

Newspaper Accounts

W. T. Wells

and

Family

collected by

Weona Cleveland

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updated with additional material 2020/04/23

W. T. WELLS AND FAMILY

Information from a story by Georgiana Kjerulff states that the Wells visited Melbourne in 1893, but I find no mention in the East Coast Advocate of such a visit. [Editor: but see Mr. Wells's article below from the Melbourne Times April 4, 1896]

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Indian River Advocate Dec. 13, 1895

Rev. W. C. Barnes, Messrs. F.C. Irwin, James Hogg, W. Gilmore and W. T. Wells were out for three days' hunt last week. They returned with several birds and a deer. Mr. Irwin was the happy man that brought down the deer.

INDIAN RIVER ADVOCATE SEPT. 4, 1896

Mr. W. T. Wells has just had an artesian well put down by Near and Taylor. They now have a fine flow. Also the contract for a new residence has been let to Baker and Bell for him, which will add greatly to the beauty of our neat little town. J.T. Hogg is superintendent for Mr. Wells, and he is a hustler where there is any work to be done.

INDIAN RIVER ADVOCATE OCT. 9, 1896

Mr. James T. Hogg is kept busy these days superintending the improvements being done on Mr. W. T. Wells' estate. His residence, which commands a beautiful view of the Indian River, and also a fine view of the surrounding country and town, will soon be completed.

INDIAN RIVER ADVOCATE OCT. 23, 1896

Mr. and Mrs. W. T. Wells, with their daughter, Miss Gladys, and two sons, arrived in town from New York last evening. We welcome this fine family to our little town and trust they will soon help to make it a bigger town by dividing into lots that valuable tract of land they own on the bluff. It looks as if they surely meant business by the carload of goods they have brought with them, and the fine new house they had built here this fall. We have room for many more such families here, and hope they will

come soon and make their home with us as these have done.

MELBOURNE TIMES APRIL 4, 1896

How I Stumbled Into Melbourne,

Two years ago this last January we were ordered to go South on account of my wife having recently recovered from a very severe attack of Pneumonia.

As we were entire strangers to Florida we naturally consulted our friends and as a consequence were favored with an assortment of information. I then consulted a business connection (a customer of our company) who did business in the central part of the State, and through what we learned from him we decided to look along the St. Johns River, and then go to Winter Park and from there go to the East Coast and as far South as Lake Worth. We took a Clyde line steamer from New York City and after an enjoyable passage arrived in Jacksonville early in the month of February. After looking around the "gateway of Florida" for a few days we took a steamer up the beautiful St. Johns to Palatka, and there took the noted Hart's line of steamers for the Ocklawaha River excursion.

I cannot find words to describe the weird beauty and surpassing novelty of this trip to Silvery Springs and back. I doubt if there is anything seen in the world just like it. We enjoyed every minute of it--especially the trip up the river to the Springs.

Right here let me advise everyone who takes this trip to go from Palatka up the river, and not from the Springs down, if they cannot go both ways. The meals on the boat were extremely good as are also the accomodations in general. After leaving Palatka we journeyed to Winter Park where we spent a very pleasant day visiting Rollins College and admiring the handsome buildings and grounds.

At the college some one advised me to stop at Melbourne for the good fishing.

After a rather tedious railway journey from Winter Park to Titusville we were very glad indeed to take the steamer [illegible*] Sebastian for the Indian River. I was greatly surprised at the comfort and the substantial food provided for passengers on this boat.

We journeyed on her to Jupiter and thence by rail to Lake Worth where we spent a short time. We were greatly disappointed in the absence of beauty in this much talked of sheet of water--as we judge all lakes by the "Queen of American lakes"--Lake George New York State, where our summer home is.

After leaving Lake Worth went to Jensen then to Melbourne. The very very first day of our stay here we found congenial people and as the week went by we stayed on enjoying the good fishing, sailing and other outdoor amusements--and last but not least, gaining health and strength daily from the fine pure dry air.

Mr. wife's weak lungs healed and my neuralgia in the head was greatly benefit-ted, in fact I had not one attack of it, while here, whereas in New York City two severe attacks in a week were not uncommon. At the end of March we had to leave, as we were booked for Ormond and St. Augustine and I had to be in New York on May 1st.

After we had again settled in our summer cottage on the shores of beautiful "Horicon" we thought often of our winter's trip, and carefully compared notes in regard to all the places we had visited, and we unhesitatingly decided that Melbourne was the most healthful for us, as well as having more natural advantages than any place we had seen int he South.

As a consequence of this decision we have now become the owners of a large tract of land in the town and will shortly build ourselves a cottage, as well as one for a relative, and probably six or more others to rent to those who wish to spend a quiet winter in this life-giving climate, and who do not care for the rush and noise of a hotel.

I must not close this rather long letter without mentioning the very enjoyable society which is to be had here. It is a common remark among the visitors that they never before say a small town where there were so many pleasant people and where every one appeared to be happy. In fact an unhappy face and a profane and discontented voice is an extremely rare thing here.

Trusting that I have not trespassed too greatly on your valuable space,

I am very respectfully,

William T. Wells

[*Editor's Note: The boat they took from Titusville may have been the St. Sebastian, although it appears not to have launched until after 1889. See Steamboats on the Indian River by Michael Knight <https://nbbd.com/godo/history/steamboats/index.html> accessed 2020/04/23]

INDIAN RIVER ADVOCATE MARCH 19, 1897

The East Coast Chautauqua Assembly held its first Chautauqua for 10 days in Melbourne. W.T. Wells was one of the directors of the Chautauqua.

