History and Chronology of Lake Draining Episodes Leon and Jefferson Counties, Florida

Compiled from Historical Records and Aerial Photos by Jonathan Lammers

Updated June 2021



Thousands of fresh water fish representing almost every known variety were left floundering in the much when the waters of Lake Iamonia, near Tallahassee, ran out through a subterranean crevice. Discarding hooks and lines for garden rakes and the like, men waded into the mud and scooped up the helpless fish by the ton, as this picture shows. (Associated Press photo.)

Tampa Tribune, Nov. 14, 1934.

Introduction

The four major lakes of Leon and Jefferson counties—Jackson, Iamonia, Lafayette, and Miccosukee, are famed as "disappearing" lakes which periodically drain through sinkholes. Indeed, they have been the subject of numerous geological publications, as well as ongoing research geared to understanding their relationships to the sinks and springs further south.

Perhaps the earliest and best known work on the subject was Elias Howard Sellards' "Some Florida Lakes and Lake Basins," published in the Florida State Geological Survey's *Third Annual Report, 1909-1910.* Sellards was the original organizer of the Geological Survey in 1907, and served as its head until 1918. His timing was excellent. Between 1907 and 1909, all four of the major lakes drained, and he was able to provide descriptions and measurements for the principal sinks through which the lakes drained. He also pieced together the key role the sinks played in the evolution of the lake basins. Writing of Lake Iamonia he stated:

The enlargement of the valley to its present size has proceeded through the formation and partial filling of successive sinks. As each sink forms, it carries down to or below the lake level, a certain small area of land. Moreover the water passing through the bottom of the sink carries with it more or less detrital material so that the surrounding area is somewhat lowered by wash through the sinks. In the course of time other sinks form, while the older sinks become clogged and usually partly fill up. The direction of active enlargement of each lake can be determined from the location of the recent sinks.¹

Unfortunately, Sellards' work does not include any descriptions of earlier draining episodes. Likewise, it does not appear that any systematic attempt has previously been made to determine how often the lakes drained prior to Sellards' publication. Thus, out of personal curiosity, I began to conduct research in historic newspapers stretching back to the territorial days of Florida. This proved to be a thoroughly interesting venture, as the novelty of a disappearing lake drew coverage from papers across the country.

Far and away, Lake Jackson received the bulk of coverage during the 19th century. This was likely due to its proximity to Tallahassee, as well as the fact that Lake Jackson historically had more open water than the other lakes, and thus any draining episode was more visually dramatic. Indeed, Upper Lake Lafayette was likely periodically dry far more often than is noted in the chronology below. Even more than a century ago, Sellards noted that the area around the sink was usually a prairie during the dry season. For these reasons, it's important to note that the following chronology should not be considered comprehensive, but it does provide at least a good overview of historic lake activity.

This study also attempts to correlate early 20th century lake draining episodes with annual rainfall. Here, rainfall tables provided by T. S. Olds in his 1961 Master's thesis: Occasional Rapid

Decline and Draining of Lake Bradford, Tallahassee, Florida, proved especially useful. Covering the years 1905 through 1960, the rainfall tables are quite revealing when compared to newspaper coverage of lake drainage activity. They leave little doubt that sinkhole activity in the lakes is inexorably tied to the amount of rainfall, and that any year where rainfall falls below 45 inches is more likely than not to correlate with a sinkhole opening in one of the lakes. This was especially true during two periods of extended drought in the region: 1907-1909, and 1930-1938. In 1954, when rainfall was barely above 30 inches, three of the four lakes drained.

Overall, there does not appear to be any clear pattern as to the relationships between the lakes themselves. In other words, just because Lake Jackson drains, it does not mean that any of the other lakes will do likewise. However, drainage episodes appear more likely to occur individually or in pairs, versus the majority of the lakes draining at once because of low rainfall. For example, Lake Jackson and Lake Iamonia drained within a year of each other during 1829-1830, and 1861-1862. Likewise, Lake Iamonia and Lake Miccosukee drained within a year of each other (or the same year) in 1891, and 1949-1950.

