

A Trip to Florida for Health and Sport: the Lost 1855 Florida Novel

Wenxian Zhang
Rollins College

Society of Florida Archivists Annual Meeting
Tallahassee, 2013

Table of Contents & Chapter 1

TABLE OF CONTENTS

CHAP. I.

George Norton - Prepare for a trip to Honda - The
Small Sails - Sea sickness - A Steam Ashoe - Rescue of
George - Lost Farm - A Steam Animal at Sea - A
Walk in San Francisco
CHAP. II.

Case Susannah - Cross the John River Bar - Jacksonville -
The Prison - Malaka - Malaka Springs for Fish - Duck Hunt
by Nightlight - George goes - First Deer Hunt - Wounds
a Deer
CHAP. III.

Prep for Trip - Hunting the Lost Lamb - Mr. Kanta - The
Family and Rain - Advice to Young Hunters - Preparations
for the Hunt - Story of a Fight with a Ruck
CHAP. IV.

The Rain - The Start - The Hunt - The Return - Stories
about Deer - Story of the Bear Hunt - The Storm - Con-
tinues - The Return Home
CHAP. V.

Amusement - A Saloon for Cattle - Excellent Fishing
Sailing - Visit a Logging Camp - A Bear Chase -
Angie Island - Attempt to reach Silver Spring - Camp
on Lake George - Fire Hunt - Dead Wind - Run Ashoe -
Chicago Point - Sail for Home
CHAP. VI.

Arrival of the Cattle - Hoisting them in the House - Accidents
and Incidents - Visit Captain S. - Policy of the Honda
War - Squirrel Hunt - Pat gets Refused - A Gopher
- Blind Magicians etc. - Woods on Fire - A Hunt in
the Swamp - Visit Mr. Hunter
CHAP. VII.

A Deer Hunt - A Muddled Chance - A Question
of Honor - John kills the Deer - Gets the Bloody
Mark - Log Rolling - New Quarters - Story of
the Big Panthers - A Hunt - A Bad Shot -
The Big Field - Fishing - A Terrific Squirrel

CHAP. VIII.

George kills a Deer - Cuts a New Road
Fishing - Shoot a Fox - Sailing - Resolves
by a Bear - A Deer Hunt - Fishing in
Dunnos Lake - A Gopher - On the Road
Wounds a Deer - Cattle Hunt
- Cattle - Fishing a special Gopher
- After Stories

CHAP. IX.

Story of the Cooked Storted Ruck - A Deer
Hunt - Kills a Ruck - Attacks Preaching - goes to
Malaka - Linnard Spring - Returns to Dunnos Lake -
Hog Hunting - A Wedding - Penning Cattle - A
Turkey Hunt

CHAP. X.

The Grand Bear Hunt - George's Success - Prac-
tice for Fire Hunting - An Alligator Hunt -
Build a Fence - Wounds James Returns -
The Last Deer Hunt - Return to Malaka

CHAP. XI.

Camp on Little Lake George - A Deer jumped
A Peculiar Occurrence - An Accident - A
Successful Shot - Return from Camp - The
Enterprise - Enterprise - Green Spring -
To St. Augustine - History of St. Augustine -
The Fort - Laguna - Escape of Wild Cat - Sail-
ing and Fishing - Return to Malaka

CHAP. XII.

Prepare for trip to Silver Spring - The Start - A
Disaster - Enter the Creek - The Camp - No Sleep -
The Creek - The Spring - Dreams - Remain a
second Night - Diurnal Prospects - The Wind Rises -
goes - Fast Sailing - A Fawn - Good Bye - Sail for
Home - joyful Arrival

Chapter 1.

