



# 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.

2013 Number 4

April 2013

## HISTORY of GIRL SCOUTING in PALM BEACH COUNTY

The presenter for the program topic above is Jeanne Cuddy, Mission Delivery Manager—Volunteerism, who has been with the Girl Scouts of Southeast Florida for over 22 years. Jeanne works with key volunteers in Area 2, which includes all of Palm Beach County. Her main function is to instruct volunteers to become community team leaders, facilitators, and offer adult recognition programs for volunteers in her council. She manages a scholarship fund for high school seniors who provide service within their communities. She also manages the council's archives, historical collection, and works with the volunteer archive committee. Currently over 1,000 pieces of memorabilia have been donated to the Council's history collection.

Since 1996 Jeanne has volunteered to write and present many courses for Girl Scouts USA. She has published several articles, including "Girl Scout History is Women's History" and "100 Years of Girl Scout History," for national magazines of other organizations. She has received the highest National Award for adult Girl Scouts: the Thanks Badge and the Thanks II Badge. She has 3 grown daughters all of whom also enjoyed being Girl Scouts.



Girl Scouts Enjoy Many Activities



Providing Cookies for the Military



Attending Summer Camp



Selling Girl Scout Cookies



Gathering Around the Camp Fire

**WHAT:** History of Girl Scouting in Palm Beach County, by Jeanne Cuddy

**WHERE:** BOYNTON CITY LIBRARY  
208 South Seacrest Boulevard  
Program Room

**WHEN:** Monday, April 15. 6:30 p.m.

**ALL PROGRAMS OF THE BOYNTON BEACH HISTORICAL SOCIETY ARE OPEN FREE TO THE PUBLIC**

## BOARD OF DIRECTORS--2012-13

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Our website is [www.boyntonbeachhistoricalsociety.org](http://www.boyntonbeachhistoricalsociety.org). The e-mail address is [boyntonhistory06@yahoo.com](mailto:boyntonhistory06@yahoo.com). Please mail inquiries or information to our local address P.O. Box 12, Boynton Beach, FL 33425. Voncile can be reached at 561-734-5653.

You can also find us on Facebook and Twitter:

[www.facebook.com/historicboyntonbeach](http://www.facebook.com/historicboyntonbeach)

[www.twitter.com/@boyntonhistory](http://www.twitter.com/@boyntonhistory)

*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. Copies from past years are posted on the website.

### APRIL IS OUR ANNUAL MEETING

According to our Bylaws each April we hold our Annual Meeting during which we elect new officers, directors and trustees. We have held a short business meeting at the start of our program meeting to accomplish this requirement. In the past this procedure has taken about 10 minutes and includes the Report from the Nominating Committee, the call for Nominations from the Floor, Closing Nominations, then the Election. This is followed immediately by the program speaker. If you are a member of the Boynton Beach Historical Society, please try to arrive promptly so that you can participate in this important item of business.

Copies of the Bylaws will be available at the meeting on April 15 for anyone who wants a copy.

### ACTIVITIES FOR MAY MEETING

Please put on your calendar now the date for the May meeting—Sunday, May 5. As has been our tradition we are planning a covered dish dinner for a late Sunday afternoon

at 5:00 p.m. The Historical Society will provide the beverages, the main course (meat and vegetarian), and the place settings (plates, cups and flatware). You are asked to please bring a salad, a vegetable dish, or a dessert large enough to serve at least 8. If you are unable to bring a dish, you may pay \$7.00 at the door for each person.

The May meeting is our last meeting until September. You will receive the *May Historian* about a week before the event, and that will be the last newsletter until September.

The speaker for the May meeting will be Harvey Oyer, III, who will discuss the three children's books he has authored based on the information obtained from the journal about the area his great-grand uncle Charles Pierce wrote. Copies of Harvey's books will be available at a special price.

Harvey has recently been notified that he has been chosen Florida Author of the Year and will soon go to Washington, D. C. to receive a special award. His books have each received many honors.

### AN APOLOGY

In the March issue of *The Historian* your editor listed the Boynton Beach Historical Society members of the Voss family who were attending the special ceremony held in Tallahassee March 20 to honor Lillie Pierce Voss as a Florida Woman's Hall of Fame inductee for 2012/2013. We also named Lillie's relatives who are members of the Society. We omitted mentioning Charlotte Oyer and Lois Oyer Dooley, granddaughters of Lillie Voss, who are both long time members and supporters of the Society. They report that they probably knew her better than any of the others because they saw her almost daily in her later years. We apologize for this oversight.