The final portion of this report includes aerial photos of the lakes as available. Most came from the online offerings available through Leon County's "Then and Now" GIS website, while aerial photos of Lake Miccosukee came from the collections of the Florida Department of Transportation.

This report was originally written in April 2021, but was updated in June due to Lake Jackson draining into Porter Hole Sink.

Known Lake Draining Episodes

1829	Jackson
1830	Iamonia
1840	Jackson
1854	Iamonia
1861	Iamonia
1862	Jackson
1882	Jackson
1891	Iamonia, Miccosukee
1904	Miccosukee
1907	Jackson
1909	Jackson, Miccosukee
1910	Iamonia
1911	Miccosukee
1918	Jackson
1927	Miccosukee
1931	Lafayette
1932	Jackson

1934	Iamonia
1936	Jackson
1939	Iamonia
1941	Lafayette
1947	Iamonia
1949	Iamonia
1950	Miccosukee
1954	Lafayette, Miccosukee, Meginnis
	Arm sinkhole
1956	Jackson
1967	Iamonia, Lafayette
1982	Jackson
2000	Jackson
2006	Jackson
2012	Jackson
2019	Lafayette
2021	Jackson







Rainfall and lake drainage episodes 1905-1944, based on rainfall charts by T. S. Olds in Occasional Rapid Decline and Draining of Lake Bradford, Tallahassee, Florida, 1961

Rainfall and lake drainage episodes 1945-1960, based on rainfall charts by T. S. Olds in Occasional Rapid Decline and Draining of Lake Bradford, Tallahassee, Florida, 1961

Newspaper Chronology

The Washington Chronicle says, "We are informed, on good authority, that Lake Jackson, in Florida, about 30 miles in length, has suddenly sunk ten feet; and the Indian cabins and peach trees are plainly discoverable at the bottom. The foundation of the lake is said to be limestone and cavernous."

Litchfield Connecticut Enquirer, February 12, 1829.

1829	February	Lake Jackson sinks ten feet. ²
1830		Lake Iamonia drains. ³
1840	January	Lake Jackson goes dry. ⁴
1854		Lake Iamonia drains. ⁵
1857		Lake Jackson. The U.S. Land Office rules that persons owning previously submerged land on the shores of Lake Jackson were entitled to own the now dry lands. ⁶
1861		Lake Iamonia drains. ⁷
1862		Lake Jackson reportedly drains around this time. ⁸
1882		Lake Jackson drains. ⁹
1886	August	Lake Jackson reportedly drains following the Charleston Earthquake. ¹⁰
1890	April	Lake Miccosukee. The lake waters are reported "lower than they have been for years." ¹¹
		Total rainfall at Tallahassee for 1890 is 55.57 inches.
1891	October	Lake Iamonia is draining. ¹²
	November	Lake Iamonia is dry. ¹³
		Lake Miccosukee drains. ¹⁴ Farmers are reported hauling fish from the lake to fertilize their lands. ¹⁵
		Total rainfall at Tallahassee for 1891 is 44.85 inches.

Lake lamonia is fast drying up. Thirty years ago the lake dried up and one could walk over any portion. Hundreds came with wagons and hauled thousands of pounds of fish away. Alligators were as plentiful as logs. No cause for the strange disappearance of the water can be assigned. Dozens of alligators are crowded together, and parties are al ready seining the holes for fish.—Cor. Atlanta Constitution.

The Warrensburg, Missouri Standard, November 4, 1891.

