

Daring Domesticity and Dazzling Danger: Florida's Leisure Literature for Women and Youths 1890-1920

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When Harry B. Brown began circulating his eight-page pamphlet advertising Melrose as Florida's "Summerland" and Florida as "the Sanitarium of the United States" (Figure 1), he joined a long list of Florida "boosters" trying to lure both leisure-seeking tourists and plucky settlers to the sunshine state during the Progressive Era (roughly 1890-1920). Brown touted Florida's temperatures as "more equable" and her air "drier" than the southern coast of Italy, the Mediterranean resort area to which Florida was frequently compared.¹ Florida boosterism took many forms, from Brown's illustrated pamphlet (which nearly every burgeoning Florida town produced and circulated in this era), to magazines, travelogues, and memoirs. Most shared similar rhetoric, boasting of Florida's temperate climate, natural beauty, abundant resources, and wholesome leisure activities. While this literature reflected Progressive Era concerns about the need for Americans to enjoy clean air, good sanitation, and life-enhancing leisure, this Paradise clearly targeted a privileged population of well-to-do white citizens: Florida was not a utopia for all.

This article seeks to extend the analysis of Florida booster literature presented in Henry Knight's award-winning 2013 University Press of Florida book *Tropic of Hopes: California, Florida, and the Selling of American Paradise 1869-1929*.² Knight begins his study in 1869, the year of completion of the transcontinental railroad, and concludes with the onset of the Great Depression. As Knight notes, the booster literature of both states focused on two primary themes, "health-restoring leisure and rewarding labor."³ Skipping past William Bartram's early descriptions of his Florida travels, Knight focuses primarily on travel literature, guidebooks, and booster magazines published between the 1870s and 1920s. Chapter 2 focuses specifically on booster literature promoting leisure activities in

both states. Subsequent chapters focus on agricultural magazines such as *Florida Agriculturalist and Semi-Tropical* (Jacksonville); tourist magazines, such as *Suniland* ; and later newspapers and magazines published in up-and-coming cities such as Tampa and Miami – cities where Jim Crow segregation guaranteed “safe” neighborhoods for prosperous white businessmen seeking either to relocate or to establish a winter home in Florida. As Knight rightly observes of the publications he consulted, booster literature was uniformly edited by white men, in this literature made commonplace “racist stereotypes and social inequalities.”⁴

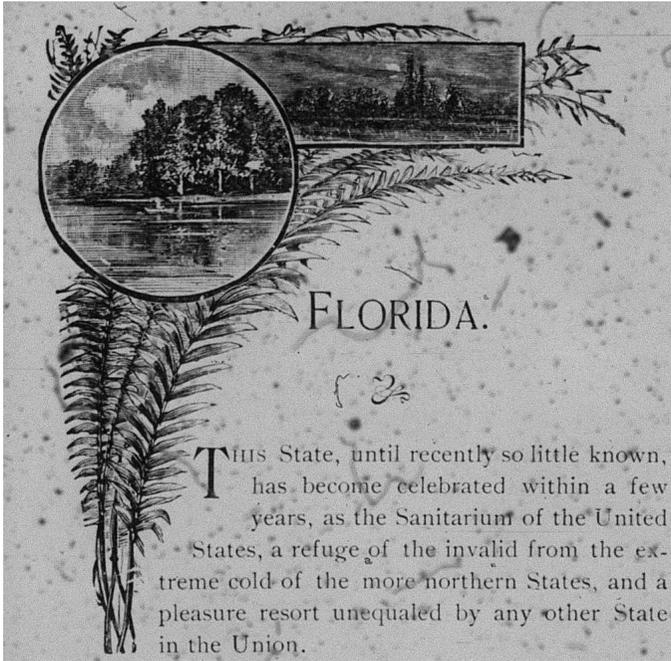


Figure 1: “Florida Its Wonderful Climate” (booster brochure, Melrose), Orr Family Papers. From the Department of Special and Area Studies Collections, George A. Smathers Libraries, University of Florida.

