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**The great-granddaughter of Miami's founder and a local historian host a series of presentations celebrating Mary Brickell and the early days of Miami, as well as a tall ship named The SS Kaimiloa**

**May 20, 2023** - Brickell Becerra duo to discuss Mary, Miami and a ship named Kaimiloa June 8th to 14th

The great granddaughter of William and Mary Brickell is arriving in Miami for a whirlwind speaking and signing tour with Miami historian Cesar Becerra to update the journey that began two years ago with the publishing of *Orange Blossom 2.0*, a book Becerra wrote to defend the unsung role of Mary Brickell in the founding of Miami that had been long forgotten but is now slowly being recognized.

Becerra met Beatrice (Bea) Brickell in the last years of a quarter century journey in working on the book and she graciously donated her time and collection of artifacts and documents to Florida International University’s Steven and Dorothea Green Library’s Special Collections Center.

During that project Brickell kept telling Becerra about another great subject of a large ship that sailed to the South Seas in 1924 with Miami’s 3rd City Clerk, the magnanimous and mysterious Medford Ross Kellum, who families were connected through the marriage of a Kellum to a Brickell.

*“At that time I was deep into the final stages of publishing and honestly I couldn’t give it my full attention but she was right, it is a great story.”*

One that has taken Becerra to Tahiti, New Zealand, Hawaii and San Francisco to track down the trail of this 230 foot long Barkentine Ship that Kellum re-configured from an old sail boat called The Luzon that plied the waters from San Fran to the Philippines from 1900 to 1924. By the time the retrofit happened in late 1924 – now fast approaching the centennial milestone of that voyage, she was now a motor-yacht still with four masts shooting up into the sky 13 stories tall.

Brickell and Becerra were last paired at the Book Fair in 2021 and for one week in June this summer, they will lecture and tour interested participants in a host of presentations that run the gamut from bus and boat tours, walking along Brickell Avenue, book readings, and workshops.

**About the author** - Cesar A. Becerra is a South Florida historian who’s taken part in chronicling and sharing the stories of the region for two decades. He is the author of half a dozen books ranging from hiking the Appalachian Trail to the logging history of the Big Cypress Preserve. He is the former publisher of *The Everglade Magazine*, an award winning publication printed during Everglades National Park's 50th anniversary. He has walked, hiked, slogged, canoed, kayaked, airboated and swamp buggied all across the Everglades. In 1997, The Miami Herald named him an "Everglades Evangelist''. Cesar’s love for the past and sense of adventure is where his two world’s unite. He has a penchant for hidden history and knows no boundaries or distances when it comes to searching for it.

**Beatrice A. (Bea) Brickell**, an attorney who practiced international law in Washington, D.C., is the great-granddaughter of South Florida pioneers Mary and William Brickell. Her young years in Miami were filled with bay breezes, palm shadows, and visits to her grandmother’s home just a few feet from the epicenter of where her great-grandparents helped to birth a city. She is also the steward of critical family documents and artifacts that have been key in telling Mary Brickell’s story.