

East Lake Weir

1875 - 2015



Front Cover: The image on the front cover is a simulated three-dimensional overview of East Lake Weir, Florida, with a vertical exaggeration of three times the actual. The USGS 7.5' topographic map depicted was drawn from data collected in 1969, and was photo-revised in 1990. The inset image, at lower right, is a graphic of Lake Weir ringed by historical names of settlements from around the lake; the names are positioned near their historical locations.

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East Lake Weir, 1875-2015

An Account of Its Early History and Developments

Wiki Edition

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A Diachronic Research Publication

Preface

This version of East Lake Weir's history was prepared in celebration of the settlement's 140th anniversary. It has been produced as part of an East Lake Weir Archaeological Project that is much broader in scope. This booklet focuses mainly on local history; however, the history of this settlement is ineluctably tied to the history of the other settlements surrounding Lake Weir, and to the history of changes to environs of the lake itself. Like any compiled history, it is the product of a series of decisions and interpretations; it should not be regarded as definitive, as our understanding may always be altered by new information.

There is a substantial body of information about East Lake Weir, and its pioneer settlers. However, much of this information is in the form of primary sources, such as censuses, land records, and tax rolls. These types of information are excellent for providing basic data about where people were, when they were there, and their general economic conditions. Unfortunately, they do not provide much insight into the quotidian affairs that occupied most of those people's time. There are, of course, some secondary sources that provide illuminating information about particular events, or provide a synchronic “snapshot” of East Lake Weir at a particular time. Ultimately, information from those secondary sources might be supported, attenuated, or even falsified by the findings of an archaeological investigation.

It was 140 years ago, in March, that James Riley and Charles Lewis Josselyn decided to homestead on the eastern shores of Lake Weir. At that time there were few other permanent settlers around the lake, and they had this side largely to themselves. Although he would later be overshadowed, in the documentary record, by wealthy real estate investors, by all accounts “Uncle Jimmie,” as he was affectionately called by all those living around the lake, loved the place he called Eastlake. As March 2015 marked the 172nd anniversary of his birth, I find it quite fitting to dedicate this booklet to James Riley Josselyn. I think he would be greatly pleased by the interest in the history of this place, and by seeing so many gathered together to appreciate its beauty.

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Introduction

The primary subject of this booklet is a small settlement, which exists within a larger network of settlements around a major Florida lake. That network of lake settlements is part of larger settlement patterns at the county, state, and national level. Furthermore, the lake in question, Lake Weir, is part of its own network of landforms, biomes, and ecological zones. On the face of it, there might not appear to be too many overt connections between these various systems; however, quite often, intersections and interactions among those networked systems can propagate internal and external changes that are not apparent until some time has passed. Moreover, those changes likely occur at differing rates, potentially obfuscating their original causes from casual inspection.

To that end, we will begin by constructing historical narratives for Florida, Marion County, and Lake Weir. For the sake of brevity, we'll confine those topics mostly to aspects that could have had, or did have, some impact on people's decisions to settle at East Lake Weir. Since its one of the stars of our narrative, we'll let Lake Weir tell part of Florida's story, at least the parts that introduce the natural features of the state. After that we'll distill 500 years of state history, and 171 years of county history, into a few relevant pages, before finally getting on to the business at hand.

Despite its spectacular beauty, its white beaches, its clear waters teeming with fish, its undulating terrain, its stands of tall pines, and the rich soils underlying its hardwood hammocks, Lake Weir was not perceived as an ideal location for long-term human habitation until quite recently. In fact, the early permanent settlers around Lake Weir were all risk takers of the highest order, and some of the earliest were frustrated in their attempts. The successful ones did not try to impose their preconceptions on the land, but rather learned what the land had to offer and played to its strength. As a result, there was a shift in the American economy from being importers of citrus fruits, to being major exporters of citrus fruits; and, Lake Weir's groves were at the forefront of that change.

In time, the hoary frosts of harsh winters drove the majority of the citrus industry farther south. However, changes in transportation infrastructure and technology facilitated a shift to sports and leisure tourism that was opening up to a burgeoning middle class and a wealthy elite that was benefiting from industrialization. Lake Weir was prepared to play its role in hosting those visitors to Florida, many of whom chose to invest in seasonally occupied cottages built on its shores. Some of those seasonal residents became civic leaders, petitioning for changes at the state and county level; we still see the results of those changes today, although we might not recognize them as such.

Of course, the gentle surf along Florida's coastline, and the attractions of the major theme park era, eventually drew most of those visitors to other parts of the state. Perhaps that's for the best; we get to enjoy the scenery of our little hamlets in peace...well, at least on the weekdays. Many county residents still know the allure of our beaches, and enjoy angling on our waters. Still, through it all, Lake Weir remains at the center, and East Lake Weir watches over the lapping ripples of the lake's surface, from our bluff on its eastern shore.

Lake Weir's Story

This section will be broken down into two parts: Natural Features and Cultural Features. Although the section regarding cultural features might presage parts of later narratives, the combined sections should be taken together as a general sketch of the physical context for the later stories. From a dramaturgical perspective, it might be said that we are setting the stage, upon which our future players will “strut and fret” their “brief hour.”

Natural Features

Lake Weir is nestled into the sandy hills of a physiographic province known as the Sumter Upland.¹ Immediately to its east and north is the Central Valley, through which the Ocklawaha River runs (Figure 1).² For the purposes of this narrative, Lake Weir consists of three basins: Little

1 William A. White, *The Geomorphology of the Florida Peninsula*, Geological Bulletin 51 (Orlando: Designer's Press, 1970), 132.

2 *Ibid.*, 136.

Lake Weir, Sunset Harbor, and Lake Weir proper. The majority of the main basin is in Township 17 South, Range 24 East, with the western edge of the main basin, Sunset Harbor, and Little Lake Weir extending into Township 17 South, Range 23 East.

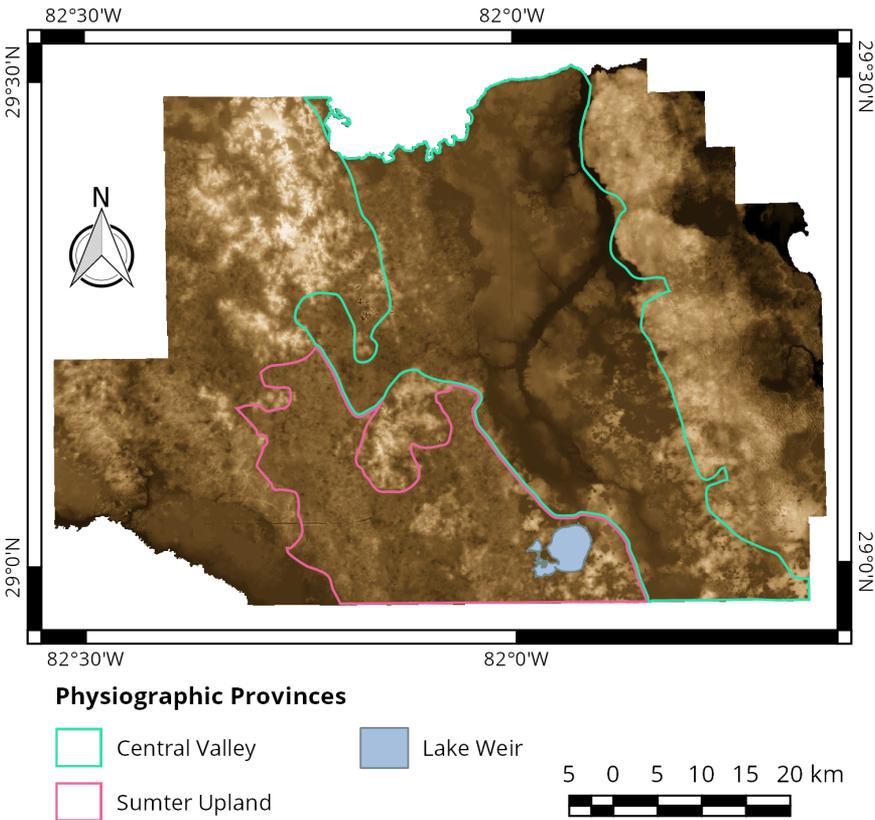


Figure 1. Physiography of Lake Weir, Marion County, Florida

The surface elevation of the lake varies substantially over time. Based on comparisons between data collected in the 1980s and historical maps, previous reports have suggested that the lake's surface may have been as high as 18.59 meters (61 feet) above sea level in 1883.³ The most recent United States Geological Survey (USGS) 7.5' topographic quad map, based on data collected in 1969, indicates that the surface

3 Thomas L. Crisman, *Historical Assessment of Cultural Eutrophication in Lake Weir, Florida*, Prepared for St. Johns River Water Management, Report No. SJ 92-SP12 (Copies available from St. Johns River Water Management, Palatka, 1992), 9.

elevation was 17.37 meters (57 feet) above sea level at that time. A spot check with a hand-held Garmin 76CSx Global Positioning System (GPS) data collector, which had been calibrated to the nearest USGS benchmark (34 CMP 1965), yielded a measurement of 15.85 meters (52 feet) above sea level. This last figure generally comports with the most recently collected data available from the Lake Watch website, although those data were not evaluated for use in this booklet.

The longest uninterrupted straight line, or fetch, across the main basin of Lake Weir is 5.75 kilometers (3.57 miles). When including Sunset Harbor, there is a fetch of 6.89 kilometers (4.28 miles). The surface area of the lake is 2,396.92 hectares (5,922.97 acres), with 53 kilometers (32.93 miles) of coastline for the combined basins. In 1987, when the lake level was about 1.22 meters (4 feet) higher than at present, the maximum depth of the lake was 8 meters.⁴ In 1969, the time period depicted on the USGS 7.5' topographic map, the deepest point was 9.8 meters (32.15 feet).⁵ There is a trough, running parallel to the eastern shore of the lake, at a distance of about 300 meters (984.25 feet) from shore, that measured about 7 meters (22.97 feet) in depth, in 1987.

The relatively permeable sands of the Cypresshead Formation, forming the surficial aquifer of Lake Weir, are separated from the Floridan aquifer by the intervening country rock of the Hawthorn Group (i.e., a partially confining aquiclude).⁶ A sedimentary rock called dolostone, which is formed by when part of the calcium in limestone is chemically replaced by magnesium, is the dominant constituent of the Hawthorn Group in northern peninsular Florida.⁷ This rock is susceptible to being removed by solution, as groundwater moves through cracks in the country rock, which creates solution sinkholes, or dolines, in the overlying sands. The main basin of Lake Weir alone was formed by the coalescence of at least three such dolines.⁸ Thus, while rounded, it is sub-circular in shape.⁹

Lake Weir is a “seepage lake;” its water volume is entirely dependent on what it receives directly from precipitation, groundwater seepage, and

4 Ibid., 154.

5 Earl E. Shannon and Patrick L. Brezonik, “Limnological Characteristics of North and Central Florida Lakes,” *Limnology and Oceanography* 17, no. 1 (1972): 100.

6 Crisman, *Historical Assessment of Cultural Eutrophication in Lake Weir, Florida*, 4.

7 Thomas M. Scott, *A Geological Overview of Florida*, Open File Report 50 (Tallahassee: Florida Geological Survey, 1993), 29–30.

runoff that is limited by the highly permeable soils of the surrounding landscape.¹⁰ The lake is classified as a clear, soft water lake, with a circum-neutral pH level.¹¹ This precludes the possibility of the lake's being spring-fed, a rumor which has been in print since at least 1883.¹² Lake Weir's watershed encompasses 12,100 hectares (29,889.75 acres), although 2400 hectares (5,930.53 acres) might be excluded as depressional, with internal drainage occurring at the locus of each depression so excluded.¹³ The majority of the input originates within 2 kilometers (Figure 2). The outer zone of the lake's watershed extends mostly to the south, into Lake and Sumter Counties; however, that zone contributes less than one liter, per square meter, per year.¹⁴

Since Lake Weir's primary source of water is precipitation, mostly through infiltration and transmission as groundwater, its water quality is highly dependent on the vegetation that grows around the margin of the lake.¹⁵ Historically, Lake Weir was oligotrophic, with a visible sand bottom; currently, it is rated in the mesotrophic range. Increases in nitrogen and phosphorous have brought about concomitant increases in undesirable phytoplankton, bacteria, and submerged macrophytes. Furthermore, there is now a "loose organic ooze" covering much of the bottom of the lake.¹⁶

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- 8 P. O. Brezonik and J. J. Messer, "Analysis of Trophic Conditions and Eutrophication Factors in Lake Weir, Florida," in *North America Project--A Study of U.S. Water Bodies*, ed. Les Seyb and Karen Randolph, vol. EPA-600/3-77-086, Ecological Research Series PB 275 674 (Springfield, Virginia: National Technical Information Service, 1977), 7.
 - 9 Shannon and Brezonik, "Limnological Characteristics of North and Central Florida Lakes," 100.
 - 10 Crisman, *Historical Assessment of Cultural Eutrophication in Lake Weir, Florida*, 2.
 - 11 Shannon and Brezonik, "Limnological Characteristics of North and Central Florida Lakes," 103.
 - 12 Thomas Mitchell Shackleford, *Lake Weir, Florida, Amaskohegan (Bright Moon Lake)* (Jacksonville, Florida: Times-Union Power Printing Office, 1883), 49.
 - 13 Sherry Brandt-Williams, "Evaluation of Watershed Control of Two Central Florida Lakes: Newnans Lake and Lake Weir" (Unpublished Ph.D. dissertation, Department of Environmental Engineering Sciences, University of Florida, 1999), 23.
 - 14 *Ibid.*, 92.
 - 15 Crisman, *Historical Assessment of Cultural Eutrophication in Lake Weir, Florida*, 429.
 - 16 Brezonik and Messer, "Analysis of Trophic Conditions and Eutrophication Factors in Lake Weir, Florida," 7.

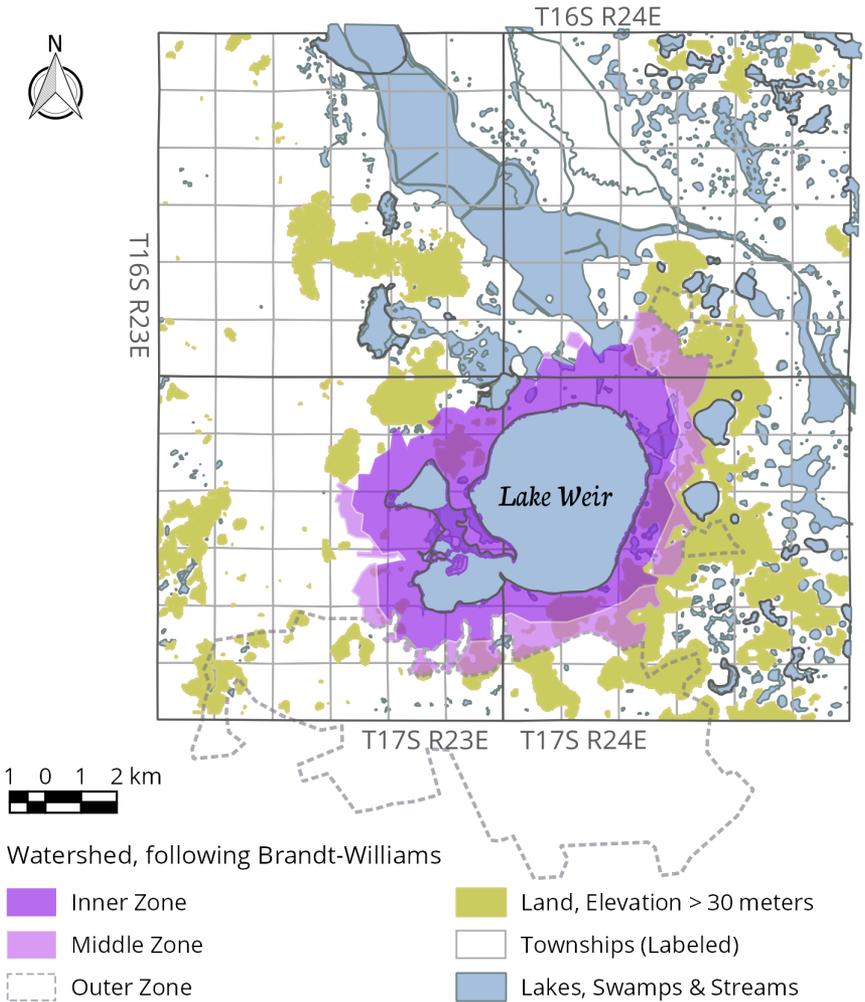


Figure 2. Lake Weir's Watershed

The littoral macrophytes (i.e., the grasses, reeds, etc.) that fringe the lake are the natural filtration system for removing phosphorous before it is introduced into the lake's water column. Once in the water, it becomes food for the undesirable species that, in turn, consume the oxygen that would be better used by the zooplankton, fishes, and other species endemic to a healthy lake. Currently, Lake Weir is classed as a "phosphorous limited" lake.¹⁷ Nitrogen levels have long exceeded the

¹⁷ Ibid., 15.

threshold for eutrophication, and a sudden introduction of phosphorous could rapidly and dramatically reduce the lake's water quality.

The soils to the east of Lake Weir are predominantly those of the Apopka series, and Candler series, fine sands; these acidic soils are generally well-drained to excessively-drained.¹⁸ Both soils are highly permeable, and have limited organic content.¹⁹ The Apopka series has a slight advantage for citrus agriculture, due to a yellowish-red sandy clay loam that starts at about 125 centimeters (49 inches) below surface (cmbs), which helps to retain moisture where it can benefit the roots of citrus trees.²⁰ The Apopka series can produce about 500 boxes of citrus per acre, and the Candler series can produce 400-425 boxes.²¹ Both soils are suitable for pasturage; however, crops other than citrus require significant applications of fertilizer.²²

So, from where did all this sand originate? As you might expect, it came from the beach; of course, the beach was a lot closer at the time. The Mount Dora Ridge, forming the eastern boundary of the Central Valley, is part of an ancient dune system, which is underlain by erosion resistant rocks.²³ Much of the land to the west of that dune system was uniformly higher at one time; in fact, the Central Valley was created by the Ocklawaha River, as it removed that unconsolidated sand.²⁴ Parts of the Ocklawaha River have been around since the seas started receding during the Yarmouth interglacial period, about 300,000-265,000 years ago.²⁵

While the Ocklawaha is “one of the oldest rivers in the state,” its flow has been interrupted numerous times.²⁶ Lower sea levels, when water was tied up in massive ice sheets covering the northern part of North

18 United States Department of Agriculture, Soil Conservation Service, *Soil Survey of Marion County Area, Florida* (Washington: Government Printing Office, 1979), 3.

19 *Ibid.*, 25-26.

20 *Ibid.*, 18.

21 *Ibid.*, 77.

22 *Ibid.*, 18, 25, 70, 73-75.

23 White, *The Geomorphology of the Florida Peninsula*, 128.

24 V. T. Stringfield, *Artesian Water in Tertiary Limestone in the Southeastern United States*, Geological Survey Professional Paper No. 517 (Washington: Government Printing Office, 1966), 16.

25 *Ibid.*

America, made the river's channel run dry; conversely, during the interglacial warm periods, rising sea levels could have filled the channel with saltwater. As the Yarmouth interglacial period went on, there were sea level shorelines at 30.48 meters (100 feet; the Wicomico), 21.34 meters (72 feet; the Penholoway), and 12.8 meters (42 feet; the Talbot) above modern sea level. The Sangamon interglacial period, about 125,000 to 75,000 years ago, had a more modest sea level rise of 7.62 meters (25 feet; the Pamlico).²⁷ The vicissitudes of the Ocklawaha River's aqueous fortunes is well attested by alternating layers of marine and freshwater peats found in soil cores taken from its floodplain, near Eureka and the junction with the Silver River.²⁸

Sea level has a major impact on the availability of freshwater, which floats upon the denser saltwater. Modern sea level was, more or less, established about 5,000 ¹⁴C years B.P. (i.e., radiocarbon years Before Present), in the Gulf of Mexico.²⁹ The same time frame also holds for the Atlantic Ocean.³⁰ As a side note about carbon dating, “the present” is actually 1950; additionally, radiocarbon dates, although sometimes expressed as a single year, always correspond to a range of dates, with different levels of confidence in the accuracy of those dates. The saltwater is still down there, albeit far underground. Geologists take samples at sites called “wells;” a well in Candler revealed saltwater 1,413.36 meters (4,637 feet) below the surface, in 1947.³¹

The settlement of East Lake Weir is located in sections 9 and 16 of Township 17 South, Range 24 East, although we should include sections 10 and 15 for historical reasons (Figure 3). For reference, townships are,

26 Steven Noll and David Tegeder, *Ditch of Dreams: The Cross Florida Barge Canal and the Struggle for Florida's Future* (Gainesville: University Press of Florida, 2009), 23.

27 Stringfield, *Artesian Water in Tertiary Limestone in the Southeastern United States*, 68–71.

28 John H. Davis Jr., *The Peat Deposits of Florida: Their Occurrence, Development, and Uses*, Florida Geological Survey, Geological Bulletin No. 30 (Tallahassee: The E. O. Painter Printing Company, 1946), 170–172, 184–188.

29 James H. Balsillie and Joseph F. Donoghue, *High Resolution Sea-Level History for the Gulf of Mexico Since the Last Glacial Maximum*, Florida Geological Survey, Report on Investigations No. 103 (Tallahassee: Florida Geological Survey, 2004), 17.

30 James J. Miller, “Effects of Environmental Change on Late Archaic People of Northeast Florida,” *Florida Anthropologist* 45, no. 2 (1992): 101.

31 Stringfield, *Artesian Water in Tertiary Limestone in the Southeastern United States*, 165.



Figure 3. A Three-Dimensional View of East Lake Weir, from the West

ideally, 6 miles per side, and are sub-divided into 36 sections that each measure 1 mile by 1 mile; by convention, sections are listed first in “shorthand” notation (e.g., 9-17S-24E means section nine of Township 17 South, Range 24 East). The highest point, above sea level, in section 9 is about 36.9 meters (121.06 feet), for section 16 it is 51.3 meters (168.31 feet), for section 10 it is 37.8 meters (124.02 feet), and for section 15 it is 55.2 meters (181.1 feet).

