

Englewood Streets: What's In a Name?

Englewood street names: Dearborn, McCall, Indiana, Yale, Harvard, Perry, Kluge, Alizarine and so on... Where did our Englewood streets get their names?

According to dbpedia.org, names of streets and roads are referred to as hodonyms (from Greek hodós 'road', and ónoma 'name') and odonymy is the study of road names, (I guess, oddly, I am doing that here :-).

A bit of background (from wonderopolis.org):

In the early days of urban development in the United States, streets were typically named after landmarks (like Canal or Market), topographic features (like Hill or Water), or location (like East or Upper). Major streets were often given names of power (like State or King) or after heroes and leaders (like Washington or Jefferson).

Later on, people were placing more emphasis on nature and it became common for communities to name streets after trees and plants (like Elm or Vine or Magnolia).

And sometimes yet another designator (such as "Court," "Terrace," "Way", "Place", or "Circle") is used for streets which go at a diagonal or curve around, and hence do not fit easily in the grid. Like our all so confusing Rotonda West!

So let's get on to Englewood's street. This is what I have come up with so far. If you know of any street name origins not listed here, please let me know. (sarasota2021@gmail.com)

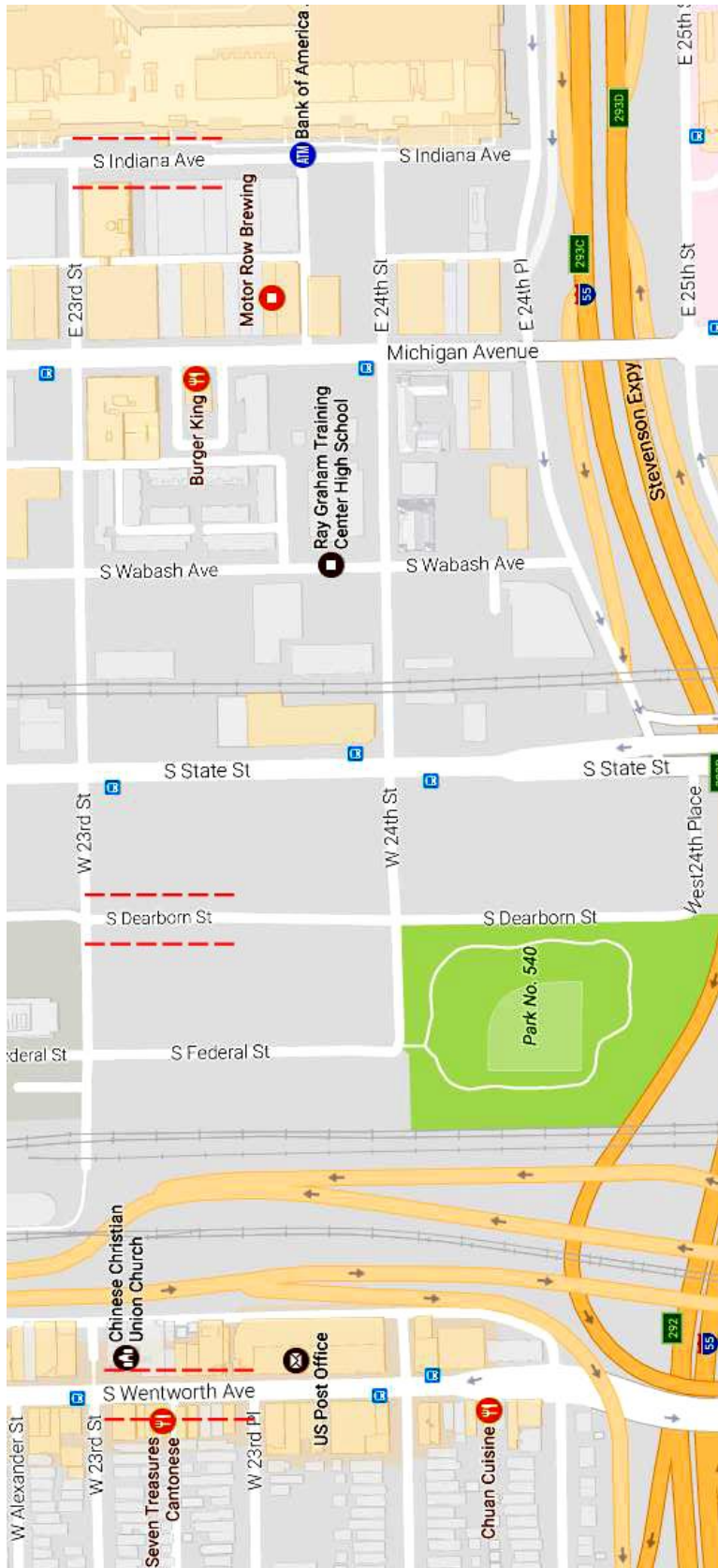
DEARBORN

In 1893 the Chicago World's Fair, AKA the Columbian Exposition, opened in Chicago's Jackson Park, just east of Englewood, Illinois. One of the hits of the show was an exhibit extolling the beauties of SW Florida and the new town of Grove City. Brothers Herbert, Howard and Ira Nichols (who lived in Englewood, IL) were inspired by the display and bought land just north of Grove City to create another town on Lemon Bay.

They had a Chicago engineer draw up a street plan. The plat is dated August 17, 1896. They name the town "Englewood" after their hometown. They also name several of the new streets after those in the Chicago suburb: Dearborn, Perry, Wentworth, Yale, Harvard and Stewart.