### IN MEMORIAM

**DONNA W. HARMENING**—Donna had lived in Boynton Beach for over 50 years, but a few years ago moved to Springfield, VA to be close to family members as she grew older. She continued to maintain her membership in the Boynton Beach Historical Society.

She was an avid supporter of the Boynton Beach City Library and asked that any memorial contributions be sent to the Friends of the Library in honor of the Edward and Donna Harmening Memorial Fund.

Her husband Edward (Ed) who predeceased her, was a long-time mayor of Boynton Beach. The Edward F. Harmening Arbor Memorial Park at 124 E. Woolbright Road is named in his honor.

Both were active community leaders.

We send our condolences to their three daughters—Elizabeth (Jeff) Johnson, Mary (Mike) Pitman, and Patti (Tom) Spulak, and their eight grandchildren.

## IN MEMORIAM

**PEGGY LILLARD BROWN**—Although not members of the Boynton Beach Historical Society Peggy and her husband Clyde David Brown who predeceased her by 33 years were long time residents of Boynton Beach. Peggy died in January of this year.

Peggy was active during most of her life in community service. She taught first grade at St. Joseph's elementary school for over 10 years and was a supporter of the YMCA and the Boynton Woman's Club. She was an enthusiastic traveler and had enjoyed living in Europe in the early years of her marriage while Clyde was in service. After retirement she visited all seven continents returning with memories and memorabilia from all.

Clyde Brown retired as a Lt. Colonel USAF in 1965. He was a POW during World War II, served during the Korean conflict and in the War in Vietnam. He was a graduate in the early 1940s of Boynton High School and attended the University of Florida and graduated from the University of Miami. Howell Brown, another well-known Boynton resident, was one of his brothers.

Peggy and Clyde had two children, Elizabeth, who also died in 1980, and a son C. David Brown. David Brown and his wife Wanda currently live in Orlando as do the two grandchildren Teresa and Kristin. We extend our condolences to these family members.

## A TOUCH OF OLD FLORIDA

A nice Sunday outing for anyone willing to drive about 50 miles northwest of Boynton Beach is a visit to the Seminole Inn in Indiantown. This family owned restaurant is open for other meals, but their Sunday Brunch is a country treat. Served from 9:30 a.m. until 2:00 p.m. each Sunday, the brunch is well-attended and anyone expecting to be served should probably call ahead to make a reservation.

The Inn is also a small hotel and a limited number of rooms are available. The Inn was designed and built in 1926 by S. Davis Warfield in the Spanish Mission Revival Style. The building bears a striking resemblance to the 1927 Boynton High School, also designed in the mid 1920s primarily in Mission Revival Style but by architect William Manly King.

Warfield was president of Seaboard Air Line Railroad and planned to make Indiantown the southern hub of the railway. He designed a model city, laying out streets and building a school, housing and a railroad station. But Florida's land boom bust in 1926, Warfield's death in 1927, and the destruction from the 1928 hurricane ended development.

Indiantown was originally established by the Seminole people as a trading post. In the 1890s it was settled by

white American migrants. The most famous visitor to the town and to the Inn was Warfield's niece, Wallis Warfield Simpson. She married the former King Edward VIII of England who had abdicated the British throne in 1936 in order to wed this twice divorced woman. They became the Duke and Duchess of Windsor and travelled the world, but they usually stopped in Palm Beach when they visited South Florida, and whether they ever stayed at the Seminole Inn after their marriage is questionable.

The Inn holds a number of photos and artifacts from earlier times, and, if a visitor can pull aside a family member, he or she will discuss the interesting aspects of the Inn's history.



The Seminole Inn – 15885 SE Warfield Blvd, Indiantown, FL

## UPDATE – 1927 HIGH SCHOOL CONVERSION

On March 11, City Manager Lori LaVerriere reported that Lake Worth architect Juan Contin who is leading the project to convert the 1927 building to an events center and destination had met the March first review deadline to submit its plans, but she indicated there were some deficiencies.