Knight defines “boosters” as “a group of journalists, businessmen and developers . . . with promotional motivations,” whose purpose was to “sell land, attract tourists, or raise a city’s profile.”⁵ With the exception of Helen Hunt Jackson’s 1884 novel *Ramona*, which deals with California’s romanticized Spanish past, and Harriet Beecher Stowe’s *Palmetto Leaves*, the predominance of booster literature Knight studies features male writers

speaking largely to male readers. However, in this article I posit that few men travelled to Florida for either health, vacation, or to re-settle without women and children in mind, if not in tow. Moreover, what about the single women who chose to relocate to Florida without the company of male chaperones? Where might one find a type of popular literature designed to persuade these readers that Florida was not only a habitable, but desirable place to live? What drew women like Eliza King and Nellie Glen – who relocated to Melrose, Florida together eschewing male companionship to cultivate orange groves – to make such a daring decision?⁶ And what might the burgeoning body of literature targeting a youth market – dime novels and young adult literature contribute to envisioning Florida as a land of leisure for adventurous youngsters?

What follows in the remainder of this article is a glance, to borrow my colleague Eric Gardner's phrase, at the "unexpected places" - in this case, a segment of Florida booster literature selling leisure to women and youth readers.⁷ I discovered travel narratives, novels, dime novels, and a preponderance of magazine literature. Not surprisingly, perhaps, these resources are not always found in archives dedicated specifically to collecting literature about Florida. In researching *Tropic of Hopes*, Knight relied on resources found at the P. K. Yonge Library of Florida History at the University of Florida. While I consulted sources from the Floridiana collection at the University of South Florida, I concentrated the bulk of my search in popular women's and children's magazines, dime novels, and young adult literature published between 1890 and 1920. I discovered illustrations, essays, short stories, novels, and dime novels touting the beauty of Florida, and specifically targeting the needs and concerns of women and youths facing temporary or permanent relocation from other parts of the country to semi-tropical Florida. This literature "sold" to these women and youth readers a vision of Florida as a place for daring domesticity and dazzling danger.⁸

Admittedly, a predominance of the booster literature targeted the male reader looking for robust leisure activities such as tennis, golfing, boating, fishing, swimming, and hunting. Fewer publications targeted leisure activities for women; although, as we will see, articles and illustrations depicted women strolling, boating, carriage riding, and plein air painting in Florida's

temperate climate. However, the major focus of booster literature targeting women focused on the domestic challenges and opportunities confronting the Florida homemaker. And literature targeting a youthful readership relied on the opportunities for outdoor adventures in which youths could test their mettle. While the dime novels in particular featured plucky boy adventurers, some novel-length works also featured female characters confronting the challenges of the Florida wilds.

One women's magazine that prominently featured Florida booster literature was *Harper's Bazar* (Figure 2), which began publication in 1867.⁹ As Knight notes, most booster literature originated in the Northeast and Midwest, with promoters targeting well-heeled white urban readers fed up with the hazards to health and life of increasing industrialization. *Harper's Bazar* proved no exception. The glossy cover illustrations and content clearly targeted the cultured white female reader. Feature articles published in the 1890s, when interest in the state had begun to increase, addressed Florida food, fun, and fashions. Illustrations in these articles depicted an Edenic winter climate as a landscape perfectly suitable for the well-heeled northern reader of the weekly. For example, a woodcut from the April 18, 1899 issue titled "In Florida," depicts a neatly-dressed lady of leisure, being rowed about by a male companion. The caption reads: "What a wonderful climate we have in this country! There is a blizzard raging in the North, while here it is like summer." This woodcut appears on a page also containing a cartoon lampooning "The Tribulations of the Rich" and from the context, it appears to be poking gentle fun at the well-to-do readers of *Harper's Bazar*, who could afford to winter in Florida while their less-fortunate neighbors could not.



Figure 2: Cover, *Harper's Bazar*, April 11, 1883. Courtesy GrangerAcademic.com.

Another woodcut from the April 19, 1890 issue of *Harper's Bazar* shows an artist, with her easel set up, surrounded by Florida fauna and fowl (Figure 3). The caption reads "Our Artist in Florida," and shows an attractive woman engaged in plein air painting, sporting a bonnet and parasol to protect her skin from the Florida sun. Her tailored outfit seems none the worse for wear in this tropical setting, and long-legged birds of the Florida wetlands appear quite tame at her side. It appears that she has more to fear from a tennis racquet-waving avid sportsmen – here depicted as an alligator wearing a man's striped suit – than she does from her surroundings. Indeed, her placid expression suggests she has quite tamed these creatures of the Florida swamp, the sportsman included.

