

# First White Men in North Carolina Visited Macon County

## De Soto's Party Camped Here Over 400 Years Ago

### Little Tennessee First Westward-Flowing Stream Found

Four hundred years ago—almost a half century before Sir Walter Raleigh's ships touched Roanoke Island and less than 50 years after Columbus discovered the New World—a straggling column of Spaniards headed by Hernando De Soto forded the Little Tennessee river and pitched camp at an Indian village on the site of the present town of Franklin, the first white men to set foot on North Carolina soil.

The celebration here next Wednesday will fittingly commemorate the 400th anniversary of this colorful opening chapter of the history of North Carolina as well as Macon county.

The interest of the state, and indeed, of all interested in America's beginning, is represented by the unveiling by the Colonial Dames of the historical marker placed by that organization near the exact point on the banks of the Little Tennessee where the great explorer and his tired army rested overnight. This is one of a series of markers to be placed by the Colonial Dames in every state through which De Soto passed. The historical commission of North Carolina is also planning to place markers on the highways following De Soto's route through this corner of the state.

### New Interest in De Soto Route

Attention is centered on the history of the De Soto expedition at this time because of the new data revealed in the report to Congress of the United States De Soto Expedition commission recently published. Dr. John R. Swanton, ethnologist of the Smithsonian Institution, chairman of the committee, who located the trail on a visit to Franklin in 1934, establishing beyond reasonable doubt the route as finally described.

### Ranjel's Diary

Dr. Swanton gives us this quaint passage of an experience on South Carolina soil that occurred April 17, 1540, on the way to the Little Tennessee, as described in the diary of De Soto's secretary, Ranjel:

"They crossed a very large river, divided into two branches, wider than a long shot from an arquebuse. And the fords were very bad, with many flat stones, and the water came up to the stirrups and in places to the saddlepads. The current was very strong and none of the horsemen dared to take a foot soldier on the croup. The foot soldiers crossed the river further up where it was deeper in this way. They made a line of thirty or forty men tied together and so they crossed over supporting each other; and although some were in much danger, it pleased God that none was drowned, for the horsemen helped them with their horses and gave them the butt of the lance or the tail of a horse, and in that way they all got out and passed the night on a hill. That day they lost many pigs of those which they had brought tame from Cuba, as they were carried down by the current."

This diary shows that the Spaniards on leaving Cofitachequi in the neighborhood of Silver Bluff in Georgia, marched north between the Savannah and Saluda rivers to Edgefield and to the Cheraw settlement in Oconee county, S. C., known as Xuala; near the town of Walhalla. They followed "a precipitous path" which leads up White river, round Glade mountain through Horse Cove to Highlands. This old trail descends along Cullasaja creek not far from the pres-

ent highway.

The Little Tennessee river was forded at Franklin, and the plain of Franklin was evidently where De Soto's army stopped for a day (and night) while one of the officers, Alonso Romo, went back in search of a couple of missing men and where the famous "lady of Cofitachequi" (kidnapped daughter of an Indian chieftan in Georgia) escaped, carrying with her a box (or basket) of unboiled pearls."

Enlarging on this last incident one narrator records that the lady married one of the Spaniards, connecting "the couple of missing men" with this romantic incident. There is also implied disappointment that the chieftainess managed to escape before being relieved of the box of unboiled pearls.

Fording the Little Tennessee at Franklin the old Indian trail followed is traced along the Cartoogehaye valley, across Black Gap, descending the mountains to Shooting Creek valley, then along the Hiwassee, picking up a famous war trail from the north in the neighborhood of Chattanooga.

### A Great Explorer

Interest in De Soto himself has been awakened by this bringing to light of hitherto unknown facts about his remarkable trek through what one historian called the "hideous solitudes" of the unexplored wilderness.

Of noble birth, Hernando De Soto represented the flower of that golden age of Spanish power that followed nearly 800 years of wars.

The record is one of greed and cruelty characteristic of their time as well as race, but also a paradoxical chivalry, with unmatched heroism and endurance.

Luxuriously outfitted with riches obtained from a former expedition to Panama and Peru, and spurred by the fabulous gold discoveries in the land of the Incas, De Soto left Spain a second time to be governor of Cuba, while still in his early 30s. His purpose was "to obtain an independent government for himself in the New World."

But a life of luxurious ease "does not appear to have been much to the taste of De Soto" with the result that he left Cuba to the rule of his wife Isabel to set out on the fateful journey that was to end in his death and to give him a lasting place in history among the great discoverers. The company set sail from the harbor of Havana in April, 1539, with more than 600 men—foot soldiers and cavalry, a few women, sailors, servants and craftsmen. There were more than 300 horses and "no lack for hogs" for food.

So complete is the record that the names of the men and their callings are listed. Significant of the age as being sartorial rather than mechanical is the listing of six tailors, two shoemakers, one stocking maker, and only one carpenter and one sword-cutter.

### "Waters Flowing West"

By the time De Soto reached the valley of the Little Tennessee on that afternoon in late May, we can picture a weary company, reduced by desperate battles, sickness and hunger. But their leader—who, himself, had barely escaped death—was dismayed. He noted that this stream flowed—not east or south—but northwest, tributary to a yet undiscovered body of water. With this new object, he set out across the mountains until he discovered the Mississippi river, under whose waters he was buried.

