

BRIEF CHRONOLOGY OF THE WESTWARD EXPANSION ERA

- 1743 Thomas Jefferson born April 13 in Albemarle County, Virginia.
- 1749 Peter Jefferson, father of Thomas, and Joshua Fry survey boundary line between Virginia and North Carolina.
- 1760 Thomas Jefferson studies at College of William and Mary.
- 1762 Thomas Jefferson reads law with George Wythe.
- 1767 Andrew Jackson born March 15 at Waxhaw on North Carolina–South Carolina border.
John Quincy Adams born July 11 in Braintree, Massachusetts.
- 1769 Thomas Jefferson elected to Virginia House of Burgesses.
- 1774 John Chapman born September 26 in Leominster, Massachusetts.
Jefferson publishes *A Summary View of the Rights of British America*.
- 1775 American Revolution begins April 19 with battles at Lexington and Concord, Massachusetts.
Jefferson serves as delegate to Second Continental Congress in Philadelphia.
Daniel Boone cuts trace through Cumberland Gap into Kentucky.
- 1776 Jefferson writes Declaration of Independence.
- 1777 Battles of Saratoga in New York: Freeman's Farm, September 19; Bemis Heights, October 7. Washington moves his army into winter quarters at Valley Forge.
- 1779 Joel Roberts Poinsett born March 2 in Charleston, South Carolina.

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- 1780 Battle of Kings Mountain, South Carolina, October 7.
- 1781 John Quincy Adams serves with legation in St. Petersburg, Russia.
Jefferson writes to George Rogers Clark in Kentucky asking for large fossil bones.
Jefferson begins *Notes on the State of Virginia*. Battles of Cowpens, South Carolina, January 17. British surrender at Yorktown, October 17.
- 1782 Martha Randolph Jefferson dies September 6.
- 1783 Treaty of Paris, September 3.
Jefferson returns to Continental Congress where he helps draft Ordinance for Government of Northwest Territories.
- 1784 Alexander McGillivray concludes Creek treaty with Spain.
Zachary Taylor born November 24 in Virginia.
- 1785 Jefferson succeeds Franklin as minister to France, meets Buffon and other French scientists. Publishes *Notes on the State of Virginia*.
- 1786 Winfield Scott born June 13 near Petersburg, Virginia.
David Crockett born August 17 in State of Franklin.
- 1787 Andrew Jackson admitted to bar in North Carolina.
John Ledyard sets out to walk across Russia and then North America.
- 1788 Andrew Jackson moves west to Nashville, meets Rachel Robards whom he will later marry.
- 1790 Jefferson becomes Secretary of State in Washington's cabinet, begins quarreling with Alexander Hamilton and the Federalists.
- 1793 Sam Houston born March 2 near Lexington, Virginia.
Jefferson commissions André Michaux to explore the West and resigns from Cabinet.
- 1794 Jay's Treaty bitterly opposed by Jefferson and others. Battle of Fallen Timbers, August 20, near Toledo. Antonio López de Santa Anna born in Mexico.
- 1795 James Knox Polk born November 2 in Pineville, North Carolina.
- 1796 Jefferson elected vice president, John Adams president.
- 1797 John Chapman moves to western Pennsylvania wilderness.
- 1798 Andrew Jackson serves as judge of Tennessee Superior Court.
Jefferson writes the Kentucky Resolutions.

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- 1800 Jefferson elected president. Nicholas P. Trist born June 2 in Charlottesville, Virginia.
- 1802 Andrew Jackson elected major general of Tennessee militia.
- 1803 Louisiana Purchase. Jefferson commissions Meriwether Lewis to explore the West to the Pacific, June 20. John Quincy Adams elected to Senate.
- 1804 John Chapman plants apple trees in Ohio wilderness.
- 1806 Lewis and Clark return from the Pacific. Nonimportation Act passed by Congress. Zebulon Pike explores headwaters of Arkansas River.
Houston family moves to Tennessee.
- 1807 Embargo Act passed by Congress. John Quincy Adams breaks with Federalists.
- 1808 James Madison elected president. Winfield Scott commissioned captain in U.S. Army.
- 1809 Jefferson returns to Monticello. Kit Carson born December 24 in Madison County, Kentucky.
- 1810 Mexican revolt against Spain begins.
- 1811 Tecumseh tours the South. Battle of Tippecanoe River, November 7.
- 1812 United States declares war on Britain, June 18.
- 1813 Fort Mims Massacre triggers Creek War, August 30.
Perry's victory over the British on Lake Erie, September 10.
- 1814 Jackson defeats Red Stick Creeks at Horseshoe Bend, Alabama, March 27.
Scott's victory over the British at Chippewa, July 5.
British burn Washington City, August 24. Treaty of Ghent signed December 24.
- 1815 Jackson defeats British at New Orleans, January 8.
- 1816 James Monroe elected president.
- 1817 John Quincy Adams becomes secretary of state.
- 1818 Treaty with Britain on U.S.-Canada boundary at forty-ninth parallel to Rocky Mountains.
- 1819 Adams-Onís Treaty with Spain.
- 1820 Missouri Compromise excluding slavery in new states north of 36°30'.
- 1821 Mexican independence from Spain. Treaty of Cordoba, August 23.

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- 1823 Sam Houston elected to Congress from Tennessee.
- 1824 John Quincy Adams elected president. Mexican constitution adopted.
Treaty with Russia on boundary of Alaska.
- 1825 Erie Canal opens. James K. Polk elected to Congress from Tennessee.
Joel R. Poinsett becomes ambassador to Mexico.
- 1826 Deaths of Jefferson and John Adams, July 4.
- 1827 David Crockett elected to Congress from Tennessee. Nicholas Trist becomes clerk in State Department. Houston elected governor of Tennessee.
- 1828 Andrew Jackson elected president.
- 1829 Houston resigns as governor of Tennessee. Kit Carson explores the Gila River country.
- 1830 John Quincy Adams elected to Congress from Massachusetts.
- 1831 Play *Lion of the West* by James K. Paulding acted in New York by James Hackett.
- 1832 Houston tried in Congress for attacking legislator. Goes to Texas December 1.
- 1833 Santa Anna elected president of Mexico.
Nicholas Trist appointed consul in Havana.
- 1834 *A Narrative of the Life of David Crockett of the State of Tennessee* published.
- 1835 R. H. Dana arrives in California. Crockett loses election for Congress, leaves for Texas.
- 1836 Crockett dies at Alamo, March 6. "Gag law" passed by Congress. Houston elected commander of Texas army, defeats Santa Anna at San Jacinto, April 21.
- 1837 Smallpox wipes out many Indian villages in the West.
- 1838 Cherokee Removal to Arkansas Territory. Mexico fights "Pastry War" with France in which Santa Anna loses a leg.
- 1839 James K. Polk elected governor of Tennessee.
- 1840 William Henry Harrison elected president. *Two Years Before the Mast* by R. H. Dana published.
- 1841 Harrison dies and John Tyler becomes president. Winfield Scott becomes General in chief of the army July 5.

