

A historical map of the Charlotte Harbor region in Florida. The map shows the coastline with various inlets and rivers. Labels include 'Providence Key', 'Anclote Key', 'Tampa', 'Charlotte Riv.', 'Palm Id.', 'Charlotte Harb.', 'Carlos Harb.', 'St. Lucia Riv.', 'Greenville', 'Rio Seco', 'Cape Florida', 'Moskitos', 'Cape Canaveral', 'Maranilla', 'Genoa', 'Bar', 'the L', 'Mangro', 'Great', 'Provi', 'Lotic Ro'. A red horizontal line is drawn across the middle of the map.

“WE HAVE GIVEN IT THE NAME OF CHARLOTTE HARBOUR:” A HISTORICAL OVERVIEW

DR. JENNIFER ZOEBELEIN

CHARLOTTE COUNTY HISTORIAN

FLORIDA'S SHIFTING GEOGRAPHY AND EARLIEST HUMAN INHABITANTS

PALEOINDIAN FLORIDA

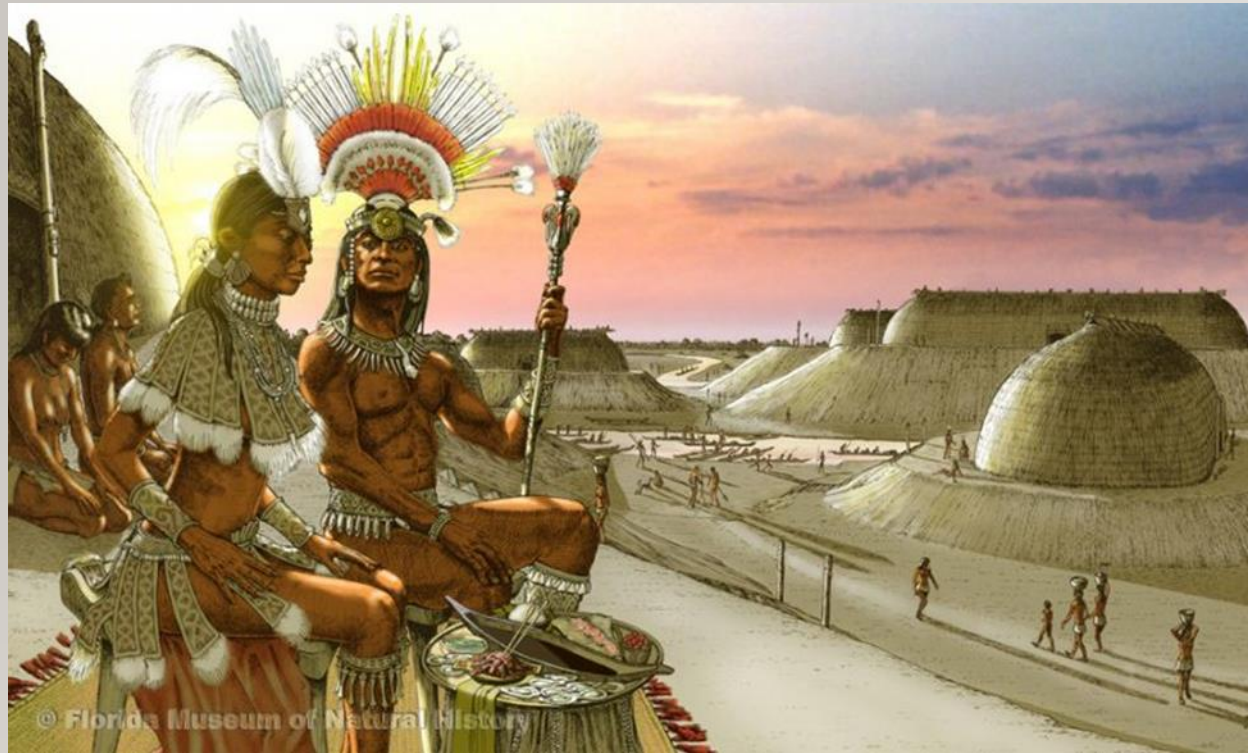


INNOVATORS OF THE ARCHAIC



THE CALUSA KINGDOM: AN INDIGENOUS POWERHOUSE CENTERED ON A MARINE ENVIRONMENT



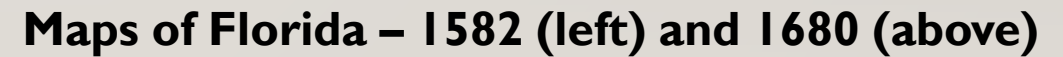


**Artist's conception of town chief at the Calusa town of Tampa (present day Pineland)
(Art by Merald Clark.)**



Artist's conception of scene at the Pine Island Canal, which reached 2.5 miles across Pine Island, from Pine Island Sound to Matlacha Pass (Art by Merald Clark.)

This historical map depicts the Yucatan Peninsula and the surrounding Gulf of Mexico. The map is oriented with North at the top. Key locations labeled include Baya de Baxos, Baya de Spio Santo, C. de Criz, Canal de Cañareal, Rio de Cori ento, C. de Cañareal, Bahama, Binini, Martyres, Tortugas, and Cancun. The map is drawn with fine lines and shading, typical of 18th-century cartography.



[illegible]

THE RISE OF SPANISH FISHERIES IN CHARLOTTE HARBOR



19th century photograph of a typical example of the ranchos where Spanish fishermen lived when they were mullet fishing in Southwest Florida.

Courtesy, Cortez Village Historical Society
(Manatee County)



1796 map of the West Indies (detailed selection)

BRITISH SURVEYS OF FLORIDA AND THE SPANISH FISHERIES

AN
A C C O U N T
OF
The SURVEYS of FLORIDA, &c.
WITH
DIRECTIONS FOR SAILING
FROM
JAMAICA or the WEST INDIES,
BY THE
WEST END OF CUBA, AND THROUGH THE GULPH OF
FLORIDA.
To accompany Mr. GAULD'S CHARTS.

L O N D O N ;

Published by W. FADEN, GEOGRAPHER to the KING, CHURCH LANE;
to be sold by him; and by Messrs. MOUNT and PAGE, Tower Hill.

M.DCC.XC.

A
C O N C I S E
NATURAL HISTORY
OF
EAST AND WEST-FLORIDA.

C O N T A I N I N G,
An Account of the NATURAL PRODUCE of
all the Southern Part of BRITISH AMERICA, in the
Three Kingdoms of Nature, particularly the ANIMAL
and VEGETABLE.

L I K E W I S E,
The ARTIFICIAL PRODUCE now raised, or possible to be raised, and
Manufactured there, with some Commercial and Political Observa-
tions in that Part of the World; and a Chorographical Account
of the same.

