to the north, correspond fairly closely to modern-day Sabinal, Jarales, and La Joya (de Sevilleta), although Pike got the position of Jarales and Sabinal confused.

*Quote:* (10 March 1807) Marched at eight o'clock and arrived at the village of Sibilleta; having passed on the way the villages of Sabinez and Xaxales on the western side. Sibilleta is situated on the eastern side, and is a regular square, appearing like a large mud wall on the outside, the doors, windows, &c. facing the square, and is the neatest and most regular village I have yet seen. It is governed by a sergeant, at whose quarters I put up.

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**Overview:** La Joya de Sevilleta

The modern town of La Joya was founded as a frontier outpost for protection of the Camino Real adjacent to the site of a seventeenth-century Piro pueblo, named Nueva Sevilla by Oñate, perhaps because of its resemblance to the Spanish city of Seville. Later Fray Benavides refers to the pueblo, which by 1634 had a convent, as Seelocú, possibly the Piro name for it. The pueblo was deserted in 1680, as the Piro went south to El Paso with the Spanish.

The village of La Joya de Sevilleta marks the lower end of Rio Abajo. For a time it was where caravans would gather and await the rest of the caravan and/or presidial troops who would escort them down the trail. The church and possibly the plaza, along with some ruins of structures, remain of this once-important village.

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6: Met with northbound caravan

1807

*Quote:* (12 March 1807) Marched at seven o'clock, and passed on the western side of the river the mountains of Magdalen, and the Black Mountains on the east. Passed the encampment of the caravan, going out with about fifteen thousand sheep for the other provinces, for which they bring back merchandize.

This expedition consisted of about three hundred men, chiefly citizens, escorted by an officer and thirty-five or forty troops; they are collected at Sibilleta, and separate on their return; they go out in February and return in March. A similar expedition goes out in the autumn; during the other parts of the year no citizen travels the road. The couriers meet at the pass of the Rio del Norte and exchange packets, when each returns to his own province. Met a caravan of fifty men and probably two hundred horses, loaded with traffic for New Mexico.
Halted at twelve o'clock and marched at three. Lieutenant Malgares shewed me the place where he had been in two affrays with the Apaches, in one he commanded himself, and in the other was commanded by Captain D'Almansa; in the former there was one Spaniard killed and eight wounded, and ten Apaches made prisoners; in the latter fifty-two Apaches wounded, and seventeen killed, they being surprised in the night. Malgares killed two himself, and had two horses killed under him. [Pike, Zebulon Montgomery]

Overview: Socorro

Socorro has been steeped in New Mexico history since Don Juan de Oñate stopped off during his entrada on June 14, 1598. The site was then occupied by Pilaó, the northernmost Piro Indian pueblo; the Oñate documents called it "Pilóque." Oñate was in advance of the main body of colonists. The caravan, still struggling through the desert behind him, was in desperate need of provisions. Of the Piro Indians, Oñate said, they "gave us much corn." The pueblo was renamed Socorro (succor, help) to commemorate the gift.

While Oñate continued north, two priests remained behind to do missionary work among the Indians. Fray Alfonso was so successful that he became known as "The Apostle of Socorro."

The two priests built a modest church, to be replaced by a larger structure between 1615 and 1626. Here Fray Zuñiga and Fray Antonio de Arteaga planted the first grapes to be raised in New Mexico.

In late 1681, after the Pueblo Revolt, Governor Don Antonio de Otermin returned to the north in a half-hearted attempt at reconquest. He reached Socorro in November and found the community abandoned and the church profaned. He burned what supplies and provisions were left to keep them from falling into the hands of rebel Indians. He was unsuccessful in negotiating peace. The Indians had "returned to idolatry" and were unwilling to accept the resumption of Spanish rule. On January 2, 1682, Otermin gave up his attempt to reassert Spanish rule and started back toward El Paso.

Ten years later, on August 21, 1692, Don Diego de Vargas set out from El Paso for the reconquest of New Mexico. His force consisted of sixty Spaniards and a hundred friendly Indians. Within four months de Vargas restored twenty-three pueblos to Spain's empire. By September, 1693, de Vargas was back in El Paso gathering an expedition for resettlement. He was not as lucky this time; his force met with resistance. The battle to occupy Santa Fe was short, but it took most of 1694 to subdue the remainder of the pueblos.

During the recolonization, the former residents of Socorro did not return. Except for travelers and caravans on the Camino Real, Socorro was deserted and dormant until 1816 when the Spanish Crown awarded land to twenty-one families by the Socorro Grant.

The settlers depended upon agriculture and raising cattle and sheep. They settled on the hillside and valley floor, irrigating their crops from mountain springs and the Río Grande. There were fields of wheat and corn, vineyards and orchards, and pastures. As protection from the Apaches, they built adobe houses facing a central courtyard.

