

AMERICA'S ANCIENT  
CHIEFDOMS

6

DE SOTO



**AMERICA'S ANCIENT CHIEFDOMS, 1539-1543:  
CONQUISTADORS, PUEBLOS, AND MOUNDBUILDERS**





## Tuesdays at Ten | Voyage of the Vikings

Tue, Oct 17 2023  
10:00 am – 11:00 am



### 📅 Upcoming Events

**Babies Love Books - CPL**  
Mon, Oct 16, 9:45 am

**Getting Started with the Internet, Part II**  
Mon, Oct 16, 6:30 pm

**Toddler Tales - CPL**  
Tue, Oct 17, 9:45 am

**Tuesdays at Ten | Voyage of the Vikings**  
Tue, Oct 17, 10:00 am

Join Fred Christensen for a six-week journey to the lands and people of the North Atlantic. Two month-long cruises have produced spectacular pictures, interesting information, and unforgettable memories of countries shaped by the Norse heritage of a thousand years ago.

September 12: From Boston to Labrador—rugged landscapes and whaling villages.

September 19: Greenland—glaciers and the Norse and Inuit heritage.

September 26: Iceland—spectacular waterfalls and friendly people.

October 3: Norway and Denmark—the homelands of the Vikings.

October 10: Scotland—rugged scenery from Britain's northern tip to the Shetlands.

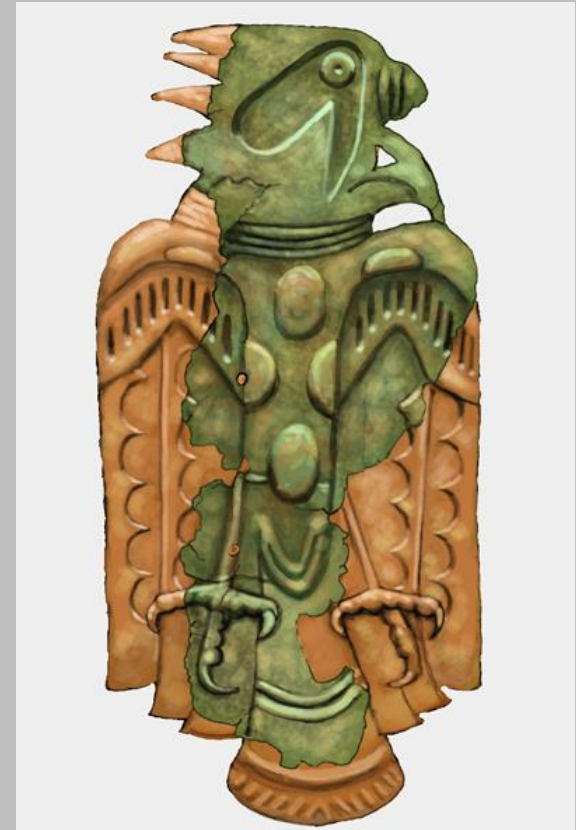
October 17: Newfoundland—a visit to L'Anse aux Meadows, the Norse settlement in the New World.

Hello to the ECIAS members and friends,

Our monthly presentation will be at 7 PM on Thursday October 19 at the Urbana Free Library's Lewis Auditorium.

Copper artifacts are among the most attractive and interesting archaeological finds, and our speaker has produced manuals describing and cataloging them. Monette Bebow-Reinhard will speak on "Why the Copper Artifact Master Database (CAMD)?" She will discuss Illinois' impressive Hopewell and Mississippian finds, and will include both summary information from the Illinois Copper Artifact Resource Manual and new material found since its first edition was produced. She will be asking the audience to share information and challenge her, because, as a historian, she desires to learn from you, too.

Monette Bebow-Reinhard is the former curator of Wisconsin's Oconto Copper Burial Museum. She is working on her fourth regional copper manual set in the Four Corners area and may have some material from that to share as well.



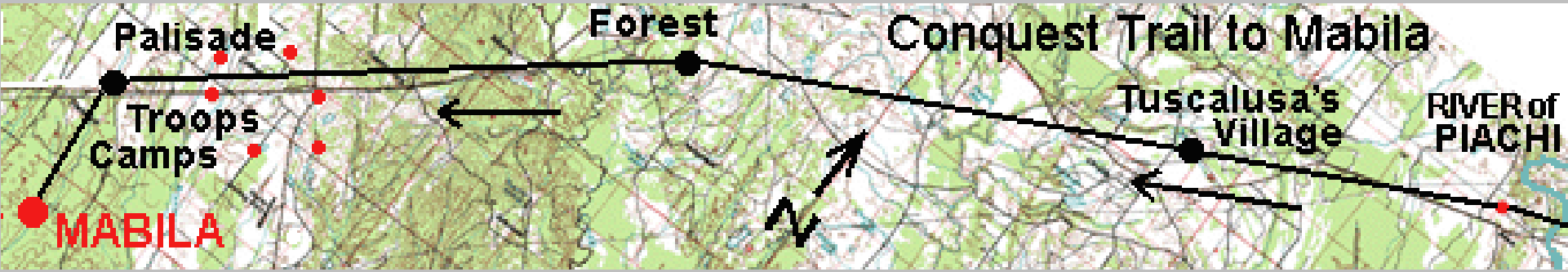
## Bullying his way through the Deep South

Although de Soto's force fought no battles between Anhaica and Mabila, this does not mean that his route was a peaceful one. Each passage through the lands of a chiefdom might involve initial skirmishing, armed intimidation, or the killing of one guide to guarantee cooperation by the other guides.



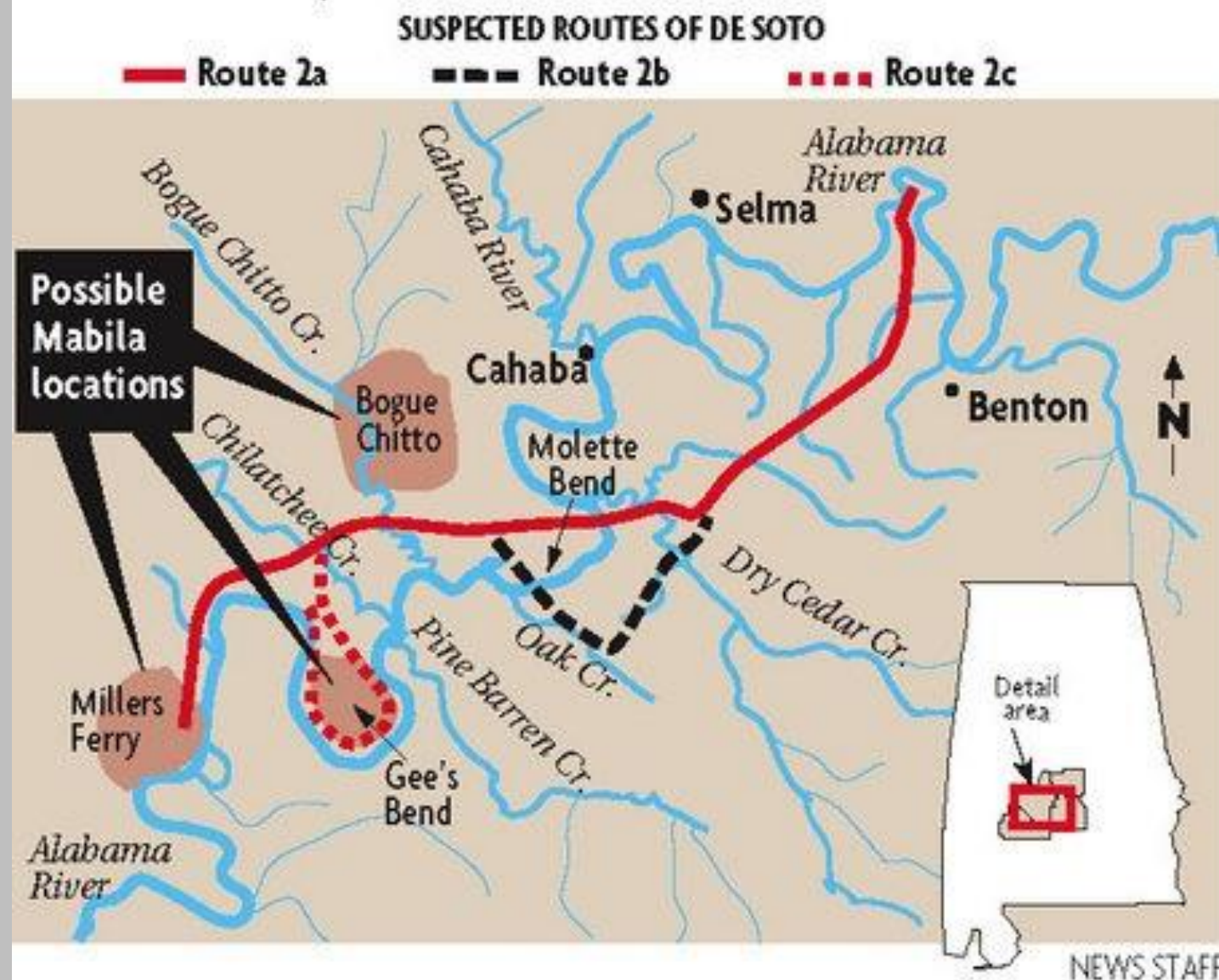
De Soto would treat a chief with courtesy if that chief did everything the Spaniard requested of him.



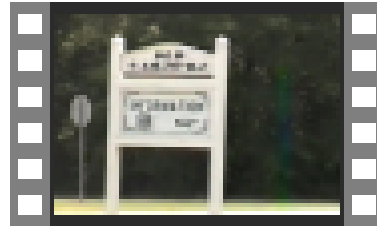


# DE SOTO'S JOURNEY TO MABILA

Mabila, the site of the bloodiest battle ever fought between Europeans and Native Americans, has never been found. These are three possible locations.







## 6 The Battle of Mabila







**Casualties:**

**Spanish: Killed, 70 to 130; 22 to 82 (the various accounts), with perhaps another 48-50 dying later of their wounds.**

**Indians: unknown, perhaps 2,500.**

## After Mabila:

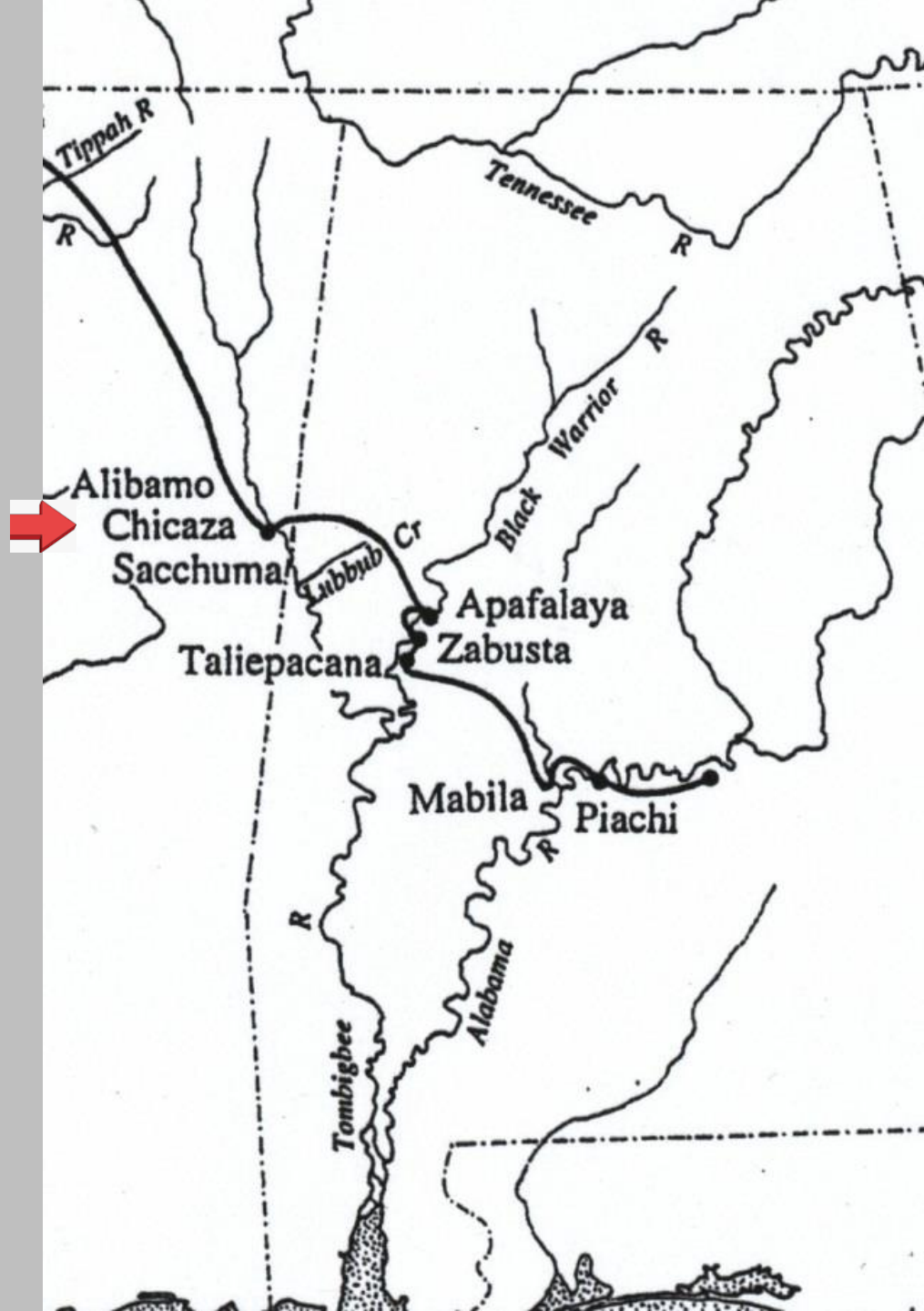


A fateful decision.

