

CHARLES D. HIGGS  
BOX 86  
St. Augustine, Florida  
April 10 1942

→ *ARK*  
*Dr. Kelley*  
*Suggest you write*  
*Higgs: Lee*  
*Lee*

*ARK*  
*Dr. Kelley*  
*File*  
*413*

Mr. Newton B. Drury, Director,  
The National Park Service,  
Department of the Interior,  
Washington, D.C.

Dear Mr. Drury,

It is with profound regret that I have learned that Dr. A.R. Kelley's scheduled trip to the Sebastian Inlet historical site has been indefinitely postponed. As I told Mr. Ronald F. Lee, when he was down here a few weeks ago, my only objective was the securing of a competent survey, as contemplated by Dr. Kelley, to confirm the site's historical and archeological value, and from which some means might be devised for the protection and conservation of the site.

During the three weeks that I was in St. Augustine the treasure hunters made most devastating inroads, one outfit operating intensively with the aid of six negro laborers. In view of such despoiliation, will you kindly convey to Dr. Kelley my regrets, and the hope that he may able to see something of the site before it is entirely disturbed.

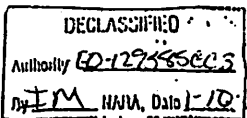
I shall be pleased to tender either your Service or Dr. Kelley any further information should you at any time desire.

Thanking you for the courtesy and interest of

your service, I am,

Very truly yours,

*Chas D. Higgs*



*Mr. Kelly*  
UNITED STATES

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

WASHINGTON

*R. F. Lee*

ADDRESS ONLY  
THE DIRECTOR, NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

April 16, 1942.

*M*  
Mr. Charles D. Higgs,  
Box 86,  
St. Augustine, Florida.

My dear Dr. Higgs:

I was keenly disappointed to miss out on the trip to Sebastian Inlet to visit the historical and archaeological site reported by you at that point. I am also greatly distressed to learn that treasure hunters have been doing intensive damage in recent weeks. I had hoped that conferences on the ground, including some with State officials possibly, might result in some action looking forward to the protection of the site.

It is still not impossible that we might be able to obtain some archaeological reconnaissance which will make possible archaeological identification of the site whose documentation has been ably worked up by you. I have submitted your manuscript to Dr. Duncan Strong, Department of Anthropology, Columbia University. He is interested in southeastern archaeology and your site has special features in connection with unsolved problems of Florida ethnology which may attract. A former student and assistant of mine, Mr. Gordon R. Willey, is returning in May from Peru to Columbia, and may become interested in the Sebastian Inlet project. Willey has a Rosenwald fellowship to do archaeology in Florida this coming year. He has limited funds for excavations and will need all the assistance he can get both at Columbia and in Florida in case he should make archaeological tests at the Sebastian Inlet site. It is unfortunate that you are leaving Florida at this time as I am sure that he would want to contact you on the ground if that were possible.

Sincerely yours,

*Sgd A. R. Kelly*  
Chief, Archeologic Sites Division,  
Branch of Historic Sites.

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Authority 60-12948-5003

By *IM* HWV, Date 1-10-

*Kelley*

UNITED STATES  
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE  
WASHINGTON

ADDRESS ONLY  
THE DIRECTOR, NATIONAL PARK SERVICE.

April 22, 1942.

*0-39  
File*

Dr. Duncan Strong,  
Department of Anthropology,  
Columbia University,  
New York City, N.Y.

Dear Duncan:

Enclosed find a copy of a letter received from Charles D. Higge, the meteorologist at Vero Beach, Florida, who prepared a special report on the presumptive site of the 16th-17th century, Ais capital near Cape Canaveral, Florida. You will recall reading a copy of this manuscript. As I understand it, you are keeping this matter in advisement pending the return of Gordon Willey and discussion with him concerning his future plans for Florida archeology.

