



# The Historian

*The Newsletter of The Boynton Beach Historical Society*

Serving Boynton Beach, Ocean Ridge, Manalapan, Gulf Stream, Briny Breezes, Lantana, Hypoluxo, the Village of Golf and all areas of West Boynton  
In addition to supporting the preservation of the history of Palm Beach County and the State of Florida as a whole

2009 Number 4, April 2009

## FLORIDA'S BIG DIG: THE ATLANTIC INTRACOASTAL WATERWAY 1881-1935

William G. Crawford, Jr., who has written the first comprehensive story of the completion of Florida's Atlantic Intracoastal Waterway, *Florida's Big Dig*, will present our program for the April meeting. He will illustrate the story using Powerpoint and will include people from Boynton that were involved in the waterway.

A native of Fort Lauderdale, Mr. Crawford has been published widely in South Florida history journals on a variety of topics. He is past chair and a longtime member of the Broward County Historical Commission, past president and a trustee of the Fort Lauderdale Historical Society, and Fort Lauderdale's 2004 Citizen of the Year for his efforts in preserving the city's history. He is a graduate of Stetson University College of Law and the University of Virginia. He has appeared as an expert on the History Channel's Modern Marvels documentary on the Atlantic Coastal Waterway. He has lived in Fort Lauderdale his entire life. [Big Dig, continued on p. 3.]

**WHAT:** Powerpoint presentation and Discussion on *Florida's Big Dig*, by author William G. Crawford, Jr.

**WHEN:** Monday, April 20, 2009  
6:30 p.m.

**WHERE:** Boynton Woman's Club  
1010 South Federal Hwy

**ALL MEETINGS ARE OPEN FREE  
TO THE PUBLIC!**



William G. Crawford, Jr.

**BOYNTON BEACH HISTORICAL SOCIETY  
BOARD OF DIRECTORS—2008-09**

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2010  
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2009  
2010  
2010  
2011  
2011

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The Boynton Beach Historical Society's website is boyntonbeachhistoricalsociety.org You can contact us at our e-mail address [boyntonhistory06@yahoo.com](mailto:boyntonhistory06@yahoo.com) or mail inquiries or information to our mailbox at P.O. Box 12, Boynton Beach, FL 33425-0012.

*The Historian* is mailed eight times a year—September, October, November, January, February, March, April and May—to all members. No copies are produced in December, June, July and August.

**2009 PAID MEMBERSHIPS**

Received Between March 1 and April 1, 2009  
[For list of members paid before March 1 see March  
*Historian*]

**CORPORATE:**

Scobee-Combs-Bowden Funeral Home

**PATRON:**

Earl and Lenore Benson Boonstra  
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James Irvin Lacey  
Nancy Murray Lacy  
Wilese Jones Langford  
Rita Marlin  
Ann Weems Michael  
P. Suzanne Murray  
Victor Norfus  
Lillian Ostiguy  
Oyer, Harvey E. III  
Diane Pacheco  
Dan Rousseau  
Gloria Partin Turner  
J.H. "Gym" Weeks

Memberships received after April 1 will be listed in the next issue of *The Historian*.

**IN MEMORIAM**

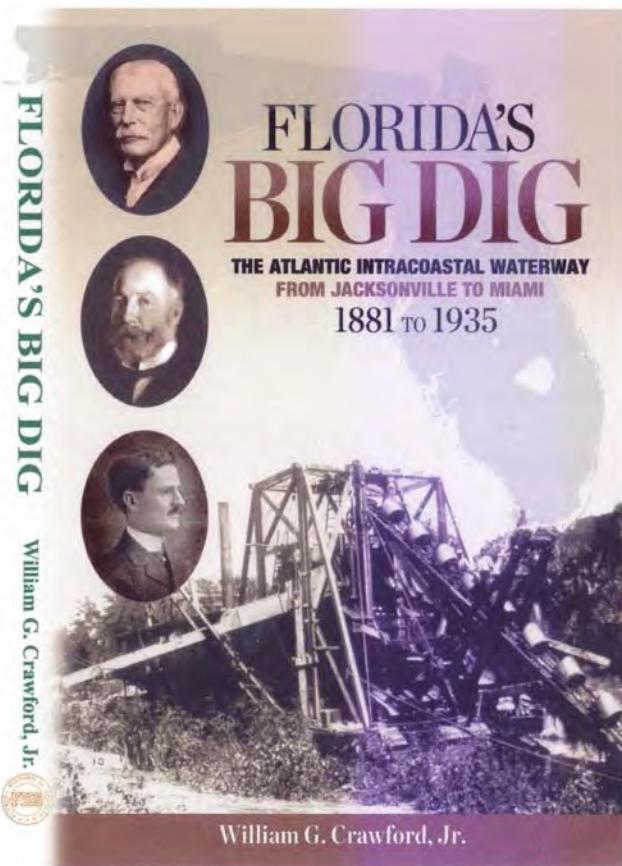
**WILLIAM RALEIGH WEEKS**

We are sad to report that Raleigh Weeks of Perry, Georgia, a long-time member of the Boynton Beach Historical Society passed away in March. Raleigh had come with his family to Boynton in the early 1930s, and his family are Florida pioneers who have been in Florida for several generations going back to Florida's Territorial days.