INDIAN RIVER ADVOCATE APRIL 30, 1897

Mr. and Mrs. C. L. Merritt bought three lots just north of the W. T. Wells property on the bluff.

INDIAN RIVER ADVOCATE MAY 21, 1897

Mr. & Mrs. W. T. Wells, the Messrs. Stanford and Prescott Wells, and the Misses Gladys Wells and Gill leave for their summer home in New York State next Saturday

FLORIDA STAR JAN. 14, 1898

Mr. W. T. Wells has generously donated a piece of ground for the use of the gun club, for a period of five years The new grounds have been grubbed and plowed and formally opened with a club shoot Tuesday afternoon.

INDIAN RIVER ADVOCATE JAN. 14, 1898

Mr. and Mrs. W. T. Wells invited a number of guests from Hotel Carleton to join them in a trip to the beach last Saturday. Second annual assembly of the East Coast Chautauqua was held in Melbourne during February, 1898

INDIAN RIVER ADVOCATE MAR. 11, 1898

Welton Stanford, of New York, a brother of Mrs. W. T. Wells, is in town (Melbourne.)

INDIAN RIVER ADVOCATE MAY 13, 1898

Mr. and Mrs. W. T. Wells and family, also Mrs. Sprague, Mrs. Virginia Richmond and Vance Richmond returned last Monday from their pleasant sojourn at East Melbourne, where they have been enjoying sea bathing. Mr. Wells was called north by the serious illness of his father. He left here Tuesday.

Another item in the same issue described wild fires that threatened a number of homes, including that of W. T. Wells. (Sparks from the fruit express train were blamed for the fires.)

INDIAN RIVER ADVOCATE JAN. 13, 1899

Mr. and Mrs. W. T. Wells arrived from New York last Sunday evening and are now snugly settled in their elegant home on the bluff. They are later than usual in coming south this season on account of Mrs. Wells' ill health.

INDIAN RIVER ADVOCATE JAN. 27, 1899

Mr. and Mrs. C. S. Byington and child of Albany, N.Y. arrived here last Friday evening and are the guests of Hotel Carleton. Mrs. Byington is a sister of Mrs. W. T. Wells.

The third annual Chautauqua was held in February, 1899 in Melbourne.

INDIAN RIVER ADVOCATE MAR. 10, 1.899

Mr. & Mrs. W. T. Wells, Miss Gladys Wells, Messrs. Stanford & Prescott Wells, Mr. & Mrs. C.S.Byington, little Miss Byington and maid left here last week for a visit to Palm Beach, Miami and Nassau and expect to return here to spend the remainder of the season.

INDIAN RIVER ADVOCATE APR. 7, 1899

Capt. Prescott Wells took a jolly party on a picnic to Melbourne Beach.

INDIAN RIVER ADVOCATE APR. 14, 1899

Mrs. W. T. Wells kindly gave the use of the Educational Hall to the Ladies Guild of Holy Trinity Episcopal Church for an entertainment.

EAST COAST ADVOCATE JAN. 18, 1901

Last Tuesday evening Mr. and Mrs. W. T. Wells of New York arrived here (Melbourne) to the delight of their many friends, who will be glad to see them in their lovely winter home on the bluff. Mr. and Mrs. Wells have spent the past year abroad, visiting Paris, Switzerland, England, Scotland and many other points of interest.

ECA FEBRUARY 8, 1901

W. T. Wells has had a gang of men employed for the past month cleaning up the grounds around his beautiful home.

The fifth annual Chautauqua was held in Melbourne March 1 - 13, 1901

ECA APRIL 5, 1901

Miss Gladys Wells and a young lady friend arrived last Saturday much to the delight of Mr. and Mrs. W. T. Wells and Miss Gladys' numerous Melbourne friends.

ECA APRIL 12, 1901

Misses Edith Gwynn and Gladys Wells left Tuesday for New Jersey after a pleasant season spent with Mr. and Mrs. W. T. Wells. (While in Melbourne Gladys, along with her mother participated in an entertainment produced by the Ladies Guild of Holy Trinity Episcopal Church.)

ECA APRIL 19, 1901

ADVERTISEMENT:

NEW HOTEL

One of the finest hotel sites in Florida will be given to the party who will build a suitable Hotel on it this year. Overlooks the Indian River. Other inducements to the right party. Address

W. T. Wells
Melbourne, Fla.

ECA APRIL 26, 1901

W. T. Wells is having some improvements made on his pretty home place on the bluff.

ECA MAY 3, 1901

Mr. and Mrs. W. T. Wells drove down to Valkaria last Saturday to look at their orange grove.

ECA MAY 17, 1901

Destructive fires were raging about East Melbourne last Sunday. If it had not been for a number of men, the plantation of Mr. W.T. Wells and other valuable property would have been destroyed.

ECA MAY 24, 1901

Mr. and Mrs. W. T. Wells left last Friday for their home on Lake George, N.Y. But we look forward with pleasure to their return in November, as Mr. Wells is making fine improvements on his beautiful place on the bluff, and the building of the new Chautauqua hall will require his early return.

