The Creation of Broward County

BROWARD COUNTY IS BORN

Fort Lauderdale Sentinel
Friday, September 24, 1915, pg. 1

"Broward Celebration"

Largest Event on
East Coast of Florida

Broward County, which will become
a surety October 1, with Ft. Lauderdale
the County Seat, will be appropriately
celebrated, and all citizens are
asked to decorate their place of busi-
ness and homes. The committee in
charge have been busy making ar-
rangements and a big time is ex-
pected. The following program will be
given:
1:40 p.m.
Parade Band; Car with Speakers;
Other Cars; Music by Band.
Invocation — Rev. Frost; Intro-
don by Col. Reed. Welcome address,
Judge Shippey; Music. Delivery of
County by Chairman of Board of Coun-
ty Commissioners.
7:30 p.m.
Music by Orchestra; Introduction of
County Officials by Judge Drake;
Music, Solos.

Fort Lauderdale Sentinel
Friday, October 8, 1915, pg. 1

"Broward County Celebration"

A Great Day for Fort Lauderdale,
the County Capital

City Decorated—Grand Parade
Good Program — Big Crowd

The celebration in honor of the birth
of Broward County last Friday was
one of the greatest events in the life of
Fort Lauderdale. The homes and busi-
ness houses were decorated, and
presented a gala appearance. Especially
attractive was the window of Ausher-
man & Shippey with its artistic deco-
raions.

The procession formed at 2:30 and
was led by Catherine Wheeler dressed
as a clown, and astride her pony
"Ginger." Following was Misses Marion
and Margaret Reed driving "Sentinel,"
their cart, [which] look[ed] very pretty;
then came Misses Margaret Ewing and
Margaret Oliver, and baby Frank. The
Broward county band followed by two
dozen or more decorated automobiles.
Visitors from the different counties
witnessed this fine parade. The proces-
sion marched to the new school house
where the exercises took place.

After the band played a patriotic
air, Col. Reed made an appropriate
speech, in which he said: "Today is
born the new County of Broward, and
we are here to encourage the officers
and give them our help. A few months
ago the towns of Hallandale, Dania,
Davey, Fort Lauderdale, Pompano and
Deerfield became convinced that the
counties were too large, so they de-
cided to make Fort Lauderdale the
capital of Broward County; that we
should not be forgetful of the splendid
part played by Messrs. Frank and T.
M. Bryan in getting this county, and
are most deserving of the highest
praise, as well as gratitude of our peo-
ple." A resolution offered by Mr. Cal-
der and seconded by Editor Mathews,
was carried, commemorating them on
the good work done in Tallahassee.

Suspended over the stage in large
letters, appeared the words "Palm and
Dade counties." When the exercises
started, these letters were shifted un-
seen, so that the banner read "Palm
Beach and Dade counties," the idea
being that Dade is daddy of Broward.
The letters were shifted again and the
words spelt Broward county. It was a
very unique and pretty arrangement.

Invocation by Dr. Frost. Col. Ship-
pey was next introduced, and made a
short but impressive speech, stating that it appeared strange that he should have been asked to welcome people to something of which they are a part. "This is a Broward county celebration," he said, "from Deerfield on the north to and including Hallandale on the south, out into the Everglades on the west, and to the Atlantic on the east, to all not residing within these confines I extend a most hearty welcome."

The speaker of the day was Col. C. A. Walsh, who paid a high tribute to Broward county, Fort Lauderdale and the Everglades. He is a man of good presence, experience in public life, so had no trouble in praising the audience. At the conclusion of this address the band played a very beautiful selection.

Rev. R. V. Atkinson delivered greetings from Miami. He stated that Palm Beach county is the son of Dade County, and therefore Broward county is the grandson and son of Dade. We have come to see the child christened, he said.

Then followed the presentation of the strips from Dade and Palm Beach counties forming Broward county. This was done when Mr. Paddison stepped on the stage and said, having lived in Fort Lauderdale, he felt at home and was pleased to take part in the celebration. A large chart of Dade and Palm Beach counties was in the center of the stage and Capt. Jaudon of Miami attached to the upper portion of the Dade county map a strip representing the lower portion of Broward. Mr. Paddison of West Palm Beach attached to the map a strip representing the upper portion of Broward county, and with this ceremony the presentation of the new county was concluded.

