

- (k) James Daniels, brother to Jan Daniels, married John Weeks' daughter and settled on Chokoloskee Island where they lived from 1879 to 1885. Daniels and his wife then moved to Flamingo, near Cape Sable, living there until about 1915, when they removed to Marco and later to Fort Myers, where he died a few years ago. Two of his sons now operate a boat building shop in Fort Myers known as Daniels Brothers.

Sandfly Pass Place:

"Captain" Turner had the first settlement at Sandfly Pass, having lived there for about one year before moving to present Turner's River.

James Walker, who married Captain Turner's daughter, Maria, took over the Sandfly Pass place. Later Walker abandoned the place and went to Key West, about 1884.

About 1884 two men, Wilson and Tuttle, came to this region to buy bird plumes for firms in New York. Upon their arrival, they boarded with Joe Wiggins, who had established the first store at the head of Barron's River. They spent their first year with Wiggins at his trading post and, through him, used the Indians as guides in searching for plumes. Wilson and Tuttle, through Wiggins, purchased the Sandfly Pass place from the Walker heirs for the sum of \$150. about 1885, whereupon Wiggins moved from Barron's River to Sandfly Pass where he put up a store. Shortly thereafter, Wilson and Tuttle left the area and returned to New York. Wiggins remained on the property for several years, and finally acquired it by "squatter's rights". In 1890, Joe Daughtrey, who share-cropped with Wiggins, raised a fine tomato crop, which Mr. R.B. Storter transported to Key West. Braxton Lewis, brother-in-law of Wiggins, also farmed Sandfly Pass for two years for Wiggins. Wiggins apparently left Sandfly Pass about 1904. In 1920, both Wilson and Tuttle visited Mr. Storter at Naples and tried to recover something on their property at Sandfly Pass. However, at that time the property was occupied by Charlie Boggess.

3. Deep Lake:

During the Seminole War, some Indians were routed out near present Deep Lake. Here the soldiers found a house around which had been planted pumpkins and sour orange trees. The Storter family tried to find this place (even searching up Fahnahatchee River) but never located it. However, in 1897 or 1898, some hunters from Everglades, while on an alligator expedition, brought back sour oranges from a large grove which they had located at what is now known as Deep Lake.

4. Roberts Lake:

In 1898 the Everglades dried up to such an extent that ox wagons could be driven all over the country. During this time, Thomas Roberts, while hunting bird plumes, found a lake teeming with alligators. Mr. Roberts went to Fort Myers to get salt to use in curing the alligator hides. During his absence another party found the same lake and came to Everglades for salt. Both Roberts and the other party returned to the lake about the same time, and decided to share the alligators. Mr. R.B. Störter carried over 10,000 alligator hides to Fort Myers in February, 1898. All of these alligators were taken from this one lake which was named Roberts Lake.

5. Russell Key:

Some time prior to 1882, David Roberts moved from Fahnahatchee Island to Russell Key and, upon leaving Russell Key for Sarasota, Roberts was succeeded by Phineas B. Myers.

About 1893, J. W. Russell moved to the key which now bears his name, coming there from Clearwater Harbor. Russell was married and had a large family consisting of six boys and two girls. One of the daughters married Arthur Wentel, while the other married a Methodist Preacher named James Owen. Both girls left Russell Key when they married. The sons were as follows: Elmer who was the oldest boy; Willard, Walter, Harry, Harvey and Leonard. The Russell family left Russell Key about 1899 and moved to Naples where they settled at Rock Creek. About 1903, the Russell family removed from Naples to Oregon and from there to the State of Washington. Russell sold half of the Island to a man named Gaston from Hillsborough County. Gaston used the Island as a chicken farm, raising about 800 chickens there. He contracted with Curry & Sons of Key West to sell them eggs at 30¢ per dozen year-round.

Later, Russell Key was purchased by Walter G. Langford of Fort Myers who, subsequently, arranged with the Government to have a survey made of Langford Harbor from the entrance at Indian Key to Bucket Point, a distance of about one mile inland from Indian Key. This survey was made by Caldwell, a Government engineer and was paid for by Mr. Langford. G.W. Storter, R.B. Storter, Neal Storter and Claude Storter assisted in the survey work which was completed about 1904.

