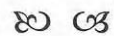
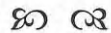


AMERICAN JOURNEYS COLLECTION



Itineraries of the
De León Expeditions
of 1689 and 1690

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Itineraries of the De León Expeditions of 1689 and 1690

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ITINERARY OF THE DE LEÓN EXPEDITION OF 1689¹

*Itinerary of the Expedition made by General Alonso De León
for the Discovery of the Bahía del Espíritu Santo and the
French Settlement. 1689.*

DATE.	March.	LEAGUES.
	<i>Wednesday, March 23,</i> it was arranged that the detachment of soldiers and camp-followers who were in Coahuila should set out. Accordingly, they marched one league down the river.	1.
	<i>Thursday, the 24th,</i> the whole body set out. The detachment, being ordered to go down the river, ² travelled down the other bank to its junction with the Nadadores. They travelled that day seven leagues toward the north. ³ All this country is uninhabitable.	7.
	<i>Friday, the 25th,</i> we travelled down the Rio de Nadadores, along the south bank, between two ridges which they call Baluartes. On the bank of the river we passed a cottonwood tree, ⁴ the only one within a great distance. We travelled that day seven leagues, keeping the same northeast course. All the country is level and affords good pasturage.	7.
	<i>Saturday, the 26th,</i> we travelled down the river as on the day before, to its junction with the Sabinas. We travelled east, halting a league from the junction. The country is level and affords good pasturage. ⁵	[6].

¹ Translation by Miss Elizabeth Howard West, in *Texas State Historical Association Quarterly*, VIII. 199-224.

² They crossed to the south side, and followed the right bank to a point three leagues below the junction with the Sabinas (Miss West). See the Sigüenza map.

³ The Sigüenza map gives the distance as seven leagues (Miss West).

⁴ The Alamo became a well-known landmark and was regularly noted in later diaries.

⁵ The Sigüenza map supplies the distance lacking in the *Memorias* transcript of the diary.

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Sunday, the 27th, we went down the river Sabinas and crossed it toward the north. Passing along the bank we sighted the soldiers who were coming from the Nuevo Reyno de Leon to join us here according to agreement.¹ As we came together a salute was fired on each side. After we had travelled three leagues to the east, a general review and individual count was made of all the soldiers, drivers, and other servants, and of the baggage as well.² 3.

Monday, the 28th, we travelled to the northeast, a distance of six leagues. After crossing some unwatered plains, we halted at a pool of rain-water. 6.

Tuesday, the 29th, we set out toward the northeast. Before daybreak the French prisoner sent out one of the Indians whom we were bringing because of their loyalty, to tell the Indians, his acquaintances, that we were going through their village. As a result, more than seventy Indians, some armed, others unarmed, came out to meet us a league before we arrived at the village, and accompanied us thither. They had a hut ready, covered with buffalo hides; there they put the Frenchman, toward whom they made many demonstrations of affection.³ In front of the hut was driven a stake, four *varas* high, on which were fastened sixteen heads of Indians, their enemies, whom they had killed. They were five nations, joined together (according to the account the Frenchman gave), entitled Hapes, Jumenes, Xiabu, Mescale, and another. We counted eighty-five huts. We distributed among them some cotton garments, blankets, beads, rosaries, knives, and arms, with which they were very much pleased. Five cattle were killed for them, too, so that all persons of all ages might

¹ The party from Monterey went down the Caldera River (De León, *Historia de Nuevo León*, p. 319).

² The original list is printed in De León, *Historia de Nuevo León*, pp. 320-321. It shows eighty-eight soldiers and religious, the French prisoner, called Andrés, twelve muleteers, thirteen servants, seven hundred and twenty horses and mules, eighty-two pack-loads of flour, biscuits, and other provisions, and three pack-loads of presents for the Indians. See *ibid.*, p. 318, and Massanet's *Letter*, p. 353.

³ The Indians at this point are referred to in the diary of 1690 as "the Indians of the Frenchman." In De León, *Historia de Nuevo León*, p. 322, the names are given as the Apes, Mescales, Jumanes, and Ijiaba.

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eat. There were four hundred and ninety of them. We crossed a creek about the time of evening prayer.¹ 4.

Thursday, the 31st, it was necessary to halt at this point because of the suffering of the horses occasioned by lack of water.

April.

Friday, April 1st, we travelled down the river five leagues, traversing some low hills. There was no lack of water-holes along the way. The route during the most of these five leagues was toward the north. We halted on this south bank in front of the ford.² The river was forded, and found easy to cross the next day. Now we had with us a faithful Indian guide,³ who assured us that he knew the country, and that he would bring us where there were some men like ourselves, in a settlement of six or seven houses; that they had wives and children, and that they were about six days' journey distant from the said Rio Bravo. This Indian can not speak Castilian, but we got some light on what he was saying through another Indian who acted as interpreter, albeit a poor one. 5.

Saturday, the 2d, we crossed the river and went about one league north, to avoid some ravines and low hills. Afterward we went mostly northeast, until we reached some pools, five leagues away. We named these El Paraje de los Cuervos, because more than three thousand crows appeared at night-fall. The way was level and untimbered. 5.

Palm Sunday, the 3d, we marched northeast three leagues, through level country, and afterward two more through several thickets of mesquite. We crossed some little dry creeks; and then we came upon one that had water in it, on the bank

¹ The Sigüenza map gives a journey of four leagues for March 30, which is omitted entirely from the *Memorias* copy of the diary. From a comparison of distances between the Sabinas and the Rio Grande with the diary and map of 1690, it seems probable that the map is correct. The 1689 map gives the distance as twenty-three and the diary of 1690 as twenty-two leagues.

² Of the Río Bravo. See De León, *Historia de Nuevo León*, p. 324. The crossing was not far from San Juan Bautista.

³ The Quems.

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of which we halted. Altogether we travelled that day five long leagues. We named this creek the Arroyo de Ramos,¹ because we found it on Palm Sunday. There we observed the altitude of the sun with an astrolabe, though a defective one, and found our latitude to be $26^{\circ} 31'.$ ² I must call attention to the fact that the tables on which this observation was based were made before the so-called Gregorian correction. This correction was made in the year 1582, in which the equinox was on the tenth of March. Following the *Ephemerides* of the Roman Andrea Argoli, which places the equinox this year (1582) on the 20th of March, we found by these tables that today, April 3, corresponds to the 24th of March of this year (1689), which is the first since the bissextile. These tables, the author says, he took from the *Arte de Navegar*, by the Maestro Medina.³ It has been necessary to state these facts in explanation, in case it should appear that a mistake has been made because of our lack of modern tables. 5.

Holy Monday, the 4th, we marched northeast most of the day, east-by-north occasionally, a distance of 8 leagues. At first the land was level, then there was a little mesquite thicket; and after that we got into a larger one, three leagues long. We came upon a river, which, as we could see, even though it contained little water at the time, overflows its banks in time of rain more than half a league from the main channel. We called it the Rio de las Nueces,⁴ because there were many pecan trees. It is somewhat rocky, and all its rocks are flint and very fine. 8.

Holy Tuesday, the 5th, we crossed the river. We had to go half a league down its bank, and then we went through a glade. Then came a very dense thicket. We had to cut a passage into it for almost a league with our cutlasses and axes,

¹ Evidently one of the branches of the Nueces River.

² As pointed out by Miss West, the calculations were a degree or more in error.

³ Pedro Medina's *Arte de Navegar* was first published at Valladolid in 1545. The Italian astronomer Andrea Argoli's *Ephemerides* was first published at Rome in 1621.

⁴ The present Nueces, and not that which figured in the Spanish expeditions to the Jumanos. The 1690 diary and map mention Arroyo de Caramanchel between Arroyo de Ramos and the Nueces River.

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because of the numerous prickly pears and mesquite which blocked up the way. Afterward we got into a mesquite thicket in which at intervals we had to make a clearing. We travelled about seven leagues. We came upon a river to which we gave the name Rio Sarco,¹ because its water was blue. We went, I repeat, seven leagues, with many turns. 7.

