

Research Notes for *Lest We Forget*
by Jeff Blakley

Page 2:

Avocado west of Krome was called "Widow's Row."

Mrs. Booe lived where the Piches' home now stands on Avocado Dr.

Harvey Fitzpatrick's grandmother was staying on the Sjostrom place at Roberts and Avocado. [The BLM Tract book shows Sjostrom east of McClure]

Mrs. Merck homesteaded a log cabin where the Ballards' place now is. [Sarah J. Merck]

Page 3:

Frances Lewis and Anna Longaker were Annie's aunts.

Page 4:

Miss Lewis came down 2-3 years before Anna Longaker.

Page 5:

Mrs. Merck was Mrs. Booe's mother.

Page 9:

Mrs. Frazier and Otto, Jr. [Otto was Otto Froreip, Jr. and Mrs. Frazier was Walter Frazier's wife. The surname spelling often differs in historical accounts.]

Harvey Fitzpatrick was working in the Keys as were most able-bodied men.

The Spencer place was west of Redland Road - near Waldin Dr.

The Brewers were Annie's nearest neighbors on the main trail.

West of Brewer were the "three Kosel shacks," then the trail went NE to Dan Roberts, Froreip and Meyers.

Tweedells and Froreips moved down from Cutler - came with the intention of claiming land on the FEC right-of-way but didn't succeed.

Page 10:

It took 2 days to get to Cutler from Homestead - went for groceries and mail before 1904.

Mr. Brewer brought the widow McClean [the Ox Lady] by one day.

Lily Lawrence Bow had a red-haired, freckled boy [George McLaren Bow]

Page 13:

Calkins mentioned – Orville W. Calkins claimed his homestead west of Detroit on Feb. 19, 1910

Page 14:

Mrs. Spencer's daughter, Grace, was the wife of Wenchel Smith. [Francis M. Spencer proved his claim on Dec. 12, 1910 - 35-56-38. He was born in 1840 in PA - Grace was born about 1874 in PA.]

Mr. Nixon worked for Mr. Krome

Spencers expected to be on the FEC right-of-way but weren't even on a section line. They homesteaded the S1/2 of the SE1/4 and SW 1/4 of 35-56-38.

Frances M. Spencer was a Civil War veteran.

Page 17:

There was a "camp" between Florida City and Homestead before Detroit existed. It was probably an FEC work camp.

Mowry St. connected to Camp Jack way before 1910, perhaps via Redland Rd.

Williams homestead was near Krome and Avocado - about where the Rheney's are now.

There was a long glade NE of Redland and 248th St.

Page 23:

Anderson land at Silver Palm and Redland [?]

Page 24:

Louisa Booe [daughter of Ethel?]

Page 25:

Mowry family and Miss Lofton lived west of Krome on Mowry

W.D. Horne homesteaded a mile or so west of Redland and south of Mowry. [120 acres south of Mowry on both sides of 197 and 40 acres west of 197 and north of Mowry.]

Ox Woman would buy a side of beef and cut it up on the FEC platform and sell it. "Aunty" was from Canada [Frances Lewis - Longaker was born in Ohio, I think]

Page 28:

Duval's store building was the "second large building in Homestead." It was a 2-story building across the street (Railroad Avenue, now Flagler) from the RR station. A dance and party was held to celebrate the completion of the building. The dance was not "regulation sets of eight seen in the north" but at the sides for one call and the ends for the next.

Page 30:

Anna Mayhew and Miss Lewis apparently went to Chicago to escort the Evans to Homestead. They were at Lakeside Station in Chicago with "Earl and Raye and Fred and Jessie Loomis and their baby daughter Marian."

They built two small log cabins on their homestead "far north up Redland Road and west to the north of Coco Palm." They had a hard time of it because they were city-slickers.

Page 31:

The Evans family almost gave up the summer after they came down but perhaps W. D. Horne talked them into staying.

Page 33:

Loomis and Evans both moved into town as soon as they proved up - only Mr. Joy was left but he was a farmer up north and didn't mind being by himself.

Page 35:

Tom Evans saved the town [Homestead] in the great flu epidemic. [1917-1918?]

Mr. Joy was a Civil War veteran.

Page 37:

Calkins house was made of poles and had many treasures in it. The family had a piano later and the house was the musical center of the countryside.

The Flora girls lived across the way from the Calkins' and the Eichenbergers next door.

