

114 Second Street
Beach Haven
New Jersey
June 12, 1928

Mr. Herral Ayres
Managing Director OST.
Gunter Hotel San Antonio, Texas

My dear Mr. Ayres,

Your letter of June 5th. has been forwarded to me, and the address given above is my summer address.

The old history series in the Record, was rather misleading. It is difficult for me to know what to do. When people ask for information I feel I should give it to them, and I have given reporters data of various historical events. When I returned home last Fall after two weeks research in a stop-over in Washington, Miss Lucile Pyles a Record reporter came to see me and asked for interesting details of history newly found and about the old buildings etc. I gave her some items not before published from my Washington notes, also referred her to the booklets I had written, and certain books and maps in our Library suggesting she study up on each subject and use the source material. She wrote some very nice papers and put one paper in that I had never been able to get in print before, the true history of the so-called Don Toledo house that we have documentary evidence of its being built after 1803. I think as a result of this Mr. Hewitt sold the house to the Catholic Sisters and it has been closed. The claim had been invented for it by a man named Whitney that it was built in 1516 for the Indian bride of one of the men with Ponce de Leon, and you can see how impossible the story was. Miss Pyles was sick and went away and in the Historical Series the one you refer to about the Fountain of Youth was published in the same paper was an editorial on the same subject, both written to look as if they came from the same source and had the endorsement of the Historical Society, and by me as historian. My name was not mentioned, after talking it over I decided it would make less effect if no notice was taken of it, than if we entered into a controversy. Later when a letter was published from a "Woman who had done much historical work for the city" I insisted that a notice should be put in that I had not written it, nor did I endorse putting the Menendez coffin at the Fountain or Youth. I told Mr. Fraser, when he first came to me that I considered the well to be only an ordinary dug ceguina well, of surface water, that I had driven many times over the Williams place before Luella Day bought it, and I must believe the evidence of my own eyes.

You speak of your historical shield, what is it? If like a shield in heraldry I would suggest the head of a razor-back boar for the crest, it was most remarkable how the Spaniards under De Sota drove these pigs all the way to the Mississippi River.

Chapter xii of "Far Away and Long Ago" by W. H. Hudson describes these pigs in South America as Don Anastacio was devoted to pigs. They were of the wild-pig breed, originally descended from the European animal introduced by the early Spanish Colonists but after two or three centuries of feral life a good deal changed in appearance from their progenitors. --- was about a third less in size than the domestic animal, with longer legs and more pointed face, and of a uniform deep rust-red in colour." I enclose an ad of the Cantina map also one of the Velasco Geography first printed 1894. The first is 6 pesetas the second 7 and a half pesetas. The best way is to buy the pesetas at a bank and send them for the map and book. This geography is largely of the regions along the Spanish trail and only a few cents over a dollar. Written between 1571 and 1574, it is not illustrated. This book store Garcia Rice & Co. Madrid was recommended to me by Dr. James Robertson and I have bought a number of books from them.

Helping this is what you want, I remain

Yours Truly

Conity L. Pilon

Librarian Hist. Sec. of St. Augustine