

History of Cooper County Missouri by W. F. Johnson

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Chapter I Archeology

History is speculative, inferential, and actual; speculative when it records conclusions based on hypothesis founded on facts, far removed; inferential when conclusions are reasonably based on facts; actual, when facts alone are recorded. The historian deals with all three, more or less, in combination one with the other. This chapter is purely speculative. The editor is not an archaeologist, and does not attempt herein to arrive at, or lead the reader to a conclusion. Houck, in his "History of Missouri," claims to have located through investigators something like twenty-eight thousand mounds in the state. These mounds are usually called Indian mounds, and he does not assert that all that existed in the state were discovered by his investigators. He mentions nine in Cooper county. There are doubtless more than ninety and nine, and probably many more leveled with the plow.

The only purpose to be conserved throughout this chapter is to open up the vista to inquiring minds, that their observations and discoveries may be preserved for the future. The casual observer sees an elevation of ground. The geologist, or archaeologist, if you please, by close and careful examination, determines to a certainty, or thinks he does, that

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this is not caused by erosion, or by an internal upheaval of the earth. He concludes, therefore, that it has been raised by man. Here geology, paleontology, and archaeology, the three sister sciences, begin their labors hand in hand, "And the mind recoils dismayed when it undertakes the computations of thousands of years which have elapsed since the creation of man."

As our feet grope in darkness, irresistably down the ages to the night of the unknown, these three sister sciences hold aloft a torch that illuminates, in part at least, our darkened pathway through the dim vista of the vanished past.

Contents of Mounds - By excavating these mounds we find peculiar instruments of the chase and hunt, vessels, bowls and statuary, some with peculiar markings and engravings. Such mounds have been discovered throughout the country in almost countless thousands, and they were here when the white man first set foot on American soil. The articles found in them were unlike those used by the Indians, known at the time of the first white men. The same Indians lay no claim to having built these peculiar structures of earth, and hold no tradition that those who preceded them had built them, and some of the tribes claim traditions running back thousands of years, prior to their acquaintance with the white man.

Origin of Mounds - The scientists reason thus: first, the mounds are not of natural formation; second, they were built by man; third, the white man did not build them; fourth, the Indians did not build them; therefore, it follows as a logical conclusion that they were built by a race inhabiting our country long before the red man. This, in fact, is the consensus of scientific opinion, yet not all agree. Dr. C. A. Peterson, former president of the Missouri Historical Society, and a student of Missouri antiquities, uses this forcible language: "Credulity has been taxed to the utmost, and columns of crude ideas and inane arguments have been published by half-baked archaeologists, who established great antiquity for the mounds and an advanced civilization for their builders, and the extreme and ridiculous flights which the imagination has been allowed to take in building up the stories of the mythical mound builders may be well illustrated by this case. About thirty years ago an amateur archaeologist in exploring quite a modern Indian mound reported that he had

found the skeletons buried beneath it to be a proper complement in numbers and arranged in proper order and position to represent the three principal officers of the Masonic Lodge at work, each officer being equipped

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with the implement and insignia of his respective office. To those attracted to a contemplation of mystery, and to revelers of the occult, it was the most marvelous and entertaining discovery ever reported in American archaeology, but there were a few incredulous, unfeeling scoffers, who would not accept the story as true, because the discoverer did not produce the bones of the candidate and the goat. In conclusion, let it be reiterated that there was never an iota of evidence in existence tending to establish the contention that some people, other than the American Indian, erected the mounds and other earthworks found in connection with them, and the physical condition of the abandoned works and their contents could not justify a belief that any of them were erected more than one thousand years ago."

