

XVI
La Florida

The whole southeastern country, in the early centuries, was the Spanish territory of La Florida. There were neither mines nor fur-trading there for wealth supply. Stones did not exist for constructing such majestic mission churches and buildings as in Mexico and the West. On the Atlantic Seaboard minor type missions of oyster shell cement were built. At Mobile fur-trading drew the pioneers up the Mobile River and its affluents. Through the Mississippi Valley, Mobile and New Orleans contacted with the French at the Great Lakes and in Canada. The fine harbors along the Gulf of Mexico and the Atlantic Coast offered opportunities for important cities, ship-building and commerce. The inland country was inviting for the gay life of the Spanish people. The climate, the closeness to the homelands, the hills, forests, rivers and bays attracted their early attention. The great haciendas, the herds of livestock, agriculture, orchards and other developments so common in other Spanish colonies would have flourished in

arellano
La Florida. But that was a country of powerful and partly civilized Indian tribes and though Spain sent to La Florida some of the strongest expeditions in New World history, and names like Ponce de Leon, Jarvaco, De Soto, Luna y Arellano and others are historic characters, she failed there in important development. Indian valor in that country wrote interesting pages in the annals of those Spanish centuries.

XVII
California

Spain was late in getting her standards planted in California. Pacific winds and storms were persistent obstacles to the little sailing ships. The deserts and arid lands of the Southwest prevented overland approach. Poor living conditions in California could not save the intrepid men that did reach that country from the scurvy and sickness that stalked with them. The Revolutionary War was at hand on the Atlantic Seaboard when Spain at last did get safely established on the western coast. They did not find the gold of that country but they did bring in, over long and fearsome trails, livestock, seeds and shrubs and transformed it into a land of green fields and haciendas alive with vast herds of livestock. Missions and homes dispensed open-handed hospitality to the wayfarer. The Indian tribes of California were weak. Spanish genius for development had relatively uninterrupted opportunity. Their achievements during that half century in California are among the marvels of pioneering.

XVIII
Indians Weak and Strong

While the Indians remained masters in La Florida and ^{was weakling} ~~settled~~ in California, they varied from weakness to strength in Texas and the Southwest. Apaches and Comanches, mounted on the horses introduced by the Spaniards, became mounted terrors that hold sway until comparatively recent years. ~~But~~ Spain was ~~settled~~ entrenched in Mexico and she steadily pressed her conquests northward from Mexican bases. They were in New Mexico by 1598..... in the El Paso Valley by 1659..... in southern Arizona by 1699..... in East Texas by 1690 and South Texas by 1715---and Spain's progress was steady after those years.

1699
was 1695
approx correct

XVIII
A Book of Ancient History

The Old Spanish Trail reflects the oldest history in the United States. With its associated camino reals in this southern borderland country a book of history is opened to the traveler of an era of heroic works that were old when the American Revolution was being fought. It spans the continent (thru) the most varied, unusual and interesting scenes of any continental highway. The Santa Fé Trail from St. Louis to Santa Fé ~~dates from~~ ^{flourished in} the 1820s. The Old Oregon Trail from St. Louis to the Northwest is an epic of the covered wagon period of the 1850s. Both are impressed upon present-day consciousness because their dynamic pioneering events are of the Anglo-American Era and relatively recent. One must look back into the dim past for the tragedy, drama, courage and accomplishments of those people that sent Columbus off into the Sea of Darkness to fall, perhaps, over the edge of the world, and who followed him so soon after in unconquerable numbers to develop continents greater than the whole world they had hitherto known.

XIX
Crusaders Old and Modern

Conquistadores, adventurers, explorers, administrators, and the benign padres braved hardships and perils and blazed the trails in pioneer centuries past. Crusaders of the present day roared mighty bridges and built ribbons of pavement that the continent in this southern borderland country might be spanned. Modern-day explorers now travel the Old Spanish Trail in comfort and a new civilization is roaring its works and culture amid the works and culture of Old Spain and Old France.

PIONEERS

They traveled slow but they traveled far,
They marked the spot where our cities are;
With the onward turn of their wagon wheel
They marked the trail for our roads of steel!

But, they marked their own trail with their bones,
They gave their lives, and no painted stones
Rise up in the desert to say that here
Is the resting place of a Pioneer.

---Owen White

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