1892	January	Lake Iamonia is reported filling up again. ¹⁶
	June	The Trustees of the Internal Improvement Trust Fund advertises for sale 5,626 acres of land formerly covered by Lake Iamonia. Adjacent landowners petition the Trustees not to sell the land. ¹⁷
	August	Lake Miccosukee is full again. It overflows after two days of torrential rains on August 15 th and 16 th . ¹⁸
1904		Lake Miccosukee drains. ¹⁹
		Annual precipitation for 1904 at Tallahassee is 38.14 inches.
1905		Annual precipitation for 1905 at Tallahassee is 58.54 inches.
1906		Annual precipitation for 1906 at Tallahassee is 57.20 inches.
1907	April	Lake Jackson drains through Lime Sink. ²⁰ Rainfall at Tallahassee from November 1906 through March 1907 (5 months) had been 7.72 inches.
	June	Lake Jackson. A new sinkhole opens approximately one mile south of Lime Sink. ²¹
	Summer	Lake Jackson. Partially refills with summer rains. ²²
1908	January	The Ocklochonee River is reported as having backed up into Lake Iamonia. ²³ This is after 12.78 inches of rain in December 1907.

Ail Want the Lake.

Lake Jackson, which has achieved some distinction by going dry, has become a bone of contention. The bed of the lake, now "high and dry" about forty-five hundred contains acres of "bottom land," which is supposed to be very fertile. Recently Dr. Cheatham made an offer to purchase the tract from the trustees of the internal improvement fund. who hold the land under the swamp and overflowed act. More recently, the planters who own lands in the lake neighborhood have submitted an offer to the trustees for the purchase of the lake. lake is made from a subterranean supply of water that flows out through the openings in the bottom of the lake. He proposes to stop these openings with concrete, and drain the land by a serious of ditches. The lake is in the center of the tobacco belt, and the lands are valuable as tobacco land.

Pensacola News Journal, June 30, 1907

1909	July	Lake Jackson dries again during the summer. ²⁴
	September	Lake Miccosukee is draining into sink at a rate of 2000 gallons a minute. ²⁵ Lake reported dried up. ²⁶
	September	Lake Lafayette.
		Annual precipitation for 1909 at Tallahassee is 42.17 inches.
1910	May	Lake Iamonia drains. Sink practically dry. ²⁷
1911		Lake Miccosukee drains. ²⁸
1916		Lake Iamonia drains. ²⁹
1917		Annual precipitation for 1917 at Tallahassee is 40.83 inches.
1918	November	Lake Jackson drains. ³⁰ Remains dry at least until July 1918.
1918		Lake Miccosukee drains. ³¹



Tallahassee Democrat, November 20, 1918.

1921		Annual precipitation for 1921 at Tallahassee is 39.20 inches.
1926		Annual precipitation for 1926 at Tallahassee is 52.17 inches.
1927		Lake Miccosukee drains. ³²
		Annual precipitation for 1927 at Tallahassee is 46.11 inches.
1930		Annual precipitation at Tallahassee is 61.03 inches.
1931	July	The "absence of rainfall for months past" leads a local game warden to predict that Lake Jackson, Lake Lafayette, and Lake Miccosukee would likely soon drain. Fish kills from low water have already occurred. ³³
	September	Lake Lafayette described "as low as it ever falls in dry years." ³⁴
	November	Lake Lafayette reported as "already dry." Lake Jackson reported "breaking up into small pools." Lake Iamonia "threatening to go entirely dry and a large number of small lakes and ponds in Leon county disappearing." ³⁵ Game wardens seining lakes to relocate fish to other locations.

Annual precipitation for 1931 at Tallahassee is 38.02 inches.



Porter Hole Sink in Lake Jackson, July 20, 1932. (Florida Memory Image GE1369B)

Sportsmen who have up to now been depending upon the waters of Lake Jackson, Lafayette and Iamonia for their bream and bass fishing are watching the August rains with more than casual interest. Both Lakes Jackson and LaFayette have been dry so long that weeds have grown up in their beds, and Iamonia, perhaps the best of the three fishing lakes, still is running out at the rate of about four inches daily. Nimrods also are wondering about the prospects for duck shooting next winter if summer rains fail to meet the emergency.

