

THE CAPE FLORIDA SOCIETY OF 1773¹

By Roland E. Chardon

One of the episodes which took place during the American Revolutionary Period involved a proposal for the settlement of some 20 European families on 6,000 acres of land, on the mainland of southeastern Florida. The year was 1773, and the major personalities included an English lord who owned the land, a highly skilled surveyor who found himself in London due to a temporary embarrassment, and two Swiss men, also in London, who tried to organize a polyglot group of potential agricultural settlers, collectively and usually referred to as the Cape Florida Society.

The proposed settlement never materialized, but its story is an interesting example, with occasional humorous overtones, of the attempts then being made to colonize part of the region around Biscayne Bay, as well as some of the difficulties the would-be emigrants encountered before they even left Europe. While not all the details have yet been unraveled, it may be appropriate at this time to present, as a sort of interim report, the main outlines of the story of the Cape Florida Society,² its objectives, its demise, and particularly some of the documents which pertained to its colonization plans and to the Biscayne Bay area.

When Spanish Florida was transferred to the British Crown by the Treaty of Paris in 1763, most of the Spanish population and many of the Indians chose to leave for other Spanish dominions, rather than remain under a sovereign of different language, faith, and culture. His Britannic Majesty thus acquired a largely uninhabited territory, and one which furthermore lay on the main Spanish trade route from her New World possessions, and which was thereby of considerable strategic value.

It made good political and military sense, therefore, to establish a policy of resettlement in Florida, and this King George III undertook

2 *Tequesta*

to do shortly after the Treaty was signed. As a first step, Florida was administratively divided into two geographic units: East and West Florida. Then, partly because information about the new colonies was not very complete, a new office of Surveyor-General for the Southern District of North America was created. The King appointed one William Gerard De Brahm as the first Surveyor-General in 1764, with express instructions to concentrate his surveying efforts on the east coast of East Florida. De Brahm came with good credentials. A German of noble birth, he had had an excellent education, had been an engineer in Europe and, after helping to found a settlement in 1751 near Ebenezer, Georgia, had developed considerable skill and experience as both engineer and surveyor-cartographer in America.³

Although a small budget was allocated to the Surveyor-Generalship, De Brahm was also appointed Surveyor-General of East Florida, a provincial post by which means he could survey, or have a deputy survey for him, private lands in the province, thereby obtaining additional income from the fees charged for such surveys. The ambiguities concerning possibly conflicting lines of authority inherent in De Brahm's dual appointment, as both Surveyor-General for the Southern District and provincial Surveyor for East Florida, led in large part to the difficulties which resulted in his having to return to London some time later, and thus played a role in the events which developed with regard to the Cape Florida Society.⁴

Upon receiving his official appointments in the latter part of 1764,⁵ De Brahm, with characteristic energy and the aid of several deputy-surveyors and other personnel, started the General Survey in February, 1765,⁶ and for the next six years carefully surveyed and mapped the entire east coast of Florida. A few days prior to his initial departure on the General Survey, De Brahm had received further instructions from East Florida Governor James Grant,⁷ in effect reiterating that a major aim of the survey was to ascertain and locate lands suitable for European settlement.

De Brahm, one of the eminent scientists of his day, was also unfortunately somewhat hard to get along with, and his career in America was marred by a number of personal and professional conflicts involving, among others, Governor Grant and Bernard Romans, at one time his deputy surveyor. Eventually, in October, 1770, De Brahm's difficulties resulted in his suspension as provincial Surveyor by Governor Grant, and in 1771 De Brahm had to go back to England to face charges of misconduct and other official irregularities.⁸ Kept waiting in London for three years, he was reinstated in 1774, and returned to America the following year, with every intention of continuing the Survey.⁹ But in the meantime the winds of revolu-

tionary change had already made themselves felt on the land, and De Brahm never again set foot in Florida.

De Brahm's General Survey of the east coast of Florida had, however, been largely accomplished by the time he went to London in 1771, and British colonial settlement policy for East Florida was being implemented with good results. This policy has been ably summarized elsewhere,¹⁰ and it only need be said here that a primary provision concerned the concession of two types of land grants, by which settlement could be effected. The first, in practice for several hundred years among a few European countries, was to give persons of importance tracts usually including at least several thousand acres. The grantees were then expected—in fact required—to develop their individual tracts by encouraging immigrants to establish themselves on the land. The second type of land grant provided small acreages for lesser individuals, who would then settle Crown lands themselves.

So far as the Biscayne Bay area of Florida is concerned, no small land grants appear to have been made during the period of British control of East Florida, from 1763-1784. But at least three large grants were made and have been located (Fig. 1); there also appear to have been four more. The three geographically known grants, all fronting Biscayne Bay's western shores, are listed here, from north to south. John Augustus Ernst received belatedly (in 1774) a 20,000-acre tract extending from Arch Creek to, presumably, the Miami River.¹¹ Samuel Touchett also obtained 20,000 acres in a section along the Bay, from the Miami River to somewhere near Shoal Point.¹² And William Legge, the then (Second) Earl of Dartmouth, received a grant of 40,000 acres, from the Touchett grant south to an unnamed creek about 3/4 of a mile north of Black Point.¹³ Although all grants were supposed to have limited frontage on the Bay,¹⁴ only Lord Dartmouth's extended further inland than it did along the shore (Fig. 1); its water frontage was about six and a half miles, while its inland extension ran almost ten miles.

None of the three grants were ever actually settled during the British period, and the lands later reverted to Spain and, eventually, the United States. But colonization plans to settle the lands granted to Ernst and Lord Dartmouth were actively pursued by the donees themselves, and these plans went beyond mere words. The story of Ernst's lands has been briefly touched on elsewhere.¹⁵ Those of the Earl of Dartmouth also attracted popular interest in Europe, sufficient to lead to serious efforts to form a European society—the only one expressly organized for settlement in the Biscayne Bay area, with a specific tract set aside and plotted on a map for the proposed settlement (Fig. 2).

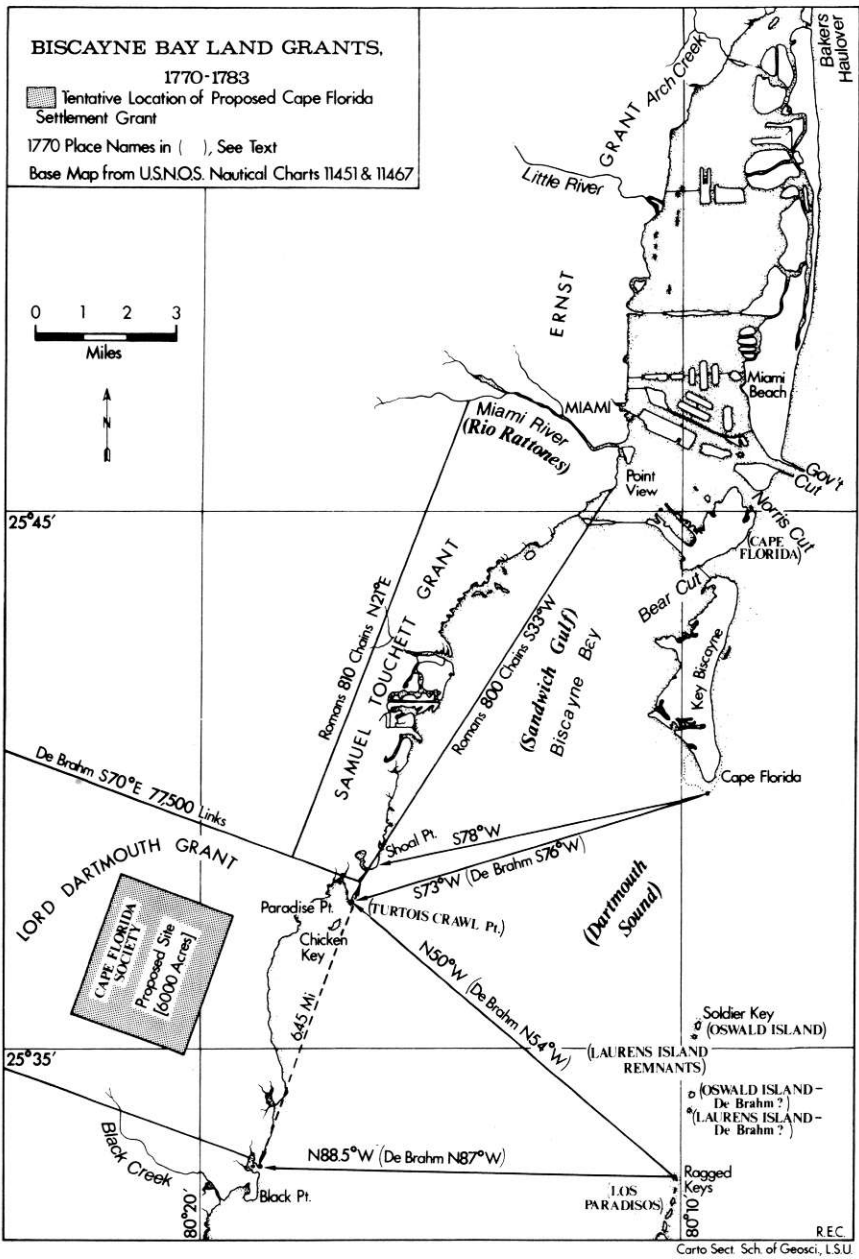


Figure 1

This society, generally known as the Cape Florida Society,¹⁶ was largely the result of the efforts of four men: two Swiss entrepreneurs, William Gerard De Brahm, and Lord Dartmouth. The Swiss men were the leaders of the group of hopeful settlers; De Brahm, then in England facing charges, knew the territory which was to be colonized; and Lord Dartmouth owned the land on which the Society's settlement was to be established. Lord Dartmouth had also recently, in 1772, been appointed the King's Secretary of State for the Colonies,¹⁷ and was interested in Florida colonization schemes in general. Moreover, he knew De Brahm and, partly as a result of their rather close friendship, was instrumental in obtaining De Brahm's later reinstatement as provincial Surveyor for East Florida.¹⁸ De Brahm, in turn, was familiar with Lord Dartmouth's lands in the Biscayne Bay region as a result of his surveys, and it was he, De Brahm, who acted as intermediary between Lord Dartmouth and the Cape Florida Society during the negotiations for the proposed settlement.

