

# *The Wittenberg Times*

1526-1550



All the news that's fit to print with some editorializing by Martin Luther  
Editor: Hank Bitten

## **1541 *Henry VIII Named King of Ireland***

The Parliament of Ireland voted to declare Henry VIII as their king after his troops put down the popular rebellion of Silken Thomas, the Earl of Kildare. The rebellion was a reaction against the Parliament's decision to approve the Act of Supremacy, naming King Henry VIII as the Head of the Church. After the Fitzgeralds and Silken Thomas expressed their loyalty to the Roman Catholic Church and the pope, King Henry VIII desired greater control and sent 2,300 troops to the area around Dublin. Although it was the hope that King Henry VIII would bring stability and protection to the Irish people, his first act as king was to seize all of the land and castles. His proclamation promised a return of property based on a pledge of loyalty. Should this happen, Ireland can become divided between the Protestants and Roman Catholics.

The future of Ireland is uncertain as King Henry VIII is the Head of the Anglican Church of England and is unlikely to allow the people of Ireland to have any religious freedom in the future. The people of Ireland are very faithful Roman Catholics and have been resistant to Henry's attempts to have the worship conducted in English instead of Latin.

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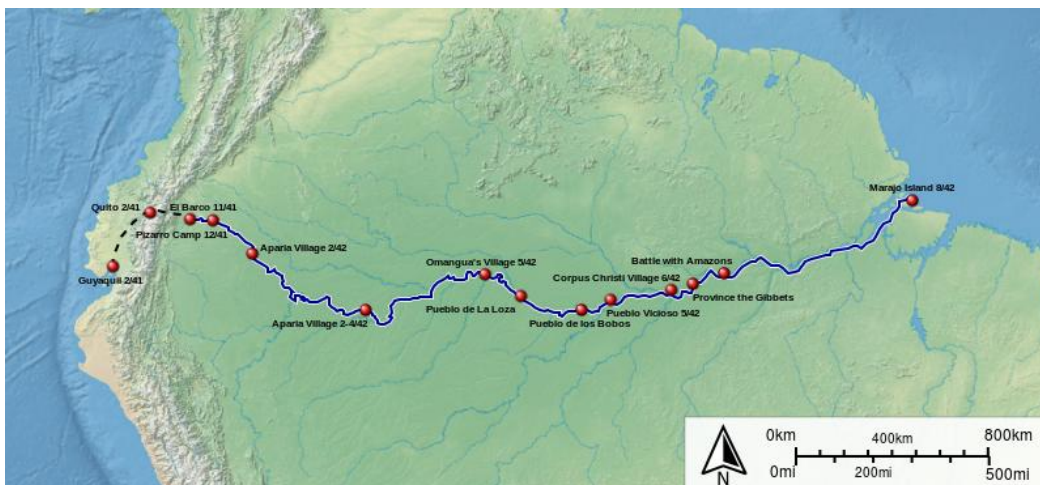
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## 1541 February - Francisco de Orellana Explores the Amazon

Don Francisco de Orellana left Quito, Ecuador today with Goncalo Pizarro, famed brother of Francisco who conquered the Inca in 1519. Orellana announced that his expedition would find the elusive city of El Dorado, cinnamon, and precious wood. He also planned to save the Indians living along the Amazon by converting them to the Roman Catholic faith.

Their journey was met with torrential rain and mudslides from the treacherous slopes of the mountains. The current of the river is so strong that there is no hope that they can return back home by boat. They have with them the enough iron nails to build a second ship, if necessary. The danger of capsizing with this tremendous weight in the treacherous river currents is a concern because the crew lacks experience as sailors.

Orellana is young at the age of 30, although he has been fighting with Francisco Pizarro in the Andes Mountains since he was 17. He has the military experience and knowledge of the land but lacks navigational experience. The length of his journey is unknown but expected to take several years.



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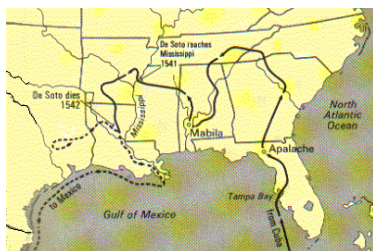


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## **1541 – May 8 - *Hernando de Soto Discovers Mississippi River***



After being named governor of Cuba by Emperor Charles V, de Soto's mission is to gain land and exploit the resources of the American mainland. We have received a report that he has crossed the large river into an area named Arkansas. De Soto's 600 troops (about 400 have died), 200 horses, and dogs are no match for the Native Americans living in this area. DeSoto is converting natives to the Roman Catholic faith. (Notice the cross in the photo) DeSoto's reports also include a valuable collection of pearls seized from the natives in Georgia. However, there are no reports of gold or silver.