Tallahassee Democrat, August 7, 1932

1932	January	Lake Jackson drains. It was reported low for several years prior. ³⁶
	August	Lake Jackson and Lake Lafayette are described as having been "dry so long that weeds have grown up in their beds, and Iamonia is still running out at the rate of about four inches daily." ³⁷
	September	Lake Iamonia is filling after very nearly going dry. ³⁸
		Annual precipitation for 1932 at Tallahassee is 64.6 inches.
1933		Annual precipitation for 1933 at Tallahassee is 46.25 inches.
1934	February	Lake Lafayette is dry except for the sinkhole at the northern end, which is visited by scores of fishermen daily. ³⁹
	October	Lake Iamonia is nearly dry. ⁴⁰
	November	Lake Iamonia drains. ⁴¹ Leon County constructs a dam and gates across Iamonia Slough that allows flood waters from the Ocklocknee River to enter the lake, but prevents the flood waters from going out. ⁴²
1935	September	Newspaper reports Lake Lafayette is full; Lake Jackson rising rapidly; Lake Iamonia "almost back to narmal"; Lake Bradford coming up; Lake Miccosukee "running over." ⁴³



Lake Lafayette, viewed from sinkhole at low water stage, 1932. (Florida Memory Image GE1291)



The dry sinkhole basin of Lake Iamonia, November 11, 1934. (Florida Memory Image GE1787)

1936	July	Little Lake Jackson is nearly dry. Main lake is low.44
	October	Lake Jackson is rapidly draining. ⁴⁵
		Annual precipitation for 1936 at Tallahassee is 47.29 inches.
1939	January	Lake Iamonia is draining. Work begins on a dam to prevent it from going dry. ⁴⁶
1940		Lake Iamonia. Leon County, in consultation with the Game and Fish Commission, completes an earthen dam 1,150 feet long and 150 feet broad at the base. ⁴⁷ The dam is designed to cordon off the sinkhole near Strickland Arm on the north shore of the lake. ⁴⁸



Tallahassee Democrat, January 22, 1939

1941	Aerial photos indicate Lake Lafayette is dry and the level of Lake Jackson is very low.
1945 February	Lake Lafayette. Griscom Bettle, owner of Rose Hill Plantation, recommends placing a dam around the Lake Lafayette sinkhole.
1946	Lake Iamonia drains.
1947 September	The sinkhole at Lake Iamonia drains, but the dam prevents the rest of the lake from draining. ⁴⁹
1948 January	Lake Lafayette is determined to be entirely in private ownership owing to its inclusion in the Lafayette land grant. ⁵⁰
1949 October	Lake Iamonia drains below dam. ⁵¹

Miccosukee Lake Dwindles Despite Rains Despite the recent near-record rainfall in this area, Lake Mic-

rainfall in this area, Lake Miccosukee continues to go dry for the first time in 23 years. The 7,500 acre water basin may be trying to get into the disappearing act frequently performed by Lake Iamonia and occasionally by Lake Jackson.

Tallahassee Democrat, September 3, 1950.

1950	September	Lake Miccosukee is going dry. ⁵² Rainfall at Tallahassee during June to August 1950 measured 22.73 inches.
		Piney Z Lake is created in the middle section of Lake Lafayette when a dam is built by Ralph "Hutch" Gibson, owner of Piney Z Farms. ⁵³
1951	May	Lake Lafayette reported falling. ⁵⁴
1953		Annual precipitation at Tallahassee for 1953 is 60.01 inches.
1954		Rainfall at Tallahassee during January-May 1954 is 8.84 inches.
		Lake Bradford nearly drains completely and the sinkhole is filled. ⁵⁵ The sinkhole was reportedly 18 feet deep and 30 feet in diameter, but the lake continued to lose water. ⁵⁶
	May	Lake Miccosukee is nearly drained.57
	August	Lake Jackson. A sinkhole opens in Meginnis Arm. ⁵⁸ It is plugged by a county road crew approximately two weeks later. ⁵⁹
		Aerial photos indicate that Upper Lake Lafayette is dry.
	September	Lake Miccosukee. Leon County approves construction of a dam and culvert around the sinkhole. ⁶⁰
		Total rainfall for 1954 at Tallahassee is 30.98 inches. ⁶¹

