

Louisiana Family History Research: Four Centuries of History and Genealogy

Class 1: 17th Century: Colonization and Conflict

Rhonda R. McClure, Senior Genealogist

THE BRUE FAMILY LEARNING CENTER



American Ancestors®
by NEW ENGLAND HISTORIC GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY

Meet today's presenter



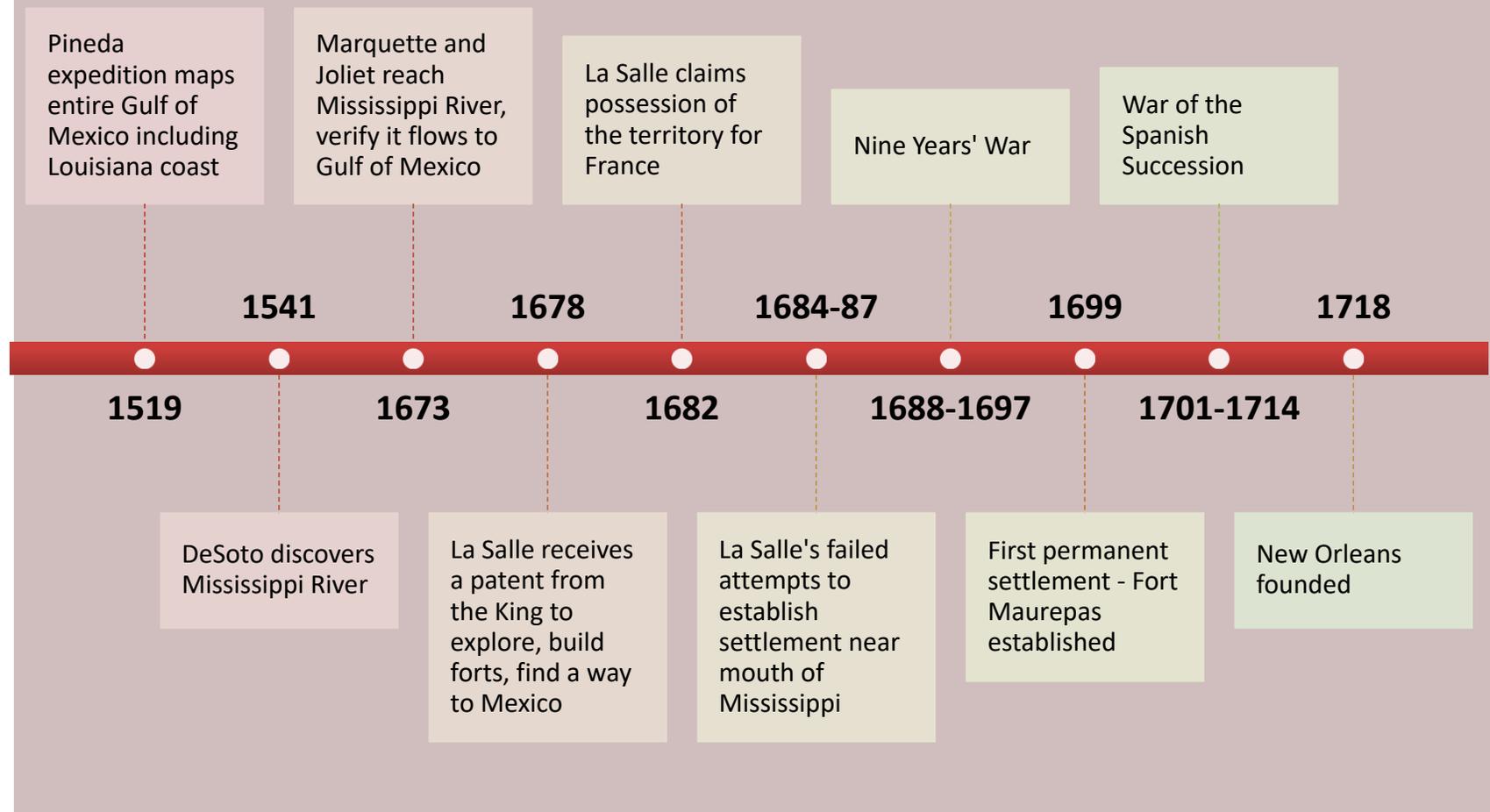
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OVERVIEW

- **Presentation (60 mins.)**
 - Discovery
 - Colonization
 - Native Peoples
- **Q&A (30 mins.)**

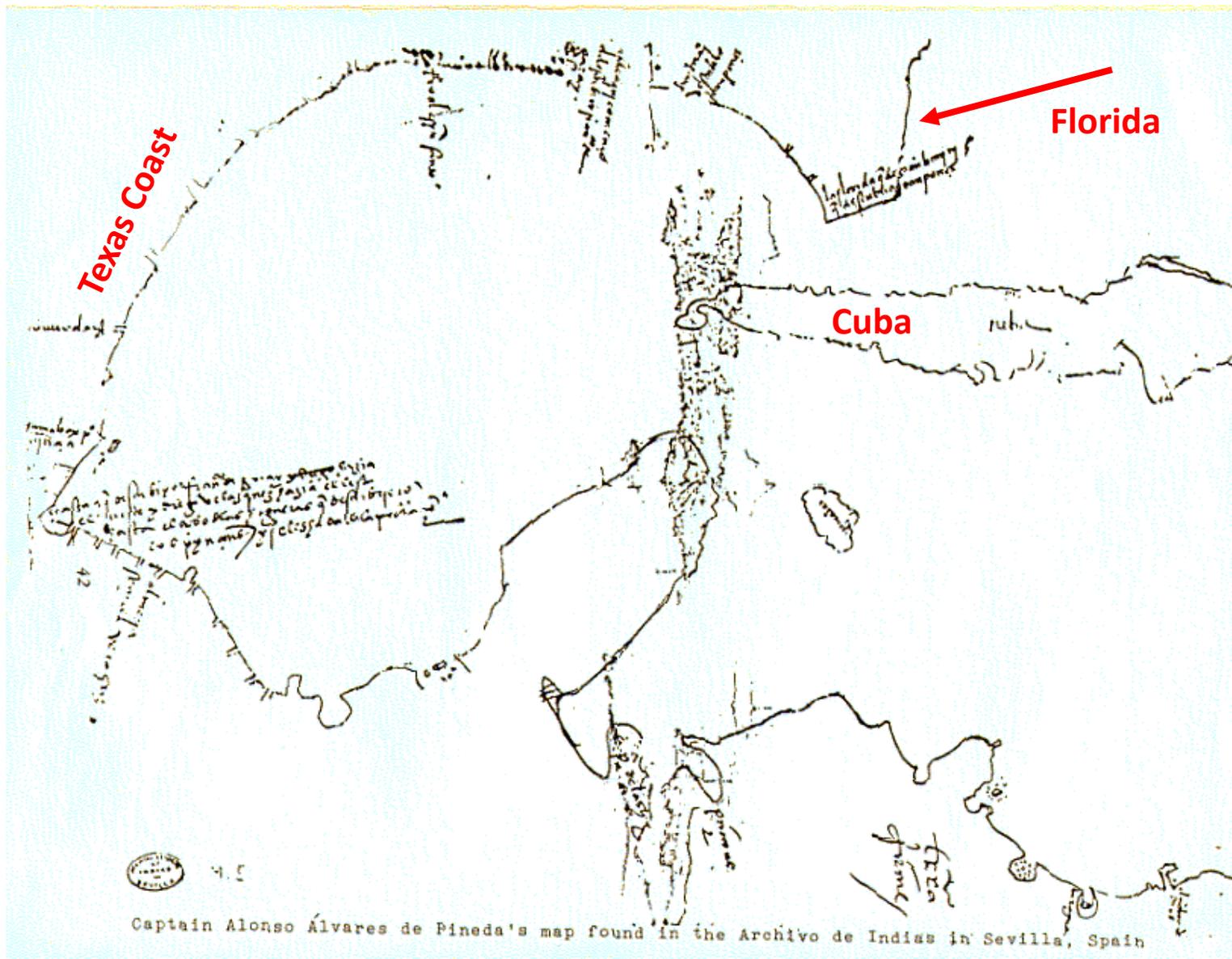
Brief Chronology



Discovery

Alonso Alvarez de Pineda

- Spanish expedition in 1519
- Sailed along the Gulf of Mexico coastline from Florida to Cabo Rojo, Mexico
- First to explore and map this area
- Purpose of voyage: Explore the coast between:
 - Juan Ponce De León's discovery on the Florida peninsula
 - Diego Velázquez's discovery on the southern Gulf
 - Searching for a strait to the Pacific Ocean



Pineda's Map - 1519

Original map located in Archivo de Indias, Sevilla, Spain

Hernando de Soto

- Spanish explorer and *conquistador*
- Had an important role in Francisco Pizarro's conquest of the Inca Empire
- Best known for his expedition into modern-day U.S.





Proposed Rout of De Soto

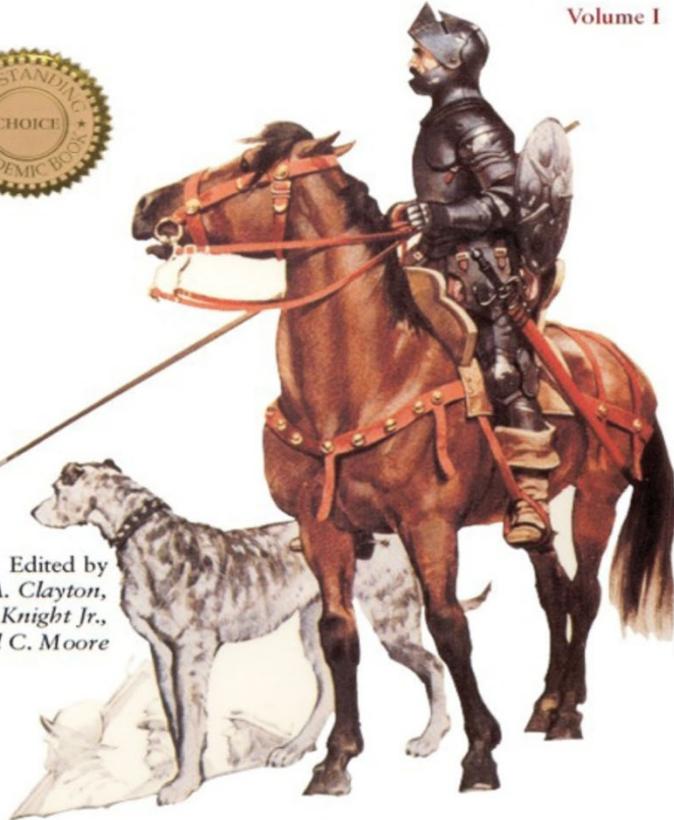
Sources of de Soto's Expedition

- Unnamed Portuguese soldier (known as the Gentleman from Elvas)
- Rodrigo Ranjel (survivor of the the expedition)
- Luys Hernández de Biedma (survivor of the expedition)
- Inca Garcilaso de la Vega (written 40-50 years after from interviews with survivors)

The De Soto Chronicles

The Expedition of Hernando de Soto to North America in 1539-1543

Volume I



Edited by
Lawrence A. Clayton,
Vernon James Knight Jr.,
and Edward C. Moore

THE DE SOTO CHRONICLES, 2 VOLUME SET: THE EXPE...

