

The Creation of Broward County

PREPARING FOR A NEW COUNTY

Fort Lauderdale Sentinel
Friday, July 9, 1915, pg. 1
"Broward County"

According to Captain J. T. Jaudon, the County [Dade] Tax Assessor, Broward County will take away about two million from Dade County according to the assessor's figures. The amount is \$2,003,129 and is divided as follows: Real Estate, \$1,707,330; Personal, \$131,290; Railroad (estimated), \$160,000; Telegraph (estimated), and Pullman Company (estimated), \$2,000. Broward County will have over \$2,600,000 assessed value [including portion annexed from Palm Beach County]. So [it] will have all the revenue needed to meet the expenses of the county. With only twelve schools to maintain, our expenses will be small compared to other counties.

Fort Lauderdale Sentinel
Friday, July 30, 1915, pg. 1

"Broward County Commissioners Meet"

First Meeting of the New County Board Held in City Hall

Old School House Will Be Used as New County Court House. Other Important Business

The new Board of Commissioners met at the council chamber Friday afternoon and nearly all of the newly elects were present.

Ed. King, chairman of the executive committee, called the meeting to order and stated the purpose for which he had called them together, saying that he had received letters from the Governor, which were read to Mr. Bryan. He further said that one of the objects of the meeting was to bring the commissioners and school board together for them to make arrangements about disposing of the school house to the new county to be used as a court house and public offices. He then turned the meeting over to the commissioners.

On motion of Mr. Ingalls, seconded by Mr. Joyce, Mr. Lowe was made chairman of the board.

The matter of legal advice was taken

up, and Mr. Bracknell thought that legal advisors should be secured before they take any steps.

Mr. Ingalls said that while Judge Bunn and attorney Frost had offered their services free, he was afraid, owing to the fact that they were already public officers that they could not act in a dual capacity and he felt that the Board should take no chances by naming men already elected to office. He stated that we had two young lawyers here from Ocala who had had experience in an advisory capacity for Boards of County Commissioners. The firm referred to was Bullock & Evans. On motion of Mr. Bracknell and seconded by Mr. Hardy, a committee was appointed to see the young men and arrange terms with them, Messrs. Ingalls and Joyce receiving the appointment. On motion of Mr. Bracknell, seconded by Mr. Joyce, the *Sentinel* was made the official organ for the first year.

Chairman Lowe said the commissioners would like to consider any proposition that the school board would make regarding the sale of the school house to the board. F. L. Neville thought that the matter was absolutely in the hands of the Dade county school board. Mr. Bracknell thought that \$10,000 would be a reasonable price for the building and several lots. Mr. Kittredge thought it would be cheap at \$12,000. Chairman Lowe and clerk F. A. Bryan were appointed as a committee to confer with the school board, to see about buying the school house and the terms that could be secured. Clerk Bryan was authorized to get a list of the necessary supplies. Chairman Lowe, Commissioner Bracknell and F. A. Bryan were named to consult with the school board regarding prices and terms for the school property.

Fort Lauderdale Sentinel
Friday, August 13, 1915, pg. 2

"Commissioners Busy — Judge Bunn and Frost Offer Services Free"

County Commissioners met at the City Hall Friday, 2 p.m. Chairman Lowe was in the chair. There were present, Messrs. Lowe, Hardy, Ingalls and Joyce. Minutes of the last meet-

ing were read and approved. Messrs. Joyce and Ingalls reported that they had conferred with attorneys Bullock & Evans regarding the attorneyship. They stated that the attorneys had the offer under advisement; later Mr. Evans came in and stated that they would take as retainer from \$15 to \$25 per month leaving the amount within those amounts to the commissioners who knew better what they could afford to pay; but they would expect reasonable fees for other work done. Mr. Norfleet offered to take the position for \$25 per month with fees for extra work, or he would accept \$100 and do all the work required by the commissioners. Judge Bunn, speaking for himself and Mr. Frost, stated that they would take the position free for one year, which was accepted by the Board.

