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St. Augustine

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ST. AUGUSTINE

In an article in the last issue of the QUARTERLY telling of several recently organized local and regional historical societies in Florida as evidence of the growth of interest in our State's history, there were a few lines on St. Augustine. The editor said:

There is a revival of historical effort in St. Augustine, the gem of Florida's historic past, with the collection and work of the St. Augustine Historical Society, but their efforts are largely negated by the exploitation of historical fakes for personal profit on a large scale, which reflects on the historical honesty of the whole State.

If this has suggested an examination or reexamination of her history on the part of some in St. Augustine, it is well ; for only St. Augustinians - they only of course - can do something about it. The *St. Augustine Record*, in an editorial, quotes those lines entire and asks for facts.

The QUARTERLY suggests that the Southern Historical Association be asked to request three historians, preferably from outside the State, whose report would be accepted without question by all, to examine the historical evidence of all prominent sites in St. Augustine: the Castillo, the gates, the ancient houses including the "Oldest House," and other conspicuous sites, and report on the evidence, with their opinion.

Only thus can St. Augustine rescue and assure her imperilled dignity.

The history-minded throughout all of Florida revere our foremost surviving historical gem. We have a real affection for her treasures and traditions, and we believe that our Ancient City *could* become one of the foremost historical gems of our whole country.