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- HIGHLIGHTS OF THE SPANISH HERITAGE**
- 1492 OCTOBER 12TH DISCOVERY OF THE NEW WORLD BY CHRISTOPHER COLUMBUS FOR THE CROWN OF CASTILE.
 - 1493 Queen Isabel sends with Christopher Columbus the first seeds of wheat, oranges, vines, lemons, rice and the first horses, cattle, sheep, pigs and fowl for the New World.
 - 1512 PONCE DE LEON DISCOVERS FLORIDA.
 - 1526 Vasques de Ayllon attempts the foundation of a permanent settlement in the United States. Miguel de Guadalupe (today South Carolina).
 - 1528 Expedition of Panfilo de Narnares. With him goes Alvar Núñez Cabeza de Vaca and others.
 - 1529 The Narvaes Expedition fails. Survivors are Cabeza de Vaca, Andres Docampo, the negro Estebanillo Dorantes, and Castillo Maldonado. They begin to travel on foot and are THE FIRST TO GO FROM COAST TO COAST IN THE UNITED STATES. More than ten thousand miles in seven years.
 - 1539 Hernando de Soto, Governor of Cuba, sails as the Provincial Governor of Florida. Near Tallahassee he celebrates the first Christmas in the United States.
 - 1539 Fray Marcos de Niza discovers New Mexico and Arizona.
 - 1539-43 De Soto and his companions travel through the territories of Florida, Georgia, Arkansas, Mississippi, Alabama, Louisiana and North East Texas.
 - 1540 FRANCISCO VAZQUEZ DE CORONADO leaves Calicut with Fray Marcos. Arrives at the Seven Cities and at Acoma. Hears about the Grand Canyon in Colorado, but Fray Marcos is the first European to foot at it.
 - 1543 JUAN RODRIGUEZ CABRILLO explores the coasts of Oregon.
 - 1543 Ferrel, the pilot of Rodriguez Cabrillo, reaches the 41st Parallel. (State of Washington).
 - 1559 Expedition of Tristan de Luna to Florida.
 - 1560 Fray Francisco de Pareja founds the first Church in North America, where later San Agustín will be located.
 - 1565 SEPTEMBER 8TH PEDRO MENENDEZ DE AVILES FOUNDS THE CITY OF SAN AGUSTIN, THE FIRST IN NORTH AMERICA. IT WAS DESTROYED BY DRAKE IN 1566.
 - 1598 4TH OF JULY MARRIAGE OF VICENTE SOLANO AND MARIA VICENTE, THE FIRST FAMILY TO BE REGISTERED IN THE NORTH AMERICAN NATIONAL ARCHIVES.
 - 1598 Juan de Oñate conquers New Mexico and founds the second city of the United States, San Gabriel de los Españoles - today Chama - to the north of Santa Fe.
 - 1598 SEBASTIAN VIZCAINO travels through the northern part of California.
 - 1602 First legal proceeding in the United States in San Agustín.
 - 1605 ONATE FOUNDS THE CITY OF SANTA FE, TODAY SAN FRANCISCO.
 - 1706 Foundation of the City of Albuquerque.
 - 1717 Father Kino finishes his work in Arizona.
 - 1769 FRAY JUNIPERO SERRA FOUNDS HIS FIRST MISSION, SAN DIEGO DE ALCALA.
 - 1769 Gaspar de Portola discovers the Bay of San Francisco.
 - 1770 Fray Junipero Serra and San Carlos Borromeo. The dominicans also come into California, but the work of Fray Junipero continues until his death in 1784. In all he left 21 missions and made the Russians to withdraw to their possessions in Alaska.
 - 1775 Bruno de Heccia discovers the Columbia River which he calls San Roque.
 - 1776 The Mission of San Francisco is founded.
 - 1780 Thomas Jefferson establishes Spanish as a foreign language in William and Mary College, Williamsburg.
 - 1781 FOUNDATION OF LOS ANGELES BY FELIPE DE NEVE.
 - 1784 The Spanish Royal Academy of History names Benjamin Franklin a Corresponding Member.
 - 1786 Foundation of Santa Barbara and another four missions.
 - 1792 Explorations of the coasts of Columbia and Alaska by Fidalgo, Alicia Galiano and Valdes, who are joined by Captain Cook.
 - 1817 FOUNDATION OF SAN GABRIEL ARCANGEL IN CALIFORNIA.
 - 1821 Spanish rule in Texas ends. San Agustín is given over to the United States.
 - 1823 4TH OF JULY FATHER ALTAMIRA FOUNDS THE MISSION OF SAN FRANCISCO SOLANO, IN SONOMA.