We can, therefore, deduce that the terrain surrounding Lake Weir has been safely above water for quite some time. However, that doesn't translate to a landscape of lush verdure. The Ocklawaha River has been a continuously flowing stream for the past 17,000 years, but it doesn't contribute a drop to Lake Weir.³² The river was winding its tortuous course through a “semi-arid temperate scrub.”³³ In fact, the lack of water would continue to be the primary constraint against long-term human occupation of the interior for several thousand more years.³⁴

By 12,000 years ago, a substantial forest of pine trees covered much of peninsular Florida; this forest would have included extensive coverage of sand pine (*Pinus clausa*), on the uplands, but also increasing numbers of slash pine (*Pinus elliotii*) and long-leaf pine (*Pinus palustris*), in the lower-lying areas.³⁵ After that time there was a shift toward oaks and potentially edible herbaceous plants from the genera *Amaranthus* (e.g., chenopodium) and *Ambrosia* (e.g., marsh-elder), possibly related to increased freshwater runoff in the Atlantic Ocean and down the Mississippi River, from melting ice sheets.³⁶ While oaks were on the rise, so, too, was the regional water table. At nearby Mud Lake, to the north of Lake Weir and with a similar relationship to the Ocklawaha River, there are indications that the water table had risen enough to allow for

32 Robert J. Livingston, “The Ocklawaha River System,” in *The Rivers of Florida*, ed. Robert J. Livingston, Ecological Studies, No. 83 (New York: Springer-Verlag, 1991), 90.

33 J. M. Adams and H. Faure, “Preliminary Vegetation Maps of the World Since the Last Glacial Maximum: An Aid to Archaeological Understanding,” *Journal of Archaeological Science* 24 (1997): 630, 637.

34 Jerald T. Milanich, *Florida's Indians, from Ancient Times to the Present* (Gainesville: University Press of Florida, 1998), 3.

35 Jonathan T. Overpeck, Robert S. Webb, and Thompson III Webb, “Mapping Eastern North American Vegetation Change of the Last 18 Ka: No-Analogs and the Future,” *Geology* 20 (1992): 1072.

36 Eric C. Grimm et al., “A 50,000-Year Record of Climate Oscillations from Florida and Its Temporal Correlation with Heinrich Events,” *Science* 261 (1993): 200.

a shallow pond, approximately 8,000 ¹⁴C years B.P.³⁷ However, these changes may relate more to cooler temperatures, than to increasing precipitation and the general availability of water.³⁸

Around 5,000 years ago, the winds of environmental change had shifted back in favor of the pine; the rough equivalent of the modern Florida pine forest was in place by that time.³⁹ In places with sufficient surface water, various species of cypress (*Taxodium sp.*) were also present in large numbers.⁴⁰ The southeastern corner of Lake Weir was home to a stand of pond cypress (*Taxodium distichum nutans*) right up to the time of Euro-American settlement.⁴¹ Given what we already know about the stabilization of sea levels, Florida was starting to look very much as it did when Europeans first arrived here.

Returning to Mud Lake, for a moment, we can start to establish a time frame for the origin of Lake Weir. The surface of Mud Lake, currently, is just below 15.24 meters (50 feet) above sea level; the water is very shallow, compared to Lake Weir.⁴² Mud Lake drains into the Ocklawaha River through a small channel to the northwest; historically, Lake Weir may also have had a natural outflow channel, allowing northward drainage into the Ocklawaha.⁴³ Mud Lake has an inverted stratigraphy, changing from fibrous peat to small particles, testifying to its beginning as a shallow, grass-filled depression.⁴⁴ There is a peat formation in the center of Lake Weir, about 1.5 meters (5 feet) thick, but it is comprised of small pollen particles, diatoms, and sponge spicules that “rained” into an open water lake.⁴⁵

37 W. A. Watts, “A Pollen Diagram from Mud Lake, Marion County, North-Central Florida,” *Geological Society of America Bulletin* 80 (1969): 638.

38 Grimm et al., “A 50,000-Year Record of Climate Oscillations from Florida and Its Temporal Correlation with Heinrich Events,” 200.

39 *Ibid.*, 199.

40 Watts, “A Pollen Diagram from Mud Lake, Marion County, North-Central Florida,” 637.

41 Crisman, *Historical Assessment of Cultural Eutrophication in Lake Weir, Florida*, 9–10.

42 Watts, “A Pollen Diagram from Mud Lake, Marion County, North-Central Florida,” 633.

43 Crisman, *Historical Assessment of Cultural Eutrophication in Lake Weir, Florida*, 14, 16.

44 Davis, *The Peat Deposits of Florida: Their Occurrence, Development, and Uses*, 177.

45 *Ibid.*, 149.

At Mud Lake, the grassy wetland stage transitions into a sandy-bottomed lake, although the sand may also speak to erosion of the lakes shores during periods of low water. In a zone that is about 4.25 meters below the lake's current bottom, a sample of the sands was dated to 8160 ± 200 ^{14}C years B.P.⁴⁶ Using the CALIB 7.2 program to calibrate the radiocarbon dates to calendar years (at two standard deviations, for a secure interpretation), we find that Mud Lake's status as a lake goes back about 9,000-9,500 years. That nascent lake was approximately 6.5 meters (21.4 feet) below the present surface of Lake Weir, or 8 meters (26.25 feet) below the 1969 water levels.

Lake Weir sits just inside the 18.29 meter (60 foot) contour interval of Florida's piezometric surface (the level to which groundwater rises under normal pressure), while Mud Lake is closer to the 15.24 meter (50 foot) contour interval.⁴⁷ Lake Weir would probably have still been dry when Mud Lake was starting to form. Most Florida lakes that are shallower than 20 meters (65.62 feet) have formed more recently than 8,500 ^{14}C years B.P.⁴⁸ So, for the purposes of our narrative, Lake Weir was born somewhere between 7,000-7,500 BCE (Before the Common Era, a calendar date).

Before leaving this section, we would be remiss not to consider the principal natural source of Lake Weir's water, namely precipitation; however, it is a subject we will pick up again in the section on "Cultural Features." The annual rainfall in the vicinity of Lake Weir is estimated to be 133 centimeters (52.36 inches); for 1974, the evaporation rate was determined to be 122.2 centimeters (48.11 inches) per year.⁴⁹ Historic precipitation data, collected in Ocala, FL since 1892, suggest that the total rainfall in the area may vary between 114.3 centimeters (45 inches), and 190.5 centimeters (75 inches) per year.⁵⁰ Surface runoff, from the high ground immediately surrounding Lake Weir, may contribute as much as 34% of the lake's water volume, annually.⁵¹

46 Watts, "A Pollen Diagram from Mud Lake, Marion County, North-Central Florida," 635.

47 Stringfield, *Artesian Water in Tertiary Limestone in the Southeastern United States*, 120.

48 W. A. Watts and M. Stuiver, "Late Wisconsin Climate of Northern Florida and the Origin of Species-Rich Deciduous Forest," *Science* 210 (1980): 325.

49 Brezonik and Messer, "Analysis of Trophic Conditions and Eutrophication Factors in Lake Weir, Florida," 3.

50 Crisman, *Historical Assessment of Cultural Eutrophication in Lake Weir, Florida*, 5.

The relationship between rainfall and Lake Weir's water levels is complicated. There appears to be a lag time of up to three years before rainfall in the total watershed makes it to Lake Weir; thus, the impacts of annual rainfall are not seen immediately in the lake's water level, and successive years of poor or abundant rainfall may have a dramatic cumulative effect.⁵² This can be seen by charting both the annual rainfall, and an annual record of the Lake Weir's surface elevation (Figure 4). Despite gaps in the recorded data, there is a general decline in the lake's water level; the lake does not appear to be as responsive to increases in annual precipitation.

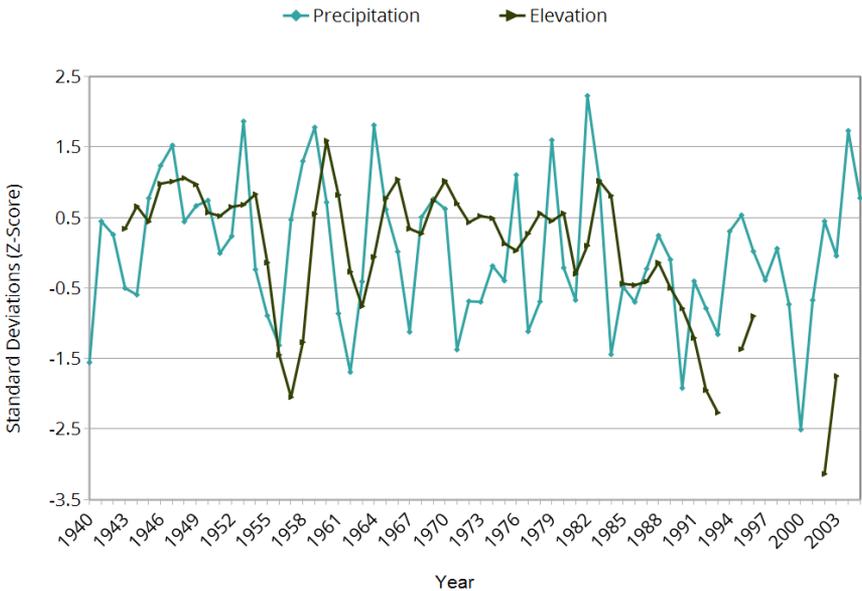


Figure 4. Lake Weir, Precipitation / Water Level, 1940-2005

The relationship between precipitation and water level is indirect, due to the time lag created by the movement of groundwater. It would be inadvisable, and somewhat disingenuous, to lay the blame with increased population density within Lake Weir's watershed; drawdown from a large number of closely-spaced wells can have a significant impact on the availability of groundwater.⁵³ However, wells in this area

51 Brandt-Williams, "Evaluation of Watershed Control of Two Central Florida Lakes: Newnans Lake and Lake Weir," 182.

52 Crisman, *Historical Assessment of Cultural Eutrophication in Lake Weir, Florida*, 5.

53 Stringfield, *Artesian Water in Tertiary Limestone in the Southeastern United States*, 117.

would normally be drilled deeply enough to intersect the Floridan aquifer. To assess the relationship between precipitation and water level, at Lake Weir, it is necessary to factor in the lag time for groundwater reaching the lake.

In an attempt to correct for the time lag of groundwater flowing into the lake from the far reaches of the watershed, we can use a weighted average for the three previous years. Since we have posited a three year time lag, we give the most weight to the rainfall total from three years before the date in question, then two years before, and the least weight to the previous year.⁵⁴ Using this weighted three year average as the independent variable, and the lake's water level as the dependent variable, an ordinary least squares linear regression does show a moderate correlation between precipitation and water level ($r=.518$, $p<.001$, $y=0.01092X+15.752$; Figure 5). However, it does not fully explain the apparent variation from the historical pattern.

Cultural Features

Lake Weir has been the locus of human activity for as long as it has been an available resource. Through July 2006, there were 60 recorded archaeological sites within the four township area around Lake Weir: Townships 16 and 17 South, Ranges 23 and 24 East. While the focus of this booklet is on the historic period, it should not be forgotten that many people worked and lived in this area before Euro-Americans arrived. Moreover, those later arrivals were often aware of the signs of prehistoric land use, and that knowledge informed their own decisions and behaviors.

Archaeological Features

The most well known archaeological site is undoubtedly Mackenzie Mounds (8MR64, the Florida State Master Site File site number), on the Bird Islands in Sunset Harbor, which dates to early in the St. Johns II time period (Table 1).⁵⁵ To the northeast, about 6 kilometers (3.73 miles), the Moss Bluff Mounds (8MR36-38) are on the eastern side of the Ocklawaha River, and Lake Weir Landing Mound (8MR35) is on the western side.⁵⁶ About 8 kilometers (4.97 miles) to the east of Lake Weir, are Stark's Landing Mound and Gamble Mound, the origin of which may

54 Crisman, *Historical Assessment of Cultural Eutrophication in Lake Weir, Florida*, 5.

55 William H. Sears, *Two Weeden Island Period Burial Mounds, Florida*, Contributions of the Florida State Museum, Social Sciences No. 5 (Gainesville: University of Florida, 1959).

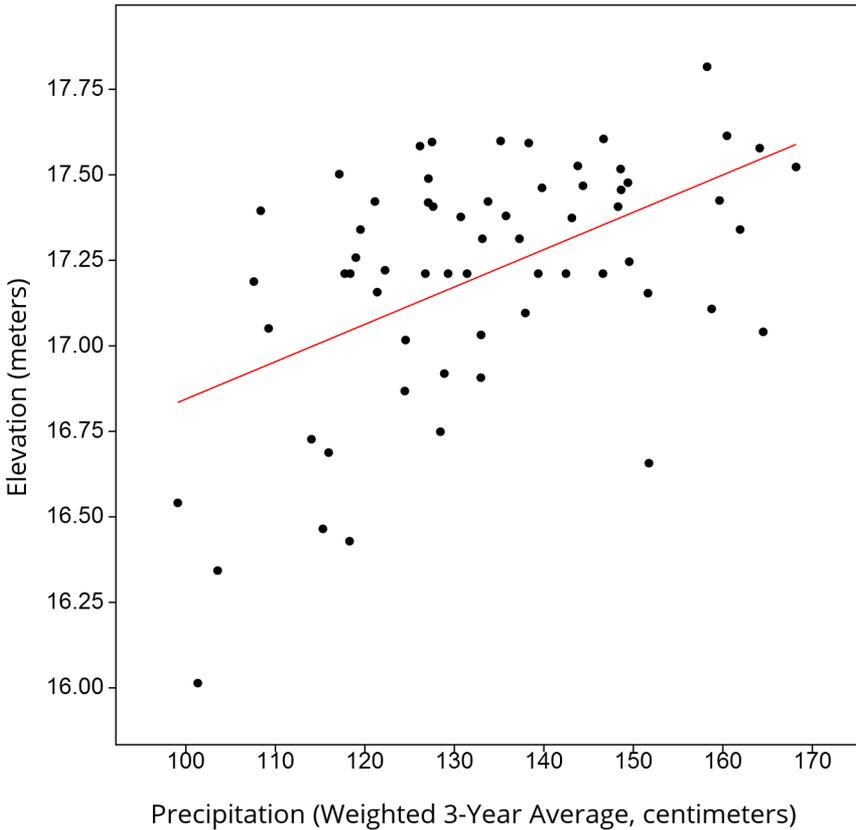


Figure 5. Lake Weir, Precipitation / Water Level, Linear Regression

date to early in the St. Johns I time period.⁵⁷ All of the aforementioned sites were investigated by Clarence Bloomfield Moore, in 1895, while navigating the Ocklawaha River in his steamboat--*The Gopher*.

Lake Weir is within the culture area known as “East and Central” Florida, although that region is best understood from the St. Johns River Valley to the Atlantic Ocean. Furthermore Marion County sits at the intersection of three culture area, with “North-Central” Florida extending into the northwestern part of this county and the “North

56 Clarence B. Moore, “Certain Sand Mounds of the Ocklawaha River, Florida,” in *Certain River Mounds of Duval County, Florida. Two Sand Mounds on Murphy Island, Florida. Certain Sand Mounds of the Ocklawaha River, Florida.*, ed. M. G. Miller (Philadelphia: The Levytype Company, 1895), pp. 81–106.

57 *Ibid.*, 88–91.

Peninsular Gulf Coast” covering the Withlacoochee River Valley.⁵⁸ Within East Lake Weir alone, there is archaeological evidence of use by people from all three culture areas (8MR2438); however, on balance, the “East and Central” culture area seems most applicable. Additionally, the same site was in use, even if only seasonally or periodically, from the Late Archaic, into the pottery-making Orange Period, and through the St. Johns periods.⁵⁹ These people may not have lived, permanently, around Lake Weir, but the lake was recognized as a natural resource by people from all around central peninsular Florida.

Table 1. Archaeological Periods of Lake Weir

Period	Calendar Years
Early Archaic	9,700-5,300 BCE
Mount Taylor	5,300-2,600 BCE
Orange	2,600-1,600 BCE
St. Johns I	1,600 BCE-750 CE
St. Johns II	750-1500 CE

There are also some important sites relating to the early historic period in the general vicinity of Lake Weir. The Eastlake Weir post office is roughly 8 kilometers (4.97 miles) south of the Hutto/Martin site (8MR3447), and 13.5 kilometers (8.39 miles) east-southeast of the Heather Island Preserve site (8MR2223). The former is a strong candidate to be the site of the Santa Lucia de Acuera mission, occupied during the mid-seventeenth century; the latter is potentially the site of the San Luis de Eloquale mission, although it may simply be a Spanish-period *visita* or the temporary location of a friar or lay-brother.⁶⁰ Earlier sources have suggested that San Luis de Eloquale was closer to modern Ocala.⁶¹

58 Jerald T. Milanich, *Archaeology of Precolumbian Florida* (Gainesville: University Press of Florida, 1994), xix.

59 Asa R. Randall, “Remapping Histories: Archaic Period Community Construction Along the Middle St. Johns River, Florida” (Unpublished Ph.D. dissertation, Department of Anthropology, University of Florida, 2010), 62.

60 Willet A. Boyer III, “The Acuera of the Ocklawaha River Valley: The Keepers of Time in the Land of the Waters” (Unpublished Ph.D. dissertation, Department of Anthropology, University of Florida, 2010), 284–288.

61 John H. Hann, “Summary Guide to Spanish Florida Missions and Visitas. With Churches in the Sixteenth and Seventeenth Centuries,” *The Americas* 46, no. 4 (1990): 469, 487.

Historic Land Use

Previous studies of Lake Weir, as a body of water, have attempted to extrapolate historic land use from photographs and maps. One interpretation of the historic sources, for an area that roughly corresponds to the Inner and Middle Zones of the watershed area shown in Figure 2, has suggested that approximately 600 hectares (1,482.63 acres) of land was dedicated to citrus agriculture in 1883, rising to 1200 hectares (2,965.27 acres) in 1940, to 1700 hectares (4,200.79 acres) in 1964, and then a drastic reduction to 68 hectares (160 acres) following the devastating freezes of 1983-1984.⁶² Similarly, in 1883, the highly dispersed houses of the various settlements were considered negligible, in terms of concentrated residential zones; by 1940, forty-five hectares (111.2 acres) were classified as residential, that number increases to 90 hectares (222.4 acres) in 1954, to 180 hectares (444.79 acres) in 1964, and 360 hectares (889.6 acres) in 1985.⁶³ In this classification scheme “pasture” was used a catch-all category, incorporating pretty much any open land; still, that category of land use starts at 600 hectares (1,482.63 acres) in 1883, tripling to 1800 hectares (4,447.9 acres) in 1940, rising to 2400 hectares (5,930.53 acres) in 1954, and then contracting to 1800 hectares (4,447.9 acres) in 1964.⁶⁴

Although calculated for a much larger area, corresponding to all three zones shown in Figure 2, some later figures provide insight into how the landscape has changed in recent years. Forest coverage has remained fairly stable, in recent years; from 1407 hectares (3,476.77 acres) in 1950, it dropped to 1346 (3,326.04 acres) hectares in 1970, and 1315 hectares (3,249.44 acres) in 1990.⁶⁵ For comparison, in the smaller area discussed in the preceding paragraph, approximately two-thirds of the 4500 hectares (11,119.74 acres) immediately surrounding Lake Weir were forested (predominantly pines), in 1883.⁶⁶ Forested wetlands dropped from 119 hectares (294.06 acres) in 1950, to 98 hectares (242.16 acres) in 1970 and 1990; herbaceous wetlands saw modest improvements over that time period, going from 218 hectares (538.69

62 Crisman, *Historical Assessment of Cultural Eutrophication in Lake Weir, Florida*, 24–25.

63 *Ibid.*, 26.

64 *Ibid.*, 22.

65 Brandt-Williams, “Evaluation of Watershed Control of Two Central Florida Lakes: Newnans Lake and Lake Weir,” 88.

66 Crisman, *Historical Assessment of Cultural Eutrophication in Lake Weir, Florida*, 22.

acres) in 1950, down to 156 hectares (385.48 acres) in 1970, before rebounding to 168 hectares (415.14 acres) in 1990.⁶⁷ As a final point of interest, paved road and parking lot coverage has gone from 78 hectares (192.74 acres) in 1950, to 123 hectares (303.94 acres) in 1970, and 225 hectares (555.99 acres) in 1990.

Dredging, Canalization, and Sand Mining

In April 1938, a fixed, broad-crested weir was placed at the northern end of Lake Weir; thus, the lake finally, unequivocally, earned its name.⁶⁸ The crest of the weir was fixed at 17.5 meters (57.4 feet). The canal that permits outflow to the Marshall Swamp may have been placed to take advantage of a natural channel.⁶⁹ However, Z. C. Chambliss, a local resident, recalled that property owners from all around Lake Weir had raised money to dig a small canal, in 1887, due to concerns about rising lake water levels; the effect was negligible.⁷⁰ In the second decade of the twentieth century, a prominent seasonal resident of the Woodmar addition to East Lake, William R. Goodwin, strongly advocated for a large canal and lock system, to permit traffic from the Ocklawaha River to enter Lake Weir.⁷¹ There was a determined local resistance to the proposed canal, but Goodwin's petition may have provided the impetus for the canal that was built in the 1930s, albeit without a lock.⁷²

A channel was dredged between Sunset Harbor and Little Lake Weir, between 1949-1957, to preserve the connection between the basins; this canal required additional dredging, in 1964, to increase its length and breadth.⁷³ Bird Island was canalized, between 1957-1960, and a

67 Brandt-Williams, "Evaluation of Watershed Control of Two Central Florida Lakes: Newnans Lake and Lake Weir," 88.

68 United States Geological Survey, Water Resources Division, *Water Resources Data, Water Year 2001, Volume 1A: Northeast Florida--Surface Water*, Prepared for the United States Geological Survey, Water Resources Division, Report No. WDR-FL-01-1A (Copies available from the National Technical Information Center, Springfield, Virginia, 2002), 362.