Layne Place on Ferguson River:

John Ferguson, a one-armed man, first settled at the old Layne Plant about 1881. He was a widower with two grown sons, and was engaged in raising fruit and shipping bananas to Tampa. About 1886 Ferguson sold his claim to Phineas B. Myers for 300 bunches of bananas. In 1890 Myers sold the place to John Henry Daniels who occupied the property until he moved to Pahhahatchee River. Daniels in turn sold the place to a man named Layne who only visited the property and never lived there. About 1900 Layne sold the property to a Mr. Gandeas.

Gandeas lived there for two or three years but was forced to leave when he got into trouble for stabbing Robert Marshall in Storter's store at Everglades. Gandeas and Marshall began quarreling in Storter's store over a work agreement. After considerable argument, Marshall jumped up to fight, whereupon Gandeas stabbed Marshall in the neck. Gandeas, apparently frightened by what he had done, ran out of the store and down the river bank, with Marshall in pursuit. Marshall noticed R.B. Storter carrying a gun and, while attempting to take the gun away from Storter, Gandeas escaped. As a result of this altercation, Gandeas moved to Oregon, where he was employed for two years as a night watchman.

About 1905 Gandeas wrote Captain George W. Storter for enough money to return to Everglades. The money was sent but by the time Gandeas reached New Orleans he was so short of funds that he was forced to leave his family in New Orleans and continue on to Everglades, alone, sending for his family after his arrival here. He remained on the old Layne place for about three years and then moved to Miami, where he drowned some years later. The old Layne place was then abandoned.

7. Fahkahatchee River:

Charles Echolm, a Swede, lived on the right hand side of the river going upstream, on the site of the old Daniels place, from 1890 to 1900. His settlement extended from the mouth of the river upstream for about 1/2 mile, on which he raised sweet potatoes and sugar cane and made charcoal from buttonwood which he sold in Key West. About 1900 Echolm sold his place to John Henry Daniels.

Fahkahatchee Shell Mound:

From 1890 to 1895 this place was occupied by James Demere and his wife. His wife was buried in one of the shell mounds, having died shortly after giving birth to twins. Before her death, Mrs. Demere requested her husband to give the twins to Joe Wiggins, who was then living on Sandfly Pass. Demere complied with his wife's wishes and turned the twins over to Wiggins. Demere then left and moved to British Honduras where he spent the rest of his days. One of the twins, Mrs. Ellen Noble, a widow, is now living on Chokoloskee Island, while the other twin, Mrs. Elmer Wiggins, lives in Key West.

Some time later, James Youman (Yeoman) occupied this shell mound (which bears his name), and, about 1922, sold his claim to the same to Mr. Barron Collier.

Fahkahatchee Island:

The first settler on Fahkahatchee Island was David Roberts from Key West. Roberts had two sons and one daughter, and occupied the island before the arrival of the Storters in 1882, prior to which date Roberts moved to Russell Key. Some time later, Roberts removed to Sarasota where he died.

J.S. Hart, married and having three sons, came to Fahkahatchee Island from Clearwater Harbor in 1887. Hart died some time later and is buried on the Island. At his death his family removed to Tampa and the place was taken over by H. B. Smith.

Adrian Chamberlain, with his wife, son and a daughter, came to Fahkahatchee Island from Flat Rock, Michigan, about 1889. At this time, a man by the name of James Youman, who was also living on the Island, was engaged in running a boat from Fahkahatchee to Marco for trans-shipment to other markets. Youman had moved to the Island from Cleveland, Florida, in 1888. Sometime after Chamberlain's arrival, he and Youman had a disagreement over freight rates. Bitterness between the two became so great that J. W. Russell had to separate the two on one occasion, when they engaged in a fight at Russell's landing, after Youman attacked Chamberlain with an oar. Ill feeling between Youman and Chamberlain reached a climax at 10:00 o'clock one Tuesday night in January, 1890, when Chamberlain, while sitting in his home on the Island, was killed by a 38 Remington bullet fired point blank through a window. R.B. Storter learned of the slaying about daybreak the next morning when he called at the Island to pick up freight. While no one saw the murderer, it was the firm belief of all the settlers that Youman had committed the crime. In fact, he was the only person in the area who did not attend Chamberlain's funeral, although he was Chamberlain's nearest neighbor, living only a few hundred yards away. When told that Chamberlain was dead, Youman immediately asked: "Who killed him?" Shortly thereafter, when an investigation was started, Youman left the area and went to the Bahama Islands.

