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Los Sobreviventes de la Florida: The Survivors of the de Soto Expedition by Ignacio Avellaneda

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many other languages. Since the publication of *Robinson Crusoe*, the European and American reading public had been fascinated with shipwrecks and the fate of their survivors.

The book soon became controversial. Some thought Viaud was a pathological liar, or certainly had exaggerated or embellished his account. A few said it was truthful. The important author and authority on Florida, Bernard Romans, whose own description of Florida is now a classic, “impugned Viaud’s truthfulness.” Editor Robin Fabel writes that Romans’ “criticisms have particular weight in that he knew both the country where Viaud’s adventures supposedly occurred and one of the men who had rescued the Frenchman.”

Some internal evidence did show that Viaud’s account had much truth but might be embellished. Personalities mentioned, including the rescue party, did exist, and they confirmed the existence of the shipwreck and survivors. Viaud apparently was an enterprising but vain and cruel person, who also had considerable charm.

The narrative of Viaud is just over one hundred pages. Its reading is not difficult. Viaud’s style lacks the pomposity of his personality. The story vividly reflects the attitude of the period – disdain for natives who are savages, inferior, and heathen. But how savage is the sophisticated European Viaud who, when faced with starvation, kills his faithful black servant, also a survivor of the wreck, in order to eat him? This is cannibalism at its worst. But to the survivors the slave was disposable property and nothing else.

The best part of the book is the 32-page introduction by the translator and editor, Professor Fabel of the History Department of Auburn University. It is a model of thorough and painstaking historical research to determine the truth and falsehood in the Viaud account. It is neither superficial nor a product of haste as introductions so often are. To me it is one of the best analyses of a historical diary that I have ever encountered. It is scholarly, with convincing data, but not tedious, repetitive or too minute. However, I would have liked to have been provided with more biographical information about Viaud and some pages explaining Florida in 1765, the year of the shipwreck. It was two years into the English period, as Florida was ceded to the English in 1763, and significant changes were occurring. To be sure, the fifty-eight notes of the introduction are useful, but an index to the whole book would have been welcome. In all, this slender book by the University of West Florida Press has much to recommend it to scholars and the general reader interested in Florida.

Charles W. Arnade

Los Sobreviventes de la Florida: The Survivors of the de Soto Expedition. By Ignacio Avellaneda. Edited by Bruce S. Chappel. Gainesville, Florida. 1990. P.K. Yonge Library of Florida History. Pp. ii, 104. Tables. Notes. Appendices. Index. Paper. \$18.50.

This publication is a fine contribution to colonial Florida and American history. Rather than a textual monograph, it is a detailed annotated listing with a useful introduction. The de Soto expedition of the early sixteenth century penetrated into the heartland of today's United States from the central Florida West Coast. It was a large expedition, listed variously between 600 to 1,000 individuals. About 40 to 50 percent survived to return to Mexico.

Professor Avellaneda, from Colombia, has done this de Soto research at the P.K. Yonge Library of Florida History of the University of Florida, which has the richest deposit of Spanish Florida documentation. The author has studied, compared, and collated various lists of expedition participants and survivors. These are carefully evaluated and analyzed.

The heart of the monograph is a directory of survivors with whatever information could be found about them. Avellaneda has done an exacting search, locating 257 survivors. Luis de Moscoso, who after de Soto's death led the expedition to Mexico, stated that 350 survived. In Part Two the survivors are classified by age, literacy and education, occupational and social status, postexpedition residences, and geographical origins.

This applaudable study is by a competent researcher and shows the richness of the P.K. Yonge Library of Florida History.

Charles W. Arnade

Pioneer College: The Centennial History of St. Leo College, St. Leo Abbey, and Holy Name Priory. By James Horgan. St. Leo, Florida. 1989. St. Leo College Press. Pp. x, 640. Illustrations. Appendices. Notes. Index. Cloth. \$24.95.

St. Leo College was an outgrowth of the "Catholic Colony" of San Antonio. The colony was established in 1882 by Judge Edmund F. Dunne, a papal knight who had served as Chief Justice of the Arizona territory until he was removed from office by President Ulysses S. Grant for advocating public support for all schools, religious as well as secular. Dunne subsequently served as Hamilton Disston's attorney and prepared closing documents for the Disston purchase of 1881. As part of his fee, Judge Dunn received 50,000 acres of frontier Florida in old Hernando County to develop as a Catholic colony. A college was part of Dunne's original plan, but it was not until 1889 that a small party of Benedictine monks established themselves in the newly created Pasco County and obtained a charter from the Florida legislature to operate a college and grant academic degrees.

The central theme of *Pioneer College* is the development and evolution of what is now St. Leo College. In its early days, St. Leo, like many other late nineteenth-century colleges, offered what would now be categorized as a combination of high school and college level instruction. For a while it was a military school. In the 1920s, St. Leo evolved into an English-style college preparatory school. In 1959, the preparatory school existed along with St. Leo Junior College. The prep school was phased out by 1964, as St. Leo expanded to become a four-year liberal arts college. During the same period, Holy Name Academy was established by Benedictine Sisters and evolved from a nineteenth-century finishing school into a girls' high school. It ultimately merged with St. Leo College.

Pioneer College describes how the monastic communities at St. Leo Abbey and Holy Name Priory grew and expanded their influence. St. Leo monks established and staffed parishes throughout central Florida and as far away as Long Island, Cuba, and Argentina. The Benedictine sisters at Holy Name Priory not only operated Holy Name Academy, but also have staffed St. Anthony's School in San Antonio since 1889. In addition, for many years they