A short story published in the July 1891 issue of *Arthur's Home Magazine* reinforces this trope linking a Northern woman's real danger not to the dangerous animal wildlife but to the seasonal Florida sportsmen.¹⁰ Entitled "A Southern Souvenir," the tale introduces Miss Effie Edminston, "a lithe young maiden

of about eighteen . . . pretty, black-eyed, rosy-cheeked" (514) who catches the eye of the first-person narrator, one "Mr. Moore," vacationing in Florida to hunt, fish, and golf. Moore, bored with days of shooting game with his male companions, tells the reader, "I found myself wishing that just one girl from the North might turn up at the house, to brighten the evenings a bit" (514). On cue, Effie appears with her parents and invalid sister, and Moore pursues her ardently. Like our alligator in striped jacket, Moore admits to wearing a jaunty "suit of checks" – clearly in vogue for men of means wintering in Florida. Alas, Moore's pursuit of Effie is to no avail. She informs him, just



Our Artist in Florida.

Figure 3: "Our Artist in Florida," *Harper's Bazar*, April 19, 1890, page 304. Courtesy ProQuest Historical Newspapers, 1741-1941.

as she is about to return North, “Dr. Masy has told mother from the start . . . that you were a rich young fellow thinking only of pleasure, and that she had better keep me out of your way” (515). This tale thus depicts both the allure of Florida for adventurous young women and the danger they might face from cavalier wealthy young Northern sportsmen as well.

As a magazine devoted largely to ladies' fashions, *Harper's Bazar* also included appropriate fashions for Florida in its pages. For example, the January 26, 1895 issue features a column titled “Tailor Gowns for the South,” designed specifically “to be worn in Florida and California,” for the fashionable set heading to warmer climes for the winter. Adapted specifically for outdoor activities, the dresses are described as stopping “within seven inches of the floor” (63), and dressmakers prescribe bloomers or knickers underneath rather than petticoats to allow for freedom of movement for activities like bicycle riding, a fairly recent fad for the fashionable.¹¹

Most of the matter devoted to Florida in these women's magazines, however, proved to be primarily of the practical variety, targeting the domestic challenges and opportunities facing Florida homemakers. For example, one R. E. Merryman, writing from her Florida winter home to *Arthur's Home Magazine* in a letter addressed to the “Home Circle” dated April 2, 1892, sought to educate her readers about the varieties of Florida oranges and their peak seasons. For Merryman, the Homossassa, Pineapple, Navel, Mediterranean, and Harts varieties of Florida oranges were like “old friends,” and she advised her fellow readers to choose “smooth heavy ones” when buying, referring them to recipes for orange pudding, pies, and cakes also to be found in the pages of *Arthur's* (575). Merryman's boosting of Florida citrus thus also served the intertextual function of creating readerly interest in other segments of the magazine's offerings.

A contributor to the February 1890 *Ladies' Home Journal* took citrus culinary advice to the extreme. In an article titled “How to Eat an Orange,” the author details eight distinct strategies for eating oranges, depending on the varietal type and skin texture.¹² Eight woodcuts depicting the various strategies accompany the author's description, so there could be no confusion. In addition to providing this helpful “how to,” the author reviews oranges grown in South Africa, China, California, Cuba and Palestine, averring, “But

for excellence the Florida orange takes the lead” (7). One suspects that the author, one Allan Forman, was likely a budding Florida orange grove owner or distributor, eager to encourage a northern market for his wares.

Some articles targeting women combine both effulgent praise for Florida leisure activities with practical advice on the use of Florida’s plentiful flora and fauna. For example, author-contributor Zoe Ryman, writing for *Arthur’s Home Magazine*, contributed a piece on “Florida Moss” for the December 1893 issue of the magazine. She first waxes poetic about the beauty of Florida’s waterways and lakes and then, rather surprisingly, advocates visiting Florida during the summer rather than the winter months. “Although I can give you a faint idea of its beauty,” she attests, “only those who visit Florida woods in summer can realize what a delightful coolness pervades the air in this wonderful temple of nature” (1029). She notes that in addition to its beauty, the abundant Spanish moss serves practical purposes as winter feed for cattle and horses, as well as stuffing for mattresses and cushions. Ryman also praises the utility of the saw palmetto for constructing hats, fans, wall-pockets, baskets, and other useful articles (1029). Ryman thus both advocates for leisurely summer strolls through the cool Florida woodlands and provides practical advice for homemakers needing to use local materials to create comfortable domestic spaces for family and friends.