ECA JULY 19, 1901

Melbourne has one of the best exhibits from any town in our state to the Pan-American Exposition. This speaks well for our little town. John Goode furnished some fine specimens of tropical plants, W.T. Wells and other business men of the town furnished funds, and W.R. Campbell managed collecting and forwarding the plants.

THE MELBOURNE TIMES AUG. 10, 1901

Mr. Dan McCarty of Ankona is over-seeing the setting of 10 acres of pineapple slips for Mr. W. T. Wells on the east side of the river.

ECA AUG. 23, 1901

The steamer Spartan brought up from Ankona last Saturday about 40,000 pineapple plants for W.T. Wells' plantation.

ECA AUG. 30, 1901

Dan McCarty has finished setting out some fine varieties of pineapple plants for W.T. Wells in Melbourne.

EAST COAST ADVOCATE OCT. 18, 1901

It is a pretty sight to see the 12 acre patch of pineapples on W.T. Wells' place at East Melbourne, planted about 2 months ago.

ECA DEC. 6, 1901

W.T. Wells' handsome launch, built by Sam Martin, is finished and Mr. and Mrs. Wells can now enjoy many pleasant trips on the river.

ECA DEC.27, 1901

Stanford and Prescott Wells are here to spend the holidays with their parents, Mr. and Mrs. W.T. Wells.

1902 Miscellaneous information, provided by Mrs. Mildred Stewart:

W.T. Wells built an auditorium north and west of where Sully's Lumber Co. was located (corner of Fee and Waverly.) The auditorium was used for 15 years or more. Mrs. Stewart said it would hold about 1,000 people. Educational Hall, where some school classes were held in the early days was located on the Dixie Highway, about where the gas station at Howard Johnson Motel was located (in the 1970s.) This would be roughly across the street from the ice plant.

ECA JAN. 10, 1902

Miss (Gladys) Wells left Saturday to resume her studies at Wellsley College, her brother going with her as far as Washington. W.T. Wells has made big improvements in the north part of town, having streets and sidewalks cleaned up. His beautiful home and grounds are a credit to Melbourne--would be have a few more such public spirited men in our neighborhood. Let our town fathers take pattern by Mr. Wells' good work and do likewise.

ECA JAN. 10, 1902

On New Year's evening Miss Gladys Wells gave a dance at Educational Hall to a number of her young friends. Among those present were Mr. and Mrs. W. T. Wells, the Misses Emma Miday, Annie Goode, Matilda Miday, Jessie Goode, Allie Nicholson, Ceserea Miday, Mollie Nicholson and Messrs. Stanford Wells, Alex J. Goode, Prescott Wells, Walter Foulghum, Ralph Wallace, John Nicholson, Claude Beaujean and Dr. L. A. Peek. Mrs. Robertson served dainty refreshments. The hall was beautifully decorated with thirteen flags of all nations, collected by the Wells family during their travels abroad. The young folks enjoyed a most delightful evening.

ECA JAN. 10, 1902

Eau Gallie

Mrs. Miday, the Misses Miday, Miss Gladys Wells and the Misses Wells, of Melbourne, were in Eau Gallie on Friday last, taking in our town. The party came up in Mr. Wells' launch.

ECA JAN. 17, 1902

Prescott Wells left last Tuesday for the East, to resume his studies at college. Hotel Carleton has several of her old-time guests again this season. Among them we see Mr. and Mrs. W.T. Wells. (?)

ECA JAN. 17, 1902

Work on the new auditorium is progressing nicely. Ex-Mayor S.H. Cove of Daytona has the contract, which speaks well for good work being done. This building belongs to W.T. Wells, our public-spirited townsman who has already done so much for the improvement of Melbourne. The first use of this auditorium will be to hold the East Coast Chautauqua, which will be held during the first week of March.

ECA JAN. 24, 1902

Miss Gill of New York is a guest of Mr. and Mrs. W.T. Wells.

ECA FEB. 7, 1902

The new auditorium is nearing completion and adds much to the appearance of Melbourne. Mr. Wells says it will be finished and in good shape to receive the people who come to attend the Chautauqua.

ECA FEB. 14, 1902

The Chautauqua of the Tropics, at Melbourne, will be held in the new auditorium from March 1st to 14th.

ECA FEB. 28, 1902

W.T. Wells is beautifying some of our streets by planting shade trees. Let others follow his example and improve their town property.

ECA APRIL 41 1902

W.T. Wells kindly gave the use of the auditorium for the Ladies Guild (Holy Trinity) entertainment.

ECA April 25, 1902

W.T. Wells has made extensive improvements on his Melbourne property. Fruit trees and flowers of all kinds are there.

ECA MAY 21 1902

Miss Gill who has spent several pleasant months at the home of her cousins, Mrs. W.T. Wells, left on Wednesday for Washington, D.C.

ECA MAY 9, 1902

Mr. and Mrs. W.T. Wells have gone north for the summer, closing their beautiful Melbourne home until fall. Ed Morgan has charge of the grounds, which means that they will be well cared for.

THE MELBOURNE TIMES SEPT. 6, 1902

The Wells place is in prime condition. The archway over the gate is almost covered by a delicate greer vine, oleanders, hibiscus and other flowering shrubs are showing a wealth of bloom, and the lawn is a marvel in the eyes of those who remember the barren white sand which is the foundation of it all.

ECA OCT. 24, 1902

W.T. Wells' pretty launch is undergoing a few repairs and will be in first class order when Mr. Morgan is through with her.

