

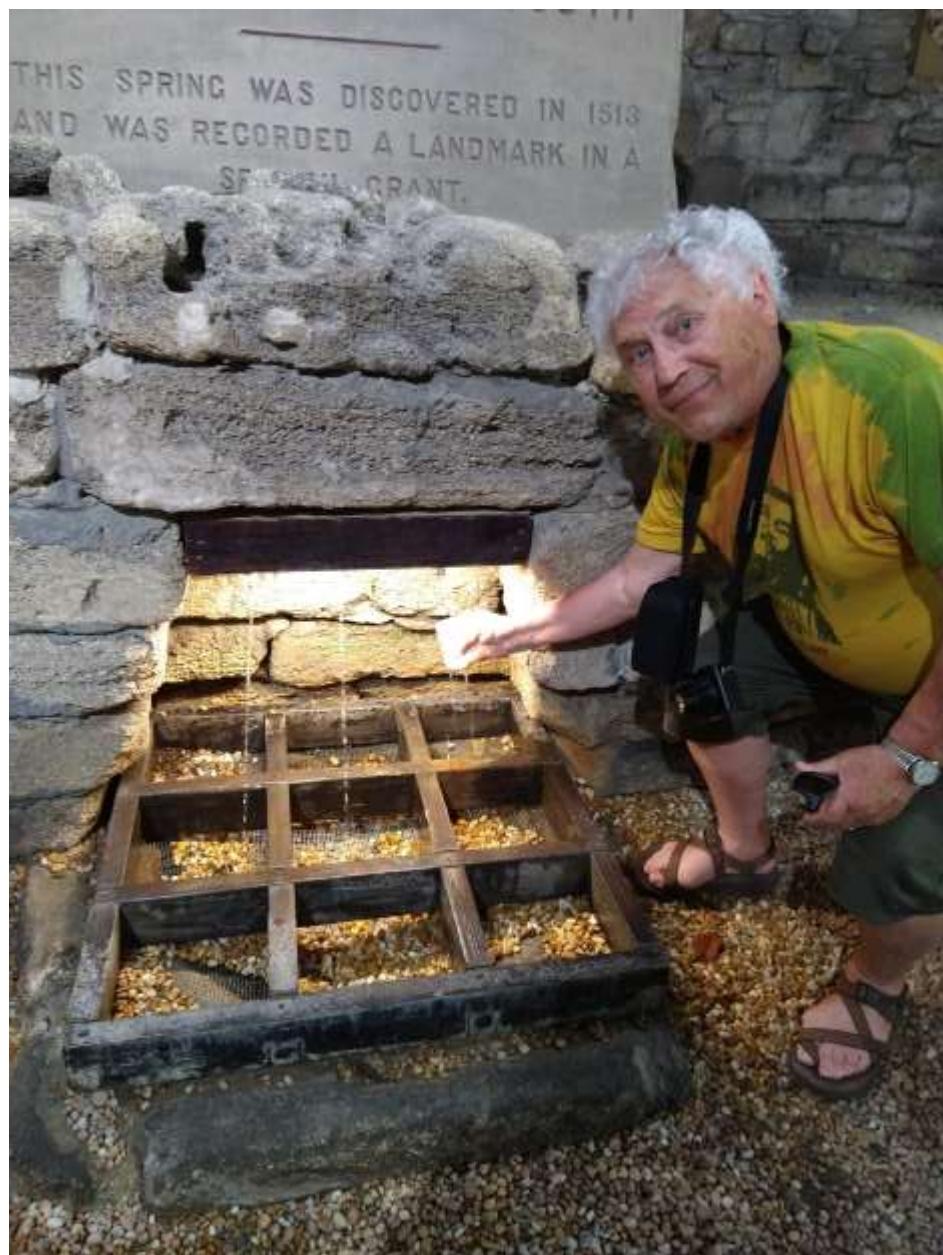
ST. AUGUSTINE, FLORIDA