Page 38:

Annie Roberts was an excellent cake baker and very sociable - she drove the first car in South Dade - a little old Brush roadster. [Made in Detroit, Michigan from 1907 - 1913 - <http://www.earlyamericanautomobiles.com/1912.htm> and https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Brush_Motor_Car_Company]

Page 42:

Dr. Jackson was the rector of St. Stephens Episcopal Church in Coconut Grove [medical

equipment at the Pioneer Museum was donated by Miss Mary Jackson, his daughter]

Dr. Jackson's full name was Charles Percival Jackson (1854-1953). His mother's name was Sarah Ann Percival, so the Jim Percival mentioned on page 42 was very likely of some relation to Dr. Jackson. Jim apparently had a twin brother who Annie Fitzpatrick knew from Michigan.]

Brewer, Bauer and Aunt Anna bought 3 Fords. Grace and Henry Brooker [Sr., not Jr.]

Page 45:

Mr. Krome's sister Belle fights a forest fire.

Mrs. Wolfe lived where Jason Avery now lives - Mr. Wolfe was a retired preacher.

Mr. and Mrs. Lamb lived in Homestead and were "highly respected" people. She did fine sewing and Mr. Lamb had a horse and wagon and hauled goods for people.

Mr. Cochran was kin to the Caves, Campbells and Hornes - he had a drug store just north of the Redland Hotel.

Avocado Drive was called Widow's Row.

Page 55:

Frank and Pearl Skill took the train to Knight's Key and then the ferry to Key West after their wedding. They were married on June 12, 1912 and the train had reached Key West in January, 1912.

Page 59:

The Waldins had relatives in Key West.
Margaret Waldin was convent-educated.

Mr. and Mrs. Ishmael [Detroit/Florida City] were from Kansas.

Page 61:

Confused tale about Reverend Cormack in Detroit – see the article on the website about Joseph Cormack.

At first, there was no road between Detroit and Homestead - people had to walk the rails to get from one town to the other.

Pages 63-64:

Mrs. Marsh [Roy O. Marsh's wife] lived south of Longview Corner, which was probably the intersection of the Longview Road (now Tower) and Palm Drive.

Page 69:

The first residents of Detroit were definitely upper-class, according to Annie Fitzpatrick. She called them "High Hat." "City folks" had moved in down there.

Page 70:

The Detroit piano fight is alluded to.

Page 74:

The Spencers lived near the Brewers in Pennsylvania.

W. A. King brought the mail down from a camp near Rockdale to Black Point, before he homesteaded in Homestead. He was the first section agent in Homestead, so he was involved in the building of the railroad from Miami to Homestead. He didn't file his claim until July 18, 1906.

Page 75:

Annie's aunt had a friend named Catherine Barr.

Page 81:

Kosels were from Long Island, New York

Page 87:

W. A. Frazier telephone company - 5 lines running to 5 different neighborhoods. More details on pp. 87-88. See the post on Early Telephone Companies in Homestead on the website.

Page 90:

Uteley Fuchs was the first and only graduate the first year Homestead High was open.

Page 95:

The Ballards bought the Merck homestead.

Page 97:

Mr. Joy and Mr. Scott were Civil War Veterans and he and Joy would sit and argue ferociously about battles during the Civil War. Mr. Joy was a musician in the Grand Army of the Republic.

Page 99:

The Brewers came a few months after Frances Lewis filed for her claim.

Mrs. Brewer's father was in the hotel business.

Page 100:

The Pioneer Guild was the 2nd women's organization in Dade County.

Convict labor was used to build the roads in this area.

There was a Episcopal Church at the corner of Bauer and Redland. Not Methodist Episcopal – Episcopal. It was destroyed in the 1926 hurricane but had not been used for a few years, as the congregations of St. John's Episcopal and this one were merged, over vociferous protests from the members of the Redland church, who had to travel into Homestead to attend church.

Mrs. Brewer sang at Raye Evans' funeral - no hearse, no undertaker, no preacher. Dr. Tower read out of the Bible and said a prayer. Raye Evans was buried in the Miami City Cemetery. Fitzpatrick thought very highly of the Brewers - they were very community-oriented.

Page 104:

Just west of Anderson's Store at Bauer Drive lived the Fredericks, kin to the Kosels by marriage. She was a semi-invalid and had a daughter, Alice. Anderson's store was on Silver Palm, not on Bauer.