The Indian mounds are especially numerous along the Missouri River, in the townships of Saline, Boonville, and Lamine, and are found in varying numbers in other sections of Cooper County. It is to be regretted that more attention has not been paid to them in the past to the end that what found therein would have been preserved for investigation and study. It is said that on the old Hopkins farm in Saline township there are five of these mounds. It is related on reliable authority that in the early seventies a young physician, fresh from college in Kentucky, and with budding honors, debonair and faultlessly attired, located in Saline township. He was small of stature, willowy in form, a Beau Brummel, polite and obliging. Visiting at the Hopkins home one Sunday, a balmy spring day, where were gathered a few of the local beauties of the neighborhood, his attention was directed to a large mound of earth in the yard. He thought it strange, and had never before seen such an elevation of earth in a yard. Being deeply interested, he asked one of the young ladies present what it was for. She replied that it was an Indian mound, and that an Indian who had been killed was buried there. The young doctor was greatly interested. She told him that if he would stand on top of the mound, and say in a loud voice, "Indian, poor Indian, what did they kill you for?" the Indian would say, "Nothing at all." The doctor valiantly essayed the mound, ascending to the top, and in a stentorian voice cried, "Indian, poor Indian, what did they kill you for?" He waited a few minutes for the response, and finally realized that the young lady was right, for the Indian said nothing at all. The young doctor felt completely sold out. Following his motto of evening up old scores, he set out energetically to do so. He courted the young lady, and eventually married her, thus evening the score.

The following, which is a collation of authorities and brief comments

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of scientists, and conclusions, we take from Houck's "History of Missouri."

"The pre-historic works of Missouri attracted attention from the earliest settlement of the country. Stoddard says, 'It is admitted on all hands that they have endured for centuries. The trees in their

parts, from the number of their annulae, or radii, indicate an age of more than four hundred years.' Holmes says that the manufacture of the pottery-ware found in the mounds 'began many centuries before the advent of the white race.' The Indians found by the first white explorers did not recognize these mounds as belonging to them, either by occupying them or using them, or by their traditions, although the surprising number of such mounds in some sections of the country, many of them very large, singular in form, and conspicuous in the landscape, must have attracted the attention of the most thoughtless of them. Marquis de Nadailic says that these 'mounds in North America are among the most remarkable known.' Featherstonehaugh was so impressed by these historic remains in Missouri that he concluded that they were of the tribes that built them

what the pyramids were to the ancient Egyptians.

Probable Race of Mound-Builders.-To what particular race the mound-builders belonged has been a subject of much discussion. Abbe Brousse de Bourbourg declares that the pre-Aztec Mexicans and Toltecs were a people identical with the mound-builder. It is also said that the mound-builders were of the same cranial type as the ancient Mexicans, Peruvians, and the natives of the Pacific slope as far north as Sitka; that is to say, brachycephalic; and Winchell thinks that 'the identity of the race of mound-builders with the races of Anahuac and Peru will become generally recognized. Squier supposes that they belonged to an extinct race: Atwater gives it as his opinion that the 'lofty mounds'-ancient fortifications and tumuli-'which cost so much labor in their structure,' owe their 'origin to a people much more civilized than our Indian'; and Atwater was familiar with the capabilities and characteristics of the American Indian. Others, again, suppose that they were the same people who afterward came from the northeast into Mexico. Bancroft says that the claims in behalf of the Nahua traces in the Mississippi region are much better founded than those which have been urged in other parts of the country: He asserts that the remains in the Mississippi valley are not the works of the Indian tribes found in the country, nor of any tribes resembling them in their institution, and that the best

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authorities deem it impossible that the mound-builders were even remote ancestors of the Indian tribes.' In his opinion, there was an actual connection, either through origin, war, or commerce, between the moundbuilders and the Nahuas. This he infers from the so-called temple mounds, a strongly resembling the pyramids of Mexico, implying a similarity of religious ideas; the use of obsidian implements; the Nahua tradition of the arrival of civilized strangers from the northeast. And Baldwin, in reviewing the various traditions recorded by many of the earliest Spanish chroniclers of Mexico, concludes by saying that it seems not improbable that the Huehue, or 'Old Tlapalan' of their tradition, was 'the country of our mound-builders' on the Mississippi. Albert Gallatin thinks that the works erected indicate 'a dense agricultural population,' a population 'eminently agricultural,' a state essentially different from that of the Iroquois or Algonquin Indians. Yet, he also expressed the opinion that the earthworks discovered might have been executed by a 'savage people.' Brinton also thinks that these earthworks were not the production 'of some mythical tribe of high civilization in remote antiquity but of the identical nations found by the whites residing in these regions.' Schoolcraft says that the Indian predecessors of the existing race 'could have executed' these works. Lewis Cass believed that the forefathers of the present Indian 'no doubt' erected these works as places of refuge and security. Jones is of the opinion that the old idea that the mound-builders were a people distinct from the Indians is 'unfounded in fact, and fanciful.' Lucian Carr in an elaborate article says there is no reason 'why the red Indians of the Mississippi valley, judging from what we know historically of their development, could not have thrown up these works.' Dr. C. A. Peterson, in a paper read before the Missouri Historical Society in 1902, concludes that 'there never was an iota of evidence in existence tending to establish the contention that some people, other than the American Indian, erected the mounds and earthworks found in connection with them; and the physical condition does not justify the belief that any of them were erected more than one thousand years ago. In support of this view he says, 'an immense memorial earthwork over the body of a popular Osage chief' was erected by his tribe, citing Beck's Gazeteer. But J. F. Snyder asserts that the Osages 'built no earthen mounds,' and that the mound mentioned by Dr. Beck as having been built by them near the headwaters of the Osage was the result of glacial action. Snyder also quotes Holcomb, who states that 'the mysterious races of beings, termed mound-builders never dwelt

