

The Santa Fe Trail

The Santa Fe Trail







1841-1869

Western Migration

Dreams of Gold and a Better Life Drive Mass Movement

Illustration by Robert Davidson



MID-1800s *Americans Make the West Their Own*

"If hell lay to the west," most a 19th-century settler, "Americans would cross horses to get there." It may have seemed that way, with 300,000 people setting west along the Oregon-California Trail corridor in the mid-1840s. Pioneers would surely find it there, but they were coming hell to north horses—if they could in that far perhaps one or two companies did on horse. Times were tough in the early 1840s, and explorers painted pictures of lands lush with grain, furs, and gold.

Great Plains, the only lands left were in the Far West. The plains themselves were considered desolate, fit only for Indians, and the federal government did no best to put them there. The 1820 Indian Removal had forced tribes out of the Mississippi River to trade their land for prairie. Now after the Civil War, a railroad linked the coasts and settlers discovered the fertility of the Great Plains. Indians would be separated into smaller and smaller reservations.

"The whole country remains with the world as if it were a desert," wrote the field in a letter to the home. The field and everything he had to do was to find a way to make it.



1846 *California Hits the Mother Lode*

When a thousand miners set out for Oregon by wagon in 1845, it was called the California Trail. In the spring of 1847, after prospectors had been searching the hills for a year, perhaps 30,000 more would be miners and not westward from Missouri for California, and another 25,000 would be miners ready to see Francisco Bay. Few were to reach, but the mining surge—hundreds of thousands before it was over—would California along the first track to westward.



OREGON TRAIL *Pioneers Settle New Land, Old Claims*



After 1845, the Oregon Trail was the main route for pioneers to settle in the West. It was a long and difficult journey, but it opened up vast new lands for settlement. Pioneers brought their families and livestock, and they found a new life in the West.

MINNESOTA TERRITORY *Morning Trail, Latter-day Saints Find Their Zion*



The Mormon pioneers found a new home in the West. They settled in the Great Salt Lake Valley, where they built a self-sufficient community. The Mormons were a religious group that believed in the coming of Jesus Christ.

"There are few better places in the world than the West. It is a land of opportunity and a better life than anywhere else."

Western Trails

Trail	Start	End	Year
Oregon Trail	Independence, Mo.	Fort Vancouver, W. Va.	1842-1849
California Trail	Independence, Mo.	San Francisco, Calif.	1842-1849
Santa Fe Trail	Independence, Mo.	Santa Fe, N.M.	1821-1880
Overland Trail	Independence, Mo.	Fort Union, N.M.	1842-1880

1845-49 *Term of Expansion*

"Who is James H. Pelt?" asked "What do you think of James H. Pelt?" asked "Who is James H. Pelt?" asked "What do you think of James H. Pelt?" asked

"For an Illinoiser, a number of miles there seemed to be an unworldly distance. It was a long and difficult journey, but it opened up vast new lands for settlement. Pioneers brought their families and livestock, and they found a new life in the West."

"The pioneers of the West were a brave and adventurous people. They were the first to cross the great mountains and the vast plains of the West. They found a new life in the West, and they built a new nation."

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"We passed a fresh made grave today. The head board states his age to be 21 years. . . . Came to his death by accidentally shooting himself through the head. Many such accidents occur on the plains."
-WILLIS READ, 1850

During the gold rush years Cherokee with gold-mining experience from their former homelands in Georgia helped blaze trails west from Arkansas and Oklahoma.

"No one who has not commanded an expedition of this kind, where everything ahead is dim, uncertain, and unknown, except the dangers, can imagine the anxiety with which I start upon my journey."
-EDWARD F. BEALE, 1857

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THE SANTA FE TRAIL 1821-1880: CLASS SCHEDULE

Wednesdays 1:30—3 PM

- | | |
|--------|---|
| Feb 1 | Background: the Land, the Peoples, Origin of the Trail |
| Feb 8 | On the Trail: Westport to Ash Creek |
| Feb 15 | On the Trail: the Mountain Route |
| Feb 22 | On the Trail: the Cimarron Cutoff |
| Mar 1 | The Violent Trail: Comanches, Texans, and the Mexican War |
| Mar 8 | The Civil War on the Trail, 1862: Valverde |
| Mar 15 | The Civil War on the Trail, 1862: Glorieta Pass |
| Mar 22 | Trail's End: Santa Fe and New Mexico |

This list is available on the OLLI website: “Current Courses,” then “Course Downloads,” then “Spring 2023,” then “Santa Fe Trail.”

Spring 2023

Fred Christensen
fchriste@illinois.edu

THE SANTA FE TRAIL

* = specially recommended

HISTORIES—THE TRAIL:

*David Dary, **The Santa Fe Trail: Its History, Legends and Lore** (2000)
(good up-to-date account of the Trail's entire history)

Stanley Vestal, **The Old Santa Fe Trail** (1939, reprinted 1996)
(classic older account, with lots of vivid anecdotes and yarns)

HISTORIES—GENERAL / BACKGROUND / SPECIFIC PLACES:

William Brandon, **Quivira: Europeans in the Region of the Santa Fe Trail, 1540-1820** (1991)
(early explorers and crossings of the Great Plains before 1821)

Paul Horgan, **The Centuries of Santa Fe** (1956, reprinted 1994)
(portrait of the city through representative types of its many cultures)

*David Lavender, **Bent's Fort** (1972)
(the story of the famous fur-trading and supply center on the Trail)

Hampton Sides, **Blood and Thunder: An Epic of the American West** (2006)
(Kit Carson, the Navajo, and the US conquest of the Southwest)

TRAVELERS' ACCOUNTS:

*Josiah Gregg, **Commerce of the Prairies** (1844; many reprints)
(famous detailed description by a successful trader)

*Susan Shelby Magoffin, **Down the Santa Fe Trail and Into Mexico, 1846-1847:**
The Diary of Susan Shelby Magoffin (reprinted 1982)
(vivid description by an 18-year old newlywed)

*Marian Sloan Russell, **Land of Enchantment:** Memoirs of Marian Russell along the Santa Fe Trail, as dictated to Mrs. Hal Russell (1954, reprinted 1981, 1985)
(seven-year old Marian traveled the Trail in 1852 and in her old age described her experiences to her daughter-in-law.)

GUIDEBOOKS:

Gregory Franzwa, **The Santa Fe Trail Revisited** (1989)
(very thorough and detailed guidebook for true "rut nuts")

*Marc Simmons and Hal Jackson, **Following the Santa Fe Trail: A Guide for Modern Travelers** (third edition, 2001)
(extremely clear and useful guide for auto tours along the Trail)

THE INDIAN TRIBES:

S. C. Gwynne, **Empire of the Summer Moon: Quanah Parker and the Rise and Fall of the Comanche, the Most Powerful Indian Tribe in American History** (2010)
(a vivid portrait of the last great war chief of the Comanche, his people and their history)

*Pekka Hämiläinen, **The Comanche Empire** (2008)
(best account of the tribe's culture and history)

THE MEXICAN WAR ON THE TRAIL:

William Y. Chalfant, **Dangerous Passage: the Santa Fe Trail and the Mexican War** (1994)
(military history of Kearny's army, the Mormon Battalion, and clashes with the Indians.)

*Bernard de Voto, **The Year of Decision: 1846** (1942)
(vivid and accurate portrayal of "some people who went west in 1846"—Kearny's Army of the West, Mormons, other settlers and traders.)

Winston Groom, **Kearny's March: The Epic Creation of the American West, 1846-47** (2011)
(essentially a recent rewrite of de Voto, almost as good as that classic work.)

THE CIVIL WAR ON THE TRAIL:

*Don Alberts, **The Battle of Glorieta: Union Victory in the West** (1998)
(best and most detailed account of this crucial engagement)

Don Alberts, ed., **Rebels on the Rio Grande: The Civil War Journal of A. B. Peticolas** (1993)
(fascinating diary of a Texas soldier equipped with pen and sketchbook)

Thomas Edrington and John M. Taylor, **The Battle of Glorieta Pass: A Gettysburg in the West, March 26-28, 1862** (1998)
(good brief and well-illustrated account)

*Donald S. Frazier, **Blood and Treasure: Confederate Empire in the Southwest** (1995)
(excellent history of the entire campaign)

Martin H. Hall, **Sibley's New Mexico Campaign** (1960, rev. ed. 2000)
(good older account emphasizing the Confederate side)

Alvin M. Joseph, Jr., **The Civil War in the American West** (1991), part 1, "The Glory Road to New Mexico"
(good brief survey, along with coverage of the other events in this vast area)

John M. Taylor, **Bloody Valverde: A Civil War Battle on the Rio Grande, February 21, 1862** (1995)
(good brief and well-illustrated account)

Jerry D. Thompson, **Desert Tiger: Captain Paddy Graydon and the Civil War in the Far Southwest** (1992)
(fascinating study of one of the more colorful participants in the campaign)

William C. Whitford, **The Colorado Volunteers in the Civil War: the New Mexico Campaign in 1862** (1906, repr. 1971, 1994)
(older account drawing on state records and veterans' memories)

BEYOND BLUE AND GRAY:

*Andrew E. Masich, **Civil War in the Southwest Borderlands 1861-1867** (2017)

*Megan Kate Nelson, **The Three-Cornered War: The Union, the Confederacy and Native Peoples in the Fight for the West**, (2020)

REFERENCE WORKS:

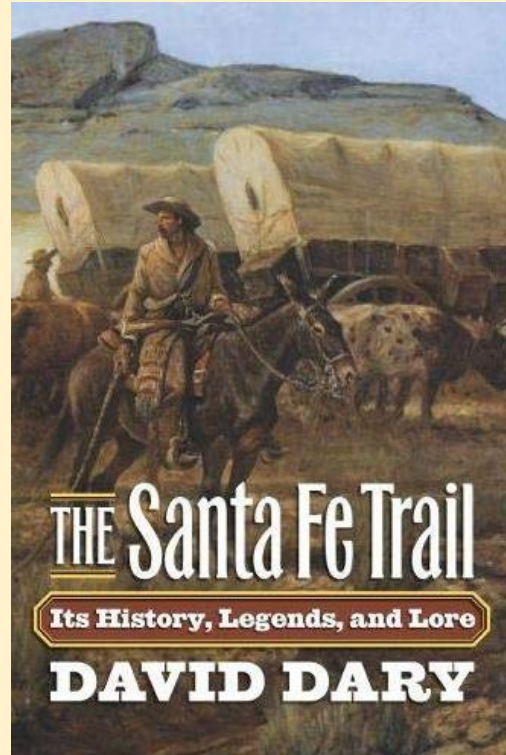
Louise Barry, **The Beginning of the West: Annals of the Kansas Gateway to the American West 1540-1854** (1972)
(1,232-page, compilation of all documentary sources, frontier newspaper reports of events, etc., all arranged chronologically. A wonderful source of detailed information.)

Gregory M. Franzwa, **Maps of the Santa Fe Trail** (1989)
(Every mile of the Trail depicted on modern county maps, with detailed notes and comments.)

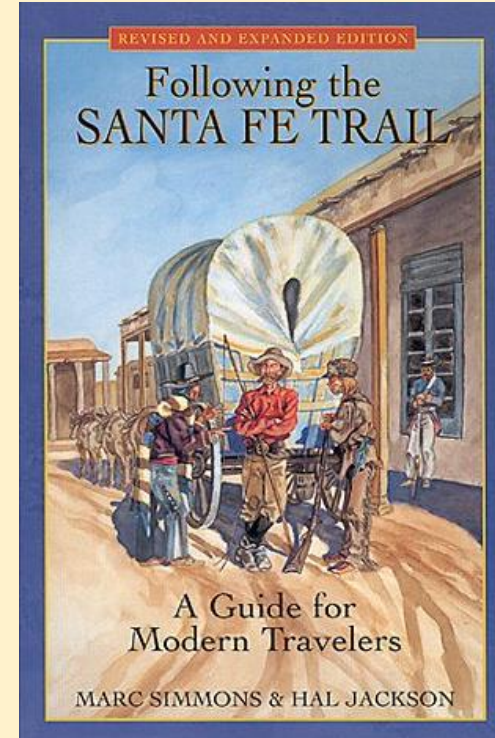
*Howard R. Lamar, ed., **New Encyclopedia of the American West** (1998)
(Complete contents available online through the UI Library, for I-Card holders using their NetID and password, at http://vufind.carli.illinois.edu/vf-uu/Record/uu_6852626)

David J. Wishart, ed., **Encyclopedia of the Great Plains** (2004)
(Complete contents available online as <http://plainshumanities.unl.edu/encyclopedia/>)

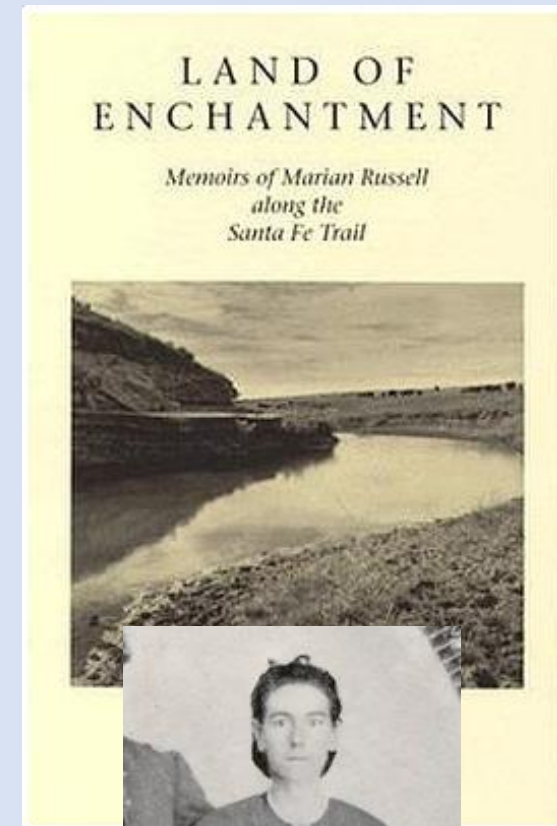
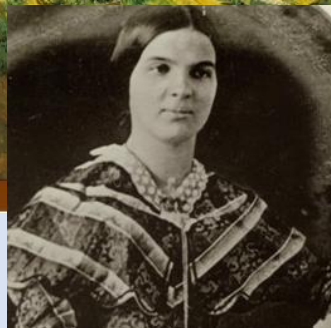
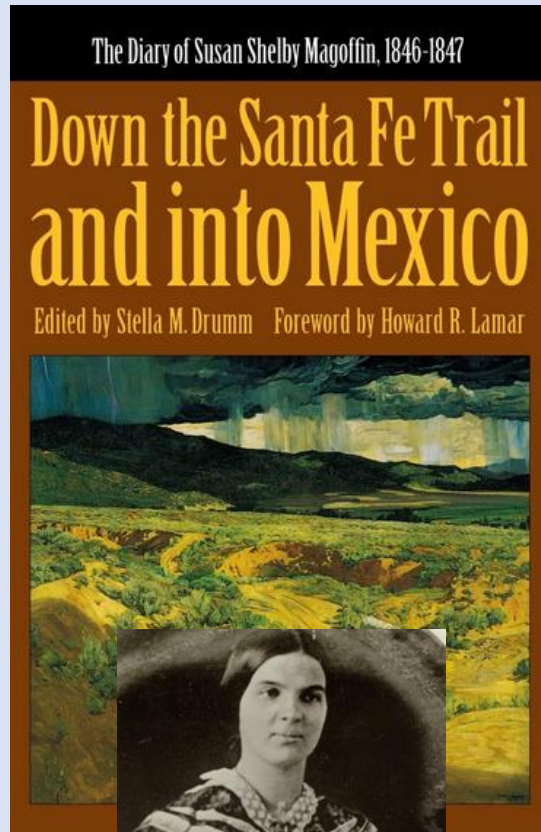
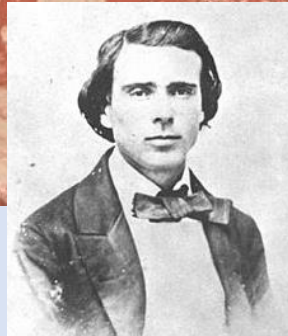
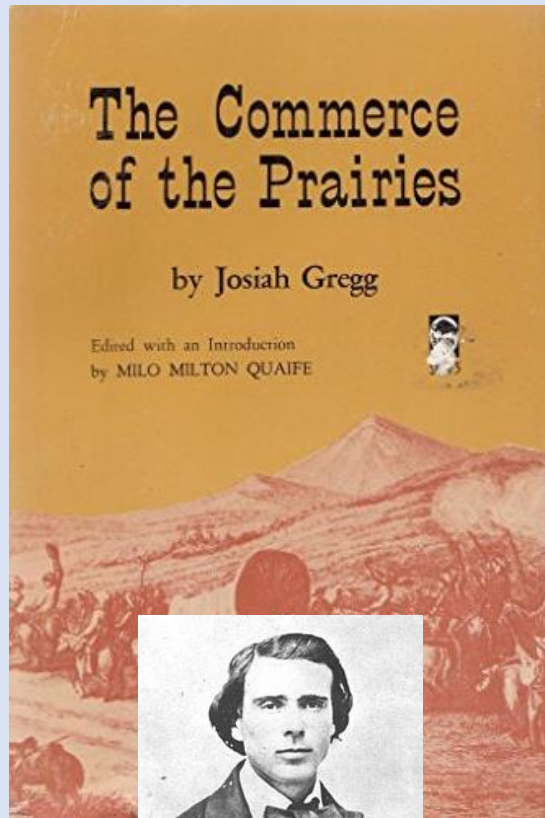
A good history of the Trail—



Best guidebook for driving the Trail—



The memoirs of travelers on the Santa Fe Trail provide fascinating information. Here are three famous examples.



Santa Fe Trail

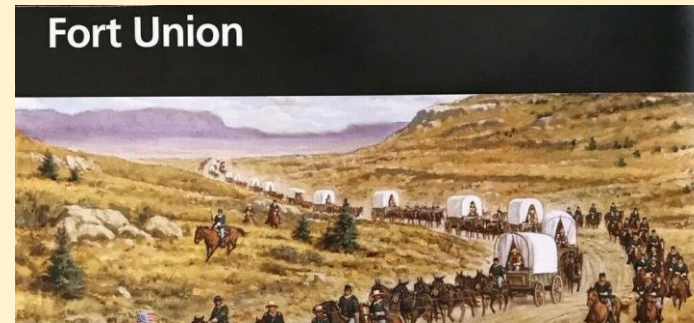
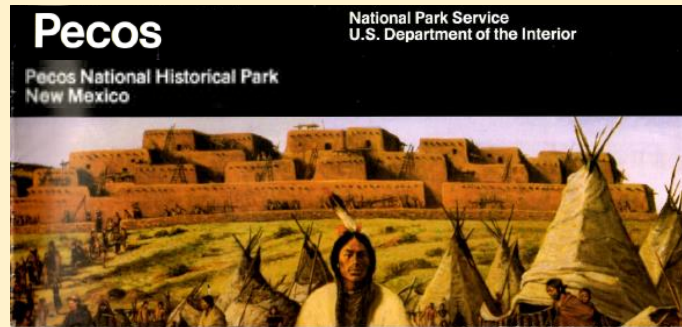
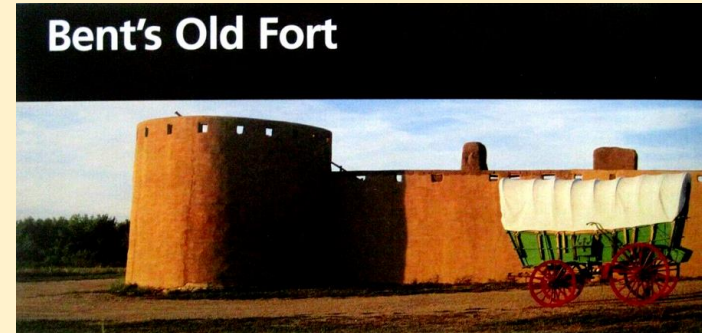
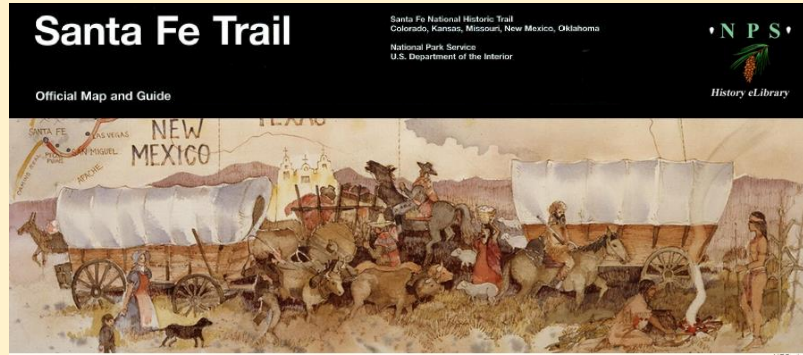
Santa Fe National Historic Trail
Colorado, Kansas, Missouri, New Mexico, Oklahoma
National Park Service
U.S. Department of the Interior