County Votes To Plug Hole In Lake's Arm

At a special meeting this morning the Leon County Commission voted to plug the sinkhole through which the waters of Meginniss arm of Lake Jackson drained out.

Tallahassee Democrat, August 16, 1954.



Dry bed of Lake Bradford, March 24, 1955. (Florida Memory Image RCK00256)

1955		Lake Miccosukee drains. ⁶² Lake Bradford reported nearly dry. ⁶³
		Total rainfall for 1955 at Tallahassee is 44.14 inches.
1956	March	Lake Jackson. Lime Sink is reported as filling up. ⁶⁴
	October	Lake Jackson level is reported dropping a foot a day. ⁶⁵ However, rainfall at Tallahassee for January through September 1956 measured 46.9 inches, and total for the year is 53.94 inches.
1957	June	Lake Jackson remains dry. ⁶⁶
	July	Lake Bradford begins rising rapidly, from 26 feet to 30 feet. By October the lake was over the 36 foot level. ⁶⁷
	December	Lake Lafayette, Lake Jackson and Lake Iamonia return to normal levels after 53.64 inches of rainfall from May through October, including 20.33 inches of rain in October. Lake Bradford reaches all-time high level. Lake Miccosukee remains below normal. ⁶⁸

Committee Makes First Report Lakes Water Level In Leon

By DON MEIKLEJOHN Democrat Staff Writer

What's the answer to the drying up of Lake Jackson and Lake Bradford?

In two words, "More rain!" That's the preliminary observations of a three-man team making a study of water conditions in Leon County.

The committee is composed of County Commissioner Christie Hall, Fred Elliott, secretary and engineer for the Internal Improvement Board, and Dr. Herman Gunter, state geologist.

After several preliminary meetings on past findings, the committee made its first field trip yesterday to view Lake Jackson and Lake Bradford.

Commissioner Hall reported a "novel fishathon" in progress at Lake Jackson when the committee arrived. The lake, which in wet weather covers some 15.000 acres, had shrunk to several pools covering a total of about six acres.

160 FISHERMEN Hall said about 160 fisher-

men were gathered around the small ponds and most had good strings of fish, which apparently had been cornered in the small confines of the shrunken lake.

How did it happen?

Popular theory has contended that the lake has been draining through a sink hole, but information gathered by the committee indicates the cause is principally lack of rain.

Hall said Elliott termed Lake Jackson a "wet weather lake,' and the lack of water is caused by extremely dry weather.

Elliott observed that Lake Jackson's principal source of water is from the clouds, and in dry weather this source is cut off and evaporation takes its toll.

The hole in the middle of the lake apparently has a bottom. since the water maintains a level consistent with topography in the area.

This rules out two popular methods of curing the drying up. (1) Channeling water from the Ochlockonee River.

(2) Daming off the "sink | ing up. hole", from the lake.

Taking the channel proposition first. Elliott pointed out that the lake is eight to 10 feet above the level of the river, which sweeps to the west and north of the lake about two miles.

This would mean that water from the river could only be channeled into the lake when the river is extremely high. By the same token, Elliott pointed out, the lake also would be high. and not need the extra water at these times.

On the daming, which was successfully done at Lake Iamonia 15 years ago and more recently at Lake Miccosukee, the location of the hole at Lake Jackson would hinder such a plan, and Elliott does not believe it would be feasible.