Shortly after the election of Frank Tippens as Sheriff in 1900, he was advised by a man at Clearwater Harbor that Youman was there. Tippens went to Clearwater Harbor and found that Youman was living on a boat. When Youman came ashore Tippens waited in a drugstore and, as Youman passed by, Tippens stepped out and arrested him, bringing him back to Fort Myers. Youman was tried in Fort Myers about 1903 and, although his wife had stated that James Youman had told her he was going to kill Chamberlain and later told her he had killed him, Youman was acquitted due to lack of evidence, as well as the fact that his wife's testimony could not be used against him. Youman then returned to Fakahatchee Island and settled on the shell mound which is now known as Youman's Shell Mound and which had been abandoned by James Demere, and is located on the north end of the Island. After selling his claim to this property to Mr. Barron Collier in 1922, Youman moved to Naples, and about 1930 Youman moved up the Caloosahatchee River where he remained until his death about 1943.

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After Chamberlain's death, Robert Marshall (the same man who had been stabbed by Gandeas), bought the old Chamberlain place and later sold one-half interest therein to G.H. Watson, a widower from Lakeland. Watson lived on the Island from 1888 (?) to 1894 and was succeeded by Phineas B. Daniels.

Gomez Point:

This is the first island on the right coming out of Fakhahatchee Pass. In 1882, John Gomez and his wife were living on this island, along with two sailors, one of whom was a Mexican, and both of whom helped Gomez with his work. John Gomez was believed to have been a pirate with Gasparilla. About 1887, Gomez told Mr. R.B. Storter that he had proof he was 112 years old, that he had been born in a French province, had been married twice and had a son by his first wife. His second wife, who lived with him on the Island, was about 90 years old when she died in Fort Myers about four or five years after her husband's death. Gomez joined the Methodist Church at Everglades at the age of 115, although he had been born a Roman Catholic. The Minister set aside the last Sunday in any month having 5 Sundays as Gomez Sunday and the entire congregation met at Gomez Point where services were held. Mr. R. B. Storter transported the congregation to the Point on these occasions. One Friday afternoon in 1901-02, Gomez went fishing in a row boat and did not return. His body was found hanging by his trousers from a limb of a tree which was overhanging the water. It was believed that the strong current swept his boat under the tree and, after his clothing became entangled in the limbs, the boat was swept out from under him and he drowned. Gomez was buried on the Point which he named.

21. Dismal Key:

Dismal Key was originally owned by a man named Stillman, a bar-keeper in Key West. While Stillman never lived on the island, he had it planted to lime groves, shipping his produce to Key West in his schooner "Oriental". Arthur Higgs took care of the lime groves for Stillman and operated the "Oriental" between Key West and Dismal Key. Stillman died in Key West about 1882 or 1883, when the island was abandoned by Key West people.

A man named Newell from South Carolina who was married and had two boys and two girls came to Dismal Key about 1886 and lived there until about 1895. One of Newell's daughters married a man named Addison.

When Newell left, the place was abandoned, except for transient fishermen who sometimes camped there, until Gandeas and Earnshaw bought it from the Newell heirs about 1915 or 1916. Gandeas and Earnshaw never occupied the property.

22. Pumpkin Key:

James Demere, who had occupied Youman's Mound before Youman from 1890 to 1895, lived on Pumpkin Key. As Demere left Fahkahatchee Shell Mound (or Youman's Mound) in 1895 and went to British Honduras, he must have occupied Pumpkin Key prior to 1890, the date when he settled on the shell mound.

23. Royal Palm Hammock Creek:

About 1900, many families moved from Caxambas up Royal Palm Hammock Creek, after hearing tales of wonderful farming land in that area.

24. Goodland Point:

H. F. Pettit settled at Goodland Point about the same time the Barfields came to Caxambas.

Captain Herr, one-time collector of Customs at Key West, planted about 40 to 50 acres of pineapples on the Island which he named.

Marco Island:

(a) Caxambas:

According to Mr. Storter, the first man at Caxambas was a Mr. Johnson from Clearwater, who lived in a house where the present store is located. An old U.S.C. & G. survey monument erected on the highest point of the hill in eastern part of Caxambas is named "Johnsons".

