



NEWSLETTER OF THE ORDER OF THE FOUNDERS OF NORTH AMERICA—1492-1692

Vol 5 : 3 January 2022

Puritan Customs

Grand VC
General

The Exploration
and Colonization
of the Americas

The Rise of Spain
to a World Power



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SA
 facte by them done (this their condition considered) might
 be as firme as any patent; and in some respects more just
 the forme was as followeth
 In the name of god Amen. We whose names are underwritten
 the loyal subjects of our dread sovereign Lord King James
 by the grace of god, of great britaine, france, & Ireland King
 Defender of the faith, &c.
 Having understood, for the glory of god, and advancement
 of christianity, and honour of our King & country, a very good
 plea, & service to the Northern parts of Virginia. And
 by this presents solemnly & mutually in presence of god, and
 one of another, covenant & combine our selves together into
 a civil body politick, full of power, ordering & preservation & fur-
 therance of such affairs; and by vertue hereof to execute
 cōsults, and frame such just & equal laws, ordinances,
 acts, constitutions, & officers, from time to time, as shall be thought
 most meete & convenient for the general good of the Colonie unto
 which we promise all due submission and obedience. In witness
 whereof we have hereunder subscribed our names at Cape
 Codd the 11 of November in the year of the reign of our sovereign
 Lord King James of England, France, & Ireland the eighteenth
 and of Scotland the fiftie fourth, the 22th 1620
 After this they did, or rather confirmed, the same course, & man-
 nerly & well agreed amongst themselves their government for that
 year. And after they had provided a place for their gods, or
 temples houses, (which were long & suitable for most of both
 sorts of winter weather, and winters of houses) and layme
 some small cottages for their habitation, as time would advise
 they went and consulted of houses, & orders, both for their
 civil & military government, as if necessitie of their condi-
 tion did require, with adding therunto as urgent occasions
 in several times, and times did require.
 In this hard & desperate beginning they found some discontent
 & murmuring amongst some, and mutinous speeches carriage
 in other; but they were soon quashed, & overcome, by the
 Lords patience, and just & equal carriage of things, by the
 and better part with cleave faithfullly together in the
 But that which was most sadde & lamentable, was that in
 or 2 months time 1/3rd of these company dyed. Others
 in Jan & February, being the days of winter, and wanting
 clothes & other comforts, being distressed with the
 &c.

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Hello & Welcome

All to the re-boot of the Spyglass quarterly newsletter of the Order of the Founders of North America. Before reissuing the Spy Glass in July the last issue was published for the Winter of 2015-2016. So there has been a seven plus year hiatus. With this and subsequent issues I hope that there will be a regeneration of interested parties willing to submit articles for our members to enjoy reading.

For each subsequent issue I will re-print articles from the first years as our new members might not have read them. As you can see in this issue I have begun doing that. There are a few re-prints contained herein.

Also, issues should have reports from any board meetings, our annual meeting which is being held concurrent with the National Congress of the Sons of the American Revolution in Washington state. There will hopefully be a report welcoming new members with listing their ancestor. We might hope that some of these new members might provide a short biography of themselves and their ancestor. A photo perhaps. Likewise, any deceased member should have something submitted on their life so that we may all commemorate them. I would like to have the Grand Viscount General and Grand Viscount General Elect provide regular messages that they would deem important to our membership, i.e., plans, goals, accomplishments, etc.

Steve Williams

Editor

As will become obvious in reading this issue there will be items that will be out of chronological order - such as the 'Upcoming Annual meeting'



PURITAN CUSTOMS—SENDING OUT

Re-printed from Vol.1 - Issue 4

Massachusetts was settled by the Puritans whose customs were transplanted from their East Anglia origins and formed by their very strong religious beliefs.

Children were raised with a sort of shock and awe upbringing. With a concern for their mortal soul parent's tempered their love with a healthy dose of fear. Parents were to be revered, requiring the children to rise and bow as their parents or elders approached. It was important to break the will of the child so that he/she would be compliant to the will of God and parent.

An East Anglian custom that came with the Puritan settlers was the practice of "sending out." Children, some at very early ages, were sent to live with another family. Parents who sent out their children, in at the same time, take in other children, frequently the same age as their own.

