



St. Augustine Institute of Science
and
Historical Society

St. Augustine
Florida

Beach Haven N. J.
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Mr. Harral Ayres
OST Managing Director
San Antonio, Texas.

My dear Mr. Ayres,

Your Year Book has been received for which I thank you. I do not know where the data is that you mention concerning the settlement of St. Augustine in 1560 instead of 1565. I have never found any other date but 1565. Ribault came in 1562 the first time and the second visit by the French was in 1564 and the Spaniards came the next year when St. Augustine was founded. The house of the Cacique, fortified, was called San Agustin also the triangular fort, built after the burning of the first, they were one league south of the bar. The fort burned by Drake "St. John de Pinos" was on the site of the present fort two miles south of the bar. The next fort of which we have a picture on the petition of Hernando de Nestas 1593 was called San Marco and at that date it was four years old it was part of an octogen and there is also a full map of it. The next reliable map is that of the present fort 1675 with the walls almost finished. Reports of the Governor 1690 state the fort is completed the slaves idle, and it is described in a book of 1696 and a Boston newspaper of 1712. The tablet 1757 or 1758 refers to minor changes made after the attack by O. Lethorpe. In 1702 Moor set fire to the town before he left but the guns being turned on him he stopped "and so some of the houses were saved". At least one house also went through the attack of Drake for the English found a house with the date upon it 1571. There are only three old houses left on the site of the city attacked by Drake and the Oldest House is the only one of the three of the type of building described in the letters of the Governor in 1690. Our Society owns another of the three and the third belonged to Turnbull in the English period, is also on St. Francis St. The mission of De La Leche built of stone was taken down to use the stone in the present cathedral, this mission was a short distance north of the fort. There was also a stone mission on the powder house lot now the bull park, and a tower in Tolomato cemetery, all taken down for other buildings as also the powder house built in 1595-1598 and the old blacksmith house. Fort Matanzas and the forts at Picolata were not built of stone until after 1740, had the missions outside of St. Augustine been built of stone the English would have mentioned it in their reports.

The stone missions of the west seem to be of later date than St. Helena now the State Arsenal in St. Augustine. It was burned in 1599 rebuilt, one of the places burned 1702 and rebuilt as it is now (that is the cells) the church was made into the large barrack building by the English, altered by the U.S. burned a few years ago and rebuilt. The old stone walls were whole and part, at least, is very old.

I enclose some data from some notes that will give you an idea of the material we bought on the Franciscans. I think I told you we secured a copy of Torquemado "Monarchia Indiana" written by a Franciscan about 1627 it gives the history of the convent in St. Augustine. I am glad my notes reached you in time. I find the report very interesting.

Yours Truly

Emily L. Wilson

Librarian

over