PARALLEL ITINERARY OF THE EXPEDITION

Originally published as Appendix E in the Final Report of The United States De Soto Expedition Commission

by John R. Swanton, Chairman
Washington, D.C., 1939¹

(Material not in original is put in parentheses; proper names retain the peculiar forms used by each writer)

RANJEL	ELVAS AND BIEDMA	GARCILASO
	(from Elvas unless otherwise stated; B = Biedma) 1538 Jan. 15, 1538, the Portuguese leave Elvas Vespers of St. Sebastian (Jan. 20), they reach Seville (Jan. 26-Mar. 15, enrollments made) Sunday, Morning of St. Lazarus (St. Lazarus, now April 18 but before change in the calendar evidently) April 7, fleet sails from San Lúcar	The fleet sets sail from San Lúcar, Spain, April 6, 1538, accompanied by the Mexican fleet
RANJEL	ELVAS AND BIEDMA	GARCILASO
June, 1538, De Soto arrives at Santiago, Cuba	1538 Easter Sunday (April 21), they reach Gomera in the Canary Islands Sunday, April 28, leave Gomera On Pentecost (June 9), they reach Santiago, Cuba (1 letter confirms this date; 2 others say June 7) Early in Oct. the fleet with Isabel de Bobadilla, De Soto's wife, reaches Havana; followed by De Soto in Oct. or Nov.	They reach Gomera in the Canaries in 15 days, i.e. April 21 They stay 3 days and leave April 24 Sight Cuba at end of May; Mexican fleet parts from them 12 days before they land De Soto leaves Santiago for Havana toward the end of August
(Sunday), May 18, 1539, fleet sails from Havana (May 19-24, at sea)	1539 End of March, 1539, most of cavalry reach Havana (May 13, De Soto draws up his will and renews his compact with Hernan Ponce de Leon) Sunday, May 18, fleet sails from Havana	Last of cavalry reach Havana by the middle of April May 12, 1539, the fleet sails for Florida They are 19 days at sea

Location 6595 of 23007

29%

Comparison of All Four

**FINAL REPORT OF THE UNITED STATES
DE SOTO EXPEDITION COMMISSION**

LETTER
FROM
THE CHAIRMAN
UNITED STATES DE SOTO EXPEDITION COMMISSION
TRANSMITTING
THE FINAL REPORT OF THE UNITED STATES DE SOTO
EXPEDITION COMMISSION



JANUARY 3, 1939.—Referred to the Committee on the Library
and order to be printed, with illustrations

UNITED STATES
GOVERNMENT PRINTING OFFICE
WASHINGTON : 1939

KMS

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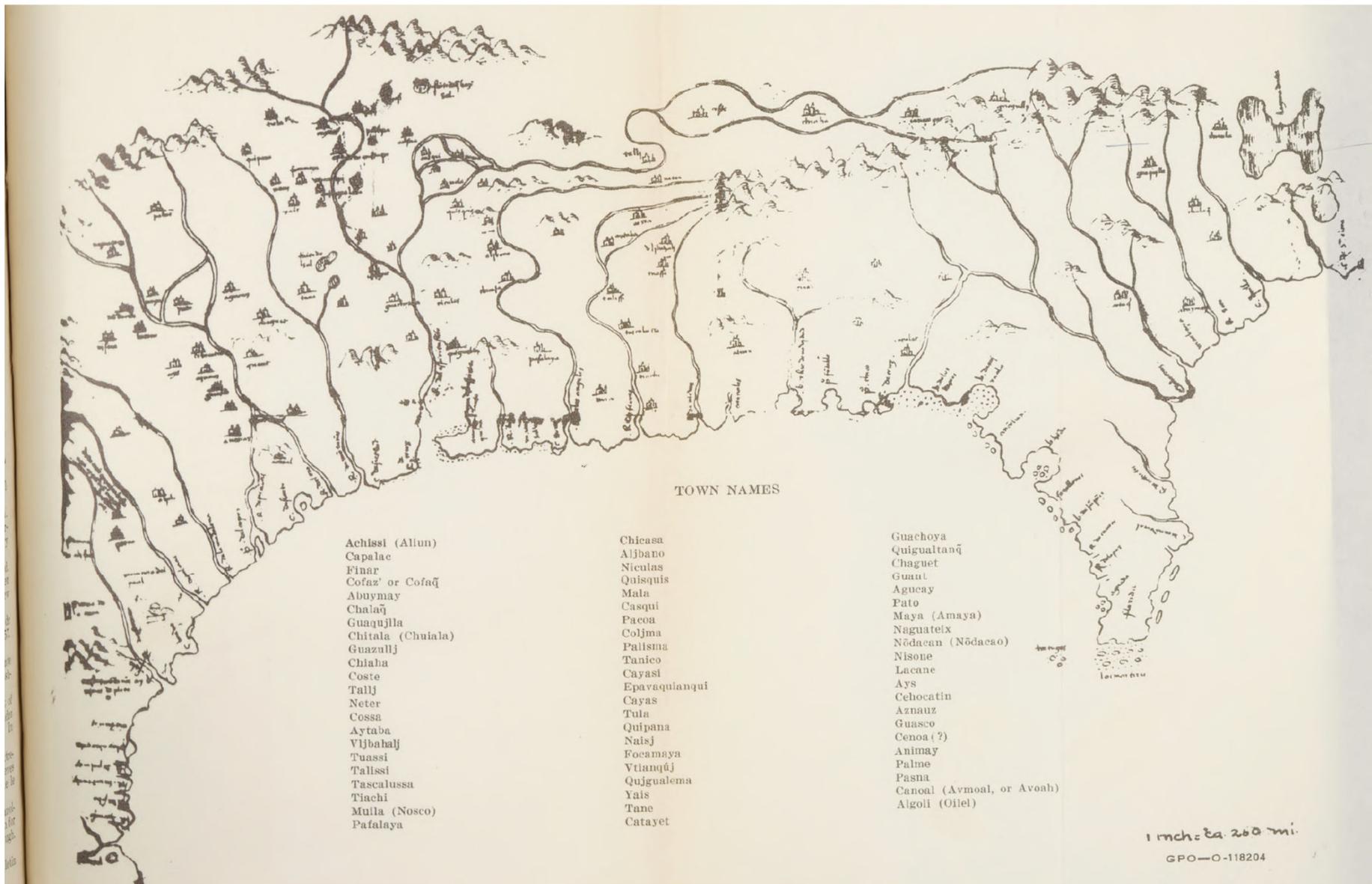
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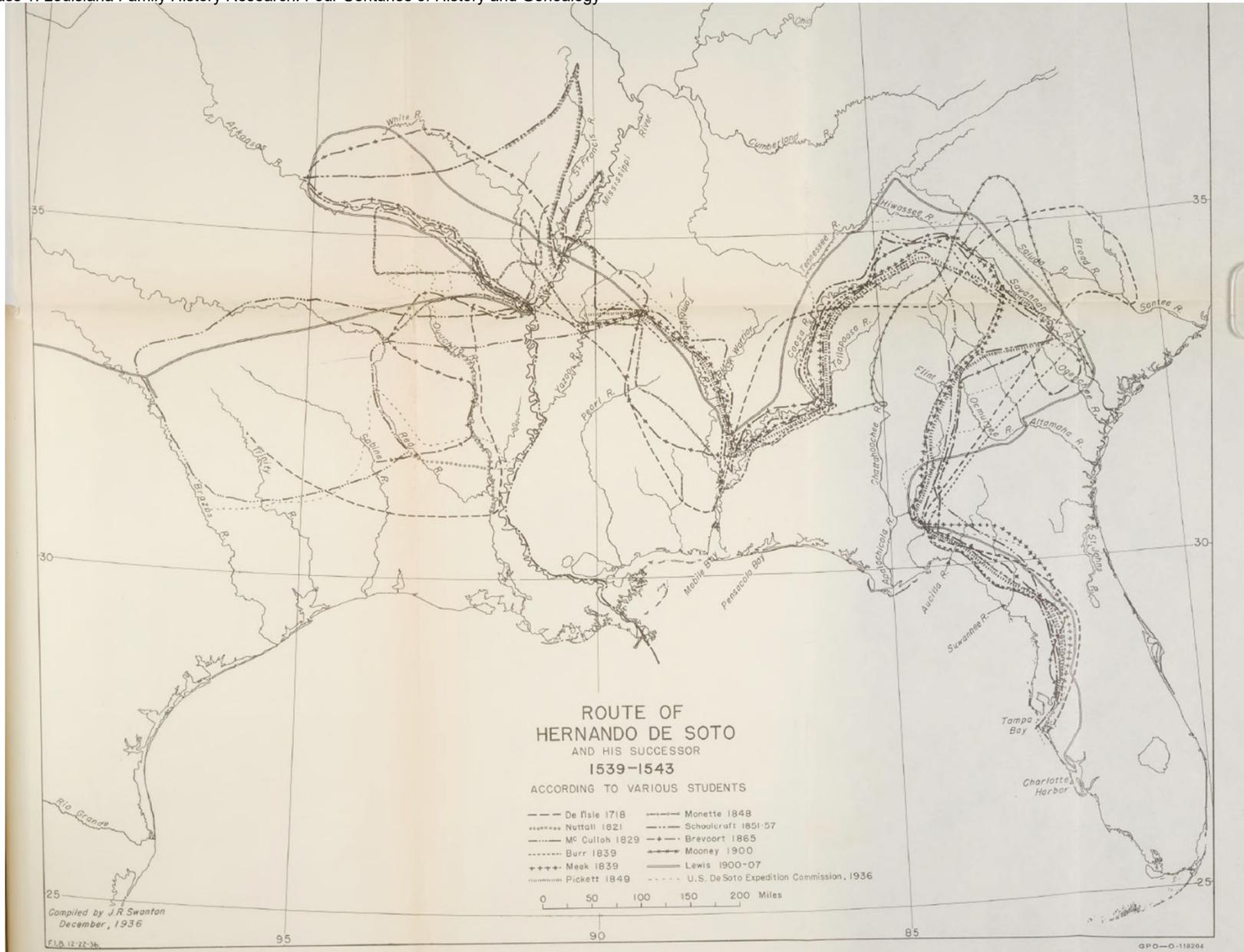
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U.S. De Soto Commission



U.S. De Soto Commission Report



U.S. De Soto Commission Report

118204-39-21

E. PARALLEL ITINERARY OF THE EXPEDITION

(Material not in original is put in parentheses; proper names retain the peculiar forms used by each writer)

1538

RANJEL

ELVAS AND BIEDMA

GARCILASO

(from Elvas unless otherwise stated; B=Biedma)

Jan. 15, 1538, the Portuguese leave Elvas

Vespers of St. Sebastian (Jan. 20), they reach Seville

(Jan. 26-Mar. 15, enrollments made)

Sunday, Morning of St. Lazarus (St. Lazarain, now April 18 but before change in the calendar evidently) April 7, fleet sails from San Lúcar

Easter Sunday (April 21), they reach Gomera in the Canary Islands

Sunday, April 28, leave Gomera

On Pentecost (June 9), they reach Santiago, Cuba (1 letter confirms this date; 2 others say June 7)

Early in Oct. the fleet with Isabel de Bobadilla, De Soto's wife, reaches Havana; followed by De Soto in Oct. or Nov.

The fleet sets sail from San Lúcar, Spain, April 6, 1538, accompanied by the Mexican fleet

They reach Gomera in the Canaries in 15 days, i. e. April 21

They stay 3 days and leave April 24
Sight Cuba at end of May; Mexican fleet parts from them 12 days before they land

De Soto leaves Santiago for Havana toward the end of August

June, 1538, De Soto arrives at Santiago, Cuba

1539

End of March, 1539, most of cavalry reach Havana

(May 13, De Soto draws up his will and renews his compact with Hernan Ponce de Leon)

Sunday, May 18, fleet sails from Havana

On Festival of Espiritu Santo, May 25,

Last of cavalry reach Havana by the middle of April

May 12, 1539, the fleet sails for Florida

They are 19 days at sea
May 31, they sight land

(Sunday), May 18, 1539, fleet sails from Havana
(May 19-24, at sea)
Whitsuntide, May 25, they sight land of

UNITED STATES DE SOTO EXPEDITION COMMISSION 305

U.S. De Soto Commission Report

Luys Hernández de Biedma

- Royal *factor*, Luis Hernández de Biedma
 - Briefest account
 - Only primary one
 - May have been charged with recording the official expedition
 - Presented to the King and Council of the Indies, 1544

Marquette and Joliet

- Jacques Marquette and Louis Joliet (a Jesuit missionary)
- Commissioned by the governor of Canada
- Seeking the “great river” connecting the Great Lakes to the Gulf of Mexico
- Went as far as the Arkansas River in 1673

La Salle

- Rene-Robert Cavelier, sieur del la Salle
- 1677 – received a fur trade monopoly in Illinois Country with Louis de Buade, Comte de Frontenac et de Palluau
- Began to look further south for better profit



La Salle

- Sought to develop colonies further south
- Goals:
 - Hold lands from Great Lakes to Gulf of Mexico for France
 - Keep the Indians “in check” with posts in the interior
 - Control the Spanish and English with a fort at the mouth of the Mississippi

La Salle

- 1677: Travels to France
- 1678: Receives a patent from the King to
 - Explore
 - Build forts
 - Find a way to Mexico
- 1678: Meets Henri de Tonti in France, who becomes La Salle's lieutenant