—from the Chronicle of the Gentleman of Elvas:

The governor learned there that Francisco Maldonado was awaiting him in the port of Ochuse and that it [Ochuse] was six days' journey from there. He arranged with Juan Ortiz that he should keep still about it, so that the men might not oppose his determination, and because the pearls which he desired to send to Cuba as samples had been burned; for if the news [of the ship] were noised about the men might desire to go to that land [Cuba]. And fearing that if news were heard of him, unless they saw gold or silver, or anything of value, it [Florida] would acquire such a reputation that no man would desire to go thither when people might be needed; consequently, he determined not to give news of himself so long as he did not find a rich land.

De Soto's winter quarters, 1540-1541:  
continuing violence with the Chicaza chiefdom.





Archaeological complexes at time of de Soto

<span style="color: blue;">■</span>	NODENA PHASE
<span style="color: orange;">■</span>	PARKIN
<span style="color: green;">■</span>	KENT
<span style="color: purple;">■</span>	BELLE MEADE, WALLS
<span style="color: cyan;">■</span>	MENARD COMPLEX

There was a belt of uninhabited wilderness in northern Mississippi, which led to hunger in the Spanish force....and which prevented the chiefdoms of the Mississippi River valley from knowing anything about their presence.

In effect De Soto's *entrada* was about to have a fresh start with tribes unaware of their nature.

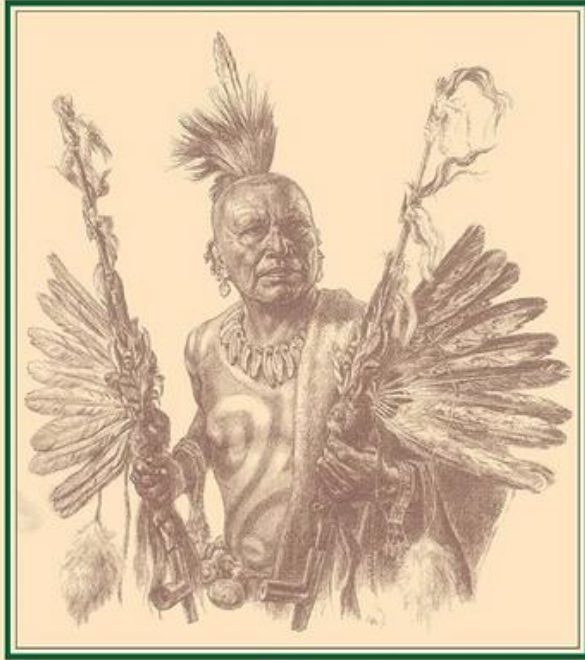
## PROPOSED ROUTE OF THE DE SOTO EXPEDITION