The report makes this commentary: "The De Soto expedition is of too much historical significance and forms a chapter of the story of Spain in America, and in the story of all America, too important and too romantic for its 400th anniversary to be allowed to pass without due and widespread recognition."

This dramatic story will be told in the presentation "Waters Flowing West" by Miss Edith Russell, better than any words in print can possibly portray.

### LEGAL ADVERTISING

#### NOTICE OF SALE

North Carolina  
Macon County  
Pursuant to power of sale contained in a deed of trust executed by E. B. Dehart and wife, Leona Dehart, dated 27 May, 1936, and recorded in Book No. 35 of Mortgages and Deeds of trust, at Page 164, Records of Macon County, North Carolina, the undersigned trustee will, at 12:00 Noon, on July 16, 1940, sell at the courthouse door, in Franklin, N. C., to the highest bidder for cash, the following described real estate:

Adjoining J. C. Sanders, J. W. Hasting and Oliver farm and others, bounded as follows, to-wit: Being on the waters of North Skeenah creek, known as a part of the Mahala Sanders Dowery lands, BEGINNING on a large chestnut in south side line of No. 97 in Dis. 15 ten poles W. of a poplar, the beginning corner of said Sec. No. 97, Dis. No. 15, runs thence N. to a stone in the public

### Fashions in Spanish Dress of the Time of De Soto



The above sketch, executed by Miss Edith Russell, author and director of "Waters Flowing West" illustrates the modes of dress among the various Spanish classes that De Soto and his contemporaries were familiar with. Many of the costumes shown above have been reproduced for the pageant. The portrait of De Soto, showing him as a young man, was painted just prior to his sailing for the New World.



Hernando De Soto

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road, Oliver's corner, being near the school house; thence west direction with the meanders of said road, to a stone at the second branch from said Oliver corner; thence south with said branch to the creek; thence up the creek to the mouth of a branch on south side of said creek; thence south with said branch to a double walnut; thence W. to a black oak on the point of the ridge; thence S. E. to a white oak; thence S. E. to a hickory on top of the mountain being J. C. Oliver's corner or near his corner; then N. to a hickory stump, Jas. Moffitt's corner; thence E 10 poles to BEGINNING, containing 25 acres, more or less, and being the same land described in a deed from J. W. Hasting and wife, Mattie Hasting, to E. B. Dehart, said deed bearing date of Jan. 28, 1925, and being recorded in Book K-4, Page 364, Records Macon County, N. C., to which deed, as so recorded, reference is hereby made for a more complete and definite description of the land herein described.

This 15th day of June, 1940.  
GEORGE B. PATTON,  
Trustee

J20-4tc-Jly11

### LEGAL ADVERTISING

#### NOTICE OF SALE

North Carolina  
Macon County  
In The Superior Court  
The Bank of Franklin  
vs.  
J. A. Berry, W. J. Berry and L. A. Berry

By virtue of an execution directed to the undersigned from the Superior Court of Macon County in the above entitled action, I will on Monday, the 15th day of July, 1940, at 12 o'clock, noon, at the courthouse door of said County, sell to the highest bidder for cash to satisfy said execution, all the right, title and interest which the said J. A. Berry had at the time of docketing said judgment in the following described tract of land in Macon County, North Carolina: One-half of all minerals and all mining privileges included use of

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all timber and water and water rights in and to those lands described in deed from W. H. Berry and M. A. Berry, his wife, to Logan Berry, which said deed was recorded in the office of the Register of Deeds of Macon County, North Carolina, in Book FF on page 421, containing 225 acres, more or less.

Also the full minerals and mining privileges in and to the lands described in a deed from A. J. Moore and wife, to W. H. Berry which said deed was recorded in the office of the Register of Deeds of Macon County, North Carolina, in Book JJ at page 473, except so much thereof as was deeded by J. A. Berry and Minnie Berry to J. B. Ammons by deed recorded in the office of the Register of Deeds of Macon County in Book I, at page 240, and so much as was deeded by the same parties to the same party and recorded in Book Q-4 at page 297, the remaining lands consisting of four acres more or less.

Also all other minerals and mining privileges owned by J. A. Berry, Minnie Berry and Clyde Berry in Ellijay Township, Macon County, North Carolina, except only the home place of Minnie Berry, consisting of 75 acres.

This 15th day of June, 1940.  
A. B. SLAGLE, Sheriff  
J20-4tc-Jly 11

### LEGAL ADVERTISING

#### NOTICE OF PUBLICATION

State of North Carolina  
County of Macon  
In The Superior Court  
Rebe Sloan Tessier  
vs.  
F. M. Tessier

F. M. Tessier, defendant in the above named cause, will take notice that an action as above entitled has been commenced in the Superior Court, Macon County, North Carolina, to the end that the plaintiff may secure an absolute divorce under the laws of the State of North Carolina, and the defendant will take notice that he is required to appear on the 15th day of July, 1940, in the office of the Clerk

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of the Superior Court, Macon County, North Carolina, and answer or demur to the complaint in said action, or the plaintiff will apply for the relief demanded in said complaint.