- CONTRIBUTION TO THE AMERICAN INDEPENDENCE**
- 1774 The Count of Aranda, the Spanish Ambassador in Paris, is informed by Stormont, the English envoy, about the growing rebellion of the colonists in America.
 - 1775 Aranda writes to the Minister Grimaldi regarding the conversation held with Stormont concerning the situation of England in the colonies.
 - 1775 Russia reinforces its troops in America to help England.
 - 1775 The Continental Congress, on a proposal by Jefferson, rejects the sterling and adopts the "Spanish dollar" as its basic monetary unit. The dollar sign (\$) is taken from the pillars of the Spanish Imperial coat of arms with the motto "Plus Ultra".
 - 1776 JUNE GRIMALDI INFORMS ARANDA THAT KING CARLOS THE THIRD HAS GRANTED ECONOMIC HELP AND ARMS TO THE NORTH AMERICAN COLONISTS AND WILL SEND THEM 1 MILLION TURIN POUNDS, ABOUT 5 MILLION DOLLARS AS A FIRST INSTALLMENT.
 - 1777 2nd of January Franklin presents his credentials to Aranda signed by delegates of the Thirteen colonies. It grants Franklin "full power to communicate, to deal and conclude with His Most Catholic Majesty the King of Spain... a true and sincere friendship and a firm, inviolable and universal peace... WHEREAS A FRIENDLY AND COMMERCIAL CONNECTION, BETWEEN THE SUBJECTS OF HIS MOST CATHOLIC MAJESTY AND THE PEOPLE OF THESE STATES, WILL BE BENEFICIAL TO BOTH NATIONS."
 - 1777 SPAIN OFFERED LA FAYETTE THE USE OF THE PORT OF PASAJES AS WELL AS THE FRIGATE "VICTORIA" as France had refused him the authorization to join the American rebels in their struggle for independence.
 - 1778 Spanish attempts to interfere with England, BUT UNDER THE CONDITIONS THAT INDEPENDENCE IS GRANTED TO THE UNITED STATES, ENGLAND DOES NOT ACCEPT.
 - 1779 BERNARDO DE GALVEZ takes Baton Rouge and Saumure.
 - 1780 The Spanish squadrons fight with England on all fronts. Cagial attacks the Bahamas. Solano operates in American waters with two ships, in the Azores Cordoba takes 70 English merchantmen, the Battle of Cape Matanzas takes place, soon by Spain, the Siege of Gibraltar starts, led by the great Berceho, which prevents reinforcements reaching the English troops in America, who are practically isolated as a result of the Spanish action.
 - 1781 Bernardo de Galvez, with Francisco de Miranda, occupies Mobile and Pensacola. General Campbell and Admiral Chester, with ten thousand soldiers, are taken prisoners by the Spanish forces.
 - 1781 The Governor of Cuba, aware of the difficulties of the Americans due to lack of resources, opens a subscription in Havana and sends them one and a half million pounds, arms, clothes, uniforms and men. TWELVE SPANISH SHIPS LEAVE HAVANA FOR AMERICA JUST BEFORE THE DECISIVE BATTLE OF YORKTOWN.
 - 1781 John Jay drafts the first project of the Treaty. Writes to Floridablanca: "The impressions made upon the United States by the magnanimity of His Majesty's conduct toward them... GUARANTEE TO HIS MOST CATHOLIC MAJESTY ALL HIS DOMINIONS IN NORTH AMERICA."
 - 1782 Bernardo de Galvez ("the falcon on the river") sends troops to attack Saint Louis in Illinois. They also attack the English in Ohio.
 - 1782 After Yorktown, England tries to regroup its forces in the Bahamas. The Spanish squadron battles and defeats Admiral Maxwell and occupy the Bahamas.
 - 1782 North America signs a peace with England. Spain and France carry on fighting another eleven months, up until the Peace of Versailles.
 - 1784 The Congress of the United States of America appoints as Plenipotentiary to the Court of Spain, for a new Treaty, JOHN ADAMS, BENJAMIN FRANKLIN AND THOMAS JEFFERSON.
 - 1785 Letters from Washington to Florida, Alcala and Gardolui thanking King Carlos and presenting him gifts of a pair of mules and a blanket of sicilia.
 - 1789 George Washington's inauguration in the parade, on his left, the Spanish Ambassador Gardolui. The Spanish warship "Galaxina", the only one of kind in the Port of New York, to salute George Washington.

THE SPANISH HERITAGE

1512-1823

AND CONTRIBUTION TO THE AMERICAN INDEPENDENCE

SPAIN:
"Nor think we forget thee maternal."
Walt Whitman

"If Spain had not existed 400 years ago, there would be no United States today."
Prof. Charles Fletcher Lummis
Harvard Graduate, writer and traveler



and it all started ...
October 12, 1492...

drawn by
Cristóbal Colón
1492
Duke of Veragua
Admiral of the Ocean Sea
XIIIth Descendant of the Discoverer