The Cape Florida Society, as it turned out, was short-lived—indeed, it was never formally incorporated and thus never legally existed. The concept for it seems to have been initiated in early 1773, by Daniel Bercher, a French-Swiss Protestant,¹⁹ but De Brahm may have suggested the idea in late 1772.²⁰ In October of that year, he had written to Lord Dartmouth saying that, if he approved, De Brahm could find 13 French Protestant families willing to go and cultivate the Lord's lands in Florida.²¹ He enclosed two letters from Mr. and Mrs. Roux (to De Brahm), indicating the Roux' interest in obtaining a grant of 6,000 acres in America.²² Lord Dartmouth apparently was favorably inclined, for the next correspondence involves a letter from Daniel Bercher, acting for the Cape Florida Society, to Lord Dartmouth. This letter,²³ dated February 20, 1773, discussed terms for the acquisition of the Lord's 6,000 acres. Further correspondence and negotiations ensued, and it appeared that, by March 25, 1773, an agreement had been reached.²⁴

A few days previously, Bercher had sent a copy of a proposal and plan "to form a Social Colony of good and Useful Agriculturists, on the Domains of America of Mylord Dartmouth, situated at Cape Florida, on Sandwich Gulf. . . ."²⁵ This proposal contained an outline of a tentative agreement with Lord Dartmouth for obtaining the necessary land, and 32 statutory regulations, or by-laws, for the Society.

Under its conditions, Lord Dartmouth agreed to lease, in perpetuity, 6,000 acres of his land to the Society and its successors, in return for an annual quit-rent, after ten years, of £300, and other

6 *Tequesta*

minor considerations. The Society, to remain in existence for at least ten years in order to give it a chance to survive, was to be organized as a small community of 20 heads of families. Its goal was to grow and export any or several agricultural commodities, among them wine, silk, cotton, indigo, "and other Fruits very Useful to the Happiness of a Reasonable Society, etc."²⁶ Shares in the form of land were to be sold to its members, all of whom were to be "Protestants Native of Switzerland, their Allies and confederates, or English, all of irreproachable Life, Healthy in Body and Spirit and faithful to His Majesty King George and Successors, etc." The subscribers also were to act as security for each other, and to be "Assiduous Vigilant to work, each according to his Talents and Capacity . . . for the common well-being and advantage of the Society, under Pain of losing" his lands.²⁷

The idealism expressed in the tone of the regulations went further. It was stipulated that all members were to be treated equally, without regard to age, ancestry, "or other distinction—but each of them [*i.e.*, its members] will view themselves as Brothers. They will have for each other a Reciprocal deference and honesty." It was "the intention of this Society to also Assist those of Its members who, in their illness, will not be able to carry out their duties . . . but they can rest quietly, without being deprived of their benefits, nor be criticized. . . ."²⁸ All houses were to be built "at the expense of the Society, so that each Member can be lodged with his family at the least cost. . . ." Three directors were to be elected "by Ballot" each year "until all the members have exercised the Charge," but there was also a stipulation that no one could be elected director prior to the tenth year, if he had not subscribed to two lots of land (see below). The directors were responsible for maintaining the records, income, and disbursements of the Society, and to see that the quit-rent was paid promptly.²⁹

Although things never got that far, it was stipulated that "all Purchases be they Negroes or Negresses, and others of such kind as to be for the usage of the Society, will be made by the Directors from the products of the Subscriptions, and will be shared According to the Lots which each Subscriber will have Subscribed." Laborers, "be they white or black," were to be housed and maintained by the Society, though whoever had the "Care of Directing them" would also have to provide other necessities for them.³⁰

In order to attract settlers of little means, the 6,000-acre tract was to be divided into 120 lots of 50 acres apiece. Each member was to receive two lots free, "provided he is a Good Cultivator." Since 20 heads of families were involved in the deliberations, this came to a

total of 40 lots, or 2,000 acres. The remaining 80 lots, or 4,000 acres, were to be sold by subscription to acceptable persons, at £25 per lot.³¹ It was probably expected that each member would purchase at least two lots by subscription, in addition to his two free lots, but the wealthier members could subscribe to as many as were available. Thus, each member would start out with a minimum of 100, or possibly 200, acres.

The settlers foresaw the eventual need for a town outside of their tract, for Article 19 stipulated that

“each member will be at full liberty to Build Houses at his own expense On the Land which the Said Lord Dartmouth shall Designate for the placement of a City, and to contract Separately the Leases without the Society’s being interested nor responsible.”³²

No changes in the by-laws were to be made, nor individual lots sold to anyone else, nor could the Society be dissolved “without the Unanimous Consent of all Subscribers. . . .” for a period of ten years. After that time, a member could request that a distribution be made of “all which could belong to the Society, According to the Subscribed Lots. . . .”³³ If, after giving his initial signed consent, a member wanted to withdraw from the Society, he could do so, but his lots presumably reverted to the Society, and he was to pay a “Damage of five Pounds Sterling, for each Lot which he will have Subscribed.”³⁴

The men who wanted to form the Cape Florida Society conceived of it as a small group of family settlers, who would be honest, industrious, resourceful, and religious. The Swiss promoters were able to interest some of their own countrymen, as well as an assorted mixture of English, Scots, and Italians, in the venture. It is not yet entirely clear whether Negroes or some other laborers were to be brought with the colonists, or introduced later, but that possibility was at least considered. Within the context of the times, however, the intended settlement was designed to be a democratic community, composed of members from several countries, and with an idealism fairly typical of many America-bound colonists of the 1770s.

The site for the proposed settlement was located on what, for the Biscayne Bay region, is high ground, between 5 and 20 feet above mean sea level. The 6,000 acres were grouped together in the form of a compact rectangular block, some 2.62 by 3.13 statute miles according to De Brahm’s map (Fig. 2), and the block was placed toward the southeastern, bayshore part of Lord Dartmouth’s lands, equidistant from his northern and southern boundaries. The 6,000-acre block

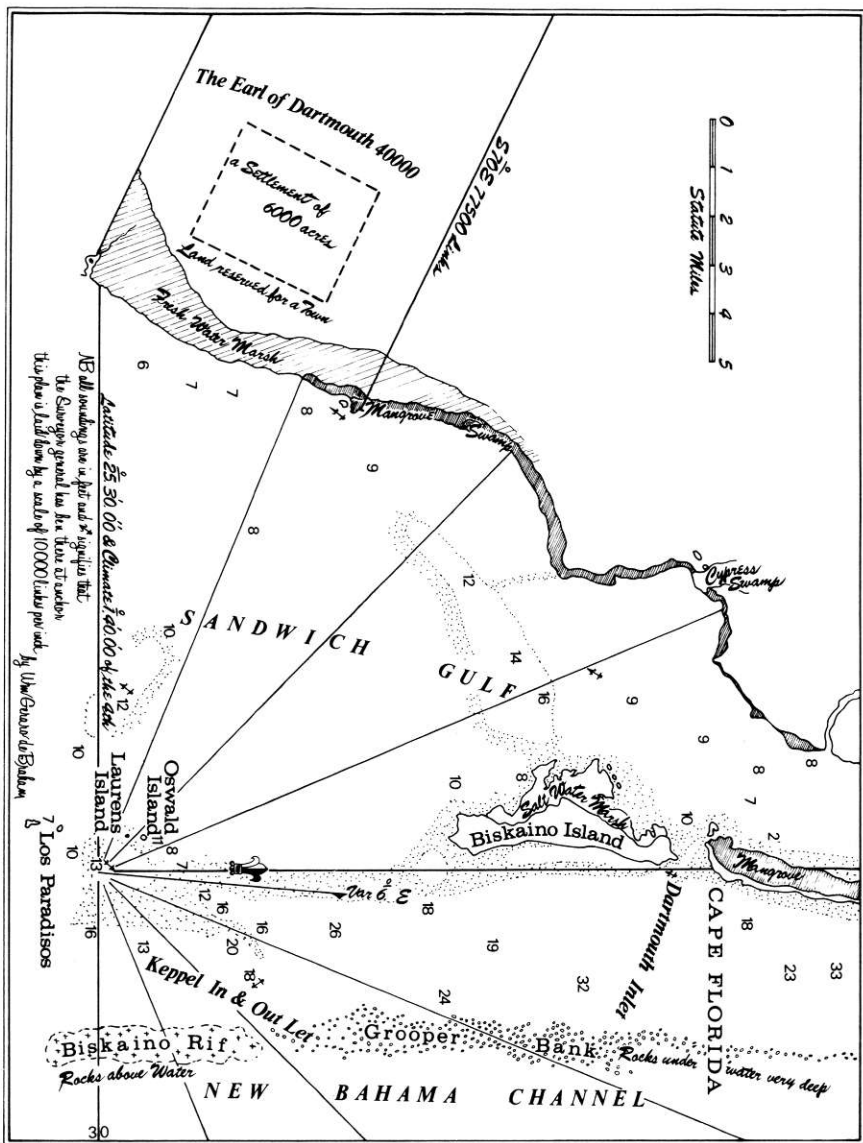


Figure 2. This map is slightly adapted from the one De Brahm drew for Lord Dartmouth, to show the situation of his lands in Florida, in March, 1773 (Dartmouth Ms. D(W)1778/II/654; reproduced with permission from the present Lord Dartmouth and the Stafford County Record Office).

was apparently centered about three-and-one-half miles from the normal high-water mark along the Bay shore, as it was then mapped, and the block side closest to the Bay was some two miles away from water. On the high ground, between the 6,000-acre tract and a freshwater marsh bordering the Bay, land was reserved for the town.

The environmental setting for the site included fairly rocky limestone land, on which was mostly pine growth. Towards the Bay, a short distance from the tract, a 5- to 15-foot bluff overlooked the freshwater marsh, which varied in width from about half a mile to a mile. To the northeast of the proposed agricultural site, a mangrove strip bordered the shoreline to the east of the marsh (Fig. 2); but along most of Lord Dartmouth's lands, the shore comprised the freshwater marsh itself, right to Biscayne Bay's waters.

In view of the remarkable accuracy of another map drawn by De Brahm, showing the northern part of Biscayne Bay,³⁵ it could be expected that locating the intended site of the Cape Florida Society settlement would be relatively easy. Such is not the case, however, and it can only tentatively be placed on modern maps, until other locational factors have been further researched.

The main problem seems to lie in several geographic discrepancies which arise when comparing De Brahm's map (Fig. 2) with more modern maps of the same area. Some of these discrepancies may result from the possibility that the mainland coast of Biscayne Bay was not as carefully surveyed, during De Brahm's General Survey, as were the Key Biscayne and the Miami Beach areas. This, if it was the case, could have been due to any one of several causes, or a combination thereof. The first is that De Brahm was in a hurry to finish the General Survey, and he may simply not have been as accurate as he usually was. When mapping this part of Biscayne Bay, apparently in late 1770, his difficulties with Governor Grant were coming to a head and he was facing suspension from office, as well as increasingly depressing financial worries.³⁶ Also, his health had begun to fail somewhat, no doubt related to the problems he was facing.³⁷

A second possibility might well be that De Brahm, who made the map (adapted here as Figure 2) for Lord Dartmouth in order to locate the site for the Society's colony,³⁸ could not recall all the details of the land in that area. De Brahm drew the map in London, some two-and-one-half years after having personally surveyed the Bay area; and though he had his huge Survey map³⁹ at hand to help him, this part of the Florida coast was not of as great a significance to navigation as were some other sections. Coupled with the possibility that he had only meant to locate the Cape Florida Society site in a general way, with more precise surveying to follow once the

settlement plan had progressed further, this may have led to less accuracy than might have been expected under other circumstances.