THRU MISSISSIPPI AND ARKANSAS,  
TO THE POINT WHERE DESOTO DIES

Based on the Charles Hudson Map of 1997







# Towns and Temples Along the Mississippi

Edited by

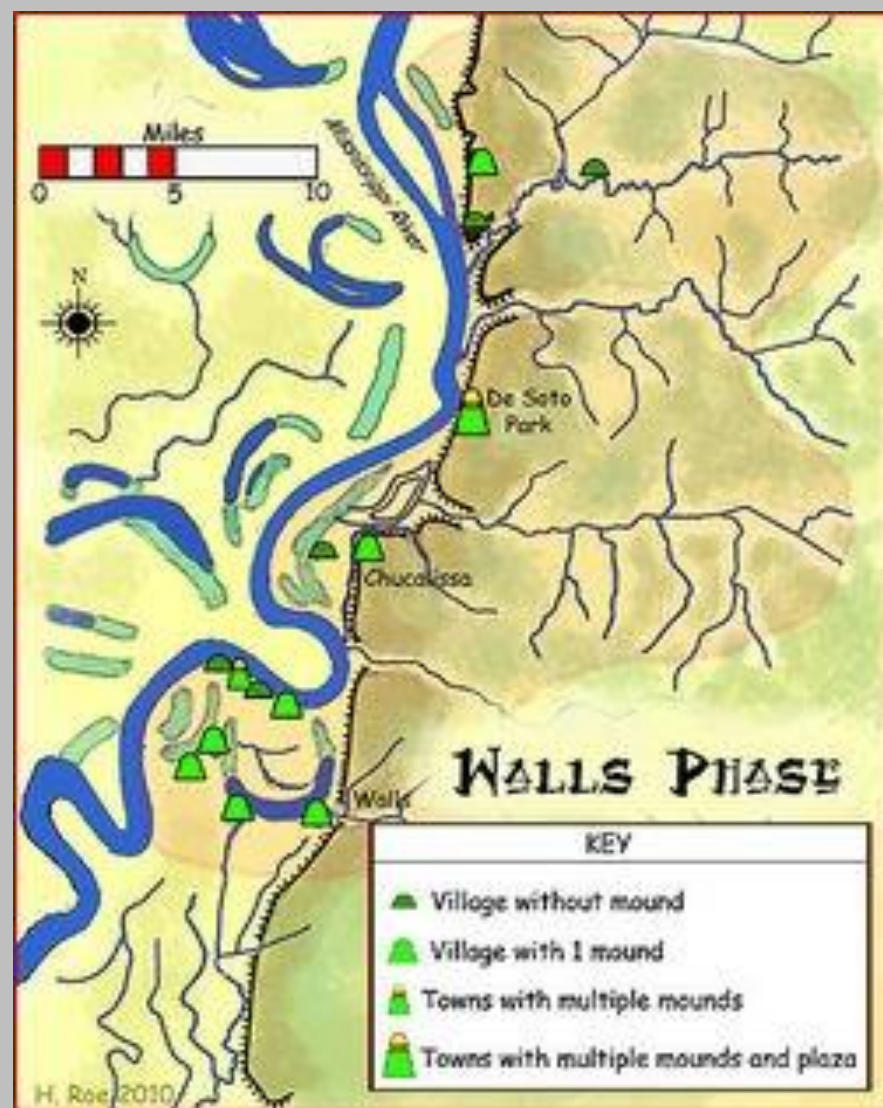
David H. Dye and Cheryl Anne Cox

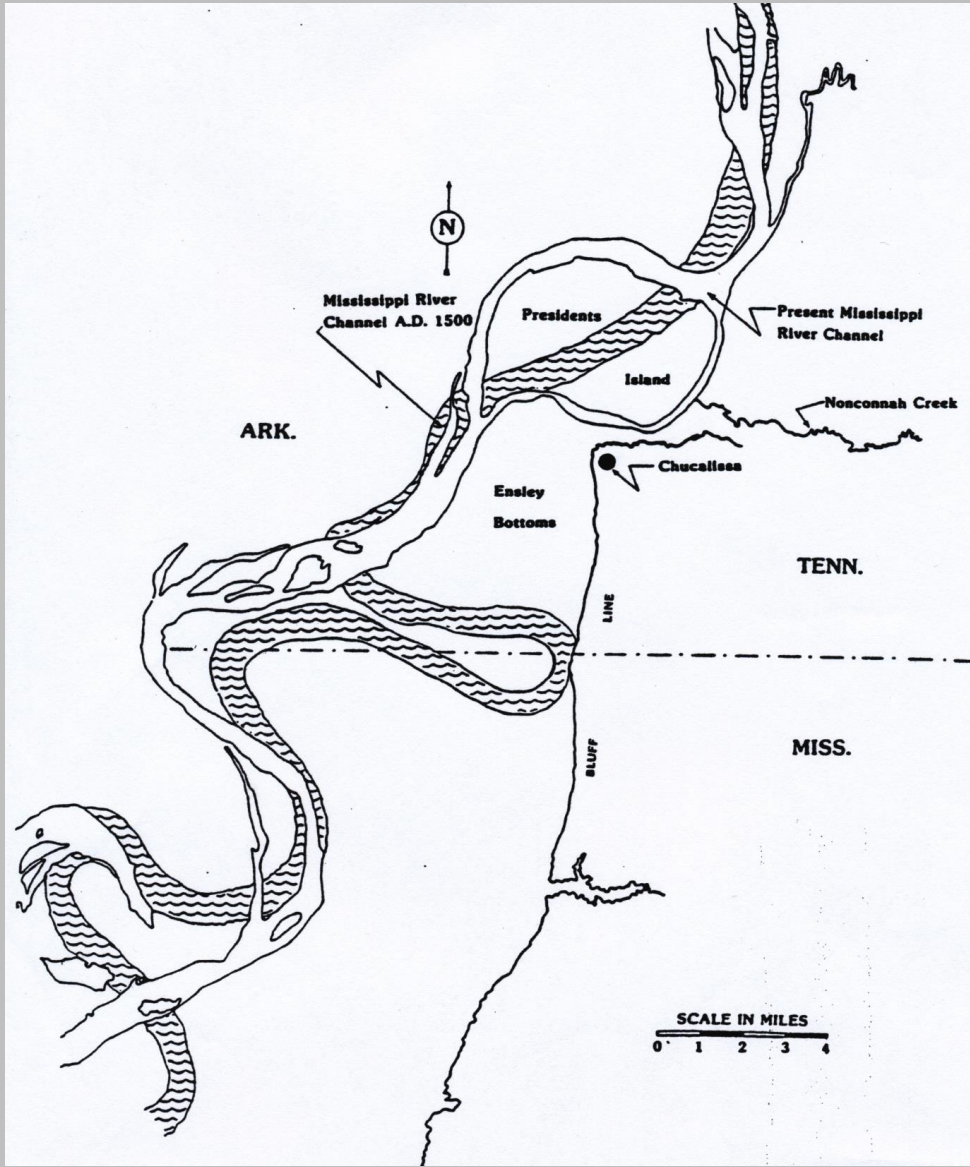
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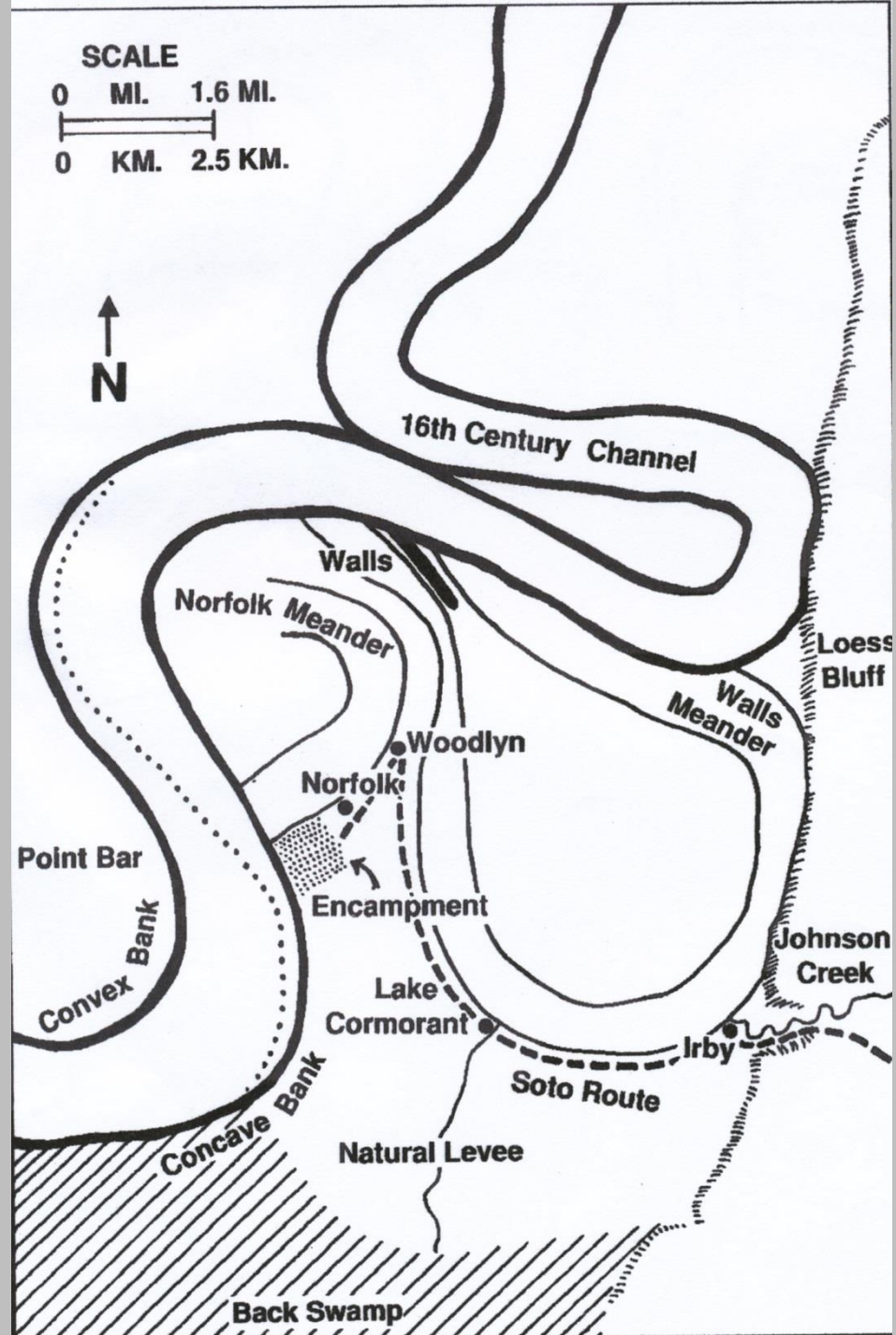
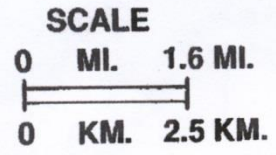
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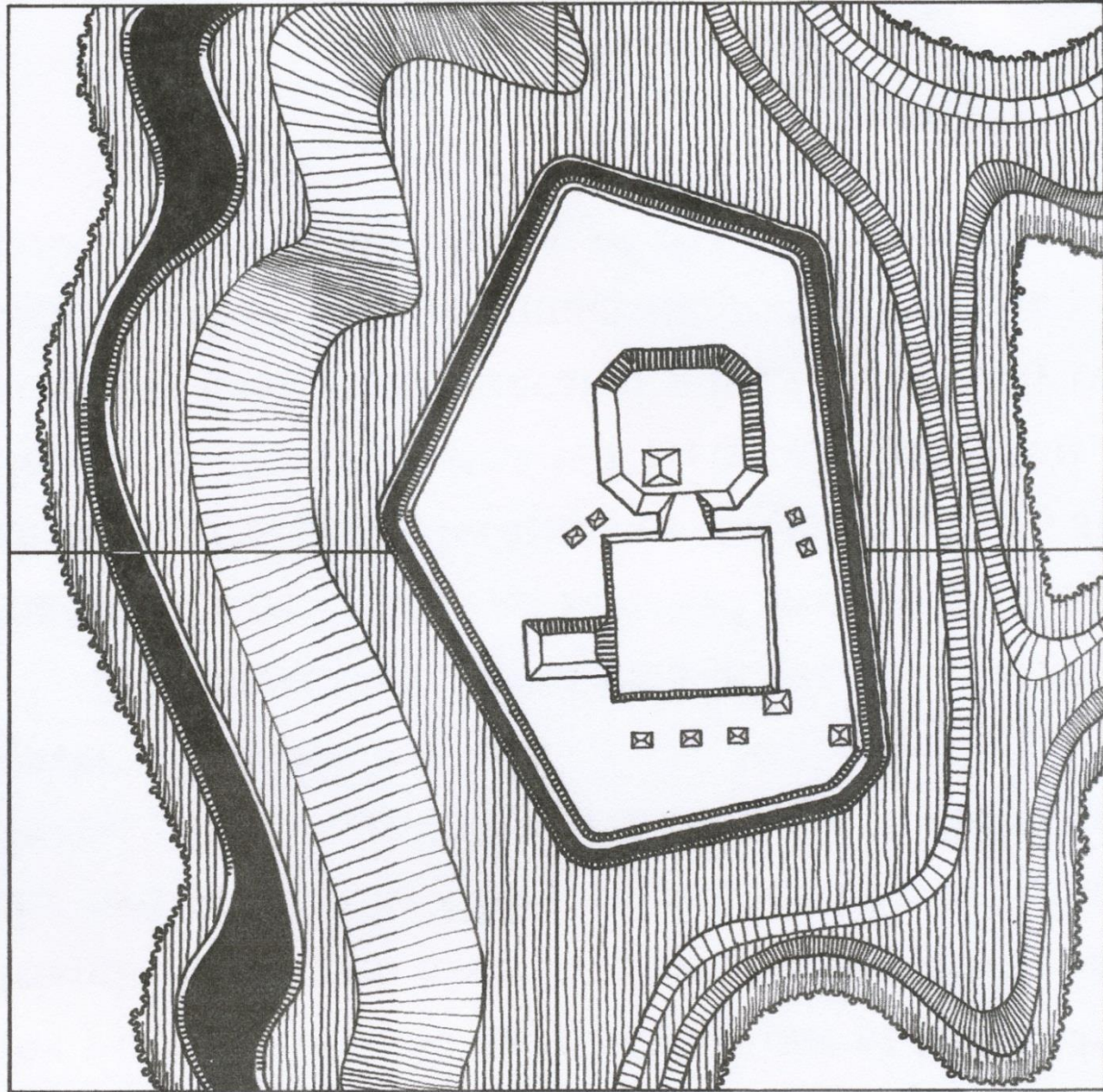
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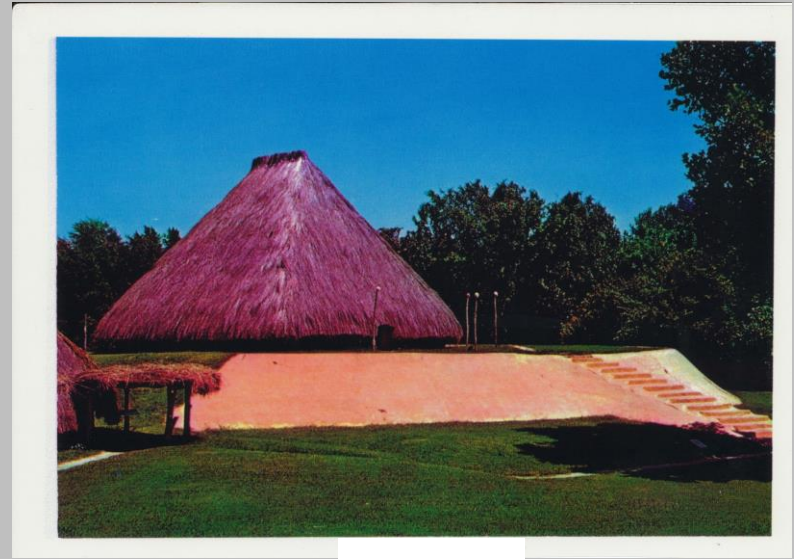






29. Chucalissa site,  
Memphis, Tennessee;  
Mississippian period,  
A.D. 1100–1500. From  
*Prehistoric Architecture  
in the Eastern United  
States* by William N.  
Morgan (Cambridge:  
The MIT Press, 1980).





1970s....



2000s....

...are likely  
...by green  
...for powerful  
...land. Clay jars  
...as cooking  
...ly created  
...of a special  
...as a good  
...ethic, and  
...Simple face  
...pining design.  
...is the exhibit  
...Great Serpent  
...are very well in



The traditional  
...of  
...the Great Serpent  
...the path of souls  
...to the underworld  
...the Great Serpent  
...the Milky Way

The Great Serpent  
...the path of souls  
...to the underworld  
...the Milky Way

The pottery vessels in this exhibit were excavated from Chucalissa and made by American Indians between 1000 and 1500 A.D. This period marks the rise of the Mississippian culture in the Southeast. The symbolism on these vessels reflects regional beliefs and stylistic similarities today referred to as the Southeastern Ceremonial Complex.

# Chucalissa Pottery



The Southeastern Ceremonial Complex envision three levels to the universe: the Upperworld of sky, the Middle World of earth, and the Underworld of water. The levels are connected by a red and white striped pole or tree. The Upperworld is ruled by the Lame Goddess, the Lord of Wind and Lightning, and the Thunder. The Underworld is ruled by a sacred animal interpreted as both a Great Serpent and an Underwater Panther. From the Middle World, the Underworld is entered through caves and bodies of water. When humans die, the Great Serpent carries them along the Path of Souls (the Milky Way constellation) to the Underworld.

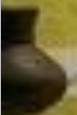
Different styles of pottery vessels are given "type" names by archaeologists such as Bell Plain, Nodena Red and White, and Rhodes Inland. What do these names mean? Generally, the names denote styles, clay type, or the location where the pottery was recovered. For example, the names Bell, Leland, Nodena, and Wadley distinguish different vessels by temper, decoration, and clay source. Undecorated vessels are called Bell Plain, while those possessing decorative lines are called Rhodes Inland.

The Rhodes Inland style is characterized by a dark, reddish-brown slip and a decorative band of white or light-colored slip. The Rhodes Inland style is named after the Rhodes site in Arkansas, where it was first identified in 1938. It is a common type of pottery found at many Mississippian sites in the Southeast.



Today, the Great Serpent is used to represent the sacred path of souls between the two worlds. The Great Serpent is also the symbol of the Underworld, the realm of the dead. The Great Serpent is also the symbol of the Milky Way, the path of souls to the Underworld.

The Great Serpent is a sacred animal interpreted as both a Great Serpent and an Underwater Panther. It is the symbol of the Underworld, the realm of the dead. The Great Serpent is also the symbol of the Milky Way, the path of souls to the Underworld.



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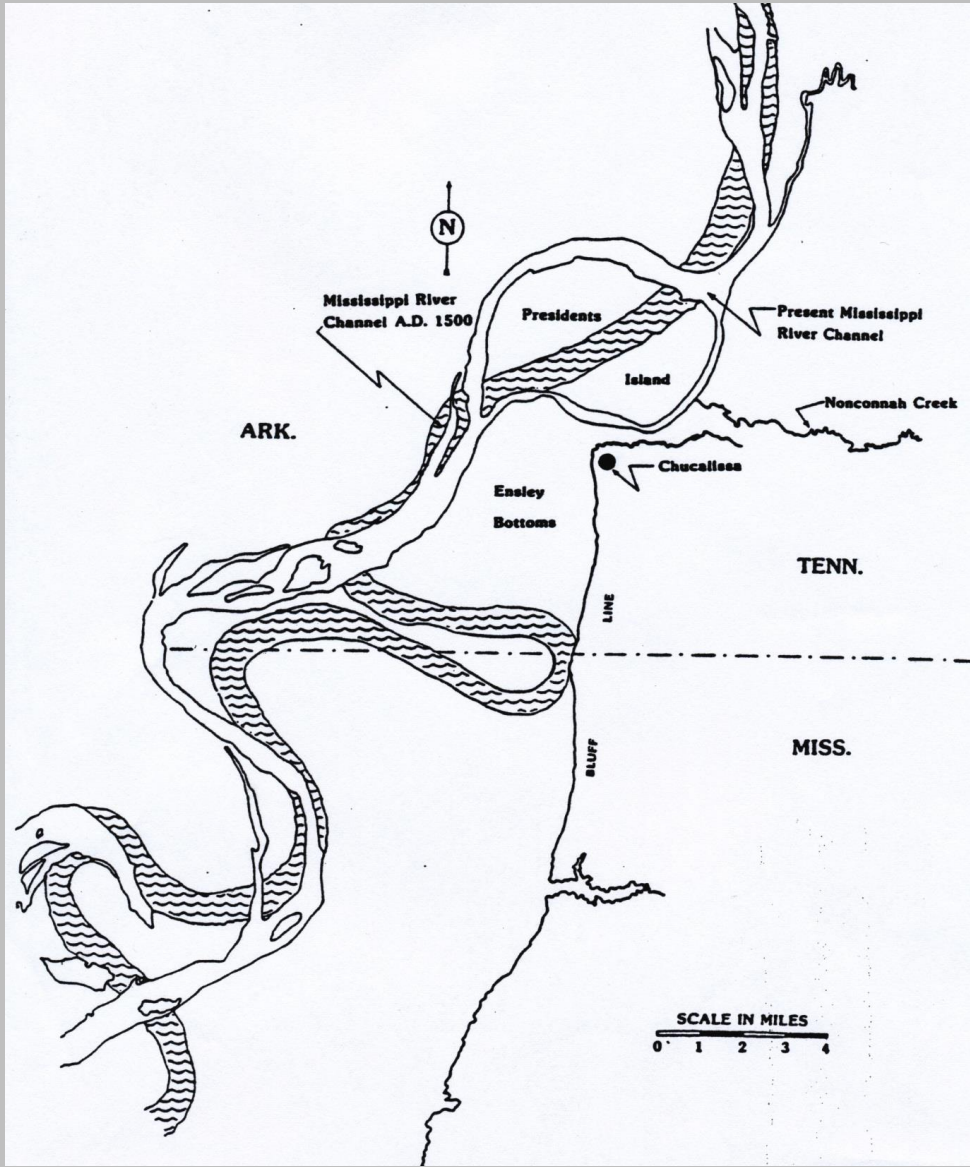
Wadley  
Embossed Large Bowl