Original Plat of Englewood, FL, 1896

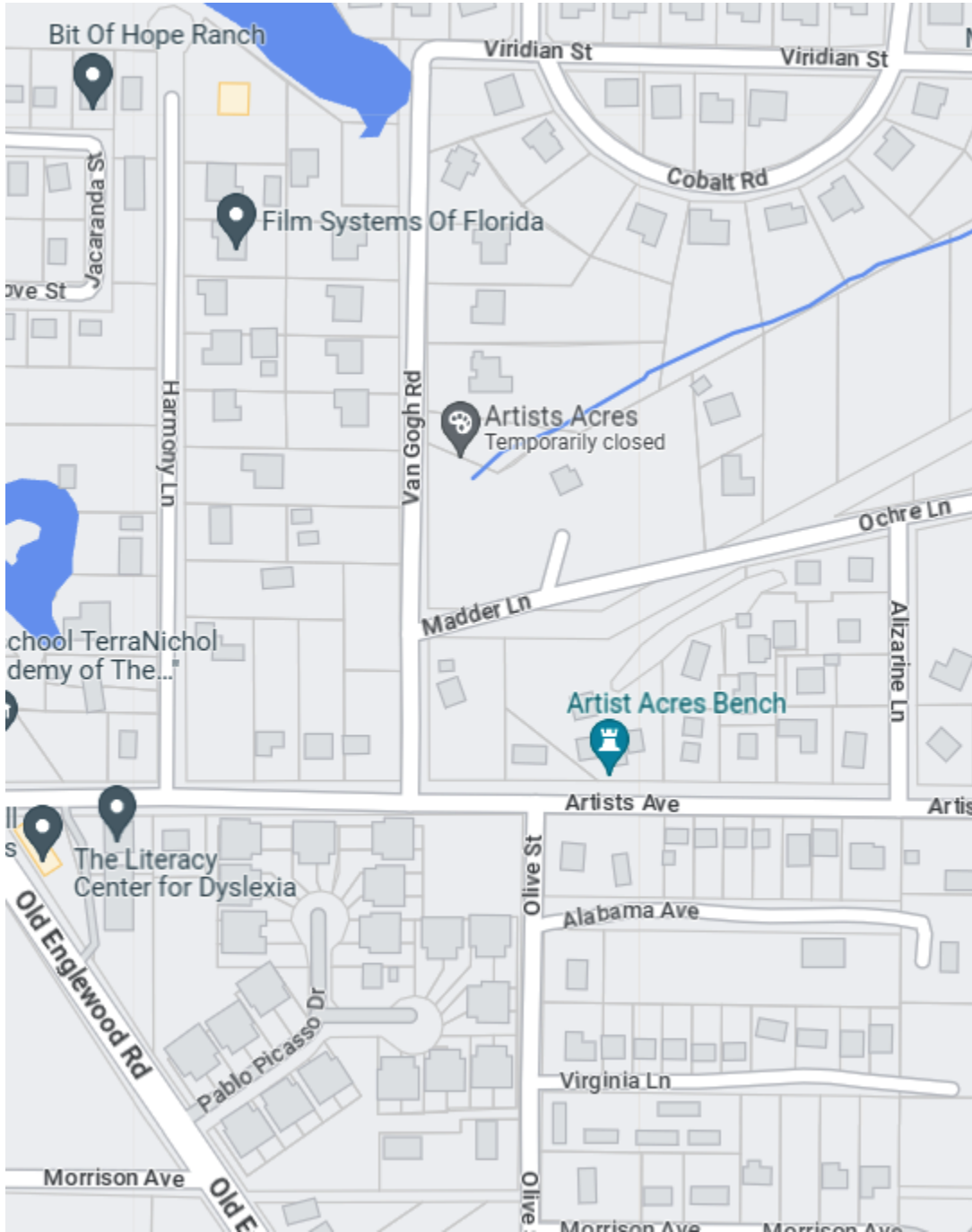


Streets in Englewood IL



Englewood IL

ARTIST ACRES



ARTISTS ACRES

Van Gogh Rd., Viridian St., Cobalt Rd., are all in a section of Englewood known as “Artists Acres.” Also the Lanes: Alizarine, Madder, and Ochre. (According to naturalpigments.com Alizarin(e) is found in the Madder plant and is “the main ingredient for the manufacture of the madder lake pigments known to painters as rose madder and alizarin crimson.”)

Artists Acres was developed by artist Lois Bartlett Tracy in the 50's as an inexpensive sanctuary for writers and artists of all mediums.

Designed and lovingly built by her husband Harry H. Tracy, Artists Acres hosted a collection of small Florida cottages that housed Lois' friends and students from around the world during the warmer winter months. Each cottage was named after its surroundings: Pine Allamanda, Hibiscus, Pond, Formosa, Palm and Oak Abode reflected their landscaping or property feature.

“The Cracker Box,” Lois' homestead at 580 Artists Avenue is where she painted masterpieces under towering pines, bamboo and philodendron vines. It was designed in 1963 by her sister Leah B. Lasbury, the founder of the Leah Lasbury Realty and