A third explanation may be that the mainland was in fact generally accurately mapped, but that part of the coastline has changed since then. This happened elsewhere in Biscayne Bay, and seems to have occurred at least in part along the shore, behind which the Cape Florida Society settlement was to be established.⁴⁰

Whatever the reasons, some important geographic discrepancies remain, even if the low tidal shore (the freshwater marsh) has changed its configuration since 1770. The most significant, so far as locating the Cape Florida Society tract itself is concerned, is the configuration of the landward edge of De Brahm's "freshwater marsh." The closest modern approximation to this landward edge that this writer has been able to use, pending detailed field or remote sensing analysis, is the 5-foot contour shown on U.S. Geological Survey topographical maps (7.5' quadrangles) of the site area. Since it seems unlikely that this contour would have changed its geographic position, except for localized recent construction and alteration, it can probably be assumed that today's 5-foot contour generally lies quite close to the line which De Brahm indicates as the landward edge of his freshwater marsh.

This line De Brahm shows as intersecting the northern boundary of Lord Dartmouth's lands about 1.25 miles from the bayshore (see Fig. 2). It then turns almost due south, and then curves rather sharply southwest and then west-southwest, intersecting the southern boundary of Lord Dartmouth's lands about 2.42 miles from the Bay. Modern topographic maps show the 5-foot contour (and the 10-foot contour) very close to the bayshore near present Cutler, trending southwest more or less as a straight line, until it "bends" slightly towards Black Creek. The 10-foot contour does, on the other hand, tend to curve more sharply in the southern part of what was Lord Dartmouth's land.

This discrepancy, added to the contrasting Bay shoreline configurations evidenced between De Brahm's and modern maps, prevents an accurate placement of the Cape Florida Society tract on modern maps, and is a problem still to be resolved in a satisfactory manner.

The boundaries of Lord Dartmouth's lands can, on the other hand, be located fairly accurately and with reasonable certainty, though their positions must be derived by interpretative analysis and some guesswork. In this case, most of De Brahm's 1770 landmarks which are pertinent appear more identifiable with those on modern maps, and there is at least one contemporary document to help corroborate the other evidence. Even here, however, some problems arise.

When De Brahm surveyed this part of Biscayne Bay, he drew his lines of sight by compass bearings from a boat at anchor; the spots he chose are shown as anchor symbols on his 1773 map (Fig. 2). Though aware that sighting from such positions posed difficulties in accurate surveying, De Brahm nonetheless selected, as the “base point” for his map, a spot at sea about one statute mile S 50° E from Oswald Island. Now Oswald Island, as far as can be determined at this time, must be assumed to be today’s Soldier Key, and it is somewhat of a mystery as to why De Brahm did not in fact use this island as a survey base. It was relatively accessible, since a channel, shown on modern maps and which De Brahm himself depicts on his map, leads to it from the north (see Fig. 2).⁴¹

Unfortunately, even if De Brahm had based his sightings from Oswald Island, locating Lord Dartmouth’s lands on modern maps by triangulation from there would still have occasioned substantial errors, as this writer found out when he tried it. The reason is that De Brahm placed Oswald Island about a mile south of where Soldier Key is today. Why he did so is not known, since he shows quite accurately the distance from the southern point of Key Biscayne (as it was in 1770) to the northernmost of the Ragged Keys (then called Los Paradisos). This distance he measured as 8.125 statute miles; today’s distance, according to National Ocean Survey Nautical Chart 11451 (1974), is 8.2 miles (or 8.5 miles to present Cape Florida).

Other discrepancies occur concerning the distances De Brahm calculated between his Oswald Island, Los Paradisos, and Key Biscayne, on the one hand, and the mainland shore to the west, on the other. From the northernmost Ragged Key directly west to the mainland is about nine statute miles; De Brahm’s map shows 11.25 miles. From Soldier Key to the vicinity of Shoal Point is about 7.6 miles; De Brahm’s distance from Oswald Island to his Turtois Crawl Point is 9.6 miles. And from the southern tip of Key Biscayne (in 1770) to just south of Shoal Point is about 7.8 miles on modern charts; De Brahm’s distance from Key Biscayne to his Turtois Crawl Point is 8.8 miles. Since these distance errors are variable, they prevent accurate location of mainland landmarks by triangulation from the Keys. In addition, even though the “base leg” from Key Biscayne to the Ragged Keys is quite comparable between De Brahm’s map and modern charts, the meridian on his 1773 map angles a slight but critical 2.5° east from the true meridian.

In spite of these not inconsequential drawbacks, De Brahm’s map does provide fairly reliable clues indicating where Lord Dartmouth’s lands were located. In the first place, De Brahm’s Turtois Crawl Point⁴² is shown with a mangrove island just to the south of it (Fig.

2). This bears a modern cartographic resemblance to an unnamed mangrove point, found today about a mile south of Shoal Point and opposite Paradise Point, and south of which is today's Chicken Key. This in turn implies that Chicken Key (or some mangrove island very close to its present location) existed in 1770, an existence some have questioned.⁴³

The question to be answered, then, was whether De Brahm's Turtois Crawl Point was in fact the point mentioned above (opposite Paradise Point), or whether it was today's Shoal Point. If the former, this presently unnamed point shows a much sharper "point" in its configuration than in De Brahm's day. On the other hand, if Turtois Crawl Point was today's Shoal Point, then the island just to the south of Turtois Crawl Point must have been joined to the mainland since 1770, with Chicken Key being formed as another island in the intervening years. Both interpretations are quite possible, and though the latter seems somewhat less likely, it should not be rejected out of hand without further analysis.

The next step was to compare compass bearings from those sites which appear to be accurately located on De Brahm's map, with those on modern nautical charts. This was done from two points (see Fig. 1): the northernmost of the Ragged Keys, and the southernmost point of Key Biscayne—this last adjusted to its proper location in 1770.⁴⁴ From the Ragged Keys Point to Turtois Crawl Point, De Brahm's map shows a bearing of N 54° W; using Nautical Chart 11451, the bearing from the same Key to the point opposite today's Paradise Point is N 50° W (to Shoal Point itself it is N 44° W). From the southern tip of Key Biscayne as it was in 1770, the De Brahm map shows a bearing to Turtois Crawl Point of S 76° W; the modern chart shows S 73° W, and the bearing to Shoal Point is about S 78° W.

In short, the comparison of one set of bearings (from the Ragged Keys) tends to show the point opposite Paradise Point as De Brahm's Turtois Crawl Point, while the other set of bearings tends to show Turtois Crawl Point closer to Shoal Point (Fig. 1). The fact that both localities exhibit mangrove and are underlain by quartz sands did not help matters, and further evidence was needed.

Mention has been made of Bernard Romans' survey map of Samuel Touchett's land grant of 20,000 acres, discussed elsewhere in this issue. Touchett's tract bordered Lord Dartmouth's to the north, and Romans states, on his map, that the distance from present Point View (former Lewis Point) to the southern boundary of Touchett's grant was 800 chains, along a straight line of sight, S 33° W.⁴⁵ At 80 chains to the statute mile, this would place the southern boundary of

the grant—and the northern boundary of Lord Dartmouth's—almost halfway between Shoal Point and the point opposite Paradise Point (Fig. 2). Assuming Romans was correct, this tends to support the thesis that Turtois Crawl Point was not Shoal Point.⁴⁶

One final piece of evidence should be noted. De Brahm states that Lord Dartmouth owned 40,000 acres of land on Biscayne Bay.⁴⁷ He also indicates that the northern boundary of the Earl's lands ran 77,500 links inland, and that the southern boundary was parallel to the northern one. This inland distance, at 100 links to a chain and 80 chains to a statute mile, means that Lord Dartmouth's northern boundary extended 9.6875 statute miles inland. Though De Brahm does not show the western boundary of the tract, it can be rather safely presumed that it was roughly parallel to the coast, but on a straight line. Thus, Lord Dartmouth's lands formed an approximately rectangular block, whose length was 9.6875 miles, and whose area was 40,000 acres, or (at 640 acres per square mile) 62.5 square miles. It can therefore be quickly calculated that the width of the rectangle, if it were perfect, would be about 6.45 miles.

Postulating, for the moment, that De Brahm's Turtois Crawl Point was very near the point opposite Paradise Point, the northern boundary of Lord Dartmouth's lands, where it intersects Biscayne Bay, was about a third to one-half mile north of that point. De Brahm also notes that Lord Dartmouth's northern boundary ran S 70° E to the Bay. From that intersection of the northern boundary and the Bay, a straight line drawn S 20° W (*i.e.*, at right angles to the boundary), for a distance of 6.45 miles, leads directly to a small bay with a tiny island inside, about 3/4 of a mile north of present Black Point. A somewhat similar small embayment, with a tiny island inside, is shown at what appears to be an identical spot on De Brahm's map, where he indicates Lord Dartmouth's southern boundary reached the Bay.

Was this small bay, then, the starting point of the southern boundary of Lord Dartmouth's lands? This writer is inclined to believe so, for the modern bearing from the northernmost of the Ragged Keys to that bay is N 88.5° W, and De Brahm's bearing from the northernmost point of Los Paradisos to the small bay shown on his map is N 87° W (see Fig. 1).

It would seem that the location of Lord Dartmouth's lands on modern maps is now possible, and it is shown on Figure 1. Admittedly, the location is based on interpretive reasoning, but the landmarks seem to fit, even if all the compass bearings do not. And this seems to be the only way that Lord Dartmouth's lands could attain a total area of 40,000 acres.

On the basis of the evidence presented, and following this writer's interpretation, it appears that De Brahm's Turtois Crawl Point was close to the point now opposite Paradise Point, and about a mile south-southwest of Shoal Point. This writer has not seen any maps or charts, other than De Brahm's, which give this point a name and, if it has none, would suggest that Turtois Crawl Point be applied to that point. Whether Chicken Key was then located where it is now is a topic for further research; the shoreline to the southwest appears quite clearly to have been at least partially eroded, and much of De Brahm's "fresh water marsh" has disappeared, very probably due to natural environmental factors.

As for the intended Cape Florida Society's 6,000 acres, for the reasons outlined earlier, these can only be approximately located at present. It would appear that they were to be sited somewhere near, and to the southwest of, present Cutler, including the present communities of Perrine and Goulds. A more precise geographic identification must await later analysis, but it seems certain that the tract could not have been more than a mile off the tentative location suggested in Figure 1.

It was mentioned earlier that, by March of 1773, an agreement had apparently been reached by Lord Dartmouth and the Cape Florida Society, with regard to the terms for the colonization of the Earl's lands by members of the Society. On April 30th, De Brahm transmitted to Lord Dartmouth a copy of the instructions he had drawn up for the Cape Florida Society,⁴⁸ and on May 4th wrote an informational report and suggestions which he (De Brahm) felt might be of value to the Society members when they settled in Florida. This 12-page document, part of which De Brahm included, in somewhat different wording, as part of Chapter 5 of the 2nd Tome of his Report,⁴⁹ included observations of many aspects of Florida life. Although some of the observations and suggestions were based on De Brahm's own experiences in St. Augustine rather than in the Biscayne Bay region itself, it indicates De Brahm's lively interest in a wide variety of aspects of the natural and cultural environment in which he found himself, as well as some valuable comments concerning South Florida. For these reasons, it is reproduced here as Appendix A, following this article, with permission of the present Earl of Dartmouth and the Staffordshire County Record Office in England.

