



# **Native American Conquest: West of the Mississippi River**

By Donald E. Sheppard  
Edited by James M. Cooper

Tampa Bay

February, 2001

## **ACKNOWLEDGMENTS**

I shall be forever grateful to my uncle, William Goza of Gainesville, for introducing me to stories of Hernando de Soto and the "The Ride of the Thirty Lancers" 35 years ago; To Dr. Brent Weisman of Tampa for showing me, in the fields of Florida, the importance of archaeology, and for his insistence that I write my findings; To Mr. Lee Sultzman of Arizona for sharing his profound knowledge of Southern and Midwestern Native American cultural groups; To Dr. Douglas E. Jones of Huntsville for explaining Alabama's geography and resources while in those fields; To Dr. Lawrence A. Clayton of Tuscaloosa for his wonderful friendship and for sharing his knowledge of DeSoto's activity in Peru; To the late Dr. Frederick P. Bowser of Stanford, and Dr. Thomas J. Nechyba, of Duke, who both painstakingly criticized my work, corrected my grammar and encouraged me to proceed; To Doctors Jeffrey P. Brain of Harvard, Vernon J. Knight, Jr, and Ian W. Brown, both of the University of Alabama, for personally defining realistic considerations for me to keep in mind while tracking DeSoto; To Doctors Francis G. Crowley of Missouri, James J. Miller of Tallahassee, Lynda Norene Shaffer of Boston, and Jose Fernandez of Orlando who listened, read my manuscripts and provided me with practical constraint and realistic insight; To Mr. James M. Cooper, my friend in Tampa who cheerfully edited this document; To Mz. Cheryl Lucente, who drew the cover image; and to those wonderful pioneers who recorded, transported, transcribed, published, translated, annotated, and preserved the DeSoto Chronicles in our libraries; and to the fishermen, firemen, hunters, landowners and common people everywhere who showed me places I could never have otherwise seen or put into perspective with DeSoto's extraordinary journey across this wonderful Country.

D.E.S.

## Table of Contents

Title Page . . . . .	1
Acknowledgements . . . . .	2
Table of Contents . . . . .	3
Western Conquest Trails . . . . .	4
Missouri . . . . .	4
Arkansas . . . . .	10
Louisiana . . . . .	27
Texas and Return to Arkansas . . . . .	29
Escape Down the Great River . . . . .	58
Coastal Louisiana . . . . .	62
Coastal Texas . . . . .	65
Mexico at Last . . . . .	67
Epilogue . . . . .	68
DeSoto's Lunar Activity . . . . .	69
References . . . . .	70
Maps . . . . .	74

# **Native American Conquest**

By Donald E. Sheppard

## **West of the Mississippi**

### **Missouri Conquest Trails**

According to Hernando DeSoto's Secretary, "On Tuesday, the sixth of September ((1541, DeSoto's army)) departed from Coligua ((Kaskaskia, Illinois)) and crossed the ((Mississippi)) river another time" ((Into Ste. Genevieve, precisely on Full Moon. They would encounter five different Tribes of Native Americans before leaving Missouri on the next Full Moon.))

((Scouts, including the author of the above quotation, had crossed the Mississippi River several days earlier chasing Indians and searching for salt on Saline Creek, just across the river from Kaskaskia. The army spent more than 12 hours crossing the Mississippi River that day, in canoes provided by the Indians of Kaskaskia. Since the army was well rested and fed, most hiked as far as the flats of east Farmington, Missouri, before stopping for the night)).

"...and on Wednesday ((September 7<sup>th</sup>)) they crossed some mountains and went to Calpista ((the Ironton area)), in which there was a spring of water from which very good salt is made, cooking it until it cakes ((army stragglers caught-up to the main army while it panned salt somewhere near Pilot Knob)). On the following day, Thursday, they went to Palisma ((over the mountain pass at Lesterville)), and on Saturday, the tenth of September, they came forth to sleep at a body of water ((the Current River, having camped in the fields of Bunker the night before))." © 1993, Univ. of Alabama Press

Another eyewitness, one of DeSoto's officers, describes the next segment of the army's journey: "We traveled for five days ((from Kaskaskia)) and reached the province of Palisema ((which extended from Lesterville to the Current River)). The house of the chief was found ((probably near his mountain refuge at Centerville)) with coverings of colored deerskins drawn over with designs, and the floor of the house was covered with the same material in the manner of carpets. The chief left it so, in order that the governor might lodge in it as a sign that he was desirous of peace and his friendship, but he did not dare remain. The governor upon seeing that he was away, sent a captain with horse and foot ((soldiers))

to look for him. The captain found many people, but because of the roughness of the land ((the highest mountains in Missouri)) they captured only some women and young persons. It was a small and scattered settlement and had very little corn ((there was nowhere to grow it)). On that account, the governor left it immediately ((choosing to camp farther down the trail on Bunker's Plateau))."

DeSoto's Secretary continues, "...and on Sunday ((September eleventh)) they arrived at Quixila ((Summersville)) and rested there on Monday ((they pastured the horses all day in the huge fields toward Mountain View)), and they went on Tuesday to Tutilcoya ((Willow Springs))."

Another of DeSoto's officers says, "He came upon another settlement called Tatilcoya ((Willow Springs)), taking with him the chief who guided them to Cayas. From Tatilcoya it is a distance of four days journey to Cayas ((near Branson, Missouri))." Yet another officer says, "...we went to some scattered villages that were called Tatilcoya. Here we found a large river ((North Fork of White River)), and afterward ((the following Spring in Arkansas)) we saw that it flowed into the great river ((the Mississippi River)). We had information that on this river upstream was a great province called

Cayas. We ((the scouts)) went to it and found that it was all scattered population, though heavy, and several excursions were made ((during their stay in Missouri)). The land is very rugged with mountains." ((DeSoto tracked south of, and parallel to, present-day Highway 66 between St. Louis and Springfield. The Indian trail he followed crossed fewer rivers but more mountains along that path. Most of Missouri's Indian population lived north of Desoto's Trail, however; his horsemen raided their villages as his army advanced)).

DeSoto's Secretary went on to say, "...on Wednesday ((they marched)) to a town alongside a large river ((between North Fork of White River and Bryant Creek)), and on Thursday they spent the night alongside a swamp ((at the head of Beaver Creek)). And the Governor went in advance with some on horseback ((the other horsemen were busy raiding as far north as Springfield)), and he arrived at Tanico ((Forsyth, just below Taneyville)); and the next day the army went ((down Beaver Creek)) to the same province of Tanico, which was very scattered but very abundant in supplies ((all would join DeSoto within several days near Forsyth)). Some wanted to say that it was Cayas, a large and palisaded town that was widely known ((in myth to DeSoto's army)), but they never were able to see or

discover it, and afterward ((much later in Arkansas)) they told them that they had left it behind at the side of the river." ((They were camped at today's Jacksonport when they got that intelligence from the Indians. The place referred to as the mythical "Cayas" was probably West Plains. DeSoto's army had missed it by only fifteen miles during their 12-day, 170-mile journey across Missouri from Ste. Genevieve to Forsyth. Scouts were distracted to the north when DeSoto passed West Plains.))

### **Branson, Missouri**

Another eyewitness goes on to say, "The governor abode in the province of Cayas ((Southwestern Missouri)) for a month. During that interval the horses grew fat and throve more than after a longer time in any other region ((of North America)) because of the abundance of corn and the leaf thereof, which is, I think, the best that has been seen. They drank from a very warm and brackish marsh of water, and they drank so much that it was noticed in their bellies when they were brought back from the water ((saltwater occurs naturally just upstream of Branson; Table Rock Dam restricts the brackish flow into White River today)). Thitherto, the Christians had lacked salt, but there they ((the Indians))

made a good quantity of it in order to carry it thence to other regions to exchange it for ((buffalo)) skins and blankets. They gather it along the river, which leaves it on top of the sand when the water falls. And since they cannot gather it without more sand being mixed with it, they put it into certain baskets which they have for this purpose, wide at the top and narrow at the bottom. They hang the baskets to a pole in the air and put water in them, and they place a basin underneath into which the water falls. After being strained and set on the fire to boil, as the water becomes less, the salt is left on the bottom of the pot. On both sides of the ((White)) river, the land had cultivated fields and there was an abundance of corn ((the first Europeans to homestead Western Missouri would settle at Forsyth)). The Indians did not dare to cross ((the river's big bend from Branson)) to the place where we were. When some appeared, some soldiers who saw them called to them. The Indians crossed the river and came with them to the place where the governor was. He asked them for their chief. They declared that he was friendly, but that he did not appear. Thereupon, the governor ordered that the chief be told to come and see him and to bring a guide and interpreter for the region ahead, if he wished to be his friend; and that if he did not do that, he would go to

fetch him ((probably from the large Swan Creek Valley north of Forsyth)) and his hurt would be greater. He waited three days, and seeing that he did not come, went to look for him, and brought him back a prisoner with one hundred and fifty of his Indians.

### **Scouts to Arkansas**

“He ((the governor)) asked him whether he had knowledge of any great chief and where the most populated land was. He ((the chief)) said that the best populated land thereabout was a province situated to the south (“...upriver [Turkey Creek] we would come upon a well-provisioned province...” according to another eyewitness)), a day and a half away, called Tulla ((Harrison, Arkansas, 36 miles south of Forsyth, Missouri)), that he could give him a guide, but that he did not have the interpreter, for the speech of the Tulla was different from his ((Tulla probably spoke the Caddo Indian language)); and because he and his forebears had always been at war with the lords of the province, they had no converse, nor did they understand each other. Thereupon the governor set out for Tulla with men of horse and fifty foot ((soldiers)) in order to see whether it was a land through which he might pass with all his men. As soon as he arrived and was perceived by the Indians, the land was summoned ((seized by the

Spaniards)). When 15 or 20 Indians had gathered together they came to attack the Christians. On seeing that they ((the Christians)) handled them roughly, and that when they took to flight the horses overtook them, they climbed on top of the houses, where they tried to defend themselves with their arrows; and when driven from some ((of the housetops)) would climb on top of others; and while they ((the Christians)) were pursuing some ((of the Indians)), others ((of the Indians)) would attack them ((the Christians)) from another direction. In this way, the running lasted so long that the horses became tired and could no longer run. The Indians killed one horse there and wounded several. Fifteen Indians were killed there, and captives were made of forty woman and young persons; for they ((the Christians)) did not leave any Indian alive who was shooting arrows if they could overtake him. The governor determined to return to Cayas before the Indians should have time to gather themselves together. Thereupon, that evening, after having marched part of the night, in order to get some distance from Tulla ((and out of Turkey Creek Ravine)), he went to sleep on the road ((in Hollister near Branson)), and reached Cayas ((Forsyth)) the next day."