Mike Rumpf, Director of Planning and Zoning said the plans were reasonably complete but among other items a "boundary survey" spilled onto the site of the 1913 Schoolhouse Museum and Contin did not provide parking calculations. Contin indicated that all discrepancies had already been cleared up or could be. The team reviewing the project was to make comments that week with April 16 scheduled for its second round review before taking the plans to the City's Planning and Development Board on May 28. The first round reading for the City Commission is scheduled for June 4 and a final vote June 18. The deadline to close is July 10. According to Rumpf, if significantly new drawings are presented during the second review stage, there may be a delay or they may require a third stage review. Rumpf is assuming changes can keep the project on schedule.

The estimated value of the project is \$4.5 million.

## LET US HAIL THE PINEAPPLE

Long regarded in the South as a symbol of hospitality the pineapple has had special significance in the development of Boynton Beach and other areas of South Florida. It was a major crop in the early farming days here, and determining how to get the product to northern markets before it spoiled was a major concern.

Now let's take a look at how the pineapple can benefit us all. The following information, widely circulated on the internet but apparently credited to DOLE, sheds contemporary light on the nature and benefits of this fruit:

The pineapple is a member of the bromeliad family. Very rarely do bromeliads produce edible fruit, and the pineapple is the only available edible bromeliad today.

It is a multiple fruit. One pineapple is actually made up of dozens of individual flowerets that grow together to form the entire fruit. Each scale on a pineapple is evidence of a separate flower.

Pineapples stop ripening the minute they are picked. No special means of storage will help ripen them further. Color is relatively unimportant in determining ripeness. Choose a pineapple by smell. If it smells fresh, tropical and sweet, it will be a good fruit. The more scales on the pineapple the sweeter and juicier the taste.

One can plant the top after cutting it off. The top should grow much like a sweet potato will.

The fruit is not only sweet and delicious, but it offers many health benefits. It is helpful for easing indigestion, arthritis, or sinusitis. The juice also has an anthelmintic effect: it can aid in ridding the body of intestinal worms.

Pineapple is high in manganese, a mineral that is critical to development of strong bones and connective tissue. A cup of fresh pineapple will provide about 75% of the daily recommended amount. It is particularly helpful to older adults whose bones tend to become brittle with age.

Bromelain, a proteolytic enzyme, is one key to pineapple's value. Proteolytic means "breaks down protein, which is why pineapple is known to be a digestive aid. It helps the body digest proteins more efficiently. Bromelain is also considered to be an effective anti-inflammatory. In Germany bromelain is approved as a post-injury medication because it is believed to reduce inflammation and swelling.

Regular ingestion of at least one half cup of fresh pineapple daily is purported to relieve painful joints common to those with osteoarthritis. It also may produce mild pain relief.

Orange juice is a popular liquid for those suffering from a cold because of it is high in vitamin C. Fresh pineapple is not only high in this vitamin, but because of the bromelain it has the ability to reduce mucous in the throat. If one has a cold with a productive cough, add pineapple to the diet. It is commonly used in Europe as a post-operative measure to cut mucous after certain sinus and throat operations.

Those who eat fresh pineapple daily report few sinus problems related to allergies. In and of itself, pineapple has a very low risk for allergies.

Pineapple is also known to discourage blood clot development. This makes it a valuable dietary addition for frequent fliers and others who may be at risk for blood clots.

An old folk remedy for morning sickness is a glass of fresh pineapple juice. Some pregnant women report that it really works! Fresh juice and some nuts first thing in the morning often make a difference.

And it's also good for a healthier mouth. Fresh juice discourages plaque formation..

## BOYNTON WOMAN'S CLUB COMPLETES 104 YEARS

In the March *Historian* we printed the invitation to the Open House held March 10 to commemorate the 104 years of service the women of the Woman's Club have given to the citizens of Boynton Beach and the surrounding area. The Boynton Beach Historical Society was invited to set up a table to give information about ourselves. Voncile Smith and Steve Anton were there throughout the event. We displayed all 11 years of *The Historian*, enlargements of about 15 old photographs, and thanks to the Boynton Beach City Library's new archivist Susan Swiatosz, we had two enlarged photos on easels loaned to us by Scobee-Combs-Bowden that showed a 1950s picture of the Woman's Club and the 1905 picture of women using a lighter to cross the canal at the foot of Ocean Avenue. Steve provided new copies of the Society brochure he had developed, and we also had membership applications and the March issue of *The Historian* for people to pick up. The event was well attended, the refreshments were excellent, and we felt happy about our successful participation

## AN EARLIER WOMAN'S CLUB AFFAIR

**BOYNTON**  
By MRS. C. B. WHITE

BOYNTON—The banquet hall of the Boynton Woman's Club presented a gala appearance, as members and guests were seated at the flower decked "U" tables, Friday night at the annual banquet honoring the newly elected president.