was the first building built in the early 1960's on Artists Acres using stacked block construction and vaulted cypress beam ceilings. Lois' Studio and Gallery quickly followed to support her creative work.

A new development adjacent to Artist Acres continued the theme; the streets there are Pablo Picasso Drive and Salvador Dali Circle.

Seeing the map you might think Olive St. was also an Artist Acres name but it's been around since Englewood's founding in 1896 and used to go all the way down to Dearborn at Buchan's Landing. Today that portion of Olive is part of Old Englewood Rd.

Alizarine Crimson Dark

bluish red



Burgundy Yellow Ochre

from France, 0 - 120 μ



Madder Lake, genuine

made from natural roots, 63 μ , batch 12/2022



LANGSNER



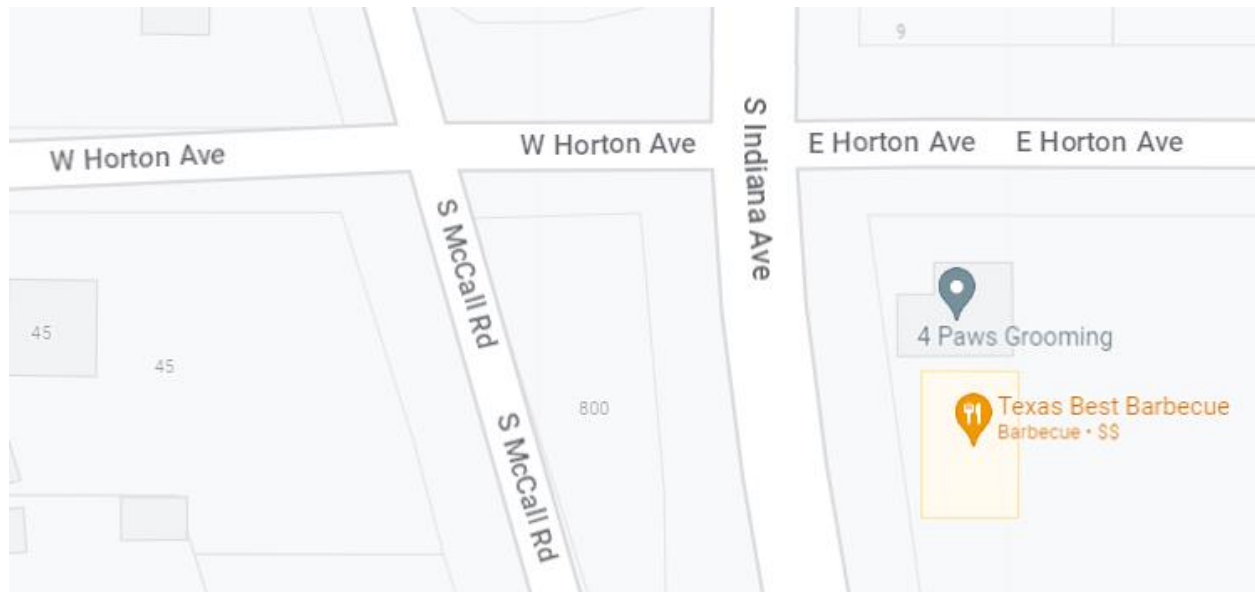
In November 1925, the Florida state legislature passed a bill to create the City of Englewood. The new city included 55 households in 13 square miles. In a special section of the *Sarasota Herald Tribune* on December 27th, city leaders anticipated the extension of the railroad to Englewood, the foundation of a university, population growth and a beautification effort, including the addition of stone columns to mark the three highway entrances to the city.