Another witness says of DeSoto's escape from Tula: "It seemed to the governor that it was not good to

halt there ((at Tula)) that night, because he had very few people, and he returned by the road, on which we had come, to a clearing in a lowland that the ((White)) river made ((at Hollister)), having crossed a bad pass of the mountain range because there was fear that the Indians might take us at the pass ((of Turkey Creek's dangerous Ravine))..."

DeSoto's Secretary concludes, "On Wednesday, the fifth of October ((Full Moon)), they left from the site of Tanico or Cayas ((Missouri)) and arrived on Friday at Tula ((Harrison, Arkansas))..."

### **Arkansas Conquest Trails**

Standing in the March snows of 1542 just below the White River crossing at St. Charles, one of Hernando DeSoto's officers reported, "As soon as it stopped snowing, he marched three days ((at ten miles per day - while gathering what he could to eat)) through an unpeopled region and a land so low and with so many swamps and such hard going that one day he marched all day through water that in some places reached to the knees and others to the stirrups, and some passages were swum over ((Uncle Ben's Rice Company is headquartered in that swamp, a massive rice field today)). He came to a deserted village, without corn,

called Tutelpinco ((Arkansas Post; the French would find it and establish an outpost there before New Orleans was founded)). Near it was a lake which emptied into the ((White)) river and had a strong current and force of water..." Dismal Swamp connects to the White, Mississippi and Arkansas Rivers there, making it look like a lake. It looks that way because the Arkansas River floods much later than the Mississippi River. The flow stops for a while in that lake, then reverses direction when the Mississippi River floods at Springtime. It switches back to normal when the Arkansas River floods in June or July. The French selected Arkansas Post because America's great rivers ((the Mississippi, Ohio, Missouri, Tennessee, Cumberland, Illinois, Wabash, Arkansas and White)) all flow past it. They traded by canoe on those rivers, as did America's Indians before them.

"As five Christians, accompanied by a captain whom the governor had sent, were crossing it ((Dismal Swamp just northeast of Arkansas Post)) in a canoe, the canoe overturned. Some caught hold of it and others of trees which were in the lake. One ((man)) was drowned there. The governor went ((west)) for a day along the lake looking for a crossing place, but he did not find it all that day nor any road leading from any other direction

((the lake extends up the Arkansas and White Rivers; there is no way around it; it must be crossed to proceed southward)). Returning at night to the town, he found two peaceful Indians who showed him the crossing and the road he must take ((to high ground on the river's south bank)). Reed frames and rafts were made from the houses, on which they crossed the lake ((and, thereby, the Arkansas River)). They marched for three days and reached a town of the district of Nilco ((at Tyro, the nearest high ground to Arkansas Post))..." They would stop at Dumas and at Bayou Bartholomew, cross that bayou, which looks like big creek, then ascend into Tyro, which overlooks hundreds of thousands of fertile acres below. "... We arrived at a province that seemed to us to be the best that we had come upon in all the land ((of North America)), which is called Anicoyanque." ((Others with DeSoto simply called it "Nilco."))

"Thirty Indians were captured there, among them being two of the principal men of the town. The governor sent a captain on ahead to Nilco ((Village)) with horse and foot ((probably on a dawn raid under the Full Moon of March 31, 1542)), so that the Indians might not have any opportunity to carry off the food. They went through three of four large towns ((in those hills, including today's Coleman)), and in the town where the chief lived

- located two leagues ((5 miles)) from where the governor remained ((at Tyro; Nilco)) - they found many Indians with their bows and arrows, and in appearance as if they wished to give battle, and who were surrounding the town ((to defend the long, natural, high ground which was their village on that plain)). As soon as they saw the Christians were coming toward them ((from the west, down the hill from Coleman, the highest point of land in that area)), without any hesitation they set fire to the chief's house and escaped over a swamp that lay near the town, where the horses could not cross ((just east of Nilco's spectacular plain lies Touchstone Prairie, once an enormous swamp but drained and burrowed into a lake today; it flows east through Prairie Creek toward Bartholomew Bayou)). Next day, Wednesday, March 29, the governor reached Nilco ((5 miles from Tyro where he was camped)). He lodged with all his men in the chief's town which was located on a level field, and which was all populated for a quarter of a league ((three-quarters of a mile along its long, natural high ground)); while a league and a half distant ((four miles)) were other very large towns where there was a quantity of corn, beans, walnuts, and dried plums." We call that area Florence today; the villages ran east to Tillar where DeSoto would relocate his main camp in order to pasture his horses.

Both Nilco and Florence sit near the edge of the high ground overlooking hundreds of thousands of acres of farmlands along Bartholomew Bayou, some of the richest meadowland in Arkansas. Tillar, where DeSoto made camp, sits near the center of that giant pasture. "This was the most populous region which had been seen in Florida ((North America)) and more abounding in corn, with the exception of Coosa ((Fort Payne, Alabama)) and Apalache ((Marianna, Florida))."

"An Indian came to the camp ((at Tillar)), accompanied by others, and in the chief's name presented the governor with a blanket of martin skins and a string of pearl beads....He promised to return two days later, but he never did. On the other hand, Indians came in canoes at night and carried off all the corn they could and set up their huts on the other side of the river ((Bayou Bartholomew)) in the thickest part of the forest ((in the hills overlooking Tillar; the Indians knew that horses, their worst enemy, were worthless in forests: the Indians simply tripped them up with logs and ropes between the trees along the trails)). The governor, on seeing that the Indian did not come at the promised time, ordered an ambush to be made on some barbecues ((stilted corn storage bins)) in the swamp ((from which)) the Indians came for the corn. Two Indians were

captured there, who told the governor that the one who came to visit them was not the chief, but one sent at the latter's command under pretense that it was he, in order to ascertain whether the Christians were off their guard, and whether they planned to settle in that region or go on farther. Thereupon the governor sent a captain across the river ((back to Nilco, across Bayou Bartholomew)) with men of horse and ((soldiers)) of foot, but on crossing they were perceived by the Indians, and for that reason, the captain could not capture more than ten or twelve Indians, men and women, with whom he returned to the camp. That river which flowed through Nilco ((Province, which started at St. Charles)) was the same that flowed through Cayas ((Branson, Missouri)) and Autiamque ((Jacksonport, Arkansas; we call it the White River)) and emptied into the large ((Mississippi)) river which flowed through Pacaha ((Terre Haute, Indiana; we call that one the Wabash)) and Aquixo ((Evansville, Indiana; that one we call the Ohio River; all of which flow into the Mississippi, called the Great River by Native Americans)) and hard by the province of Guachoya ((Lake Village, just below Nilco))..." That province ran from Tillar, on the north, to Fairview and Louisiana on the south, inside of which DeSoto was camped at the time. According to Guachoya's people, their province

existed between Bayou Bartholomew, or Boeuf River beside it, and the Mississippi River; today that part of the Mississippi River is the largest lake in Arkansas: Lake Chicot. The river's flow was diverted from it, just below Greenville, Mississippi, sometime before Arkansas Statehood. "The Lord of the upper part ((of Guachoya Province)) came in canoes ((from Lake Village, his home)) to make war on the lord of Nilco ((his closest neighbor)). Sent by him, an Indian ((first)) came to the governor and told him that he ((the chief of Guachoya Province)) was his servant and as such he ((DeSoto)) should consider him that... two days later ((while the chief canoed first down the Mississippi River then up Ditch Bayou and Boeuf River and other creeks to meet DeSoto)) he would come to kiss the hands of his Lordship. He came at the time with some of his principal Indians who accompanied him ((for a dramatic waterborne entrance to DeSoto's dismal but bountiful campsite)). With words of great promise and courtesy, he presented many blankets and deerskins to the governor. The governor gave him some trifles ((typically a mirror and comb, scarce commodities in those parts)) and showed him great honor ((typically a demonstration of horse and swordsmanship; the Indians usually joined in by demonstrating their incredible archery skills)). He

questioned him about a settlement down the river. He said that he knew of none other except his own ((Lake Village/Fairview)); and that on the other side of the ((Mississippi)) river was a province of a chief called Quigaltam ((Greenville, Mississippi; who was subject to another chief who lived at Vicksburg, as DeSoto's people would discover a year later)). He ((Chief Guachoya)) took his leave of the governor and returned to his town. A few days later ((when food supplies started diminishing because of Nilco's midnight raids on DeSoto's Tillar campsite)), the governor made up his mind to go to Guachoya ((Lake Village; he planned to take that city during the darkness of New Moon)), in order to ascertain there whether the sea ((the Gulf of Mexico)) were nearby, or whether there were any settlement nearby where he might subsist himself while brigantines were built which he intended to send to the land of Christians ((DeSoto departed Tillar southbound, passed through McGehee, then spent the night near Dermott)). As he was crossing the River of Nilco ((Boeuf River/Bayou Macon or thereabouts)), Indians came up in canoes from Guachoya, and when they saw him, thinking that he was going after them to do them some hurt ((as he was widely reputed to do)), they turned back down the river and went to warn the chief. The latter, abandoning the

town ((of Lake Village)) with all of his people, with all they could carry off, on that night crossed over to the other side of the great river ((Lake Chicot today)). The governor sent a captain and 50 men in 6 canoes down the river, while he, with the rest of his men, went overland ((down the shore of Lake Chicot on the Indian trail that led toward Greenville; a city which DeSoto's scouts sighted across the Mississippi River)). He reached Guachoya on Sunday, April 17th and lodged himself in the chief's town, which was surrounded by a stockade, a crossbow flight from the ((Mississippi) river..." ((Since DeSoto's time, the Mississippi River has silted and shifted eastward; the section of the river where these events took place is now Lake Chicot. Lake Village, Arkansas, would be the end of the line for Hernando DeSoto.))

### **At Lake Village**

"As soon as the governor reached Guachoya, he sent Juan de Anasco ((his most trusted captain)) up the river ((north)) with as many men as could get into the ((Indian)) canoes ((which were procured at Lake Village)); for when they ((the soldiers)) were coming from Nilco, they ((the scouts)) saw newly made huts on the other side ((of the Mississippi River; Greenville, Mississippi))... they brought back canoes laden with

corn, beans, dried plums, and many loaves made from the pulp of plums..." for which the Spaniards would pay dearly the following year.