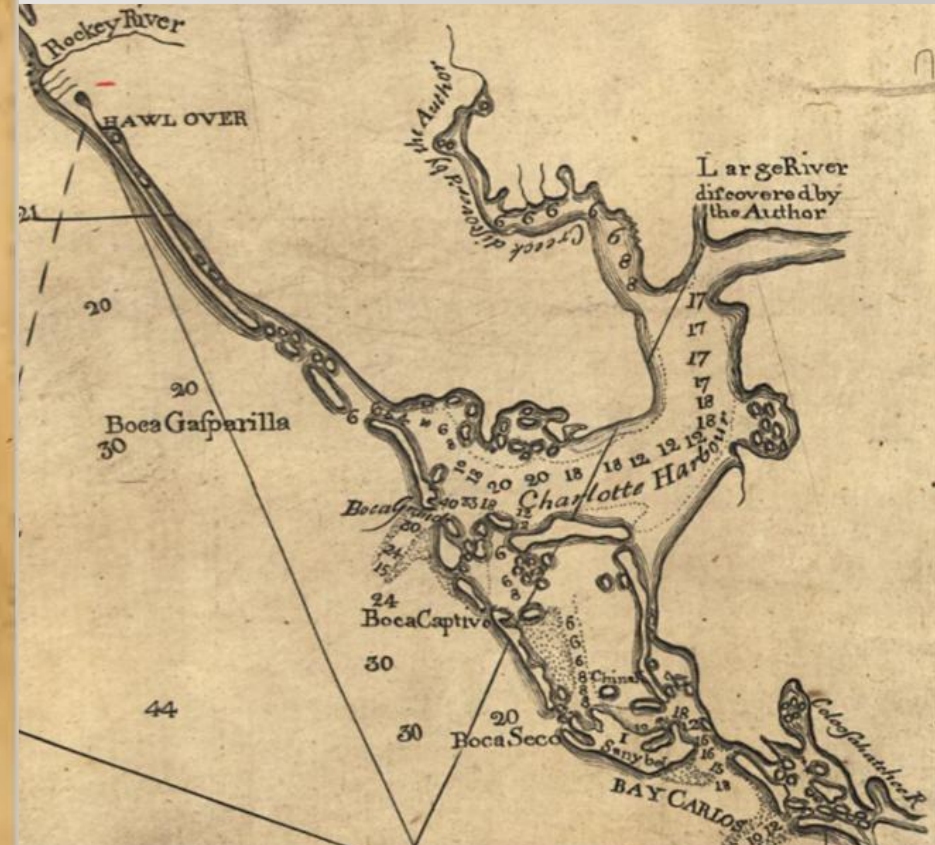
By CAPTAIN
B E R N A R D R O M A N S.

NEW-YORK PRINTED:

SOLD BY R. AITKEN, BOOKSELLER, OPPOSITE THE
LONDON COFFEE-HOUSE, FRONT-STREET.

M.DCC.LXXVI.

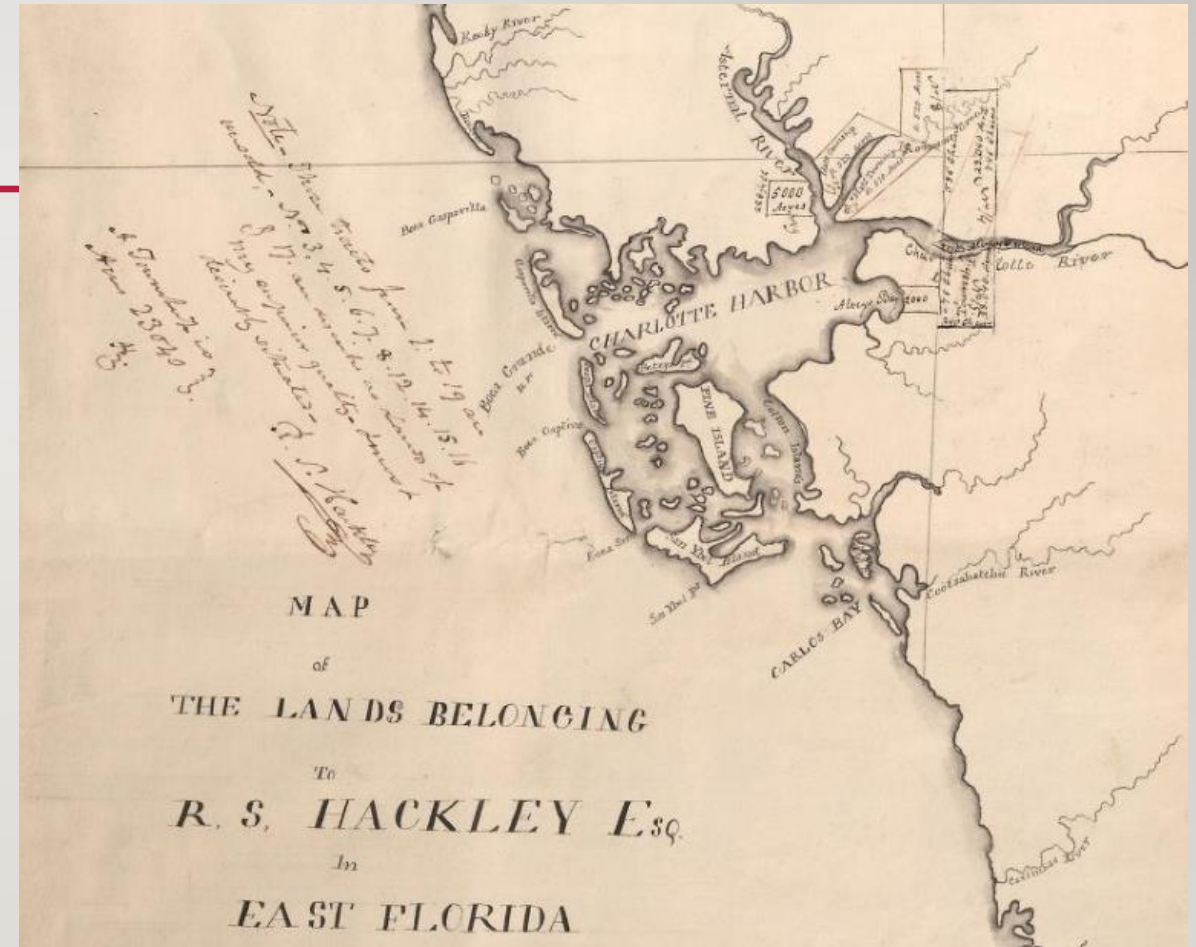
(Price, Bound, One Dollar.)



