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The Peacock Inn: South Florida's First Hotel

by Susannah Worth

Nestled along the shore of Biscayne Bay five miles south of Miami is the community of Coconut Grove. Founded in the 1870s, it sits atop a limestone ridge and still has a sizeable hardwood hammock (tropical forest). The location, the shade, and the availability of fresh water were certainly a lure to early settlers. One early settler it attracted was John Thomas "Jolly Jack" Peacock, who lived in the bight¹ which was named after him as "Jack's Bight."

The 1870 census of Dade County (today's Miami-Dade, Broward, Martin, and Palm Beach counties) listed only 85 inhabitants. There could not have been many more when Charles and Isabella Peacock arrived in Miami on July 12, 1875.² At the urging of his brother, "Jolly Jack," they left their home in London, England, with their children for what they thought was a tropical paradise. According to Ralph Munroe, a founder of Coconut

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1. A bight is a bend in a coast forming an open bay or a bay formed by such a bend. The name was changed to Coconut Grove in 1884, and to Coconut Grove in 1919 when the town was incorporated.
2. Charles Peacock (1842-1905) and Isabella Sanders (1842-1917) were married in 1864. Their exact arrival date is in Ralph Munroe's hand in the manuscript for *The Commodore's Story*. The original manuscript consists of both handwritten and typed pages, not all of which are numbered, and many pages seem to be missing. Ralph M. Munroe Family Papers, Special Collections, University of Miami Libraries, Box 7, Folder 58, 38.

Grove, and probably the most famous resident, they

found temporary shelter in Jack's lonely cottage at the south end of the bight—the same one which I found too isolated for comfort six years later—and were so overwhelmed by the wildness and roughness of the country that they were ready to jump into the sea the next day. However, they soon made arrangements of mutual benefit with Mr. Ewan at Fort Dallas, learned to love the country, and became chief actors in the development of Cocoanut Grove.³

Munroe recalled meeting Isabella in 1877 on his first trip to Miami at Ewan's trading store. "I was agreeably surprised to be waited upon by a boxum, rosy cheeked lady with her sleeves rolled up who proved to be Isabella Peacock. My first introduction to a family with which I have had much to do up [to] the present time."⁴

Throughout his autobiography, and in his manuscript for the book, Munroe provides glimpses of the inn's history, sometimes in detail, but often with vague information regarding dates. Few other sources documenting the inn during this period are now available. Some evidence can be obtained from local newspapers however. The earliest available newspapers are *The Tropical Sun* (published 1891-1926) and *The Miami Metropolis* (published 1896-1923), the latter financed by Henry Flagler. Fortunately, the newspapers reported on both settlers and "winter visitors."

Tourism, as Tracy J. Revels⁵ demonstrated, has come to define Florida and was a process well underway by the time the Peacock Inn opened in 1882. Winter resorts developed in the post-Civil War era but were not necessarily independent and self-contained resorts prior to 1890, according to Ronald Zboray.⁶ The Peacock

3. Ralph Middleton Munroe and Vincent Gilpin, *The Commodore's Story* (Miami: Historical Association of Southern Florida, 1990), 97.

4. Ralph M. Munroe Family Papers, Special Collections, University of Miami Libraries, Box 7, Folder 6, 235.

5. Tracy J. Revels, *Sunshine Paradise: A History of Florida Tourism* (Gainesville: University Press of Florida, 2011).

6. Ronald Zboray, "Lifestyle enclaves: Winter resorts in the South Atlantic States, 1870-1930" (PhD diss., Georgia State University, 2001). In south Florida these resorts were open for the winter "season" usually from about December 1 to April although some seem to have remained open until the hurricane season which began in June. They offered a variety of amenities, especially sports, and their social and sporting life (often) was dependent upon the local community. In the 1890s these resorts started becoming purpose-built and more self-contained, that is to say, they did not, like the Peacock Inn, rely on the local community for social and sporting activities.

Inn was built as a hotel which catered to winter visitors: it offered rooms, meals, and other amenities provided to the guests by the Peacocks, as well as the near-by yacht club (after 1887), and the local community. Americans at the end of the 19th century were interested not only in sports but in “rustic retreats and encounters with nature as antidotes to what were perceived as the unhealthy, stultifying, and corrupting aspects of modernization.”⁷

The Peacock Inn satisfied the desire for a more rustic life in touch with nature and ample sporting opportunities. The Florida climate, the exotic flora and fauna, the opportunities for sailing, fishing, and other recreational activities all drew winter visitors to hotels and resorts in the state. The location of a specific hotel or resort (or knowledge of it) was often all that distinguished one hotel or resort from the others. However, the specific amenities and personal recommendations must have made a contribution to the visitor’s decision as to where to stay in Florida.

The Peacock Inn and Cocoanut Grove were picturesque tourist destinations heralded in Caroline Washburn Rockwood’s novel *In Biscayne Bay* (1891),⁸ Hugh Laussat Willoughby’s⁹ account of his experiences in Cocoanut Grove, the photographs of Munroe and Thomas Hine,¹⁰ and the lectures of Isaac Holden.¹¹ Some of the visitors at the Peacock Inn were known to have been recruited

7. Myra B. Young Armstead, “Revisiting Hotels and other Lodging: American Tourist spaces through the Lens of Black Pleasure-Travelers, 1880-1950” *The Journal of Decorative and Propaganda Arts* 25 (Spring 2005): 147.
8. “A Note Writer,” *The Miami Metropolis*, October 23, 1896. She stayed at the inn in 1890 or 1891, and again in 1896. See footnotes #10 and #96 below.
9. Lt. Hugh Laussat Willoughby was the author of *Across the Everglades: A Canoe Journey of Exploration* (1898). He left Philadelphia on December 10, 1897 for Miami and found the sloop *Cupid* in Cocoanut Grove. He sailed *Cupid* to the southwest coast of Florida, then crossed the Everglades by canoe heading eastward. He stayed at the Peacock Inn while *Cupid* was made ready for use. While there he made many friends at the inn and among members of the Biscayne Bay Yacht Club.
10. In 1880 Munroe met architect Thomas Hine at Cullen’s, a New York City photographic supply house, where Munroe had an exhibit of his South Florida photographs. Tom was an amateur photographer whose photos were used to illustrate Rockwood’s *In Biscayne Bay*. Munroe and Gilpin, *The Commodore’s Story*, 138-139.
11. Holden was interested in botany and a member of many scientific societies. He was a friend of Munroe and one of several Northern lecturers who used lantern slides made by Hine or Munroe. These lectures were, according to Munroe, “the first real publicity effort.” Munroe and Gilpin, *The Commodore’s Story*, 165; “Biography of William Albert Setchell” The University Herbarium, www.ucjeps.berkeley.edu/history/biog/setchell.html (accessed October 20, 2012).

by Munroe who had a wide circle of friends in New York and Massachusetts where he had family, as well as many contacts in the yachting world.¹²

The Peacock Inn was the only choice for those who wished to stay in the southeastern part of the state. For many years it was the only hotel between the village of Palm Beach and the town of Key West which were separated by a sparsely settled 177 miles of wilderness. It served as a hotel, restaurant, hospital, and social center for this small but significant frontier community in its early years. Even after 1896, when the railroad came to Miami, bringing in its wake a plethora of accommodations, the inn continued to thrive for several years. The Peacock Inn was one of many small local hotels throughout the state which were built prior to the coming of the railroads and the building of grand hotels which flourished in Florida from the 1890s onward.

EARLY HISTORY

The 1880 census is the only glimpse we have of the Peacocks between 1877 and 1882.¹³ At that time Charles was probably working in John Ewan's store at Fort Dallas as the Peacocks had lived with Ewan in 1880. Charles would eventually serve as Chairman of the Dade County Board of Commissioners, Justice of the Peace, Collector of Revenue, Tax Assessor, Road Commissioner, and Postmaster for Cocoanut Grove. Isabella¹⁴ was later so active in the founding of the village that she is known as "the Mother of Cocoanut Grove."¹⁵ Robert Alfred Sanders Peacock, known as "Alf," was his parents' main assistant in running the inn.

The Peacocks left nothing in writing to posterity so we know little about them, their friends or the relationship between them

12. Munroe and Gilpin, *The Commodore's Story*, 164.

13. According to the 1880 census, the household consisted of Charles, 37, clerk in a store, Isabella, 38, keeping house, Henry J. (aka Harry) 18, starchmaker, and sons Robert A.S. 18, and Charles J., 18, both listed as "at home." In addition Hannah E. Ewan, 55, the mother of John W. Ewan, the "Duke of Dade," boarded with the Peacock family. This census is one of the few extant records of the area from the 1880s, other sources of information on this part of Florida are rare. The first newspaper published in this region would not appear for several years.

14. Did she work part-time in the store? Or had she stopped working outside the home by 1880? When Munroe met her in 1877 she was working in Ewan's trading store, see footnote #4.

15. Mary Barr Munroe, "Pioneer Women of Dade County," *Tequesta* 1, no. 3 (1943), 54.

and Ralph Munroe. Munroe, in his autobiography, is gracious and flattering in his descriptions of almost everyone, including the Peacocks, but his relationship (both business and personal) with them is not clearly explained.