Holy Wednesday, the 6th, we travelled about three leagues to the northeast, and two to the east. The country we passed through was level, with fine pasturage, with very pleasant glades, and, occasionally, little motts of oak. We came to a river, which we named Rio Hondo. *Apropos* of this river, its descent on each side is about forty feet; near it, on both banks, are some insignificant hills, some of them timbered. The water was plentiful, so that the horses were easily supplied. As we went down toward the river we found some large white rocks, on some of which we saw some crosses cut, and other figures artificially made with great skill, apparently a long time before. 5.

Holy Thursday, the 7th, we went more than four leagues down the river without crossing it, sometimes east, sometimes southeast; we halted on the hither bank. The country is of the same sort here as at the last stopping-place; level, for the most part, though there is a little mesquite timber. Ever since the thirtieth of last month, when we passed the village of the Five Nations,² we have found along the line of march traces of Indians, made some time ago; but not a single Indian has appeared.

Holy Friday, the 8th, we crossed from the other bank of the Rio Hondo, and travelled east-northeast, most of the day near the river. We came upon two ravines near together. Here, it appears, the river rises in time of flood as much as six feet. After the ravines comes a little creek in a thicket. Here it was necessary to change our course for a while, to let the loaded mules cross, which they did with difficulty, some bogging up. After crossing this creek, we came to some very level land, and then to a large mesquite thicket. In the

¹ Elsewhere called the Rio Frio, with which Clark identifies it (*The Beginnings of Texas*, p. 17).

² See the entry for the 29th of March.

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midst of the thicket were some pools of water, where we halted. We travelled that day eight long leagues, to the east, as has already been said. 8.

Holy Saturday, the 9th, we set out to the north, but on account of some thickets that were in the way, it was necessary to make some turns, sometimes north-by-east, sometimes north-northeast. We travelled that day five leagues. The land was very good. We crossed a dry creek that day, but a league farther on we found one with good water, with abundant pasturage and many oak-trees near by. We named this creek Arroyo del Vino, because we opened a cask¹ that day and divided its contents among the men. Under the trees we found well-grown nuts, as large as those of Spain, but very hard to open. We saw many wild grape-vines, whose fruit, as we were told by the Indians we had brought with us, is in its season very pleasantly flavored. Our horses stampeded at this camp about nine o'clock at night, and they could not be stopped, though fifteen soldiers were on guard. According to the count made the following day, one hundred and two got away. 5.

Easter Sunday, the 10th, soldiers set out in different directions to look for the horses, which they found at various points. This search detained them till evening prayer,² therefore the camp was not moved that day. We made a reckoning of our latitude which we found to be 27° 55'.

Monday after Easter, the 11th, we set out to the east. We crossed two creeks of good water, and immediately after came to a great wood of pecan and oak-trees, more than five leagues in extent, all fertile and pleasant land. After having to travel twelve leagues to get water, we came that day upon a river, which was very large, though it had not much water, and which had a good ford. We named it the Rio de Medina. The descent to it is about fifty or sixty feet. All the rest of the way there were oaks and pecans. The course that day was east half the way, and northeast half the way. 12.

Tuesday after Easter, the 12th, we crossed the river, and found the ford very easy. We travelled five leagues to the east, over some low hills, without any timber; we crossed

¹ Of wine.

² Vespers, would be a better rendering.

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some ravines of red and yellow earth; we entered a mesquite thicket, and found water in a creek. The creek was dry where we first struck it, and we were somewhat discomfited because we thought our guide had mistaken the direction; about a league farther, however, there was a very good stream. We named this creek the Arroyo del Leon,¹ because we found a dead lion near by, very much mutilated. The country was level, and furnished good pasturage. 5.

Wednesday, the 13th, we advanced to the east, sometimes east-northeast, six leagues. About half a league from the camp we passed by the point of a little hill on which ends a clump of oaks, and which we left on the right hand. Among them were small piles of stones placed by hand. We followed some low hills; there were about two leagues of oak timber which had to be partly cleared away; but after this all the country was level till we reached a little creek. 6.

Thursday, the 14th, we moved forward, east-northeast, in search of a great river which the guide told us we should find and which we reached at two in the afternoon. We travelled six leagues, the first three over some hills, and the rest of the way over some hills that were timbered and marked with ravines. It was necessary in some places to clear away the timber so as to pass through. The country was the most pleasant that we had traversed; the river is not very full and has a good ford; its banks are covered with timber. Six buffaloes—the first we had seen for a hundred leagues—were killed along the way. We gave this river the name of Our Lady of Guadalupe, whom we had brought from Coahuila as our protectress,² and whom we had painted on our royal standard. 6.

Friday, the 15th, the day dawned very rainy. None the less, however, our whole party set out toward the ford of the river, which was about a league away. We crossed the river, but as the water prevented our forward movement, we halted

¹ Apparently the present San Antonio River. The name Medina now applies to only the upper waters of the stream (see Clark, *The Beginnings of Texas*, p. 17).

² That is, they carried her statue or picture. The river was crossed not far from Victoria, perhaps a little below it.

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on a little creek. We travelled that day not more than two leagues. As the guide said that we were near the settlement, a council of war was held, at which it was decided that the next day a reconnaissance should be made with sixty soldiers, while the camp should stay in another place at some distance away, with a sufficient guard. 2.

Saturday, the 16th, after a mass to Our Lady of Guadalupe had been chanted with all solemnity, the governor, in accordance with the decision of the day before, set out with the sixty soldiers, well equipped. The whole force set out at the same time. After travelling about three leagues with the sixty men, the rear-guard caught sight of an Indian in the timber. When he was taken to the governor and examined—through a poor interpreter—he declared that his *ranchería* was near by, and that four Frenchmen were there. We quickened our pace, under the guidance of our Indian, after we had sent word to the main body to stay in the place whence they had sent the Indian. Before we came to the *ranchería* all the people left. We sighted them, however, as they were entering some motts; and after them came eight or ten dogs loaded with buffalo hides. We sent the same Indian who had guided us to call them, with the result that most of them came. It was ascertained that the four Frenchmen were not there, but that they had gone on to the Tejas four days before. In this *ranchería* we found two Indians who told us that we should find them in a *ranchería* two days' journey further. We gave these Indians some tobacco, knives, and other things, to get them to guide us, which they did. We turned and moved northward till sunset. Then we found in a thicket a village of more than two hundred and fifty persons, where we tried to find the Frenchmen, our French guide always serving as interpreter. They replied that the Frenchmen had gone to the Texas Indians four days before, and that the rest who had settled on the little sea (which is the bay) had all died at the hands of the coast Indians; that the Frenchmen had six houses; and that the event had occurred three moons, that is, three months, before; that previous to this there had been an epidemic of smallpox, of which most of them had died. The main body travelled east that day, and halted

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at the place appointed by the governor, who went eight leagues northward with the sixty men. 8.

Sunday, the 17th, after sleeping close by the Indian village, we again set out to the north. After travelling five leagues we found some ranchos¹ of Indians known to our French prisoner. We found out from them by minute inquiry the route of the four Frenchmen who were going to the Texas; we found out, moreover, that they had passed on horseback four days before. Here a consultation was held as to what decision should be reached, with the result that it was determined, as the main force was far away and the country unknown, to write a letter to the Frenchmen and send it to them by an Indian. Accordingly, the letter was written in French by the royal *alférez*, Francisco Martinez. Its contents, in substance, were as follows: that we had been informed of their escape when some Christians on the coast had been killed by the Indians of that vicinity; that they might come with us; that we would wait for them three or four days in the houses of the village from which they had set out. This letter was signed by the governor and by our chaplain, Padre Fray Damian Manzanet, religious of our patron San Francisco. The letter added as a postscript some lines of Latin, in case any one of the four should be a religious, exhorting them to come. Putting in paper for a reply, we dispatched this letter by an Indian carrier who assured us that he would overtake them. About evening prayer² an Indian came from the North to see the Frenchmen, of whom he must have had news. When we asked him through the Frenchman whether it was far from here to the Texas, he replied that it was not many days' journey and said that it had been three days since the four Frenchmen had gone on from his ranchería.