Architect Hosmer would be designing an Italian stucco 100-room hotel which brothers Henry and Albert Langsner would build on the Tamiami Trail.

In 1926 the Langsners offered temporary use of one of their buildings, the E/B. Freese cottage, to be used for a city hall.

None of the plans materialized. But their name lives on in our streets.

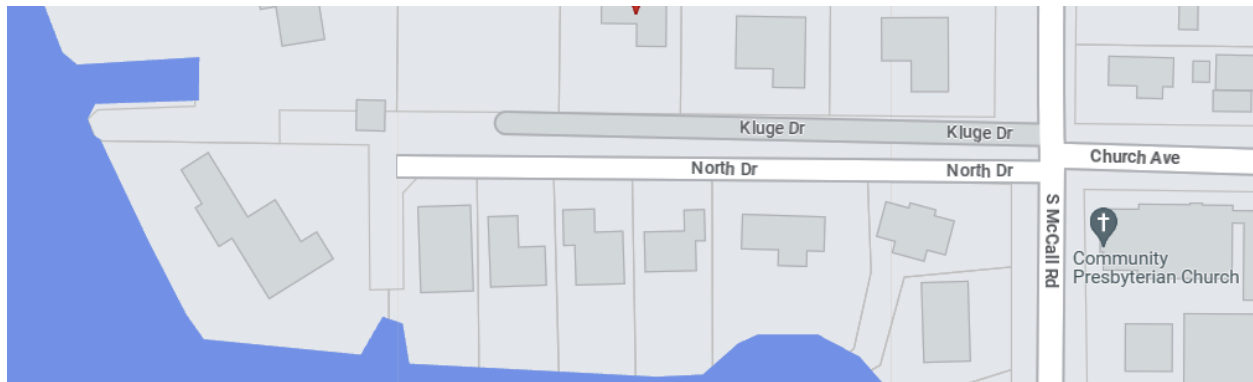
HORTON



In 1926 L.L. Horton was president of the Chamber of Commerce and at a meeting on January 16th introduced the new City Mayor, John Rampe.

Horton Ave. is the main passageway in Horton Estates which runs from Michigan Ave. west to Lemon Bay. The road at the northern border of Horton Estates is appropriately named North St. The southern border is Riverview Ave. most likely named for Gottfried Creek

KLUGE



In 1917 the Manasota Land and Timber Company purchased over 80,000 acres of land and the Gulf Coast Railway Company from Southern Investment Company of Baltimore, Maryland.

This land was in north Englewood from where Waste Management is today all the way west across 776 to the shore of Lemon Bay. In view of the estimated quarter million feet of long-leaf yellow pine timber on the land, the company began negotiations for the construction of a sawmill.