Page 106:

Ross Lintner and Otto Froreip used to go all the way down to Longview to practice music with Orville Calkins. They were from the Silver Palm area. Calkins' band won first place in the first parade held to celebrate Miami's birthday.

The Repertoire Club was the oldest music club in the County. The following people were members:

Mrs. Bow, Mrs. Katherine Horton, Mrs. Brewer, Mrs. Ewing, Mrs., Jim Holcomb, Mrs. Anton Waldin, Mrs. Hiram Bird, Mrs. Lucy Warner Jordan and Mrs. Blakesley.

Page 108:

The Calkins-Loveland orchestra is mentioned on page 108 in connection with a concert given to raise funds to fight citrus canker. According to Fitzpatrick, the State and County did not provide funds to fight the canker and it was up to the community to raise the necessary funds to pay for the spray and the suits that had to be worn.

Page 111:

The post office was in Duval's [misspelled Doubal's] store. [Across from the railroad depot - see an earlier note]

Page 112-113:

Fitzpatrick bought a donkey and cart in Miami and returned using it as transportation. As it was a long trip, she stopped “midway between Mami and home” for the night. She saw lights through the trees and sent the boy who was traveling with her to find out if the house was inhabited by “white folks.”

Page 115:

The first church wedding in South Dade was at the Episcopal Church at Bauer and Redland. Ed Brooker went to Miami to buy things for the celebration but when he returned, he realized that he had forgotten to pick up Dr. Jackson at St. Stephens Episcopal Church in Coconut Grove. Dr. Jackson was to be the preacher. Harvey Fitzpatrick hopped on his motorcycle to bring the “super annuated Mr. Sturgis from down in the general area of the present National Park, who was homesteading there.” [This was Henry Howard Sturgis (1848 - 1930), who lived in the Longview area, not down closer to the park. He homesteaded 160 acres in two 80 acre parcels on the west side of Redland Road from Davis Parkway down to Lucille Dr. His land was adjacent to Henry Brooker’s on the east and Pinckney Milton Bauknight on the west. If he was “super annuated,” it meant that he was semi-retired from preaching.] Because Sturgis was not Episcopal, he couldn’t stand in the altar section of the church, so the wedding was hurriedly moved to the Guild Hall. The church was right at the corner of Bauer and Redland, while the Guild Hall is where the Redland Grocery is now. [Reverend Henry Howard Sturgis was born in Forsyth, GA in 1848 and died in Sanford, FL in 1930. His wife, Margaret Isabella Mason, died in 1913 in Sanford, so that would seem to indicate that Henry sold his land as soon as he proved up in March of 1912 and left the area. The wedding had to have been before 1912. There’s a Find A Grave memorial for him and some interesting information about his career on the marker.]

Page 117:

It may have been Mr. Scott who was involved with the water train in Homestead. A man who lived west of the corner where “Aunty” lived made his way home every evening “when going to his place after bringing the water train back to Homestead to be refilled.”

Page 118:

Mr. Reynolds was the first star route man.

Page 119:

Strickland’s Glade was west of Florida City near the old Barr place. [An Andrew Barr homesteaded in 35-53-41 and 1-54-41 in 1882. Could he have moved further south by the early 1900s?]

Page 121:

The Ox Woman’s team fell to its death in a solution hole. [More likely, one or more of the oxen in the team stepped into a small solution hole, broke its leg, and had to be put down.]

Page 122:

Feuding between the Womens Clubs of the area over the dedication of the park in Paradise Key as the Royal Palm State Park. Apparently Mrs. Evans was on one side of the argument and Mrs. Walton was on the other side.

Widow's Row so named because these widows lived on the road:

Lewis [not a widow], Finch, Merck, Booe, Bow [also not a widow - any marital status other than 'widow' was clearly shameful in those days. Being divorced or gay was not acceptable.]

Page 124:

Fitzpatrick gives a long list of pioneer names and interestingly enough, Parlan (should be Parlin) is the second name on the list. Krome is first. Berte Parlin must have been well-known and respected and the tragedy of his death in 1906 was well-remembered. Annie Fitzpatrick never met him as he died before she arrived in the area. But the fact that his name made the list is intriguing, though it may be because of the location of his homestead - both sides of Krome from Avocado south to King's Highway. See the post on the website entitled Homestead's First Postmaster for more on Berte Parlin.