Capt. Jaudon, tax assessor, gave a complete statement of the part of Dade county now included in Broward, as follows:

Real estate .................. $1,409,400.00
Personal ....................... 140,150.00
[F.E.C. Railway ............. 154,908.00]
International Ocean Telegraph
Co ............................. 2,972.00
Pullman Car Co ................ 3,218.00
A total of ...................... $1,710,648.00

To this add your outstanding tax sale certificate values ... $299,160.00
Making grand total of .......... $2,009,808.00

I beg to advise further that the taxes to be derived from the above values are as follows:

State taxes, 6 mills .......... $10,262.81
County taxes, 25 mills 42,761.70

"You will find this transcript complete in every detail, with the exception that I have not had the opport

tunity to completely verify same as to description. However, the values and extensions are complete."

At the evening exercises the Auditorium was packed. A fine musical program was arranged. The first number was a song by the Glee Club, followed by a cornet solo, by Prof. Hammond. Solos by Mrs. Wheeler and Roy Heimromous were enjoyed.

A resolution was offered by T. M. Bryan, that the birth of N. B. Broward be celebrated each year, which was carried. A committee consisting of T. M. Bryan, J. D. Butler, and Wm. Hardee were appointed to look after the matter.

The presentation of the county officers was next on the program. Judge Drake made a splendid speech, with a mind full of knowledge, he never fails to say something good. He presented F. A. Bryan first, who said he would like to express his appreciation but that he was full of gratitude than speech. He told what had been done by the Commissioners since their appointment.

Sheriff A. W. Turner was then called. He said you have put the wrong man up this time, but that I will do my full duty so far as I see it.

W. O. Berryhill then stepped bravely before the footlights and would perhaps, have made the speech of the evening had his friends been less demonstrative. He began to talk in a moderate tone, and from all sides the cry was "louder." He raised his voice and they still cried "louder." Then he said, "Come out behind the house and I will tell you all about it." (Applause.)

W. Q. Bryan paid a beautiful tribute to Broward county, and expressed his willingness to do all he could to make a good tax-assessor; that he would never forget his obligation to the people who gave him his position.

Judge Bunn thanked the people for electing him.

J. J. Joyce said he was proud to be one of the first commissioners of Broward county, and that he would do his very best to make a good officer.

W. B. [should be A. B.] Lowe, Chairman of the Board of County Commissioners, said he thought that one tune in a day was enough for a poor suffering humanity to be subjected to; he hoped that needed things might come to pass, that united action was necessary if the best results were obtained.


D. G. Tenbrook then said, "I live to work! I am pleased to serve you. Many thanks."

J. M. Holding[s]' speech was interesting.

Mr. Neville thanked one and all for their support and said he would do all he could to build up the schools of Broward County.

J. D. Butler, another member of the school board, made a good speech full of fine suggestions.

Broward county celebration will long be remembered by the people of the county.

All business was suspended. H. V. Calder was marshal of the day.

Mr. George Merrick of Dade county has been commissioned to complete the unexpired term as commissioner vacated by F. A. Bryan. This change is caused by Mr. Bryan being clerk of the district court of Broward county.
when the school first opened] pupils. The location of this building was where the Broward County Court House is now located.

The next settler was the Hon. P. N. Bryan, who located here in the summer of 1895, his family following later.

Credit is due these pioneers who were willing to give up the charms and comforts of civilization to build a future for themselves and open a road for others to come after them. Their prophetic vision enabled them to read the future and avail themselves of an unequalled opportunity.

The [Florida] East Coast [Railway] started the extension from Palm Beach to Miami, and Mr. Bryan had the contract for ten miles of this work. After the completion of this road, Mr. Bryan bought 120 acres of land about five miles up the river where he lived in the hammock for about two years, raising vegetables and setting out an orange grove. For a long time he brought the produce down in a skiff, there being no boats on the river at that time. There was no available way of crossing the river, so they swam a little pony.

