

SOUTH FLORIDA WATER
MANAGEMENT DISTRICT

A HISTORY OF THE EVERGLADES
OF FLORIDA

by

Junius Elmore Dovel

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A HISTORY OF THE EVERGLADES
OF FLORIDA

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by

Junius Elmore Dovell

A thesis submitted to the Faculty of the
University of North Carolina in partial
fulfillment of the requirements for the
degree of Doctor of Philosophy in the
Department of History.

Chapel Hill

1947

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Preface

One of the major drainage problems of the United States of America concerns the Everglades watershed of the peninsula of Florida. This watershed extends one hundred miles southward from Lake Okeechobee in a shallow valley, thirty-five to fifty miles wide, to the Gulf of Mexico. The area of the Everglades, about four thousand square miles of land and water, is approximately the same size as the state of Connecticut. Within the last century a considerable part of the Everglades has been drained of surplus waters and brought into agricultural and commercial production.

The drainage and reclamation of the Florida Everglades has proven to be an enormous undertaking fraught with many difficulties. This transition from a primeval morass has consumed many years of tedious effort. The attempt to tell the history of the Everglades, of which reclamation is the central theme, is an ambitious one. The story of the background and handling of these problems of drainage and reclamation, a number of which remain unsolved, is narrated in this volume.

This study was begun in 1939 at the University of North Carolina. The author is indebted to Professor Fletcher M. Green of that institution, under whose direction the study was made, for his excellent advice and steady encouragement as the work progressed. The author is also indebted to the

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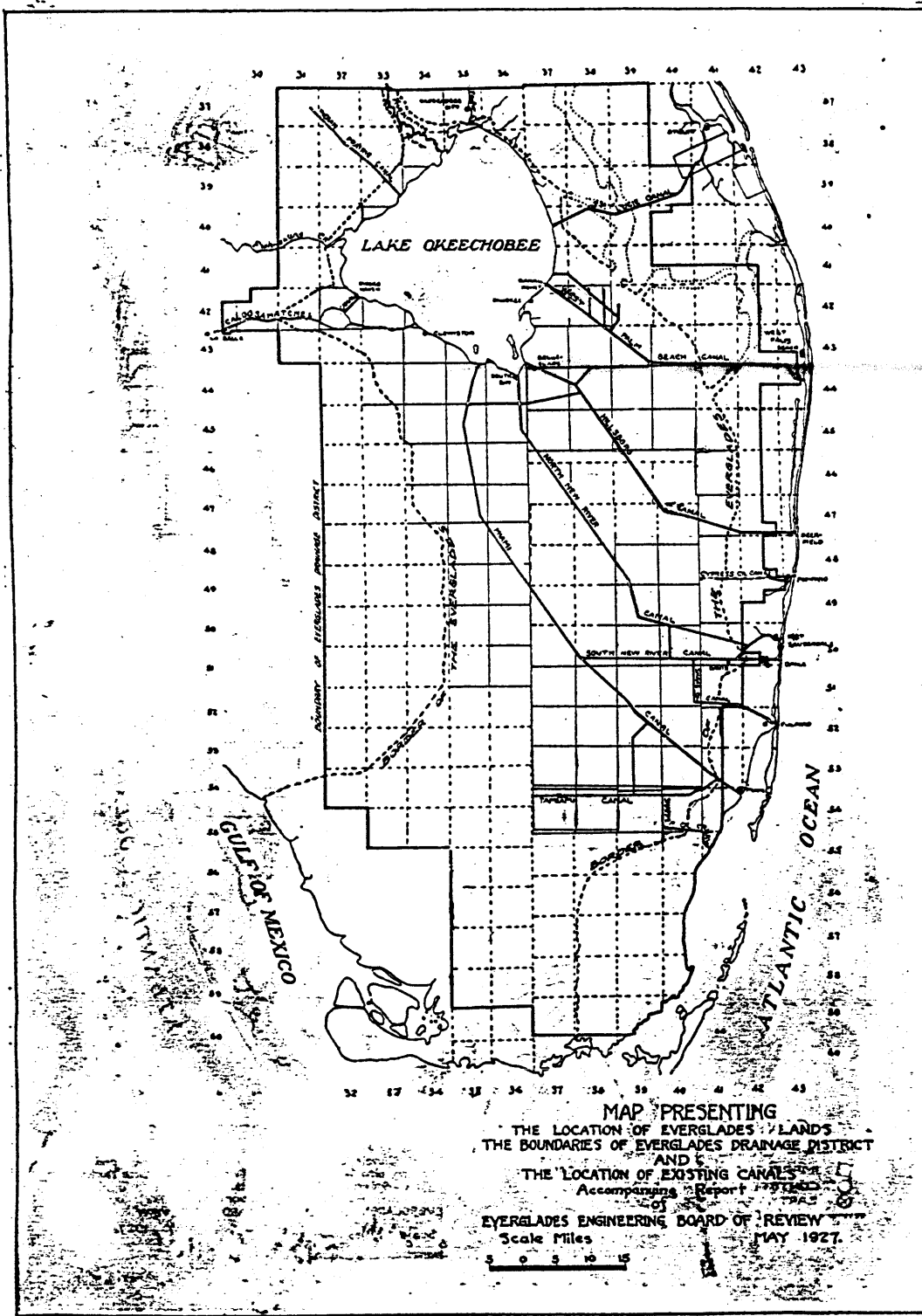
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The author gratefully acknowledges the help and patience of his wife, Lois Adrienne Dovell, without which this study would not have been possible.

