THE HISTORIAN
The Newsletter of
THE BOYNTON BEACH HISTORICAL SOCIETY
Serving Boynton Beach, Ocean Ridge, MANALAPAN, Gulfstream, Lantana, Hypoluxo, the Village of Golf and all
areas of West Boynton to US Hwy 441
Post Office Box 12, Boynton Beach, Fl. 33435-0012
Voncie Smith, President
Voncie Smith, Editor

FEBRUARY PROGRAM TO HONOR BLACK HISTORY MONTH

LeRoy Mitchell, Jr., a professional actor, will create a character based on the life of James
Weldon Johnson on Monday, February 10, at 6:30 p.m. at the Boynton Beach Public Library. This program
is part of the Florida Humanities Council speakers’ bureau which provides lively and informative presentations on
topics that concern Floridians. The program, jointly sponsored locally by the Boynton Beach Historical Society
and the Boynton Beach Friends of the Library, honors an important African American literary figure during
February—Black History month.

The scene is set according to: In the summer of 1933, James Weldon Johnson, a native of Jacksonville
and the first Negro Secretary of the NAACP, comes to our town to read some of his poetry. He may also talk
about his life as a lawyer, as a diplomat, a high school principal, a member of the Harlem Renaissance,
and as the principal collector and editor of Negro poetry and spirituals. Featured poems in-clude "O Black Bands of Long Ago,” "Sence You Went
Away,” "Mother Night,” "Lottery Girl," "Go Down Death,” "The Creation,” and "Lift Every Voice
and Sing.”

Mr. Mitchell, also a Floridian, works out of Tampa where he is an elder in the Presbyterian
Church. He is a stage, screen, and television actor who has performed on stages in the United States,
United Kingdom, and the Panama Canal Zone. After entering the U.S. Army as a private in 1966, he
retired 20 years later as a Green Beret major with experience in Vietnam, police keeper experience with
the Organization of American States, and DMZ experience in Korea.

All programs of the Historical Society are open free to the public.

BOYNTON NEEDS
AN HISTORIC PRESERVATION
ORDINANCE

Boynton Beach may very well be the only city on the coast in southeastern Florida that has no
ordinance to establish guidelines for the preservation of historic buildings and sites. As we continue to see
the demolition of irreplaceable portions of Florida’s past by city officials preoccupied with creating an ever
expanding tax base, the time is long overdue to expect the City to establish clear guidelines for
historic preservation.

Only last week, for example, the City knocked down a frame structure that stood on the
southeast corner of Ocean Avenue and Southeast Fifth Street known more recently as "the Beane
Building.” Erected in 1909 from lumber salvaged from the shipwreck of The Coquimbo, it was the
first home of the Boynton Woman’s Club and had served many other functions over the near
century of its existence. Currently the property is owned by Bob Katz who had hoped to lease the
building for a shipwreck theme restaurant. The provision for continued maintenance of such properties
could help Boynton Beach realize its potential as a
city concerned about its history and the relationship of
that history to the quality of the cultural life we can
offer.
STATE UNDERWATER ARCHAEOLOGICAL PRESERVE PROPOSED

Last Thursday, January 30, 2003, at a public meeting at the Boynton Beach Public Library representatives from several agencies discussed a proposal to establish the shipwreck Lothius as a State Underwater Archaeological Preserve.

Copies of the proposal were presented for discussion by the Bureau of Archaeological Research Division of Historical Resources Florida Department of State and Marine Archaeological Research & Conservation Reporting.

The submerged site of Lothius, the remains of a Norwegian lumber barque wrecked off Boynton Beach has been nominated to become the eighth shipwreck park in Florida. A cooperative effort between state, county, and city officials, as well as interested local organizations and individuals, is proposed to create a new historical attraction for Boynton Beach, southeast Florida, and Palm Beach County.

This proposal is the result of months of historical research by local historians and divers, as well as a recent campaign of underwater mapping, in response to local nomination of the site as an Underwater Archaeological Preserve.

Shipwreck parks are a relatively new phenomena as a means of education and preservation through recreation. Florida’s program began in 1987, with the designation of Urca de Linsa, a Spanish merchant ship cast ashore near Ft. Pierce during a hurricane in 1715, as the first state Underwater Archaeological Preserve.

In 2002, the Florida Division of Historical Resources received a nomination for a Preserve from the Marine Archaeological Research & Conservation Reporting (M.A.R.C.R.) organization, a group of avocational underwater archaeologists based in South Florida. Their research on east coast shipwrecks and maritime history identified the wreck of Lothius as a prime Preserve candidate.

Located in 20 feet of water off Boynton Beach, Lothius met the necessary criteria to become a Preserve, including public accessibility, archaeology integrity, and abundant marine life.