La Salle

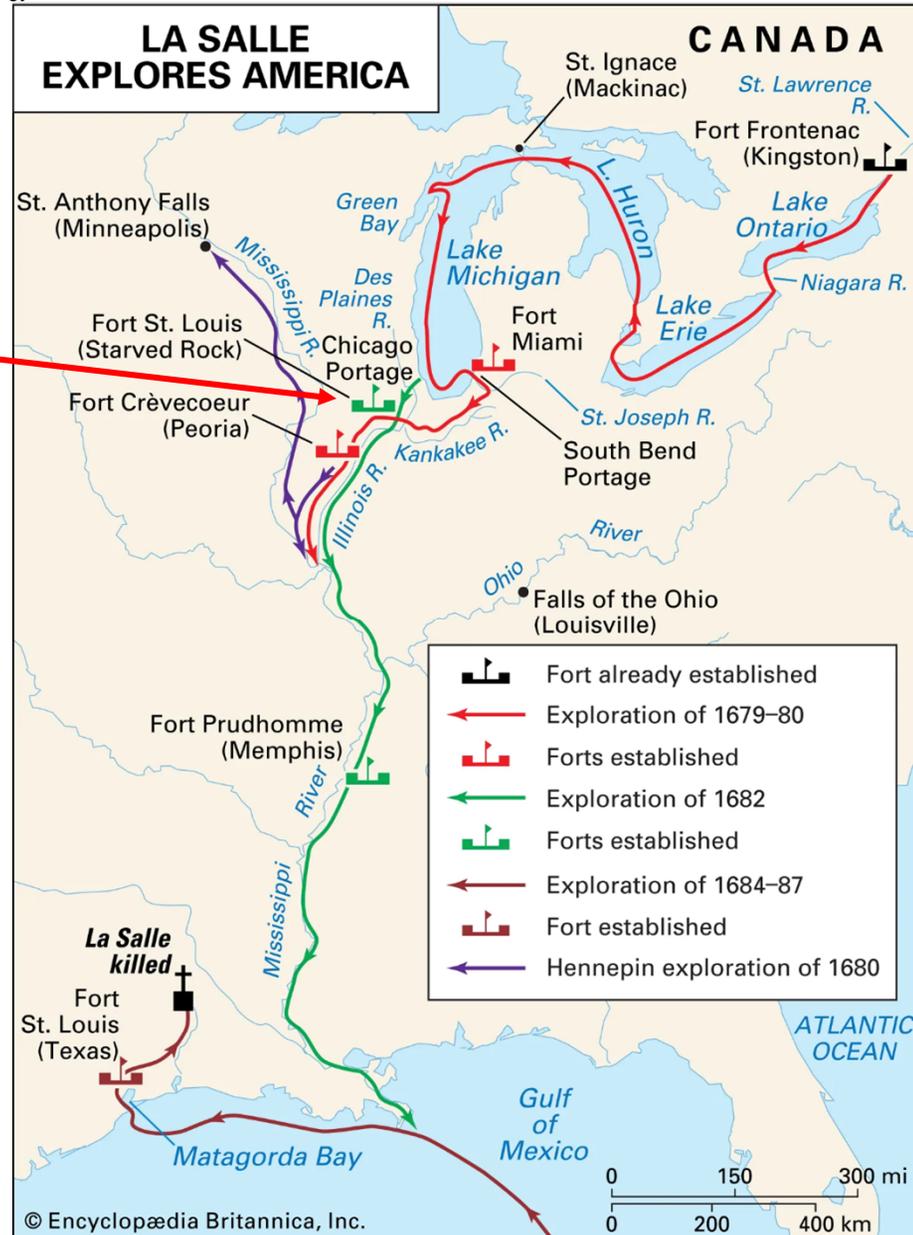
- 1682: Third attempt to descend the Mississippi
- Party consisted of:
 - 23 Frenchmen
 - 18 Indians
 - 10 Indian females
 - 3 Indian children
- February 3 – finally entered the Mississippi
- March 3 – took possession of the country of the Arkansas, in the King's name (with “consent” of the natives)



9 April 1682

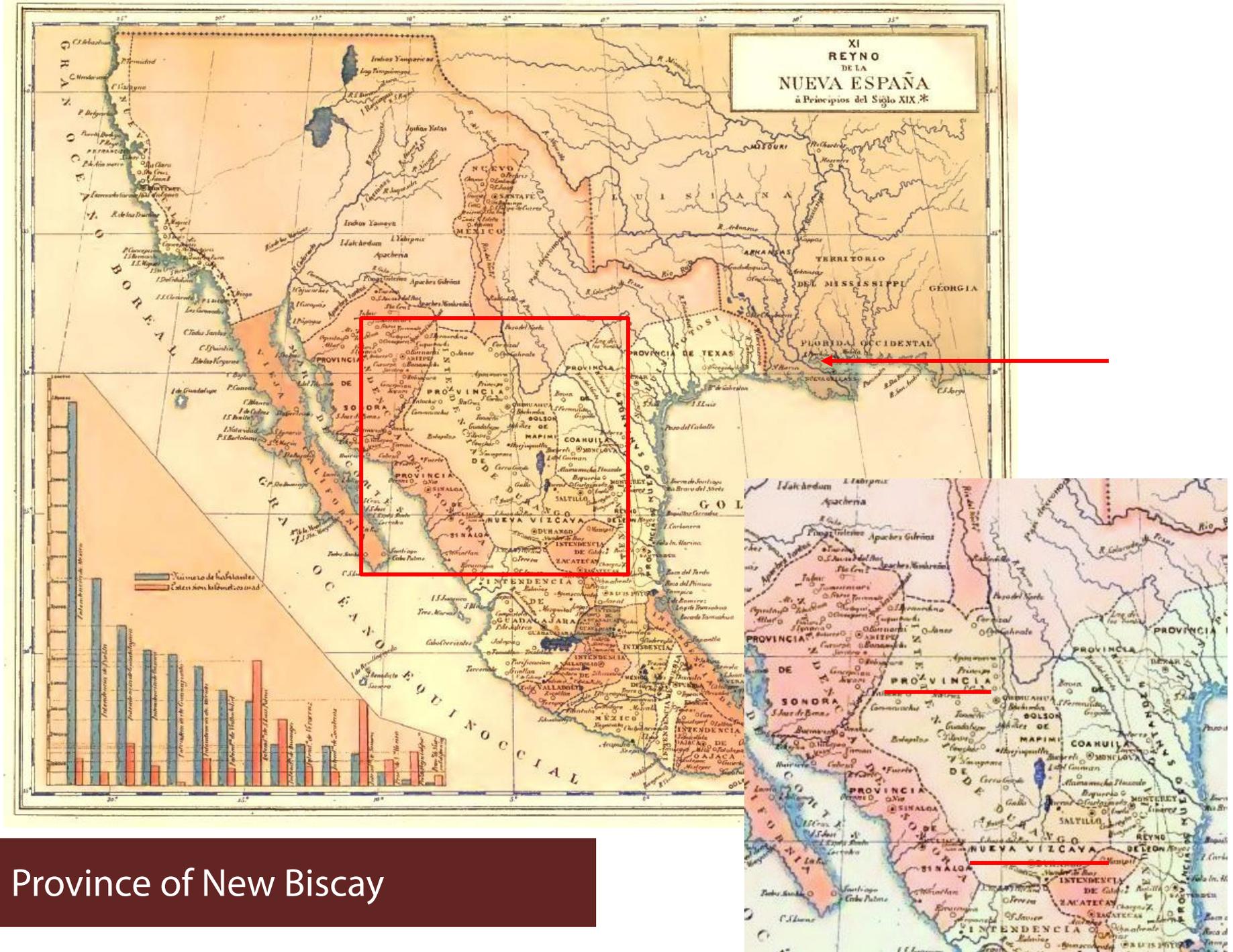
Fort St. Louis:

- Established by La Salle
- Dispossessed La Salle of the fort by Le Febvre de la Barre



La Salle - Explorations

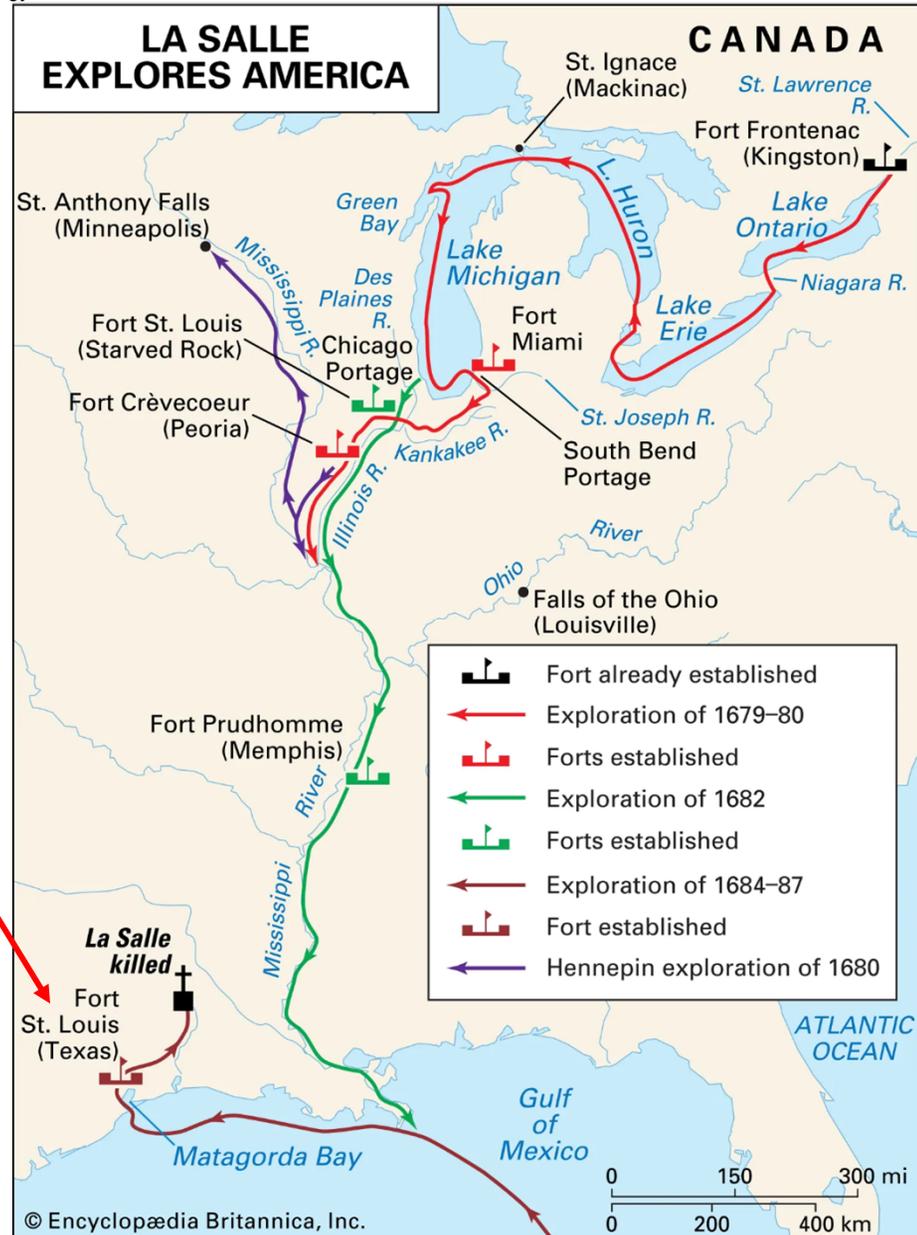
Map taken from Encyclopedia Britannica, Inc.



Province of New Biscay

La Salle's Return from France 1684-1687:

- Left La Rochelle France, 24 July 1684
- 4 vessels containing:
 - Soldiers
 - Mechanics
 - Laborers
 - Volunteers
 - Several families
 - A number of girls
- Stopped at Santo Domingo
- La Salle missed the Mississippi
- Landed at the Matagorda Bay (in present day Texas)
- La Salle murdered 18 March 1687



La Salle - Explorations

Map taken from Encyclopedia
Britannica, Inc.

Nine Years' War

- Part of the Anglo-French Wars (1109-1815)
- 1688-1697
 - Louis XIV attempts to extend France's frontiers
 - Led an army across the Rhine to seize territories
 - By 1696 both sides were financially struggling
- Settled in 1697 by the Peace of Ryswick
 - Series of treaties, 20 Sept to 30 Oct 1697
 - Signed in Dutch city of Rijswijk

QUESTIONS?

