

Gotha Fla 3/7/21

My dear Mr Wilson:-

I returned from my trip Wednesday and enjoyed the outing hugely. Went to Estero the day I passed thru Kiss. and on to Naples next morning for breakfast.

Found the roads very good with exception of several miles between Punta Gorda & Myers where we encountered deep sand. Left Naples at 4:30 pm and reached Chokoloske (by launch) at 1 o'clock A.M. and spent balance of the night at that place and left early next am and reached mouth of Broad river about five o'clock and went up same as far as launch could go and then pushed our way up as far as we could in skiff and camped for the night on the camp site of an Indian (Jimmy Tiger.) who had left it the day before. Here

we staid three nights and hunted
a part of three days, found a good
many deer but Saw grass was so high
& banks that it was hard to get
a shot even when they got up
near you. We only got two but
this was all that we could see
Saw a number of Panther tracks
but could not induce our dogs
to kill them. Found hunting a
very strenuous job owing to
Saw-grass, marshy & rocky soil.

We did not go up Shark River,
as the guide thought the hunting
up Broad or Harney River better
and Shark River was four miles
farther on. The best I could
judge our river in $36^{\circ} 55' N$ by 84°
and almost due north of where
we were when we were at
Cape Dabie together & near the
line between Menzies & Dorr Co's
Think we must have gone 25
miles up the river which runs
in a N easterly direction. That

is a very picturesque Country especially the river portion, which varies in width from 100 ft to $\frac{1}{4}$ mile, and on each side was a solid wall, apparently, of emerald green composed of mangrove trees 15 or 30 ft high with now & then a hole cut thru by an Indian for a camping site a little way back where the ground was high enough. All kinds of bird liver was in evidence.

But sorry to say they are still being slaughtered for the plumes.

The Indian had several plumes which he said he could sell at Chokoloska at a good price.

Think we were on a part of the Indian reservation but until it is drained they can never make use of it other than for hunting & trapping, altho the land is good if ever drained.

I am setting my eyes to go back the 1st Nov but will.

go to England and hire an
Indian (Josy Billy) to take me
in his Ox Wagon 15 or 20 miles
in the interior (no horses in
that country) where game is plentiful
and where the country is not so
rough as where we went, being
pine & Cypress.

We had all the fish
& Oysters we wanted and as
fine Oysters as I ever saw and
got all our wanted in a few
minutes, went down on the other
side but found it pretty rough.
Came back on inside.

Vict & myself are figuring on
buying a house boat that we saw
at Naples and may spend a part
of next winter down in that country
and would be glad if you could
join us. I often had you in mind
while on the trip and wished you
was with us.

With best regards

Sincerely Yrs.

J. E. Manley