Nodena  
Red & White Band

Rhodes  
Inland Jar

Bell Plain  
Jar (High Neck)

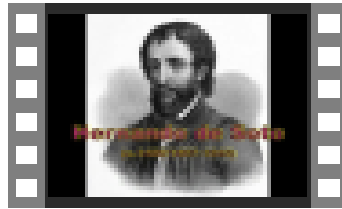
Rhodes  
Inland Jar





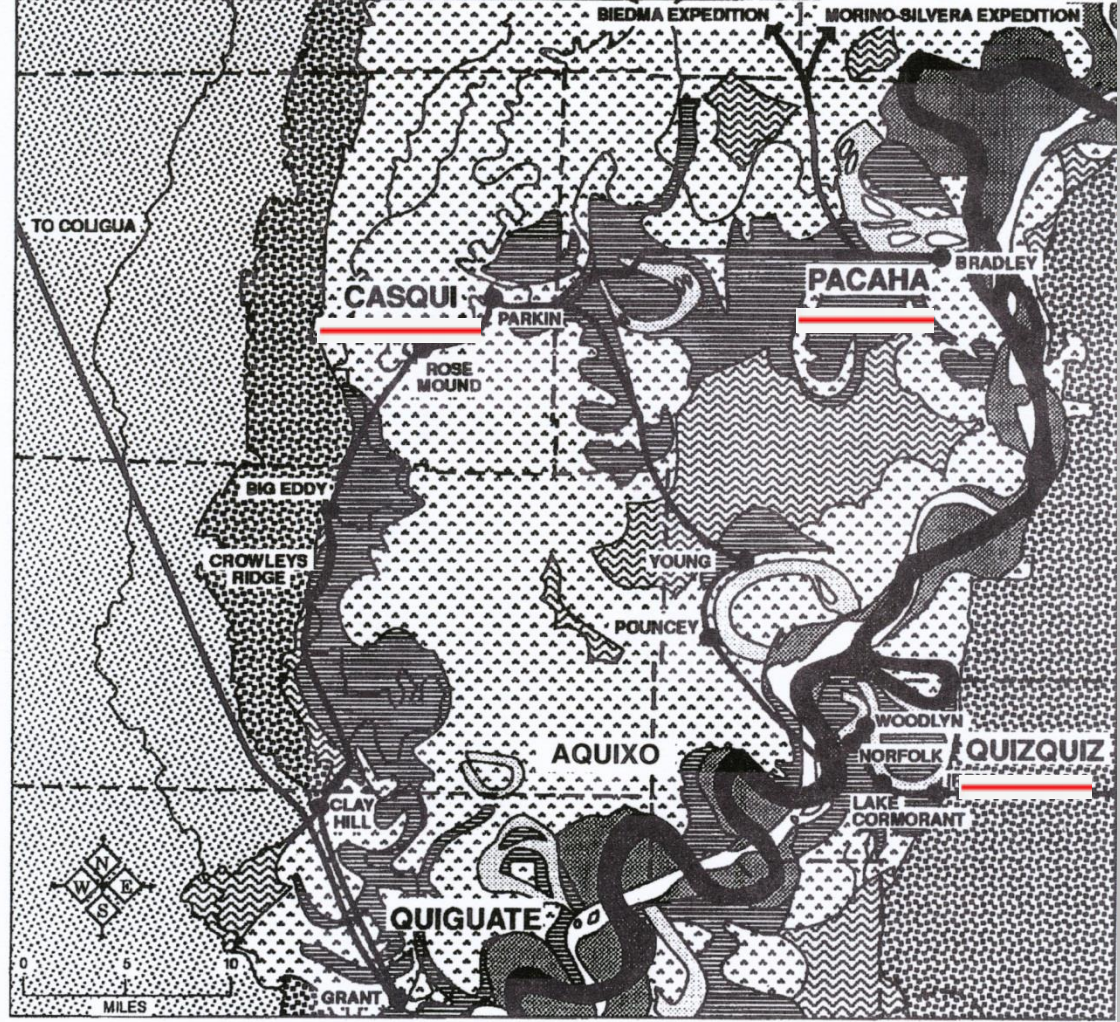















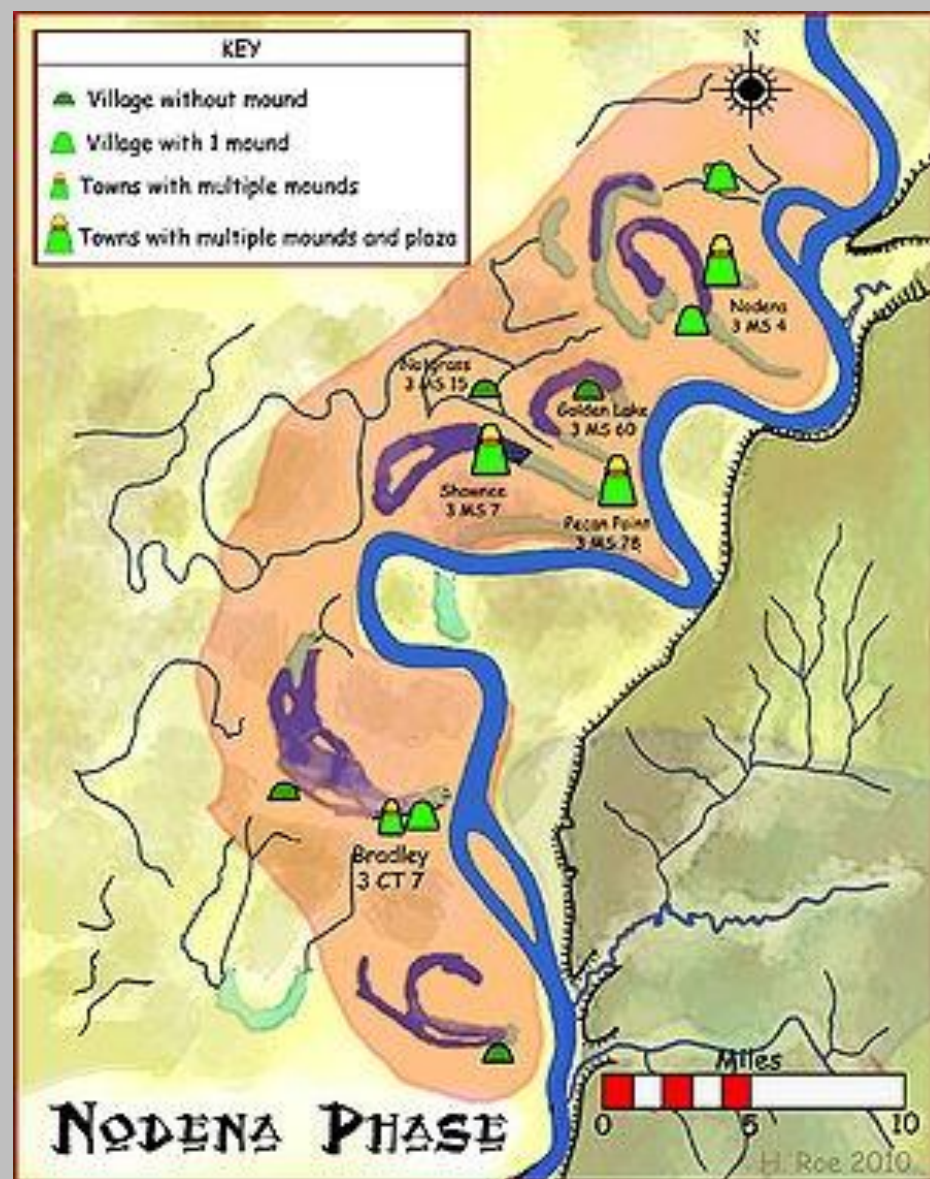


7 Quizquiz and  
the Mississippi  
River crossing





- |   |                        |   |  |
|---|------------------------|---|--|
|  | braided stream surface |  | Mississippi River - 16th century channel |
|  | loess uplands          |  | Mississippi River - present day channel  |
|  | deep swamps            |  | post 16th century disturbances           |
|  | back swamps            |  | meander lakes                            |
|  | natural levee soils    |  | rivers or streams                        |
|   |                        |  | present day county boundaries            |







# PARKIN PHASE SITES

ALONG THE ST FRANCIS AND TYRONZA RIVERS





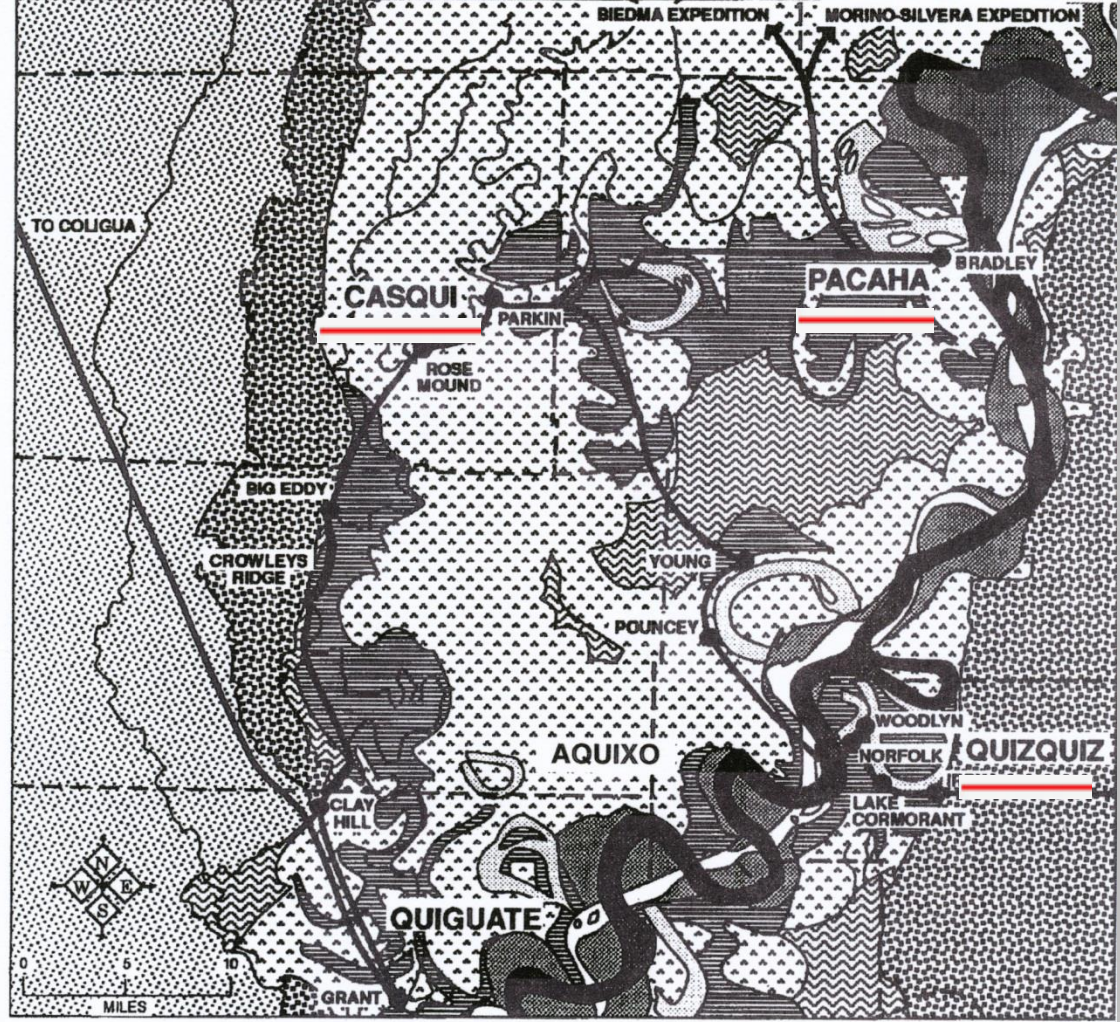













Casqui (the Parkin site)

