

The maps of the Spanish estates, at the time transferred to England, 1763, do not show any estates north of the St. John's River. The Spaniards had many mission stations in 1657 among the Indians but all built of wood. After the attack of Moore 1702&1703 Palmer 1727 -28 Oglethorpe 1740 those far away missions were broken up. Peter Force's Archives give accounts of fights, attacks etc. in the east of Georgia in the early days of the Revolution. You will be interested in the next book to be published by the Florida State Historical Society written by Prof. Wilbur H. Siebert on East Florida 1763-1774 or 1776. Prof. Siebert has collected a large number of documents for this book. Two years ago he spent five days working in our library here with me, and his wife helping to make copies from books. He is research professor in history for the Ohio State University, and has written many books. I feel this next book will be of more general interest than his "Loyalists of East Florida" as the documents in that were many records of real estate damages, due to the return of Florida to Spain.

This question of Ponce de Leon is in a way a good thing for Florida, as it is showing Senator Fletcher and the United States the necessity of making a study of the history of Florida. I have done what I could, but I have realized my limitations and wished that the scholars of the country and those who could afford to secure the needed records would take some interest in it. I can help with what I know, and the materials I have collected, pioneer work will help the man or woman who has the proper education like Prof. Siebert and Col. Landers to write or consider properly the debatable subjects, especially as they have many more sources to draw on for correct information. So much of the history has been written carelessly, and then taken as being correct that it is hard to combat it. Lowery in his "Spanish Settlements" gives a most absurd account of the landing of Ponce de Leon "near the St. John's River" and tells of the flowers the Jessamine and Yucca, those of us who live here know that the Jessamine has finished blooming by April and the Yucca does not come out till nearly June. Lowery never was in Florida. Prof. Bolton and others follow Lowery, who I believe never was in Florida. Last winter Mrs. Corse told me of a very old map in a collection in Georgia that showed the mission stations in Florida. The map was made on parchment, was very old and she had a photostat copy made of it, which she showed me. The minute I looked at it I told her this map may be old but the pictures have been put on it recently perhaps by a travelling artist, as one of these missions is a sketch of the ruins at New Smyrna made in the past twenty years or so. I knew from various accounts that the ruins had changed very much since 1836 when the Indians destroyed the sugar mills, as stone had been taken from them for building purposes. Mrs. Corse then made some inquiries about the map and found that it was one made by Prof. Bolton and another map for an exhibit in Spain, and was made on parchment to look old, the pictures of missions were put on where they thought they had been etc. To me, that is not the way to teach or write history, and Mrs. Corse had it copied because she thought it a proof that there had been old stone missions in Florida, outside of St. Augustine. The report of the Spanish engineer Arredondo about 1744, to the king, that no stone had been discovered excepting that on Anastasia Island, is to me proof that the ruins at New Smyrna were not built in 1696 as claimed. They were either built just before the English came, or later.

Thanking you for your very nice letters, and hoping that it will not be necessary for you to change the booklets as to the landing of Ponce de Leon and that we shall hear from you again, I remain

Yours Sincerely

*Emily L. Wilson*