

University of Miami Special Collections

Finding Aid - Munroe Family Papers (ASM0409)

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Language of description: English

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Munroe Family Papers

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Summary information

Repository:	University of Miami Special Collections
Title:	Munroe Family Papers
ID:	ASM0409
Date:	1903-1979 (date of creation)
Physical description:	19 boxes
Language:	English
Dates of creation, revision and deletion:	

Administrative history / Biographical sketch

Note

Ralph Middleton "Commodore" Munroe, avid yachtsman, successful businessman, and celebrated patriarch of the Munroe family, made Coconut Grove his home in the late 1800s. Munroe and his family moved to South Florida from Staten Island, New York, to provide a more beneficial environment for his wife, Eva Maelia Hewitt, who suffered from tuberculosis. Unfortunately, both his wife and daughter succumbed to illness and died shortly after their move to Miami.

Munroe subsequently split his time between Staten Island and the Grove, often staying at the Peacock family hotel, The Bay View House, later known as the Peacock Inn. Several years before the turn of the century he bought land recognized today as the Barnacle State Historic Park, where he built his permanent home. Munroe also founded the Biscayne Bay Yacht Club, and through his continual enjoyment of sailing and boating life, met his second wife, Jessie Wirth. They had two children, Wirth and Patty.

The Commodore's passion for the sea was only matched by his interest in photographing. Munroe's constant recording of the beauty of Miami with his camera provides an invaluable and lasting visual record of the time and place. The Ralph M. Munroe Family Papers consists of letters, diaries, household accounts, journals, and photographs chronicling the activities of one of South Florida's earliest families. Among the holdings are, the typescript of the popular autobiography, *The Commodore's Story*, as well as diaries written by Patty Munroe detailing South Florida "happenings." Photographs offer a look at South Florida scenic sites during the first three decades of the twentieth century.

Scope and content

The collection includes correspondence, logbooks, photographs albums, slides, and diaries pertaining to various members of the Munroe Family who settled in Coconut Grove, Florida.

Notes

Title notes

Restrictions on access

The collection is open for research

Related material

Ralph M. Munroe Family Papers, 1882-1995

Ralph M. Munroe Family Papers (Digital Collection)

The Commodore's Story: Early Miami History (Digital Exhibit)

Alan Crockwell collection, 1873-1996

Information about related materials is available at Everglades Digital Library : Everglades Biographies, Ralph Middleton Munroe <http://everglades.fiu.edu/reclaim/bios/munroe.htm>.

Other notes

- **Publication status:** Published
- **Description identifier:** ArchonInternalCollectionID:1543

Access points

- Munroe, Ralph, 1851-1933 (subject)
- Munroe, Ralph, 1851-1933 -- Family (subject)
- Diaries (documentary form)
- Coconut Grove (Miami, Fla.) (place)
- Coconut Grove (Miami, Fla.) -- Pictorial works (place)

Series descriptions

Ref code	Title	Dates	Access status	Container
id368493	File - Notebooks (Three ring binders)	1903-1952		1
id368494	File - Typescript: Commodore's Story			2
id368495	File - Photograph albums			3
id368496	File - Letters : Patty Munroe, Mary ?, Bill - Patty	c 1910 - 1950		4
id368497	File - Letters: miscellanea			5
id368498	File - Color/Black and white slides: Patty Munroe			6

id368499	File - Patty Munroe Diaries	1910, 1914, 1941-42, 1944, 1946-55, 1961,79	7
id368500	File - Photographs		8
id368501	File - Photographs		9
id368502	File - "Lost in the Everglades"		10
id368503	File - Framed/matted photographs		11
id368504	File - Framed/matted photographs		12
id368505	File - Matted photographs		13
id368506	File - Matted photographs		14
id368507	File - Framed/matted photographs		15
id368508	File - Matted photographs		16
id368509	File - Matted photographs		17
id368510	File - Matted photographs		18
id368511	File - Oversized photographs		19
id368512	File - Diaries of Patty W. Munroe	1920-21, 1921-22, 1936-39	20