



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.

February 2021

Lure of the Sun: Major Nathan Boynton and His Boynton Beach Hotel By Janet Naughton

Monday, February 22, 2021 @ 7-8pm

If your email is on file with us, check your inbox for your invitation. If you haven't received an invitation, send a request to join to bbhsprograms@gmail.com and we'll send you one!

In 1898 the aging Civil War Major Nathan Smith Boynton established a winter colony for wealthy Michiganders and used his political and media connections to make being a snowbird fashionable. This presentation discusses Maj. Boynton, his sojourn to South Florida, his hotel overlooking the Atlantic Ocean, and its 25 years as a Boynton landmark.

Janet Naughton, immediate past president of the Boynton Beach Historical Society, is an author, historian, and professor at Palm Beach State College. She holds master's degrees in Information Science and American History. Her research areas include Florida history, women's history, African American history, library history and Palm Beach County history. She has published over a dozen books and articles on Florida's history, and promotes historic scholarship by delivering lectures and conducting history tours.



Boynton Beach Historical Society

Since 1968

2020-2021 Board of Directors

OFFICERS Elected Annually

President – M Randall Gill
1st Vice President, Programs - Barbara Ready
2nd Vice President, Membership - Sheila Rousseau Taylor
Secretary - Anne Rimler
Interim Treasurer – Anne Rimler

TRUSTEES 3-Year Term

2021 - Donna Artes
2021 - Susan Oyer
2022 - Virginia Farace
2022 - Ben Lowe
2023 – Steve Anton
2023 – Heidi Bell

Non-Elected

Interim Editor, *The Historian* - Anne Rimler
Archivist/Facebook/Webmaster – Janet Naughton
Facebook Admin/Webmaster – Ginger Pedersen

Boynton Beach Historical Society

PO Box 12, Boynton Beach, FL 33425

We are on the web www.boyntonhistory.org, Facebook
@HistoricBoyntonBeach and Twitter @BoyntonHistory.

Questions or comments: **Programs?** bbhsprograms@gmail.com
or **Membership?** bbhsmembership@gmail.com.

The Historian

The Historian, the newsletter of the Society, is usually mailed six times a year, October through April, to all dues-paid members (one per paid membership). An issue is not produced in December. Previous issues are posted to our website. Issues were not produced Apr '20 to Jan '21 due to COVID-19.

2020-2021 Season Save The Date

Feb 22 Lure of the Sun, Janet Naughton
Mar 22 Fort Lauderdale's New River, Donn R Collee, Jr
Apr 26 Annual Meeting, Excellence Awards & More!

Gift Memberships, Memberships Given in Honor, or Given in Memory Are Available

Complete the Membership Form and mail with your check or pay online securely using PayPal at www.boyntonhistory.org

We are grateful and thank: **Dan & Lisa Ames Suiter** for their gift in memory of **John N & Kathleen T Suiter**; to **Bill & Gaye Weaver** for their gift in memory of **C Stanley & Erna Y Weaver**; for her gift from **Sheila Rousseau Taylor**.

Volunteer Opportunities

Are you a fan of Boynton Beach? Invest in its future by upholding its past and become a volunteer with the Society! The Boynton Beach Historical Society is run entirely by volunteer members. Let us know if you would like to join us and make history happen!

THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT!

The following represents our Membership Roll to date & dues received for two seasons from 3/1/20 to 2/1/21.

Thanks to our Life Members

Lenore Raborn Boonstra
Candy & Doug Brueggemann
EasyPay Tire Stores Inc, Doug Besecker, Ruth Besecker
Robert and Jeanne Gaylor
M Randall Gill
Robert & Christian Oyer Macoviak
Melear Bros., Cliff & Rick Melear
Wayne & Eva Brooks Knuth Netzler
Scott & Camilla Smith Richardson
Alexander "Sandy" Simon
Ernest G Simon
Voncile Marshall Smith
George & Christine Weaver Ternenyi
Dorian Beck Trauger
Curtis & Nanie Weems Weaver
William & Gaye Weaver
Bill & Elsie Winchester

Thanks to our Corporate Members

Boynton Memorial Chapel, Stormet Norem
Delray Awning, Inc., Don and Regina Day
Scobee-Combs-Bowden Funeral Home & Crematory
Dan & Lisa Ames Suiter

Membership Renewals

Thank You!