About this time A. J. Wallace and E. T. King came and bought property and located.

The travel was coming in fast. The wonderful possibilities of the Everglades and the drainage of this rich land had reached the outside world, and people from every state in the union were flocking here. Credit is due the Immortal Broward, as the draining of the glades was his aspiration. Others have taken up the work that he started, and the work is being done as rapidly as possible.

Mr. Bryan saw the necessity of a boarding house, so in 1900, built what is now called the Annex, and opened a hotel. The people came so fast that a larger hotel was necessary. In 1906 [1908], the concrete hotel called the Bryan Hotel, but now the New River Hotel, was built. Mr. and Mrs. Bryan still retain an interest in the hotel. Last summer they built a palatial home north of the hotel, where they live a retired and blissful life, and talk over the happy days of pioneer life.

The various families kept coming in, the Marshalls, Olivers, Dr. Kennedy, and others. In 1907, the population had reached about one hundred. In 1911 a great boom was on, the population had then reached several hundred more, the place had been well advertised; a steady flow still keeps coming until now, it has reached to fully thirty-five hundred [actually 1,870, according to the official state census].

The progress and rapid growth of Ft. Lauderdale was the means of giving us the new county of Broward, which is being celebrated today, Friday, Oct. 1. The wonderful developments and improvements being made, shows the progressiveness of the people.

The city has several very creditable blocks of business houses, also fine hotels, some rooming houses, eating places, good drinking water, sewerage system, electric lighting facilities, telephone system, long distance, rock paved streets, cement sidewalks, two weekly newspapers, ice plant, several lumber yards, comfortable homes, many denominational churches, one of the best public schools in the state, good fishing, boating, and bathing, and an ideal climate. Also hope to have a gas plant soon.

Napoleon B. Broward, Florida’s greatest Governor, and for whom this county is named, was born in Duval county 59 years ago. This sterling man was left an orphan early in life, and without schooling worked himself to the highest position in the gift of the people of Florida. He spent his boyhood days and a great part of his manhood in steamboating. Starting at the lowest round he soon became commander of boats. The first office held by him was sheriff of Duval county and made a record of which any man might be proud. In 1904 he was elected Governor over Robert Davis, Denet Moyes [Dannite Mays], and C. M. Brown by a large majority. By advocating the drainage of the Everglades in his convincing way, he carried everything before him. His heroism as commander of the Three Friends on which he ran the blockade [of Cuba, during its insurrection against Spain], made him many votes. He was a most convincing speaker and when he died we wonder if he had his equal in Florida. He served in the legislature with distinction. In 1911 [1910] he was nominated for the United States Senate, but to the people’s regret and the state’s misfortune, he was called to the great beyond before he could serve the people in congress. With his great brain, strong personality and sterling integrity, he would have been one of the foremost men in that great legislative body. If we were asked to name Florida’s greatest son we would not hesitate to say Napoleon B. Broward. He was unselfish in his devotion to his state, and gave to this Republic as great affection as mortal man could give. We have honored our county in naming it after such a distinguished man.
Prosecuting Attorney Gregers A. Frost in his courthouse office, where several early county commission meetings took place.

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Friday, October 1, 1915, pg. 1

“Our Broward County”

It is with best wishes to the new county fathers that Hallandale enters Broward County. Though we leave good old Dade with regret, it is to be hoped that the change will be for the best of every town in Broward County.

All stores will be closed on Friday afternoon in Hallandale and the school will have a short session that all may have a chance to attend the celebration at the new county seat.

In Union is strength. Here’s hoping for good county government and unity in each community towards the welfare of Broward County.

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Friday, October 8, 1915, pg. 2

“Tribute to Broward County From Dade County”

Blessings on you, Broward county, and may all your big dreams come true! This is a hearty message that goes from old Dade to her new county, taken from her territory but bound by unbreakable ties of friendship and mutual interest in her heart.

Today sees the inauguration of Broward county’s official existence, and never did a county begin its life under more favorable auspices or with brighter vistas of the coming years.