Colonization

Purpose of Louisiana

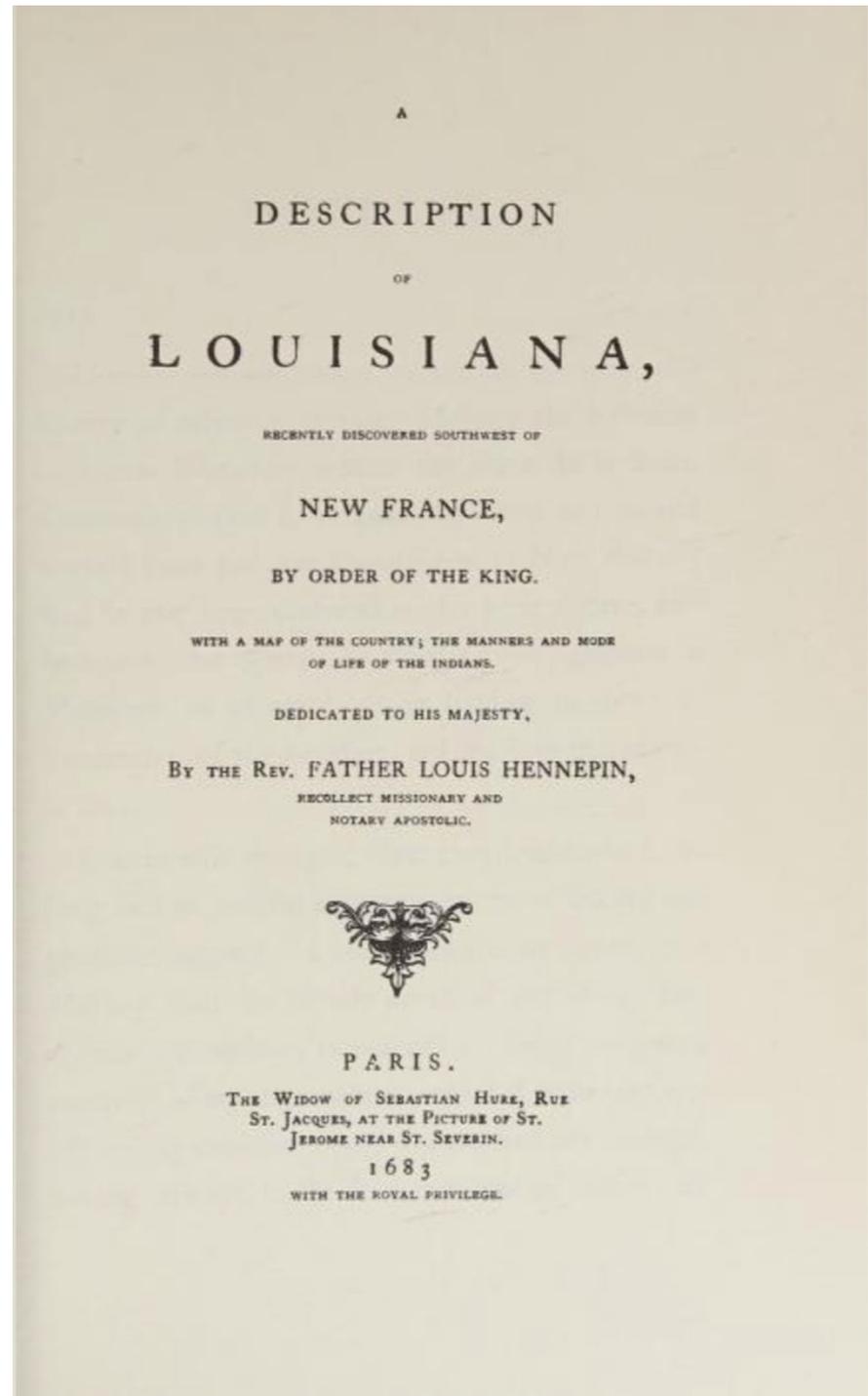
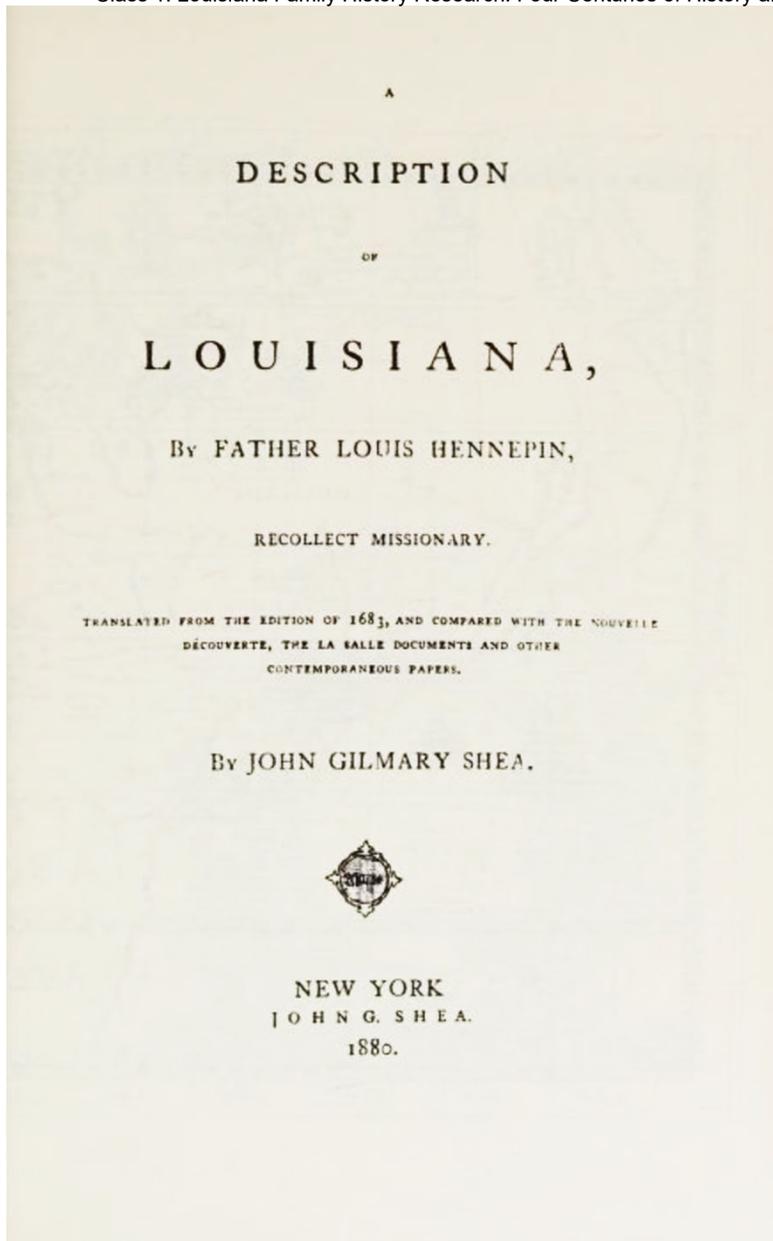
- An outpost against the English
- A "buffer zone" between the English and Spanish colonies
- Provide raw materials for France
- Never expected to be a heavily populated, economically successful colony

Benefits of the Territory?

- Scientists: an area full of new curiosities
- Church leaders: a savage land that needed saving
- Monarch: hoped for vast riches rivaling Mexico
- Pontchartrain: a way to checkmate English control of North America
- Others: opportunities for rich commercial empires

Tip

Reputation is all



1683 Publication

The Rudeness of the Indians.

The Indians trouble themselves very little with our civilities, on the contrary, they ridicule us when we practice them. When they arrive in a place, they most frequently salute no one, but remain squatting down, and though everybody come to look at them, they look at no one. Sometimes they enter the first cabin they come to, without saying a word. They take their place where they may happen to be, then they light their pipes and smoke some time without speaking. When they come into our houses, they take the first place. If there is a chair before the fire, they take possession of it, and do not rise for any one. Men and women hide only their private parts. They break wind before all the world without caring for any one. They treat their elders very uncivilly, even breaking wind in their very faces. Their conversation whether among men or women is generally only indecency and ribaldry. As regards their intercourse with their wives, they generally conceal

themselves, yet sometimes they do not. However they show no other marks of outward indecency either from hatred or caresses. And they never show countenances like those we see practised by Europeans.

They never wash their platters which are of wood or bark, nor their bowls or their spoons. When the women cleanse their children with their hands, they rub them slightly on a bark, and will then touch the meat they eat. They scarcely ever wash their hands or face. Children have little respect for their parents; fathers allow their children to beat them, because they say that if they punish their children, they would be too timid and would not be good warriors. They eat in a snuffling way and puffing like animals. As soon as men enter a house they smoke. If they find a pot covered they uncover it, they often eat from the platter where their dogs have eaten without washing it. When they eat fat meat, they grease their whole faces with it. They belch continually. Those who have intercourse with the French, scarcely ever wash

A
NEW DISCOVERY
OF A
VAST COUNTRY
IN AMERICA

By Father Louis Hennepin

Reprinted from the second London issue of 1698, with facsimiles
of original title-pages, maps, and illustrations, and the
addition of Introduction, Notes, and Index

By Reuben Gold Thwaites
Editor of "The Jesuit Relations and Allied Documents"

In Two Volumes

VOLUME I

(BEING PART I OF THE ORIGINAL)

CHICAGO
A. C. McCLURG & CO.
1903

1697 Publication

The *Illinois*, as most of the Savages of *America*, being brutish, wild, and stupid, and their Manners being so opposite to the Morals of the Gospel, their Conversion is to be despair'd of, till Time and Commerce with the *Europeans* has remov'd their natural Fierceness and Ignorance, and thereby made 'em more apt to be sensible of the Charms of Chris-

a Large Country in America. 169

tianity. I have met with some who were more teachable; and Father *Zenobe* told me, that he Baptiz'd two or three of them at the point of Death, because they desir'd it; and shew'd some good Disposition to induce him to grant that Demand. They will readily suffer us to baptize their Children, and would not refuse it themselves; but they are incapable of any previous Instruction concerning the Truth of the Gospel, and the Efficacy of the Sacraments. Would I follow the Example of some other Missionaries, I could have boasted of many Conversions; for I might have easily baptiz'd all those Nations, and then say, as I am afraid they do without any ground, That I had converted them.

Father *Zenobe* had met with two Savages, who had promis'd to follow him every where, whom he instructed and baptiz'd; but tho' they were more tractable than the rest, they would not leave their Country; and he understood afterwards, that one of them, whose Name was *Cbassagouache*, was dead in the hands of the *Junglers*,¹ and consequently in the Superstitions of his Country-Men; so that his Baptism serv'd only to make him *duplo Filius Gebennæ*.²

¹ A reference to the medicine-men of the Indians, commonly called "jugglers" or "sorcerers" by French writers. For full accounts of their practices, as physicians, diviners, and sorcerers, see *Jes. Relations* (art. Indians: mythology, etc.—medicine-men).—ED.

² Shea points out (Hennepin's *Louisiana*, p. 175, note 1) that the entire chapter here ended is taken from Le Clercq's *Établissement de la Foy*, ii, pp. 173-181.—ED.

Louisiana's Reputation

- Fr. Hennepin's publications gave a dim view:
 - Enormous, but fertile wilderness
 - Populated by wild and many dangerous beasts
 - With “savages” who:
 - Were cruel
 - Would waylay, murder and torture

Louisiana's Reputation

- Known for a lack of minerals and riches
- Frenchmen viewed it as a “bad country”
- From returning naval officers and soldiers:
 - “desert’ of misery and despair”

What is Louisiana?