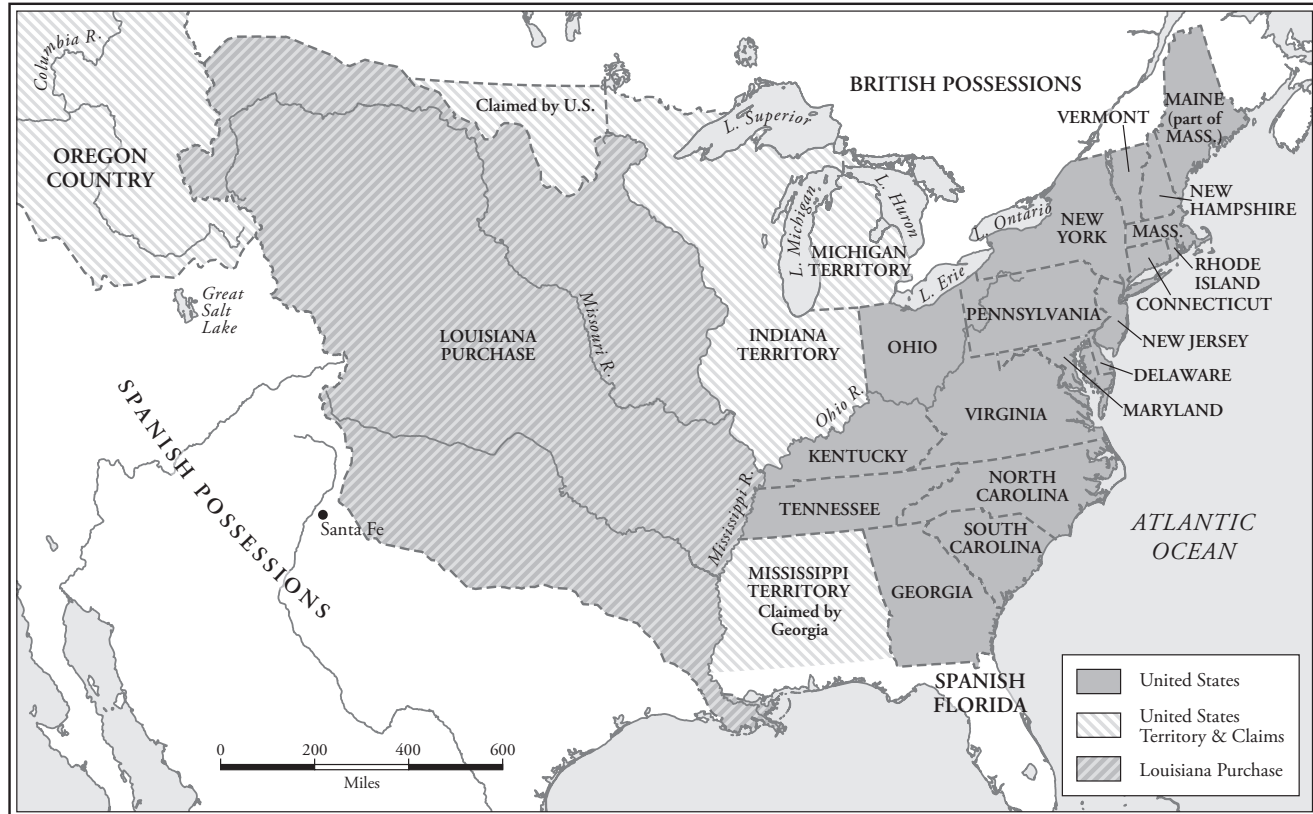
CHRONOLOGY

- 1842 Frémont's First Expedition along Oregon Trail, with Kit Carson as scout.
- 1843 Frémont's Second Expedition to the Far West.
- 1844 Polk elected president. "Gag law" repealed December 3.
- 1845 Texas annexed by United States. Frémont's Third Expedition to the Far West.
John Chapman dies in March at Fort Wayne, Indiana.
Andrew Jackson dies at Hermitage, June 8. Polk begins diary, August 26.
Trist becomes chief clerk of the State Department. "Manifest Destiny" becomes slogan.
- 1846 United States declares war on Mexico May 13. Bear Flaggers declare independence from Mexico June 14. Battles of Palo Alto, May 8; Resaca de la Palma, May 9; Monterrey, September 20–24. Frémont and Stockton take San Diego, Los Angeles, Santa Barbara in August. Kearny claims Santa Fe, August 18, fights at San Pasqual, December 6–11.
- 1847 Los Angeles retaken January 8–9. Battles of Buena Vista, February 22–23; Veracruz, March 22–26; Cerro Gordo, April 17–18. Trist arrives in Mexico, May 6. Battles of Contreras, August 19–20; Churubusco, August 20; Molino del Rey, September 8; Chapultepec, September 12–13.
Scott enters Mexico City, September 14.
- 1848 Taylor elected president. Gold discovered in California January 24. Treaty of Guadalupe Hidalgo signed February 2.
John Quincy Adams dies February 23. Trist arrested in Mexico in April.
- 1849 Polk dies. Gold rush in California.
- 1853 Gadsden Purchase establishes the boundary between Mexico and New Mexico and Arizona.