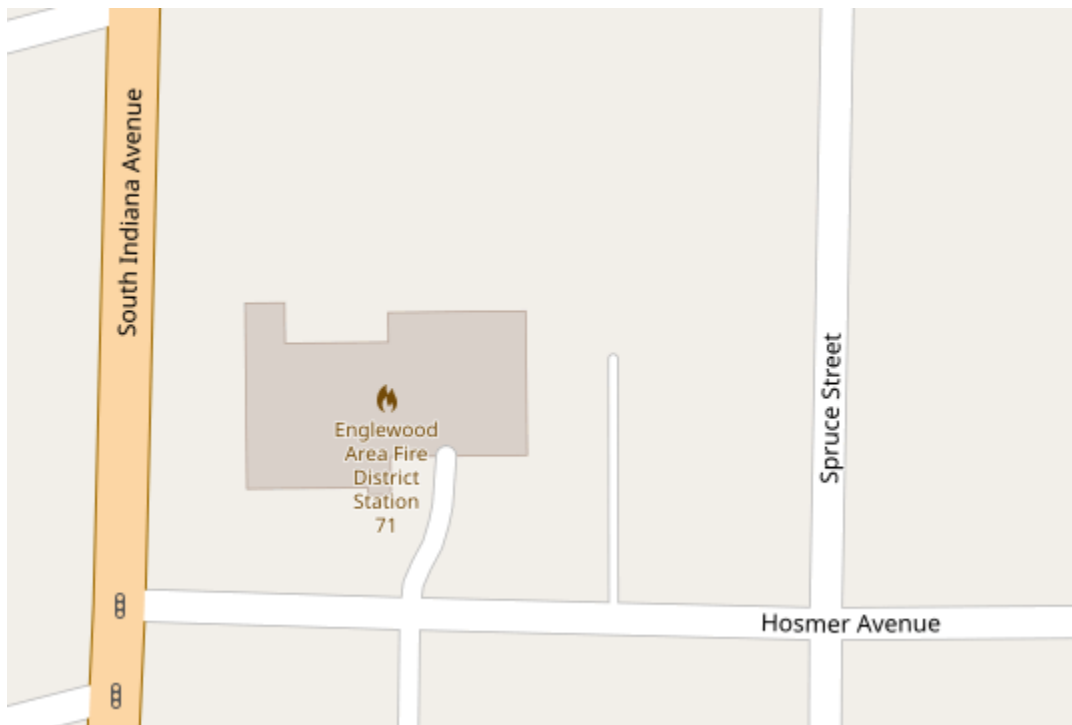
They hired Herman C. Kluge to supervise the construction of a four-story coal-fired sawmill and company town. By 1919 the mill was in full operation. At its busiest, it employed an estimated 1500 workers. Known as Woodmere, the “town” had housing for workers, a dining hall, recreation center, movie theater, and place for religious services and elementary school classes.

Kluge also directed the laying of narrow gauge railroad tracks through the woods, over which steam engines pulled flat cars of logs to the mill. Finished lumber was then shipped via the Gulf Coast Railway to Venice, where it was transferred to the Seaboard Air Line Railway for points north.

By 1923 much of the area's timber had been cleared (they did not replant trees then) and lumber production diminished. Machinery was sold or moved. Some the better houses were moved to Siesta and Casey Keys, Englewood, and Venice. A fire in 1930 destroyed the mill.

Herman Kluge and his wife bought 33 acres of land in Englewood, some of it bay-front property for about \$75 per acre. Today's Kluge Dr. (private) provides access to some of their former holdings, now Palm Grove subdivision.

HOSMER



Clare Hosmer came with his family to Sarasota from Chicago near the end of 1924 to join the growing number of architects who participated in the mushrooming development associated with the Florida Land Boom.

Some of his earliest activity was in Englewood. In February 1925, Hosmer purchased a 44-acre portion of Prospect Park, a recently established subdivision southeast of Englewood. Later that year, those 44 acres became a new subdivision called Bay View Manor. Drawn on the plat across the middle of Bay View Manor was Hosmer Avenue. At the point where it intersected with Broadway, a small pool with landscaping created a decorative traffic island. Nothing is left of this today.

In November 1925, as we mentioned earlier, Englewood became a city. Hosmer agreed to design an Italian stucco 100-room hotel on the Tamiami Trail which was then to go through Englewood. Then came the real estate crash; the hotel was never built.

Hosmer and another Sarasota architect from Chicago, Thomas Reed Martin, designed the building at the corner of Maple and Cocoanut for the Lemon Bay Women's Club. It was the only structure in Englewood built in the Prairie School Architectural Style. It reflected the architects' familiarity with that style, which was well-known in Chicago from the work of Frank Lloyd Wright.

LEACH



Captain Joseph C. Leach settled in the area now known as Blind Pass Park, on Manasota Key, as early as 1882. He is among the earliest known residents of the Englewood area. He fished on Manasota Key, then known as "The Palm Ridge." The key was later renamed Peninsula Key, and still later, Manasota Key.

