

## Galveston in the 1700s

In 1719, French officer Simars de Bellisle became stranded with five officers on Galveston Bay, all of whom died from starvation. Bellisle, the lone survivor, was captured by Akokisas. Although he was held as a captive, Bellisle was given an Indian bride, a native woman who had previously been widowed. The Frenchman escaped in 1721, but later returned to the area and served as an interpreter and guide.

During the 1780s, the Spanish Governor of Louisiana, Bernardo de Galvez, ordered a survey of the Gulf Coast. The great bay discovered by his surveyors was named "Galvez" in his honor. Eventually, the island settlement of "Galveztown" became known as Galveston, as did the bay.