

The Villasur Expedition

In 1719, encouraged by the outbreak of hostilities in Europe, Pedro de Villasur was appointed by the colonial government of New Mexico to journey to modern-day Nebraska (claimed by Spain) to investigate reports of French intrusion in the region. In June 1720, Villasur and his men left Santa Fe for Nebraska. On August 14, having reached present-day Columbus, Villasur's party was attacked by a group of Pawnee and Oto, possibly supported by the French.



Most of the Spaniards were killed, including Villasur. The survivors returned to Santa Fe in September. Franco-Spanish tensions in North America continued for the rest of the century.

Primary Source

Segesser II (hide painting of battle)

Secondary Source

<https://www.nebraskastudies.org/en/1500-1799/villasur-sent-to-nebraska>