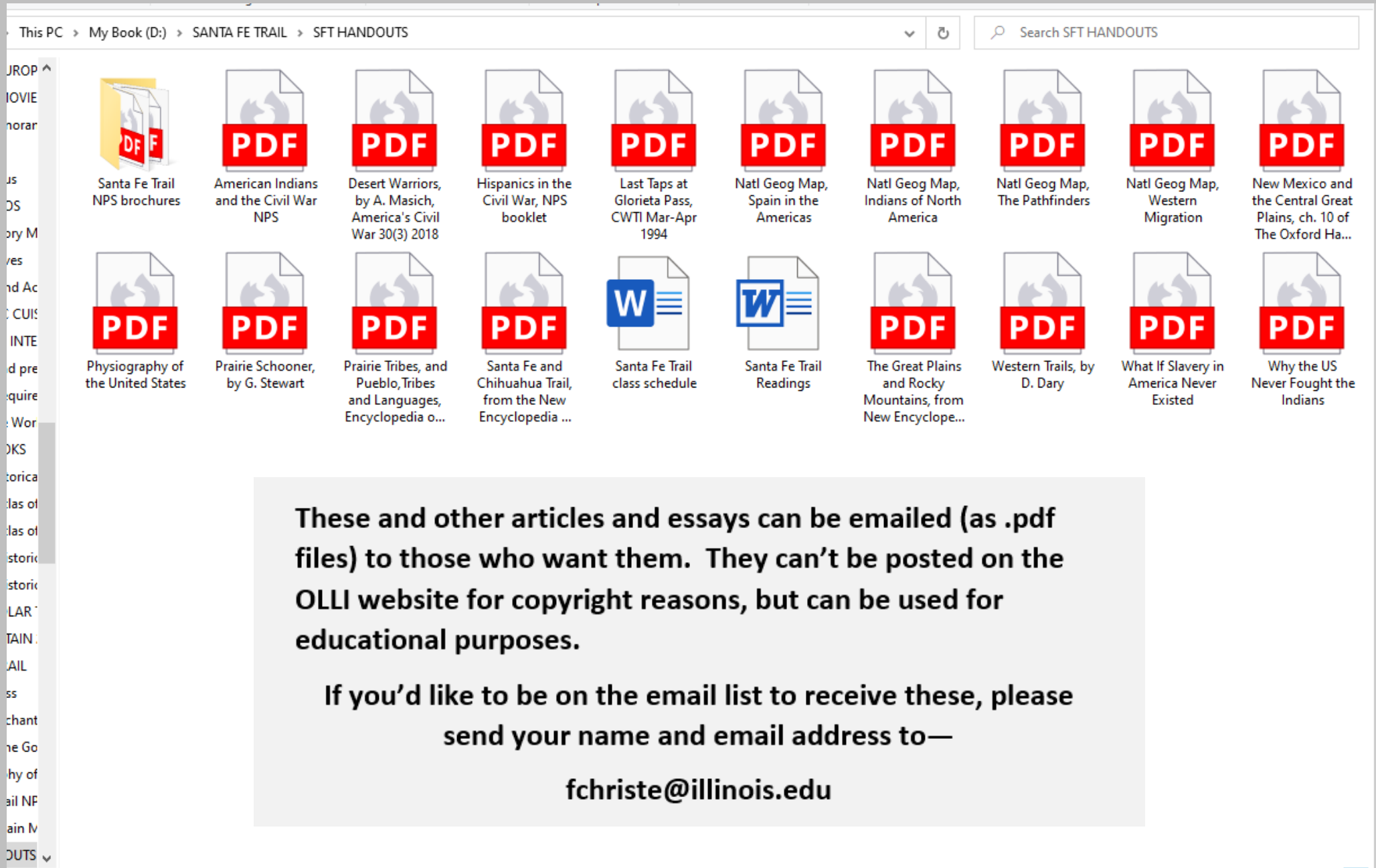
Official Map and Guide



Santa Fe Trail ruts.
The photograph by George H. H. Meyer.

National Park Service booklets and brochures—





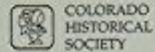
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If you'd like to be on the email list to receive these, please send your name and email address to—

fchriste@illinois.edu

The Santa Fe Trail

NEW • PERSPECTIVES



ESSAY THREE

Sandra L. Myres

Women on the Santa Fe Trail

About the author

A professor of history at the University of Texas at Arlington, Sandra L. Myres specializes in the history of the Spanish, Mexican, and American Southwest. She is the author or editor of a number of books and articles on western topics, including *Cavalry Wife: The Diary of Exelina M. Alexander, 1866–67* (1977), *Ho for California: Women's Overland Diaries from the Huntington Library* (1980), and *Westering Women and the Frontier Experience, 1800–1915* (1982). Active in a number of professional organizations, she is past president of Westerners International and currently vice president of the Western History Association.

ESSAY EIGHT

David Dary

Storied Silver, Fabled Gold

Buried Treasure Legends along the Santa Fe Trail

About the author

David Dary is a professor of journalism and director of the H. H. Herbert School of Journalism and Mass Communication at the University of Oklahoma in Norman. He is the author of *The Buffalo Book* (1974, revised 1988), *True Tales of the Old-Time Plains* (1978), *Cowboy Culture* (1981), *True Tales of Old-Time Kansas* (1984), *Entrepreneurs of the Old West* (1986), *Kansas 1854–1900: A Selected Bibliography of Books, Pamphlets and Ephemera of Kansas* (1986), and *More True Tales of Old-Time Kansas* (1987). A winner of the Wrangler Award from the National Cowboy Hall of Fame, a Spur Award, and the Westerners' Best Nonfiction Book of 1981 Award, he is a former president of the Western Writers of America and Westerners International and is currently chairman of the board of the Westerners International Foundation and a member of the board of directors of the Oklahoma Historical Society.

OLLI Interest Groups: no deadlines about signing up, no cost, lots of enjoyment.

• CHINESE/AMERICAN CULTURES

Interest Group Leader: Mabel Thurmon
Location: OLLI classroom

Maximum number of participants: 20

Meeting Time: Friday, November 10, 10:00-11:00 (first meeting only; group will decide others)

This group will focus on Chinese culture primarily in terms of its differences and similarities with American culture. Participants curious about China can learn more about the country and its people. Mabel was born in China, grew up in Hong Kong, and studied and worked in the USA. She would like to share her experiences with other OLLI members and explore together with them more about Chinese and American cultures.

• EARLY AMERICAN HISTORY

Interest Group Leader: Trisha Crowley
Location: OLLI classroom

Maximum number of participants: 20

As more people question whether our democracy is strong enough to survive the present political uproar, the accounts of how America was formed are increasingly of interest. After a long period of consensus about the interpretation of early events, new interpretations have been presented in the last few decades.

The interest group participants will meet to share resources and agree on a reading program. Meetings will focus on the reading agreed on. If participants agree, relevant videos may be viewed. Previous knowledge of this era of American history is not required, as the purpose of the group is to educate ourselves, but it would not be surprising to find extremely knowledgeable OLLI members.

The Early American History Interest Group meets from 1 p.m. to 2 p.m. every Thursday that OLLI is open. Group members are currently reading and discussing *The Ideological Origins of the American Revolution* by Bernard Bailyn.

• GENEALOGY

Interest Group Leader: Bob Davis
Location: OLLI classroom

Maximum number of participants: 20

Next Meeting: Thursday, December 15, 10:00-11:30 (The group will decide other meeting dates.)

This group will explore topics and issues of interest to members regarding genealogy. Some session possibilities are research problems and strategies, sharing discoveries members have made, tips, planning research trips and many others. As a group we could share stories we have uncovered in our research, discuss ways to store our documents and photos, and organize our records. Come and join with others who share your interest in Genealogy.

• HANDCRAFTS TOGETHER!

Interest Group Leader: Lori Choquette
Location: OLLI classroom

Maximum number of participants: 20

This interest group is a social group where members visit while working on handcrafts of any type. It can be knitting, crochet, needlepoint, cross-stitch, embroidery, and hand-quilting or any other type of craft you can work on with your hands while sitting in a chair — it could even be coloring. This group is all about having other people to talk to while you work on something. It's also a place for members to share things associated with their crafts and to show off their finished works. Group members could also teach others how to do one of the crafts if someone is interested in learning a new skill. We could also allow for sharing patterns and ideas and swapping or trading extra supplies with others.

Tuesdays, 2:00 - 4:00 p.m., 9/27, 10/11, 10/25, 11/15, and 11/29 (last meeting for 2022). The group will begin meeting again after Martin Luther King Day next year.

• BALLROOM DANCE

Ballroom Dancing at the Regent will not meet during November and December, 2022. This Interest Group plans to resume gathering early next year.

Interest Group Leader: Roger Epperson
Co-leaders: Judy Federmeier, Nancy Blake

Location: Regent Ballroom*

Cost: The Regent Ballroom and Dance Center charges a \$12.00 admission fee for their Friday night dances.

Maximum number of participants: No Maximum

This group will complement Alex Tecza's popular ballroom dance program at OLLI. It will encourage OLLI members to regularly practice their dance lessons outside of OLLI classes in a safe, secure, and nurturing environment. In addition, it will encourage OLLI members who are not enrolled in the class but like to dance or watch dancing to give it a try.

The owners of the Regent Ballroom and Dance Center will reserve a table at their 7:30 p.m. Friday night dances specifically for OLLI members. For people who are unfamiliar with the venue, the OLLI leader and/or co-leaders will be at the "OLLI table" to act as "navigators" to introduce attendees to the facility, the procedures, and the activities available.

The purpose of the Ballroom Dance interest group is to promote physical activity, mental growth, stamina, fellowship, and enjoyment. OLLI member's attendance at classes, lectures, study groups, and field trips shows that they seek these kinds of growth, and dance is arguably one more extremely efficacious activity for improving overall health and well-being.

First Meeting: Friday, Sept 16, 2022

*The Regent Ballroom & Dance Center, 1406 Regency Dr West Savoy, Illinois . 61874 Tel: 217-359-5333 <https://www.regentballroom.com/>

If you have questions or want to learn more about OLLI Interest Groups, please contact Kathryn Williams, OLLI Director at olli@illinois.edu.

• ETHNIC CUISINES DINING GROUP

Interest Group Leader: Fred Christensen
Co-leaders: Mohan Tracy, David Tracy
Location: Area restaurants

Champaign-Urbana is fortunate to have a very diverse set of national cuisines: at least ten, with four or five more within an easy driving distance (Chinese, Mexican, Italian, Japanese, Thai, Indian, Zambian, German, Korean, Lao, etc.). This group will meet once per month for dinner, conversation, and a chance to try familiar or unfamiliar menu items. Details will evolve and change as the group takes shape, but here is how we can begin.



On arrival at the restaurant, a knowledgeable person (friendly chef or group member) could tell us two things about that ethnic cuisine: (A) What are three characteristics that are different or special about this cuisine, and (B) What one entrée would you recommend to a beginner?

These get-togethers will require dinner reservations and agreement on a system for payment. With 10 or fewer participants, individuals or families can pay for their own meals: for larger groups, there are several options to choose from (split the group over two evenings? Let the group leader pay for all and split the bill evenly between the participants? We can decide later).

One restaurant dinner per month. Second Tuesday of the month or other convenient date; 6:30 p.m.

OLLI Interest Groups: no deadlines about signing up, no cost, lots of enjoyment.

• LET'S GO HIKING!

Interest Group Leader: Fred Christensen
Co-leaders: Isabel Cole, Walter Hurley

Location: Varies



There are dozens of good destinations for walks and hikes near Champaign-Urbana, and this group will explore them. Members of this Group meet at a prearranged spot for carpooling and drive to the trailhead for each hike. Usually, there will be a short warmup hike in the morning followed by a brownbag lunch or a local restaurant meal, then a longer hike in the afternoon (on hot summer days, the longer hike can be done in the morning). Total distance walked each day will usually be 2 to 6 miles. The most remote hiking destinations might be to Starved Rock State Park (two hours north) and Turkey Run State Park (two hours east).

At least one hike per month will be scheduled, more in spring and fall with good weather. We can begin with "third Saturdays" of each month. As the Group develops, dates and arrangements can change; it's up to the Group members! Since weather is a factor, rain dates can be announced for each hike.

• HISTORY AS LITERATURE

Interest Group Leader: Fred Christensen

Location: OLLI Blue Room

Time: 1:30 p.m.-3:00 p.m. Bi-Weekly on Thursdays



History as Literature: enjoyable fact and fiction. For writers of history, accuracy is the highest priority and good writing style is desirable. For historical novelists, it's the other way around. This Group will read and discuss good examples of both. We can start with *The Undying Past*, edited by Orville Prescott (1961). It's a collection of 46 short stories and chapter-length self-contained extracts from novels, arranged in order from prehistory to the American Civil War. Along with providing items by Kipling, Dickens, Scott, and Tolstoy, this collection will take you into the worlds of Mary Renault's Athenians, Frans Bengtsson's Vikings, Zoe Oldenbourg's Crusaders, H.F.M. Prescott's Tudors, C.S. Forester's Royal Navy, and A.B. Guthrie's mountain men. We would read five or six stories for meetings held every other week. Prescott also edited *History as Literature* (1970), giving the same treatment to writings by historians. After reading these, the group would read and enjoy more anthologies, including *The Oxford Book of Historical Stories* and collections of "The Best of" *Horizon*, *American Heritage*, and *History Today* magazines. We could also move on to full-length histories or novels, perhaps some of those included in the anthologies just mentioned. Whether fact or fiction, good history can be fun!

The History as Literature Interest Group will hold its meetings in the Blue Room every other Thursday, starting January 26 at 1:30 p.m.-3:00 p.m. Additional meeting days and times to be determined by the group.



Tuesdays at Ten | Two Trails West

The National Road and The Oregon Trail

Tue, Feb 7, 2023

10:00 AM – 11:00 AM



Upcoming Events

Project READ Tutoring

Fri, Jan 20, 9:30 am

Project READ Introduction to Tutoring

Fri, Jan 20, 10:00 am

Toddler Tales

Fri, Jan 20, 10:30 am

FriendShop Bookstore Open

Fri, Jan 20, 12:00 pm

Teen Lounge

Fri, Jan 20, 3:00 pm

Join Fred Christensen for this 5 week journey along Two Trails West. There will be videos, pictures, and stories surrounding the historic trails that early pioneers traveled in covered wagons along the United States' first federal highway project and the Oregon Trail.

- **February 7:** The National Road, 1811-1837, the settler's road to the Midwest
- **February 14:** The National Road, 1811-1837, the settler's road to the Midwest
- **February 21:** Wagon Trains West The Oregon Trail, 1836-1869, Pioneer Route from Missouri to the Pacific
- **February 28:** Wagon Trains West The Oregon Trail, 1836-1869, Pioneer Route from Missouri to the Pacific
- **March 7:** Wagon Trains West The Oregon Trail, 1836-1869, Pioneer Route from Missouri to the Pacific

About the presenter:

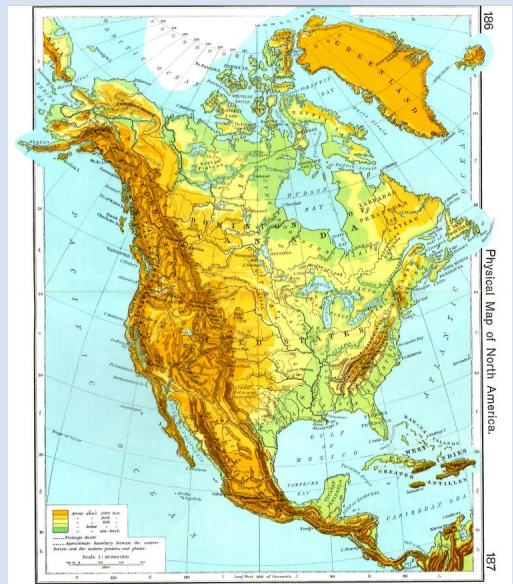
Fred Christensen is a former history instructor at University of Kentucky and ROTC instructor at University of Illinois, and spent eight years teaching the Army's Command and General Staff Course. Fred spent 28 years in the US Army Reserves (including 5 years of active duty), retiring as a Lieutenant Colonel in 1997. He retired in 2007 from the University of Illinois Admissions and Records office where he was in charge of issuing all diplomas for graduates and of maintaining graduate records for PhD candidates.



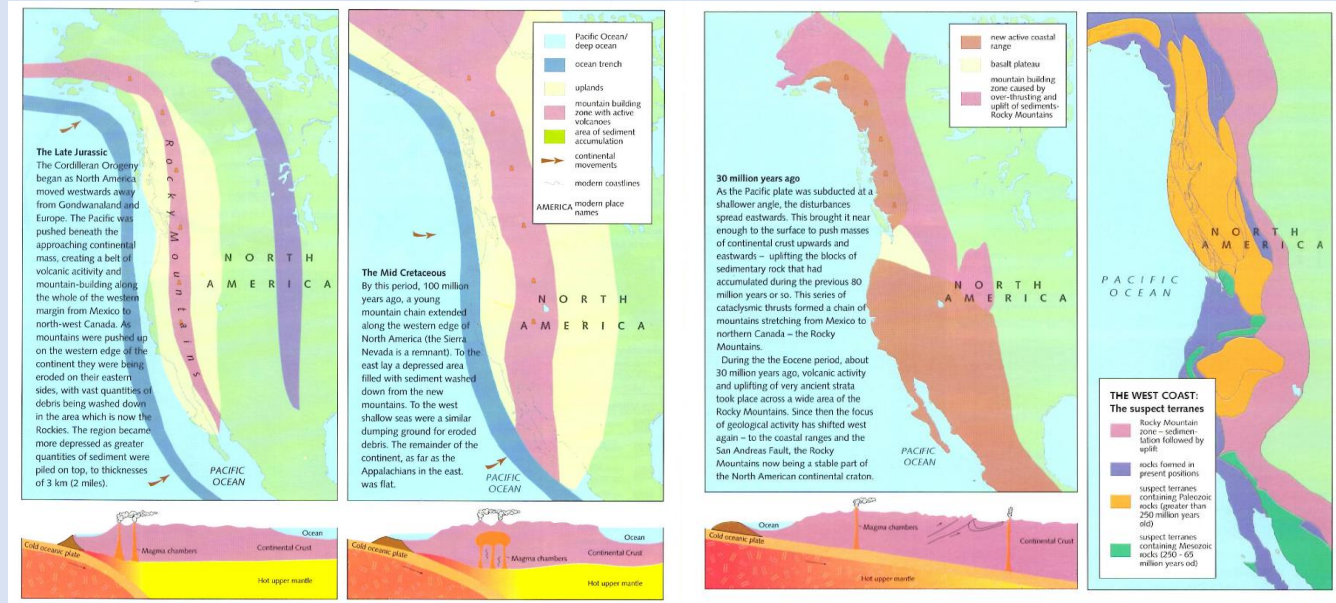
The Great Plains and Rocky Mountains:

The Geological Background

The landscape of the American West is the result of hundreds of millions of years of geological activity. The unending slow forces of tectonic movement and of the great opposing forces of uplift and erosion produced these landscapes.



The flat North American Plate, moving westward at the speed of fingernails growing, has collided with other masses of continental crust (often Japan-sized “terranes”), creating the complex pattern of mountain ranges and basins on its western side.



These mountains have affected the land to their east in two major ways:

These mountains have affected the land to their east in two major ways:



- they block moist Pacific air masses, producing the aridity which allows grasses to prevail over trees, and
- the unending erosion of the mountains has produced sediment that has been carried eastward by the major rivers, forming the soil which slopes gradually upwards from east to west.

The Peoples of the Southwest

...in order of appearance:

Farming peoples and Pueblo dwellers:

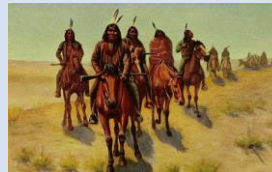
—the Pimas, Maricopas, and Papagos (O'Odham) of the Gila River valley (Arizona).



—the Pueblo-dwelling peoples of New Mexico: the Rio Grande valley and beyond (Tiwa, Tewa, Keres, Tano, Zuni, Hopi).



Apache and Navaio: nomadic hunter-gatherers (and in the case of the Navajos, shepherders)...and ferocious raiders of the other peoples.



Hispanic population: Spaniards and Mexicans



Anglo population: their arrival will be a main subject of this class.

All the peoples of the Southwest understood the concept of conquest by force of arms, yet the rules of war differed for each group, and the strategies and tactics employed varied. The antagonists all adopted elaborate war rituals, costumes, and weaponry designed to achieve tactical advantage and calculated to awe their enemies. All the groups that vied for power and dominance in the borderlands believed in some form of vengeance warfare and practiced some form of captivity and slavery. The peoples who came into conflict in the borderlands of the 1860s all shared a belief in an afterlife and had religious and spiritual traditions that guided their behavior in the corporeal world.