There were various reasons to send out one's children

- The child may need stance that the parent cannot provide
- The daughter may benefit from skills of another woman. Girls were frequently sent out to learn housewifery from another woman. I found this interesting supposing that their mother would be capable of this training.
- The son may find a home in a family of a tradesman who trained him in a specific craft. That training may be an improvement in status.
- The son may find a family near to a school which will benefit the young man

A child was frequently sent far from his or her home town. Salem and Boston offered opportunities for children to learn. Children wept at the separation, but to no avail. Some children were sent away as early as five years old, but the typical age was puberty. What parent has sending away a preteen, to have them returned behaved?

The agreement to send out a child and to whom to send that child had to be agreed by both the father and **mother**. The child may have been consulted, but children were not to be wilful one cannot envision many arguments a child could make to change a parent's mind.



What is interesting about this practice is the implications that it has on genealogical research in Massachusetts.

- If the Sending Out contract is found it should help identify: parents, hometown, and town and family where the child will be living and perhaps the trade to which the child will be trained.
- One should be aware that girls, and boys less often, may be married far from the township where their birth was recorded.

To read further about this practice and the other customs of the British Colonists in America, see *Albion's Seed—Four British Folkways in America* by David Hackett Fischer, 1989, Oxford University Press, New York, New York

IRISH SLAVERY

A facebook post had been circulated in 2018 about the English treatment of the Catholic Irish. It has caused comments on both sides, some denying and others presenting supporting documents. If any of our members

have documentation about this issues, the editor would love an article.

From the 15th to the 18th century, Irish prisoners were sold as slaves. For centuries, the Irish were dehumanized by the English, described as savages, so making their murder and displacement appear all the more justified. In 1654 the British parliament gave Oliver Cromwell a free hand to banish Irish "undesirables". Cromwell rounded up Catholics throughout the Irish countryside and placed them on ships bound for the Caribbean, mainly Barbados. The authorities in the West Indies, fearing the Irish would resist servitude, treated the prisoners harshly. Records suggest that priests may have been routinely tortured and executed. By 1655, 12,000 political prisoners had been forcibly shipped to Barbados.

Please correspond with SpyGlass editor, Steve Williams, sarwilliamssa@gmail.com.

EVANGALINE

*Then uprose their commander, and spake
from the steps of the altar, Holding aloft in his
hands, with its seals, the royal commission.*

*"You are convened this day," he said, "by his
Majesty's orders.*

*Clement and kind has he been; but how you
have answered his kindness, Let your own
hearts reply! To my natural make and my
temper*

*Painful the task is I do, which to you I know
must be grievous. Yet must I bow and obey, and
deliver the will of our monarch;*

*Namely, that all your lands, and dwellings, and
cattle of all kinds Forfeited be to the crown;
and that you yourselves from this province*

*Be transported to other lands. God grant you
may dwell there Ever as faithful subjects, a
happy and peaceable people!*

*Prisoners now I declare you; for such is his
Majesty's pleasure!"*

Henry Wadsworth Longfellow, 1847

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

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Capitan de la Guardia - Robert Capps

Membership Insignia

Our Grand Viscount General Ed Butler worked with City Pride, Ltd, of Pennsylvania to commission production of the dies and both a regular and miniature version of the medal.

The first production run of the medals did not meet expectations and GVG Butler worked with City Pride to correct the issues.

A production run of the medals was made available at the Annual Meeting of the OFNA. Members received an e-mail update when the medals become available. At that time an order form was distributed by e-mail and placed on the website.



As shown on front of magazine

Grand Viscount General

From the Office of Grand Viscount General

Roger Coursey, Grand Viscount General



I hope that everyone enjoyed a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!! I hope that you got exactly what you wanted from Santa, if not, at least hopefully you were able to share love and time with your family. Hopefully 2022 will be a much better year all around. I am looking forward to seeing many of you on our Zoom meeting to be held on Sunday, 9 Jan 2022 at 7:30 PM Eastern Time (since I am

writing this in Dec, the Zoom meeting likely has already occurred).

Not much has happened since my last update in the October issue of the Spy Glass. So, this will be a short message.

Now I will toot my horn a little. I have been trying to join the Society of Cincinnati since about 2011. I had found four lineage patriot ancestors who qualified as a propositus, however they were all already represented by a descendant, so they were not available for me to join under. I continued my search and finally found a collateral patriot ancestor who qualified, and was an original member of the North Carolina Society of Cincinnati. William McClure, who was

my 6th Great Uncle, was a Surgeon with the 9th Regiment, NC Continental Lines. He was the brother of my 5th Great Grandmother, Mary McClure Lowry. It took nearly two years of going back and forth with the professional genealogist hired by the NC Society of Cincinnati before my application was finally approved. I am extremely proud to have been accepted by the Society of Cincinnati.