In the 1880s most winter visitors to Florida were invalids or sportsmen, and both groups needed some sort of lodgings.¹⁶ Although some yachtsmen might live aboard ship, not all sportsmen/visitors had access to such accommodations. The Hewitt sisters (Munroe's wife was the former Eva Hewitt) were among the invalids, and Ralph Munroe was one of these yachtsmen, however, for reasons not explained by Munroe, they chose not to live aboard a yacht.¹⁷

Fortunately for the Peacocks, in the fall of 1881 Ralph Munroe returned to Miami with Eva, his bride of two years, her sister, and their brother Mott Hewitt. Both women had tuberculosis and the climate was thought to be beneficial. They had been offered a house, but they soon decided to camp instead. According to Munroe, "palmetto thatches were made over the tents, and with the hospitable Peacock family near us in Fort Dallas and the Brickells just across the river, we felt quite homelike."¹⁸ Eva died that winter and is buried in Coconut Grove.

Living in a tent, albeit in a winter paradise, may have convinced Munroe of the need for a hotel in the area. As a man who already had a profession (yacht designer)¹⁹ and no family, at a time when small hotels were nearly always run by families, he may have decided he was not suited to the task of running a hotel. However, the presence of a hotel would provide family and friends accommodation if they wished to join him for the winters in Florida

16. Zboray, *ibid.* and Paul S. George, "Passage to the New Eden: Tourism in Florida" *Myths and Dreams: Exploring the Cultural Legacies of Florida and the Caribbean*, exhibition guide, Phyllis Shapiro, editor (Miami: Jay I. Kislak Foundation, Inc., 2000), 36.

17. Munroe and Gilpin, *The Commodore's Story*, 109-110.

18. *Ibid.*, 109-110.

19. Ralph Munroe designed a total of 56 yachts in his lifetime, mostly in the 1880s and 1890s, however, he only built a few of them. He was also a wrecker (marine salvage), photographer, and entrepreneur whose primary source of income seems to be have been yacht designing and wrecking. Ironically, when the Peacock Inn closed he went into the hotel business by opening a winter resort, Camp Biscayne, for exactly the same reason—to provide winter accommodation in the Grove. Many of his clients met him through one of these two hotels or went to Coconut Grove because of the sailing and then ordered a yacht from him. See Munroe and Gilpin, *The Commodore's Story*.

where he enjoyed sailing. While there is no evidence of this from the 1880s, the presence of the inn was an asset to his business when he moved to Florida in 1887.²⁰

Florida historians generally have the mistaken contention that Munroe's main contribution to the creation of the Peacock Inn was the idea itself.²¹ His autobiography describes his role as one of advisor, publicist, and provider of some *ad hoc* assistance in the physical construction of the Peacock Inn. However, the original draft of his autobiography provides quite a different picture. It was not only Munroe's idea, but Munroe's money which created the Peacock Inn. In the manuscript he writes:

Apparently the first need was a place of entertainment for the stranger landing on the beach. This he (Ralph Munroe) arranged for within the first year by furnishing the capital and selecting some most competent folks to run it and also by agreeing to find patrons from the outside world. His venture at Cocoanut Grove was called the Bay View Villa, but later renamed the Peacock Inn and on the whole was a great success. Five years before the railroad reached Miami it has been twice enlarged and a general store added.²²

Here, in his own words, we have the entire story summed up. No record could be found of the financial agreement between Munroe and the Peacocks; however, by about 1886 the Peacocks

20. *Ibid.*, 170-193.

21. Munroe's autobiography is the source of this contention which is highlighted in Arva Moore Parks, *The Forgotten Frontier* (Miami, FL: Centennial Press, 2004), 58.

22. Ralph M. Munroe Family Papers, Special Collections, University of Miami Libraries, Box 7, Folder 59, 2. In the autobiography Munroe refers to the inn as the Bay View Villa. Munroe was at times as vague with names as he was with dates. The original name of the inn was Bay View House and occasionally other sources have referred to it as the Bay View Hotel. Possibly because it was built with Munroe's money it was not given the Peacock's name until much later. However, it was generally called "Peacock's" or "the Peacock Inn." The name change reflects common usage.

It should not be confused with the contemporaneous Cocoanut Grove House (aka Dimick's), in Lake Worth. As late as 1891 there seems to have been only four hotels in Dade County; the two mentioned plus the Palm Beach Inn (later the Breakers) in Palm Beach, and Carlin House in Jupiter. See Oby J. Bonawit, *Miami Florida: Early Families & Records* (Miami, FL: Bonawit, 1980), 137.

“in recognition of my help in starting the Inn business and other things, had given me [Munroe] a piece of land north of the Inn.”²³

Munroe realized that the inn needed to be on the waterfront in a location suitable for sailing. According to his account, the Peacocks selected a site in what is now Lemon City, but he was opposed to it, and his letter urging them to find a waterfront location south of Miami was received before the building began. The site chosen belonged to the Frow family in what is now Coconut Grove.²⁴

Until the building was completed the Peacocks lived in the previously unoccupied “House of the Three Sisters,” a simple cottage constructed from a wrecked ship of the same name. The Bay View House, the original name, was built in the winter of 1882-83 and stood until 1925.²⁵ The Peacocks built the Inn as both their home and business. It faced the waterfront as did most early buildings throughout Florida in the frontier era. Biscayne Bay was the main thoroughfare of the community as roads were poor, few, and probably more dangerous than the water as wild animals still roamed the area as late as the mid-1890s.

As in almost every enterprise in the early years of the Grove, Ralph Munroe was on hand to help in whatever way possible. While the hardware and some other components were purchased, the Peacocks also relied on salvaging wood from wrecks along the beach. “They were short of help and lumber so Mott (Hewitt, Munroe’s brother-in-law) and I turned to and supplied both, the latter by combing the beaches for wrecked stuff. A . . . mast of white pine giving us material for all the shingles.”²⁶ Sometime in 1885 or 1886, the “House of the Three Sisters” was renovated and a porch and rough stone fireplace added to it so the overflow crowd from the inn could be accommodated.²⁷

23. The inn was located on what is now McFarlane Street. Regarding that “piece of land,” Monroe cleared and planted it and gave parts of it to the Congregational Church, the Housekeeper’s Club and the Coconut Grove Library. Munroe and Gilpin, *The Commodore’s Story*, 149-150.

24. *Ibid.*, 113.

25. Ralph M. Munroe Family Papers, Special Collections, University of Miami Libraries, Box 7, Folder 59, 35.

26. *Ibid.*, Box 7, folder 6, 240.

27. Arva M. Parks, “The Wreck of the Three Sisters,” *Tequesta* 31 (1971), 27. A photograph of the interior is in Deborah A. Coulombe and Herbert L. Hiller, *Season of Innocence* (Miami, FL: The Pickering Press, 1988), 32.

When the Peacocks moved to Cocoanut Grove in 1882 along with the inn they simultaneously set up a coontie mill.²⁸ Their entrepreneurial skills served them, and the community, well. Cocoanut Grove was a wilderness when they arrived. By the time the Peacock Inn's doors were closed, the town had an international reputation among the sailing set. Most of the other early Grove residents appear to have been farmers who also did a little carpentry or other work as needed in the community.²⁹

Around 1887 the Peacocks opened their Casino,³⁰ and later they also owned a store.³¹ An isolated community with few amenities in the 1880s, Cocoanut Grove was dependent upon what could be grown, caught, or shot for food with the rest coming by water from Key West. The community had to be as self-sufficient as possible. Isabella Peacock and Ralph Munroe did most of the doctoring, having between them a few tools, a few medical books, and some knowledge of traditional remedies. Occasionally this proved insufficient, for example when a stranger appeared "at Ralph Munroe's boat landing one day with a dislocated jaw. The man was taken to the Peacock Inn, given a day for rest and nourishment before he was treated, and then sent to Key West ... to the Marine Hospital."³²

Initially mail came in "the mail packet," a bag of mail thrown off the side of a boat headed to Key West. It sailed past once a week. This meant sailing out alongside the packet ship to collect the mail. Opening a new post office could be difficult, but re-opening an old one meant far less red tape. About 1884, Munroe discovered that there had once been a post office called "Cocoanut Grove" in the area of Jack's Bight—so Cocoanut Grove it was. Charles Peacock became the first postmaster, opening a small porch room on the

28. Mrs. Henry J. Burkhardt, "Starch Making: A Pioneer Florida Industry," *Tequesta* 1, no. 12 (1952): 47-53. Coontie is a native plant from which a starch, a type of arrowroot called coontie, is derived. It cannot be cultivated (unlike most cash crops) so for the pioneers it was a matter of collecting, processing, and shipping it. Coontie is used in cooking.

29. However, Cocoanut Grove soon began to attract an educated elite, many interested in sailing, once the Biscayne Bay Yacht Club was established. Yachting became a fashionable sport in the second half of the century and Cocoanut Grove was an ideal location for a yacht club.

30. The Casino was a venue for entertainments and community meetings, different from today's common understanding of the term. It was torn down in 1899 and rebuilt into a barn on the hill behind the inn, according to *The Miami Metropolis*, July 21, 1899.

31. *The Tropical Sun*, October 14, 1891.