Monday, the 18th, in view of the harm the camp might have suffered, even though we had left it well guarded, we set out in search of it. On the way thither the governor received a letter stating that the drove of horses had stampeded the night before, and that a hundred-odd had been lost; that some had been found, but thirty-six were still missing. At this we quickened our pace to the camp. There we heard

¹Houses or huts.²Vespers.

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also that a soldier¹ had been lost in the search for the horses. At this news sundry squadrons of soldiers were sent in search of him, but he did not appear that day.

Tuesday, the 19th, since neither the soldier nor the horses had appeared, two squadrons of soldiers set out in different directions to look for them; the governor went in person; but despite their diligent efforts the lost were not found. [The search-party], therefore, slept in the open, to continue the search. Indians from different rancherías came to the camp that day; we gave them tobacco and other things, and charged them to scour the country in search of the soldier and the horses that were missing, promising them due return for the service.

Wednesday, the 20th, the party did not set out, because neither soldier nor horses had appeared. The efforts of the day before were repeated with new squadrons of soldiers. Just after they had left the lost man came, guided by several Indians. He said that that night [after he had been lost] he had come to an Indian ranchería where he spent the night; that he had been undecided whether to stay there, because of his suspicion that they were going to kill him, but that he had been treated with great kindness. It was no little good fortune that he escaped from danger at the hands of so barbarous a race. Though the astrolabe was broken, we righted it that day as best we could and made an observation of the sun, and found ourselves in latitude 28° 41' north.²

Thursday, the 21st, our party advanced sometimes east, sometimes east-by-north, sometimes northeast-by-north. Our line of march lay through some wide plains which for long stretches were treeless. At the end of eight leagues we came to a creek of good water. Here the Indian guide told us that the settlement was on the bank of this creek³ and in its vicinity. The land was all very pleasing; and we came across many buffalo.

Friday, the 22d, as we were near the settlement, our party

¹ His name was Juan de Charles (De León, *Historia de Nuevo León*, p. 327).

² The Autor Anónimo gives the latitude as 28° 4' (*Historia de Nuevo León*, *ibid.*).

³ Garcitas River. See Massanet's Carta, p. 361, above, notes 2, 3.

set out though the day dawned rainy. Three leagues down the creek we found it. Having halted with the forces about an arquebus-shot away, we went to see it, and found all the houses sacked, all the chests, bottle-cases, and all the rest of the settlers' furniture broken; apparently more than two hundred books, torn apart and with the rotten leaves scattered through the patios—all in French. We noted that the perpetrators of this massacre had pulled everything [the colonists] had out of their chests, and divided the booty among themselves; and that what they had not cared for they had torn to pieces, making a frightful sack of all the French possessed; for besides the evidence involved in our finding everything in this condition, further proof was found in the fact that in the rancherías through which we had passed before our arrival at the settlement, we had found in the possession of the Indians some French books in very good condition, with other articles of very little value. These books were recovered and their titles committed to memory. The Indians had done this damage not only to the furnishings, but also to the arms, for we found more than a hundred stocks of flintlock arquebuses, without locks or barrels. They must have carried these off, as was proved by an [arquebus] barrel found at some distance from the houses. We found three dead bodies scattered over the plain. One of these, from the dress that still clung to the bones, appeared to be that of a woman. We took the bodies up, chanted mass with the bodies present, and buried them. We looked for the other dead bodies but could not find them; whence we supposed that they had been thrown into the creek and had been eaten by alligators, of which there were many. The principal house of this settlement is in the form of a fort, made of ship's timber, with a second story, also made of ship's timber, and with a slope to turn off water. Next to it, without any partition, is another apartment, not so strong, which must have served as a chapel where mass was said. The other five houses are of stakes, covered with mud inside and out; their roofs are covered with buffalo-hides. All are quite useless for any defence. In and about the fort and the houses were eight pieces of artillery, iron, of medium bore,—four or five-pounders,—and three very old swivels whose chambers were lacking. Some iron bars

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were also found, and some ship's nails, estimated as altogether about five hundredweight. Some of the guns were scattered over the ground and some were on their broken carriages. There were some casks with their heads knocked in and their contents spilled out, so that nothing was worth anything. Around the building was also some tackle, much the worse for wear. The settlement was on a beautiful, level site, so as to be capable of defence in any event. On the frame of the principal door of the fort was inscribed the date of the settlement, which was 1684.¹ There are other details which are noted in the separate description of the post.² The party travelled that day three leagues to the east. It appears, therefore, that the total distance from the Presidio of Coahuila to this settlement is one hundred and thirty-six leagues.³

Discovery of Espíritu Santo Bay and its Harbor.

Saturday, the 23d, we set out with thirty men to reconnoitre the bay to the south, trying to follow the creek below the settlement. We took the French prisoner for a guide, because he had told us he knew the bay and had been all over it in a bark. In view of this assurance we let him guide us. He did not guide us down the creek, because he said it had no crossing. We went [instead] five leagues to the southwest; then, after going around the head-waters of two creeks, we went three leagues farther, to the east, when we came upon the shore of the bay. Here we slept, as we arrived at twilight.

Sunday, the 24th, very early in the morning, we set out along the shore of the bay, which at that season was at low water. There are many lagoons of salt water around it whose marshes prevented us at some places from crossing on horseback. For long stretches, therefore, we went on foot, leading

¹ See a drawing of the fort and of the inscription in De León, *Historia de Nuevo León*, pp. 330-331. Additional details are given there. See also De León's letter of May 18.

² From this it is inferred that a special description of the French settlement was contained in the *autos* drawn up by De León.

³ The distances given by the map total one hundred and thirty-seven leagues; those of the Itinerary one hundred and nineteen, some being omitted. (Miss West.)

the horses. The arm of the sea which appeared to us the longest runs in toward the north, another smaller one to the south, and the other, the smallest, toward the settlement mentioned in this diary.

We went eight long leagues along the shore, till it pleased God that we should discover the mouth, through which one enters the bay. This was probably about two leagues from the place we could reach on horseback. We were greatly rejoiced at this discovery, in token of which we fired a salute with our arquebuses. The Frenchman affirmed that this was the mouth of the harbor, through which he had entered when he came into these parts with Monsieur Felipe So-and-So. The mouth of the harbor, so far as we could judge, is about two short leagues across. There is a bar of low land across it which is closer to the mainland on the side toward Vera Cruz than toward Florida. The Frenchman says that ships enter through the narrowest passage. On the south the river which we named Nuestra Señora de Guadalupe falls into the bay. We did not actually see its mouth, because it was impossible to reach that point; but we came to that conclusion because when we crossed it we saw that it was near the bay, and also because the Frenchman made a statement to that effect.¹ The arm of the sea which extends inland on the north of the bay is so wide that we could not see land on the other shore.² On the shore of the bay, which we ran for about eight leagues, we saw a topmast of a large ship; another—a small top-gallant mast, a capstan, some barrel-staves, and other timbers, which must have belonged to some ship that was lost in the bay or along the coast whose harbor we had sighted.³ After seeing and exploring the mouth of the bay, we went back the same way we had come, and we camped for the night on the bank of a creek near a little mott. Here had been an Indian village, but it had been abandoned for some time. We found in the village a book in the French language, a broken bottle-case, and other things which gave

¹ As a matter of fact, the Guadalupe River does not flow into Matagorda Bay.

² The reference is to the main body of Matagorda Bay.

³ These things were the wreckage of *L'Aimable* and *La Belle*, two of La Salle's vessels.

