

Contents

List of Maps	ix
List of Figures	xi
Series Foreword	xiii
Preface: In Praise of Natural Wonders	xv
Acknowledgments	xix
Introduction: Stories of Historic Change	1
1. Botanical Eden, Cultural Battleground	3
2. River Roots	10
Creek Chief Ramsey: Walking Softly in Two Worlds	11
Sakim: Muskogee Medicine Maker and Webmaster	22
Judge Taunton: “Robin Hood” Defender of Swamp Dwellers	29
3. From Steamboat “Elation” to Rail and Road	42
Tom Corley: Last Steamboat Pilot	45
John Hentz: Bristol Native, River Defender	55
Homer B. Hirt: Lured by Shipping	66
Alton Colvin: Navigation Channel Engineer	73
4. Fishing a Sandy River: “It Is Filled Up”	81
The Walkers: Catfish Trap Makers	84
James M. Barkuloo: Counting the Disappearing Fish	96
Jimmy Mosconis: Greek Fishing Heir	104
5. Oystering, Shrimping, Fishing, Sponging the Bay	111
Buddy Ward: Commercial Fishing Survivor	112
James Golden: Nothing but Net-Making	120
Davis Family: Saving the Resource for Someone Else	127
Capt. Joseph Barber: Aided Torpedoed Sailors	141
Mike Millender: Oyster Kid to Seafood Dealer	149
Joe Nichols: Suing to Retrieve a Livelihood	154
Woody Miley: Let’s Not Love Our Resource to Death	156
6. Turpentine, Timber, and Restoring Tate’s Hell	162
Neel Yent: Panther Flight Memories	167

Boncyle Land: Turpentine Stories	177
The Allens: Guarding a Turpentine Legend	183
Billy Kersey: Building Roads through Hell	189
7. Logging “Eternal Wood”	195
Don Ingram: Milling “Old-as-Christ” Cypress	196
Lewis Jamerson: River Swamp Forester	207
8. A System Rich in Scientific Treasures	217
Angus Gholson Speaks for the Torreyia Trees	220
Marilyn Blackwell: River Warrior	229
9. King Cotton, Tupelo Gold, and Cracker Cattle	237
The Harrises: Jackson County Sharecroppers	238
L. L. Lanier: Honey Philosopher	247
Pearl Porter Marshall: Lighthouse Keeper’s Daughter	256
10. River as Trade and Commerce Opportunity	263
Jimmie Nichols: Four-time Apalachicola Mayor	264
Edward Tolliver: From Poverty to First Black Mayor	273
Robert Howell: Paper Boy, Mayor, General	281
Kathleen Hays: Teacher, Gibson Inn Proprietor	288
Clifton Lewis: “High Cotton” Proprietor, “Walking Island” Matriarch	296
Notes	305
Glossary	309
Bibliography	313
Index	319