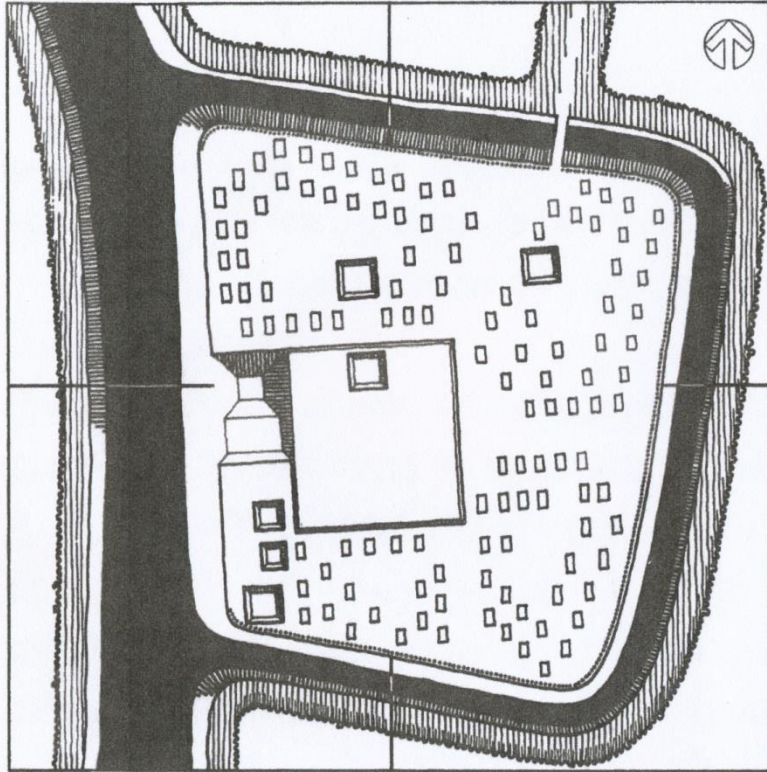


8 Casqui, the  
Parkin site





- |   |                        |   |  |
|---|------------------------|---|--|
|  | braided stream surface |  | Mississippi River - 16th century channel |
|  | loess uplands          |  | Mississippi River - present day channel  |
|  | deep swamps            |  | post 16th century disturbances           |
|  | back swamps            |  | meander lakes                            |
|  | natural levee soils    |  | rivers or streams                        |
|   |                        |  | present day county boundaries            |



Reconstruction of the Parkin site.



*"Official Greeting"*



# Parkin Archeological State Park, Arkansas

*"The Noble Lineage"*

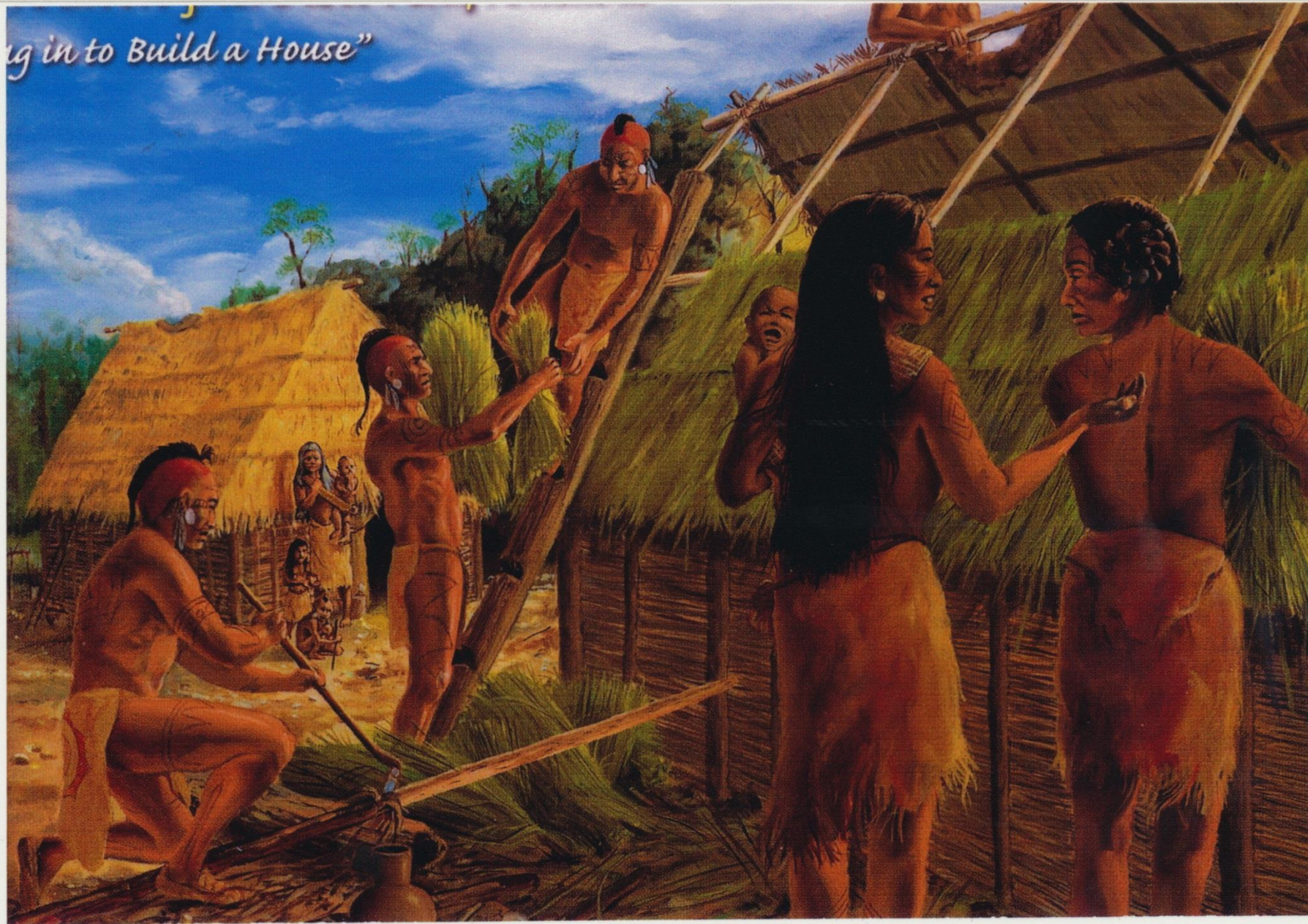




ing in the Delta”



ing in to Build a House"



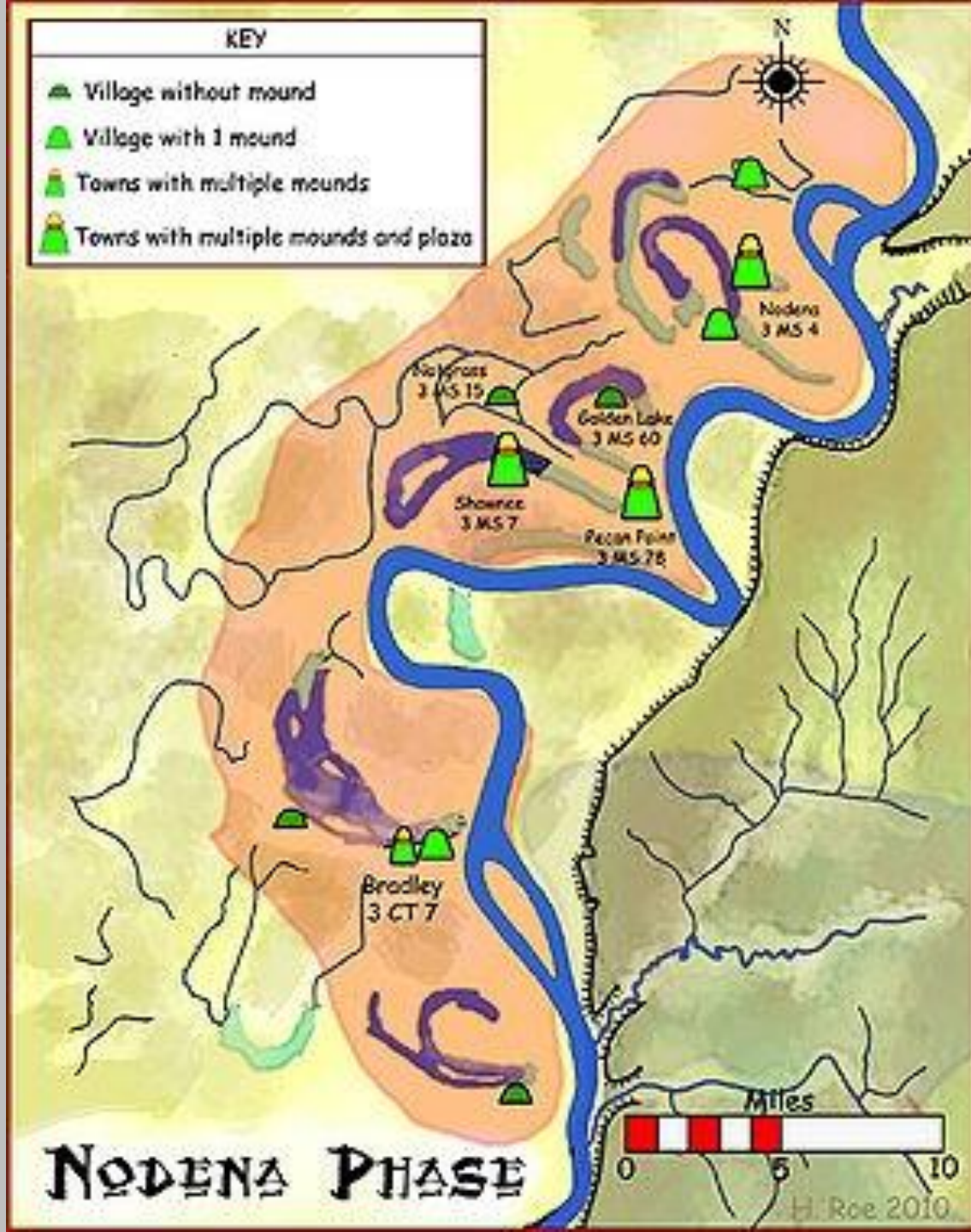
*Busy Summer Day*

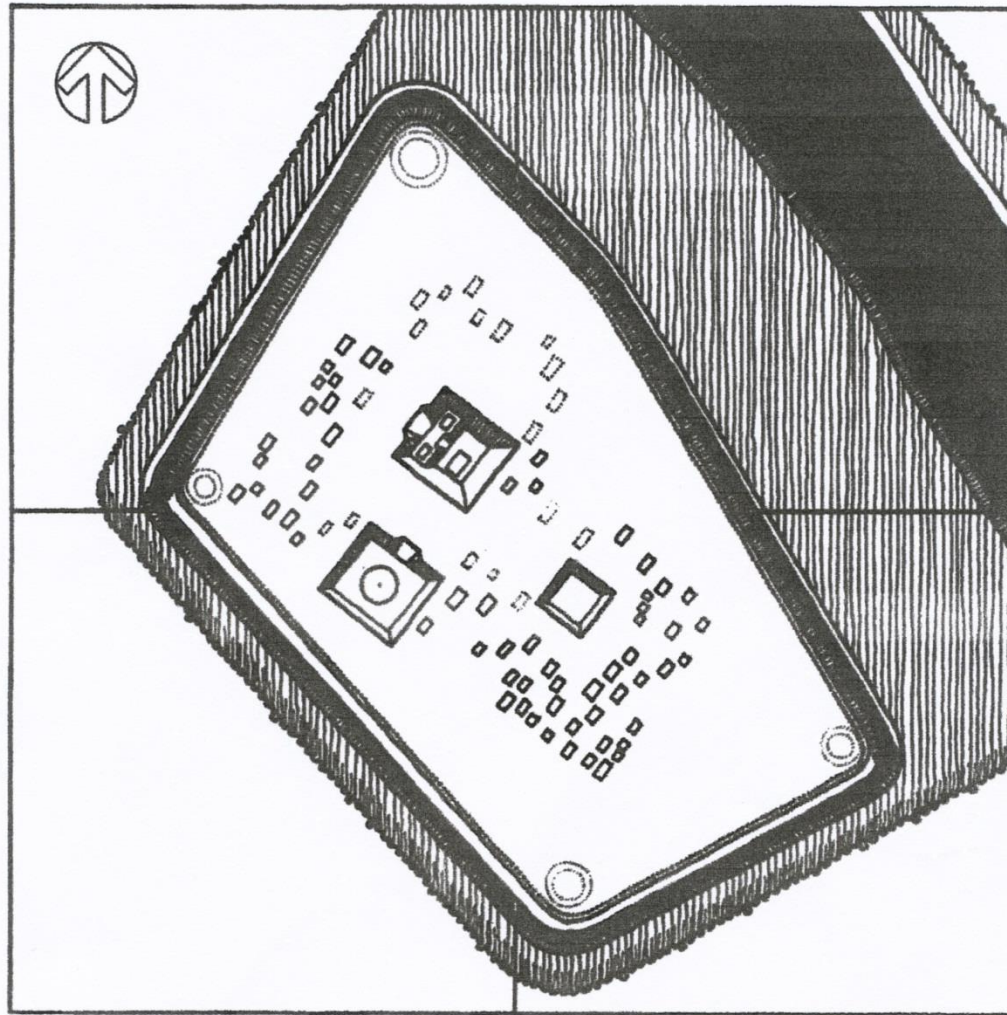












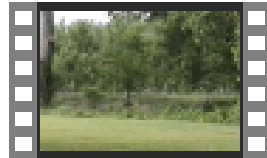
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Reconstruction of the Upper Nodena site.