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us indications that the Indians of the village had taken part in the massacre of the French. In this creek, whose water was somewhat brackish, we found two canoes.¹

On the 25th of April we set out from there and went to the camp. There we found² an answer to the letter that had been written to the Frenchmen who had gone to the Texas. The letter, read by the *alférez*, contained in substance that within two days they would come to where we were, for by that time they were tired of being among barbarians. There was only one signature—that of Juan Larchieverque³ of Bayonne. It was written with red ochre. The distance traversed, in going to reconnoitre the bay and in returning, was fifty-two leagues. On that day, Monday, the 25th, the main camp remained stationary.

Discovery of the San Marcos River.

Tuesday, the 26th, it was decided that the main body should set out by the same route we had traversed, because the water of the creek is brackish, as has been stated, and the horses that drank it became sick. Accordingly, we moved three leagues up the creek, and halted in the same place where we had stopped in our advance; and then we went on with twenty men.

There was a very large river which the French prisoner said was toward the north and flowed into the bay. We found it at a distance of about three leagues,⁴ and followed its bank to where some lagoons form an impediment. It is a very large river; larger, it seemed to us, than the Rio Bravo; so large that a small vessel can navigate it. We determined to see its discharge into the bay, even though it should be a

¹ Next year a place in this vicinity was called "Arroyo de las Canoas," probably referring to these canoes. (Itinerary of 1690, entry for June 20.)

² See Massanet's letter, p. 363, note 1.

³ Jean L'Archevêque. See p. 364, note 3.

⁴ The Autor Anónimo says six leagues (*Historia de Nuevo León*, p. 335). The stream was the Lavaca, but has been wrongly identified by some writers as the Colorado, a stream fifty miles or more distant. The stream called the San Marcos further inland was the Colorado.

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matter of difficulty. Finally we accomplished our purpose, looking from a little hill, which is about three quarters of a league distant from the mouth of the river. It appeared to us that it was about a league and a half from the mouth of the San Marcos to the mouth of the creek on which the Frenchmen had lived,¹ and the same distance from the mouth of the creek to the settlement. We travelled that day fifteen leagues. We took an observation on the shore of the creek, and found ourselves, allowing for mistakes on account of the defect in the astrolabe, in latitude $26^{\circ} 3'$ more or less.² We named this river San Marcos, because we discovered it the day after that saint's feast day.

The Diary of the Return, continued, with the New Entrada made toward the North in search of the French.

Wednesday, the 27th, our party moved forward and halted on some pools, near a little mott which borders on the trail.

Thursday, the 28th, we set out on our way, and the governor set out the same time with thirty companions toward the north bank, to look for the Frenchmen who had written. The main body halted on the River Nuestra Señora de Guadalupe, on the other bank.

Friday, the 29th, the main body halted.

Saturday, the 30th, the main body again halted.

May.

Sunday, May 1st, about evening prayer,³ the governor arrived with his companions, bringing two Frenchmen, streaked with paint after the Indian fashion. He had found them twenty-five leagues and more from where we had set out with the main body.⁴ One of them, the one who had written the letter, was named Juan; the other, a native of Rochelle, was

¹ The Garcitas.

² The Autor Anónimo says $29^{\circ} 3'$. The figures of the diary are evidently a misprint. The actual latitude of La Salle's fort was not far from $28^{\circ} 40'$.

³ Vespers.

⁴ He had found them near the Colorado River.

named Jacome.¹ They gave an account of the death of their people, the first saying that an epidemic of smallpox had killed more than a hundred persons; that the rest had been on friendly terms with the Indians of all that region, and had no suspicion of them; that a little more than a month before five Indians had come to their settlement under pretext of telling them something and had stopped at the most remote house in the settlement; that the Frenchmen, having no suspicions, all went to the house unarmed to see them; that after they were inside other Indians kept coming and embracing them; that another party of Indians came in from the creek at the same time, and killed them all, including two religious and a priest, with daggers and sticks, and sacked all the houses; that they were not there at the time, having gone to the Texas; but that when they heard the news of this occurrence, [the] four of them came, and, finding their companions dead, they buried the fourteen they found; that they exploded nearly a hundred barrels of powder, so that the Indians could not carry it off; and that the settlement had been well provided with all sorts of firearms, swords, broadswords, three chalices, and a large collection of books, with very rare bindings. The two Frenchmen were streaked with paint after the fashion of the Indians, and covered with antelope and buffalo hides. We found them in a ranchería of the chief of the Texas,² who were giving them sustenance and keeping them with great care. We took him [the chief] to the camp and treated him with great kindness. Although unable to speak Castilian he was an Indian in whom was recognized capacity. He had a shrine with several images. The governor gave him and the other Indians who had come with him generously of what was left of the cotton garments, knives, blankets, beads, and other goods. He was very much pleased and promised to come with some Indians of his nation to the province of Cohaguila. The governor made a separate report of all that was expedient or important in the declarations of the two Frenchmen, to send it to His Excellency. We continued our march to the Nueces River. On Tuesday,

¹ Called Santiago Grolette in Massanet's letter, p. 364, above.

² The Autor Anónimo, who was in the expedition, writes: "This captain of the Tejas was not in his own country there, but a long distance from it." (De León, *Historia de Nuevo León*, p. 339.) See also De León's letter of May 18.

May 10, the governor went ahead¹ with some companions to send a dispatch to His Excellency, giving an account of this discovery. We arrived at the presidio of Cohaguila today, May 13th, at nightfall. Here ends the diary. To insure its authenticity, it is signed by the governor,

ALONSO DE LEON.

¹ *Adelantó*. He went ahead with fifteen men, the two Frenchmen, and Martínez. On the 18th Martínez was sent to Mexico with the Frenchmen and the despatches. (De León, *Historia de Nuevo León*, p. 342.)

ITINERARY OF THE DE LEÓN EXPEDITION OF 1690¹

*Diary, Itinerary, and Description of the Country of the Expedition which, by order of the Most excellent Señor Conde de Galve, Viceroy and Captain-general of Nueva España, was made by General Alonso de Leon, Governor of the province of Coahuila, and Captain of the Presidio which, on the Account of his Majesty, is established there, and Commander-in-chief of the Soldiers who went on the Expedition to Reconnoitre the French who might be in the Bay of Espiritu Santo and the Province of the Texas.*² It is as follows:

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Sunday, the 26th day of the month of March, 1690, the pack-animals and the baggage left the Villa of Santiago de la Monclova, stopping a league outside the Indian pueblo and a league and a half from the Villa, toward the north. 1½.

Monday, the 27th, camp was broken, and we set out, marching eight³ leagues northeast-by-east and halting below Las Lomitas on the bank of the Cuaguila River. 8.

Tuesday, the 28th, we left the said place and valleys, going down stream towards the northeast, and, leaving the river, entered the Pass of Baluartes. From this pass we made a detour of a league in order to halt on the bank of the river, where the company camped, having marched this day eight leagues. 8.

Wednesday, the 29th, the company proceeded down stream east-by-northeast, and passing El Alamo,⁴ halted on the bank

¹ Manuscript in the Archivo General y Público, Mexico, Provincias Internas, vol. 182. See p. 352 for the different texts.

² The title and all the entries before April 9 are from B, excepting the entry for March 28, which is omitted from B, and is taken from C.

³ C reads three leagues, instead of eight. It is evidently correct, as is shown by the map, and by comparison of distances with the 1689 journey.

⁴ C reads "a little more than a league beyond El Alamo."

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of the river, having marched five leagues this day. All the land is level, although there is some chaparral and lechugilla.	5.

Thursday, the 30th, we set out east-by-northeast, down stream, going to the junction of the Savinas River, having marched this day four and one-half leagues. That night the company from the Kingdom of Leon and the missionary fathers with it joined us.¹

4½.

Friday, the 31st, we marched down stream and, traversing a hill towards the east, we crossed the Savinas River, on whose banks the company halted. We travelled two leagues.

2.