69 Crisman, *Historical Assessment of Cultural Eutrophication in Lake Weir, Florida*, 13.

70 Z. C. Chambliss, "Only Ask for One Inch," *The Ocala Evening Star* (Ocala, Florida, February 16, 1910).

71 William R. Goodwin, "Canal Will Be Cut," *The Ocala Evening Star* (Ocala, Florida, August 17, 1911).

72 C. H. Vorhees, "Lake Would Be Lowered," *The Ocala Evening Star* (Ocala, Florida, August 23, 1911).

73 Crisman, *Historical Assessment of Cultural Eutrophication in Lake Weir, Florida*, 27.

causeway to the mainland was added.⁷⁴ Cross-channels were added to the main channel between Little Lake Weir and Sunset Harbor, before 1972.⁷⁵ At least one canal was dredged to the west of Sunset Harbor, also by 1972.

While Lake Weir is typically thought of as a center of citrus agriculture, or a leisure tourism destination, it was once the home of a burgeoning sand “mining” industry. Throughout the summer of 1907, the Woodmar Sand and Stone Company advertised itself as “Builders of Cement Sidewalks;” Lake Weir sand was used in surfacing many of Ocala's paved sidewalks.⁷⁶ R. L. Martin, long-time resident to the north of Lake Weir and influential real estate agent, placed an advertisement, in Polk's Ocala City Directory for 1914, stating that the sand was desirable for its angular grains and nearly pure silica content; his information was derived from a USGS report that was issued in 1909.⁷⁷ Lake Weir sand was used in the mixture for the concrete road from Duval County to the Lewis Point section of St. Augustine, Florida.⁷⁸ Another example of the many applications found for Lake Weir sand was its use in grout for brick pavements lining the streets of Clearwater, Florida.⁷⁹

The Lake Weir Sand Company was established in 1911.⁸⁰ By 1920, the Lake Weir Washed Sand Company had incorporated, raised its capital stock from \$20,000 to \$100,000, and moved its offices to Ocala; in July 1920, it had already shipped 683 railroad cars of Lake Weir sand, to that point in the year, and had another 495 carloads in outstanding orders.⁸¹ In 1922, the name was changed to the Ocala Limerock Company, and they refocused the business on their lime production facilities in Kendrick, FL. The Lake Weir Washed Sand Company's main dredging operation was on the east side of Lake Weir (Figure 6). Ultimately, the dredge was sold to Nathan and D. B. Mayo, and the new owners

74 Ibid., 31.

75 Ibid.

76 James R. Moorhead, “Building the New Sidewalks,” *The Ocala Evening Star* (Ocala, Florida, August 12, 1907).

77 R. L. Polk, *Polk's Ocala City Directory* (Jacksonville, Florida: R. L. Polk, 1914).

78 Multiple-Strip Concrete Road to Conserve Materials, *Engineering News-Record*, June 12, 1919.

79 Pavement Construction in Clearwater, Florida, *Good Roads*, March 7, 1914.

80 State of Florida, *Report of the Secretary of State of the State of Florida. For the Period Beginning January 1, 1911, and Ending January 31, 1912* (Tallahassee: T. J. Appleyard, 1913), 678.

81 The Ocala Evening Star, “Large Shipments of Sand and Lime,” *The Ocala Evening Star* (Ocala, Florida, June 7, 1920).

incorporated as the Crystal Sand Company, with \$25,000 in capital; their operational capacity was about 10 railroad cars per day.⁸²

photo courtesy of the Florida Memory Project: <http://floridamemory.com/items/show/124692>



Figure 6. The Lake Weir Washed Sand Company's Dredge

Another potential industrial concern related to Lake Weir was the Lake Weir Light and Water Company, which was established in 1912, with \$25,000 in capital.⁸³ To date, it has not been ascertained how Lake Weir factored into the company's plans. The company was one of R. L. Martin's ventures, and its offices were in Ocala. However, the company does not appear to have ever fulfilled its mission, and was embroiled in a number of lawsuits, such as *Ballas v. Lake Weir Light and Water*, apparently for renegeing on various real estate deals.

Florida's Story

The historic period, in Florida, begins with the incursions of multiple parties of European adventurers, such as Juan Ponce de Leon, Francisco de Garay, Panfilo Narvaez, Hernando de Soto, and Tristan de Luna y Arellano.⁸⁴ In 1565, Pedro Menéndez de Avilés founded the settlement

82 Mining, *Manufacturers Record*, November 30, 1922, 89.

83 State of Florida, *Report of the Secretary of State of the State of Florida. For the Period Beginning January 1, 1911, and Ending January 31, 1912*, 678.

84 Charlton W. Tebeau and William Marina, *A History of Florida*, Third. (Coral Gables, Florida: University of Miami Press, 1999), 17–25.

of St. Augustine; the first action of the Spanish, after disembarking, was to march overland to a small, triangular, wood-palisaded fort inhabited by a small contingent of French (mostly) Huguenots, and massacred as many as could be found.⁸⁵ For most of the following 250 years, St. Augustine would form one anchor in a triangle that stretched north to the Port Royal Sound area of South Carolina (Guale province), and west through the province of Apalachee, to the Mississippi River. Within that triangle, the European powers of England, Spain, and France vied for control of southeastern North America; following the American Revolution, the United States entered the fray, to protect its own interests.

As many as 100,000 aboriginal inhabitants of Florida found themselves caught in the middle of that European land rush, occasionally as fractious participants in the general *melée*.⁸⁶ The various groups of Indians started as roughly equal trading partners, exchanging food for European finished goods. After the Mocama War (1565-1571) and Guale rebellion (1576-1582) an annual tribute was exacted from the caciques, following the Jaunillo revolt (1597) tribute payment was commuted to conscripted labor; eventually, they went through complete subjugation in the wake of the Apalachee Revolt of 1647 and the Timucuan Revolt of 1656, to virtual extinction, in the mid-eighteenth century.⁸⁷

It probably comes as no surprise that some of the more sagacious groups chose to live outside the mission system. During the seventeenth century, the word *cimarron* was used to indicate “groups of native Florida people deliberately avoiding Spanish contact,” well before it came to refer collectively to the various Mikasukis, Tallahasseees, Yuchi, Red Stick Creeks etc., known to later history as Seminoles.⁸⁸ The area to the west of the St. Johns River was home to a number of such groups, probably including some bands of the Acuera.⁸⁹ The land to the south of the core mission area, including the area around Lake Weir was probably a refuge for the Timucuan who “abandoned their villages” in the aftermath of the Rebellion of 1656, since the mission zone extended northward into the southern fringes of

85 *Ibid.*, 31–33.

86 *Ibid.*, 14.

87 Paul E. Hoffman, *Florida's Frontiers* (Indiana University Press: Bloomington, 2002), 58–59, 82–84, 133–135, 204–205.

88 Brent R. Weisman, “Nativism, Resistance, and Ethnogenesis of the Florida Seminole Indian Identity,” *Historical Archaeology* 41, no. 4 (2007): 200.

89 Hoffman, *Florida's Frontiers*, 137.

present-day Georgia.⁹⁰ The interior of central peninsular Florida was, for the most part, devoid of direct Spanish control south of the mission area.⁹¹

From the spring of 1702, through the late fall, Creek warriors operated against the missions and forts of Spanish Florida, largely at the behest of the British. Occasionally, the English would lead raiding parties into Florida; also in 1702, Captain Thomas Nairne led a group of Yamasee Indians on a slaving expedition, up the St. Johns River.⁹² Ultimately, many of the Creeks would stay on in Florida, where they would become known as the Seminoles. Large groups of Yamasees would also end up living in northeastern Florida, to escape the British reprisals for their part in the Yamasee War (for them, 1715-1716). Many of the Yamasees and their allies would wind up settling in the St. Johns River valley, where they were killed or enslaved by the Creeks; William Bartram saw their burying ground there, north of Lake George in Putnam County, in 1774.⁹³

If any of the indigenous population of Florida Indians remained, they stayed well hidden, in the face of this increasing population pressure. The area around Lake Weir and southward would also serve as a refuge to the newcomers. After an encounter with border ruffians from Georgia left King Payne dead, Micanopy moved himself and his people to Okahumpka, in modern Lake County.⁹⁴ In 1818, as part of the *soi-disant* First Seminole War, Andrew Jackson destroyed Billy Bowlegs' town on the Suwannee River; Bowlegs and his people retreated to the safety of Peliklakaha, in present-day Lake or Sumter County.⁹⁵ Both locations were attacked by General Abraham Eustis, at the end of March 1836, on his march westward from the settlement of Volusia, during the Second Seminole War (1835-1842).⁹⁶

90 Fred Lamar Pearson Jr., "Timucuan Rebellion of 1656: The Rebolledo Investigation and Civil-Religious Controversy," *Florida Historical Quarterly* 61, no. 3 (1983): 262.

91 Hoffman, *Florida's Frontiers*, 205.

92 James W. Covington, "Migration of the Seminoles into Florida, 1700-1820," *Florida Historical Quarterly* 46, no. 4 (1968): 341.

93 Charlotte M. Porter, "William Bartram's Travels in the Indian Nations" 70, no. 4 (1992): 436.

94 Chris Monaco, "Fort Mitchell and the Settlement of the Alachua Country," *Florida Historical Quarterly* 79, no. 1 (2000): 6, 18.

95 Covington, "Migration of the Seminoles into Florida, 1700-1820," 455-456.

96 John K. Mahon, *History of the Second Seminole War* (Gainesville: University of Florida Press, 1967), 156.

Territory/State of Florida

Florida was ceded to the United States, under the terms of the Adams-Onís Treaty, on 22 February 1919; however, Spanish concern about United States intervention in Latin America prevented the formal exchange of the territory, until 22 February 1821.⁹⁷ Middle Florida, defined as the land between the Suwannee and Apalachicola Rivers was the most rapidly and densely settled portion of the territory; in 1845, as Florida achieved statehood, Middle Florida was home to 47% of the state's population (Table 2).⁹⁸ In 1823, the U.S. government signed a treaty with the Seminoles that made a reservation out of a large portion of peninsular Florida, south of today's Ocala, excepting areas closer than 20 miles to the coast.⁹⁹ An 1829 map shows that “Ware’s Lake” was well inside the northern boundary of that reservation.¹⁰⁰

Table 2. Florida's Population, 1821-1905

Year	Population	Year	Population
1821	10,000	1880	269,493
1825	13,400	1885	338,406
1830	34,730	1890	391,422
1840	54,477	1895	464,399
1850	87,445	1900	528,542
1860	140,424	1905	614,845
1870	187,748		

In 1825, a camp, with a council house, was authorized, to provide a headquarters for the Indian agent; in 1827, that encampment was renamed Fort King.¹⁰¹ The fort was militarily important in the early part of the Second Seminole War; however, its importance declined, as the theater of operations moved southward. One of Fort King's disadvantages was that it had to be supplied by overland supply trains,

97 Tebeau and Marina, *A History of Florida*, 104.

98 *Ibid.*, 122.

99 *Ibid.*, 140.

100 I. G. Searcy, “Map of Florida : Constructed Principally from Authentic Documents in the Land Office at Tallahassee” (Electronic document, <http://hdl.loc.gov/loc.gmd/g3930.ct000732>. Last accessed 15 May 2014, 1829).

101 Ernest F. Dibble, “Giveaway Forts: Territorial Forts and the Settlement of Florida,” *Florida Historical Quarterly* 78, no. 2 (1999): 214.

from Volusia; the earliest route from Volusia would have crossed the Ocklawaha River near the point that was later known as Stark's Ferry, and then skirted the north shore of Lake Weir, before turning north.¹⁰² The United States did not honor that treaty for very long; less than a decade later they forced the Treaty of Payne's Landing (a place along the Ocklawaha River in northern Marion County) on an unwilling group of Seminole delegates.¹⁰³ The underlying motive for failing to abide by the terms of the earlier treaty, on the part of the United States government, was to implement a policy of Indian removal, to open peninsular Florida for Euro-American settlement.¹⁰⁴

Upon admission to the Union, on 3 March 1845, Congress granted the State of Florida 500,000 acres of land to be used for the purpose of internal improvements (i.e., canals, railroads, and swamp land reclamation).¹⁰⁵ In 1850, Congress additionally granted to the state 'all the swamp lands and lands subject to overflow.'¹⁰⁶ While the purpose of the Swamp Lands Act was to benefit agricultural production by encouraging the reclamation of low-lying, inundated lands, many of the lands so designated were actually high and dry; the process of selecting lands continued through the turn-of-the-century, but at least 1,500,000 acres were available prior to the start of the American Civil War.¹⁰⁷ By 6 August 1904, 17,056,932.74 acres had been disposed of by the state, out of a total of 20,133,837.42 acres that had been patented to the state by various acts, more than 8,250,000 acres of that going to railroad companies¹⁰⁸ Finally, in 1848, the State of Florida passed acts permitting the sale of sixteenth sections (i.e., section sixteen or its equivalent, in every township), and gave administration of those sales to the Register of the General Land Office.¹⁰⁹

102 Mahon, *History of the Second Seminole War*, 173.

103 Tebeau and Marina, *A History of Florida*, 142–143.

104 Weisman, “Nativism, Resistance, and Ethnogenesis of the Florida Seminole Indian Identity,” 198.

105 Sidney F. Ansbacher and Joe Knetsch, “Negotiating the Maze: Historical Title Claims in Spanish Land Grants and Swamp and Overflowed Lands Act,” *Journal of Land Use and Environmental Law* 17, no. 2 (2002): 352.

106 A. A. Robinson, *Florida: A Pamphlet Descriptive of Its History, Topography, Climate, Soil, Resources and Natural Advantages* (Tallahassee: The Floridian Book and Job Office, 1882), 57.

107 Ansbacher and Knetsch, “Negotiating the Maze: Historical Title Claims in Spanish Land Grants and Swamp and Overflowed Lands Act,” 353.

108 J. E. Dovell, “The Railroads and the Public Lands of Florida, 1879-1905,” *Florida Historical Quarterly* 34, no. 3 (1956): 256.

Agricultural Production

One of the things that Florida has in common with the other states of “The South,” is that from its inception its primary economic production was agricultural. The fields around St. Augustine were sowed with maize, following the Juanillo revolt.¹¹⁰ During the British Period (1763-1783), indigo was the primary cash crop, and “only the ‘poorer class of people’ cultivated the future cash crop, sea-island cotton.”¹¹¹ As part of the United States, Florida was indisputably a cotton state, and it was the province of a planter aristocracy, based in Middle Florida, that dominated early state politics. Another major contributor to the state's economy was the cattle industry; in time, it would eclipse cotton in importance. Orange trees, of the sour variety, grew wild throughout the state, but their products were generally limited to home use. In the final decades of the nineteenth century, forest products (e.g., lumber, turpentine, etc.) would grow in economic importance.

Cotton

During the 1850s, cotton accounted for over 50% of the United States export economy.¹¹² The antebellum average price of cotton, in the New York market, went from 11¢ per pound in 1821, to a low of 6¢ per pound in 1840, before rising back up to 10.5¢ in 1860.¹¹³ In 1880, Florida ranked fourteenth in terms of the populations of the cotton producing states, but it was tenth in total production.¹¹⁴ Jackson, Jefferson, Leon, Madison, and Gadsden Counties produced 69% of the state's total; the leading counties produced short-staple or “upland” cotton exclusively.¹¹⁵ Profit margins were slim for upland cotton, being only about 3¢ per pound, in 1880; the five major cotton counties produced about 17,966,400 pounds of cotton, yielding \$538,992 in profits (Figure 7).¹¹⁶

109 State of Florida, *Acts to Establish a Common School System and to Provide a School Fund in Florida* (Tallahassee: Office of the Florida Sentinel, 1849).

110 Hoffman, *Florida's Frontiers*, 87.

111 Porter, “William Bartram’s Travels in the Indian Nations,” 437.

112 Harold D. Woodman, “Postbellum Social Change and Its Effects on Marketing the South’s Cotton Crop,” *Agricultural History* 56, no. 1 (1982): 215.

113 Hoffman, *Florida's Frontiers*, 301.

114 Eugene A. Smith, *Report on the Cotton Production of the State of Florida* (Washington: Government Printing Office, 1882), 29.

115 *Ibid.*, 30.

116 *Ibid.*, 3, 30.

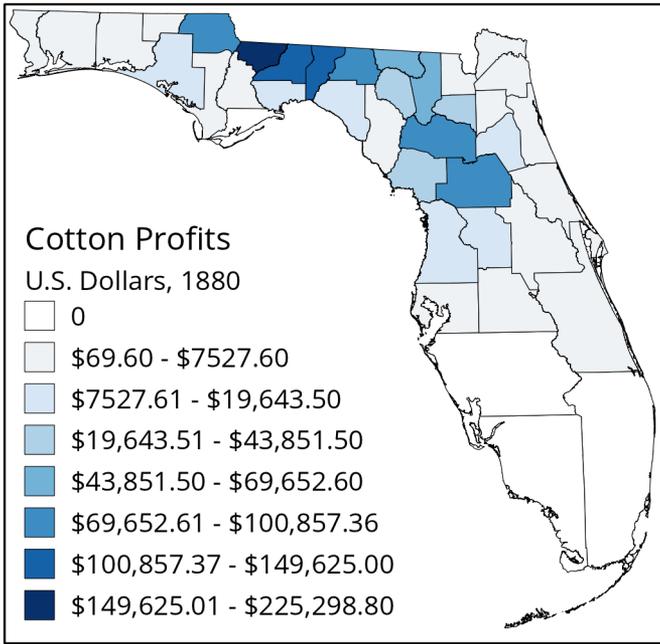


Figure 7. Cotton Profits in Florida, 1880

Alachua and Marion Counties, combined, produced 1,262 bales of cotton, in 1850; a decade later, the two counties produced 7,713 bales.¹¹⁷ Among the 29 counties that contributed the remaining 31% of the cotton crop, in 1880, Marion County was part of the group of seven counties that produced 72% of that remainder, along with Alachua, Levy, Bradford, Columbia, Hamilton, and Suwannee.¹¹⁸ Marion County grew, exclusively, long-staple or “sea-island” cotton, as did most of the other counties outside the Panhandle.¹¹⁹ For 1880, Marion County produced 849,100 pounds of cotton; the profit margin for sea-island cotton was better, about 10¢ per pound in 1880, meaning Marion County saw a return of \$84,910 from about 4.7% of their total tilled acres.¹²⁰

Cattle

Lore about Florida's free ranging cattle, known as “yellowhammers,” has been highly romanticized by such books as Patrick D. Smith's *A*

117 Tebeau and Marina, *A History of Florida*, 158.

118 Smith, *Report on the Cotton Production of the State of Florida*, 31.

119 *Ibid.*

120 *Ibid.*, 3, 30.

Land Remembered. In 1570, there were 10-12 cows in St. Augustine; four years later, that number had risen to 50 head.¹²¹ After 1580, the Spanish Crown began including pasturage among the perquisites granted to its newly appointed officials in Florida.¹²² By 1618, there were sufficient numbers of cattle for the Spanish governor to contemplate exporting the hides; his successor instituted a tax on cattle, at “one real per head.”¹²³

Estimates based on the tax rolls of 1698/1699 suggest that there were about 2,230 head of cattle, split between 25 ranches in an area stretching from St. Augustine, to Palatka, to Alachua, and up the St. Johns River valley; another nine ranches were located in the Apalachee province.¹²⁴ The Horruytiner family owned several cattle ranches “along the St. Johns River.”¹²⁵ The largest of the cattle ranches was *La Chua*, which was established sometime before the Timucuan Rebellion of 1656; modern Gainesville is located on part of the original ranch.¹²⁶ At least one cattle ranch, extant in the early 1700s, was upriver from Lake George.¹²⁷

Stephen Egan, superintendent of Lord Egmont's properties, after the Earl's death, kept 30 head of cattle at a ranch located on the St. Johns River.¹²⁸ During the Second Spanish Period (1784-1819) many small-holding farmers reported that five was the optimal number of cows for a fifty acre farmstead.¹²⁹ Much later, a United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) pamphlet would evoke the romantic vision of Florida cattle farming, without the need of land ownership or significant cash investment, by running the cattle on public lands where they could graze freely.¹³⁰ According to census reports on agriculture, cattle went from 182,415 heads in 1850, to 409,055 heads in 1880, and 666,146 heads in 1910; these figures do not include purebred

121 Hoffman, *Florida's Frontiers*, 61.

122 *Ibid.*, 71.

123 *Ibid.*, 117.

124 Charles W. Arnade, “Cattle Ranching in Spanish Florida, 1513-1763,”

Agricultural History 35, no. 3 (1961): 122-123.

125 *Ibid.*, 122.

126 *Ibid.*, 118.

127 Donald C. Gaby, “Volusia: The Origin of a Name,” *Florida Historical Quarterly* 76, no. 1 (1997): 76.

128 Daniel L. Schafer, “Plantation Development in British East Florida: A Case Study of the Earl of Egmont,” *Florida Historical Quarterly* 63, no. 2 (1984): 181.

129 Susan R. Parker, “Men Without God or King: Rural Settlers of East Florida, 1784-1790,” *Florida Historical Quarterly* 69, no. 2 (1990): 149.

cattle. In 1882, promotional literature from the state's Bureau of Immigration reckoned that a four year old cow would weigh 500-600 pounds, which would fetch 6-10¢ per pound on the open market; the Cuban market reported a distinct preference for Florida beeves, over Texas cattle.¹³¹

Citrus

Oranges trees were grown at St. Augustine, from 1565 onward.¹³² When Sir Francis Drake attacked the town, on 17 June 1586, his troops cut down all the fruit trees they could find.¹³³ In 1774, William Bartram encountered orange groves growing on the estates he visited along the St. Johns River; he was even more impressed with the “carefully tended grove” he found at the Indian settlement near present-day Palatka.¹³⁴ During his sojourn of 1822, William Simmons found numerous orange groves growing along the banks of the St. Johns River, including the region above Lake George.¹³⁵ John Lee Williams found the sour oranges to be so ubiquitous throughout his peregrinations around peninsular Florida, in 1837, that he declared them a “common forest tree” and attributed indigeneity to them.¹³⁶

As a rough estimate, for 1822, each orange tree might be expected to produce \$10 worth of fruit per season.¹³⁷ In 1837, Williams indicates an average of 500 oranges per tree, with a value of \$7.50 per thousand oranges.¹³⁸ By 1882, the prices had risen to \$15-20 per thousand oranges, on trees that could range from 100 to 10,000 oranges per season; one specific example shows that 300 trees produced 442,600 oranges (an average of 1,475.33 per tree), which sold for \$7,590,

130 George B. Carse, *Florida: Its Climate, Soils, Productions, and Agricultural Capabilities*, ed. United States Department of Agriculture (Washington: Government Printing Office, 1882), 88–89.