**Pacaha (the Bradley site)**



9

Pacaha--Hamps  
on Museum, the  
Bradley site











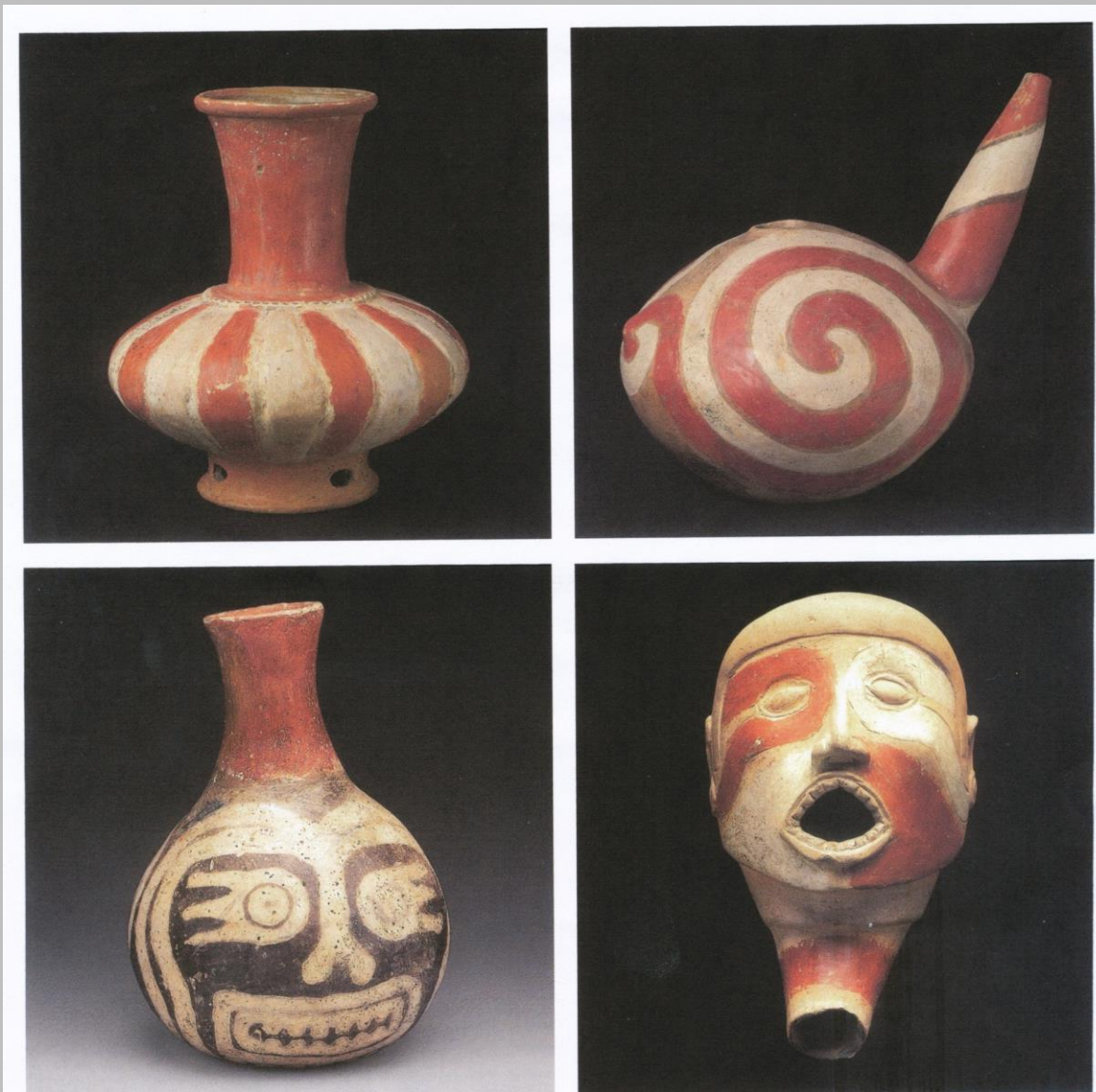




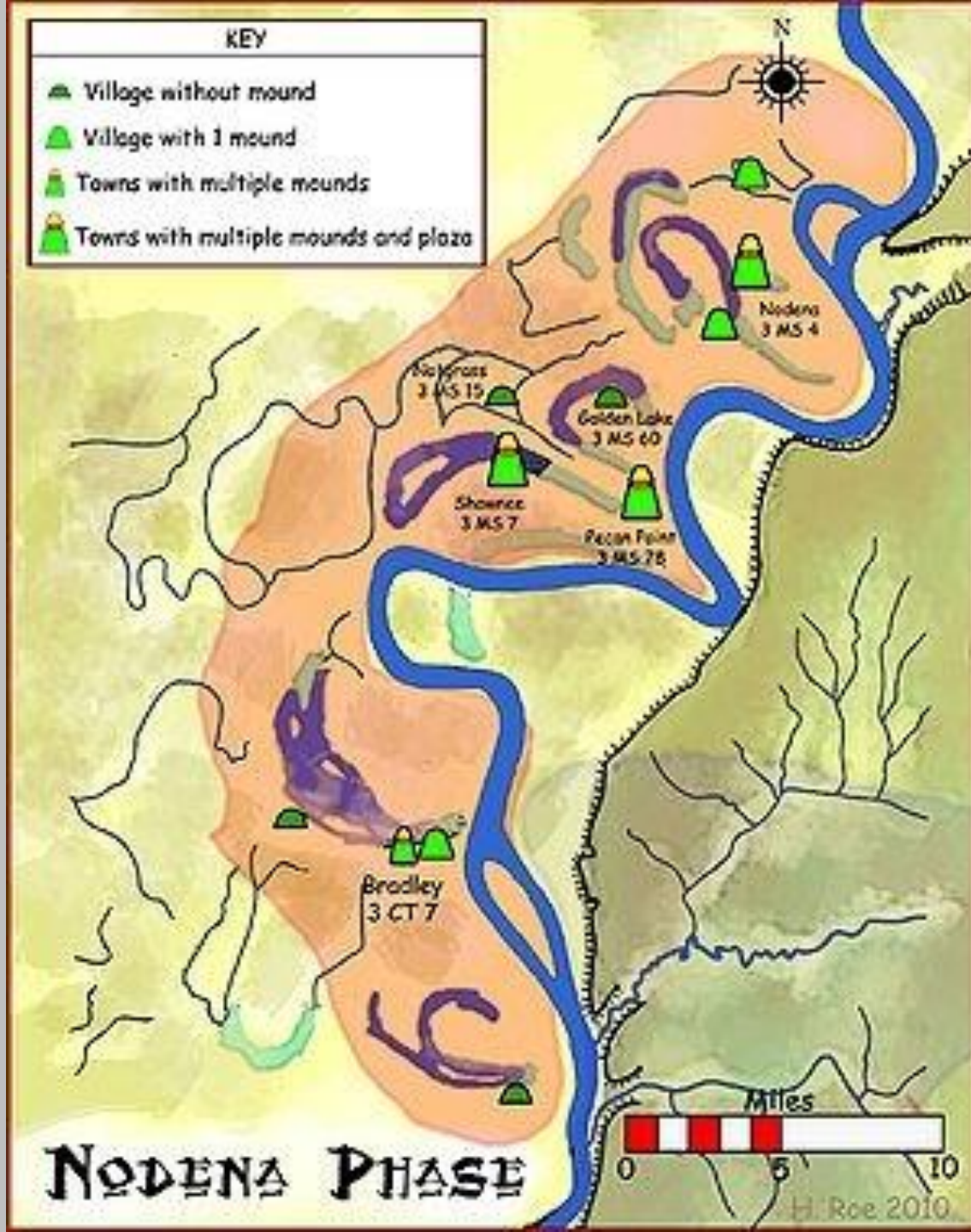








Nodena pottery







Pacaha-The Nodena Site circa 1559





Archaeological complexes at time of de Soto

	NODENA PHASE
	PARKIN
	KENT
	BELLE MEADE, WALLS
	MENARD COMPLEX

## PROPOSED ROUTE OF THE DE SOTO EXPEDITION

THRU MISSISSIPPI AND ARKANSAS,  
TO THE POINT WHERE DESOTO DIES

Based on the Charles Hudson Map of 1997

Herb Roe 2008



*The Expedition of  
Hernando de Soto  
West of the Mississippi,  
1541-1543*



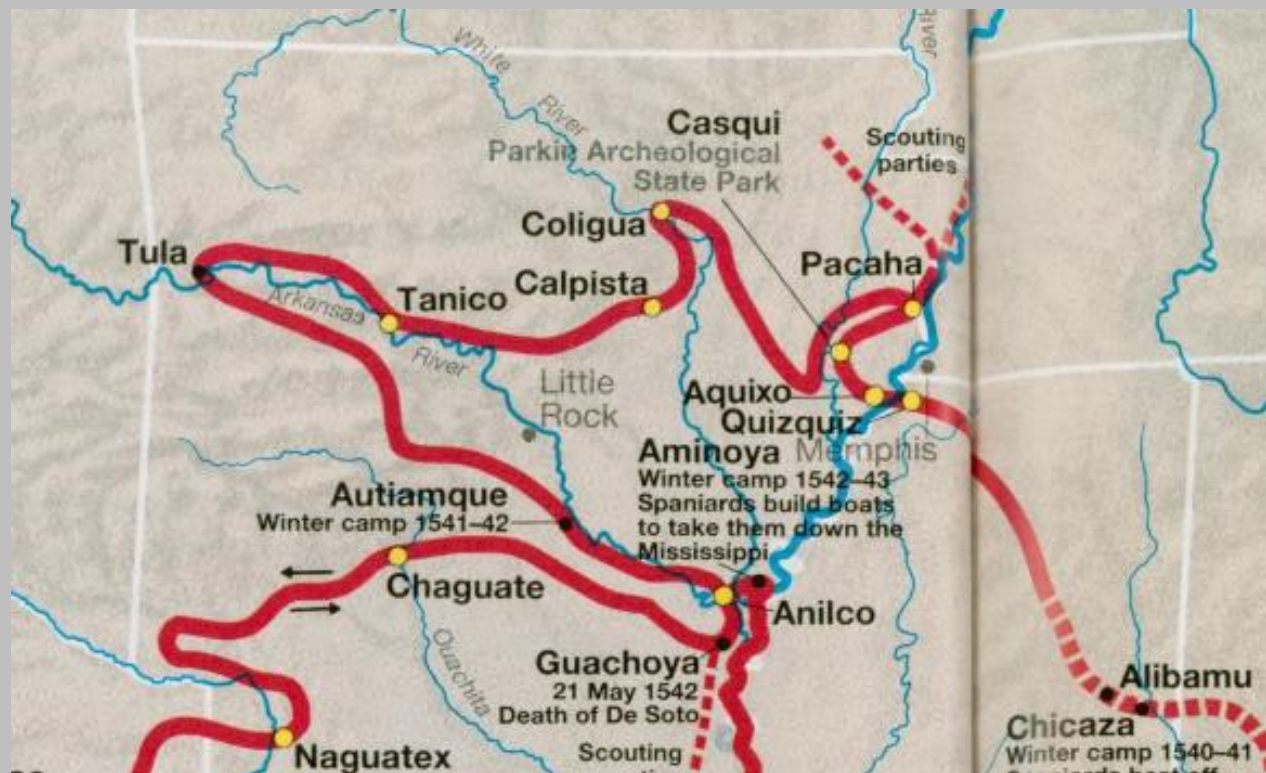
PROCEEDINGS OF THE DE SOTO SYMPOSIA 1988 AND 1990

