



# St. Augustine Historical Society

St. Augustine  
Florida

280 St. George St.  
St. Augustine, Florida  
June 26, 1929

Mr. Harrel Ayres  
Old Spanish Trail  
San Antonio, Texas

*see 99-29  
for old MI  
inf*

My dear Mr. Ayres,

I received one of your booklets sometime ago, and in the account of Florida --- Old History it mentions that no ruins are known except some of oyster shell cement north of Brunswick Georgia. The ruins on the St. Mary's River Georgia, which I suppose are the ones referred to, belong I believe to the second Spanish occupation as I saw plans for two mission churches in the East Florida Spanish papers in the Man. Div. I. C. and we have a copy of a report of priests being sent there. In St. Augustine itself is in the State Arsenal, one part of the "Mayor pavilliones", old pavilions so called on the map of Mariano de la Roque of 1793 and it was built probably at least shortly after 1702 when the wooden part of the Convent was burned. It may even be older than that. A piece also of an old wall remains. The first building on this site burned in 1599 and were rebuilt by 1608. From this mission of St. Helena all the other missions went out. You will find some account in the Catholic Encyclopedia.

*Think  
not* The other day in hunting up some data in the American State Papers I came across the translation of the word "monte" (thick woods) or (timber lands) and in my old dictionary I find it "monte" (mountain) (wood) (difficult) (thick head of hair). This explains what has puzzled many people, and caused some mistakes in English accounts of St. Augustine taken from Spanish accounts, "that St. Augustine has a hill at the back etc." the Spaniards meant thick woods. This also explains about the Indians going to the "montes" in many old accounts when people say where were the mountains in Florida?

Mr. Travers and his wife are now on the O. S. T. and may meet you in Texas. I found them interesting people, and they were much pleased with our Library.

I understand you are giving up the directorship of the Trail, but I feel sure your great piece of work, will always be of interest to you. I expect to return to my home in Beach Haven next week, and shall always be glad to supply any information that I can.

Hoping you will be able to visit us again, I remain

Yours Truly

*Emily L. Wilson*

Librarian and Historian.

*McIntosh*