Leach was born in Boston in 1839, died in 1906 and is buried in Rosemary Cemetery next to his caregiver Stickney, who took care of him after a stroke.

In a newspaper article dated Sept 17, 1896 Captain Leach is on the List of Qualified Voters: Englewood District.

On the U.S. Surveyor General's Office Plat Map for Township 40 South, Range 19 East, dated September 1892, Section 27, at Lemon Bay, "Leach's Wharf" is depicted.

In an "Englewood Bureau" column in the Sarasota Herald it is stated "Grace Platt, one of Englewood's pioneers, recalled that Captain Leach had a home just north of Blind Pass since 1861." I am looking for more evidence that Leach was there that early.

Walter Roberts in his pamphlet on Manasota Key makes mention of Capt. Leach.

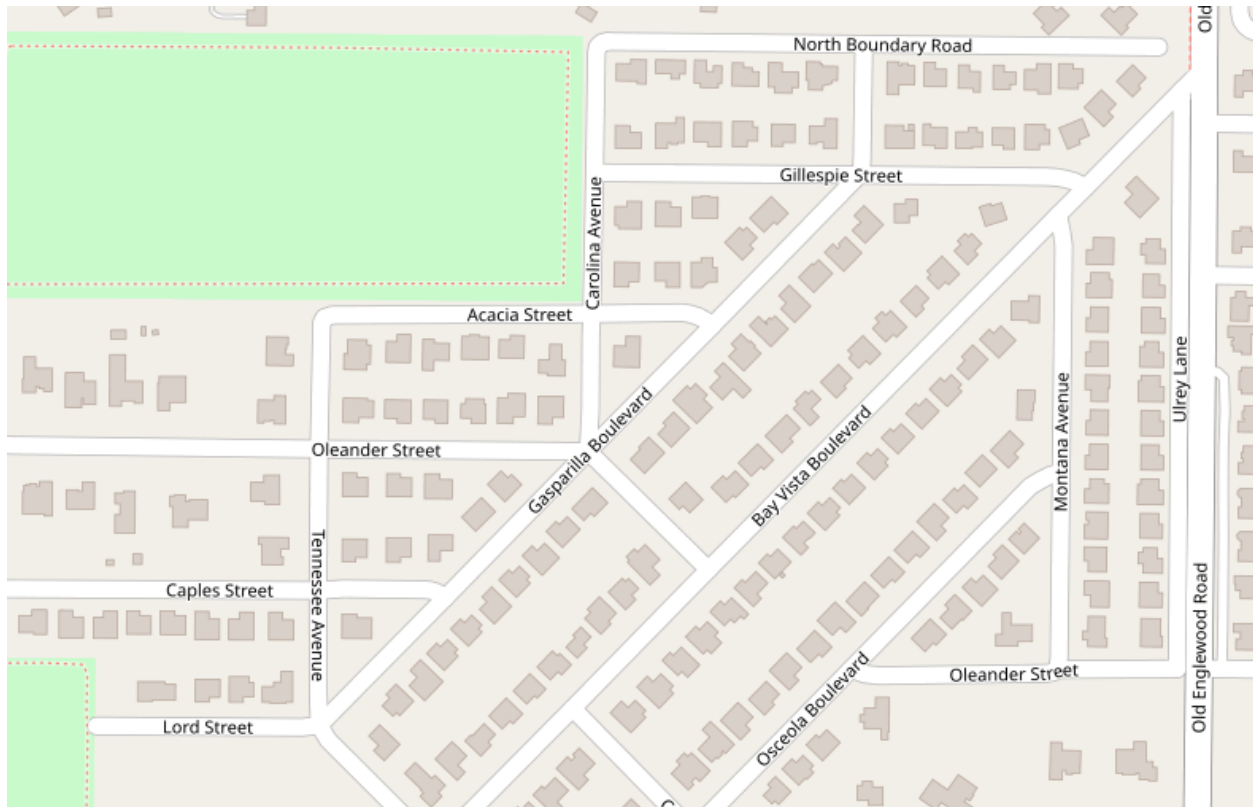
EDWARDS

You can see Edwards St. on the same map segment that shows Leach. Several Englewood streets are named for Sarasota City pioneers.