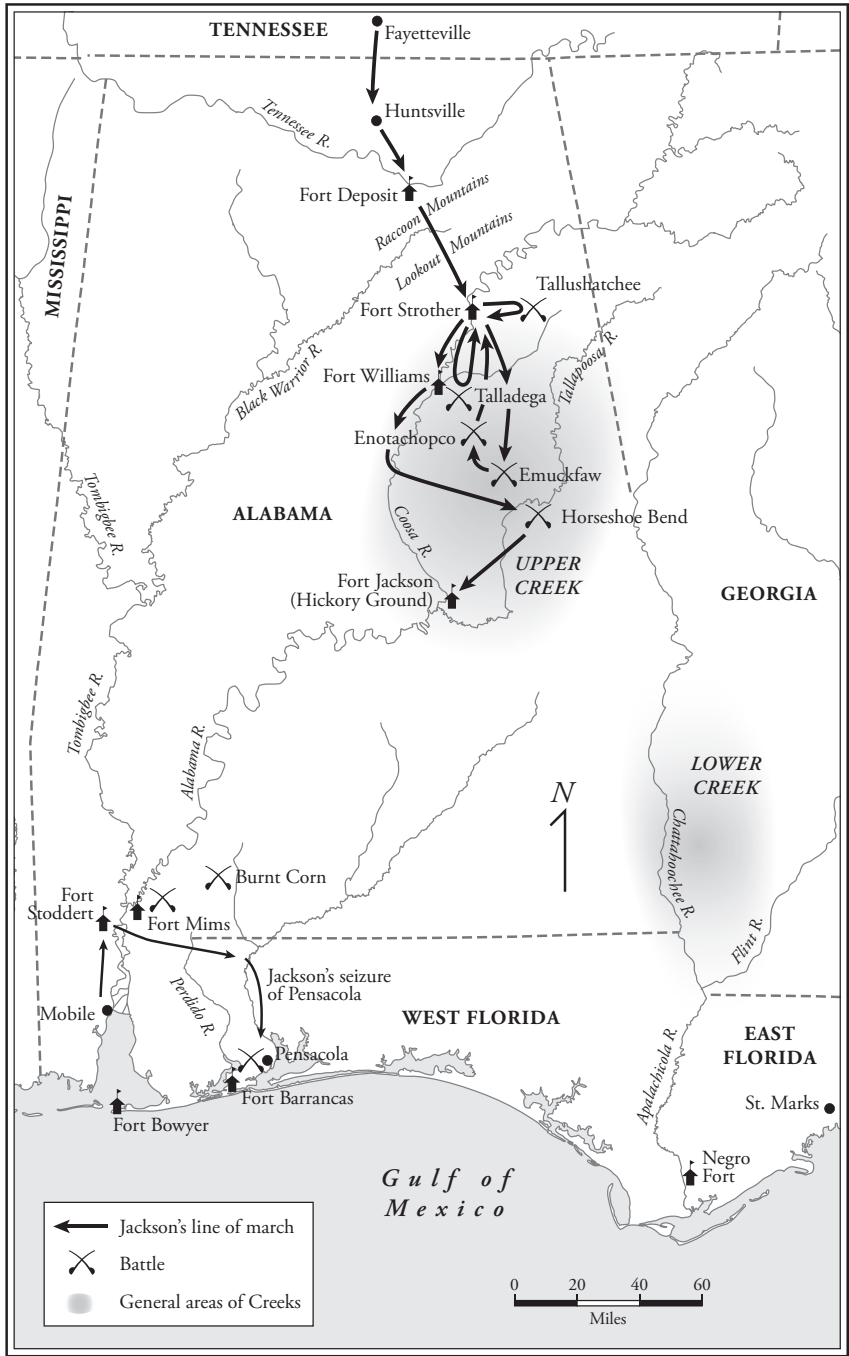




United States, 1781



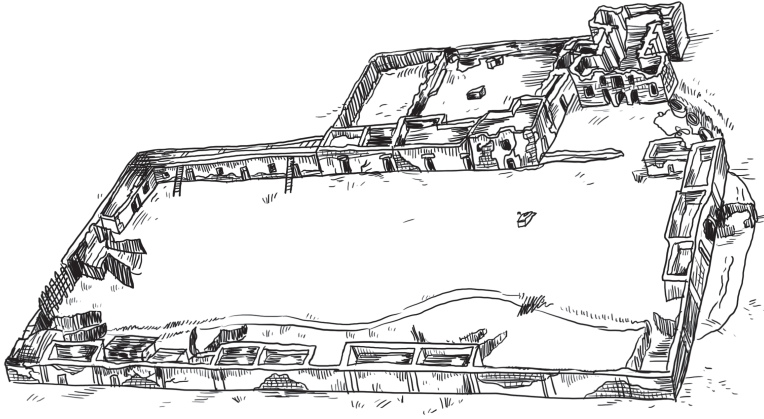
Louisiana Purchase, 1803



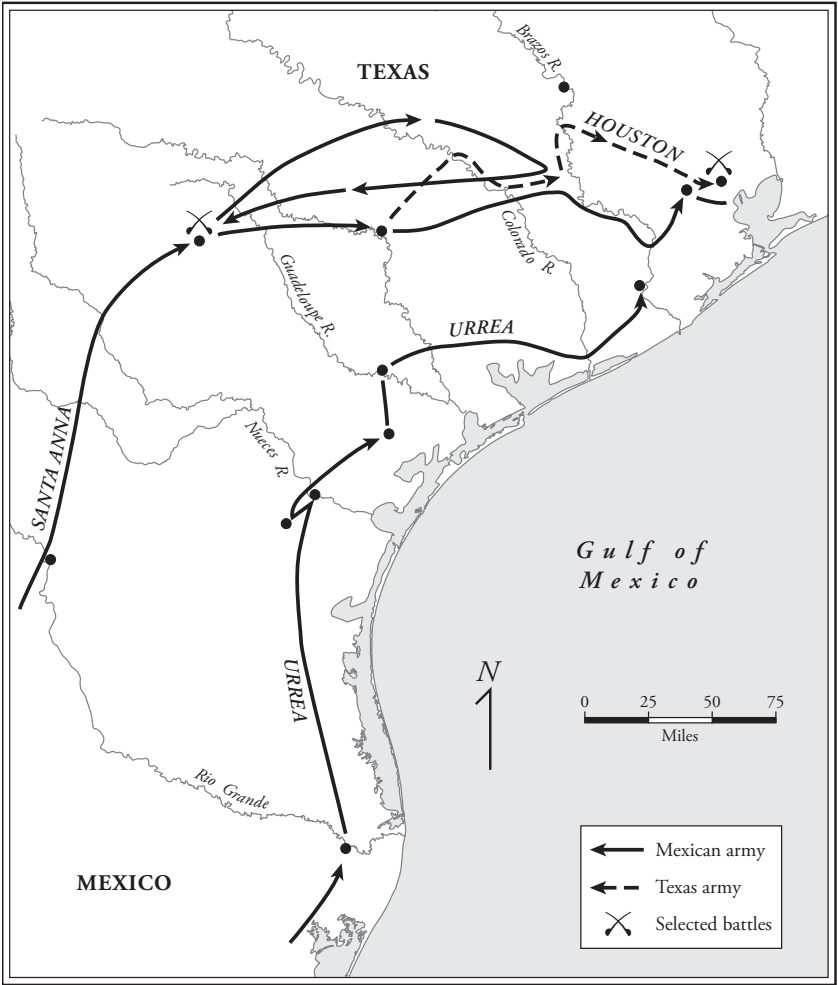
