SPANISH CHAIN ARMOR ON THE LOUP

Curator E. E. Blackman of the Historical Society Museum, began exploration of ancient Indian village sites on the Loup river twenty-five years ago. In 1924 and 1925 he spent some weeks in this field. He was a member of the survey party from the Historical Society which was over this ground in September, 1924. Asked to give his contribution to the present discussion, he writes as follows:

"The Loup river from Columbus to a point twenty miles west of Fullerton is thickly studded with ruins of Indian village sites. The Pawnees lived in this area. Many of these ruins date prior to 1720. Miss Matson informed me that many small brass plates, like those used in quilted armor in 1720, and like the three found west of Genoa, were dug up near one of the house sites about ten years ago.

"I met a gentleman near Monroe in 1924 who found a number of Spanish coins where they had been unearthed from a post hole twenty years ago. Charley Green of Marquette, Nebraska, found part of a stirrup and the top of a helmet said to be Spanish in design, near the old Chaui village across the Platte from Clarkson, Nebraska, about 35 years ago. A brass chain, distinctively Spanish, was found near Genoa two years ago.

"The finding of these numerous trinkets, which may well be relics of this Spanish Caravan together with the description given in the "Officer's diary" leads me to believe that the massacre occurred at this village on the Looking Glass.

"If the caravan was at the mouth of Prairie Creek (the St. Lawrence), where it joins the Platte (Jesus Maria) on the morning of August 10, 1720, the distance traveled and the physical condition described in the text fits the locality quite well.

"Further exploration may substantiate this supposition."

ADDITIONAL REFERENCES ON VILLASUR EXPEDITION
Bienville, Letters to the council of the Regency, from Fort Louis, of Louisiana, July 20, 1720, and April 25th, 1722.
James Reynolds, The Pioneer History of Illinois, p. 34.
Maj. Amos Stoddard’s Historical Sketches of Louisiana, chapter 8, p. 128.
L. Bradford Prince, Historical Sketches of New Mexico, p. 225.

Some of the above writers, notably the first three, relate the story of the Spanish expedition with a good deal of exaggeration and indicate that the Spanish were overcome by the Osage and Missouri Indians in the region of East Kansas and Western Missouri. These French narratives are made from frontier rumors. They lack the authenticity of the Spanish records made up from those who directed the expedition from Santa Fe.