

In Celebration Of Our Heritage

Capitan Alonso Alvarez de Pineda

In 1519 the Spanish government commissioned Capitan Alonso Alvarez de Pineda (1494-1519) to explore the coast of the Gulf of Mexico in the hope of finding a water passage from the Gulf to the Orient. Ships, men and money for the expedition were provided by the Governor of Jamaica, Francisco de Garay, who had been on Christopher Columbus' second voyage to the New World.

Capitan Alvarez de Pineda followed the coast from what is now western Florida to present day Vera Cruz, Mexico. During his nine-month expedition he mapped nearly 800 miles of shoreline, including the rivers and bays that emptied into the Gulf. He arrived in Vera Cruz in August 1519 to find that another explorer, Hernan Cortes, already had claimed the land. After escaping from Cortes, who had attempted to capture him, Capitan Alvarez de Pineda sailed north, stopping briefly near a river that was probably the Rio Grande. He may have died of wounds received in an Indian fight there, since his return to Jamaica was never confirmed.

Capitan Alvarez de Pineda's report and detailed map were forwarded to Governor Garay and then to King Charles I of Spain. Although Capitan Alvarez de Pineda's expedition was a failure in that he found no passage to the Orient, it did encourage further exploration along the Gulf Coast that led to colonization by Spaniards and other Europeans.

*The City of Corpus Christi
and*

*The Westside Business Association
cordially invite you to attend the dedication
of the Capitan Alonso Alvarez de Pineda statue
sculpted by*

Dr. Sherman T. Coleman & Kathleen Coleman Edwards.

The ceremony will be held

*Sunday, June 24, 1984, the Feast of Corpus Christi,
at 2 p.m. in de Pineda Park where Laredo joins Agnes Street.*