

Chambers County, 1821 - 1837

Texas Revolution Timeline

- 1815 A group of American and Mexican filibusterers under the command of Col. Henry Perry land at the later site of Fort Anahuac to establish a winter camp. This site is later known as Perry's Point. Included in this group is Juan Davis Bradburn, Perry's quartermaster.
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- 1821 James Miller, an Arkansas blacksmith, settles south of what is now Lake Miller and north of present-day Wallisville, the first Anglo settler in the county
- 1824 Anglo settlers, mostly from Louisiana, begin settlement in Chambers County.
- Jan. 1827 Local residents, including James Miller and James Haney, join the Atascosito militia under Hugh B. Johnston and march against the leaders of the Fredonian Rebellion. This action demonstrates local support for the Mexican government
- 1827 A large (second) group of Anglo colonists, coming from the Ayish Bayou region near Nacogdoches, settle in present-day Chambers County. This event occurs after the Fredonian Rebellion is put down. Other families follow, mostly from Louisiana, in 1828-1831.
- Oct. 26, 1830 Under the authority of the Mexican Centralist government, Col. Juan Davis Bradburn with a small military force lands at Perry's Point to build Fort Anahuac. This force includes Bradburn, three officers and thirty-nine soldiers. Six convict soldiers, part of the 39, will do the heavy construction and are promised their freedom at the end of their military service. The new fort will include a customs house for the collection of tariffs. A temporary winter barracks is constructed one-half mile north of the proposed site of the fort.
- January 1831 Mexican Land Commissioner J. Francisco Madero arrives on the Trinity, but bypasses an obligatory visit on Bradburn. Madero is a Federalist and is politically opposed to Bradburn, a Centralist.
- Feb. 13, 1831 Bradburn has Madero and his surveyor arrested; within ten days Bradburn is ordered to release Madero.
- March 1831 Surveying of Anahuac townsite completed by Bradburn. During this same month Dr. Nicholas D. Labadie settles there. He will later write first hand accounts of the battle of Anahuac (1832) and the battle of San Jacinto (1836).
- Apr. 12, 1831 Orders arrive on the Trinity revoking Madero's power to grant titles, but he continues to process deeds.

- May 14, 1831 Bradburn, in full Masonic regalia, presides over a ceremony laying the cornerstone for the fort. A huge public banquet follows.
- June 1831 Labadie, writing in a letter to his nephew, notes that the garrison now has 171 soldiers and around 300 citizens were living in the growing townsite.
- Nov. 9, 1831 Hungarian-born George Fisher, the new tariff collector at Anahuac, arrives there in company with General Manuel Mier y Terán
- Early 1832 Two soldiers assault an Anglo woman, local residents demand the soldiers be turned over for tarring and feathering. Bradburn refuses. Local men organize a militia and select Patrick C. Jack as the captain. This violates Mexican law, which holds only Bradburn or the local alcalde could raise a militia. Bradburn has Jack arrested and secured on an armed schooner in the harbor. He is later released.
- Feb. 1832 Bradburn imprisons eight to ten American sailors from the U.S. schooner *Topaz* after the crew mutinies.
- May 1832 Bradburn imprisons Anahuac attorney William Barret Travis after a simmering controversy over two runaway slaves offered sanctuary at Anahuac. Travis may or may not have been involved in a plot to frighten Bradburn into thinking an armed force from Louisiana were coming to retake the slaves.
- May 18, 1832 Bradburn arrests Patrick C. Jack, who may or may not have made threats against the commander while trying to secure the release of Travis.
- May 24, 1832 After a female slave attempts to pass a note to Travis and Jack about an impending plot to free the men, Bradburn has them moved to the brick kiln and places two cannons at the entrance.
- June 4, 1832 Angry colonists from San Felipe, Brazoria and Liberty begin the march to Anahuac to free Travis and Jack
- June 9, 1832 The group of Anglo colonists capture Bradburn's cavalry and skirmishing continues throughout the day
- June 10-12 Insurgents led by Captain Francis W. Johnson attacked the fort in a series of skirmishes, which led to Bradburn's departure from the command the eventual release of Travis, Jack and other prisoners. This attack is important in Texas history because it was the real beginning of armed resistance in Texas.
- June 13, 1832 A group of the rebels gathered at Turtle Bayou and drafted their grievances into a document known as the "Turtle Bayou Resolutions." While supporting General Antonio Lopez de Santa Anna, the rebels deplored Commander Bradburn's heavy-handed leadership.
- July 2, 1832 After a series of negotiations, Travis, Jack and other prisoners were released to Alcalde Hugh B. Johnston.

- July 13, 1832 Bradburn leaves the fort and travels further east. The fort was promptly abandoned, the cannons removed, and much of the woodwork was destroyed by fire.
- January 1835 Captain Antonio Tenorio arrived at Anahuac and reestablished the fort with two other officers and 34 soldiers as one of four customhouses on the Texas coast (others at Matagorda, Copano Bay and Nacogdoches).
- Mar. 15, 1835 Conflict erupts after a confrontation between Andrew Briscoe, a local merchant, and the customs collector
- June 29, 1835 After a continuing series of confrontations, William Barret Travis gathered a small force, attacked the Fort and captured some Mexican officers.
- June 30, 1835 Tenorio surrenders the fort, ending the “Second Battle of Anahuac.”
- Feb. 1, 1836 Voters at Anahuac and Old River cast their votes and elect three delegates from the Liberty District to attend the Constitutional Convention at Washington, TX
- Mar. 6, 1836 Three men from Round Point---Edward, George and James Taylor---are all killed in the fall of the Alamo. Several men from the Anahuac areas joined Captain William Logan’s company at Liberty, in response to the last immortal appeal from Travis for assistance.
- Dec. 1, 1836 The captured General Antonio Lopez de Santa Anna, accompanied by his aide, Col. Juan Almonte and other captured Mexican officers, are held at the home of E. H. R. Wallis on “Wallis Hill.” Mr. Wallis treats the Texas soldiers and their Mexican prisoners to a huge feast. “The Santa Anna Tree,” a live oak under which the Mexican leader slept, still stands on the property, which is now the home of John Middleton.
- Dec. 2, 1836 Santa Anna and his party are escorted to the home of Taylor White at Turtle Bayou, where they are held another night. (Santa Anna was being escorted to the Mississippi River and then on to Washington, DC for a meeting with President Andrew Jackson.)
- 1838 Legal dispute over the ownership of Anahuac begins between General Thomas Jefferson Chambers and Charles Willcox (this suit will not be resolved until Shortly before the assassination of Chambers in 1865.