

Mapping Texas History: Roads to Texas 1824-1835

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If you have ever traveled the various regions of Texas, you know that the landscape is as diverse as any. From mountains to swamps and prairies to deserts, Texas is a rugged country and depends upon her roads to facilitate commerce and travel. It was no different in 1835 when Mexico declared itself a Centralist Regime and the people declared themselves independent.

With the establishment of the Centralist Republic in Mexico in 1835, the former states of Mexico lost their autonomy and were divided into departments. Many of these former states rebelled. Between 1835 and 1841, five of these states declared independence: Yucatan, Texas, Nuevo Leon, Tamaulipas, Coahuila and Tabasco. These areas, far from Mexico City, felt less of a connection with the capital and determined that they could govern themselves better than a centralist regime hundreds of miles away. Texas and its neighbors, Coahuila, Nuevo Leon and Tamaulipas had more in common than perhaps the other states to the south. There were established roads between these areas that allowed the movement of troops, as well as, the transportation of cargo that meant an economic boost to the area.

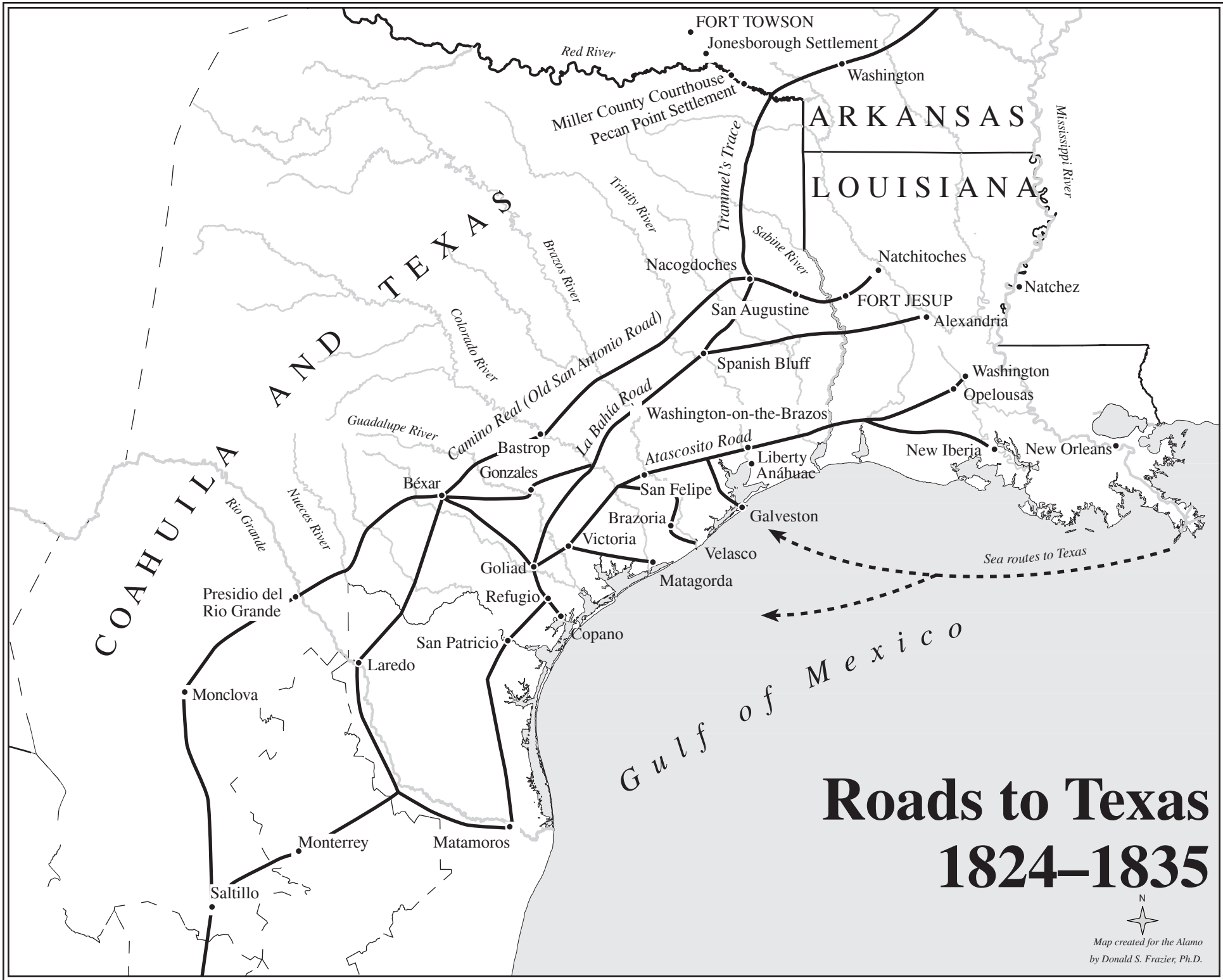
Yes, the roads were crude and in some areas reminiscent of the trails established by the Indians of the area, but they were still navigable by wagons. These wagons might carry muskets and gun powder for an invading army or they may carry foodstuffs, cloth and other sundries necessary in a growing town like San Antonio.

The attached map shows the roads available to travelers in the years of colonization and rebellion in the northern Mexico/Texas region. Notice the towns that the roads pass through. Where do the significant events of the Texas Revolution take place? San Antonio? Goliad? Gonzales? Refugio? There is a reason for the physical location of these events. Armies can get to them by road!

This map is a great tool in helping students of Texas history understand the role that the roads played in the events that occurred in 1835 and 1836. How would Santa Anna get an Army of 6000 into Texas if not by sea? How would the citizens of the colonies make their way east in the Runaway Scrape? How would the men of Gonzales make their way to the Alamo in time for the Mexican assault on March 6, 1836? The primitive road system of Texas made all of this possible.

This map is just one of many that make up The Alamo's Mapping Texas History: Colonization to Statehood map book. This map book is free to classroom teachers. Please contact Sherri Driscoll at sdriscoll@thealamo.org to get your copy!

TEKS: 4.6; 4.8; 4.12; 4.21; 4.22; 7.1; 7.8; 7.9; 7.11; 7.21; 7.22; 7.23



FORT TOWSON
Jonesborough Settlement

Red River
Miller County Courthouse
Pecan Point Settlement

Washington
ARKANSAS
LOUISIANA

Mississippi River

Trinity River

Brazos River

Colorado River

Trammel's Trace

Sabine River

Nacogdoches

Natchitoches

Natchez

FORT JESUP

Alexandria

San Augustine

Spanish Bluff

Washington

Opelousas

Camino Real (Old San Antonio Road)

La Bahía Road

Washington-on-the-Brazos

New Iberia

New Orleans

Guadalupe River

Bastrop

Atascosito Road

Liberty

Anáhuac

Rio Grande

Nueces River

Béxar

Gonzales

San Felipe

New Iberia

Brazoria

Galveston

Sea routes to Texas

Victoria

Velasco

Matagorda

Presidio del Rio Grande

Goliad

Refugio

Copano

Gulf of Mexico

**Roads to Texas
1824-1835**



Map created for the Alamo
by Donald S. Frazier, Ph.D.