Harper’s Bazar featured an extended series of practical-minded articles boosting Florida in the 1890s. Authored by Merah Mitchell, a New Yorker who initially only wintered in Florida, the articles focused on the culinary challenges facing Florida cooks. For urban-dwelling northerners accustomed to an abundance of fresh provisions available in local groceries and markets, life in the small and often remote Florida villages posed problems. Local general stores often relied on packaged goods brought in by ship and rail – at a time when many towns were virtually inaccessible by road.¹³ In a lengthy article published April 18, 1891 titled “Tinned Meats,” Mitchell admits that she initially feared for her health eating meats out of tins, convinced that such preparations might contain chemical “poisons.” Given Progressive Era concerns about food safety, likely Mitchell’s readers could sympathize. However, after several winters relying almost exclusively on tinned meats, she observes, “often better results can be obtained from a good canned

article than from an inferior fresh one” (304). Mitchell then proceeds to offer preparation and serving hints to *Bazaar* readers on everything from ham, to beef, to mutton, to sausage to tripe – all useful advice for would-be Florida homemakers lacking ready access to reliable fresh products.

After twelve seasons wintering in Florida, Mitchell and family decided to give Florida summers a try, resulting in additional columns for *Harper's Bazaar*. In a column published in the November 5, 1898 issue of the magazine, she describes the ordeal of making guava jelly, a Florida east-coast treat concocted in the hotter months of July, August, and September, when the guavas ripen. Facing contradictory advice from the local resident cooks, Mitchell ends up with a jelly pronounced too “dark” by the locals, who prefer a “clear amber” or “delicate wine red” jelly. She ruefully acknowledges that at the upcoming gathering of local women, the young wife using her Cuban mother's recipe is likely to “carry off the blue ribbon” for the best jelly. Working with unfamiliar produce in the inhospitable summer months presented special challenges to northern transplants seeking to achieve the domestic competence of their already-acclimated neighbors, as Mitchell learns in this endeavor.

The biggest trial facing Merah Mitchell and other women seeking to make Florida a full-time home is what Mitchell dubs “Mosquito Season” in a September 1898 article for *Harper's*. In spite of outfitting her entire house with screens, the pesky insects manage to come into the house, primarily, it seems, on ladies' gowns – dark colors are the worst – requiring her, she states, to travel through rooms two to three times a day killing the creatures. Mitchell describes the local's preference for smoke or smudge pots lit just outside the front doors. She finds this strategy “almost as distressing” as the mosquitos themselves because they leave one feeling “dried up, blackened, suffocated and altogether unhappy” (812). Mitchell complains that as a result “almost all social life is at a standstill,” with invitations punctuated by qualifiers such as “weather and mosquitos permitting.” That said, Mitchell concludes her article “Summer Life in Tropical Florida” with rhetoric matching the best male booster literature. She describes the “most beautiful of landscapes, the blue waters of the bay rippling in the sunshine, the long leaves . . . of the cocoanut [sic] trees bending and swaying with a pleasant rustling, while the

crimson blossoms of the hibiscus-bushes are nodding good-naturedly over the gray stones of the wall . . . “ (812).

Nine months later, midway through July and her second season of year-round living in the state, Merah Mitchell contributed a more seasoned report of “Summer Life in Florida” for the July 22, 1899 issue of the magazine. Although admitting that social life slows noticeably, she now appreciates the respite from the winter frenzy of entertaining guests and making social calls. She pronounces summer the season for other types of leisure activity, such as: taking friends for a drive in the wagon; for exchanging recipes with neighbors; for convening book studies on Saturday afternoons at the local library; oohing and aahing over new babies; and for preparing church and school buildings for another winter season. Thus Mitchell’s work ultimately presents a narrative asserting a triumphant taming of the daring domestic challenges of living in Florida full-time.