Lower Louisiana

- The southern section of the French colonial Territory of Louisiana
- Included present-day states:
 - Louisiana
 - Arkansas (portion)
 - Mississippi (portion)
 - Alabama (portion)

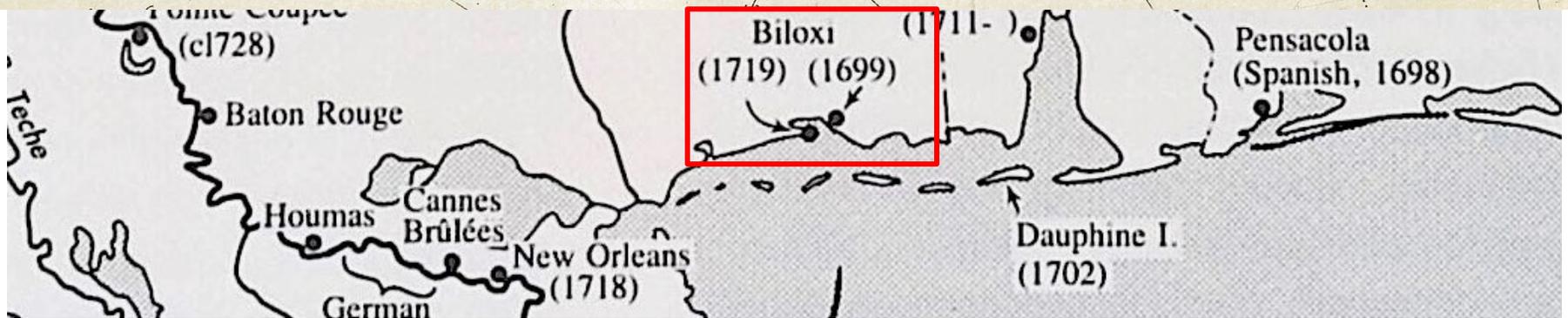
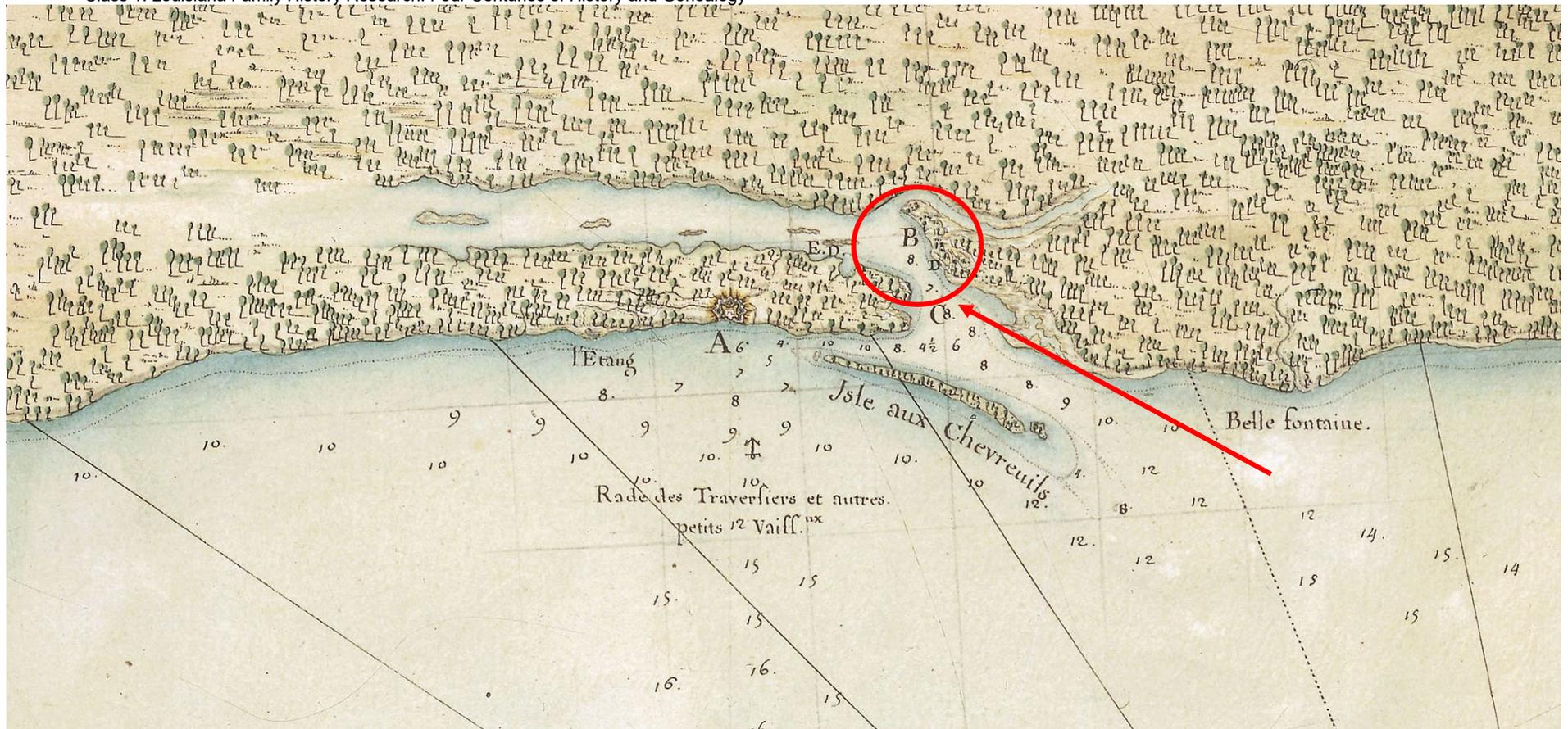
Pierre Le Moyne d'Iberville

- Born in Montreal
- Wished to fulfill La Salle's mission
- 1699: April 8 – built Fort Maurepas



1699 – Fort Maurepas

- Iberville left Brest, France, 24 Sep 1698 with four ships:
 - 2 Frigates: *Badine, Marine*
 - 2 smaller vessels: *Precieuse, Leogane*
- Onboard:
 - 1 company of Marines
 - 200 settlers (including a few women & children)
- Prevention of westward expansion of the English colonies



Fort Maurepas

Louisiana Population 1699-1706

- Most of the men were Canadians
 - Enlisted during the Nine Years' War
 - 1700 contingent came from Hudson Bay
 - Major officers of Fort Maurepas were Canadian
- Many were soldiers and sailors employed to be there
- 1704 census was taken of marriageable females aboard the *Pelican* at Biloxi
- Unknown until 1706 who had brought families

The Census Tables
for the
French Colony of Louisiana
From 1699 Through 1732

Compiled and translated by
CHARLES R. MADUELL, JR.
New Orleans, Louisiana



1699 Census of Fort Maurepas

CENSUS OF THE INHABITANTS OF THE
FIRST SETTLEMENT ON THE GULF COAST, FORT
MAUREPAS, DECEMBER 1699.

OFFICERS:

M. de SAUVOLLE, commander, ensign, lieutenant
of the company, from the vessel MARIN
M. de BIENVILLE de LONGUIL, lieutenant of the
king, from the vessel BADINE
M. Le VASSEUR de BOUSSOUELLE, major, from the
vessel BADINE, Canadian officer
M. de BORDENAVE, chaplan
PIERRE CAVE, surgeon major

PETTY OFFICERS:

JEAN FRANCOIS Le VASSEUR, Master of a boat,
from the vessel La PRECIEUSE
FRANCOIS GUYON, Master of a boat, from
the vessel Le VOYAGEUR
NICOLAS La VOYE, Coastal Pilot, from the
vessel BADINE
PIERRE TABATRAU, road pilot from LEOGANE
PHILIPES LEY, mastergunner, from the vessel
BADINE

SAILORS:

PIERRE HARDOUIN, ship carpenter, from the BADINE
RAYMOND SAINTOT, from the BADINE
BERNARD SAUROTTE, from the BADINE
JACQUES ROY dit GRIMOS, carpenter, from the
vessel MARIN

CANADIANS:

JACQUES BELLAIR
PIERRE POT
PHILIPES du COUDRET
PIERRE TESSERONTIE
ANTOINE DAMEDIEU
Le POLONNAIS
HURS Le ROY
CLAUDE MARANDAN
ESTIENNE GODEFRAY
JEAN Du CHESNE
ESTIENNE GODEFRAY
JEAN ERERY
JEAN PINTUREAU
JEAN du BOULLAY
JEAN BAPTISTE HERVIERS

19
Canadians

2

JEAN CABUTEAU
 TINEAU ALEXANDRE
 LOUIS GUAY
 ANTOINE OLIVER

FREEBOOTERS:

PIERRE DESMAREZ
 MICHEL CHESSE
 NICOLAS de GARDE
 JEAN NIMONNEAU
 JEAN DESPLANES
 PHILIPES PAGET
 PIERRE BERTRAND
 JACQUES EMERIT
 ANDRE REGNAUX
 JACQUES CAROLLE
 JEAN CHARNEAUX
 LOUIS Le DUC
 PIERRE St. GERMAIN

LABORERS:

JACQUES GOURDON, edge tool maker
 FRANCOIS NICAUD, carpenter
 ESTIENNE TARDIF
 HENRY CROISY, cabinet maker using copper trusses
 JEAN La PORTE, gunsmith
 FRANCOIS de SALLE, shoemaker
 ESTIENNE DUGUAY, baker
 MARC ANTOINE BASSET
 CLAUDE BAGE
 PIERRE POTUS

CABIN BOYS:

St. MICHEL
 PIERRE HUET
 GABRIEL MARCAL
 JEAN JOLY
 JACQUES CHARON
 PIERRE Le VASSEUR

SOLDIERS who remained at the fort:

DANIEL PINEAU dit La MOTTE, sergeant
 FRANCOIS MONTIRON, corporal
 JEAN DESGARENNES, corporal
 PIERRE BOSSET
 JACQUE PORCHE
 HEYDEROME BROVIN
 JEAN MALBEEG
 JEAN MARPEAUX
 PIERRE GODEAUX

A-99

3

GUILLAUME MARTIN
 ANTOINE NIRET
 JEAN CHESNE
 JEAN du VAL
 NICOLAS La TUILLE
 JACQUES HENRY
 PIERRE VALLET
 PIERRE MAURY
 MORGAN NOMME
 PIERRE CILLIRAUX
 GUILLAUME LUCAS

* * * * *

A-99

1699 Census of Fort Maurepas

CENSUS OF THE OFFICERS, PETTY OFFICERS,
SAILORS, CANADIANS, FREEBOOTERS, AND OTHERS
LOCATED AT BILOXI AS OF MAY 25, 1700

1. Staff Officers

M. De SAUVOLIE, commandant
M. de BIENVILLE, Lieutenant of the King
M. de BOISBRIAND, Major
M. Le VASSEUR, Canadian Officer
M. de St. DENIS, Canadian Officer
Father DURUT, Jesuit Chaplain
Le sieur CRASSE, Clerk for the King
Le sieur CAVE, Surgeon Major

2. Petty Officers

JEAN FRANCOIS Le VASSEUR, native of Quebec,
Master of the ferry boat Le Precieuse
NICOLAS La VOYE, native of La Rochelle,
Coast Pilot
PIERRE BERTRAND, native of Rochefort, Master
Gunner
JACQUES ROY, native of Havre de Grace,
Carpenter
JACQUES Le COMPTE, native of Rochefort,
Master Caulker

3. Sailors

PIERRE ARDOUIN, native of La Rochelle,
Carpenter
RAIMON SAINTOT, native of L'Isle de Re
RAIMIN TRAIS, native of Bordeaux
PIERRE FORCAN, native of La Marque
LAURENT ROQUETTE, native of La Bastich
LEONARD RICHARD
ANDRE BOUCHERIE, native of Lormont
MARTIN Le GUERAT, Native of Bayonne
JEAN LAURENT, native of La Rochelle

4. Canadians

JACQUES BELAIR
PIERRE POT
PHILIPPE COUDRAY
PIERRE TESSERONTIERE
RENE BOYER, Gunsmith of the ship La Renommee
who replaced JEAN BAPTISTE HERVIEUX
VINCENT ALEXANDRE
ALEX FRANCOIS
LOUIS GUAY

61 Canadians

A-00

ANTOINE OLIVER

JOSEPH La POINTE
IGNACE La POINTE
FRANCOIS POU德里EN
JOSEPH CHAUVIN
JEAN BAPTISTE GRAVELINE
JEAN LEVEILLE
CHARLES LAMOTTE
FRANCOIS MALTOT, who replaced JACQUEREAU
FRANCOIS La SOLAY
PIERRE TALON
ANDRE ROY
GILBERT d'ARDENNE
DENIS DURBOIS
ESTIENNE La CHAMBRE
JEAN BAPTISTE TURPIN
FRANCOIS CLAVERIE
CLEMENT BEGON
LOUIS LARRIVEE
MATHIEU BELLEFOND
PHILIPPE MINET
CHARLES Le VASSEUR
FRANCOIS BRETON
ANTOINE DAMEDIEU
IVES Le ROY
JEAN DUCHAINE
ESTIENNE GODEFROY
ANTOINE LUCAS
CLAUDE TREPANIER
CHARLES RENAUT
JOSEPH BOURBONNIERE
FRANCOIS MONTREUIL
FRANCOIS St. MARIE
JACQUES CHAUVIN
IGNACE LAVAL
PIERRE COULLIARD dit La FONTAINE
FRANCOIS HAMEL
PIERRE ALLAIN
CHARLES La ROZE
MARC BERICHON
NICOLAS IATOPINE
LOUIS BAUDCUIN
JEAN MIGNERON
JOSEPH ROBITAILLE
CLAUDE FRANCOEUR
SEBASTIAN CHARPENTIER