We have had a number of individuals inquiring about becoming members and submitting applications. If you know of any who have requested applications, but have not submitted them, ask them to consider turning in their application for membership. Also, if you know of anyone who would qualify for membership, encourage them to join our organization.

Our Quartermaster General, Ken Roberts, still has Charter Bars available for any Charter Member who does not already have one. These can be attached to your large OFNA Society medal. If you are a Charter Member, contact Ken to purchase one for \$15.00.

Our next in person meeting will be our Regular Meeting in Louisville on 5 Mar 2022.

Until then, stay safe and God's Blessings

Roger W. Coursey

Grand Viscount General, OFNA

The Exploration and Colonization of the Americas

Re-printed from Vol.3 - Issue 1

By Larry G. Stevens

The Order and Founders of North America – 1492 to 1692 is a lineage society that was founded to recognize those who played a role in the discovery and settlement of North America. However, the 100 years prior can not be ignored. This period of history determined how the New World would be explored and settled. The conflicts between the first two European powers, Portugal and Spain, and the treaties negotiated by the Pope in Rome mandated how the New World should be divided before either country sent a known explorer west across the Atlantic. (Tordesillas Treaty, page 9)

Editors Note: Many of the descriptions of places and ports can be easily found by searching the internet. The history of these ports should be studied to understand how Western explorers, such as Columbus, were familiar with the sea routes to the south and the islands in the Atlantic. Overland trade of valuable metals, ivory, spices and many other trade goods from the Eastern Mediterranean and Africa was centuries old. Portugal explored routes to Africa by sea to establish their own trade routes to compete with the overland caravans which were across the Sahara to West Central Africa.

Some Early 15 Century Sailing Ports of Europe, Africa and the Atlantic Islands

Lisbon became the most important debarkation port of Portugal. Voyages from Lisbon south along the African Coast began as early as 1336. Lisbon, the capitol of Portugal, is a protected Atlantic port located at the mouth of the Tagus River on the north bank of Mar da Palheu or Sea of Straw. One of the oldest cities in Western Europe, it was first settled by the indigenous Iberians. During the period of about 800-600 BC, the Phoenicians and Greeks established trading posts at Lisbon. This was followed by the Carthaginians, the Romans, Visigoths, and the Almoravids (or Moors).

Prince Henry the Navigator organized and directed Portugal's maritime trade from Lisbon with exploration of Western Africa and the Islands of the Atlantic seeking a trade route to the East by establishing bases in Madera, (ca. 1419), the Azores, (ca.1427), and the Cape Verde Islands (ca. 1445-1456.)

Palos (de la Frontera in May 1492) was officially founded in 1322. This small port is located on the Southwest Coast



Lisbon (circa 1500) From the chronicle of Alfonso I, by Durante Galvao

Cadiz is thought to be the oldest city in Europe, founded by the Phoenicians in 1100BC. Like Lisbon, Cadiz was a port used by the Phoenicians and Greeks, later the Romans, Visigoths, and others.



Insulae Capitis Viridis (1598) by Barent Langenes, from the Bibliothèque National, Paris.

the Muslims bringing Cadiz, a part of Andalusia, out of a period of obscurity. Christopher Columbus sailed from Cádiz on his second and fourth voyages and the city later became the home port of the Spanish treasure fleets which made it a major target of privateers. Barbary raiders and corsairs made several unsuccessful raids from Tunis, Tripoli, Algiers and Sale Morocco during the 1500's. The old town was consumed in a major fire in 1569. Sir Francis Drake attacked the harbor in April 1587 and remained for three days capturing and destroying ships. The attack delayed the sailing of the Spanish Armada by a year.

The Canary Islands were discovered just a few miles off the African Coast, about 60 miles west of Morocco.

of Spain. Christopher Columbus left the Port of Palos,

Spain on his first voyage to find a western passage to China on August 3, 1492.



The islands include (from largest to smallest): Tenerife, Fuerteventura, Gran Canaria, Lanzarote, La Palma, La Gomera, El Hierro, La Graciosa, Alegranza, Isla de Lobos, Montaña Clara and Roque del Oeste.

Researchers state that Pliny the Elder (AD 23 to AD 79) wrote the islands were visited by Phoenicians and the Greeks. The Carthaginians, under Hanno the Navigator, found the islands uninhabited impressive ruins. Genoese navigator Lancelotto Malocello settled Lanzarote in 1312 and named the island after himself.