The vessel now wrecked off Manalapan was built at the T.R. Oswald shipyard in Sunderland, England, and was launched under the name Cashmere on October 5, 1868, in the heyday of metal sailing ships. The vessel’s recorded dimensions were 222.8 feet in length, 36.7 feet in beam, a depth of hold of 22.7 feet and 1,277 gross tons with two decks. The ship’s hull was of riveted iron construction and it was rigged as a barque with three masts. Used in the East Indian trade, the vessel had false gunports painted along her sides to deter Sumatran and Javanese pirates. In 1897, Cashmere was sold and renamed Lothius, and transferred to the American trade.

On February 4, 1898, while en route from Pensacola to Buenos Aires with a cargo of lumber, Lothius was wrecked on the east coast of Florida.

The wreck is situated approximately 175 yards off the shore of Manalapan and 3/4 of a mile north of Boynton Inlet. As with all other historical and archaeological sites on public uplands or submerged bottomlands, title to its remains is vested with the State of Florida’s Division of Historical Resources, under chapter 287 of the Florida Statutes. The law forbids unauthorized disturbance, excavation, or removal of artifacts, in order to protect the site for the people of Florida.

Today, the sunken Lothius teems with marine life; features of the once-sleek barque are recognizable on the white sand bottom, providing a magical adventure for the underwater visitor. Yet many who come across the broken wreckage have little knowledge of the ship’s history and the circum-stances that conspired to leave her a permanent resident of the waters off Boynton Beach.

The creation of a new Preserve will represent an added attraction for visitors to Palm Beach County. As an underwater destination it fits readily into three categories of tourism: Recreational Tourism, as a watersports destination: Heritage Tourism, as an historical shipwreck reflecting local maritime heritage; and Eco-Tourism, as an interpreted marine habitat.

The creation of a shipwreck park at the site of the Lothius will benefit all interested parties, and can provide important returns, both financial and historical, for the community as a whole.

The proposal’s presenters ask that letters of support for the Lothius Preserve be sent to:

Dr. James Snider Matthews, Director Florida Department of State Division of Historical Resources P.O. Box 7001 South Street Tallahassee, Florida 32305-0000 Matthews@flh.state.fl.us

(All information above is abstracted from the written proposal distributed at the meeting. For a more detailed account, contact Vonde Smith, 754-5823 or the Boynton Beach Public Library.)
2003 PAID MEMBERS
(Received by January 15, 2003)

PATRON MEMBERSHIP:
Dr. Leone Buffan
Mrs. Lois Dubois
Mr. and Mrs. James E. Jones (Patricia)
Mr. Harvey E. Oyer, Jr.
Mr. and Mrs. Phillip L. Parker (Donna S.)
Maj. and Mrs. Paul O. Price (Frances R.)
Dr. Vonnie M. Smith
Ms. Doran B. Tauger
Mr. and Mrs. Fain Weems (Claire)
Dr. and Mrs. N.M. Weems (Cecile)

FAMILY MEMBERSHIP:
Mr. and Mrs. Beverley Brown (Margaret Shepard)
Mr. and Mrs. Roben S. Clarke (Dorothea)
Dr. and Mrs. William Gamhart (Nancy)
Dr. and Mrs. Bob W. Gayler (Jeanne)
Ms. Judith Howard and Mrs. Rebecca Merkel
Mr. and Mrs. J.M. Howell (Evelyn)
Ms. Ruth J. Jones
Mr. and Mrs. John I. Rogers (Camella)
Ms. Helen, Mr. Charles, and Mr. Fred Senior
Mr. and Mrs. John Stute (Kathleen)
Mrs. Leonard Thompson (Katherine)
Mr. John Tufte and Ms. Frances McKean
Mr. Raleigh Weeks
Mr. and Mrs. Robert B. "Bob" Weeks (Rachelle)
Ms. Betty M. Zobil

INDIVIDUAL MEMBERSHIP:
Ms. Sue Murphy Beam
Mr. Arthur Blood
Ms. Barbara Bonin
Ms. Barbara Cavanagh
Ms. Lucile Dickinson
Ms. May Foy Dillon
Ms. Betty Perry Duffy
Ms. Sally Dye
Ms. Catherine Edward
Mr. Jim Edward
Ms. Virginia K. Farace
Ms. Blanche Girtman
Ms. Rosee Grummons
Ms. Margaret Gunder
Ms. Frances Haenny
Mrs. Margaret Harris
Mr. James Lacev
Ms. Helen L. McGregor
Ms. Helen Adams Meiselman
Mr. Gene Moore
Mr. Robert J. Muray
Ms. Marjorie W. Nelson
Ms. Alisa Otis
Mr. James Pitts

INDIVIDUAL MEMBERSHIPS (Continued):
Mrs. Robert E. Rabon
Ms. Margaret Rousseau
Mr. Jay Rowley
Ms. Merry Lou Muster Ryder
Ms. Eleanor Murray Sala
Ms. Loraine Van Til
Mr. Jim Warnke
(Members who have paid after January 15 will be listed in the May newsletter. If you wish to list them in the May newsletter, please send the form on the back.)

