



## St. Augustine Historical Society

St. Augustine  
Florida

280 St. George St.  
St. Augustine, Florida  
May 21, 1928

Mr. Harral Ayres  
O.S.T. Managing Director  
San Antonio, Texas.

My dear Mr. Ayres,

Thank you very much for the Travelogue you sent us a short time ago containing the cut of the Oldest House. It looks very well only being like a reflection, puts the house on the wrong side of the street. Perhaps the cut we had made should have been the other way to make it print as it is.

As you are so historically correct, I was surprised to read the write-up that followed about "The Fountain of Youth". I have spent a great deal of time this winter hunting up documents, and the true facts concerning the property now owned by Mr. Fraser. He has the ancient site of the Indian village of Macaris on his place; the Cano of De la Leche or Hospital Creek went beyond the 1500 yard line, he probably has the site where Menendez had his formal landing and First Mass, his place has been fought over by Indians, English and Spanish. I have been over all the old Spanish documents he has concerning Ponce de Leon and they relate only to all Florida or Porto Rico, nothing especial concerning his place. He wanted me to write a booklet for him, and I refused unless he would destroy the coquina cross and stone in front of the dug well. You see I used to drive over that place many times before Luella McConnell-Day bought it, coquina was discovered in 1580, and I have one of those old coquina wells under my own house, they are supplied by the Atlantic Ocean and the water rises and falls with the tides. Mrs. Day was known to be not normal in her mind, and she took a well known map of St. Augustine had it reduced to a post card and printed on it that the fort was built in 1513 and I actually found it listed in the Library of Congress, and only last Fall succeeded in having it marked as a fraud. Ponce de Leon landed in this harbor somewhere April 3rd. and left Friday 8th. if he had to dig for surface water, to get his casks filled the place he dug would have disappeared before the Spaniards returned. The Frasers are ~~the~~ charming people, college graduates both of them, I cannot understand them. Ponce de Leon put a marker at Rio de la Cruz, April 20 where he had a fight with some Indians and I explained to the Frasers that you could not claim to be the first landing place on April 3rd. and the second of April 20th. for the same place. There are quick sands on St. Francis St. near my house, there were springs back of the Governor's house, and a big one at Santa Rosa, I remember seeing little springs in the woods heading small streams, but I never heard of a spring that did not have any over-flow.

I am sorry the coquina marker for the O.S.T. is so ugly, it looks like a huge cheese. If it could be plastered all over and made really