Mitchell’s specific reference to “schools” and “babies” provides a reminder that not only men and women traveled south to enjoy Florida for work and leisure. Visitors and transplants contributed to Florida’s population boom as well by bringing children in tow and by expanding their families after arrival. Popular literature targeting children and youths painted represented Florida as an outdoor playground offering exciting leisure activities for the adventurous youth. Proving popular during the Progressive Era were several genres of literature targeting children and youth: adventure narratives, dime novels, and especially the leading children and young adult magazines of the era. The best known and most widely-circulated children’s magazine, *The Youth’s Companion*, had long featured articles on natural history, and Florida proved a rich subject for articles treating Florida flora and fauna (Figure 4).¹⁴ For example, a June 27, 1901 article entitled “Some Florida Birds,” complete with five small woodcuts, identifies both unique birds native to Florida (and not found in the North) and highlights the very different habitats chosen, and habits displayed, by birds also native to the north when found in the very different Florida clime. The primary claim of the author, one C. B. Todd, seems to be that the same species found to be civilization-shy in the North, prove much more engaged with humans in Florida – a tantalizing prospect for any bird-loving, Florida-bound youth.

Much of the youth fiction in *The Youth's Companion* and elsewhere focused on the potential dangers of life in the Florida wilderness as well as the strategies needed by the resourceful youth to avoid these pitfalls. An article titled "Lights of the Florida Reef" published April 6, 1893, for example, warned of pirates, dangerous reefs, and treacherous shoals, while describing the lighthouses built along the Florida coast to assist seafarers in navigating these waters. More typical is the July 12, 1900 tale "An Encounter with Maneaters," that describes the narrator's heroic escape from a herd of sharks seeking to feed on a sawfish caught in the young man's turtle net. In tales like this, the plucky youngster invariably vanquishes the threatening challenger. These tales seem designed to reassure Northern youths that with quick-wittedness and a modicum of knowledge about the state and its natural inhabitants, they, too, can enjoy leisure in the balmy southern paradise.

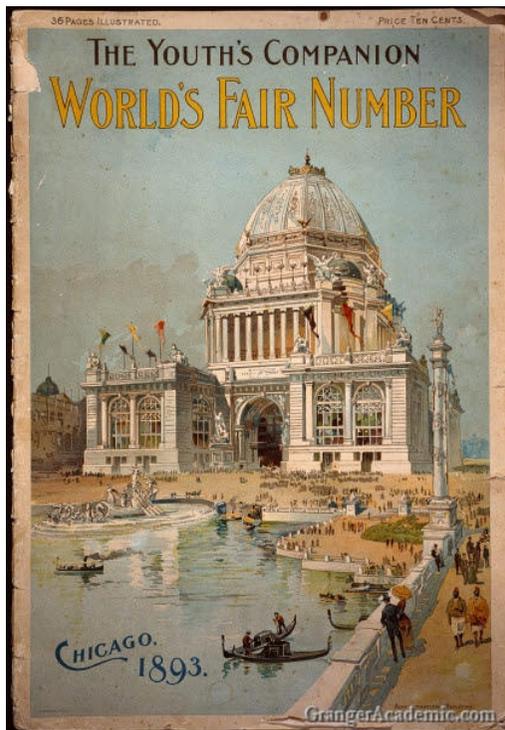
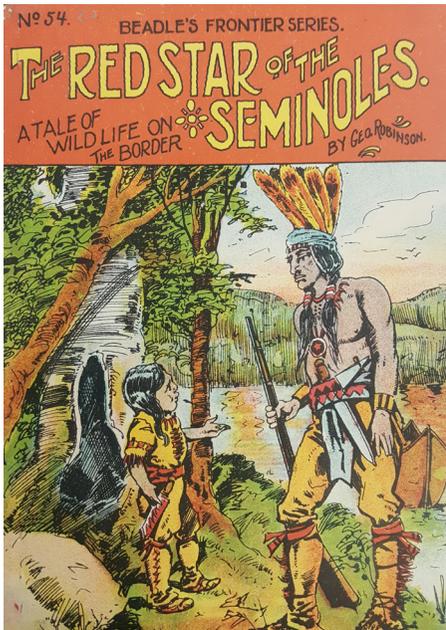


Figure 4: Cover, *The Youth's Companion*, May 4, 1893. Courtesy GraingerAcademic.com.

Many of both the shorter and longer narratives targeting children and youths deploy tropes ubiquitous in the popular dime novels published between 1860 and 1930.¹⁵ Dime novels came in several sizes, shapes, and formats, but nearly all featured a colorful cover illustration and titles designed to highlight the daring adventures undertaken by the young, usually male, hero.¹⁶ The earliest dime novels feature tales of the American frontier, and in the 1890s, when Florida boosters began cranking out their pamphlets and brochures, Florida was still considered a frontier. Dime novels set in Florida often referenced the Native Americans still roaming the woodlands, such as *The Red Star of the Seminoles: A Tale of Wild Life on the Border*, published in Beadle's Frontier Series (Figure 5). Others featured popular characters like Frank Merriwell whose travels might bring them to the Florida frontier (Figure 6).