SPANISH FLORIDA BECOMES A U.S. TERRITORY

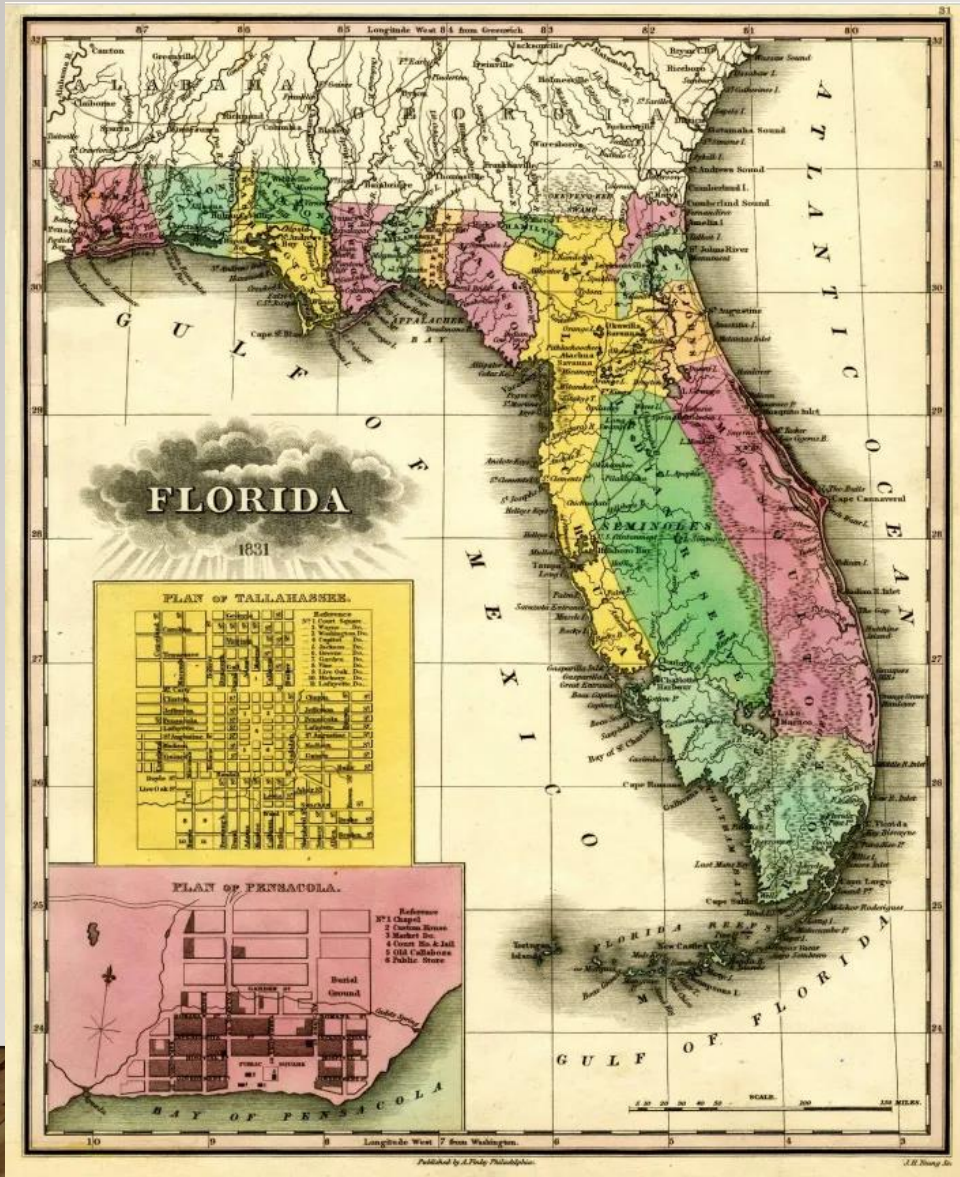


**Top: 1823 map compiled and drawn by
Charles Blacker Vignoles,
a civil and topographic engineer**



**Right: 1823 map of the lands belonging to R.S.
Hackley in East Florida**

CONFLICT COMES TO CHARLOTTE HARBOR AND THE PEACE RIVER VALLEY



A Bill to be entitled, An Act for the protection of the fisheries on the Coasts of the Territory of Florida, and to avoid a revenue therefrom.

Enacted by the Governor of the Territory of Florida, that from and after the first day of May next, it shall not be lawful for any boat, launch or other craft to be employed in catching or taking any fish or turtle or for any person or persons to catch or take any fish or turtle on the Coast, nor any of the said Bay River, except as hereinafter provided, to any of the said Territories, with intent to carry the same out of the Territory without having first obtained a license in the manner hereinafter directed. And if any person or persons shall catch or take any fish or turtle as aforesaid without such license, or shall carry or attempt to carry the same out of the Territory, or shall dispose of any such fish or turtle for the purpose of being carried out of the Territory, or shall receive into his or her possession or endeavor his or her vessel with intent to carry the same out of the Territory any fish or turtle so caught or taken without such license, any person so offending shall be liable to a fine of one thousand dollars to the use of the Territory, for each every such offence committed thereon any of the said Coasts of the Territory, and the said vessel, boat, launch or other craft, his tackle, apparel and furniture and cargo shall be forfeited to the Territory. Provided that nothing in this Act contained shall be so construed as to prevent the catching of fish or turtle in the waters of the Territory for use and consumption therein within any of the United States.

Sec. 2. And further enacted, that the Governor of the Territory shall appoint at such places as may be necessary

State of the Territory

The Committee on the State of the Territory, to whom was referred so much of the Governor's Message, as relates to the fisheries on the Coast of Florida, respectfully report:

That they agreed with the Acting Governor in the opinion advanced in his Message, as to the importance and value of these fisheries to the people of Florida; the desirability of making made a source of considerable revenue to our Territory, and of this being a proper subject for legislative regulation, with such view.

The Committee do not consider it necessary to make any further discussion on the various interesting & important questions of international and Constitutional law, & of natural right which grow out of this subject. The correspondence between the State Department & the Governor of this Territory, which has been referred to the Committee, is full & satisfactory on most of these questions; and the Committee would respectfully suggest the expediency of its publication, that a full understanding of the subject may be had, as well by our fellow Citizens of the State, as by the people of England. The Committee have however thought proper to annex thereto their objections to the measures thus proposed in relation to this subject which have not been fully noticed in the correspondence.

It has been urged that the laws of nations would not justify the exclusive appropriation of these fisheries to ourselves exclusively. The Committee would here remark, that the British Government have admitted our right to do so, by asking for the use of these fisheries as a favor. That we do not have to avoid ourselves of any advantage that may be derived from such a concession, nor do we give a preference to the laws of Nations.