At Lake Miccosukee and Lake Iamonia the sink holes were located on the outside edges, making daming off the sink holes possible. At Lake Jackson, the hole is located in the middle of the lake, and apparently is not the primary reason for the dry-

At Lake Bradford, which is drying up for the first time in the memory of Leon County oldtimers, the situation seems to be a combination of lack of rain and installation of drainage systems in the area.

Elliott observed that drainage systems installed by the army at Dale Mabry field and county drainage systems in the area have channeled runoff water into Grassy Lake, just north of Bradford and into swamps.

Before the drainage systems were installed, much of this water eventually ended up in Lake Bradford. Despite this, the principal reason for the drying up is the lack of rain.

The committee will continue its studies, with the main aim at the present time deciding on whether to participate in a statewide survey of water conditions.

Hall said the committee is leaning toward such participation on the theory "We have everything to gain and nothing to lose."

Tallahassee Democrat, April 5, 1956.

1958	December	The "Cascades back of Lake Bradford" went out and only deep holes remain which are "abounding with fish." ⁶⁹
1966	June	Lake Jackson reaches its all-time highest level of slightly more than 96 feet. ⁷⁰
	November	Lake Lafayette is reported "low and all the fish seem to be congregated in one big sink hole." 71
1967	June	Lake Lafayette is dry. Lake Iamonia is falling rapidly. Lake Cascade is nearly dry. Lake Jackson and Lake Miccosukee are only modestly down. ⁷²

By HALLIE BOYLES Democrat Staff Writer

Tallahassee area lakes, which historically go up and down, are falling again, some of them rapidly.

Lake Lafayette, which normally covers some 2,000 acres, stretching about 5½ miles in length and averaging a half mile to a mile in width, is dry. It lies some six miles east of Tallahassee.

Lake Iamonia, about 14 miles north of Tallahassee near the county line, is falling rapidly. When full, its basin would spread over some 6,500 acres.

Lake Cascade, a small lake which in reality is an extension of Lake Bradford to the west of Tallahassee, is almost dry.

The area's two largest lakes are down some. They are Lake Miccosukee and Lake Jackson, each now covering some 6,000 acres. Miccosukee stood at 79.1 feet at the end of May, down about one foot from the recent high in February and down about two feet from the high in March. The western border of Lake Miccosukee forms the Leon-Jefferson County boundary line.

Lake Jackson at the end of May showed a level of 94.8 feet, down one foot from the high in February and 1.7 feet from the high last August. Its all time high record was slightly above 96 feet last June.

Levels of the Tallahassee area lakes, which normally cover more than 15,000 acres, are controlled both by rainfall and by development from time to time of sinkholes in the bottoms.

Tallahassee Democrat, June 13, 1967.

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1976	September	Lake Iamonia. A channel is cut around the end of the dam in order to help drain the lake. ⁷³
1979		Lake Lafayette is mostly dry. ⁷⁴
		Total rainfall for 1979 is 59.23 inches.
1980		Upper Lake Lafayette is reported as full "only during periods of heavy rain." ⁷⁵
1981	November	Lake Jackson is dry in some areas. ⁷⁶ The water level had been slowly decreasing since the mid-1970s. ⁷⁷

1982 October Lake Jackson. Residents report that Porter Hole Sink was visibly taking on water on October 24.⁷⁸ Half the remaining lake, from Brill Point to Faulk Drive, drains over just a few days.⁷⁹



High and dry The continued bottoming out of Lake Jackson

makes for some accidental humor in this photograph. The boat and sign are located at the Leon County public boat launch, behind the Sunset Fishing Club, in the northwest section of Lake Jackson. Democrat phelo by Mark Wallheiser The lake drains periodically, at approximate intervals of 25 years. Sinkholes, limestone deposits and lack of rainfall limestone are among the culprits theorized as to why the lake drains.

Tallahassee Democrat, November 25, 1981.