ECA Nov. 7, 1902

Mr. and Mrs. W.T. Wells arrived at their Melbourne home on Tuesday.

ECA JAN. 2, 1903

Mr. and Mrs. E.R. Hedges and little son of Larchmont, N.Y., arrived at Hotel Carleton Sunday and will occupy the Wells cottage on Front street.

ECA JAN. 23, 1903

W.T. Wells has just planted a large date palm at the main entrance to his beautiful grounds. This palm is about 26 years old and has been growing at West's Point (southern end of Front street: formerly the Hector place) in Melbourne for the past 23 years.

ECA JAN. 30, 1903

The concert at the Auditorium last Saturday evening by the Rodes Family Band was a big success.

ECA FEB. 13, 1903

Mr. and Mrs. W.T. Wells have returned from their visit to Orlando.

ECA FEB. 20, 1903

Letters patent have been issued for the Indian River Fiber Co., Melbourne. The capital stock is \$25,000, and the company will manufacture fiber, etc. The stockholders are J.R. Nicholson, Geo. Phillips and W.T. Wells.

ECA APR. 3, 1903

NEW RAILROAD: Letters patent have just been issued for the building of a railroad in this State from Melbourne, in Brevard County, to Orlando, in Orange County. Among the incorporators are E.O. Painter of Jacksonville; J.G. Jenkins Jr., Frank Jenkins, Wm. T. Wells, E.P. Branch, Edward Morrison and Stanford Wells. The road is to be known as the Central Florida and Indian River Railroad, and will have its headquarters at Melbourne. The Capital stock is \$2,000,000 and as the law requires that 10 per cent must be paid in before a charter is granted, it is likely that work will be started just as soon as the necessary arrangements can be completed. The road will run through a rich section of country in Brevard, Osceola, Polk and Orange counties.

The seventh annual Chautauqau was held in Melbourne in March, 1903

ECA APR. 10, 1903

Mr. W.T. Wells, one of Melbourne's progressive, prominent and "solid" winter residents, was in town (Titusville) on Monday, en route to Jacksonville, and gave our sanctum a pleasant call. Mr. Wells is one of the principal movers in the talked-of new railroad between Melbourne,

Grant and Orlando, or some other point in the interior of the state, and he is confident the road will be built. If this schem works as Mr. Wells thinks it will, there will be busy times in the neighborhood of Grant.

ECA MAY 8, 1903

Stanford Wells of Jacksonville is on a visit to his parents, Mr. & Mrs. W.T. Wells.

ECA MAY 22, 1903

Mr. and Mrs. W.T. Wells, prominent and popular residents of Melbourne and large property owners on Indian River and Lake George, N.Y. were visitors to Brevard's county town on Tuesday, returning to Melbourne Wednesday evening. They made the round trip on their fast, cozy and trim-looking launch, Hatasoo.

ECA JUNE 5, 1903

W.T. Wells and wife left Sunday for their summer home on Lake George, N.Y. Their elegant Melbourne home will not be closed this summer as their son, Mr. Stanford, is here.

ECA JUNE 12, 1903

Prescott Wells arrived in Melbourne Tuesday, much to the delight of his brother and many Melbourne friends

ECA SEPT. 4, 1903

Prescott Wells launched his new boat last week; she sails like a bird and makes good time between here (Melbourne) and Malabar.

ECA OCT. 9, 1903

We are sorry to learn that Mr. W.T. Wells has not enjoyed good health the past season, also that he met with a painful accident that may delay his early return to his Melbourne home, as he is now in New York City under medical care

ECA NOV. 6, 1903

Mr. and Mrs. W.T. Wells are expected home the last of this week.

ECA NOV. 27, 1903

J.O. Fries of Titusville, Mr. Wells and a number of men are out on the survey of the Central Florida and Indian River Railroad. It is expected that the grading contract will soon be let from Melbourne west.

ECA DEC. 11, 1903

Surveyor J.O. Fries of Titusville and Prescott Wells spent last week near

Bartow looking over the route for the new railroad from Melbourne to cross the Kissimmee River. It is claimed that this road will be built in a year.

ECA DEC. 25, 1903

Miss Gladys Wells and Mr. Stanford Wells are home (Melbourne) from the North to spend Xmas with their parents.

ECA JAN. 15, 1904

Miss Gladys Wells left last Saturday for the North to resume her studies in Wellsley College.

ECA JAN. 22, 1904

The annual Chautauqua was cancelled because there were not enough accomodations in Melbourne to handle the large crowds. The Carleton Hotel had just burned on the night of Dec. 27, 1903. Last year's crowds overwhelmed Melbourne even with the Carleton still standing.

ECA JAN. 29, 1904

Mr. & Mrs. W.T. Wells went to Daytona for a short visit and will enjoy the automobile races while there.

ECA FEB. 5, 1904

Mr. & Mrs. W.T. Wells and Messrs. Stanford and Prescott Wells have returned from their visit to Daytona and Ormond.

ECA FEB. 26, 1904

W.T. Wells has a fine variety of fruits such as oranges, many kinds, pineapples and kumquats, now ripe on his East Melbourne plantation.

ECA MAR. 4, 1904

Prescott Wells left last week for New York City.

ECA MAR. 11, 1904

On the altar of the Episcopal Church last Sunday were many beautiful roses from the garden of Mrs. W.T. Wells.