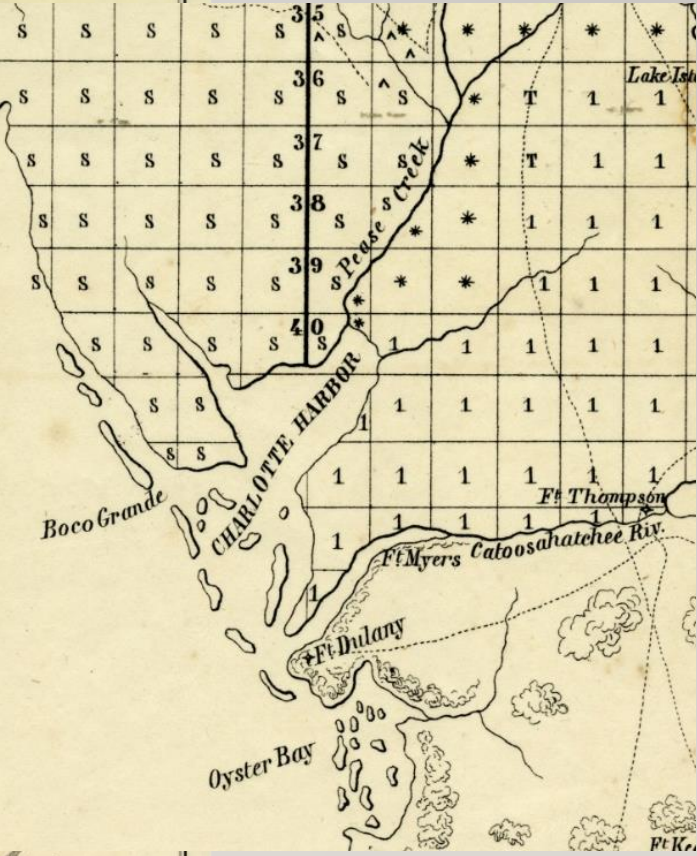
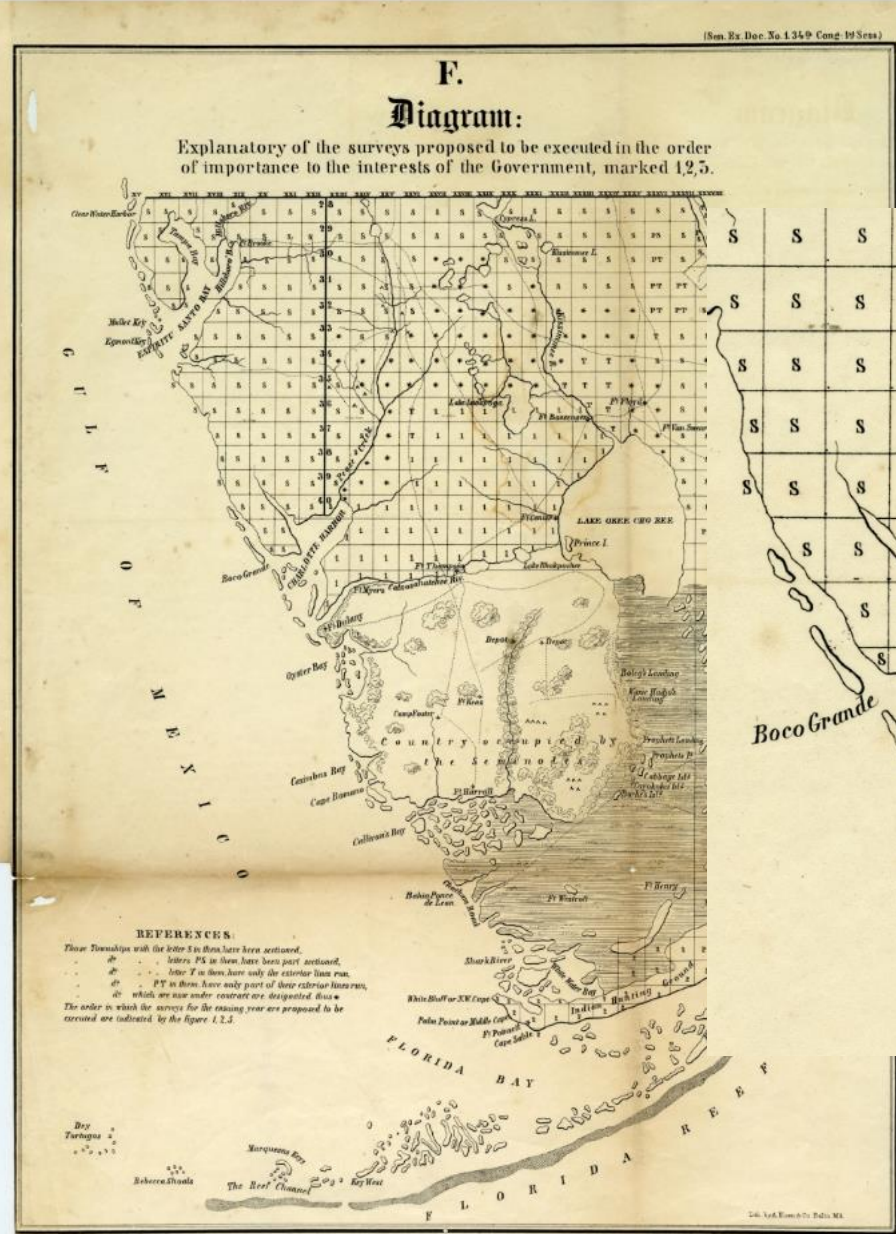
Trusting, among other things, on this subject, says

1832 Draft of an Act for the Protection of the Fisheries on the Coasts of Florida and a Report of the Committee on the State of the Territory Concerning Fisheries, circa 1833

Proposed Survey of South Florida, 1855

The Seminole Wars

- First Seminole War, 1816-1818
 - Jackson's line of march
 - Military fort
- Second Seminole War, 1835-1842
 - Army column
 - Battle site
 - Military fort
- Third Seminole War, 1855-1858
 - Military fort
 - Seminole reservation boundary, 1827
 - Extent of reservation south of this line is uncertain since the legal description of 1823 was based on incomplete knowledge of the state
 - Seminole reservation
 - Indian town
 - Forts built & reaction



“THE GALLANT LITTLE STATE OF FLORIDA WILL
FOLLOW YOUR LEAD”