32. Munroe and Gilpin, *The Commodore's Story*, 209.

north side of the Bay View House as the post office on August 25, 1884. There were not many people to send or receive mail, but it saved someone the effort of going out to meet the mail boat and the possibility of the mail getting wet or worse.³³

To celebrate Washington's Birthday in February 1887, a regatta was held with Charles Peacock as one of the two timekeepers. After the race the 50 or so participants had a post-race dinner at the Peacock Inn,³⁴ the first of many. At a meeting held in the Peacock Inn a few months later a group of local residents and visitors founded the Biscayne Bay Yacht Club. They elected Munroe as Commodore and his distant cousin, writer Kirk Munroe, as Secretary. Cocomanut Grove and the Peacock Inn both benefited by the presence of a yacht club and an annual regatta, amenities which were attractive to the sailing set.

Both Munroe men had many acquaintances in the Northeast. Thanks to them, but particularly Ralph, who was well known in yachting circles, new sailing enthusiasts arrived every year. Many were distinguished men from the north who returned every year to stay at the inn, sail, and possibly buy a yacht or commission one designed by Ralph Munroe. This lifestyle was not unique to Cocomanut Grove. Francis Stebbins chronicled fishing and hunting by winter visitors in Florida's Indian River,³⁵ while the same activities were popular at this time at Webb's Winter Resort³⁶ in Osprey, a village on the West Coast of Florida. By the mid-1890s some of the winter visitors were building winter, or even year-round, homes in the Grove and elsewhere in Florida.³⁷

Guests at the inn prior to 1891 are mostly known from Ralph Munroe's autobiography. When *The Tropical Sun* began publication that year the names of the guests were frequently, but not always, published. Those guests who have been identified are listed in the

33. Ibid., 115.

34. Ibid., 166.

35. Carolyn Francis Baker Lewis, ed., *The Winter Sailor: Francis R. Stebbins on Florida's Indian River, 1878-1888* (Tuscaloosa: University of Alabama Press, 2004).

36. Jeff LaHurd, *Sarasota: A History* (Charleston, SC: The History Press, 2006); G.O. Shields, *Rustlings in the Rockies: Hunting and Fishing by Mountain and Stream* (Chicago: Belford, Clarke & Co., 1883), 190-200.

37. Munroe and Gilpin, *The Commodore's Story*, 213, 238. Among those were Miss Flora McFarlane and the Hines Brothers. *The Tropical Sun* newspaper, based in Juno and later in West Palm Beach, makes frequent references throughout the 1890s to winter visitors who had decided to build a permanent winter home in the area.

Appendix. Over time *The Tropical Sun* and *The Miami Metropolis* changed their formats, sometimes reporting the names of guests weekly, at times naming guests only erratically, or not at all. It is usually impossible to determine guests' exact arrival or departure and if they came for an overnight stay, or a single meal.

Munroe's public relations efforts in the north must have been invaluable as he seems to have had a wide network of friends, relatives, and clients in New York, Connecticut, and Massachusetts. One early guest at the inn, a friend of Ralph Munroe named Isaac Holden of Connecticut, used photographs by Munroe or Hine for lantern slide lectures which he gave in the north. These lectures were, according to Munroe, "the first real publicity effort."³⁸ To what degree this sort of publicity helped is unknown, but it certainly did provide some business for the inn. Regardless, it is certain that Ralph Munroe's friends, relatives, and business associates figure among the early guests at the inn.³⁹

The guests were a mixture of Floridians and tourists, mostly from the northeast. Guests came from as far away as Berlin, Germany, with a few guests from England and Cuba. American guests came from as far away as Colorado. Some came every winter, some only once, and others came to homestead, and lived at the inn until they found or built a place of their own. This was as true in the 1880s as it was the year the inn closed.⁴⁰

The winter of 1884-85 was the first successful "season"⁴¹ for the inn. The inn soon became the center of a small but growing community, and the founding of the Biscayne Bay Yacht Club in the spring of 1887 could only have added to the charm for those interested in sailing. Isabella Peacock was a true helpmate and

38. Ibid., 165.

39. The guests Ralph brought to the inn in the 1880s when the inn was still not well known included Thomas Dawley, Tom and Ned Hine, Kirk and Mary Munroe, Alfred Munroe, Ellen Middle Munroe, Miss Flora McFarlane, Isaac Holden, Rev. and E.P. Brown, and their daughter Theodosia Brown. Guests who owned a yacht designed by Ralph Munroe included the Hines (who owned 3 over the years), Kirk Munroe, Waters Davis, Arthur S. Haigh, and Count Jean d'Hedouville.

40. Munroe and Gilpin, *The Commodore's Story*, 168. Further evidence of this may be found by comparing the Appendix of this work with the censuses of 1900 and 1910. Among those who stayed at the inn before purchasing property in the Coconut Grove were A.A. Boggs, Kirk and Mary Munroe, the Hine brothers, and Count Jean d'Hedouville.

41. The "season" in south Florida, then as now, begins approximately the first week of December and closes around the end of March.

partner in the whole enterprise as well as in the development of the Grove. Thanks to Mrs. Peacock, church services were held with Charles Stowe as the first seasonal preacher. Isabella Peacock organized the first Sunday school class and persuaded guests at the inn to contribute to the construction in 1887 of a one-room Sunday school building. Two years later the building had become the public school during the week and served as a chapel on Sunday when they brought over the organ from the inn for services.⁴²

"The Peacock Inn was the great gathering place for all occasions—political meetings, church services, Christmas trees, wedding, and club meetings, for not only the Housekeepers' Club met there, the Biscayne Bay Yacht Club held its first regatta from the Peacock wharf, and gave its first entertainment, a dinner, at the Peacock Inn."⁴³ The Peacocks, the Peacock Inn, and Ralph Munroe were central to the founding and development of Coconut Grove. It is hard to imagine a more ideal location for a winter resort as Coconut Grove offered a mild climate, a yacht club, opportunities for other sporting activities such as swimming, fishing, and hunting, and the typical social activities of a small town. It had the perfect combination of people, location, and timing. The Peacocks were also ideal for their role. They had lived in Florida for several years before the inn was built which gave them ample time to learn the necessary skills for living on the Florida frontier, skills such as sailing, obtaining and cooking certain foods, dealing with hurricanes, and other issues which were often alien even to those who lived in more developed communities farther north in Florida. Although it was hard going at first, in the 1880s Florida was beginning to attract more attention as a spot for travelers, sportsmen, and invalids.

Heyday of the Inn

The years 1891-1896 were the heyday of the Peacock Inn. By 1891, in addition to the inn, the Peacocks owned a casino and a grocery/general store, "Peacock & Son." Sons Alfred and Charles ran the store at various times. When, or why, Isabella's nephew, Arthur Sanders, left England to join them in Florida is not known, but as a bookkeeper he no doubt had plenty to do.⁴⁴

42. Coulombe and Hiller, *Season of Innocence*, 40.

43. Mary Barr Munroe, "Pioneer Women of Dade County," *Tequesta* 1, no. 3 (1943): 54-55.

44. *The Miami News*, August 27, 1897, 5.

Over the years the Peacocks continued to make improvements to the amenities of the inn.⁴⁵ By 1892 there were approximately 30 rooms in the inn and its annex.⁴⁶ The Peacock family ran the hotel with the help of some local people, including Israel Lafayette Jones, well-known on the Bay as "Pahson Jones," "homesteader, fish-guide, and philosopher of Caesar's Creek. He was described as "[b]lack, strong, and cheery," and local stories indicated that "his ambition had brought him from the Carolinas to this land of opportunity when there were practically no colored men in Dade County... after a period as a handy man at the Peacock Inn, he married Moselle, an equally ambitious girl from Nassau...."⁴⁷ Mariah Brown,⁴⁸ also from the Bahamas, came to Florida in 1880 and built a house at 3298 Charles Avenue in the Grove⁴⁹ while she was employed at the Peacock Inn. The records also show an employee named Boniface, but nothing more is known about him.⁵⁰ Their length of service is unknown, and there were probably other employees over the years. For at least some employees labor at the inn was seasonal, as the number of guests fluctuated throughout the year.

The Peacock Inn encompassed the full circle of life. Three babies are known to have been born there, and there may have been others. On Easter Sunday, April 6, 1890, Lawrence Peacock, son of Charles J. Peacock, and grandson of Charles, Sr. and Isabella, was born there.⁵¹ On April 3, 1895, Alfred Peacock's wife gave birth to daughter Eunice Isabella Peacock at her grandparents' inn.⁵² Isabella (Sanders) Peacock's nephew, Arthur Sanders, became a father on May 14, 1898, when baby Gertrude May Sanders arrived at the Peacock Inn.⁵³

Weddings held at the Peacock Inn included those of Arthur Wilson Sanders and Jane Elizabeth Kemp of Cocoanut Grove on

45. *The Tropical Sun*, June 3, 1891. Amenities included "a bath house on the water front... for his guests," probably one or more changing rooms.

46. See Watt P. Marchman "The Ingraham Everglades Exploring Expedition, 1892," *Tequesta* 7 (1947): 31.

47. Munroe and Gilpin, *The Commodore's Story*, 241-242.

48. She did laundry at the inn. "At Cocoanut Grove," *The Miami Metropolis*, September 6, 1901.

49. "Mariah Brown House," <http://historicpreservationmiami.com/brown.html> (accessed October 19, 2012).