—Andrew Masich, Civil War in the Southwest Borderlands

THE SUBTROPICS

ARCTIC

THE INDIAN AND THE EUROPEAN: BOUNDARIES IN FORMER DAYS

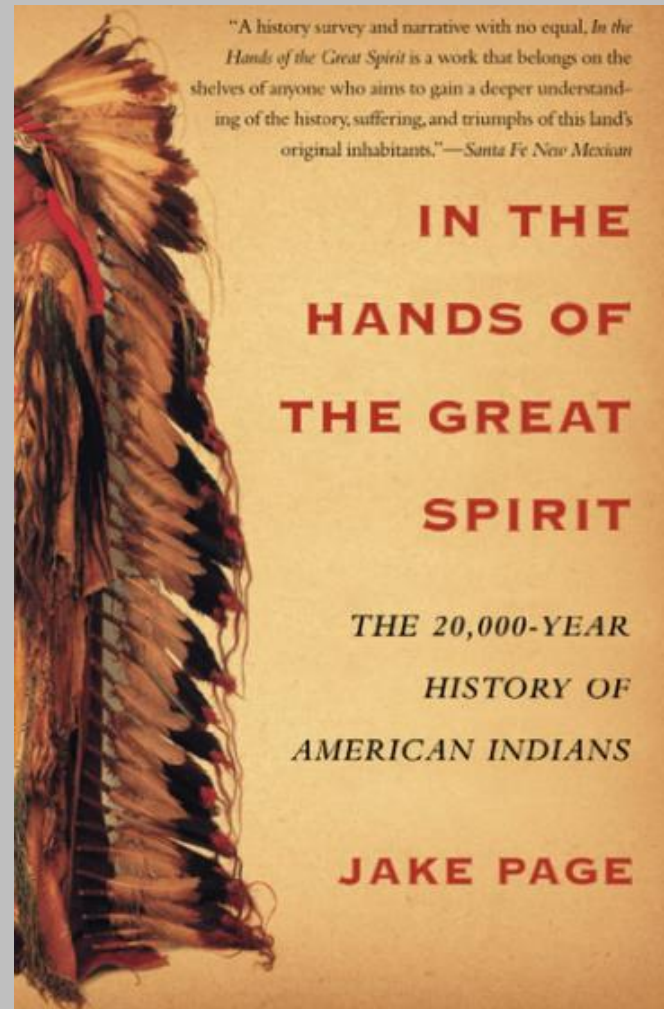
THE GEOGRAPHY OF INDIAN CULTURE

INDIANS OF NORTH AMERICA

Published by the National Geographic Society
 NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC MAGAZINE

This is a detailed map of North America, from Alaska to Mexico, showing the geographical distribution of various Native American cultures. The map is color-coded into regions: Arctic (orange), Subtropics (yellow), and the Indian and European boundaries (green and blue). Numerous small illustrations of people, dwellings, and artifacts are placed around the map to represent different tribes and their environments. Text boxes provide information about each region and the cultures within them. The title 'INDIANS OF NORTH AMERICA' is prominently displayed at the bottom left, along with the National Geographic Society logo and 'NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC MAGAZINE'.

Perhaps the best one-volume account of the entire Native American experience.



2003

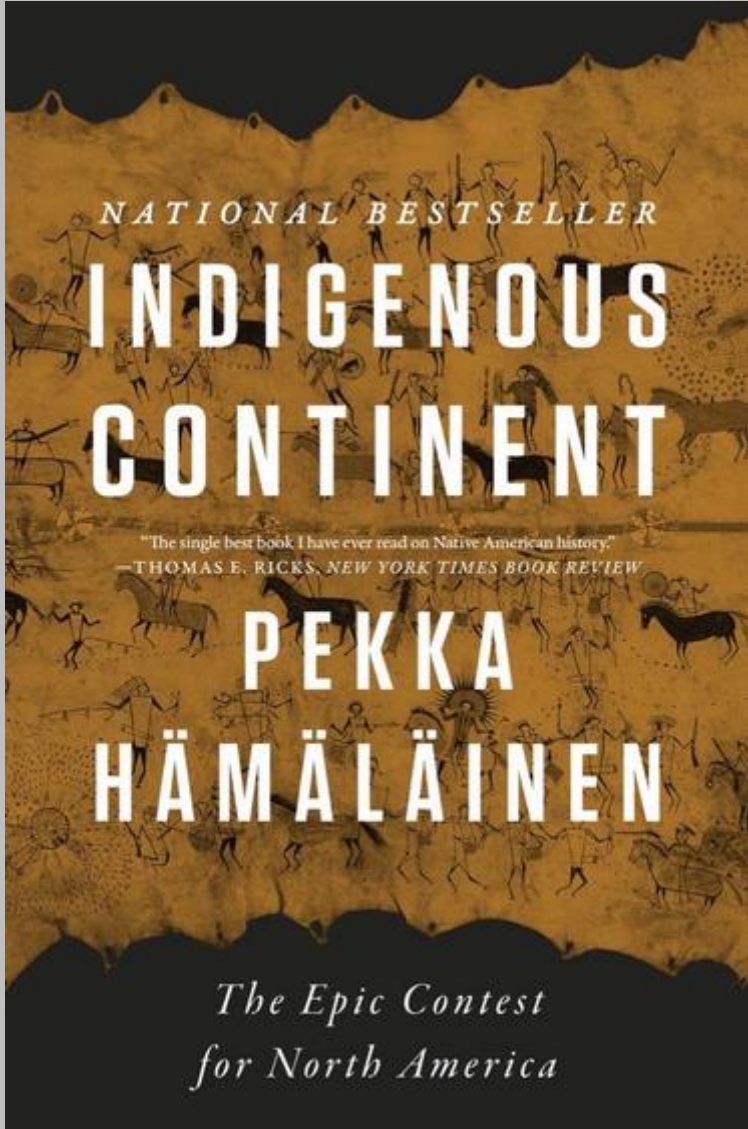
DANIEL K. RICHTER



FACING EAST *from*
INDIAN COUNTRY

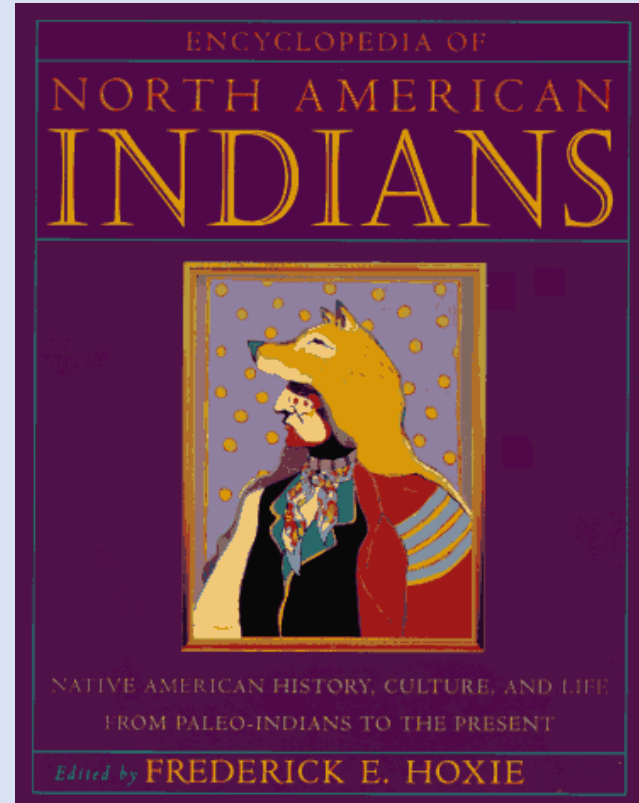
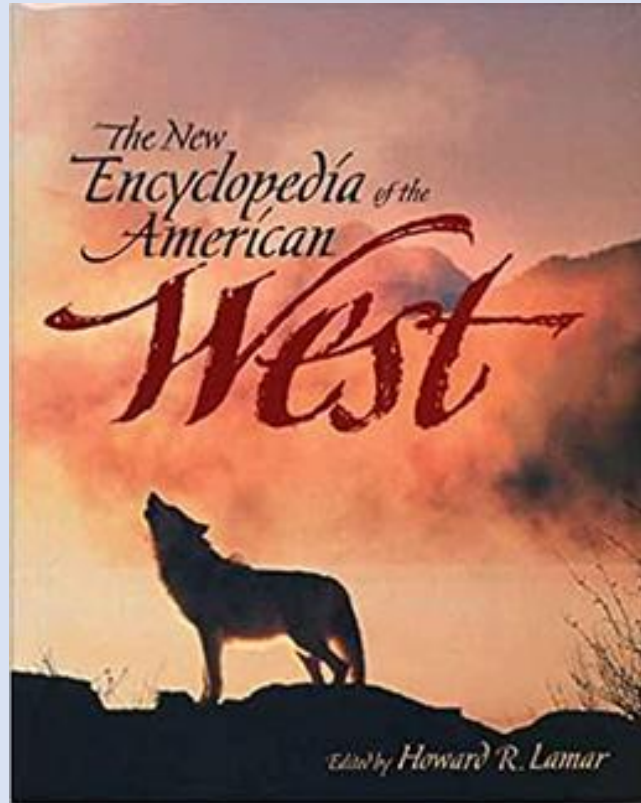
A NATIVE HISTORY OF EARLY AMERICA

2001



2022

**Beyond Wikipedia:
Two good reference works**



**....complete contents available on the UI Library website,
free for holders of an I-Card.**

Beyond Wikipedia:

....and a third, available online.

plainshumanities.unl.edu/encyclopedia/

ENCYCLOPEDIA OF THE Great Plains

DAVID J. WISHART, EDITOR

Search this site search

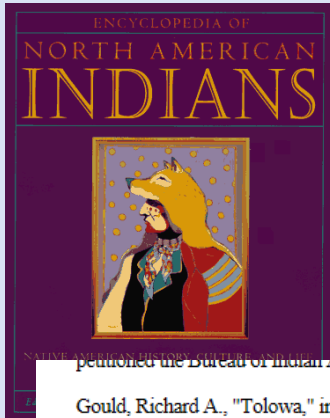
[Introduction](#) [Contents](#) [Contributors](#) [About](#)

The Great Plains is a vast expanse of grasslands stretching from the Rocky Mountains to the Missouri River and from the Rio Grande to the coniferous forests of Canada—an area more than eighteen hundred miles from north to south and more than five hundred miles from east to west. The Great Plains region includes all or parts of Texas, New Mexico, Oklahoma, Kansas, Colorado, Nebraska, Wyoming, South Dakota, North Dakota, Montana, Alberta, Saskatchewan, and Manitoba. The region, once labeled "the Great American Desert," is now more often called the "heartland," or, sometimes, "the breadbasket of the world." Its immense distances, flowing grasslands, sparse population, enveloping horizons, and dominating sky convey a sense of expansiveness, even emptiness or loneliness, a reaction to too much space and one's own meager presence in it.

The Plains region is the home of the Dust Bowl, the massacre at Wounded Knee, the North-West Rebellion, the Tulsa race riot, the Lincoln County War, the purported Roswell alien landing, and the Sturgis Motorcycle Rally. Its products have included furs, cattle, corn, wheat, oil, gas, and coal as well as jazz, literature, and political reform. It has been inhabited for more than twelve thousand years, since Paleo-Indians hunted mammoth and bison. More recent emigrants came from eastern North America, Europe, Latin America, and Asia, resulting in a complex and distinctive ethnic mosaic.

With 1,316 entries contributed by more than one thousand scholars, this groundbreaking reference work captures what is vital and interesting about the Great Plains—from its temperamental climate to its images and icons, its historical character, its folklore, and its politics.

African Americans	Agriculture	Architecture
Art	Asian Americans	Cities and Towns
Education	European Americans	Film
Folkways	Gender	Hispanic Americans
Images and Icons	Industry	Law
Literary Traditions	Media	Music
Native Americans	Physical Environment	Politics and Government



petitioned the Bureau of Indian Affairs for formal federal recognition. Their application is pending.

Gould, Richard A., "Tolowa," in *Handbook of North American Indians*, ed. William C. Sturtevant, vol. 8, *California*, ed. Robert F. Heizer (Washington: Smithsonian Institution, 1978); Thornton, Russell, "Social Organization and the Demographic Survival of the Tolowa," *Ethnohistory* 31 (1984): 187-96.

Tomahawk

Derived from the Algonquian word *tamahak*, which denoted a utensil used for cutting, the word *tomahawk* generally refers to a light, hatchetlike implement with a stone or metal head. Early Euro-Americans described Indian axes and war clubs made of stone or wood as tomahawks, but eventually the term came to be applied exclusively to metal hatchets. Because of their versatility and superiority to native equivalents, European-manufactured tomahawks quickly became prized trade items and remained so well into the nineteenth century.

Though frequently employed as a weapon, the tomahawk also served as a tool, a ceremonial object, a decorative item, and a symbol of leadership. One of the most popular versions of the tomahawk doubled as a pipe. A blade and a pipe bowl balanced each other at either end of the tomahawk's handle. When smoked in council or given as gifts, pipe tomahawks helped to seal alliances or treaties between different groups.

Along with the tipi, the totem pole, and the war bonnet, the tomahawk has become a popular symbol of Indian culture, especially among nonnatives. Plastic tomahawks can be found at many souvenir stands and toy stores. And in the early 1990s, the "tomahawk chop" performed by fans of the Atlanta Braves became a target of protests by Native Americans, who argued that the cheer belittled Indian people and their history.

Tonto

A character in the radio and television western *The Lone Ranger*, Tonto represented the "good" Indian who supported his masked partner. The relationship between the two was characterized by interdependence and an implicit equality. However, during the "Red Power" movement of the 1960s, Indian activists assailed Tonto as an "Uncle Tomahawk" who did the bidding of the white man. Ironically, Jay Silverheels, the Mohawk actor who played Tonto, was instrumental in forming the Indian Actors Guild in the 1960s, a group that worked to develop Indian talent and to lobby studios for better scripts and productions featuring Indian life. The word *Tonto* was first applied by the Spanish to a group of western Apaches and is still used by them as a self-designation.

See also Movies.

Totem Poles

Among the tribes of the Pacific Northwest, totem poles symbolize several features of tribal life. Usually carved from red cedar trees, the poles contain family and clan crests, represent wealth within a family, and portray important mythical and historical figures. Just as important as its construction are a totem pole's decay, fall, and eventual return to its environment, which symbolize the cycle of life and change to northwestern tribes. Carving styles and functions of totem poles vary according to tribe and family. Tribes that carve totem poles range from Alaska to Vancouver Island and include the Haidas, Kwakiutls, Tsimshians, Tlingits, Coast Salishes, and Bella Coolas. The antiquity of carved poles has not been established, but they were noted in 1778 by Captain James Cook.

Ceremony and ritual surround the creation of a totem pole, from the selection of the tree to the erection of the finished work; a potlatch was often held in conjunction with the completion and erection of a totem pole. Types of totem poles include house posts, commemorative poles, welcome figures, and mourning posts. The carving

THE SUBTROPICS

ARCTIC

THE INDIAN AND THE EUROPEAN: A HISTORY OF CONTACT

THE GEOGRAPHY OF INDIAN CULTURE

INDIANS OF NORTH AMERICA

Published by the National Geographic Society
 NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC MAGAZINE

This infographic map of North America is divided into several color-coded regions, each with a title and a small illustration of a Native American person or their culture. The regions include:

- THE SUBTROPICS** (Northwest coast)
- ARCTIC** (Northern Canada and Alaska)
- THE INDIAN AND THE EUROPEAN: A HISTORY OF CONTACT** (Northeast coast)
- THE GREAT PLAINS** (Central US)
- THE SOUTHWEST** (Southwest US)
- THE SEABOARD** (Southeast coast)
- THE MOUNTAIN WEST** (Mountain regions)
- THE PACIFIC NORTHWEST** (Pacific Northwest)
- THE GREAT BASIN** (Great Basin)
- THE SOUTHWESTERN MOUNTAINS** (Southwestern mountains)
- THE SOUTHWESTERN PLAINS** (Southwestern plains)
- THE SOUTHWESTERN DESERT** (Southwestern desert)
- THE SOUTHWESTERN COAST** (Southwestern coast)
- THE SOUTHWESTERN INTERIORS** (Southwestern interiors)
- THE SOUTHWESTERN MOUNTAINS** (Southwestern mountains)
- THE SOUTHWESTERN PLAINS** (Southwestern plains)
- THE SOUTHWESTERN DESERT** (Southwestern desert)
- THE SOUTHWESTERN COAST** (Southwestern coast)
- THE SOUTHWESTERN INTERIORS** (Southwestern interiors)

The map also features a legend for the color-coded regions and a small inset map of the world showing the location of North America.

What's in a Name?

Indian—applied to all the peoples of the Western Hemisphere from Columbus' time, reflecting his belief that he had reached the (East) Indies.

Native American—from the 1960's, used as an alternative to "Indian," primarily by non-Indian people.

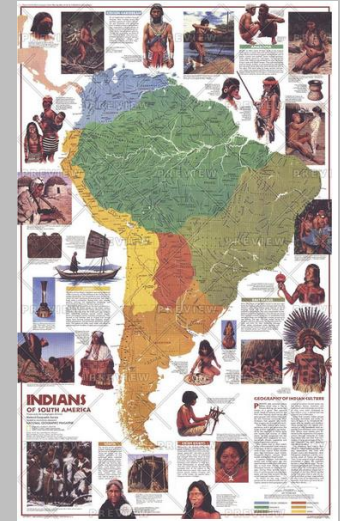
First Nations, First Peoples—from the 1980s, Canadian usage for the tribal peoples of that country.

As of 1995, according to the U.S. Census Bureau, 50% of people who identified as Indigenous preferred the term *American Indian*, 37% preferred *Native American*, and the remainder preferred other terms or had no preference.

—Wikipedia

This class will use the terms interchangeably, and will prefer to use the names of individual tribes and peoples.

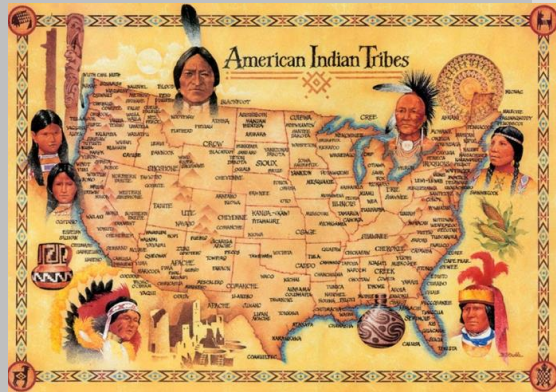
"Calling us Indians is fine. We're just glad that Columbus wasn't looking for Turkey!"



“Tribes” and “Chiefs”words we’ve heard all our lives.

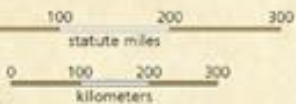
Tribe: “a social division in a traditional society consisting of families or communities linked by social, economic, religious, or blood ties, with a common culture and dialect, typically having a recognized leader.” ...held together not by laws or government but by consensus, ritual, and ceremony.

Chief: “One who is highest in rank or authority; a leader.” In many tribal societies, a chief is accepted because of demonstrated leadership skills and/or charisma. There may be war and peace chiefs, with each having different leadership skills.