Saturday, April 1st, we marched towards the northeast and halted at a pool of rain-water. The company travelled this day six leagues.

6.

Sunday, the 2d of April, after mass we set out northeast-by-north and arrived at some pools of rain-water, where the company halted, having marched this day five leagues. All the country is level although there is some chaparral.

5.

Monday, the 3d, we set out towards the north over level land and went to the bank of an arroyo where we found the Indians of the Frenchman, to whom we gave tobacco and clothing. We travelled this day four leagues.

4.

Tuesday, the 4th, we set out towards the north for the Rio Grande.² The company camped on its bank, and some buffalo were found. They marched this day five leagues.

5.

Wednesday, the 5th, we remained in camp, in order that all might be confessed and fulfill their duties to the Church before crossing the river.

Thursday, the 6th, we crossed the river and marched north-by-northeast and camped on the bank of a dry arroyo, having marched eight leagues. We camped for the night without water.

8.

Friday, the 7th, we set out towards the northeast over level land, and camped on Arroyo de Ramos, having marched this day three leagues.

3.

Saturday, the 8th, the company set out northeast-by-north over level land, bearing in places much mesquite brush, and ar-

¹ C states that they camped on the bank of the river.

² C adds "over level land with some mesquite, and having found the ford."

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rived at an arroyo which we named Caramanchel.¹ On account of the poor ford, most of the day was spent in getting the pack-animals across. We marched this day three leagues. 3.

Sunday, the 9th, after mass we set out northeast-by-north over level land and, crossing two wooded valleys, entered a mesquite grove and found the ford of the Nuezes River. Here we camped in a meadow on the bank of the river, having marched this day five leagues. 5.

Monday, the 10th, having crossed the river on a passageway of trees,² we set out towards the east, and travelled two leagues. Then we marched towards the north another two leagues and, making a detour³ to the east over level land, but with some mesquite brush, crossed the Sarco River. The company camped here, having marched this day seven leagues. 7.

Tuesday, the 11th, we set out towards the north over some plains, crossing some knolls. We camped by the Rio Hondo, having marched six leagues. 6.

Wednesday, the 12th, we were delayed with the company, to search for two comrades who were lost in a severe rain-storm the preceding day. We marched 0.

Thursday, the 13th, at noon, the two comrades arrived, and at the same time we learned from some Indians that six leagues from this place there was a gathering of Indians where a Frenchman had come. With twenty soldiers I set out this day towards the west along the northern bank of the river.⁴ At about five leagues I camped for the night. 5.

Friday, the 14th, at dawn, I continued my march and, making a detour towards the north over a plain, arrived at the bank of a river where the Indian encampment was. A great number of them, both large and small, came out to see us and, upon giving them tobacco and biscuits, they informed us that two Frenchmen were on the other bank of the Guadalupe River. One Indian had a French musket. Having heard

¹ This stream is not mentioned in the 1689 expedition.

² "Por un ailadero de arboles," omitted from C.

³ The same detour is mentioned in the 1689 diary and map, under date of April 5.

⁴ C adds that Captain Don Gregorio Salinas Varona was among the twenty.

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this news, we returned to the camp, a large number of Indians accompanying us. At the camp we presented them with clothing, flour, tobacco, and other trifles. We had marched seven leagues. 7.

Saturday, the 15th, the company set out towards the east, going down stream until the ford was reached. They marched six leagues. 6.

Sunday, the 16th, after mass, we crossed the river, going east-by-north over level land, and reached the Chapa River, where we made a bridge in order to cross it, advancing until some pools were found on whose banks the company halted, having marched eight leagues. 8.

Monday, the 17th, we set out towards the northeast through some woods which were encountered, making several detours to the north-northeast and east until we arrived at the Arroyo de los Robalos,¹ where the company halted, having marched this day five leagues. 5.

Tuesday, the 18th, we set out in different directions to search for one hundred and twenty-six horses which had stampeded. The company set out, but at a short distance the guide lost his way and it was necessary for us to continue towards the north in search of the Medina River. As it was already late, the company camped on a knoll to which we gave the name of El Real del Rosario. Although there was little water, it sufficed for the company. We marched this day four leagues. 4.

Wednesday, the 19th, we set out towards the north. Having arrived at the Medina River above the ford, we crossed at a shoal, having marched seven leagues. 7.

Thursday, the 20th, we set out towards the east and, at a distance of two leagues, reached the ford of the river, where the company halted, as it was necessary to arrange for fording it. 2.

Friday, the 21st, we marched towards the east and arrived at Arroyo del Leon. We marched this day five leagues. 5.

Saturday, the 22d, we marched towards the east and at times towards the northeast. We camped by a stream of brackish water, having marched six leagues. 6.

¹ Apparently the stream called Arroyo de Vino in 1689. (Itinerary, April 9.)

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Sunday, the 23d, after mass the company set out east by northeast through some live-oak groves and camped near the Guadalupe River, where there is an arroyo close to the river. We marched five leagues. 5.

Monday, the 24th, the company set out down stream and, having crossed the river with much difficulty,¹ because there was so much water, we camped on the other bank, having marched two leagues. 2.

Tuesday, the 25th, I set out with twenty soldiers,² leaving the company in the aforesaid place, and went towards the east to reconnoitre the Bay of Espiritu Santo. This day we marched fourteen leagues and camped on the banks of some small pools of water. 14.

Wednesday, the 26th, we arrived at the French settlement, which we saw last year.³ Having ascertained from its form that it was as before, and having learned where the artillery was buried, we burned the wooden fort; and, going two leagues further, we recognized in the bay what were apparently two buoys, one at the mouth of the San Marcos River and the other at one side, indicating the same channel. The sun was not observed as the day was cloudy. From there we returned up the arroyo of the French settlement, to see if we might meet some Indians from whom to obtain information, but, not having met any, we camped on the bank of the arroyo,⁴ having marched this day, in going and coming, fourteen leagues. 14.

Thursday, the 27th, we returned to the camp, having marched up the arroyo of the French in search of some Indians of whom to obtain news. After making some detours we reached the camp. We marched this day twenty leagues. 20.

¹ The crossing was at the same place, or not far from the same place, as that of the 1689 expedition. In 1689 the distance from the Guadalupe to the French settlement was given as seventeen leagues east-northeast. In 1690 the settlement was reached by going nineteen leagues eastwardly, the difference being probably one of estimating.

² C adds that Salinas Varona went also.

³ C adds that the journey to the French settlement was about five leagues to the east.

⁴ Called a river in C.

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Friday, the 28th, I set out with eight soldiers up the Guadalupe River,¹ sending up several smokes to see if I might meet some Indians, of whom to obtain news. Having gone six leagues, we returned to the camp, having marched this day, in going and coming, twelve leagues. 12.

Saturday, the 29th, the company set out towards the east about three leagues and then we turned towards the north-east another three leagues, over level land, arriving at some pools of rain-water, which we named San Pedro Martir. We marched this day six leagues. 6.

Sunday, the 30th, after mass, there arrived two soldiers from the presidios of La Viscaya,² who informed us that their comrades were coming behind to overtake me and to join this expedition by order of the Most Excellent Señor Conde de Galve, viceroy and captain-general of New Spain. I sent to meet them with clothing and supplies. I left the company there to await them, and set out with sixteen soldiers to cut passageways³ and to seek some Indians who could guide us and inform us whether there were any Frenchmen in these regions. I passed this night by some pools of rain-water, having marched nine leagues. 9.

Monday, May 1st, I continued on my journey, passing various arroyos⁴ and deserted rancherías without meeting an Indian. We slept on a small hill, having marched twelve leagues. 12.

Tuesday, the 2d, I set out and arrived at a pasture near the San Marcos River, where we slept,⁵ having marched this day fourteen leagues because of several detours. 14.

Wednesday, the 3d, after placing a cross in a tree, I reached the San Marcos River and, having crossed it,⁶ I advanced and, at about five leagues, on the edge of a small wood, we

¹ This journey is not shown on the map.