The Creek Campaign, 1813-1814



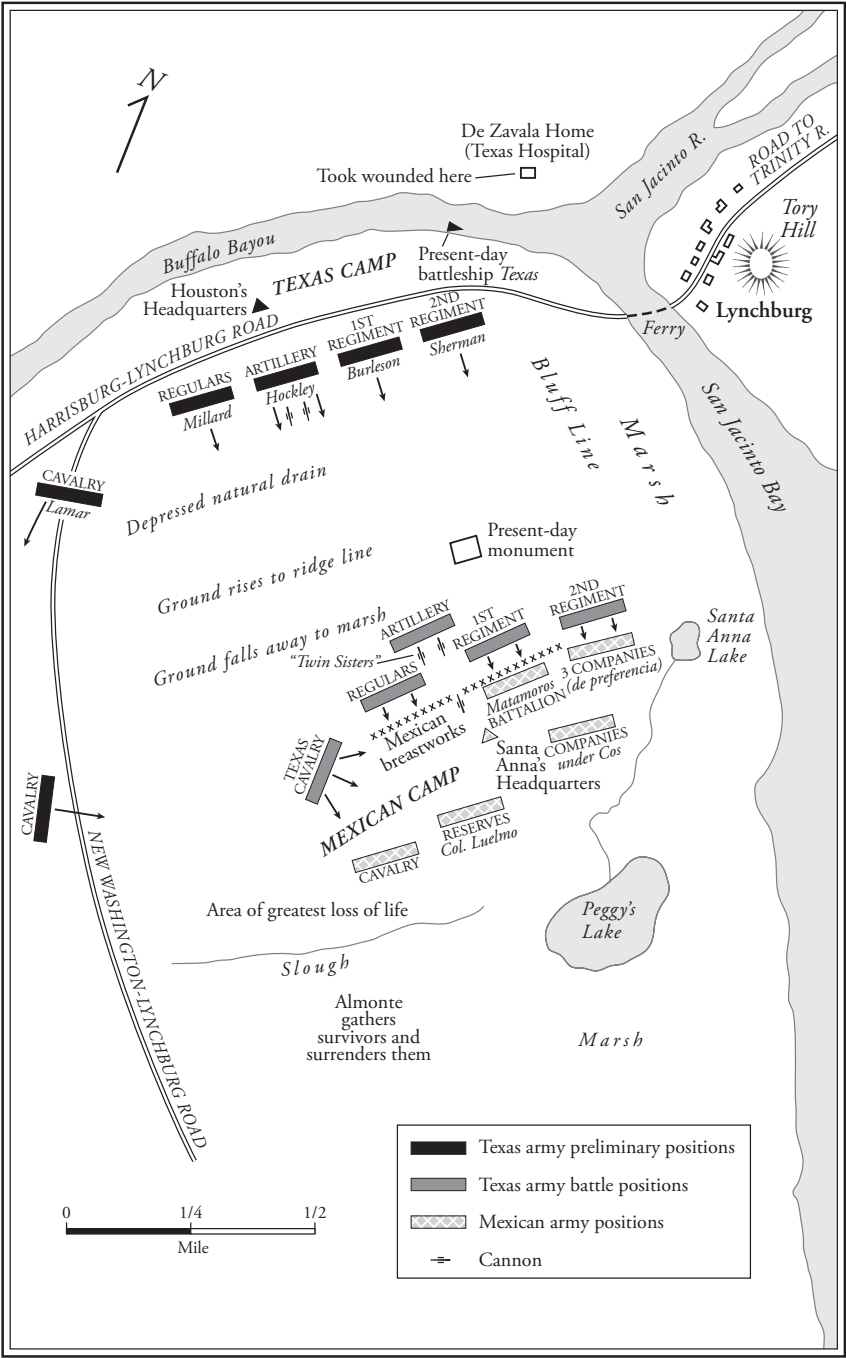
Johnny Appleseed Country, 1840



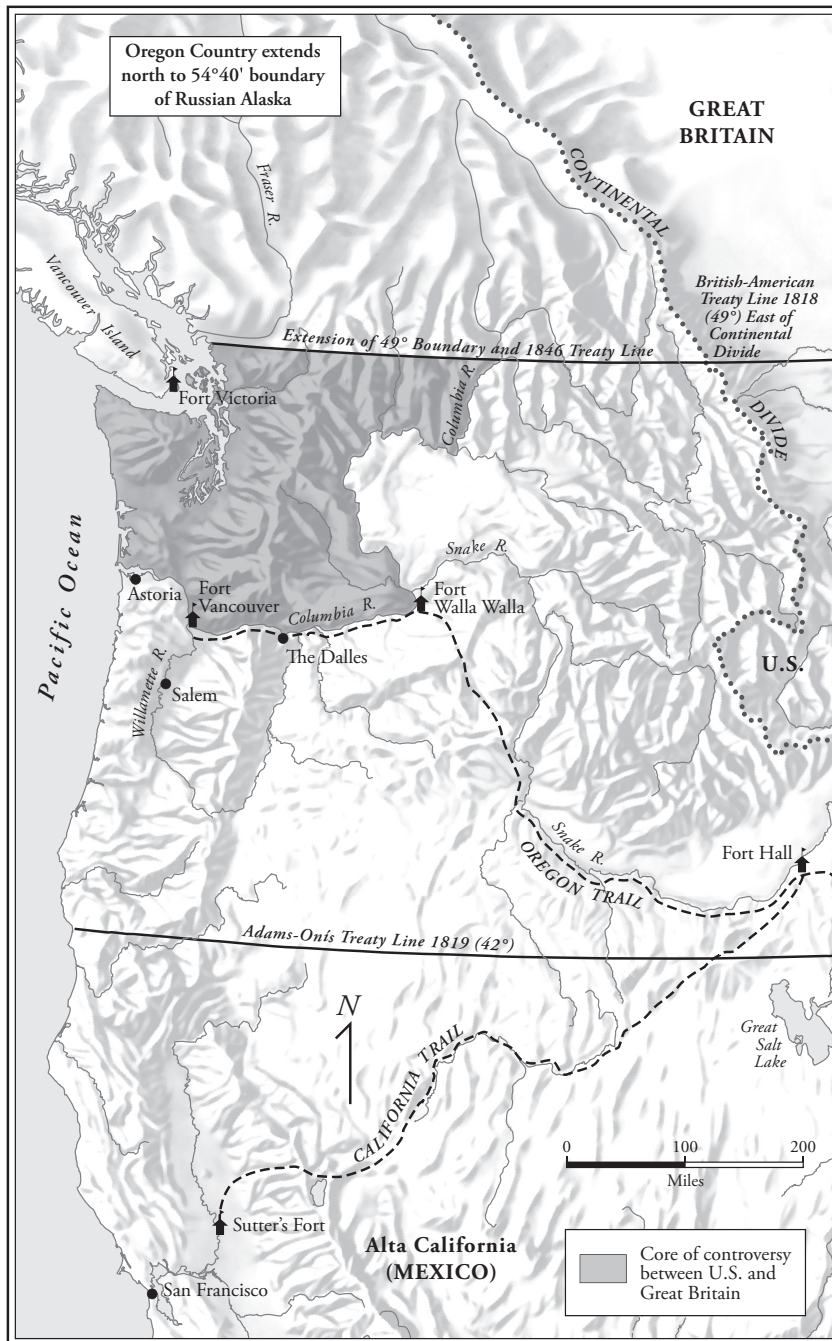
The Alamo, 1836