As the Gateway of the Everglades, Ft. Lauderdale, the county seat, stands ready to receive the riches that will come in the development of Everglade farms. Out on the ‘glades great truck farms and groves and cattle pastures will furnish produce of all description, and the development of every farm will mean the erection of new homes and the arrival of more good people.

Settled through Broward county there is already the nucleus of a commonwealth which promises to be of an especially superior type. The people are of a high order of intelligence, they have “seen things,” and are ready to put new ideas and new energy into everything they undertake. Furthermore they know that Broward county can be made to blossom like a garden, and they have the ability and the faith to bring this to pass.

So blessings on you, Broward county, may you ever keep clean ideals — may you always go after what you want with the vim and the success that you have shown thus far — may you see your lands peopled with thousands of new settlers just like the folks you have with you now — and may you ever feel the good will and cordial interest of the people of old Dade.

— Miami Metropolis

**Fort Lauderdale Sentinel**
Friday, October 15, 1915, pg. 4

“County Commissioners Proceedings”

The Board of County Commissioners of Broward county met at the office of County Attorney [Gregers A.] Frost, Oct. 1, 1915.

Tax Assessor J. F. Jauon of Dade county filed a transcript in triplicate of the tax assessment of that part of Dade county which became a part of Broward county, showing the aggregate assessed values as follows:

This in accordance with Section 14, Chapter 6934; Acts of the Legislature of 1915.

Real Estate ........ $1,409,400.00
Personal .......... 140,150.00
F.E.C. Railway ..... 154,908.00
International Ocean Telegraph
Co ................... 2,972.00
Pullman Car Co .... 3,218.00
A total of ........ $1,710,468.00

To this add your outstanding tax sale certificate values 289,180.00, making a total of $2,009,808.00.

I beg to advise further that the taxes to be derived from the above values are as follows:

State taxes, 6 mills .... $10,262.81
County taxes, 25 mills ........ 442,761.70

Trustees Special School District No. 10, Hallandale, Fla.

In compliance with Section 1 of Chapter 5962, Laws for the Assessment and Collection of Revenue, State of Florida, I beg to hand you herewith statement showing amount of Special School Tax District Tax and interest and sinking fund for school bonds tax for the year 1915.

**S. S. DISTRICT NO. 10**

Real Estate .......... $618.09
Personal ........... 32.85
F.E.C. Railway ...... 112.36
International Ocean Tel.
Co ................... 2.31
Total ................ $765.61

Interest and Sinking Fund on School Bonds:

Real Estate .......... $824.12
Personal ........... 43.80
F.E.C. Railway ...... 149.81
International Ocean Tel.
Co ................... 3.08
Total ................ $1,020.81

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Trustees Special School District No. 8, Dania, Fla.

In compliance with Section 1 of chapter 5962, Laws for the Assessment and Collection of Revenue, State of Florida, I beg to hand you herewith statement showing amount of Special School District Tax and interest and sinking fund for school bond tax for the year 1915.

**S. S. DISTRICT NO. 8**

Real Estate ............... $997.98
Personal .................. 85.80
F.E.C. Railway ............ 126.51
International Ocean Tel.
Co ........................ 1.26
Total ....................... 1211.55

Trustees Special District No. 1, Ft. Lauderdale, Fla.

In compliance with Section 1, of Chapter 5962, Laws for the Assessment and Collection of Revenue, State of Florida, I beg to hand you herewith statement showing amount of Special School Tax District Tax and interest and sinking fund for school bond tax for the year 1915.

**S. S. DISTRICT NO. 1**

Real Estate ............... $2,612.13
Personal .................. 301.30
F.E.C. Railway ............ 196.84
International Ocean Tel.
Co ........................ 3.94
The Pullman Co ............ 9.65
Total ....................... $3,124.36

Interest and Sinking Fund for School Bonds:

Real Estate .......... $4,353.553
Personal ................ 503.00
F.E.C. Railway .......... 328.07
International Ocean Tel.
Co ........................ 6.56
Pullman Co ............... 16.09
Total ...................... $5,207.27

The Board of County Commissioners of Broward county met at their office as required and authorized by the Bill creating Broward county, Oct. 1, 1915.