With an apparent agreement reached in March, 1773, it would have seemed that the Cape Florida Society was on its way to founding its colony on Biscayne Bay. But things didn't work out that way. During the next two months, the Society held a number of meetings, during which the proposed plans were discussed at length and, ap-

parently, heatedly. After several such meetings, the Directors of the Society decided, perhaps after reading De Brahm's informational report (App. A), that the 20 families originally thought to be sufficient to establish a viable settlement in Florida, should be increased to 25 or 30 families. Consequently, on June 28, 1773, Bercher asked De Brahm if Lord Dartmouth would be willing to add another 2,000 acres to the 6,000 already granted. De Brahm, apparently without consulting Lord Dartmouth, advised the directors not to ask for more land.⁵⁰ This the directors could not understand,⁵¹ and they in turn specifically requested De Brahm to bring the matter up with Lord Dartmouth, which De Brahm did on July 5th, and again on July 23rd.⁵²

By August 18th, a controversy had developed, with Bercher feeling that De Brahm was trying to discourage the proposed plan.⁵³ Bercher so informed Lord Dartmouth,⁵⁴ with more letters exchanged. Lord Dartmouth himself finally wrote to the Society,⁵⁵ stating that De Brahm had written the draft according to the Earl's instructions, which the Earl had thought were what the Society wanted, but that now some things were expected of him with which it was not within his power to comply. He suggested the plan be dropped or the matter settled between his lawyer, Mr. Wilmot, and theirs. There matters stood until finally, on November 11, 1773, James Loup, of the Society, wrote to De Brahm, saying the plans for the Cape Florida Society and its projects had "exhaled themselves away into smoke."⁵⁶

The failure of the intended Society and its colonization scheme appears to have had numerous causes. There were some misunderstandings in which De Brahm—seemingly still difficult to get along with—may have played a role. But other factors were involved, not the least of which included personality and quite possibly cultural differences among the potential settlers themselves. Loup implied this occurred in his letter, reproduced below, when he resigned as leader of this "company of simpletons." Also, there was clearly a lack of proper funding for the colonists, and they may have felt the terms of the grant were too costly for their means. Moreover, some of the settlers quite probably entertained real fears for their lives (and fortunes), in a far-off, virtually uninhabited land, so environmentally different from their homelands, and so isolated from any other European settlements in America.

To blame the failure of the Cape Florida Society's plans, as has been suggested,⁵⁷ entirely on De Brahm's "oppressive disposition" seems very unfair.⁵⁸ Partly to correct this impression, but also because of its inherent interest, style, and flavor, James Loup's final

letter to De Brahm is reproduced here in full. The letter further represents one of the more amusing sidelights to the story of the Cape Florida Society's colonization hopes, giving some indication as to what must have gone on during at least a few of its meetings. The letter is here reproduced with the permission of the present Earl of Dartmouth and the Staffordshire County Record Office in England. Punctuation and spelling have been retained as closely as possible.

"Sir:

Your Esteemed Letter 3^d Instant is duely come to hands, as was likewise that which you wrote to the Directors of the Intended Society for Cape Florida on the 4th Sept^{ber} last, inclosing one from his Lordship the Earl of Dartmouth. I should not, Sir, have delay'd so Long, in giving you a satisfactory reply had it been in my power to do it pertinently, but it is only now that I am able to inform his Lordship, and you, that the Intended Society and all the mighty projects belonging thereto, have exhaled themselves away into smoke, Nothing remains at present of that famous scheme, except the mortification, which I for my own part entertain of being comprehended with those who have given to his Lordship so much trouble and so little Satisfaction.

"I do Sir, acknowledge with you the condescending dispositions of his Lordship towards that Society, he has from the beginning to the end, acted with that Steadiness, candour, and generosity, natural gifts of his Noble Mind, which do characterize a Man of his rank tho' they do not allways attend the Great; his answer to the Intended Directors (by which he leaves to his Attorney and ours the final determination of such of the Articles of the Intended Grant as were in dispute) is a convincing proof of his goodness. Indeed we had no reply to make to his Letter, it work'd effectually of itself and Satisfied us all.

"But my Good Sir, you no doubt want to know, why the affair has thus melted away, and I must Satisfy you as well as I can.

"In the first place, the reasons which have occasion'd this turn of things, proceed from various causes, viz/

from several prejudic'd minds amongst the members, who suspected you would be their enemy

from several prejudic'd minds, who by picking up intelligencies right or wrong in all the corners of the Town, have been persuaded that the spot of ground intended for us was not a proper place to establish a colony on acco^t of the badness of the Soil

from those prejudic'd minds above, whose notions have prevail'd, and have been the means, to dispirit the greatest part of the members, so that since the Letter receiv'd from My Lord, Several of the Intended cultivators whom we consider'd as resolute and able members, have gradually lost their courage, and declin'd the undertaking

"In short Sir, it proceeds from that restless and turbulent Spirit which you yourself have seen reign and been witness to at Some of our Meetings,

where no resolution has ever been taken with any consistency, where People bringing their Strong heads without brains, were ready to disapprove this minute what they themselves eagerly approved of the minute before, and so on from the beginning to the End; I indeed had succeeded so far as to make out a Book of regulations, which was fairly approved of by all the members in regard to its tenor, and the next day fairly transgress'd by all, every one wanted to put an article in the Book, to answer his own Interested views, in short the Book wanted every day a new dose of Physick, and finding it at last impossible to reconcile together the respective Interests of the united Tribes of English, Scots, Swiss and Italians, which Mr. Bercher the first promoter of the Scheme had, through a nice stroke of Policy, prudently jumbled together into the Society, I was forc'd to Say *non plus ultra*, and resign'd my Post, heartily tir'd of being leader of a company of simpletons.

"I must however Sir, under the justice which is due to some amongst the Intended members, possess of very good Sence and Sound Judgement who having as well as me, consider'd in its true light the whole frame of that Scheme, found that it had from it's beginning, been wrongly understood betwixt the parties, that it was carried on with too much confusion for to answer any good purposes, therefore we were unanimous to lett the affair drop, as being the surest method to Set us all right and to get rid of the united Tribes above, for Sir, as we do not give over all thoughts of renewing a project of that Sort, yet we are determin'd to avoid all such inconveniences for the future, Our resolution is taken, to raise a Sufficient Capital before we begin any thing of that sort, likewise to be very cautious in the choice of our members and to have no mixtures of nations, but all Swiss only.

"I intend Sir, doing myself the honour to wait upon you in a few days and we will talk more at large about it, the copy Draught of the Grant has been duely return'd to Mr. Willmot a long while agoe, but did not acquaint that Gentleman with the definition of our affairs, thinking there was no necessity to do it.

"I beg whenever you have occasion to wait on his Lordship, you'll tender him the Sentiments of my most profound respect, and endeavour to reestablish in him, that credit and moderate reputation which he entertained before for the Swiss nation.

"Mrs. Loup desires to be remember'd to your Lady and to you Sir. as for me, I beg leave to Stile myself

Sir

Your most obed^t &
very humble Servant

(signed) James Loup

Baringhall Street 11th nov^{ber} 1773
To Wm Ger^d DeBrahm Esq^{re}

Other events, other distractions took place in those fateful years, and the Cape Florida Society faded from the scene. Whether its colonization efforts would have succeeded, had they been given a chance in America, is debatable. But Lord Dartmouth's lands on Biscayne Bay were never colonized while he owned them. They were not populated until many years later, and then by a very different people from those he had envisaged, or intended to settle there. The site of the proposed colony became known as the Indian Hunting Grounds, largely remaining so until a century later, as such interrupted only when a later grant of land in the same general area was given by a young United States to a man whose agricultural innovations became so well known in Miami—Henry Perrine.

Bibliographic Notes

1. The author gratefully acknowledges the prompt and generous assistance of Professor Denys Brunsden (Department of Geography, University of London King's College), the present Earl of Dartmouth, Miss Isobel Morcom, Assistant Archivist, Staffordshire County Record Office, Stafford, England, and Mrs. Maureen Adams, Fall's Church, Va. They made available to the author the materials on which this paper is based.
2. Although references to the Cape Florida Society occur occasionally, the fact that its plans came to naught has evoked little research on it. The longest description of the Society the present author has seen is in Charles L. Mowat, *East Florida as a British Province, 1763-1784*, University of California Publications in History, v. 23, University of California Press, Berkeley and Los Angeles, 1943. Reprinted as a Facsimile Reproduction, with editorial preface by Rembert W. Patrick, University of Florida Press, Gainesville, 1964. Mowat devotes a short paragraph to the Cape Florida Society on page 63.
3. For a very useful summary of De Brahm's life and works, see the introduction by Louis DeVorse, Jr., in his edited *DeBrahm's Report of the General Survey in the Southern District of North America*, University of South Carolina Press, Columbia, S.C., 1971, pp. 3-59 and 259-279. See also Charles L. Mowat, "That 'Odd Being' De Brahm," *Florida Historical Quarterly* 20 (1942): 323-345.
4. DeVorse, *op. cit.*, pp. 33-35, 39-44; Mowat, (1942), *op. cit.*, pp. 326, 332-355.
5. DeVorse, *op. cit.*, p. 33; Mowat (1942), *op. cit.*, p. 324.
6. DeVorse, *op. cit.*, p. 36.
7. The instructions start out with: "It is necessary for the advantageous and effectual Settlement of this Province that the true state of it should be fully known as soon as possible, which can only be ascertained by an accurate Survey, and that must be made as soon as conveniently may be." Letter from Governor James Grant to William Gerard De Brahm, dated St. Augustine, Feb. 1, 1765. *Colonial Office Papers* (hereinafter cited as C.O.) 5/540, p. 361.