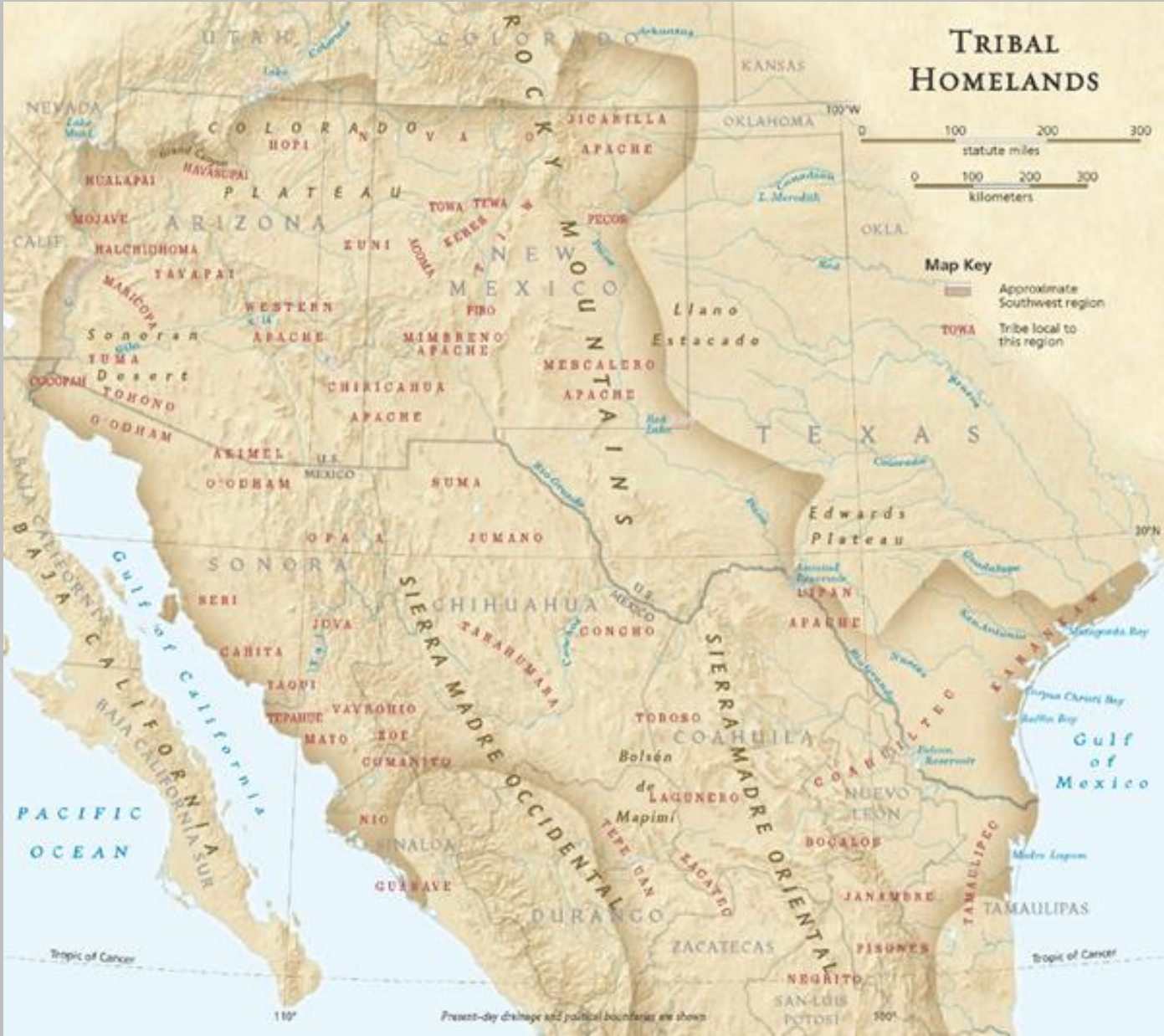


TRIBAL HOMELANDS



Map Key

- Approximate Southwest region
- TOWA Tribe local to this region



110° Present-day drainage and political boundaries are shown 100°



Spanish expedition pictograph. Nancy Nehring. Canyon de Chelly National Monument, Arizona. Courtesy of Getty Images. (87893375)

CLOSE X



The Indian acquisition of the horse was one of the most sudden and radical improvements to occur to the culture and prosperity of any society in recent centuries. Perhaps one can compare its importance to our acquisition of the automobile and electricity. Before they had horses, the Great Plains was a difficult place for people to survive with only dogs to help them.



The most successful technique of buffalo-hunters was to try to drive a herd over a cliff on the rare occasions when they were positioned in the right place.

Another method was for hunters to cover themselves with wolf skins and crawl within range. The buffalo were habituated to the omnipresent wolf packs which followed the herds waiting for the old or sick to lag behind the others.



The Horse in North America



Before the Trail: Crossing the Great Plains

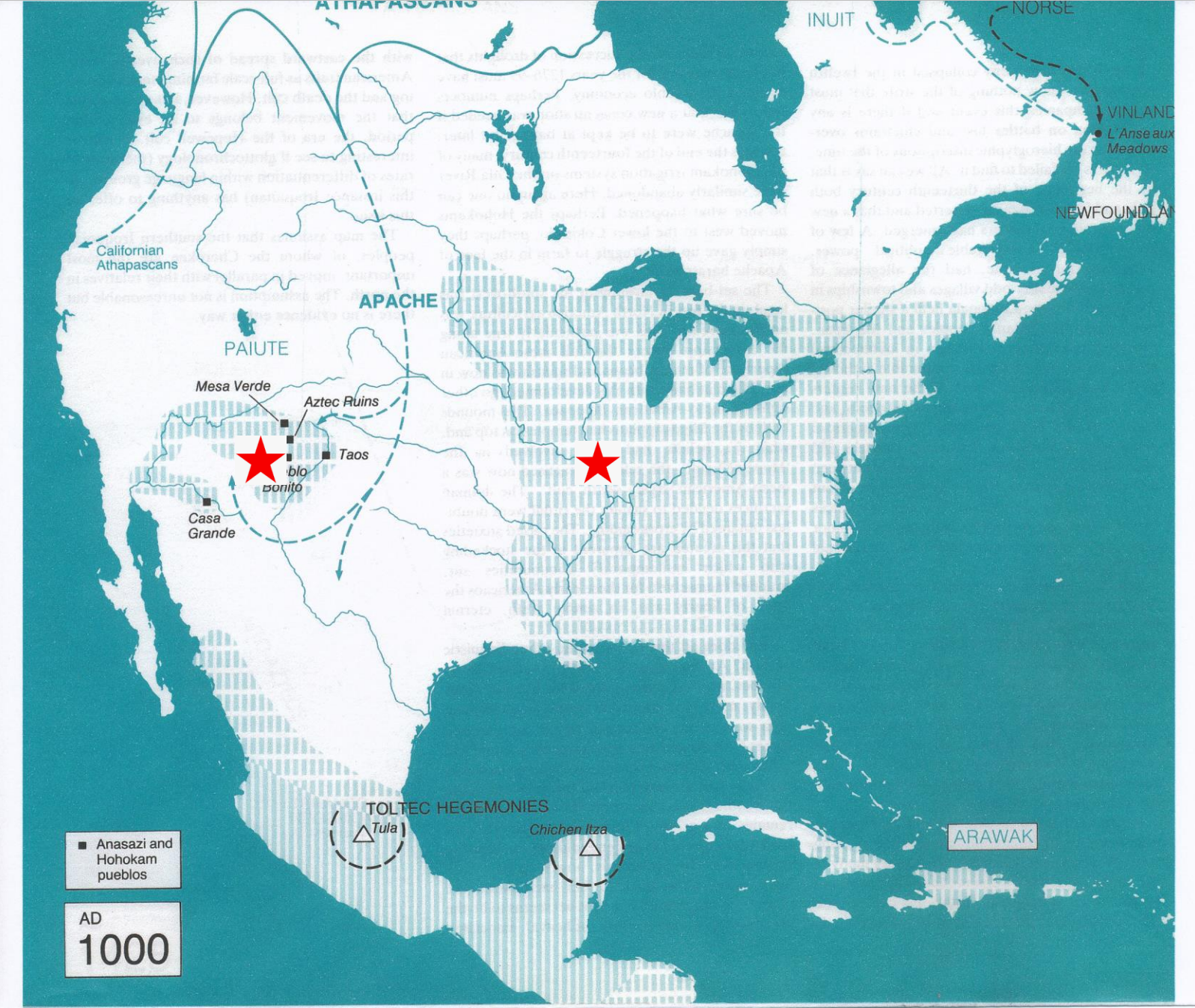
There are several examples of early travel across the shortgrass prairie.

Two thousand years ago, the spectacular moundbuilding Hopewell culture of the Midwest took part in what's been called America's first transcontinental commerce.



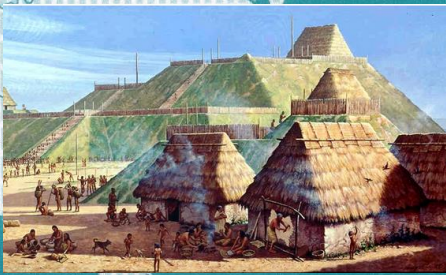
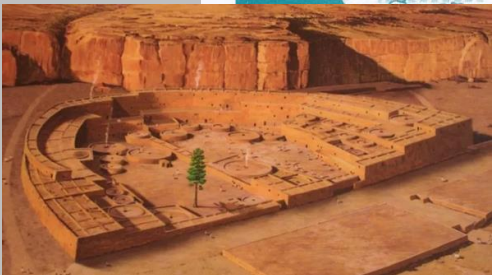
Grizzly bear teeth from the Rocky Mountains and obsidian from Yellowstone (as well as shark's teeth from the Gulf of Mexico) have been found in Hopewell funeral mounds.

This was not "trade" in today's economic sense, but rather seeking out objects of spiritual significance, either by groups sent on quests or by gift exchange from one tribe to another across the Plains to Ohio.



In the 11th century, two impressive cultures developed in North America, at Chaco Canyon in New Mexico and Cahokia in Illinois. Both were based on maize agriculture, and both produced impressive monumental structures: in stone (Chaco Canyon) and in earth (Cahokia).

No evidence has been found to show any connection between them.

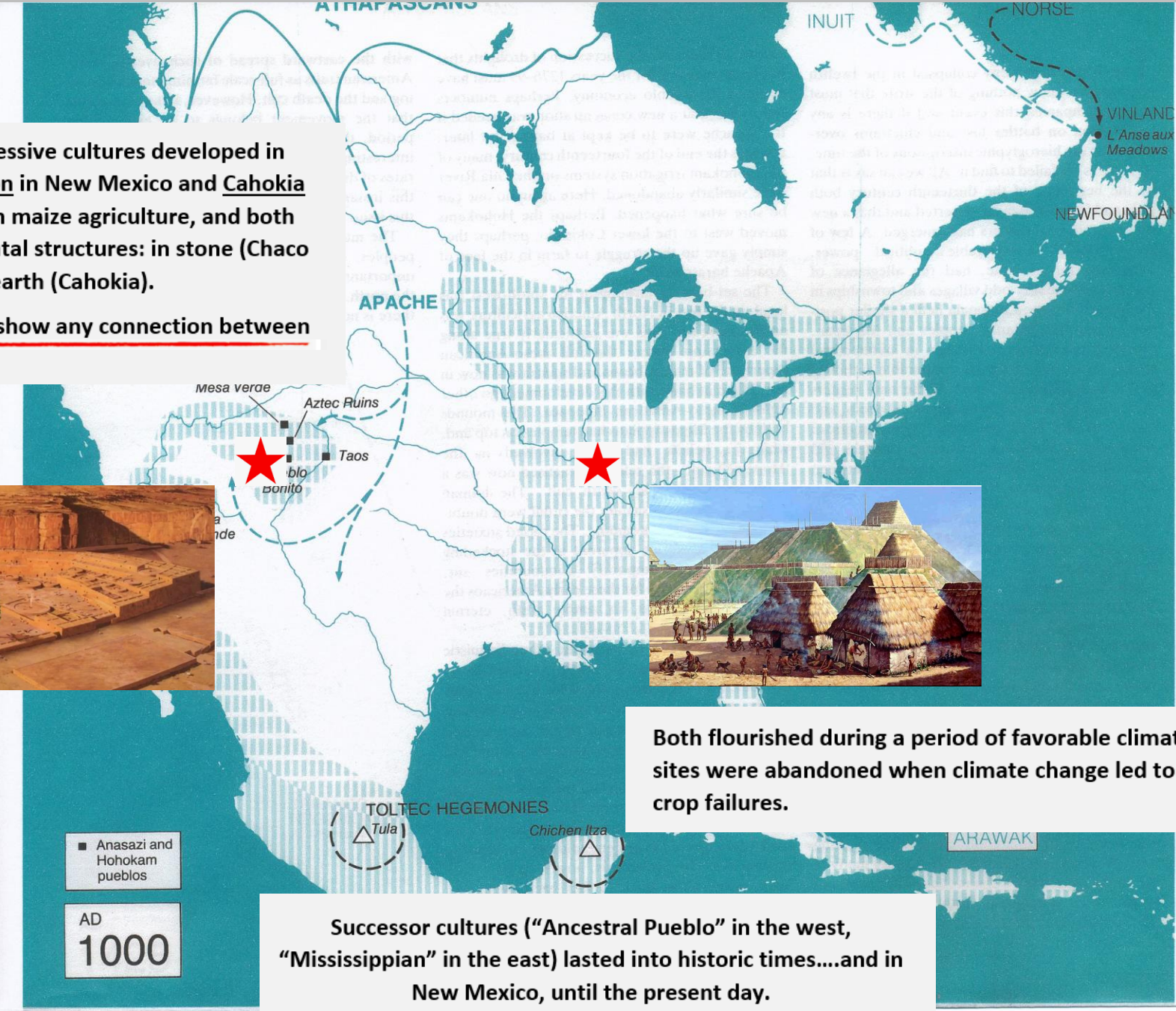


■ Anasazi and Hohokam pueblos

AD
1000

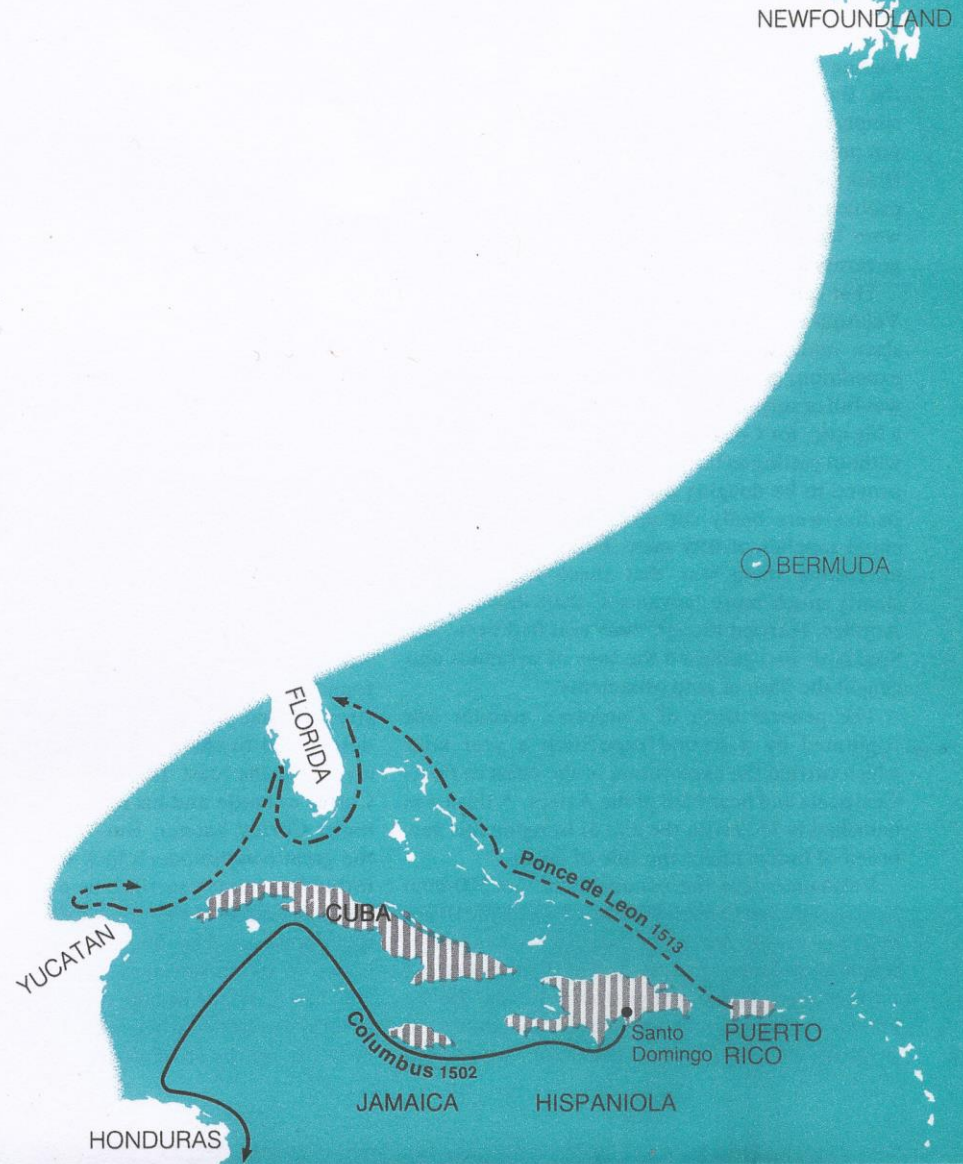
Successor cultures (“Ancestral Pueblo” in the west, “Mississippian” in the east) lasted into historic times...and in New Mexico, until the present day.

Both flourished during a period of favorable climate, and both sites were abandoned when climate change led to repeated crop failures.





AD
1513





AD
1524

NEWFOUNDLAND

Bay of Fundy

Casco Bay

Narragansett Bay

New York Bay

Delaware Bay

Chesapeake Bay

Carolina Banks

Cape Fear

Verrazano
1524

SPANISH EMPIRE

Mexico City
Tlaxcala
Vera Cruz

MEXICO

Cortez

CUBA

HISPANIOLA

PUERTO RICO

JAMAICA

GUATEMALA

HONDURAS

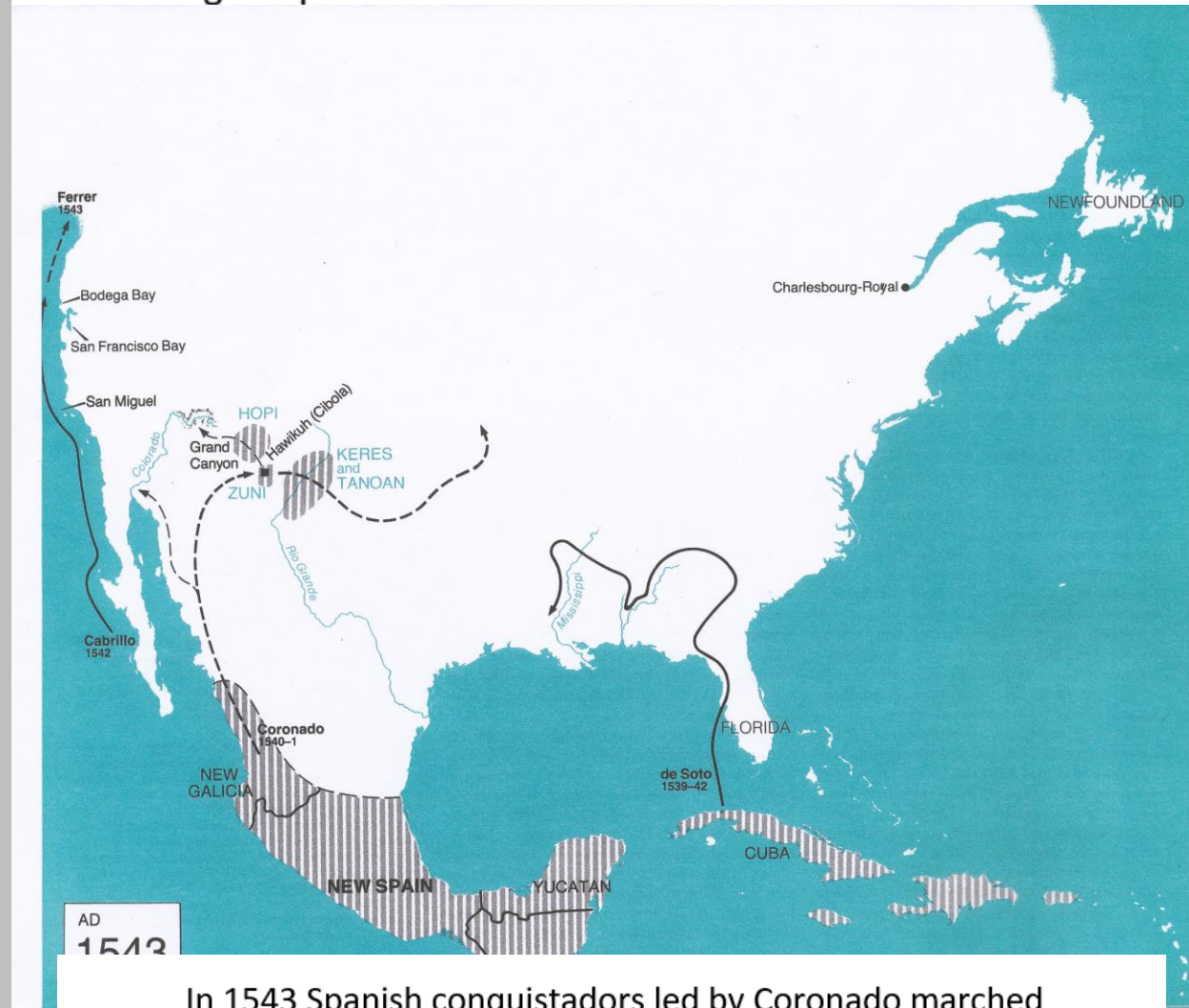
PANAMA



AD
1536

Before the Trail: Crossing the Great Plains

There are several examples of early travel across the shortgrass prairie.



In 1543 Spanish conquistadors led by Coronado marched out across the Great Plains as far as Kansas, seeking gold and glory and finding neither.