The members of the Society will miss his continuing support. We extend our condolences and best wishes to his family on their loss.

[Big Dig, continued from page 1]

*Florida's Big Dig*, published by the Florida Historical Society, earned the 2008 Rembert Patrick Award for the best Florida history book of the year.



While the emphasis is on the Florida portion, the entire waterway stretches from Miami to Boston. Crawford traces the roots of the waterway back to the Founding Fathers, through the history of the Canal Era and its partnerships, drawing upon early records and land deeds, and tracking the history of the men who made it a reality. It serves as a new window on the evolution of transportation in the United States and the State of Florida.

By the time the waterway was completed in the 1930s, it was obsolete for its intended purpose because railroads and highways carried the freight the developers had envisioned moving by barge and ship.

Still, it played a major role in the safe passage of commerce along the Atlantic Seaboard during World War II. Today, it promotes recreation and one of Florida's major economic engines, the boating industry.

## IN MEMORIAM

### OLGA YANKE

Although she was not a recent member of the Boynton Beach Historical Society, she had been a prominent member of the community for a long time, and her daughter Erna and son-in-law Stanley Weaver have been major contributors to the ongoing success of the organization since the Society was founded in 1968. Other family members, granddaughter Christine (George) Ternenyi, and Olga's niece Ruth Jones, whom she raised, have also been members for many years.

Originally from Germany, Mrs. Yanke was 104 years old. She and her husband had operated The Old Dutch Mill on Federal Highway during the 1940s. The Society sends its condolences and best wishes to all members of her family.

### BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING

The next meeting of the Historical Society's Board of Directors will be May 4, 2009 at 6:30 p.m. at the Boynton Woman's Club. This will be the first meeting for the new Board of Directors elected at the Annual Meeting in April. A major topic for discussion will be the sponsorship of a school essay contest on the Centennial of the founding of Palm Beach County in 1909 when the area was separated from Dade County. We expect to sponsor at least two divisions for the contest—Middle School and High School. Entries will be limited to students who attend schools in the Boynton area.

Any member of the Boynton Beach Historical Society in good standing is welcome to attend any meeting of the Board of Directors and participate in the discussion. However, only members of the Board may vote on an issue.

### MAY MEETING

If you have not already done so, mark your calendars now to remind you to attend our May covered dish dinner on Sunday, May 17 at 5:00 p.m. This is our Centennial Celebration and there will be special commemorations honoring families who were here in 1909 and gifts for everyone who attends. The Society provides the meat dishes and beverages and members are to bring a vegetable casserole, salad or dessert to serve eight. See more in the May *Historian*.

## **SOCIETY'S ANNUAL MEETING IS IN APRIL**

Our Bylaws mandate that we hold annual elections at our April meeting. We will present several items of business during the first part of the meeting including the elections.

Frances McKeral has been Chair of the Nominating Committee and deserves a special word of thanks for running a well-organized, persistent committee. Other members on the Committee are Sally Dye, Gloria Gregory, Carol Mahoney, and Sheila Taylor. Fran will present a list of nominees at the meeting. There will also be an opportunity for nominations from the floor. Election will take place immediately after nominations are closed.

Another item of business is proposed Bylaws amendments. The following are the changes the Board of Directors recommends. Only those sections under consideration for change are included below. Copies of the complete Bylaws will be available at the meeting for whoever wants them, or if you want more time to read them, call Vонcile at 561-734-5653 and she will mail you a copy. You can also obtain a copy by e-mail if you contact her at [smithvm@bellsouth.net](mailto:smithvm@bellsouth.net) and designate an e-mail address where it may be sent.

### ***Proposed amendments recommended by the Board of Directors.***

[Rationale for the changes—

Article V. The board consists of 18 members. Under the current provision we must have 10 members present (over 50%) to hold a meeting. The change would reduce the number to 8, a much easier turnout to reach. All members, of course, would receive adequate advance notice of the meeting.

Article VIII. We have been unable to organize these committees. Their duties could be filled by temporary committees should organization become desirable. Another minor change is rearranging the numbering to accommodate the changes.

Article VIII merely indicates which edition of *Roberts Rules of Order* shall apply.]

[~~strikethrough~~ is a deletion; underline is an insertion/addition]

## **ARTICLE V: BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

**Section 5.** A Quorum shall consist of a majority 40% of the Board.

## **ARTICLE VII: COMMITTEES**

**Section 5. Public Relations Committee**, chaired by the Corresponding Secretary, shall be appointed by the President promptly after the Annual Meeting. Their duties shall be to prepare and send press releases before regular meetings or special events with date, time, place of such meetings and events, and program, with follow-ups if necessary; to assist any other committees as needed with publicity; and such other duties deemed necessary by the Board of Directors.