8. DeVorse, *op. cit.*, pp. 42-43; Mowat (1942), *op. cit.*, p. 335.
9. DeVorse, *op. cit.*, p. 50; Mowat (1942), *op. cit.*, p. 336.
10. Mowat, *East Florida . . .*, *op. cit.*, pp. 50-58.
11. Wilbur Siebert, *Loyalists in East Florida 1774 to 1785*, Publications of the Florida State Historical Society no. 9, Deland, Florida, 1929, v. 2, pp. 51-53. See also Henry S. Marks, "The earliest land grants in the Miami area," *Tequesta* 18 (1958): 16-17.
12. Mowat, *East Florida . . .*, *op. cit.*, p. 60. Also, Bernard Romans, "Survey of the Tract of Samuel Touchett, Esq.," unpublished map, 1770. The manuscript original is in the Yale University Library, New Haven, Conn., with reproductions in the Historical Association of Southern Florida Library, Miami, Fla., and in the Otto G. Richter Library, University of Miami, Coral Gables, Florida. I am indebted to Mr. Larry Resnick, of the Metropolitan Dade County Department of Highways, for having lent me his personal reproduction of the map.
13. Lord Dartmouth had received 100,000 acres near Miami, granted in 1770 (B. D. Bargar, *Lord Dartmouth and the American Revolution*, University of South Carolina Press, Columbia, S.C., 1965, p. 69). However, 60,000 acres appear to have been given to three sons of Lord Dartmouth; these are three of the four additional Biscayne Bay grants mentioned above. This writer's guess is that the three grants joined Lord Dartmouth's 40,000 acres to the south, along the western shore of Biscayne Bay.
14. Leonard W. Labaree, *Royal Instructions to British Colonial Governors 1670-1776*, published for the American Historical Association, Octagon Books, Inc., New York, 1967, v. 2, pp. 531-532.
15. Siebert, *op. cit.*, pp. 51-53; Mowat, *East Florida . . .*, *op. cit.*, p. 63; Marks, *op. cit.*, pp. 16-17.
16. But also referred to variously as the Swizer Society, the East Florida Society, and the Society for Cape Florida. This last reference from *Dartmouth Ms. D(W)1778/II/742*; the first two from Great Britain, Historical Manuscripts Commission (14th Report, Appendix, Part X), *Manuscripts of the Earl of Dartmouth*, London, 1895, v. 2, pp. 143 and 167. Although Mowat (*East Florida . . .*, *op. cit.*, *passim.*) cites this source as Dartmouth MSS., it is published and consists of summaries of Lord Dartmouth's papers and correspondence. It therefore should not be confused with the Dartmouth manuscripts themselves, which are deposited in the Staffordshire County Record Office, Stafford, England. The manuscripts themselves are hereinafter cited as *Dartmouth Ms.*; the Commission volume as Historical Manuscripts Commission. For further comments regarding the Commission reports, see Bargar, *op. cit.*, pp. 199-202.
17. Bargar, *op. cit.*, p. iii.
18. DeVorse, *op. cit.*, pp. 44-47.
19. Letter James Loup to De Brahm, dated London, Nov. 11, 1773. *Dartmouth Ms.*, D(W)1778/II/742.
20. Historical Manuscripts Commission, *op. cit.*, p. x.
21. *Ibid.*, pp. 102-103.
22. *Ibid.*
23. *Ibid.*, p. 139.

20 Notes

24. *Ibid.*, p. 144.
25. *Dartmouth Ms.*, D(W)1778/II/684. Translation from the original French by the present author.
26. *Ibid.*
27. *Ibid.*, Articles 1, 6, 11.
28. *Ibid.*, Articles 13 and 14.
29. *Ibid.*, Articles 18, 20-24.
30. *Ibid.*, Articles 15 and 17.
31. *Ibid.*, Articles 3, 9, 10.
32. *Ibid.*, Article 19.
33. *Ibid.*, Articles 8, 16, 26, 27.
34. *Ibid.*, Article 31.
35. DeVorsey, *op. cit.*, p. 209; the original is in the British Museum, Kings Ms. 211, p. 238. A copy from the Geography and Map Division of the Library of Congress, Washington, D.C., has been adapted in another article in this issue of *Tequesta*.
36. C.O. 5/71, Plantations General, *passim*. De Brahm wrote numerous and lengthy letters complaining about his treatment by Governor Grant, and about the inadequacies of the funding for the General Survey and his own expenses. One such letter, to Lord Hillsborough, Lord Dartmouth's predecessor as Secretary of State, is representative of many others; it was dated St. Augustine, June 30, 1770 (C.O. 5/71, pp. 357-360).
37. Mowat (1942), *op. cit.*, p. 334.
38. Letter De Brahm to Lord Dartmouth, 15 March, 1773. *Dartmouth Ms.* D(W)1778/II/578. The map in Figure 2 is based on the one DeVorsey (*op. cit.*, p. 273) felt was "presumed lost"; the original is filed as *Dartmouth Ms.* D(W)1778/II/654.
39. *Ibid.* De Brahm's General Survey map was 25 feet long (DeVorsey, *op. cit.*, pp. 272-273).
40. The author is presently writing a paper describing the natural changes occurring along the shorelines of northern Biscayne Bay between 1770 and 1887. It appears, on initial analysis, that a substantial part of De Brahm's freshwater marsh (Fig. 2) is now a broad bight, just west and southwest of Chicken Key. See also Harold R. Wanless, *Sediments of Biscayne Bay - distribution and depositional history*, University of Miami Institute of Marine Sciences Technical Report 69-2, University of Miami, Coral Gables, Florida, 1969, pp. 96-98, for possible erosion of the shoreline in the Cutler area.
41. See also U.S. National Ocean Survey, Nautical Chart 11452 (1974). The present author saw Laurens Island, in existence since at least 1574, as a few remnants of sharp rocks, now visible only at low tide. Under spring low tide conditions, some 100 feet of "land" are exposed (personal communication from Mr. James C. Frazier, of the Metropolitan Dade County Surveyor's Office, during a field trip to the island on August 5, 1975). Thus, Laurens Island has virtually disappeared due to natural environmental factors in the past 200 years; the same processes are also apparently affecting some of the Ragged Keys, to the south.

42. The name De Brahm gave to this point possibly indicates that a turtle crawl had been constructed there, or even conceivably that some turtles were using the beach to lay eggs, although this is certainly not proven. That a quartz sand deposit does exist along this shore, however, has been demonstrated (Wanless, *op. cit.*, p. 66).
43. Wanless, citing a study by F. A. Kohout (*Relation of seaward and landward flow of ground water to the salinity of Biscayne Bay*, unpublished master's thesis, University of Miami, Coral Gables, Florida, 1967) which the present author has not examined, states (*op. cit.*, p. 66) that Chicken Key is man-made. However, the first edition of U.S. Coast Chart 165, published in 1887 by the U.S. Coast and Geodetic Survey, clearly shows Chicken Key in existence at that time.
44. About 0.3 statute miles south of present day Cape Florida.
45. Romans, *op. cit.*
46. It should not be inferred from this that Romans was the better surveyor of the two men. Romans' mapping of the bayshore of Touchett's grant, on preliminary examination, contains more inaccuracies than De Brahm's.
47. *Dartmouth Ms.* D(W)1778/II/654, from which Figure 2 is derived.
48. Historical Manuscripts Commission, *op. cit.*, p. 149.
49. DeVorse, *op. cit.*, pp. 209-229.
50. Historical Manuscripts Commission, *op. cit.*, p. 159.
51. Letter Cape Florida Society to De Brahm, June 30, 1773. *Dartmouth Ms.* D(W)1778/II/684; also. Hist. Mss. Comm., *op. cit.*, p. 161.
52. Historical Manuscripts Commission, *op. cit.*, pp. 160, 162.
53. *Ibid.*, p. 167.
54. *Ibid.*, p. 162.
55. *Ibid.*, p. 171.
56. *Dartmouth Ms.* D(W)1778/II/742.
57. By B. F. Stevens, in his Introduction to Hist. Mss. Comm., *op. cit.*, p. x.
58. As a matter of fact, De Brahm put a good deal of effort into the project, and at some possible risk; at one point during the negotiations, he offered himself as security for £450 for the Society, if he could be allowed to return honorably to East Florida (Letter De Brahm to Lord Dartmouth, 22 March, 1773; Hist. Mss. Comm., *op. cit.*, p. 143).

This Page Blank in Original
Source Document

APPENDIX A

Information and recommendations to the Cape Florida Society,
by William Gerard De Brahm; with cover letter to Lord Dartmouth,
dated May 4th, 1773¹

Cover letter:

“My Lord:

I humbly beg Leave to Transmit copy of the continue directions, which I have Since sent to the Cape Florida Society, truly wishing they may be possessed with the necessary knowledge if possible of all occurrencys in America, as they for want of Sufficient preordinations may cause confusion, discouragement and miscarriage in a country, where they will be by themselves with out any counsel to their advantage, but perhaps meet dissuasions from the providence fisher man, who for the Sake of injoying all the benefits of those, who unfortunately Suffer Shipwrack at Cape Florida, would look with invious Eyes upon these new Settlers, and take ungenerous advantage by distressing them with contrary notions to the prejudice of Your Lordship. I am most respectfully

Your Lordships

Queens square Westminister
May 4th 1773

most obedient and most
humble Serv^t WGdeBrahm

To the Cape Florida Society

“Gentlemen! at Mr. Berchers request I have furnished you with a list of necessary furnitures and utensils for your intended settlement at Cape Florida, I have finished also the plots, which are to be joined to Your Grants.

as your resolution is fixed to publish your undertaking in order to invite such as have capacity to accompany your designe, I think it will greatly contribute to your intention, if in your publication is given sufficient information of what is necessary to remove obstacles, what to be provided in Europe before your departur, and what to be observed in America, when at your arival you Set about your project.

you are therefore to know your own Climate in which you are born, to what you have ben used in the course of your life as well in regard to nurishment as

24 *Appendix*

medicins, and provide such articuls of plants, seeds, medicins, provisions and garments, as you know you cannot meet with in America at your new settlement.

you are to Know that Climate in America, which you intend to inhabite, as also the practice in planting, building, living and preserving health, that you may do Justice to your constitution as well as to your interest in a forrigh part of this world.

you know my residence in America has begun in 1751 in the V climate and ended in 1771 in the IV climate,² please therefore to observe from my own observations, surveys and experiences, that the province of East Florida (whose southern extremity is your choice) lies under the fourth Climate from the Aequator where vid^t at Cape Florida the longest Day in Summer is 13 hours, 36 minuts and 17 5/8 Seconds; the Shortest Winter Day is 10 hours, 23 minutes and 4^c 3/8 Seconds, from which proximity to the AEquator you will probably Judge, that the heat must be intolerable; this would be realy the case, were not the Easterly breeze (: which trades³ from 9 in the fore to 3 in the afternoons West and from the West to the East at Nights;) such a remedy by which at Cape Florida the heat is made as tolerable in summer as the spring heat in England, and even the Winter Season at Cape Florida can be equally compaired to the Spring in England, which is situated between the VIII and XI Climates, so that at East Florida is no general cession of Vegetation in the Winter. non of your Society as to its native Country exceeds the Northermost Climates of England, but most of you are rather witin or to the Southward of them all.

the general opinion is, that Emigrations of Man and transplantations of Vegetation do best succeed in the same climate, this opinion cannot mis to be favorably received in Theory, but to examin it by practice and experience, to what Theory has agreed, is the only way to truth.