Vancouver Island

Strait of Juan de Fuca

Drake
1579

Tadoussac
(French)

Sable Island
(French)

NEW MEXICO

NORUMBEGA

VIRGINIA

Roanoke Island

NEW VIZCAYA

NEW LEON

FLORIDA

St Augustine
(Spanish)

NEW GALICIA

NEW SPAIN

YUCATAN

CUBA

JAMAICA

HISPANIOLA

Santo Domingo

PUERTO RICO

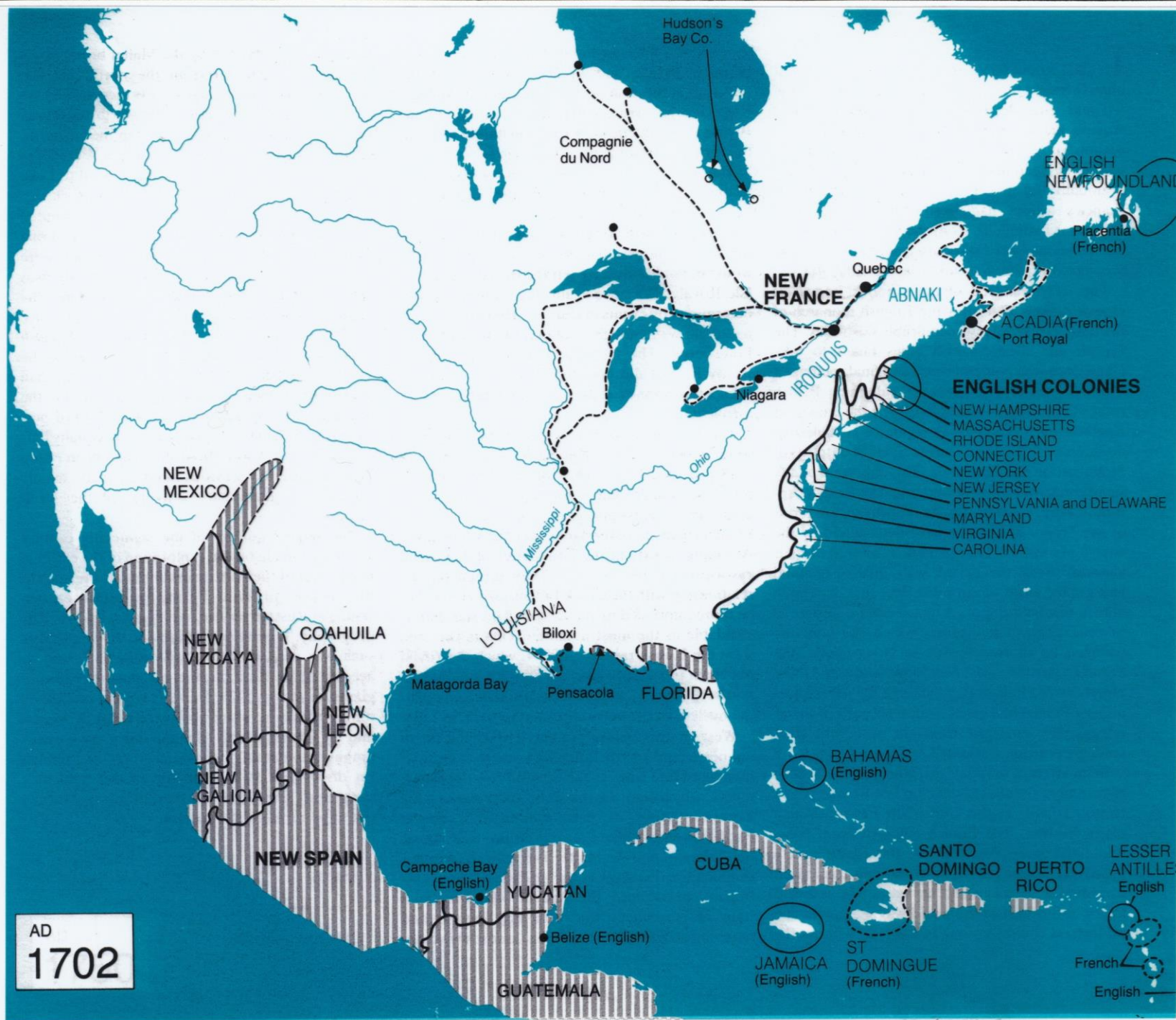
GUATEMALA

AD
1600



AD
1674





Before the Trail: Crossing the Great Plains

There are several examples of early travel across the shortgrass prairie.



In 1720 a small Spanish army under Pedro de Villasur crossed the Plains to Nebraska, seeking to extend Spanish influence and chastise their French rivals. They suffered a crushing defeat and Villasur was killed.



NEBRASKA

HISTORICAL



MARKER

THE VILLASUR EXPEDITION, 1720

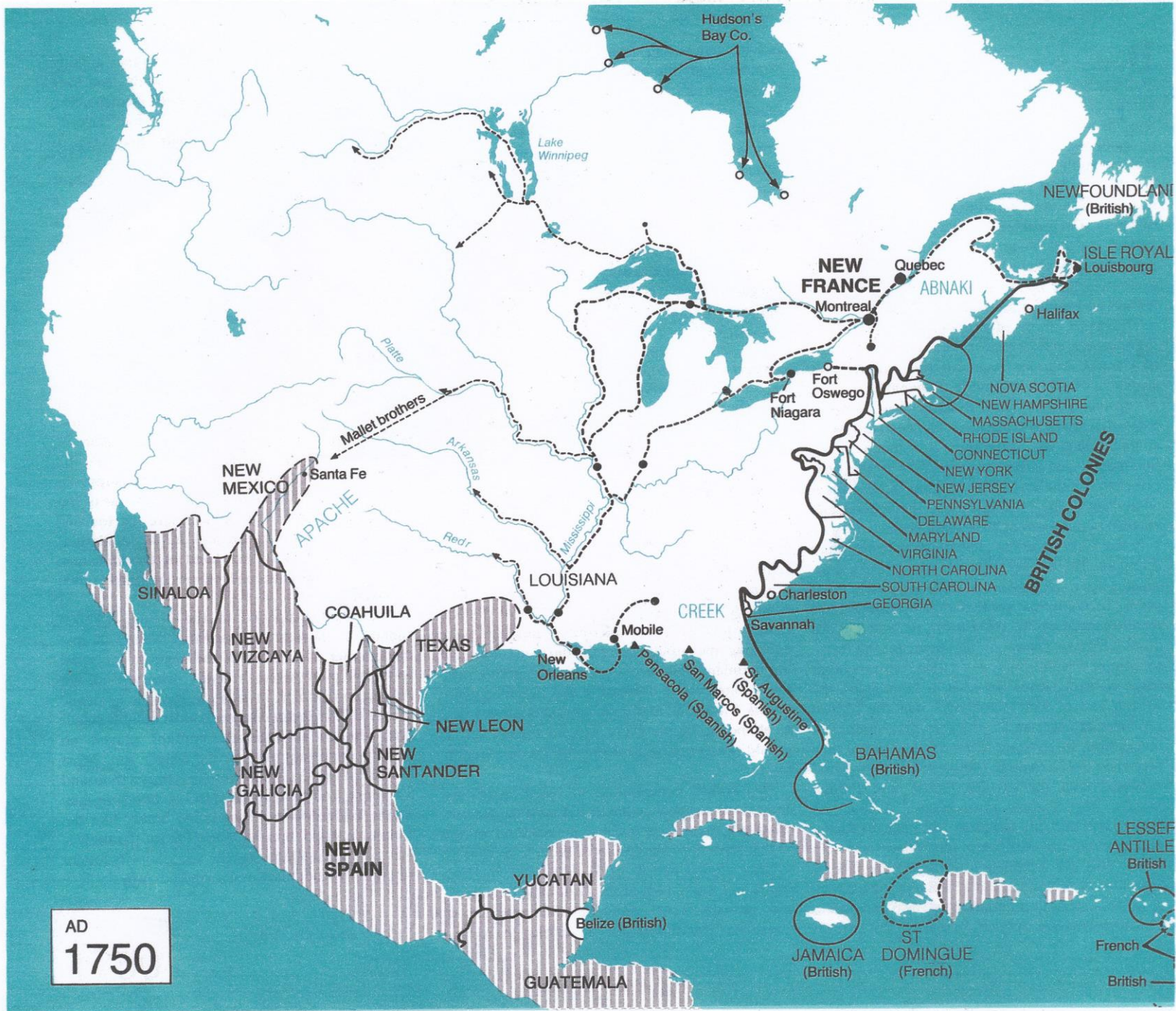
In June 1720 a Spanish military force led by Sir Pedro de Villasur left Santa Fe, New Mexico, to gather information on French activities near the Missouri River. The force included 45 soldiers, 60 Pueblo Indian allies, some Apache scouts, and a priest. Indian trader Juan L'Archeveque and José Naranjo, a black explorer who had reconnoitered Nebraska's Platte River, accompanied the expedition.

Near present Schuyler, Nebraska, Villasur's command met large numbers of Pawnee and Oto Indians who were allies of the French. The Spanish withdrew to approximately this area and camped. The next morning, August 14, 1720, the Indians attacked. Within minutes Villasur, L'Archeveque, Naranjo, 31 soldiers, 11 Pueblo Indians, and the priest lay dead. The survivors fled across the prairie and reached Santa Fe September 6. Spanish losses were the greatest suffered by Europeans in any battle with Indians on Nebraska soil.

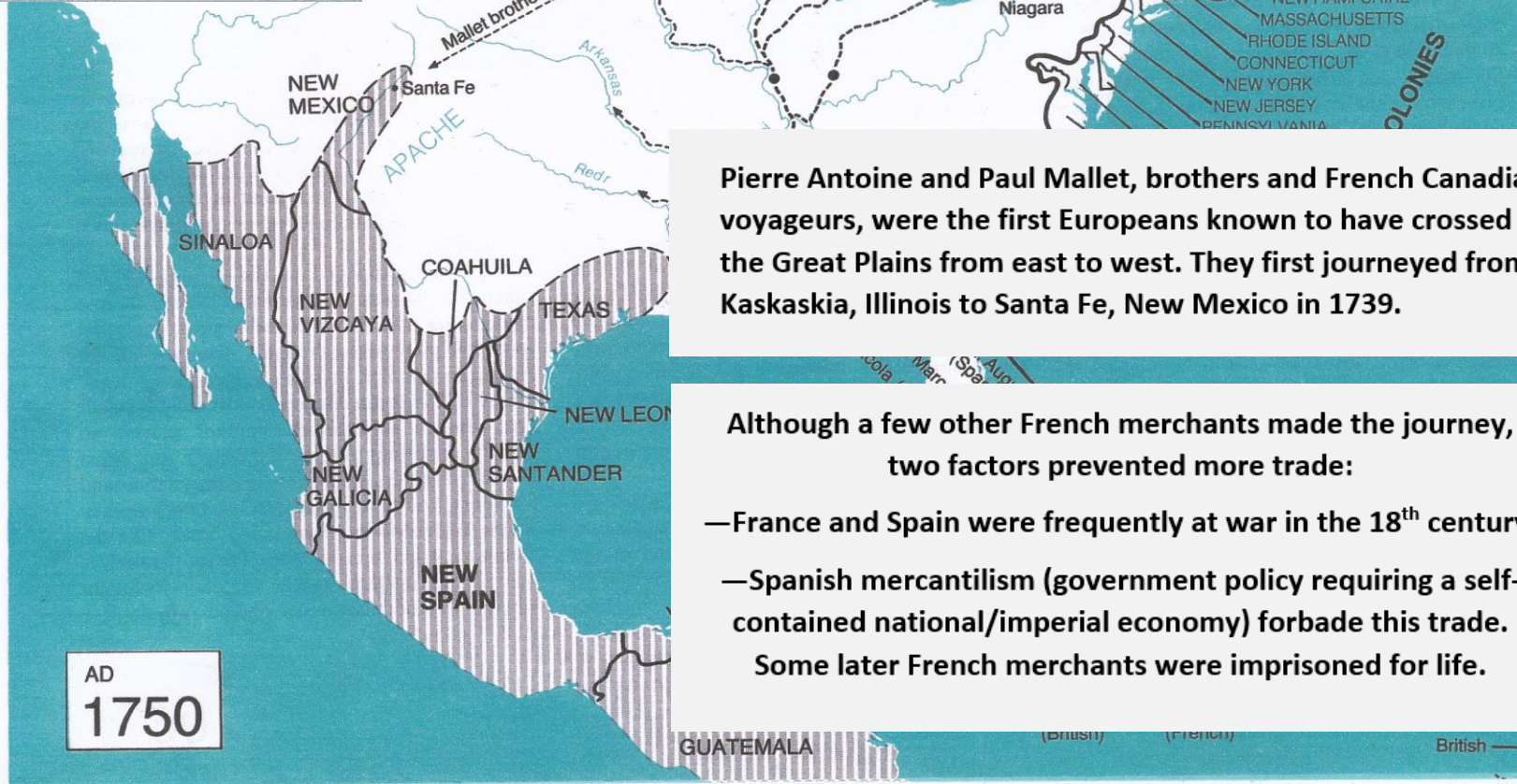
The Villasur Expedition was the deepest Spanish penetration of the Great Plains until the 1790s, when Spanish fur traders ascended the Missouri River. After 1720 no Spanish military force reached Nebraska until the 1806 Melgares Expedition visited the Pawnee Village on the Republican River.

Nebraska State Historical Society





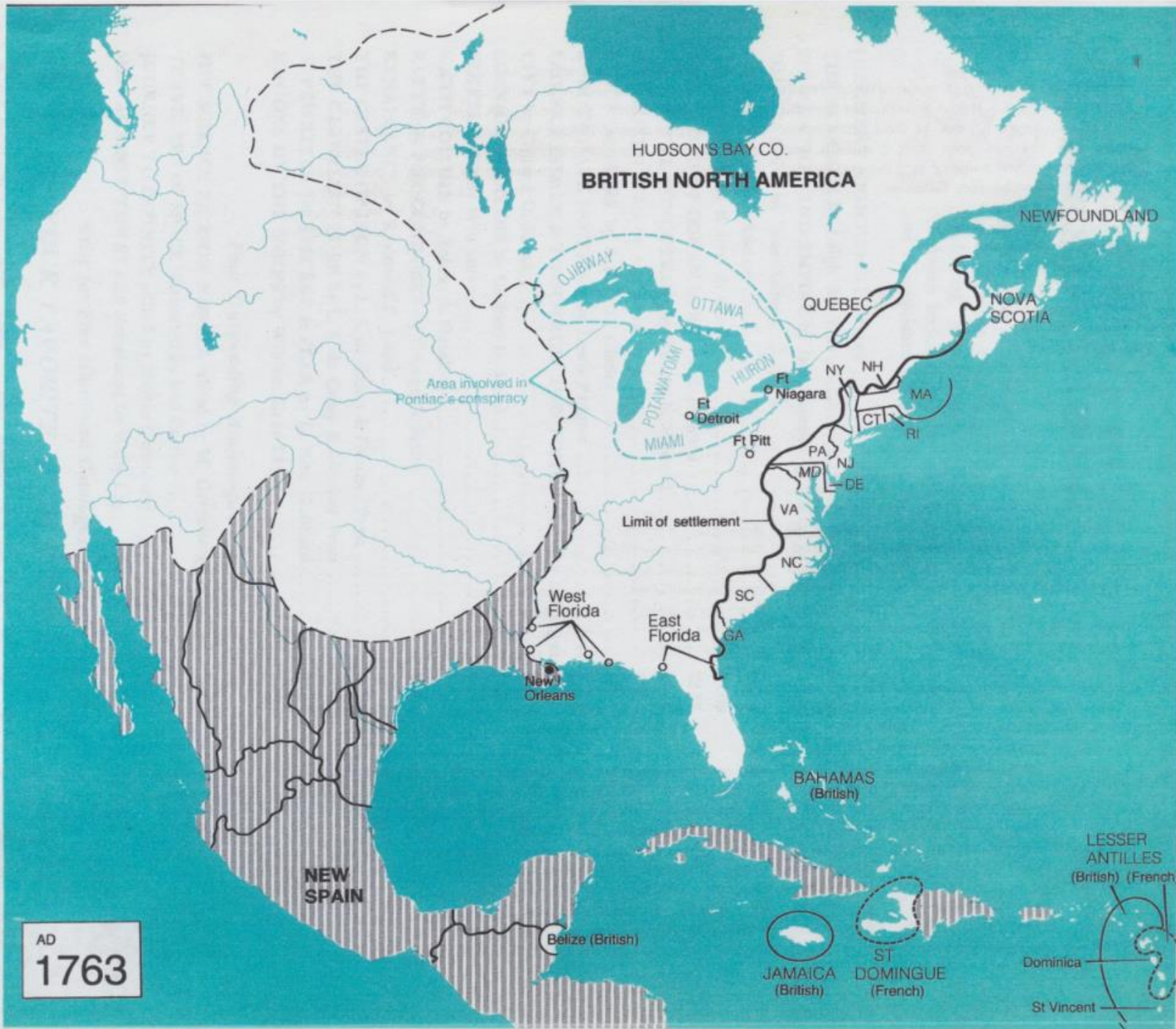
AD
1750



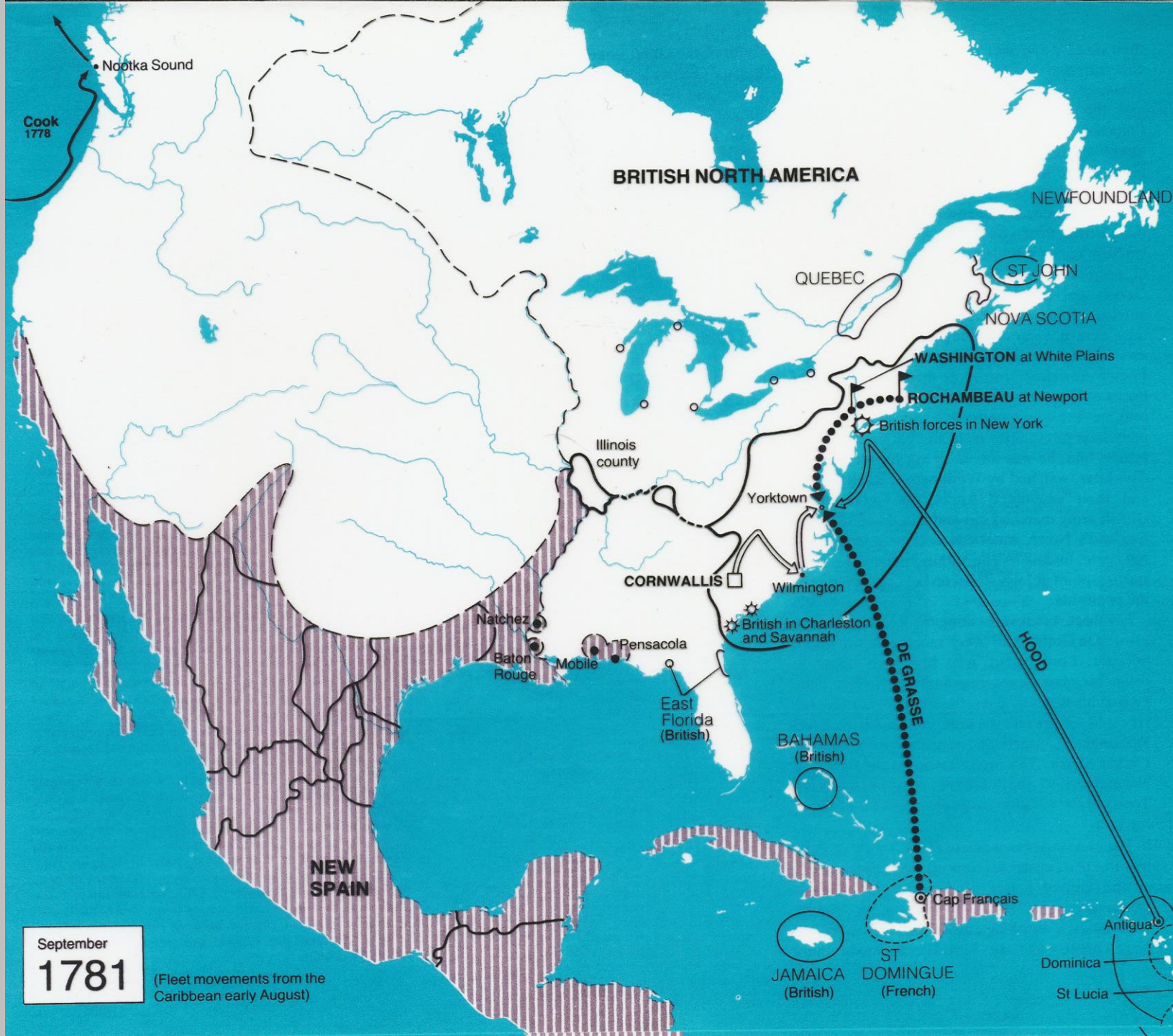
Pierre Antoine and Paul Mallet, brothers and French Canadian voyageurs, were the first Europeans known to have crossed the Great Plains from east to west. They first journeyed from Kaskaskia, Illinois to Santa Fe, New Mexico in 1739.

