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The Texas Revolution is significant in the history of Nacogdoches because citizens of Nacogdoches served in the Texan Army and signed the Texas Declaration of Independence.



Misty Hurley, a Graduate Student in Public History at Stephen F. Austin State University, created this brochure as part of her thesis on cemetery preservation and creation of interpretive materials connecting Oak Grove Cemetery of Nacogdoches with historic sites, museums, artifacts, and archival records.



**This project has been created in conjunction with the Center for Regional Heritage Research at SFASU.**

**Photograph courtesy of the East Texas Research Center.**

# The Texas Revolution in Nacogdoches



## The First Shots of the Texas Revolution



The large number of Anglos entering Texas in the early 1800s, either with the sponsorship of an empresario or illegally, began to worry the Mexican government who noticed that settlers were not taking their oaths of allegiance and agreements with the government seriously. Individuals who made their homes here at this time include future Texas Revolutionaries such as Sam Houston, Thomas J. Rusk, Haden Edwards, Charles S. Taylor, and Adolphus Sterne.

### **The Fredonian Rebellion**

Haden Edwards, an empresario with land grants around Nacogdoches, embodied many of the government's fears. Edwards and other empresarios were reluctant or downright refused to honor previous Mexican and Spanish land grants. Another reason Edwards was disliked was his meddling in Nacogdoches's politics, much to the disdain of many citizens, who complained to the Mexican government. The Mexican government revoked the Edwards brothers' grant. The brothers determined that the only way to get their land back would be to break away from the Mexican government and establish their own republic, the Republic of Fredonia. Upon hearing about this uprising, the Mexican government sent troops to Nacogdoches, but the closer the troops came to the town, the less support the brothers retained and the members of the uprising fled.

### **The Battle of Nacogdoches**

The Fredonia Rebellion left the Mexican government and its Texas settlers uneasy and suspicious of one another. The Mexican

Government passed the Law of April 6, 1830 which closed the borders of Texas to immigrants, suspended all land grants, required all trade to be conducted with Mexico, and allowed the Mexican government to collect customs. The reaction of Texans to the Law of April 6, 1830, is called the Disturbances of 1832, is considered the beginning of the Texas Revolution.

Instead of bringing their weapons into town to turn in, as commanded by General Piedras, East Texans came to town to fight. Starting on August 2, 1832, the Battle of Nacogdoches took place over the course of two days and in downtown Nacogdoches. As the Texans gained ground, Piedras fled to the Angelina River where he was captured and forced to surrender, putting an end to the battle.

### **The Texas Revolution**

While no battles of the Texas Revolution took place in Nacogdoches, citizens of Nacogdoches had an important part in the struggle. Sam Houston and Adolphus Sterne signed a treaty with the local Native American tribes to prevent war with the tribes while Texans were fighting Mexican forces. Sterne also gathered and funded the New Orleans Greys who fought and died in the battle of the Alamo and at Goliad. Locals Thomas J. Rusk, Charles Taylor, John S. Roberts, and Robert Potter served on the provisional government of 1836, and Rusk became Secretary of War and served as leader of the Texan Army at San Jacinto after Sam Houston was wounded.

## Visit these sites associated with the Texas Revolution in Nacogdoches

- The Stone Fort Museum – Griffith Street on the campus of Stephen F. Austin State University
- Battle of Nacogdoches and Fredonian Rebellion Historical Markers and plaques located around the Visitor's Center – 200 East Main St.
- The Sterne-Hoya House Museum – 211 South Lanana St.
- The Red House historical marker – 115 South St.
- Texas Revolutionaries' graves at Oak Grove Cemetery - North Lanana St.