**Section 6. Finance Committee** shall be appointed by the President promptly after the Annual Meeting. Their duty shall be to arrange and head all drives for money as deemed necessary by the Society; and such other duties deemed necessary by the Board of Directors.

**Section 8. 6** Such other committees, standing or special, shall be appointed by the President as the Society or the Board of Directors shall from time to time deem necessary to carry on the work of the Society. The President shall be an ex officio member of all committees except the Nominating Committee.

**Section 7. 5** Budget Committee, chaired by the Treasurer, shall be appointed by the President promptly after the Annual Meeting. Their duties shall be to devise an annual budget; to submit that budget to the Board for approval, to monitor expenditures; and such other duties deemed necessary by the Board of Directors.

## **ARTICLE VIII: PARLIAMENTARY AUTHORITY**

The rules contained in the current edition of *Robert's Rules of Order, Newly Revised, latest edition*, shall govern the Society in all cases to which they are applicable and in which they are not inconsistent with these Bylaws and any special rules of order the Society may adopt.

## A CENTENNIAL NOTE

Today we find it difficult to realize that those of our residents who served in county office when the Boynton area was part of Dade County often had particular hardships in carrying out their duties.

Margaret Garnett Harris, who was born in 1909, the year the County became Palm Beach, writes about her father's service on the Dade County School Board:

"My father, Andrew Garnett, was a quiet, modest man, and it was years after his death that I found out how aggressive he was concerning early schools. When the Palm Beach County School Board offices were moved from 301 North Olive Avenue in downtown West Palm Beach, my husband, Clyde Harris, who was then Assistant Superintendent, discovered copies of the Dade County School Board minutes for years 1885 to 1909. The Dade County School Board was organized and held its first meeting in 1885. That was also the year my father came to Hypoluxo. In 1909 Palm Beach County separated itself from Dade. Recognizing the historical value of these minutes, my husband had copies made of Volumes One and Three for the Historical Society of Palm Beach County and ourselves. Not long afterwards, Dade County requested copies because theirs were lost. Unfortunately, Volume Two for years 1897-1905 was missing. It had been borrowed by Guy Metcalf, board member from West Palm Beach, and was never returned or found. This was disappointing to me because my father was on the School Board during those years. He was elected when the county seat was at Juno at the north end of Lake Worth and was still serving when the county seat was returned to Miami in 1900. This meant a train trip and an overnight stay in Miami. That, of course was much



Miami showing Biscayne Bay and Miami River in 1900 when Andrew Garnett went to school board meeting in Miami.  
[Courtesy of Margaret Garnett Harris]

better than when county commissioners and school board members had to cover the distance on foot with the mail carrier [Eds. Note: the time of the "Barefoot Mailman"] in order to use the boats provided for or by him (1885-93). It was also better

than traveling from Lantana by covered wagon to Lauderdale where passengers camped overnight, crossed the New River by boat, and rode in a different wagon the next day to Lemon City (North Miami) (1893-96)."

[From *Pioneer Daughter*, Margaret Garnett Harris, Star Publishing Co., 1990, pp. 31-3.]

## A CHANGE IN THE TIMES

Spring season brings to mind a practice that would horrify many contemporary animal lovers. Do you remember various stores, especially the "dime" stores, selling little pastel dyed living baby chicks at Easter time? Some places even sold dyed baby bunnies and ducklings for people to buy as playthings for their children. Poor little creatures. Many died before they were even sold, and those that were generally did not have a long life expectancy. And parents did not worry about salmonella, but then who kept records? If a child did become ill after handling one of these little animals, the illness was generally attributed to something else.

Another recollection also relates to the lives of little chickens, baby chicks, "bitties," or whatever you choose to call them.

Those of us who depended upon the rural mail carrier had experiences a bit different from those who had mail delivery from a mail carrier on foot who carried a heavy pouch full of mail up to the box outside each front door. Some areas received two deliveries a day from the walking postman. Our mail boxes were on posts just beside the road or highway that passed near our houses, not unlike mailboxes in some areas today. . We received mail once a day six days a week from a carrier who transported everything in his car. I assume he received an allowance from the post office to help defray his costs. *The Palm Beach Post* was our daily newspaper which arrived a day late since it had to be "mailed" through the post office. Mail order live baby chicks were also delivered by the postman in cardboard boxes with ventilation holes, 100 chicks per box. I recall the boxes measuring about 20" x 20" by 5". The supplier added about 5 extra chicks to compensate for those expected to die in transit. These chicks, who were "packaged" immediately after hatching, had no food or water during the days they were travelling. People in town had to pick up their baby chicks at the post office during the hours it was open after the postman left them a notice. My grandmother told me these chickens were a lot better off than birds hatched in the wild and that most survived to grow into fryers or egg-producing hens. I often wondered what the mail carrier thought of the soft little "peeps" rising from the boxes.