- Although a few other French merchants made the journey, two factors prevented more trade:**
- France and Spain were frequently at war in the 18th century.**
 - Spanish mercantilism (government policy requiring a self-contained national/imperial economy) forbade this trade. Some later French merchants were imprisoned for life.**









September
1781

(Fleet movements from the Caribbean early August)



Key

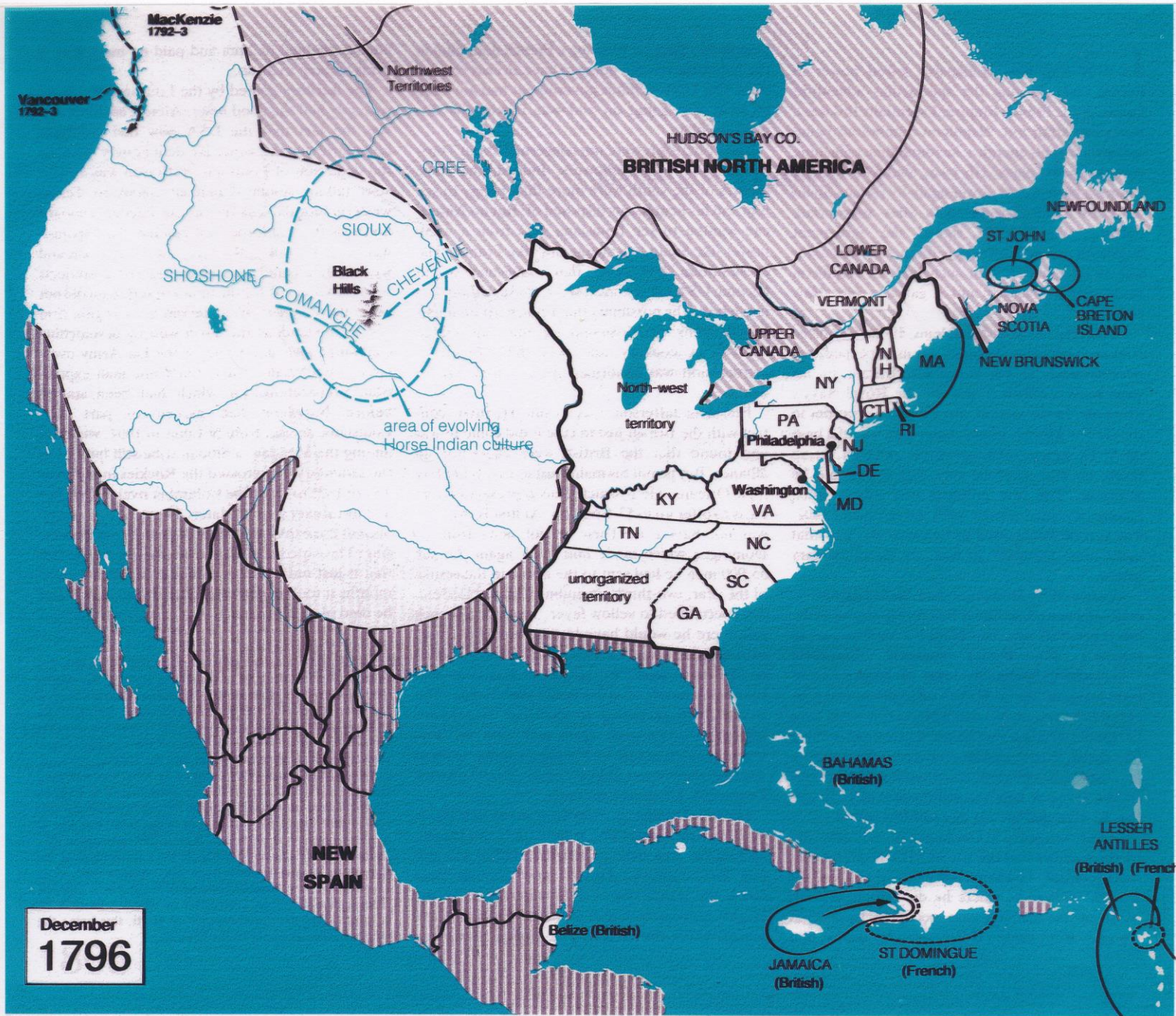
Held by British to 1797

- 1 Ft Michilimackinac
- 2 Detroit
- 3 Ft Miami
- 4 Ft Niagara
- 5 Oswego
- 6 Oswegatchie
- 7 Pte-au-Fer

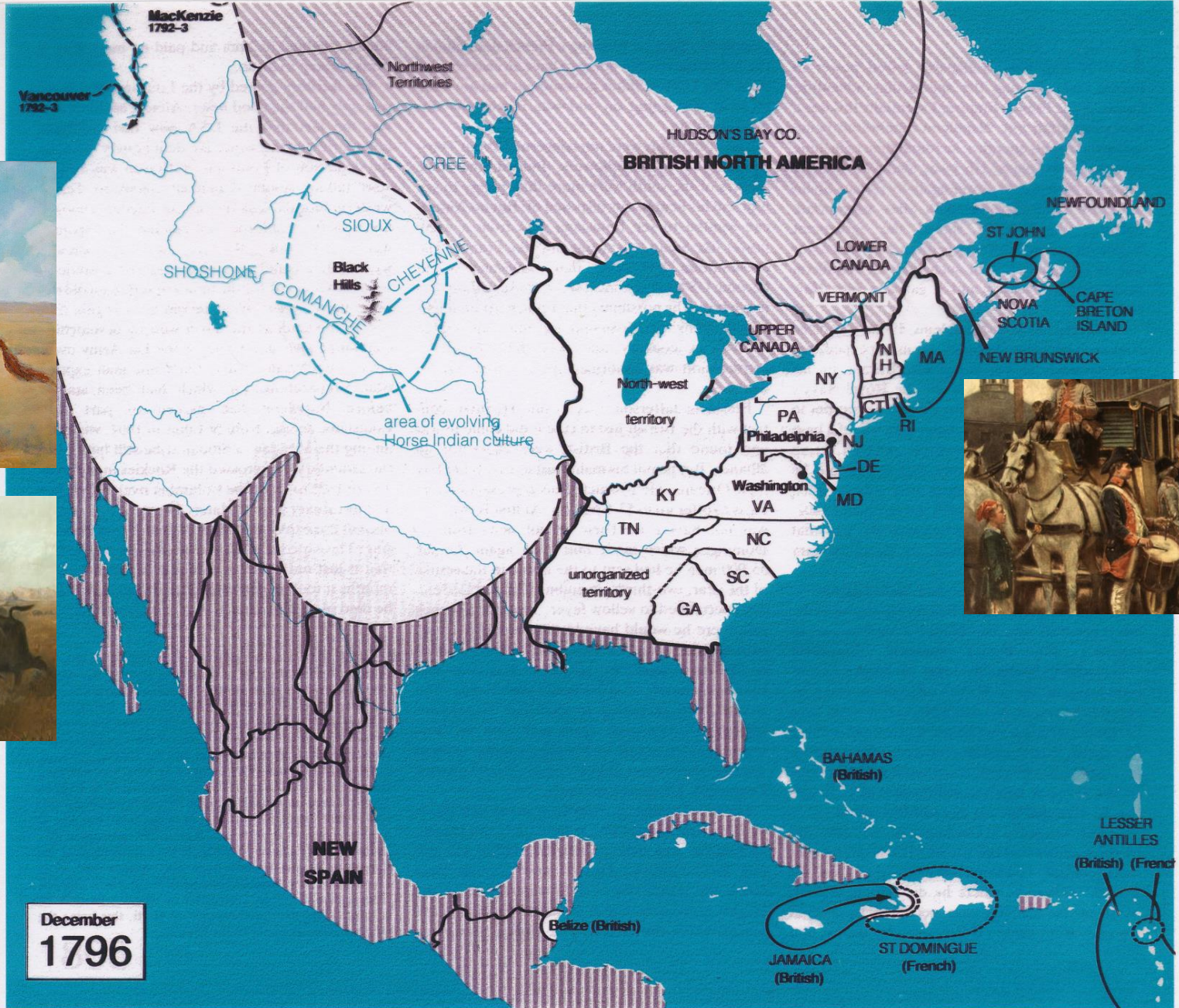
Held by Spanish to 1798

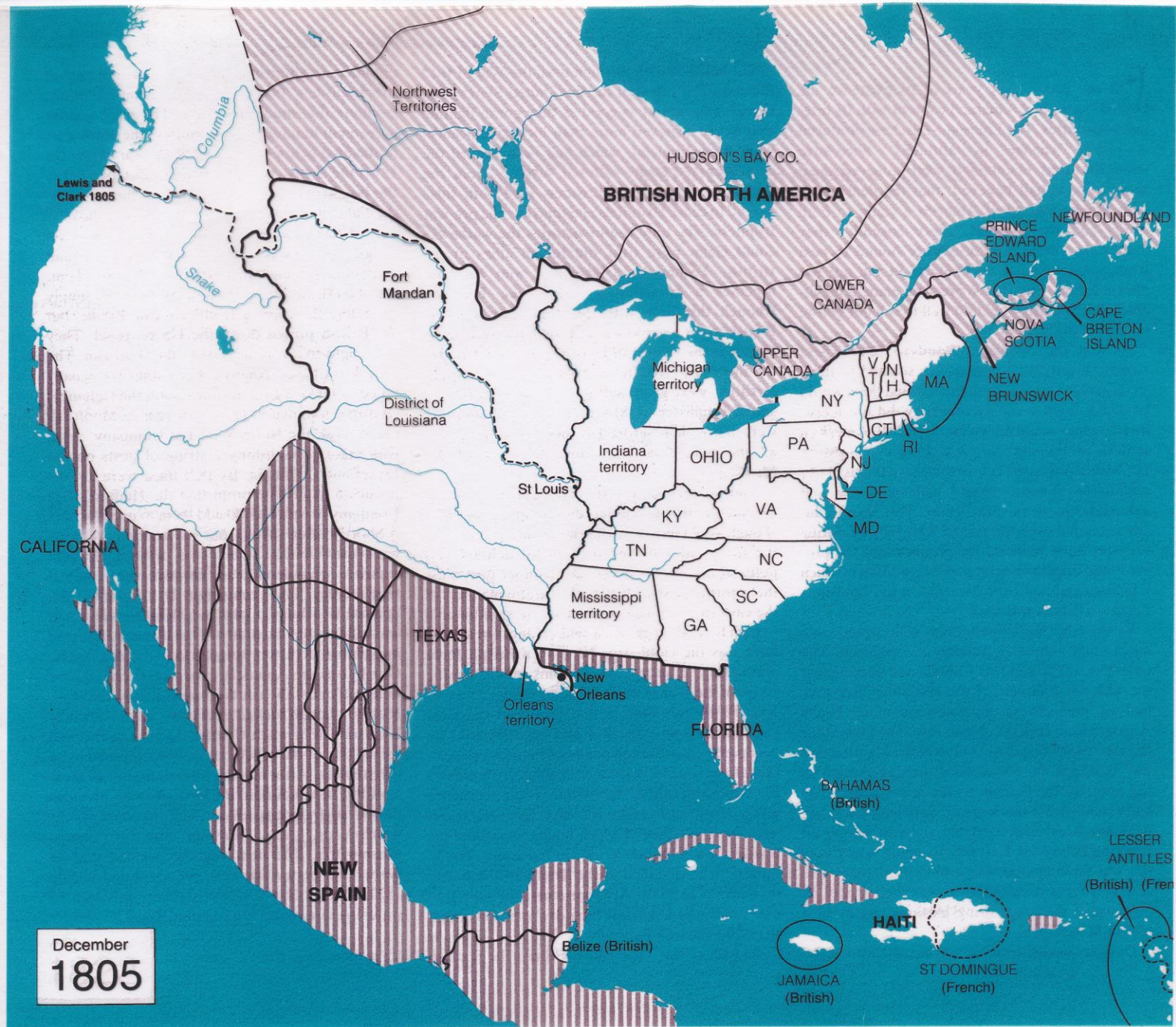
- A Walnut Hills
- B Natchez
- C St Stephens

December
1783



New societies developing!

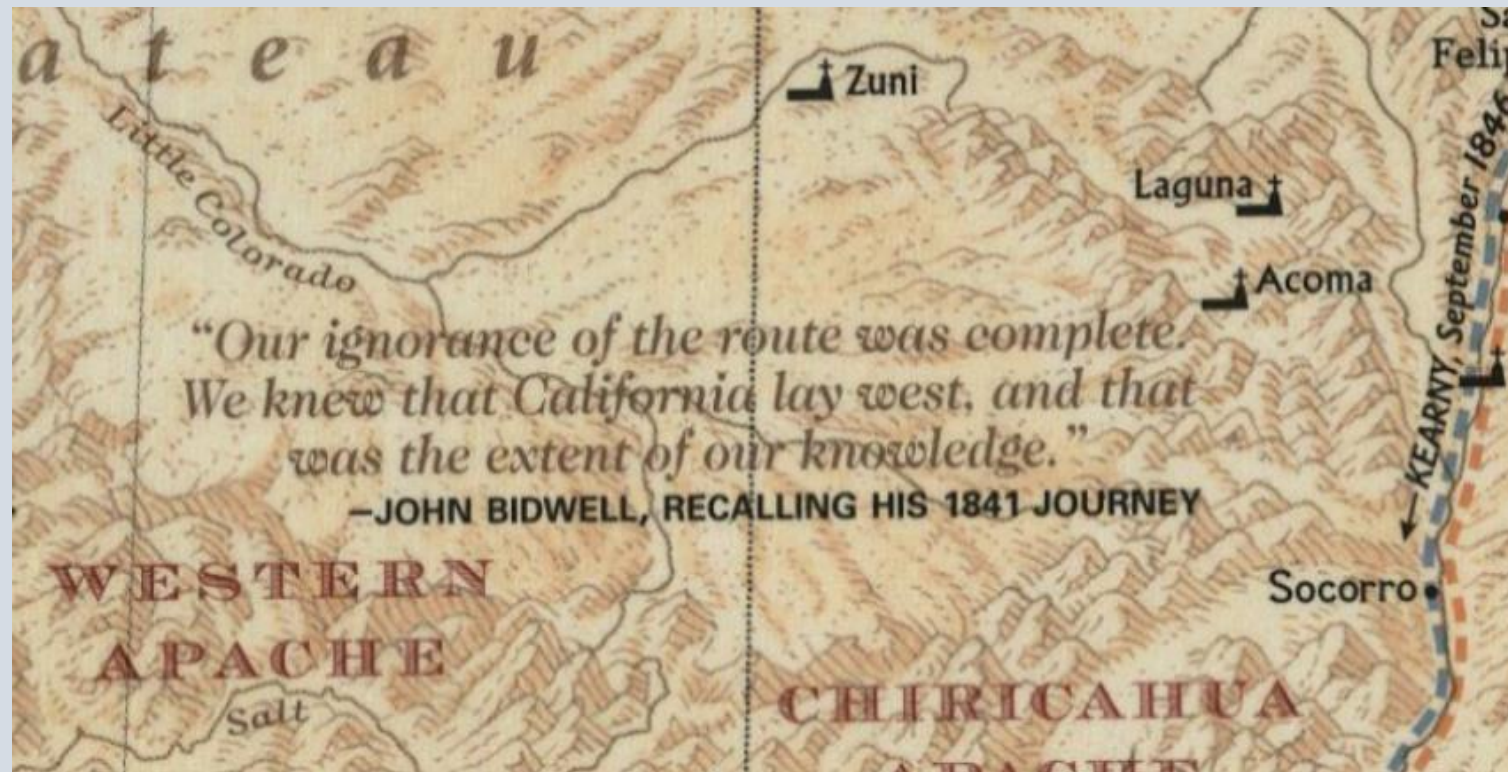






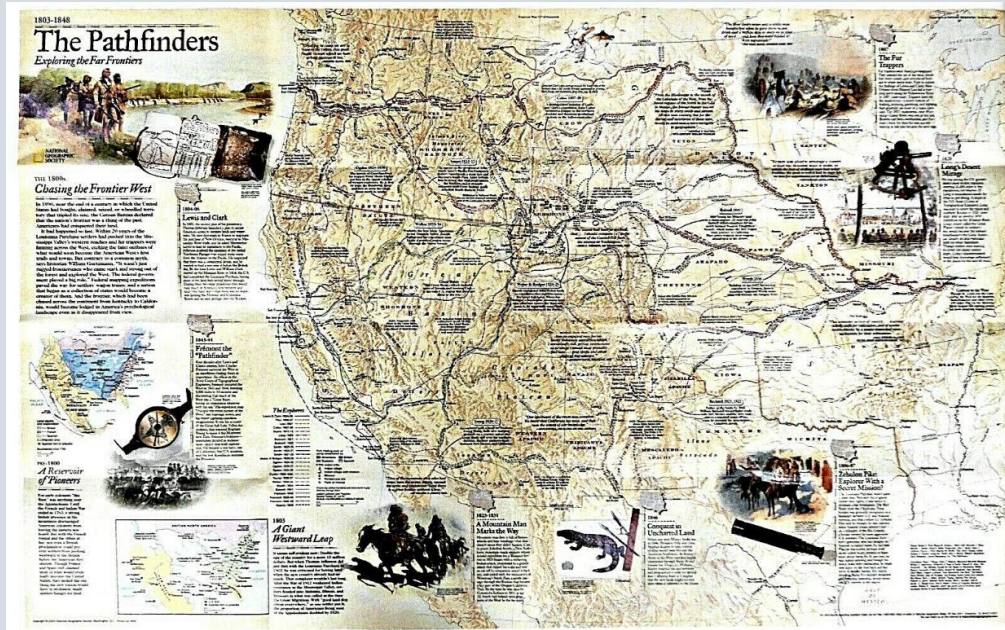
How did they know where they were going?

Sometimes they didn't....



How did they know where they were going?

The people described on this map....



U.S. Army officers sent west to explore
(Lewis and Clark, Zebulon Pike, Stephen Long)

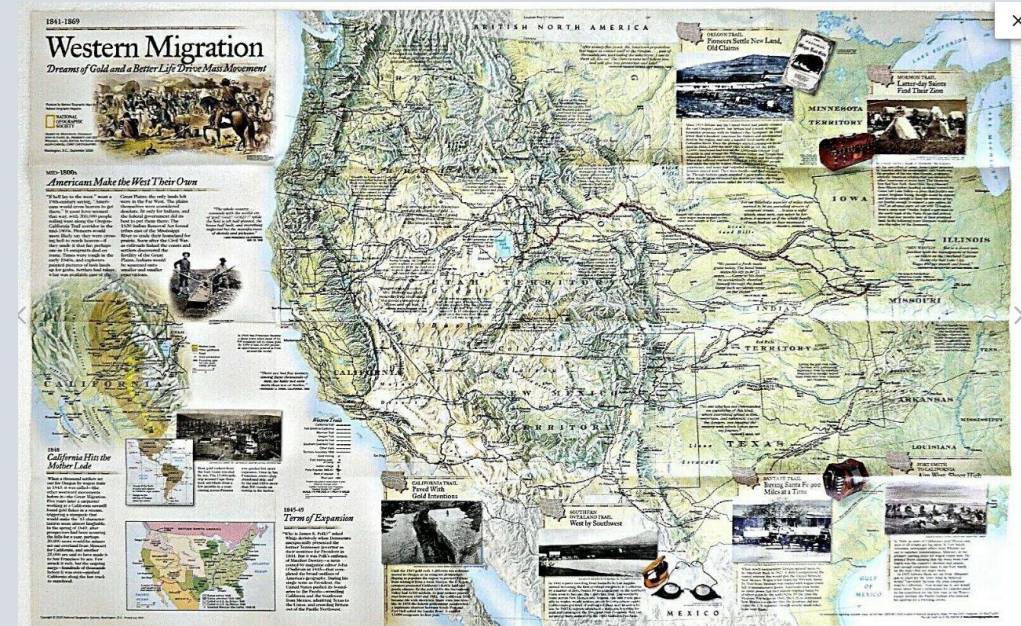
and

"mountain men," rugged fur traders
(Jim Bridger, Kit Carson, Jedediah Smith, Hugh Glass)

...showed the way for the groups described on this map.

Santa Fe traders, Mormons fleeing persecution, and above all
settlers going west

(a trickle to Santa Fe, a stream to Oregon, and a flood to
California when gold was discovered!)

