



OFFICE OF THE PROPERTY APPRAISER

JIM OVERTON
DUVAL COUNTY
PROPERTY APPRAISER

231 E. FORSYTH STREET
JACKSONVILLE, FL 32202
(904) 630-2011

March 21, 2012

The Honorable Alvin Brown, Mayor
City of Jacksonville Florida
117 West Duval Street
Jacksonville, Florida 32202

Dear Mr. Mayor:

Ever since I was a boy, I've been captivated by the story of the brave French men, women, and children who braved the North Atlantic voyage and established *La Caroline*. When I walk or kayak at Mantanzas Inlet ("*the place of slaughters*") I think about how they met their untimely end. There is a story of a lost cause that bathes our heritage in North Florida. One wonders what might have been, here on the banks of our beautiful *Riviere de Mai*? Would Florida have become a sister state to Louisiana? Would there still have been an English loyalist period in Florida? Under the more friendly French, might the Timucuan still survive? Would the French Revolution have spilled onto American shores? Would a state governed by French descendants have joined the Confederacy? These are the great questions that flow from the rich history of our beloved City.

It is altogether appropriate that four hundred and fifty years later we celebrate our French beginnings, though short-lived they were. Moreover, this is a moment when our citizens can learn more about what happened here so long ago. There is no other story of the establishment of America that is more interesting or dramatic.

Mr. Mayor, thank you for recognizing the French era as formative to our history and important to celebrate. I support you in this worthy remembrance of our Sesquicentennial.

Sincerely,

Jim Overton
Duval County Property Appraiser