

Among the Farmers

Reprinted from *The Miami Metropolis (Weekly)*,
Friday, November 25 and December 2, 1898.

NOTE: The Metropolis' junior editor, Charles G. Featherly, over the past four weeks had visited 248 farmers in the area of "South Dade." The week of November 25, 1898, he described his visits to farmers living north of Miami to New River. Below is his account of the area adjacent to or included in present Broward County. While conjectural, there may not have been anyone living in what came to be known as Pompano and Deerfield. The junior editor admitted he may have missed some farms but not intentionally. This appears to be the first account of farmers living in this area.

ON HALLAND PRAIRIE [EVENTUALLY HALLANDALE]

We found a comfortable settlement by congenial people upon the edge of the prairie. They have one store and a large commodious boarding house, with new dwellings in the course of construction. The people here, as elsewhere in this section, were busy making their crops, which is tomatoes unless otherwise specified in this report, and is as follows:

J. M. Bryan, Jr., 10 acres. McIntosh and Paxton, 6 acres. Moseley and Hillyard, 10 acres and 10 acres of pepper, 1 acre of eggplants, 1 acre of beans, 4 acres of Irish potatoes and 4 acres of cucumber and squash. Charles Anderson, 44 acres. Nelson Carlson, 9 acres. Sverker Lundberg, 2½ acres. S. Sjostrom, 9 acres. S. M. Wright, 3 acres. John Wallace, 4½ acres. Thure A. Johnson, 4 acres. A. Lamson, 2 acres. O.C.I. Carlson, 2 acres. N. A. Carlson, 9 acres. A. Andread, 3 acres. L. Timm, 2 acres. Lewis

and Wm. Norton, 20 acres. W. W. Kilham, 4 acres. C.P. Carlson, 2 acres. J. T. Wofford, 10 acres. Wm. McRae, 5 acres. H. and A. Geiges, 6 acres. J. P. Owens, 5 acres. [NOTE: A. C. M. Ingalls had a farm at Snake Creek (Biscayne). His sons Ed and Homer also farmed with him.]

AT MODELO [EVENTUALLY DANIA]

At this thriving and beautiful village we found everyone busy with their crops. Although the crop here will not be as extensive as at some of the other settlements in the county, the prospects are favorable for a large yield. The following is the acreage that will be cultivated:

James Paulsen, 12 acres. Fred Shaw, 5 acres. Joe Bell, 1½ acres and ½ acre beans. J. S. Crane, 6 acres. R. Crane, 2 acres. Charles Chambers 1 acre and 1 acre beans. Hance Johnson, 7 acres and 2 acres beans. Ekilson and Clark, 3 acres and 1 of Irish Potatoes and 4 acres beans. Clark alone will plant 3 acres of tomatoes. B. J. Sherrard, 2 acres. Ed Hill, 2 acres. S. E. James, 2 acres. J. Randolph, 3 acres.

AT OJUS [THERE WAS A SCHOOL AT OJUS IN 1898.]

At Ojus (Big Snake Creek) 6 months ago there was only the water tank and section buildings.

Now there is a thriving settlement, two stores and a school recently established with 15 scholars. These people here are badly in need of a station house

of some kind, as all fertilizer and other freight is thrown out without anything as a shelter. Here we found a large acreage being cultivated, which is tomatoes unless otherwise specified in this report.

Lightsey and Harrison, 7 acres. [15 others farmers are listed.]

LITTLE SNAKE CREEK

At this section of the Ojus country we found a rich and handsome prairie, which is being extensively cultivated.

Goodrich and Bryan [Frank], 6 acres tomatoes. [21 other farmers are listed.]

FORT LAUDERDALE

Located as it is upon New River and adjacent to the sound, ocean and House of Refuge, is certainly a beautiful place, and the people there take just pride in pointing out the many points of interest and advantage surrounding them. We found the following places located upon the banks of the river, and composed largely of rich muck and hammock lands.

