**About this Guide**

The scenes of Charlotte Harbor, Florida, include the large islands of Rookery Bay (in the west), Matlacha Pass (south), and Gandy Island (north). The mangroves and wetlands provide a habitat for birds, and the islands are home to a variety of wildlife, including manatees. Charlotte Harbor is the name of Charlotte Harbour. In (1775) he wrote of a new bay that “…contains a good harbor for anchors, and provisions.”

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**Charlotte County Waterways**

**ICE HOUSES & FISH CABINS**

- A brown wooden dwelling along the coast is depicted. The location is not specified, but it is likely in the city of Punta Gorda.

**THE YACHT SHEILA**

- A photograph shows the Racer Yachting Club. The yacht Sheila shines at the Cleveland Marine Steam Ways. The auxiliary schooner Roamer, a fishing vessel, is also visible in the background.

**THE PHOTOS OF DR. JOSEPH JOHN KIRKBRIDE**

- An image of the West Coast Fish Company, Punta Gorda Fish Market, and a steamboat named Sheila is displayed. The date of the postcard is uncertain. The inset is an enlarged view of the Cleveland Marine Steam Ways.

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**Orlando (1841) to the King, created this map in 1775 for his book,** *The American Atlas. Or, A Geographical Description of the Whole British Empire.*

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**RESOURCES**


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**THE NATURAL FEATURES OF THE AREA**

- Mangroves reproduce in an unusual way. Their seeds, or spores, are carried by air to the water, where they germinate and grow into roots that protrude in large numbers above the soil around intertidal areas sheltered from strong wave action. Red mangroves are large, gray aquatic mammals. They are protected under federal and Florida state law. However, many die from collisions with watercraft. Manatees are large, gray aquatic mammals. They are protected under federal and Florida state law.

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**MANGROVES of Charlotte Harbor**

- Mangroves are not known by the name of Charlotte Harbor. They are large, gray aquatic mammals. They are protected under federal and Florida state law. However, many die from collisions with watercraft. Manatees are large, gray aquatic mammals. They are protected under federal and Florida state law.

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**WHY IS CHARLOTTE HARBOR’S WATER SO BROWN?**

- The amount of fresh water that flows into Charlotte Harbor is large, and the watersheds of Charlotte Harbor are rich in nutrients, particularly nitrogen and phosphorus, that can cause algal blooms. These blooms can turn the water brown and reduce the amount of light available for Photosynthesis, which is essential for the survival of aquatic plants and animals.

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**Charlotte Harbor’s Aquatic & Shoreline Preserves**

- The Charlotte Harbor Aquatic & Shoreline Preserves are located in the vicinity of Charlotte Harbor, Florida. The preserves are managed by the Charlotte County, Florida, and the Florida Department of Environmental Protection. The preserves are open to the public for recreation and education.

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