

BEACH HAVEN, NEW JERSEY
Letter from Miss Emily Wilson, July 9, 1929
respecting:

Old missions ~~and~~
Florida Discovery Date.

Missions

I understand there was a mission ruin on St Mary's River. Mrs. Washington Connor in her paper read at New Smyrna states: "Several of these ruins exist in Georgia. They are built of ^{table} ~~table~~ --three are remarkable--those near St Mary's and Darien. There is much to be written concerning the large edifice near St Mary's, Santa Maria de los Tamasos, the head mission of Guale, which is still standing except the roof and two pillars of the small cloister, one fallen and one missing. The second of these ruins is on the Dupont Estate, an old plantation not far from Darien."

She then speaks of other ruins near Darien. I do not think Mrs. Connor was correct in all her surmises, but I have seen the plan of the mission at St Mary's in the Library of Congress.. It was built or rebuilt in the second Spanish occupation. I have not been there, but I have heard others speak of it beside Mrs. Connor.

Florida Discovery Date

You ask about the date, 1512 or 1513. Dr. Anderson put the date 1513 on the Ponce de Leon statue although the report he read from the Hispanic Society of New York gave no decided answer to his request for information. THE RECORD and others use 1512 to please the "Mountain of Youth" owner. I called the attention of the Ponce de Leon committee to the fact that if they used the date 1513 they could not say Ponce landed on Easter day, as the only reason for using 1513 was that Easter in that year came on March 27th, one week before Ponce de Leon landed on April 3d.

I use the date 1512 because it is the date officially accepted by Spain and all the early writers excepting La Vega, who gives 1513, and Las Casas, 1511. I have traced back myself or calculated it as well as I can, and find Easter came on March 27th, 1513, by our time. The calendar being out about 9 or 10 days, the date would have been March 17th--too early to use by Church rules and Easter would have then come in the next moon in April.

I have read an account of Pope Leo X in his great procession to the Lateran April 11, 1513 was the date as I remember, and the people threw palm branches before him. It sounded much like Palm Sunday. To find exactly what day was celebrated as Easter in 1512 and 1513 one must get back into contemporary history, books printed or written those years. According to histories the battle of Ravenna was fought on Easter April 11, 1512. But I do not know if the books I have read are old or new time. The accounts of the battle, of Gaston de Lois, Chevalier Bayard etc. do not mention it was Easter day. I have not been near ~~the~~ big libraries to

no printing
purpose here

Tamasos;
Guale
see memo next page
charities might
flourish there;
perhaps shell amount.

(not being
by N. C. 7
in 1925)

1512

Book up