The Azore Islands consist of nine volcanic islands located about 850 miles west of mainland Portugal.



The islands were known in the fourteenth century and parts of them can be seen in early maps, including in the Atlas Catalan. In 1427, one of the captains sailing for Henry the Navigator, possibly Gonçalo Velho, rediscovered the Azores, but this is not certain.

The “Grand Banks” is a large area of shallow water off the Coast of Labrador and Newfoundland. At the southern end is an area called Georges Bank and is about 65 miles east of New England coast.



This bank is about 100 meters higher than the rest of the Gulf of Maine just to the north and is about the size of the state of Massachusetts. Here, early fishermen found Cod, Haddock, Herring, and Flounder. At the Banks a cold Labrador current meets the warm gulf current. The currents and sunlight created a fertile ground for millions of tiny sea creatures and food for vast schools of fish.

Although there is no evidence of Europeans landing on the northern coast of North America between the voyages of the Norsemen ca. 1000 and Giovanni Caboto (John

Cabot) in 1497, fishermen did sail to this area to harvest the large schools of Cod fish by at least 1470. It is believed the Basques from northern Spain had fished these banks from about the year 1000 AD and kept the location secret. They preserved the catch with salt and were said to have been trading this catch in Europe. No evidence has been found to support this claim, but evidence can be found that Europeans were fishing there in the early 1500’s. These Europeans were from France, Breton and other European countries.

The Cape Verde Islands, an island country with 10 volcanic islands, is located 350 miles off the coast of Africa. The country covers a combined area of slightly over 1,500 square miles in the central Atlantic Ocean.



The Portuguese explorer Alvaro Cadamosto discovered some of the Cape Verde Islands in 1456 and described the islands as uninhabited. However, given the prevailing winds and ocean currents in the region, the islands may well have been visited by Moors or Wolof, Serer, or perhaps Lebou fishermen from the Guinea.

Portuguese explorers Diogo Gomes and António de Noli, captains in the service of prince Henry the Navigator, discovered the remaining islands of the archipelago. When these mariners first landed in Cape Verde, the islands were barren of people but not of vegetation. The Portuguese returned six years later to the island of São Tiago to found Ribeira Grande (now Cidade Velha), in 1462—the first permanent European settlement city in the tropics. This settlement became very important to Portugal during the slave trade in the 1500’s.

Le Banc D’Arguin located on the Coast Mauritania, is bordered by Morocco, Algeria, Mali and Senegal. Despite the Almoravid (A Berber dynasty of people of the western Maghreb and Al-Andalus and headquartered in Marrakesh, Morocco) who conquered the Ghana Empire around 1075 and dominated Spain in the eleventh and twelfth centuries, there seems to be little evidence of contact during that time



between Mauritania and Europe.

The inhospitable coastline of Mauritania continued to deter voyagers until the Portuguese began their African explorations in the fifteenth century. Lured by legends of vast wealth in interior kingdoms, the Portuguese established a trading fort at Arguin, southeast of Cap Blanc in 1455. The king of Portugal also maintained a commercial agent at Ouadane in the Adrar in an attempt to divert gold traveling north by caravan with little success. The Portuguese quickly adapted to trading slaves and by mid-fifteenth century imported as many as 1,000 slaves per year transported to Europe from Arguin and to the Portuguese sugar plantations on the island of São Tomé in the Gulf of Guinea.

Elmina Castle

The fortress or factory called Elmina (the Mine) Castle was built circa 1482 by the Portuguese to protect their trade interests from other European powers and from Africans. This Castle was one of many built by the Portuguese on the coasts of Africa, Asia and Brazil in South America. During the Castilian Secession in 1489, Portugal and Spain clashed in a large naval battle off the coast of Africa with Portugal defeating Spain. Elmina later became a major slave trading center.

Elmina Castle – on the Gold Coast (Ghana) Gulf of Guinea

The Leeward Islands

The Caribs, for whom the Caribbean is named, are believed to have migrated from the Orinoco River area in South America to settle in the Caribbean islands about 1200 AD, according to carbon dating. Over a century before Columbus' arrival in the Caribbean archipelago in 1492, the Caribs had mostly displaced the Maipurean-speaking Taínos, who had earlier settled the island chains. The islands were among the first parts of the Americas to fall under the control of the Spanish

Empire. European contact commenced with Christopher Columbus's second voyage, and many of the islands' names originate from this period. Montserrat was named in honor of Santa Maria de Montserrat after the Blessed Virgin of the Monastery of Montserrat

Note: Material used in this article was extracted and edited from numerous articles on the history of exploration and conquest of the New World and the histories of North and South America from free sites. About the Editor: Larry Stevens received his BA in History from California State University Stanislaus and specialized in the Exploration and Conquest of the Americas completing some graduate level courses in this specialization.

