

MIAMI, FL

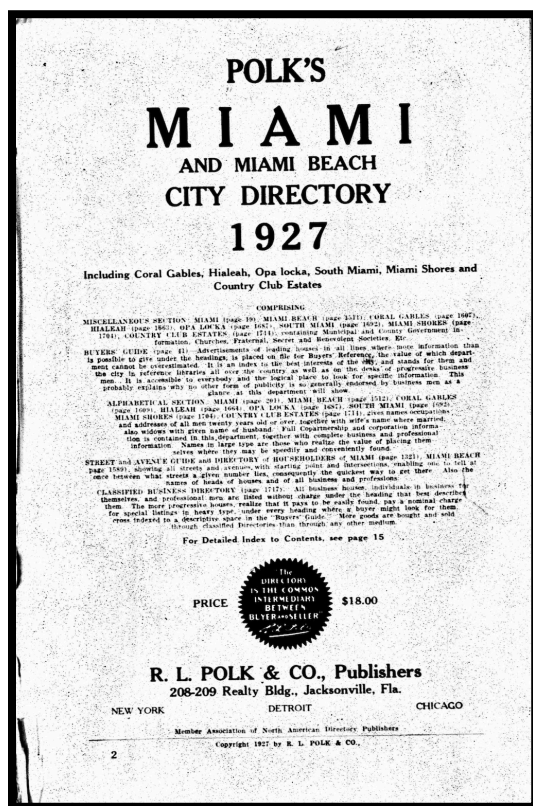
A House History Report by House Histories LLC



[REDACTED] 1956.
(Property Appraiser of Miami-Dade County, Property Jacket)

MERLE [REDACTED] AND ALICE [REDACTED]

The first documented owners of the home located at [REDACTED] were Merle [REDACTED] and his wife Alice [REDACTED]. A reference to them living at [REDACTED] first appears in the 1927 Miami City Directory.



Merle was born in Cleveland, Ohio on November 7, 1887; his parents were Edwin [REDACTED] and Julia [REDACTED]. Alice was also born in Cleveland, Ohio, sometime in the year 1892, to parents A. William [REDACTED] and Clara [REDACTED].

Married in Cleveland on October 2, 1915, Merle and Alice had their first child, Patricia, around 1917, before moving to Coconut Grove during the "Miami Building Boom" of the 1920s. A second daughter, Elizabeth, was born in Florida around 1923; a son, Neale, was born around 1925, also in Florida.



Merle and Alice are documented living at [REDACTED] in the 1927 Miami City Directory. (Polk's Miami and Miami Beach City Directory 1927, R.L. Polk & Co., Publishers, Jacksonville, Florida)

Prior to living at [REDACTED] [REDACTED] documentation exists showing the [REDACTED] living nearby on Hardie Road — today known as Hardie Avenue. The [REDACTED] are documented as quickly finding their places socially

57				Merle	Head	0	\$25,000
58				Grace	Wife		
59				Patricia	Daughter		
60				Elizabeth	Daughter		
61				Walter	Son		
62	1923	15	18	Wade W. Strouse	Head	1	\$4,000
63	1920	19	19	Matheson, Mrs. M.	Head	0	\$20,000
64				Leona H.	Wife		

ce, along with their three children, are recorded as residing at [REDACTED] in the 1930 U.S. Census. The "O" in the column to the left of the dollar figure indicates that he owned the home. The \$25,000 figure is the value of the home that year. (1930 Federal Census, Miami, Dade, Florida)

in their new Coconut Grove community, appearing in multiple articles on the society pages of Miami-area newspapers. A successful real estate agent in Ohio, Merle followed the same broad career path in Miami as a real estate developer, at the height of Miami's "Golden Era." Merle is credited with a number of significant real estate transactions, buying large tracts of land from local farmers who were motivated to sell because their farmland had become more valuable than the crops they harvested.

In one of those transactions, in 1924, Merle joined with fellow Coconut Grove resident A.M. Clark to purchase a 143-acre tomato farm located on Red Road. Merle also is listed in county records as having bought and sold a number of smaller individual lots, including the C.P. Doolittle tract on Bayview Road. In 1922, the Miami Herald documented the very large M. [REDACTED] Plat (subdivision), showing the taxes due for each of the plat's lots. When this announcement appeared in the newspaper, Merle was documented as the owner of the listed lots.