131 Robinson, *Florida: A Pamphlet Descriptive of Its History, Topography, Climate, Soil, Resources and Natural Advantages*, 37–38.

132 Donna L. Ruhl, “Oranges and Wheat: Spanish Attempts at Agriculture in La Florida,” *Historical Archaeology* 36, no. 1 (1997): 40.

133 Hoffman, *Florida's Frontiers*, 72.

134 Porter, “William Bartram’s Travels in the Indian Nations,” 437.

135 William H. Simmons, *Notices of East Florida, with an Account of the Seminole Nation of Indians* (Charleston: A. E. Miller, 1822), 29–30.

136 John L. Williams, *The Territory of Florida* (New York: A. T. Goodrich, 1837), 113.

137 Simmons, *Notices of East Florida, with an Account of the Seminole Nation of Indians*, 6.

138 Williams, *The Territory of Florida*, 112.

providing a profit of \$5,640.¹³⁹ In 1880, Marion County produced 6,000,000 oranges, worth \$90,000; this figure was only surpassed by Putnam County's \$108,414.80 (Figure 8).¹⁴⁰

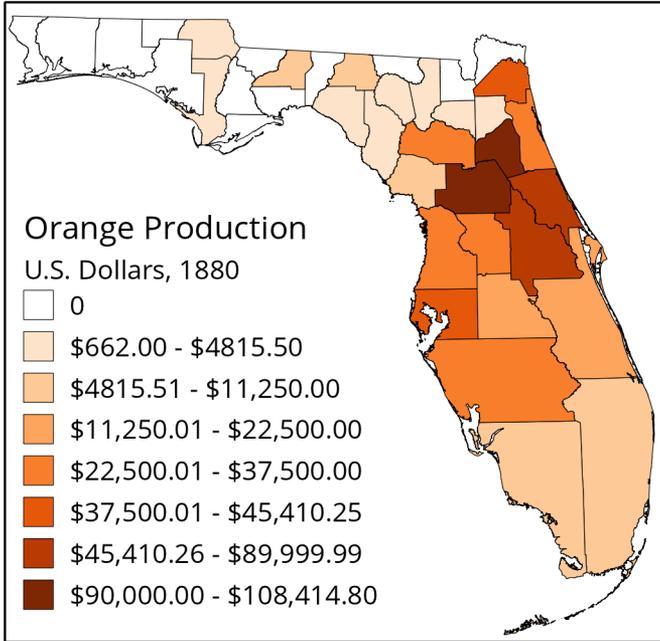


Figure 8. Value of Florida Oranges, 1880

This was a critical juncture in Florida's economic history. The allure of citrus agriculture was drawing settlers from outside Florida, and was even promoted in Europe.¹⁴¹ Practical guides proliferated, throughout the late 1870s and early 1880s, most were almost formulaic in promulgating strategies for implementing an orange grove in Florida; examples include Theophilus Wilson Moore's *Treatise and Handbook on Orange Culture in Florida* (1877), George W. Davis' *A Treatise on the Culture of the Orange* (1881), and A. H. Manville's *Practical Orange Culture* (1883). Reverend Moore's work was probably the most highly regarded; local promoters would write books about their own experiences, and refer back to Moore's book for general recommendations about how to proceed with starting a grove.¹⁴² Most of these books were self-published, often through local newspapers.

¹³⁹ Carse, *Florida: Its Climate, Soils, Productions, and Agricultural Capabilities*, 52, 73.

¹⁴⁰ *Ibid.*, 92.

¹⁴¹ The Belgian News, *Orange Groves and Lands of Florida* (Brussels, Belgium: The Belgian News, 1879).

The seeds of the Florida “gold rush” had been sown, but much like the mineralogical gold rushes, there were more abject failures than scintillating successes. Some official sources included vague cautionary notes about the need for capital to tide the new owner over until their trees had grown to bearing age, alluded to the number of insects that could have a deleterious impact on said trees, and made oblique references to the possibility of killing frosts, but concluded by telling their readers that “many of the most successful and today independent orange proprietors in Florida began the business with no other capital than their own labor.”¹⁴³ Experienced grove owners, with more prudence than prevarication, explicitly warned that there were many failures due to lack of capital.¹⁴⁴

The earliest commercial citrus endeavors were seen in the shipping manifests of St. Augustine, in the first half of the eighteenth century; there was a thriving, although somewhat illicit, trade between Spanish and British ports on the Atlantic seaboard.¹⁴⁵ In the late 1820s, residents of St. Augustine started exporting more than a million oranges per year.¹⁴⁶ This burst of enterprise was short-lived; in 1835, a devastating frost killed most of the fruit trees in northern Florida, down to the roots. However, the sour oranges growing south of 28° North latitude may have continued producing; St. Augustine may still have been capable of shipping 2 million oranges, in 1837, although they must have been harvested from elsewhere.¹⁴⁷

Just as Florida was recovering from the freeze of 1835, the trees were subjected to a pestilent new threat—the scale insect (*Orange coccus*).¹⁴⁸ The infestation may have originated with a shipment of Mandarins that were imported from China, in 1838; by the early 1850s, most of the orange trees growing in the vicinity of St. Augustine, and up the St. Johns River valley, were completely destroyed, either by the scale insect

142 S. Sanders Neck, *The Present and Future Productions of Florida* (Ocala: Banner Steam Printing House, 1888), 6.

143 Robinson, *Florida: A Pamphlet Descriptive of Its History, Topography, Climate, Soil, Resources and Natural Advantages*, 24–25.

144 Neck, *The Present and Future Productions of Florida*, 7.

145 Ruhl, “Oranges and Wheat: Spanish Attempts at Agriculture in La Florida,” 41–42.

146 T. Frederick Davis, “Early Orange Culture in Florida and the Epochal Cold of 1835,” *Florida Historical Quarterly* 15, no. 4 (1937): 235.

147 Williams, *The Territory of Florida*, 112.

148 Carse, *Florida: Its Climate, Soils, Productions, and Agricultural Capabilities*, 52.

or by the extreme measures taken to curtail its expansion.¹⁴⁹ The species of scale insect that had wrought such destruction proved maladapted to Florida, and was eventually itself subject to the depredations of other insects, and a “parasitical fungi.”¹⁵⁰ By 1853, the prevalence of the scale insect had abated enough to permit the citrus industry to start rebounding.¹⁵¹

In 1859, a citrus grove was established at Micanopy, through budding sweet oranges onto sour stock.¹⁵² Dr. James B. Owens, a resident of the Orange Lake area, brought sweet orange seeds back from Charleston, South Carolina, in 1860.¹⁵³ By 1871, James A. Harris was budding sweet oranges onto the extensive wild sour orange trees around the southern and eastern fringes of Orange Lake; by 1874, his neighbor, Putnam P. Bishop, was doing the same.¹⁵⁴ By 1883, Harris and Bishop had a combined 360 acres of sweet oranges growing around Orange Lake.¹⁵⁵ In total, the town of Citra had 2,000 acres in grove, by the early 1880s; Orange Lake was, at that time, the epicenter of Florida's commercial citrus industry.¹⁵⁶

The economic potential of the citrus industry seemed unlimited. The domestic production of citrus, in 1882, met only 8.33% of the demand, in the United States.¹⁵⁷ An estimated 771 million oranges were imported, in 1879; 257 million oranges entered the United States at the Port of New York alone.¹⁵⁸ By 1888, Florida was meeting 24% of the U.S. Demand for oranges, and the expanding railroad system could deliver

149 Davis, “Early Orange Culture in Florida and the Epochal Cold of 1835,” 239–241.

150 *Ibid.*, 241.

151 Carse, *Florida: Its Climate, Soils, Productions, and Agricultural Capabilities*, 52.

152 Charles N. Mooney et al., *Soil Survey of the Ocala Area, Florida*, ed. United States Department of Agriculture (Washington: Government Printing Office, 1913), 12.

153 Eloise R. Ott and Louis H. Chazal, *Ocala Country, Kingdom of the Sun*, Third ed., Reprinted. Greene’s Printing, Ocala. (Ocala: Originally published 1966, Marion Publishers, 1986), 101.

154 *Ibid.*, 103.

155 The Florida Railway and Navigation Company, Passenger Department, *The Key Line* (New York: The South Publishing Company, 1884), 36.

156 *Ibid.*, 37.

157 Robinson, *Florida: A Pamphlet Descriptive of Its History, Topography, Climate, Soil, Resources and Natural Advantages*, 25.

158 Carse, *Florida: Its Climate, Soils, Productions, and Agricultural Capabilities*, 76.

that fruit to New York, from Jacksonville, within 48 hours.¹⁵⁹ Unfortunately, that growth came to a screeching halt, after back-to-back freezes in December 1894 and February 1895 killed more than 90% of central Florida's citrus trees, down to the roots.¹⁶⁰ Freezes that were nearly as severe struck in January of 1898 and February of 1899; in response, the bulk of the citrus industry retreated to south Florida.¹⁶¹ For those orange growers who had the temerity to keep trying, the freezes of 1984 and 1985 would kill “about 99 percent of Marion County's citrus trees.”¹⁶²

Forest Products

According to the estimates of the USDA, in 1882, Florida was blanketed by 30 million forested acres, with 75% of that being yellow pine.¹⁶³ From the 1880s to 1944, the Ocklawaha River was lined with cypress logging operations; from 1893 to 1920 one company alone, the Wilson Cypress Company, “produced over 400 million board feet of lumber.”¹⁶⁴ In the 1890s, the turpentine industry was just beginning to develop, in Marion County.¹⁶⁵ By the end of 1906, Marion County supported 25 turpentine operations, and 18 lumber/timber operations.¹⁶⁶

Railroads and Riverboats

During the territorial period, steamships were the most important transportation resource in Florida; they connected goods and information with the remotest parts of the interior. However, no other industry compares with the railroads, in terms of impacts on the settlement of Florida. Of course, the primary limitation on the value of steamships was that they were restricted to navigable bodies of water. For railroads, the main issue was actualizing the various planned roads, and keeping the companies solvent long enough to get the roads built.

159 Neck, *The Present and Future Productions of Florida*, 7, 12.

160 Crisman, *Historical Assessment of Cultural Eutrophication in Lake Weir, Florida*, 26.

161 John A. Attaway, *A History of Florida Citrus Freezes* (Lake Alfred, Florida: Florida Science Source, 1997), 41–44.

162 Stacy Parker, “Freezes Shake Growers from Life-Long Business,” *Ocala Star-Banner* (Ocala, Florida, January 26, 1986).

163 Carse, *Florida: Its Climate, Soils, Productions, and Agricultural Capabilities*, 64.

164 Noll and Tegeder, *Ditch of Dreams: The Cross Florida Barge Canal and the Struggle for Florida's Future*, 32–33.

165 Mooney et al., *Soil Survey of the Ocala Area, Florida*, 13.

166 State of Florida, Department of Agriculture, *The Third Census of the State of Florida, Taken in the Year 1905* (Tallahassee: Capital Publishing, 1906), Table 4.

Steamboats on the Ocklawaha River

Prior to the introduction of steamboats, pole barges were the primary means of transporting supplies and mail up the Ocklawaha River, although the trees felled by small lumbering operations were simply lashed together and ridden downstream.¹⁶⁷ During the Second Seminole War, steamboats became important to maintaining supply trains and lines of communication; however, there were some wartime difficulties in providing a supply of cut wood to power the steam engines.¹⁶⁸ Between February 1865 and November 1868, Ocklawaha River steamboat magnate, Hubbard L. Hart, secured a few different contracts to clear the river of debris.¹⁶⁹ After the Ocklawaha River was cleared of debris, steamboats regularly plied the waterway, south of the Silver River and all the way to Leesburg; Lake Weir Landing, opposite Moss Bluff, was the local access point for mail and supplies.¹⁷⁰ As a final note of interest to our narrative: sometime between 1879-1881, Ernest Perrin portaged a small steamboat overland, a distance of 6.44 kilometers (4 miles), and floated it in Lake Weir.¹⁷¹

Railroads and Public Land

The Internal Improvement Act of 1855 created an entity to administrate the public lands that had been granted to Florida, and use the proceeds from their sale to provide internal improvements; shortly after the Act's passage, the trustees of the fund embarked on one of their greatest follies—underwriting the bonds of a number of proposed railroads.¹⁷² Unfortunately, even without mismanagement of resources, and outright graft, the American Civil War and Reconstruction left the railroad companies in a state of penury, and they ultimately defaulted on their interest payments.¹⁷³ The state did receive the properties of the several railroads; however, they were forced to resell the properties at a

167 Edward A. Mueller, *Ocklawaha River Steamboats*, Third. (DeLeon Springs, Florida: E. O. Painter Printing, 1997), 2.

168 Edward A. Mueller, "Steamboat Activity in Florida During the Second Seminole Indian War," *Florida Historical Quarterly* 64, no. 4 (1986): 422.

169 Mueller, *Ocklawaha River Steamboats*, 7.

170 Noll and Tegeder, *Ditch of Dreams: The Cross Florida Barge Canal and the Struggle for Florida's Future*, 28.

171 Ernest N. Perrin, "From Mr. C. L. Porter's to Mr. James Josselyn's," in *Lake Weir, Florida, Amaskohegan (Bright Moon Lake)*, ed. Thomas M. Shackelford (Jacksonville, Florida: Times-Union Power Printing Office, 1883), 37.

172 Robinson, *Florida: A Pamphlet Descriptive of Its History, Topography, Climate, Soil, Resources and Natural Advantages*, 58.

173 Dovell, "The Railroads and the Public Lands of Florida, 1879-1905," 237.

fraction of the original value, and they remained one million dollars in debt.¹⁷⁴ While so indebted, the Internal Improvement Trust Fund was placed into a receivership, and the sale of public lands was severely curtailed.

To extricate themselves from such dire financial straits, the Trust sold off 4 million acres of land, at 25¢ an acre, to a Philadelphia industrialist named Hamilton Disston; in turn, Disston sold half of the acreage to Sir Edward J. Reed.¹⁷⁵ With the burden of indebtedness cast off, the state was ready to get back to the business of selling land and using the money to build railroads. To reward railroads for their meritorious ethical practices and fiscal responsibility the state granted many of the companies vast acreages, in addition to the alternate sections within six miles of the road that had originally been offered to road builders.¹⁷⁶ What follows is a morass of consolidations, name changes, and receiverships; to keep things simple, suffice it to say that the Florida Railway and Navigation Company (its “Lake Weir” station was near Summerfield) and the Florida Southern Railway were each to be given a bonus of 10,000 acres per mile of completed road.¹⁷⁷ Ultimately, the Florida Southern Railroad (formerly Railway), which was routed along the eastern margin of Lake Weir, would be due more land bonuses than any other railroad in Florida—2.7 million acres.¹⁷⁸

By the mid-1880s, the state had pledged so much land to railroads that it doubted that the United States would ever patent that much land to Florida, and it began to issue certificates that could be redeemed only when state did actually receive the land.¹⁷⁹ In all fairness to Disston's Florida Land Improvement Company and the various railroads, they did sell the land at much the same prices as the state. It all sounded just as absurd in the 1880s as it does now:

As one reader pointed out to the editor of the *Jacksonville Florida Times-Union* (26 January 1884): 'The three last Legislatures have

174 Tebeau and Marina, *A History of Florida*, 260.

175 Robinson, *Florida: A Pamphlet Descriptive of Its History, Topography, Climate, Soil, Resources and Natural Advantages*, 57.

176 Dovell, “The Railroads and the Public Lands of Florida, 1879-1905,” 244.

177 Robinson, *Florida: A Pamphlet Descriptive of Its History, Topography, Climate, Soil, Resources and Natural Advantages*, 60.

178 Gregg M. Turner, *A Short History of Florida Railroads* (Charleston: Arcadia Publishing, 2003), 59.

179 Dovell, “The Railroads and the Public Lands of Florida, 1879-1905,” 245.

granted, or attempted to grant to projected railroads...out of a public domain which had never at any time exceeded 14,831,739 acres, the enormous quantity of 22,360,000 acres.¹⁸⁰

The upshot of it all was that Florida went from having 518 miles of railroad tracks in 1880, to having 2,489 miles in operation by the close of the decade.¹⁸¹

Marion County's Story

Marion County was created on 14 March 1844, by an Act of the state legislature; it was approved by the governor on 25 March 1844.¹⁸² Its original boundaries included what is now Sumter County, and most of what is now Lake County. In 1853, it lost most of the area south of its present boundary, to the newly created Sumter County. In 1881, 30,104 of its 1,075,200 acres were classified as “improved;” the total value of those lands was \$1,514,260.¹⁸³ The 1845 state census reported 1,475 residents (Table 3).¹⁸⁴

Table 3. Marion County's Population, 1850-1905

Year	Population	Year	Population
1850	3,338	1890	20,796
1860	8,609	1895	21,875
1870	10,804	1900	24,403
1880	13,046	1905	26,735
1885	17,424		

In 1882, Marion County's primary agricultural products were “corn, potatoes, rice, molasses, and poultry;” the annual income from those products was purported to be \$300,000.¹⁸⁵ At least one resident of what is now the south-central portion of the county, Adam G. Sumner, was

180 Gregg M. Turner, *A Journey into Florida Railroad History* (Gainesville: University Press of Florida, 2008), 107.

181 *Ibid.*, 4.

182 Ott and Chazal, *Ocali Country, Kingdom of the Sun*, 41.

183 Robinson, *Florida: A Pamphlet Descriptive of Its History, Topography, Climate, Soil, Resources and Natural Advantages*, 155.

184 Ott and Chazal, *Ocali Country, Kingdom of the Sun*, 43.

raising both stock cattle and “blooded” cattle, including at least six Brahman calves; admittedly, Col. Sumner died in 1866, but the cattle ranching presumably continued.¹⁸⁶ Sugarcane for molasses was indeed a common cultigen (Table 4). It is possible cotton was omitted from the United States Department of Agriculture's list, as a non-comestible.

Table 4. Marion County Agriculture, 1870-1910

Commodity	1870	1880	1890	1899	1901	1905	1910
Cotton (bales)	3,838	2,426	334	214	406	642	551
Corn (bushels)	12,727	186,917	97,228	32,210	99,059	204,590	304,236
Oats (bushels)	3,355	15,629	14,742	10,520	98,230	70,179	82,957
Rice (pounds)	500	19,632	3,729 (bshl)	4,993 (bshl)	4,200 (bshl)	712 (bshl)	318 (bshl)
Sweet Potatoes (bushels)	23,968	96,322	73,341	22,460	19,240	79,290	77,835
Molasses (gallons)	0	33,802	1,269 (bbl)	801 (bbl)	1,881 (bbl)	1,718 (bbl)	109,799
Oranges (boxes)	-	46,875	299,997	0	3,405	44,293	177,530
Orange Trees (bearing)	-	46,195	240,957	0	33,360	78,359	107,705
Orange Trees (non-bearing)	-	-	435,540	19,365	30,950	55,233	
Cattle, Stock (heads)	-	12,342	14,092	3,453	18,801	22,131	-

The figures given in Table 4 were derived from the federal and state census reports on agriculture for the applicable years. The state agricultural report for 1899/1900 should be considered suspect; it seems to, generally, under-report items for Marion County. The above table does not include poultry, which was mentioned by Foss as an important agricultural product in this county; the 1890 state agricultural report listed 23,576 chickens, and the 1905 census listed 55,985 common birds, plus 2,423 others.

185 James H. Foss, “Florida: Its Soil, Resources, and Means of Transportation,” in *Florida: Its Climate, Soil, Productions, and Agricultural Capabilities*, ed. United States Department of Agriculture (Washington: Government Printing Office, 1882), 95.

186 Ott and Chazal, *Ocali Country, Kingdom of the Sun*, 62.

Historically, there were a number of poultry operations on the east side of Lake Weir. In 1885, Fred C. Buffam kept a “model hennerly,” on his Stanton property.¹⁸⁷ Around 1915, the Wonder Poultry Farm was operating in the vicinity of Silver Lake.¹⁸⁸ A newspaper article, from 1912, lists poultry as one of the more prevalent exports from the Eastlake railroad station.¹⁸⁹ James Josselyn kept Garrettson hens, although not necessarily for commercial reasons.¹⁹⁰ Another of the residents around Silver Lake, Alexander Wynne, kept White Minorcans.¹⁹¹

Lake Weir Prior to Settlement

Lake Weir's idyllic scenery had long been known to the settlers of Marion County; it was a beloved summer retreat, from the earliest days of settlement.¹⁹² However, the soils of the area, while arable, were not conducive to the productive growth of the region's principal cash crops—sugarcane and cotton.¹⁹³ Three of the earliest Euro-American travelers through this part of Florida, at least the three who wrote about their experiences, all mentioned Lake Weir favorably. Two of those itinerant explorers noted that the land around Lake Weir was thick with wild sour orange trees.¹⁹⁴

The third provides a description that illustrates the lake's water quality, before the impacts of intensive settlement and agriculture:

Lake Ware, which lies in the picturesque form of a crescent, and is about eight miles over in the widest part. The road runs along the beach, which forms the chord of this watery bow, and is bordered with bays and palmettos, that are, in many places, so regularly set, as to have the appearance of an artificial

187 The Ocala Banner, “North Lake Weir,” *The Ocala Banner* (Ocala, Florida, March 21, 1885).

188 The Ocala Evening Star, “Eastlake [12/30/1915],” *The Ocala Evening Star* (Ocala, Florida, December 30, 1915).

189 The Ocala Evening Star, “Eastlake [05/20/1912],” *The Ocala Evening Star* (Ocala, Florida, May 20, 1912).

190 The Ocala Evening Star, “Eastlake [02/06/1903],” *The Ocala Evening Star* (Ocala, Florida, February 6, 1903).

191 Ibid.

192 Shackelford, *Lake Weir, Florida, Amaskohegan (Bright Moon Lake)*, 13.

193 Ibid.

194 Charles Vignoles, *Observations Upon the Floridas* (New York: E. Bliss & E. White, 1823), 74–75; Williams, *The Territory of Florida*, 63.

enclosure. The banks of the lake are, in some places, elevated, and appeared to consist, generally, of very good land.

