Facts in Cesar’s Orange Blossom 2.0 book

Julia herself did not “send” Flagler the blossoms and they may not have even been Orange Blossoms according to two sources. James Ingraham, Flagler’s right hand man and president of the Model Land Company retrieved proof that Miami had been spared.

***Flaglers motivation was land, “millions of acres of it” according to Bruce Epperson.***

Becerra’s thesis that the freeze leaned more towards a perfect economic opportunity to go at that time rather than forcing Flagler to save his empire due to the freeze.

Mary Brickell, not her husband William was in fact in her name legally in possession of the land since William had placed it all in her name. And not just the 2,000 acres we thought she had but in effect by the time the railroad arrives Mary Brickell is in ownership of over 6,000 acres of land. Both verifications can be found in Beth Brickell’s book on Mary and William.

***Julia Tuttle was not the supposed successful business woman that she was set to have been in countless articles and books. Turns out that she was in debt to Flagler for nearly 2.5 million dollars in todays valuation. Verification of this can be found in the Tuttle family papers that may have been in the Historical Museum of Southern Florida (today’s History Miami) as early as 1975.***

One of Miami’s earliest Mayors, John Sewell wrote extensively in his original memoirs and equally gave credit to both Mary and Julia throughout his book. The reprinted edition by Arva Moore Parks misquotes Sewell on one occasion leaving out the word “land” in a statement that should have read “Brickell land” and misquotes the “daddy of Miami” quote attributed to Sewell, again leaving out reference to the Brickells. The pictoral edition is heavy (18 pages mostly full page spreads) on the caption and photographic imagery supporting the “lone shooter” theory of Julia as the sole mother. This is NOT the only book to do so but it is a key one that Becerra deconstructs bit by bit.

***A key speech found by Larry Wiggins and published in Tequesta in 1995 shows a different take by James Ingraham who delivered a box of tree clippings wrapped in damp cloth to Flagler along with two contracts…one from Julia and one from The Brickells.***

Becerra contests the Julia Tuttle “birth certificate” theory and posits that the Florida International University Map/Contract (inside the Green Library Special Collections Dept on the 4th floor) with the entire city of Miami mapped out signed by Mary on line one, William on line 2 and Julia on line 3 is in fact the true birth certificate of Miami.

***Becerra breaks the story of the harrowing tale when one of the Brickell collections given in part to Carmen Petsoules by Butch and Marge Brickell went on the black market (and how UofM, HistoryMiami and FIU was approached in an extortion tactic for two years and was eventually found in a warehouse in Naples.***

Details of Becerra’s 5 week trip to walk in the footsteps of The Brickell’s in Australia and what their time in Australia meant to birthing Miami.