

the Kansas country

Coronado sought the seven cities of Cibola (the Cities of Gold) in New Mexico, and reached Kansas searching for the Gran Quivira where golden bolts on tree branches made music for the Indian lords and ladies were of silver and gold.

1719
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"Oh, gay they rode with plume on crest and gilded spur at heel,
With gonfalon of Aragon and banner of Castile!
While High Emprise and Joyous Youth, twin marshals of the throng,
Awoke Sonora's mountain peaks with trumpet note and song.

"Two thousand miles of hardship behind their banners lay.
And sadly fever, drought, and toil had lessened their array.
When came a message fraught with hope to all the steadfast band:
'Good tidings from the northward, friends! Quivira lies at hand!'

"How joyously they spurred them! How sadly drew the rein!
There shone no golden palace, there blazed no jeweled fane!
Rude tents of hide of bison, dog-guarded, met their view--
A squalid Indian village; the lodges of the Sioux!"

Semantic

For centuries Indian galle played its mighty part. If the Spaniards appear to us in these their explorations were on a vast scale, before the Indians learned to fission it was a faint but true tale that led Cortés to the riches of the Aztecs and Pizarro to the Incas of Peru. Surely there were other golden cities to be plundered; it was easy to listen and believe, and no recourse except to explore and learn.

goad

The Mission Establishments

The missions were more than churches; they became communal establishments sustaining every need of life. The first buildings were simple structures, irrigating systems, farms and livestock were early needs. Churches of such staterliness required time to plan, to assemble materials, and to teach the natives the necessary arts. Construction itself spread over many years. The San Antonio churches were under construction through 1740-1762 and later. The stately San José mission at San Antonio was begun in 1768; the equally majestic San Xavier del Bac at Tucson, in 1763. In 1745, the San Antonio missions had over 9,000 head of livestock. The missions in the United States later showed livestock herds totaling millions.

Through the missions the Government and the padres sought to reduce the country to peaceful pursuits; a more humane policy than conquest by armies and bold thefts of lands. Indian converts did not readily give up their old care-free life and many tribes remained hostile. Colonists and adventurers were guilty of many injustices. A benevolent despotism and often brutal measures ruled the converts. Through it all the padres developed great establishments.

After 160 years, wars for independence crumbled Spanish power. The missions fell prey to vandals and to Indian hostilities. A new civilization slowly arose. The old missions, some restored, others preserved in noble ruins, old dams and irrigating systems and other Spanish works, remain today visible evidences of the achievements of the Spanish Age.

"Yes, give me the land where the ruins are spread,
And the living tread light on the hearts of the dead.

"Yes, give me the land that hath legends and lays
That tell of the memories of long vanished days;

"Yes, give me a land that hath story and song!
Enshrine the strife of the right with the wrong!

"For out of the gloom future brightness is born,
As after the night comes the sunrise of morn."

---Father Ryan, Mobile, Alabama.

Mission Centers in the United States

From Florida to California there were five Spanish mission centers and one French-Spanish.

1. Saint Augustine, Florida, beginning 1565, with 38 missions in Florida and Georgia. No great mission structures were built. Saint Augustine is charmingly old Spanish. Old

World atmosphere is better preserved there than in any other city; its tropical character and ancient types are a reflection of Old Spain.

The old stone wall that encircled the settlement is gone but the ancient gateway is preserved. Old Fort Marco (now Fort Marion) is well preserved, an interesting example of medieval fortress and of Spanish refinements in architecture. It is the only Spanish fort along the Old Spanish Trail. The old missions are the relics that remain with their story of Spanish efforts to win the Indians by Christian endeavor rather than by military prowess.

2. New Orleans--French and Spanish. The French founded Louisiana in 1699, settling at Biloxi, Mississippi. In 1713 they founded Mobile as their capital, then in 1718, New Orleans--Orleans. Later (1763-1800) New Orleans became a Spanish capital and the Spanish years left their mark in buildings and traditions.

1722 and
New Orleans.

New Orleans as the frontier post on the mighty river that drains a half of the continent became the melting pot as all classes of people struggled for life, power or development in the North American country. . . It is a city of varied types and unusual interest.

1715
San Antonio de Valero;

3. Northeast Texas beginning 1690. San Antonio, beginning 1718. San Antonio became the Spanish capital in Texas, then followed five stately stone mission churches, a governor's palace, and a cathedral for the little city--the "most notable collection of Spanish works of any city in the United States." One mission is now the historic Alamo. The mission San José de Miguel y de Aguayo approached old world cathedrals in beauty and majesty. All remain in varying states of preservation. Two irrigating systems, built before 1745, still function.

Social center,
with this associated living and
missionary buildings, missions and
metropolitan buildings, their walls
quadrangles.

San Antonio was a southern continental crossroads. Old San Fernando Cathedral was a busy market-place. Travelers, adventurers, overland coaches, mile-team freighters, the vaqueros of the ranges, life and commerce, met and changed. Mexico to the south; Gulf harbors and New Orleans to the east; the throbbing pioneer life to the north; the mines of the southwest and the wealth for shipment to Europe; New Mexico, Arizona, California, to the west!

to become the

4. El Paso, Texas, beginning 1600--on the south side of the Rio Grande. An important post on the trail to Santa Fe, New Mexico. New Mexico was colonized in 1598 and Santa Fe founded 1609, second oldest city in the United States. The Great Revolt of Indians against the Santa Fe colonies in 1680 thrust the survivors back to Paso del Norte (El Paso) and new mission settlements were established in the El Paso Valley. East of El Paso 12 mi. is Yalea, founded 1683, the oldest mission and town in Texas. There also Socorro and San Elizario, other old missions, and there also the irrigating systems started by the padres and now extending everywhere in the valley and transforming desert sands into fields of green gold. Life there is an interesting mixture of the races for whom the padres labored so earnestly and the American pioneers who have erected a metropolitan city in the valley of peace promise of nearly three centuries ago.