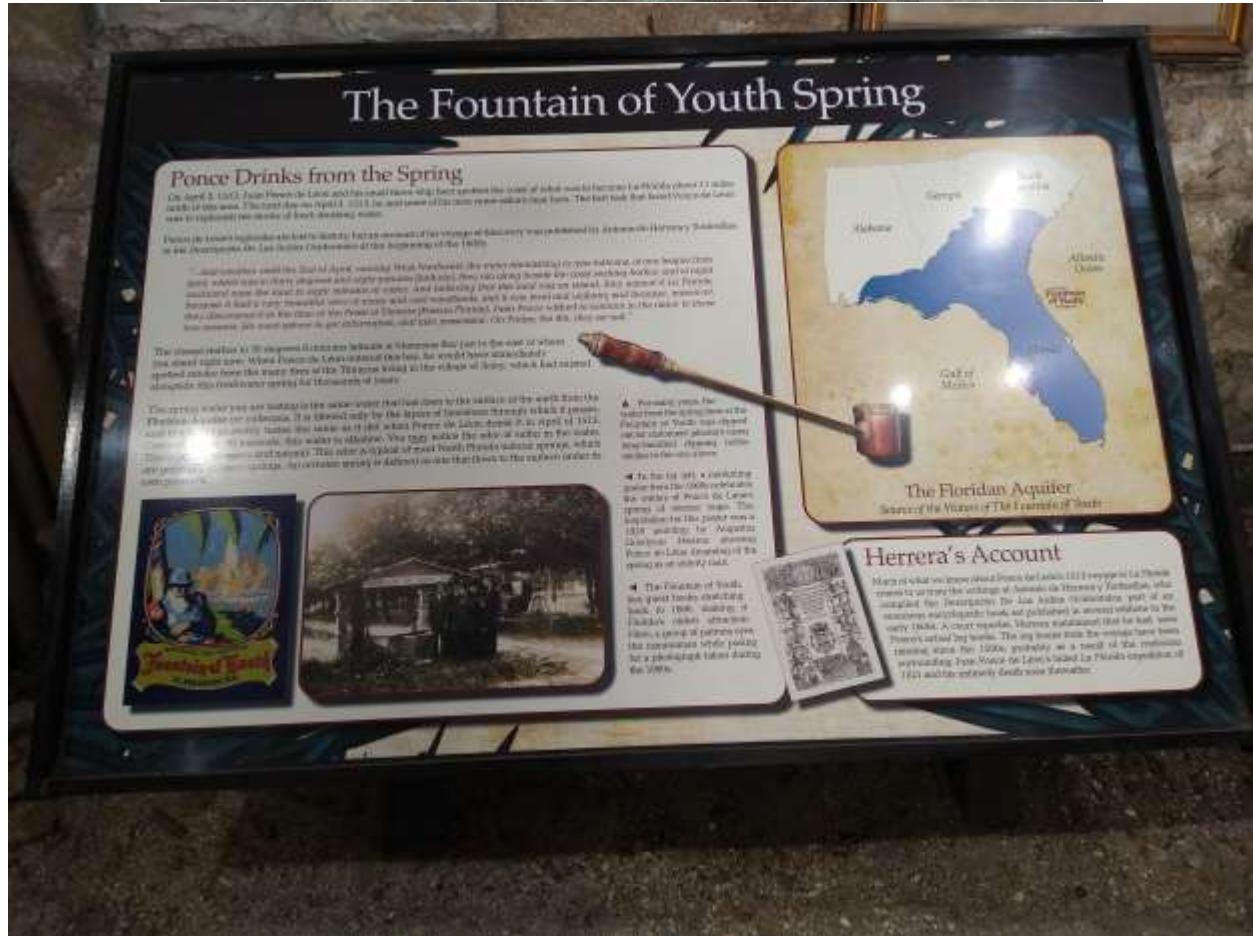
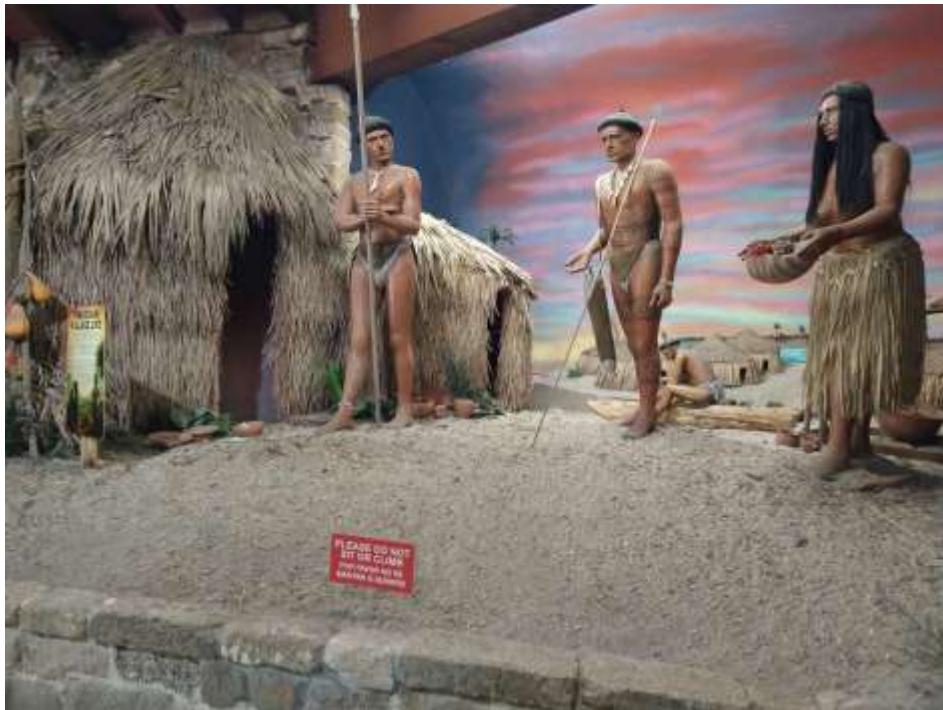