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in Vernon County,' and that no fragments of pottery have ever been found there, nor noteworthy archaeological specimens,, and few, if any flint, arrow-heads, lance-heads, stone-heads, etc.,

although he admits that the Osages erected stone heaps occasionally over the bodies of their dead to preserve them from the ravages of wild beasts.

One remarkable discovery made by Mr. Thomas Beckwith, who has devoted many years to the careful and intelligent exploration of the mounds of the Mississippi country, would seem to tend to support the contention that the more ancient mound-builders of the Mississippi valley, at least, belonged to the Nahual race of Mexico. It should be observed that in making his explorations Mr. Beckwith always proceeds with the greatest circumspection, not, like so many others, hastily digging and burrowing into mounds, looking only for perfect pottery ware, carelessly overlooking and throwing everything else away; on the contrary, nothing is too small for his notice, and it is his invariable practice to gather up and preserve every fragment, small and insignificant though it may appear. The exploration of the mound does not always satisfy him. In some instances where the surrounding country seems to warrant it, he also explores the soil for several feet below the surface at present surrounding the mound. In making such sub-surface explorations Mr. Beckwith, at a depth three feet below the present surface, in a number of instances, found pottery balls imbedded in the clay, near mounds explored by him. During his various explorations of mounds, he has collected in this way perhaps a half-bushel of such pottery balls of various forms, some ovoids, some round, about the size of a walnut, others again lenticular; the ovoids being in the form of Roman glandes, as described by Evans; that is, fusiform, or pointed. Such pottery balls of various shapes were in use as sling-stones among the Charrus of South America. The Marquis de Nadailic says that the Chimecs, who were of the Nahuatl race, in their wars used bows and arrows and `slings with which they flung little pottery balls which caused dangerous wounds.' Such artificial pottery sling-stones, being uniform in size and weight, gave a greater precision of aim, an advantage which is recognized by the barbarous tribes of New Caledonia today, where sling-stones made out of steatite are used by the natives. The sling was an offensive weapon of the Aztecs, and the stones thrown with great force and accuracy. Among the Mayas of Yucatan slings were also extensively used. But as an offensive weapon it was unknown among the North American Indians:

The chroniclers of the past, delving into ancient lore, have pronounced a

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Egypt to have the oldest written history. Man, calling to his aid the hieroglyphic records of Egypt, as well as the inscribed bricks and cylinders of Assyria, can trace back the annals of man's history no further than fifty centuries. Egypt was schooled in the sciences and nobler arts, and rich in knowledge when Remus and Romulus were unborn and Italy inhabited by uncouth and barbarous savages, when Athens was not spoken, nor Greece begun; when Europe, now teeming with her millions, was wilderness and sparsely inhabited by races unlettered and unlearned, yet Egypt has her ruins of unnamed cities where a people of a forgotten civilization trafficked and traded, pushed and jostled.

