

old history

St. Augustine Institute of Science

and

Historical Society

San Antonio, Texas,
October 14th, 1926.

St. Augustine
Florida

Beach Haven, N. J.
September 19, 1926

Miss Emily L. Wilson,
114 Second St.,
Beach Haven, N. J.

Dear Miss Wilson:

I appreciate your letter of September 19th with all the data you enclosed, for it is by these methods we will ultimately build up a clear and correct history story. Nowhere from Florida to California does the story exist except in fragmentary and often inaccurate form. I think you are doing a work of permanent, constructive value in gathering together as you are in the historical society those invaluable old records. After awhile someone will be able to develop a real history.

Now as to the 1560 date; In Spanish Pioneers, A.C. McClurg & Co., Chicago, Publishers, by Chas F. Lumis, 9th Edition, 1925, indorsed by Ad. F. Bandelier who "holds himself ready to defend" the statements in his foreword. Page 85 -

"At last, in 1560, the first permanent foothold was effected there by Aviles de Menendez, the brutal Spaniard, who nevertheless has the honor of founding and naming the oldest city in the United States - St. Augustine, 1560."

Bandelier and Lumis are recognized as Spanish historians who have carefully studied the old works. They may be wrong in this, of course. If in the end you think the 1565 date should be restored we will take care of that in the next edition.

Sincerely,

Harral Ayres,
OST Managing Director.

HA/b

Emily L. Wilson