50. Ralph M. Munroe Family Papers, Special Collections, University of Miami Libraries, Box 7, Folder 59, 51.

51. Mrs. John R. Gilpin, "To Miami, 1890 Style," *Tequesta* 1 (1941): 92.

52. She married George Merrick, founder of Coral Gables.

53. Bonawit, *Miami Florida*, 111.

June 22, 1897. The celebration of Queen Victoria's 60th year on the throne took place the same day and both were celebrated at the Peacock Inn.⁵⁴ When Jackson Peacock Jr. (son of "Jolly Jack") married Mamie Rink at the Peacock Inn later that year, Charles Peacock gave the bride away—she had lived in his household for two years according to one source.⁵⁵ Another wedding, not of a family member, is known to have been held at the inn.⁵⁶ It seems reasonable to assume there were other births and weddings there but no records could be found.

Some deaths occurred at the inn as well, and a few of them were recorded. Both a Mr. Peck⁵⁷ and a Mr. Brine⁵⁸ died there; although nothing more is known about either man. In November of 1890, Ellen Middleton Munroe, Ralph Munroe's mother, who had returned to Cocanut Grove on the advice of her doctor, passed away at the inn.⁵⁹

Dining at the Peacock Inn

The Peacock Inn became famous for the quality of the hospitality, a reputation built in part by the quality of the kitchen. It maintained this reputation for many years after Miami began to grow. Both everyday meals and special events were served there, the most famous being the post-race dinner held after the annual Washington's Birthday regatta sponsored by the Biscayne Bay Yacht Club.

The Peacocks relied on locally grown products to serve their guests. Charles and Alfred Peacock had a vegetable garden between the shore and the hotel.⁶⁰ Vegetables grown locally included

54. It should be remembered that the Peacock family and Arthur Sanders were British born. *The Miami Metropolis*, June 25, 1897.

55. *The Miami Metropolis*, November 19, 1897.

56. Nina (Antonica) Keiger of Key West and William Fuzzard, from Chelsea, Massachusetts were married at the inn. Their first son, Ralph Munroe Fuzzard, was born November 19, 1892. Ralph M. Munroe Family Papers, Special Collections, University of Miami Libraries, Box #7, Folders, #58, Page 40. As there was probably not a doctor available it is quite possible that he was born at the Peacock Inn where his mother would have the assistance and care of Isabella Peacock—although this is pure speculation.

57. Karen Davis, *Public Faces, Private Lives* (Miami, FL: Pickering Press, 1990), 28-29. All that is known about Mr. Peck is his death at the Peacock Inn.

58. Letter by Flora McFarlane from the Munroe boathouse, May 6, 1890, Cocanut Grove Women's Club Papers, Special Collections, University of Miami Libraries, Box 13, file 2.

59. Munroe and Gilpin, *The Commodore's Story*, 211.

60. *The Tropical Sun*, May 23, 1895; *The Miami Metropolis*, August 27, 1897.

eggplant, green beans, peppers, radishes, sweet potatoes, and tomatoes. Fruit trees on the grounds of the inn included coconut, lime, canisteltes⁶¹ (teas, or tie-es), Jamaica apple, mango, orange, pawpaw, pomelo, pomegranate, sapodilla, and sugar-apple. Other locally grown fruits were avocado pears (avocado), bananas, guavas, grapefruits, lemons, papayas, and pineapples. Not only did the Peacocks raise fruits and vegetables, they canned them for future use as they came into season.⁶²

Charles Peacock made ice cream for an 1894 Housekeeper's Club event⁶³ so it is almost certain that the Peacocks served it at the Peacock Inn. Fish and assorted seafood could be had from local fishermen or perhaps they caught it themselves.

Turtle soup⁶⁴ was the most famous dish served at the inn. According to Ralph Munroe, "when we boarded at the Bay View House, we had to stipulate that Peacock should not give us turtle more than twice a week; delicious as his soups were, too much of a good thing might pall."⁶⁵ The Peacocks still served it as late as 1895 at the Peacock Inn when one guest said, "shall we ever forget that delicious green-turtle soup?"⁶⁶

The End of an Era

The coming of the railroad in 1896, and with it Flagler's Royal Palm Hotel, as well as the building of other large hotels, gave the Peacock Inn its first real competition. It also brought an end to one era and the opening of another, one of rapid expansion, the growth of Miami into a city, and modernization. Everything about this small community changed rapidly from 1896 onward.

61. In reference to *Pouteria campechiana*, also known as egg fruit, "there is very little of this fruit grown in this section as yet. Mr. Peacock has a number of thrifty trees. The fruit is egg shaped and of a rich yellow color. In taste it resembles the yolk of a hard-boiled egg and leaves a taste in the mouth after eating resembling a fine Hubbard squash of northern growth. The fruit has two seeds ordinarily which are about the shape and size of small pecan nut. There is no rind on the fruit. It is very nutritious." *The Miami Metropolis*, November 6, 1896, 1.

62. *The Miami Metropolis*, June 22, 1900.

63. *The Tropical Sun*, March 8, 1894.

64. The Peacocks were probably familiar with green turtle before they arrived in Florida. In 1766 a London tavern constructed tanks for keeping live turtle, others followed suit. By the end of the 19th century turtle soup was so popular in Britain it could be bought in tins. Kate Colquhoun, *Taste, the Story of Britain Through its Cooking* (New York: Bloomsbury, 2007), 213.

65. Munroe and Gilpin, *The Commodore's Story*, 158.

66. F. Page Wilson, "We Chose the Sub-Tropics," *Tequesta* 12 (1952): 24.

In 1897 one newspaper gave a brief listing⁶⁷ of the “wants of the Grove” along with a notice to (Florida) state papers to copy this information. Wants included a resident physician, a drug store, a bakery, and a laundry. Two weeks later the paper announced that the Grove would soon have a drugstore and “first-class soda stand.”⁶⁸ Published in 1902, Miami’s first telephone directory listed three telephones in Cocconut Grove, one being the telephone for Peacock & Son (Pay Station), quite close to the inn.⁶⁹ While it is not known when or if the Grove got that bakery and laundry, Ralph Munroe’s Camp Biscayne would, twenty years later, have a laundry for the guests.

What the Grove offered in abundance, to residents and guests, has never changed—a social life and plenty of out-of-doors activities. Not mentioned in *The Miami Metropolis*’ 1901 list of amenities⁷⁰ of the community were the Housekeeper’s Club (later the Coconut Grove Women’s Club), or the plethora of activities organized by, or on behalf of, the women’s organization, the library, or one of the churches.

The Peacocks were constantly improving the property, for which they received high praise⁷¹ from the newspapers as they provided hammocks on the piazza (patio, or veranda), lawn tennis, croquet, bathing (swimming), fishing, and gopher hunts as well as fine food. In 1898, bicyclists approached the Peacocks about building a bicycle race track in the Grove, if one report⁷² is to be believed, but for whatever reason the project was not undertaken. The Peacocks also had planted several flower beds and seven good sized cocconut trees on the lawn of the inn.⁷³ In 1900 Isabella started a rose bed at the inn, according to one writer.⁷⁴ Another report shows the care given to the guests’ comfort.

67. *The Miami Metropolis*, July 2, 1897.

68. *Ibid.*, July 16, 1897.

69. Miami Telephone Directory, 1902. A copy may be found in the Florida Room of the Main Library of the Miami-Dade Public Library System.

70. A rock quarry; two saw mills, a guava factory; several starch mills; three hotels; three general stores, a yacht club; a library; quite a fleet of yachts, freighters, and fish smacks; two post offices, four schools, and the following religious sects had services: Episcopalian, Presbyterian, Methodist, Congregational and Christian Scientists.” *The Miami Metropolis*, August 30, 1901.

71. *The Tropical Sun*, June 3, 1891.

72. *The Miami Metropolis*, December 2, 1898.

73. *Ibid.*, July 30, 1897, August 6, 1897.

74. *Ibid.*, May 11, 1900.

The sanitary arrangements have been wonderfully improved, a huge tank and wind mill having been erected on top of the ridge back of the house, furnishing an unlimited supply of water to the (water) closets (a.k.a. toilets). Everything has been done according to the latest improvements of sanitary science and convenience. The grounds are in splendid condition and a look through bedrooms showed everything to be sweet, clean, and inviting. No wonder the house is so popular.⁷⁵

As Charles and Isabella Peacock were getting older they turned over responsibility to their assistant, son Alfred. However, when Alfred's health began to fail the family decided to sell the inn. Charles and Isabella built themselves a new house in Cocoanut Grove, with their son Charles as contractor. The new house had "eight extra large rooms" according to the local paper.⁷⁶ In December of 1902 the Peacocks sold the inn to Gustaf F. Schneider of Philadelphia.⁷⁷ He intended to run it with the assistance of his wife and son.