The forest, at present, forms a virgin cistus around it ; and its pure waters, unpassed, as yet, but by the wing of the eagle, or the wild-duck, are so extremely clear, as to admit the Sun's rays to a considerable depth ; and the light may, for some distance, be seen, playing upon its bed of silver sand.¹⁹⁵

We must bear in mind that Simmons was writing descriptively, not conducting an official survey; the lake was not eight miles wide. However, the “road” following the line of the beach is a feature that, apparently, persists through time. Vignoles, who was a civil engineer conducting an official survey, also mentions the lake as a nexus of “Indian trails;” specifically, “Lake Ware” appears to have been a destination, on the trail from Tampa Bay to Spalding's Upper Store (near present-day Astor), before reaching the lower crossing of the Ocklawaha River.¹⁹⁶

Simmons' description of the beach also provides some insight into the water level of the lake, in 1822; the quote suggests that the lake was at a lower water stage of its cycle, at that time. An 1875 article mentions that the lakes levels had risen over the previous few years, thereby obscuring the beach; as an aside, the article also mentions the presence of the outflow channel leading to the Marshall Swamp/Ocklawaha River.¹⁹⁷ Although the aforementioned article attributes the proximal cause of the rising lake water levels to the 'Tidal Wave' of 1870, the author is probably alluding to the storm of August 1871, which caused abnormally high lake levels throughout this area.¹⁹⁸ Writing in 1883, Shackelford noted that the beach was again disappearing beneath the water line.¹⁹⁹ The relatively short periodicity of rising and falling water levels must have continued into the twentieth century; as Z. C. Chambliss noted, in 1910, “[a] few years from now these people spoken

195 Simmons, *Notices of East Florida, with an Account of the Seminole Nation of Indians*, 37.

196 Vignoles, *Observations Upon the Floridas*, 79.

197 C. A. C., “Lake Weir and Its Attractions,” *East Florida Banner* (Ocala, Florida, 1875), sec. 24 July:1. Ocala, Florida.

198 William T. Kennedy, *History of Lake County* (DeLeon Springs, Florida: E. O. Painter Printing, 1988), 59.

199 Shackelford, *Lake Weir, Florida, Amaskohegan (Bright Moon Lake)*, 12.

of as having extended their wharves [due to low water levels]...will have to send divers to take them out of the wet.”²⁰⁰

First Signs of Settlement

The first deeded land owner, dating to 1851, around Lake Weir, was Moses E. Levy (father of David L. Yulee). After a protracted legal battle, Levy's claim to a 38,000 acre portion of the Arredondo Grant was supported, too late for Levy to make good on the claim; the state allowed him to make it up in “floats,” selected from surveyed public lands that had not otherwise been claimed yet.²⁰¹ Levy claimed about 120 acres on the “Hammock Peninsula” (mostly part of the present-day Carney Island Recreation Area).²⁰²

The first permanent settler was the Reverend Solomon F. Halliday, who claimed 160 acres on the Hammock Peninsula, under the Armed Occupation Act of 1842; Halliday was an “old-line Whig” turned Republican, who was born in New Jersey.²⁰³ During the 1850s, the remainder of the Hammock Peninsula and the northern shore of Lake Weir were deeded to some of Marion County's elites, such as S. M. G. Gary, Adam G. Sumner, William E. McGahagin, and James A. Wiggins.²⁰⁴ Gary, McGahagin, and Sumner were all Southern Democrats who served with the Confederacy, during the American Civil War; Gary and McGahagin were Marion County delegates at the Secession Convention, and Sumner was the Quartermaster General for the Fourth District of Florida.²⁰⁵ Interestingly, Halliday partnered with Wiggins in several land purchases, including part of Lemon Island.²⁰⁶

That Adam G. Sumner kept a home on the western shores of Lake Weir is attested by a story from the closing days of the American Civil War; John C. Breckinridge, who had been Secretary of War in the CSA, hid out at the lakeside house, before escaping to Cuba.²⁰⁷ At some point in the 1850s, Solomon Halliday sold his property, which included most of the

200 Chambliss, “Only Ask for One Inch.”

201 Hoffman, *Florida's Frontiers*, 293.

202 State of Florida, General Land Office, Deed Book, 276

203 F. A. Battey, *Biographical Souvenir of the States of Georgia and Florida, Containing Biographical Sketches of the Representative Public, and Many Early Settled Families in These States* (Chicago: F. A. Battey, 1889), 359.

204 State of Florida, General Land Office, Deed Book, 275-276

205 Ott and Chazal, *Ocali Country, Kingdom of the Sun*, 77, 84.

206 State of Florida, General Land Office, Deed Book, 249

207 Ott and Chazal, *Ocali Country, Kingdom of the Sun*, 87.

eastern portion of the Hammock Peninsula, to James Wiggins; in turn, Wiggins cleared the sour orange trees from the land, and planted sea-island cotton.²⁰⁸ John L. Carney, a native of Rutherford County, Tennessee, visited the area in the summer of 1873; Carney returned in the spring of 1874, and rented property for the first year.²⁰⁹ After that first year, he purchased 400 acres of the Hammock Peninsula, for \$5.00 per acre.²¹⁰ He expended most of his initial capital on land acquisition.²¹¹



Figure 9. Thomas Mitchell Shackleford

On 10 March 1875, Ephraim L. Carney (his name appears as Ephriam often enough to be uncertain of his preferred spelling) joined his brother, and homesteaded 160 acres, along the north shore of Little Lake Weir; his initial capital amounted to “less than five hundred dollars.”²¹² The brothers Carney were soon joined by others, mostly emigrants from Tennessee. One of the arrivals, in 1882, was a young attorney, admitted to the bar earlier in the same year, from Fayetteville, Tennessee, Thomas Mitchell Shackleford (Figure 9).²¹³ Shackleford purchased ten acres, on the west side of Hammock Peninsula, calling it *Hesperia* (Figure 10).²¹⁴

By the end of 1883, Shackleford moved his primary residence, and law practice, to Brooksville, Florida.²¹⁵ While at Lake Weir, Shackleford, who had some experience in journalism, produced a pamphlet intended to entice new settlers to the area; Shackleford's innovation was to solicit the input of other local residents, encouraging those with specific expertise to write sections of the booklet. As a consequence, his self-published booklet has become an invaluable secondary source, with contributions from many of the most prominent early settlers of Lake Weir, including John L. Carney.

208 Shackleford, *Lake Weir, Florida, Amaskohegan (Bright Moon Lake)*, 11.

209 *Ibid.*, 14.

210 *Ibid.*

211 *Ibid.*, 15.

212 *Ibid.*

213 James T. White, *The National Cyclopaedia of American Biography* (New York: James T. White, 1900), 489.

214 Shackleford, *Lake Weir, Florida, Amaskohegan (Bright Moon Lake)*, 22.

215 James T. White, *The National Cyclopaedia of American Biography*, 489.

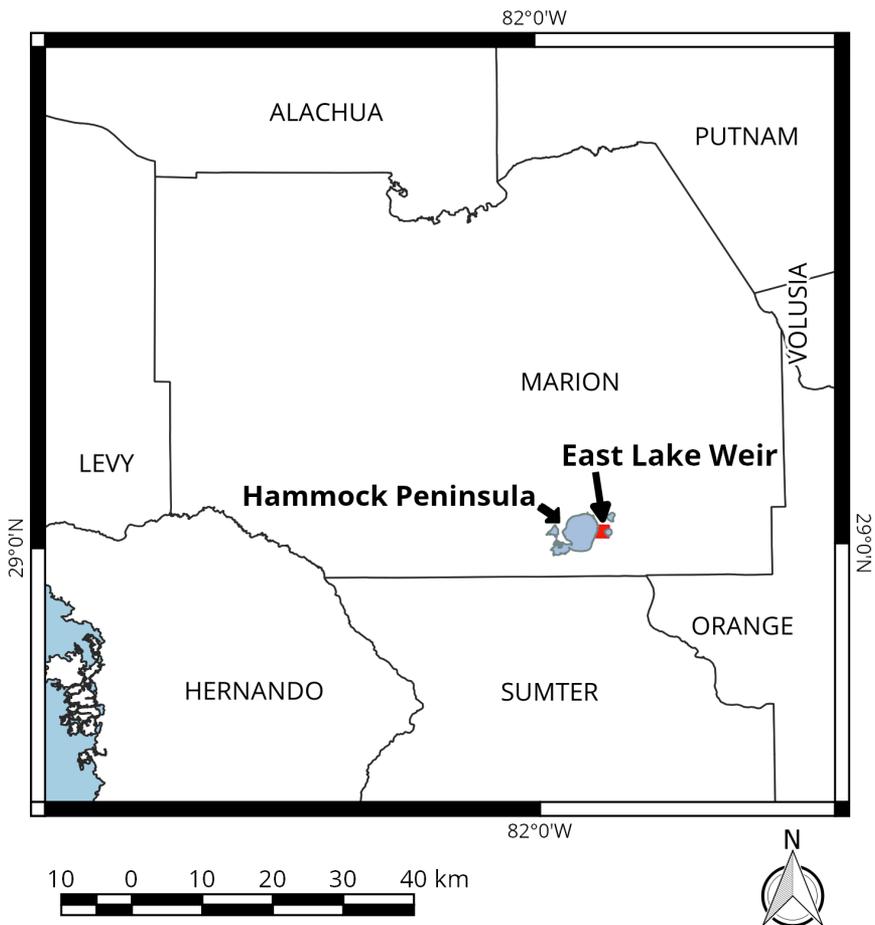


Figure 10. Lake Weir, Marion County, Florida, ca. 1875

The Toponymy of Lake Weir

There are at least four separate myths related to the name of that body of water now known as Lake Weir. However, it seems fairly certain that the original name, at least to non-aboriginal Floridians, was Ware's Lake. As previously discussed, the lake did eventually get a weir, but the name was changed long before 1938. So far, there are no conclusive answers as to why the name was changed.

According to one myth, the lake was named for a Dr. Ware.²¹⁶ To date, no mention of a Dr. Ware has surfaced in historic documents. There were four physicians living on the north side of the lake, from the mid-1870-1880s: Dr. Thomas Jefferson Myers, Dr. Erastus C. Hood, Dr. Ruffin Thompson, and Dr. Lewis M. Ayers; from their own comments, it seems they were rarely called upon to treat patients.²¹⁷ The state census of 1885 shows three physicians living on the south side of the lake: Dr. Daniel S. Chase, Dr. N. D. Faunce, and Dr. H. E. Curtis, although Curtis was listed as a boarder, and may not have been a permanent resident. Around the turn-of-the-century, a Dr. Bainter moved from Stanton, to Candler, due to lack of business.²¹⁸ Dr. Olive Estelle Worcester, based in Conant, just over the border in Lake County, practiced for more than forty years (beginning in the 1880s), “covering all the trails between Fruitland Park and East Lake, the Oklawaha [sic] River and Oxford.”²¹⁹

The most frequently repeated myth is that the lake was named for a “Lieutenant Weir, of the United States Army,” that was killed near the lake, “by the Seminoles;” the earliest source for this myth is a booklet about Lake Weir, from 1883.²²⁰ As previously discussed, the easternmost action of the First Seminole War was at the Suwannee River. The northernmost action of the Third Seminole War was in Pasco County.²²¹ Of the 37 regular army lieutenants who were killed during the Second Seminole War, none were named Weir; in fact, no one with the family name Weir, of any rank, was killed by wound or by disease.²²² A search of the militia rolls similarly revealed no possible candidates.²²³

The third myth is that the lake was named for Nathaniel A. Ware.²²⁴ Nathaniel A. Ware was a member of the three-man commission set up to adjudicate Spanish Land Grant claims, in 1822; previously, he served

216 John Paul Jones Jr., “Lake Weir’s Unusual Inland Yacht Club,” *Florida Living*, February 1987, 36.

217 Shackelford, *Lake Weir, Florida, Amaskohegan (Bright Moon Lake)*, 45–56.

218 The Ocala Evening Star, “Eastlake [08/16/1901],” *The Ocala Evening Star* (Ocala, Florida, August 16, 1901).

219 Kennedy, *History of Lake County*, 15.

220 Shackelford, *Lake Weir, Florida, Amaskohegan (Bright Moon Lake)*, 9.

221 Joe Knetsch, *Florida’s Seminole Wars, 1817-1858* (Charleston: Arcadia Publishing, 2003), 153.

222 John T. Sprague, *The Origin, Progress, and Conclusion of the Florida War* (New York: D. Appleton, 1848), 526–548.

223 <http://ufdc.ufl.edu/UF000047719/00010/allvolumes>

224 Ott and Chazal, *Ocali Country, Kingdom of the Sun*, 17.

as interim governor of the Mississippi Territory (1813-1817).²²⁵ He was also an ardent Southern Whig, and vehemently opposed to secession.²²⁶ Furthermore, Ware was an avocational naturalist who collected numerous specimens from around peninsular Florida; in fact, the genus *Warea* is named after him.²²⁷ Finally, Charles Blacker Vignoles, who was commissioned to survey the new territory of Florida, credits N. A. Ware, a commissioner of land claims, with having gotten him the job, and with having given him some tips about the lay of the land.²²⁸ The map that Vignoles produced clearly shows Ware's Lake where Lake Weir is now.²²⁹ An 1839 Army map attaches the name Ware's Lake to the same body of water.²³⁰

The final myth is that the name is simply an anglicized derivative of *Acuera*; of course, this would apply equally to either spelling.²³¹ On balance, the evidence seems to support the claim that the lake is named after Nathaniel A. Ware. The source of the discrepancy might be the plat maps created by the different surveyors that mapped the section boundaries of the relevant townships. Township 17 South, Range 24 East was sectioned by George Watson, in May 1849; his map uses Lake Ware.²³² Township 17 South, Range 23 East was sectioned by Ben F. Whitner, in November 1848; his map uses the name Lake Wier [sic].²³³ All of the maps that have been reviewed thus far, made before the late 1840s, use Ware as the name of the lake. However, that does not explain the origin of the “Lieutenant Weir” myth. The one settler that might

225 William Diamond, “Nathaniel A. Ware, National Economist,” *Journal of Southern History* 5, no. 4 (1939): 504–505.

226 *Ibid.*, 511, 523.

227 John K. Small, “Land of the Question Mark, Report on Exploration in Florida in December, 1920” 24, no. 277 (1923): 21.

228 Vignoles, *Observations Upon the Floridas*, 10.

229 Charles Vignoles, “Map of Florida,” Survey Map. 1:1,290,000. (Electronic document, <http://hdl.loc.gov/loc.gmd/g3930.ct000731>. Last accessed 15 May 2014, 1823).

230 John MacKay and J. E. Blake, “Seat of War” (Electronic document, <http://hdl.loc.gov/loc.gmd/g3931e.ct000138>. Last accessed 15 May 2014, 1839).

231 Jerald T. Milanich and Charles Hudson, *Hernando De Soto and the Indians of Florida* (Gainesville: University Press of Florida, 1993), 98.

232 George Watson, “Survey Plat Map of Township 17 South, Range 24 Eat.,” Plat Map (Electronic document, http://www.glorerecords.blm.gov/results/default.aspx?searchCriteria=type=survey|st=FL|cty=|twp_nr=17|twp_dir=S|rng_nr=24|rng_dir=E. Last accessed on 16 March 2015, 1849).

have lived, exclusively, at the lake prior to 1848 was Solomon F. Halliday, a former Whig who became a Republican; on the other hand, the rest of the earliest land owners were Confederates. The “Weir” myth might have been invented by men who had paid in blood for the cause of secession, and who did not want to live in a place named for a militant Unionist.

East Lake Weir's Story

The story of East Lake Weir is also the story of the other settlements around Lake Weir. They all have their own unique cast of characters and slightly different origins, but the people interacted with one another constantly; like one big “small town,” everyone knew everyone else. Of course, some folks fell through the cracks of written history, and one has to dig in deep to find them. Each of the settlements of Lake Weir deserves their own booklet; if you feel your favorite has been given short shrift, then speak up...the end of this booklet is not the end of the narrative.

The Carney Cornerstone

Much of what followed was due to decisions that John L. Carney made, in the mid-1870s. Based on his knowledge of farming, and his observation that the land around the lake was teeming with wild sour orange trees, he set about trying to duplicate the successes of the Orange Lake area, in budding sweet oranges on sour orange stock.²³⁴ In the fall of 1874, Carney visited the Reverend Nathan L. Brown, who lived in the vicinity of modern Webster, Florida, to investigate a rumor he had heard about Parson Brown's sweet oranges.²³⁵ The orange tree seedlings had been carried to Florida by a traveler moving to the Peace Creek area in southwestern Florida; the traveler paid for his lodging with some of the seedlings he had borne thither.

233 Ben F. Whitner, “Survey Plat Map of Township 17 South, Range 24 East.,” Plat Map (Electronic document, http://www.glorerecords.blm.gov/results/default.aspx?searchCriteria=type=survey|st=FL|cty=|twp_nr=17|twp_dir=S|rng_nr=23|rng_dir=E). Last accessed on 16 March 2015, 1848).

234 Ephraim L. Carney, “History of the Parson Brown Orange,” *Proceedings of the Florida State Horticultural Society* 36 (1923): 226.

235 *Ibid.*, 227.

Of those seedlings, five grew to maturity; Carney tried the fruit of each, and offered the princely sum of \$80 for the tree that produced the oranges he found most palatable.²³⁶ Of course, the tree stayed in Parson Brown's yard, which suited Mrs. Brown just fine, as she preferred to do her washing in the shade of that very tree.²³⁷ According to the story imparted to Parson Brown by the passing stranger, the seedlings had all been grown from an orange he bought on the docks of Savannah, GA.²³⁸

Each of the mature trees had a different flavor; S. M. G. Gary had preferred the taste of another tree's fruit, Mr. McGruder of Yalaha preferred the fruit of a third tree, and Col. Haynes of Lake Harris preferred the fourth tree.²³⁹ The fifth tree was more acerbic than the others, and no one held much truck with it, until the fruit was gone from the other trees. The seedlings and cuttings of the different trees all produced fruit known as Parson Brown oranges, although they each had somewhat different flavor profiles.

After proving that sweet orange trees would flourish around Lake Weir, John L. Carney started writing letters extolling the virtues of orange culture at Lake Weir, to various relatives, friends, and newspapers. As a result the settlers on the northern end of Lake Weir, were all southern in origin. Conversely, the early settlers on the south and east sides of the lake were predominantly from the northern states; many of whom were enjoined to move here by Charles L. Porter, another 1874 arrival, who owned much of the lake frontage on the south side. As more people arrived, new settlements sprang up, as was evidenced by the proliferation of post offices (Table 5). As one last bit of support for the original name of the lake being Lake Ware, that was the name of the first post office to serve the lake's new residents (Figure 11).

The Founding of Eastlake

On 12 March 1875, James Riley Josselyn and his little brother, Charles Lewis Josselyn, disembarked from the steamboat that landed them at Silver Springs, and began walking to Leesburg, where they intended to settle near old friends.²⁴⁰ By evening they had reached the

236 Ibid., 228.

237 Ibid., 227.

238 Ibid., 228–229.

239 Ibid., 229.

240 The Ocala Evening Star, “Eastlake [04/10/1922],” *The Ocala Evening Star* (Ocala, Florida, April 10, 1922).

northwestern corner of Lake Weir, where they met John L. Carney; since it was growing late, Carney insisted that they stay with him for the night.²⁴¹ They did make it to Leesburg, eventually; however, to quote Jim Josselyn, “we had seen Lake Weir, and nothing else would do!”²⁴²

Table 5. Nineteenth Century Post Offices near Lake Weir

Post Office	Date Authorized	First Postmaster
Moss Bluff	25 July 1876*	Adin Waterman
Long Swamp**	28 May 1877	Charles H. White
Lake Ware†	27 August 1877	John J. Myers
South Lake Weir	27 September 1878	Edward F. Ricker
Bellview‡	8 February 1883	John F. Pelot
Stanton	13 April 1883	F. Stanton Perrin
Candler	22 November 1883	William H. DeLong
Welshton	1 April 1884	Charles F. Eaton
Eastlake§	9 April 1884	Henry P. Gerald
Ocklawaha	12 May 1884	Thomas J. Myers
Foster Park	28 January 1885	James W. Smith
Weir Park¶	28 July 1886	Harlan P. Martin
Dallas	18 December 1888	Solomon Smith
Prospect	8 January 1892	Orah T. Gatlin

*discontinued briefly, re-established 11 July 1879

**renamed, Whitesville on 23 May 1878, Summerfield (to honor Col. Adam G. Sumner) on 14 October 1887

†renamed, Lake Weir on 26 April 1880

‡renamed, Belleview on 24 December 1884

§renamed, Eastlake Weir on 28 November 1938

||renamed, Weirsdale on 29 June 1892

¶renamed, Lake Weir (for train station) on 28 October 1905

It Could Have Been Joslyn or North Lake Weir

This settlement has its own toponymy issues. Is it Eastlake, or East Lake, and when did we add the Weir? James Josselyn definitely intended for it to be one word; he said so, explicitly, in an article written about his 80th birthday celebration (by census records, he was only 79, and born in March).²⁴³ This is reiterated in correspondence from Howard V. Lee to the Marion County Chamber of Commerce; Lee provides the additional

241 Ibid.

242 Ibid.

243 Ibid.

insight that the settlement was named after a person (presumably Charles Locke Eastlake).²⁴⁴

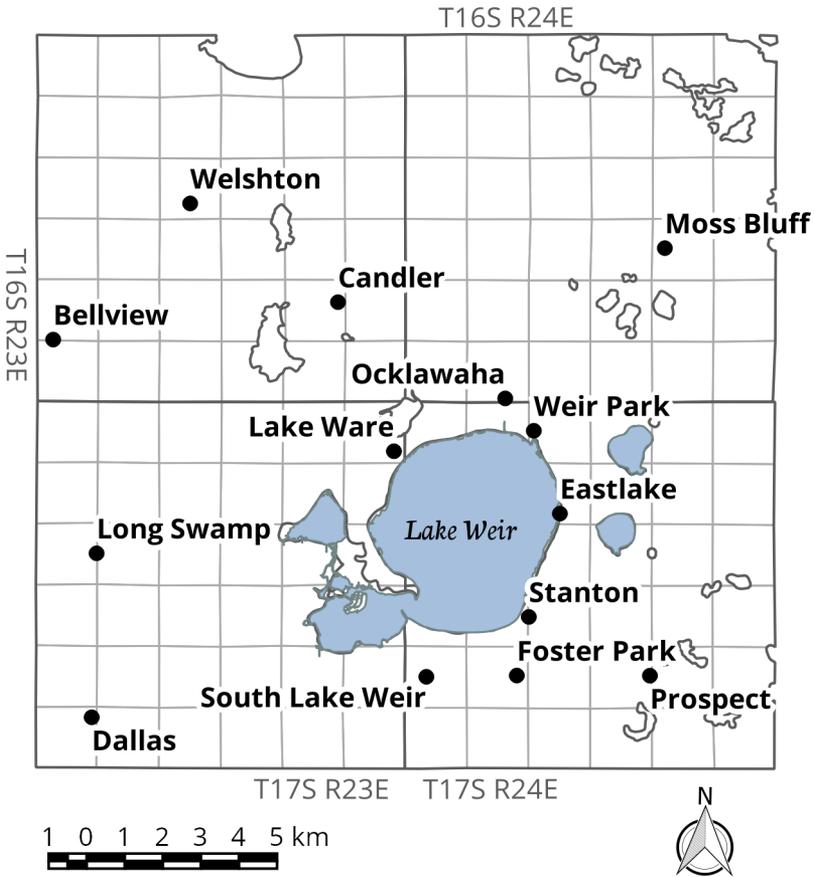


Figure 11. Nineteenth Century Settlements of Lake Weir

The issue is further complicated by the townsite plat map, for East Lake, that was filed by Samuel Hodgson and Henry T. Spooner, on 27 August 1885.²⁴⁵ James Josselyn was patented the deed to Government Lots 5 and 6, or the SE¼ 9-17S-24E, on 30 November 1878. With the exception of a small notch that extends into section nine, the townsite of East Lake was in 16-17S-24E (Figure 12). The present-day post office is in section nine, as is the most densely settled part of East Lake Weir.