The first officer continued, "On that day, an Indian came to the governor in the name of the chief of Guachoya ((of Lake Village, whose house DeSoto happened to be living in at the time)) and said that his lord would come next day. On the following day, they saw many canoes coming from downstream ((the south)). They assembled together for the space of an hour on the other side of the great river ((today's Lake Chicot)), debating as to whether they should come or not. At last they made up their minds and crossed... He ((DeSoto)) asked him ((the chief)) whether he had any knowledge of the sea ((the Gulf of Mexico)). He said he did not, nor of any settlement down the river from that place, except that there was a town of one of his principal Indians subject to him two leagues away ((5 miles, we call it Fairview; the chief had just come from there)), and on the other side ((of the Mississippi River)) three days' journey downstream ((by Indian canoe)), the province ((and hometown)) of Quigaltam, who was the greatest lord of that region ((he lived at Vicksburg)). It seemed to the governor that the chief was lying to him in order to turn him ((toward that place and)) aside from his towns,

and he sent Juan de Anasco downstream with eight horse to see what population there was and to ascertain whether there were any knowledge ((among the downstream Indians)) of the sea." That scouting party's departure was timed for Full Moon at journey's mid-way.

DeSoto's men reported to an historian of their day: "Meanwhile the chief of Guachoya persuaded the governor to return to the province of Nilco, offering to go with his men to serve his lordship, and to facilitate the crossing of the River of Nilco ((Bayou Bartholomew)) he ordered 80 large canoes, besides other small ones, to be taken seven leagues ((18 miles)) down the Great ((Mississippi)) River to the mouth of the River of Nilco ((Boeuf River)), which entered the Great River ((at Ditch Bayou just below Fairview: we call these many bayous by different names, the Indians did not)). They would ascend it to the village of Nilco ((the same way the chief had gone when he first sighted DeSoto at Tillar)). The whole route that the canoes would have to go by both rivers would be about 20 leagues ((52 miles)) of navigation. While the canoes were descending the Great River and ascending the River of Nilco they ((some of DeSoto's army)) would go by land, so that they could all arrive together at the village of Nilco at the same time." DeSoto needed the provisions which Nilco's Indians had

carried away, into Touchstone Swamp from their main village near Coleman and over Bayou Bartholomew from Tillar, if he was to feed his horses and army during the time it would take to build boats at Lake Village. Chief Guachoya, on the other hand, simply wanted Chief Nilco's head. "As soon as all was prepared and they brought the canoes, the governor ordered ((a)) company ((to)) go ((with)) them to direct and give orders to four thousand Indian warriors who were embarking in them ((the historian who wrote this had a flair for drama, which, as does that flair today, sold many books)). ((They)) carried their bows and arrows... ((Chief Guachoya and DeSoto)) allowed them a period of three full days for their navigation, which seemed time enough for both parties to arrive and join one another at the village of Nilco." They joined near Tillar then raided Nilco. Booty, including that which had been lost by Guachoya in skirmishes with Nilco over the proceeding years, was brought back to Lake Village in the canoes. Nilco and his people were slaughtered; their villages burned to the ground. DeSoto's people would return the following winter and find little left of Nilco. Guachoya probably cleaned it out even more completely once Desoto's army was gone.

The officer mentioned above continued his description of Anasco's journey down the Great River in search of the sea: "He was gone for a week ((the time it took for the raid on Nilco)) and on his coming said that during that whole time he could not proceed more than 14 or 15 leagues ((about 38 miles)) because of the great arms leading out of the river, and the canebrakes and thick woods lying along it; and that he found no settlement." Another of DeSoto's officers reported that, "...he returned saying that he did not find a road nor a way to cross the large swamps along the great river." The Mississippi River's spring flood was well underway by then: mid-May on our Gregorian Calendar. Recall, too, that heavy snows had been reported that winter; the Mississippi must have been a nightmare of melted snows, but DeSoto had not seen it otherwise. That flood dramatically broadened the river and all of its feeders. Levees line the banks today to prevent that, but Anasco lost track of the river's "road" because its natural curved shape was obscured by floods. The first officer continued, "The governor's grief was intense on seeing the small prospect he had for reaching the sea; and worse, according to the way in which his men and horses were diminishing, they could not be maintained in the land without supplies ((from Cuba)). With that thought he

((DeSoto)) fell sick, but before he took to his bed, he sent an Indian to tell the chief of Quigaltam ((Greenville, Mississippi)) that he was the sun of the sun ((a God)) and that wherever he went all obeyed him and did him service..."

To DeSoto's demands that he come and obey him, that chief replied... "let him dry up the great river and he would believe him..." By that time the river was flooded well over its banks. The chief refused to come, which, given history's course over the next three centuries, proved to be a wise decision. That Mississippi chief and his people would thrive; those of Arkansas would die off, probably of diseases brought in by despot's army and animals from Europe, Africa, South America, Cuba and, as we shall see, South Central Texas the following year.

### **DeSoto's Death**

Continuing, "The Governor realized within himself that the hour had come in which he must leave his present life. He had the royal officials summoned, and the captains and principal persons. To them he gave a talk, saying that he was about to go... The next day, May 21 ((1542)), died the magnanimous, virtuous and courageous captain, Don Hernando DeSoto, Governor of

Cuba and ruler of Florida..." His body was buried there, but one a week later, on the Full Moon, it was dug up so the Indians could not find it, to prove to others that he was not a God, when the Spaniards left there "...and a considerable quantity of sand was placed with the blankets in which he was shrouded, and he was taken in a canoe and cast into the middle of the river."

The other officer says of DeSoto's untimely death, "The Governor, from seeing himself cut off and that not one thing could be done according to his purpose, was afflicted with sickness and died... he left Luis de Moscoso ((pronounced mos-cos-o)) appointed as General. We ((a group of officers)) decided that since ((the river was flooding more every day)) we could find no road ((navigable waterway)) to the sea, we should head west, and that it could be that we might be able to get out by land to Mexico, if we did not find anything else in the land or any place to halt..." like Mexico City, with plenty of gold and silver to plunder.

The officer continued, "It seemed advisable to all to take the road overland toward the west, for New Spain lay in that direction; and they considered as more dangerous and of greater risk the voyage by sea; for no ship could be built strong enough to weather the storms, and they had no master or pilot, and no compass or

sailing chart, and they did not know how far away the sea was, nor had they any information of it; nor whether the river made some great bend through the land or whether it fell over any rocks where they would perish. Some men who had seen the sailing chart found that the distance to New Spain ((Mexico City)) along the coast in the region where they were was about 500 leagues ((1,300 miles)) or so. They declared that even though they might have to make detours by land, because of looking for a settlement ((for food)), they would not be prevented from going ahead that summer except by some great uninhabited district which they could not cross..."

On Monday, June 5, he left Guachoya. The chief ((of Lake Village)) gave him a guide to Chaguata ((Shreveport, Louisiana)) and remained in the village. They passed through a province called Catalte ((El Dorado, having camped near Montrose, Hamburg, Crossett, Ouachita River and Strong)) and after passing through an uninhabited region for six days ((the barrens of Kisatchie National Forest and Barksdale Air force Base)), they reached Chaguata ((Shreveport)) on the twentieth of the month."

## **Louisiana Conquest Trails**

On June 17th, 1542, Hernando DeSoto's army entered Louisiana from El Dorado, Arkansas. DeSoto had died not far from there at Lake Village. His body was placed in Lake Chicot, a part of the Mississippi River at that time. Since that river was flooded by heavy snows from the preceding winter, DeSoto's people could not find their way down it. Their number had been reduced from 650 to 400 soldiers, and only 40 horses remained of the 220 they brought from Cuba. Tired, broke and miserable, they headed for Mexico City, the closest Spanish outpost on the continent.

An officer of that expedition says they left El Dorado, "and after passing through an uninhabited region for six days ((into today's Louisiana at Junction City, past the barrens of Kisatchie National Forest around Homer, then through Minden and Barksdale Air force Base)), they reached Chaguate ((Shreveport)) on the twentieth of the month." They would enjoy Shreveport's hospitality until the next Full Moon on June 27th. The Chief met the army and his people helped DeSoto's people cross the Red River. "They passed through a small town where there was a lake ((Cross Lake)), where the Indians made salt. The Christians made some on a day they rested there from some briny water which rose near the town in pools like

springs. ((Moscoso, the new governor with the army)) stayed six days in Chaguete ((Province))..." Others called the Chief of Shreveport's large province "Chavete." It existed between the Red and Sabine Rivers.

"There they got information of the people to the west ((who spoke a similar Caddoan language)). They told us that three days' journey from there was a province called Aquacay ((Tyler, Longview, Carthage and Henderson; all beyond the Sabine River in Texas))."

### **Texas Conquest Trails**

((This portion of DeSoto's Conquest Trail was unique in that the army was led by a different general. Hernando DeSoto, who had led his army across America searching for gold and a passage to China during the preceding three years, had died just weeks before. The new general, Luis de Moscoso, was amiable and well liked, but not the leader DeSoto had been. Native Americans perceived his weakness, gullibility, within days of his Louisiana entry. That weakness would be exploited by Indian guides who would lead the army into dangerous places, hoping to starve them to death in Texas. The army's only Spanish-speaking Indian language interpreter had also died, so the army was forced to rely on sign language and grunts to

communicate with deceptive Caddo and Tonkawan Indian guides. Their directions would confuse American historians for centuries, even more than they confused the army who followed them! DeSoto's people entered Texas under the Full Moon of June 27th, 1542. They would leave Texas four months later, only to return to its Gulf Coast the following summer.))

"From here ((Shreveport, Louisiana)) we went to another province that is called Aquacay ((bounded by the Sabine River in today's East Texas)). We spent three days' journey getting there, still going straight west ((at their marching rate of 15 miles per day through a peopled region; they halted at Hallsville, near the Sabine River)). From here the Indians told us that we could not find more villages, but rather that we should descend southwest and south, because there we would find villages and food, and that going the way that we asked about ((due west)) there were some great stretches of sand, and neither villages nor any food ((which, the Spaniards would discover, was said to keep the army out of their villages near Tyler)). We had to return ((southeast to)) where the Indians guided us..."