² C reads "Presidios del Parral."

³ A and B read "a que desmontasen unos ailaderos." C reads "a desmontar algunos pedazos de monte."

⁴ He was crossing the upper waters of the Lavaca in the neighborhood of Hallettsville.

⁵ C adds, "since it is a deep river I could not cross it."

⁶ The Colorado. C states that De León went up-stream and found a good ford.

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saw an Indian woman and a boy. Upon signalling them with a handkerchief they did not wish to emerge, but instead took refuge in the wood. We camped this night on a hill, level as a villa, leaving for them in their settlement a handkerchief, biscuit, tobacco, razors, and knives. We marched this day seven leagues. 7.

Thursday, the 4th, an Indian came to see us and, having spoken with him by signs, he told us that he was of the Texas, that this day we would arrive at a ranchería, and that he, with his wife and a young brother-in-law of his who lived there, would guide us. I gave him a horse upon which he might load his belongings, but at a distance of three leagues we decided to send him on, and, returning to the place where we had slept, we told him we would wait there for him to go to summon the governor of the Texas, among whom were some Frenchmen. We marched this day six leagues.¹ 6.

Friday, the 5th, in the morning I sent Captain Francisco de Venavides with three soldiers to the camp in order that it should come on. About five in the afternoon, the Indian whom I had sent to the captain of the Texas returned to inform me that his horse had run away from him.

Saturday, the 6th, I sent four soldiers over the trail to ascertain whether he had joined any Indians and, having met another Indian, they brought him to camp. We offered him clothing if he would go to the Texas to tell the governor to come to see us. Thereupon, the Indian, greedy for the gift, told me that if I would give him another horse he would go to summon the governor of the Texas and that he would leave his wife and a brother-in-law of his to guide us. So I sent him on this day.

Sunday, the 7th, Monday, the 8th, we halted where the Indian told us to await him and, also, to see if we could discern any smoke, in order to go to meet the company, for that was the signal we gave them.²

¹ C adds that on this day the twenty soldiers of the presidios of Parral (Nueva Vizcaya) reached the camp of San Pedro Martir.

² C states that the camp set out from San Pedro Martir on this day, going three leagues northeast through heavy timber, crossing two dry arroyos then going west and north through heavy timber, crossing four dry arroyos, and

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Tuesday,¹ the 9th, having discerned smoke, I set out with four soldiers to meet the company. Having crossed the San Marcos River, about noon I met two Indians, and, at a little distance, Captain Francisco de Benavides and three soldiers, with an Indian who spoke the Mexican language. From him we learned that a French boy was in a ranchería about two days' march to the westward and another in another ranchería to the east. I sent the said Captain Benavides with two soldiers to the place where I had left the comrades awaiting me and went on to the company, which I found in an arroyo where it had just halted. Giving them orders to march next day and to await me where their comrades were, and, having chosen three horses, eight soldiers, and supplies, the Indian interpreter guiding us, we advanced twelve leagues by evening.² 12.

Wednesday, the 10th, continuing to the west about nine leagues, we marched through a forest of oaks and grape-vines another five leagues, and upon the edge of the wood met some Indians and a French boy named Pedro Talon.³ As he told us that there was no other in that vicinity, we returned to sleep near the camp of the night before, having marched that day in going and coming twenty-seven leagues.⁴ 27.

stopping on one called San Miguel Arcangel. The entry omits entirely the data printed here. De León evidently reached the Colorado near La Grange. The map shows above the network of arroyos crossed on May 1 a stream corresponding to the upper Navidad, and just before reaching the Colorado a small stream flowing into the Colorado from the west. Such a stream enters at La Grange.

¹ Both A and B lack entries for the 8th, but C states that the camp left San Miguel Arcangel, moved north, passed eight dry arroyos, travelled nine leagues, and camped at San Gregorio Nazianzeno.

² C states that on the 9th the camp moved from San Gregorio north seven leagues, to a hill named Jesus María y Joseph de Buenavista; that De León reached the camp in the afternoon, and set out with eight men, including Salinas Varona, to seek a French boy who was in the ranchería toward the southwest, going twelve leagues.

³ Talon must have been found in the region of Gonzales, probably to the northward of that place.

⁴ C states that they set out before morning, went southwest nine leagues to a high hill, before entering the forest, then five leagues through a forest on the edge of which they met Pedro Talon coming with a ranchería of Indians, returning that day almost to the hill of Jesus María y Joseph. It adds that Captain

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Thursday, the 11th, we continued our journey towards the northeast about twelve leagues, to a high hill which had a clump of very high trees, where we found some Indians camped, who informed us of another Frenchman who was near there in a *ranchería*. I sent an Indian to summon him and another Indian afterwards told us that other Frenchmen had arrived at the entrance to the Bay of Espiritu Santo. At the same time I sent two soldiers to the camp in order that four should come with supplies and a relay of horses, so that, if the Frenchman should not come, we might go in search of him. We crossed the San Marcos River this afternoon in order that, since it had rained heavily, it might not rise and keep some of us on one side and some on the other. We marched this day sixteen leagues.¹ 16.

Friday, the 12th, in the morning the French boy arrived with three Indians and said his name was Pedro Muni; at the same time came the soldiers whom I sent to summon from the camp. We therefore advanced towards the northeast until we reached it. We marched this day six leagues.² 6.

Saturday, the 13th, the company set out from San Joseph towards the east about three leagues, and another three towards the northeast, crossing some valleys and arroyos with little water. Stopping upon the bank of an arroyo, we gave it the name of San Francisco de Asis.³ We marched six leagues. 6.

Sunday, the 14th, the company set out for the Colorado River, crossing some valleys towards the northeast and, halting on its banks, we gave it the name of Espiritu Santo River,⁴ having marched six leagues. 6.

Monday, the 15th, the company set out down stream and at a distance of half⁵ a league crossed the river. Passing

Francisco Martínez continued north with the camp, crossing the San Marcos, and proceeded to the place where De León had left his companions, at San Ildefonso, having travelled eight leagues.

¹ C adds that the camp moved this day to a better site, called San Joseph, three leagues northeast.

² C adds that they found the camp, which awaited them, six leagues from the river, towards the north.

³ Evidently the Yegua River.

⁴ The Brazos River.

⁵ C states that the camp moved east three leagues, crossed the river, then one league northeast, then north one league to San Juan, going the same distance

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through a very thick wood towards the northeast, and making several detours to the north, we halted at an arroyo to which we gave the name of San Juan. We marched this day five leagues. 5.

Tuesday, the 16th, the company set out towards the northeast for about two leagues, crossing two arroyos in the same direction, and camped in a hollow, having marched four leagues. We gave it the name of Beatto Salvador de Hortta. 4.

Wednesday, the 17th, the company set out towards the northeast-by-north and camped at an arroyo to which we gave the name of San Diego de Alcalá.¹ We marched this day six leagues. 6.

Thursday, the 18th, the company set out northeast-by-east, crossing several arroyos at one of which we met the Indian whom we had sent, with the governor of the Texas, accompanied by fourteen of the principal Indians among them. I gave them clothing and other goods from those we were carrying, the said governor and his people manifesting much joy at having seen us and making known that all his people were awaiting us with much pleasure.

Returning to a very pleasant valley, the company halted there at an arroyo and gave it the name of Valle de Santa Elvira. We marched this day eight leagues. 8.

Friday, the 19th, we marched north-by-northeast and at a little distance we entered another very large and pleasant valley to which we gave the name of La Santissima Trinidad,² and although the passage was arranged, we spent most of the day in getting the supplies across, and, having crossed the river, found another very pleasant valley which was given the name of Monclova. We marched this day one and one half leagues. 1½.

Saturday, the 20th, we marched northeast-by-east through of five leagues. The crossing of the Brazos was above the mouth of the Nava-sota River, to which the name of San Juan was given.