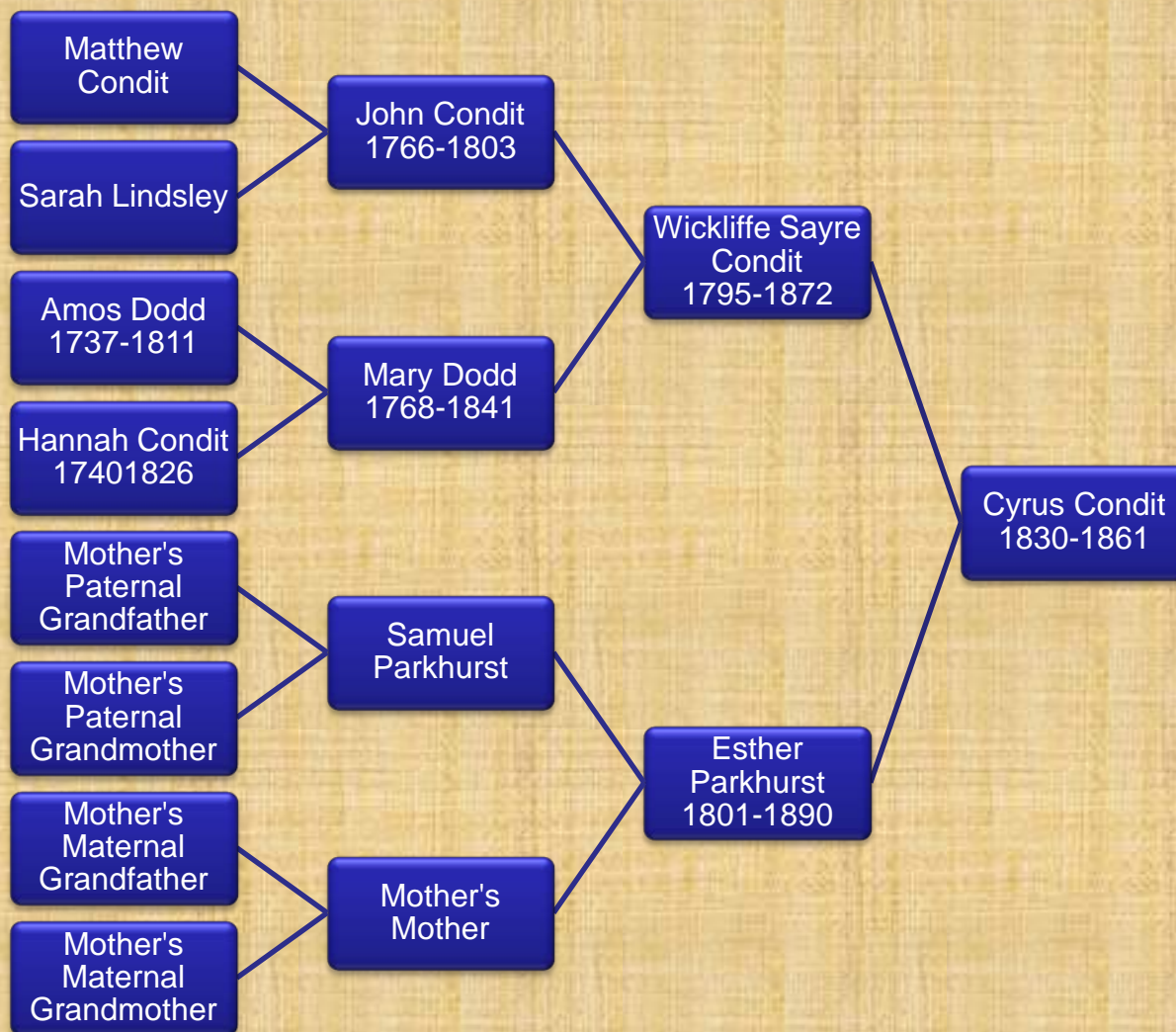
George Morton - Prepares for a trip to Florida - The vessel sails - Sea sickness - A steamer ashore - Rescue of passengers - Gulf Stream - A storm - Arrival at Savannah - A walk in Savannah.

George Morton the hero of this story, was a lad of seventeen years of age. His parents had always resided in the great City of New York, but George had been at a boarding school in the country for several years. His Father had died of Consumption about a year before the commencement of our tale, and his Mother feeling lonely, as she had but one other child, had decided that George should live at home. He had therefore been attending a school in the city, for a year, and becoming very much interested in his studies, he had applied himself closely to them. He was tall for his age and rather slender. In the Spring George took a bad cold, and had a cough, during the whole Summer and Fall. His Mother became alarmed about his health, and consulted her family physician, who advised George to give up his studies for a time, and to take more exercise in the open air. He thought too, that a trip to the South, during the extreme cold weather, would be of service to him.

George had an Uncle who was very fond of him. Since his Father's death, Uncle James, who was a Bachelor, had lived with his sister, Mrs. Morton. She told him of the advice the physician had given, and asked him what he thought in regard to it. Uncle James said "that he had thought of spending the coming winter in Florida himself, to avoid the attacks of rheumatism to which he was subject, and that he would willingly take George with him, and thought it would be an excellent thing for him".