A Mr. Green, also from Clearwater, succeeded Mr. Johnson and lived in the same place. Mr. J. M. Barfield and his older brother, Benjamin, came to Caxambas from Georgia and took over Green's place. A man named Ludlow, from Ohio, planted pineapples on the south end of the island and was believed to have the largest pineapple plantation in the State, amounting to 100 acres. Some time prior to 1900, a Mr. Stephens married into the Barfield family and moved to Caxambas.

(b) Marco:

In 1875 (?) Captain W.T. (D) Collier, father of Captain Bill Collier, lived where the present Doxsee factory is located. Capt. Bill Collier lived where the store now stands. Capt. Bill Collier was running a schooner in 1879 between Fort Myers and Cedar Key. Capt. W.T. Collier settled at Marco about 1878 (?) and his son, Capt. Bill, went to Marco about 1880. Capt. W.T. (D) Collier built a schooner at Marco called "The Guide" and made a trip in her to the Philadelphia Centennial in 1876 (?) Capt. W.D. Collier also built the schooner "W.D. Cash" -- named for a commission merchant in Key West -- to haul his truck produce to Key West. In 1900 Capt. W.D. Collier built a hotel at Marco and in 1903-04 the Doxsee Company established its business at Marco. George Eubanks married Capt. Bill Collier's niece and settled at Marco about 1890. Eubanks clerked for Capt. Bill Collier in the store. Cpt. _____ married Capt. Bill Collier's sister and later moved to the east coast.

Various Rivers and Creeks:

(a) Barron's River:

Known as Haiti Potato Creek and Allen's River.

(b) New Broad River:

First river below Lostman's River and runs into Tarpon Bay about 20 miles (following course of river) from the coast. Tussock Key is located in Tarpon Bay.

(c) Turner's River:

Known as Chokoliska or Chokoloskee River.

(d) McIlvain River:

Capt. Bill Collier of Marco married a Miss McIlvain in Cedar Key, and one of her brothers settled on this river and named it.

Chatham Bend:

Mrs. Hannah Smith, who, with a Mrs. McLane, had been engaged in hunting alligators in an ox wagon, was killed about 1910 at Chatham Bend, which was then owned by Mr. E.J. Watson. Mrs. Smith and a man named Waller, who also lived at Chatham Bend, were murdered, their bodies weighted and thrown overboard. Mr. Watson was at Chokoloskee Island at the time they were killed. An escaped convict by the name of Cox, from Madison County, was also staying at Watson's place there, as was another convict named Melbourne from Key West. The convicts were suspected but no trial was held. Cox later killed Melbourne and escaped.

After the murders had been committed, Cox told a negro who was working at Chatham Bend that he (Cox) had been hired to kill Mrs. Smith and Mr. Waller and then kill the negro. However, Cox decided not to kill the negro and told him to leave the island. The negro left and told several people, among them Claude Storter, what Cox had said to him. As Cox, Melbourne and the negro were employed by E. J. Watson, the people in this area suspected Watson of having the crime committed. When Watson heard that the negro had left this vicinity and was on his way to Fort Myers to report the incident to the Sheriff, he (Watson) had Mr. R.E. Storter take him to Marco in an attempt to reach Fort Myers before the negro. When Mr. Storter refused to take him further, Mr. Watson hired passage to Naples that night. On leaving Naples he was caught in the hurricane of October 18, 1910 at Bonita Springs. Upon reaching Fort Myers, Watson learned that the negro had arrived ahead of him and that the Sheriff had already departed for Chatham Bend to arrest Cox. Watson hired a speed boat at Fort Myers and overtook the Sheriff at Marco, where he failed in his attempt to have the Sheriff appoint him a deputy to get Cox. Returning from Marco, Watson went to Chokoloskee and a number of people, including Charlie Johnson, three transient fishermen and the father of Lloyd House, met his boat at Ted Smallwood's landing. Watson stated that he had killed Cox and when the people asked for proof, Watson produced a hat and a gun which he said belonged to Cox. At this point, Mr. House stated that they wanted more proof than that that Cox was dead and told Watson: "Give us your gun and let's go look at his body". Whereupon Watson grabbed his gun, saying "I'll give you my gun" and pulled the trigger. Watson's gun failed to fire as did House's gun when he attempted to shoot in self-defense. Others in the group then opened fire on Watson and shot him to death.