Another officer says, "On behalf of the chief of Aquacay, before reaching that province ((at the Sabine River)), 15 Indians came to meet him on the way with a

present of skins, fish and venison. The governor reached his town ((Carthage)) on... July 4th..." ((eight days after leaving Shreveport. The army had camped at Waskom, Marshall, several at Hallsville while exploring the river near Longview, then several at Tatum while crossing the river's swamps on their way to Carthage. The name "Aquacay" is probably a Spanish conjecture, meaning "island," given that the province was bounded by the Sabine River's incredible swamps.)) "He ((General Moscoso)) found the town abandoned and lodged therein. He ((General Moscoso and the army)) stayed there for some time, during which he made several inroads, in which many Indians, both men and women, were captured ((from Carthage, Henderson, Kilgore and Tyler, all west of the Sabine River))..." ((The new general's deception by the Indians at Hallsville, something his predecessor, Hernando DeSoto, would never have fallen for, stirred resentment toward him among his officers. Their writings would be critical of his choice of trails throughout Texas.)) "There they heard of the south sea." ((The Indians were probably referring to the Gulf of Mexico but the Spaniards thought the Indians meant the Pacific Ocean. Since DeSoto had died, however, none of them cared to see it; most just wanted to go home.))

"On the day the governor left Aquacay, he went to sleep near a small town ((probably Gary, between Marvail Bayou and Brashy Creek)) subject to the lord of that province. The camp was pitched quite near to a salt marsh, and on that evening some salt was made there. Next day he went to sleep between two ridges in a forest of open trees ((at Garrison, where the East Texas ridges begin)). Next day he reached a small town called Pato ((in the flats of the headwaters of Bayous Laco and La Nana, just above today's Nacogdoches)). The fourth day after they left Aguacay, he reached the first settlement of the province called Amaye ((at Douglass)). An Indian was captured there who said that it was a day and a half journey ((25 miles)) to Naguatex ((at Mission Tejas State Park)), all of which lay through an inhabited region..." ((of Alto's incredible plain between the Angelina and Neches Rivers at the Caddoan Mounds State Historical Park, the largest Indian Mound Complex in East Texas. Texas got its name from the Tejas Indian settlement, first recorded in 1542)).

"Having left the village of Amaye ((Douglass)), on July 20th, camp was made at midday beside a brook ((at Linwood in the bottomlands of Angelina River)) in a luxuriant grove between Amaye and Naguatex. Indians were seen there who came to spy on them. Those of

horse rushed at them, killing six and capturing two." The captives told the Spaniards ((least they be fed to the dogs)) that their chief, along with Chief Naguatex, planned to attack that day. They did, but were lanced by horsemen when they turned and fled. General Moscoso sent an Indian, missing his nose and one hand, to Chief Naguatex to tell him that the Spaniards were coming. "That night he slept there and next day reached the village of Naguatex which was very extensive ((across the plain of Alto)). He asked where the town of the chief was and they ((the captives)) told him it was on the other side of the ((Neches)) river which ran through that district. He marched toward it and on reaching it ((eight miles down a trail we call the Old San Antonio Road)) and on reaching it ((Neches River)) saw many Indians on the other side ((at Mission Tejas State Park)) waiting for him, so posted as to forbid his passage ((of the river)). Since he did not know if the river was fordable, nor where it could be crossed, and since several Christians and horses were wounded, in order that they might have time to recover in the town where he was ((Caddoan Mounds State Historical Park)), he made up his mind to rest for a few days ((before striking Mission Tejas, directly across the river, with intention to strike it on the Full Moon with horsemen on a dawn raid; that moon

phase was only a few days off)). Because of the great heat, he made camp near the village, a quarter of a league ((almost three quarters of a mile)) from the river ((out of range of Hisanai Caddoan Indian arrows)), in an open forest of luxuriant and lofty trees near a brook ((which drains today's Sunshine Mountain))."

"He asked them ((the captives)) whether the river was fordable. They said that it was at times ((but not then)) at certain places. Ten days later he sent two captains, each with fifteen horse, up and down the river with Indians to show them where they could cross. The Indians opposed the crossing of them both as strongly as possible, but they crossed in spite of them. On the other side they saw a large village and many provisions ((food, shelter and animal hides)); and returned to camp with the news." ((They had crossed the Neches River just below Mission Tejas on the flats, that river's fording place, then ridden up Hickery Creek toward Crockett's enormous pastures and the villages scattered along San Pedro Creek.))

((General Moscoso sent word to Chief Naguatex that if he came in peace all would be forgiven; if not, he would be hunted down by the horsemen.)) "They all came after this manner: one ahead of the other in double file, leaving a line in the middle through which the chief

came. They reached the place where the governor was, all weeping after the manner of Tula ((their Caddo speaking cousins in Northwestern Arkansas)) which lay to the east not far from that place. The chief paid his respects... the governor answered him saying that he pardoned him for the past, that thenceforth he should do as he ought ((to do)) and that he would consider him friend and protect him in all his affairs. Four days later ((the Spaniards)) departed, but on reaching the ((Neches)) river ((about 3 miles south of there camp near Caddo Mounds)) could not cross, as it had swollen greatly. This appeared a wonderful phenomenon because of the season and because it had not rained for more than a month..." The Neches River drains Tyler, 50 miles upstream of Mission Tejas. Rains there effected everyone downstream. The Indians told the Spaniards that it flooded often there so the Spaniards conjectured "that it might be the sea which came up through the river. It was learned ((by horsemen over the next week)) that the increase ((in flow)) always came from above ((Tyler)), and that the Indians of that land had no knowledge of the sea ((the Gulf of Mexico)). The governor returned to the place where he had been during the preceding days. A week later, hearing that the river could be crossed ((on the Full Moon of August 25th, 1542)), he passed to the

other side and found a village without any people ((food or supplies; the Indians had fled with everything)). He lodged in the open field..." ((of Crockett, where the Spaniards wrecked havoc on the Tejas villages from there to San Pedro Creek.)) "The chief, on beholding the damage that his land was receiving, sent six of his principal men and three Indians with them as guides who knew the ((Tonkawan)) language of the region ahead where the governor was about to go. He immediately left Naguatex and after marching three days ((to the Trinity River)) reached a town of four or five houses ((on the river's flats where Highway 7 crosses it today)), belonging to the chief of that miserable province called Nisohone." ((The army entered Tonkawan Indian country, although inhabited at places by Caddoan hunters and traders.))

"It was a poorly populated region and had little maize ((Tonkawans did not farm)). Two days later ((at Centerville)), the guides who were guiding the governor guided them toward the east if they had to go toward the west, and sometimes they went through dense forests, wandering off the road ((around Centerville; that land is the same today; high and dry and broken; Interstate 48 runs through there from Houston to Dallas)). The governor ordered them hanged from a tree, and an

Indian woman, who had been captured at Nisohone ((Centerville)), guided him, and he went back to look for the road."

((Some of the men reported to an historian of their time about the Indian who had led them astray,)) "The governor, being angered by this and at seeing his army in such want through the Indian's malice, ordered that he ((a Caddoan guide)) be tied to a tree and that the dogs be loosed upon him. One of them shook and dragged him badly... this was the revenge our Christians took on the poor Indian who had led them off the road, as if it were any satisfaction for past hardships or remedy for present evils." ((Once back to Centerville, they set out in the direction the Indian told them to go before he died,)) "This was that they should march toward the west without turning to one side or the other." ((Had the Spaniards taken that advice it would have saved them much future hardship, but they would chose otherwise just down the road.))

The officer continued, "Two days later ((at Navasota River, west of Centerville on Highway 7)) he reached another wretched land called Lacone. There he captured an Indian who said that the land of Nondacao ((Waco's name, to Caddoan speakers)) was a very populous region and the houses scattered about one from

another as is customary in mountains ((the ridges west of Waco around the giant Fort Hood Military Reservation)), and that there was abundance of corn..." ((beyond the Brazos River, the next provincial border. The Spaniards had been chasing legends of gold, reported to lie just over the next horizon, during the preceding three years in North America. The Texas Indians perceived that and sent the Spaniards searching for corn, this time, just over the next horizon.))

The men said, "They sighted inhabited country from the tops of some hills through which they were going..." ((just inside of Lacone Province on the hills overlooking Bald Prairie)). "This gave them relief that can be imagined, though on reaching the settlements ((of today's Headsville, Harmony and Kosse)) they found that the Indians had gone to the woods and that the land was poor and sterile ((in Tonkawan Indian Country)). The villages were not like the others they had seen, but the houses were scattered through the fields in groups of four or five, badly built and worse arraigned... On the second day of their march through that sterile and poorly inhabited province...they encamped on a plain ((the land flattens beyond Kosse))...three days after...they saw coming across a beautiful plain ((the Brazos River Valley below Waco)) two Indian Nobles ((of

Nondacao)). They were decked out in long plumes with their bows in their hands and their arrows in quivers on their backs." ((The Spaniards proceeded up the Brazos River flats, northwestward, against the advice of the dying Caddoan Indian guide...)) "and they saw ((the following week)) that there were large mountain ranges and forests to the west...((at Fort Hood, U.S. Army, today))."

The officer concluded this chapter of his report with the following remark; "The chief ((of Nondacao at Waco)) and his Indians came weeping like those of Naguatex ((the Indians of Mission Tejas)), that being their custom in token of obedience." The chief brought "a great quantity of fish" and provided a guide to Soacatino ((Killeen))." ((The army would not stay there, though, for want of corn for the horses.))