E. T. King

Has 25 acres located about one mile below the post office [the post office was located in the present Stranahan House], upon which he has 7 acres cleared. He has some orange trees, mangoes, pears, etc., growing. Mr. King will cultivate five acres of tomatoes.

R. S. King

Has 10 acres, with 3½ acres cleared, adjoining the above place, upon which he has oranges and a miscellaneous lot of tropical fruit trees growing. He is growing 2½ acres of tomatoes.

O. L. Hardgrove

Has 5 acres very prettily located just west of the railroad, 2 acres of which is cleared. He has coconut trees, guavas, etc., growing, and intends making a fine place. We also found here $\frac{1}{2}$ acre of pineapples growing and the cultivation of $1\frac{1}{2}$ acres of beans.

J. W. Bradley

Has 10 acres of land beautifully located which is all cleared. He will make a crop of 5 acres of different kinds of vegetables.

A. J. Wallace

Has a pretty home upon the banks of the river just across from the post office. He also has 12 acres about one mile up the river, upon which he has 4 acres cleared. Here we found about 50 orange trees, 100 dozen pineapples, limes, guavas, sapodillas, alligators avocado, etc., growing. Mr. Wallace will cultivate 3 acres of tomatoes, 1 acre of beans and $\frac{1}{2}$ acre of onions here, and 3 acres of tomatoes on Brickell land.

Wm. Marshall

Also has a very prettily located home across the river from the post office, besides 10 acres of rich land up the river just east of the land of Mr. Wallace, which he intends clearing and setting out to fruit trees, principally oranges, as rapidly as possible. Mr. Marshall will cultivate on land belonging to W. R. [L.] Bracknell $\frac{1}{2}$ acre of cucumbers, $1\frac{1}{2}$ acres of tomatoes and $\frac{1}{4}$ acre of peppers.

W. B. Joyce [J. J. Joyce?]

Has 7 acres $\frac{1}{2}$ mile up the south fork of the river, 6 acres of which is cleared. Mr. Joyce will cultivate 3 acres of tomatoes and $\frac{1}{2}$ acre of beans.

L. W. Marshall

Has 75 acres of fine rich land, mostly hammock, on the south fork, about 25 acres of which has been cleared. Mr. Marshall is fast making a model place. He will make a crop of 10 acres of tomatoes and one acre of mixed vegetables. The following crop will also be made by different parties upon his land: George Brabham, 2 acres tomatoes and 1 acre peppers and beans; J. S. Boyd, 2 acres tomatoes; Thomas Powell, 3 acres tomatoes; J. E. Marshall, 3 acres of tomatoes; J. W. Marshall and J. R. Marsh, 2 acres eggplants; Wm. Marshall, $1\frac{1}{2}$ acres tomatoes.

Marshall and Marsh

Are putting in 2 acres of tomatoes on the site of Osceola's old camp, and are putting in $5\frac{1}{2}$ acres tomatoes $1\frac{1}{2}$ miles south of Lauderdale.

P. M. Bryan [P. N.]

Has 120 acres of fine land on the edge of the glades at the head of the river [was south off Riverland Road near U.S. Highway 441 — where Gill built the islands and put homes on

them], with about 6 acres cleared, upon which he has 500 fine young orange trees growing. Mr. Bryan will cultivate $4\frac{1}{2}$ acres of tomatoes and $\frac{1}{2}$ acre beans on his land and 2 acres of tomatoes at "Old Tommie's" camp, just across the river from Osceola's camp.

Sabata and Bravo [Stephen Bravo]

Have 80 acres at the head of the river, pleasantly located and fine rich soil, with a clearing of about 4 acres. Owing to the absence of these gentlemen we were unable to learn the extent of their crop.

Capt. W. C. Valentine

Modestly asked us not to refer to his place, and we will simply remark that the captain has a mighty fine place, upon which he will cultivate 15 acres of tomatoes.

C. M. Carr

Is making a crop of 5 acres of tomatoes and 1 of beans on J. N. Bradley's land, $\frac{3}{4}$ mile up the north branch.