Mrs. Morton felt that it would be a trial to part with him, but she was willing to do it, if there was any probability of its being beneficial to him. It was therefore arranged, that Uncle James and George, should go to Florida, in the month of December.

Family Tree of Cyrus P. Condit



Genealogy of Cyrus P. Condit

- Ancestor John Condit immigrated from Wales and died in Newark, NJ in 1713
- Second John Condit (1701-1783) was the grandson of the senior John Condit, and Cyrus' great-great-grandfather
- Third John Condit (1766-1803) was Cyrus' grandfather, who died at 36 in Savannah, Georgia
- Cyrus married Sarah J. Champlin (1834-1889) on May 23, 1855 and lived in Newark, New Jersey
- The couple had two daughters, Agnes Louise Condit (1856-?) and Sarah Adeline Condit (1858-1950)
- Cyrus passed away at age 30 on Jan. 30, 1861

Frederick W. Dau

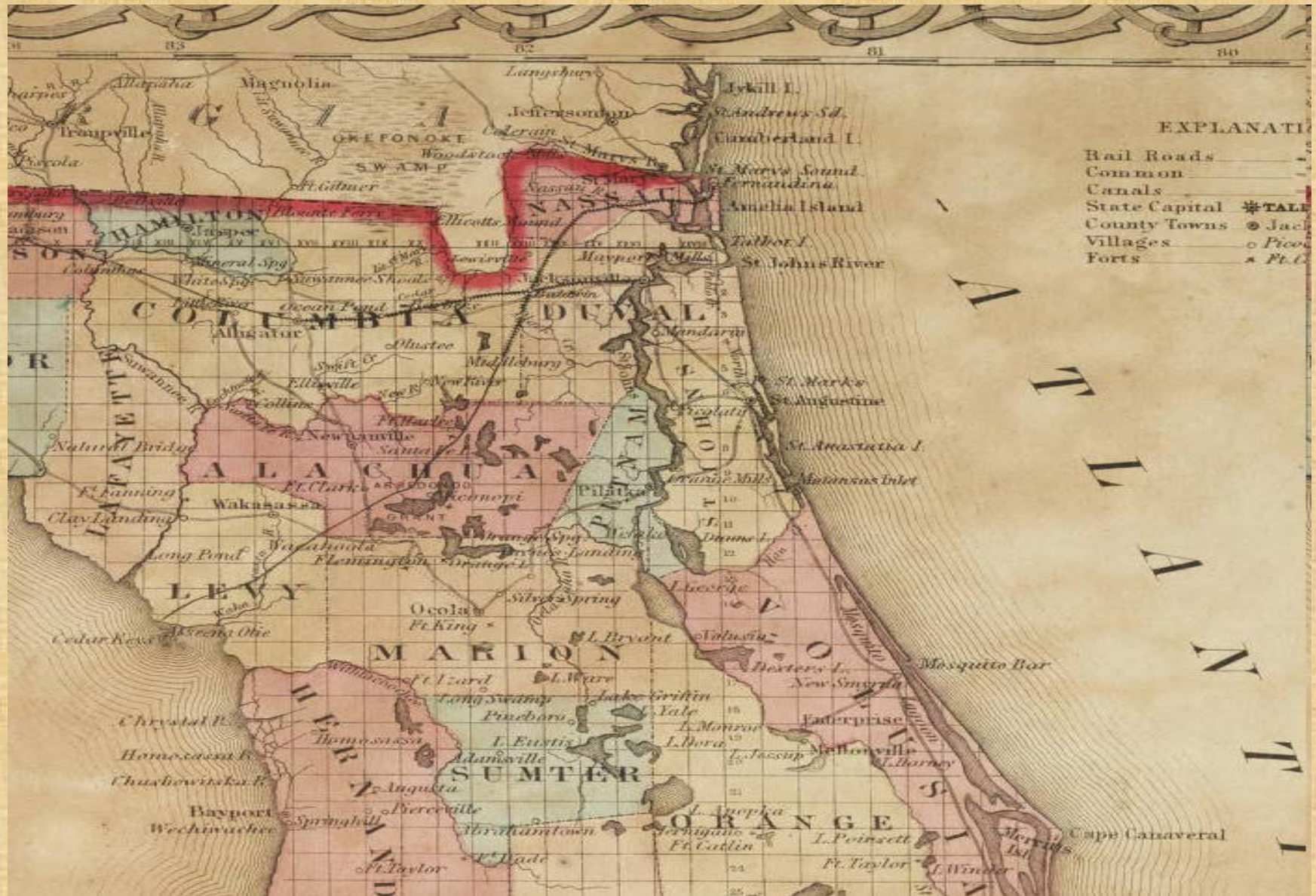
- Graduate of US Naval Academy
- Editor of *Mortgage Reporter*, and *New York Social Blue Book*
- Businessman, collector & historian
- Friend of A. J. Hanna
- Donated the manuscript to Rollins in 1955



