STUDIES AND COLLECTIONS OF THE EARLY FAR WEST.

CHAPTER I.

FIRST GLIMPSES OF COLORADO.

The first white man who came within what was destined to be the state of Colorado, were Spaniards, and entered upon the southern part of its area. But whether they were Coronado's cavaliers of 1541, or later comers of the sixteenth, seventeenth or eighteenth century, and whether they, in southeastern Colorado, or San Luis Park, or the San Juan region, are questions less easy to answer.

From ancient workings that have been found there, some writers have inferred that prospectors entered the San Juan country in search of mineral wealth before the revolution of 1680; but why such workings might not be referred, with at least equal probability, to the period following Vargas' reconquest, and especially to the latter half of the eighteenth century, when prospecting for the precious metals in the San Juan region is, of record, we are not informed.

Historians of Colorado generally have assumed that Francisco Vasquez Coronado, on his way from New Mexico to Quivira in 1541, entered Colorado, and was the first to do so; but as we shall see, while that famous expedition may have entered the first entrance of Colorado, the outward or eastward-bound part, which was due in the return journey to New Mexico, if at all, that it entered within the limits of Colorado.
I was informed in 1900 by Dr. J. W. Fewkes, that a map of 1755, made
to accompany a report of Padre Juan Miguel Menchero, as visitador,
the locates Cuartelejo in the general region in which Ladder creek ruins
are.

See Appendix Notes on Cuartelejo, copied from almost illegible
Notes of F. W. Cragin.

In at least the later part of the history of Cuartelejo (the first
quarter of the eighteenth century), the region in which that interest-
ing frontier establishment stood, was known to the French as ter-
ritory of the Padoucas. At the same time, it must have been a sort of
debatable ground between the Jicarilla Apaches, who appear to have
been allies, and the Pawnees (Pananias) and Wichitas (Jumana), who
were apparently enemies, of the Taos Indians of Cuartelejo.

The Padoucas are by most writers identified as Comanches. Yet,
Curiously enough, there seems to be no mention of either Padoucas or
Comanches (the latter an aboriginal name adopted by the Spanish) in either French or Spanish contemporaneous literature,
in connection with Cuartelejo. And it is especially surprising that
Monsieur de Bourgmont, who treated with the Padoucas in Kansas in 1724,
makes no mention of Cuartelejo, and that place, or anything that could refer to it, is not mentioned in the speeches of
the Padoucas nor of the Pawnees or other Indians present at the
great peace and trade council which held with them there. For the
locality could not have been in the same general region of
the Plains with Cuartelejo. Except at the time of the annual
bravos' fair at Taos, when, for the sake ofbarter, they suspended hostilities and became friendly
the Comanches were generally hostile to the Indians of the
northwest and were yet friendly to the Jicarilla Apaches. This is
so it is possible that they were hostile to the Quarables, as they
certainly were to the latter. Jicarilla allies, who were

stronghold in the south of the Jicarilla country and the
Grant Maxwell Land Grant; they destroyed by the Comanches in 1724,
and compelled to flee to the western side of the Taos
mountains, where they remained till comparatively recent times.
retaliation for its destruction, and to protect the frontier of the French mining territory from further Spanish invasion, that caused the French in 1723 to build and garrison Fort Orleans on the Missouri river, opposite the village of the Missouries.

There is a legend which indicates that the Spaniards of this ill-fated expedition, in leaving New Mexico, passed down the canon of the Purgatory river, and that their friends having last seen them going down its valley to an unforeseen destruction, is the circumstance which gave to that river its alternative name of "Rio de las Animas Perdidas," a name by which, abbreviated to "Las Animas," the river is yet often called, and which is also perpetuated by the Colorado county of Las Animas and by the town of that name at the junction of that river and the Arkansas.

Since about the beginning of the eighteenth century it had been the desire of the French, and one of the special objects of the Compagnie des Indes, to bring the Mississippian valley into trade relations with the Indians of the west and with the Spaniards of Mexico. Although French parties under Saint Denis, and, succeeding in crossing the Texas frontier, and reached the Rio Grande, below Eagle Pass, on the west of

principal objects of the Franciscan policy was the establishment against their proposed routes and missions, as was done in the mission of the Rio Grande, below Eagle Pass.