Com. A. B. Lowe was elected chairman of the Board of County Commissioners of Broward county.

Motion made and carried that the minutes of July 23, 1915, reading "County Printing be given to Ft. Lauderdale Sentinel for a period of one year from October 1st, 1915," be corrected to read

"That said paper be appointed as the official organ for Broward County for a period of one year from October 1, 1915."

Motion made and carried that water coolers and cuspidors for use in County Commissioners’ Room be purchased.

The following bonds were filed:

Judge Bunn — County Judge
Dan. Clune — County Surveyor
W. O. Berryhill — Tax Collector
J. G. Ewing — Treasurer
D. G. Tenbrook — Superintendent of Registration
F. L. Neville — Board Public Instruction
James M. Holding — Superintendent
Frank A Bryan — Clerk Circuit Court
A. W. Turner — Sheriff
C. D. Kittredge — Member County School Board

Motion made and carried that J. K. Gordon be appointed as janitor for County Court House and grounds at a salary of $60.00 per month.

Motion made and carried that the bridge tenders in Broward county, J. H. King at Dania, R. L. Cherry at Ft. Lauderdale and Walter Smith at Pompano be retained in their present positions at the salaries they are now being paid.

C. V. Purvis was appointed Game Warden at a salary of $50 per month.

Board of County Commissioners met in regular session Oct. 5, 1915.

A road petition from 17 citizens living in the vicinity of Progresso was read and placed on file for future consideration.

A petition for a road to be declared public along the following lines was read:

"Starting at a point on the South line of Section 13, township 48 south, range 42 east, crosses the main county road and running due west on said line to the southwest corner of said section 14, township 48 south, range 42 east, to the west edge of the swamp, about one mile in all." The petition was signed by 63 petitioners. Viewers were appointed to lay out the route as follows: J. W. and L. S. Waldin and J. L. Grant of Pompano.

The salary of the Supervisor of Registration was fixed at $50.00 per month.

Motion made and carried that the County Attorney be instructed to purchase such furniture as is needed for his office.

On motion, R. S. King was retained as engineer for county road roller as long as his services are satisfactory at the price he is now being paid by Dade county.

The question of two jury rooms came up before the board for consideration and it was decided to put a petition [partition] in the west room of the second floor. The contract was given to Fleming & Pitzer for $111.85.

County Tax Collector was instructed to purchase what furniture is needed for temporary use in his office.

Board of County Commissioners met Oct. 6, 1915, at 9 a.m.

It was decided by the board that the valuation and tax levy of the Palm Beach division of Broward county should be in the possession of the County Commissioners of this county, therefore, Com. W. L. Bracknell was instructed to go to Palm Beach to secure said necessary date from Tax Assessor of Palm Beach county.

Board of County Commissioners met Oct. 7, 1915.

A telegram was read from the State Tax Commission as follows:

Tallahassee, Fla. Oct. 6, '15
F. A. Bryan, Ft. Lauderdale
Dear Sir: — Wire us what action you intend taking on tax assessments referred to in letter of September 23rd.

(Signed) State Tax Commission

On motion, the Clerk was ordered to answer telegram as follows:

Tax Commission,
Tallahassee, Fla.

Cannot take action on tax assessments. Broward County created October 1, 1915. Assessment and tax levy has already been made by Dade and Palm Beach Counties.

The Clerk was instructed to advertise for bids on jail cells according to plans and specifications on file in Clerk's office. Same was prepared by County Attorney Frost and duly sent to the Fort Lauderdale Sentinel for publication.

Motion made and carried that the Clerk be instructed to draw warrants on the general fund as follows:

Fleming & Pitzer .......... $1930.80
R. L. Williams ............. 40.00

A transcript of the tax books of the Dade County division of Broward County, together with certificates from Dade County’s officers as required by law, was delivered to the County Commissioners and Tax Collector of Broward County by Tax Assessor J. F. Jaund of Dade County.

Final acceptance of the books was deferred until a future time.

(Signed) F. A. Bryan, Clerk
(Signed) A. B. Lowe,
Chairman County Com.