The Creation of Broward County

VICTORY IN TALLAHASSEE

Fort Lauderdale Sentinel
Friday, April 23, 1915, pg. 1
"Broward County Is Assured"

Fort Lauderdale the Capitol

Bill Passed House Yesterday and Will Pass Senate Today Without Opposition

Representatives of Dade and Palm Beach Counties Agreed on Measure

Tallahassee, April 22. Under a suspension of the rules, the bill creating Broward county out of parts of Palm Beach and Dade counties was passed by the House today and will likely pass the Senate without opposition tomorrow. Fort Lauderdale, where Governor Broward first began the work of reclaiming the Everglades, is to be the County Seat of the New County.

After a long fight, participated in by factions working for and against the formation of the new county, the representatives of Dade and Palm Beach counties agreed on a bill, and so practically assured its passage in both houses of the legislature.

This morning's Miami Herald states that the citizens of Dania and Hallandale are flooding their representatives with telegrams, objecting to being made a part of the new county; also stating that 95 per cent of the citizens of those places are against county division. But this statement is made by the leaders of the opposition and is not the real sentiment of the people, as was proven by the fact that petitions were signed by a large portion of the voters only a short time ago.

The leaders of the opposition are endeavoring, this morning, to bring influence to bear on the Senate which will hold the matter up till a later date. But it is not probable that a change of program can now be made, as both Senators and Representatives of Dade county were familiar with the facts before leaving for Tallahassee.

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"Local News"

Frank Bryan, who has been in Tallahassee in the interest of the county division, was called home Wednesday on account of the death of his sister, Mrs. Fred Fisher.

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"Editorial"

We are proud of Broward County, and we greatly appreciate the work of [P.M.] Hudson for passing the bill in the senate; he has made many friends in the new county by his good work in this matter and William Bussie [senator from Palm Beach County] can be the senator to succeed Senator Hudson so far as Broward County can give to him. And we will always hold ourselves ready to help R.E. McDonald [representative from Dade County] in any way we can. The excellent work of Frank Bryan and Tom Bryan will not be forgotten; they helped to give Florida a county destined to become in the near future one of the best counties in the state.

Broward County is at last a reality, and like all good things brings with it responsibilities as well as benefits. We hope that this county will be governed by a spirit of fair play, and that every part of Broward County will share alike the benefits to result from its creation. In the past we have condemned Miami for 'hogging' all the positions. Let us prove by our treatment of the small places that our criticism had something more behind it than envy. We feel that the positions should be divided out among the different places. In the distribution of the offices, Deerfield, Pompano, Dania, Hallandale and Davie must be remembered; and if we have any influence it shall be done. No county in Florida has a better outlook. If we pull together we will help to make an ideal county.

Frank A. Bryan, Chairman of the Dade County Commission 1911-1915, was a guiding force in the creation of Broward County and became its first clerk.

We should not build a courthouse in five years, as the old schoolhouse will be all we need. We should make the road through the county one of the best in the state. From each of the places, Hallandale, Dania, Fort Lauderdale, Pompano and Deerfield a boulevard to the beach should be made and if possible extended into the glades on the west. If that is done it would cause more people to come to our county than to any other county in Florida. For that purpose we should raise and spend money that should give us the best road system in Florida.
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“Fort Lauderdale County Seat”

The Creation of Broward County Gives to Florida’s Greatest Governor a Fitting Monument

The Gate City Will Make Rapid Growth Under Influence Derived From the New County

Broward County has arrived. The welcome news that the residents of this section have been waiting for so long reached the city Friday evening.

The Bill creating Broward County out of the North part of Dade County and the South part of Palm Beach County passed the House Thursday and the Senate last Friday afternoon. A wire from Tallahassee flashed the glad tidings to the waiting residents of Fort Lauderdale, the new county seat, and immediately celebrations began. The band played; the citizens sang, and later on every available auto in the city was pressed into service to take a large delegation of happy boosters to Pompano and Deerfield where the citizens were awakened and informed of the new commonwealth.

Early Saturday morning the Sentinel issued a special edition, the first paper published in Broward County, announcing the birth of the New County and further announcing a celebration of the event Saturday night on the streets.

In consequence a large and happy crowd gathered on the streets in the evening, the band played and enthusiastic speeches were made by several prominent citizens.

The new county of Broward begins life under very favorable circumstances. It embraces some 1540 square miles of as fine land as can be found in the state. The boundary line on the north is one mile north of Deerfield; on the south, one half mile north of Ojus and from the Atlantic Ocean to the eastern boundary of Lee county, making it about 26 miles north and south by 55 miles east and west.

Contained within its limits are five small but thrifty and enterprising towns, namely: Deerfield, Pompano, Ft. Lauderdale, Dania and Hallandale, also the communities of Davie, Colohatchee and Progresso. The population is probably about 8,000 [actually 4,763] and the assessed valuation is estimated at $2,600,000. There is in the neighborhood of seventy-five miles of rock road.