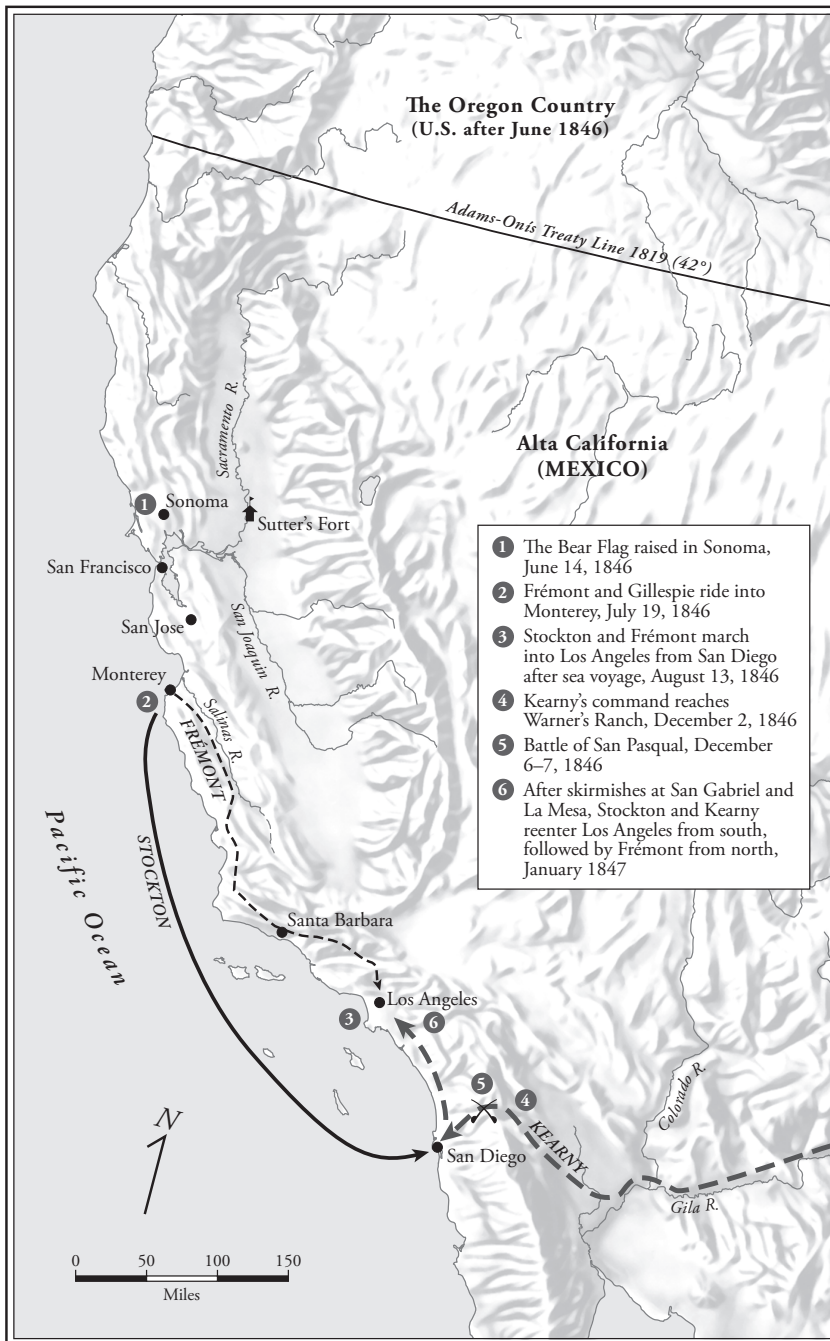
Mexican Invasion of Texas, 1836



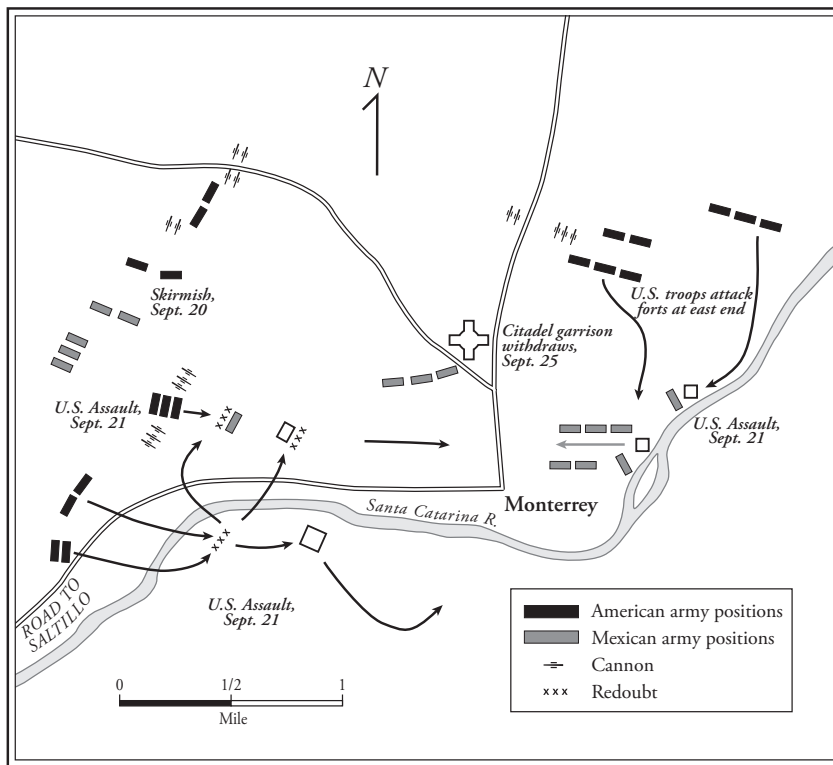
Battle of San Jacinto, April 21, 1836



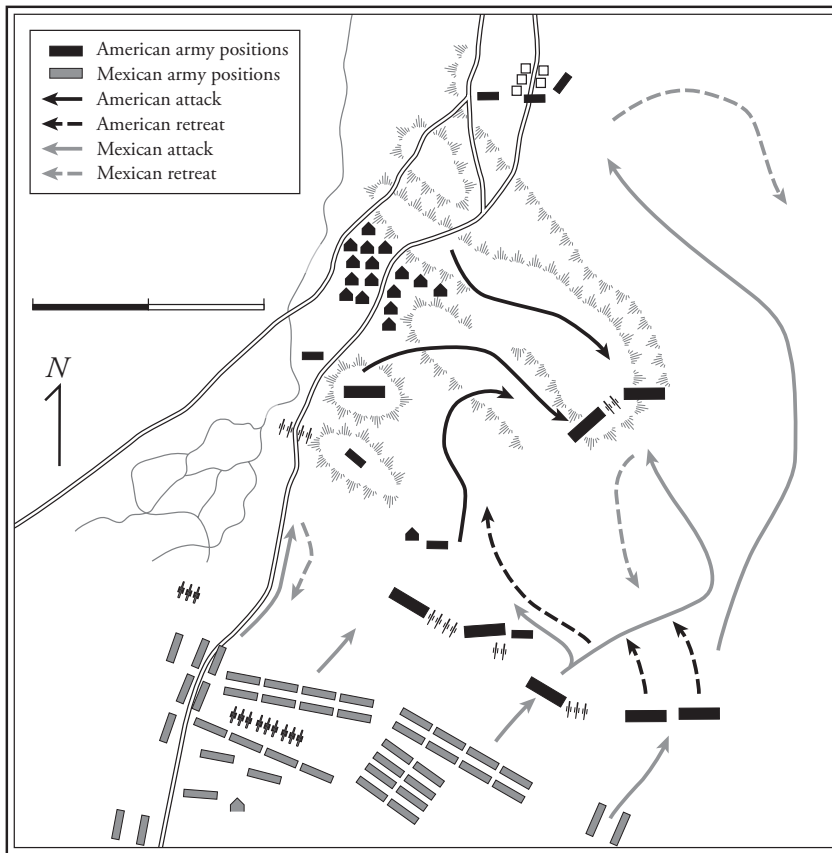