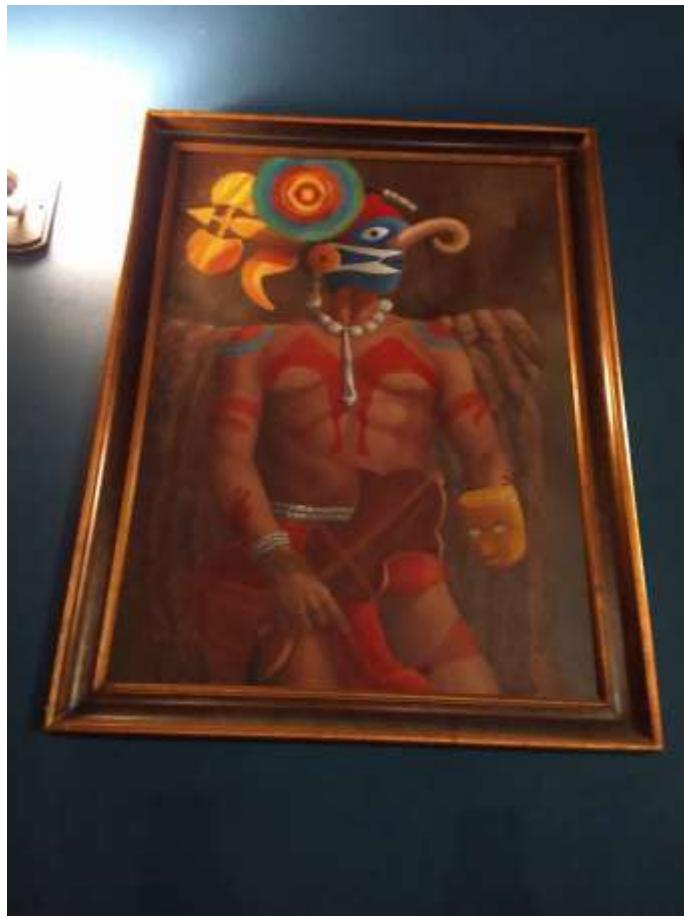












THE ORIGINAL MISSION CHURCH

LOCATED HERE ON THE PARK GROUNDS

The writer of St. Augustine claims "There Indian braves carried at the head of their war parties the scalps of the slaves and Indians". Spanish Missions were established in 1573 and later established the first town of St. Augustine. One very interesting site was the first Catholic church established in the continental United States. This Mission was located here on the Pueblo of Black people, and called Mission San Agustín. During the Civil War, General Sherman's forces captured the La Loma Shrine, known as the big cross.

The Franciscan friar assigned by the order to construct the first Mission of Nombre de Dios was Fray Alonso de Escobar. There are no paintings or portraits, nor are known in existence of that Franciscan brother. This work by the famed Dutch painter Hans Holbein, however, captures the essence of a typical Franciscan friar of the mid-Renaissance century.

*Hans Holbein the Younger
1497-1543. Holy Trinity Church,
Antwerp, Belgium.
Source: Wikipedia*

LOST IN TIME FOR HUNDREDS OF YEARS

The ruins of the Mission Church Nombre de Dios, which had stood since 1573, were destroyed during the American Revolution. William Prince, the owner of the property at St. Augustine during the time, instructed the "Machado" Indians. They, unskilled masons, who represented many Indians, built the church. The remains were buried for several years before being discovered.

*Photo by: Everett Collection
Christianity spread in the vicinity of the former Spanish St. Augustine settlement after 1573. In 1690, after the first Protestant had arrived in Florida, The Englishman John Collier, a native of the Spanish city, was released from a Spanish prison in the Spanish city of Duro, and in 1697 he first came to establish himself and grow rice under royal charter from the Governor of Florida. May of 1707 shows his influence of St. Augustine. The Machado Indians were a wild tribe at the edge of the water surrounded by fields. A severe outbreak of smallpox in 1704-1705 probably precipitated the abandonment of this location.*