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Figure 5: Cover, *The Red Star of the Seminoles; A Tale of Wild Life on the Border*. Courtesy USF Libraries Special Collections, Dime Novels.

Figure 6: Cover, *Frank Merriwell's Ability; or Liz, the Girl Wrecker*. Courtesy USF Libraries Special Collection, Dime Novels.

Frank Merriwell's Ability; or Liz, the Girl Wrecker provides a typical example of some of the tropes employed in these dime novels.¹⁷ Merriwell is perhaps the best-known dime novel hero. The earliest Merriwell tales begin with Frank as a misfortunate schoolboy whose mother has died. His father travels frequently for business, so he is forced to send Frank off to a boarding school. Later tales follow Frank's adventures as a globe-trotting Yale student athlete.¹⁸ In this tale, Frank, a Yale athlete, travels inland from an ocean steamer via canoe to the "semi-tropical forest of Southern Florida" with his friend Jack Ready. There he meets a wild Florida Cracker girl named Liz, who works for a marauder known only as "The Captain." The Captain and his crew of rough and ready men work as "wreckers" – salvaging treasure from the many vessels stranded off the Florida coast. These wreckers capture Frank and Jack, meaning to kill them because of their fear that the two young men will betray their whereabouts and nefarious activities to the authorities. Although described as lean and wiry, Frank easily out-fights and out-shoots Abe, the tall, burly ringleader of this gang of wreckers, and engineers an escape. Along the way, Frank also fends off threats from Florida's wild creatures: sharks, alligators, and bears.

Many of the tales sold originally as dime novels were actually novelettes, running around 30,000 words. After initial publication in small-print magazine format, many were re-released as hard back or paper back novels, accompanied by additional illustrations. One popular dime novel author, St. George Rathborne, also penned over 250 of these books, including longer illustrated tales about Florida targeting younger male readers.¹⁹ One of these youth novels, *Paddling Under Palmettos*, features additional tropes typical of the youth literature of the era.²⁰ In this tale, "a trio of young fellows . . . from the North," Archie, Ned, and Dick travel by steam ship to Jacksonville, bringing their own canoes with them on board the steamer. As soon as they claim the canoes, their adventures begin. First, they find themselves caught up in a canoe race with boys belonging to the Florida Canoe Club of Jacksonville (14). Later they use nets to catch mullet jumping out of the water at twilight (12). When they attempt to steal oranges from a grove alongside the St. Johns River, they encounter the wrath (in dialect speech) of the Cracker farmer who owns the grove (26). Sailing back out of the river and along the coast, their boats become stranded on an oyster reef and they must rescue

themselves and their canoes (41). Along the way they shoot and kill a menacing rattlesnake (55), hunt deer for food (104), and shoot at – but miss – a bear that has rummaged through their victuals (65). In every plot twist, they must display pluck and resourcefulness to navigate these challenges posed by the Florida wilderness.

Kirk Munroe, another author of adventure tales for boys, published over 30 books between 1890 and 1930, many set in Florida. Titles include: *Canoemates: A Story of the Florida Reef and Everglades* and *The Coral Ship: A Story of the Florida Reef* (1893); *Big Cypress: The Story of an Everglade Homestead* (1894); *Through Swamp and Glad: A Tale of the Seminole War* (1896), and *The Flamingo Feather*

(1915).²¹ One of his later tales, *Wakulla: A Story of Adventure in Florida* (1913) features scenes of danger and daring, topics likely to have excited the interest of its youthful readers in exploring the Florida wilds. In the novel, Mark and Ruth Elmer, ages 15 and 14 respectively, relocate to Florida, where their banker father has purchased a plantation in order to restore his failing health. Before departing Mark and his sister discuss how they will write home to former classmates about their adventures. Mark opines, “Yes, and won’t they open their eyes when we write them letters about the alligators, and the orange groves, and palm trees, and bread-fruit, and monkeys, and Indians and pirates? Whoop-e-e-e! what fun we are going to have!”²²

True to this foreshadowing, the youngsters experience many daring adventures in their sojourn to the Sunshine State. In an early Frank Merriwell-esq episode, while traveling on the schooner, *Nancy Bell*, the travelers encounter a marooned ship. and The schooner’s captain wants to



