A Brief Maritime History of St. Augustine

The sixteenth century brought the Portuguese to St. Augustine, Florida, and the first permanent settlement in the New World. The settlement was founded by Pedro Menéndez de Avilés in 1565, and it remained a Spanish possession until the American Revolution.

First Spanish Period:

In 1565, Menéndez founded the settlement at the site of the present-day city of St. Augustine. The settlement was named for St. Augustine, the patron saint of Spain. Menéndez and his allies attacked the nearby Spanish city of Cartagena, which was under attack by the French. The settlement was later abandoned, but it was refounded in 1570 and remained a Spanish possession until the American Revolution.

Early Settlement:

The settlement was founded on the site of a prehistoric Indian village, and it was the first permanent European settlement in the Americas. The settlement was named for St. Augustine, the patron saint of Spain, and it was the first permanent European settlement in the Americas.

Establishment of the Royal Colony:

In 1665, the Spanish government established the Royal Colony of Florida, which included what is now the state of Florida. The colony was governed by a governor-in-chief, who was appointed by the Spanish king.

Second Spanish Period:

In 1763, the British captured St. Augustine, but the Spanish recaptured it the following year. The British then occupied the city again in 1783, but the Spanish recaptured it in 1785.

British Period:

In 1783, the British occupied St. Augustine, but the Spanish recaptured it the following year. The British then occupied the city again in 1785, but the Spanish recaptured it in 1786.

Flamish Period:

In 1786, the Spanish reoccupied St. Augustine, and it remained a Spanish possession until the American Revolution.

Establishment of the United States:

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Water depths in and near St. Augustine Inlet vary frequently, and channel marks may not be where shown. Do not rely upon this map for navigation. Consult the most recent nautical charts and sources of local knowledge for navigational information.