Mrs. M. H. Partin, retiring president, presented Mrs. C. H. Hood, incoming president, with a large bouquet of roses. Mrs. Hood responded, and as a surprise to Mrs. Partin, presented a gold pin to the past president. Past presidents present gave one minute talks on "What the Club Should Stand for in the Community." Responding, were Mrs. Clara White, Mrs. J. J. Williams, Mrs. Ethel Pierce, Mrs. T. M. Woolbright and Mrs. H. T. Holloway.

Guests of the club, Mrs. Sue Webster, vice-president of section 10 and Mrs. Wicks of Lake Worth. Mrs. L. B. Crane presided as toast-mistress. As the main course was cleared away, Curtis Weaver and Marion Weems entered in costume and presented each diner with a blown up balloon, eight of which contained numbers. Those holding numbers responded with required stunts.

Following the dessert course, chairs were arranged in the library and a dance review by the Grace Thomas Studio assisted by Mr. and Mrs. J. Weldon. Alice Nain Weems gave a tap dance and Beverly Peterson, Virginia Sullivan, Earlyn Reed, Jean Adams, Colleen Allen and Joey Doherty appeared in dance numbers. "Hats of Tomorrow" was paraded by the Junior girls, including Miss Jean Jones, Miss Lenor Benson, Miss Lorene Cunningham, Miss Mollie Schwebel, Miss Helen Adams, Miss Harriet Lewerenz and others. Mrs. Paul Mercer presided at the piano. Phil O'Connell was introduced and talked on "Our Country of Tomorrow."

The article above from 1939 was found recently among Rebecca Partin Merkle's mementos by her daughter, Judith Merkle Howard. Not only does it describe a Woman's Club activity 74 years ago, but it contains many names well-known in Boynton at that time, some of which belong to people who are current members of the Historical Society.

## BOYNTON HISTORY

By Mrs. Fred Voss [Lillie Pierce Voss], 1943

Prior to the time of any of the earlier white settlers along the lower end of Lake Worth, and many years before the East Coast Canal was cut in 1894-95 linking the waters of Lake Worth with that of Biscayne Bay 60 miles to the south, there were people living along here. We do not know much about the Mound Builders, aside from the fact that we have seen those mounds that were a half mile or so south of Boynton Inlet.

When Ocean Boulevard was built, the careless engineers dug or cut off the east side of the burial mound, and as you ride over this road you are passing directly over the skulls and larger bones under the road surface of what were once the happy Tekesta warriors and their families.

Karl Squires, Miami engineer, and student of anthropology, says that the manner of burial was to lay the bodies where the bones would be picked clean by birds. Buzzards probably, and then place them on the burial site. I know this was not done at the Boynton Beach mound as the whole outline of the bodies were plainly seen in dark sand, in contrast to the ocean beach sand in between them. Tekestas or Caloosas who also lived along this coast, they were large men as their bones testify.

Drs. Hubbell & Sherman of the U. of Fla. think they were Caloosas, but it was previously decided that the Caloosas lived on the West Coast & the Tekestas on the East Coast; probably the tribes were mixed, or moved about in their nomadic way. So much for the earliest Boynton inhabitants – Later came the Seminoles who had in 1870 to 1894 a haulover south of the inlet, where in calm weather they hauled their canoes over the ridge and onto the ocean or vice versa as the case might be. They frequently camped here, under a flat palm-thatched roof, built on four poles, until the sea smoothed off.

Along the serrated muck banks on the west side of the bight forming the end of the lake were numerous little waterways, and on the bottom of one of them a very old flint lock musket was once found, about 1878, maybe the soldier who carried it had used his last bullet, and so tiring of its weight, threw it away, or perhaps he fell a victim to the huge alligators and crocodiles which there were plentiful along the entire Lake.

First settlers.

Cecil Lipton bought state land here in 1876. School teacher in Alabama, his land was up at the north end near the canal where he was murdered in about 1926. He did not come here to live until around 1890-95, but had coconut trees and pineapples planted on his place.

