

Thomas Jefferys (c. 1710-1771), *Florida from the Latest Authorities*, map-frontispiece of William Roberts, *An Account of the First Discovery, and Natural History of Florida With a Particular Detail of the several Expeditions and Descents made on that Coast*.

## Resources

- For more information about St. Augustine, consult the Florida Museum of Natural History <http://www.flmnh.ufl.edu/staugustine/>
- ***Eighteenth Century: International Conflict Comes to La Florida***

*“Apalatchee is now reduced to that feeble and low condition that it can neither supply St. Augustine with provisions nor disturb, damage or frighten our Indians living between us and Apalatchee, and the French. In short, we have made Carolina as safe as the conquest of Apalatchee can make it.”* – Governor James Moore, Royal Governor of Carolina, 1703

The British governor of the Carolina Colony certainly had reason to feel secure after his foray into Spanish Florida and his destruction of several missions in the area of today’s Leon County near the state capital of Tallahassee. Beginning with the War of the Spanish Succession (1702-1714), Great Britain and Spain would continue to spar throughout the 18<sup>th</sup> century, and Florida would play a role in their continued blood feud. Still, the pursuit of gold, silver and glory continued to thrive in Florida and throughout the Caribbean.

Maps are instructional objects as well as works of art. This is illustrated beautifully in Pierre Mortier’s richly hand-colored 1703 map of the Caribbean and Gulf of Mexico. In addition to its practical use as a very competent map of the time, it tells an exciting adventure story about galleons and sea battles, with the routes of Spain’s treasure fleets off the Florida coast clearly marked and a colorful picture of a treasure chest in case anyone should miss the point.

Events in Europe and the Caribbean during this era had a profound effect on Florida. During the Seven Years’ War (also known as the French and Indian War), Great Britain captured Havana, Cuba, from the Spanish, who were allied with the French against their Protestant enemy. The Spanish government desperately wanted Havana back, so they traded the Floridas (Florida was divided into peninsular East Florida and the panhandle West Florida during this time) to Great Britain for the Cuban city.

continued

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It is during the British Period (1763-1783) that many current Florida place names took hold. One such name is Hillsborough (sometimes abbreviated to Hillsboro), named for Lord Hillsborough, who was Secretary for the Colonies during this time. Hillsborough's obstinacy during his meetings with Benjamin Franklin led the American patriot to believe that war was the only remedy for the problems between the colonies and the home country.

The British Floridas remained loyal to the Crown during the American Revolution, and possession of them returned to the Spanish with the signing of the Treaty of Paris in 1783. The maps in this section reflect the change in ownership of Florida, as well as a better understanding of the topography and overall shape of the peninsula.