DESCRIPTION.	Section	Township	Range	Acres	Name of Owner	Total Taxes and Costs
Continued From Preceding Page						
(except N 200 ft of E 330 ft).....					Thomas C. Foreman	7.82
Lot 41, subdn of that part of S $\frac{1}{4}$ of SE $\frac{1}{4}$ of NE $\frac{1}{4}$ lying NW of Co. Road (except N 200 ft of E 330 ft).....					Marion F. Scalfe....	7.82
PLAT OF SE $\frac{1}{4}$ OF NW $\frac{1}{4}$ 30 54 41						
Lots					M. [REDACTED]	2.71
Lots					M. [REDACTED]	2.71
Lots					M. [REDACTED]	2.71
Lots					M. [REDACTED]	2.71
Lots					M. [REDACTED]	1.57
Lots					M. [REDACTED]	2.71
Lots					M. [REDACTED]	2.71
Lots					M. [REDACTED]	2.71
Lots					M. [REDACTED]	28.67
NE $\frac{1}{4}$ of NW $\frac{1}{4}$ of NE $\frac{1}{4}$	30	54	41	40	Calvin [REDACTED]	43.35
NE $\frac{1}{4}$ of NW $\frac{1}{4}$ of NE $\frac{1}{4}$	30	54	41	10	Louis C. Haywood..	11.18
SW $\frac{1}{4}$ of NW $\frac{1}{4}$ of NE $\frac{1}{4}$, W $\frac{1}{2}$ of SE $\frac{1}{4}$ of NW $\frac{1}{4}$ of NE $\frac{1}{4}$	30	54	41	15	R. B. Burdine, e al.	29.35
N $\frac{1}{2}$ of S $\frac{1}{2}$ of SW $\frac{1}{4}$ of NE $\frac{1}{4}$	30	54	41	10	Andrew Lang	11.18
N $\frac{1}{2}$ of NW $\frac{1}{4}$ of SE $\frac{1}{4}$ of NE $\frac{1}{4}$	30	54	41	5	Coconut Grove Dev. Company	7.90
S $\frac{1}{2}$ of NW $\frac{1}{4}$ of NW $\frac{1}{4}$	30	54	41	20	Linnie L. Gautier..	15.33
S $\frac{1}{2}$ of NW $\frac{1}{4}$ of SE $\frac{1}{4}$ of NW $\frac{1}{4}$, SW $\frac{1}{4}$ of SE $\frac{1}{4}$ of NW $\frac{1}{4}$, E $\frac{1}{2}$ of SE $\frac{1}{4}$ of NW $\frac{1}{4}$	30	54	41	35	Wm. P. Coleman....	31.72
All NW $\frac{1}{4}$ of NE $\frac{1}{4}$ of SW $\frac{1}{4}$ lying SE of railway.....	30	54	41	8.70	Lee Baker	9.69
All SW $\frac{1}{4}$ of NW $\frac{1}{4}$ of SW $\frac{1}{4}$ lying NW of railway, N $\frac{1}{2}$ of W $\frac{1}{2}$ of E $\frac{1}{2}$ of NW $\frac{1}{4}$ of SW $\frac{1}{4}$	30	54	41	7	John Opsahl	9.40
NW $\frac{1}{4}$ of SW $\frac{1}{4}$ of SW $\frac{1}{4}$ SE of railway.....	30	54	41	9.50	Wm. D. Sanford..	12.36
E $\frac{1}{2}$ of SE $\frac{1}{4}$ of NE $\frac{1}{4}$ of SE $\frac{1}{4}$	30	54	41	5	Mrs. E. J. Swanson..	7.60
S $\frac{1}{2}$ of NW $\frac{1}{4}$ of NE $\frac{1}{4}$ of SE $\frac{1}{4}$	30	54	41	5	Joseph Reddick	7.60
N $\frac{1}{2}$ of N $\frac{1}{2}$ of S $\frac{1}{2}$ of NW $\frac{1}{4}$ of SE $\frac{1}{4}$	30	54	41	5	Alfred Shepard	7.60
5 acres in a square in the NE cor. of SE $\frac{1}{4}$ of SE $\frac{1}{4}$	30	54	41	5	Mrs. E. J. Swanson..	7.60
Lot 1, blk 1, North Larkin.....	30	54	41		Bennie Mason	1.05
Lot 51-52, W. D. Sanford's subdn in...	30	54	41		J. H. Thress.....	1.64
W $\frac{1}{2}$ lot 7, Kingsley's subdn in.....	31	54	41	5	R. W. Brown.....	7.00
W $\frac{1}{2}$ lot 8, Kingsley's subdn in.....	31	54	41	5	R. W. Brown.....	7.00
W $\frac{1}{2}$ lot 11, Kingsley's subdn in.....	31	54	41	5	J. A. Roop	7.00
W $\frac{1}{2}$ lot 3, blk 1 Hardee's subdn.....	31	54	41	5	Anna K. Dearborn..	4.62
W $\frac{1}{2}$ lot 4, blk 1, Hardee's subdn.....	31	54	41	5	Anna K. Dearborn..	4.62
Tract 80, Cocoa Plum Heights.....	31-32	54	41	5	Isabel Cowie	4.62
Tract 81, Cocoa Plum Heights.....	31-32	54	41	5	Anna McEldowney..	4.62
Tract 88, Cocoa Plum Heights.....	31-32	54	41	5	Coconut Grove Dev. Company	6.11
NE $\frac{1}{4}$ of SW $\frac{1}{4}$ of NW $\frac{1}{4}$	32	54	41	10	K. F. Martin.....	10.95
E $\frac{1}{2}$ of NW $\frac{1}{4}$ of SW $\frac{1}{4}$ of NW $\frac{1}{4}$	32	54	41	5	S. J. Roberts.....	5.53
W $\frac{1}{2}$ of NW $\frac{1}{4}$ of SW $\frac{1}{4}$ of NW $\frac{1}{4}$	32	54	41	5	E. W. F. Stirriup, et al.	5.83
All S 240 ft of N $\frac{1}{2}$ of NW $\frac{1}{4}$ of SW $\frac{1}{4}$ W of County Road.....	32	54	41	4	W. A. Larkin.....	14.29