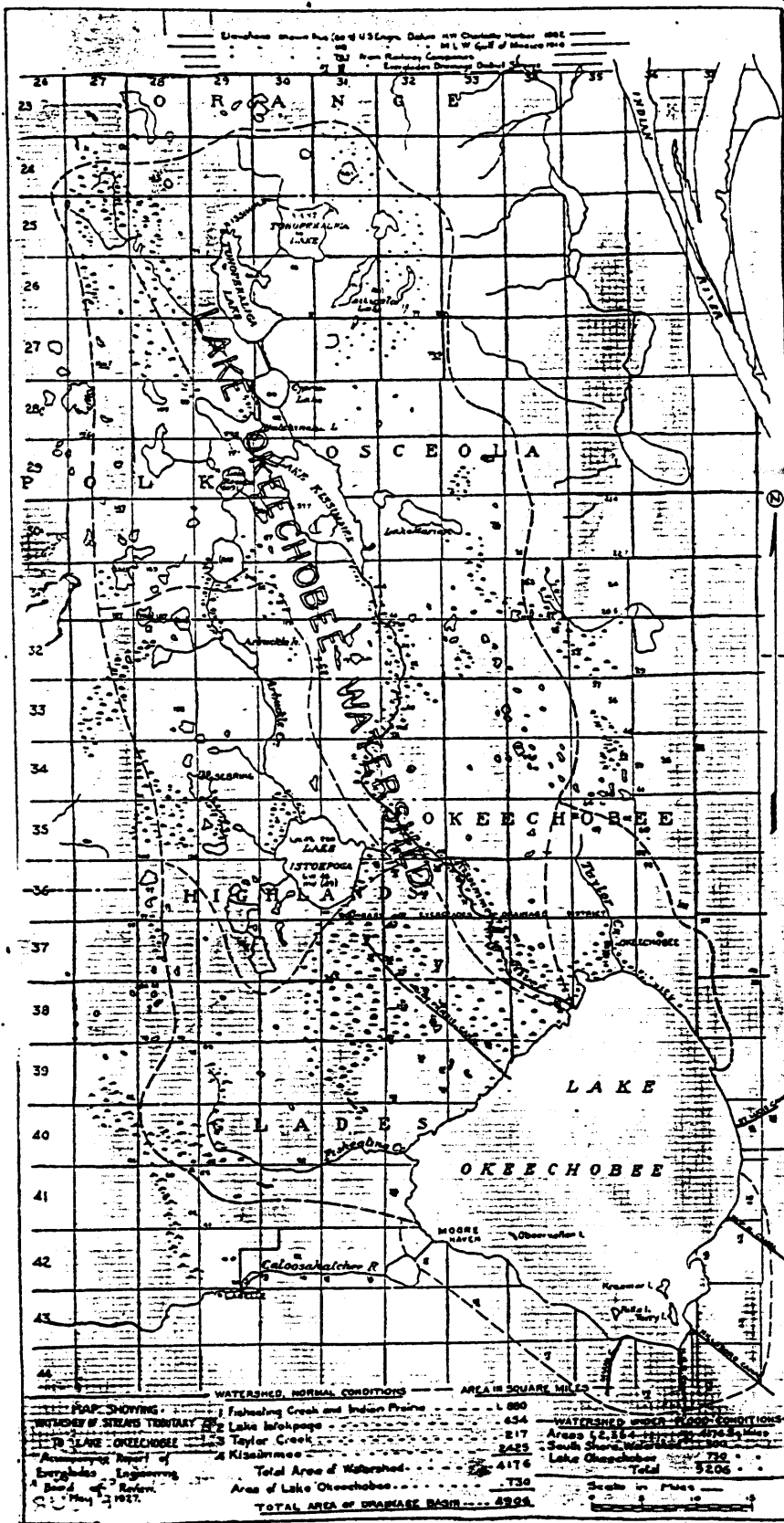
TABLE OF CONTENTS

	Page
PREFACE	ii
MAPS	vi
1. Location of the Everglades	
2. Watershed of Lake Okeechobee	
3. High Water Marks on the Shore of Lake Okeechobee, September, 1928, Hurricane	
CHAPTER	
I PHYSICAL DESCRIPTION	1
1. Geological Background	
2. Soil Deposits	
3. Flora and Fauna	
II ARRIVAL OF MAN	37
1. First Inhabitants	
2. Early Explorers	
3. First Tourists	
4. Seminole War	
III FEDERAL AND STATE ATTEMPTS AT RECLAMATION OF THE EVERGLADES	80
1. State Action to Secure the Title	
2. Buckingham Smith Report	
3. Swamp and Overflowed Land Grant Act	
4. Creation of the Internal Improvement Fund	
IV PRIVATE ATTEMPTS AT RECLAMATION OF THE EVERGLADES	104
1. Receivership of the Internal Improvement Fund	
2. Disston Drainage Contracts	
V LATTER-DAY EXPLORERS AND THE NATIVES	144
1. The Explorers	
2. The Natives	
VI ORIGIN OF THE EVERGLADES DRAINAGE DISTRICT . . .	176
1. Years of Indecision	
2. Spade Work of Jennings	
3. The People Choose: N. B. Broward and Drainage	

