



The Chamizal Story Timeline

1848 The Treaty of Guadalupe Hidalgo established the Rio Grande as the international border between the U.S. and Mexico.

1864 Major flood. The Rio Grande overwhelms el Chamizal.

1895 El Chamizal completely on El Paso side of river. Garcia notifies Mexican government of problem.

1899 International Boundary Commission constructs artificial cut through neck of Cordova Island. Rio Grande begins flowing through this new channel.

1911 - 1940 Mexican Revolution begins. Political unrest, coup d'états, and assassination of leaders commonplace throughout Mexico.

1940 Mexico has its first honest presidential election, signifying the end of the Mexican Revolution.

1962 JFK meets President Adolfo Lopez Mateos of Mexico. The presidents decide to resolve the Chamizal dispute.

1964 LBJ meets Adolfo Lopez Mateos on Stanton Street Bridge to officially ratify the Chamizal Convention of 1963.

1966 LBJ signs Public Law 89-479, authorizing the establishment of Chamizal National Memorial.

1973 Chamizal National Memorial officially opens to the public.

1827 Jose Ponce de Leon receives land grant from Mexican government. His property is known as el Chamizal. It borders the Rio Grande in Ciudad Juarez.

1850s – 1890s The Rio Grande slowly pushes southward due to flooding and erosion. As a result, el Chamizal slowly “switches” to El Paso side of river.

1866 Pedro Ignacio Garcia inherits El Chamizal from his grandfather.

1897 Major flood on Cordova Island.

1911 Arbitration committee made up of a Mexican, U.S., and Canadian official, meet in El Paso to settle the Chamizal dispute. After much debate, arbitration ends in stalemate.

1916 The National Park Service is created by the Organic Act.

1954 U.S. Senator Lyndon Baines Johnson (LBJ), writes to President Eisenhower telling him that it is time to resolve the Chamizal dispute.

1963 U.S. Ambassador Thomas Mann and Mexican Foreign Minister Manuel Tello sign the Chamizal Convention in Mexico City.

JFK assassinated in Dallas, Texas. LBJ becomes president.

1965 Congressman Richard C. White (D-TX) introduces a bill to establish “Chamizal Treaty National Memorial”.

1968 – 1972 Chamizal National Memorial constructed.

In commemoration of the Chamizal Convention of 1963, Chamizal National Memorial promotes the history and culture of the U.S.-Mexico Borderland.