

EXPLORATIONS
ON THE
WEST COAST OF FLORIDA

AND IN THE OKEECHOBEE WILDERNESS.

With Special Reference to the Geology and Zoology of the Floridian Peninsula.

A NARRATIVE OF RESEARCHES UNDERTAKEN UNDER THE AUSPICES
OF THE WAGNER FREE INSTITUTE OF SCIENCE
OF PHILADELPHIA,

BY

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PREFACE

In 1887, Angelo Heilprin published "Explorations on the West Coast of Florida and in the Okeechobee Wilderness" in the Transactions of the Wagner Free Institute of Science of Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. The expedition was undertaken and the researches were performed by Heilprin and associates under the auspices of the Wagner Free Institute with cooperation of the Academy of Natural Sciences of Philadelphia. This was the beginning of the collection and description of the famous wonderfully preserved mollusks of the Caloosahatchee Pliocene from the banks of the Caloosahatchee River of southern Florida.

This valuable book of 134 pages and 18 plates is out of print. The authorities of the Wagner Free Institute of Science have generously allowed the Paleontological Research Institution to reprint this monograph. The Paleontological Research Institution is proud to again make accessible this original aid to the study of Florida fossils.

Special acknowledgment and thanks are due to James E. Allen of Alexandria, Louisiana. Mr. Allen furnished the fine negatives for this publication as well as those of the reprint of T. A. Conrad's "Fossil Shells of the Tertiary Formations of North America", published by the Paleontological Research Institution in 1963.

Katherine V. W. Palmer
Director

Paleontological Research Institution
September 15, 1964

INTRODUCTION.

THE Wagner Free Institute of Science was founded by the late William Wagner, a citizen of Philadelphia, who devoted a long lifetime to the study and advancement of the sciences, especially the different branches of natural history. Mr. Wagner, during his life, formed a large museum, a library and a collection of chemical and physical apparatus. He established annual courses of lectures on various scientific subjects, in which he personally took an active part, which were continued for thirty years, and which were always open free to the public. In 1855, under the above name, the Institute was incorporated by an act of the Legislature.

Mr. Wagner bequeathed his property to the Institute, vested in a Board of Trustees. Since his death in January, 1885, the Trustees have been actively engaged in carrying out his plans, and, in accordance with his views, have elected a faculty of four professors, to take charge of the museum and library, to give lectures free to the public, and to teach the method of, and also to make, research. The first annual course of free lectures was given by the faculty during the season of 1885 and 1886. The sphere of usefulness of the Institute will expand as the pecuniary circumstances are adjusted and will permit. That the benefits of the Institute shall not be restricted to its locality, but may be widespread as possible, the Trustees propose to make provision in aid of original research and the publication of its results, towards the increase and diffusion of knowledge among men.

Mr. Joseph Willcox, one of the Trustees, who had spent several successive winters in Florida, in speaking of his observations in that State, suggested the interest it would be to the Institute and to science to make

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an expedition to certain portions of the country, to make collections and investigations in their geology and fauna. Liberally offering his pecuniary and personal aid, and encouraged by the Academy of Natural Sciences, the Trustees of the Institute made the necessary provision, and the last winter sent Prof. Heilprin on the proposed expedition in company with Mr. Willcox. The results were valuable collections in zoology, and especially in geology, together with important investigations and discoveries in the latter, an account of which is presented in the following report by Prof. Heilprin. The well-observed facts of the report must greatly modify the opinions which have been generally held in regard to the geological construction of the peninsula of Florida; and altogether Prof. Heilprin's researches must be considered as an important contribution to science.

JOSEPH LEIDY,
President of the Faculty.

PHILADELPHIA, *January, 1887.*

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