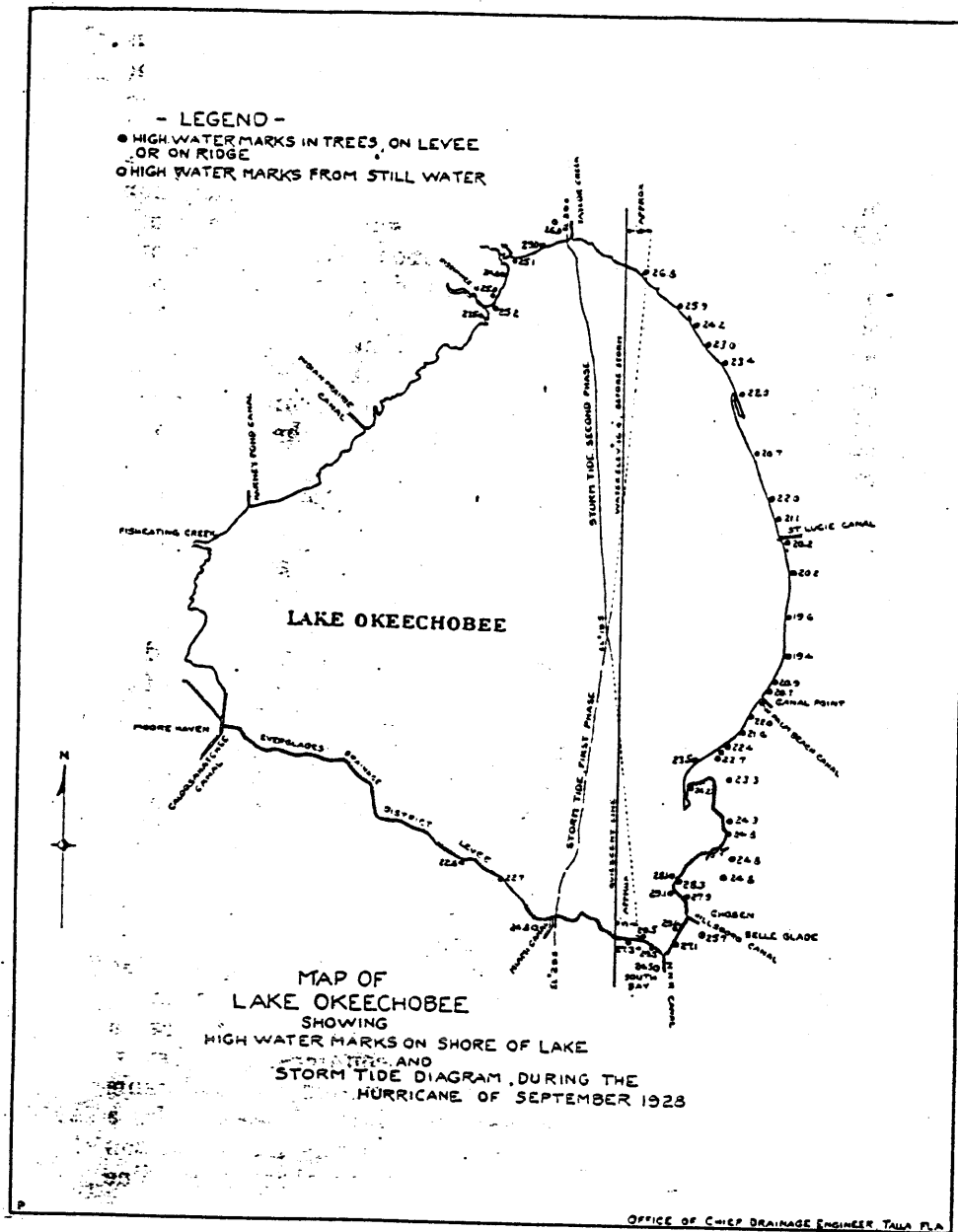
CHAPTER	Page
VII EARLY OPERATIONS IN THE DISTRICT	217
1. The Drainage Administration	
2. The Wright Report	
3. First Land Boom	
VIII CONGRESSIONAL INVESTIGATION OF THE EVERGLADES PROJECT	269
1. The Calm Before the Storm	
2. Background of the Congressional Investigation	
3. The Battle Lines are Drawn: Investigation	
IX EXAMINATION OF THE DRAINAGE SCHEME	318
1. Mead-Metcalf-Hazen Report	
2. Florida Everglades Engineering Commission	
X 'GLADES LIFE IN THE EARLY DAYS	350
XI SUGAR AND THE SECOND LAND BOOM	378
1. Growing Pains	
2. Sugar and the Land Boom	
XII THE 1926 HURRICANE AND THE MARTIN BOND PROPOSAL	422
1. The Hurricane	
2. The Twenty Million Dollar Bond Issue	
3. The Dayton Morgan Report	
XIII THE 1928 HURRICANE AND FEDERAL PARTICIPATION .	460
1. The Hurricane	
2. Federal Participation	
XIV HOME RULE FOR THE EVERGLADES	491
1. Default of the Bonds	
2. Refunding the Bonded Debt	
XV THE CONTEMPORARY SCENE	524
1. Agriculture and Industry	
2. Conservation Movement	
3. Everglades National Park	
CONCLUSION	570
BIBLIOGRAPHY	574



Location of the Everglades, from Anson Marston, S. H. McCrory, and George B. Hills, Report of the Everglades Engineering Board of Review to Board of Commissioners of Everglades Drainage District, figure number 1.



Watershed of Lake Okeechobee, from Anson Marston, S. H. McCrory, and George B. Hills, Report of the Everglades Engineering Board of Review to Board of Commissioners of Everglades Drainage District, figure number 5.



High Water Marks on the Shore of Lake Okeechobee, September, 1928, Hurricane, from Frederick C. Eliot, Biennial Report, 1927-1928, to the Board of Commissioners of Everglades Drainage District, 28.