Chairman Lowe, who was one of the committee to see the Dade County Board of Education about purchasing the old school house to be used as a court house, reported that the Dade county Board had offered to sell the building and lots for \$12,000. Two thousand to be paid cash, the balance to be paid \$1000 a year with interest until paid. The Broward school would sell bonds for the amount of money needed which the Broward commissioners could take up as they come due.

Mr. Garrett representing H. & W. B. Drew Co., who came to bid for books and other work, stated that they would do all the work at their regular prices and give six months time, that he would give what could be done at home to local printers, but as he suggested lithographic warrants, letterheads and envelopes would leave but little for local printers.

A letter was read from Messrs. Holmberg and Ausherman in which they offered to donate a site for the courthouse in North Lauderdale, 450x270 feet. Mr. Ingalls said that if there was no string to the offer, it should be accepted. Mr. Fleming submitted plans for remodeling the school house for use as a court house and offices. Mr. Joyce and Mr. Bryan were appointed as a committee to examine into plans and advise with him. The Board then adjourned to meet in Miami Tuesday

and Wednesday to find out just what was needed in the way of bonds and forms.

The commissioners were in Miami Tuesday looking over the offices and getting needed information before they begin work in Broward county. Those present were Messrs. Lowe, Hardy, Ingalls and Joyce. Mr. Bracknell was not on hand. F.A. Bryan was on hand conferring with Mr. Merritt and studying the work of the circuit clerk, an office which he is soon to fill. They were importuned to give the printing to many printing concerns inside and outside the state. It is hoped the printing may be done at home and the money kept where it will benefit our own people. The Broward Commissioners will meet the first Tuesday in October, the first time after getting commissions. Commissioner Lowe remained in Miami overnight.

Fort Lauderdale Sentinel
Friday, August 20, 1915, pg. 1

"Broward County Courthouse"

Old School House Purchased
For \$12,000.00

Interior of Building Will be Remodeled for Convenience of the Various Offices

Broward County Commissioners met last Friday at the old school house to arrange for remodeling the building and converting it into a court house. Quite a number of printers were on hand. Some of them seemed anxious to save money for Broward county. The following members were present: Messrs. Lowe, Ingalls, Hardy, Joyce, Clerk, F. A. Bryan. Mr. Bracknell was out of town, hence his absence.

The board was advised that they would be forced under the law to advertise for bids for printing. Mr. Garrett tried to convince the board, that as each book could be invoiced separately that the limit would not be reached. Mr. Ingalls then moved, and seconded by Mr. Joyce, that they advertise for bids for furniture, books, and printed blanks separately. Mr. Garrett objected, he thought that it was better to have a consolidated bid. Mr. Mathews objected as it would be the equivalent to shutting out all bids except that of H. & W. B. Drew. Mr. Ingalls held to his motion and the wish of Mr. Garrett was defeated. The board then authorized that the bid of \$12,000 be made for the school house and grounds to be used as the court house. Meeting adjourned.

The County Commissioners of Broward County bought in the old school house for \$12,000 when bids were open-

ed for purchase of same. The school house will be put in shape, to be used as our first court house.

Fort Lauderdale Sentinel
Friday August 27, 1915, pg. 1
"Facts Worth Knowing"

Broward County
By One of Our Readers

Broward County is approximately 24 miles wide north and south, and 48 miles long east and west.

Broward County is approximately 1152 square miles, or 737,280 acres. Approximately one eighth of this area is pine land, or 92,160 acres, the balance, or 645,120 acres, being Everglades.

Broward County is an agricultural county, consequently its development must be along agricultural lines.

Broward County has a population of about 6000 people [actually 4,763].

Approximately 10,000 acres of Broward County is under yearly cultivation, or a little more than 10 per cent of its pine lands, or about 1.4 per cent of its total area.

Broward County will derive under the present valuation of about \$2,600,000 about \$75,000 in all taxes.

