

1968 July
Cape Romano

307 Aledo Ave
Coral Gables, Florida
August 23, 1970

Miss Gloria Durfey
1730 N. W. 36 Avenue
Miami, Florida 33125

Dear Miss Durfey:

Your letter of August 20 intrigues me. I'd also like to know more about Cape Romano and other such places. I shall be much interested in what you are able to discover.

Under separate cover I am sending you a copy of Tequesta with a reprint of Surgeon General Lawson's report.

I do not have the answer to your three specific questions. Now that I am alerted to them I might come across the answer. I do know some people who fished and camped there as individuals. I cannot supply name and address, but I'll try to find out.

Of the sources you may have missed, perhaps the most important is the D. Graham Copeland notes on Collier County. They are now the property of the Collier County Historical Society, and are in the custody of Mrs. Margaret Scott, Clerk of the Circuit Court. They are well indexed and I am sure you will find some references to Cape Romano if not Moran's Pass and Camp Rogers.

at the
Court House

On Marco Island you might try Mr and Mrs. Griffis at the Islander motel. Mrs. Griffis was born at Caxambas and should know something of the area. A member of the Low family on the island might also help. Bud Kirk should have been able to tell you the names of anyone likely to know. Names dont come to me easily. Maybe I can think of another now that I have the question on my mind.

You might also write Walter P. Fuller, 2113 Central Avenue, St. Petersburg, Fla., 33713. Use my name and ask him if he has any information. His family was interested in the whole lower west coast. He is an obliging man much interested in these matters.
good hunting

Sincerely yours.

Chariton W. Tebeau
Chariton W. Tebeau

If you drive across the Trail, stop at Monroe Station, Dixie Webb's place, and ask for Nick Winkelman. He is full of information and may be some help. Dixie and Nick are worth knowing if you dont learn anything specific.

1730 N.W. 36 Avenue
Miami, Florida 33125
August 26, 1970

Mr. Charlton W. Tebeau
307 Aldeo Avenue
Coral Gables, Florida

Dear Mr. Tebeau:

Thank you so much for your interest, consideration, suggestions, promptness, and the copies of Tequesta (1958) and The Cruise of the Benton. I shall follow each of your leads.

Even though you are probably perfectly aware of the following, please permit me to ramble.....from the comparison of the land mass of Cape Romano between B. Roman's map and the 1956 Geological Survey map of the area, it appears to me that today, Cape Romano is only a small portion of its earlier size.

B. Romans Map - 1763)
J.L. Williams Description) area: 15 miles north to south
10 to 12 miles east to west

1956 Geological Survey Map approx: 5 miles north to south
2 miles east to west

Also to try to substantiate these distances is J.L. Williams account (with which you are familiar)....The north end is much cut up with creeks and lagoons, but contains some extensive hammocks, and old Indian fields. Three or four good plantations are under cultivation. That occupied by John Durant, a native of Savanna, lies about a MILE from the western coast, the white oyster cliffs of which are seen halfway through the Caximba.....Today, the north end of Cape Romano at Caxambas Pass is at the most $1\frac{1}{2}$ feet above sea level, no white oyster cliffs and at most—a city blocks length across from east to west.

Olden maps show Cape Romano jutting into the Gulf SOUTHWESTWARD. Present day maps show Cape Romano jutting into the Gulf SOUTHEASTWARD. In other words, Cape Romano today, is actually only the northeast portion of the original Cape Romano. It must have extended to the west near the 30 foot depth line and to the south nearly halfway through the present shoal area. Or the whole idea could be faulty reasoning on my part. Perhaps Ross Merrell, State Archaeologist would know or as I said, perhaps you know.

As per Mr. Bud Kirk, the well was capp'd by Mr. Kice in 1925. Prior to that it was a gusher. There is no "lake" where this well has been running onto the ground for hundreds of years as it runs off the east side of the land which is lower than the west side.

My information is being amassed slowly but surely. Accounts of the Florida Mounted Volunteers who were encamped on Cape Romano (1857) and scouted from there are most interesting and read like an adventure story.

The tax assessor of Collier County knows of no well and therefore cannot tell me who presently owns the land around it. My goodness, I've pestered you long enough.

Thank you again,

Gloria Durfey