A-00

1700 Census of Fort Maurepas

6

7

ANTOINE ROUSSAIN
 JACQUES LABRY
 LUC DOURINE
 VILLEDIEU
 FRANCOIS BONVALET
 GUILLAUME St. TEREZE
 JEAN LABARRE

5. Freebooters

MICHEL CHESSE
NICOLAS de SARDES
JEAN SIMONEAU
JEAN DESPLANS
 PHILIPPE PAGET
 PIERRE BERTRAND
 JACQUES HEMERY
 ANDRE RENAUD
LOUIS Le DUCQ
PIERRE St. GERMAIN

6. Laborers

FRANCOIS SICAUT, carpenter
 JEAN LAPORTE, gunsmith
ESTIENNE TARDIT
CLAUDE BERGE
MARC ANTOINE BASSET
 JEAN LUCAN, locksmith

7. Cabin boys

St. MICHEL
 GABRIEL MARTIAL
 JEAN JOLY
 JACQUES CHARRON
 FRANCOIS MOREAU
 JACQUES DUPONT

8. Soldiers of the detachment of M. ROUSSEL

FRANCOIS CARRON dit LANGOUMOIS, sergeant
 PIERRE LAURENDAU dit LANGOUMOIS, Corporal
 JEAN HARUNE dit La ROCHE

9. Soldiers of the detachment of M. d'ARQUAIN

PIERRE BOJER dit BOGUNDIAN
 GEROME BROUAN dit La FOREST
 PIERRE BEAUDEAU dit St. GEORGE
 JEAN MARPEAU dit BEAUSEJOUR
 La FONTAIN dit La ROZE
JEAN MALBECQ dit MALBECQ
ANTOINE SIRET
GUILLAUME MARTIN dit SANS CHAGRIN

10. Soldiers of the detachment of M. de BELICOURT

PIERRE ROBERT dit La MONTAIGNE
 PIERRE MAURY dit DUCHAINE
 PIERRE TALLET dit POITEVIN
 NICOLAS LEGUAY dit SANS RAISON

11. Soldiers of the detachment of M. ROUSSEL

JACQUES La COUR dit GRANDMAISON
 MAURICE CERGEAU dit La PLANTE
 PIERRE ROBERT dit CHAMPAIGNE
 FRANCOIS OLIVIER dit l'ESPERANCE
 JEAN BAPTISTE BONNEVIE dit FRANCOEUR

* * * * *

A-00

A-00

1700 Census of Fort Maurepas

War of Spanish Succession

- 1701-1714
- Charles II of Spain died childless
- France and Spain supported Philip of Anjou
- The Grand Alliance supported Archduke Charles of Austria
- Cost France dearly economically
- This affected Louisiana's fledgling colony

Louisiana

- France considered the settlement a failure
- Lack of mineral wealth to extract
- Inability to encourage settlement
- Tried to create a plantation system (similar to that in South Carolina)
- Considered selling North American Indians to the Caribbean in exchange for slaves

D'Artaquiette d'Iron

- Jean-Baptiste-Martin d'Artaquiette d'Iron
- Named the *Commissaire Ordonateur pour la Louisiane* in 1707
- Arrived in Mobile in 1708
- To stay in Louisiana for 5 years



D'Artaguiette d'Iron

- Lived in Louisiana during the year of the War of Spanish Succession
- Was aware of how the colony struggled
- He shared his thoughts via a letter in 1712 to Louis Phélypeaux, Count of Maurepas, Count of Pontchartrain

Mississippi Provincial Archives
1701-1729

MISSISSIPPI
PROVINCIAL ARCHIVES
1701-1729
FRENCH DOMINION

COLLECTED, EDITED AND TRANSLATED BY
DUNBAR ROWLAND, L. L. D.
STATE HISTORIAN OF MISSISSIPPI

AND

ALBERT GODFREY SANDERS, M.A.
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VOL. II

JACKSON, MISSISSIPPI
PRESS OF THE MISSISSIPPI DEPARTMENT
OF ARCHIVES AND HISTORY.

1929

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Original from
UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA

1712 Letter - translated

60 MISSISSIPPI PROVINCIAL ARCHIVES

At Fort Louis of Louisiana, this the twentieth of June, 1710.

[*Endorsed:*] Mr. De Fontanieu. Important to attend to it. I beg you to examine it as soon as possible. Sieur d'Artaguette in Louisiana, June 20, 1710.

MEMOIR OF D'ARTAGUETTE TO PONTCHARTRAIN
ON PRESENT CONDITION OF LOUISIANA

Ministry of the Colonies, Series C. 13, General Correspondence of Louisiana, Vol. II, pages 803-809; copy Vol. III, pages 171-184. May 12, 1712, Bayonne. Mr. D'Artaguette. Memoir on the present situation of the colony of Louisiana and the observations that have been made and reported in regard to this memoir. (P. 803.) May 12, 1712.

Memoir on the present situation of the colony of Louisiana.

We have been obliged by the flood to transport the establishment to the lower part of the river¹ of the Mobile Indians. We are near enough to give assistance to the port. We are eight leagues nearer. It is a very fine place. The land is not so bad as where it was. The settlers have all asked for this change. I rendered an account of it to my lord the Count of Pontchartrain on June twentieth, 1711.

The distress is great; all those who are there are dissatisfied. The soldiers are deserting to the Indian enemies and from there are going to Carolina.² The fear that they had hitherto of being burnt restrained them, but since the English have forbidden their Indians to do them harm we cannot restrain them. It is pitiful also to see them as they are all naked and most often living on crushed and boiled Indian corn with a piece of meat. ~~There are due them two suits of clothes and four sets of accessories.~~ They would have received a complete suit

¹ Marginal note: "Examine whether this is not the Colbert River [Mississippi] and a river that flows into it and is called Selenay. [Seignelay (?), the Illinois River.]

The establishment transported to the lower part of the river of the Mobile Indians (*Malivisiens*) nearer at hand to give assistance to the fort. *Good.*"

² Marginal note: "The soldiers are deserting from [*sic*] Carolina because of the distress."

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Original from
UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA

Antoine Crozat

- Letters patent granting proprietary rights to Louisiana in 1712
- First proprietor of the colony
- Asked to be relieved in 1717



Crozat's Letters Patent

- Registered in August 1712
- Included a provision for the annual emigration 20 settlers
- Clause not actually enforced

Crozat

- Goal: a quick and sizable profit
- Establish commerce between Mobile and Vera Cruz – *failed*
- Search for precious metals – *none found*

Forced Emigration

- Proposal from Crozat
- Was an attempt to populate Louisiana
- Took place 1716-1720
- Turned out to be a horrible policy
- Based on the schemes of British and Danish colonies in North America
- Haphazard method of colonization for France

Crozat's Proposal

- Debated and accepted February 1716
- Mentioned all the same reasons used by Iberville
- History of Crozat's time so far in Louisiana
- Stresses the importance of more inhabitants
- Reminds of how England and Holland have done something similar
- Mentions types of criminals to send

8. fev. 1716
 Pour être porté au
 Con. de Regence

intéressant.
 et est signé L. N. de
 Frontenac et le maréchal
 de St. Pierre

Memoire sur la
 La Louisiane, portée au conseil de
 Le 11. Février 1716.

La Louisiane ou le pais connu sous
 du Mississipy est vne vaste, et immen-
 tendue de Terre nouvellement dec-
 dans l'amerique Septentrionale.

Decision du conseil
 Regence.
 proumte le pre-
 nt memoire, et
 donne de faire en
 ne que ne toutes
 expéditions neu-
 ves

Ce pays est habité par différentes
 Sauvages. Les espagnols, les françois
 les anglois, ny ont jamais eu de tab-
 On luy donna le nom de Louisiane,
 qu'après l'avoir mieux reconnue, on
 possession au nom du deffunt Roy.
 nord la nation des Illinois, au sud le
 Mexique, à l'est les colonies anglois
 l'ouest un pays peu connu jusqu'à pr-
 qui conduit par terre au nouveau Me-
 au nouveau Royaume de Leon, et à
 Provinces des espagnols.

Les Illinois, qui donnent leur nom

Marchandises, qui en proviendroient, ces sont
 les moyens les plus propres pour encourager
 les habitans qui y sont déjà, pour en attirer
 de nouveaux; et pour rendre en peu de
 temps cette habitation florissante.

C'est ainsy qu'en vrent les Anglois, et les
 hollandois, dans l'establissement de leur
 colonies; et c'est par là qu'ils les rendent
 si puissantes.

Mais il ne suffit pas dans ces commenc-
 d'aveindre que des particuliers se pressent
 Deux mêmes de s'aller établir dans un pays
 éloigné, qui leur est inconnu: Ceue voye
 seroit trop lente, il faut quelque chose de
 plus prompt, et il est necessaire que le
 Gouvernement y pourvoye, en y faisant
 passer des hommes qui seroient perdus
 pour la France et qui luy seroient fort utiles
 dans vne Colonie.

On demande qu'il plaise au Roy d'accorder
tous les ans Cent faux sauniers qui seront

pris dans les provinces d'Anjou, de Tour-
et du maine, et qui condamnés aux gal-
 ny ayent point encor été conduits. Sa M-
 commuera cette peine en celle de passer
 la Louisiane pour s'y établir. comme la
 plus part de ces condamnés sont gens de
 metier, ou acoutumés à travailler a la
 terre, ils seront très propres a faire de
 establissemens.

On demande aussy que les fermiers qui
 payent le voyage de ces gens la jusques à
 Nantes, ou a la Rochelle, ou ils seront re-
 entre les mains des preposés pour les recu-
 que les mêmes fermiers generaux donneront
 deux cens cinquante livres vne fois paye
 par chaque teste de forcat, moyennant
 quoy ils seront delivrés pour toujours
 de leur entretien.

Les fermiers generaux y trouveront un
 grand auantage, parce qu'a l'ieu de conduire
 a Marseille les condamnés comme ils

Crozat's Proposal

Those to Consider

- *Faux sauniers* – salt smugglers
- Arrested in the provinces of:
 - Anjou
 - Touraine
 - Maine
- Would have been sentenced to life as galley slaves
- Sending them to Louisiana was cheaper for the government

Salt Smugglers

- Considered among the most dangerous
- Defied royal monopolies
- Transported & sold salt below the monopoly price
- Cost the crown millions of *livres* a year
- Chosen from the provinces of Anjou, Touraine and Maine because:
 - Were of sturdy stock
 - Usually from a farming background

Too Little Too Late

- Crozat's proposal was accepted
- Didn't go to plan:
 - Took a year to select the *faux sauniers*
 - Prisoners spent months in overcrowded prisons in La Rochelle waiting for a ship
- Crozat's disagreement with the Regency Council
- Crozat's intentions to abandon Louisiana

QUESTIONS?

John Law

- Director of *Companie d'Occident*
- Mounted a propaganda campaign
 - Anonymous pieces published
 - Appeared in *Le Nouveau Mercure*
 - Described Louisiana as a paradise
- Encouraged the forced emigration



LE
NOUVEAU
MERCURE

Le prix est de 20 sols.

Février 1718.



A PARIS,
Chez { GUILLAUME CAVELIER, au Palais.
PIERRE RIBOU, Quay des Augustins, à l'Image S. Louis.
GREGOIRE DUPUIS, rue S. Jacques, à la Fontaine d'Or.

M. D. CC. XVIII.
Avec Approbation & Privilège du Roy.

DE FEVRIER. 103
présumer, que ne comptant pas qu'elle
dût paroître imprimés, il n'a à aucun
interêt d'en déguiser la vérité.