During the second quarter of the nineteenth century, life in Socorro settled into a leisurely if not lazy agrarian pattern, punctuated by occasional Apache raids and the arrival of travelers on the old Camino Real, now usually called the Chihuahua Road by the Santa Fe traders.

Socorro was the last stop before or the first stop after crossing the Jornada del Muerto, and the residents learned to profit from their position.

The 1850s brought changes. Fort Craig was built some twenty miles to the south, and Socorro became an "army town," a trading center and rendezvous for officers and men from the fort. After the Civil War erupted, freighting and storing supplies created a bustle that completely transformed the village. [Long Distance Trails Group--Santa Fe, National Park Service, New Mexico State Office, Bureau of Land Management]

Images:

San Miguel Mission, Socorro

Links:
7: Sierra Christopher

1807

Pike gives no reason for taking this unusual route down the west side of the river, rather than going down the Jornada del Muerto. He does note the road for the cutoff on his map, but does not correctly estimate the relation of the parajes such as Robledo and San Diego, which actually lie south of the Jornada del Muerto.

Quote: (14 March 1807) Marched at ten o'clock, and halted at a mountain, distant ten miles. This is the point at which the road leaves the river for two days' journey, bearing due south, the river taking a turn southwest, it being five days' journey along its course to where the roads again meet. We marched at four o'clock, and eight miles below crossed the river to the western side. Two mules fell in the water, and as our stars would have it, with the loads containing the stores of Lieutenant Malgares, by which means we lost all our bread, and an excellent assortment of biscuits, &c. Distance advanced, eighteen miles. [Pike, Zebulon Montgomery]

Overview: Fray Cristóbal

Named for a member of the Oñate entrada, the Paraje de Fray Cristóbal remained important throughout the period in which the Camino Real was in use. Oñate's men facetiously remarked that the outline of the ridge of the mountain near present Elephant Butte Reservoir looked like the profile of Fray Cristóbal, saying he was "feisimo" (politely, not very good looking). It was described as a general area rather than a particular point but can be defined by its proximity to both the Río Grande and the Jornada del Muerto. In the nineteenth century, Fray Cristóbal became Fra Cristobal, as a modern local spelling and pronunciation without a y in Fray and without an accent in Cristóbal. [Long Distance Trails Group--Santa Fe, National Park Service, New Mexico State Office, Bureau of Land Management]

Links:
El Camino Real International Heritage Center: Jornada del Muerto -- http://www.caminorealheritage.org/jornada/jornada.htm

8: Grand Copper Mines

1807

Pike did not actually visit the mines himself, so he must have learned of these on his journey down the river.

Quote: There are no mines known in the province, except one of copper, situated in a mountain on the western side of the Río del Norte in latitude 34° N. It is wrought, and produces twenty thousand mule loads of copper annually, furnishing that article for the manufactories of nearly all the internal provinces. It contains gold, but not quite in sufficient quantity to pay for its extraction, consequently it has not been pursued. [Pike, Zebulon Montgomery]

Overview: Santa Rita del Cobre Mines

This mineral-rich area was known to native inhabitants long before Europeans "discovered" it. In precontact times, it was a source for low-grade turquoise, and later, the Warm Springs Apache collected copper from the surface.

The Spanish began mining in earnest in 1799, after being given a sample of the pure, malleable copper by friendly Apaches. Within a few years, they had established a presidio and were working the mines with convict labor. Work on the mines continued through Mexican independence, and most of Mexico's copper money from those years was made of the Santa Rita copper, packed out on burros to Mexico City.

After the Americans claimed New Mexico, activity ended for some decades, due to Apache hostilities. The mine was sold to American investors in the 1870s, and today is operated by Phelps Dodge.

The Santa Rita Observation Point is located on the east side of NM Highway 152 just south of milepost 6.

Links:
1807

Quote: Marched in the morning and arrived at the Passo del Norte at eleven o'clock, the road leading through a hilly and mountainous country. We put up at the house of Don Francisco Garcia, who was a merchant and a planter; he possessed in the vicinity of the town twenty thousand sheep, and one thousand cows.

We were received in a most hospitable manner by Don Pedro Roderique Rey, the lieutenant governor, and Father Joseph Prado, the vicar of the place. This was by far the most flourishing town we had been in. [Pike, Zebulon Montgomery]

Overview: El Paso

Although the Spanish did not settle the area until the Pueblo Revolt, Oñate noted it as he crossed the Rio Grande, and it gained significance on maps as an important landmark, where the river continues to be crossed to this day.

After fleeing the warring Puebloans, the Spanish built a settlement on the banks of the Rio Grande and waited eleven years for reinforcements. About two years in, Governor Otermín tried to retake the Rio Arriba to no avail.

