

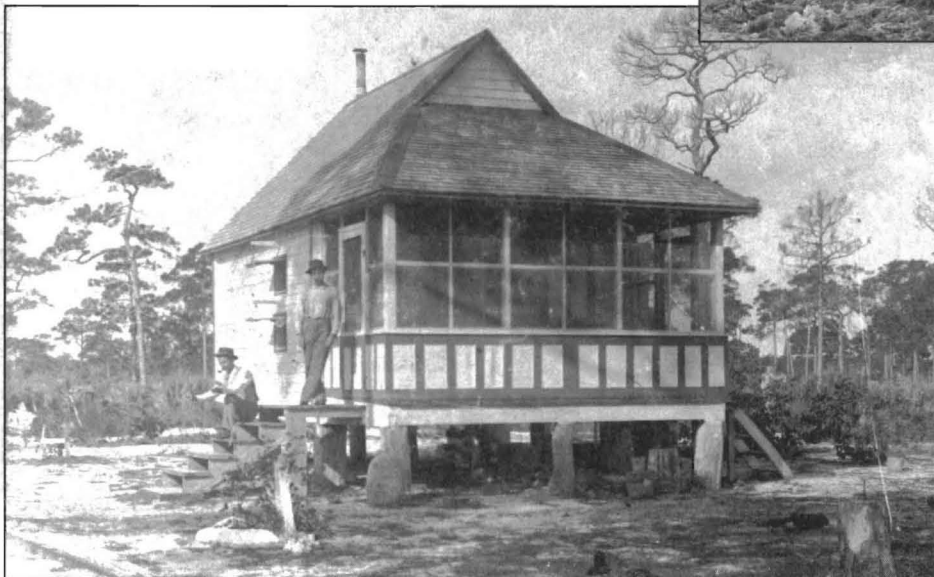
SOUTHEAST FLORIDA

AT THE

TURN OF THE 20th CENTURY

A Pictorial View

Even one hundred years ago, the lower east coast of Florida was a varied and diverse place. Primarily an unsettled wilderness, it nevertheless featured the elegant hotels of the Flagler system, several bustling communities and a growing agricultural economy. The following photographs provide an eyewitness view of what are today parts of Broward, Palm Beach and Dade counties, as they appeared in the late 1890s and the first years of the 1900s, before Everglades drainage and automobiles changed them forever.



These 1899 scenes, probably photographed in the Boca Raton area, show five unidentified men posing by a palmetto shelter (above) and a building near the railroad (left).



Most of today's Broward County remained wilderness, much like this scene of the Hillsboro River in today's Deerfield Beach.



Guy I. Metcalf, editor of the *Tropical Sun*, builder of the Dade County road from Lantana to Lemon City in the early 1890s, and one of southeast Florida's most prominent figures.



Frank and Ivy Stranahan, Fort Lauderdale's pioneer merchant and schoolteacher, photographed in Palm Beach, shortly after their 1900 wedding.



Unidentified black settlers or travellers at Stranahan's trading post, probably in the late 1890s (courtesy of Fort Lauderdale Historical Society).



Early settlers of Dania gather at the Webb Hotel on a Sunday afternoon in 1905.



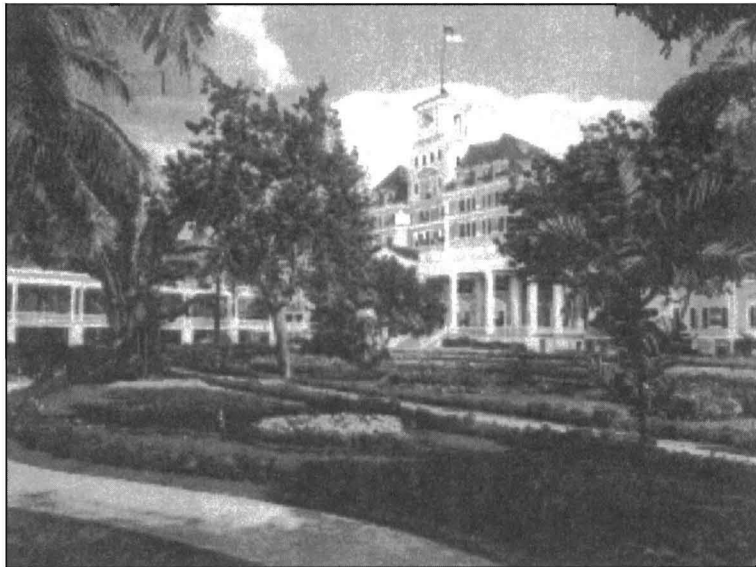
Frederick S. Morse, land agent for the Florida East Coast Railway, was instrumental in the establishment of several communities in what was to become Broward County.



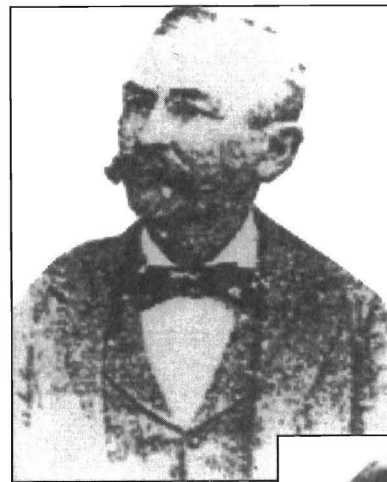
Henry M. Flagler, perhaps the most famous and powerful citizen of the east coast, and arguably of the state of Florida at the turn of the century.