If the lands within the triangle is assessed at a higher figure than the open glade land, as Davie farm for example is now assessed, it will mean an added valuation for tax purposes of from \$400,000.00 to \$750,000.00.

Everglades land in Broward County is assessed at present at \$1.00 per acre, which pays about 31-2 per cent taxes per year for road fund. If 100,000 acres of Everglades is put in condition for development, and is developed within the next few years, at the same assessment, \$3,500.00 per year would be derived. But the assessment would be increased many times, which would mean an income of between \$25,000.00 [and] \$35,000.00 per year. For twenty years, the life of the bonds, far more than sufficient taxes would be collected to take care of the road project at present in the minds of everyone.

Who pays this amount? The Everglades farmer. Where does he live at present? Not in Florida. Why was Broward County created? You answer. (But you will not say "Solely to Develop its Pine Lands," for its Pine Lands were being developed while in Dade County, and will continue to be developed in Broward County. Neither will you say that the sole development of its pine lands will keep Broward County in existence.) So, what has made the existence of Broward County possible? Taxation derived from its glade

lands. Who owns the Everglades lands? The northern farmer a good portion of it. Who owns the pine lands? The residents of the County. Will rock roads solely thru the pine lands bring a greater increase of population into Broward County than rock roads thru the pine lands and out into the glades? Please answer that also.

Every man of family who moves to Broward County spends from \$750.00 to \$1,000.00 per year. One hundred families at the same rate would mean an added circulation of hard cash of from \$75,000.00 to \$100,000.00 per year. (Ad infinitum). Where? In Broward County. At the same time these 100 families are improving at the least estimate 1000 acres, and being taxed on increased valuation.

We are potentially the "richest county in Florida."

Ft. Lauderdale's share of the bond issue builds the road to Davie. Everglades bond issue builds the road the rest of the way. "Surely we can give these people the privilege of building their own roads."

If this is all bosh, then kill the bond issue. If not, vote for it when the time comes.

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

"Commissioners Proceedings"

Condensed Report of
Preliminary Business

The County Commissioners appointed by Gov. Park Trammell for Broward County, met at the town hall, Ft. Lauderdale, Florida, July 23, 1915, at 2 p.m.

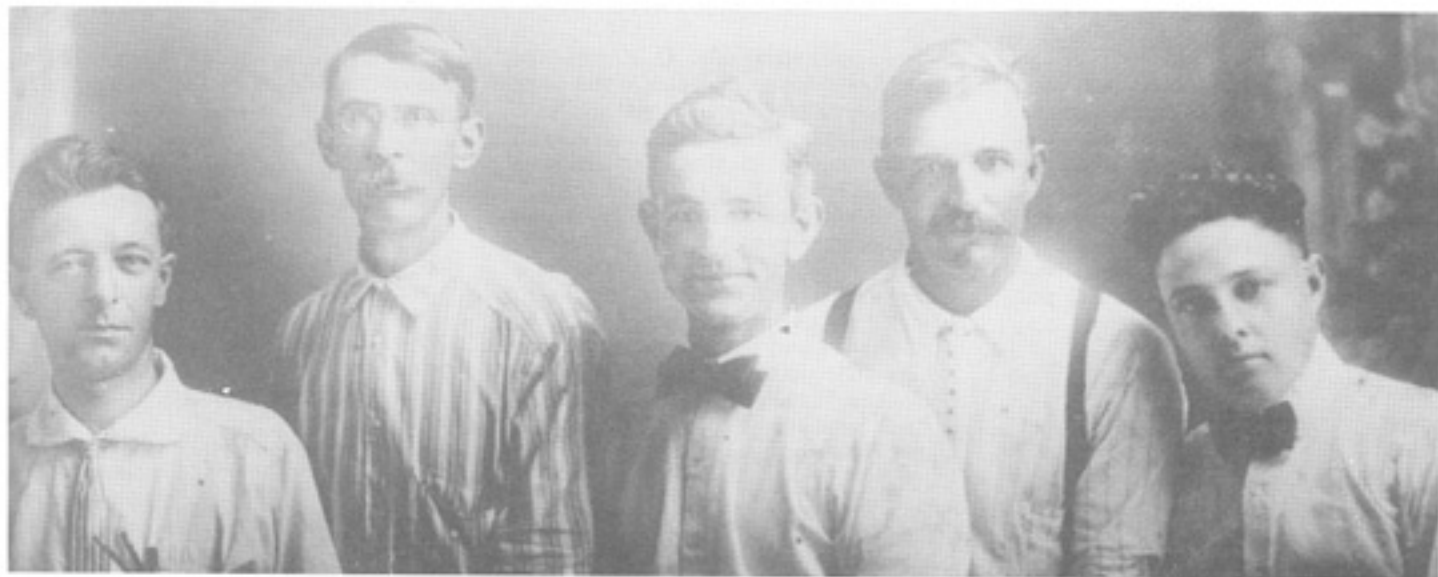
The following members were present: Commissioners A. B. Lowe, J. J. Joyce, I. I. Hardee [Hardy], C. E. Ingalls and W. L. Bracknell. On motion Com. A. B. Lowe was unanimously elected as temporary chairman.