As early as 1703, twenty Canadians left the village of St. James in the Illinois country, with an armed object of finding the way to New Mexico and trading for silver coin; and seeing the riches of which the Indians had told them; but they did not apparently have accomplished their object. The maps made by the Seminol traders in 1719, by way of the Arkansas and Des Moines, in the early twenties of the same century, by way of the Missouri and its tributaries, made for the Compagnie des Indes costly, but without success in the discovery of the much sought for route to New Mexico. It was not till 1739 that an effort to the discovery of a route to Santa Fe was reached from the Seminol traders, who went both independently of the company and through the company's agents, with the aid of French traders, and after many years of searching, the route was finally followed by the Spanish and the French, the former by the Louisiana traders, and the latter by the company's agents.
led to that rebellion, there took place from the Pueblo of Taos, the
most remote of the northern Indian villages, and also one of the
most intolerant of Spanish oppression, a migration of several Christ-
ian Indian families northeastward, to a locality far out upon the
plains, on a main southern source of the Smoky Hill river, in what is
now Scott county, Kansas, where they built an adobe pueblo of seven
rooms. Their flight was known to the Spaniards, who called the
new settlement "Cuartelejo"—its meaning, apparently, a fortified place of
refuge—but made no immediate attempt to reduce them to subjection
again or to bring them back. At Cuartelejo these Indians Cristianos
excavated a ditch and remained as an independent community, carrying
on agriculture by irrigation after the manner of their brethren in the
pueblos of New Mexico, for about three generations, or till some time
subsequent to 1727, when the more brought back to Taos by twenty
Spanish soldiers and a party of Indian auxiliaries under Don Juan de
Archuleta, sent out by the governor of New Mexico for that purpose.

In 1706, Don Francisco Cuervo y Valdés being governor of New Mexico,
Captain Juan de Uribarri marched out to the village of the Jicarilla
Apaches, thirty-seven leagues northeast of Taos, and was by the latter
Indians conducted to Cuartelejo, of which, says H. H. Bancroft, he took
possession, naming the surrounding province "San Luis", and the Indian
rancheria "Santo Domingo". He did not disturb the inhabitants of the
place, and the name which he gave to it seems to have been little used,
if at all, as the few early maps and manuscripts that note this far
outlying pueblo generally cite it as "Cuartelejo".

With the Jicarilla Apaches as guides, his expedition proceeded to the
Arkansas river and—in all reasonable probability by a more or less
direct route through what is now southeastern Colorado—to a point
about sixty miles east of the Colorado state line, on that
particular "Beaver creek" (locally so called) which on some
maps is designated by the less hackneyed and hence more distinctive
and correctable name of "Ladder creek", in the northern part of present Scott
county, Kansas, where the ruins of a seven-room pueblo have been recent-
ly excavated by Messrs. H. T. Martin and H. D. Steele, and identified
with the name of Hector title. It was identified as Cuartelejo
by Dr. S. W. Williston, under whose direction, as then Professor of
Palaeontology in the University of Kansas, the excavation was made. The
graphical data furnished by Bancroft are so explicit that there remains
little room to doubt that Dr. Williston is correct in identifying the
Ladder creek as the long lost Cuartelejo. This exceedingly
interesting locality is twelve miles due north from Scott City, a town
reached from either the east or the west by the Missouri-Pacific rail-
way, and from the east also by the Atchison, Topeka and Santa Fe.

An expedition of Captain Uribarri, across the upper Arkansas valley
to Cuartelejo in 1706, exactly a century before the United States expedi-
tion under the gallant Zebulon Pike, seventy years before that of
Escalante and Dominguez, and fifty-five years before that of Juan Maria
Rivera, is the first one of historic record, which there is undeniable
reason to believe was made by people of European origin, over territory
now included in the state of Colorado; the only earlier expedition
known, and the first one known of any kind whatsoever over Colorado do-
main, being that of the Tosos Indian emigrants themselves about the year
1650.
Spaniards and thirty Indians, reinforced en route by a body of Apaches under Captain Carliana, led an expedition from Santa Fe against the Utes and Comanches. Leaving Santa Fe on the 16th of September and keeping on the east side of the Sierra, they travelled northward till the 10th of October, after which they travelled eastward and southeastward, and on the 20th of the latter month were on the Arkansas river, then called "Rio Napestle", where, soon after and probably near the east line of Colorado, they fell in with some Indians of Cuartelejo, among whom they found men with gunshot wounds received from the French and their allies, the Pawnees and Jumanees*. They returned from the Arkansas river to Santa Fe.

*The Jumanees were several tribes of the same linguistic stock as the Caddoeees of Red river and the Pawnee of the Platte; they lived to the south of the latter, and by the early French and Americans of the Mississippi valley were called Panis, Panicoasses, Panis Piques, Pawnees, Southern Pawnees, Southern Jumanees, Freckled Pawnees, Pawnee Piots, etc. They ranged from the Arkansas river (from the Smoky Hill river in 1841, when their grass-house villages were found on the lower part of that river by Coronado) to the Red and Brazos rivers of Texas. Some of the tribes of this stock have become extinct or absorbed by related tribes within the past century. Of those still existing, the Wichitas, Wacos, and Tawnoconies are among the best known.

They returned from the Arkansas river to Santa Fe, having explored a large part of what is now eastern Colorado, including evidently the plains portion of the Pike's region, and possibly a portion of western Kansas. Bancroft further notes that the Spanish viceroy sent to the authorities at Santa Fe an order to establish a fort at Cuartelejo, which was considered to be about 100 leagues northeasterly from Santa Fe; but this was deemed wholly impracticable. It was concluded that the viceroy must have meant Jicorilla, which was less than a third as far away in that direction.