Part I – Exploration to the Americas

Portugal had been granted a monopoly for Navigation, War, and Trade in 1443. This had been reinforced by papal bulls in 1452 and 1455 for discovery and trade South of Cape Bojador. Joao Dias had sailed around Cape Bojador

in 1434. The first trade fort was build in 1445 called du Fort D'Arguin off the coast of Mauritania. This gave them access to the Senagal and Gambia Rivers. The Portuguese brought copperware, cloth, tools, wine, horses, and later arms and ammunition to trade for gum arbiac, slaves, and gold.

The 1443, Royal Decree had granted Prince Henry of Portugal the sole right to send vessels south of Cape Bojador, as well, he was to receive one-fifth of all the profits from the area. Henry became



Portuguese caravel. The caravel was developed by the Portuguese for use in the 15th Century. This was the standard model used by the Portuguese in their voyages of exploration. It was able to sail into the wind, unlike every other ship.

overwhelmed with merchants wanting licenses for voyages to the Guinea Coast.

Henry wanted the merchants to bring back Africans so he could learn about their country, customs, race, and language. He also wanted to introduce them to Christianity and train them to become missionaries to the people in their country. The traders and captains were much more interested in simply making money. In 1445, Diniz Dias and Nuno Tristan, directed by Henry the Navigator, reached Senegal, and Dias went on to reach the Cape Verde Islands. Tristan sailed



as far as Guines-Bissau and brought the first African slaves to Europe. In 1446 Tristan sailed hundred miles beyond Cape Verde. When he landed, natives attacked his expedition and Tristan was killed and only five of the crew survived the attack. By the time of Prince Henry's death in 1460, the Portuguese had gone as far as present day Sierra Leone. After Henry's death, the Portuguese continued searching for a way south around Africa to Asia. Twenty-eight years later after the death of Prince Henry, Vasco de Gama did so.

Portugal and Spain constantly fought for the right of possession of ports in Africa and the islands they discovered off the coast. The Catholic Church passed the papal bulls of 1452 Dum diversas, 1455 Romanus Pontifex and 1456 Inter caetera in an attempt to resolve the conflict. However war, the Castilian Secession 1475-1479, broke out. During this period Spain attacked Portuguese territory and trade routes. The Portuguese fleet soundly defeated the Spanish at Gran Canarea in 1478 culminating in the Treat of Alcacovas 1479 and confirmed in 1481 with the papal bull Aeterni regis that granted all lands south of the Canary Islands to Portugal.

Columbus needed a sponsor to fund his first voyage to find a passage to China. He first approached King John II of Portugal whose scholars and navigators reviewed Columbus' plans and advised that his calculations were faulty and recommended against funding the expedition. Columbus then took his plans to Ferdinand and Isabella.

Columbus stopped on his return in the Portuguese Azores on his first return voyage and he was blown off course retuning to the mainland docking in Lisbon. King John II learning of his return and discoveries, informed Columbus that his discoveries were a violation of the Treat of Alcacova and that the discovered lands belonged to Portugal. King John let it be known he was sending a large fleet to take possession of Columbus's discoveries.

Ferdinand and Isabella realizing thst they did not have the power to confront King John, appealed to the Spanish born Pope Alexander VI. On May 4, 1493, the Pope decreed in the bull Inter Caetera that all lands west and south of a pole-to-pole line 100 leagues west and south of the Azores and the Cape Verde Islands should belong to Spain. The territory under Catholic Rule before Christmas of 1492 would remain untouched. Portugal was not mentioned in the bull so they could not claim newly discovered lands even if they were east of the line. Another papal bull dated September 1493 gave the Spanish all mainlands and the Indies. King John was not pleased and entered in to negotiations directly with Ferdinand and Isabella. The Treaty of Tordesillas was the result of these discussions.