EDITED BY  
Gloria A. Young and Michael P. Hoffman

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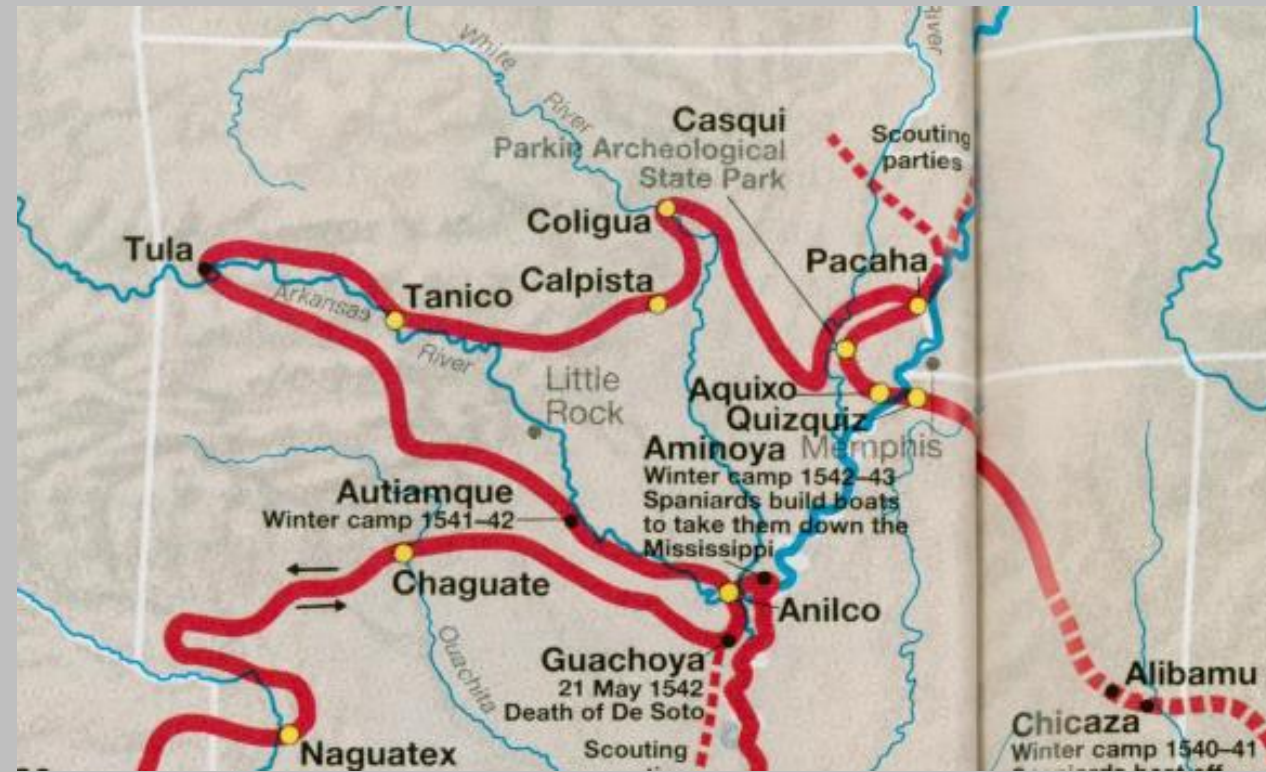
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They spent most of the summer and fall wandering around western Arkansas. Many scholars believe they may have traveled up the Arkansas River almost to eastern Oklahoma before going into their 1541-42 winter quarters in a town (Autiamque) once again commandeered from the Indians. Though the weather was severe, the men stayed fairly snug. Their slaves built a strong stockade around the camp and dragged in ample supplies of firewood. Local Indians provided them with buffalo robes to use as overcoats and to sleep on, and showed them how to snare the rabbits that frequented the nearby cornfields.

During the long days inside the stockade, De Soto at last faced up to his situation. He had lost half his force. Not all had died in battle. A few, despairing of seeing the end of the quest, had deserted to live with the Indians, and the number would increase if he persisted in wandering as he had been doing. Of the original 223 horses, only 40 remained, most of them lame for want of shoes. The death of Juan Ortiz that winter deprived him of his best, if very uncertain, means of communication with the Indians. Reluctantly he decided to turn back to Mississippi. There he intended to build two brigantines and, manning them with his most trustworthy men, send one to Havana and one to Pánuco in hope that one would be able to lead reinforcements back to those who would wait for them at the river.



On May 21, 1542, he died.

To keep the Indians from knowing the fate of the great Child of the Sun, as he had been describing himself to them, his followers buried him near the entrance to the town and rode horses back and forth to destroy signs of the digging. The Indians were suspicious, however, and so Moscoso had the corpse disinterred, lest the Indians dig it up and mutilate it. A handful of men then stealthily wrapped the body in a shroud, weighted the burden with sand, and in the darkness of the night rowed out onto the river and dumped it overboard.



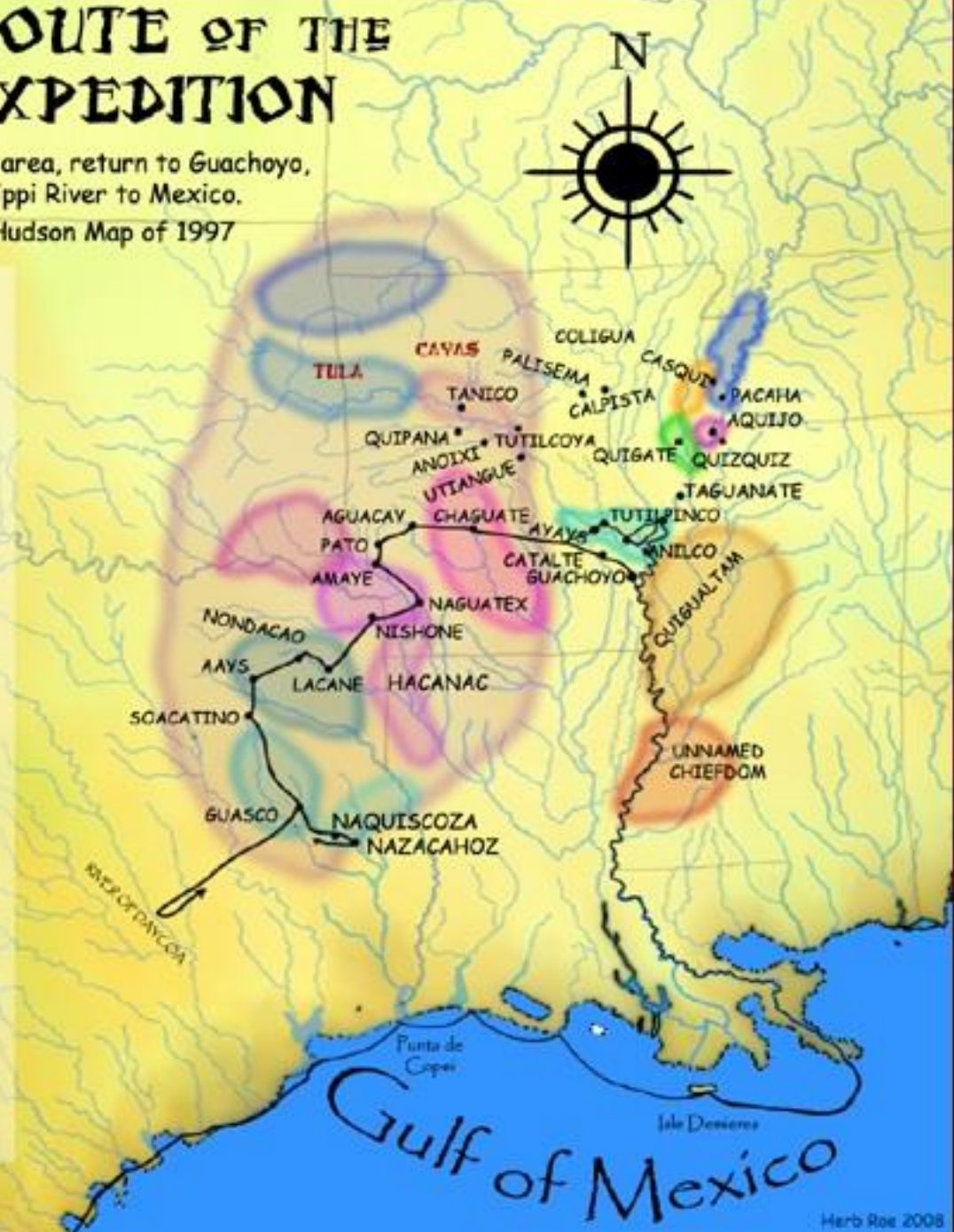
# PROPOSED ROUTE OF THE DE SOTO EXPEDITION

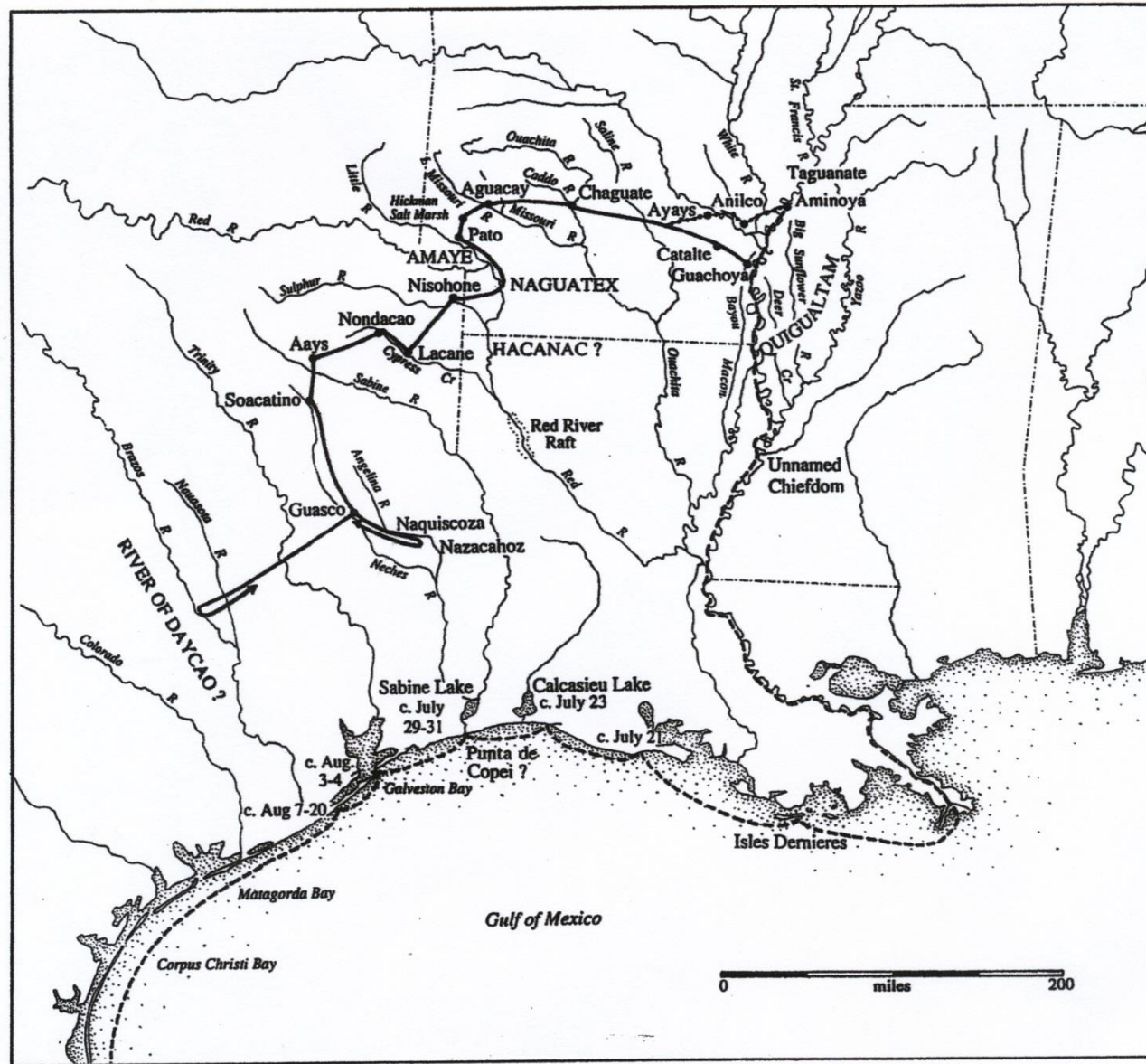
Moscoso expedition to Texas area, return to Guachoyo, departure down Mississippi River to Mexico.

Based on the Charles Hudson Map of 1997

Known archaeological phases at the time of the de Soto Entrada

- GREATER CADDO AREA
- MID-OUACHITA
- TEXARKANA
- McCURTAIN
- BELCHER
- UN-NAMED
- TITUS
- FRANKSTON
- ANGELINA
- FORT COFFEE
- NEOSHA
- LAKE GEORGE PHASE
- NATCHEZ
- MENARD PHASE
- KENT PHASE
- PARKIN
- BELLE MEADE, WALLS
- NODENA PHASE





Map 8. Moscoso's route from Guachoya to the Gulf of Mexico, 1542-1543.