"The governor departed from Nandacao for Soacatino and after he had marched for five days arrived at the ((Coahuiltec tribe, another of the Hokan speaking group)) province of Aays..." ((at Gatesville, having marched west, up the Brazos River to Valley Mills then around Middle Bosque River gorge.)) Another officer with the expedition says an Indian, "guided us across rugged land and off road, until finally he told us that he no longer knew where he was leading us, and that his

lord had commanded him to lead us where we would die of hunger..." ((in the desert plains well west of Waco)). Continuing, he says, "We took another guide who led us to a province that is called Hais ((Gatesville)), where cows ((buffalo)) are in the habit of gathering..." ((on the edge of the western plains)). The first officer continued, "The ((Coahuiltec)) Indians who lived there had not heard of Christians ((from their Tonkawan neighbors)), and as soon as they perceived them the country was aroused...the affair lasted the greater part of the day before they reached the village... Great damage was done the Indians. The day the governor departed thence, the Indian who was guiding them said that he had heard ((Chief)) Nondacao say that the Indians of Soacatino ((Killeen)) had seen Christians. At this all were very glad, as they thought it might be true and that they might have entered New Spain ((Mexico))... that Indian led them off the road for two days ((southward, to Copperas Cove; still on the edge of the plain)). The governor ordered him to be tortured... and another guided him to Soacatino ((“east to other towns...” of Tonkawan Indians)), whether he arrived the next day ((at Killeen then at Belton and Temple a few days later; all east of Copperas Cove's through that large east-west valley where deer are abundant, even today)). It was a

very poor land and there was great lack of corn there ((because the Tonkawan Indians did not plant it; they ate deer, fish and natural vegetation instead)). He asked the Indians whether they knew of other Christians. They said they had heard it said that they were traveling about near there to the southward ((possibly Cabeza de Vaca, a survivor of an earlier Spanish expedition to Florida, at or near today's San Antonio)). We marched for twenty days ((to and around Austin)) through a poorly populated region ((below Little River, including Salado, Holland, Bartlett Granger, Georgetown, Round Rock, Taylor, Coupland and Elgin along the way)) where they endured great need and suffered; for the little corn the Indians ((probably Caddoan traders)) had they hid in the forests and buried it where..."((the Spaniards could find only a little, because Tonkawan Indians did not grow corn)).

((At Temple, before heading south, the King's Agent says that the guides)) "were leading us to where there were other Christians like us.... It seemed afterward to be a lie and that they could not have any news of any others but us; ((but)) since we had made so many turns, in some of these ((towns)) they must have heard of our passing..." ((through Marlin, just east of there, weeks before. Had they followed the advice of the

dying Indian at Centerville, they would have saved ten days getting to Temple)). He continues, "We turned south again, with purpose of living or dying traversing to New Spain ((Mexico)), and we walked about six days journey south and southwest..." ((pillaging the above mentioned villages above Austin)). The first officer says, "On reaching a province called Guasco ((Austin, on the Colorado River)) they found corn which they loaded ((onto)) the horses and the Indians whom they were taking..." ((To serve as pack animals for the army. These Indians, unlike their Tonkawan neighbors, grew corn, along the banks of the mighty Colorado River.))

### **Austin, the End of the Road**

((Austin was the end of the road for DeSoto's army. Scouting parties were sent out, in several directions, to explore under Harvest Moon; one west, up the Colorado River, the other southwest, to San Antonio.)) "There ((at Austin)) the Indians told them that ten days' journey thence toward the west was a river called Daycao, where they sometimes went to hunt in the mountains and kill deer ((probably near the Llano/Colorado River junction)); and that on the other side ((of the mountains)) they had seen people, but did not know what village it was ((probably Llano Indians)).

"There ((at Austin)) the Christians took what corn they found and could carry ((on the scouting parties)) and after marching for ten days through an unpeopled region reached the ((Llano)) river of which the Indians had spoken." ((They found a poor village and brought back two captives)) "to the river where the governor was awaiting them ((on the Colorado River at Austin)). They continued to question the Indians in order to learn from them the population to the westward, but there was no Indian in the camp who understood their ((Llano)) language."

The other officer says, "There ((at Austin)) we halted and sent ten men on swift horses to travel eight or nine days, or as many as they were able ((with the corn they carried from Austin for their horses)), to see if they could find some town in order to replenish the corn so we could continue on our way, and they traveled as far as they could and came upon some poor people who did not have houses..."

The scouts who went southwest reported, "...they went to another village called Naquisoso ((San Marcos)). The Indians said they had never heard of other Christians. The governor ordered them put to the torture, and they said that Christians had reached another domain ahead called Nasacahoz... ((Cabeza de

Vaca, a shipwrecked Spaniard, had probably passed through 5 years before)). The governor ((with the scouts)) reached Nasacahoz ((New Braunfels, probably in the same province below the Colorado River)) in two days and some Indian women were captured there. Among them was one who said that she had seen Christians and that she had been in their hands but escaped. The governor sent a captain and 15 horsemen to the place where the Indian woman said she had seen them ((at San Antonio)), in order to ascertain whether there were any trace of horses or any token of their having reached there." ((Ten miles down the road the woman recanted her story and the scouts explored the area,)) "...and inasmuch as the land ((around San Antonio)) was very poor in corn, and there was no tidings of any village westward ((of San Antonio)), they returned to Guasco ((Austin))." Both scouting parties had gone out and returned about the same time while the army pillaged the villages north of Austin, accounting for the reported twenty day time span for them to reach Austin from Killeen.

"The governor ((Moscoso)) ordered the captains and principal persons summoned ((once the army had reassembled at Austin)), in order to plan what he should do after hearing their opinions ((based on their

intelligence of the land, as is done there today: Austin is the Capitol of Texas)). Most of them said that in their opinion they should return to the great river of Guachoya ((the Mississippi River at Lake Village, Arkansas)), for there was plenty of corn at Nilco and thereabout ((just below Arkansas Post)). They said that during the winter they would make brigantines ((large sailboats)) and the following summer they would descend the river in them to look for a sea ((the Gulf of Mexico)), and once having reached the sea, they would coast along it to New Spain ((Mexico)), which, although it seemed a difficult thing... it was their last resort because they could not travel by land for lack of an interpreter ((who could lead them to a place where there was enough food to sustain the army and its remaining horses)). They maintained that the land beyond the river of Daycao ((the Colorado River)), where they were, was the land which Cabeza de Vaca said in his relation he had traveled ((he actually traveled through San Antonio then upstream of the Rio Grande River, which DeSoto's people never saw; they mistakenly thought the Colorado River was the largest in the West)), and was of Indians who wandered about like Arabs without having a settled abode anywhere, subsisting on prickly pears ((cactus buds)), the roots of plants and the game they killed. And

if that were so, if they entered it and found no food in order to pass the winter, they could not help but perish, for it was already the beginning of October; and if they stayed longer, they could not turn back because of the waters and snows, nor could they feed themselves in such a poor land. The governor, who was desirous now of getting a good night's sleep, rather than govern and conquer a land where so many hardships presented themselves to him, at once turned back to the place whence they had come...it grieved many of them to turn back, for they would rather have risked death in the land of Florida than to leave it poor."

### **Reverse Course**

"From Daycao ((Austin)), where they were, it was 150 leagues ((400 miles, a precise measure)) to the great ((Mississippi)) river, a distance they had marched continually to the westward." The other officer says, "We returned along the same road that we had followed..." The army timed its departure from Austin to arrive at Mission Tejas, the most populated part of Texas, under the Full Moon of October 23rd, 1542, so the horsemen could raid it from afar at dawn; their normal style of taking heavily populated areas. They had three weeks to get there. Some of the men told an historian, "...to avoid

the bad country and the uninhabited regions they had passed through when they came ((to Austin from Mission Tejas)), they learned that by returning by a circular route to the right of the one by which they had come, the road they would travel would be shorter... ((we call it the Old San Antonio Road)) ...they marched in an arc toward the south." ((They departed Austin southward to Bastrop and spent several days there, gathering what they could,)) "and it seemed to them that they were going too far down from the province of Guachoya, to which they wished to return ((Lake Village, Arkansas)), so they turned toward the east, taking care always to ascend somewhat to the north." ((They followed the Old San Antonio Road from Bastrop to Bryan and Crockett, spending days at each, then on to Mission Tejas, which the horsemen struck on Full Moon, then on to today's Nacogdoches. There they departed the Old San Antonio Road toward Shreveport, Louisiana. That trail and road would become the main entrance route for Texas settlers three centuries later.))

An officer says, "On the backward journey, they found corn to eat with great difficulty, for where they had already passed the land was left devastated ((Indians had been infected by the world's diseases brought in by the Spanish army)), and any corn which

the Indians had, they had hidden. The towns which they had burned in Naguatex, which was now regretted by them, had now been rebuilt and the houses were full of corn." ((The Hasinai Caddoan people, who lived at Mission Tejas, had avoided the Spaniards while they were there; they were not as effected by European and African diseases as tribes which had mingled.)) "This region ((Mission Tejas at today's Caddo Mounds)) was very populated and well supplied with food..."

### **Inland Texas Postscript**

Most tribe names recorded in Texas by DeSoto's army appear to be of Caddoan origin, despite the fact that many other Indian language groups lived in Texas at the time; particularly the Tonkawan Indian group, from Waco southward, and the Coahuiltec Language group to westward.

The Spaniards had relied on Caddoan Indians from Shreveport for translations while in Texas, which would account for the lack of certain Tonkawan place names in the Spanish journals. The Aays, as mentioned above, were probably Coahuiltec and hostile toward Caddoans and not well known by Caddoan guides. The guide for the army in that region was said to have been assigned by his chief ((of Waco)) to deliberately lead the

army into a region where they would perish. That guide led the army to the Coahuiltec village of Aays, where the only battle in that neighborhood took place. The fact that the Mission Tejas/Caddo Mounds area had been restored by the time the army returned to it would indicate that its surrounding villages, others of the Caddoan language group, had helped the Hasinai quickly rebuild their villages during the army's absence. The army was in Tonkawan or Coahuiltec Indian Country while those Tajas Caddoan villages were being rebuilt.

### **Back through Louisiana**

((At the end of October, 1542, the Spaniards re-entered Louisiana...)) "At Chavete ((Shreveport)), the Indians, by order of the chief, came in peace... ((but)) for lack of corn the governor could not stop... He left Chavete and crossed the ((Ouachita)) river before Aays ((Province)), and going down it came to a town called Chilano ((Monroe)), which they had not seen until then..." ((because they had passed north of Monroe's hills, through El Dorado, Arkansas, on their way to Texas. Chief Chavete had probably told the Spaniards, on pain of death, that Monroe had the corn they needed to feed their horses. The army passed through Bossier City, Minden, Arcadia and Ruston during the week it

took them to march to Monroe, striking that city during the darkness of New Moon, November 7th, 1542. There the army turned northeast, up Ouachita River through Bastrop ((in Aays Province)), and returned to Arkansas.))

The men described their Texas/Louisiana trip thusly: "On this last journey that our people made after the death of Governor Hernando DeSoto they traveled, going and returning, and counting the expedition that the scouts made ((beyond Austin)), more than 350 leagues ((900+ miles, a remarkably accurate measure)), during which a hundred Spaniards and eighty horses died at the hands of the enemy and from sickness...." They would be back in both Louisiana and Texas the following summer.