The prehistoric remains of Egypt are a never-ending source of historical revelation to the student of archaeology. Even the supposed myth of Troy vanished in the face of these established facts; yet more wonderful-beneath the ruins of discovered Troy, the excavator has found the ruins of another city. It would seem that wherever the soil would support and the climate permit, there man has lived and had his being, and that practically every country produces evidence of a forgotten and prehistoric race.

In the Dark Ages, a few centuries back, ruthless might, with its accompanying wreck and ruin, effaced much of the world's gems of art, literature and architecture, and even the torch of learning was kept but faintly burning in the cloisters of the monk. The world is littered with the devastations of war; and ever, man has built and destroyed.

The years, as we know them in written history, may be but as a day in the eons upon eons of man's development. Generation after generation of men in a ceaseless flow have passed, and

the earth is filled with the graves of the forgotten, above which we "strut and fret our brief hour upon the stage." Our country's history is the history of the white man. We have but filmy traditions of the Indians, and if another race preceded it, it must be discovered in what is commonly termed the Indian mounds.

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Chapter II

Explorations

When the new world was discovered and had wonderfully revealed itself to the adventurers and daring men of the Old World, the enterprise of Europe was startled into action. Those valiant men who had won laurels among the mountains of Andalusia, on the fields of Flanders, and on the battlefields of Albion, sought a more remote field for adventure. The revelation of a new world and a new race, and communication between the old and the new, provided a field for fertile imagination. The fact was as astounding to the people then as it would be to us should we learn that Mars is peopled and that communication could be established between that planet and the earth.

The heroes of the ocean despised the range of Europe as too narrow, offering to their extravagant ambition nothing beyond mediocrity. Ambition, avarice, and religious zeal were strangely blended, and the heroes of the main sailed to the west, as if bound on a new crusade, for infinite wealth and renown were to reward their piety, satisfy their greed, and satiate their ambition.

America was the region of romance where their heated imagination could indulge in the boldest delusions, where the simple ignorant native wore the most precious ornaments, the sands by the side of the clear runs of water, sparkled with gold. Says the historian of the ocean, these adventurous heroes speedily prepared to fly by a beckoning or a whispering

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wheresoever they were called. They forsook certainties for the lure and hope of more brilliant success.

To win provinces with the sword, divide the wealth of empires, to plunder the accumulated treasures of some ancient Indian dynasty, to return from a roving expedition with a crowd of enslaved captives and a profusion of spoils, soon became ordinary dreams. Fame, fortune, life and all were squandered in the visions of wealth and renown. Even if the issue was uncertain, success, greater than the boldest imagination had dared, was sometimes attained.

It would be an interesting story to trace each hero across the ocean to the American continent, and through the three great gateways thereof, through which he entered the wilds of the great west. The accounts of the explorations and exploitations into the great west read like a romance. The trials through which the explorers passed were enough to make the stoutest hearts quail and to test the endurance of men of steel.

Juan Ponce de Leon, an old comrade of Christopher Columbus in his second voyage across the Atlantic, spent his youth in the military service of Spain, and shared in the wild exploits of predatory valor in the Granada. He was a fearless and gallant soldier. The revelation of a new world fired within him the spirit of youth and adventure. He was an old man, yet age had not tempered his love of hazardous enterprise to advance his fortune by conquest of kingdoms, and to retrieve a reputation, not without blemish. His cheeks had been furrowed by years of hard service, and he believed the tale which was a tradition, credited in Spain by those who were distinguished for intelligence, of a fountain which possessed the virtue to renovate the life of

those who drank of it or bathed in its healing waters. In 1513, with a squadron of three ships fitted out at his own expense, he landed on the coast of Florida, a few miles north of St. Augustine. Here he remained for many weeks, patiently and persistently exploring and penetrating the "deep, tangled wildwood," searching for gold and drinking from the waters of every stream, brook, rivulet, and spring and bathing in every fountain. The discoverer of Florida seeking immortality on earth, bereft of fortune and broken in spirit, found the sombre shadow of death in his second voyage in 1521. Contending with the implacable fury of the Indians, he died from an arrow wound received in an Indian fight. He was laid to rest on the island of Cuba.

Thus began the Spanish claim to that vast territory west of the

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Mississippi, which included the Louisiana Province from the Mississippi west to the Rocky Mountains (including Missouri).

