

Martyrs. They are at the mouth of the New Bahama Channel, and skirt the western part of the Cape of Florida. The Bahama Channel is the discharge of the Gulf of Mexico into the Atlantic, and derives its name from one of the Lucayan Islands. No river has a current as strong as that of this channel. The island of Bahama forms two channels. That to the east was first used, and is called the old channel; the current is not so strong, but it is dangerous from the reefs that abound. This has caused it to be abandoned.

1513.

On the 25th of September, Vasco Nuñez de Balboa, who commanded at old Santa Maria de Darien, discovered the Pacific. He took possession on the 29th, in the name of Castile, marching in waist high, with his shield in one hand and his sword in the other. On the same day he gave the name of St. Michael, whose feast it was, to a gulf made by the Pacific at that point. He discovered also several islands where pearls were taken, and called them Pearl Islands. He had some time previously obtained information about Peru. Returning to Santa Maria, he explored all the country between that city and the Pacific.

1514.

An ambassador from David, emperor of the Abyssinians, arrived at Lisbon.

The same year, Don Pedrarias, or Pedro Arias Davila, governor of the province of Darien, began settlements in the provinces of Santa Maria and Cartagena, of which he discovered the greatest part.

1515.

Alonzo Perez de la Rúa, a Spaniard, began the discovery of Peru.

The same year, Diego de Albitez, a Spaniard, discovered Chagres River, which rises very near the Pacific, is navigable for a considerable distance above the mouth, and traverses in a serpentine course most of the isthmus of Panama.