A Trip to Florida for Health and Sport: the Lost 1855 Florida Novel

Wenxian Zhang
Rollins College
Society of Florida Archivists Annual Meeting
Tallahassee, 2013
Table of Contents & Chapter 1

Chapter 1

George W. Atchley - Professor for a trip to Florida - The record card with notes: - A Storm afloat - Rescue of a Passenger - Half-a-Child - Arrival at Savannah - Arrival in Savannah

George Atchley: the hero of this story, was a lad of seven years of age. His parents had always resided in the great city of New York, but George had been at boarding school in the country for several years. His father had died of consumption about a year before the commencement of the story, and his mother, feeling lonely as she had but one of her two children, had decided that George should live at home. He had therefore been attending a school in the city, for a year, and becoming very much interested in his studies, he had applied himself diligently to them. One was tall for his age and rather thin. In the spring George took a bad cold, and had a cough. During the whole summer and fall, Mrs. Atchley became alarmed about his health, and consulted the family physician, who advised George to go out of the city for a time, and to take more exercise in the open air. She thought, too, that a trip to the South during the extreme cold weather would be of service to him.

George had an uncle who was very fond of him. Since the father's death, Uncle James, who was a lawyer, had lived with his widow. Mr. Atchley told him of the advice the physician had given, and asked him what he thought of it. Uncle James said that he had thought of taking the coming winter in Florida himself, to avoid the attacks of TB at home, to which he was subject, and that he would willingly take George with him, and that it would be an excellent thing for him.

Uncle James felt that it would be a trial to part with him, but he was willing to do it, if there was any probability of it being beneficial to him. It was therefore arranged that George should go to Florida in the month of December.
Genealogy of Cyrus P. Condit

- Ancestor John Condit immigrated from Wales and died in Newark, NJ in 1713
- Second John Condit (1701-1783) was the grandson of the senior John Condit, and Cyrus’ great-great-grandfather
- Third John Condit (1766-1803) was Cyrus’ grandfather, who died at 36 in Savannah, Georgia
- Cyrus married Sarah J. Champlin (1834-1889) on May 23, 1855 and lived in Newark, New Jersey
- The couple had two daughters, Agnes Louise Condit (1856-?) and Sarah Adeline Condit (1858-1950)
- Cyrus passed away at age 30 on Jan. 30, 1861
Frederick W. Dau

- Graduate of US Naval Academy
- Editor of Mortgage Reporter, and New York Social Blue Book
- Businessman, collector & historian
- Friend of A. J. Hanna
- Donated the manuscript to Rollins in 1955
Florida in 1855
Along the St. Johns River
C. P. Condit's Florida
Florida’s Nature Landscape
A Trip to Florida for Health and Sport

The Lost 1855 Novel of Cyrus Parkhurst Condit

Maurice O'Sullivan is Kenneth Curry Professor of English at Rollins College in Winter Park, Florida. He has co-edited the books The Florida Reader, Florida in Poetry, Crime Fiction and Film In the Sunshine State: Florida Noir, Orange Pulp, Bad Boys and Bad Girls in the Badlands, Shakespeare Plays in the Classroom; and he has edited Elizabeth Smith's Book of Job and Shakespeare's Other Lives. He has written numerous essays for journals around the world.

Wenxian Zhang is Head of Archives and Special Collections at the Olin Library and an Associate Professor at Rollins College in Winter Park, Florida. Zhang "discovered" the unpublished 1855 manuscript A Trip to Florida for Health and Sport by Cyrus Parkhurst Condit in the Florida Collection of the Olin Library Archive. This manuscript is historically significant as one of the first Florida novels ever written.

Published by the Florida Historical Society Press
435 Brevard Avenue
Cocoa, Florida 32922

www.myfloridahistory.org/fhspress

1500-1-584106-56-2

US $14.95

Florida Historical Society Press
Archival Research & Publication: What I Learned So Far...

- Research is HARD WORK.
- Research is VERY TIME-CONSUMING.
- Make realistic and firm goals for yourself.
- Keep on with your professional readings.
- Work on something that you enjoy, if possible.
- Write something related to your work.
- Keep your eyes open for new opportunities.
- Establish professional contacts.

You will have a great sense of accomplishment when your work is in print!
A Winter in the Sunshine

Shanghai University Press, 2012
Publication & Reception