Chapter 8- Empresarios and Colonization
In 1789 George Morgan became the first empresario for the Spanish government as he brought U.S. settlers into New Madrid, Missouri. His example would latter influence Texas empresarios.

* Empresario: A land agent who sells Spanish Land to foreigners
Why settle Texas?

* Threat of United States expansion. Both the U.S. and Mexico claimed parts of Texas.

* Threat of Native Americans. There were 30,000 Natives and 2,500 Mexicans in Texas.
Moses Austin

* Born 1761 in Connecticut
* Followed George Morgan to Missouri and became a Spanish citizen.
* Made a fortune mining lead in Missouri and became part owner of the Bank of St. Louis.
* Lost it in the Panic of 1819. (an economic depression)
In 1820 Austin traveled to San Antonio to get permission to become an empresario in Texas in hopes of regaining his wealth.

The Spanish government rejected him. They thought he would bring in more filibusters.
In San Antonio a Dutch nobleman named Felipe Enrique Neri who was the “Baron de Bastrop”

Bastrop wasn’t a real baron, he was actually wanted for theft back in Holland. His real name was Philip Hendrik Nering Bögel

The Baron helped Austin get a meeting with the Erasmo Seguin.
Austin argued to the governor that Americans would eventually settle in Texas. Would Spain rather have them legally as Spanish citizens or as illegal filibusters fighting the government?

Austin also pointed out that settlers who were Spanish citizens would help the fight against the Natives and any US invasion.

- In 1821, Mexico only had about 3,500 people living in Texas. They needed a bigger population if they were going to maintain control of the territory.
The governor told Austin he would think over his argument.

Austin expected to get permission and headed back east with a man named Jacob Kirkham.

When Austin found out that Kirkham was traveling with stolen livestock, Kirkham stole Austin’s horse and left him without food or transportation.

Austin caught pneumonia on his return trip to Missouri. His land grant was approved in March of 1821 but he died in June of the same year.
Stephen F. Austin was 27 yrs old when his father died. He quit his legal career to carry out his father’s colonization plans.

He is known as the “Father of Texas”

The Spanish sent Erasmo Seguin (the mayor of San Antonio) to help him and pick land for his settlement.
Erasmo Seguin and Jose Antonio Navarro worked with Austin to find proper land for the settlement.

Austin explores the land east of San Antonio

Picked rich farmland in the area of the Brazos and Colorado rivers

Colony had: mild climate, fertile soil, water, timber, wild game, near coast
Austin’s actual map he drew of Texas
Austin traveled to New Orleans to recruit colonists. He would only take families of good moral character and who were Catholic or who said they would become Catholic.

He recruited 300 families who are known as “The Old Three Hundred”.
Austin Readies His Colony

- Strict Guidelines for Settlers:
  - Hardworking, law-abiding people
  - Required to become Mexican citizens
  - Required to convert to Catholicism
* Land Terms:

* Heads of households promised 640 acres

* Married men could claim another 320 acres plus 160 acres for each child
* Land Terms:

* Settlers who provided valuable services or who brought items such as cotton gins received extra land

* Land grants would border rivers whenever possible to aid with water for farming and transportation
Austin Readies His Colony

*Land Terms:*

* Settlers would pay 12.5 cents/acre for Austin’s services; fee covered the costs of surveying and land titles
Land title—legal document proving land ownership
* Attractive offer to US citizens

* By 1820, it was difficult to buy land in the US because land prices were high and money was scarce.

* Land in US was $1.25 per acre

* US law required a min of 80 acres

* Price of land had to be paid in full in cash
Austin Readies His Colony

* Austin allowed people to pay fees with goods

* Allowed people to pay fees over time

* Settlers are going to come to Texas mostly for the cheap land.
In the 1820’s settlers came to Texas by...

Austin bought a ship named the Lively and brought the first 20 colonists to Texas, while others walked the El Camino Real (Kings Highway) which was a road that connected Nacogdoches to San Antonio.
On August 24, 1821 Mexico became independent of Spain.

In early 1822 Austin learned of Mexico’s independence.

Austin now had to deal with the Mexican government so he traveled to Mexico City to get permission for his colony again.

A statue of Father Miguel Hidalgo
* He spent a year in Mexico where he learned Spanish, Mexican customs, and the laws of Mexico.

* He also got laws passed that helped his colonist. One was that the colonist did not have to pay taxes for the first 10 years.

* The time in Mexico also taught him how Mexican officials operated and would benefit him in the years to come.
The first year Austin’s colony faced drought and problems with Karankawa Indians.

Some settlers left but for the most part the colony was a success.
*Austin built his capital, San Felipe de Austin, on the Brazos River.
Changes in Mexico

- In 1822, The Emperor of Mexico Agustín de Iturbide was forced from office and the Congress of Mexico made the country a republic. (No king and people elect their leaders)

- The Congress also adopted the Mexican Constitution of 1824 which established a states’ rights government.

- This means most of the power was given to the states.

- Texans loved this
There were other Empresarios too.

* In 1825 the new Mexican state of Coahuila y Tejas passed a colonization law.

* This allowed other empresarios to get land grants in Texas.

* By 1830, 30 empresarios had done so and Texas had a population of 20,000 people.
Coahuila y Texas Flag
*Green DeWitt: His colony was southwest of Austin’s. His capital was Gonzales.

*Martin DeLeon: Settled 200 Mexican families whose colony was along the coast. His capital was Victoria.
A is for Austin
G is for Green Dewitt
D is for Martin DeLeon
*Push Factor* - condition that drives people away from a place such as their home.

*Pull factor* - what draws people to a new location.

*Land Grant system* - a method of land distribution in which a person is issued a certificate for land and the person would then bring families to colonize the land. Each family would receive a portion of the land.
Gone to Texas - Push or Pull

1. Economic depression in U.S.

2. In U.S. you had to have $100 in order to buy land (must buy 80 acres at $1.25 per acre).

3. Austin allowed you to pay fees over time.


5. No taxes in Texas for 6 years.
Nationalities of Texas Settlers

* Mostly Anglo-American
* Some Mexican
* Although Mexico abolished slavery in 1829, Americans also brought black slaves with them.
Settler’s homes

* Most settlers lived in log cabins. If there was no lumber available they lived in stone homes.

* The cabin was one room and they added rooms as the family grew.

* Often a breeze way or dog run was placed between rooms.
* Settlers from the US were mostly Protestant (Baptist and Methodist mostly).
* In order to receive land settlers had to take an oath that they were Catholic.
* Most did not convert to Catholicism
*There was no education system in Texas.

*Most children were taught only what they need to know as a farmer like basic math.
Many settlers died of disease. There were few doctors and very little medical supplies in Texas.

Also Native Americans often raided settlers homes and settlers were often killed or captured.

A raid is a quick surprise attack where the attackers take as much as they can before leaving.
*To protect the settlers Austin formed a small militia of men. These men would later evolve into the Texas Rangers.*

*A militia is a volunteer military group used to defend the area they live.*