Motion was made and seconded that a committee be appointed to see Attorneys Bullock & Evans in regard to accepting position as County Attorney for Broward County Board of County Commissioners.

On motion and seconded, which was duly carried, the County printing for a period of one year from October 1st, 1915, was given to the Ft. Lauderdale Sentinel.

On motion, seconded, the Clerk was ordered to prepare a list of the necessary supplies, books, furniture, etc., for the different offices which would be needed in the Broward County Court House.

A motion, seconded, that the chairman and clerk of the Board act as a committee to get prices and terms from



Officials in the 1915 photo above are (left to right): County Engineer Herbert C. Davis, County Commissioners Charles Edward Ingalls, Alexander B. Lowe and J.J. Joyce, and County Attorney Wilfred I. Evans. Rounding out the first county commission were Isaac I. Hardy (photo at left) and William L. Bracknell (photo at right).



the Dade County School Board on Andrews Avenue school building for County Court House use.

The Clerk on motion was authorized to get samples and prices on all supplies for new Court House and make a report at the next meeting.

The Board of County Commissioners appointed for Broward County met at the town hall, August 6, 1915, at 1 p.m.

Chairman Lowe reported that the Dade County School Board were ready to enter into a contract with Broward County Commissioners, but no definite arrangements had so far been made. C. J. [should be C. D.] Kittredge appeared before the Board and offered suggestions in regard to the contract to be made between the School Board

and the Broward County Commissioners for school house building, recommending that an offer be made to the Dade County School Board the purchase price to be fixed at \$12,000.00, \$2,000.00 to be paid in a county warrant at the first meeting of the Board of County Commissioners, and the balance to be paid in annual payments of \$1,000.00 each, until the balance of \$10,000.00 is paid in full. A motion was made and seconded that the offer as suggested by Mr. Kittredge be made to the Dade County School Board.

The attorneys present were asked to make propositions to serve as County Attorney for the Board of County Commissioners of Broward County for a year. Attorney Evans offered his services as Attorney for the Board at a price to be fixed by the Board between

\$15.00 and \$25.00 per month as a monthly retainer fee, and a reasonable price to be agreed upon for special services, such as bond issues and court cases.

Attorney Norfleet offered for same services as follows: \$25.00 per month as retainer fee and reasonable fees for other services or \$100.00 per month for all legal advice and work which Board might require.

Judge Bunn stated in his opinion it would be legal for the County Attorney to serve the Board as legal adviser, and that he at any time would be glad to assist and advise the Board. A motion was made and seconded that the Board accept the offer made by County Attorney Frost to serve the Board for a period of one year from October 1.

