The Story Continues

At about 10 p.m. in San Antonio, Théodore Gentilz and Auguste Frétellière set out with anticipation. They were going to a fandango—a dance being held by the local residents. As they neared Military Plaza, they heard the sounds of a violin. They followed the music to an adobe house. There they entered a candlelit room filled with dancers and food. Newly arrived from France, Gentilz and Frétellière had never seen such a dance.

Germans Settle in Central Texas

During the 1830s and 1840s a large number of European immigrants like Gentilz and Frétellière moved to Texas. The largest group of European immigrants to Texas were the Germans, who had first come in the early 1830s. During the years of the Republic, the number of German immigrants grew as people left Germany looking for better economic opportunities in Texas.

In 1842 a group of German businesspeople formed the German Emigration Company, or Adelsverein. Its members hoped to make a profit by encouraging Germans to settle in Texas. After acquiring land in the Hill Country, the company sent Prince Carl of Solms-Braunfels to Texas in 1844 followed by a group of peasants and craftspeople. Prince Carl wrote letters home about his mission.
Once in Texas, Prince Carl established a port for incoming settlers. The port, which was called Karlshafen by the Germans, was later renamed Indianola. In March 1845 the prince and a group of settlers established New Braunfels along the Guadalupe and Comal Rivers.

When Prince Carl returned home two months later, Baron Otfried Hans Freiherr von Meusebach replaced him. In Texas, the baron changed his name to John O. Meusebach. He continued the work begun by Prince Carl, and New Braunfels grew and prospered.

By 1847 the German Emigration Company had sent more than 7,000 immigrants to Texas. Some stayed in established towns such as Houston and San Antonio, while other groups moved into the Hill Country. There they formed new settlements, including Fredericksburg, Boerne, and Comfort. These and other settlements extended the western frontier of Texas.

Before they left, Prince Carl instructed new immigrants headed to Texas to “stay together and remain faithful to German culture and habits.” One German settler wrote to his relatives back home asking them to bring reminders of German culture. “Be sure to bring all the sheet music that you can collect. . . . And do not fail to bring the complete works of Goethe [a German poet].” Even today many Texas Hill Country towns reflect their German heritage in their names, architecture, churches, food, and language.

**Reading Check  Analyzing Information** Where did German immigrants settle, and how did they maintain their culture?
**Other European Immigrants**

In 1840 Texas and France signed a treaty that encouraged French immigration. A few years later, Henri Castro brought one of the first groups of French settlers to Texas. Many of them were from the province of Alsace, a mostly German-speaking area in eastern France. Castro founded the town of Castroville in 1844 near the Medina River. By 1846 Castro had helped settle more than 2,000 colonists along the river, most of whom became farmers and ranchers. The cultural traditions of these French immigrants can still be found in the architecture, churches, and customs of Castroville and nearby towns with such French names as D’Hanis, Quihi, and Vandenburg.

Irish settlers had come to Texas long before it was a republic. During the 1820s several Irishmen had received *empresario* contracts. In fact one Irish *empresario*, James Hewetson, had accompanied Stephen F. Austin on his first trip to Texas in 1821. Many Irish immigrants fought with the Texas troops at the Alamo, Goliad, and San Jacinto. Irish settlers continued to come to Texas after the Revolution, seeking economic opportunity. Irish-born Texan William Kennedy encouraged this immigration in his 1841 book, *Texas: The Rise, Progress, and Prospects of the Republic of Texas*. By 1850 there were more than 1,400 Irish settlers throughout Texas.

Some Polish and Czech immigrants had also made their way to Texas, settling in South and Central Texas. During the Revolution, Polish immigrants had fought at Goliad and San Jacinto. Polish and Czech immigration later increased as economic and political conditions pushed many from their homelands. Like other immigrants, they left their mark on the local customs of the areas in which they lived.

**Reading Check  Summarizing** Why did many Europeans come to the Republic?

---

**Section 2 Review**

1. **Identify and explain** the significance of each of the following in Texas history:
   - Prince Carl of Solms-Braunfels
   - John O. Meusebach

2. **Locate on a map:**
   - New Braunfels
   - Fredericksburg
   - Castroville

3. **Analyzing Information**
   Copy the table below. Use it to explain why immigrant groups came to the Republic and where they settled.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Immigrants</th>
<th>Why They Came</th>
<th>Where They Settled</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>German</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>French</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Irish</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Polish</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Czech</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

4. **Finding the Main Idea**
   a. In what ways did new immigrants maintain their culture?
   b. How did new immigrants from Europe influence life in the Republic?

5. **Writing and Critical Thinking**
   **Identifying Cause and Effect** Explain how the settlement patterns of European immigrants affected the Republic. Consider the following:
   - locations of European settlements
   - how this led to the development of the western frontier