I therefore go to observe, that the spanjards have taken from their best grape Vine at Madeira Situated in the V climate, and transplanted them in the same Climate upon the Coast of California, but the Wine produced from the California cultivation is much inferior to the Wine exported from Madeira. the query is now: if the Same Climate does not prove Successful for transplanting of its own natives carryed a distance of 5000 or more miles, which Climate is to be preferably chosen, that more Northerly or more Southerly [p.2] my answer is, that no body would be apt to think, a plant used to a certain degree of Solar heat would prosper in a lesser degree, of course the decision must fall in favor of a climate which affords more heat, videlicet⁴ nearer to the AEquator, where the plant receives more warmth, which can be affirmed from an other experience made by the Hollanders, who took from the best Vines in Burgundy Situated in the VIII climate, and transplanted them at Cape good hope, which lies in the V Climate from the AEquator; the Wine obtained from the good hope production is highly delicious and much superior to the Wines made in Burgundy; this experiment in Company with the first of California me thinks Sufficiently proves the mistake of the above opinion. I would however, gentlemen! give this caution not to exceed the VIII Climate Northwardly in the choice of your plants and Seeds, because the proportion between the climates may perhaps be as well too great than too little, and those plants which are used to the very oblique inflection of the suns Rays, may not all at onçe be able to bear an inflection of

so much less obliquity, for East Florida (:as I have mentioned:) lies under the IV Climate, where in summer the inflection of the Suns Rays are almost perpendicular, and where you will be one Climate nearer the AEquator than Good hope; altho' I make no doubt, that Rheinish and Mosel Vines laying under the IX climate wood succeed at Cape Florida, Jet I would advice a Tryal of it first; So much is certain, that the Wine grapes seem to accomodate them selves to each climate by assuming in Cold Climates a thick and in Warm Climates a thin skin to cover the juce in the berrys, in which latter videlicet thin Skins the best digestion is performed and the best Wines prepared.

that you may know, what principale plants are not at all, or are preferable in East Florida, and which are not fit to be introduced at all, like wise which plants from supposition of those happily Cultivated in the same climates on the south of the AEquator may be worth trying, I will joine the different lists of them vid^t: plants not existing in East Florida.

are pinioli, pistacho, Amonds. Olives. currano

of these are neither genus nor species to be met with.

plants now in East Florida preferable to any in Europe are

Chinee Orange; Sevil Orange; Citrons; Lemons

of these are species also not to be met with in Europe, and comon in East Florida. plants not fit to be introduced in East Florida having proved to degenerate to the Southward of the VI Climate are

appels. pears. peaches. prunes. cherrys.

the Northren grains and Seeds, which by my knowledge from others and my own experience have proved equal and some superior in quality to what they had ben in their former cold climates are.

Wheat. Rye. Barley. Oats. peases. Lentils, flax and Hamp.

the plants cultivated in the four first climates South of the AEquator, and in the first three climates North of the AEquator, to which add that of East Florida (; equal to the fourth Climate on the South side of the AEquator vid^t to the Southermost extend of Paraguay, where the Zona terminates, in which [p. 3] from the AEquator North and South the Sugar Canes are planted, and the produced Sugar at Paraguay is Sold at Santa Fe in the province of Buenos Ayres; So that East Florida may confidently as far as Hillsborough alias Ays Inlet (:in Latitude 27° 24' 45'' by observation:) be called a country adapted for sugar canes and of course for all West Indian products vid^t.

:Sugar; Rum; Cotton; Indigo; Tabacco; Conchonille.

the manner how to preserve your European plants and Seeds in order to bring them over to America without prejudice, without much expense, and with the least trouble and greatest advantage I would propose is: to pack up immediately all roots, Suckers and Vines after collected in Europe in tight Strong Iron bound oak caskes of different Sizes, then headed, and through the bungs to fill the caskes with oil, and your Seeds to be put in bottles filled with oil and well stopped, out of which oil the aforesaid articuls hereafter are not to be taken, until your ground is determined on and prepared, then the oil is drawn in empty Vessels, the plants and Seeds well Wiped and regularly planted and Sowed. the oil which is not diminished in virtue and Taste can be disposed of for Oeconomical use in markets, and the caskes some sawed through the midle in

two will Serve in plantations vid^t the bigger for Tups⁵ and the lesser for pails and bockets, but the whole ones will serve for sending in them the oil to market places; this method will require no attendance at sea or on Shore; consequently give no trouble more besides boarding and landing; other methods as per instance to pack them in Earth cannot Kip out, but must admit the air, which will enter the pores of the plants and with assistance of its Warmbt Swelling the closed germs dispose them to Sprout, this happening whilst packed up in ground and Caskes, the plants cannot obtain Sufficient air, putrefaction of course insues, and the plants or Seeds are destroyed, but in case the plants and Seeds can obtain the reach of free air, they require to be frequently watered, but the expence of laying in Sufficient provision of water at Sea, besides the labor connected there with is too extravagant, as also at the time (:when they are to be landed from the Vessel on Shore:) the hurry is so great, that most of the plants are destroyed before they can reach their destined ground, which perhaps for some weeks with any propriety cannot be pitched upon and prepared, during which time the labor (which Should be bestowed on other necessarys) must be divided in order to attend the plants, which if not don, they chance to be neglected and perish, and if don other pressing bussiness must be retarded; therefore to Kip the air from the plants and Seeds is the only remedy, and cannot be more effectually executed, then to Surround them with wax, or Tallow, which is attended with much inconveniencys and nicitys; or in honey, which on a long voyage and in great Warmbt is apt to ferment, therefore best in oile, else all the premisses Stop effectually the pores of the plants and Seeds, and Kip out the air. this Stopping out of the air from the pores may seem pernicious and apt to prevent them from Sprouting in the ground, when planted, but if they are carefully wiped, some (:if not all:) pores will open to give passage to the air under ground, and require perhaps one or two Days more time to swell the Seeds and plants so much, that thereby the other pores are forced open also, which [p.4] the Small partical of remaining fatness is insufficient to hinder the air from penetrating, besides the Warmbt of the ground will by rarification and evaporation consume great part of the fat also.

I venture to recomend this method for preserving the Silkworm Seed (:Eggs from hatching or giving vent to the inclosed Worms sooner, than the mulberry trees or Shrubs are Sufficiently Sprouted, and aford the necessary Quantity of leaves to feed them. the way of wiping these Seeds must be by moving them on fresh plotting paper so long until the paper Shews no marks of the remaining oil.

as it is in my power to give you a description of the communications and soils of East Florida, I will gladly inform you thereof in order to render your Idea more compleat: that part of East Florida which forms the peninsula is not above 180 comon miles East and West from the Atlantic to the Gulf of Mexico in wedth, and 370 comon miles in length from St. Augustin North to the Dry Tortugas South. at Hillsborough Inlet coming from the North ward I met with the first Infallible criterion, which indicates that Zona comonly calculated for (:what are called:) West Indian products mentioned herebefore, which Zona also fairly promisses Success in all Northern Cultivations herebefore not excepted, this country therefore does by no means deserve to be lefft longer with out being improved as it has been since 1513 the year, in which it was first dis-

covered by Europeans vid^t John Ponce the than Governor of porto Rico. this peninsula is Surrounded' with Seas vid^t by the Gulf of Mexico to the West, the Atlantic Ocean to the East, and the Florida Stream to the South; this Stream leads from the Gulf into the Ocean, and afords a constant current throughout the whole year from East Florida to the Northren provinces upon the Atlantic, and with its Eddy, which the whole year with all other winds (:except those between East and North:) returns that whole distance a long Shore and favors the Navigation to and fro (:North and South:) through the whole year, excepting at the times, when the aforesaid winds between North and East prevaile, at which time the current to the North is exceeding Strong, but admits of no Eddy from North to South to return and at which time Vessels bound from South to North must endeavour to make what offing they can, for fear of being drawn on Shore by the current.

what makes East Florida more conspicuous, is that all Spanish riches brought from the Kingdom of Mexico, New Spain, peru, chili in America and from the Mannilles in the East Indies are gathered in one fleet at the Havanas on Cuba Island, which fleet Sailes for the Cape of East Florida and from thence takes its departur for Europe Sailing through the new Bahama Channel a long the Coast of East Florida as far as Cape Canjaberal, which method is followed by all Vessels Trading to pensacola, New orleans, Bay of Hundoras and Jamaica, so that the Seas of East Florida are the most frequented, and its Shores the most Knowen for Ship Wrecks, inhabitants in that part are therefore highly necessary to give assistance & comfort to so many distressed, who in return will dispose to them their saved cargoes at low rates.

The Soil near the Coasts of East Florida in many places, especially on the East and West Coasts is sandy, but the South Coast is of a rich marl in most places, and the inland contains a soil equal in goodness to that of the Northren provinces, however the Sandy soil generally displeasing the Eyes of those used to marl or other rich soil must not discourage European Emigrants from making choice thereof, provided the Situation has otherwise most of desirable advantages both of free air and easy access; for the quicksand, which contains the Subterraneous universal Water source, lays under a stratum (:in case 'tis sand;) generally not above Six foot thick, but where it is marl (:which generally is Suported by a coral rock:) there the quicksand lays about four foot under the Surface, and is met with after piercing through the coral rock. the Sandy Stratum I have experienced in the dryest Seasons never to be above two feet from the Surface exhausted of moistur, so that Vegetable plants, which Strike the fibers of their roots more than two feet deep, received allways nurishment from below, and the Night Dews refreshed the plants as far, as they had ben over ground withered in the Day time. the undisguished truth of this is obtained by the Dayly experience since 1765 in this very province both in regard to cultivations and natural products, which are peculiar to the country Climate.

however Should not withstanding of my Eight years experience on sandy Soil the through many thousand years entertained notion from a want of fair trials in different Climates and on different as well deep as shallow laying quicksand not be willing to trust to the fertility in a thin Sand Stratum but desire a marl or otherwise manured soil, for which I do not mean to reproach so good a care of men they need not however to exchange or refuse occupying a well situated and

for many advantages well calculated place on account of being Sandy, and elect an other inconveniently Situated but of a rich soil, they may in rainy Seasons cover any part, they please, and intend for gardens or fields with Stones or Shells about Six Inches thick, in case leaves, dead gras, straw or Ruches etc: are handyer, then twelve Inches thick, thereby to absorb the fiery particulcs (:phlogiston:) conveyed by the inflecting Rays of the Sun, and hinder the Reflecting Rays from exhausting the subterraneous moistur reaching the Earths surface; they (:who will bestow their leisure houres upon such usefull and profitable undertaking:) will in about twelve months be convinced, when in an other rainy season they remove said Stones Shells etc: by forming passages and Rows each six foot wide, have all materials cleared out of the passages and layed upon those remaining in the Rows, when they will find in the passages, that an acid has been generated during the time they was covered, that this acid has corroded (:alkuholized:) the upper part of the Sandy Soil into a fine marl, which after it is howed or plowed about six Inches in depht, with, and under the Sand, in order to stop the wide interstices between the sand grains, and hinder the quick passage of the rain through them to the refreshment of what is Sowed or planted there, that consequently [p.6] this method will richly reward them with a fine Crop in the passages, and there remains no room for doubt, that, when the pain is taken a little before the next insuing planting Season, to move the stratum of Stones etc: out of the Rows into the passages last planted, so as to make them to Rows and the Rows to passages, they will experience, that a two years cover has made a much deeper impression of corroded sand into marl, and will consequently pay that trouble with a Second and richer crop. NB⁶ the Seeds or plants must be sowed or placed both sides of the passage next the stratum of the Rows so as to give them the benefit of the moistur constantly retained under the stratum. thus annually or every two years removing the stratum from the Rows into the passages will aford a perpetual renewal and enriching of the ground, and be a destruction to all wild and pernicious roots and Seeds of grass and weeds; this method answers preferably to that of the Northren and cold countrys, where the farmer by plowing up the roots of the grass and weeds and exposing them to severe frosts endeavour to get rid of them, however these frosts do not distroy any of the Seeds, which are dropped from the ripe grass and weeds in the ground, which the prescribed Stratum will smother and perfectly distroy, and save the laborious howing⁷ or plowing in the Summer Season to extirpate the grass and weeds out of the planted fields, so that this method is saving of much labor, and procuring a richer crop than the comon methods; thus I have given a remedy to those who will or cannot trust a crop on a Shallow Sandy Soil. and they will also experience that this method, if once introduced and becomes comon, will prove the best manure in all, especially hot climates, where dung increases rather the heat more than is necessary, and where the howing or plowing looses and mellowes the ground fit to absorbe much of the airy night Dews or even winds. observe that your fields at Cape Florida are never to be howed or plowed in the hot houres of the Day, but before sunrise, at the houres of the Trading Sea breeze and at sun set, NB in a rainy season all houres of the day are fit for howing or plowing, unless such houres, when the clouds are thin or move from before the sun.