On June 7, 1494 Spain and Portugal met at Tordesillas, Spain and signed a treaty which moved the line 270 leagues west, to 370 leagues west of Cape Verde. This new line (located

at approximately 46° 37') gave Portugal more claim to South America yet also provided Portugal with automatic control over most of the Indian Ocean.

While it would be several hundred years before the line of the Treaty of Tordesillas could be accurately determined due to problems determining longitude, Portugal and Spain kept to their sides of the line quite well. Portugal ended up colonizing places like Brazil in South America and India and Macau in Asia. Brazil's Portuguese-speaking population is a result of the Treaty of Tordesillas.

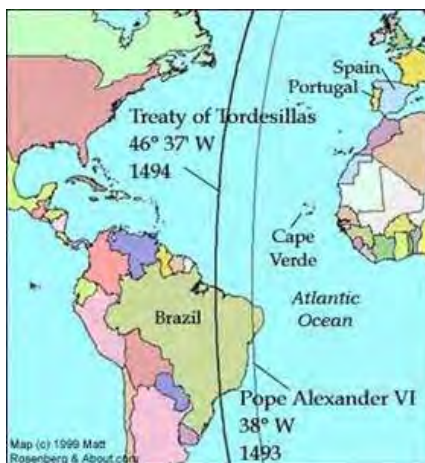
Columbus set sail from the Atlantic Coast Port of Palos Spain with the Piñson brothers aboard the Santa Maria, the Niña and Pinta on August 3, 1492 steering the same course as earlier travelers to the Canary Islands.

Sailing west of the Canary Islands Columbus continued westerly using the trade winds and the Atlantic Current to carry them just south of 30 degrees north latitude. He landed in the Bahamas in 1492. He then sailed to Cuba and Hispaniola. The Spanish noticed small bits of gold in the ornaments, belts and masks of the native population. Returning in 1493, a settlement was made on Hispaniola; the first European settlement in the New World. The Spanish enslaved the native people, putting them to work in the fields. Soon, the native population was driven to near extinction. The Spanish then imported slaves from Africa to supplement the labor force on Hispaniola.

Portuguese colonization soon followed the Spanish in South America, east of the treaty line. On April 22, 1500, Pedro Cabral landed on the coast of South America at "Porto Seguro" Brazil. In 1532, they established a permanent settlement at Sao Vicente. The earliest settlements were shaky to say the least, operated independently of each other.

In 1549, the first capital of Brazil was founded at Salvador da Bahia, a location discovered by Martim Alfonso de Sousa in 1531 which he named "Morro de Sao Paulo," (St. Paul's Mount.) Thome de Sousa, the first governor, landed a colony of settlers and with them Jesuits priests. Sugar cane was planted and African slaves were imported to cultivate the crop.

Portugal began what became known as the "Slave Trade" by transporting Africans from their ports on the west coast of Africa to the Caribbean, selling them and transporting sugar and rum back. The Portuguese were followed by the Spanish, the French, the Dutch and English transporting slaves to the Caribbean market.



The Rise of Spain to a World Power

Reconquista y Conquista, Reconquista

Re-printed from Vol.4 - Issue 2

As the fifteen century entered the last years, Spain emerged as not only one of great powers of Europe, but also, Spain became the first exploring, conquering, and colonizing nation in America (1). This occurred because of two very significant events; first, the union of Ferdinand and Isabella, and second, during their reign, the Conquest and Colonialization of the Americas. Spain was a century ahead of other European powers in establishing a foothold in the New World. This new empire was settled by Spanish citizens, governed by a department of the Spanish government, the indigent "Indian" populations converted to Catholicism, and great wealth was brought back to Spain.

Such an occurrence as the rise of Spain from a relative obscurity to a world power has rarely been seen in history. This was accomplished in Spain by a vigorous and rising nation and corresponded closely with her achievements in America. The transformation of Spain took place during the reign of Ferdinand and Isabella Between 1474 and 1516. Isabella inherited the crown of Castile in 1474 and her husband Ferdinand became the King of Aragon in 1479. Together they united domains that had been joined by various alliances by utilizing close personal and political bonds. Castile had been in reality a political unity with one monarch and a body of estates. Aragon had already been incorporated into three countries; Valencia, ancient Catalonia, and Valencia. In north central Spain, the three Basque Provinces, and Galicia, and Asturias were inhabited by a different people with a different history. At the accession of Ferdinand and Isabella, Navarre,

The Reconquista is a period of beginning in 711 AD Islamic conquest of the Iberian Peninsula until the fall of last Islamic State of Granada in 1492 to Ferdinand and Isabella, some 781 years. Reconquista completes just as Spain discovers the New World and the era of the Portuguese and Spanish Empires..