### **Winter at Pine Bluff**

Hernando DeSoto's army re-entered Arkansas in the middle of November, 1542. Within that week, under the Full Moon, they would explore for food to sustain themselves while building ships in which to escape to Mexico. The Indians of Lake Village, where DeSoto had died, had little food. The Spaniards would find several food rich towns upriver, which they had not seen the Summer before. Those towns, near Pine Bluff on the

Arkansas River, would become their home for the next six months. Unknown to them, and today's scholars, they had been told about the heavily populated Little Rock area, just upstream of Pine Bluff, one year before at Clinton, Arkansas. They would raid Little Rock and the Toltec Mounds area, north of the Arkansas River, for food and clothing once they settled-in for the Winter of 1542-1543, their last in today's America.

"On reaching Nilco," ((an officer says as they re-entered Arkansas from Louisiana,)) "they found so little corn that it did not suffice for the ((time it would take)) building ships. The cause of this was that when the Christians were at Guachoya ((Lake Village)) at seed time, the Indians had not dared sow the lands of Nilco for fear of them; and they knew no other land thereabout where there was any ((abundance of)) corn. That was the most fertile land thereabout and where they had most hope of finding corn. They were all thrown into confusion; and most of them thought it had been a bad plan to have turned back from Daycao ((Austin, Texas))...for there was neither pilot nor chart ((to sail to Mexico from where they were)), they did not know where the ((Mississippi)) river entered the sea, they had no information concerning the latter; they had nothing with which to make sails nor calk nor pitch..."

Another officer says, "Having arrived here, we did not find as good provisions as we thought, because we did not find food in the town ((Lake Village)), since the Indians had hidden it. We had to look for another town in order to be able to winter and fashion the ships ((with which to escape)). Thank God we discovered two towns ((just below Pine Bluff, International Paper owns the land today; its giant pulp mill is built near the place where the Spaniards spent that Winter)) much to our purpose that were on the river and had a great quantity of corn and were palisaded, and there we halted and built our ships with much labor ((for the next six months))." The first officer says, "...at a distance of two days' journey thence ((from Guachoya Province; having marched through wet lands from Dumas, Arkansas, westward)), near the great river were two towns of which the Christians had never heard, called Aminoya... in an open and level ground, at a half league's distance ((1.3 miles)) apart." ((That land looks the same today.))

The men said, "They found on the banks of the river in the place where they happened to reach it, two villages near one another, each having 200 houses. A moat of water taken from the river itself surrounded them both and formed an island ((which lies directly west of and adjoining today's Pine Bluffs Lock, located

precisely where the ships were built on the firm river bank)... they formed a squadron that still numbered more than 320 infantry ((soldiers)) and 70 cavalry ((horsemen)), and attacked one of the villages ("It was surrounded with a stockade and was a quarter of a league from the great river..," says an officer)), whose inhabitants abandoned it without making any defense...our forces attacked the other village and gained it with equal facility...." ((The men speculated that their reputation must have preceded their arrival, causing the Indians to flee. Tons of corn and other vegetables were moved into one town; the other was torn down for firewood and shelter. The Indians left them alone, without attacking for the remainder of their six month stay.)) "That village and its province were called Aminoya. It is 16 leagues ((42 miles)) up the river from the Province of Guachoya ((at Dumas; that province extended southward from there to Louisiana))...(S)eeing that the last days of January of the year 1543 had now come, they gave orders for cutting timber for making the brigantines in which they intended to go by way of the river down to the North Sea ((the Atlantic Ocean and its Gulf of Mexico)). There was a great abundance of timber throughout the vicinity..." The first officer adds, "for building ships, there was there the best wood they had

seen in all the land of Florida..." ((which is the reason International Paper built its giant pulp mill on that place beside the river. One survivor reported that upon meeting an old woman on the river flats, he was asked where his people planned to winter given that,)) "every fourteen years that Great River overflowed its bed and covered the whole country, and the natives took refuge in the top floors of the houses; and she said that year was the fourteenth..." but she was ignored.

The first officer goes on to say, "As soon as they were come to Aminoya ((Province, the Pine Bluff flats)), the governor ((Moscoso)) ordered the chains which each one had brought for his Indians ((as slave harnesses)) and all the other iron in the camp to be collected. He ordered a forge set up, nails made, and timber cut for building brigantines... and with one who knew how to build ships... four or five carpenters, who hewed the planks for him, built the brigantines... The Indians of a province located two days' journey up the river, by name Tagoanate ((Little Rock, elsewhere called Guahate by another tribe the year before at Clinton, Arkansas)), as well as those of Nilco and Guachoya ((Lake Village)) and others roundabout ((the Toltec Mounds area)), seeing that the brigantines were being built ((to transport the

Spaniards away)... frequently came and brought an abundance of fish..."

((When news of the Spanish return found Chief Nilco, he dispatched a relative to appease the army with offerings; several days later Chief Gouchoya brought his people in,)) "and every eight days they went to their houses and returned with new presents and offerings..." ((according to the men)). "Having calculated what size the brigantines would have to be in order to hold all the people who must embark on them, we found that we would need seven.... The necessary materials were gathered for this number of brigantines, and in order to prevent the winter rains from hindering the work, we built four very large shelters that served as dockyards, where we all labored equally....Some sawed the timber to make boards, others finished it with iron axes, others beat iron into nails, others made charcoal, others fashioned oars, and others twisted the ropes. Our people were engaged in these activities throughout the months of February, March and April... ((while)) the Indians brought many blankets, new and old..." ((Blankets were used for sail making and caulk... Nilco, the closest friendly chief, provided more than the other tribes and warned the Spaniards of a pending attack by others.)) "Thus it must be known that opposite the village of

Guachoya ((Lake Village)) on the other side of the Great ((Mississippi)) River, there was a very large province called Quigualtanqui ((at Greenville, Mississippi)) abounding in food and well populated. Its lord was young and warlike and was beloved and obeyed throughout his state and feared in the others because of his great power." ((The attack, however, would be delayed until the Spaniards drifted down the Arkansas River and into the Mississippi the following Summer)). In the meantime, "On the 18th of March 1543, which that year fell ((precisely)) on Palm Sunday ...while the Spaniards were marching in procession... the river rose so furiously and with such a rush that it entered the gates of the village of Aminoya, and two days thereafter one could not go through the streets except in canoes... before this rise reached its greatest height, which was on the 20th of April ((Full Moon))..." ((The Spring thaw of the nearby Ozark Mountains caused the Arkansas River to flood well before the Mississippi River, as it does today)). "At the end of April the river began to recede as slowly as it had risen...((and)) by the end of May the river was back in its bed."

The first officer confirms that... "(I)n the month of March, although it had not rained in that land for over a month, the river rose in such a manner that it stretched

clear to Nilco ((Province)), nine leagues ((24 miles)) away; and the Indians said that it spread over another nine leagues of land on the other side ((to the Mississippi River bed)).... Indians came and went in canoes.... As soon as the waters fell, they agreed with the governor that he should send men to Taguanate..," ((today's Little Rock, for additional supplies. Other Indians helped the Spaniards on that raid.)) "They assaulted the town, capturing Indian men and women and blankets, which ((along)) with those they ((already)) had, were sufficient for their needs" ((of caulking the ships and making additional ropes and sails)). "The building of the brigantines ((was)) completed in the month of June - it being Summer and a long time having passed since it had rained - the river rose up to the town until it reached the brigantines, whence they were taken by water to the river." ((The Mississippi River's Spring flood occurs well after the Arkansas River's, but floods that river again, causing the second flood at Pine Bluff each season: there's a dam there today to control that flood).

The men say, "They butchered the hogs, which they had hitherto kept for breeding in spite of all their past hardships, and they still reserved 18 of them....They gave three, two females and one male for breeding, to each of the friendly chiefs. The meat of

those that were killed was salted for the journey... They provided canoes to carry the horses that they had remaining...The canoes were fastened together by twos, so that the horses could be carried ("they killed 20 of the 50 that remained" for meat and hides) ...each brigantine carried one ((canoe)) at the stern to serve as a ship's boat... they busied themselves in embarking the ship-stores and the horses, and in dressing the brigantines and the canoes with boards and skins of animals as a defense against the arrows. Then on the day of the Apostles ((June 29th)) they embarked..."

### **The Great River Journey**

The first officer reports that "they abandoned 500 Indians ((slaves))...among whom were many boys and girls who spoke and understood Spanish...Three hundred and twenty-two Spaniards left Aminoya in seven brigantines...They left Aminoya ((Province)) on the second day of July, 1543..." ((the day before the darkness of New Moon, having spent several days making adjustments as they slowly drifted downstream from Pine Bluff to a point near Dumas on the Arkansas River, the end of Aminoya Province.)) "The day they left Aminoya, they passed Guachoya ((Province)) where the Indians were awaiting them in canoes on the river ((near

Arkansas Post))... The Indians accompanied the governor's ship in their canoes. Coming to where an arm of the river led off to the right ((at the flooded White River junction)), they said the province of Quigaltam lay nearby. They importuned the governor to go make war on them, and said that they would aid them. But since they said that Quigaltam ((Greenville, Mississippi)) lay three days' journey below ((given the slow rate of the Spanish ships)), it seemed to the governor that the Indians had planned some treachery against him. There he took leave of them and proceeded on his voyage where the force of the water was greater ((in the Mississippi River)). The current was very powerful and, aided by their oars, they journeyed at a good rate ((being away from the backwaters of the White and Arkansas Rivers))."

The first officer continued, "The first day ((along the Mississippi River)) they landed ((to feed themselves and the horses)) in a wood on the left side of the river ((in Bolivar County, Mississippi)) and at night they slept in the ((moored)) brigantines. Next day they came to a town ((today's Mound Landing)) where they landed, but the people there did not dare await them." ((Supplies were found in Quigaltam Province, the land surrounding Greenville, Mississippi, along with hundreds of hostile

Indians, of which they had been warned, during that week near Chief Quigaltam's Province. The river split just below Greenville at that time. The Spaniards chose the left, or southerly fork, to hasten their departure and thereby bypassed Lake Village all together, the place where DeSoto's body had been placed in the Mississippi River the year before. It would take the Spaniards 17 days to reach the mouth of the Mississippi River, averaging just under 40 miles per day from the time they entered it above Greenville. Their struggles near Quigaltam slowed their progress, however)). The Indians, "going ahead of them ((in canoes)), when they reached a town ((Vicksburg)) near a bluff, they ((the Indians)) all united ((with other tribes)), as if to show that they were a mind to wait there ((to attack the Spaniards)).... Next day, the Indians got together one hundred canoes, some of which held sixty or seventy Indians, and the principal men with their awnings with white and colored plumes of feathers... and from that place, the Indians all came down upon the Spaniards..." ((who were also in canoes ahead of the brigantines. Eleven Spaniards were killed near Vicksburg; twenty-five others were wounded)).