Florida in 1855



Along the St. Johns River



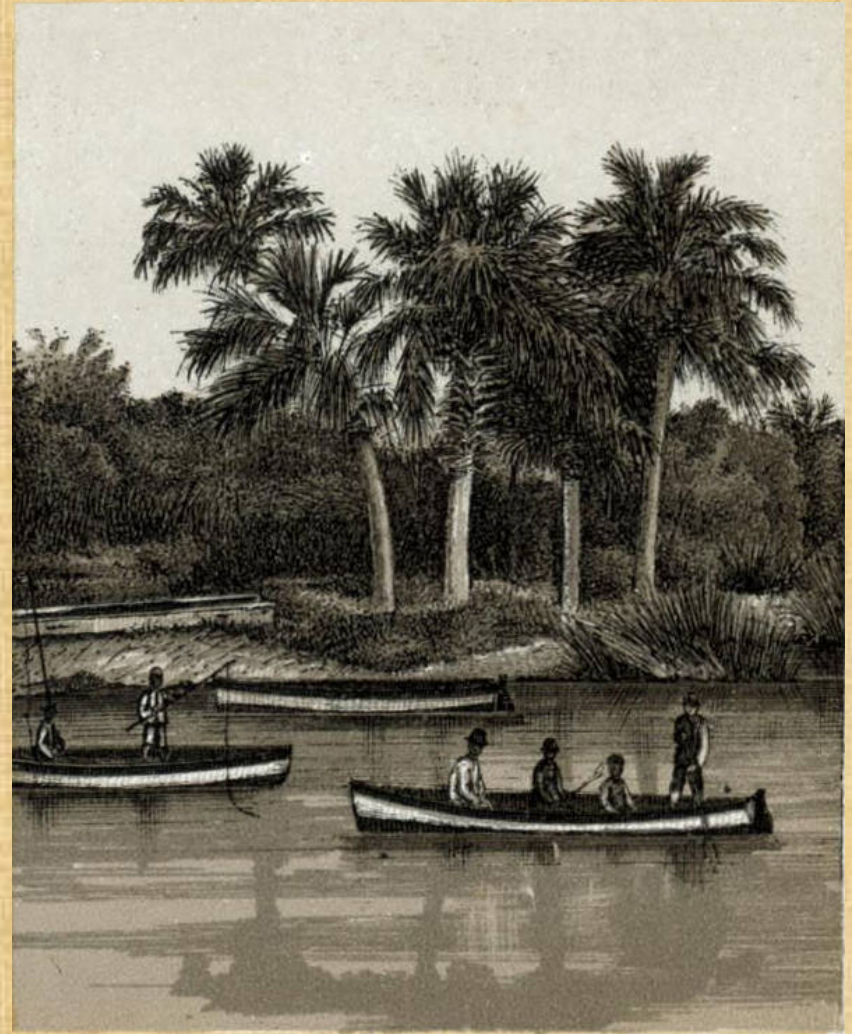
C. P. Condit's Florida

FLORIDA VERTICAL FILE



POINT ISABEL.

FLORIDA.