About 1879 a family from Michigan whose son Dexter Hubbel had spent a year or so here, came down by schooner from Jax, and unloaded lumber, provisions and an ox team on the beach just about where the Boynton Casino was built. There was eleven in the family, and they soon built a shack to live in on their homestead which began at high water mark on the ocean beach, and extended back to the little muddy creek on the west. This creek rejoices now in the name Spanish Creek and there is supposed to be a wreck sunk in the mud, however the wreck is only of a very modern boat and not of Spanish type at all. The creek called a little while after the Hubbels grew tired, and went

back to Michigan in 1880, "Steve's Creek" after the young man who used it to keep his boat in. He was the second keeper of the Govt House of Refuge at Delray Beach. Steve bought out the holdings of the Hubbel family, and kept his boat in the creek where he could use it to sail up the lake and get his groceries and mail. For a great many years previous to this, the creek could have been called Indian Creek as in the high water in the fall of the year there had been a water way for canoes thru from Lake Worth to Hillsboro River and thence to New River & Biscayne Bay.

This brings us up to the winter of 1894-95 when Major Boynton & Col. Linton came down the canal one Sunday in the small Cruiser Victor, owned by Fred Voss to look over their respective town sites of Linton (Delray) and Boynton which was later put on the market. Both places were eventually settled by Michigan people, but Delray had also a German Colony at the west of town while Boynton's citizens were mostly plain United States.

Among the names remembered of Boynton's early pioneers are those of H.B. Murray and family, Bert Kapp & wife, Frank and Ika Funk, W.H. Smith and family now of Stuart, Mr. & Mrs. Charlie Davis, Freedlands, and many others.

There had to be a way to make a living so various enterprises were ventured, raising roses and strawberries was tried and found not profitable, possibly because they were planted on the marl lands instead of the higher ground slightly at the west of the marl banks.

The canal had drained many acres of deep muck and more land that for a thousand years or so had been under water; with every fall a dying vegetation and tiny shell life that had made it the garden spot of America. The new settlers thus took up the art, and art it is, of raising huge "freeze out" beds of tomato and pepper plants under cloth and warmed by stoves, to reset the fields where the temperature would occasionally go below 35 o. Much money was made and also lost in the growing of vegetables, and at present this land is practically all gone over to nursery stock, where much of the finest stock is grown and shipped away, or used in the beautification of landscaping in the surrounding country.

Of late years many fine Dairies have been built up, west and south of Boynton with herds of fine, tested cattle.

Boynton has one of the finest Woman's Clubs on the entire East Coast which was the gift of Major Boynton, whose portrait hangs on the wall of the auditorium. There was a later gift to the Club from Mrs. \_\_\_\_\_ (please ask the name, I cannot recall it) whose large photograph also is on the wall. Boynton has a fine Library in the Woman's Club, a really fine set of Grammar and High School buildings, two churches, Methodist and Baptist, a drug store, and Post Office, also a Casino on the Ocean Beach. Mrs C. W. Pierce is the P.M. at present, succeeding Mr. Pierce after his death four years ago, who had been Post Master almost continuously for thirty years.

[This manuscript, handwritten in ink on notebook paper was found among the papers of Rebecca Partin Merkle by her daughter Judith Merkle Howard. Rebecca had been President of the Boynton Beach Historical Society soon after it was founded.]

**BOYNTON BEACH HISTORICAL SOCIETY  
MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION FORM**

Member's  
Name \_\_\_\_\_  
2nd Member's  
Name \_\_\_\_\_  
Street \_\_\_\_\_  
City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_  
Telephone \_\_\_\_\_ Cell \_\_\_\_\_  
E-mail \_\_\_\_\_

**TYPE OF MEMBERSHIP:**

INDIVIDUAL (\$25.00) \_\_\_\_\_ FAMILY (\$35.00) \_\_\_\_\_  
PATRON (\$50.00) \_\_\_\_\_ CORPORATE (\$100 or more) \_\_\_\_\_

Complete this form and mail it with a check for the appropriate amount to Boynton Beach Historical Society, P. O. Box 12, Boynton Beach, FL 33425-0012.

**THE HISTORIAN**  
P.O. Box 12  
Boynton Beach, FL 33425-0012

We are proud to serve Boynton Beach, Ocean Ridge, Manalapan, Gulf Stream, Lantana, Hypoluxo, Briny Breezes and all areas West of Boynton Beach to U.S. Hwy 441, and on occasion, greater Palm Beach County.



*The Pierce home on Hypoluxo Island was built in 1876 from lumber and driftwood salvaged from the beach. H. D. Pierce is leaning against the doorway on the right*