²⁴⁴ Howard V. Lee to Horace L. Smith, letter, 26 October 1939, Marion County Public Library, Headquarters, Vertical File

²⁴⁵ Marion County, Historic Records Office, Plat Book E, 50A-50B

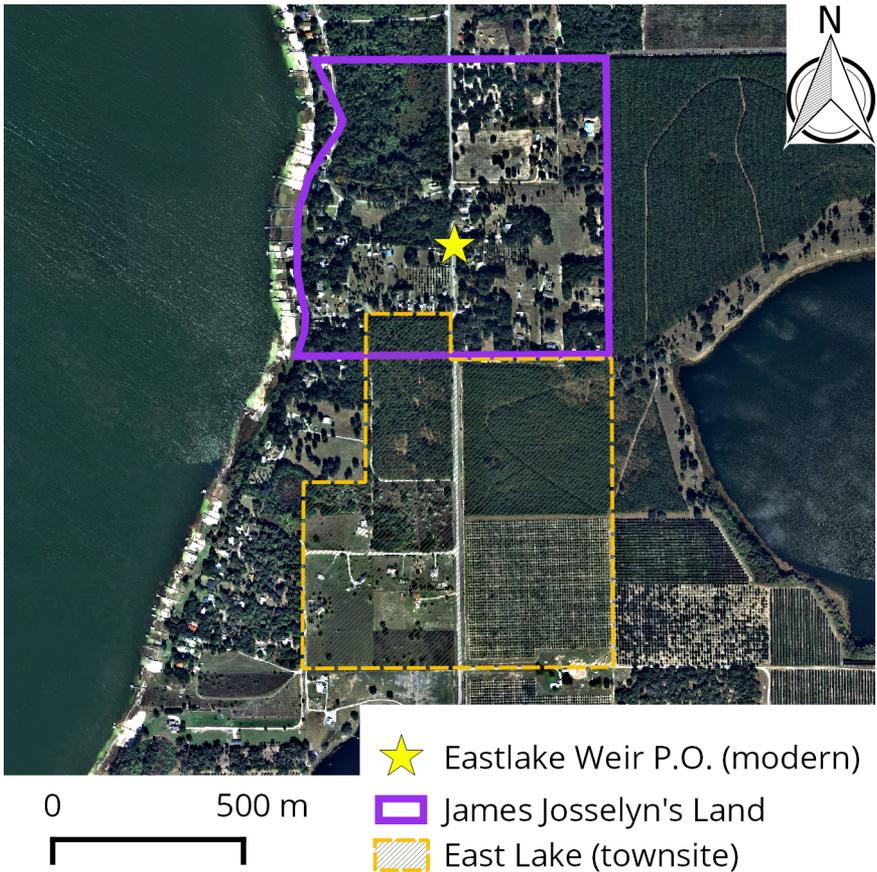


Figure 12. James Josselyn's Property in Relation to East Lake

The Geographic Name Information System (GNIS) assigned the name East Lake Weir to this “populated place,” on 19 October 1979; after investigation, in 2005, the Board on Geographic Names (BGN) decided that the name would stick. The purpose of the GNIS is to standardize geographic names used in federal publications; it is not enforced by any legal agency. Curiously, the United States Postal Service (USPS) still gives Eastlake Weir as the preferred name for the 32133 zip code; so, even federal agencies don't necessarily follow BGN standards. Since the post office delivers according to zip code, your mail will still get to the right box; however, many websites that use the post office preferred name for their automated processes only recognize Eastlake Weir.

It is some consolation that there has been confusion about the settlement's name from the beginning. After the Florida Southern Railway completed the section of the track running through the settlement, in late 1883, it named the station East Lake. However, the station was, physically, outside the limits of the East Lake townsite; on the company's sectional maps, it shows a town called North Lake Weir to the north of Silver Lake, and a town called East Lake to south of Silver Lake.²⁴⁶ The reverse side of the map, which includes descriptions of each station's environs, does not distinguish separate settlements. The name North Lake Weir was used beyond railroad documents; a newspaper article, from 1885, entitled “North Lake Weir,” actually discusses features of Eastlake, such as postmaster Henry P. Gerald and picturesque Dollar Pond, with its surrounding orange grove (in Figure 3, it's the small, circular pond at the edge of the bluff).²⁴⁷

Before it was Eastlake, the area may have been referred to as “Joslyn,” although that may simply have been a colloquial sobriquet for James Josselyn's property.²⁴⁸ The “Weir” was added in 1938, after the actual weir was built, at the north end of the lake (Table 6).²⁴⁹ Given that the majority of the settlement's current population lives outside the boundaries of the East Lake townsite, and that the town founder intended the name to signify a person, Eastlake Weir seems like the best candidate..just don't tell the BGN.

The Post Office

The post office was established on 9 April 1884. An undated map, drawn by H. J. Campbell shows the store on Henry P. Gerald's property, around the toe of the slope, northwest of the bluff.²⁵⁰ H. J. Campbell drew a number of the town plats in the area, including Stanton and South Lake

246 Matthews-Northrup & Company, “New Sectional Map of the Eastern & Southern Parts of the State of Florida. Issued by the Land Department of the Florida Southern Railway Co.” (Electronic document, <http://digitalcollections.net.ucf.edu/cdm/compoundobject/collection/CFM/id/12592/rec/8>. Last accessed 15 May 2014, 1888).

247 The Ocala Banner, “North Lake Weir.”

248 The Daily Item, “Lake Weir,” *The Daily Item*, May 1, 1885, Trade edition, sec. Supplement.

249 National Archives and Records Administration, Microfilm Publication M841, Roll 20

250 H. J. Campbell, “Map of East Lake on Lake Weir, Marion County, Florida,” Plat Map. (Map cabinet, Marion County Public Library, Genealogy Room, Headquarters, Ocala, ca. 1884).

Weir.²⁵¹ On the East Lake map, his office location is shown as Gainesville; he moved his offices to Palatka, in 1884.²⁵²

Table 6. Postmasters of Eastlake Weir, 1884-1977+

Name	Assumed Charge
Henry P. Gerald	9 April 1884
Edward M. Allen	8 January 1887
Emma Spooner	11 March 1891
Lorin S. Squier	22 July 1896
Sumner Raymond Hall	18 May 1910
Edward F. Newport	9 June 1915
Florence M. Hall	5 September 1916
James Jasper Knoblock	19 March 1936*
Lora D. Knoblock	13 July 1950
Richard Marrinan	18 June 1951
Ruth Marrinan**	6 October 1956

*renamed Eastlake Weir on 28 November 1938, effective 1 January 1939

**held position for more than 20 years

E. F. Newport operated the post office from his store, at a location across the railroad tracks from the present location of the Lake Weir Yacht Club; it was still in that location circa 1918.²⁵³ However, Newport sold the store to J. G. Kichline, in 1915.²⁵⁴ The current post office building was built by Richard Marrinan, along with other residents of East Lake Weir, in 1951.²⁵⁵ At some point, in the intervening years, the store building was moved to a location along County Road 25.

The First Settlers

The majority of the first wave of settlers came from Worcester County, Massachusetts. Those who were born in the early 1840s, and who were

251 Marion County, Historic Records Office, Plat Book A, 124; Plat Book E, 37

252 W. S. Webb, ed., *Webb's Jacksonville City Directory* (New York: W. S. Webb, 1884), 269.

253 The Ocala Star-Banner, "The Way It Was," *Ocala Star-Banner* (Ocala, Florida, February 23, 1990).

254 The Ocala Evening Star, "Mercantile Trade at Eastlake," *The Ocala Evening Star* (Ocala, Florida, March 3, 1915).

255 Lloyd Dunkelberger, "Post Office: At Eastlake Weir It's More Than That," *Ocala Star-Banner* (Ocala, Florida, August 12, 1977).

United States citizens, served in the Union Army, during the American Civil War. The brothers Josselyn lived in a cabin, near the bluff.²⁵⁶ Charles Lewis Josselyn's original 160 acres were actually in 21-17S-24E, which he subsequently sold to Judge Charles Rapallo, in 1881; the Stanton Lumber Mill was built on a portion of that property. After C. L. Josselyn sold that land, he acquired another 160 acres straddling sections 29 and 30-17S-24E.

James Riley Josselyn

James Riley Josselyn was born in Brookfield, Massachusetts, in March 1843. His father, George D. Josselyn, was a shoemaker. His mother's name was Alice. He had two older sisters: Lane M. ,and Caroline A. He had one older brother: George L. He had one younger sister: Jane A. Charles Lewis was the baby of the family (b. 1850).

James served in Company A of the 34th Massachusetts Infantry Regiment, during the American Civil War. He mustered in as a private, and mustered out as a sergeant. On 18 September 1869, he married Mary E. Banister of Charlton, Massachusetts. Sadly, Mary died in December 1871, due to “heart disease.”²⁵⁷ At the time of his marriage, James listed his occupation as mechanic; the 1870 federal census, for Brookfield, lists him as working at a boot factory.

James was the originator of the Josselyn grapefruit, which was first sold through Fred D. Waite's “Magnolia Nursery,” in Belleview, FL.²⁵⁸ Politically, James was a Populist.²⁵⁹ In his free time, he enjoyed fishing in the slough, to the north of Eastlake...unless he was confronted by water moccasins.²⁶⁰ James had a fondness for chickens, and was not above wheedling a rooster from his neighbor, at least not when it was a Jamaica Ginger sent from the Philippines; he paid for the shipping.²⁶¹ James was also an arborist; he planted the oak trees on his property, and named his estate *Oak Knoll*.²⁶²

256 The Ocala Evening Star, “Eastlake [04/10/1922].”

257 State of Massachusetts, Vital Statistics, Death Records, 1871

258 H. Harold Hume, *Pomelos*, Florida Agricultural Experiment Station, Bulletin No. 58 (Jacksonville, Florida: H. & W. B. Drew, 1901), 395.

259 The Ocala Evening Star, “The Stanton Picnic,” *The Ocala Evening Star* (Ocala, Florida, October 20, 1897).

260 The Ocala Evening Star, “Eastlake [02/03/1903],” *The Ocala Evening Star* (Ocala, Florida, February 3, 1903).

261 The Ocala Evening Star, “Eastlake [02/06/1903].”

262 The Ocala Evening Star, “Eastlake [04/10/1922].”

The First Wave

The first wave of immigrants, to what would become Eastlake, purchased their property directly from James Josselyn. Each new settler was also a grove owner. One of their number, Samuel Hodgson, was always a seasonal resident.

According to one source, George E. Snow was the first to buy a portion of James Josselyn's land.²⁶³ George E. Snow was born in Spencer, Massachusetts, in 1857. His father, George L., was a wire drawer; his mother Sarah C., disappears from the primary sources, after the 1860 census. In his youth, George moved from Spencer, to nearby Paxton, where he lived with his father in the same building as his uncle and aunt. By 1880, he was living in Charlton, Massachusetts, and working in a wire factory.

In 1880, Henry P. Gerald purchased a 2.5 acre lot from James R. Josselyn, along with 13 acres of Josselyn's orange grove.²⁶⁴ Henry was born in Brookfield, Massachusetts, in 1852. His father, Emulous B., was a tailor. His mother, Sarah J., kept house. At 18, Henry was employed as a tailor's apprentice. His younger brother, Hiram P., also owned property in Eastlake. He had another younger brother, Walter E., and a younger sister, Harriet L. On 22 May 1879, Henry was married to Ida F. Hooper, from Maine, in Brookfield, Massachusetts. At the time of his marriage, he listed druggist as his occupation. He was Eastlake's first postmaster, and was also the local surveyor.²⁶⁵

In 1882, Samuel Hodgson purchased ~150 acres from James R. Josselyn.²⁶⁶ Samuel was born in England, in June 1841. He was never naturalized. His wife, Lizzie, was a permanent resident of Meredith, New Hampshire; they were married around 1878. Samuel was a capitalist, in the hosiery manufacturing industry. Samuel was always a seasonal visitor to Eastlake; he lived most of the year in Meredith, New Hampshire (by 1904, his primary residence changed to Laconia, New Hampshire). Samuel died in 1906, in Los Angeles, CA. He was survived by his wife. By the time of his death, he had sold off all his land holdings in Marion County, to George E. Snow.

263 Ibid.

264 Shackelford, *Lake Weir, Florida, Amaskohegan (Bright Moon Lake)*, 35.

265 Florida State Gazetteer and Business Directory, 1886-1887 (New York: South Publishing, 1886).

266 The Ocala Evening Star, "Eastlake [04/10/1922]."

The Second Wave

This is an incomplete listing of the second wave of Eastlake settlers. There was little stability among the second wave, with many names dropping off the tax rolls after one year. This listing is based on the tax rolls for 1888, which had the advantage of being recorded spatially, by section, as opposed to simply recording names when payment was made, or keeping the entire county's tax rolls in alphabetical order. For example, an A. H. Lamb paid taxes on an Eastlake property, in 1884; it was the only year he appeared on the tax rolls.

Edward Martin Allen was born in North Brookfield, Massachusetts, in 1845. His father was William M., a shoemaker by trade; his mother was Anna L. He had two younger sisters: Ellen M. and Mary E., and a younger brother, Frank A. At the age of 15, he was working as a shoemaker. In the 1880 census, Edward was listed as a furniture dealer; his wife worked at a boot factory. On 30 November 1871, Edward married Elida F. Thomson. He was Eastlake's station agent, and kept the general store.²⁶⁷ He purchased the property, on which the store was built, from Henry P. Gerald. By 1889, he had sold the store to “the new firm of Hamilton & Carpenter.”²⁶⁸

Edward F. “Frank” Carpenter was born in North Brookfield, Massachusetts, in 1844. His wife was Mary E. In the 1880 census, he is listed as working at a corset factory. He served in Company G of the 42nd Massachusetts Infantry, Volunteer Militia, during the American Civil War. During the war he was a wheelwright. He ran the hotel at Eastlake, for a brief period; the exact date is uncertain.²⁶⁹

Jerome P. Kroll was born in Lenawee County, Michigan, around 1842. His father, Daniel, was a carpenter, from Pennsylvania; his mother, Eliza, was born in New York. His older sisters were Emily and Mary; his older brother was Solomon. His two younger brothers were William and Jonathan. His younger sister was Samantha. He served in Company A of the 20th Michigan Infantry Regiment, during the American Civil War. His earliest job in Eastlake was as the first manager of the hotel, which was owned by Samuel Hodgson.²⁷⁰ In the 1885 state census he was listed

²⁶⁷ Ibid.

²⁶⁸ The Ocala Banner, “Eastlake Intelligence,” *The Ocala Banner* (Ocala, Florida, January 16, 1889).

²⁶⁹ The Ocala Evening Star, “Eastlake [04/10/1922].”

²⁷⁰ Ibid.

as a real estate agent; he sold 73 lots on the East Lake townsite, although it is not known how many were ever built on, or occupied.²⁷¹

Bradford B. F. Whitman was born in Nova Scotia, around 1842. Both his parents, William S. and Charlotte A, were natives of Massachusetts. On 6 November 1879, he married Mary E. Drake of Spencer, Massachusetts. At the time of his marriage, he listed carpenter as his occupation. Bradford built the James Riley Josselyn house, near the present-day Eastlake Weir post office.²⁷² He also built E. F. Carpenter's house.²⁷³ He died in January 1921; he was survived by his second wife (Mae was 38 years his junior), who returned his remains to Spencer, Massachusetts.²⁷⁴ Bradford, who owned the land immediately to the north of Josselyn's own house, called his residence "Palm Cottage."²⁷⁵

Count Vincent d'Equivilley was born around 1846, in Ecquevilley, France. His wife was Donna Blanka Theresa, Baroness von Feilitzsch of Hungary, a descendant of Moritz von Feilitzsch (one of the Teutonic Knights), a knight of the Holy Grail.²⁷⁶ The Baron von Feilitzsch, Vincent's brother-in-law, purchased a ten acre lot, from A. Rowan Anthony, for \$2,000.²⁷⁷ The baron sold half of his ten acre parcel, immediately north of Dollar Pond, to Vincent. On the Campbell map, the name associated with the property is "de Quelly." He is listed in the 1885 state census, in Precinct 19, as B. E. Quilly. The couple eventually bought a house in Dallas, Florida; in later years, they were divorced, and the Baroness moved to San Antonio, Florida.²⁷⁸ Vincent's final resting place is at Dukes Community Cemetery, in Mascotte, Lake County, Florida.

271 The Daily Item, "Lake Weir."

272 Paul Weaver and Barbara Mattick. "James Riley Josselyn House," National Register Nomination Form, May 1993, Section 8, Page 3, (<http://pdfhost.focus.nps.gov/docs/NRHP/Text/93000591.pdf>).

273 The Ocala Banner, "Eastlake Intelligence."

274 The Ocala Evening Star, "Untitled Brief News Items," *The Ocala Evening Star* (Ocala, Florida, February 24, 1921).

275 The Ocala Evening Star, "Eastlake [11/16/1911]," *The Ocala Evening Star* (Ocala, Florida, November 16, 1911).

276 Jeff Cannon, "Pasco's Lost Lineage of Ancient Nobility: A Story of Mystery, Intrigue, and Mid-19th Century Romance," Local News, *New Port Richey Patch*, October 18, 2011, <http://patch.com/florida/newportrichey/pasco-s-lost-lineage-of-ancient-nobility>.

277 Shackelford, *Lake Weir, Florida, Amaskohegan (Bright Moon Lake)*, 35.

278 Cannon, "Pasco's Lost Lineage of Ancient Nobility: A Story of Mystery, Intrigue, and Mid-19th Century Romance."

Fred D. Waite was born in Massachusetts, in 1858. He and his wife, Julia, had two daughters--Edith and Ethel. Waite owned the Magnolia Nursery, in Belleview, Florida, and was only a part-time resident of East Lake Weir. In later years, he moved to Palmetto, Florida; he died in 1931, in Bradenton, Florida. In 1904, he sold his property and cottage, along the north side of New York Avenue, to W. E. Fosnot.²⁷⁹

Mariot Kelly came here from North Brookfield, Massachusetts, where he was a neighbor of Edward M. Allen; he started an orange grove, on the east side of Prospect Street, just east of the East Lake townsite, although it is unclear whether he ever built a house on that property.²⁸⁰ David W. Brimelow, from New York, owned 160 acres in 10-17S-24E; he became a seasonal visitor, after the 1894-1895 freezes killed his grove.²⁸¹

William H. Tracy was a native of Connecticut, although he appears to have sold out before taxes were collected in 1888. Elisha B. Camp was also a native of Connecticut; he owned a large tract in 15-17S-24E, along with about six acres in 9-17S-24E. Several other 1888 taxpayers remain a mystery. Josiah Hobbs and Albert H. King both had properties, at the north end of Eastlake. M. D. H. Sherman owned 8.1 hectares (20 acres), on the platted townsite of East Lake; another taxpayer, whose name is illegible on the tax rolls, had a similar parcel on another section of the townsite.

