**Diary of Jacques de la Metairie, notary on LaSalle’s voyage (1682)**

**“When we discovered three channels by which the River Colbert1 discharges itself into the sea, we landed on the bank of the western channel about three leagues from its mouth. . . Here we prepared a column and a cross, and to the said column were affixed the arms of France with this inscription: Louis the Great, King of France and Navarre, Reign; The Ninth April 1682 . . .**

**after a salute of fire-arms and cries of Vive le Roi (French for “long live the king”) the column was erected by De La Salle, who standing near it, said with a loud voice: ‘In the name of the most high, by the grace of God, King of France . . . this ninth day of April, one thousand six hundred and eighty-two, I, in virtue of the commission of his Majesty (Louis XIV) which I hold in my hand, and which may be seen by all whom it may concern, have taken and do now take in the name of his Majesty and of his successors to the crown, possession of this country of Louisiana . . . the River Colbert1 and rivers which discharge themselves therein2 . . . from the source of the great river . . . as far as the mouth at the . . . Gulf of Mexico.’**

**“Upon the assurance which we have received from all these nations that we are the first Europeans who have descended or ascended the River Colbert1 , hereby protesting against all those who may in future undertake to invade any or all these countries, people, or lands”**

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**1 The Mississippi River was formerly known as the Colbert River**

**2 Rivers which flow into the Mississippi River**