On December 15, 1902 the inn opened under the management of Schneider. Staying there at the time were Charles and Isabella Peacock, Alfred S. Peacock, Lillian J. Peacock, Eunice I. Peacock and J. Wm. Ewan, Cocoanut Grove; Henry Guy Carleton, J. Hunter, New York; Mrs. M. Cariber, Mrs. M.L. Cushman and son, Boston; Flora MacFarlane, Rocky Hill, N.J.⁷⁸

It is clear from newspaper accounts that the Schneiders either had big plans, or claimed to have big plans for the inn. They kept the inn open year round, although Mrs. Schneider and Mr. Schneider, Jr. spent the summer of 1903 in Atlantic City, New Jersey, according to one report.⁷⁹ In September of that year, the newspaper quoted Mr. Schneider on his plans for extensive improvements like a Japanese garden, swans and a string band.⁸⁰ By January of 1904 the inn owned "an elegant new bus" which was used to take guests and others between the train station in Miami and Cocoanut Grove.⁸¹

In December of 1904 it was reported that Mrs. Schneider had returned from a trip through New England where she visited many

75. *Ibid.*, November 22, 1901.

76. *Ibid.*, January 30, 1903

77. *Ibid.*, December 19, 1902.

78. *Ibid.*

79. *Ibid.*, May 29, 1903.

80. *Ibid.*, September 18, 1903.

81. *Ibid.*, January 1, 1904

hotels, booking guests for the winter at the inn.⁸² Furthermore, the Peacock Inn had engaged a professional chef. It is worth quoting this article at length:

The arrival of James Allen and his crew of cooks at The Peacock Inn at Cocoanut Grove, assures for that hostelry for this season a cuisine unexcelled by any house in Florida. Allen was for many years chef to John Wannamaker, the Philadelphia merchant prince and his banquets and dinners at that time won for him a reputation which placed him near the head of the French Cooks' Association of America. For the last four years Allen has been chef at The Berkshire Inn, one of Atlantic City's most exclusive and fashionable hotels. . . . On being asked why he engaged the services of such an expensive chef for such a comparatively small house as the Peacock Inn, Mr. Schneider, the proprietor, said: "Most of our rooms are booked for the entire season by a very select and refined class of people, who know and appreciate the best in cuisine service. In order that the Inn may continue to enjoy this enviable patronage we are willing to spare no expense." Several private dinners are also ready booked to take place at The Inn this season. . . . Allen's second cook is the proud possessor of a gold medal awarded him in Paris 1900, as the fastest egg cook in France.⁸³

First, Japanese gardens and swans, then expensive chefs and fine cuisine. The very sort of thing one could find at the grand hotels. The down to earth, simple life around the inn had attracted a wealthy clientele when the Peacocks owned it. The ambiance of the simple life, along with sailing and a community of knowledgeable sailors like Ralph and Kirk Munroe, seem to have been a major attraction. But the kind of hospitality the Peacock Inn offered may have been out of sync with the times. Times change, and businesses must change with the times. The nature of the inn, the size, and amenities may have been better suited for an era fast becoming history. No longer so isolated, Cocoanut Grove had competition for winter visitors, who now were filling the upscale new hotels of Miami.

82. *Ibid.*, December 9, 1904.

83. *Ibid.*

Vincent Gilpin⁸⁴ makes it clear that Schneider was not liked as a hotel manager. Ralph Munroe's daughter Patty confirms this point. Born in 1900, she could have learned about the last years of the Peacock Inn from talk at home and in the community. Patty was seventeen years old when Isabella Peacock died, so it is possible that she told Patty about the inn and the last owners. Patty claimed Schneider was disliked in Cocoanut Grove for his dishonesty.⁸⁵

Why did the Peacock Inn close?⁸⁶ Was it the questionable character of Mr. Schneider? Was it necessary to attempt to compete with the big hotels, and did the expense of such efforts cause a financial over-extension? Was it even possible to compete with them? Whatever the cause or causes, after the Schneiders bought the Peacock Inn it was no longer successful.

In 1904, the property was bought from the Schneiders by John M. Hopkins, who wished to use it for his own migratory school. Hopkins, a former teacher at the Adirondack/Florida school, at first called his school the Lake Placid School (now the Northwood School and no longer in Florida). He sold the property to a developer in the 1925, but the 1926 hurricane put an end to development and, along with the Great Depression of the 1930s ended the prospect of development.⁸⁷ When the county acquired the property it was decided to create Peacock Park on the site.

Cocoanut Grove was perfectly located at Biscayne Bay on the tip of mainland Florida for tourists and travelers. Nature had, since the mid-nineteenth century, been elevated to an almost sacred status, and the tropical climate of South Florida provided a mild winter and exotic flora and fauna. Simultaneously, the rising popularity of sailing, the presence of the yacht club, and the small but lively community they found there meant that the needs of a wide variety of visitors could be served. Together, these factors created an idyllic setting for the recreational and leisure activities of late 19th and early 20th century "winter visitors" at the Peacock Inn.

84. Munroe and Gilpin, *The Commodore's Story*, 306.

85. Coulombe and Hiller, *Season of Innocence*, 40. Interviews with Patty Munroe Catlow are central to this book.

86. Nearly all issues of the 1904 *The Miami Metropolis* newspaper are online, however for 1905 only the September-December issues are available. The inn closed between mid-December 1904 and September 1905.

87. Coulombe and Hiller, *Season of Innocence*, 40.

APPENDIX

GUESTS at the PEACOCK INN

The hotel register/s of the Bay View Hotel/Peacock Inn (Ralph Munroe refers to it as the Bay View Villa) seems to have disappeared with the passage of time. The following list is derived from various sources, primarily Ralph Munroe's autobiography *The Commodore's Story* and newspaper accounts. This list is not comprehensive, but it is probably a good reflection of the overall visitors list.

1882(?)—Thomas Dawley⁸⁸

1884—Thomas Avery and Edward (Ned) Avery Hine⁸⁹

1886, March—Kirk and Mary Munroe, Mr. Peck⁹⁰

1886-87, Winter—Ralph Munroe, Alfred Munroe, Ellen Middleton Munroe, Flora McFarlane, Rev. and Mrs. E.P. Brown and daughter Theodosia, Mrs. Abby Goodell Sheppard, Rev. Charles E. Stowe, Isaac Holden, Count James L. Nugent of France, and Count Jean d'Hedouville of Belgium⁹¹

88. Thomas Robinson Dawley, Jr., "an eccentric chap, knew nothing of sailing... he seemed so irresponsible that I consulted his father, who assured me that he was "harmless." On arrival at Biscayne Bay he stayed a little while at Peacock's and then drifted on to Key West. ...capability as a newspaper correspondent, before and during the Spanish War, and had many adventures. At one time he was stood against the wall to be shot, at the Morro at Havana." He later became the editor of the first English newspaper published in Cuba and wrote several books. Munroe and Gilpin, *The Commodore's Story*, 126.
89. The Barnacle Historic State Park Archives (Typescript page 4). Munroe encouraged the Hine brothers to come to Cocoanut Grove where they stayed at the Peacock Inn. They also bought yachts designed by Munroe. Ned Hine later built a winter home between the Peacock Inn and Munroe's home, the Barnacle. This typescript seems to have been part of the manuscript for *The Commodore's Story*. Most of the manuscript is now in the University of Miami archives.
90. Davis, *Public Faces, Private Lives*, 28-29. All that is known about Mr. Peck is his death at the Peacock Inn on March 12, 1886. Kirk Munroe was the leading celebrity of Cocoanut Grove in the 1890s. He wrote adventure stories for boys, was a prominent sportsman, and owned the yacht *Allapattaha*, designed by Ralph Munroe. Kirk and his wife Mary lived near the Peacock Inn and the Barnacle, home of Ralph Munroe, a distant relative. They often had meals at the inn, and she stayed there when he was away.
91. Munroe and Gilpin, *The Commodore's Story*, 164. Ellen Middleton Munroe and Alfred Munroe (Ralph Munroe's mother and uncle) were both from Massachusetts. Miss Flora McFarlane, an old family friend, came as Ellen M. Munroe's companion and remained in the Grove for several years. Mrs. Brown was a cousin. Reverend Stowe was the son of Harriet Beecher Stowe. Nugent and d'Hedouville had been friends in Europe, both owned yachts designed by Ralph Munroe, and both settled in Cocoanut Grove for a time, but later moved to other communities in Dade County. A photograph of ten of these individuals (probably taken that winter, or possibly the next winter) appears in Parks, *The Forgotten Frontier*, 95.

1888-89, Winter—Alfred Munroe, Ellen Middleton Munroe, Flora McFarlane.⁹² Mr. and Mrs. Lewis W. Pierce, her mother and their daughter Delleie.⁹³

1890—Mr. Brine in May⁹⁴

1890—Ellen Middleton Munroe⁹⁵

1890 or 1891—Mrs. (Caroline) Rockwood⁹⁶

1891—James B. Hammond,⁹⁷ Count James Nugent, Count d'Hedouville

1892—Mr. and Mrs. Dewey spent six weeks at the Inn in the spring⁹⁸

1895 (Probable year)—Henry Flagler⁹⁹ and his associates had dinner (the mid-day meal) at the Peacock Inn

Pre-1896—Man with broken jaw who was treated, then sent to Key West for professional help.