But the new county’s greatest asset, its most valuable possession, is its cosmopolitan citizenship, made up of people from all parts of the world. A people who are constantly on the lookout for a chance to better their own and their community’s condition. Congregated here are men who have the nerve to tackle and subdue the wilderness about them; men quick to see the possibilities of a new country and quick to take a chance to mold a fortune out of the material at hand. These people have proven themselves progressive and of a high moral standard. And of such a people; of such wonderful resources, is the new county formed. It is a combination that is sure to win, and Broward will immediately step into a prominent position among the leading counties of the state of Florida.

Fort Lauderdale, the county seat, is

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“To Broward County”

In Florida’s spacious hall,
one bright April morn,
While anxious hearts were waiting here,
a little babe was born;

A perfect child of goodly grace,
and fair and comely form,
’Tis christened Broward, and this name shall ‘fend it from the storm.

Into Queen Florida’s royal crown
another gem has come,
Though other jewels shine so fair
this shineth like the sun.

A precious diamond of richest worth
and purest tinning done,
Nor richest king on earth we know
boast a fairer one.

Into this land of lovely flowers
another has come to bloom,
And with the other flowers
gay fling out its sweet perfume,

A modest flower of purest white
nor other’s rights assume,
Must keep it so and ever be
with all the flowers in tune.

Unto our State has come a star,
and may it ever shine,
Among the golden galaxy
until the end of time,

A brilliant star, a guiding star
for your feet and for mine,
A shield, a jewel, a flower, a star,
is it not a gift sublime.

— Lucille Richards
Fort Lauderdale Sentinel
Friday, May 7, 1915, pg. 1

"County Wide Mass Meeting
Drew Crowd"

Davie Came 100 Strong
With Banners Flying

All Other Towns of the New County
Represented and One Grand Love
Feast Resulted

Monday night Fort Lauderdale was the
center of the most enthusiastic time ever
witnessed in South Florida. In the
afternoon people began to arrive
from Pompano and Deerfield, while
early in the evening the good people
of Dania and Hallandale appeared
upon the scene. But the most
interesting crowd and real booster, was
the Davie delegation, 100 strong, who
came floating down the river on a
barge, towed by the mail boat with
banners flying, singing, "It's a long
way to Davie". They were greeted at
dock by a large, good natured crowd,
all anxious to make the first mass
meeting of Broward County a howling
success. The line of march formed and
headed by our band paraded the streets,
singing, "It's a long way to Tippery,"
in which all joined, and marched
to the pavilion of the M. E. church
where the Board of Trade was waiting
for them. The pavilion proved too
small for the crowd and hundreds were
compelled to stand outside. After
several selections by the band, Col.
Robt. Reed, president of the Board of
Trade, called the meeting to order, and
in his unique way explained the object
of this gathering. He introduced Editor
Matthews of the Sentinel who spoke
along harmonious lines.

A. B. Lowe, candidate for County
Commissioner from Davie, was then
introduced and was greeted with appla-
use; he proved an interesting enter-
tainer, and was followed by Hon. A.
C. Frost of Dania, who voiced the sen-
timent that Dania would stand hand in
hand for the upbuilding of the new
county.

J. D. Butler of Deerfield was then
called upon and made a fine speech
which was well received and vigorously
applauded. W. H. Shuford of Pom-
pano then entertained the crowd with
a vision picture of Pompano as the
center of the universe. He said the
United States was the greatest country,
Florida the greatest state, and the East
Coast the greatest spot on the earth.

Jim Holden [James M. Holding] was
next called upon, and stated that while
some of his town people opposed the
county division, they were now for it,
and that only the best men should be
chosen for office; he favored distrib-
uting the offices over the county so that
all would be justly treated. Mr. Leibold
of Davie being called upon made a
fitting speech for the occasion.

Quince Bryan of Dania was intro-
duced and was at his best, his speech
being one of the most interesting
of the evening. He was followed by Tom
Bryan, who said after the trying time
in Tallahassee, he fully appreciated
the splendid meeting and felt that he
was paid for all the trouble that he
had endured. Rev. D. T. Fisor stated
he was a democrat and in spite of the
fact that he "got religion" that he was
still a democrat. He then made a
motion this meeting petition the Gov-
ernor to permit the people of Broward
county to have a white primary in
which all the people could participate,
which was carried by a rising vote.

The following committee to formu-
late the petition: Robt. J. Reed, Judge
Shippey, J. D. Butler, A. C. Frost, A.
B. Lowe and Mr. Morfitt were
appointed.

Mr. Forman from North Canal was
then introduced and made a good
speech. He said they had 13 families
on that canal near the locks and he
felt it was the one place in every way
equal to the South canal.

C. E. Farrington, who had been re-
quested to speak for the people who
owned land in the 'glades and not
residents, made a good speech and
solved some valuable information.

The question of a County Court
House came up and was referred to
a committee, under motion of Tom
Bryan, after which a rising vote of thanks
was given our band boys for their ser-
vice in making the meeting a success.
They did excellent work considering
they have only been organized a
month, and appeared on the street for
the third time.

At a late hour the meeting adjourned.
Fort Lauderdale never had a more
enthusiastic meeting and it will live
in the history of Broward county.

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from article
"Will Form County Board of Trade"

Frank Bryan reported the expense
of the committee who went to Talla-
hassee. He showed that they had re-
ceived $200.00 and that the expense
had been $231.00. The matter was
referred to the committee in charge of
the fund.