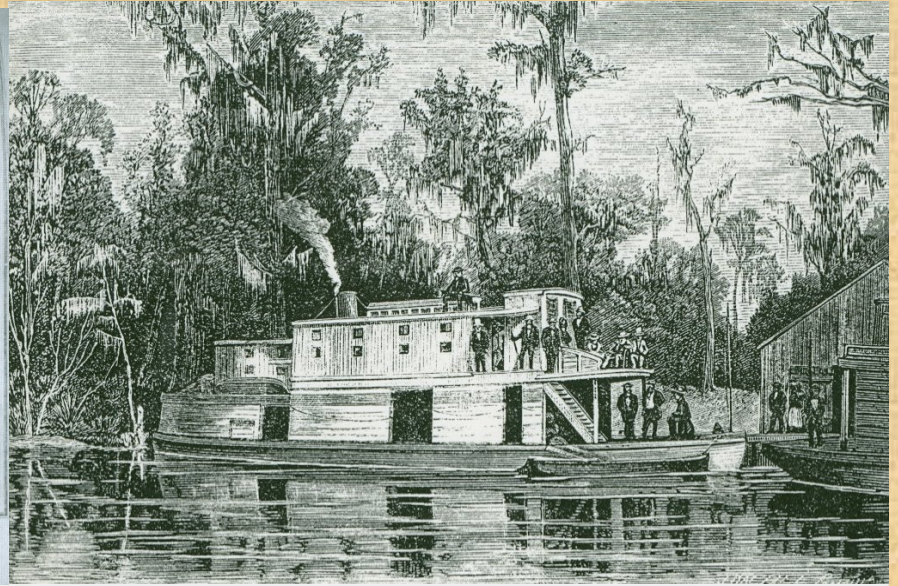


PALMETTOS,
NEAR JACKSONVILLE FLA.

Florida's Nature Landscape



ST. JOHN'S RIVER & VOLUSIA on the RIGHT BANK.



When a 17 year-old boy from New York comes to Florida to spend the winter, what is the first thing he wants to do? Go to Disney World? The year is 1855, so he's a little early for that. Then what? He wants to hunt game in the woods and swamps, fish the lakes and rivers, explore the St. Johns River and take boat rides, do all those things that meant so much to a boy in that period of time in pioneer Florida.

The boy is George Morton, and his mother in New York City has sent him to Florida to improve a medical problem. His health does improve, and he also enjoys the greatest adventures of his lifetime. In addition to the hunting and fishing, he takes trips to nearby towns and to St. Augustine, takes a boat trip to Silver Glen Springs and a land trip to Silver Springs, and even gets to view a country-style wedding.

This novel is strong on action and description. Reading it is like watching a kaleidoscope of places and things. It provides a trip back to the 1850s Florida, a time when things were so different from today. It is an interesting journey.

Patrick D. Smith
Author of *A Land Remembered*

Maurice O'Sullivan is Kenneth Curry Professor of English at Rollins College in Winter Park, Florida. He has co-edited the books *The Florida Reader*, *Florida in Poetry, Crime Fiction and Film in the Sunshine State: Florida Noir, Orange Pulp, Bad Boys and Bad Girls in the Badlands*, *Shakespeare Plays in the Classroom*; and he has edited *Elizabeth Smith's Book of Job*, and *Shakespeare's Other Lives*. He has written numerous essays for journals around the world.

Wenxian Zhang is Head of Archives and Special Collections at the Olin Library and an Associate Professor at Rollins College in Winter Park, Florida. Zhang "discovered" the unpublished 1855 manuscript *A Trip to Florida for Health and Sport* by Cyrus Parkhurst Condit in the Florida Collection of the Olin Library Archive. This manuscript is historically significant as one of the first Florida novels ever written.

www.myfloridahistory.org/fhspress



Published by the Florida
Historical Society Press
435 Brevard Avenue
Cocoa, Florida 32922

ISBN 10: 1-886104-56-0 US \$14.95

ISBN 13: 978-1-886104-56-5



9 781886 104365 5 1495

A TRIP TO FLORIDA FOR HEALTH AND SPORT

MAURICE O'SULLIVAN
AND WENXIAN ZHANG



A TRIP TO FLORIDA FOR HEALTH AND SPORT

THE LOST 1855 NOVEL OF
CYRUS PARKHURST CONDIT

EDITED AND WITH AN INTRODUCTION BY
MAURICE O'SULLIVAN AND WENXIAN ZHANG

Florida Historical Society Press

Archival Research & Publication: What I Learned So Far...

- Research is **HARD WORK**.
- Research is **VERY TIME-CONSUMING**.
- Make realistic and firm goals for yourself.
- Keep on with your professional readings.
- Work on something that you enjoy, if possible.
- Write something related to your work.
- Keep your eyes open for new opportunities.
- Establish professional contacts.

You will have a great sense of accomplishment when
your work is in print!

A Winter in the Sunshine



Shanghai University Press, 2012

Publication & Reception

