**A Short History of the Louisiana Purchase in Two (2) Parts**

1. Hispaniola, a colony of the French Empire (won in a European war against Spain), was a very profitable possession for France that produced coffee, sugar, and cotton through the work of slaves. However, the slaves of Hispaniola, led by a man by the name of Toussaint L’Ouverture, began to rebel against their masters in 1791. Soon, the entire island was consumed by warfare that would last 10 years. In 1801, the French government, under the leadership of Napoleon Bonaparte, sent nearly 35,000 troops to Hispaniola to put down this slave revolt once and for all. However, as the troops reached the island, a disease broke out and killed all but 4,000 of Napoleon’s men. Soon, the French troops surrendered and Haiti, the first black (African) democratic nation, was founded in 1804.
2. With Hispaniola lost, Napoleon reasoned that Louisiana, a large French colony in North America, was almost worthless. To him, without a nearby seaport and trading center, like Hispaniola, it made no sense to keep control of the relatively empty Louisiana colony. For this reason, he offered to sell it to the American government for $15,000,000. The American government, under the leadership of Thomas Jefferson, agreed to buy Louisiana from France, and almost overnight, America doubled in size and gained control of the Mississippi River and its most valuable port city, New Orleans.

**A Short History of the Adams-Onis Treaty in Three (3) Parts**

1. After the Louisiana Purchase, there was a controversy between the United States and Spain about the boundary between Spanish Texas and Louisiana. The United States insisted that the American territory extend at least to the Sabine River and possibly include Texas. Spain claimed the eastern boundary was a line from the Arroyo Hondo to the Calcasieu River in Louisiana.
2. For several years, Spanish and American authorities argued about the boundary. Finally, James Wilkinson, the commander of United States forces in Louisiana, and Colonel Simón de Herrera, the commander of Spanish troops in East Texas, compromised. Neither Spain nor the United States would occupy the area between the Sabine River and the Arroyo Hondo-Calcasieu line. This territory became the Neutral Ground. Between 1806 and 1819, no nation governed the Neutral Ground. It soon became a haven where smugglers and fugitives from both Spanish and American territories could escape the law.
3. In 1819, the United States and Spain signed the Adams-Onis Treaty, settling the boundary dispute. Spain transferred Florida to the United States and agreed to the Sabine River as the eastern boundary of Texas. In return, the United States surrendered all claims to Texas. The Neutral Ground was now in U.S. territory.