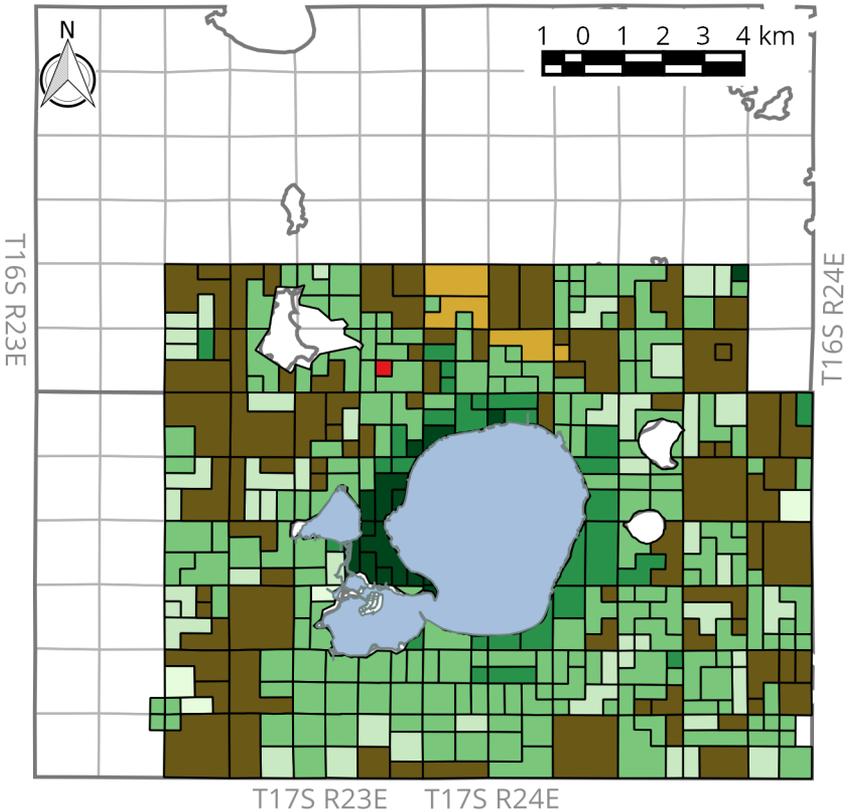
Settlement Intensification around Lake Weir

The influx of new settlers was not solely confined to Eastlake; all the settlements around Lake Weir experienced significant growth during the 1880s (Figure 13). For the federal census of 1880, the entire region between Summerfield and the Ocklawaha River, from the lots around the north shore of Smith Lake southward to the county line, were all part of the same tract, for enumeration purposes. By the 1885 state census, there were two tracts, Lake Weir and Stanton; essentially, the Lake Weir precinct (9) was to the north and west of the lake, and the Stanton precinct (19) was to the south and east of it. Currently, there are four census tracts covering an area with bounds that are roughly coterminous with the original census tract of 1880, although they extend a bit farther west, almost to Highway 301.

279 The Ocala Evening Star, "Eastlake [01/01/1904]," *The Ocala Evening Star* (Ocala, Florida, January 1, 1904).

280 The Ocala Banner, "Eastlake Intelligence."

281 The Ocala Evening Star, "Untitled Brief News Items."



General Land Office, Land Patents

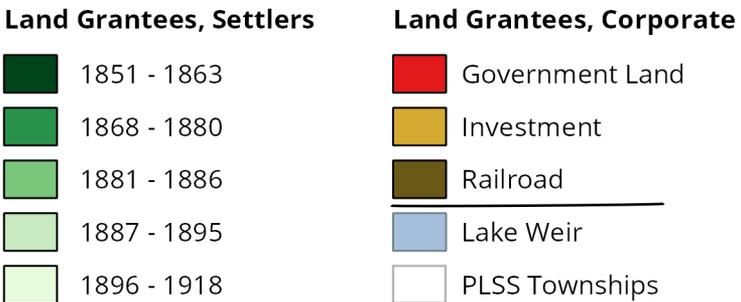


Figure 13. Settlement Patterns around Lake Weir, by Deeds Granted

In 1880, the population in the general vicinity of Lake Weir was 408, or 2.9% of Marion County's population. By the 1885 state census there were 1,082 people living around the lake, 591 in the Lake Weir precinct,

and 491 in the Stanton precinct; thus, about 6.2% of Marion County's population was living around Lake Weir. Following the devastating freezes of the 1890s, the total population dwindled to 582 in 1900, and 576 in 1905. The Lake Weir precinct suffered the greatest losses, dropping to 231 people in 1900, and increasing slightly to 250 in 1905; for the Stanton precinct, the population decreased to 356 people in 1900, and further contracted to 326 in 1905. For comparison, as of the 2010 federal census, there were 38,581 people living in the four census tracts around Lake Weir, comprising 11.6% of Marion County's total population.

Most of the formal community services were located at the settlements along the north, and south shores of Lake Weir. The settlement of Lake Weir was platted on the northwest corner of the lake, although relatively small, spatially, it was the seat of formal education, with Hood's Seminary opening in 1886, at the site of the Chautauqua grounds, on the lake front.²⁸² The Chautauqua, an institution dedicated to public education, on both spiritual and secular topics, only operated for a couple seasons; by 1895, the abandoned grounds were being used as a scenic picnic area.²⁸³ In 1911, the grounds were subdivided, and sold as house lots, as Chautauqua Villas.²⁸⁴ The Lake Weir Female Institute was also located at the settlement of Lake Weir.²⁸⁵ As might be expected from such a center of erudition, Lake Weir also boasted a 1500-volume public library; however, it is unclear where those tomes were housed.²⁸⁶

There were a number of common interest voluntary associations around the lake, including a debate club, and four reading clubs; one of the latter was active on the east side of Lake Weir.²⁸⁷ The Ladies' New England Home club met at Eastlake residences, including James Josselyn's house, where they read and played music.²⁸⁸ However, there

282 Charles L Norton, *A Handbook of Florida*, Third. (New York: Longmans, Green & Company, 1892), 304.

283 The Ocala Evening Star, "Excursion to Lake Weir," *The Ocala Evening Star* (Ocala, Florida, June 26, 1895).

284 F. W. Ditto and J. G. Lege, "Advertisement for Beautiful Chautauqua Villa," *The Ocala Evening Star* (Ocala, Florida, July 3, 1911).

285 Wanton S. Webb, ed., *Webb's Historical, Industrial and Biographical Florida*, Part I (New York: W. S. Webb, 1885), 76.

286 E. P. Turnley, "Social Aspects of Lake Weir," in *Lake Weir, Florida, Amaskohegan (Bright Moon Lake)* (Jacksonville, Florida: Times-Union Power Printing Office, 1883), 61.

287 Ibid.

288 The Ocala Banner, "Eastlake Intelligence."

were also less formal social gatherings, such as the regular parties thrown by Henry P. Gerald, known for their lively discussions, games, and “refreshments...served in profusion.”²⁸⁹

The south side of Lake Weir developed along more commercial lines; if not, then their commercial endeavors were more widely promoted than those to the north of the lake. In contrast to the north shore, the south side was home to at least two large groves owned by non-resident (out of state), capitalist consortia—the 100-acre grove of the Lake Weir Company of Westerly, Rhode Island, and the 40-acre grove of the Akron Orange Grove Company of Akron, Ohio.²⁹⁰ On the eastern part of the south shore, between Stanton and South Lake Weir, Edwin B. Foster built the Lakeside Hotel, in 1884; it was the premiere hotel of Lake Weir, for more than three decades, with room for 40 guests.²⁹¹ In Stanton, Fred C. Buffam, along with other members of the Buffam family, started the Buffam Loan and Trust Company; this was the earliest banking operation around Lake Weir.²⁹²

Once the Florida Southern Railway Company completed the track running along the eastern shore of Lake Weir, in late 1883, there was a concomitant shift of business and service operations, toward the track.²⁹³ This shift resulted in Ocklawaha Station becoming a focal point of local businesses, on the north shore.²⁹⁴ In 1885, a large new settlement, Weir Park, was platted to the east of the Florida Southern's track, at the northeastern corner of Lake Weir.²⁹⁵ There was at least one steam-powered saw mill, and a cotton gin, in operation near Ocklawaha, by 1886.²⁹⁶ There was possibly a second saw mill doing business in the vicinity, although there is no clear indication of its location, scope, or power source.

289 Ibid.

290 Shackleford, *Lake Weir, Florida, Amaskohegan (Bright Moon Lake)*, 31–32.

291 The Florida Railway and Navigation Company, Passenger Department, *The Key Line*, I; The Ocala Evening Star, “South Lake Weir [01/03/1902],” *The Ocala Evening Star* (Ocala, Florida, January 3, 1902).

292 Ott and Chazal, *Ocali Country, Kingdom of the Sun*, 125.

293 William D. Turnley, “Lake Weir from a Business Standpoint,” in *Lake Weir, Florida, Amaskohegan (Bright Moon Lake)* (Jacksonville, Florida: Times-Union Power Printing Office, 1883), 58.

294 The Daily Item, “Ocklawaha Station,” *The Daily Item*, May 1, 1885, Trade edition, sec. Supplement.

295 Marion County, Historical Records Office, Plat Book E, 45

296 Florida State Gazetteer and Business Directory, 1886–1887 (New York: South Publishing, 1886).

The impact of the railroad, on the south shore, was somewhat different. Stanton was already on the railroad line, and South Lake Weir was mostly composed of large property owners with a centralized post office. However, Edwin B. Foster had acquired property along the route of the railroad tracks, south of Stanton, around 1881, and he donated a portion of it for a railroad depot, post office, and park; this became the focal point of businesses serving South Lake Weir, known as Foster Park.²⁹⁷ As an interesting digression, Foster first visited the area in 1875, and was lodged by James Josselyn, while he explored the region, before purchasing land in South Lake Weir.²⁹⁸

Eastlake did not initially experience much commercial growth due to the railroad, although it was valued as a watering station, due to the propinquity of Lake Weir; this section of track, from Weir Park to Eastlake, was built so close to the water's edge that rising water levels eventually necessitated rebuilding it.²⁹⁹ On the other hand, Stanton was already well-established by the time the railroad came through town, with two steamboats landing at its 200-foot dock.³⁰⁰ The addition of the railroad added another shipping option for the steam-powered saw mill of the Stanton Lumber Company, which was milling 20,000-30,000 board feet per day.³⁰¹

Stanton is somewhat anomalous, in its settlement pattern, possibly because the mill attracted investment capital from the northeastern states. The founding settler, Frank H. Lytle, was from Tennessee, as was the family in the vanguard of settlement intensification, the Perrins; however, as Stanton developed it drew its new settlers from the northern states, especially New York and Maine.³⁰² The south shore was the more cosmopolitan, as evidenced by the birthplaces listed in the 1885 state census, with multiple households coming from Germany, France, Hungary, Sweden, and England.

Once such immigrant, Adolph Wohl, may have bought a lot on the south shore of Lake Weir as early as 1874, although the parcel in question was also included in the deed he received in 1884; his older sister, Laura,

297 Ott and Chazal, *Ocali Country, Kingdom of the Sun*, 125.

298 The Ocala Evening Star, "South Lake Weir [01/03/1902]."

299 Joe R. Allsopp, "Henry B. Plant Planned City at Weirsdale," *Ocala Star-Banner*, June 2, 1946.

300 The Ocala Banner, "North Lake Weir."

301 Webb, *Webb's Historical, Industrial and Biographical Florida*, 77.

302 Perrin, "From Mr. C. L. Porter's to Mr. James Josselyn's," 35-37.

also received her deed to the neighboring quarter-section in the latter year. Adolph came to the United States, with his sister, in 1866, aboard the *Geestemunde*.³⁰³ Wohl is not mentioned in Shackelford's booklet, although he is listed on both the 1880 federal census, and the 1885 state census. Apart from engaging in farming, as opposed to orange growing, he was also an organ tuner, who sometimes advertised his services in the Ocala newspapers.³⁰⁴

The English immigrants were the most high-profile. Elizabeth A. “Bessie” Ricker (aka Mrs. B. B. Ricker) moved to the area with her husband, Edward F. Ricker of New Hampshire, in 1876; after his death, in late 1880, she inherited the deed to their land claim, took his place as postmaster, and became the south shore's maven of pineapple horticulture.³⁰⁵ William S. S. Allsopp founded the purlieu of Prospect, a couple miles east of South Lake Weir, on Hammock Pond.³⁰⁶ By the turn of the twentieth century, Allsopp was “numbered with the '400' millionaires.”³⁰⁷

Before leaving this section, it would be beneficial to discuss the limitations of analyzing settlement patterns as shown in deeds granted by the General Land Office (GLO), as was shown in Figure 13. The date on which a deed was granted may not accurately reflect when a settler first arrived on that parcel of land. For example, in Figure 13, the lone property, in the group “1881-1886,” on the south shore of the main basin, was owned by Charles L. Porter; he was reputed to be the earliest settler on the south side of the lake, but was not granted the deed to his property until 1883. A deed grantee would have had to travel to the nearest GLO office, Newnansville in this case, to finalize the transaction; this inconvenience was often put off, until absolutely necessary.

As another example of the deficiencies inherent in the GLO records, only 40 acres of the land that Edwin B. Foster had surveyed, in 1881, for the site of Foster Park, was actually part of land deeded to him;

303 <http://www.germanimmigrants1860s.com/index.php?id=426810>

304 The Ocala Evening Star, “South Lake Weir [12/08/1898],” *The Ocala Evening Star* (Ocala, Florida, December 8, 1898).

305 B. B. Ricker, “Pineapple Culture,” in *Lake Weir, Florida, Amaskohegan (Bright Moon Lake)* (Jacksonville, Florida: Times-Union Power Printing Office, 1883), 92–93.

306 Ott and Chazal, *Ocali Country, Kingdom of the Sun*, 125.

307 The Ocala Evening Star, “Eastlake [02/06/1903].”

moreover, he did not receive patent to that land until 1882. The remainder of the “Foster Survey” belonged to John E. Wilbur, and Howard C. Jones, for which they were granted deeds, in 1884 and 1882, respectively. Clearly, there was some “land swapping” going on, but the terms of the deal went unrecorded. The GLO deeds do reflect a transfer of ownership, at a specific point in time, but may also conceal private transactions conducted by “gentleman's agreement.”

Eastlake Enters the Twentieth Century

As of this writing, no accounts of the 1894-1895 freezes have come to light, regarding the Eastlake groves. From period accounts, the Eastlake groves appear to have come through the January 1898 freeze without much damage, and most of the old grove owners remained in place.³⁰⁸ The freeze of February 1899 was more damaging, especially in groves where the additional precaution of banking the trees was not taken; but, in the following summer, the resilient grove owners were largely expecting the groves to rebound, including James Josselyn. However, the federal census of 1900 found Josselyn renting, back in Brookfield, Massachusetts; he listed his occupation as “salesman (fruit).” In 1901, he sold his Eastlake residence and groves, to C. K. Sayers, of Brooklyn, New York; Sayers also bought part of the Anthony Grove, owned by George E. Snow (Figure 14).³⁰⁹ The terms of the deal were not made explicit, but it does appear that Josselyn regained his property within a few years.

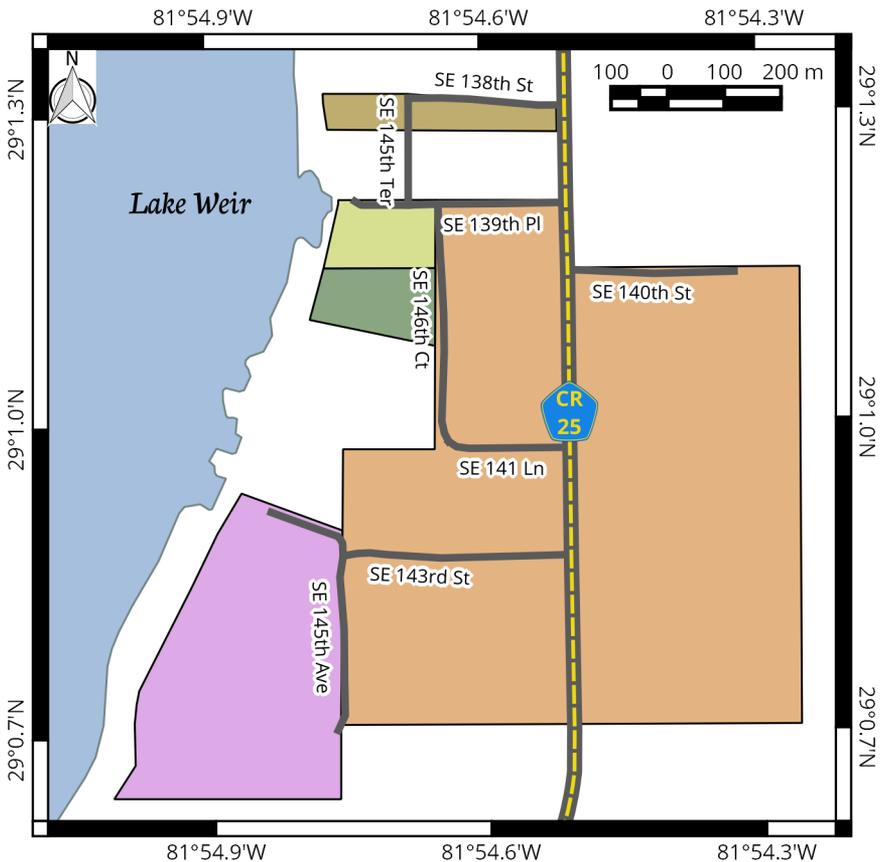
Orange groves would continue to have a place in Eastlake, but a new era of sports and leisure tourism, centered on the seasonally occupied cottages owned by affluent businessmen, and their families, formed the basis of twentieth century settlement. In 1911, the permanent population was listed as 40 people.³¹⁰ By 1927, the permanent population had risen to about 130.³¹¹ In 1930, the permanent population had dropped back down to 100 people.³¹² These numbers were augmented by additional residents, during the winter months.

308 The Ocala Evening Star, “Eastlake Groves O.K.,” *The Ocala Evening Star* (Ocala, Florida, January 13, 1898).

309 The Ocala Evening Star, “Eastlake [08/30/1901],” *The Ocala Evening Star* (Ocala, Florida, August 30, 1901).

310 Florida Gazetteer and Business Directory, 1911-1912 (Jacksonville: R. L. Polk, 1911).

311 Polk's Ocala Directory, including Marion County, Vol. VI (Jacksonville: R. L. Polk, 1927).



Plat Map (Year Filed)

- Anthony Grove (1913)
- East Lake (1885)
- Newport's Addition (1907)
- Snow's Addition (1913)
- Woodmar (1905)

Other Features

- County Road
- Local Road
- Lake Weir

Figure 14. Additions to the Original East Lake Plat Map

To accommodate the influx of seasonal occupants, and weekend residents from Ocala, a number of new subdivisions were added to the original East Lake plat map. The earliest addition, Woodmar, more

312 Polk's Ocala (Florida) City Directory, including Marion County, Vol. VII (Jacksonville: R. L. Polk, 1930).

romantically known as the 'Garden Spot of Lake Weir,' was intended to attract tourists, and seasonal residents.³¹³ There was a substantial hotel planned for Woodmar, but it does not appear to have ever been built; one boarding house owner from South Lake Weir, writing in 1910, indicated that there were only two formal hotels around Lake Weir: "the Martin hotel at Weir Park, and the Lakeside, at South Lake Weir."³¹⁴ The second addition, Newport's, attracted more weekend "cottagers" from Ocala, such as H. A. Fausett, who owned two lots on the south side of SE 138th Street, at the corner of SE 145th Terrace; it also attracted long time seasonal residents, like Frank Carpenter, who bought the large lot on the south side of SE 138th Street, at the the intersection with County Road 25 (then known as Broadway).³¹⁵ Charmingly, SE 138th Street became known, informally, as 'The Lane.'³¹⁶

Three of the wealthiest and most influential seasonal residents lived in the area between Anthony Grove and Woodmar, on the shores of Lake Weir. They were, from north to south, Louise Brown von Feilitzsch, William R. Goodwin, and David S. Woodrow. For Mrs. Brown, as she was known locally, the property had been in the family for many years; she spent her summers on Lake Champlain, in New York's Adirondack Mountains.³¹⁷ David S. Woodrow was a local capitalist and real estate investor, who platted Woodmar; his home was called "Blair Villa," after his daughter.³¹⁸ William R. Goodwin, the editor of the *Chicago Gazette*, named his property "The Oaks;" he frequently used his influence, at the state and national level, to affect the fortunes of Lake Weir.

In February 1913, the properties known as Anthony Grove, Snow's Addition, and Woodmar were offered at auction (Figure 14).³¹⁹ The ultimate disposition of Woodmar is unclear, although it seems likely that it was retained by D. S. Woodrow; his is still the plat map of

313 The Ocala Banner, "Woodmar on-the-Lake," *The Ocala Banner* (Ocala, Florida, August 8, 1905).

314 E. S. Upham, "Lake Weir Is Much Alive," *The Ocala Evening Star* (Ocala, Florida, August 3, 1910).

315 Marion County, Historic Records Office, Tax Rolls, 1912

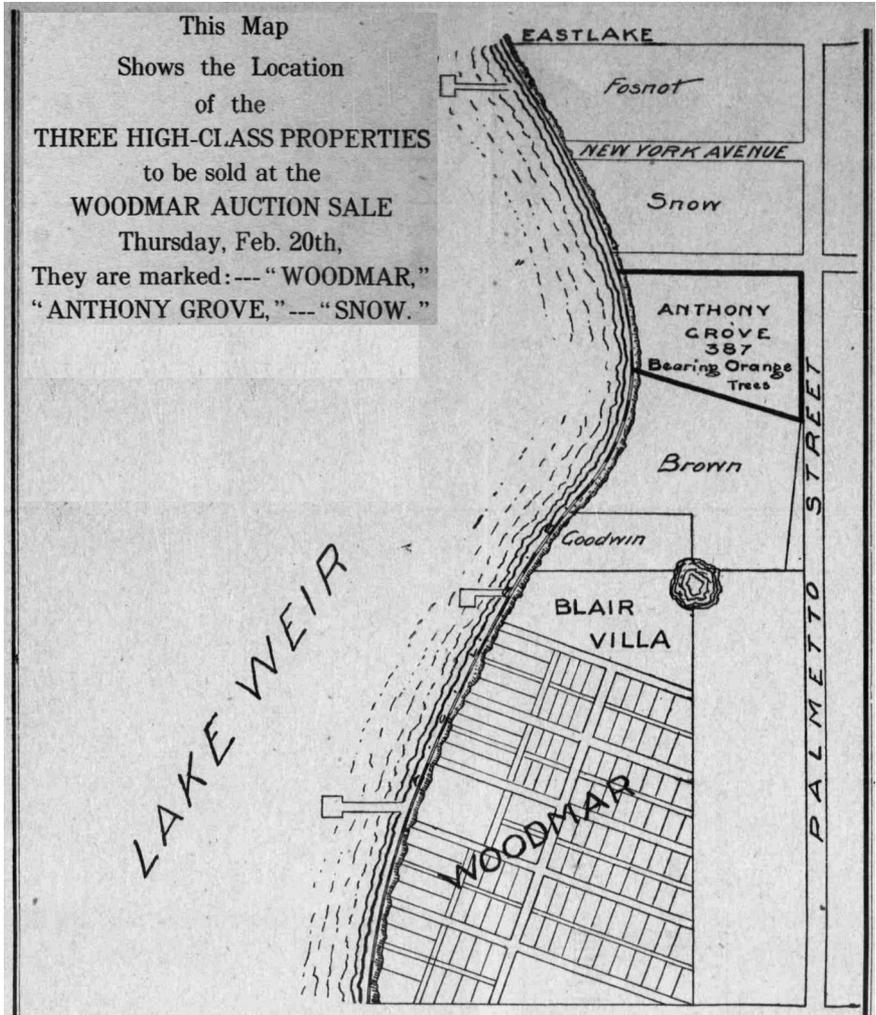
316 The Ocala Evening Star, "Eastlake [08/12/1922]," *The Ocala Evening Star* (Ocala, Florida, August 12, 1922).