ECA MAR. 18, 1904

Miss Guinn of Summitt, N.J. is the guest of Mr. & Mrs. W.T. Wells. This is not her first visit to Melbourne, as she spent a part of the winter at the Wells mansion some years ago.

ECA APR. 1, 1904

Among the many attractive winter homes in Melbourne are those of Rev. DuBose, Sewanee, Tenn., Mrs. Thomas Meeham and Mrs. John Burn, Philadelphia, Pa., Mr. and Mrs. A. B. Taylor, Saug-a-tuck, Mich., Dr. and Mrs. Henley, Fairmount, Ind., Mr. W. H. Dow, J. F. Powell, John Powell, Mr. Kersey and Perry Powell of Wauklegan, Ill., and the beautiful home of Mr. and Mrs. W. T. Wells of Lake George, N. Y.. The last mentioned is a place every visitor to Melbourne should see, as it shows what can be done here in a short time, with money and brains.

ECA MAY 20, 1904

Mr. & Mrs. W.T. Wells, Mr. & Mrs. John DeWitt enjoyed a carriage drive to Malabar last Saturday.

ECA MAY 27, 1904

Stanford Wells left last week for the north, intending to go to the St. Louis World's Fair.

ECA JUNE 24, 1904

W.T. Wells is shipping his crop of pineapples from his plantation at East Melbourne.

ECA JULY 8, 1904

Mr. & Mrs. W. T. Wells left on Tuesday for the north, intending to spend some months at the World's Fair.

ECA AUG. 19, 1904

We understand that Mr. & Mrs. W.T. Wells have been enjoying the Chautauqua at Boulder, California. We hope to have a grand Chautauqua in Melbourne again next Spring

ECA SEPT. 2, 1904

Mr. Winham and family of Daytona have rented the Wells cottage on Front street.

ECA SEPT. 30, 1904

A postal from Mr. W.T. Wells of Melbourne, who is summering in Colorado, says he went to the top of Pike's Peak on the 23rd and last week took a trip to Cliff Dwellings on Mesa Verde, 30 miles by carriage and 32 miles on horseback. He says all are well and are having a fine time visiting the interesting ruin.

ECA OCT. 7, 1904

Stanford Wells arrived home on Monday after spending the summer north. W.T.Wells & wife have returned to their beautiful Melbourne home.

ECA NOV. 11, 1904

W.T. Wells published an announcement in the ECA that there would be a Chautauqua in Melbourne in the Spring. He listed the various programs that had been booked.

ECA NOV. 25, 1904

The new Carleton Hotel opened Nov. 18. It was a 3-story structure, contained 30 bedrooms, lighted and heated with gas.

ECA DEC. 2, 1904

W.T. Wells continues to ship pineapples from his plantation on the East side.

ECA DEC. 30, 1904

Miss Gladys Wells is home to spend the holidays with her parents.

ECA JAN. 13, 1905

Miss Gladys Wells is again at Wellsley College. The Chautauqua was held from Feb. 15 thru the 27th

ECA APR. 15, 1905

Mr. W.T. Wells informs us that his fine pineapple plantation suffered but little from the cold last winter & it promises a fine crop of fruit & thrifty plants this season, thus proving that the east side of the Indian River at East Melbourne & Melbourne Beach are splendid locations for growing pineapples. Mr. Wells had no shed or cover over his field._

ECA MAY 26, 1905

Mr. & Mrs. W.T. Wells left for the North last Sunda. Their beautiful Melbourne home is closed for the summer.

ECA JUNE 30, 1905

The many Indian River friends of Miss Gladys Wells will be pleased to learn that she has just graduated from Wellsley College with highest honors.

ECA DEC. 15, 1905

The time is drawing near for the seventh annual Chautauqua of the Tropics, held in Melbourne each Spring. President W.T. Wells informs us that a splendid program will be ready.

ECA DEC. 29, 1905

The beautiful pineapple plantation W.T. Wells owns at East Melbourne, is

a sight worth seeing. We doubt if a finer field of pines can be found on the East Coast. The field has been well cared for and the crop this coming season will be the reward.

ECA JAN. 12, 1906

Among the latest arrivals of charming young ladies in Melbourne, we note Miss Gladys Wells of Washington, D.C.
The Chautauqua was held from Mar. 4 - 18. 1906

ECA MAY 4, 1906

W.T. Wells' pineapple plantation at East Melbourne which has never been covered with shed, has a fine crop of fruit.

ECA MAY 11, 1906

A car load of lumber has just arrived for the two houses that W.T. Wells will have built this summer. These buildings will be up to date, making attractive winter homes for some of the many northern people who want to come to Melbourne.

ECA JUNE 15, 1906

Miss Gladys Wells left last. Saturday for the North.

ECA JUNE 29, 1906

W.T. Wells and wife left on Sunday for their home at Lake George, N.Y.

ECA AUG. 24, 1906

The work on W.T. Wells' cottages is progressing.

ECA OCT. 26, 1906

Mr. & Mrs. W.T. Wells arrived here from New York Tuesday evening.

ECA NOV. 9, 1906

W.T. Wells, a prominent resident of Melbourne, was in Titusville on Tuesday, enroute to Orlando.

ECA NOV. 16, 1906

W.T. Wells now has two handsome up-to-date cottages just completed for rent.

ECA NOV. 30, 1906

W.T. Wells presented us (the writer of the Melbourne column) with a beautiful large pineapple, grown on his plantation at East Melbourne.

