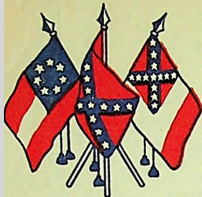


# UNITED CONFEDERATE VETERANS

## FLORIDA DIVISION

HEADQUARTERS: OCALA, FLORIDA



T. J. APPELYARD  
ADJUTANT-GENERAL AND CHIEF OF STAFF  
TALLAHASSEE  
FORT MYERS, FLA.

ALFRED AYER  
MAJOR-GENERAL, COMMANDING  
OCALA

FIRST FLAG BATTLE FLAG LAST FLAG

Tallahassee, Florida, April 21, 1930.

Mrs. Henry Drought,  
St. Augustine, Florida:  
Dear Mrs. Drought--

Thanks for your invitation to attend the "Reception to Mr. Marral Ayers," the occasion being the conferring on that gentleman of "the Decoration of the Royal Order of Isabel la Catolica." And no more worthy citizen could be found on whom to bestow this than my good friend, Mr. Ayres.

But we should get history straight. The first meeting (official) to organize this great highway was held in Mobile. A day or two previous to this, at a great good roads meeting held in Marianna, the initiative was taken. A well-founded rumor came to the ears of the North and West Florida delegation that an effort would be made to route this "Trail" through the States of Alabama and Georgia to Jacksonville and then to St. Augustine. A Tallahassee was the junction of five highways. Therefore (and we all knew the Old Spanish Trail should go through Florida) the delegates from this State went to Mobile some three strong, and all with fighting blood in their veins, as they felt the honor of their State was at stake. After a two days' fight, in which Florida was victorious, ~~and~~ in spite of the assembling of bell-hops and others as so-called delegates from our sister State on the second day,

As a matter of fact, the original resolution was written by myself, as Chairman of a committee for that purpose, and is as follows:

"Resolved, That this organization shall be known as the West Florida Highway Association, and that a road be constructed to be known as the Old Spanish Trail, beginning at Tallahassee on the East and running through the counties of Leon, Gadsden, Jackson, Washington, Holmes, Walton, Okaloosa, Santa Rosa and Escambia (via Pensacola, to the Alabama State Line on the west, to connect with the Old Spanish Trail contemplated to the Pacific coast.

2. Resolved, That its officers shall consist of a president, a vice-president, a secretary, a treasurer, and an executive committee of five, of which committee the president and secretary shall be members.

3. Resolved, That a committee of three be appointed to prepare the necessary constitution and by-laws for the government of the association, to report to a meeting to be called by the president for action thereon."

Afterwards, at some meeting I don't know when, the route was changed so as to make St. Augustine the ending point on the east. There was really no necessity for it, because Road No. 1, at Tallahassee, made the connection. It was right and proper that St. Augustine should have been the eastern point, because that was (historically) the eastern end, and Pensacola the western end, as the old "King's Highway" would undoubtedly be that of "The Old Spanish Trail."

I note the Reception is to be on the evening of April 29th. I am trying my best to arrange to be there with my wife, who is somewhat prominent in club work in Florida. But an important suit in the U. S. Court here in which we have had to sue an insurance company, may prevent it. However, you have my best wishes. I shall try and; "angels could do no more."

Respectfully,

T. J. Appleyard  
T. J. Appleyard.