During this period, the priests planted vineyards, which bore fruit that made eventually made El Paso del Norte famed in the region for its fine wines and brandies.

The Piro of the Rio Abajo retreated with the Spanish and together they established three mission churches, active to this day: Mission Ysleta del Sud, Mission Soccoro, and San Elizario Mission.

Quote: In the name of the most Christian king, Don Philip.... I take and seize tenancy and possession, real and actual, civil and natural, one two, three times... and all the times that by right I can and should....without limitations

--Juan de Oñate at El Paso, April 1598

Images:

The Plaza and Church of El Paso

Mexican adobe house, Mt. Franklin in distance, El Paso, Texas. 1907

Links:
Office of State Historian: Wine Production in El Paso and the Grapevine Inventory of 1755 --
http://www.newmexicohistory.org/filedetails_docs.php?fileID=525

About this Map


After a successful expedition to the headwaters of the Mississippi, Lt. Zebulon Pike was assigned by General James Wilkinson, governor of Louisiana to trace the Red River westward and, secretly, visit Spanish Santa Fe. Pike, with 22 men, Lt. James Wilkinson (the General's son) and Dr. John Robinson traveled to the headwaters of the Arkansas, exploring southern Colorado and the Rockies. Reduced in numbers due to illness, Pike, Robinson and six others crossed the mountains in winter, finally building a stockaded fort on the Rio Conejos, a tributary of the Rio Grande, where the party was arrested by the Spanish. Pike and his remaining party were taken first to Santa Fe and then to Chihuahua and then escorted across Texas to Natchitoches.
TIMELINE: SHIFTING ALLEGIANCES

1800

In 1800, Napoleon signed the secret Treaty of Ildefonso with Spain, stipulating that France should provide Spain with a kingdom if Spain would return Louisiana to France. Napoleon’s plan for dominating North America collapsed when the revolt in the French colony of Saint-Domingue succeeded, forcing French troops to return defeated to France. As Napoleon’s New World empire disintegrated, the loss of Haiti made Louisiana unnecessary.

Nov 1801

Philip Nolan, a surveyor who worked for Louisiana Trader James Wilkinson, and (who had established trade into Texas and had a wife & child in San Antonio de Bexos) left Louisiana to invade Texas with 30 countrymen, was killed en route by Spanish forces under Pedro de Nava. Nolan is sometimes credited with being the first to map Texas for the American frontiersmen, but his map has never been found. Nonetheless, his observations were passed on to General James Wilkinson, who used them to produce his map of the Texas-Louisiana frontier in 1804.

1803

On November 30, 1803, Spain’s representatives officially transferred Louisiana to France. Although the French representative was instructed to transfer Louisiana to the United States the next day, twenty days actually separated the transfers, during which time Laussat became governor of Louisiana and created a new town council. During this time he is issued secret instructions in which France lays claim to the Rio Grande from the mouth (Rio de las Palmas on the Gulf) to the 30th parallel. “The line of demarcation stops after reaching this point... the farther we go northward, the more undecided is the boundary.”

This becomes the basis for the Texian claim to eastern New Mexico.

On December 20, 1803, the French officially gave lower Louisiana to the United States. The United States took formal possession of the full territory of Louisiana, although its boundaries were vaguely defined, in St. Louis three months later, when France handed over the rights to upper Louisiana.

1804

Jean Baptiste La Lande stole a wagon team and expatriated to New Mexico, becoming the first American to move there.

1805

Admiral Lord Nelson defeats the Spanish navy at Trafalgar, precipitating the end of Spanish military force.

James Pursley arrives in New Mexico trying to drum up trade with the Plains tribes, and stays in Santa Fe as a carpenter.

1806

Expedition headed by General Wilkinson and Lieutenant Zebulon Pike travels west with secret instructions to scout out the northern Spanish territories. Dr. John Robinson joins the expedition at the last minute, but becomes a valued member of the party.

1807

Robinson meets Don Nemesio Salcedo, Captain General of Internal Provinces.

Salcedo refuses his attempt to defect.

1812

Robinson meets with Secretary of State James Monroe, who is concerned that filibustering activity might provoke war with Spain; appoints Robinson to the post of envoy to Nemesio Salcedo.

Robinson goes from Natchitoches through Texas, meeting Bernardo Gutierrez de Lara and Augustus Magee. He also meets with Salcedo, who suspects him once again of spying, and refuses to enter negotiations.

1813

Robinson publishes inflammatory epistles in favor of Mexican revolution (see Liberty Showering Her Blessings), is dismissed by the State department.

Texas declares independence in April.
Royal forces reclaim it in September.

King Joseph Bonaparte (Napoleon's brother) flees Wellington, Ferdinand VII returns to the throne.