ECA MAY 3, 1907

W.T. Wells left last week in his new houseboat for a cruise down the river, accompanied by Mrs. Wells and Miss Gladys Wells, also Dr. and Mrs. Hanscom of Jacksonville.

ECA JUNE 14, 1907

Pineapples are ripening fast and are being shipped by Mr. W.T. Wells and Mr. R.J. Beaujean from their plantations across the river. Mr. Wells sent over 150 crates via the F.E.C. last Saturday. They may not be as large as usual but they are delicious.

ECA JUNE 21, 1907

Mr. W.T. Wells of Melbourne has shipped about 800 crates of pineapples so far this season.

ECA JULY 5, 1907

Mr. & Mrs. W.T. Wells expect to leave the first of the week for Canada after shipping the bulk of their pineapple crop - over 1,000 crates so far.

ECA JULY 12, 1907

Mr. & Mrs. W.T. Wells left Sunday morning for Jacksonville, Detroit and Canada.

ECA OCT. 4, 1907

The north end of town will be quite lively this winter, for we understand that both of Mr. Wells' cottages are rented.

ECA NOV. 15, 1907

Mr. & Mrs. Dupee of Illinois are again snugly settled for the winter in one of W.T. Wells' pretty cottages. Mr. & Mrs. W.T. Wells of Melbourne will spend Thanksgiving at Mrs. Wells' old home and they will leave for Florida about Dec. 1st.

ECA DEC. 13, 1907

Mr. & Mrs. W.T. Wells are again in their handsome Melbourne home, Green Gables. They spent the summer in Canada and the Fall months in their northern home at Lake George, N.Y. Miss Gladys stopped in Jacksonville to visit friends.

ECA JAN. 3, 1908

Mr. & Mrs. W.T. Wells, as their usual custom at Xmas, presented many pretty and useful gifts, also large bunches of fruit from their fine grove, to several Melbourne friends.

ECA JAN. 10, 1908

W.T. Wells' pineapple plantation at East Melbourne is furnishing his family with an abundance of fresh fruit the year round; and R.W. Beaujean keeps our market well supplied with pineapples from his plantation at Melbourne Beach.

ECA JAN. 24, 1908

Mrs. W.T. Wells was among the women who were entertained by the Melbourne Tennis Club at the Miday cottage on Strawbridge avenue last Saturday.

ECA MAR. 27, 1908

W.T. Wells and family have gone south, on a cruise, in their big boat.

ECA JUNE 12, 1908

Mr. W.T. Wells is now shipping his crop of pineapples from his fine plantation at East Melbourne. Many baskets of this delicious fruit are finding their way into homes of friends here, who are putting them into marmalade, sweet pickle, preserves and even vinegar from the trimmings of the pines, which is fine.

ECA JUNE 26, 1908

Mr. W.T. Wells and Mr. R.W. Beaujean continue to ship their fine crop of pines from their plantations across the river.

ECA JULY 10, 1908

Mrs. W.T. Wells and her charming daughter, Gladys, prominent residents of Melbourne, were passengers on Wednesday's northbound train, en route to Tallulah, Ga. and other places. Mr. Wells - who is looking after his pineapple plantation - will soon follow.

ECA AUG. 7, 1908

W.T. Wells is now enjoying a visit at Tallulah Lodge, Ga., with Mrs. Wells and Gladys.

ECA NOV. 20, 1908

Mr. & Mrs. W.T. Wells and Gladys returned to Melbourne this week.

ECA DEC. 18, 1908

Mr. Stanford Wells of New York is here (Melbourne) spending a few weeks with his parents in their winter home, Green Gables. This is his first visit here in a number of years, business interests keeping him north.

ECA JAN. 11 1909

Mr. & Mrs. W.T. Wells and son Stanford Wells were among the Carleton (Hotel) guests Xmas.

ECA feb. 19, 1909

Mr. Stanford Wells has gone to Miami to remain there some time.

ECA MAR. 6, 1909

Mr. & Mrs. W.T. Wells and Mrs. Miday left on Tuesday's train for a trip to Palm Beach.

ECA MAR. 19, 1909

W.T. Wells has returned from his business trip north and Mrs. Wells is home again, after a pleasant trip south to Palm Beach.

ECA APRIL 2, 1909

Stanford Wells is home again after several weeks stay in Miami

ECA JUNE 25, 1909

W.T. Wells has just about finished shipping his large crop of fine pineapples from his East Melbourne plantation.

ECA JULY 2, 1909

W.T. Wells left last week for his summer home on Lake George, N.Y.

ECA SEPT. 10, 1909

Someone started a fire on the peninsula a few days ago, north of W.T. Wells' pineapple plantation, and had it not been for Messrs. Williams, Day, Baber Rodes, Carl Ellerbrock and Goodwin, who back-fired the whole field would have been ruined.

ECA NOV. 26, 1909

Mr. & Mrs. W.T. Wells arrived at their Melbourne home on Tuesday evening.

ECA DEC. 3, 1909

Mr. W.T. Wells can truly feel proud of his fine young orange grove at his home place and large pineapple plantation at East Melbourne.

ECA JAN 14, 1910 * see next page

ECA MAR. 25, 1910

W.T. Wells is making extensive improvements on his handsome home on the bluff.

ECA JUNE 24, 1910

Mr. & Mrs. W.T.Wells are enjoying life at their beautiful summer home on Lake George, N.Y.