¹ Evidently a branch of the Bidaís.

² There is an ellipsis here. C states that they reached a large valley named Galve, *beyond which* they came to the Rio Trinidad. C adds that the camp east of the river was called San Sebastián, although it mentions a valley of San Sebastián next day. The Trinity was apparently reached near the mouth of Boggy Creek.

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some groves of live-oak and some arroyos for a distance of four leagues. Upon emerging from the wood we found a large valley which was named San Sebastian and at one side of said valley we found four ranches of Indians who had planted maize and *frijoles*, and had very clean houses and high beds in which to sleep. We bestowed gifts upon them and continued towards the northeast through groves of live-oak and arroyos to some pools of rain-water to which we gave the name of San Bernardino, having marched seven leagues.¹ 7.

Sunday, the 21st, after mass we set out northeast-by-east, through some groves of live-oak and of pine, crossing the dry beds of four arroyos. Having arrived at an arroyo with water the company halted in a small plaza to which we gave the name of San Carlos, having marched six leagues. 6.

Monday, the 22d, we set out northeast-by-east through some groves of live-oak, crossing five dry arroyos and some small hills where there are veins of black and red stone, and continued until we reached a valley thickly settled with the houses of the Texas Indians. About them were fields of maize, beans, pumpkins and watermelons, and we gave the valley the name of San Francisco Xavier. Making a detour to the north by a hill clad with live-oak, at about a quarter of a league we found another valley of Texas Indians and their houses; and their governor telling us that his house was very near, the company halted upon the bank of an arroyo, having marched this day five leagues.² To this settlement we gave the name of San Francisco de los Texas. This afternoon I went with the governor of the said Texas to leave him at his house, where his mother, his wife, a daughter of his, and many people who were expecting him came out to receive me, bringing out a bench upon which to seat me and giving me a luncheon of corn tamales and *atole*, all very cleanly.

Tuesday, the 23d, I set out with the reverend missionary fathers over the half-league intervening between the camp and the house of the governor, in a procession with the officers and soldiers, who were followed by a large number of Indians with the said Indian governor. Having reached his house, the

¹ They were now near Crockett, Houston County.

² C omits all the rest of this entry.

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missionaries sang the *Te Deum Laudamus*.¹ After remaining a while at his house seated upon benches which the said governor ordered brought, they served us, in jars and crocks, a luncheon of boiled beans, *atole*, and *pinole*, which the said fathers and soldiers ate. We then returned to camp.

Wednesday, the 24th, a chapel² was prepared in which to celebrate the feast of Corpus Cristi, having this day bestowed upon the Indians clothing and the other commodities. This day I notified the governor to summon all his people to come to the feast of Corpus Cristi.

Thursday, the 25th, the feast of the Most Holy Sacrament³ was celebrated with all solemnity and a procession, all the officers and soldiers, the Indian governor, and many of his people accompanying the procession and witnessing the high mass.⁴ Mass having been completed, the ceremony was enacted of raising the flag in the name of his Majesty (whom God protect), and I, the said General Alonso de Leon, as the superior officer of all the companies which, by order of his Excellency, the Señor Conde de Galve, viceroy of this New Spain, had come on this journey in the name of his Majesty, accepted the obedience which they rendered to his Majesty, and in his royal name promised to befriend and aid them. I delivered to the governor a staff with a cross, giving him the title of governor of all his people, in order that he might rule and govern them, giving him to understand by means of an interpreter that which he should observe and do, and the respect and obedience which he and all his people ought to have for the priests, and that he should make all his families attend Christian teaching, in order that they might be instructed in the affairs of our holy Catholic faith so that later they might be baptized and become Christians. He accepted the staff with much pleasure, promising to do all that was desired of him, and the company fired three salutes. Likewise, the Reverend Father Commissary of these conversions in this mission, Fray Damian Masanet, was given possession, in order

¹ C omits most of the rest of this entry. The settlement was in the valley of San Pedro Creek. See Massanet's letter, p. 376, above, note 2.

² The preparation of the chapel is not mentioned in C.

³ *I. e.*, Corpus Christi.

⁴ *La missa cantata*.

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that he might instruct them in the mysteries of our holy Catholic faith. The governor and his people having begged us to leave them religious to teach them the Christian doctrine, as a pledge of friendship we asked the said governor to give us three of the principal Indians of this province, among them being a brother, a nephew, and a cousin of the governor, who with much pleasure promised to go with us to see the most Excellent Señor Conde de Galve, viceroy and captain-general of New Spain. This day the sun was observed and we found ourselves in $34^{\circ} 7'$.¹

Friday, the 26th, I set out with the missionary fathers, some soldiers and officers, and the said Indian governor, towards the northeast, to find the most suitable place to put the mission, and after having seen three small valleys,² we came to where they told us two Frenchmen had died, where they had wished to make a settlement, and where we saw the graves. We placed a cross in a tree for them and went to a river which we found could be crossed only by means of a tree which the Indians have athwart it, and a rope of which they take hold. We named the river San Miguel Arcangel,³ and from there we returned to camp, having travelled six leagues.

6.

Saturday, the 27th; *Sunday*, the 28th; *Monday*, the 29th; *Tuesday*, the 30th, and *Wednesday*, the 31st,⁴ they labored to build the church and the dwelling of the apostolic fathers, in the midst of the principal settlement of the Texas.

Thursday, June 1st, I gave possession of the said mission, the reverend father commissary, Fray Damian Masanet, having sung mass in the said church, the said Indian governor and his people attending mass and the blessing of the church. This afternoon I sent the company to begin the return march to the province of Coahuila, over the same road by which we

¹ The entry for the 25th is much less complete in C.

² C says they went about three leagues before reaching the three small valleys.

³ C adds that this crossing was used by most of the Indians of this province, and that the valley at the river was named San Gaspár. The other three valleys they named San Antonio de Padua, Santa Margarita, and San Carlos.

⁴ C adds that on the 31st possession was taken of the house and church, an event which is assigned to June 1 by the other diaries.

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came. They halted this night at the camp of San Carlos, having marched five leagues. 5.

Friday, the 2d, with the reverend father commissary, Fray Damian Masanet, and six soldiers,¹ I set out from the pueblo of San Francisco de los Texas to follow the company, there being with us a brother of the governor, a nephew, and a cousin of his, and another Indian of the said pueblo. Having joined the company we advanced to the Real de San Bernardino, a little over half a league. The company marched this day a little over six and one-half leagues. 6½.

Saturday, the 3d, we continued our march, crossing the valley of San Sebastian and that of Monclova. We reached the Santisima Trinidad River and, as it was so swollen that we could not cross, we camped near the river,² having marched this day six and one-half leagues. 6½.

Sunday, the 4th; *Monday*, the 5th; *Tuesday*, the 6th; *Wednesday*, the 7th; *Thursday*, the 8th; *Friday*, the 9th; *Saturday*, the 10th; this day a raft was built and the crossing of the river was begun.

Sunday, the 11th, the crossing of the river was completed, and at about two in the afternoon the company set out through the Valle de Galbe, until that of Santa Elbira was reached, where they camped by some pools of rain-water, having marched three leagues. 3.

Monday, the 12th, the company set out from the said camp and, passing through that of San Diego de Alcala about two leagues, camped by some pools of rain-water, having marched nine leagues. 9.

Tuesday, the 13th, the company set out from the said place and, passing through El Beato Salvador de Horta, we reached the Arroyo de San Juan, having marched this day eight leagues. 8.

Wednesday, the 14th, the company set out from the said place and, crossing the Espiritu Santo River, we reached a range of low hills where there was an arroyo with water, by

¹ C says Salinas Varona, Martínez and four soldiers. It omits to mention the four Indians who accompanied them.

² C states that they camped in the Valle de Monclova. It gives the distance for the second as six leagues and for the third as seven leagues.

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which the company halted, having marched this day eight leagues. 8.