Oregon County, 1846



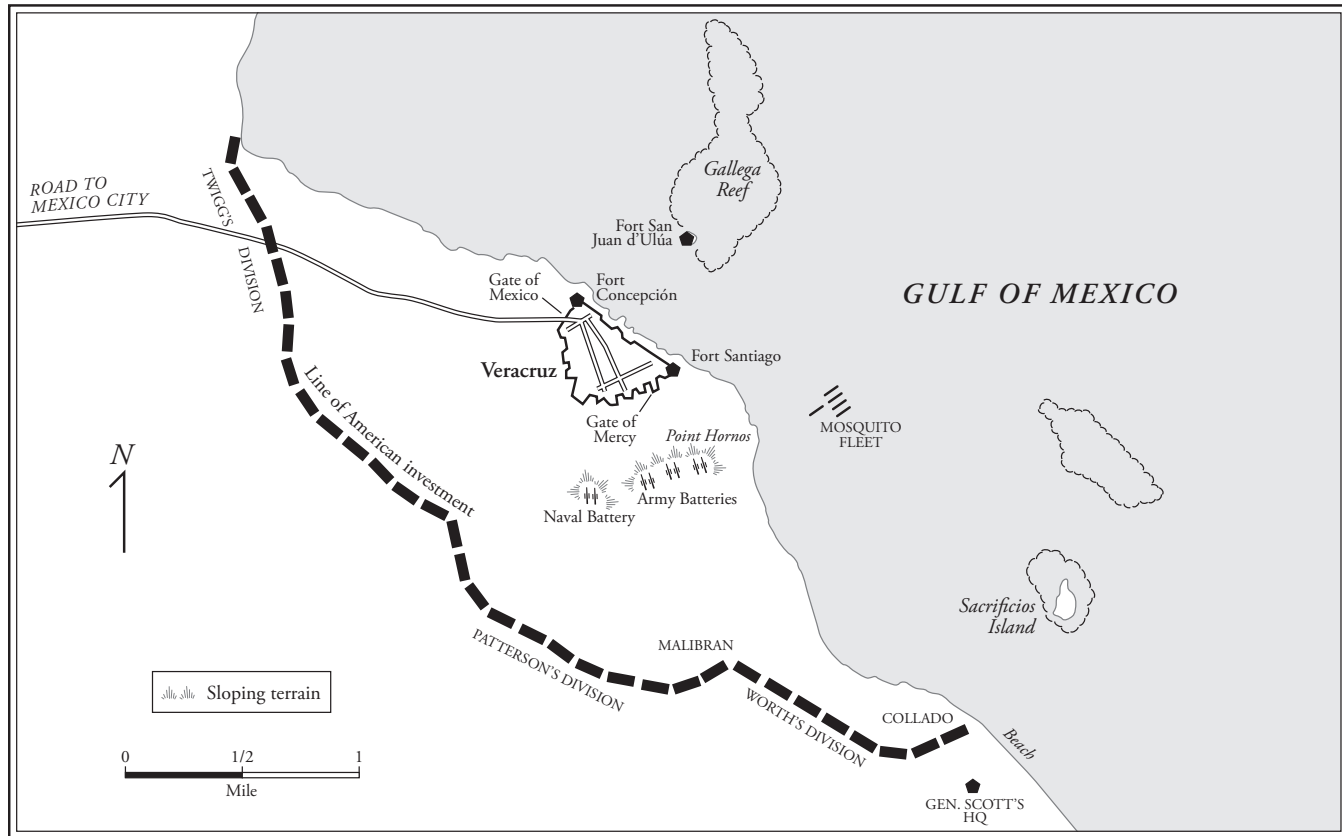
California Campaigns, 1846-1847



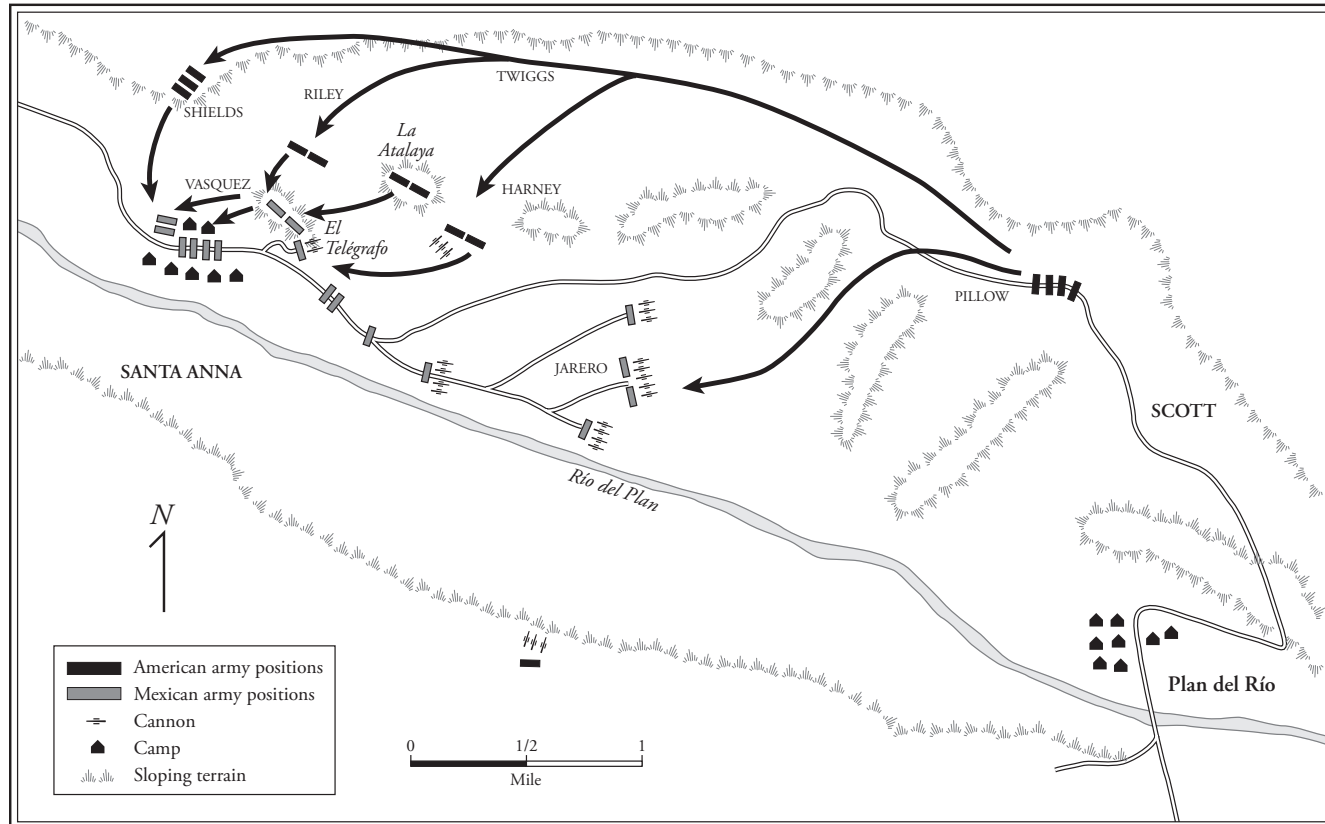
Battles of Monterrey, September 20-24, 1846