## **From Vicksburg to the Gulf of Mexico**

((Floating down the Mississippi River near Vicksburg in the summer of 1543, having spent four years plundering America, 320 Spaniards in seven brigantines were making their way to a Spanish outpost on the Gulf of Mexico. Indians, angered by Spain's outrageous behavior, according to a Spanish Officer, attacked the)) "brigantines which they had not dared to before...twenty-five men were wounded. In this way they circulated from one ((brigantine)) to another...The Christians had brought ((woven)) mats...and the brigantines were hung with them ((to block hostile Indian arrows))... They resolved to travel all that night, thinking that they would pass by the land of Quigualtam ((Mississippi)) and that the Indians would leave them..." ((But they did not; within a few days, the Indians of Natchez joined in the attacks.))

Upon entering Louisiana, "Those ((Indians)) of Quigualtam ((Mississippi)) returned to their own lands, and the others in fifty canoes continued to fight for a whole day and night...but, because of the slowness with which we sailed ((with horses in tow on barges)), the governor made up his mind to land and kill the horses. We loaded the meat into the brigantines after salting it but left five of the horses alive on the shore.... The

Indians went up to them after we had embarked. The horses were unused to them and began to neigh and run about in various directions, whereat the Indians jumped into the water for fear of them. Entering their canoes behind the brigantines ((somewhere above Baton Rouge)), they continued to shoot at them without any pity and followed us that afternoon ((past Baton Rouge)) and night until ten o'clock the next morning, and then went back upstream ((as the Spaniards entered the swamps)). Soon seven canoes came out from a small town ((possibly Donaldsonville)) located near the river and followed them for a short distance down the river shooting at them... After that they had no trouble ((passing through New Orleans)), until they came almost to the sea...((where the river)) divided into two branches, each of which was about a league and half ((four miles)) wide."

((The Mississippi River Delta below New Orleans has changed dramatically in the five centuries since DeSoto's Army was there, more than any other shoreline in North America. Millions of acres of America's best soil have been deposited on the Mississippi River's giant delta due to interior deforestation and intense agriculture along that river's feeders. The river flows through the soil deposits, called barrier islands, most of

which are very near each other on the delta. They are kept in check by the Corps of Engineers for ship navigation and flood control. DeSoto's people entered the Gulf of Mexico not very far below today's New Orleans.))

### **The Louisiana Coast**

An expedition officer says, "A half a league ((just over a mile)) before they came to the sea ((the Gulf of Mexico at Belize, on the Full Moon)), they anchored for a day to rest because they were very tired from rowing ((steering down the river)) and greatly disheartened because of the many days during which they had eaten nothing but parched and boiled corn, which was doled out in a ration of a leveled-off helmet to each mess ((group)) of three ((men)). While we were there, seven canoes of Indians came to attack the Christians.... The governor ordered armed men to enter the canoes ((which had been brought down river)) and go against the Indians and put them to flight. The Indians also came to attack us by land through a thicket and a swamp ((the same way they did against Cabeza de Vaca, another Spanish coastal survivor, near the same place, a decade earlier)). The Indians had clubs set with very sharp fish bones" The men say, "...an Indian the size of a Philistine... [had a]...dart, or long arrow, with three

barbs in the place of one [at the tip].... The barb in the center was a handbreadth longer than the two on the sides...[like] harpoons and not smooth points." ((This observation, the last of a very hostile Indian in America, may well have inspired today's "Devil" image which was born in Europe in the 1540's just after news of DeSoto's defeat arrived there. We inherited that "Devil" image: a tall, slender, body hairless red man, with a three pronged spear in hand. According to Spaniards, North America was the Devil's domain, given its defeat of the Great Conquistador, Hernando DeSoto.))

The officer continues, "They stayed there for two days ((during Full Moon)). From thence they went to the place where the branch of the river flowed into the sea ((through Balize Barrier Island))." ((They would spend the next 55 days making their way to a Spanish outpost in Mexico, which they called New Spain)). "They took soundings in the river near the sea and found a depth of forty fathoms ((over 200 feet))... On July 18th, 1543, they put out to sea ((along the coast)) and undertook their voyage amid calm and fair weather." ((They sailed for three days in fresh water, all fed by the Great River's many estuaries.)) "That night they saw some ((Indian fires on the)) keys on the right ((on East Island, where Cabeza de Vaca had lived for six years during the decade

before DeSoto's people arrived there)), whither they went ((for food and wood for fires))." ((For the next four days they sailed off-shore over the shoals of Maringouin, part of which was in the fresh water discharge of the Atchafalaya River, at that time a major discharge of the Great River into the Gulf, well out of sight of land as they sounding for steerage. They were blown onto Pecan Island where they dug for fresh water. When the storm ceased, they sailed westward for two more days and entered Calcasieu Pass. When they departed there, they were caught in another storm which washed five of the seven brigantines ashore just east of Sabine Pass and below Port Arthor. When the sea calmed the next day, all reassembled in Sabine Lake, where they stayed for two days during the New Moon of July 31st, 1543, in order to careen their vessels on the Spring Tides while gathering food and water)).

### **Coastal Texas to New Spain**

"They sailed another two days ((from Port Arthor, into Texas)) and anchored at a bay or arm of the sea ((at Gilchrist)) where they stayed two days. They sailed another two days and anchored at a bay or arm of the sea ((the eastern extremity of Galveston Bay)) where they stayed ((behind the island)) for two days.... Six men

went up the bay in a canoe but did not come to its head. They left there with a south wind which was against them ((through San Louis Pass)), but since it was light and their desire to shorten their voyage great, they went out by going into the sea, and journeyed for two days...with great toil, a very little distance, and entered behind an islet ((San Bernard National Wildlife Refuge)) by means of a branch of the sea ((Matagorda Bay)) which surrounded it. There was an abundance of fish there." ((The Colorado River empties into that bay; a natural spawning ground for hundreds of species.))

((The men say that on their 23rd day at sea the day they reached Matagorda Bay, they entered behind a series of four or five islets close to the mainland from there to Mexico, behind East and West Matagorda, San Jose, Mustang and Padre Islands; about 250 miles of sandy islands. They pitched their boats for eight days, under the Full Moon, for the protection it offered, just inside San Bernard. Friendly Indians visited them several times, probably from up the Colorado River. When the Spaniards departed they sailed for thirteen days from point to point on the Texas mainland for protection from the strong north winds and for water and firewood, resting for three days along their intercoastal journey. They averaged 25 miles per day

sailing then drifted out Brazos Santiago Pass, at the south end of Padre Island and into the open sea, on the Spring Tides of August 31th, thereby missing the Rio Grande altogether. They departed Texas on September 1, 1543)).

### **Mexico**

((An officer says they sailed within sight of land on strong winds for six days, along the Mexican shoreline, probably stopping for water, food and wood for several days along that coast. They saw mountains and palm trees by noon of the seventh sailing day, September tenth, 1543, with muddy water in the sea. The River of Panuco, a known Spanish possession, was breaking over the sandy shoals. They put in before reaching the river's mouth. Several of the ships overshot the river the night before and had to return overland. The lead boats found friendly Indians who spoke Spanish and were informed that they were home at last.))

## **Epilogue**

The fact that no other Spanish expedition was ever dispatched after DeSoto's to explore deep into North America is, in itself, argument enough to suspect that DeSoto did so given that Spain and Portugal successfully explored and colonized ALL of the New World elsewhere. Had DeSoto found what he was looking for (The South Sea and, thereby, a passage to China), we would all be speaking Spanish in North America today.

These publications are available at [www.FloridaHistory.com](http://www.FloridaHistory.com)

## NATIVE AMERICAN CONQUEST

### DeSoto's Lunar Activity

Compiled for Internet Publication on [www.FloridaHistory.com](http://www.FloridaHistory.com)  
from Lunar Circumstance Tables computed and provided by  
**Dr. Dennis Mammana, Resident Astronomer in 1994,**  
Natural Science Center, Balboa Park, San Diego, California.

MOON PHASE	DATE	EVENT DURING CONQUEST
		<b>FIRST YEAR 1539</b>
NEW	MAY 18,	DESOTO'S ARMY SAILS FROM HAVANA
FULL	JUNE 1,	DESOTO'S ARMY LANDS IN FLORIDA
NEW	JULY 15,	THE ARMY LEAVES PORT FOR INTERIOR
FULL	JULY 31,	THE ARMY ENTERS OCALE (DADE CITY)
NEW	AUG. 14,	DESOTO CONDUCTS HERNANDO MASSACRE
FULL	AUG. 29,	ARMY ADVANCES FROM OCALE TO SUWANNEE
NEW	SEP. 12,	SCOUTS EXPLORE VITACHUCO
FULL	SEP. 27,	DESOTO TAKES TALLAHASSEE, FLORIDA
NEW	OCT. 12,	ANASCO GETS LOST FINDING PANAMA CITY
FULL	OCT. 27,	30 LANCERS CROSS THE HILLSBOROUGH SWAMP
NEW	NOV. 10,	SHIPS LEAVE PORT CHARLOTTE ON SPRING TIDES
FULL	NOV. 25,	TROOPS FROM THERE CROSS GREAT SWAMP
FULL	DEC. 25,	SHIPS ARRIVE AT PANAMA CITY, FLORIDA
		<b>ARMY WINTERS AT BOTH PANAMA CITY AND MARIANNA CAMPS</b>
		<b>SECOND YEAR 1540</b>
FULL	MAR. 22,	ARMY TAKES TAO: DAWSON, GEORGIA
FULL	APR. 21,	ARMY CROSSES SAVANNAH RIVER
FULL	MAY 20,	ARMY ENTERS NORTH CAROLINA AT DAWN
FULL	JUNE 19,	DESOTO DEMANDS WOMEN FOR MEN AT CHIAHA
NEW	JULY 4,	DESOTO STRIKES HIAWASSI ISLAND, TENNESSEE
FULL	JULY 19,	ARMY ENTERS COOSA, FORT PAYNE, ALABAMA
FULL	AUG. 17,	SCOUTS LEAVE COOSA, ARMY WAITS
NEW	AUG. 31,	DESOTO STRIKES GADSDEN, ALABAMA
FULL	SEP. 16,	CAVALRY TAKES TALLASSEE, ALABAMA
NEW	SEP. 30,	ARMY AWAITS LIGHT TO VISIT TUSCALUSA, ALABAMA
FULL	OCT. 15,	DESOTO ENTERS CAHABA, TUSCALUSA'S BIRTHPLACE
FULL	NOV. 14,	LEAVE TUSCALUSA'S BATTLE GROUNDS AT MAUVILA
NEW	NOV. 28,	RAFTS MOVED TO BLACK WARRIOR RIVER
FULL	DEC. 13,	SCOUTS MOVE UP THE TENNESSEE RIVER
		<b>STRIKE MADE INTO MISSISSIPPI DURING THIS WINTER</b>
		<b>THIRD YEAR 1541</b>
NEW	APRIL 26,	DESOTO TAKES ALIBAMO AT NATCHEZ TRACE, TENN.
FULL	MAY 10,	DESOTO ENTERS WHILE SCOUTS EXPLORE KENTUCKY
FULL	JUNE 8,	DESOTO CROSSES THE OHIO RIVER AT EVANSVILLE
FULL	JULY 8,	SCOUTS SIGHT LAKE MICHIGAN AT <b>CHICAGO</b>
FULL	AUG. 6,	STRIKE ILLINOIS, LARGEST TOWN IN AMERICA
FULL	SEP. 6,	ARMY CROSSES MISSISSIPPI RIVER INTO MISSOURI
FULL	SEP. 5,	ARMY TAKES TULA, HARRISON, ARKANSAS
NEW	OCT. 19,	ARMY ENTERS THE OZARK MOUNTAINS
FULL	NOV. 3,	ARMY TAKES JACKSONPORT, ARKANSAS
		<b>ARMY SPENDS THE WINTER EXPLORING MISSISSIPPI RIVER BANKS.</b>