1891 The Tropical Sun

April 15—Mr. and Mrs. Osborne, Middleton, New Jersey (stayed several weeks)

June 3—Mrs. E.L. White, of Lemon City (for past few weeks), Mrs. Ben Curry and her daughters¹⁰⁰

92. Alfred Munroe stayed at the inn, Ellen M. Munroe and Flora McFarlane lived on the second floor of Munroe's boathouse, and all three took their meals at the inn. Ralph Munroe and Dick Carney lived aboard Munroe's yacht in the bay that winter so they may have taken their meals at the inn as well. Ralph M. Munroe Family Papers, Special Collections, University of Miami Libraries, Box 7, Folder 6, 255.

93. Thelma Peters, *Lemon City: Pioneering on Biscayne Bay 1850-1925* (Miami, FL: Banyan Books, c. 1976), 62. Lewis W. Pierce was Lemon City's most zealous real estate promoter. He lost his store in Key West in 1886, and the family moved to Coconut Grove. The family boarded at the Peacock Inn until their new house was finished.

94. Coconut Grove Women's Club Papers, Special Collections, University of Miami Libraries, Box 13, File 2 Letter written by Flora McFarlane at the Munroe boathouse, May 6, 1890.

95. Munroe and Gilpin, *The Commodore's Story*, 211. Ellen Munroe arrived in November 1890 on the advice of her physician but died a few weeks later at the Peacock Inn.

96. "A Note Writer," *The Miami Metropolis*, October 23, 1896. See footnotes #8 and #10 above.

97. Inventor James B. Hammond (died 1913) first marketed his typewriter in 1881. He seems to have spent several winters in the bay on his yacht *Lounger*.

98. *The Weekly Lake Worth News*, March 21, 1901.

99. Munroe and Gilpin, *The Commodore's Story*, 254. This is apparently the trip Flagler took to determine if and where to build the railway to Miami.

100. Mrs. Ben Curry of Lemon City and her five daughters were attending a school closing exercise and staying at the Bay View Hotel (Peacock Inn) in Coconut Grove.

1892 The Tropical Sun

April 8—Members of the Ingraham Expedition¹⁰¹

June 16—A writer from *The Tropical Sun*

1893 The Tropical Sun

February 9—A writer for *The Tropical Sun* had lunch there

March 9—Some eight or ten northern tourists

1893 Ransom Everglades Archives

February 22—(the Washington's Birthday annual regatta) Paul Ransom and Frederick de P. Townsend for dinner.¹⁰²

1895 The Miami Herald (of March 3, 1923)

December—Paul C. Ransom

1895 The Tropical Sun

April 25—Mr. (Count) James and Mrs. Nugent

April 25—Mr. and Mrs. J.E. Stockbin of Chicago; Mr. and Mrs. Geo. P. Griffith of Erie, Pa.

1895 Tequesta

February—Mr. & Mrs. F. Page Wilson had lunch at the inn¹⁰³

1896 Miami Diary¹⁰⁴

January 20—Mr. W.M. Brown and Mr. Frank Budge of Titusville, Mr. L.C. Oliver of West Palm Beach¹⁰⁵

April 14—Dr. and Mrs. Skaggs lived at the Peacock Inn¹⁰⁶

101. Watt P. Marchman "The Ingraham Everglades Exploring Expedition, 1892," *Tequesta* 7 (1947): 31. This well-publicized expedition had 21 members. Wallace R. Moses, the Secretary of the Expedition, mentions staying at the Peacock Inn on Friday April 8, 1892.

102. Alice Ruth Ransom, "The Story of the School," *Decennial Re-Union: 1903- 1913* Adirondack-Florida School, c. 1913.

103. F. Page Wilson, "We Chose the Sub-Tropics," *Tequesta* 12 (1952): 24.

104. Ann Spach Chesney, et al. *Miami Diary, 1896: a day by day account of events that occurred the year Miami became a city* (Miami, FL: s.n., 1996).

105. *Ibid.* Brown was the cashier of the Indian River State Bank of Titusville, Budge opened a hardware store in Miami in 1896, and Oliver had a lumber yard in Titusville.

106. *Ibid.*, They "moved to Cocomanut Grove after the preponderance of turtle steak and turtle soup on the menu at the Miami Hotel became too monotonous for endurance. They lived at the Peacock Inn where a little imagination was used in the kitchen."

May 10—Kirk Munroe had lunch at the hotel

August 9—Colonel R.W. Davis, Hon. Wilkinson Call,¹⁰⁷ L.C. Massey, E.J. Triay and W.A. McWilliams of the State Executive Committee along with Joseph A. McDonald, Hon. F.S. Morse¹⁰⁸ and W.W. Graham had dinner (mid-day meal) at the inn

September 14—Mrs. John D. Thompson and daughter Grace of Key West

December 4—"there have been thirty-five registrations at the Peacock Inn for the week ending Tuesday night."¹⁰⁹

1896 The Miami Metropolis

July 3—"There are very few boarders at the Peacock Inn." "Houston May, is laid up at the Peacocks Inn, with a "palmar" abcess [sic] on his right hand"

July 19—Miss Hattie Bowlers, Miami

September 18—Hon. J.W. Ewan, the Duke of Dade,¹¹⁰ Mrs. John D. Thompson and her daughter Grace, Key West,¹¹¹ Scott Brice¹¹²

October 16—Mrs. Caroline Rockwood and Miss Rockwood, New York City

November 6—"from the Peacock Inn register of the 1st" J.W. Ewan,¹¹³ U.D. Henrickson, Lake Worth; Mrs. Addie R. Bowles, Jos. Jennings, George F. Burrell, Mrs. S.E. Burke and W.S. Graham. E.B. Beardsley and family of New York, and Mr. and Mrs. Harry Munson,¹¹⁴ of Munson, Long Island, N.Y. There was also a "large and jolly party of Key West people chaperoned by George Curry, Esq." who came to the Peacock Inn from Miami.

107. Wilkinson Call (1834-1910) was a U.S. Senator from Florida from 1879 to 1897.

108. Wilson, "We Chose the Sub-Tropics," 20. The Honorable Frederick S. Morse was the agent for the Florida East Coast Canal Company.

109. Coconut Grove Women's Club Papers, Special Collections, University of Miami Libraries, Newspaper article "Cocoanut Grove," Box 2, Folder 2, 47.

110. John W. Ewan replaced "King Gleason," a major power broker in the Florida Legislature, hence Ewan was referred to as the "Duke" of Dade.

111. She had with her "beautiful specimens of hair ornaments of genuine tortoise shell. They are manufactured by her husband and are very pretty and durable." Was this a sales trip?

112. The son of Senator Calvin S. Brice (1845-1898) who was accompanied by Henry A. Howe of Albion, N.Y.

113. J.W. Ewan, the "Duke of Dade," seems to have been a year-round boarder from at least 1896 until 1900 or later.

114. Munson was head of the largest theatrical advertising concern in the country. He had a country residence at Munson Post Office on Long Island. *The Miami Metropolis*, April 1, 1898.

November 20—Mr. and Mrs. Primrose, Denver, Col.; Mr. and Mrs. Morris, Philadelphia. The Morris' friends Mr. and Mrs. Biddle, Philadelphia "will also arrive shortly." Mr. and Mrs. Tappan, Washington, D.C. "are expected daily; also" Walter (sic) S. Davis and family, Galveston, Texas¹¹⁵

December 4—Mr. and Mrs. Primrose, Philadelphia,¹¹⁶ and Mr. and Mrs. Morris, Philadelphia.

December 11—Thirty-five registrations including Gen. and Mrs. Waters S. Davis, and their daughter of Key Biscayne. Mr. and Mrs. Samuel Brown, Jr., Chicago.

December 18—Mr. and Mrs. Sam Brown, and Jamot Brown of Chicago and three friends of Jamot Brown from Yale; Mr. and Mrs. W.N. Rickford, Ocala, Florida, Mr. and Mrs. L.P. Deese and son, Denver, Col., Col. W.F. Prince, Tampa

1897 The Miami Metropolis

January 22—The approximately twenty-five tourist guests included Mrs. M. Frothingham,¹¹⁷ of Troy, N.Y. and Miss Flora McFarlane, of Rock Hill, N.J. formerly of Cocoanut Grove

January 29—The approximately twenty-five guests included: Mrs. M. Frothingham, Troy, N.Y., Mr. and Mrs. A.E. Douglas, New York; Victor Allarge, Jacksonville; Lieutenant Hugh L. Willoughby, Newport, L.I.; J.B. Garland, yacht *Alva*; C.H. Howard,¹¹⁸ Mr. and Mrs. J.L. Stockton,¹¹⁹ Chicago; Mr. and Mrs. H.S. Capran, Providence, R.I.; Mr. and Mrs. Geo. Reed, Jacksonville; Mr. and Mrs. Stephen Clark and son, Buffalo; Sam Filer and Geo. Babcock, Key West. Eighteen members of the Florida Press Association dined at the Inn on Monday.

February 12—Harry Munson, of Munson, L.I.; Howard Painter, of (Darby) Philadelphia

February 26—Mr. and Mrs. Crandon, Mr. and Mrs. William Deering,¹²⁰ the two Misses Deering, Chicago; Mr. W.W. (William

115. Walter S. Davis owned the 173 acre island, Key Biscayne, which had been in his family since the early 19th century.

116. They were listed as being from Denver on November 20th.

117. For a photograph of Mrs. Frothingham by Ralph Middleton Munroe see Parks, *The Forgotten Frontier*, 146.

118. This may be General Charles H. Howard (1838-1908) who served in the Civil War.

119. John L. Stockton (1837-1897) was a prominent Chicago businessman who died in November 1897.

120. William Deering (1826-1913) was a Chicago businessman and philanthropist who made his fortune with the Deering Harvester Company.