An announcement indicating the taxes due on several lots within the [REDACTED] Plat.

¹(The Miami Herald, 24 Jul. 1922, p. 17)

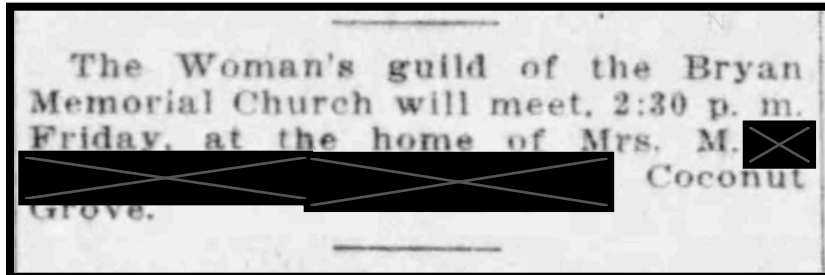
public projects, not only to beautify Coconut Grove, but to improve the city's infrastructure. The club also encouraged local property owners to improve the aesthetics of their properties. Formed in November 1926, just two months after the Great Miami Hurricane of 1926 that devastated Miami (see page 12), the club was instrumental in helping Coconut Grove recover from the hurricane's devastation and may, indeed, have been formed largely in response to the hurricane.

The [REDACTED] were important in other community activities as well. In 1929, Merle co-lead preparations for Coconut Grove's Community

By the time the [REDACTED] are documented living at [REDACTED], both Merle and Alice had become active community members with highly visible profiles. They frequently appeared in newspaper announcements as hosts of different events at their home. Merle was involved in creating the new Coconut Grove Business Club — unique in that, unlike any other business club in Miami, it allowed the participation of business women. This new business club intended to advance

Christmas Tree event, managing donations for the delivery of 500 Christmas presents to the children of Coconut Grove. Alice belonged to several clubs and groups, including the Housekeepers Club, one of Florida's oldest women's organizations, with origins stretching back to 1891. She also was a member of the Fine Arts Group of the American Association of University Women.

Alice and Merle attended Bryan Memorial Methodist Episcopal Church, later known as Bryan Memorial Methodist Church, located near 3713 Main Highway, in the vicinity of today's Chabad of Miami. The couple hosted events at their home for the church. During one of these events, a mock wedding was performed to entertain guests. Merle also served as a Trustee of the church. In 1927, Alice hosted the Church's Women's Guild at the couple's home. She also hosted the Church's Ladies Aid Society members' meeting at their residence.



An announcement for one of the many events the [redacted] hosted at their home.

(*The Miami Herald*, 30 Mar. 1927, p. 7)

Th [redacted] maintained close ties to people they knew in their home town, Cleveland, and frequently returned to that city, often to escape the warmest months of Miami's summers.

Merle's father, Dr. [redacted] retired from law practice around 1927 and moved to Coconut Grove. The father was at the home of Merle's sister, Miss [redacted] located at [redacted] in Coconut Grove, when he died in 1932 at the age

