



# **History of Southeast Missouri: A Narrative Account of its Historical Progress, its People and its Principal Interests**

*Robert Synley Douglas*

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**HISTORY OF SOUTHEAST MISSOURI, VOL. 1**

By Robert Sidney Douglass

## **Excerpt from Preface**

This territory of Southeast Missouri was first visited by De Soto about the year 1540. The next white men who saw it were the adventurous voyagers from Canada who reached the Mississippi from the north and passed down toward its mouth. Marquette and Joliet and La Salle all visited this section, or at least saw it as their canoes floated down the great stream. No attention however was paid to the district until Renault, the agent of the Company of the West came with his miners and four hundred slaves to Port Chartres with instructions to explore the country for the precious metals. This was about 1720. In his search for gold and silver he penetrated to what is now the county of Ste. Genevieve, finding no traces of gold or silver, but finding abundant deposits of lead ore. . .

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