

**(Culture as a medium to develop the Community)**

**Corozal, Santa Rita, and Cerros are interchangeable in the origins of the Mestizo and present day Corozal.**

**1: Corozal / Santa Rita is the probable location of ancient Chetumal or Chectamal according to the great Maya Scholar “J. Eric Thompson.**

**2: Nachankan the Maya Chief of ancient Chectamal had a unusual son-in-law a renegade Spanish soldier named “Gonzalo Guerrero”.**

**3: Professor Thompson calls Guerrero “the first European to adopt Belize as his home”!**

**4: Guerrero was singularly responsible in preventing the Spanish conquest of Corozal. Francisco Montejo, on his third attempt, conquered the Maya of Yucatan immediately he sent one of his most able Lieutenants, Alonso Davila. He was ordered to go south and conquer the Maya State of Corozal (Chectamal as it was then known). Guerrero being a former military man knew the Spanish method of making war. He knew that the Maya of Corozal could not possibly defeat the Davila in open combat. The Spanish army had body armor, combat helmets, and most of all the dreaded horse and war-dogs. These war-dogs were deliberately bred for attacking and killing the Mayas.**

**5: Guerrero then head of the Corozal Maya fighters ordered that the fighters withdraw into the jungle. Corozal was deliberately vacated (today referred to as a strategic withdrawal). Alonso Davila entered Corozal unopposed, thinking that the Maya had ran away in fright and named Corozal / Chetumal “ Villa Real”. So the first European name of Corozal was VILLA REAL! History will tell us that this was the first attempt of Spanish settlement of Belizean Territory.**

**6: Nachankan and Guerrero and the Maya warriors of Corozal would harass the Spanish troops whenever they came out of the Villa Real to look for food. They were not allowed even to approach the Bahia de Corozal to fish for “Chiwa” (Stone Bass) without they being attack.**

**7: Nachankan and Guerrero introduced Guerrilla warfare in Corozal long before Mao in China or Castro in Cuba. These hit and run tactics weaken the Spanish soldiers removing the “ganas para pelliar” and soon they were prisoners inside the City of Villa Real. The Corozal Mayas fighters had them surrounded unable to fight or to venture outside the City.**

**8: After 18 months, Davila and what remain of his surviving troops, call it quits, packed their bags and decided to flee for their lives. They took to boats (cayucos)**

headed out to sea right here in the Bahia and headed along Sartenja, along the southern coast of Belize most probably to Honduras. Who knows, Davila probably took to the sea outside this building because the channel leading out to sea has been there all along and never was man-made!

9: After a journey of terrible hardships the survivors reached the Spanish settlement of Omoa on Honduras northern coast. Word of the decisive Corozal victory was sent back to Yucatan and it was not after several years before the authorities in Yucatan decided to mount another military expedition to Corozal. In 1545 a strong Spanish force under Pacheco moved against the Maya of Northern Belize and southern Quintana Roo.

10: Nachankan and Guerrero had died by then. The embryonic stage for the Mestizo (Maya Spanish combination) had already been defined and the inhabitants decided to abandon Corozal move inland and disperse against continued Spanish attacks. The Spanish were ruthless slaughtering Maya women and children (ethnic cleansing) as well as the Maya warriors..

11: Pacheco established the southernmost city of Bacalar and moved the city from eastern to the western side of the lake. The old Maya town was on the eastern side of the lake to facilitate ease of access to the Rio Hondo.

12: The main point to be made is that the Spaniards failed in their conquest of Belizean Territory. Corozal stop them in their strategy of conquest and Bacalar remain the most southern furthest outpost in Yucatan. All this took place almost 200 years before Cayo Cocina (St. Georges Caye).