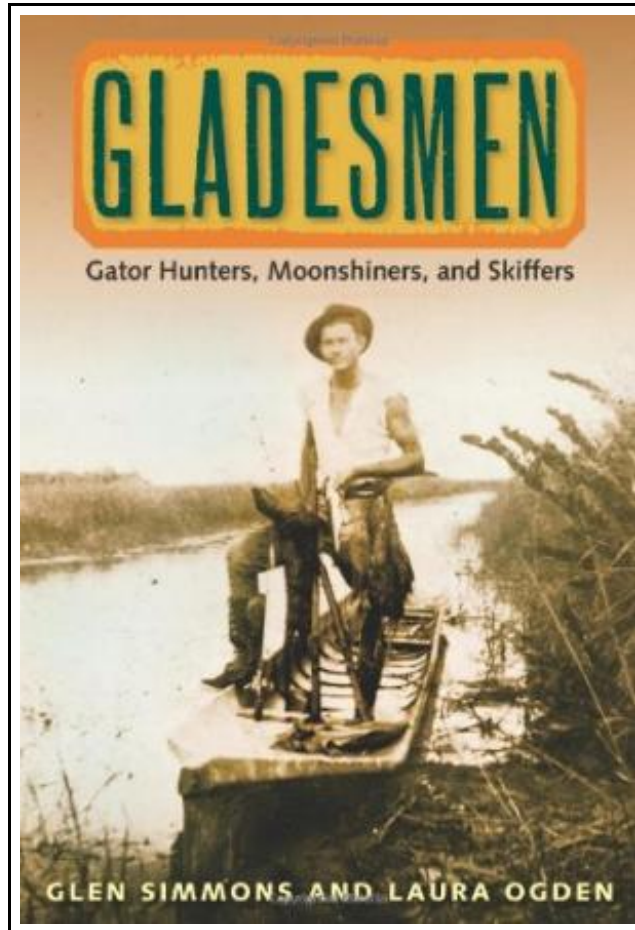


Gladesmen: Gator Hunters, Moonshiners, and Skiffers



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GLADESMEN: GATOR HUNTERS, MOONSHINERS, AND SKIFFERS

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University Press of Florida. Paperback. Book Condition: New. Paperback. 224 pages. Dimensions: 8.4in. x 5.7in. x 0.7in. Remarkable. . . should have strong, immediate interest for the ecologists engaged in efforts to restore the Everglades. --William B. Robertson, research biologist for Everglades National Park From the book--Pa built our house out of rough lumber that they got from Fraziers sawmill . . . a one-room house about 16 to 18 feet long and 12 feet wide. We all slept on cots and sat on boxes or a trunk. The kitchen was in the corner, and Ma cooked on a four-hole stove, which cost six dollars. Me and my middle brother, Alvin, sat on a trunk to eat at the table. That trunk had some long cracks in it. My brother knew just how to move so the crack would pinch . . . Years before the Park was established, when all the land and marsh seemed to belong to me, we would help ourselves to whatever we could see or trade for survival. Mostly we would sell gator and otter hides. . . . On this particular trip, after grunting awhile at the gator hole, I gave up and made tracks to the camp since I wanted to return by dark. . . . I was lying under my skeeter bar with a small tarp stretched between two cabbage palms. About midnight, I heard the dried cabbage fronds breaking in the path toward my camp. The night was pitch black . . . Few people today can claim a living memory of Floridas frontier Everglades. Glen Simmons, who has hunted alligators, camped on hammock-covered islands, and poled his skiff through the mangrove swamps of the glades since the 1920s, is one who can. Together with Laura Ogden, he tells the story...

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