Both of us are concerned simply as archeologists with the importance of preserving and salvaging valuable sites and data. You will be interested to know the current history of this site. I hope that your plans may mature in some manner making possible sufficient investigation of this site to identify it on the basis of archeological findings. Let me know if it turns out that there is any chance of such development. Authentication might well be the lever which could stimulate some preservative action by the State of Florida or some of the conservation agencies there.

Sincerely yours, *Arthur R. Kelly*

Arthur R. Kelly  
Chief  
Archeologic Sites Division.

ark:rsw.

Enclosure 2365438.

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Authority *ED-127435603*  
By *EM* NAWA, Date *1-10*

CHARLES D. HIGGS  
BOX 86  
FONTANA, WISCONSIN  
April 23 1942

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*Ums Beach*  
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Dr. A.R. Kelly, Chief,  
Archeologic Sites Division,  
Branch of Historic Sites,  
National Park Service,  
Dept. of the Interior,  
Washington, D.C.

*AMC*

My dear Dr. Kelly,

I was much gratified to receive your note of the 16th., which had been forwarded around Florida, and finally to my home here,

I have long wanted to contact you regarding my Florida findings, as some two years ago when I took some specimens of these into Dr. McKern (at the Milwaukee Public Museum) for his estimate, he at that time recommended you as the man to submit them to. However, realizing that these findings, by their very variety, appeared sufficiently enigmatic that a hoax might be suspected -- particularly when submitted by an amateur with no professional standing in the archeological field--I have concentrated my efforts more ~~in~~ *towards* securing a survey on the ground. As an archeologist you can appreciate, and there is no need to go further into, the interpretive value of such procedure.

You mention a manuscript of mine. I am wondering if it is the talk which I delivered to the Florida Historical Society a few weeks ago, or, a rather hasty one gotten up for the Miami meeting of a year ago. The former which is more complete, up to date, and with greater avoidance of the speculative and proto-historic aspect, is the one which I turned over to your Service through Mr. Manucy, of Ft. Marion. I hope that this is the one which you saw, as I have covered a lot of pertinent archival research since the earlier draft.

While my interest lies chiefly in the historical aspect of this site, that is, the establishment of the historicity of the evident Spanish Colonial occupation and its significance, I realize that to you, probably, the prehistoric evidences which are even more abundant in the area would be more intriguing. Some of these suggest a speculation as to the possibility of establishing a connection with the Antillean cultures, and there would seem to be a hint that much more definite deductions might be made here regarding the Pleistocene(?) associations discovered in the vicinity 25 years ago. (Journal of Geology xxv, 1, Jan. 1917) I had hoped, in particular, to point out many curious items in this regard to you on your visit there.

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Authority *EO 12958*  
By *IM* NAVA, Date *1-10*

CHARLES D. HIGGS  
BOX 86  
FONTANA, WISCONSIN

While the treasure hunters have raised havoc with the area around the Spanish site, in their quest for Spanish gold, they are not interested in and know nothing of the Indian or pre-historic. However erosion, both on the part of the ocean on one side and the Indian River on the other, is quite rapidly depleting the archeologic value of the latter.

It has been these two factors — the treasure hunter and erosion, that have made me so anxious to get a competent authority on the site before these have caused a greater dispersion of the material.

I note with interest your remarks regarding Mr. Willey, and hope that he may become sufficiently interested so that something may be achieved. As the entire area is covered with a dense scrub jungle growth, and some beach sites are apt to be obscured by drifting sand, I should be pleased to forward further directions and locations I should not advise any one to go into this area in the summer months. It is simply uninhabitable on account of the mosquitoes and sand-flies. Mr. Vinten, ~~of~~ the Suprintendant of your Service at the St. Augustine office, tried to get in here last summer and said that he couldn't even get out of his car !

If either you, Mr. Willey, or others get down into this area, stop in at the Florida Historical Society and see the material from this site which they have on exhibit there. It would be well to see this before proceeding to the station itself. This is in St. Augustine, next to the Cathedral.

If I can be of any further service, or furnish further information, kindly advise me.

Yours very sincerely,

*Charles D. Higgs*