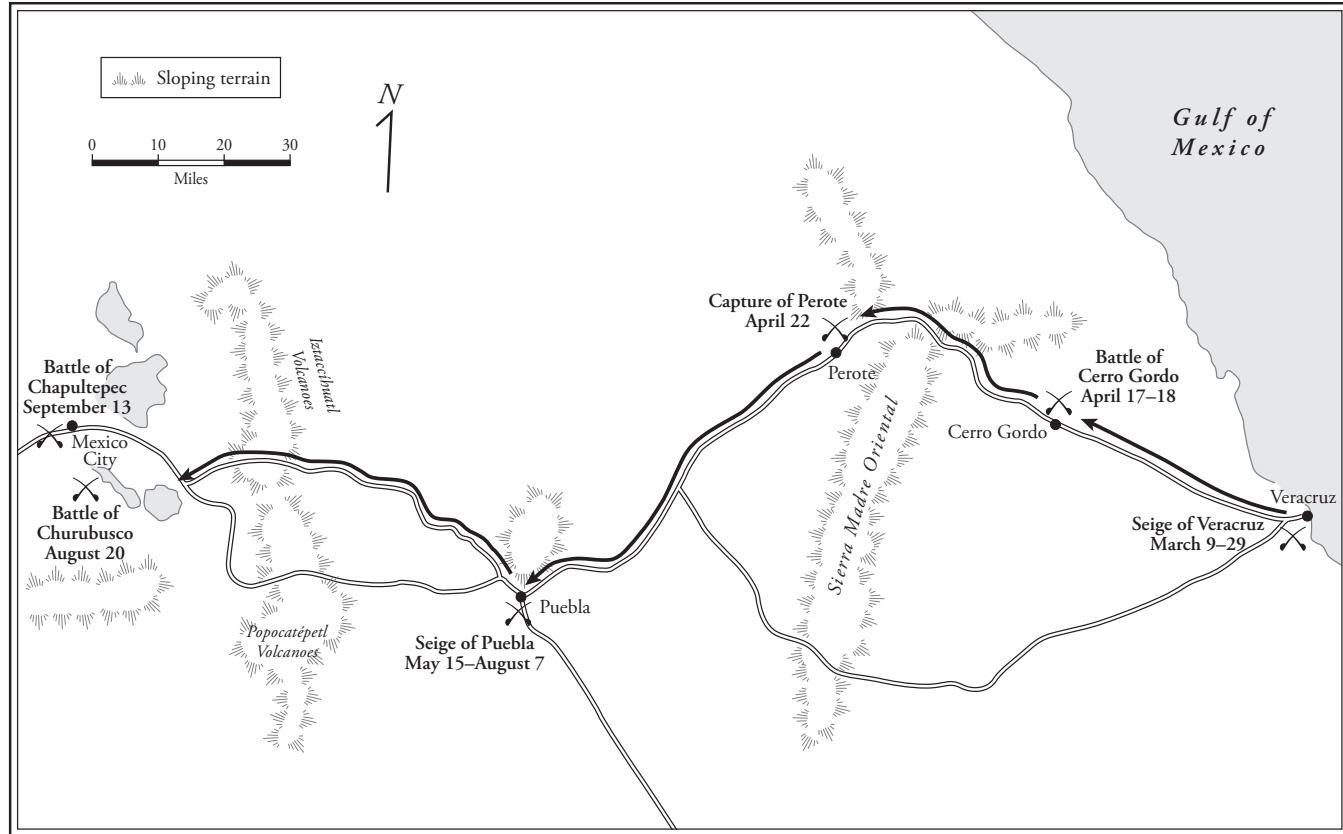
Battle of Buena Vista, February 23, 1847



