

Quick Reference Guide for Understanding the West Florida Revolt and Creation of the West Florida Republic

Facts

1. The Florida Parishes of Louisiana were not a part of the Louisiana Purchase, the region remained a part of Spanish West Florida.
2. The region's designation as the "Florida Parishes" is derived from the area's time as a separate and distinct entity known as "West Florida".
3. In September 1810, the residents rose in an armed insurrection, overthrew the existing Spanish government, and created the Republic of West Florida.
4. The independent nation of West Florida became known as the "Original Lone Star Republic." The residents of the new nation created an assembly, proclaimed St. Francisville as their capital, and elected a president, Fulwar Skipwith, before being forcibly annexed by the Americans in December 1810.
5. The year 2010 will mark the 200th anniversary of the West Florida Revolt and the creation of the West Florida Republic—the single most significant event influencing the regional identity of the Florida Parishes.

Time Line

- 1803- France and the United States agree to the "Louisiana Purchase" granting America control of all French territory east of the Mississippi and including the Isle of Orleans. The Florida Parishes are not included in the purchase and remain a part of Spanish West Florida.
- 1804- An abortive uprising led by the Kemper brothers of Pinckneyville, Mississippi and known as the "Kemper Rebellion" seeks to overthrow Spanish authority in the West Florida.
- 1810- September 23, rebels storm the Spanish fort at Baton Rouge, overwhelm the garrison, and proclaim the Republic of West Florida. The West Florida assembly dispatches an army commanded by Gen. Phiemon Thomas to forcibly annex the territory from the Mississippi to the Pearl River into the new nation.
- 1811- March 11, rebellious elements again raise the Lone Star flag of the West Florida Republic forcing governor William C.C. Claiborne to dispatch troops to enforce his authority.
- 1812- April 12, Congress admits Louisiana, excluding the Florida Parishes, to the Union.
- 1812- August 4, the state legislature assents to the inclusion of West Florida, from the Mississippi to the Pearl River, as part of the new state.