Si le Lecteur étoit tenté du désir de
connoître les commencemens de l'éta-
blissement des François dans cette vaste
Region, on conseille de préférer à tout
autre Mémoire, le Journal du der-
nier Voyage de M. de la Salle, qui
se vend chez François Robinot, at-
tenant la Porte des grands Augustins,
à l'Ange Gardien.

LETTRE

*Touchant la Louisiane, autrement
le Mississipi.*

Vous m'avez toujours paru, Ma-
dame, si zélée pour le bien pu-
blic, que je n'ai pas douté un mo-
ment, que sur ce qui se publie de
l'établissement du Mississipi, vous ne
m'en demandassiez une Relation: J'o-
beis, en recevant votre Lettre, &
j'accepte avec plaisir, la commission de
vous conduire dans un Pais qui meri-
te toute votre curiosité, & qui peut
devenir, un jour, le Perou de la France.

Le Nouveau Mercure - 1718

Forced Emigration under Law

- *Faux sauniers* to now be treated as regular day laborers, except for the first 3 years they were *engagés*
- Army deserters added to the list in 1717
- Eventually allowed France to rid themselves of all manner of undesirables

— M. le duc de Chartres prêta serment au Roi pour le gouvernement de la province de Dauphiné, dont le duc de La Feuillade s'était démis en sa faveur.

— Le 20, le Roi accorda à M. de Bérulle, maître des requêtes, la survivance de la charge de premier président au parlement de Dauphiné ou de Grenoble, dont jouissait alors monsieur son père.

— Le même jour, M. le comte de Saint-Marc Colbert, mestre de camp de cavalerie et enseigne de cheveau-légers, mourut de la petite vérole; son mariage était conclu avec une fille de M. le marquis de Biron.

— Le 24, M. le marquis de Louvois, âgé de vingt-deux ans, mourut de cette maladie à Rambouillet; il avait la survivance de la charge de capitaine des Cent-Suisses de la garde du Roi, qui vaut vingt-quatre mille livres de rente. Il laissa un fils âgé de dix-huit mois, et la dame son épouse grosse de quatre ou cinq mois, qui est sœur de M. le duc de Noailles.

— On assurait qu'à Turin, en Piémont, la même maladie avait emporté plus de quatre mille personnes en très-peu de semaines.

— Le 15, le tonnerre tomba sur le clocher de l'église de l'abbaye de Saint-Évroult, en Normandie, et le feu en fut si violent, que la couverture et les cloches en furent fondues.

— Le 18 au matin, on maria dans l'église du prieuré de Saint-Martin-des-Champs, à Paris, cent quatre-vingts filles avec autant de garçons, qu'on avait tirés de la prison de ce prieuré et d'autres prisons de cette ville, ayant laissé la liberté à ces pauvres filles de choisir leur époux dans un plus grand nombre de garçons. Après laquelle cérémonie, on les fit partir liés d'une petite chaîne deux à deux, le mari avec sa femme, suivis de trois charrettes chargées de leurs hardes, et pour les soulager de temps en temps, ou pour voiturer ceux ou celles qui se trouveraient malades

en chemin, escortés par vingt archers, pour les conduire à la Rochelle et de là être transportés au Mississipi, dans l'espérance d'une meilleure fortune.

— Le 29, par ordre de M. le cardinal de Noailles, les prêtres séculiers et réguliers commencèrent à dire à leurs messes l'oraison pour prier Dieu d'envoyer de la pluie, à cause de la sécheresse qui durait depuis six mois, et afin de pouvoir labourer les terres et les ensemençer.

— On observa que sur le soir du même jour, il tomba de la pluie qui continua en abondance le 24 et le 26.

— M. l'abbé Bignon, conseiller d'État et bibliothécaire du Roi¹, nomma M. de Boze², secrétaire de l'Académie des inscriptions, et M. Fourmont³, professeur royal en langue arabe, pour travailler à l'inventaire des livres imprimés et manuscrits qui composaient alors la bibliothèque du Roi; lequel inventaire devait être vérifié par M. le marquis de La Vrillière et par M. de Maurepas, secrétaire d'État.

— Le 24, on publia un arrêt du conseil d'État qui fit défense aux officiers de marée de percevoir aucun droit et de faire aucune fonction à la halle ni ailleurs.

— On assurait que quelques jours avant la publication de cet arrêt, quelques députés de ces officiers avaient offert à M. le garde des sceaux une somme de quinze cent mille livres, pour être maintenus dans leurs offices, se contentant en ce cas de deux sols pour livre. Sur quoi ce magistrat, sans leur faire aucune réponse, se contenta de

¹ L'abbé Bignon fut nommé, par lettres patentes en date du 15 septembre 1719, garde des médailles de la bibliothèque du Roi.

² Claude Gros de Boze, né à Lyon le 28 janvier 1680, mort le 10 septembre 1753, membre de l'Académie française, secrétaire perpétuel de l'Académie des inscriptions et belles-lettres, intendant des devises et inscriptions des édifices royaux.

³ Étienne Fourmont, né en 1653 à Herblay, près Saint-Denis, mort le 18 décembre 1745.

18 September 1719

Jean-Baptiste Le Moyne de Bienville

- Brother of Pierre Le Moyne d'Iberville
- Governor of Louisiana after his brother's death
- Founded New Orleans in early 1718



he is ready to do them this honor, they go to seek him, and carry him on their shoulders to their lodging, and make him sit on a great skin. One of them places himself behind him, leans his hands on his shoulders, and shakes him a pretty long time, whilst the rest, sitting round on the earth, sing their great actions in the wars.

These visits are renewed every morning and evening; but in the last the ceremonial varies. The ambassadors set up a post in the midst of their cabin, and sit all round it. The warriors who accompany the Great Chief, or as they call him, the Sun, dressed in their finest robes, dance, and one by one strike the post, and relate their bravest feats of arms; after which they make presents to the ambassadors. The next day they are permitted for the first time to walk about the village, and every night they make them entertainments, which consist only in dances. When they are on their departure, the master of the ceremonies supplies them with all the provisions they may want for their journey, and this is always at the expense of private persons.

The greatest part of the nations of Louisiana had formerly their temples, as well as the Natchez, and in all these temples there was a perpetual fire. It is also probable, that the Maubileans had over all the people of the Florida, a kind of primacy of religion; for it was at their temples they were obliged to kindle that, which by negligence or accident had been suffered to go out. But at present the temple of the Natchez is the only one that subsists, and it is held in great veneration among all the savages which inhabit this vast continent, the name of which nation is as considerable, and has been still more known, than that of the savages of Canada, without its being possible to discover the true cause of it. Whole nations have entirely disappeared within forty years at most. Those which are still subsisting are but the shadow of what they were when M. de la Salle discovered this country. I take my leave of you, madam, for now which I shall have the honor to explain to you soon.

NEW ORLEANS, January 10, 1722.

I am at length arrived in this famous city, which they have called *la Nouvelle Orleans*. Those who have given it this name, thought that Orleans was of the feminine gender; but what signifies that? Custom has established it, and that is above the rules of Grammar.

1722 Letter

This city is the first, which one of the greatest rivers in the world has seen raised on its banks. If the eight hundred fine houses, and the five parishes, which the newspapers gave it some two years ago, are reduced at present to a hundred barracks, placed in no very great order; to a great storehouse, built of wood; to two or three houses, which would be no ornament to a village of France; and to the half of a sorry storehouse, which they agreed to lend to the lord of the place, and which he had no sooner taken possession of, but they turned him out to dwell under a tent; what pleasure, on the other side, to see insensibly increasing this future capital of a fine and vast country, and to be able to say, not with a sigh, like the hero of Virgil, speaking of his dear native place consumed by the flames, and the fields where the city of Troy had been,* but full of a well-grounded hope, this wild and desert place, which the reeds and trees do yet almost wholly cover, will be one day, and perhaps that day is not far off, an opulent city, and the metropolis of a great and rich colony.

You will ask me, madam, on what I found this hope? I found it on the situation of this city, at thirty-three leagues from the sea, and on the side of a navigable river, that one may come up to this place in twenty-four hours; on the fruitfulness of the soil; on the mildness and goodness of its climate, in 30° north latitude; on the industry of its inhabitants; on the neighborhood of Mexico, to which we may go in fifteen days by sea; on that of the Havana, which is still nearer; and of the finest islands of America, and of the English colonies. Need there any thing more to render a city flourishing? Rome and Paris had not such considerable beginnings, were not built under such happy auspices, and their founders did not find on the Seine and the Tyber the advantages we have found on the Mississippi, in comparison of which, those two rivers are but little brooks. But before I undertake to mention what there is here worthy your curiosity, that I may proceed according to order, I shall take up my journal again where I broke it off.

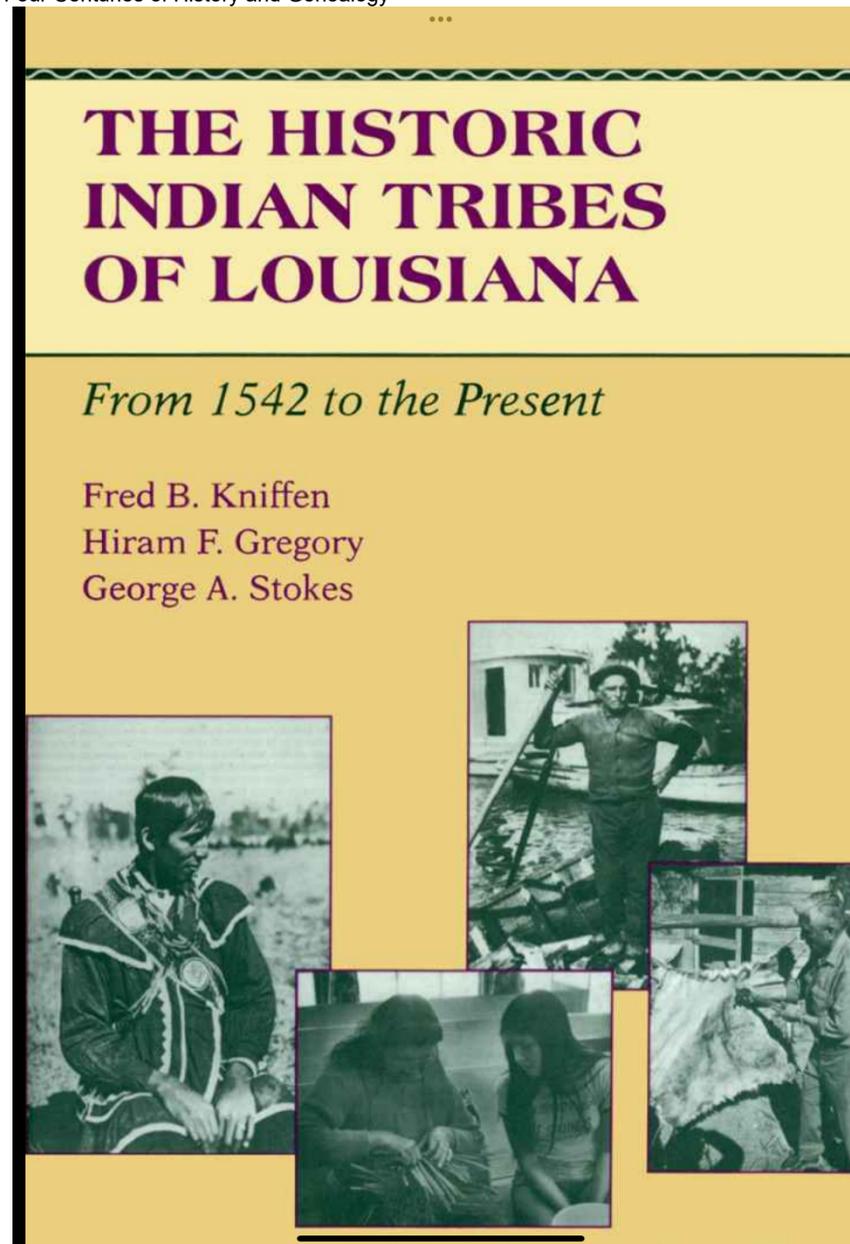
I stayed at the Natchez much longer than I expected, and it was the abandoned condition in which I found the French, with respect to spiritual aids, that kept me there till after Christmas. The dew of heaven hath not yet fallen on this fine country, which above all others may boast of its portion of the fatness of the earth. The late M. d'Iberville had destined a Jesuit† for this purpose, who accompanied him in the second voyage he made to Louisiana, with a design to establish Christianity in a nation, whose conversion, he made no doubt,

* Et Campos, ubi Troja fuit. † Father Paul du Ru.