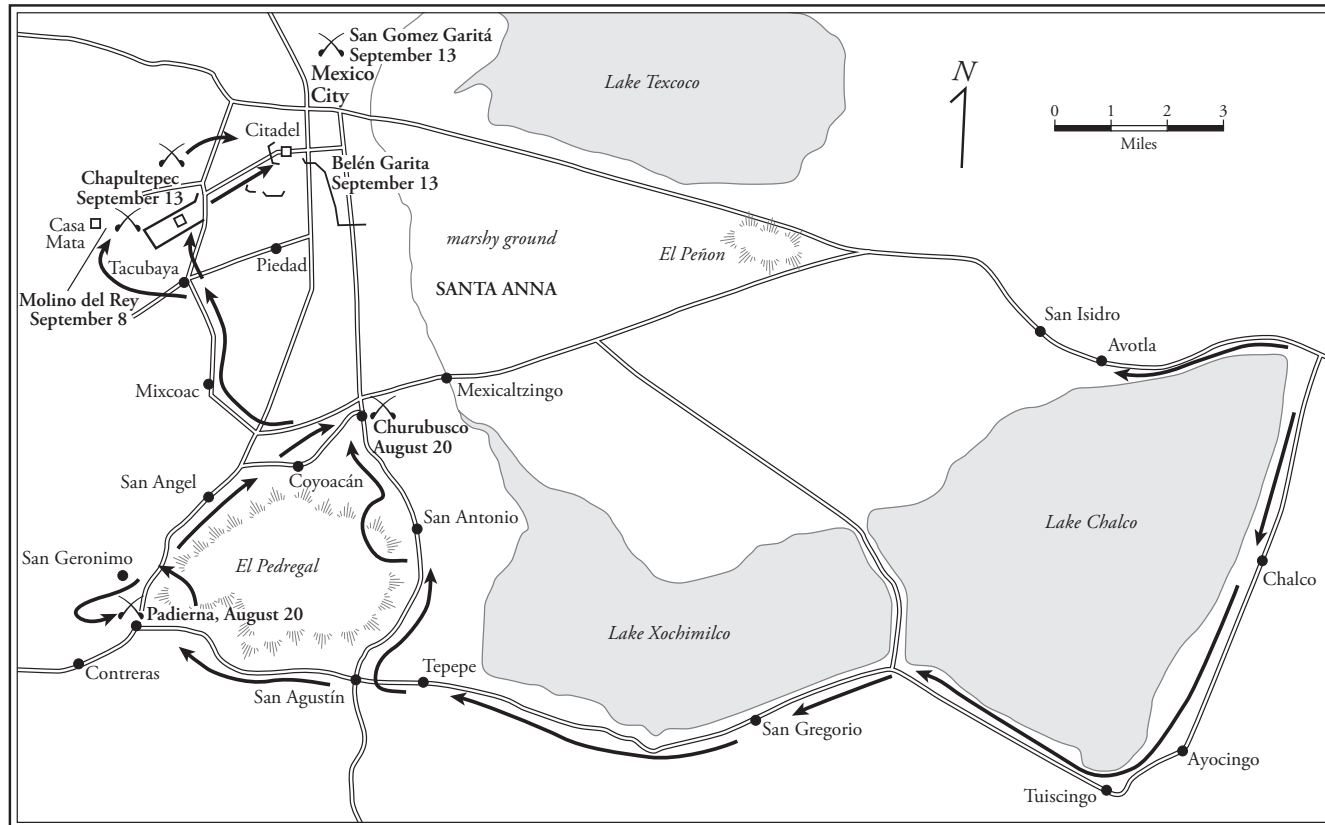
Veracruz, April–May 1847



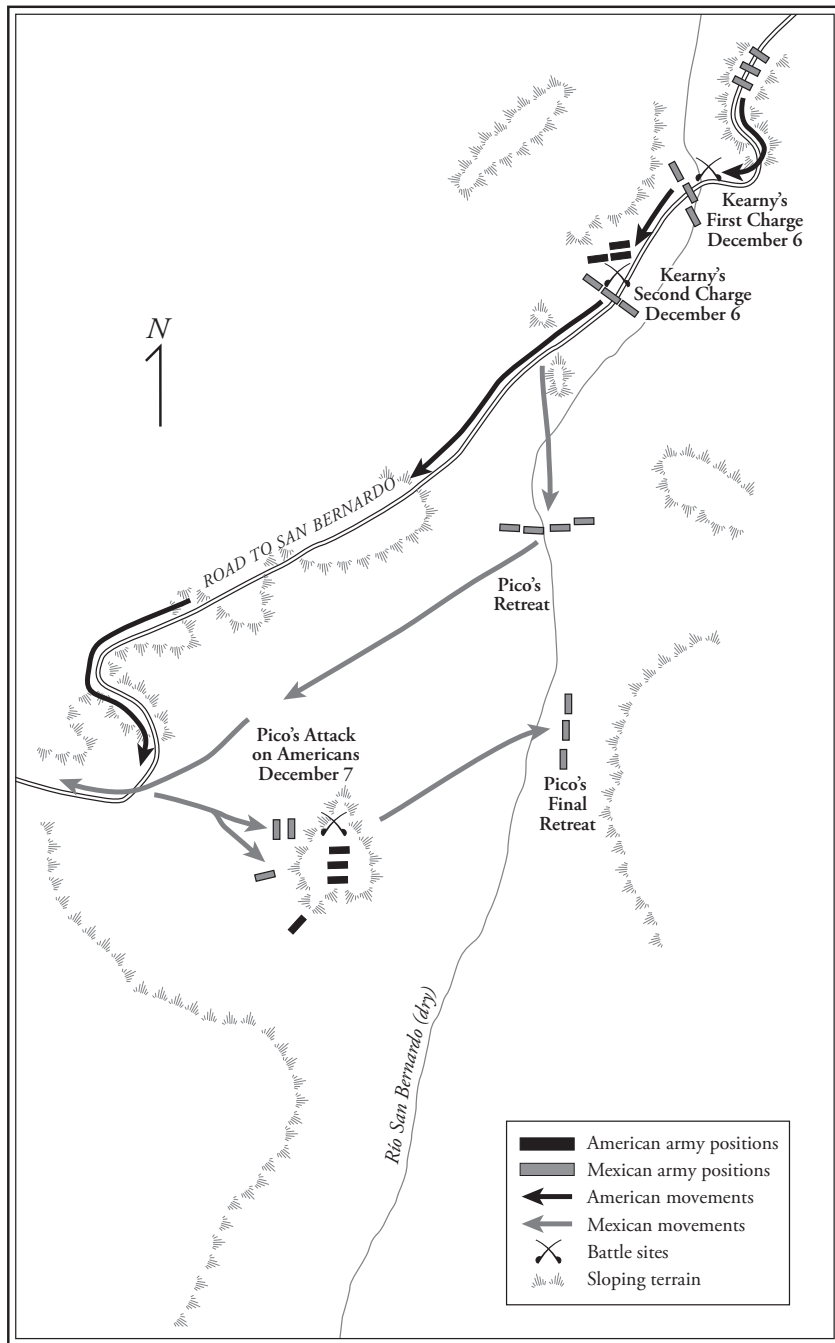
Battle of Cerro Gordo, April 17-18, 1847



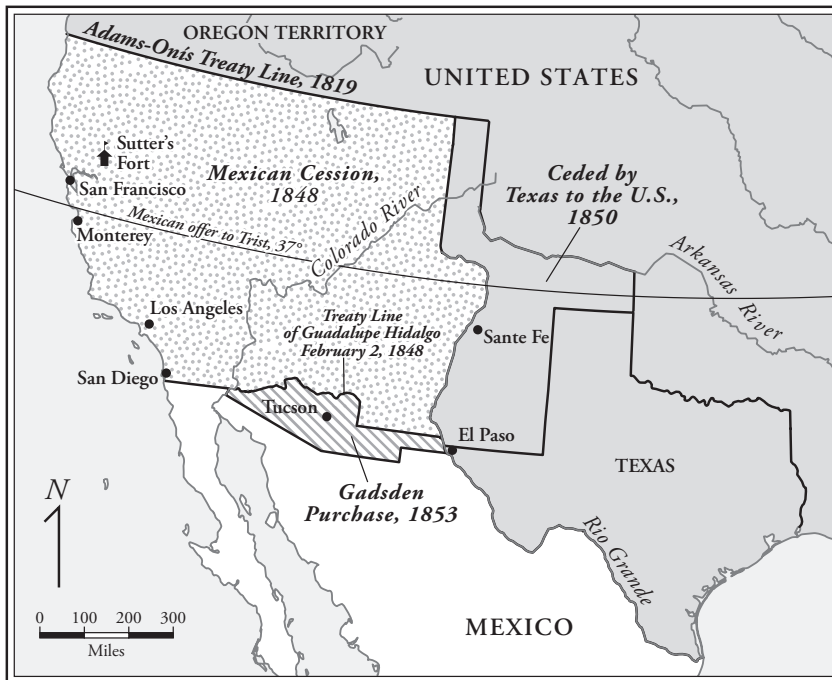
Mexican Campaign, March 7–September 14, 1847



Battles for Mexico City, August–September 1847



Battle of San Pasqual, December 6-7, 1846



Treaty of Guadalupe Hidalgo Boundaries, 1848