Arthur Britton (A.B.) Edwards was a real estate investor, a business ally of the Palmer family, and a major leader in the good roads and county division campaigns. He was the first mayor of the city of Sarasota and an original member of the Sarasota Board of Trade. On June 16, 1920 he convened the first mass meeting on county division and spoke at subsequent public meetings throughout the Sarasota district urging

voters to approve separation. He led or participated in every significant event leading up to county separation.

CAPLES



Over by Lemon Bay Park we have more streets named for Sarasota movers and shakers. (There are also streets there named for nature: Oleander and Acacia, and for states: Tennessee, Carolina and Montana.)

Historian Jeff LaHurd writes:

“The newlywed Ralph and Ellen Caples arrived in Sarasota for a look-see in a horse and buggy in 1899. Although there was practically nothing to commend the small village save its intrinsic beauty and climate, they were among the first who saw Sarasota’s growth potential.

“At the time a young railroad man, Ralph Caples’ desire to build a railway line to Sarasota was said to have speeded up the Seaboard Air Line Railway’s decision to extend tracks here in 1903. Word of the railroad’s plan triggered Sarasota to incorporate into a town in 1902.

“In 1912 Ralph Caples and John Burket purchased the Belle Haven Inn Hotel (Opened in 1887 as the DeSoto Hotel). He also purchased a large number of downtown lots to develop. He erected the Caples Building on Main Street.

“In October 1922, he was credited with persuading Andrew McAnsh to town to develop the Mira Mar Apartments, Mira Mar Hotel, Mira Mar Auditorium and Mira Mar Casino, finally offering Sarasota world-class accommodations to attract monied snowbirds.

“The Sarasota Times reported, ‘Much credit for this splendid development is due to Ralph C. Caples who has been a consistent booster of Sarasota for twenty years.’

“Ralph Caples passed away of heart disease on Feb. 7, 1949. The Sarasota Herald mentioned his lifetime accomplishments, concluding, ‘Caples was one of the city’s best known and best liked citizens, hiding a generous nature beneath a gruff exterior.’

“Ralph and Ellen Caples: two lifelong sweethearts who personified all that was good about yesterday’s Sarasota.”

LORD

Joseph Lord was born in Maine, practiced law, grew citrus in Venice, and became one of the biggest landowners in the old Manatee County by 1910. He sold a substantial portion of his land to Bertha Palmer and became a vice president in the Palmer corporate structure. A fighter for good roads and bridges as well as for county separation, Lord was named Sarasota County's first representative to the lower house of the legislature by Governor Cary Hardee in 1921.

GILLESPIE

Would-be colonists from Scotland who came ashore on Sarasota Bay, and were promised that a town had been built for them were ill prepared for the wilds that greeted them. There was no town. Bitter from the experience, they soon disbanded. But the mortgage company had 50,000 acres of land to sell and in 1886 sent John Hamilton Gillespie, son of the syndicate's president, to revive the effort.

Jeff LaHurd tells us: "Streets were grubbed, a hotel was constructed, boarding houses and homes were built downtown, the pier at the foot of lower Main Street was improved, trees were planted to beautify the area, businesses appeared – and the former wilderness slowly began to evolve into a habitable community.

"For Gillespie the task of transforming a rugged, backwater fishing and agriculture village into a true town was daunting. But even though he had no development/building experience he was up to the overwhelming responsibility and made Sarasota's success his life's work."

In May of 1886 he built a practice course consisting of two greens and one long fairway. This miniature course, located on present day Main Street may well have been the first golf course to be built in America.

Gillespie practiced there daily for many years. In 1905, he laid out a nine-hole golf course and built a clubhouse.

As a reward for his hard work and industriousness, when the town of Sarasota was incorporated in 1902, Gillespie was elected the first mayor and became known throughout the state as the “golfing mayor.”

MANY MORE

There are many more streets in Englewood with interesting name histories. Look for a second article to come. And if you know of any street name origins not listed here, please let me know.

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Don Bayley,

Lemon Bay Historical Society

Englewood Museum

History & Preservation Coalition of Sarasota County

SOURCES

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Cassell, Frank, *Creating Sarasota County*

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HMdb.org Historical Marker Database (Woodmere)

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sarasotahistoryalive.com/ Gillespie Led Drive for Golf in Sarasota

An Historic Resources Survey of the Coastal Zone of Sarasota County, Florida (March, 1990)

Sarasota Herald Tribune, Nov 5, 2022, “The couple behind stately Caples Hall at New College,” by Jeff LaHurd