W. S. Phillips

Will make a crop of 1 acre of cucumbers on W. R. [L.] Bracknell's land up the north fork.

Capt. Fromberger

The genial Superintendent of the House of Refuge has a place at Progresso upon which he has $\frac{1}{2}$ acre of pineapples, and is setting out all kinds of tropical fruits. He is also cultivating 1 acre of tomatoes on the prairie south of Lauderdale.

Capt. O'Neal [O'Neill]

One of the old settlers of this section and former Supt. of House of Refuge, has a place at Progresso, but owing to the lack of time we were unable to visit it, but understand that he is making no crop. Capt. O'Neal occupies his time largely in cruising about the river and sound with a naphtha launch.

Frank Stranahan

Postmaster at Lauderdale, has a very pretty place on the banks of the river, and although he is doing no farming, his place is worthy of mention on account of its typical Florida beauty.

Continuing our work at Modelo of last week which was cut short because of the day not being two hours longer, the *Metropolis* representative visited three other places there this week, being those of F. J. West in "Tiger Tail Hammock," G. B. Hinckley in "Four Mile Hammock" and W. B. Ord's pineapple plantation near the Hinckley place.

We found Mr. West had just completed the placing of an irrigating plant on his place, which consists of 35 acres of very rich hammock a mile west of the [F.E.C. Railway] station. Mr. West's plan of irrigating is a pump with a capacity of 150 gallons of water per minute driven by a 12-horse-power boiler. His

main pipes are $3\frac{1}{2}$ -inch and his auxiliary pipes 3-inch with $1\frac{1}{2}$ -inch hose and $\frac{3}{4}$ -inch nozzles. This plant has been extended over his 16 acres of young citrus grove. Mr. West has a pleasant home and family and is about to make an extensive addition to his residence. Mr. West's place has not been under improvement two years, yet great advancement has been made. It will be one of the crack places of the county in a few years. There are now growing upon the place 16 acres of citrus fruits and three acres of pineapples. Mr. West will cultivate this year six acres of tomatoes, one acre of eggplant and $1\frac{1}{2}$ acres of beans in his hammock.

At Mr. Hinckley's hammock we note a truly tropical home. For his own quarters he has a gem of a log cabin built on artistic lines and supplied with modern conveniences. It is a perfect dell surrounded with every description of tropical plants money can purchase. Everything is constructed on artistic lines with a view to pleasing the eye and producing a sense of rest and quiet when Mr. Hinckley seeks its seclusion from his business cares at Savannah and Waycross, Ga. We notice here a banyon [sic] tree of most wonderful growth which in itself is worth a long walk to visit. Another species of tree not common in our hammocks is the West India silk cotton tree, a most peculiar tree in its growth. Mr. Hinckley's hammock consists of about seven acres in the form of a circle in the midst of a pine ridge. It is divided in the centre by the railroad. An irrigating plant has been introduced. J. J. Joyce has the management of the place which shows great care in its cultivation. On the prairie nearby Mr. Hinckley is having cultivated 15 acres of tomatoes, two of beans, and $1\frac{1}{2}$ of eggplant. He has in all 80 acres of his own and besides owns 80 acres of prairie land in association with J. P. Gibson of Saratoga, N. Y.

About 40 rods west of Mr. Hinckley's is the pineapple plantation of W. B. Ord, consisting of about two acres under half shade. Mr. Ord has three varieties of pineapples growing which are very uncommon. One is the Giant Kew, which grows to the weight of 25 pounds. Another is the Red and Green Ceylon which Mr. Ord secured from the island of that name in the Indian Ocean. The third is a pineapple variegated in colors. The plant as well as the fruit runs by gradation from one color to another and is a most handsome plant. The Giant Kew is a smooth plant similar to the Smooth Cayenne. Instead of producing one sucker as does the Cayenne, it produces from six to 10 and therefore multiplies very fast.