Wirt) Culbertson,¹²¹ Ashland Ky., F.F. Russell and party; Mr. Theo Heibbron, New York; Nelson E Cowles, Lake Worth; Mr. Stephen Clarke, A Burgess, Buffalo; Mr. and Mrs. Peter T. Knight and three children, Key West; Mr. D L. Gaulden,¹²² Titusville; Mr. Jeo Denentery New (sic), Mr. and Mrs. MacArthurs,¹²³ Troy, NY

March 5—"A large party of nineteen young men and another of two ladies, a gentlemen, and a little girl, all on bicycles went from Miami to Cocoanut Grove last Sunday afternoon and enjoyed the hospitality of the Peacock Inn."

March 12—M. Barnes, Brooklyn, N.Y.; A.L. Lang, Cocoanut Grove; W.H. Hendicks, Pittsburg, PA; R.Fickle, Buena Vista; Wm. B. Harney, Biscayne; J.T. Little, Bath, Maine; Gilbert Taylor, Baltimore, MD; Mr. and Mrs. James Laugham, Pittsburg, Pa.; Geo. E.T. Kinsley, Boston, Mass.; M. Peel, Brooklyn, N.Y.; H. Cook,¹²⁴ Brooklyn, N.Y.; Mrs. Samuel Brown, Chicago; Mr. Jamot Brown, Chicago

March 19—T.T. Todd, Chicago; J.S. Lefries, Jacksonville; F. N. Gulliford, Cocoanut Grove; E.O. Tate, Morristown, Tenn.; G.O. Bates, Savannah, Ga; Mrs. A.R. Dutton, Cleveland; Mr. and Mrs. O.B. Parker, Miami; Mrs. B.P. Baker and daughter, Key West.

March 26—Hon. J.W. Ewan, the Duke of Dade, Col. Ledwith, New York; Howard Painter, Philadelphia

April 2—Rev. H. Keigwin¹²⁵ and daughter Lillian registered at the Inn last Sunday. Thomas P. Gaddis,¹²⁶ Dayton, Ohio (spent previous two weeks there); Mrs. Brown left for Chicago

April 30—Colonel Ledwith . . . of Orange, N.J.; the Duke of Dade;¹²⁷ M. Bichard (Birchard? Richard?) of Cocoanut Grove (unclear if they guests?)

121. Culbertson, age 61, was born September 23, 1835. Pioneering was not just a young man's game, and age 61 was fairly old in the 1890s. W.W. Culbertson purchased property in the Grove and was referred to as an "enterprising merchant." *The Miami News*, August 27, 1897, 5.

122. D.L. Gaulden was a lawyer and prominent citizen of Titusville. *The Florida Star*, January 12, 1900.

123. They were a well-known family in Troy. He was the proprietor and editor of the *Troy Budget*, a large, local paper.

124. This may be A.H. Cook, a member of the Brooklyn Yacht Club, who sailed the centerboard yacht, *Kangaroo*.

125. Reverend H. Keigwin, pastor of the local Presbyterian church. He came to the Grove in January 1896 and left in June 1897.

126. Gaddis was Vice President and General Manager of The Dayton Malleable Iron Co.

127. J.W. Ewan.

April 9—Mr. and Mrs. Belknap, St. Augustine; Mr. E.H. Walker, Orlando; Mr. W.M. Curry, Mr. Chas Lester, Dr. and Mrs. J.Y. Porter,¹²⁸ J.Y.Porter, Jr., Thomas Ryan, Wm. Collins, I Brinkerhoff, T.J. Banlif(?), Key West; John H. Newton, New York, S.I.

May 28—Queen Victoria's 78th birthday was celebrated at the Inn (on May 24th). Guests included Mr. and Mrs. W.W. Pickford, Rev. and Mrs. James Bolton, Mrs. James Bolton's brother F. Hilburn, Mr. and Mrs. Arthur Sanders, Miss Grace Frow, Miss Mamie Rink, and J.W. Ewan the "Duke of Dade"

May 28—Mr. and Mrs. Joseph McDonald, Mr. Crosby¹²⁹ of Jacksonville; Mr. and Mrs. Fuller all of Miami, Mr. and Mrs. Kirk Munroe¹³⁰

June 4—Among the twenty-two guests were Mrs. Wm. Curry, Mr. and Mrs. Geo. H. Curry and child, Mr. and Mrs. M.L. Ellings and child, Mrs. Wm. McKillup all of Key West; C. Garvin Gilmaine,¹³¹ Boston, Mass.; Warren Fitch, Jacksonville, Fla.; W.R. Barnard, St. Louis; W.H. Monk, Havana, Cuba; E.C.Harrington, Key West

June 11—Twelve guests registered at the Peacock Inn this week including Garvin Gilmaine, Boston

August 13—Prof. W.E. Boggs, D.D., LL.D., G.C., his son A.A. Boggs of Cocoanut Grove, and G.C. Mathams,¹³² Lake Worth

August 27—Rev. J.A. Howland, of Biscayne Bay at large; Franklin C. Bush and William D. Kelley, of Chicago; Hon. Frederick S. Morse, Miami; Miss G.N. Hallett, Mr. and Mrs. S.H. Richmond, Cutler; Rev. Gilbert Higgs, Key West; Walter S. Graham, Miami; Adam A. Boggs, formerly of Athens, Ga., now of Cocoanut Grove

September 10—Mr. and Mrs. A.A. Boggs, infant daughter Marjorie Boggs, Miss Eva Convese, sister of Mrs. Boggs, and Miss Grise a relative of Mr. Boggs

128. Dr. Porter was a state public health officer and responsible for eliminating yellow fever in Florida. His wife was the daughter of William Curry of Key West, Florida's first millionaire. The J. Y. Porter House still stands in Key West.

129. Henry Crosby was the "proprietor and operator of large farming and naval store industries," *Florida Times-Union*, July 29, 1897.

130. They had stopped at the inn for refreshments and a visit with Mr. and Mrs. Kirk Munroe and others the previous Wednesday afternoon. It is not clear if the Kirk Munroes were staying there or just visiting as well.

131. Gilmaine was a traveling actor who entertained at the inn with imitations of Booth, Irving, and Salvina. He then appeared in Miami. He travelled throughout Florida in 1897. *The Miami Metropolis*, May 21, 1897

132. Prof. Boggs was President of the University of Georgia, his son, Adam A Boggs farmed in the area. G.C. Mathamus was one of the largest pineapple growers on Lake Worth. A thorough account of Alec (surely Adam A.) Boggs is given in Munroe and Gilpin, *The Commodore's Story*, 238-39.

September 24—Mr. and Mrs. Winglad, the editor of *The Miami Metropolis*; L.A. Morrison of Orange City; C.T. McCrimmon, Tom Townley, Mr. and Mrs. Boggs, Miss Converse and Miss Gracie (Boggs) took their meals at the inn, and Walter S. Graham (editor of *The Miami Metropolis*, from Saturday to Monday). L.A. Morrison, Orange City, Florida, Sunday only)

October 15—A party of men from Georgia who were working on the plantation of J. Jennings (Dade County) spent the night at the inn

November 5—Mr. and Mrs. A.A. Boggs and her sister Miss Converse were still taking their meals at the Inn. Mr. and Mrs. W.W. Pickford, London, England dined with them last Saturday evening

December 10—"Samuel Brown, Jr. and family, Chicago are expected this week for the season."

December 31—"Forty-eight guests have registered since last week. Among them Mr. and Mrs. Hugh L. Willoughby, Newport, L.I.; Dr. and Mrs. A.F. Dean, New York City; W.E. Boggs, Athens, Ga.; Jamot Brown, Chicago; W.F. Whitehouse, New York; Fred L. Gardner, Hamilton Ont.; Hal C. Wyman and family, Detroit, Mich.; H.D. Sterling, Grand Rapids, Mich.; Mr. and Mrs. W.W. Pickford, London, England, took Christmas dinner at the Inn."

1898 The Miami Metropolis

January 14—Alfred Munroe, Concord, Massachusetts.

January 28—Mr. and Mrs. Evans, Chicago, Illinois

February 4—Thirty-six guests

February 11—Dr. and Mrs. Skaggs, Nashville, Tenn.; Dr. Walter S. Graham, Miami and F.E. Heath, New York spent the Sabbath at the Inn; Mr. Howard Thatcher, Mr. and Mrs. Thatcher, Howard Painter, Darby, Pa.; Mr. and Mrs. Sam Brown, Jr., Chicago; Mr. and Mrs. Harry Munson, New York City; Mrs. Reed¹³³ and son, England; Lieutenant and Mrs. Willoughby

March 4—Over 30 arrivals at the Inn this week. Mr. and Mrs. George N. Schofield and daughter, Philadelphia (for a week); Mrs. Henry Deane and Miss Dr. Carrie Wolfsbruck,¹³⁴ New York City

March 18—There have been 78 new arrivals since March 1st. including Waters Davis and his daughter Emma, and Mrs. Kopperly, Galveston, Texas

133. Mrs. Reed was the aunt of Arthur S. Haigh (her nephew was at the inn on December 13, 1900).

134. She was a dentist and evidently quite a good fisherman.

April 1—Harry Munson, New York City left for home.

