

Tequesta

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Editor

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HISTORICAL ASSOCIATION OF SOUTHERN FLORIDA

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Cover—Brickell Point, late 1800's. HMSF X-1036-1.

Editor's Foreword

The possessor of vast tracts of land south of the Miami River, the Brickell family was the moving force behind that area's development as a beautiful, quiescent early twentieth century residential community. Ironically, Brickell Avenue, the street that family matriarch Mary Brickell shaped and developed, is, today, anything but quiet or exclusively residential; instead, it is one of the most famous streets in the Americas, a bustling thoroughfare with a mix of financial institutions, residential quarters, and upscale hotels synonymous with the international city that has replaced the Miami of yesteryear.

An air of mystery has long surrounded the Brickells, a large family that kept to itself over the decades. Through the efforts of acclaimed historian Arva Parks, who assisted two Australians, Denise McMahon and Christine Wild, in researching the lives of men and women from North America who came to the Australian state of Victoria in the gold rush era of the 1850s, readers of this issue of *Tequesta* will gain new insights into a period in the lives of William and Mary Brickell before their move to Miami at the outset of the 1870s.

McMahon, a onetime law clerk and retailer, and Wild, a government employee in Victoria, have devoted many years to researching and writing family and regional histories. With "William Barnwell Brickell in Australia," they have unearthed a stunning story of the business ventures of young William Brickell during his nine years in Australia, his marriage to Mary Bulmer, and the birth of a daughter, Amy Alice, known later as Alice, herself a formidable figure in Miami's frontier era. Until this article appeared, the early lives of William and Mary Brickell, not to mention the questions surrounding the paternity of daughter Alice, were shrouded in mystery, rumor, and tall tales.

William C. Crawford, Jr., is an attorney and lifelong resident of Fort Lauderdale who, along with his wife Claire, has given unselfishly of his time and expertise, as president and board member, to the city and county's most important historical institutions. A prolific researcher and writer, Crawford has authored scores of articles on state and local history, including one on the Sawyer papers and the development of Florida's east coast, which appeared in this journal in 2002. He is also

the author of a recently published book on the Intracoastal Waterway. In "The Long Hard Fight for Equal Rights: A History of Broward County's Colored Beach and the Fort Lauderdale Beach 'wade-ins' of the Summer of 1961," Crawford tells the story of the struggle of Broward's black community to use its public beaches, leading to the opening of a "colored beach" in 1954 without road access, as well as wade-ins in 1961 of the segregated "white" beach.

Eric Jarvis holds a Ph.D. in History from Florida State University. Dr. Jarvis is a professor in the Department of History, King's University College at the University of Western Ontario, London, Ontario, Canada. Jarvis has written widely on the theme of Canadians in Florida. In "Foreigners From the Far North: Canadians in Miami and South Florida During the 1920s," he captures the excitement of boom-era Miami and its environs with an emphasis on Canadian-born residents and visitors and the characteristics of their presence in that era.

We know you will and gain new historical insights from this edition of *Tequesta*. Many thanks to Kristie Lorette and David Morales of the Historical Association of Southern Florida for their good work in preparing this issue of the journal for publication. A special thanks to Arva Parks for facilitating the publication of "William Barnwell Brickell in Australia."

Paul S. George, Ph.D.
Editor, *Tequesta*