

Selected Biographies

Mariano **Abasolo** 1783-1816 Independence General^{AQ}

Born in Dolores (present Dolores Hidalgo) to a wealthy family, he became a career soldier. As a Dragoons captain in San Miguel, he joined the pro-independence conspiracy centered in Querétaro. On the night the revolt started, he opened the armory to the rebels. He supported the revolt with his personal wealth. He was captured, along with **Hidalgo** and other rebel leaders, in Acatita de Baján. Instead of being executed, he was sent to a prison in Cádiz, Spain, where he died five years later.

Lucas **Alamán** 1792-1853 Politician^{AQ,BD}

Born to well-off Spaniards in Guanajuato, Alamán saw the horrors of **Hidalgo's** rebellion firsthand and grew up a dedicated conservative. He studied mining in Mexico city and in Europe and tried to recruit European investors in Mexican mining operations. Returning to Mexico in 1822, he involved himself in politics while managing mining businesses.

Alamán was Minister of State, a kind of working executive, under **Iturbide**, until General José María Lobato forced his resignation. Alamán became Minister of State again in **Victoria Guadalupe's** administration until driven out in September 1825 by liberals with the encouragement of American diplomat Joel Poinsett.

Alamán was Minister of State again under Bustamante but went into hiding when **Gómez Farías** took over. He did it again for Santa Anna in 1853 but died a month later on June 2.

Ignacio Aldama 1780-1811 Independence Conspirator^{AQ}

The brother of Juan Aldama, he was trained as a lawyer. He joined the independence conspiracy centered in Querétaro and during the revolt served as **Hidalgo's** administrative advisor.

In 1811 he went north with money to buy weapons in the US and ask for help, but was captured at Béxar (present San Antonio, Texas) and executed by firing squad at Monclova.

Juan Aldama 1774-1811^{AR} Independence General^{AQ}

He was born in San Miguel el Grande (present San Miguel de Allende) and became a career soldier. As a cavalry captain in San Miguel, he joined the conspiracy centered in Querétaro. During the revolt, he was one of the main military commanders. He was captured, along with **Hidalgo** and other rebel leaders, in Acatita de Baján and executed by firing squad.

Ignacio **Allende** 1779-1811 Independence General^{AQ}

Son of a wealthy Spaniard, he was born in San Miguel el Grande (present San Miguel de Allende) and educated for military service. As a cavalry captain in San Miguel, he joined the conspiracy centered in Querétaro. During the revolt, he was **Hidalgo's** military advisor, but Hidalgo seldom took his advice, with disastrous consequences. He was captured, along with Hidalgo and other rebel leaders, in Acatita de Baján and executed by firing squad.

Pedro de **Alvarado** 1485-1541 Conqueror^{AQ}

In 1518 he commanded one of the ships in Grijalva's expedition. He landed at the river which bears Grijalva's name and founded the town of Alvarado, Veracruz.

In 1519 he sailed with **Cortés**, being Cortés's second-in-command and was one of his toughest soldiers during the many battles. He was called Tonatiuh ("Sun") by some natives because of his blond hair.^B

In June of 1520, Cortés left Alvarado in charge of Tenochtitlan (Mexico City) while he went to deal with a force under Pánfilo de Narváez sent to arrest him for conquering Mexico without permission. While Cortés was defeating Narváez, Alvarado murdered and robbed some Aztec nobles, provoking a revolt. Cortés returned and the revolt subsided but restarted after a few days and after a short siege the Spaniards and their allies had to fight their way out of the city with heavy losses.