Granada, and Portugal were independent countries. (2)

The union of Ferdinand and Isabella changed the realms; they both were individuals, unlike some of their predecessors, of authority, ability and energy. Their union combined their royal powers which was used to break down opposition and bring down the powerful Barons who had had virtually total control of the lands in their domains. Control of the land completed, the Reconquista, was accomplished with the conquest of Granada by Isabella in 1492.

The establishment of the tribunals, such as Isabella at Alcazar, where she held court sitting in a chair on a raised platform with her council of officers and listened to complaints and rendered harsh sentences, were a part of the beginning of regaining control. The King and Queen established royal panels of auditors and lawyers who were directed to investigate the wealthy landowners and every facet of government at all levels.

Disclosing the barons and others had taken advantage of the weak Kings for up to 200 years, Ferdinand and Isabella exacted penalties and ordered the return of land and money, and, as recorded took control of all the provinces of Spain. These Royal "panels" later became the Lawyers and Catholic leaders of the inquisitions, first expelling the Muslims in 1492 and then Jews who would not convert to Catholicism. The two Royal partners reclaimed control of all of Spain except Portugal in just a few years.

Conquista

Spanish exploration, the conquest of the Aztec and Inca empires, the subjugation of the indigenous natives, and colonization of the New World was the Golden Era of Spain called "Conquista". After Columbus returned from his first voyage, Spain's newly established absolute monarchy began financing the next voyages of Columbus's and others bringing, the explorers, soldiers, and settlers who became the exporters of gold, silver and other goods from America and this, with the taxation of the new American commerce, brought wealth to the monarchs, strengthening their power and influence throughout the western world. The increased numbers of commercial vessels caused the Spanish navy to grow for protection of the American trade routes. Romantic stories or tales of the Conquistadores and the adventurous stories of new discoveries, only heightened the mystic and the strength of the reign of Ferdinand and Isabella. This period in Spanish History lasted nearly two centuries.

Ferdinand and Isabella

Here in the United States, we learned early that the first voyage of Columbus in 1492 was financed by Queen Isabella and that he discovered America. But the individual histories of Ferdinand and Isabella are seldom taught. The following was excerpted from

various sources.

Ferdinand II, Ferdinand the Catholic or Spanish Fernando el Católico, was born March 10, 1452, in Aragon and died Jan. 23, 1516, in Madrigalejo, Spain. He was King of Aragon and King of Castile (as Ferdinand V) from 1479, jointly a sovereign with Queen Isabella I. Further, as Spanish ruler of southern Italy, he was also known as Ferdinand III of Naples and Ferdinand II of Sicily. With Isabella, he united the Spanish kingdoms into the nation of Spain.

Ferdinand was the son of John II of Aragon and Juana Enríquez, both of Castilian origin. In 1461, in the midst of contested succession, John II named Ferdinand heir apparent and governor of all his kingdoms and lands. Ferdinand's future was assured when he came of age, in 1466, and when he was named King of Sicily, in 1468, in order to impress the court of Castile, where his father ultimately wished to place him. In addition to participating in court life, the young prince saw battle during the Catalanian wars.

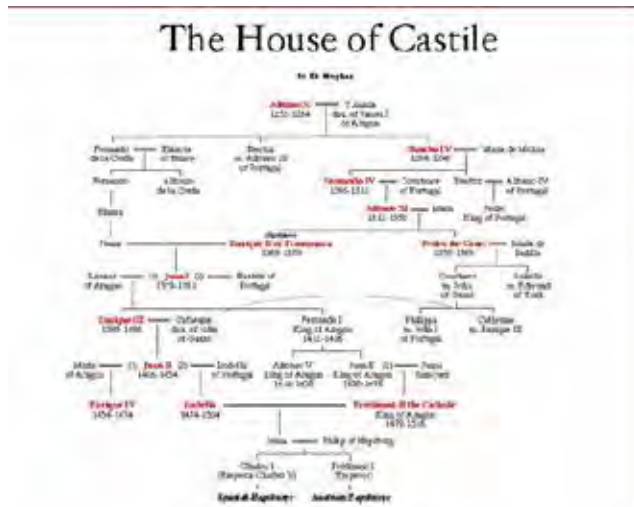
John II was careful about Ferdinand's education and took personal charge of it, making sure that Ferdinand learned as much as possible from experience. He also provided him with teachers who taught him humanistic attitudes and wrote him treatises on the art of government. Ferdinand had no apparent bent for formal studies, but he was a patron of the arts and a devotee of vocal and instrumental music.