I have above advised with good reasons drawn from experience, that your Vines should not be taken from countrys situated to the North of Bergundy, I would now recommend Verona (:or Lucca⁸ rather:) for gathering your Olive trees or stones as being the best in Europe videlicet the great ones, which when ripe give the best oile, and the lesser kind comonly called: picholini are the best for pickeling, when green, as the pickeling of the olives is performed chiefly with Sea Salt water it being the principal ingredience, you will find, that the Sea water at cape florida being richer of Salt, then that of Lucca (: verona not enjoying that convenience, being an Inland Town:) will procure the preference to your Olives pickeled at Cape Florida.

altho I have advanced Several necessary observations, which I think worth your attention, and which chiefly fall within the present bounds of your recognizance whilst on this side of the Atlantic Ocean, I shall however have much more to say [p.7] relative to occurrencys Strictly concerning America, especially that part, which you propose to inhabit; however Since your good Success in that great undertaking depends chiefly from the Vigor and health of your body and constitution, I thinck it highly necessary, to Shew⁹ from my twenty years experience, by what diet and Regimen you may preserve your vigor and health from the time you change the present and for the time you continue in a New and warm climate, and to make you Judges and guardians over your Selves. please therefore in the first place to abstain in hot seasons from boiled meat and fish, from all manner of warm broth or liquids, but let all your warm Victuals be roasted¹⁰ and all your drinks be cold in your comon diet except in cases where a Regimen of perspiration requires it, of which I shall make mention hereafter; and never drink water with out mixing it with a little good Rum (:by all means avoide bad Rum:) if good Rum is not to be had, correct your water by Calibiating it with quenching in it a red hot Iron, and at no times make free with immoderate draughts of Strong liquors, nor charging your Stomacks with much Victuals, nor Sleep in a Room between two openings (:Doors or Windows:) where the wind has a free (:be it ever so small a :) draught.

2ly avoid wetting your bodys or even your feet only in rain and more so in dew, but if by chance or necessity it will happen so: increase your motion until you reach your mansion; take than a good and repeated draught of Warm Tea, warm but weak coffee, warm water and Rum or Wine, or in case non of the premisses is to be had conveniently, take warm calibeat water; Dishabit your Selves, enter your beds, and promote under sufficient coverts a moderate perspiration for the Space of thirty minutes, than dress your Selves Dry, and take a gentile exercise, Should hereafter you find your Selves feverish disposed, repeat the afore said Regimen of perspiration as often until that disposition is expelled. 3ly you are to avoid performing hard work in the hot, calm houres, Whereby you will exhaust too much of your necessary humors by perspiration, but in case necessity makes it an obligation to work hard at such houres and expose your Selves some time, you are (:when the perspiration is violent:) to quit your work, put on a blanket coat, therein retire to a Shady but not windy place, and take very moderate Small and often repeated but cold draughts of calibeated water, or water mixed with a little good Rum. 4ly in case a sudden cold wind or rain should surprize you, whilst in an (:altho small:) perspiration before you are well

covered with closes,¹¹ you are to take recourse to the swetting Regimen above directed. 5th you are not to go out in the sun with an uncovered head; your best head cover in Summer is a straw hat with a broad Rim to be light and give Shade to your face and Shoulders, and let your hats be white or whitish in order to absorbe non, but reflect all Suns Rays inflecting upon you and give passage to those reflecting from the ground through the Texture of the straw hat. 6^{ly} your dress in general is to be light colored, wide and light, as far as to your Knees, but [p. 8] from your Knees down to your Soles, be allways (: Summer and winter:) warmly dressed in cloth (:flannel or strouts¹²;) and good shues; in order to make this dress convenient, you have two square pieces of flannel or strouts, in them Wrap up your leggs and confine them with garters below your knees, the rest loosely covers the feet and heels home to the ground, which will prevent (:altho' wet:) to get any cold on your feet, and the Rattelsnakes, which comonly bite near the heel, if they do bite at all, they will be satisfied of having revinged themselves on the cloth for having ben disturbed by you, and you will receive no hurt by them. 7^{ly} the American woods and forrests especially near the Sea Coast Shelter an infinite number of Nats (:muskitoes:) during the time that plantations are only Small, of course the Forrest near, the winds have no great power to dissipate them; these insects are very troublesome after Sun Set, and through out the whole night, by which the Weary man is deprived of that rest, which he needs to recover and regroute¹³ new strangth in order to make your Selves private and Kip off Such troublesome company, you are to have each a pavilion made of Thread or Silk net (:gawze:) in a form of a Bell tent 24 foot wide running up at 7 foot to a point fixed to a ring to be hanged up over the bed and to Spread over it at night, so as to touch the ground. the remedy for driving these Insects from your habitations in the evening, before you go to your beds, is by making several Smoak fires round your house, these will effectually force the nearest to leave your houses, and hinder those, which come from a distance to draw near you. the inflammation (:which they cause with their Stings: and form littel Swellings in your Skins:) is best and Soonest cured by rubbing the diseased places with Spirit of camphor.

let your dwelling houses be built laughty¹⁴, so that your Rooms may be at least 9 but not above 11 foot high, let your windows come as near down the floor as your doors on all four sides of your houses; though I have observed that all American Spaniards make no door nor window on the North side of their houses, but they build a dubble wall about 8 foot distance from each other forming a passage, this Served them for Kipping their victuals and liquors it being the coolest place and excluds the Rawness of the Dampy North air, which perhaps they Judged pernicious to their health; this Judgment they surely drew from experience, of which they had in 200 years a greater Share than I pretend to. Jet I have not followed their practice, but build doors and windows on the North side of my house in St. Augustin, where I fixed my landry and pantry with good success in Kipping victuals and liquors of all kind, my reason for not following the Spanish rools of Architectur was from experience, that an inclosed could not be so wholesome, as a free circulating air; however you may try the Spanish method first, and myn after, as the former will save time and expences, and the latter may be don after the first experiment does not give

satisfaction. as I suppose the want of boards will prevent you from making your first floor 3 foot high from the ground, as is necessary to prevent Jiggers and other vermin from nestling in your floors, by frequent cleaning, washing and airing the house and throwing your doors and windows open [p.9] from nine in the fore to three oclock in the afternoon; I advise you to burn Shells into Lime, and mix it with twice the quantity of pounded unbornd¹⁵ Shells these materials together make up into a mortar, which you must not temper with fresh but Salt water from the Sea, this Salt water in all your buildings you will find to make a soon petrifying of course better mortar, than that not made with sea water and Sea Sand, which soon putrifies, as I have experienced in both ways on my buildings in St. Augustin; after you have well rammed the ground floor of your house, lay on this mortar Six Inches thick, and have it beat all over gently but quickly with light pestils by three or more persons, until nothing of the mortar will Stick any more to the pestils, than give a brush of lintseed oil all over and continue beating until the oil disapears, thus brushing with oil and beating repeat as often until your floor is hard, smooth and Shiny; such a floor you will find near equal to marmor¹⁶, very lasting, cold, easy to be cleaned with a wet mop, and aired to kip out Jiggers, and all manner of bugs and Vermins. at Cape Florida the expence of glas windows may be saved, as they are of little Service, unless in Sturmy and rainy weather, which the Shutters and doors on the weather Side will shut out more effectually than glas windows. I advise you to make use of gawze blinds (the same Stuff your pavilions are made off) both in the Door and window Openings, which blinds you shut all day long, at least before sunset, and thereby injoy not only the free air, but you will also Kip out both Sandflies and Muskitoes during your evening conversation before you go to bed, at which time they are to be opened and your Shutters and doors to be shut. but let this advise not alarm you, and give cause to suspect, as if the night airs were unWholesome, as it is in the first, second, and Third Climates both North and South of the AEquator, to the contrary I can from my own experience Warrant the night air in the IV North Climate vid^t in East Florida as far South as Cape Florida to be the most inoffensive, least dangerous and most healthy in the universe, as far I have ben vid^t from the 26th degree East Longitude to the 83th degree West from London, and from the 55th degree to the 25th degree North Latt^{de}, which is a difference of Eight Climates on the North side of the AEquator; I can assure you that my Self and people with me have slept many nights in the woods and on the sea coast, when I was on my general Surveys, and never any of us felt the least inconvenience, so that I can advise you to choose the outside of your houses for your nights rest, in order to enjoy the benefit of the air, provided tempestuous weather will not prevent you, and you hang your pavilions on Branches of trees to Spread over your beds for Kipping of the Muskitoes. altho' you lay in the air, Jet the air has no draught over you as in houses; a draught of air can as to its effect be compaired to a Braziers blowing through a soldering pipe, which little draught incensed by the flame of a lamp will smelt a piece of metal in few seconds, which the quiet flame will not effect even in many years.

you will perhaps meet at your arival with persons on the spot or in other parts, if you should tuch any, who will endeavour to prepossess your minds with

many prejudices in regard to climate, soil, insects, wild beasts, tempests, Indians, french and Spanish wars [p.10] believe me, that the persons you will meet with in any part of America never have ben on the spot, or if they have ben, they never took proper pains nor inclined to inquire minutely so as to form a fair Judgement of the place, but the persons you will meet on the spot have interesting reasons, which does induce them to look with a jealous Eye upon you, who (:they are sure:) will become Sharers in their advantages, nay will cut them off from many profits, notwithstanding the benefit, they themselves will enjoy from your Settlement, which to foresee their avarice Stands in their own light. I have therefore given you so full an account of the climate, and fortified you with proper means against the worst; I have given it in your power to turn the soil (:be it, what it will:) to your viewes; I have shewen¹⁷ you how to fix barriers between your selves and the insects; as to wild beasts (:Bears, panthers, Basilisks and crocodills which are the only offensive one) they are never known to have hurt a person, unless when they being attaqued, was obliged to defend them selves, they all will flye at the Sight of a human species, except Basilisks (:rattlesnakes:) they cannot flye, but when a person comes near them, they will give warning with ratteling their tales, which is equal to the noise of the mounting of a watch, at which noise one may Stand of.¹⁸ crocodilles in deed will attaque a person but not otherwise than in the water. as to tempests you will certainly see more of them in that place, than in any other you have ben, as you will be situated open to the Gulf of Sandwich¹⁹ within and the Florida Stream²⁰ without the Sound of Dartmouth²¹, in which stream the winds between North and East have great powers and cause turbulations of disagreeable effects but only to those on the stream in Vessels, and not to you on Shore in your houses, whereby your minds at first will be affected, until you become acquainted and familiar to it, when your apprehensions will be much less to what they can be in hurraganes on Shore. as to Indians, you will find them in your first setting out rather friendly and usefull, if any in their way of hunting (:being unlimited:) Should come near you, they will endeavour to gain your acquaintance and friendship by Supplying you with Venison, of which they will make practice, provided you present them with a little Corn, Rice, or salt (:by no means let them know you have stronger liquor than water:) they will readily Traffic with you and exchange Skins, furs, bears oil, wax and honey for the following articuls.

