

Gran quivira; they sought the Great Kingdom of the Tejas, the Mountain of Silver, the Streams of Pearls, the Provinces of Wealth and the Fountain of Youth. They added luster to their period and won new empires and lost them. Today the Floridas, the New Spain, the Mexico and the California of those days are the joy of the people.

Ancient Settlements

St. Augustine, settled 1565, oldest city in the United States, is the beginning of the Old Spanish Trail on the Atlantic Coast. San Diego (St. James), settled 1769, first settlement in California, is the terminus of the Old Spanish Trail on the Pacific Coast. Midway lies San Antonio ~~San Antonio~~ (Saint Anthony), settled 1718, anciently an important mission and military center of New Spain. West from San Antonio is El Paso (El Paso del Norte---the Pass of the North), settled 1659, rich in history of earliest days. North of El Paso lies Santa Fe (Holy Faith), settled 1605 or 1609, it became the second oldest city in the United States and seat of missions, colonizing and government. Tucson dates back into the dim past and the Santa Cruz Valley southward was dotted with missions. Other places also lay claim to earliest settlements. Old Mexico was conquered by Cortez in 1519. The French occupied Old Louisiana in 1699 by settling on the Gulf of Mexico at Biloxi; they settled Mobile in 1711 and New Orleans in 1718. Spain afterward controlled those cities and all that land.

Conquest of the South and West

Ponce de Leon discovered and named Florida in 1513. The expedition of Panfilo de Narvaez landed at Tampa Bay in 1528 and that of Hernando de Soto in 1539; both fought powerful Indian tribes around to the Tallahassee country where Narvaez turned south to escape by sea and Soto turned north to wander thru the South and West. Narvaez was lost in the Gulf of Mexico and the remnants of his expedition were wrecked on the Texas shores. Cabeza de Vaca, Narvaez' treasurer, and three others only survived the Indian enmity, endured six years of slavery, then escaped across Texas and ~~reached~~ in 1536 reached the Spanish on the west coast of Mexico---the first white men to cross the continent. Soto reached Arkansas territory, turned back, died in 1542 and was buried in the mighty Mississippi River which he discovered. Ragged survivors of the Soto expedition escaped in 1543 down the Mississippi River and to Panuco, Mexico. Don Tristan de Luna landed at Pensacola Bay in 1559 with the largest of all the Florida expeditions but Indian strategy soon drove him back to Vera Cruz. There are records of 38 missions established out of St. Augustine, westward to Tallahassee and up into Georgia. They were probably of wood for no ruins are known except some ~~remnants~~ of oyster shell cement north of Brunswick, Ga.

While the Spaniards were exploring the Floridas other remarkable expeditions went northward from Mexico. Francisco Vazquez de Coronado and his princely army explored the Southwest in 1540-42. In 1598 Don Juan de Onate took possession of the northern land at Paso del Norte (El Paso) and proceeded up the Rio Grande to colonize the Santa Fe country. In 1691 Father Kino entered the