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American History

09 September 2024

Report on **Vasco Nùñez de Balboa**

There are many famous explorers. One of the most famous of them was Vasco Nùñez de Balboa. He was a Spanish explorer, governor, conquistador {conqueror}. He is mainly known for crossing the Isthmus of Panama to the Pacific Ocean, claiming it for Spain. The names of his ships were the Santa Maria and the San Anton. Let’s get to it!

# **EARLY LIFE**

Vasco Nùñez de Balboa was born around 1475 in Jerez de los Caballeros, a town in Spain. His father’s name was Don Nùñez Arias de Balboa, his mother’s name as Lady de Badajoz. Balboa had 3 brothers. His family was noble but by the late 15th century they lost most of their money, land, and control. Like most noble kids at the time, Balboa received training as a knight, and as he got older a solider. This was about Vasco Nùñez de Balboa’s early years.

**EXPLORATION IN THE AMERICAS**

Vasco Nùñez de Balboa crossed the Isthmus of Panama to the Pacific Ocean in 1513, becoming the 1st European to lead an expedition to have seen or reached The Pacific from the New World. He traveled to the New World in 1500 and after some exploration, settled on the island of Hispaniola. He attempted to farm there but he was unsuccessful. This put him into debt. In 1510, he stowed away on a ship to get away from his creditors. They were going to the colony of San Sebastián, on the northern coast of Columbia.

When they arrived there they discovered that the colony’s founder had left and abandoned survivors. Balboa persuaded his superiors to move the colony to Darién, on the Isthmus of Panama. There the colonists established the town of Santa María de la Antigua. Balboa soon became the head of the colony. Balboa learned fro the Indigenous people crossed through dense jungles, rivers, and swamps. On September 29, 1513 Balboa reached the shores of the Pacific Ocean which he called the “South Sea”. He claimed it for Spain. This was about his explorations in the Americas.

**DEATH**

Vasco Nùñez de Balboa died on January 15, 1519 in Acla, a Spanish colony founded by his father-in-law. His cause of death was decapitation. He was executed because he extracted gold from Panama, instituting slavery, and forced labor to work on plantations. He was ultimately outwitted by a Spanish rival who tried and executed him for treason. This rival was Pedro Arias de Avila. This was Vasco Nùñez de Balboa’s death.

**CONCLUSION**

Vasco Nùñez de Balboa is known for crossing the Isthmus of Panama to the Pacific Ocean claiming it for Spain. He was the 1st European to lead an expedition to have seen or reached the Pacific. His ships were called the Santa Maria and the San Anton. He was 44 when he died. Vasco Nùñez de Balboa was a hero for finding the Pacific Ocean. This was Vasco Nùñez de Balboa.

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