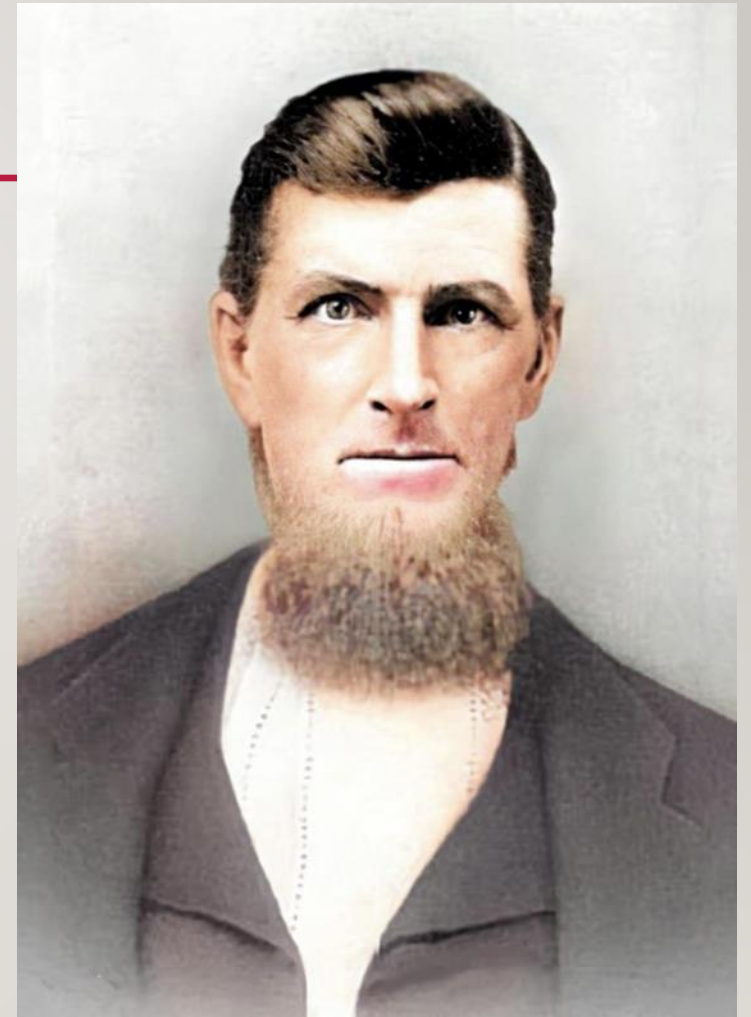
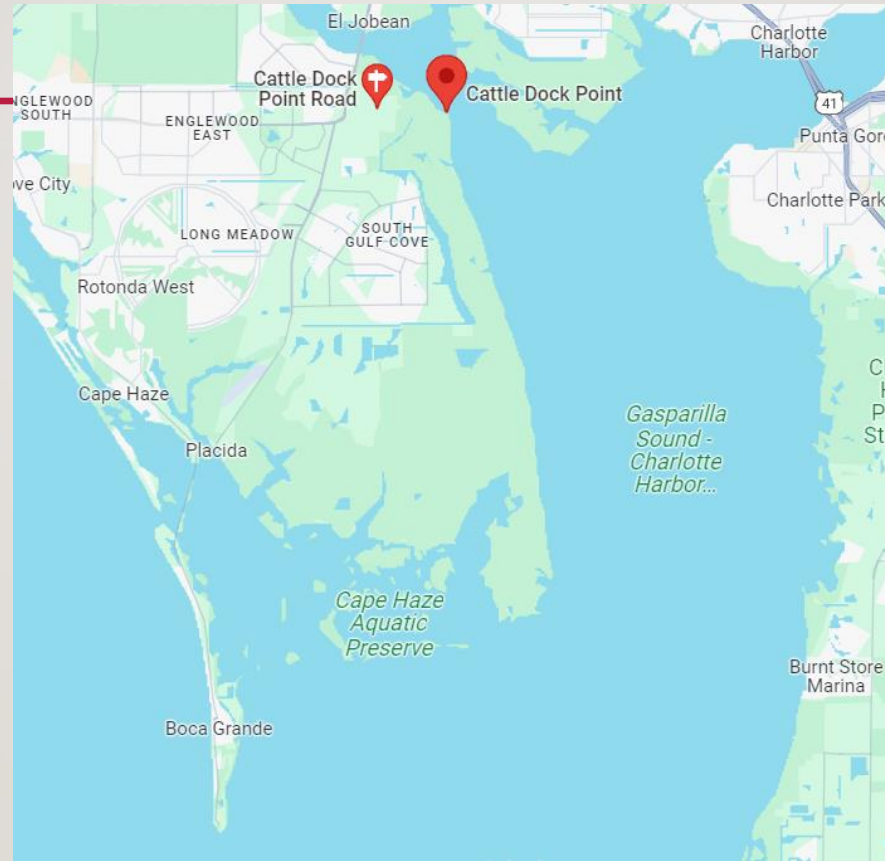
Ordinance of Secession.

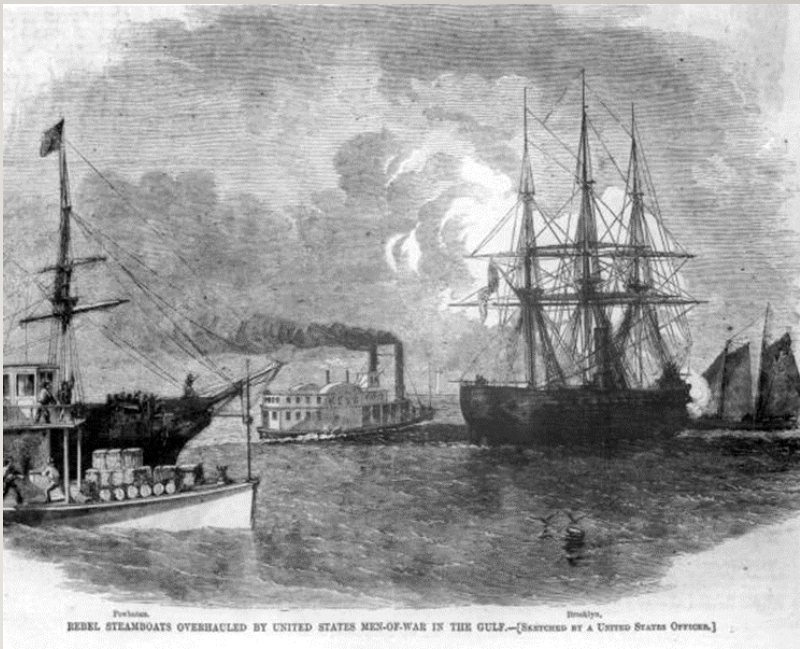
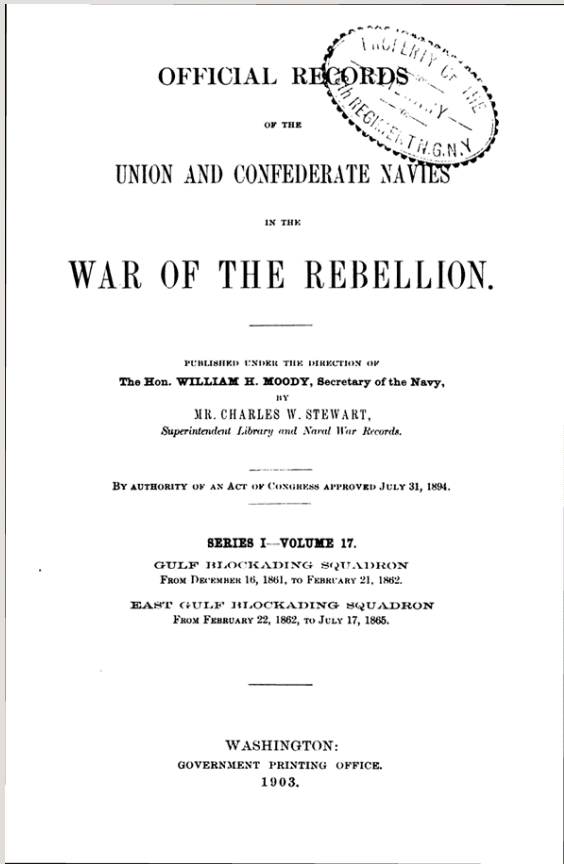
We, the People of the State of Florida in Convention assembled, do solemnly ordain, publish and declare: That the State of Florida hereby withdraws herself from the Confederacy of States existing under the name of the United States of America, and from the existing Government of said States: and that all political connection between her and the Government of said States ought to be and the same is hereby totally annulled, and said union of States dissolved: and the State of Florida is hereby declared a Sovereign and Independent Nation: and that all ordinances heretofore adopted in so far as they create or recognize said Union, are rescinded: and all laws or parts of laws in force in this State, in so far as they recognize or assent to said Union be and they are hereby repealed.

