



Student Name:
Class Period:
Date:

Meet the Originals

Texas Originals is a radio series about people who made an impact on Texas. You can hear it online and on radio stations around the state. Read or listen to the episode on Plácido Benavides. Then, answer questions about it.

Plácido Benavides 1810–1837

Plácido Benavides is called the “Paul Revere of Texas” for his role in the Texas Revolution.

Born in 1810 in Mexico, Benavides moved to Texas in 1828. He found work in Victoria with the family of empresario Martín De León. Benavides married De León’s daughter Agustina and became the city’s alcalde, or leading magistrate.

By 1835, Benavides had joined the Texians in opposing Mexican dictator Santa Anna. As head of Victoria’s militia, Benavides stood up to Mexican soldiers trying to arrest suspected rebels. This defiance made him a rebel, too.

Benavides helped take Goliad and San Antonio for the Texians. Soon after, he was among the men ambushed by the Mexican army near San Patricio. In the ensuing battle, he was dispatched to Goliad to alert others of the Mexican army’s approach.

Benavides’s ride to Goliad has been compared to Paul Revere’s famous ride in the American Revolution, as both men spread the news of oncoming enemy assault.

It was on this ride that Benavides learned that Texas had declared independence. Though he opposed Santa Anna, Benavides was fighting for Texas as part of a federalist Mexico, not for Texas independence. His relations with the Texas rebels soon soured. After the Texian victory in 1836, Benavides and the De León family left Victoria for exile in New Orleans.

Benavides never returned to Texas. He died in 1837.

Check for Understanding: Answer the questions below based on evidence from the episode on Plácido Benavides. Refer to the text included above if needed.

1. Why did Plácido Benavides eventually separate himself from the Texas rebels?
2. Why was Benavides compared to Paul Revere?

Going Further: Write or discuss your answer to the question below, supporting your answer with evidence from the episode or additional information you have learned in class.

3. **Creating Connections.** Benavides married empresario Martín De León’s daughter. What is an empresario? How were they involved in the settlement of Texas?