Figure 7: Illustration, Paddling Under Palmettos, page 65. Courtesy, USF Libraries Special Collections, Youth Literature.

board the boat before the “wreck masters” arrive to claim the salvage (39-40). Once onshore in Florida, Mark gleefully climbs a “cocoa-nut” tree (44; Figure 8). Later Mark staves off a snake by killing it with a stick (78). Mark also rescues a local boy from the jaws of an alligator (103-04) by shooting the gator, and later tries to lasso another gator (174). In a final escapade that ends with his father sending him back north for a time to recuperate, Mark falls into a sinkhole through which flows an underground river and nearly drowns (187-88). Eventually, he recovers from the shock of his near-death sink-hole experience and returns to Florida, older, wiser, and more self-assured.



Figure 8: Illustration, “Climbing a Cocoa-Nut Palm,” *Wakulla: A Story of Adventure in Florida*, page 65. Courtesy, USF Libraries Special Collections, Floridiana.

As one of his biographers notes, Munroe’s adventure tales all contained, in addition to the thrilling plot twists, moral lessons for his young male readers. Munroe taught that “Hard work, compassion, humility, endurance, and a bit of bravery will help young men advance in life . . .”²³ The same could be said about all of the popular literature about Florida targeting youthful readers reviewed in this article – whether the short stories, travel narratives, dime novels or young adult adventure tales. In each case, while pursuing the leisure activities that rendered Florida an attractive destination for both work and relaxation, the youths manage to encounter challenging adventures and imminent dangers in the Florida wilds.

As this article has demonstrated, men were not the only ones targeted by a genre of booster literature designed to tout Florida as a desirable destination for both work and leisure. A range of popular literature addressing the desires and concerns of women and youngsters also circulated during the Progressive Era that painted Florida as a perpetual summer leisure land. Admittedly, the predominance of this literature targeted well-to-do Northern white readers with the means to migrate south. With the recent popularity of the 2018 film *Green Book*, we might well wonder to what extent a popular literature targeting black travelers might also have flourished in this era. Where might a black traveler have turned before the initial publication in 1936 of Victor H. Green's *The Negro Motorist Green-Book*? Again, to follow Eric Gardner's lead, scholars might find themselves turning to "unexpected places" to find travel writing specifically targeting black readers during the Progressive Era. Consider the following excerpt, quoted here at length, from a column titled "Notes of Travel," published April 1904 in a journal with a national readership, the *A.M.E. Church Review*, the quarterly publication of the African Methodist Episcopal Church:

My visits to the following cities in the "land of flowers" the weeks intervening . . . were very pleasant to the writer. Time will not permit me to speak at length of all cities visited.

However, I shall let the readers . . . know of a few, beginning with the oldest town in the United States, St. Augustine, Florida.

St. Augustine is the peer of any watering place on earth. No more beautiful rendezvous can be found.

Daytona, Fla. Nature has crowned this village with lordly live water oaks and hickories, many of them draped with graceful festoons of gray Spanish moss that overarch the streets and walks.

Miami, Fla. One can scarcely realize the great strides Miami has made during the five years of its transformation from a sleepy little village, whose sole attraction was beautiful scenery and an old fort, to a model and up-to-date city and tourist resort.

Surprisingly, these passages were authored by a woman, E. Marie Carter, who traveled throughout the country on behalf of the A.M.E. Book Concern between 1903 and 1912. She contributed regular "Notes of Travel" columns

to the *Review*, totaling over 160 pages of text published during her 10-year tenure with the quarterly. The picture of Florida presented in this travel column is one in which America's black travelers participate in enjoying the state's work and leisure opportunities. Recovering and exploring additional archival sources like these will add to our understanding of Florida's diverse leisure literature.

Footnotes

¹“Melrose Inn, Florida,” Orr Family Papers on microfilm, University of Florida Special Collections.

² Henry Knight, *Tropic of Hopes: California, Florida and the Selling of American Paradise 1869-1929* (Gainesville: University Press of Florida, 2013). See also Richard Alan Nelson, “Palm Trees, Public Relations, and Promoters,” *Florida Historical Quarterly* 61:4 (1983): 383-402, on Miami, Tampa and Jacksonville as budding motion picture sites. Also see Tommy R. Thompson, “Florida in American Popular Magazines, 1870-1970,” *Florida Historical Quarterly* 82: 1 (Summer 2003): 1-15.

