

Pertinent Facts About the West Florida Revolt:

- 1) The Florida Parishes of Louisiana were originally British and later Spanish West Florida
- 2) The Florida Parishes were not a part of the Louisiana Purchase
- 3) The West Florida Revolt is one of only three known successful revolutions against Spanish Rule in North America
- 4) The Republic of West Florida founded September 23, 1810 existed as an independent nation for 74 days
- 5) The Lone Star Flag originally served as the flag of the Republic of West Florida prior to use as the Bonnie Blue Flag and state flag of Texas
- 6) The West Florida Revolt was the first in a series of liberation movements in Spanish held territories in America

For further information please contact the Center for Southeast Louisiana Studies at 985-549-2151 or www.selu.edu/acad_research/programs/cs/sl/



Contact Information

St. Tammany Parish: www.louisiananorthshore.com
Contact #: 800-634-9443

Tangipahoa Parish: www.tangitourism.com
Contact #: 1-800-542-7520

Livingston Parish: www.visitlivingstonparish.com
Contact #: 225-567-7899

East Baton Rouge Parish: www.visitbatonrouge.com
Contact #: 225-382-3575

West Feliciana Parish: www.stfrancisville.us
Contact #: 800-789-4221

East Feliciana Parish: www.felicianatourism.org
Contact #: 225-634-7155

St. Helena Parish: www.2sthelena@yahoo.com
Contact #: 225-222-7000

Washington Parish: www.washingtonparishtourism.com
Contact #: 888-827-7118

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The West Florida Republic Trail: Exploring the Original Lone Star State

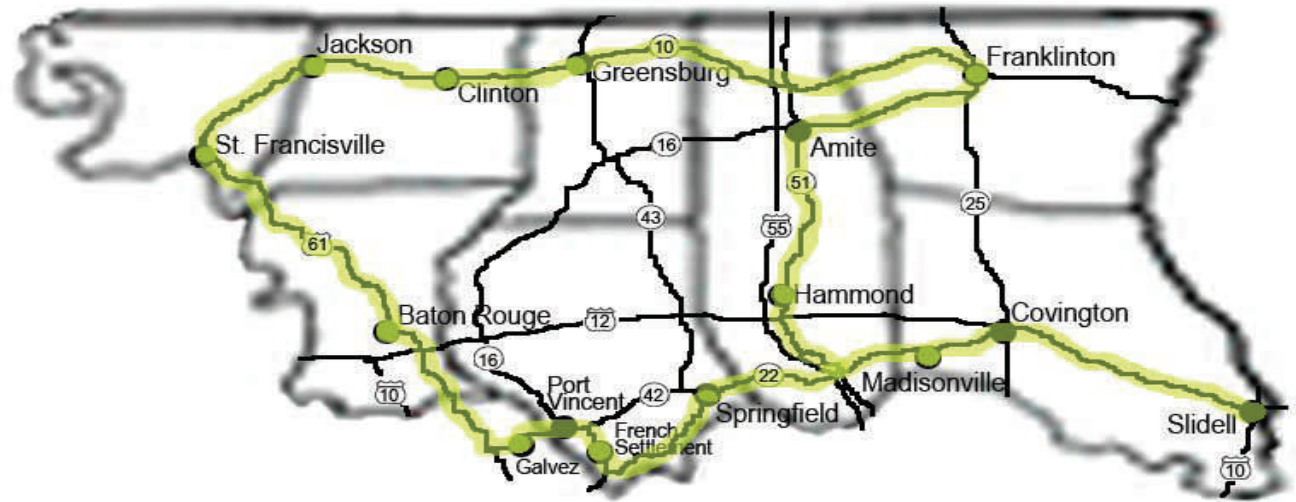


Brief History

In the early morning hours of September 23, 1810, armed rebels stormed the Spanish fort at Baton Rouge initiating the West Florida Revolt. The Rebels proclaimed St. Francisville as their capital and raised the flag of the original Lone Star Republic. The presence of competing pro-Spanish, pro-American, and pro-independence factions, as well as the presence of scores of foreign agents, contributed to a virtual civil war within the Revolt as the competing factions jockeyed for position. The Republic of West Florida established a bicameral legislature, elected a governor, and dispatched an army to consolidate their control of the territory. The infant Republic eventually stretched from the Mississippi to the Pearl River (the region today known as Louisiana's Florida Parishes) and endured for 74 days before being forcibly annexed by American forces commanded by William C. C. Claiborne on December 10, 1810.

The Trail

The trail commences at Slidell proceeding thru Mandeville to Madisonville along Hwy 22 to Ponchatoula, then up Hwy 51 to Hammond and Amite. It then follows Hwy 16 to Franklinton, and Hwy 10 to Greensburg, Clinton, Jackson, and into St. Francisville. From there it proceeds down to Baton Rouge and to Prairieville before crossing thru Galvez to Port Vincent, French Settlement and into Springfield where it concludes at I-12 (Republic of West Florida Parkway).



Relevant Site Locations

St. Tammany Parish

A somewhat reluctant participant in the rebellion. Its best known participant in the Revolt was William Cooper who led opposition to the Revolt and was branded a traitor by the rebels. See the historic marker at 68099 Hwy 59 in Mandeville.

Tangipahoa Parish

The scene of intense maneuvering between all three factions involved in the Revolt, a historic marker detailing this region's convoluted involvement in the West Florida Revolt is located just off I-55 on the grounds of the Tangipahoa Parish Convention and Visitors Bureau at 13143 Wardline Rd. in Hammond

Livingston Parish

A historic marker located at Springfield Town Hall, 27378 La. Hwy 42 is situated near the site of King Ferdinand Fort where diehard Spanish loyalists made a final stand before being overwhelmed by the rebel army

East Baton Rouge Parish

Baton Rouge contains the site of Fort San Carlos, the grave of General Philemon Thomas and Convention Street which runs through Mid-City and Downtown Baton Rouge. The street was renamed after the 1810 West Florida Constitutional Convention that was held there. See the explanatory marker located between the Visitors Center and Pentagon Barracks on River Road.

West Feliciana Parish

St. Francisville, the origin point and seat of government of the Republic of West Florida, is the site of the Republic Park and primary monument to the Revolt located immediately adjacent to the West Feliciana Parish Courthouse. The town and immediate environs include the still standing homes of many key participants of the Revolt some of which are open to visitors.

East Feliciana Parish

A key region of support for the Revolt against Spanish rule, the Clinton and Jackson areas include many antebellum homes, the original parish courthouse, Centenary College, and the former Silliman Female Institute among other historical sites. See the historical site located at 1610 Charter Street at the Gazebo in Jackson

St. Helena Parish

St. Helena Parish was deeply divided between rebel supporters and those who favored continuing Spanish authority due to the large land grants and tax free life the Spanish offered. See the explanatory marker located at the St. Helena Parish Visitors Center on Hwy 10 just west of Greensburg

Washington Parish

Even though Washington Parish remained on the periphery of the main events, its people enjoyed lucrative Spanish land grants and the region offered a bastion of support for the Spanish with a scattering of pro-rebel sentiment among the population. See the historical marker located in Franklinton.