End of Chapter I

Chapter II ("Cuartelejo") begins on p. 3a.
A Tragedy of the Missouri Valley.

There had been from the beginning of the sixteenth century a continued conflict between Spain and France for supremacy in the New World. This conflict continued until the time when it extended to the Missouri valley, and culminated in one of the most singular and bloody tragedies recorded in the history of the West. France claimed and occupied the Mississippi valley and Spain had conquered and controlled Mexico. The French, by their humane and conciliatory policy, had secured the friendship of the Western Indians, and were gradually marching on the disputed territory along the Missouri river; a country then rich with fur and the trappers' paradise. For the purpose of checking this encroachment and driving the French back, there was organized in the spring of 1760 at Santa Fe, Mexico, a Spanish caravan, for it could scarcely be called an army, which for its unique and grotesque appearance has never been surpassed. It consisted of several hundred soldiers, men, priests and women, all strangely dressed, and they had with them droves of cattle, horses and dogs. All nationalities was represented—Spaniards, Mexicans and Indians. On they marched, floundering across the great trackless plains of Colorado and Kansas, without landmarks or guides. Their purpose was to enter the villages of the Pawnees, who were the traditional enemies of the Missouri, form an alliance with them, and attack the Missouri and their allies and friends, the French, many of whom were then living with them. Being entirely unfamilier with the country they missed the country of the Pawnees and going farther north ran into the camp of the Missouri. Being unaware of their mistake they made the object of the expedition known to the chiefs, and sought an alliance. The chiefs of the Missouri, with duplicity, readily consented
Early Exploration of Missouri.

In the year 1688, the French authorities at New Orleans ordered M. de la Duniene, an officer of distinction, to explore the interior of Missouri, of which nothing was even then known except from vague reports from the Indians and trappers. He ascended the Mississippi river in a pirogue until he came to the mouth of the Saline, a small stream which flows into the Mississippi about ten miles below the old town of St. Genevieve, where he disembarked. Then he took a northerly course through a dense forest and traveled over the prairie country abounding with game, where he found two other villages, these being occupied by the Sacs and Foxes, the numbers being small.

At last he came to the Osage river, a distance of seventy leagues, 20 miles, which he crossed. About five miles west of the river he came to a large village occupied by a tribe of Osage Indians. Upon entering, they treated him kindly and after remaining with them several days he proceeded westwardly about forty leagues, 90 miles, until he came to a prairie country abounding with game, where he found two other villages, these being occupied by the Osage Indians, the numbers being small. From this point they changed their course and traveled until they reached the Missouri river at a place six leagues (eighteen miles) above the mouth of La Grande riviere—Grand river—which flows into the Missouri just above Branson.
INTO THE WILDS OF THIS STATE BEFORE LEWIS AND CLARK.

Account of the Expeditions Through Missouri by the Spanish and French in the Sixteenth and Eighteenth Centuries.

As the 90th anniversary of the famous expedition of Lewis and Clark up the Missouri River and into the Pacific Ocean approaches, a review of the explorations by the Spanish and French during the early 16th and 17th centuries is in order. These early explorers were the forerunners of the great Missouri Valley exploration that began with the Lewis and Clark expedition.

The first Spanish expedition to the region was that of Hernando de Soto, who crossed the Mississippi River in 1541. His party, numbering about 400 men, was the first European contact with the Native Americans of the region. They followed the Mississippi River northward, exploring the area and establishing the first European settlements in the region.

In 1568, Robert Cavelier de La Salle, a French explorer, claimed the territory west of the Mississippi River for France. He named the area Louisiana in honor of King Louis XIV. This claim was later acknowledged by the Treaty of Paris in 1763, which ended the French and Indian War.

The French also had a strong presence in the region, with forts and trading posts established along the Mississippi River. These forts were important centers of trade and culture, and they played a significant role in the development of the region.

In 1803, the Louisiana Purchase doubled the size of the United States and included much of the present-day state of Missouri. The purchase was a key event in the expansion of the United States and laid the foundation for the westward expansion of the country.

During the 19th century, Missouri became a state and played a significant role in the politics of the nation. The state was the site of the Missouri Compromise of 1820, which addressed the issue of slavery in the territories.

In summary, the explorations of the Spanish and French in the Missouri region were crucial in the development of the region and the United States. These early explorations laid the foundation for the future development of the state and the nation as a whole.
on the 10th, until the morning of the 11th. The English forces were stationed on the heights surrounding the town, while the French forces were positioned in the main street. The battle lasted several hours, with both sides sustaining heavy losses. The French, however, were victorious and captured the English flag. The English forces retreated, leaving the town in French hands. The victory was a significant boost for the French, who were able to continue their advance and eventually reach the gates of the French capital.