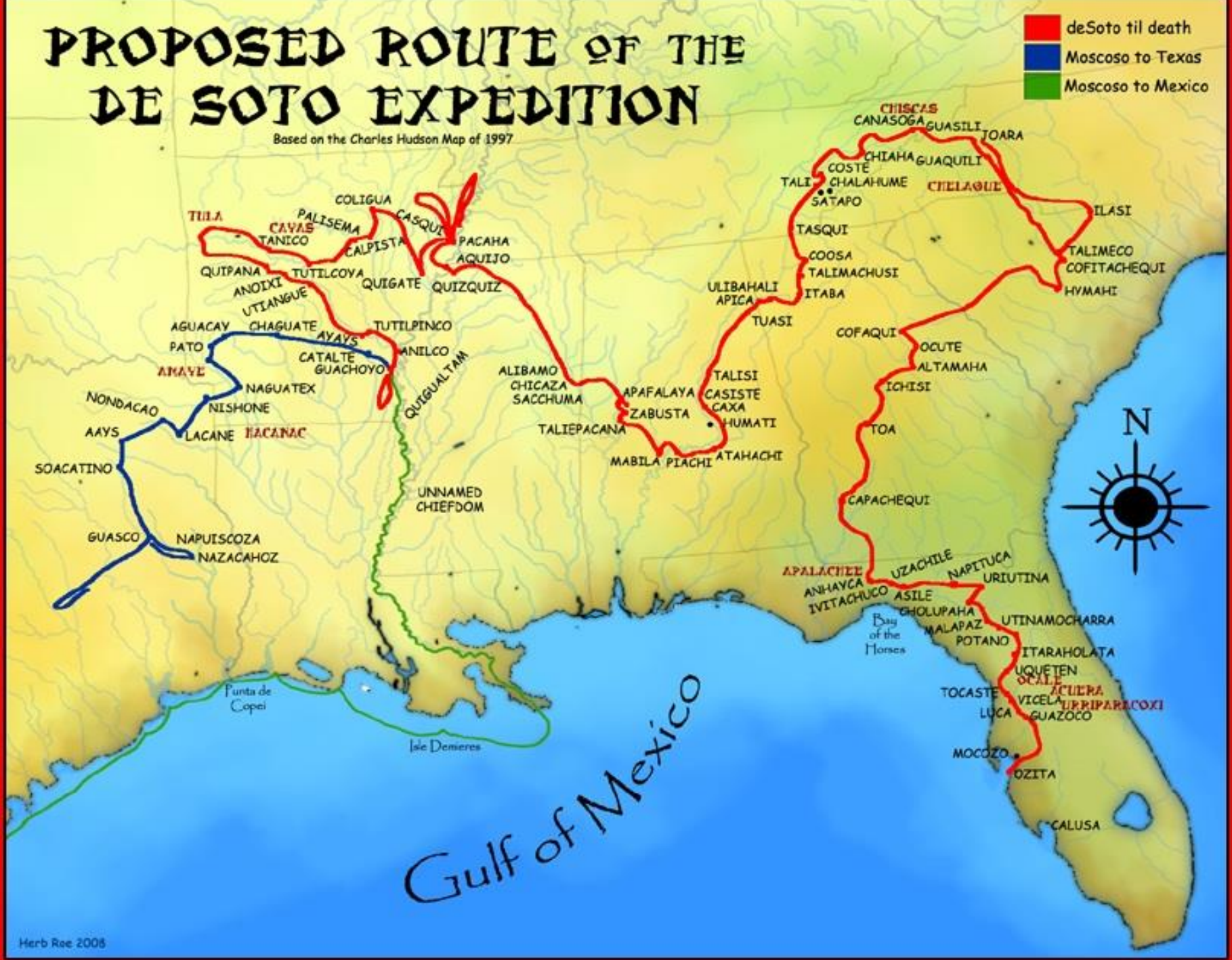




# PROPOSED ROUTE OF THE DE SOTO EXPEDITION

Based on the Charles Hudson Map of 1997

- deSoto til death
- Moscoso to Texas
- Moscoso to Mexico



Gulf of Mexico

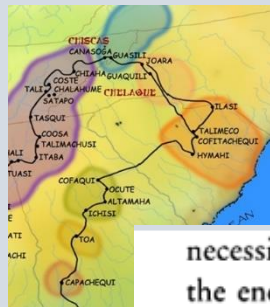
## What about those pigs?



1539, Florida....

Whereupon they doubled their daily marches, and they could do it easily because the country was flat, without woods, mountains, or rivers to impede their swift pace. They crossed the province of Achalague in five days' march and left its curaca and natives very peaceably inclined and friendly toward the Castilians. So that they would remember them, the governor gave them, among other presents, two swine, male and female, for breeding. He had done the same for the cacique of Altapaha and the lords of the other provinces who had come out peacefully and made friends with the Spaniards. Though hitherto we have not mentioned that the adelantado had taken these animals to La Florida, it is true that he took more than three hundred head, male and female, which multiplied greatly and were exceedingly useful in the great necessities that our Castilians suffered in this discovery. If the Indians (abhorring more the memory of those who brought these animals than esteeming their usefulness) have not destroyed them, it is probable that, in consideration of the advantages that great kingdom has for breeding them, there are many of them there today, for besides those the governor gave to the friendly curacas, many others were lost along the roads, though they were well and carefully guarded. While on the march one of the companies of cavalry was assigned especially to herd and guard them.

## What about those pigs?



1540, on the way to Cofitachequi....

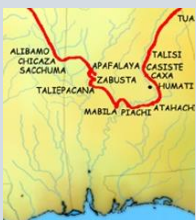
necessity. We traveled through this uninhabited region thirteen days, and at the end of them we arrived at some cabins [*cabañas*]. The Indians had already lost their bearings, and they did not know where to go or what road to give us.

The Governor went out to look for it and returned despairing of being able to find it; he made the people return about half a league from there to a large river, and there he began to give a pound of pork to each Christian as rations from some pigs that we were taking with us, and we ate it boiled in water without salt or anything else. And from here the Governor sent people in two directions to look for a road; one he sent upriver, north and north-east, and the other he sent downriver, south and southeast, and he gave to each one a limit of ten days to go and come back, to see if they found some road or saw a trace of a town.

They made a string of thirty or forty men tied one with another, and thus they crossed, the ones holding themselves to the others; and although some were in much danger, thanks to God not one drowned, because they aided them with the horses, and gave them the butt of their lance or the tail of their horse, and thus all came forth and slept in a forest.

This day they lost many pigs of those that they had brought tame from Cuba, which the current carried off. The next day, Sunday, they went to another forest or grove [*boscaje*] to rest; and the next day, Monday, they traveled without a road and crossed another very large river, and on Tuesday they spent the night alongside a stream, and on Wednesday they arrived at

## What about those pigs?



February 1541, at Chicaza....

in Chicaça, on that occasion they did not dare attack us. The governor invited the cacique and certain of the principal Indians [to visit him] and gave them some pork to eat. And although they were not accustomed to it, they lusted after it so much that Indians would come nightly to certain houses a crossbow shot away from the camp where the hogs were sleeping and kill and carry off as many as they could. Three Indians were seized in the act, two of whom the governor ordered to be shot with arrows and the hands of the other cut off. In that condition he sent him to the cacique, who expressed regret that they had troubled the governor and was glad that justice had been executed on them. He [the cacique] was in an open plain a half league from where the Christians were.\* Four of the horsemen went thither

March 1541, attack on the Spaniards at Chicaza....

they could not have journeyed in any other way. In that turn of fortune eleven Christians and fifty horses died. Of the swine, one hundred were left, and four hundred were burned. If, perchance, any one still had had any clothing left from the fire at Mavilla, it was now all burned up in that place [Chicaça]; and many were naked as they had no time to snatch their jerkins.<sup>175</sup> There they endured great suffering from the cold, for which they got relief in large fires. The whole night was passed turning from one side to

## What about those pigs?



1542, after de Soto's death....

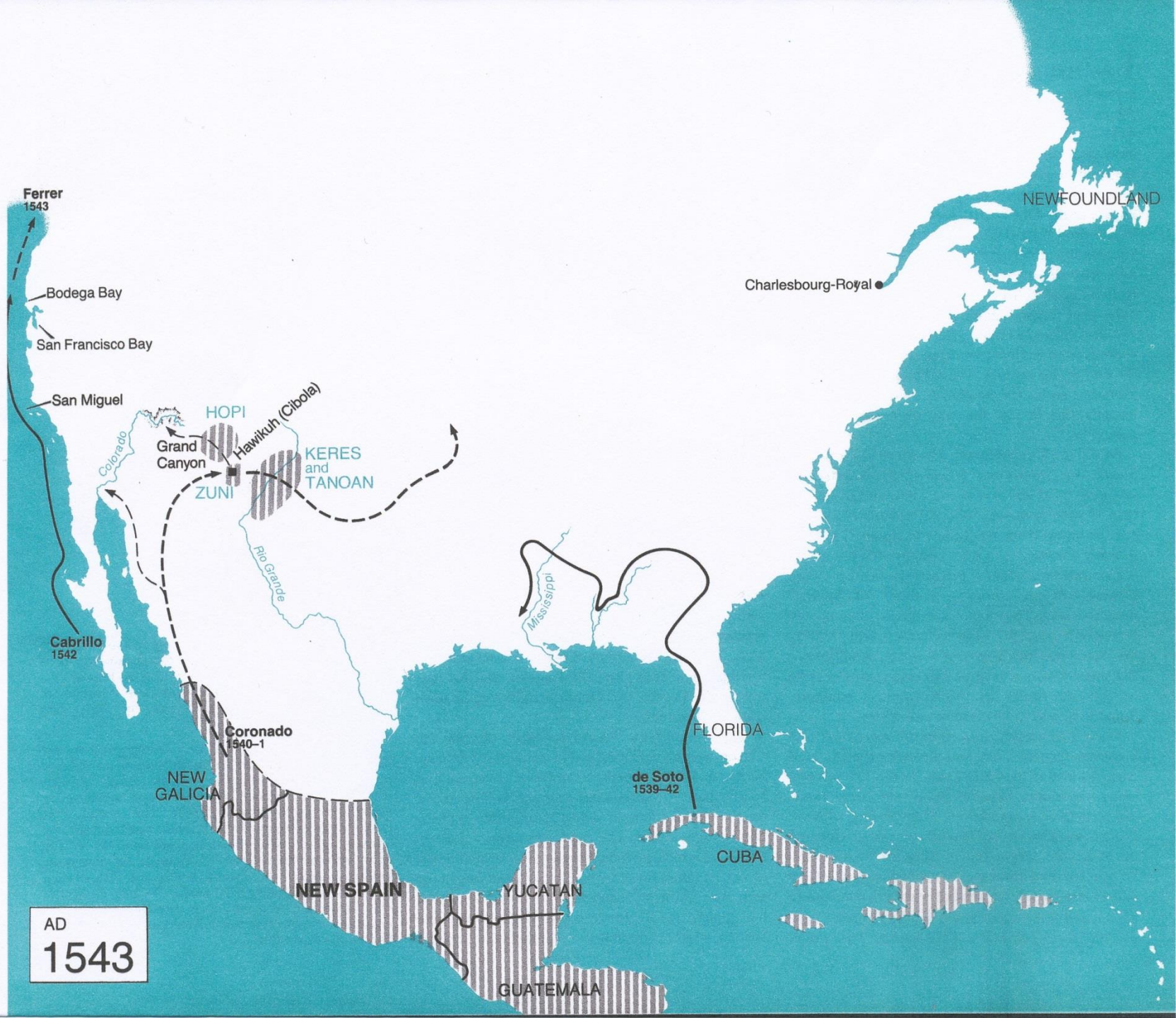
him. Luis de Moscoso ordered the property of the governor to be sold at auction, namely, two men slaves, two women slaves, three horses, and seven hundred hogs.<sup>245</sup> For each horse or slave, two or three thousand cruzados were given, which were to be paid at the first melting of gold or silver, or from their repartimientos. They pledged themselves that, even though there might be nothing in the land, they would make payment within a year, and for that purpose, those who had no property in Spain gave bonds. For a hog, two hundred cruzados, pledged in the same way [were given]. Those who had property in Spain bought more timidly and bought less. Thenceforward, most of the men had hogs and reared and ate them. They observed Fridays and Saturdays and the vespers of holidays, which they had not done before; for two or three months would pass without their eating meat, and they had eaten it on any day they could get it.











Ferrer  
1543

Bodega Bay

San Francisco Bay

San Miguel

HOPÍ

Grand  
Canyon

ZUNI

Hawikuh (Cibola)

KERES  
and  
TANOAN

Rio Grande

Cabrillo  
1542

Coronado  
1540-1

NEW  
GALICIA

FLORIDA

de Soto  
1539-42

CUBA

NEW SPAIN

YUCATAN

GUATEMALA

NEWFOUNDLAND

Charlesbourg-Royal

AD  
1543