Done in open Convention, January 10th. A.D. 1861.

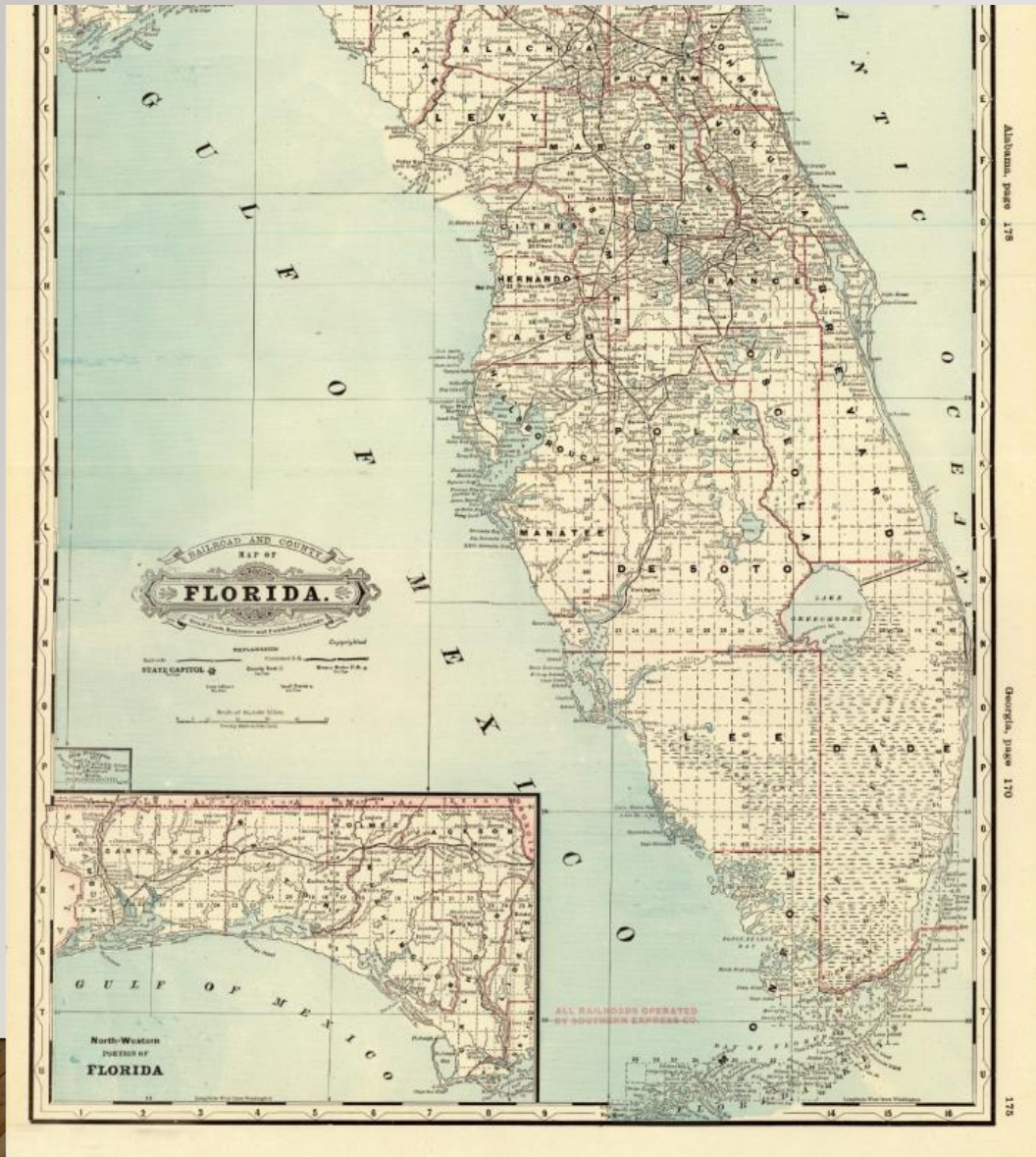
[illegible]

MILITARY ACTION IN AND AROUND CHARLOTTE HARBOR

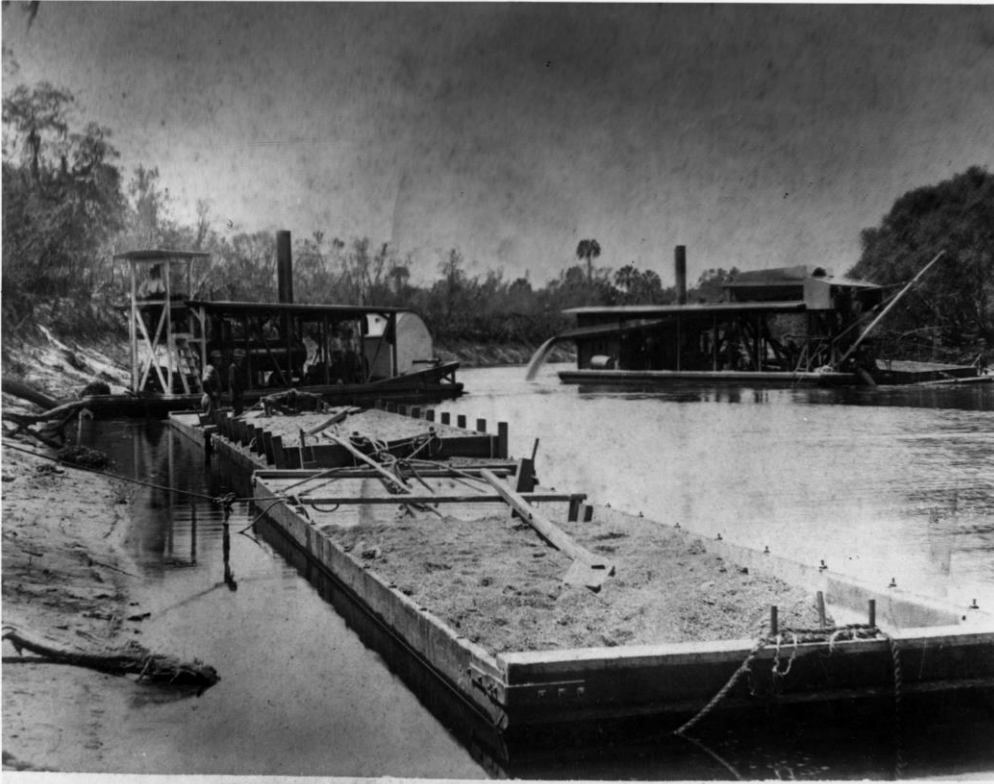




POSTWAR CHANGES AND DEVELOPMENT



“PHOSPHATE FEVER”



