

Kissimmee, Florida  
December 6, 1928

Mrs. Frank Jennings  
Oak Street  
Jacksonville, Florida

Dear Mrs. Jennings:

There will appear in the Times Union a short article that I think Mrs. Emma Williams Porter is putting in, possibly Saturday or Sunday, which will tell of an honor conferred upon Mr. Willson and myself, by the Institute for Government Research, and we are asked to be on the program next week, but Alas for hard times in Florida, we had to turn it down. But I am sending in my paper, which later, I hope, can appear in some Florida paper, and I know it can if you will help me.

Just a little thing I want to tell you which shows how the wind is blowing. At the Beautification State Meeting here last week, I attended and they called upon me for a few words. I was totally unprepared but I was so full of my subject that I talked to the reporters of the New York papers that those who heard me said that I did very well, at least the shaft went home. This is the idea that I am putting before the public today,-- Florida still owns about a million acres. This is our property, yours and mine, and the vote of the citizens of Florida can give this so it can revert to the Federal Government by Florida Legislative Action. What I want to say, now that the Everglades are such a failure and no money to finance them, is that the remaining territory become a wild life preserve to be a permanent home for the Seminoles, a winter home for the Migratory birds of the North American Continent, birds of the glades, Florida birds, and the forest animals. At any rate this was the gist of my talk and after luncheon that day our friend, Mrs. W. S. J., who is very prominent on the program, as well as her son, came to me and said to hold off on the Indians for the present. There is a plan now working in Washington by which they would get two million acres for a National Park. She ended by asking me if I would be a committee of one to secure her some baby cranes for Royal Palm Park, for breeding purposes, also some fawn.

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I told her I would do the best I could.

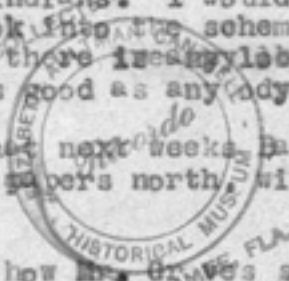
Now, my dear friend, I think this is the scheme: To have the United States Government buy the two million acres, one million of Florida's own property, the other million as yet belongs to all the grafters and Ex-governors, which will make them all wealthy and then make a National Park out of it at the expense of the United States Government. This is all good and fine but still I don't like to see it done this way.

You know that for fifteen years I have been saying that the Everglades could not be drained and it was the real home of the Seminole Indians. I would be very glad if you could just quietly look into the scheme and see what they are doing, because if there is any lobbying to be done, I think I could lobby as good as anybody in Washington.

I am hoping that next week, Baptist Witness, as well as two or three other papers north will have just a brief outline of my idea.

I am not sure how Mr. Graves stands on the Everglades subject and I would be glad if you can find out for me. I sat beside him at the Historical Meeting, when he was toastmaster, and that day he insisted on my talk about the Music of the Seminoles, and he was quite a friend of Governor Martin last year.

Really, Mrs. Jennings, after the Holidays I ought to go to Jacksonville because I have two very good articles, one exceptionally good on "The Seminoles and their Rights" and the other is "The Music of the Seminoles", and also have three transcriptions in Seminole music and the only music ever been secured from the Seminole Indians, centuries old. Either would require from thirty to forty minutes to deliver but I am much better at this line of work than at the time I did appear before your audience. I am not able to come to Jacksonville



without my expenses. Let me hear what you think of the above letter.

My new edition of the Seminoles will be here this week and I do hope you can help me push it some, for Indians need the support of every loyal American, as they are really in a starving condition today.

Wishing you and Mr. Jennings the best of Christmas days,

Affectionately yours,

Minnie Moore Willson.

MMW/ir