1983	March	Lake Jackson is reported refilling rapidly. ⁸⁰
	July	Lake Jackson is reported reaching 77 feet.81
1999	August	Lake Miccosukee. A planned drawdown of the lake begins. ⁸²
	September	Lake Jackson. Porter Hole Sink opens and drains much of the northern half of the lake. ⁸³
2000	May	Lake Jackson. Lime Sink opens and drains the lake.84
2006	June	Lake Jackson. Porter Hole Sink drains for the fifth time since 1999.85
2007	October	The southern end of Lake Jackson remains dry. ⁸⁶

2011		Total rainfall for 2011 is 34.81 inches.
2012	June	Lake Jackson. Porter Hole Sink completes draining. ⁸⁷
2018	December	A record 15.77 inches of rainfall is recorded for the month.
2019	October	Upper Lake Lafayette drains.
		Total rainfall for 2019 is 39.05 inches, including no rain in September.
2020	May	Lake Jackson. After no rain in March and early May, the saddle in Meginnis Arm becomes too shallow for boat traffic from the main body of the lake.
		Lake Lafayette. The sinkhole in Upper Lake Lafayette begins filling again.
		Total rainfall for 2020 is 60.8 inches
2021	June	Lake Jackson drains into Porter Hole Sink during the weekend of June 5-6. At that point, year-to-date rainfall in Tallahassee had been 17.2 inches, or approximately 6 inches below normal.



View east from the Faulk Drive Landing, June 6, 2021. The lake began draining into Porter Sink approximately two days earlier. (Jonathan Lammers)

Lake Jackson Aerial Photographs





1941 aerial photo of Lake Jackson, partially drained.



1949 aerial photo of Lake Jackson.





1954 aerial photo showing Meginnis Arm drained into sinkhole.



1966 aerial photo of Lake Jackson.



1970 aerial photo of Lake Jackson. Note discoloration of Meginnis Arm from clay erosion due to construction of Tallahassee Mall & I-10



1983 aerial photo of Lake Jackson showing somewhat lower lake level.



1990 aerial photo of Lake Jackson.

Lake Iamonia Aerial Photographs



1937 aerial photo of Lake Iamonia.



1941 aerial photo of Lake Iamonia.



1949 aerial photo of Lake Iamonia.



1954 aerial photo of Lake Iamonia.



1966 aerial photo of Lake Iamonia



1970 aerial photo of Lake Iamonia



1983 aerial photo of Lake Iamonia.

Lake Lafayette Aerial Photos



1937 aerial photo of Lake Lafayette, partially drained (portion of photo missing).



1941 aerial photo of Upper Lake Lafayette showing the sinkhole and dry lake bed.



1949 aerial photo of Lake Lafayette.



1954 aerial photo of Upper Lake Lafayette showing the sinkhole and dry lake bed.



1966 aerial of Upper Lake Lafayette



1966 aerial photo of Upper Lake Lafayette showing the sinkhole with breached dam. Note the many cars and boats of fishermen.

1983 aerial photo showing Upper Lake Lafayette.

Lake Miccosukee Aerial Photos

Composite aerial photos with partial view of Lake Miccosukee in 1937.

Composite aerial photos with partial view of Lake Miccosukee in 1941.

Composite aerial photos with partial view of Lake Miccosukee in 1949.

Composite aerial photos with partial view of Lake Miccosukee in 1966.

Composite aerial photos with partial view of Lake Miccosukee in 1973.

Endnotes

- ¹ E. H. Sellards, Ph.D., State Geologist, "Some Florida Lakes and Lake Basins," *Florida Geological Survey Third Annual Report*, (Tallahassee: State Geological Survey, 1910), 55.
- ² "Something Strange," Middlebury People's Press (Vermont), February 11, 1829.
- ³ "In Thomas County, Ga," Pittsburg Dispatch, December 3, 1891.
- ⁴ "A Lake Gone," Baltimore Sun, January 23, 1840.
- ⁵ "Lake Iamonia Runs Out," *Savannah Morning News*, November 24, 1891. See also: *The Weekly Floridian*, November 28, 1891.
- ⁶ "God-Send to Riparian Proprietors," The Times-Picayune, February 22, 1857.
- ⁷ "Hard Times for Georgia Alligators," *Mower County Transcript*, October 21, 1891.
- 8 "Unfrequented Florida," New York Herald, May 13, 1877.
- ⁹ Andy Lindstrom, "By Next Fall, Lake Jackson May be Mud," *Tallahassee Democrat*, September 27, 1981.