## NATIVE AMERICAN CONQUEST

### FOURTH YEAR 1542

NEW	MAR. 16,	ARMY CROSSES WHITE RIVER IN SNOWS
FULL	MAR. 31,	ARMY TAKES NILCO PROVINCE NEAR MONTICELLO
NEW	APRIL 15,	ARMY MOVES QUIETLY TO LAKE VILLAGE
FULL	APRIL 29,	SCOUTS EXPLORE MISSISSIPPI RIVER
HALF	MAY 21,	DESOTO DIES, BURIED AFTER DARK
FULL	MAY 28,	DESOTO'S BODY DUG UP, PLACED IN THE RIVER
FULL	JUNE 27,	ARMY LEAVES SHREVEPORT, ENTERS TEXAS
FULL	JULY 26,	PLAN TO ATTACK (MISSION) TEJAS, TEXAS
FULL	AUG. 25,	ARMY TAKES (MISSION) TEJAS VILLAGE
FULL	SEP. 24,	SCOUTS EXPLORE WESTWARD FROM AUSTIN
FULL	OCT. 23,	ARMY RETURNS TO (MISSION) TEJAS VILLAGE
NEW	NOV. 7,	ARMY STRIKES MONROE, LOUISIANA
FULL	NOV. 22,	ARMY STRIKES PINE BLUFF, ARKANSAS

ARMY SPENDS THE WINTER BUILDING BOATS FOR ESCAPE.

### LAST YEAR 1543

NEW	JULY 2,	LEAVE ARKANSAS RIVER TO SLIP PAST GREENVILLE
FULL	JULY 16,	REACH GULF OF MEXICO, INDIANS ATTACK
NEW	JULY 31,	SABINE LAKE, TEXAS, CAREEN VESSELS, HIGH TIDES
FULL	AUG. 14,	AT MATAGORDA FOR 8 DAYS SPANNING FULL
NEW	AUG. 30,	HIGH SPRING TIDES BELOW KINGSVILLE, TEXAS
FULL	SEP. 10,	ARMY SPOTS SANDS OF MEXICO'S SHORELINE

## References

Black, Glenn A.

1967 Angle Site, an Archaeological, Historical and Ethnological Study, Indiana Historical Society, Indianapolis

Blake, Alan

1988 Legua Legal of Legua Comun: A Discussion, DeSoto Working Paper #5, University of Alabama, W.S. Hoole Special Collection, Tuscaloosa, AL.

Bolton, Herbert Eugene

1920 The Colonization of North America, MacMillan Co, N.Y.

Bourne, Edward G.

1904 Narratives of the Career of Hernando de Soto, Volume I, in Trail Makers Series, A.S. Barnes & Co., N.Y.

Brain, Jeffrey P.

1985 Introduction: Update of the De Soto Studies Since the United States De Soto Commission Report in the **Reprint of the Final Report of the United States De Soto Expedition Commission**, 76th. Congress, 1st. Session, House Document, no. 71, Government Printing Office, Wash. DC

## NATIVE AMERICAN CONQUEST

Bullen, Ripley

- 1951 The Terra Ceia Site, Manatee County, Florida, in Florida Anthropological Society Publications, No. 3, p. 37, Gainesville, FL.  
1952 DeSoto's Ucita and the Terra Ceia Site, in Florida Historical Quarterly, Volume 30, no. 4, pp. 317- 323.

Chardon, Ronald

- 1980 The Elusive Spanish League: A Problem of Measurement in Sixteenth-Century New Spain, in Hispanic American Historical Review, Vol. 60, no. 2, Duke University Press.

Clayton, Lawrence A., Vernon James Knight, Jr., and Edward Moore (Editors)

- 1993 **The De Soto Chronicles, the Expedition of Hernando De Soto to North America in 1539-1543, Volumes I and II**, University of Alabama Press.

Davis, T. Frederick

- 1935 History of Juan Ponce de Leon's Voyages to Florida, Monographs on Subjects of Florida History, Jacksonville, FL.

Goza, William

- 1963 The Fort King Road, in The Florida Historical Quarterly, Volume XLIII, no. 1, pp. 52-70  
1984 Florida and Spain in the New World: The Peruvian Connection. Paper presented at the Conference on the Remains of Pizarro at the Florida State Museum, University of Florida, Gainesville, FL.

Hemming, John

- 1973 The Conquest of the Incas, Harcourt Brace Jovanovich, N.Y.

Hodge, Frederick W.

- 1907 Spanish Explorers in the United States, in Original Narratives of Early American History, Charles Scribner's Sons, N.Y.

Hoffman, Paul

- 1990 A New Andalucia and a Way to the Orient, Louisiana State University Press.

Katzeff, Paul

- 1981 Full Moons, Citadel Press, Secaucus, N.J.

King, Anthony

- 1990 Roman Gaul and Germans, University of California Press.

Laumer, Frank

- 1968 Massacre, University of Florida Press, Gainesville.  
1995 Dade's Last Command, University of Florida Press, Gainesville.

## NATIVE AMERICAN CONQUEST

Lawson, Edward

1946 The Discovery of Florida and its Discoverer Juan Ponce de Leon, Edward W. Lawson Press, St. Augustine, FL.

Lewis, Thomas M.N. and Madeline Kneberg

1939 Hiwassee Island, An Archaeological Account of Four Tennessee Indian Peoples, University of Tennessee Press, Knoxville, TN.

Lockhart, James

1972 The Men of Cajamarca, University of Texas Press.

Mahon, John K.

1967 History of the Second Seminole War 1835-1842, University of Florida Press, Gainesville, FL.

Mammana, Dennis L.

1994 **Lunar Circumstances** Search Report, unpublished, from the Reuben H. Fleet Space and Science Center, Balboa Park, San Diego, Calif.

Manchester, William

1992 A World Lit Only by Fire, The Medieval Mind and the Renaissance Portrait of an Age, Little, Brown and Company, N.Y.

Morison, Samuel Eliot

1974 The European Discovery of America, The Southern Voyages AD 1492-1616, Oxford University Press, N.Y.

Prescott, William H.

1847 **History of the Conquest of Peru**, The Modern Library (1936), N.Y.

Russell, Jeffrey B.

1977 The Devil, Perceptions of Evil from Antiquity to Primitive Christianity, Cornell University Press, Ithaca, N.Y.

Schell, Rolph F.

1966 DeSoto Didn't Land at Tampa, Island Press, Ft. Myers Beach, FL.

Schoolcraft, Henry R.

1857 General History of the North American Indians, Philadelphia, 6 Parts; Plate XLIV pp 50, Volume III and pp 58-68 Volume VI.

Shaffer, Lynda Norene

1992 **Native America Before 1492, the Mound Building Centers of the Eastern Woodlands**, M.E. Sharp Press, Armonk, N.Y.

## NATIVE AMERICAN CONQUEST

Smith, Buckingham

1866 The Career of Hernando de Soto in the Conquest of Florida, from Theodore H. Lewis, Editor, Spanish Explorers in the United States, 1528 - 1543, Barnes & Noble, Inc, Reprint 1965.

Sprague, John T.

1964 The Origin, Progress and Conclusion of the Florida War, a reprint of the 1848 publication, introduction by John K. Mahon, University of Florida Press, Gainesville.

Stone, George C.

1934 A Glossary of the Construction, Decoration and Use of Arms and Armor in All Countries and in All Times, Jack Brussel Publisher, N.Y.

Swanton, John R.

1939 **Final Report of the United States De Soto Expedition Commission**, 76th. Congress, 1st Session, House Document, no. 71, Government Printing Office, Washington. DC

1946 The Indians of the Southeastern United States, U.S. Government Printing Office, Washington. DC

Thomas, Hugh

1993 Conquest; Montezuma, Cortes and the Fall of Old Mexico, Simon & Schuster, N.Y.

Wiecknieski, Jerome (Father Jerome)

1962 Juan Ponce de Leon, Abbey Press, Saint Leo, FL.

Wilkinson, Warren H.

1960 Opening the Case Against the U.S. DeSoto Commission's Report, Papers of the Alliance for the Preservation of Florida Antiquities, Vol. 1, No. 1, Jacksonville Beach, Fla.

Williams, Lindsey W.

1986 Boldly Onward, Precision Publications Co., Charlotte Harbor, FL.

A draft of this article appeared in the Florida Anthropologist under different title



## **DeSoto's Army's Trail West of the Mississippi River**

Detailed Maps are available, free, at [www.FloridaHistory.com](http://www.FloridaHistory.com)