SPRING MEETINGS
March 10, 2003, 6:30 p.m., Boynton Beach Public Library. Writer Gary Monroe will discuss his book, The Highwaymen: Florida’s African-American Landscape Painters, published by the University Press of Florida, and what he learned during his six years of research for it in Fort Pierce. The program is made available through the Courtesy of the Florida Humanities Council and is jointly sponsored by the Boynton Beach Historical Society and the Boynton Beach Friends of the Library.

In conjunction with this program the Library and the Historical Society will sponsor a special exhibition of paintings by the Highwaymen that will be on display at the Library for two weeks. April 14, 2003, 7:00 p.m., Boynton Woman’s Club. “The History of the South Florida Drainage District.” Speaker TBA.

May 15, 8:00 p.m., Boynton Woman’s Club. Our annual covered dish dinner and a special program, “The Life and Works of Bernard Thomas,” with Betty Thomas and Sarah Thomas Bollenbacher.

The Boynton Beach Historical Society does not meet during the months of June, July, and August. After the May meeting, the next program meeting will be the second Monday in September—program, time and place will be announced in the September newsletter to be distributed at the end of August.

DO YOU HAVE MEMORIES TO SHARE?

Do you have photographs or clipping that you would be willing to share with the Historical Society? We will appreciate contributions, but if you wish to have them back, we will copy them and return the originals to you. We would also like you to share any personal histories of families and friends, or perhaps some personally recalled anecdotes of school or community life. Please contact the editor at P. O. Box 12, Boynton Beach, FL 33425-0X12, telephone 734-5653, or e-mail vms317@bellsouth.net.
HYPOLUXO, AND ITS HISTORY
In the fall of 1873 William H. Moore and H.D. Phem of Chicago, Ill., with the latter's wife and little boy, Charlie, founded when several thous ants of the new town of Hypoluxo. With one exception they were the first settlers on Lake Worth, Charlie Moore, or Charles Warner, as his right name proved to be, lives at the upper end of the lake; he could hardly be called a settler, as he lived here in a little shanty, all alone, simply for the purpose of "watch-combing." During those days there were a great many swallows, and stiff stuff coming in on the beach. Mr. Perry and Mr. Jabe rode a good-sized two-story palmetto house of one room on each floor, in the middle of the hammock on Hypoluxo island. A little later Mr. Moore took up a homestead on the northern end of the island, but continued to live most of the time with Mr. Phem and family. provide for all kinds were very scarce, and the man had to go to Titusville, a distance of 160 miles. In a tiny nine-foot open boat (a shortened lengthened to twelve feet) for any kind of food. "Provisions" generally consisted of white bread, ham, corn meal and flour; no butter, for it was too dear for a poor man. The trip was from eight days to three weeks long. The lake was well stocked with fish of all kinds, and the woods were full of bear, panther, deer and turkey, also a few wabas, and a great number of smaller animals. Mrs. Perry said it was no uncommon thing for her to stand in the door and see bears "offlagging the lawlands." They had moved six miles south to the Orange Grove House of Refuge, so called from the large grove of wild sour oranges growing there. At this place in August, 1876, he settled [Little Pineo Voss] was born. In 1877 the family moved back to their island home, where they have since lived. Hypoluxo formerly included everything south of Captain Dimmick's place down as far as Orange Grove Station, but since several little town have been cleared out of it, and there is a good large section left yet. In 1877 Mr. E.G. Draper, wife and three children, came to Hypoluxo from Chicago; after living with Mr. Phem's family some time they took up a homestead on the west side. About this time a family of the name of Butler settled on the middle of Hypoluxo island. Butler did not work much, but had a small potato patch, which he constantly figured on, till in his own eyes he was rich, but horses never came. "Like Butler's sweet potato patch," is still a joke among the older residents. He soon tired of the solitude, however, and moved to Dimmickville.
The next settler west Michael Merkle, alle from Chicago. He had been wealthy, but losing his property, he decided to come to Florida. He arrived in the fall of 1876, and since then several little towns have been cleared out of it, and there is a good large section left yet. In 1877 Mr. E.G. Draper, wife and three children, came to Hypoluxo from Chicago; after living with Mr. Phem's family some time they took up a homestead on the west side. About this time a family of the name of Butler settled on the middle of Hypoluxo island. Butler did not work much, but had a small potato patch, which he constantly figured on, till in his own eyes he was rich, but horses never came. "Like Butler's sweet potato patch," is still a joke among the older residents. He soon tired of the solitude, however, and moved to Dimmickville.
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that Mr. Merkle had made; he has a shotgun, but very seldom uses it. So far all of Hypoluxo's residents were from Chicago; but in 1880 George Chambers from Batterton, Va., came, and took up a homestead on the "leather-string farm," and it was so long and narrow. George himself called it "Buntard's Fruit," there were so many of these shrubs on it. He was quite a character, but a kindly twisted man never lived. He built a house composed of the pieces of a vessel that went ashore in front of his place. It was a very good house, and strong enough to stand any hurricane on the coast of Florida. I knew George Chambers eleven years, and during the whole time I never saw him wearing shoes. On the homestead he planted thousands of coconuts, which today make it the largest coconut grove in the state.