Ferdinand had an imposing personality but was never very genial. From his father he acquired sagacity, integrity, courage, and a calculated reserve; from his mother, an impulsive emotionality, which he generally repressed. Under the responsibility of kingship he had to conceal his stronger passions and adopt a cold, impenetrable demeanor. (3)

Isabella I, Queen of Castile and Leon was born Madrigal de las Altas Torres on 22 April 1451 in Medina del Campo and died 26 November 1504. Isabella was the daughter of King John II of Castile and Isabella of Portugal. First, Isabella claimed her right to the throne. She reorganized the governmental system, brought the crime rate to the lowest it had been in years, and unburdened the kingdom of the enormous debt her brother had left behind.

Her reforms and those she made with her husband had an influence that extended well beyond the borders of their united kingdoms.

On 18 October 1469, the formal wedding took place. Because Isabella and Ferdinand were second cousins, they were within the prohibited degrees of consanguinity and the marriage would not be legal unless a



dispensation from the Pope was obtained. With the help of the Valencian cardinal Rodrigo Borgia (later Alexander VI),

Isabella and Ferdinand were presented with a supposed papal bull by Pius II, who had died in 1464, or five years before, authorizing Ferdinand to marry within the third degree of consanguinity, making their marriage legal. Afraid of opposition, Isabella eloped from the court of Henry with the excuse of visiting her brother Alfonso's tomb in Ávila. Ferdinand, on the other hand, crossed Castile in secret disguised as a servant. They were married immediately upon reuniting, on 19 October 1469, in the Palacio de los Vivero in the city of Valladolid. (4)

References:

- (1)(2) Edward Potts Cheyney "European Background of American History 1300-1600", Frederick Unger Publ. Co., 1904
- (3)(4) Encyclopaedia Britannica (in Part); Wikipedia

Interesting Reading:

- Christopher Minster, "The Second Voyage of Columbus", On Line Article, Latin American History.
- Christopher Minster, "The Third Voyage of Columbus", On Line Article, Latin American History.

The Rainbow

*As we were a-sailing out on the Spanish shore
 The drums they did beat me-boys and loud [D] cannons did [A]
 roar
 We spied our lofty enemy come [D] sailing down the [A] main
 With her scarves a-still high to our top sails again*

*Our captain says be ready oh he says me-boys stand true
 To face the Spanish enemy we lately did pursue
 To face the Spanish enemy they love the ocean wide
 And without a good protection boys we'll take the first broadside*

*Ah broadside to broadside – to battle then we went
 To sink one another it was our intent
 The very second broadside our captain he got slain
 And his damsel – she stood up in his place to command*

*We fought for four hours — four hours – so severe
 We scarcely had one man aboard – of our ship that could steer We
 scarcely had one man aboard who 'ed fire off a gun
 And the blood from our deck me boys – like a river did run*

*For quarters for quarters those Spanish lads did cry
 No quarters no quarters this damsel did reply
 You've had the finest quarters that I can afford
 And you must sink or swim me-boys or jump overboard*

*And now the battle's over – we'll drink a glass of wine
 And you must drink to your own-true-love as I will drink to mine*

*Here's health onto the damsel who fought all on the main And
 here's to the royal gallant ship the "Rainbow" by name*

This ballad from the 16th century immortalizes a British galleon of the English Tudor Navy named "The Rainbow." She fought against the Spanish during the "Singeing the King of Spain's Beard" and the Spanish Armada, including the Battle of Gravelines in 1588.



From the Editor

The re-start of the Newsletter/magazine for the Order of Founders of North America begins with this issue. It has yet to be decided how frequently the issue will be published. Quarterly? Semi-annually? Or once a year? Additionally, I will be re-printing some of the articles from prior issues to supplement the reading experience of the membership until I get new articles. Members who joined after Winter 2016 will most likely not have been able to read these articles.

Submit Content to Sarahwilliamssa@gmail.com

Past Grand Viscount Generals:

- J Michael Tomme
- Lindsey Brock
- Stephen Renouf
- Ed Butler

Left to right: PGVG Ed Butler, PGVG Renouf, PGVG Brock, PGVG Tomme





FLAG OF THE CROSS OF BURGUNDY