A tugboat, dredge and phosphate barges operating on the Peace River, ca. 1902



A makeshift tugboat, Little Steamer No. 1, consisting of a boiler, engine and pilot's deck strapped to a flat-top barge, is shown here towing empty phosphate barges back up the Peace River, ca. 1902



Cargo ships waiting to load phosphate are seen off the holding dock at Boca Grande



This undated photo taken by Arcadia photojournalist George Lane shows freight cars filled with phosphate awaiting unloading onto ships at South Boca Grande

A RESURGENT FISHING INDUSTRY

UNITED STATES COMMISSION OF FISH AND FISHERIES
SPENCER F. BAIRD, COMMISSIONER

THE FISHERIES
AND
FISHERY INDUSTRIES
OF THE
UNITED STATES

4200
PREPARED THROUGH THE CO-OPERATION OF THE COMMISSIONER OF FISHERIES
AND THE SUPERINTENDENT OF THE TENTH CENSUS

BY
GEORGE BROWN GOODE
ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF THE SMITHSONIAN INSTITUTION
AND A STAFF OF ASSOCIATES

SECTION II
A GEOGRAPHICAL REVIEW OF THE FISHERIES INDUSTRIES
AND FISHING COMMUNITIES FOR THE YEAR 1880

WASHINGTON
GOVERNMENT PRINTING OFFICE
1887

FISHERIES OF CHARLOTTE HARBOR.

FISHING STATIONS OF CHARLOTTE HARBOR.—In Monroe County there are no fishing stations worthy of notice. The first four on the coast and on the islands off Manatee County are: Captiva, on Captiva Island; two at the north end of Lacosta Island, near Boca Grande, carried on by Spaniards, and one at the northern end of Gasparilla Island. These fisheries are all carried on in Charlotte Harbor. They are engaged in supplying the Cuban market, and the methods of fishing, style of buildings, mode of curing the fish, &c., are much the same as at the Sarasota Bay fisheries, concerning which all details will be given, and from which a correct idea may be easily formed of the arrangements and methods followed out at the Charlotte Harbor fisheries, when no differences are specially noted.

The profits of the fishing at these four stations have been diminished both by the political troubles in Cuba and by the glutting of the Cuban markets. The stations are all occupied every year, but seldom by the same parties. The Gasparilla fishery is an exception; this one is carried on by Beacon Brothers, and managed by Captain Beacon. The money made by the fishermen is less than in former years, when both fish and roes were worth more; yet, even with the present prices the men do well, if the business is properly managed. The trade with Cuba is now more extensive than formerly, more parties being interested in the work. It was reported that Spaniards had come from Cuba and fished in the bays under the Spanish flag. This was false. Sometimes, however, Cuban smacks fished off the coast, but were quickly prohibited by the revenue officers.

probably increase and assume an important shape.

CHARLOTTE HARBOR FISHING BOATS.—There is a peculiarity in the Charlotte Harbor boats. They are built so as to carry a large load in very shallow water. They resemble, in some respects, the lap-streak boats of Maine. In fact they are a kind of lap-streak boat, having planks of cedar or white pine, knees and timbers rather large and of oak, and fastened with galvanized iron. Their usual length is 24 feet, and their width 8 feet. In shape they are somewhat awkward, being full at bow and stern, flat-bottomed, stem and stern raking, and quarters overhanging. They are, however, able boats, and well adapted for the work. Besides carrying a large seine and six men, they will carry 65 tubs of mullet. While fishing they are rowed by two or four men, the captain standing in the bow to guide with a pole. These boats are made to order in New York, and cost \$150. There are not over a dozen on this coast, and these are continually changing hands. Each of these four fisheries has two boats and two seines.

