

carts, and a herd of more than seven thousand head of stock was driven on foot.

As we have stated previously, expeditions had followed the Conchos to the Rio Grande. Leaving the Conchos on the right, they traveled over the uncharted stretch. They reached the Mendones and here they divided. Half of them started through those great sand dunes April 19th, 1598, leaving the rest to wait reinforcements of oxen. On the 26th of April the caravan was re-united on the Rio Grande, and on the 30th Onate took formal possession of all the kingdoms of New Mexico in the name of our Lord and the name of King Phillip.

There was a sermon, a great religious and secular celebration, a great salute, and much rejoicing. In the afternoon a comedy was presented and the regal standard was blessed. Continuing five and one-half leagues up the steam on May 4th they reached Paso del Norte, the ford, a place ever since important in the history of the southwest.

MENDOZA AND HIS MEN

Until 1598 we have the record of the large parties of explorers through and skirting the Big Bend, east and west.

No other specific expedition to the Jumano is recorded until that of Juan Dominguez de Mendoza in 1683-1684. Between these dates we are told that trade and friendship had been maintained with these Indians and with such security that the Spaniards in parties of six, eight, and ten went to their lands and villages every year to trade with them.

Meanwhile, there had occurred in New Mexico the great uprising of the Pueblo Indians in 1680, during which time, a part of the settlers were massacred, and the rest fled from the upper Rio Grande and took refuge at Paso del Norte, which settlement had existed since 1659.

FOUNDING OF YSLETA

Ysleta del Sur, a Tigua pueblo on the northeast bank of the Rio Grande a few miles below El Paso, Texas, was established in 1681 by some four hundred Indian captives from Ysleta, New Mexico. They were taken thence by Governor Otermin on his return from the attempted re-conquest of the pueblos, after their revolt in August, 1680. Ysleta del Sur was the seat of a Franciscan mission from 1682, containing a church, dedicated to San Antonio de Padua. The mission name, San Antonio, applied to Ysleta del Sur, and belonged to the northern Ysleta until its abandonment in consequence of the revolt. When the latter was resettled in 1709 or 1718 the mission was named San Augustine de la Ysleta.

The few inhabitants of Ysleta are now

almost completely Mexicanized. (See Hodge Handbook on the American Indian). The uprising of 1680 cut off communication with the Jumanos for a time, but relations were soon reestablished through the initiative of the Indians. In 1683 two delegates from the tribe visited Governor Otermin at El Paso, asking for aid against the Apaches, and asking the Spaniards to return and trade with them.

The leader of the embassy was Juan Sabeata, a Jumano, who had been baptised at Parral, but who then lived at La Junta, as the Spaniards called the region where the Conchos and Rio Grande became one. A part of his own tribe lived to the eastward of La Junta on the buffalo plains. They were clearly the Jumanos whom the Spaniards had ask for missionaries, and for help against the Apaches.

The governor forwarded to the Viceroy, Sabeatas' declaration, saying that he would consider it a great triumph if, in the present Viceroy's day, "another new world" should be discovered and "Two realms with two crowns should be added to the kings dominions." Equally interested was Nicolas Lopez, custodian of the missions around El Paso. He set about responding to the appeal. After some preliminaries, he set out for that place on December first, accompanied by Father Juan Zavaleta and Father Assevedo. Arriving at their destination at the end of thirteen days, they found things favorable and soon seven or more tribes about La Junta had built churches and dwellings for the missionaries.

Meanwhile, the governor at El Paso had appointed Captain Juan Dominguez de Mendoza to lead the expedition east of the Pecos. On December 15th Mendoza set out, opening his diary at Real de San Lorenzo, a few leagues below Paso del Norte on the south bank of the Rio Grande. He kept close to that stream all the way, following the Camino del Rio to La Junta, passing on the way numerous rancheros of Suma Indians. Leaving Father Assevedo in charge at La Junta, Fathers Lopez and Zavaleta joined the expedition in the plains.

The Captain, in his diary, gives a daily accounting for his movements:

"Mendoza and party arrived at La Junta the 29th day of December. He christened the place La Nabadad en Las Cruces, because of the crosses possessed by the rancherias, which was settled on both sides of the Rio del Norte. He proceeded down the Rio Grande seven leagues, to the mouth of the arroyo flowing from the north, which we know today as Alamito Creek.

On January 2, 1684, the Spanish party made camp at a warm spring, which they named Nuestro Padre San Francisco. This