ECA AUG. 19, 1910

W.T. Wells has sent a booklet of beautiful views of his place - Crown Island, Lake George, N.Y. - which is for sale; also his steam launch, Crusader.

ECA NOV. 11, 1910 Mr. and Mrs. W.T. Wells arrived in Melbourne last Saturday night, after spending a pleasant summer in their beautiful home at Lake George, N.Y. They are now snugly settled in their home on the Bluff, "Green Gables."

ECA NOV. 18, 1910

W.T. Wells has men at work putting his always well-kept grounds in perfect shape.

* ECA JAN. 14, 1910

The Deaconess of the Women's Auxiliary of Southern Florida (Miss Harriet Randolph) was honored at a reception at the W.T. Wells' home by the Ladies Guild of Holy Trinity Episcopal Church

* ECA Feb. 25, 1910

W.T.Wells was one of the judges at the Washington regatta at Eau Gallie last Tuesday.

* ECA MAY 13, 1910

Mr.and Mrs. W.T. Wells left last week for a visit to Washington, D.C.; then they go to their summer home on Lake George, N.Y.

From the Melbourne Times Files of 1912 (exact date not known):

The roller skating rink in the auditorium was a very popular place. It was managed by Mr. Wells.

ECA DEC. 31, 1915

Mr. and Mrs. Griffith and baby, of Fort Dodge, Iowa, are welcome visitors at the home of Mr. and Mrs. W.T. Wells, Mrs. Griffith's parents.

MELBOURNE TIMES MAY 30, 1917

W.T. Wells offered the U.S. government the use of a tract of land he owned in Malabar for a "concentration camp." Part of the land was on the barrier island, the remainder on the main land and was "well adapted to the training and excersizing of soldier." (World War I was in progress.)

Apparently the government never took him up on the offer.

Melbourne Times Feb. 13, 1918

W.T.Wells is selling business lots near the river, 60 ft. front \$300; on Dixie Hwy., 65 ft. front \$500; west, on Lincoln ave. 50 X 130 ft. \$100; west on Strawbridge ave. 50 X 130 ft. \$200.

MELB. TIMES MAY 8, 1918

Mr. & Mrs. W.T.Wells closed their beautiful Green Gables on Riverview dr. in May and departed in their Oakland car for their summer home in New York. They expect to make a leisurely trip of about 120 miles a day and will visit many places of historic interest on the way.

The Brevard County Telephone Company's telephone directory for 1919 listed the Wells' phone as 34-2 and indicated it was for winter service only.

The annual Chautauqua was held in Melbourne in February, 1919.

MELB. TINES APR. 28, 1920

The Hon. J. Wm. Borden and wife were guests for several days at the home of Mr. & Mrs. W.T. Wells in April. Borden was paymaster of the Canadian army during W.W.I He is a cousin of Mrs. Wells.

MELB. TIMES MAR. 18, 1921

At the regular meeting of the city council held at city hall last Wednesday, a proposition was submitted on behalf of Mr. & Mrs. W.T.Wells, offering to donate to the city of Melbourne a tract of land and lots comprising about 20 acres lying between Lake and Oak streets, almost in the center of the city. The council by a unanimous vote accepted the generous offer, at the same time officially naming the newly acquired public land as Wells Park. The city will open this park at an early date by shelling several streets leading to it.

MELB. TIMES JULY 27, 1921

The Powell & Tubbs and W. T. Wells properties along river north of town have been cleared of underbrush and palmetto, the work having been done under the direction of Stanford Wells. This has greatly improved the attractiveness of this stretch of the Dixie Highway between here and Eau Gallie, and tourists driving this way are now given an excellent view of the development work going on over on the peninsula at Indialantic, and a good view of the bridge is to be had, too.

MELBOURNE TIMES MAR. 12, 1925

H. Prescott Wells of Jersey City, prominent as a member of the banking firm of Outwater and Wells, is visiting his parents, Col. and (Mrs.) W.T. Wells and his brother, Stanford Wells. Mrs. H. Prescott Wells accompanies him.

The Chautauqua was held in Melbourne in 1924

Melb. Times April 16, 1924

Melbourne's library was to open soon. Mr. and Mrs. Wells were praised by all of Melbourne for all the work they had done toward the building of the library.

MELB. TIMES MAY 7, 1924

As the library had its formal opening, Mrs. Wells was given much credit for "working with the books," and Mr. Wells for being the overseer of the work of the construction of the library building.

MELB. TIMES JUNE 18, 1924

The Wells left Melbourne for their northern home. They were to stop briefly in New York City to visit with their son and family.

MELB. TIMES APRIL 23, 1925

Col. W.T. Wells returned from Miami this week after spending several days there.

MELBOURNE TIMES - JOURNAL APRIL 5, 1927

William T. Wells again donated a tract of land to the city of Melbourne for a park. He had been trying to do this since 1915 (according to the newspaper account), but lack of funds for proper improvements and other requirements, had prevented the city from accepting it.

(Actually he had first donated the land in 1921. See Melbourne Times Mar 18, 1921.)

MELBOURNE TIMES JULY 11, 1930

William Twining Wells, pioneer settler of Melbourne, passed away at his home, Green Gables, at 10 o'clock Sunday evening, July 6. He was 75 years of age. His health had been failing for some time.

