MISSISSIPPI

There's Much to See ... Much to Do! In the Land of Hospitality

Under Spanish Flags

Since 1541, when Hernando de Soto led the Spanish into Mississippi, much of the history of the State has been shaped by the Spanish influence. In 1699, the French, under Thomas Menil, founded the first permanent settlement in the lower Mississippi Valley, at Biloxi. In 1719, Louisiana was founded. By 1762, there were 13 West Florida settlements, including Pensacola and Mobile. In 1783, the British occupied the area, and in 1784, the Spanish regained possession of the region. In 1819, the United States acquired Florida, and in 1821, Mississippi was admitted to the Union.

First Permanent Settlement

The first permanent settlement in Mississippi was established in 1719, when the French founded Mobile as a trading post. In 1731, they established the St. Louis settlement, which later became the city of St. Louis, Missouri. In 1795, the Spanish captured the settlement, and in 1800, they reestablished it as the capital of the Territory of Orleans. In 1803, the United States acquired the Louisiana Purchase, and in 1817, Mississippi Territory was organized. In 1817, the Mississippi Territory was moved to the capital of New Orleans, and in 1818, the Territory of Mississippi was formed.

Territorial Masonry

In 1799, the Legislature of Mississippi established the city of Natchez, later the capital of the Mississippi Territory. In 1806, the Legislature of Mississippi established the city of Vicksburg, which later became the capital of the Mississippi Territory. In 1817, the Legislature of Mississippi established the city of Jackson, which later became the capital of the State of Mississippi.

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