317 The Ocala Evening Star, "Items from Eastlake [06/27/1912]," *The Ocala Evening Star* (Ocala, Florida, June 27, 1912).

318 Jones, "Lake Weir's Unusual Inland Yacht Club."

319 The Ocala Evening Star, "Auction Advertisement," *The Ocala Evening Star* (Ocala, Florida, February 19, 1913).

record.³²⁰ Woodrow submitted a plat map for Anthony Grove, on 3 May 1913.³²¹ George E. Snow submitted a plat map for Snow's Addition, on 12 March 1913.³²²



which is also shown in Figure 15.³²³ William E. Colby, of Vermont, built a 10-room cottage, on the southwest corner of SE 139th Place, and County Road 25.³²⁴ Long-time seasonal resident, Nelson H. DeLane, of North Brookfield, Massachusetts, also lived south of SE 139th Place, between County Road 25, and SE 146th Court, as did D. S. Woodrow's mother-in-law, Anna Martin.³²⁵ Today, there is a pine plantation growing on these properties.

Frank W. Hall, an Ocala policeman, bought Frank Carpenter's old house, along County Road 25.³²⁶ Frank Hall's wife, Florence, did a stint as Eastlake's postmaster, as did his son, Sumner Raymond Hall. The elder Hall was the proprietor of the Eastlake Citrus Nursery. Frank Hall was deceased, by 1927, and it is uncertain what happened to his nursery business. It may have been absorbed into the holdings of the Eastlake Investment Company, of Howard V. and Walter R. Lee. Howard V. Lee moved to Eastlake in 1915 to run the “cash store,” from Mount Dora, where he had his own orange groves.³²⁷

In 1922, Henry Tamblyn, from Honesdale, Pennsylvania, purchased Nelson H. DeLane's property, and remodeled the building for use as a boarding house.³²⁸ There were a number of new buildings added, in 1922, along SE 139th Place, including “three five-room bungalows,” and a “two-story house.”³²⁹ Another new house was constructed somewhere along SE 140th Street. In the same year, a former vaudeville performer, Arnold H. Dale, purchased 'The Palms' (probably referring to the former estate of B. B. F. Whitman), along County Road 25; he erected “one of the largest and most attractive houses made by the [Aladdin] company.”³³⁰ Houses were also planned for the northeast corner of SE 139th Place, and SE 145th Terrace, and along “Palmetto street.”³³¹

323 The Ocala Evening Star, “Eastlake [01/01/1904].”

324 The Ocala Evening Star, “Eastlake [06/06/1912],” *The Ocala Evening Star* (Ocala, Florida, June 6, 1912).

325 Marion County, Historical Records Office, Tax Rolls, 1912

326 The Ocala Evening Star, “Eastlake [07/20/1911],” *The Ocala Evening Star* (Ocala, Florida, July 20, 1911).

327 The Ocala Evening Star, “Eastlake [12/16/1915],” *The Ocala Evening Star* (Ocala, Florida, December 16, 1915).

328 The Ocala Evening Star, “Eastlake [03/18/1922],” *The Ocala Evening Star*, March 18, 1922.

329 The Ocala Evening Star, “Wonderful Development Taking Place by Lake Weir,” *The Ocala Evening Star* (Ocala, Florida, July 14, 1922).

330 The Ocala Evening Star, “Eastlake [03/18/1922].”

The Eastlake Hotel

In 1879, James Riley Josselyn moved from his log cabin, into the “north part of the big house on the bluff;” in 1882, the building was sold, to Samuel Hodgson, who operated it as a hotel, under the management of Jerome P. Kroll.³³² The hotel is later described as near the train station, with Nineteen Acre Grove also nearby, on the bluff.³³³ Another grove was just to the north of it (the current main entrance into the Lake Weir Landings subdivision). A 1902 advertisement for the “Eastlake Hotel” states that the hotel was closer than 100 yards from the train station.³³⁴

In 1912, Albert Conkey exchanged 'Rose Cottage' for a farm in New Hampshire, which, a newspaper article claimed, would leave Eastlake “without boarding house.”³³⁵ The new owner was Dr. James E. Klock, who planned several additions and improvements.³³⁶ Rose Cottage must have been a separate building, although it was repainted at the same time as the planned refurbishments were taking place at the hotel.³³⁷

In 1920, Dr. Klock sold his interest in the Eastlake Investment Company to Howard V. Lee, which included the hotel; the deal, with an estimated value of at least \$50,000 (multiple properties were involved), was one of the largest real estate transactions in the area, around that time.³³⁸ The large white building, at the west end of what is now SE 138th Street, was Howard V. Lee's house.³³⁹ Hence it appears that part of the building known, locally, as “the hotel” was built by James R. Josselyn, and it is the original Eastlake Hotel (aka Eastlake House).

331 The Ocala Evening Star, “Wonderful Development Taking Place by Lake Weir.”

332 The Ocala Evening Star, “Eastlake [04/10/1922].”

333 The Ocala Evening Star, “A Florida Eden,” *The Ocala Evening Star* (Ocala, Florida, September 30, 1902).

334 The Ocala Evening Star, “Advertisement for the Eastlake Hotel,” *The Ocala Evening Star* (Ocala, Florida, August 18, 1902).

335 The Ocala Evening Star, “Eastlake [01/23/1912],” *The Ocala Evening Star* (Ocala, Florida, January 23, 1912).

336 Ibid.

337 The Ocala Evening Star, “Eastlake [12/16/1915].”

338 The Ocala Evening Star, “Real Estate at Eastlake Changes Hands,” *The Ocala Evening Star* (Ocala, Florida, April 16, 1920).

339 J. F. Nicholson, “Notice of Sale by Clerk,” *Ocala Star-Banner* (Ocala, Florida, December 13, 1971).

The “Ideal” Packing House

The packing house was built by George E. Snow, in 1903.³⁴⁰ The packing house that Snow built was asserted to adjoin the lot that E. F. Newport donated for the construction of the Lake Weir Yacht Club.³⁴¹ In 1912, Snow added an engine house near the edge of the lake; its 20-horsepower motor and 5-inch centrifugal pump were intended to irrigate three of his groves, amounting to 35 acres in all; it is likely that this engine house was near the packing house.³⁴² Before early March 1914, the packing house had “more than doubled in capacity, and [been] equipped with up-to-date machinery.”³⁴³

In 1922, the Eastlake Investment Company took over ownership of the packing house.³⁴⁴ Under the auspices of the Eastlake Investment Company, the packing house was a “practically new plant,” after they added a concrete foundation, and new Skinner machinery to improve the coloring process, which again doubled their capacity.³⁴⁵ All fruit packed by the Eastlake Investment Company was marketed under the brand name “Ideal.”

Lake Weir Yacht Club

The Lake Weir Yacht Club grew out of a party held at William R. Goodwin's house, in late March 1909.³⁴⁶ On 6 May 1911, the members of the club provided public notice of their intention to apply for a charter, as a not-for-profit corporation; the application was to be submitted on 30 May 1911, at 10 AM.³⁴⁷ The rules of the club were posted publicly, on 30 March 1912; they included prohibitions against gambling at cards or

340 The Ocala Evening Star, “Eastlake [02/06/1903].”

341 The Ocala Evening Star, “Eastlake [07/07/1911],” *The Ocala Evening Star* (Ocala, Florida, July 7, 1911).

342 The Ocala Evening Star, “Items from Eastlake [02/14/1912],” *The Ocala Evening Star* (Ocala, Florida, February 14, 1912).

343 William R. Goodwin, “Eastlake Steadily Building Up,” *The Ocala Evening Star* (Ocala, Florida, March 25, 1914).

344 The Ocala Evening Star, “Eastlake [03/18/1922].”

345 The Ocala Evening Star, “Eastlake [08/12/1922].”

346 The Ocala Banner, “Lake Weir Yacht Club,” *The Ocala Banner* (Ocala, Florida, April 9, 1909).

347 William R. Goodwin et al., “Notice of Intention of the Lake Weir Yacht Club Association to Apply for Charter,” *The Ocala Evening Star* (Ocala, Florida, May 6, 1911).

on games of chance, imbibing of alcohol on the premises, and camping on the grounds, porches, or inside the clubhouse.³⁴⁸

The lot, on which the clubhouse currently stands, was donated by Edward F. Newport; it was selected because Eastlake was central for all the members of the club, and Newport pledged to maintain the property.³⁴⁹ The estimated cost of the building and dock was \$2,000.³⁵⁰ George MacKay's plans for the clubhouse were approved in April 1911. The estimates for the cost of the building were revised upwards, to \$3,500, following the approval of the plan.³⁵¹ The dock was planned to extend 200 feet into the water, with a 90 foot breakwater running perpendicular to the dock, at the distal end.³⁵² The clubhouse building was to have 88 feet of road frontage; on the lakeside, a veranda was to extend 14 feet from the building.³⁵³

Work on the dock began, before the clubhouse building was started, on 28 September 1911; Mr. Dwyer supervised the construction of the dock.³⁵⁴ The dock was completed during the week of 26 October-3 November 1911.³⁵⁵ The "cement" foundation for the clubhouse's brick piers was laid during the week of 5-11 November 1911.³⁵⁶ Work on the clubhouse building was frequently halted by delays in lumber delivery; the local residents benefited from these delays, by having the carpenters work on other buildings around Eastlake.³⁵⁷ The clubhouse building was still not fully completed at the end of March 1912, when Commodore Goodwin returned to Chicago³⁵⁸

348 The Ocala Evening Star, "Rules of the Lake Weir Club Association," *The Ocala Evening Star* (Ocala, Florida, March 30, 1912).

349 The Ocala Evening Star, "Untitled Brief News Items," *The Ocala Evening Star* (Ocala, Florida, February 21, 1911).

350 Ibid.

351 The Ocala Evening Star, "A Commodious Club House," *The Ocala Evening Star* (Ocala, Florida, April 8, 1911).

352 The Ocala Evening Star, "Eastlake [04/04/1911]," *The Ocala Evening Star* (Ocala, Florida, April 4, 1911).

353 The Ocala Evening Star, "A Commodious Club House."

354 The Ocala Evening Star, "Eastlake [10/05/1911]," *The Ocala Evening Star* (Ocala, Florida, October 5, 1911).

355 The Ocala Evening Star, "Items from Eastlake [11/09/1911]," *The Ocala Evening Star* (Ocala, Florida, November 9, 1911).

356 The Ocala Evening Star, "Eastlake [11/16/1911]."

357 The Ocala Evening Star, "Eastlake [03/15/1912]," *The Ocala Evening Star* (Ocala, Florida, March 15, 1912).

Prior to the opening of the clubhouse, the annual meeting of the Lake Weir Yacht Club was held at the Hotel Lakeside, in South Lake Weir, on 14 February 1912, starting at 5:30 PM.³⁵⁹ In anticipation of the grand opening of the clubhouse, J. P. Coates and Frank Johnson were brought up from Leesburg, to photograph the building; reproductions of the photographs were sold at Newport's store (Figure 16, note: photographer attribution not provided by Florida Memory Project).³⁶⁰ The grand opening of the Lake Weir Yacht Club building was held on 24 May 1912.³⁶¹ The final valuation of the clubhouse was \$5,000.³⁶²

photo courtesy of the Florida Memory Project: <http://floridamemory.com/items/show/143260>

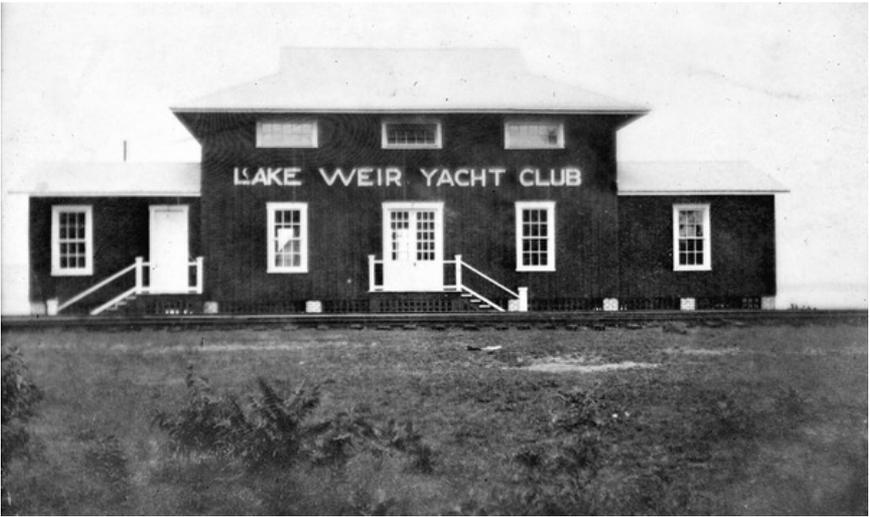


Figure 16. Clubhouse of the Lake Weir Yacht Club

The Road to Eastlake

There was a road before there was an Eastlake; on the 1849 survey plat map, the road is labeled Lucius' Ferry to Fort King Road. In 1909, a member of the Lucius family, W. M. Lucius, was the overseer of hard roads, in Marion County.³⁶³ The state government authorized the counties to collect taxes for road building, in 1903; however, there was

358 The Ocala Evening Star, "Eastlake [03/28/1912]," *The Ocala Evening Star* (Ocala, Florida, March 28, 1912).

359 The Ocala Evening Star, "Items from Eastlake [02/14/1912]."

360 The Ocala Evening Star, "Eastlake [05/20/1912]."

361 The Ocala Evening Star, "An Auspicious Occasion," *The Ocala Evening Star* (Ocala, Florida, May 25, 1912).

362 Goodwin, "Eastlake Steadily Building Up."

little improvement to roads in this section of the county.³⁶⁴ Of course, that didn't preclude citizens paying for their own roads, directly; for example, William S. S. Allsopp paid for a clay road, from Prospect to Weirsdale, in 1901.³⁶⁵ In June 1905, members of the Lytle family, along with other residents on the eastern side of Lake Weir, petitioned for a public road; the road was approved, from Weir Park to the Lake County line, at the July 1905 meeting of the county commissioners.³⁶⁶ The route selected, through the S½ 9-17S-24R and the N½ 16-17S-24E, was the same route present-day County Road 25 takes through East Lake Weir.

Unfortunately, a hard-surface public road, running from just west of Lake Weir to Weir Park, along the north shore, was not approved until 1913.³⁶⁷ Thus, when Sam Fosnot tried to drive his vaunted Indian motorcycle out to Eastlake, in 1911, he found the road impassable, and he had to make the final leg of the journey by boat. By 1914, the hard-surface road was complete, between Belleview and the Lake County line, and the era of the automobile trip to Eastlake began in earnest, which was a boon to the 77+ members of the Lake Weir Yacht Club that resided in Ocala.³⁶⁸

The road was well maintained enough to be included in the route known as the Dixie Highway; in 1916, the county ordered 100 of the official concrete markers, to place along the route.³⁶⁹ By 1920, the condition of the road had deteriorated, especially the segment around Lake Weir.³⁷⁰ After some renegotiations of the contract between the Marion County Commissioners and the state legislature, in November 1921, the more durable “permanent hard-surfaced road” known as State Road No. 2, was fully authorized to be supervised by the State Road Department. In many places the section of road running from

363 The Ocala Evening Star, “County Commissioners: Official Report of the Proceeding at the July Meeting of the Board,” *The Ocala Evening Star* (Ocala, Florida, July 12, 1909).

364 Ott and Chazal, *Ocali Country, Kingdom of the Sun*, 160.

365 The Ocala Evening Star, “Eastlake [05/17/1901],” *The Ocala Evening Star* (Ocala, Florida, May 17, 1901).

366 Marion County, County Commissioners' Minutes, Book D, 3, 15.

367 Marion County, County Commissioners' Minutes, Book E, 329.

368 The Ocala Evening Star, “Social Activities at the Lake,” *The Ocala Evening Star* (Ocala, Florida, January 29, 1914).

369 The Ocala Evening Star, “Condition in Marion County,” *The Ocala Evening Star* (Ocala, Florida, June 26, 1916).

370 The Ocala Evening Star, “Dixie Highway Is in Bad Shape,” *The Ocala Evening Star* (Ocala, Florida, April 16, 1920).



Figure 17. Right-of-Way Marker, County Road 25

Belleview, around the east side of Lake Weir, to the Lake County Line had to be re-routed; however, the concrete right-of-way markers (marked SRD R/W), placed during construction, show that the old route was used for the Eastlake segment (Figure 17). By mid-August 1922, the road was open to SE 139th Place, and only awaited final compaction to be open as far as SE 141st Lane; the project supervisor used the Tamblyn Inn as his field headquarters, staying until the year's end.³⁷¹ In fact, a few members of the road construction crew made their home at the small boarding house, on SE 139th Place, some even bringing their families.

The Railroad Station

The first railroad station at Eastlake burned down, and was replaced by another.³⁷² As discussed in the section about the hotel, the train station was at the base of the bluff, south of the slough; in Figure 3, it would have been near the hollow square, just to the south of where the bluff bends toward County Road 25. However, one early newspaper account states that the station was only a “few hundred yards” from Dollar Pond.³⁷³ The undated Campbell map appears to show a structure labeled depot, at the west side of what became Snow's Addition; unfortunately, a large crease partially obliterated the text of the label. Future archaeological research might reveal the existence of an earlier third railroad station. In any case, in 1885, the fare was 95¢ to Ocala, and the six-hour ride to Jacksonville would set you back \$6.50.³⁷⁴

During its early history, Eastlake's store keeper was also the station agent. Sometime in the early 1900s, possibly when the Atlantic Coast

371 The Ocala Evening Star, “Eastlake [08/12/1922].”

372 Crisman, *Historical Assessment of Cultural Eutrophication in Lake Weir, Florida*, 20.

373 The Ocala Banner, “North Lake Weir.”

374 Webb, *Webb's Historical, Industrial and Biographical Florida*, 76.

Line acquired the road, the station only had an agent during the peak citrus shipping season; about 1909, the railroad company discontinued agent service at Eastlake. William R. Goodwin interceded (in the winter of 1911-1912), on the town's behalf, but the A.C.L. Railroad still refused; finally, in 1913, Goodwin involved the Floria Railroad Commission, and the A.C.L. Compromised by offering to send a seasonal agent, from 15 November to 15 April.³⁷⁵ In the late spring of 1912, the station, engine house, and water tank were refurbished; the station's waiting rooms (segregated) were given new seating, the freight storage capacity was increased, and the agent's office was expanded.³⁷⁶ The tracks were removed, in 1981, ending East Lake Weir's railroad era.³⁷⁷

Eastlake Boat Works

East Lake Weir was home to the Eastlake Boat Works, with Robert Fosnot as its chief boat builder.³⁷⁸ In 1911, the company built a 40-foot barge for the Carney Investment Company.³⁷⁹ In 1922, Robert and Sam Fosnot built a 50-foot barge, named *The Blue Goose*, for the American Fruit Growers, Inc.³⁸⁰ They also performed major overhauls on the various boats in use by the members of the Lake Weir Yacht Club.³⁸¹ The exact location of the boat works, and its extent, are unknown, for now.

Conclusion

To paraphrase the liner notes from Jethro Tull's first album, *This Was* one archaeologist's interpretation of East Lake Weir's history. Further research has the potential to illuminate our understanding of how the lifeways of people, originating from different regions, converged to make a distinct Lake Weir culture area. Thanks, for reading! -FIN-

375 William R. Goodwin, "Agent for Eastlake," *The Ocala Evening Star* (Ocala, Florida, August 8, 1913).

376 The Ocala Evening Star, "Eastlake [06/06/1912]."

377 Historic Property Associates, *Marion County Preservation Project*, Prepared for the Marion County Division of Planning and the Marion County Historical Commission (Manuscript on file at the Marion County Public Library, Headquarters, Ocala, 1990).

378 The Ocala Evening Star, "Items from Eastlake [11/09/1911]."

379 The Ocala Evening Star, "Eastlake [11/16/1911]."

380 The Ocala Evening Star, "Eastlake [08/12/1922]."

381 The Ocala Evening Star, "Eastlake [07/20/1911]."

Additional Credits:

Fig. 5:

Hammer, Øyvind, David A. T. Harper and Paul D. Ryan. "PAST: Paleontological Statistics Software Package for Education and Data Analysis." *Palaeontologia Electronica* 4, no. 1 (2001): 1-9

Fig. 6:

State Archives of Florida, Florida Memory. "View of Lake Weir and Dredge of the Lake Weir Washed Sand Company." GE0647. (1921). Last accessed 15 May 2014, <http://floridamemory.com/items/show/124692>.

Figs. 7,8, and 10:

Sinko, Peggy Tuck, and Kathryn Ford Thorne. Florida Historical Counties. Data Set. Laura Rico-Beck, digital comp. Atlas of Historical County Boundaries, ed. by John H. Long. Chicago: The Newberry Library, 2010. Available online from <http://www.newberry.org/ahcbp>.

Fig. 16:

State Archives of Florida, Florida Memory. "Clubhouse of Lake Weir Yacht Club--Lake Weir, Florida." N033865. (191-). Last accessed 15 May 2014, <http://floridamemory.com/items/show/143260>.

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