1814

Robinson disputes with Toledo about leadership of the revolutionary force.

Moves to New Orleans, offers support to Governor Claiborne, is refused, takes a post in the militia, in a hospital near New Orleans

1815

Robinson sails for Veracruz to help the revolution. He writes for support to President Madison, including a copy of the new Mexican constitution, and remains with the Republican Army for 18 months (through the end of 1816).

1816

Robinson retires from his commission as Brigadier General in the Mexican Revolutionary Army.

1817

Robinson condemned by Spanish envoy Onís, engages in verbal battle in papers, settles in Natchez.

1819

John Quincy Adams, President Monroe's Secretary of State, negotiates a treaty with Luis de Onís to define the boundary of Texas (the Adams-Onís Treaty Line). Under the Florida Treaty, Spain cedes Florida and Texas west to Sabine River.

1821

Texas becomes a province of Mexico following the revolution.

Mexico combines Texas & Coahuila, opens immigration to large numbers of Americans into Texas.

William Becknell takes wagons across what will become the Santa Fe Trail.

1822

Regular route established along Santa Fe Trail "led directly to the San Miguel by way of the Cimarron River instead of following the Arkansas to the mountains direct to San Miguel instead of by way of Taos."

(Chittenden)

Senator Thomas Hart Benton of Missouri petitions the Senate, to make the Santa Fe Trail a permanent road "to draw from the bosom of the wilderness an immense wealth which now must be left to grow and perish where it grows or be gathered by the citizens of some other government to the great loss of Missouri."

Commissioners mark out a road from Missouri to the Mexican boundary. Sibley surveys a new, longer road.

1824

Mexican constitution establishes Texas and Coahuila as sister states, as with New Mexico and Chihuahua.

1835-1836

Texans revolt against Mexico, and fight for independence, claiming all land to the Rio Grande.

Texas rebels capture General Santa Anna at the Battle of San Jacinto, and win a surrender with the Treaty of Velasco, which stipulates that the "limits of Texas would not extend past the Rio Grande." However, Mexico never ratifies this treaty.

1837

United States grants formal recognition to the Republic of Texas.

New Mexicans overthrow centralist governor Albino Perez, Manuel Armijo rises to power in 1838.

The government offers large land grants to both native citizens and to American merchants such as St. Vrain, Maxwell, and Mirabeau.

1841

Texas expedition led by Brigadier General Hugh McLeod, and accompanied by journalist George Wilkins Kendall, travels across the Llano Estacado to ask New Mexicans to join Texas in independence or to open trade. Governor Armijo has the Texans captured, brutally mistreated, and forced to march in chains to Mexico City, where they remained imprisoned for several years.

1843
Texas sends two raiding parties to New Mexico in retribution for the mistreatment of the Texas-Santa Fe Expedition.

Taos gets closed as a port of entry.

1844

Question of Texas central to United States presidential election, and popular support of annexation sweeps James K. Polk into office.

1845

Annexation of Texas; formally admitted as a state December 29, 1845.

State constitution supports Texas’ claims to all lands extending to the Rio Grande.

1846

Polk declares war with Mexico, and General Zachary Taylor invades Mexico along the Rio Grande in Texas.

United States forces led by General Stephen Kearny seize New Mexico, and Governor Armijo is persuaded to surrender without a battle.

Colonel Alexander Doniphan writes the code for governing the Territory of New Mexico.

New Mexico is designated the Ninth Military Department of the United States.

1847

Rebels in Taos lead an uprising against the American government, and kill Governor Charles Bent.

1848

Mexico signs the Treaty of Guadalupe Hidalgo, which cedes lands in California, Nevada, Utah, Colorado, Arizona, and New Mexico to the United States. The boundary of New Mexico is described in relation to Disturnell’s map, which showed erroneous distances.

1848 Fort Bliss established.

1849

The Department of Interior established. Interior would manage most of the lands in New Mexico for some time to come.

1850

The Texas boundary compromise required Texas to release claims to lands in eastern New Mexico, in exchange for a settlement of debts. As part of the Compromise of 1850, New Mexico was finally admitted as a territory, with the issue of slavery to be decided by New Mexicans.

1851-1853

Fort Bliss abandoned for Fort Fillmore

1852-1860

Cantonment Burgwin established to control Taos rebels. The fort was decommissioned in 1860 and the soldiers moved to Fort Garland or Fort Union.

1852 Boundary Survey

1st international boundary commission established in accordance with the Treaty of Guadalupe-Hidalgo.

This survey runs into difficulties establishing the boundary line, and the Americans realize that the line as surveyed does not give them a transcontinental railway route.

1853

Gadsden Purchase from Mexico expands New Mexico territory.

1854

Fort Bliss moved to Magoffinsville.
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