

## **THIS WEEK IN TEXAS HISTORY**

**November 2014 – Week 6**

**Air Date: November 30 – December 6 (Sunday – Saturday)**



### **TITLE: THE FIRST AMERICAN MARTYR**

NOVEMBER 1544 AND A MARTYR IS MADE.

THIS WEEK IN TEXAS HISTORY, BROUGHT TO YOU BY THIS STATION AND THE SAVE TEXAS HISTORY PROGRAM OF THE GENERAL LAND OFFICE.

NOVEMBER 30, 1544. SPANISH TERRITORY NORTH OF THE PRESENT DAY PANHANDLE.

FORMERLY A SPANISH SOLDIER, FRANCISCAN FRIAR JUAN DE PADILLA IS WELL-TRAVELLED. HE JOINED CORONADO ON HIS SEARCH FOR THE FABLED SEVEN CITIES OF GOLD, AND CELEBRATED THE FIRST THANKSGIVING MASS IN NORTH AMERICA AT PALO DURO CANYON.

ON THE 30<sup>TH</sup>, PADILLA ENCOUNTERS A BAND OF UNFAMILIAR AND HOSTILE INDIANS. HE KNEELS AND HOLDS ALOFT A WOODEN CROSS... BUT IS MURDERED AS ARROWS PIERCE HIS BODY. HE WAS LATER THROWN IN A PIT AND COVERED WITH STONES.

JUAN DE PADILLA IS CONSIDERED THE FIRST CHRISTIAN MARTYR OF NORTH AMERICA.

FATHER JUAN DE PADILLA WAS MARTYRED 470 YEARS AGO THIS WEEK IN TEXAS HISTORY.

LEARN MORE AT SAVETEXASHISTORY.ORG OR CALL 800-998-4GLO.

---

H. Allen Anderson, "PADILLA, JUAN DE," *Handbook of Texas Online* (<http://www.tshaonline.org/handbook/online/articles/fpa07>), accessed November 20, 2014. Uploaded on June 15, 2010. Published by the Texas State Historical Association.