Thursday, the 15th, the company set out from the said place, and passing by the Real de San Francisco de Asis, we reached some arroyos of water whence I had dispatched the Indian to summon the governor of the Texas,¹ having marched this day seven leagues. 7.

Friday, the 16th, the company set out from the said place and, passing by the Real de San Joseph,² we reached an arroyo with water, where the company halted, having marched this day six leagues. 6.

Saturday, the 17th, the company set out from the said place, and, crossing the San Marcos River, we reached an arroyo with water, where the company halted, having marched this day five leagues. It was given the name of Jesus, Maria y Joseph de Buena Vista.³ 5.

Sunday, the 18th, the company continued their journey and I, General Alonso de Leon, with sixteen soldiers,⁴ set out towards the northeast in search of two French boys and a French girl, of whom some Indians, who were camped in the said place,⁵ gave me information. We travelled over some plains for about four leagues, until we reached a small wood, through which we went, and afterward marched towards the east about three leagues over another plain, where we found a small wood and a ranchería⁶ of the Indians. We continued from there over some very large plains⁷ where there were a great number of buffalo, to the edge of a small river, near which was a large clump of trees, where we halted, as it was already very dark, having marched this day seventeen leagues. 17.

Monday, the 19th, we continued our journey along the banks of said stream, which has timber on both sides and,

¹ C omits the item regarding the sending for the governor of the Texas.

² C calls it Real de San Joseph y San Ildefonso.

³ It was given the name on the way northeast.

⁴ C says Salinas Varona and sixteen soldiers.

⁵ C adds "In this camp there were many nations of Indians, such as the Cantoná, the Thoagá, the Chaná, and the Cabas."

⁶ C says they were called the Tho ó.

⁷ C adds that they were going southeast, and gives the distance for the day as sixteen leagues.

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having crossed it and marched about two leagues, we found a ranchería of Indians,¹ to whom I gave presents and who remained friendly towards us. From there we continued towards the south over some plains, and after going about one league we found another ranchería² of Indians to whom I also gave presents. From there we continued over the said plains in the same direction for about four leagues until we entered a small wood. We went through this and continued towards the west and, crossing a large arroyo in a wood, we found a very large nation of Indians,³ to whom I gave presents and who remained friendly towards us, and gave us Indians to guide us to another ranchería. From there we set out over some plains and, as it was now night, we halted on the bank of an arroyo, having travelled this day fifteen leagues. 15.

Tuesday, the 20th, we continued our journey towards the east where we found a ranchería of Indians,⁴ to whom I gave presents and who gave us four Indians to guide us to where the French children were. From there we set out in the same direction over some plains which were covered with buffalo, to cross the arroyo of the French, and having crossed it, we continued to the old settlement, and from there continued towards the south until we reached the arroyo which the Indians call "de Las Canoas,"⁵ and having crossed it we came to another small arroyo where we halted, having marched this day fourteen leagues. 14.

Wednesday, the 21st, we set out towards the south⁶ and after about one league we met two Indians who were coming, on horseback, from the nation which had the French children.⁷ They took us to their ranchería which was on the headland of a small bay. Here were Roberto and Magdalena Talon. I discussed their ransom, and having given them presents and paid the ransom which they asked, they came with us with a thousand impertinencies, begging of us all the horses, and

¹ Called the Có oé (C).

² Called the Tho ó (C).

³ C states that it contained more than three thousand persons and was called the Na aman.

⁴ Called Caisquetebana (C).

⁵ See Itinerary of 1689.

⁶ C says southeast.

⁷ Called Cascossi, often written Caocosi (C).

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even the clothing which we wore upon our backs. Meanwhile they went to get the other French boy, who was two leagues from there in the same nation. Having brought him, they proceeded further with their impertinence, carrying bows and arrows, a large number of the Indians coming with shields, begging exorbitant things, and saying that if we did not give them to them they would have to shoot and kill us all. Their saying this and beginning to shoot were simultaneous, whereupon we attacked them, and, having killed four and wounded others,¹ they retreated, having wounded two of our horses. We departed in an orderly manner to camp for the night at a distance of about four leagues, where we had slept the night before, having travelled this day twelve leagues.²

12.

Thursday, the 22d, at dawn we set out in the same northerly direction over some very large plains to the bank of the Guadalupe River, and about ten o'clock at night we halted near a small wood, having marched this day fourteen leagues.

14.

Friday, the 23d, we set out towards the north for about two leagues, where we found the track of the company which had gone by, and after about three leagues we came up with them at the ford of the Guadalupe River, where we halted, having marched five leagues.

5.

Saturday, the 24th, St. John's day, the company set out from the said place, and, crossing the Guadalupe River, we continued our march to an arroyo which is before the Real de Agua Salada, where we camped, having marched this day seven leagues.

7.

Sunday, the 25th, the company set out from the said place, and passing by the Real de la Salada, we reached the Arroyo del Leon, where the company halted, having marched this day seven leagues.

7.

Monday, the 26th, the company set out from the said place, and we reached the Medina River,³ where the company halted, having marched this day five leagues.

5.

Tuesday, the 27th, the company set out from the said

¹ C says four were killed and two wounded.

² C says twelve leagues north.

³ C says they crossed the Medina and gives the distance as six leagues.

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place, and arrived at an arroyo with water, where the company halted, having marched this day eight leagues. ¹	8.
<i>Wednesday</i> , the 28th, the company set out from the said place, and, the guide having lost the way, we camped at an arroyo with water above the ford of the Robalos River, having marched this day five leagues. ²	5.
<i>Thursday</i> , the 29th, the company set out from said place, and passing the Real del Aire, we reached some pools of water, where the company camped, having marched five leagues. ³	5.
<i>Friday</i> , the 30th, the company set out from the said place, and crossing the Rio Hondo we reached Las Cruces, about three leagues above the ford of the Jondo River, having marched this day eight leagues.	8.
<i>Saturday</i> , July 1st, the company set out from the said place, and we arrived at the Sarco ⁴ River, having marched this day five leagues.	5.
<i>Sunday</i> , the 2d, the company set out from the said place and, crossing the Nueces River, we reached some pools of water, where the company camped, having marched this day eight leagues. ⁵	8.
<i>Monday</i> , the 3d, the company set out from the said place, and crossing the Arroyo de Ramos, ⁶ we reached some pools of water, where the company halted, having marched this day ten leagues.	10.
<i>Tuesday</i> , the 4th, the company set out from the said place, and we arrived at the Rio Grande but, as it was very much swollen, it could not be crossed, and the company halted there, having marched this day eight leagues.	8.
<i>Wednesday</i> , the 5th; <i>Thursday</i> , the 6th; <i>Friday</i> , the 7th; <i>Saturday</i> , the 8th; <i>Sunday</i> , the 9th; <i>Monday</i> , the 10th, and <i>Tuesday</i> , the 11th, we remained in camp upon the bank of the said Rio Grande, through being unable to cross, as it was still	

¹ C gives the distance as seven leagues.

² C says nothing about the guide losing his way, but states that they went west four leagues, and south one league to a ranchería of Tho oé Indians.

³ C states that on this day the horse herd of two hundred and seven head and twenty-five men were left behind to come more slowly, being worn out.

⁴ Called Rio Frio in C.

⁵ C says seven leagues.

⁶ C calls it Arroyo de Caramanchel, and gives the distance as eight leagues.

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very much swollen.¹ From there I dispatched a courier to his Excellency sending him a Frenchman named Pedro Muni, the autos, map, and this itinerary, giving an account to his Excellency of the entire expedition.—ALONSO DE LEON.

¹ C states that on the afternoon of the 12th De León swam his horse across, followed by Father Massanet, four soldiers, and Pedro Moñe. C continues the journey to Monclova. On the 13th they went to Los Charcos de Agua Verde, fourteen leagues; on the 14th to the Sabinas, above the junction, seventeen leagues; and on the 15th to Monclova, twelve leagues.

