



St. Augustine Institute of Science  
and  
Historical Society

280 St. George St.  
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St. Augustine  
Florida

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Mr. Herral Ayres  
O.S.T. Managing Director  
Mezzanine Floor, Gunter Hotel  
San Antonio, Texas.

My dear Mr. Ayres,

Before writing you again about the date of the founding of St. Augustine I wanted to try and find the book you quote from, but I find we do not have it. We have one on DeSota by Fanny Banelier but not the one you mention. The one on DeSota is well written and I feel sure that the date used in the "Spanish Pioneers" that you quote from is a mistake in printing that has escaped notice. It is so easy not to notice such a mistake especially if you are not very familiar with the place. Dr. Robertson who is such a wonderful scholar and historian in his late publication of "Brevard History of Florida" in a note on one page speaks of the Flagler Hotels and railroad being started or built in 1895 when it should be 1885, and I called his attention to it. Someone in the future will quote from that date and make a big mistake. In our own book ~~books~~ I find the printers made a mistake in the date of the map of Mariano de la Roque and it is 1778 instead of 1788 as it should be. This mistake I never noticed and two editions of 20000 will go out with this mistake. If made in 1778 it would be an English map while it is a Spanish map.

That St. Augustine was founded in 1565 is so well established by the French, English, Spanish accounts printed and letters etc. that I am sure there could not be any mistake in the date. Ribault came first in 1562 then again the French came in 1564 see French's translations in the Historical Society publications of Louisiana, then in "Elizabethan Seamen" you can read Hawkins Account of the French settlement. In all the Spanish accounts it is 1565. We now have two copies of Barcia here and the geography of Velasco written in 1571-1576.

The documents from Spain that I expected have not yet arrived. They were secured by the International Research Bureau, and there has been a delay, but the Austrian consul is now attending to it. The headquarters of this bureau is in Austria, office in New York, London and other places.

I am now retyping Mr. Acosta's translation of Barrientos written in 1668 before the death of Menendez in Chapter 13 The arrival of the Fleet in Florida "On August 28, 1565, Menendez and his fleet sighted land, the land where now St. Augustine is located, and as on that day it was the day of St. Augustine, they praised the Lord and prayed Him to bless them in their enterprise in the new land that they were to conquer and settle.