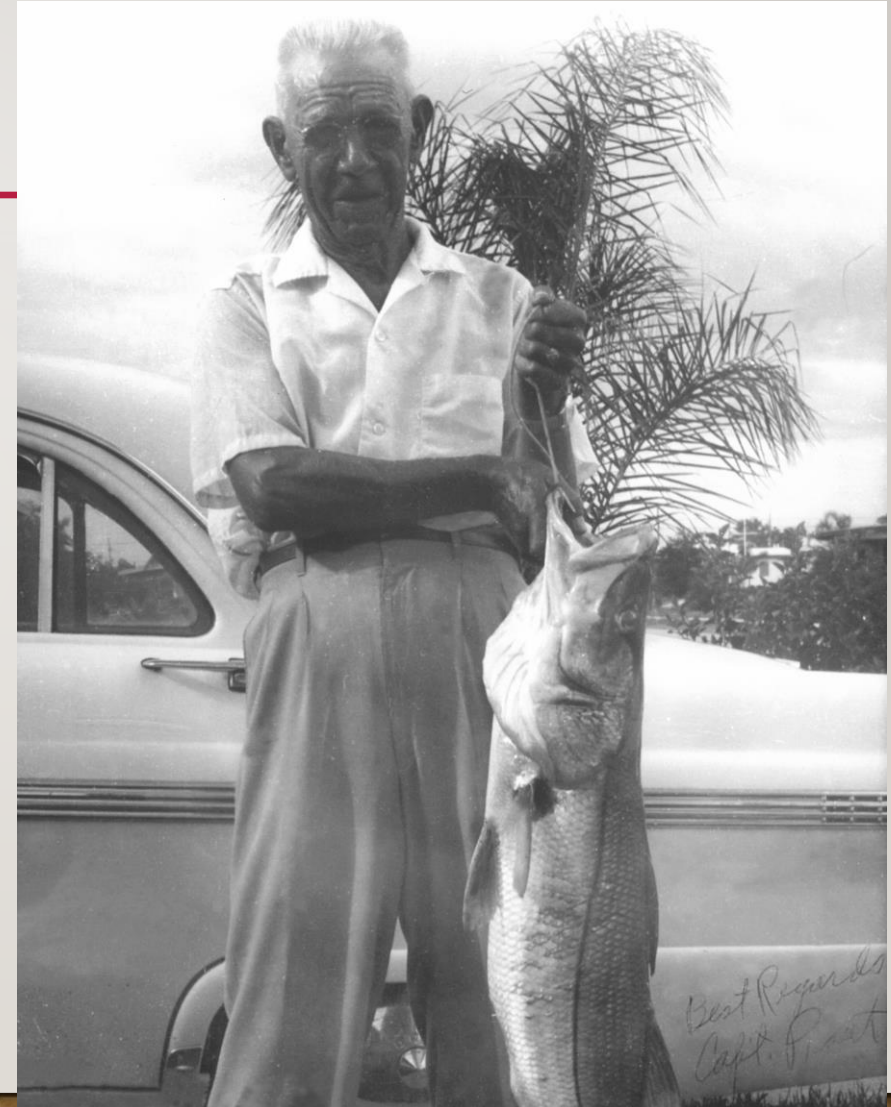
AN INDUSTRY TRANSFORMED: THE AGE OF ICE



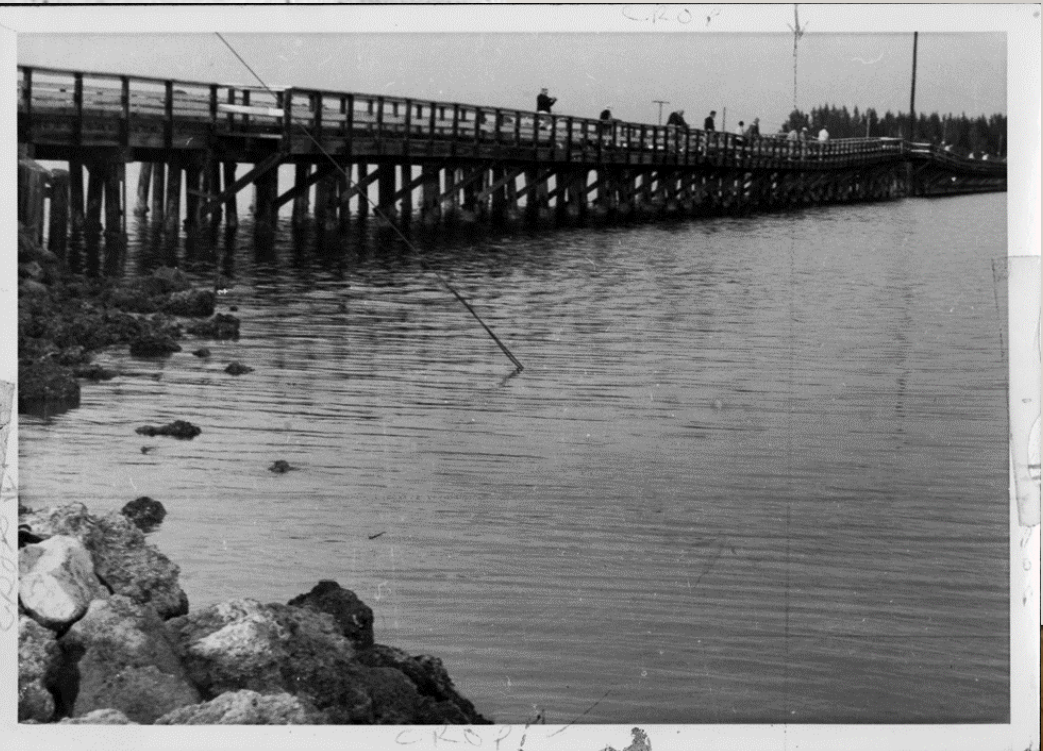
Above left: Unloading fish at the Punta Blanca Ice House (near Useppa Island)

Bottom left: Kelly's Fish Camp on Bull Bay

FISHING AS RECREATION – THEN AND NOW



“BRIGHT FUTURE FOR CHARLOTTE HARBOR”



El Jobean

Six Miles Sandy Beach on the
Myakka River

BE OUR GUEST FOR THE DAY
AT EL JOBEAN

Drop us a postal and we will call for you or meet you at our sign on the Tamiami Trail. Come investigate our beautiful location on the Myakka River. Then figure out for yourself the wonderful possibilities for the future of

PG-21—Tamiami Trail Crossing Charlotte Harbor at Punta Gorda, Fla.



the country."

WINTER GUESTS FILL 250 ROOMS IN BIG HOSTELRY

Hotel Charlotte Harbor Be-
comes Sportsmen's
Headquarters

(Punta Gorda is today in the midst of one of the most successful tourist seasons in the history of the city with each of the 250 luxuriously furnished rooms in the Hotel Charlotte Harbor occupied by winter visitors.) Under the capable management of P. P. Schutt, with the season stimulated by an introductory trap shoot of national importance, the local hostelry has assumed an important role as headquarters for tourists and sportsmen.

Dancing is being enjoyed every

MAIL-AWAY EDITION
THE PUNTA GORDA
HERALD
Charlotte County
Established 1891
AN INVITATION ISSUE

Punta Gorda is a fine place in which to live, for one month or the entire year, --- the sun shines most of the time; and here is to be found about the best fishing in the whole world;

There are miles of rivers, bays, inlets with beautiful Charlotte harbor stretching away to the open gulf, all safe for boating

Charlotte county has the longest shore line of any county in Florida. Enter

The local merchants serve both visitors and residents with varied merchandise.

The hunting is all that the most ardent sportsman can ask for and the life in the out-of-doors offers all that is most attractive.

Charlotte county offers thousands of fertile acres awaiting development for homes. Everything has been provided by a generous nature --- Man has only to take advantage of it in a land where oranges grow by the acre



WANT TO LEARN MORE?

The screenshot shows the homepage of the Charlotte County Libraries & History website. At the top is a navigation bar with a search bar and links for Home, About Us, Services, and More. Below this is a 'What's New' section featuring a '2024 Reading Challenge' and 'Staff Picks for Winter'. A 'Featured Events' section lists upcoming activities like a 'Sunshine State Young Reader Award Author Visit' and a '2024 Photo Contest Entry Deadline'. The 'New Materials' section displays a row of book covers including 'Front Sight' by Stephen Hunter and 'The Kingpin' by Mike Lawson. A 'Quick Links' section provides buttons for 'Get a card', 'Mobile Printing', 'Request it', and 'Newsletter'. The 'Digital Library' section promotes e-books, audiobooks, and digital newspapers, with logos for OverDrive, The New York Times, Kanopy, Hoopla, and Ancestry. A 'More Services' section lists options like Meeting Rooms, Traveling library, Home delivery, Makerspace, Digital Archives, Your next five books, Reading Challenge, and Technology. The footer contains contact information, a 'Get Involved' section, and a 'Contact Us' section with a phone number and email link.

HISTORY SERVICES

From the days of early Native Americans to living memories of Hurricanes Charley and Ian, our community is bursting with local history. Charlotte County History Services is dedicated to preserving our rich heritage for future generations.

Digital archives

Discover a vast collection of historic documents, postcards, and photographs.

[Browse »](#)

Print books

The circular image shows a library interior with a wooden table and blue chairs. To the right, a book cover for 'The Swamp Peddlers' by Jason Wang is displayed. The book cover features a map of a swampy area and the text 'How Lee Smith, Louis Grimes, and William B. Lewis made money and transformed the swampy lands of the South'.