Hernando De Soto, who had been with Pizarro in his conquest of Peru in 1533, inspired with the same hopes and ambitions as Ponce de Leon, and undismayed by his failure, and inspiring others with confidence in his plans, collected a large band of Spanish and Portuguese cavaliers. In 1538, his splendidly equipped six or seven hundred men, among whom were many gentlemen of position and wealth, set sail in nine vessels for the wonderful Eldorado. In addition to his men, he carried three hundred horses, a herd of swine, and some bloodhounds. It would be interesting to follow this expedition in its hazardous wanderings, but to do so in this sketch, would be going "far a field." His route was in part through the country already made hostile by the cruelty and violence of the Spanish invader, Narvaez. On April 25, 1541, De Soto reached the banks of the great Mississippi, supposed to be near the Lower Chickasaw Bluffs, a few miles below Memphis, thus achieving for his name immortality.

Here he crossed the river and pursued his course north along its west bank into the region in our own State now known as New Madrid. So far as the historian can determine, he was the first European to set foot on Missouri soil, and thus he strengthened the claim to the vast wilds of the far west. He reached a village called Pocaha, the northernmost point of his expedition, and remained there forty days, sending out various exploring parties. The location of Pocaha cannot be identified.

He explored to the northwest, but if he did really penetrate what is now the central part of the state, how far he went is but speculation. The country still nearer to the Missouri was said by the Indians to be thinly inhabited, and it abounded in bison in such numbers that maize could not be cultivated. We have in this story no further interest in De Soto's exploration and wanderings, save to say that the white man, with his insatiable greed, injustice, and cruel adventure, was made known to the red man of the far west. Because of the white man's traits, a hatred arose on the part of the Indians, which by succeeding outrages ripened in after years to a venom that cost the lives of thousands of harmless settlers. Other explorations followed in succession, and though the experiences would read like a romance, the scope of this work precludes an account, even of the wonderful exploits of Coronado about the same period. Upon the result of these expeditions Spain based her claims of the Louisiana Province, afterwards acknowledged by European precedent, to be justly founded.

While De Soto pierced the wilderness from the southeast, another

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Spanish cavalcade under Francisco de Coronado, at practically the same time, invaded it from the southwest.

Coronado.-The expedition consisted of three hundred Spanish adventurers, mostly mounted, thoroughly armed, richly caparisoned, and well provisioned. They started their march with flying colors and boundless expectations. The Viceroy of Mexico, from whence they started, accompanied them for two days on the march. Never had so chivalrous adventurers gone forth to hunt the wilderness for kingdoms. Every officer seemed fitted to lead an expedition wherever danger threatened or hope lured. More young men of the proudest families of Spain, than had ever before acted together in America, rallied under the banner of Coronado.

An Indian slave had told wanderers of the seven cities of Cibola, the land of buffaloes that lay at the north between the oceans and beyond the deserts. He represented this country as abounding in silver and gold beyond the wildest dreams. The Spaniards, in what was then called New Spain, trusting implicitly in the truth of this story and hundreds of others equally mythical, burned with ambition to subdue the rich provinces. Several historians who were participants in this expedition have preserved the events of the adventurous march, and it would seem that with so much written evidence based on what the participants of the expedition saw and experienced, at least the course pursued, the routes followed, and the distances traveled by Coronado and his army, ought to be free from doubt. This, however, is far from being the case, and the entire matter is left largely in doubt.

It seems to be well authenticated, however, that Coronado entered Missouri in the southern part, but how far north he went, we do not know. Some have claimed, and with some reason, that he reached the Missouri River in the central part of the State.

Cruelty of Spanish Explorers - Coronado and De Soto both treated the Indians with barbarous cruelty. Their great hopes of limitless riches and conquered province became as ashes in their hands. Their men, after long marches for months through the wilderness, became tattered, disgruntled and surly. They were burdens upon the red men whom they visited in the different villages, and consumed their maize. The Indians were distrustful and suspicious, and an inborn hatred for the white man insensibly grew in their breasts, and was handed down by tradition with snowing rancor, to future generations. The fabled cities of Cibola were found to be miserable mud huts. Indian guides lured them from place

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to place with wonderful stories in order that the white men might be held from their own country.