1898 time table for Flagler's Florida East Coast Railway, which opened the lower east coast to settlement and served as the region's primary transportation route until the opening of the Dixie Highway in 1915.



Palm Beach's Royal Poinciana Hotel, a center of cosmopolitan elegance in the wilderness of south Florida (courtesy of Past Perfect Florida History, Inc.)



Pioneer Palm Beach hotel keeper Elisha N. "Cap" Dimick arrived at Lake Worth in the 1870s, and by the turn of the century was one of the community's leading citizens.

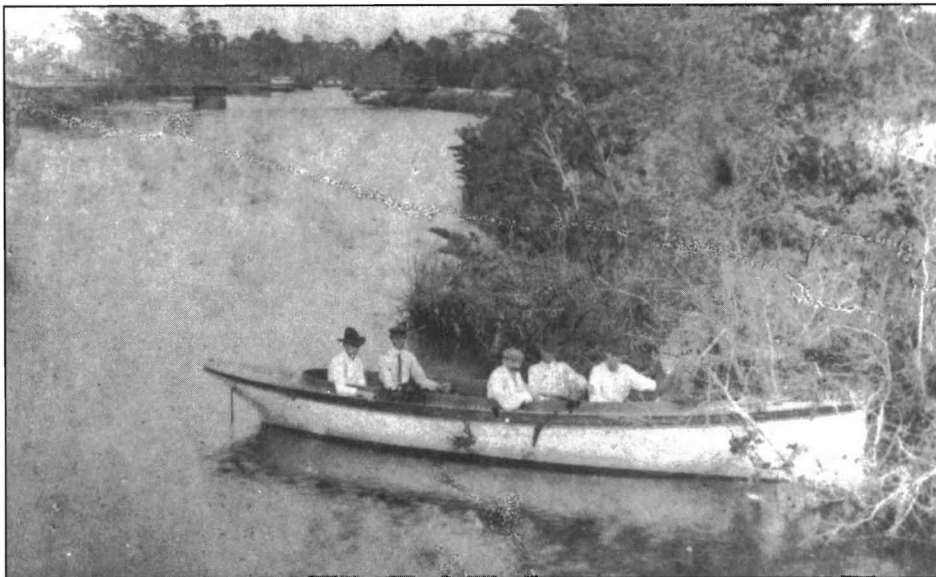
Julia Tuttle, the "Mother of Miami," barely missed the twentieth century, dying September 14, 1898.





L. W. Marshall Packing House on the south fork of New River (at present Davie Boulevard crossing) in the early 1900s (courtesy of Fort Lauderdale Historical Society).

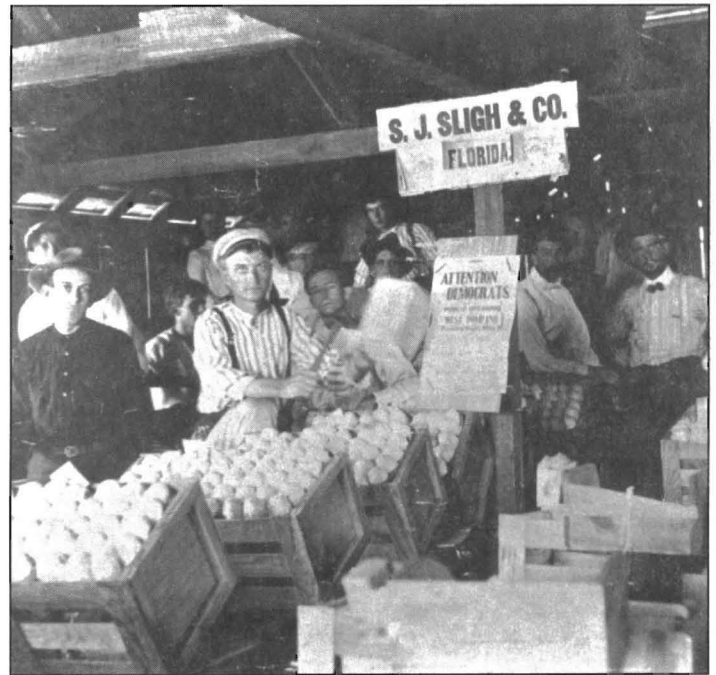
E. T. King's construction crew at work on the Las Olas Inn, built for John MacGregor Adams at Fort Lauderdale beach in 1902.



The exact identity of this New River scene is unknown. A notation on the back of the print identifies the bridge in the background as the unfinished F.E.C. Railway bridge and the date as 1895. However, close inspection shows the bridge to be a turnstile span closely resembling the first Andrews Avenue bridge. If this was the case, the photo was probably taken *from* the railroad bridge, and the date would be ca. 1904.



Seminole Indians, photographed on the New River dock at Stranahan's trading post, ca. late 1890s (courtesy of Fort Lauderdale Historical Society).



Group of employees at T. H. Chapman's Pompano packing house, ca. 1904.

Fort Lauderdale settlers gathered at the rear of the Marshall Packing House, January 1902.



Downtown Miami, ca. 1900 (courtesy of Historical Association of Southern Florida).