MELBOURNE TIMES OCTOBER 6, 1933

Word was received here Wednesday of the unexpected death of Mrs. Nora Stanford Wells, resident of Melbourne for 36 years, which occurred while she was visiting her daughter (Gladys Wells Griffith) at Fort Dodge, Iowa.

MELBOURNE TIMES JULY 11, 1930

W. T. WELLS IS DEAD AFTER A LONG ILLNESS

Pioneer citizen contributed much to building Melbourne

Passed away Sunday at age of 75yrs

Dr. Hanscom conducts funeral at Congregational Church

William Twining Wells, pioneer settler of Melbourne, passed away at his home, Green Gables, on the Dixie Highway and Indian River Drive, at 10 o'clock Sunday evening, July 6. He was 75 years of age and his health had been failing for some time.

Funeral services were held at the Congregational Church Thursday afternoon at 4 o'clock, the Rev. Dr. George Loring Hanscom officiating, and he read the Episcopal service. Ashes of the deceased will be interred in the family monument at Bolton Cemetery, Bolton, N.Y. Pallbearers were: W. G. Tubbs, C.J.F. Campbell, Allen Campbell, James T. Hoag, A.R. Hodgson, Nathaniel Downey, Horace L. Ewing and John B. Rodes. C. H. Stewart played several organ selections during the funeral service and there was special music.

Mr. Wells is survived by his wife, Nora Stanford Wells; a daughter, Gladys Wells Griffith of Fort Dodge, Iowa; a son, Stanford of Melbourne; a son Hugh Prescott Wells of Jersey City, N.J.; a sister, Miss Charlotte E. Wells of New York City; and a brother, Dr. James C.S. Wells of New York.

Came to Melbourne in 1897 (?)

Mr. Wells came to Melbourne in 1897 from New Jersey where he was owner of the Wells Rustless Iron Company, makers of oxidized iron. He came here on account of his wife's failing health, and developed his property holdings. He owned at that time 154 acres in the city and 2,000 acres south of town between Malabar and Palm Bay.

William Twining Wells was born in Brooklyn, N.Y., on Aug. 6, 1854. He was educated at the city schools until prepared for college, when he entered the School of Mines at Columbia, showing a great deal of talent for metallurgy and its kindred subjects.

In 1897 he married Miss Nora Stanford, eldest daughter of Senator Charles Stanford of Schenectady, N.Y., and neice of the Honorable Leland Stanford, Civil War governor of California, U.S. senator and builder of the Central Pacific Railway and donor of the Stanford University at Palo Alto, Calif.

Mr. Wells resided in Hackensack, N.J. for a number of years, and the three children were born there. He soon became well known as the inventor and developer of the Wells process of rustless iron, with furnaces at Little Ferry N.J., and business offices in New York. Beautiful specimens of his work can be seen at the Library of Congress, Washington, D.C., much of the trim having been done by this process.

Presented Town With Streets

Due to Mrs. Wells tendency to pneumonia, it seemed wise to have a winter home in Florida. After traveling over the state looking for a location, Melbourne was chosen as being the most desirable. The Strobah property,

comprising 150 acres, all within the city limits, was bought and Green Gables cottage built, the family occupying it in October, 1897. It seemed very remote to the townspeople, as all life centered around the old Carleton Hotel and Congregational Church at that time. There were no streets, simply a block or two by the hotel. Mr. Wells soon remedied the situation, as he enjoyed surveying and had the necessary instruments. He laid out streets in each direction from the house, bought horses and plows, put men in and grubbed them, then shelled them at his own expense and gave them to the town.

There being no suitable school for the children, he built what was known as Educational Hall and employed a teacher, Professor Winters of Deland, and invited other children of suitable age to attend. It was here that the two older children were prepared for college before they went abroad.

Builds Auditorium

Interest was manifested in a Chautauqua, the first one being small and held in the Congregational Church. As it grew, Mr. Wells gave the use of Educational Hall, which had movable partitions and could accommodate a larger crowd. He was made president, and as the benefit seemed great, and the number of people attending increased, he built an auditorium after the style of the Salt Lake City tabernacle, which would hold over a thousand people. There was a large stage and the acoustics were splendid. Each season the county closed its schools in order that teachers could attend for the entire two weeks, and this became an annual event in the social life of Melbourne, the best talent being brought here. This was carried out for several years, until criticism caused him to resign.

Mr. Wells was a member of the Episcopal Church. The church at that time was located south of Crane Creek. Sometimes the Negro ferryman would celebrate Saturday night and the rector would row his congregation across, hold the service, and then return them to the north side. Out of this condition a bridge was built, from money subscribed, and was used until the Bishop arrived, at which time it was decided to move the church to the triangular plot given by Mr. Wells, where it now stands, he promising that it should be rebuilt in as good condition as it was formerly. It was ferried across the river (Crane Creek) on a scow and church members gave their time and money to the work. The entire plot was dedicated and consecrated.

After being Senior Warden for twenty years and one of the main supporters of the church, Mr. Wells resigned. Since that time he has attended the Congregational Church.

Started Newspaper Here

Mr. Wells was a loyal Republican and started the East Coast Republican, but found he could not manage it while away during the summer, so gave it up after two years.

His faith in Melbourne and surrounding country was always hopeful. He

constantly invested in property. He made the building of the Melbourne Public Library possible by loaning money for its construction.

Just before his last illness, he gave the city 30 acres of land for a public park.