It is related that a heroic young Zuni brave represented that he was not a Zuni, but an enemy of that tribe, and belonged to the country of Quivers far to the north. In a glowing word picture he described his country and insisted that the Spaniards visit there, in these words: "Come with me, O mighty chief, to my country, watered by the mighty river Quivers, wherein are fishes as large as the horses you ride, and upon whose currents float large and beautiful boats with many colored sails, in which rest the lords of the country at ease, on downy couches and canopies rich with gold. Come, see our gardens of roses, where our great ones take their siesta under the spreading trees that pierce the very heavens in their towering height. There gold and silver are but as stones on a rocky way. Precious jewels and riches beyond the dreams of avarice, O mighty chief, is yours for the asking. What you can take is but as a cup of water from the great lake. Come. O mighty chief, and follow me, for I will guide thee to the land of riches and plenty."

Tradition has it that Coronado, arriving near the Missouri, the Zumi brave said to him, "I have lied to you. I am a Zumi. I witnessed your cruelties to my people, and I have brought you here. I hope you will perish before you reach your home. I am satisfied, and now I am ready to die." The Young Zumi suffered the direst penalty, and gave his life for his tribe. Coronado remained at this point about 25 days.

The French claim to the Louisiana Province was based on the discoveries of Marquette and Joliet in 1673. Marquette was of the patrician "Marquettes of Laon", thought to have been descendants

of Celtic nobles whom Rome, in her wise policy, attached to her standard by leaving them in possession of their ancestral territory, but nominally dominated by the "eternal city."

Father Marquette and Joliet.-Father Marquette was 29 years of age when his feet first touched American soil. From all the contemporary accounts of the expedition it is evident that Father Marquette was its leader, its very soul. But as an ecclesiastic he could not take command of an army, however small; as an ambassador of Christ to foreign heathen nations, he could not act as the agent of a king of France. It was accordingly arranged that Sieur Joliet, a native of Canada, should

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command the expedition, and that Marquette should accompany it as its missionary. The choice of Joliet was a wise and happy one.

They left the connecting strait between Lakes Michigan and Huron on the 17th day of May, 1673. In the language of Marquette, "We were embarking on a voyage the duration of which we could not foresee. Indian corn, with some dried meat, was our only provisions. With this, we set out in two bark canoes. M. Joliet, five other men and I firmly resolved to do all and suffer all for a glorious enterprise."

On the 17th day of June, 1673, they, with their attendants in two bark canoes, reached the Upper Mississippi. They followed in their frail barks the swift current of the river to the mouth of the Illinois, and thence into the mouth of the Missouri, called by Marquette, Pekitonoui, that is, Muddy Water.

Shea in his "Discovery of the Mississippi Valley", says that Pekitonoui, or "Muddy Water", prevailed until Marest's time (1712), when it was called Missouri, from the name of a tribe of Indians known as Missouris, who inhabited the country at its mouth. More than 100 years after DeSoto discovered the Mississippi the claim of the French was founded. Until 1762 these two great nations contended for the right of sovereignty of the wilderness west of the Mississippi.

The limits of this work forbid following the varying fortunes of any of the explorers, and reference is made to them sufficient only to show the claims of France and Spain to that expanse of territory of which the present Cooper County was a part.

La Salle - Continuing these references we must advert to La Salle. On the 14th day of July, 1678, with Tonti, an Italian, and about 10 other men, he arrived in Quebec. In September, he sailed from Rochelle, France, and was joined by Louis Hennepin, a Franciscan friar. After leaving Frontenac, in Nov., 1678, they spent about 18 months among the Indian tribes exploring the northern lakes and rivers. They experienced many hardships. After returning to Canada for additional supplies, La Salle, with about 20 Frenchmen, 18 Indian braves and 10 Indian women, descended the Illinois to the Mississippi, which they reached on the sixth of Feb., 1682. On the fifth of April, La Salle accomplished the purpose of his expedition, which was to discover the three mouths of the Mississippi through which its great volume of water is discharged into the Gulf of Mexico.