In 1884 he sold the homestead for $7,500 and intended going home to be married, but while stopping in Jacksonville on his way to Vermont he was then acting as mail carrier, and was living trying to cross Hillsboro river. The others have constantly improved their properties; have groves of lemons and oranges, many handsome and profitable banana trees, and extensive mixed gardens. As time passed in many others settled on the west side, truck farming being the principal industry.
WHERE IS WILBUR R. HACKLE?

A postcard from a former ultrasonic addressed to Wilbur R. Hackle arrived in the P.O. Box of the Historical Society recently. Many people remember Wilbur, but no one your editor has talked to seems to know his current address. Does any reader know where the card can be sent to reach him? If so, please contact the Historical Society, of call or e-mail Vonnie at 561-734-5653 or vms317@bellsouth.net

THE FABULOUS 50s

[Sometimes I feel overwhelmed by e-mail messages. I delete the ads, but most of the jokes and bits of nostalgia passed on to me. I thought some of you might enjoy reading one I received recently about the father's recollections of reflections on the past.]

“DO YOU REMEMBER?”

“Hey Dad,” my son asked me the other day. “What was your favorite fast food when you were growing up?”

“We didn’t have fast food when I was growing up.”

“Cro, seriously. Where did you eat?”

“We ate at home,” I explained. “My Mom cooked every day and when Dad got home from work, we all sat down together at the table, and if I didn’t like what she put on my plate I had to sit there until I did like it.”

By this time, my son was laughing so hard I was afraid he was going to suffer some serious internal damage, so I didn’t tell him the part about how I had to get my father’s permission to leave the table.

Here are some other things I would have told him about my childhood if I had figured his system could handle it.

My parents never wore Levi’s, set foot on a golf course, traveled out of the country, flew on a plane, or had a credit card.

TIME MARCHES ON!

On the right is a picture taken at a Chamber of Commerce gathering in the 1950s. Who do you recognize in the picture? Several of your officers know some of the people (we think), but we would like your help to identify any of them.

In their later years they had something called a ‘revolving charge card’ but they never actually used it. It was only good at Sears-Roebuck. Or maybe it was Sears and Roebuck. Either way, there is no Roebuck any more.

We didn’t have a television in our house until I was 12. It was, of course, black and white, but you could buy a piece of special colored plastic to cover the screen. The top third was blue, like the sky, and the bottom third was green, like grass. The middle third was red. It was perfect for programs that had scenes of fire trucks riding across someone’s lawn on a sunny day.

Pizzas were not delivered to your house back then, but milk was.

I never had a telephone in my room. Actually the only phone in the house was in the hallway, and it was on a party line. Before you could make a call, you had to listen to make sure someone else wasn’t already using the line. If the line was not in use, an operator would come on and ask, “Number, please,” and you would give her the number you wanted to call. Movie stars kissed with their mouths shut on screen. Touching someone else’s tongue with yours was called French kissing, and they just didn’t do it in movies back then. I had no idea what they did in French movies. French movies were considered dirty and we weren’t allowed to see them. You never saw the Lone Ranger, Roy Rogers, or anyone else actually kill someone. The heroes back then would just shoot the gun out of the bad guy’s hand. There was no blood and violence.

When you were sick, the doctor actually came to your house. No, I am not making this up. Drugs were something you purchased at a pharmacy in order to cure an illness. If you grew up in a generation before there was fast food, you may want to share some of these memories with your kids or grandchildren. Just don’t blame me if they fall over laughing. Growing up today sure isn’t what it used to be.”
To join the Boynton Beach Historical Society for the calendar year 2003, please complete the form below and mail it with your check for the designated type of membership to Sue Beamman, Treasurer; 2010 S.W. 15th Street, Boynton Beach, FL 33426. Make checks payable to BOYNTON BEACH HISTORICAL SOCIETY.

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