³ Knight, *Tropic of Hopes*, 3.

⁴ *Ibid.*

⁵ Knight, *Tropic of Hopes*, 5.

⁶ For more on Eliza King and Nellie Glen, see Cynthia L. Patterson, “‘Catching the Spirit’: The Melrose Ladies Literary and Debating Society 1890-1899,” *The Florida Historical Quarterly* 96:2 (Fall 2017), 174-200.

⁷ Eric Gardner, *Unexpected Places: Relocating Nineteenth-Century African American Literature* (Jackson: University Press of Mississippi, 2009).

⁸ Here I deliberately riff on the rhetoric employed by the ubiquitous dime novels circulating during this era, which promised outdoor adventures and encounters with exotic wildlife in Florida's still-largely frontier environment.

⁹ *Harper's Bazar* began publication on November 2, 1867 as a weekly for women of 16 pages designed to imitate *Der Bazar* of Berlin. It became a monthly in 1901, and William Randolph Hearst purchased the magazine in 1913. See Frank Luther Mott, *A History of American Magazines* Volume 3: 1865-1885 (Cambridge: Belknap Press of Harvard University Press, 1958): 388-90. Subsequent references to specific page numbers of the articles from these periodicals will be made parenthetically in the text.

¹⁰ *Arthur's Home Magazine* began publication in 1852 as a compilation of a popular weekly started by T. S. Arthur in 1849. Arthur was best known for his didactic tales such as *Ten Nights in a Bar Room*. The magazine's chief competitor was *Peterson's*, also priced at \$2.00/year. After Arthur's death in 1885, his son continued the magazine until 1891, selling it off. The magazine ceased publication in 1898. Mott, Volume 2, 416-418.

¹¹ For more on the popularity of bicycling in the periodical literature of this era, see Christopher Sweet, "A Comprehensive Bibliography of Nineteenth-Century Bicycling Periodicals," *American Periodicals* 29:1 (Spring 2019), 76-95.

¹² Cyrus H. K. Curtis founded the *Ladies' Home Journal* in 1883, edited by his wife under the pseudonym "Mrs. Louisa Knapp." See sketch of magazine in Mott Volume 4 (1885-1905): 536-55.

¹³ The Florida Legislature did not create a state road department until 1915. Prior to that time, most travel occurred over the waterways and short railroads between nearby towns and cities. For more on Florida transportation, see *The History of Florida*, ed. Michael Gannon (Gainesville: University Press of Florida, 1996), especially 292-93 and 368-69.

¹⁴ *The Youth's Companion* was the longest-run periodical targeting youth in the nineteenth century, beginning publication in 1827, and continuing through 1929. See sketch in Mott Volume 2 (1825 to 1850): 262-274.

¹⁵ For background on the dime novels, see J. Randolph Cox, *The Dime Novel Companion: A Source Book* (Westport, CT: Greenwood Press, 2000), especially the opening chapter, "Dime Novel Days: An Introduction and History."

¹⁶ Several dime novel publishers also introduced story papers and weeklies specifically targeting young female readers, and plucky female side-kicks were not unknown, but neither were they common. See Cox, *The Dime Novel Companion*, xxi.

¹⁷ Burt L. Standish, *Frank Merriwell's Skill; or Liz, the Girl Wrecker* (New York: Street & Smith, February 16, 1901).

¹⁸ Cox, *The Dime Novel Companion*, 170-71.

¹⁹ Cox, *The Dime Novel Companion*, 218-19.

²⁰ St. George Rathborne, *Paddling Under Palmettos* (New York: Street & Smith, 1901). Subsequent references to page numbers in this text will be made parenthetically in the body of this article.

²¹ Ken Donelson, "Kirk Munroe," American Writers for Children Before 1900, Glenn E. Estes, ed. Gale: *Dictionary of Literary Biography* Vol. 42, Literature Resource Center, <http://link.galegroup.com/apps/doc/H12000001731/LitRC?u=tampa44898&sic=LitRC&xid=706d00f9>. Accessed 24 June 2019.

²² Kirk Munroe, *Wakulla: A Story of Adventure in Florida* (New York: Harper & Brothers, 1886). Subsequent references to page numbers in the novel will be made parenthetically in the body of this article.

²³ Donelson, "Kirk Munroe."