¹⁰ Ocala Banner, April 1, 1921.

- ¹¹ The Savannah Morning News, April 26, 1890.
- ¹² "Hard Times for Georgia Alligators," Mower County Transcript, October 21, 1891.
- ¹³ "Lake Iamonia Runs Out," The Weekly Floridian, November 28, 1891.
- ¹⁴ "Drained a Lake by Boring Holes," The Pacific Commercial Advertiser, March 6, 1894.
- ¹⁵ "Georgia and Florida, The Savannah Morning News, November 22, 1891.

¹⁶ Hillsboro, Ohio News-Herald, January 14, 1892.

¹⁷ "Sale of State Lands," *Message of Henry L. Mitchell, Governor of Florida, to the Legislature. Regular Session of 1893*, (Tallahassee: Tallahassean Book and Job Office, 1893), 63-65.

¹⁸ "Heavy Rainstorms," The Weekly Floridian, August 20, 1892.

¹⁹ "Miccosukie Lake Threatens to Depart from Tradition and Go Dry Again This Year," *Tallahassee Democrat*, June 29, 1931.

²⁰ "The Disappearing Lake," *Ocala Evening Star*, October 7, 1908. See also: E. H. Sellards, Ph.D., State Geologist, "Some Florida Lakes and Lake Basins," *Florida Geological Survey Third Annual Report*, (Tallahassee: State Geological Survey, 1910), 56.

²¹ E. H. Sellards, Ph.D., State Geologist, "Some Florida Lakes and Lake Basins," *Florida Geological Survey Third Annual Report*, (Tallahassee: State Geological Survey, 1910), 56.

²² E. H. Sellards, Ph.D., State Geologist, "Some Florida Lakes and Lake Basins," *Florida Geological Survey Third Annual Report*, (Tallahassee: State Geological Survey, 1910), 57.

²³ The Weekly True Democrat, January 24, 1908.

²⁴ E. H. Sellards, Ph.D., State Geologist, "Some Florida Lakes and Lake Basins," *Florida Geological Survey Third Annual Report*, (Tallahassee: State Geological Survey, 1910), 57.

²⁵ E. H. Sellards, Ph.D., State Geologist, "Some Florida Lakes and Lake Basins," *Florida Geological Survey Third Annual Report*, (Tallahassee: State Geological Survey, 1910), 59.

²⁶ "State Nuggets," The Miami News, September 20, 1909.

²⁷ E. H. Sellards, Ph.D., State Geologist, "Some Florida Lakes and Lake Basins," *Florida Geological Survey Third Annual Report*, (Tallahassee: State Geological Survey, 1910), 54.

²⁸ "Miccosukie Lake Threatens to Depart from Tradition and Go Dry Again This Year," *Tallahassee Democrat*, June 29, 1931.

²⁹ "Fishing Regulations Lifted as Lake Jackson Empties Its Waters Into Underground Pit," *Tallahassee Democrat*, January 7, 1932.

³⁰ "Historic Lake Jackson Now Practically Dry Fish Galore," Tallahassee Democrat, November 20, 1918. See also: *Ocala Evening Star*, December 3, 1918.

³¹ "Miccosukie Lake Threatens to Depart from Tradition and Go Dry Again This Year," *Tallahassee Democrat*, June 29, 1931.

³² "Miccosukee Lake Dwindles Despite Rains," Tallahassee Democrat, September 3, 1950.

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