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**A Selective Timeline of Ruskinite "Intentional
Communities" from England to America --
Focus on Florida**

- 1819 birth of John Ruskin [J.R.] (d. 1900)
- 1843 J.R., *Modern Painters*, Vol.I
- 1851 J.R., *The Stones of Venice*, Vol. I.
- 1857 birth of George McA. Miller [G.M.M.] (d. 1919)
- 1859 birth of Adaline Dickman [Miller] (d. 1936)
- 1860 J.R., book publication of *Unto this Last*.
- 1871 J.R. begins *Fors Clavigera* (letters to workingmen of England)
- 1875 John Ruskin founds "The Guild of St. George" in England.
- 1885-9 J.R., *Praeterita*, his autobiography
- 1892 J. A. Wayland founds *The Coming Nation* newspaper in Greenburg, IN
- 1894 *The Coming Nation* moves to TN --
Ruskin, TN, community (1894-1899) --
fifty miles west of Nashville.
- 1894 *Cyrus Teed founds intentional community of
"Estero," FL, south of Ft. Myers.
- 1898 Ruskin College in Trenton, MO (1899-1901)
founded by G.M.M.
- 1899 Ruskin, TN, colonists move to Duke, GA, and re-
name it Ruskin, GA, (1899-1902) -- just
south of Waycross.
- 1900 Death of John Ruskin, in England.
- 1900 Ruskin College (1900-1903) in Trenton, MO;
President is G.M.M.
- 1903 From MO, Ruskinite move to Glen Ellyn, IL;
G.M.M. helps establish Ruskin College (1903-
1906) of Ruskin University, with branches in

Chicago.

- 1905 G.M.M. scouts the future area of Ruskin, FL -- heading west from train depot in Wimauma.
*First train from Tampa, FL, to Sarasota.
- 1906 George McA. and Adaline Dickman Miller move to the fishing lodge (renamed Ruskin Hall of the town of Venoa) on top of Shell Point Calusa-Indian mound (west of current Ruskin, FL).
- 1908 Dickman families arrive, initially to live in the turpentine camp east of current Ruskin, FL. The three Dickman brothers (A.P., N.E., L.L.) had traded their farmland in Sedalia, MO, for 12,000 acres central to the current Ruskin, FL.
- 1910 Ruskin College (1910-1918) founded by G.M.M. in Ruskin, FL.
- 1910-1911 A. P. Dickman house built in Ruskin, FL. Now a Landmark of Hillsborough County, listed on the National Register of Historical Places.
- 1912 George McA. Miller House [Adaline Dickman Miller Memorial] built in Ruskin, FL. Now the Ruskin Women's Club, on National Register of Historic Places, but not a County Landmark
- 1913 (circa) L. L. Dickman House [present Ruskin Christian Migrant Association headquarters] built in Ruskin, FL.
- 1918 Ruskin College in FL closes. after the College had burned, and classes had moved to President's Home, the G.M.M. house
- 1919 death of George McA. Miller
- 1936 death of Adaline Dickman Miller; G.M.M. house deeded to Ruskin Women's Club

1967 last meeting of Ruskin Commongood Society,
which first deeds marshlands and bottom of
Ruskin Inlet (AKA "Marsh Creek) to
realtor and developer Paul B. Dickman
(son of A.P. Dickman) who performs a
"dredge and fill" of this property, as well as
Bahia Beach (Little Harbor) and Simmons
Park. Commongood Society also grants the
lands remaining to Hillsborough County,
then dissolves itself. Commongood Park,
memories, and several historic buildings
remain of the Ruskin Commongood Society.

Three Phases of American Ruskins

Phase One: Tennessee and Georgia -- Communal Ownership and Charters in Conflict

Ruskin, Tennessee (1894-1899)

- .for one membership fee, original settlers got vote
for self and another for the wife; later settlers
bought in to get one vote for the entire family,
unless the wife paid separately to join.
- .all were paid the same (\$7 per week)
- .no college -- mandatory communal dining, at
long tables
- divisiveness over alleged "free love"
- .women required to do five hours per week of
public work
- .scrip currency based on hours of work

Demise: Legal injunctions

Ruskin, Georgia (1899-1901)

- .co-operative charter, not capitalistic
- .maintained scrip based on hours of work
- .occupied site and buildings of an earlier
settlement
- .optional communal dining, short tables

- .no college
- .private land sales barely tolerated

Demise: Arson

**Phase Two: Missouri and Illinois: Education,
Individual Ownership, Land Sales**

Ruskin, Missouri (1902-1903)

- .a work-study college, taking over the former Avalon College.

Demise: move to Illinois

Ruskin, Illinois (1903-1906)

- .complex "university" structure, extending to Chicago

Demise: Economic Warfare

Phase Three: Florida (c. 1906-1967)

- .simplified corporate structure
- .allow land-sales (corporate) early on, to provide income for Commongood Society
- .seek out an area remote from cities
- .individual freeholders, male and female, all of whom are Commongood Society voters
- .no private commerce allowed
- .deed restrictions with reverter clauses to enforce community standards
- .new buildings, both communal and private
- .currency is scrip redeemable in land
- .college as central to community
- .religion: Christian but nondenominational; other faiths are allowed
- .no private donations to the college are sought, by policy

Demise (of Commongood): World War I, decades of non-communal development