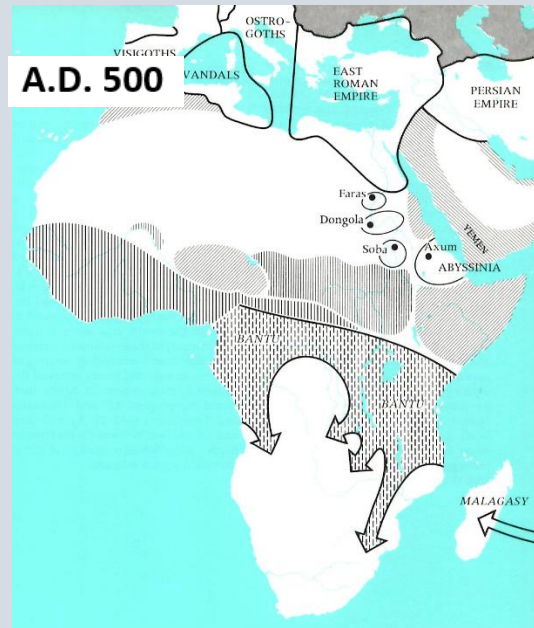


This was the last great folk migration in history to be done the old-fashioned way: in wagons, on horseback and on foot....

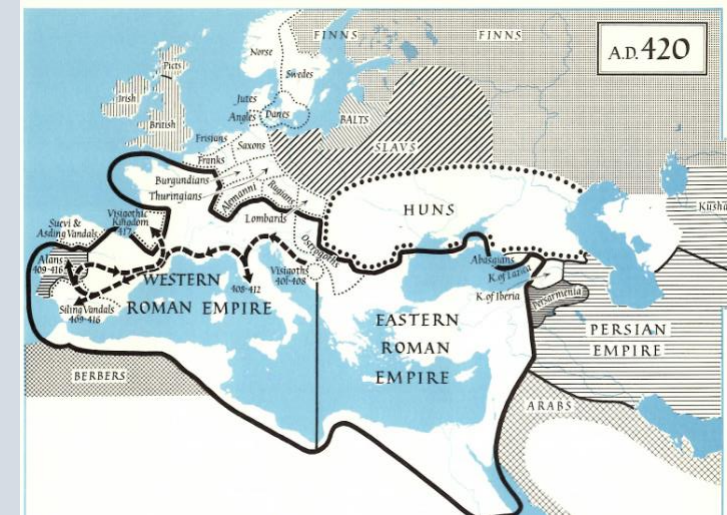
following a pattern as old as humanity itself.



The Han Chinese colonization of south China

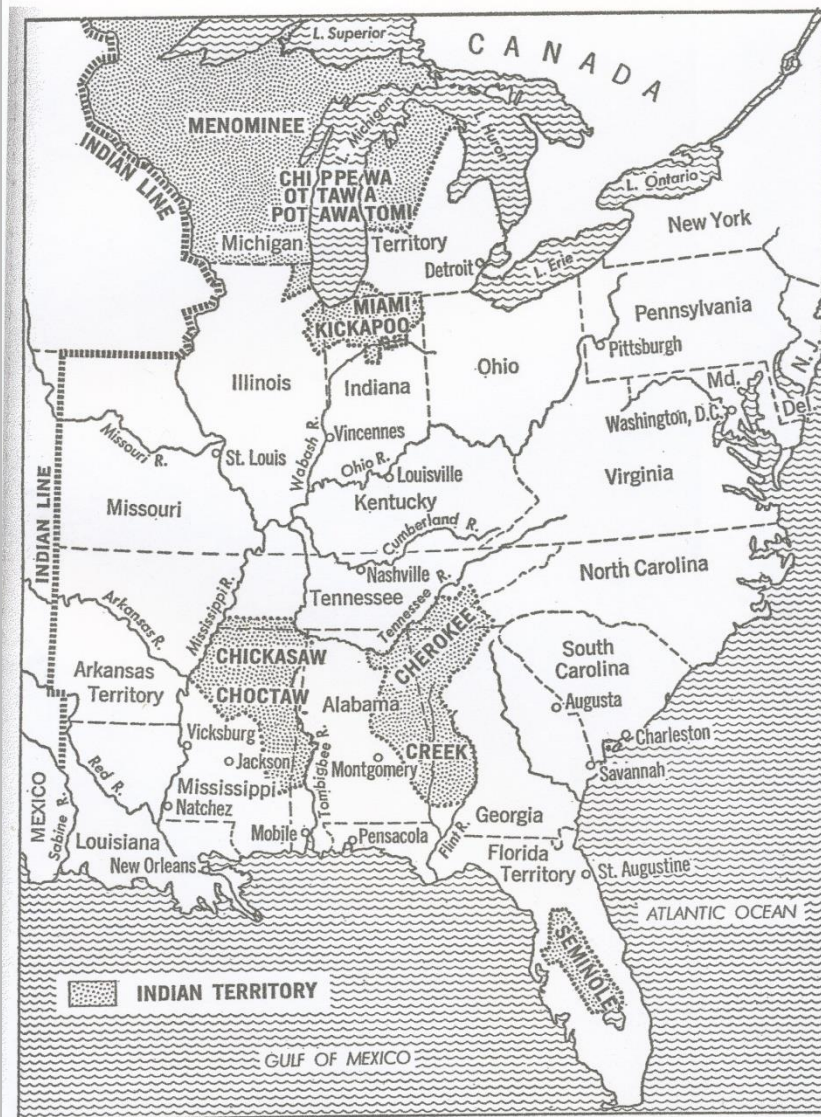


The Bantu-speaking peoples moving into southern Africa



The Germanic tribes invading the West Roman Empire





Shaded areas represent major Indian holdings east of the Mississippi not yet ceded to the United States, January 1, 1825. On January 27, 1825 President Monroe recommended to Congress implementation of the proposal of his Secretary of War, John C. Calhoun, that all Indians be required to move west beyond what was thereafter known as the Indian Line and that as an indispensable component of this new national policy, white settlement be forever prohibited west of that line.



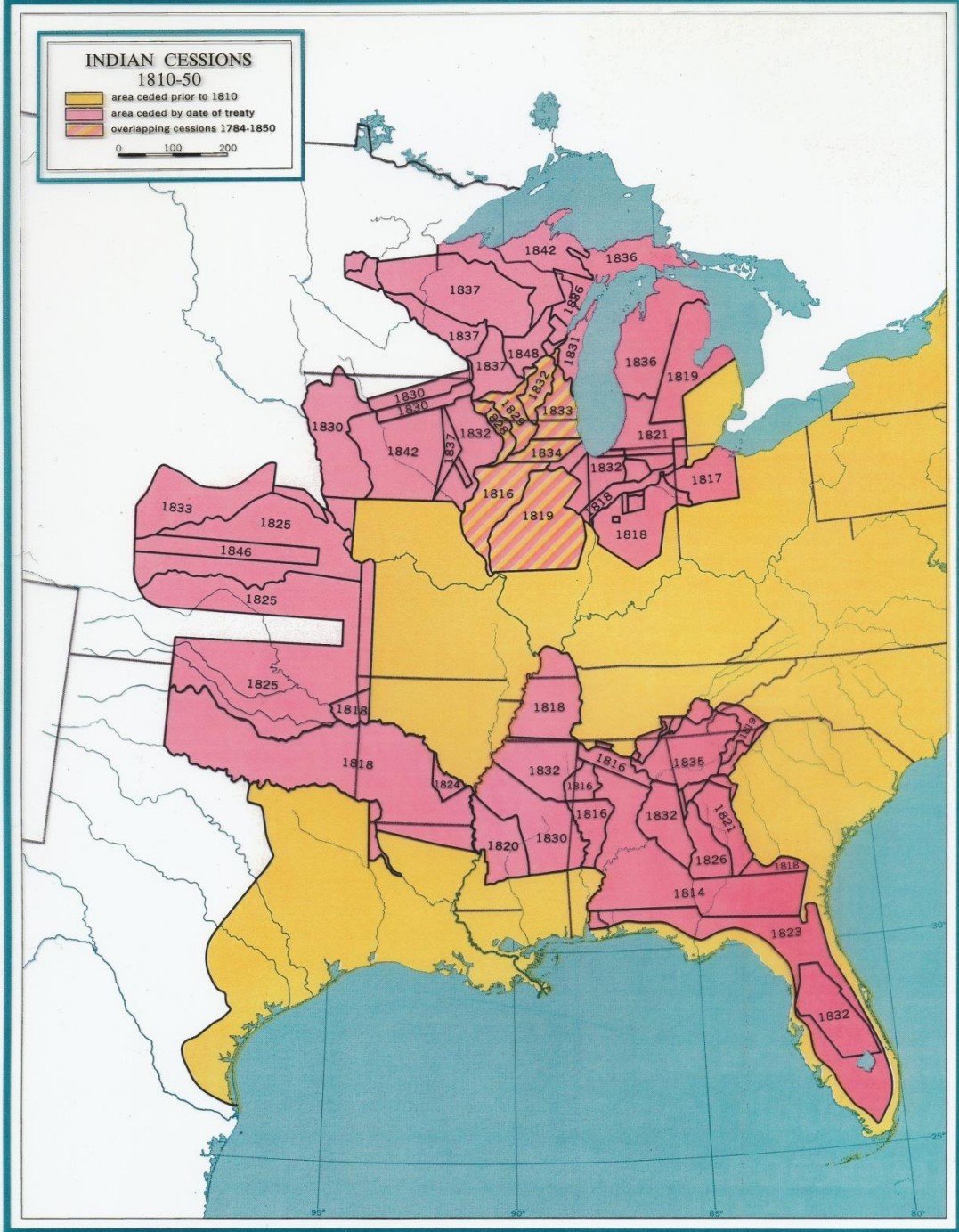
The ethnic cleansing of the Cherokee nation by the U.S. Army, 1838. This painting, *The Trail of Tears*, was painted by Robert Lindneux in 1942. | Public Domain

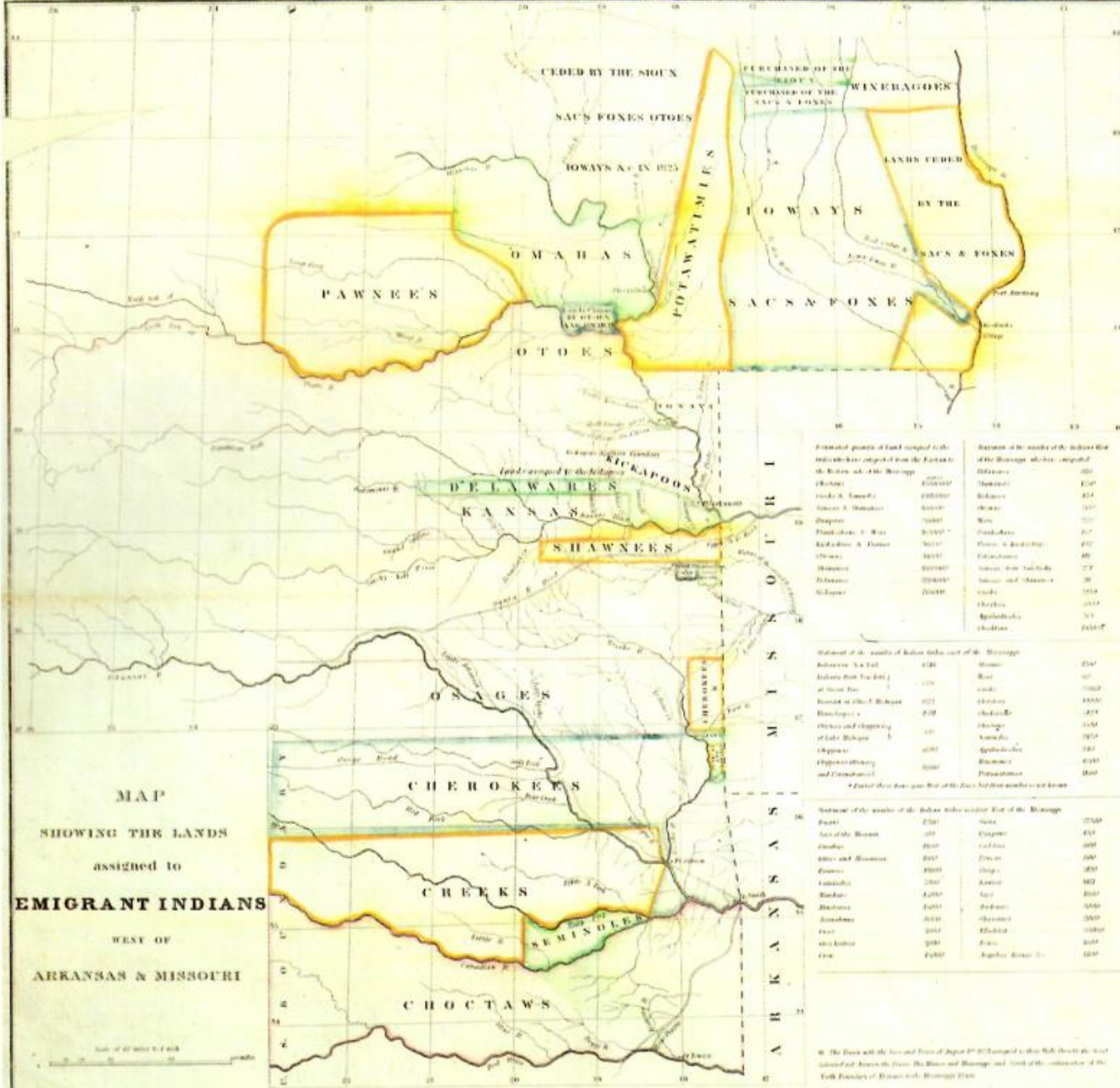
INDIAN CESSIONS

1810-50

- area ceded prior to 1810
- area ceded by date of treaty
- overlapping cessions 1784-1850

0 100 200





MAP
SHOWING THE LANDS
assigned to
EMIGRANT INDIANS
WEST OF
ARKANSAS & MISSOURI

Estimated number of land assigned to the Indians west of the Missouri River, and of the Missouri Territory, in 1836.

Tribe	Number	Tribe	Number
Cherokee	100,000	Shawnee	10,000
Delaware	10,000	Osage	10,000
Kansas	10,000	Choctaw	10,000
Shawnee	10,000	Creek	10,000
Osage	10,000	Seminole	10,000
Choctaw	10,000	Chickasaw	10,000
Creek	10,000	Yamacraw	10,000
Seminole	10,000	Chickasaw	10,000
Chickasaw	10,000	Yamacraw	10,000
Yamacraw	10,000		

Statement of the number of Indian tribes west of the Missouri River, in 1836.

Tribe	Number	Tribe	Number
Cherokee	100,000	Shawnee	10,000
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Seminole	10,000	Chickasaw	10,000
Chickasaw	10,000	Yamacraw	10,000
Yamacraw	10,000		

Prepared at the Department of the Interior
April 23, 1836
Wm. H. Rouse

This map has not yet been printed in the United States, but permission has been made for its sale in this country by a party now waiting the action of the President and Senate.

The lines with the letters A and B are not drawn to the scale of the map, but are drawn to the scale of the Survey of the Missouri and Arkansas, and land of the construction of the York Boundary of the Missouri River.

Santa Fe Trail: Missouri to Council Grove



**Old Franklin and
William Becknell's Story**



Arrow Rock

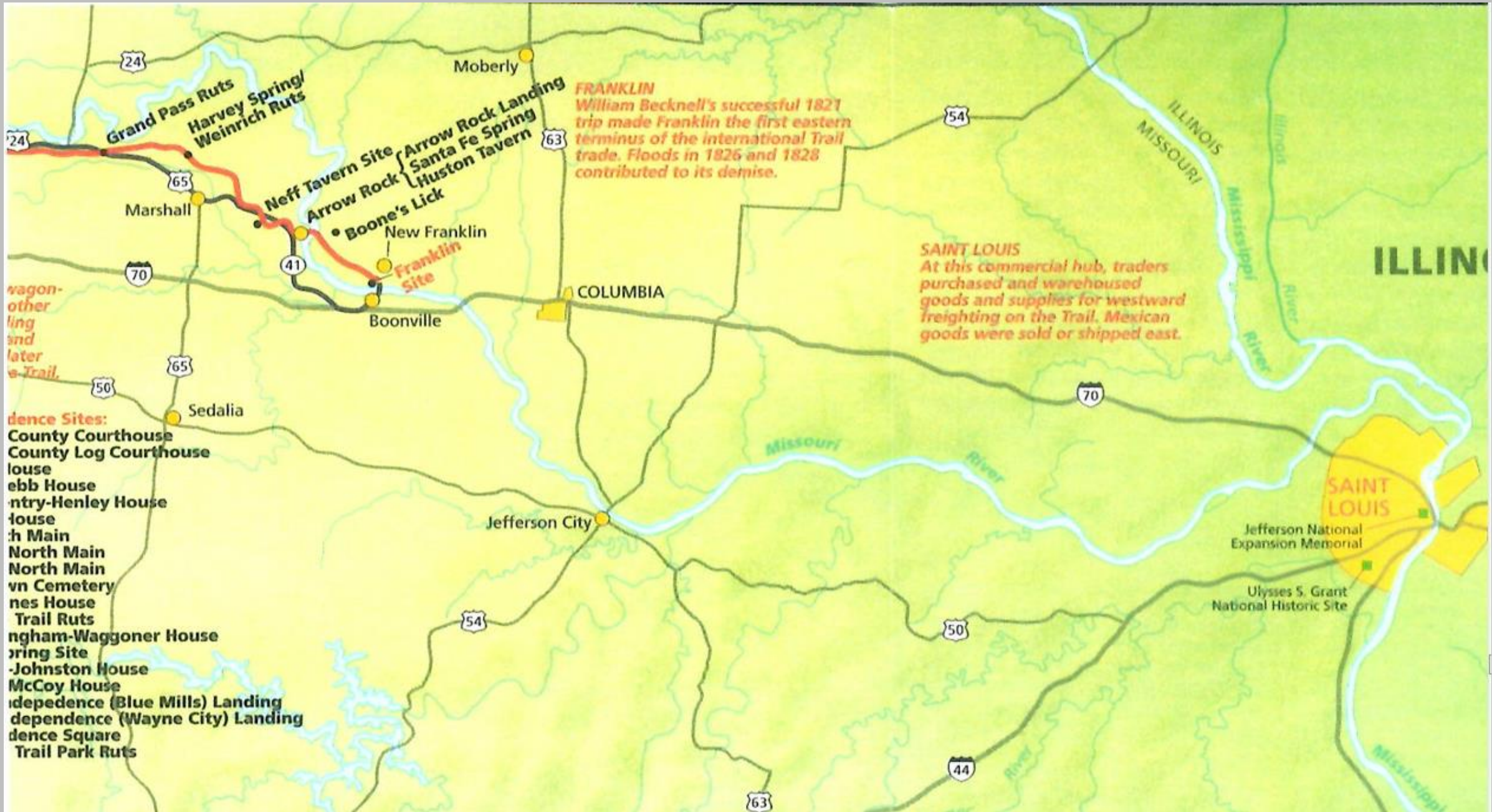


Independence



Westport landing



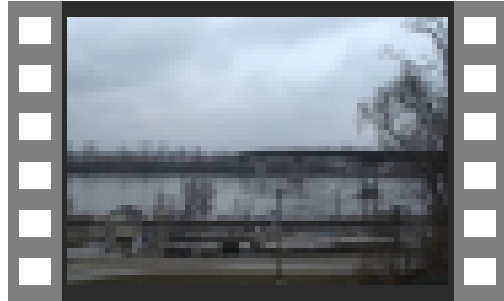


FRANKLIN
William Becknell's successful 1821 trip made Franklin the first eastern terminus of the international Trail trade. Floods in 1826 and 1828 contributed to its demise.

SAINT LOUIS
At this commercial hub, traders purchased and warehoused goods and supplies for westward freighting on the Trail. Mexican goods were sold or shipped east.

wagon-
other
ling
and
later
e-Trail.