By ceremony of great pomp, La Salle took possession of the country

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in the name of Louis XIV of France, in whose honor the country was named Louisiana. And here on an elevation La Salle, amid the solemn chants of hymns of thanksgiving, planted a cross, with the arms of France; and in the name of the French king took possession of the river, of all its branches, and of the territory watered by them. The notary drew up an authentic act, which all signed with beating hearts. A leaden plate upon which were the arms of France and the names of

the discoverers, was, amid the rattle of musketry, deposited in the earth. The plate bore this inscription, "Louis le Grand Roi de France et de Navarre, Regne; le Neuvieme Auril, 1682," Standing near the planted cross, La Salle proclaimed with a loud voice, that in the name of the most high, mighty, invincible and victorious Prince, Louis the Great, by the grace of God, King of France and Navarre, 14th of the name, this ninth day of April, 1682, he took possession of the country of Louisiana, comprising almost indefinite limits and including, of course, the present territory of Missouri.

The colonial policy of the Spaniards was not based on theory or fancy, although at this period, less enlightened than the French, they had the advantage of larger experience. The English by reason of their indomitable perseverance and fixedness of purpose had, in these respects, an advantage over their rivals. Yet the French, by their superior attitude in assimilating with the savages, and adroitness in winning confidence, had a clear advantage over both.

French Settlements - The only settlements at that time in what is now Missouri, were Ste. Genevieve and St. Louis. There were at least five settlements in what is now Illinois. These settlements were situated along the east bank of the Mississippi, for about 75 miles extending from near the mouth of the Missouri river to the mouth of the Kaskaska. They were Kaskaskia, with a white population of about 400; Prairie View Rocher, with about 50 inhabitants; Fort Chartres, about 100; Philippe, about 20; Kahoki, about 100, making a total of 670 whites. The negro population was about 300, which brings the total up to nearly 1,000.

These settlements were made by the French. It seems unreasonable to assume that these adventurers, seeking fame and fortune, did not explore the Missouri River far beyond the limits of Cooper County.

Early in the 18th century the French sent men into what is now :Missouri to search for silver, and although they failed, they did a great deal of exploring in this region. Again the French settlers in Kaskaskia,

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and other Illinois settlements, which were established in the late 17th and early 18th centuries, soon made their way on hunting and exploring expeditions up the Missouri. Naturally this activity on the part of the French aroused the fears of the Spanish at Santa Fe, which resulted in their fitting out an expedition in 1720 for exploration. This expedition is popularly known as the "Great Caravan," It consisted of a large number of soldiers, artisans, and farmers, together with their families, flacks and herds.

But Houck in his "History of Missouri", says that recent investigations seem to make it clear that there were not more than 50 soldiers in the expedition, and while there may have been helpers they were not intending settlers. However that may be, the expedition failed completely, owing to an attack made by hostile Indians. Only one man belonging to the ill-fated expedition escaped with his life to relate the story of the disaster.

It is claimed that this attempt of the Spanish to establish a post on the Missouri in 1720, led directly to the founding of Fort Orleans by the French in 1723.

De Bourgmont, who previously spent some years trading with the Indians along the Missouri, was captain and commandant of Missouri in 1720. The exact site of Fort Orleans cannot be definitely determined. It has been claimed that it is on the south bank of the Missouri near what is now Malta Bend in Saline County. Recently the ruins of an old fort, and the remains of French weapons, have been unearthed near Malta Bend. These finds are taken by some as evidence supporting the claim that Fort Orleans was on the south bank of the Missouri at that point. These facts are important because they establish a foundation upon which a reasonable inference can be drawn that what is now Cooper County was invaded by the white man, and that trade had

been carried on with the Indians long years before we have positive record of exploration by the white man.

Treaty of Ildefonso - From 1763 to 1800, Spain held undisputed sovereignty over the Louisiana province. In 1800, Europe was a seething caldron of contention and diplomacy. There were wars and rumors of wars. Napoleon Bonaparte was at the zenith of his glory. With the iron hand of power, guided by a wily diplomatic policy, and jealous of the growing sovereignty of Spain and England in the New World, Napoleon forced Spain into the treaty of Ildefonso, Oct. 1, 1800, by which she ceded

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to France all the territory known as Louisiana, west of the Mississippi in consideration that the son-in-law to the King of Spain should be established in Tuscany.