April 22—Walter (sic) S. Davis and family, Galveston, Texas

July 31—Dr. and Mrs. J.N. Fogarty (for one week)

September 2—Mr. Cornell,¹³⁵ Ormand, Florida; Dr. W.G. Graham (2 nights), Mrs. Annie Del Pino, of Key West (spent six weeks at the Inn)

September 23—A Senatorial party including Senators Mallory and Pasco, Rep. Davis¹³⁶ and Miss Davis, Messrs. Morse and others were entertained at the Inn by the Peacocks and Mr. Ewan.

September 30—Captain A.R. Simmons, Mr. E.P. Branch of Melbourne, Fla.¹³⁷

December 9—Mr. and Mrs. Samuel Brown, Chicago

1898 The Miami News

January 14—“Mrs. F.N. Dutton, Thos. Jefferson Cooledge, Mrs. F. Sears and daughter of Boston, Mr. and Mrs. Newbold and daughter of New York; Alfred Munroe, Concord, Mass.; James McIntyre¹³⁸ and wife Eau Claire, Wis.; Dr. and Mrs. James E. Baker, Lancaster, Pa, and Howard Painter, Philadelphia. . . Dr. H.T. Dean¹³⁹ and wife left . . . for New York City, after three weeks at the Inn.”

February 18—Mr. and Mrs. Strong, Cambridge Massachusetts

1899 The Miami Metropolis

January 20—Mr. and Mrs. Davis and two daughters, Galveston, Texas

January 28—Mr. and Mrs. Evans, Chicago

March 3—Howard Thatcher, Brandywine, Pa left after several weeks.

April 21—W.S. Davis and family will leave soon for the North

April 28—Mr. Gilpin¹⁴⁰

135. He manufactured guava jelly and stayed at the inn while doing his annual work in the area.

136. U.S. Senator Stephen R. Mallory of Pensacola, U.S. Senator Samuel Pasco of Monticello, and Rep. Robert Wyche Davis of Palatka all represented Florida in the 55th Congress.

137. E.P.Branch was an early settler who ran a general store, organized Melbourne's first bank, and in 1892 was instrumental in convincing Henry Flagler to extend the railway through Melbourne.

138. He was a partner in the control of the Dells Dam which sold electric power to the power company in Eau Claire, Wisconsin.

139. Dean collected two boxes of tropical plants, ferns, sea curios, and orchards for his home conservatory.

140. This is either John R. Gilpin, a commodities broker, or his son Vincent (co-author of *The Commodore's Story*). The Gilpin Family Papers are in the HistoryMiami (formerly the Historic Museum of Southern Florida) archives.

June 16—Mr. and Mrs. Lewis Benton,¹⁴¹ of Cocoanut Grove and New Haven, Conn.

December 22—Mrs. Julia A. Carson, Misses Victoria Jackson and Florence Graham, Bowling Green, Ky.; Mrs. George Villar, Master George Villar and Miss America Villar, New York; W.H. Goethe, Lieut. E. Vosten, F.V.Steilpaugel, Berlin, Germany; Charles Dobson, Philadelphia; J.H. Bradfield, Concord, Mass; Mr. and Mrs. A.A. Boggs and J. Jennings, Cocoanut Grove

1900 The Miami Metropolis

January 4—Mr. and Mrs. Villers, Cuba

January 19—Mr. and Mrs. Marshall and two children.

February 1—"There are about fifty guests at the Peacock Inn."

March 23—"Mr. and Mrs. Howard Painter¹⁴² of Philadelphia for a few weeks."

May 11—"The Inn is to close its doors for the summer on the 15th of May."

May 25—Mr. Guy Metcalf of *The Tropical Sun*, Hon. J.C.Ewan¹⁴³

July 6—Mr. (Count) and Mrs. James Nugent

October 5—Mrs. Judge Heyser, Miami; Mrs. McFarlane,¹⁴⁴ Lake Worth, Florida.

October 26—Peacock Inn to open on or about November 1st.

December 2—Mr. and Mrs. C.D. (C.O.?) Hughes, Mr. and Mrs. (Kirk) Munroe, Rev. Mr. and Mrs. S.G. Merrick, J.T. Size, O.M.Ellworth, F.S. M?, W.J.Cathcart

December 14—C.B. Crocket, Jr., N. Gorham, E.B. Rogers, U.S.N. Wm. Fuzzard, Miss Fuzzard, Mrs. Cannon, Mrs. H.L. ?, Mrs. J.S. Moore, Miss M.F. Fuller

141. Mrs. Benton (Susie) was the sister of Ralph Munroe's wife, Jessie Wirth Munroe. The Bentons owned the yacht *Susie B*.

142. The couple presumably met in the winter of 1897-98 when Eva Converse stayed with her sister, Mrs. Adam A. Boggs, in Cocoanut Grove. The Boggs took their meals at the inn. An invitation from Mrs. James Wheaton Converse, Jr. for the wedding of her daughter Eva to Mr. Howard Painter for July 12, 1898 in Asheville, North Carolina, is in the History Miami archives. (Mrs. Alfred Peacock Collection).

143. The journalist, named Metcalfe, notes in the article that he had previously been at the inn two years before. Ewan is referred to as "the star boarder of the Inn."

144. These ladies came from Miami "on their wheels" or bicycles. They probably came for lunch.

1901 The Miami Metropolis

February 8—"Every room at the Peacock Inn is taken." Guests included Mr. and Mrs. Howard Painter, Dr. and Mrs. Chapman of Springfield, Conn., Mrs. Sovony(?), Mrs. Chapman's mother), Dr. Moore of the Fish Commission, Mr. and Mrs. Francis Rodman,¹⁴⁵ Concord, Mass.

February 15—Dr. and Mrs. Chapman, Springfield, Conn.

February 22—Mr. Davis of Cape Florida (also of Galveston, Texas) and his family, Miss Hermine Schwed, Chicago

March 15—Mrs. E.B. Beardsley and daughter, Mrs. H.W. Eaton, New York City.

June 28—"Mrs. Bolton spent Monday at the Inn." . . . the star boarder, who I noticed in a faultless white flannel suit. The inn is closed."¹⁴⁶

October 25—"Peacock's Inn expects to open about Nov. 1st."

November 22—"Mr. and Mrs. Crockett will be guests during the winter."

December 6—"a dozen or more guests have already arrived"

December 13—Mr. Arthur S. Haigh,¹⁴⁷ Cat Cay

1901 The Weekly Lake Worth News

March 21—Mr. and Mrs. Dewey for lunch only

1902 The Miami Metropolis

August 22—Miss Alice Ellis (still there on September 7)

October 10—Mrs. John Ellis, Miss McFarland (was this Flora MacFarlane?)

December 19—Charles Peacock and wife, Alfred S. Peacock, Mrs. Lillian I. Peacock, Miss Eunice Peacock, J. Wm. Ewan, Cocconut Grove; Henry Guy Carleton,¹⁴⁸ J. Hunter, New York;

145. Rodman was 74 and his wife age 70 at the time. Their reason for coming to Florida is unknown.

146. This is the second reference to the "star boarder" wearing "a faultless white flannel suit."

147. Arthur Samuel Haigh, of Huddersfield, England, owned Cat Cay (in the Bahamas). He was a frequent visitor to the Peacock Inn. Ralph Munroe designed and built the 50' *Carib* for him. It was one of the few actually built by Munroe himself and was built at his boathouse, at the Barnacle in Cocconut Grove. *The Miami Metropolis*, December 13, 1901; February 7, 1902. (Haigh's aunt, Mrs. Reed, and her son had been at the inn on February 11, 1898).

148. Carleton was a noted humorist, journalist, and playwright. By 1905, he owned property in Cocconut Grove, *Miami Metropolis* Sept. 1, 190.

Mrs. Cariber (Carabar?); Mrs. M.L. Cushman and son, Boston; Miss Flora MacFarlane, Rocky Hill, N.J.; Dr. H.F. Moore, U.S. Fish Commissioner

1903 The Miami Metropolis

July 31—Dr. & Mrs. Jeremiah N. Fogarty,¹⁴⁹ Key West

December 4—Capt. Harry Munson, Munson, Long Island (will be arriving soon).

1904 The Miami Metropolis

January 8—Mr.G.W. Nimmons and Mr.Beatley,¹⁵⁰ Chicago

December 2—Miss Gifford¹⁵¹

149. Was he a doctor? Was the newspaper wrong? Or was there more than one Jeremiah Fogarty in Key West? At various times there was a Jeremiah Fogarty who was a merchant, U.S. customs official, banker, and general manager of William Curry and Sons. The Bartlum-Fogarty House is located at 718 Eaton Street, Key West.

150. Mr. Beatty shot an alligator, had it mounted (evidence that there was a taxidermist in Miami), and then sent to his Chicago home.

151. May Gifford of Princeton, New Jersey, was scheduled to begin teaching at a school connected to the inn the following fall; however the inn was closed by then.