This 14th day of June, 1940.  
HARLEY R. CABE,  
Clerk of the Superior Court  
J20-4tc-Jly 11

### LEGAL ADVERTISING

#### NOTICE OF SALE

State of North Carolina,  
County of Macon.  
Macon County, Plaintiff  
vs.  
Luline L. Mabry; R. N. Britton and wife, Exie Britton, Defendants.

Under and by virtue of a decree of the Superior Court of Macon county entered in the above entitled action on the 3rd day of June, 1940, the undersigned Commissioner will on the 8th day of July, 1940, at 12 o'clock, noon, at the Courthouse door in Macon County, North Carolina, sell to the highest bidder for cash the following described real estate:

Being lots Nos. 54 and 55 in the Mabry Farm subdivision, as surveyed by S. M. Parker December 7, 1929, a plat of which is recorded in the office of the Register of Deeds for Macon County, N. C., in Plat Book No. 1, page 70, to which plat as so recorded reference is hereby made and had for a more definite description of the lands.

This, the 6th day of June, 1940.  
R. S. JONES, Commissioner  
J13-4tc-Jly4

### LEGAL ADVERTISING

County, North Carolina, sell to the highest bidder for cash the following described real estate:

All the lands described in a deed from A. J. Gribble and wife, Dassie Gribble, to W. A. Reece and George W. Reece, and bearing date of March 24, 1927 and recorded in Book 0-4, page 51, records of Macon County.

2nd Tract: Lot 21 of the Gaston Subdivision as shown by a plat made by J. M. Furr, Jr., Civil Engineer, in August, 1924, which plat is recorded in Book 1, page 1 of Plats in the office of the Register of Deeds, Macon County, N. C.

This, the 6th day of June, 1940.  
R. S. JONES, Commissioner  
J13-4tc-Jly4

### NOTICE OF SALE

State of North Carolina,  
County of Macon.  
Macon County, Plaintiff  
vs.  
B. B. Lenoir and wife, Corrine Lenoir, et als., Defendants.

Under and by virtue of a decree of the Superior Court of Macon County entered in the above entitled action on the 6th day of May, 1940, the undersigned Commissioner will on the 8th day of July, 1940, at 12 o'clock, noon, at the Courthouse door in Macon County, North Carolina, sell to the highest bidder for cash the following described real estate:

Lot 54 in the Laura M. Jones land as surveyed by W. N. Sloan January, 1923, which plat is recorded in the office of the Register of Deeds for Macon County in Plat Book No. 1, page 10.

This, the 6th day of June, 1940.  
R. S. JONES, Commissioner  
J13-4tc-Jly4

### ADMINISTRATOR'S NOTICE

Having qualified as administrator of W. T. Gregory, deceased, late of Macon county, N. C., this is to notify all persons having claims against the estate of said deceased to exhibit them to the undersigned on or before the 11th day of June, 1941, or this notice will be plead in bar of their recovery. All persons indebted to said estate will please make immediate settlement.

This 11th day of June, 1940.  
THEODORE GREGORY,  
Administrator  
J13-6tc-Jly18

### NOTICE OF SALE

State of North Carolina,  
County of Macon.  
Macon County, Plaintiff  
vs.  
Isabell Reece and husband, —; Billy Reece and wife, —, Reece, et als., Defendants.

Under and by virtue of a decree of the Superior Court of Macon County entered in the above entitled action on the 3rd day of June, 1940, the undersigned Commissioner will on the 8th day of July, 1940, at 12 o'clock, noon, at the Courthouse door in Macon County, North Carolina, sell to the highest bidder for cash the following described real estate:

That part of the hereinafter described tract of land lying south-west of the following described line: BEGINNING on a Spanish oak in J. M. Davis' S. E. boundary line; then an east course crossing the branch and road to stake and pointers on top of ridge in field; thence also an east course to a large apple tree about 8 poles N. E. of Luther's spring; then S. E. with a ridge as it meanders to a sourwood in W. H. Passmore's N. E. boundary line.

BEGINNING at a Spanish oak, runs with Sam Valentine's line to a stake in W. M. Reece line; then South 12 1/2 poles to a stake; then West 40 poles to a black oak; then South 124 poles to an apple tree on branch bank; then with branch to a poplar stump; then N. 10 E. 23 poles to a white walnut; then N. 45 E. 24 poles to a post oak in J. W. Frazier's line; then North 10 1/2 poles to the BEGINNING, containing 50 acres, more or less.

This, the 6th day of June, 1940.  
R. S. JONES, Commissioner  
J13-4tc-Jly4

**PALMOLIVE** 3 for 20c

**CONCENTRATED SUPER SUDS** 3 for 25c

**KLEK** 3 for 25c

**OCTAGON SOAP** 6 for 25c

**OCTAGON POWDER** 6 for 25c

**OCTAGON Toilet Soap** 3 for 14c

OCT. CLEANSER ..... 5c

OCT. GRANULATED .... 5c

**R. G. RAY**