Belts leather with bukles	Earbobs	Silver slight	Linsey woolsey	Salt
Blankets very small	Flints	Looking glasses	small	
Bracelets, silver and	Garters	Needles coarse	Shirts(Scizzaws)	
brass for arms & hands				
	Guns	very Slight	Pots tin	Strouts
Bullets	Hatchets	Powder Gun	Timbles,	Thread
Calicoes	Kettles brass	Razors	Vermillion	
Combs	Knives	Ribbons silks	Wire brass &	Iron

however to be justly intituled to this Trade, you are to Sollicited the governors licence, and by no means make a practice of it without the Governors Knowledge and permission. the Indians will not brake out into War, nor be jealous about your settlement, nor even complain of it out of a political [p.11] pretence, provided the Governor is required to send invitations to the head men of the

Seminolskees²² (:Indians, which live in small Tribes and have built Towns to the West and South of St. Augustin :) these headmen may easily be informed and satisfied, that His Majesty has thought it necessary a Settlement Should be made at Cape Florida by His Subjects to give assistance and relieve to so many distressed, which yearly Suffer Shipwrack on or near that place. a present of few coats, some Westcoats, Blankets, Shirts, guns, powder and Balls to the value of 50 pound Sterling distributed among the headmen (:which are about six or seven:) will make the Settlement at Cape Florida an object, if not agreable, at least indifferent to these Barbarians. as to french and spanish Wars, I must observe in general, that such a plantation, farm, country seat, Village, Town, City or fortifications has as yet not existed which could claim a right not to be attacked or molested, for even the best Fortified places, which might have expected that privilege, have ben worse treated than open places, when these meet frequently with good treatment. in the year 1762, I than had fortified Savannah but only to defend against Indians on the land side, the River side was quit open, french and Spanish privateers frequently entered and anchored in the mouth of Savannah River, one of which met once a frolocking party from Savannah in the River, alured them to the Vessel and took them prisoners, the Captain send his barck up to Savannah in the Night, when they might have burnt us all, for nothing was to hinder them, however, they was satisfied with the token they could give to the prisoners before they Set them at liberty, that they positively had ben in the Town of Savannah. you at Cape Florida will be much better off than all others in any place I know upon the Eastern Coast of America, for the new Bahama Channel is the principal outlet of the Gulf of Mexico for all Vessels bound for the Northren provinces or Europe, consequently in time of War Kings Ships and English Privateers will be constantly croosing at and about Cape Florida, and Serve you as guards, on which account Enemy's will not venture to Stop, but endeavour to make all sails for running as fast by your Quarters as possible.

as you may not be able to acquire early a Stock of Cattle to draw milk for your Famely use; I would advise you to take a Number of goats for a brood with you from England, and as soon as you arrive at Cape Florida to dispatch one of you Company to St. Augustin, where he may contract with the butchers to drive a Stock of Cattle to your place, which they will readily undertake, especially if a certain Juaniko is present, who is a relick of the ancient Jamarce Indians²³ (: which was expelled from East Florida by the present Creek Indians :) he speaks both English, Spanish and Indian, has deserted from a Spanish Man of War, he has ben in my Service and proved him Self an exceeding good Sailer, fisherman and Hunter well acquainted with all the Seas, Rivers, and woods in East Florida, and has behaved him Self incomparably well; if you will take him into your Service you'l find him a necessary and servicable man; if you cannot contract for Cattle in East Florida, you may Send to Ogetchee River in Georgia to Fords, Colsons, Lundays or Goldwire's Cowpens, where you will make the most favorable contract and have some horses in the Bargain, but by all means, get Juaniko in your Service [p.12] if you purchase Slaves, get them rather out of an African Vessel new, and see that they are healthy and Strong; I had new Negroes, which did their Taskes in clearing of land and planting the Same in every respect as well

as seasoned Negroes, but I was obliged to overlook them constantly and advise them, where they went wrong. one Slave cultivates with his How five acres of land (:one acre of corn, peas and potatoes, and four acres of Rice or Indigo: the cultur of either is estimated equal labor:) this is their Taske both in newly cleared or old worn ground with out altering the denomination of an acre, only with this difference, that the same measure vid^t of 220 feet (:by which overseers lay out an acre of land:) is diminished by degrees every year until its reduction comes down to 200 feet. the first measure of 220 feet makes an acre of new land one ninth too big, and the last measure of 200 feet in Old land better than one twelfth too little, this they do, because new land produces Scare any Grass, and once Hewing²⁴ will do for the Whole Season, but the Grass increases yearly in a manner, that Some times three Hewings are not Sufficient in one season; and, when this comes to be the case, the Planters relinquish those fields for pasturages and clear new ground of its woods. an Acre of which is a days taske for Eight working hands, but they do no more than cutting down the trees; the lopping and burning of the limbs and under woods is performed with out tasking the Negroes, and is don in the following manner: the planters Set their weak hands (:Women, Boys and girls:) to cut down the bushes and Shrubs (:under woods:) with Howes²⁵ and Hatchets, before the taskes are laid out and marked, and after this the trees are all cut down by Taske NB this is Day Work, but the lopping and burning is Night work: vid^t at Sun Set or after the Taskes are finished all Slaves leave the field, and retire to their cottages to rest an hour, then all hands are turned out to lopping and firing, which they continue until nine o clock at Night: the fires are made but small and in many places in order not to burn the Soil, yet to destroy all branches, Shrubs and bushes, whereby they Scatter the Salt in the ashes all over the ground. the bodies of the trees remain on the land, and as many as are fit for Rails, and other timber are manufactured to those purposes, as they have leisure; the rest are by degrees Split for firewood, and with the remaining limbs (:not consumed by the fire:) brought to the planters and Negroe houses for the Kitchen and chimney use, which is not moved by tasking the Slaves, but they dare never return from their Fields without bringing a load of firewood on their Shoulders. this is the practice except of those planters, which have a near and immediate market for their firewood and timber; they set about Sawing, Splitting, cutting and piling immediately after cutting and lopping the trees without firing new land, except with the Shrubs and bushes. altho' most new fields remain for a long time lumbered with the bodies of trees for one or two years, this however does not hinder planters from cultivating the clear spots; mean while the places thus covered with the bodies of trees improve in goodness of Soil.

Notes to Appendix A

1. Dartmouth MS. D(W)1778/II/607. Reproduced with the kind permission of the present Earl of Dartmouth and the Stafford County Record Office, Stafford, England. It should be noted that De Brahm was born and educated in Germany, and he had some difficulty with his English prose, occasionally difficult to read. Punctuation and spelling have, however, been re-

tained, to conform as closely as possible to the original manuscript. Portions of De Brahm's report were later included, somewhat differently worded, in his Chapter 5th, of *De Brahm's Report* (Louis DeVorse, Jr.; ed., *De Brahm's Report of the General Survey in the Southern District of North America*, University of South Carolina Press, Columbia, S.C., 1971, pp. 107, 209, 216-229).

2. De Brahm's system of "Climates," used to divide the earth's surface on what he considered a logical system, is described in *De Brahm's Zonical Tables for the Twenty-five Northern and Southern Climates...*, T. Spilsbury, London, 1774. I have not seen this work, and so quote from DeVorse's summary (*op. cit.*, p. 280). He writes: "De Brahm used the term 'Climatic' to describe a band of the earth's surface bounded by two designated parallels of latitude. In this scheme the longest day along the parallel nearest the pole was one half hour longer than the longest day along the parallel nearest the equator. His climates began at the equator with number one and progressed poleward." Climate "4," or IV, was a band six and one-half degrees wide, "which begins in Latitude $23^{\circ}50'$ and ends in $30^{\circ}20'$ " (*De Brahm's Report*, *op. cit.*, p. 187) thus including all of peninsular Florida. The latitudinal bands were not of equal width, of course. DeVorse writes (*op. cit.*, p. 280): "'Climate 5,' which embraced South Carolina, was thus a band, six degrees and sixteen minutes in width, which began at latitude thirty degrees and thirteen minutes north and ended at thirty-six degrees and twenty-nine minutes north."
3. De Brahm's concept of the "trade winds" was that they regularly "traded" from onshore in the morning to offshore in the evening—quite in contrast to the commonly accepted usage today.
4. vid.^t, vide, or viz.
5. Tubs.
6. *Nota bene*.
7. hoeing.
8. A town in northern Italy, famous for the quality of its olives.
9. Show.
10. roasted.
11. clothes.
12. DeVorse transcribes this word as shrouds (*op. cit.*, p. 224); however, in this case *strouts* refer to heavy woolen cloth made in Stroud, a woolen manufacturing center in Gloucestershire, England.
13. recruit
14. lofty.
15. unburnt.
16. marble.
17. shown.
18. off.
19. Biscayne Bay.
20. The Florida Strait.
21. The complex of channels and shoals between Key Biscayne and Soldier

Key, called by De Brahm Dartmouth Sound, by the early Spaniards Bocas de Miguel Mora, and by some modern writers as part of the "Safety Valve"—this last a singularly unattractive name which is not really even applicable.

22. It seems doubtful that the Seminoles maintained permanent villages much to the south of St. Augustine in the 1770's, though they apparently sent scouting and hunting parties as far south as Cape Florida, and beyond. See James W. Covington, "Migration into Florida of the Seminoles, 1700-1820," *Florida Historical Quarterly* 46 (1968): 340-342, 346-348.
23. Was he referring to Yamassee Indians around St. Augustine?
24. hoeing.
25. Hoes.