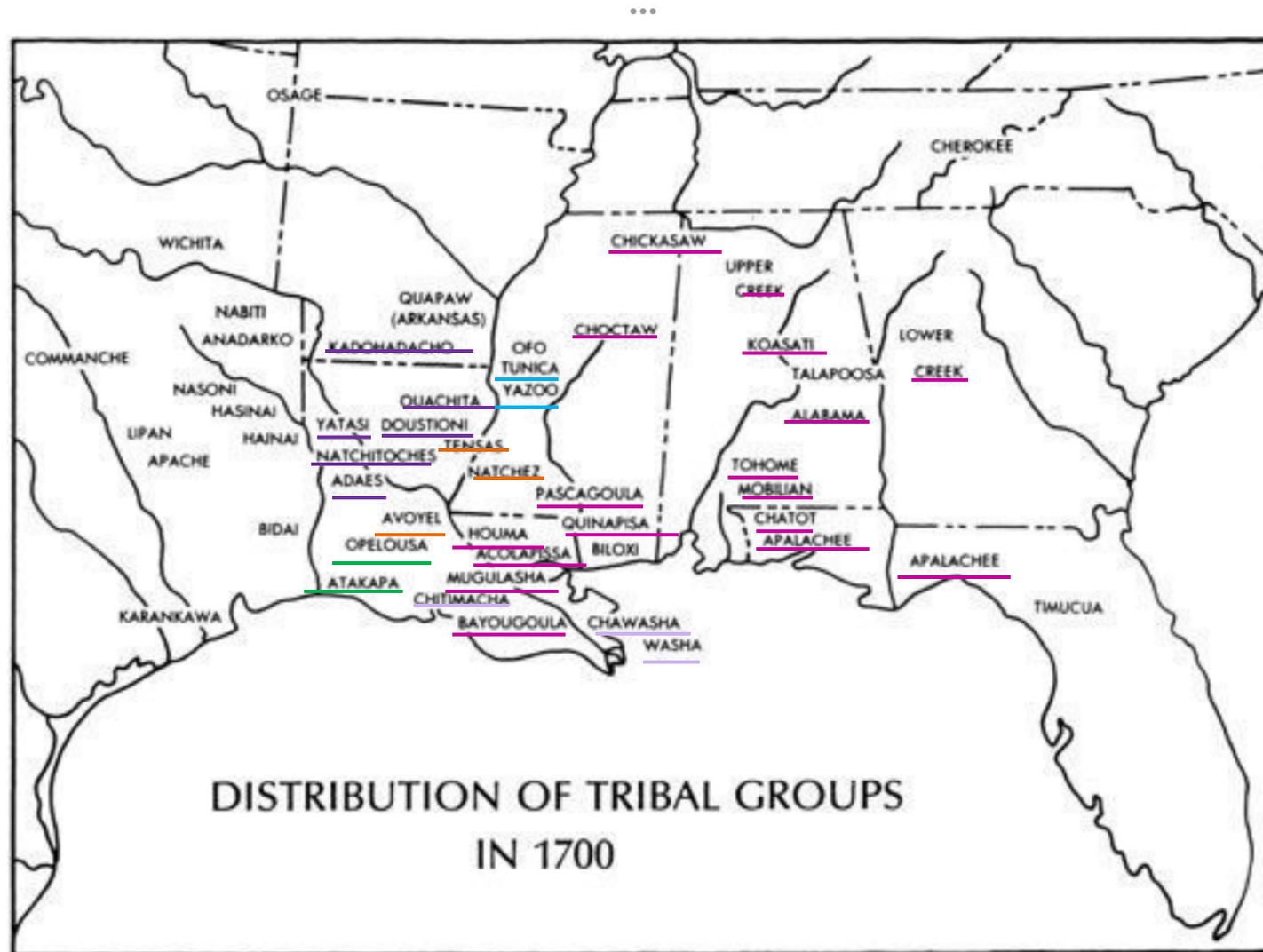
New Orleans – 1721 Census

- Taken for New Orleans 24 Nov 1721
- Indicated:
 - Frenchmen: 290
 - Frenchwomen: 140
 - French children: 96
 - Domestic servants: 156
 - “Negro slaves” – 533
 - Indian slaves - 51

Native Peoples



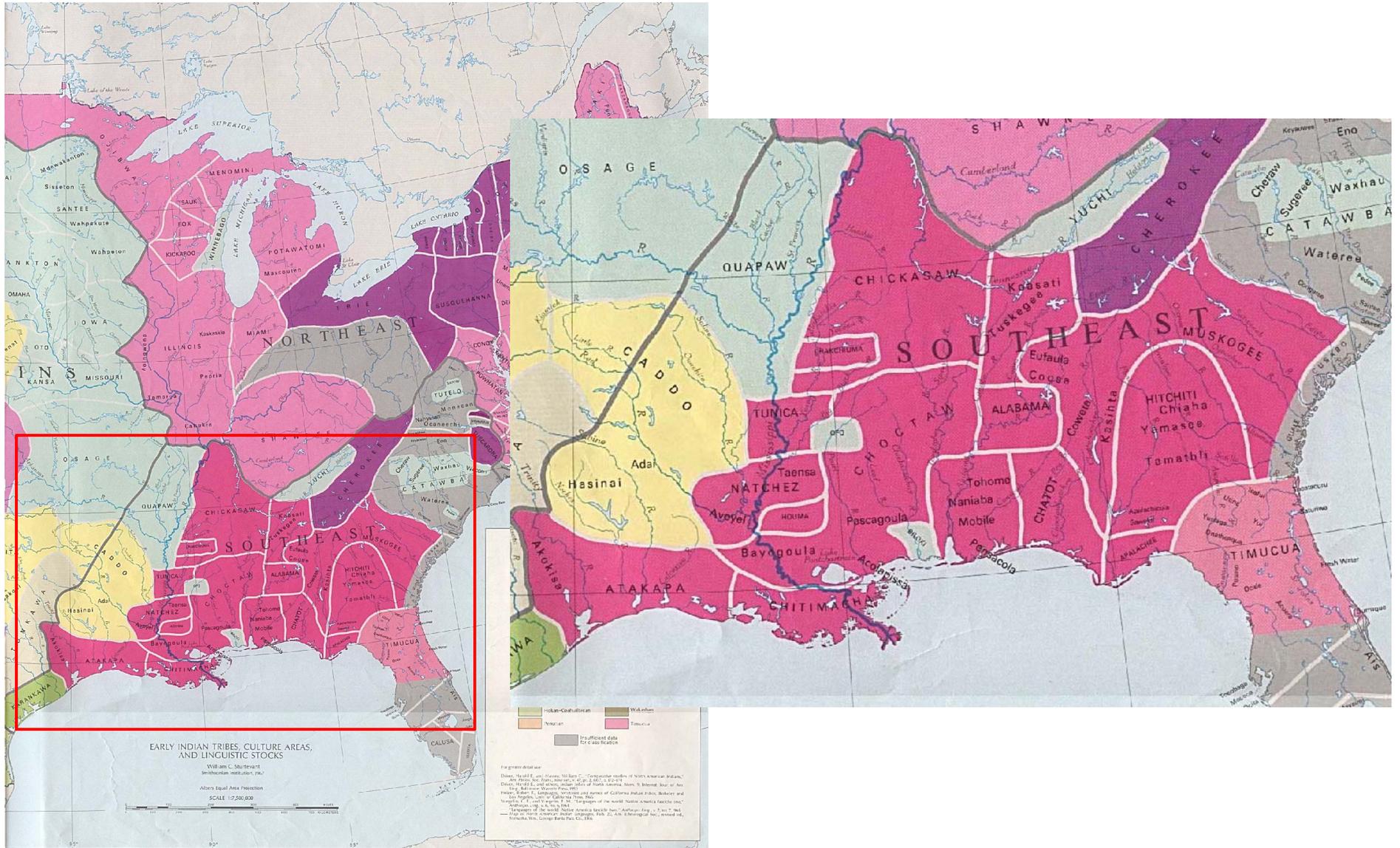
The Historic Indian Tribes...



Linguistic Groups - 1700

Native Peoples

- No true written records by the people themselves
- Must rely on the Europeans who encountered them
- Two valuable books can lead you to these resources:
 - *The Indian Tribes of North America*
 - *Indian Tribes of the Lower Mississippi Valley and Adjacent Coast of the Gulf of Mexico*



Major Native Tribes

The Indian Tribes of North America

- Compiled by John R. Swanton
- Published by the Smithsonian Institution, Bureau of American Ethnology
- Arranged by state and then by tribal names

John R. Swanton

- Worked 40 years for the Bureau of American Ethnology of the Smithsonian Institution
- Had a major study area of the Muskogean-speaking peoples (which included Louisiana)



SMITHSONIAN INSTITUTION
BUREAU OF AMERICAN ETHNOLOGY
BULLETIN 145

THE INDIAN TRIBES OF NORTH AMERICA

By
JOHN R. SWANTON



SMITHSONIAN INSTITUTION PRESS
CITY OF WASHINGTON

The Indian Tribes of North America

SWANTON]

INDIAN TRIBES OF NORTH AMERICA

195

its name. They are mentioned by La Salle and his companions in connection with their voyage to the mouth of the Mississippi in 1682. A French post was established near them in 1718, and in 1727 a Jesuit missionary, Father Seuel, settled nearby. In 1729, however, the Yazoo joined the Natchez in their uprising, murdered the missionary, and massacred the French garrison. Their subsequent fortunes were identical with those of the Koroa, and they were probably absorbed into the Chickasaw or Choctaw. It is not improbable that there is some connection between the name of this tribe and that of two of the Yazoo towns among the Choctaw, but if so it goes back beyond recorded history.

Population.—I have estimated that in 1698 there were somewhat more than 600 Yazoo and Koroa together. In 1700 Gravier reported 30 Yazoo cabins, but a quarter of a century later Le Page du Pratz (1758) estimated 100. In 1722 the Yazoo, Koroa, and Ofo together are said to have numbered 250. In 1730, however, the number of Yazoo and Koroa warriors is placed at 40.

Connection in which they have become noted.—The Yazoo are noted principally from the fact that they have transmitted their name to Yazoo River, Miss., and secondarily to Yazoo County and its capital city, in the same State.

LOUISIANA

Acolapissa. Meaning “those who listen and see,” indicating possibly “borderers” or “scouts.” Also called:

- Aquelou pissas, by Le Page du Pratz (1758, 2: 219).
- Cenepisa, by La Salle (*in Margry*, 1875–86, 1: 564).
- Colapissas, in 1699 by Pénicaud (*in French*, 1869, p. 38).
- Coulapissas, in 1700 by Sauvole (*in Margry* 1875–86, 4: 462).
- Equinipichas, by Sauvole (*in French*, 1851, 3: 225).
- Kinipissa, by Tonti (*in Margry*, 1875–86; 1: 604).
- Kolapissas, in 1700 by Gravier (*in French*, 1875, p. 88).

Connections.—The Acolapissa belonged to the Muskogean linguistic family and evidently spoke a language closely related to Choctaw and Chickasaw. They may have been more intimately connected with the Napissa who united with the Chickasaw and who were perhaps identical with the Napochi (q. v.) of De Luna, but their closest relatives were the Tangipahoa (q. v.).

Location.—Their earliest known location was on Pearl River about 11 miles above its mouth. (See also Mississippi.)

Villages

Iberville was told that they consisted of six villages and that the Tangipahoa constituted a seventh, but we treat the latter separately, and the names of the six are not given.



Indian tribes of the lower Mississippi Valley and adjacent coast of the ...

John Reed Swanton

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Indian Tribes... Lower Mississippi...

European Influence

- Ultimately many of the tribes disappeared
- Some moved elsewhere
- Many were decimated by sicknesses brought with the Europeans
- Not always treated well by those who settled the area

QUESTIONS?

Hire Research Services

research@nehgs.org

Chat with a Genealogist

AmericanAncestors.org/chat

Consultations

Book a one-on-one
consultation with
a genealogist and
receive help with your
family history research!

[AmericanAncestors.org/
Expert-Help/Consultations](https://AmericanAncestors.org/Expert-Help/Consultations)





THANK YOU!

AmericanAncestors.org/Education



NEW ENGLAND HISTORIC
GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY

AmericanAncestors.org

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