DeSoto's two-year voyage on the mainland of North America.

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## **1541 – June 29 *Coronado Fails to Find Seven Cities of Gold – Aborts Mission***

In search of gold based on the reports of Senora Fray Marcos of seven cities of wealth, Francisco Vazquez de Coronado and his troops, slaves, swivel guns, 1,000 horses, and 300 natives, he announced today in a letter that he is abandoning his exploration of the areas west of the Mississippi River.

His explorations of Zuni, a large canyon, Cibola (New Mexico), and Quivira (Wichita, Kansas) have failed in finding new wealth of Emperor Charles V and their private investors. His explorations deep into the western area of the continent and finding the Grand Canyon are not considered of any notable importance. Coronado concluded that his Native American guides have lied to him.

Coronado was wounded in 1540 at Zuni in a hostile encounter with the Pueblo Indians but he recovered. On his return to Mexico City, he fell from his horse near the Rio Grande River. Coronado and his wife lost all of their investments as did their many financial backers in Europe.



These explorations deep into the American territory occurred 80 years before the Pilgrims settled in Plymouth. The Spanish will not explore in North America for the next 50 years.



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## **1541 August 26 - Suleiman I Annexes Hungary**

The Hapsburg attempt under Ferdinand I to seize Buda (now Budapest) failed today as Suleiman took personal control. This is the ninth campaign of Suleiman whose military might dominates the eastern area and continues to threaten the Christian countries of Europe. As seen on the map below, the Islamic empire encircles Europe on the south and east. They have the most powerful army in the world.

Suleiman returned Isabella Jaggiellon as regent of the territory. In a letter from Suleiman to Lutherans in Flanders, he expressed a desire for Protestants to worship according to their conscience as long as they do not worship any idols, believed in one God, and opposed the pope. Martin Luther remained cautious in his remarks. His position since the attack on Vienna in 1529 has been to officially distance himself from the Ottomans.



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## **1541 Paracelsus, Swiss Doctor Dies, Age 48**

Paracelsus died of natural causes today at the White Horse Inn. He was in Salzburg treating the illness of the bishop. He will be buried later this week at the cemetery of St. Sebastian Church in Salzburg. Paracelsus believed in the natural healing of the resources created by God. He used mercury to treat syphilis and was one of the first to understand that infections caused death. He cured many stricken from the plague by placing a small amount of the patient's feces in a piece of bread.

While teaching at Basel University he was an outspoken critic of the Galenic medical practices used throughout most of Europe since the time of Rome. Galen of Pergamum taught that observation, research, and logic, based on the four elements observed by Aristotle (bile, black bile, water, and phlegm), led to an accurate diagnosis. Paracelsus advocated examining the speed of the pulse and color of the urine for a proper diagnosis. He also taught that alchemy and the use elements such as zinc, mercury, iron, salt, sulphur, and copper sulfate were more effective than plants and herbs. Another radical idea Paracelsus was criticized for was treating both the poor and the rich.

Paracelsus was a popular speaker in Wittenberg in 1527 and wrote to Martin Luther, Johannes Bugenhagen, Philip Melancthon, and Johannes Ocelampadius. (Grell, Paracelsus, 8). Although he did not convert to the Lutheran faith, he was influenced by them and wrote a commentary on the first five books of Matthew. Paracelsus was often called, "the Medical Luther!"

His most notable contributions are the publication of *Der grossen Wundartzney* (Great Surgery Book) in 1536, classification of minerals found in the Alps, recognition that mental illness was a disease, and differentiating between a patient being unconscious and having died.

Paracelsus has not had a place of residence since he left Basel abruptly after alienating himself from the faculty at Basel University over his action of burning the revered Canon de Medicine published by Avicenna in 1478. Following the burning of the Canon, his patient Johannes Frobenius, famed publisher, died of infection from a leg injury.

Paracelsus was also the physician who treated Erasmus.