- Historical Sites:**
- County Courthouse
 - County Log Courthouse
 - House
 - ebb House
 - ntry-Henley House
 - ouse
 - h Main
 - North Main
 - North Main
 - vn Cemetery
 - nes House
 - Trail Ruts
 - ngham-Waggoner House
 - ring Site
 - Johnston House
 - McCoy House
 - dependence (Blue Mills) Landing
 - dependence (Wayne City) Landing
 - dependence Square
 - Trail Park Ruts



**1 Old Franklin,
and William
Becknell's Story**



Palmyra

Quincy

Chitticothe

N. London

Old Franklin

St. Charles

St. Osage

Missouri R. 31

Donville

St. Louis

Arrowrock

St. Charles

St. Louis

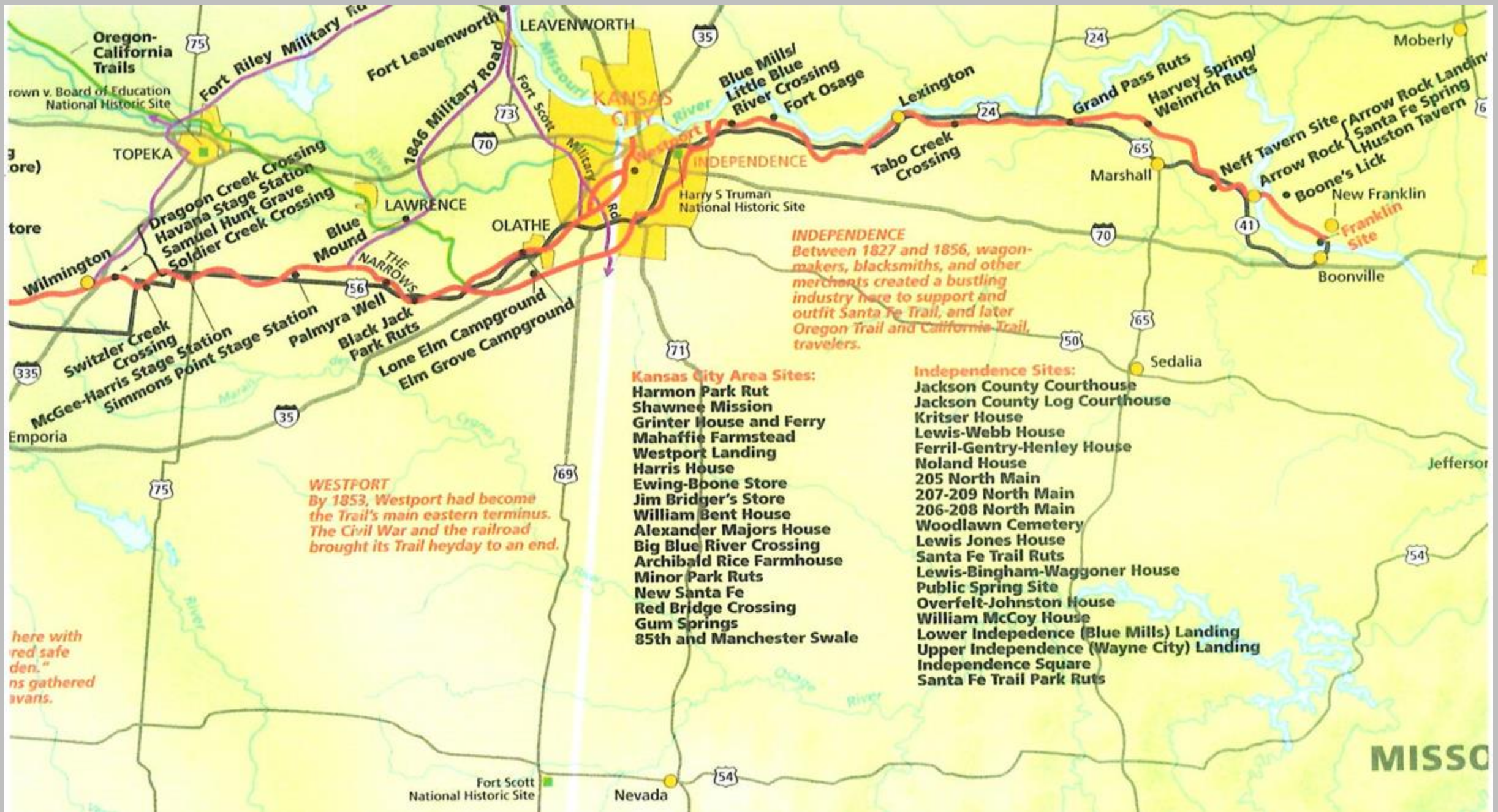


"We passed a fresh made grave today. The head board states his age to be 21 years. . . . Came to his death by accidentally shooting himself through the head. Many such accidents occur on the plains."
-WILLIS READ, 1850

During the gold rush years Cherokee with gold-mining experience from their former homelands in Georgia helped blaze trails west from Arkansas and Oklahoma.

"No one who has not commanded an expedition of this kind, where everything ahead is dim, uncertain, and unknown, except the dangers, can imagine the anxiety with which I start upon my journey."
-EDWARD F. BEALE, 1857

series in the riched few of usands who orado's Front, but Denver transportation ide center.



WESTPORT
 By 1853, Westport had become the Trail's main eastern terminus. The Civil War and the railroad brought its Trail heyday to an end.

INDEPENDENCE
 Between 1827 and 1856, wagon-makers, blacksmiths, and other merchants created a bustling industry here to support and outfit Santa Fe Trail, and later Oregon Trail and California Trail, travelers.

- Kansas City Area Sites:**
- Harmon Park Rut
 - Shawnee Mission
 - Grinter House and Ferry
 - Mahaffie Farmstead
 - Westport Landing
 - Harris House
 - Ewing-Boone Store
 - Jim Bridger's Store
 - William Bent House
 - Alexander Majors House
 - Big Blue River Crossing
 - Archibald Rice Farmhouse
 - Minor Park Ruts
 - New Santa Fe
 - Red Bridge Crossing
 - Gum Springs
 - 85th and Manchester Swale

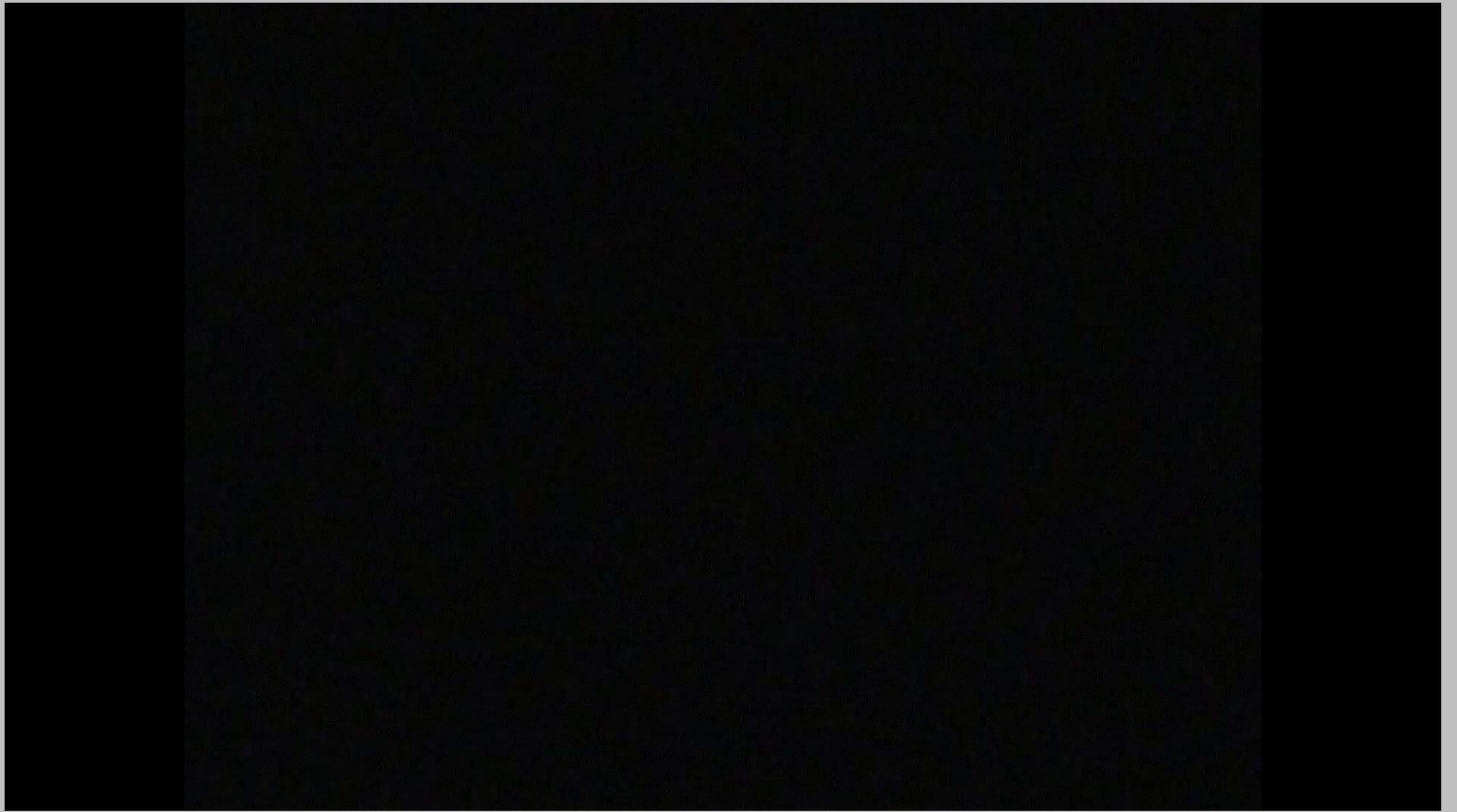
- Independence Sites:**
- Jackson County Courthouse
 - Jackson County Log Courthouse
 - Kritser House
 - Lewis-Webb House
 - Ferril-Gentry-Henley House
 - Noland House
 - 205 North Main
 - 207-209 North Main
 - 206-208 North Main
 - Woodlawn Cemetery
 - Lewis Jones House
 - Santa Fe Trail Ruts
 - Lewis-Bingham-Waggoner House
 - Public Spring Site
 - Overfelt-Johnston House
 - William McCoy House
 - Lower Independence (Blue Mills) Landing
 - Upper Independence (Wayne City) Landing
 - Independence Square
 - Santa Fe Trail Park Ruts

here with red safe den. ns gathered avans.

MISSO



2 Arrow Rock,
Independence,
Westport
Landing

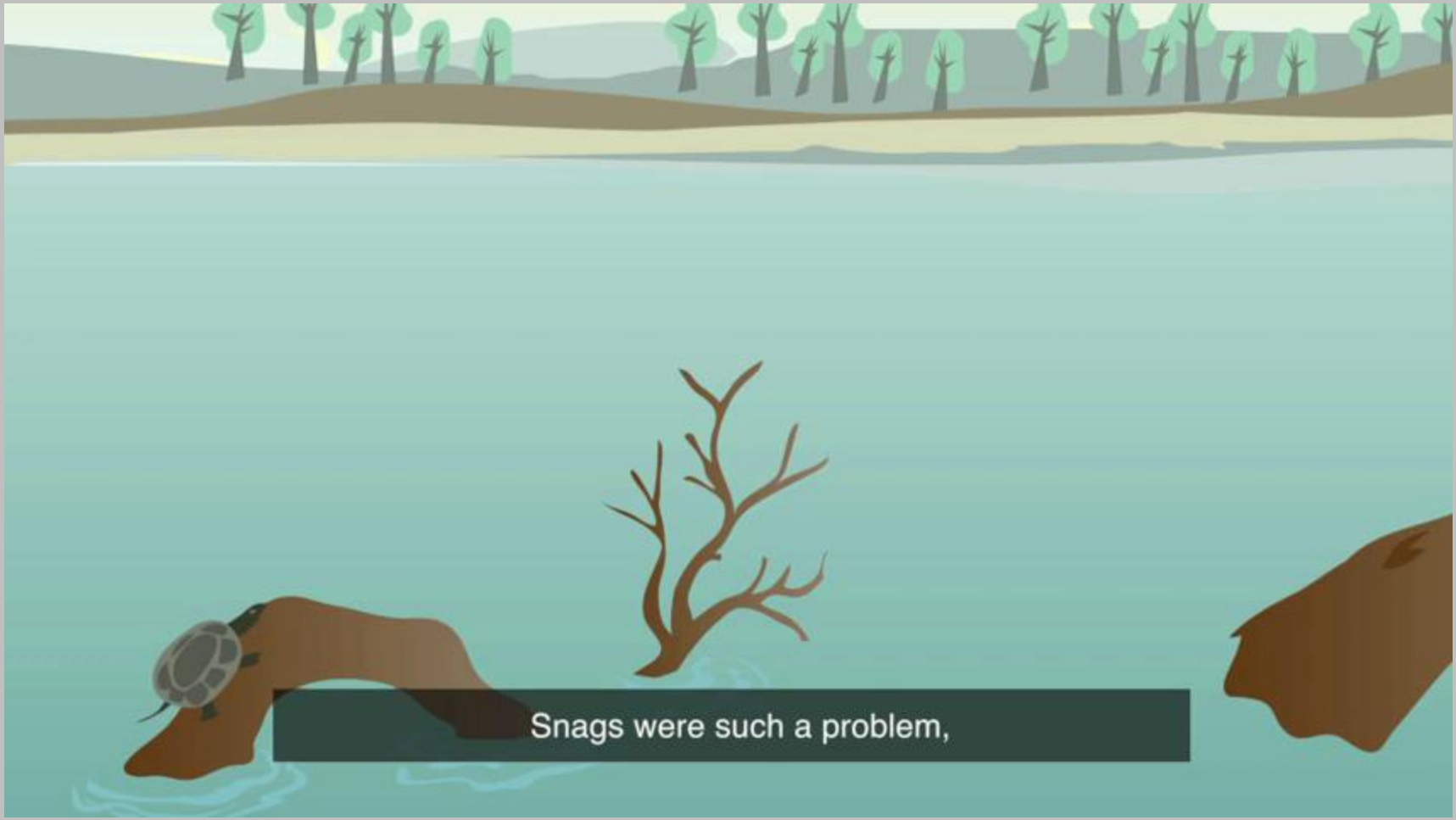




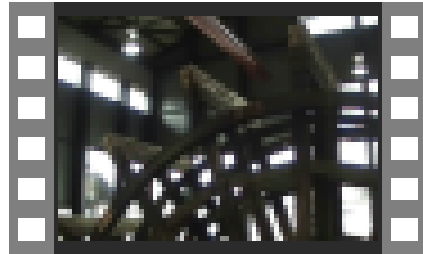




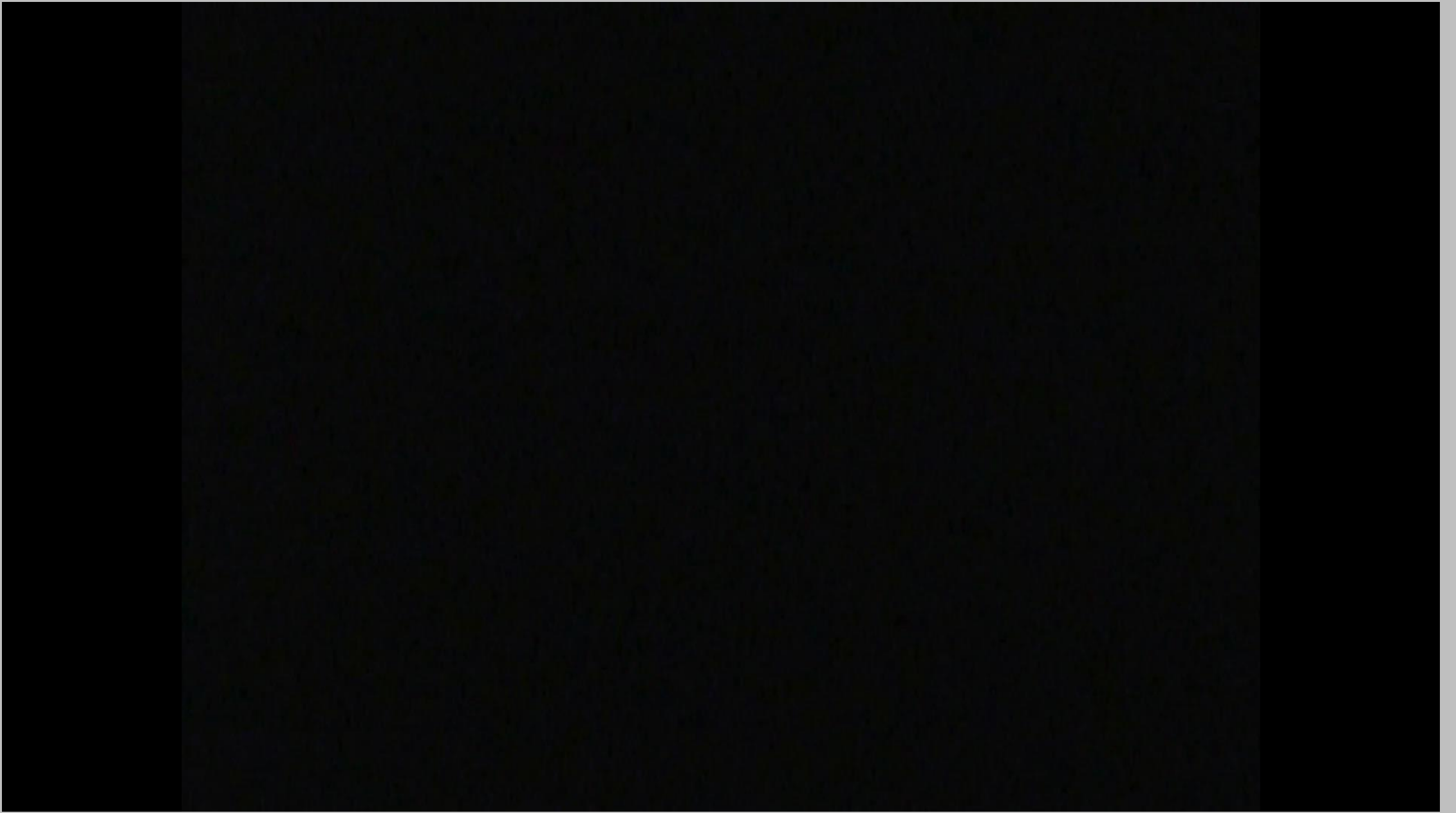
This painting was done by Karl Bodmer on a trip up the Missouri River on the steamboat Yellowstone in 1833.

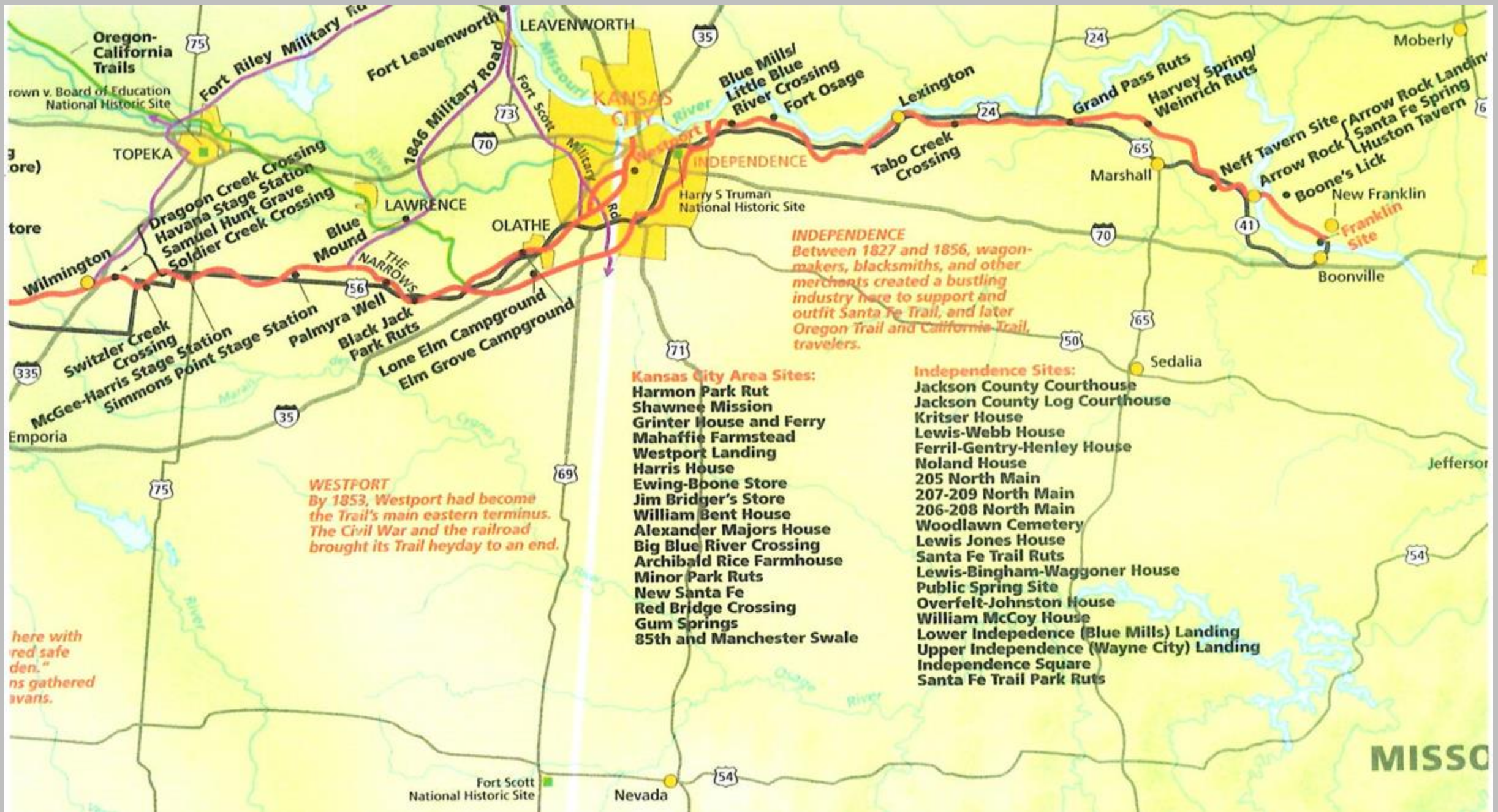


Snags were such a problem,



3 The Steamboat Arabia and its cargo





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