This treaty took its name from the celebrated palace of St. Ildefonso which was the retreat of Charles V of Spain when he abdicated his throne in favor of his son. It was situated about 40 miles north of Madrid in an elevated ravine in the mountains of Gaudarruma.

Purchase of Louisiana Territory.-Napoleon Bonaparte in 1803, fore seeing that Russia, in conjunction with Austria and England, was preparing to send down her Muscovite legions into France, realized that he could not hold his possessions in America and determined to dispose of them to the disadvantage of England. The treaty of Ildefonso, in 1800, whereby Spain ceded to France all of the Louisiana Province, had been kept a profound secret until 1803. Thomas Jefferson, then president of the United States, was informed of the contents of this treaty. He at once dispatched instructions to Robert Livingston, the American minister to Paris, to make known to Napoleon that the occupation of New Orleans by the French government would bring about a conflict of interest between the two nations, which would finally culminate in an open rupture. He urged Mr. Livingston not only to insist upon the free navigation of the Mississippi, but to negotiate for the purchase of the city and the surrounding country, and to inform the French government that the occupancy of New Orleans might oblige the United States to make common cause with England, France's bitterest and most dreaded enemy.

Mr. Jefferson, in so grave a matter, appointed Mr. Monroe, with full power to act in conjunction with Mr. Livingston in the negotiation. Before taking final action in the matter, Napoleon summoned his ministers and addressed them as follows: "I am fully aware of the value of Louisiana, and it was my wish to repair the error of the French diplomats who abandoned it in 1763. I have scarcely recovered it before I run the risk of losing it; but if I am obliged to give it up, it shall hereafter cost more to those who force me to part with it, than to whom I sell it. The English have despoiled France of all her northern possessions in America, and now they covet those of the south. I am determined that they shall not have the Mississippi. Although Louisiana is but a trifle compared to their vast possessions in other parts of the globe, yet, judging from the vexation they have manifested on seeing it return to the power of France, I am certain that their first object will be to gain possession of it. They will probably commence the war in that quarter. They have twenty

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vessels in the Gulf of Mexico, and our affairs in St. Domingo are getting worse since the death of LeClerc. The conquest of Louisiana might be easily made, and I have not a moment to lose in getting out of their reach. I am not sure but that they have already begun an attack upon it. Such a measure would be in accordance with their habits; and, if I were in their place I should not wait. I am inclined, in order to deprive them of all prospect of ever possessing it, to cede it to the United States. Indeed, I can hardly say that I cede it, for I do not yet possess it; and if I wait but a short time, my enemies may leave me nothing but an empty title to grant to the Republic I wish to conciliate. I consider the whole colony as lost, and I believe that in the hands of this rising power

it will be more useful to the political and even commercial interests of France than if I should attempt to retain it. Let me have both your opinions on the subject."

One of Napoleon's ministers agreed with him, and the other dissented. Ever quick to think and to act, the next day he sent for the minister who agreed with him, and thus expressed himself:

"The season for deliberation is over. I have determined to renounce Louisiana. I shall give up not only New Orleans, but the whole colony, without reservation. That I do not undervalue Louisiana, I have sufficiently proved, as the object of my first treaty with Spain was to recover it. But though I regret parting with it, I am convinced that it would be folly to try to keep it. I commission you, therefore, to negotiate this affair with the envoys of the United States. Do not await the arrival of Mr. Monroe, but go this very day and confer with Mr. Livingston. Remember, however, that I need ample funds for carrying on the war, and I do not wish to commence it by levying new taxes. For the last century France and Spain have incurred great expense in the improvement of Louisiana, for which her trade has never indemnified them. Large sums have been advanced to different companies, which have never been returned to the treasury. It is fair that I should require repayment for these. Were I to regulate my demands by the importance of the territory to the United States, they would be unbounded; but, being obliged to part with it, I shall be moderate in my terms. Still, remember, I must have fifty millions of francs, and I will not consent to take less. I would rather make some desperate effort to preserve this fine country."

The negotiations were completed satisfactorily to both parties to the contract. Mr. Livingston said, "I consider that from this day the United

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