Donna Artes	Robert Hayes
Patricia Atwater	Nancy Hogan
Kay Baker	Carole & John Kuenzel
Ronald & Sarah Thomas Bollenbacher	John Lobota
Boni "Butch" Buoni	Jeff Morgan
Marjorie Bynum	Michelle Quigley
Linda & Mike Callaway	Thomas Ramiccio
Richard Castagnoli	Anne Rimler
Georgen Charnes	Vito & Helen Rinaldo
Everee Clarke	Billie Jo Swilley
Pamela Cotant	Debra Tucker
Gillian Davis	Suzy Winchester
Janet DeVries Naughton	John Yetter
Larry Grosser	Christine Sarno-Olson
Mary Miner Haggard	Mike Wilson LandToSea Photog
Dr D Wilkins & Dr A Thomas	Robt & Sheila Rousseau Taylor

A Special Welcome to our BOGO Recipients*

Matt Burger	Matina Nimphel
Joan Johnson	Mary Scheitler
Mike & Nancy Kline	Lloyd & MaryAnn Thomas
Pat & Gerry Lewandowski	

* See Pg4 for our MEMBERSHIP SPECIAL: BOGO!

A Note from the Editor

Would you kindly look at the first line on your **mailing label** and check to see if your dues are current? If they are not, please return the membership form with your dues or pay online at www.boyntonhistory.org. Dues paid at/after the last meeting of the season will be credited towards the following season. Don't want to receive mail from us any longer? Please let us know at bbhsmembership@gmail.com. We are sorry to see you go.



The Historian

Message from our President – M. Randall Gill

There is an old saying, "History repeats itself." I believe that we can always learn from yesterday's trials. Bill Gates encourages corporations to hire historians because he feels it is essential to understand the past to know where we are going in the future. I am grateful for Janet Naughton and Ginger Pederson for having the vision to assemble a Florida book with stories from the 2020 coronavirus pandemic, "*Pandemic in Paradise*." This book illuminates Floridians' perspectives on this historic event. The book is a kind of message in a bottle because it is a document of what we have lived through. We are committed to recording our experiences for future generations to understand.

This health crisis has rapidly shifted the way in which we learn and live. The pandemic has presented an opportunity to reflect on ourselves, our interactions with one another and our world. The Boynton Beach Historical Society will continue to explore history and continue to evolve with excellent virtual programs and in-person programs when we can safely meet together again. I certainly miss the feeling of human connection.

It is my great hope and prayer that in 2021 the dark clouds will pass over us and the world. I believe the same qualities that carried the Florida pioneers through hard times of uncertainty will be the ones that sustain us in 2021. As always thank you for your generous support of the Boynton Beach Historical Society.

In Remembrance

The Boynton Beach Historical Society remembers those we have lost this year including -



**Lenore Benson
Raborn Boonstra**



Dorian Beck Trauger



Curtis & Nanie Weaver

We send thoughts and prayers to their families and friends and gratitude for their participation and support.

We received thank you notes from the **Friends of the Boynton Beach City Library** for recent Library acquisitions. A gift given in memory of **Wilfred "Toby" Hawkins Jr** allowed for these purchases. Mr. Hawkins was a much-loved Boynton Beach police officer and City administrator who passed in 2007. If you listen to the audio book, "*When You See Me*" by Lisa Gardner or flip through the pages of "*A Year With Nature: An Almanac*" by Marty Crump, illustrated by Bronwyn McIvor, please think of Toby.



The Historian

MEMBERSHIP SPECIAL - BUY ONE:GIVE ONE. **BOGO**.

We are incredibly pleased to make this SPECIAL limited time offer! When you become a member or renew your membership, we will add a FREE one-year membership for your friend, family member or other interested party! BUY ONE:GIVE ONE. BOGO. TWO memberships for the SAME PRICE!

Please provide the recipient's name, mailing address, email and phone, and they will also receive "The Historian," the newsletter of the Boynton Beach Historical Society, and Society notifications.

Have you already sent in your dues for 2021? Thank you! Please designate your BOGO recipient by sending an email to bbhsmembership@gmail.com with the info requested for your BOGO recipient. We'll do the rest. *The BOGO recipient must be a NEW member to the Society. Student membership level is not eligible for the BOGO special.*

Boynton Beach Historical Society Membership Form **BUY ONE:GIVE ONE** Limited Time Offer

Name _____ Select one – this is a:
_____ New Membership. _____ Membership Renewal.

Street _____

City _____ Select Membership Type:
_____ Individual \$25
_____ Family \$35
_____ Patron \$50
_____ Corporate \$100
_____ Student \$10 (with valid Student ID)
_____ Life (one-time payment) \$500

State / Zip _____

Email _____

Phone # _____

BOGO Recipient Information -

Name _____ Street _____

City _____ State / Zip _____

Email _____ Phone # _____

Complete and mail with payment: Boynton Beach Historical Society PO Box 12 Boynton Beach FL 33425-0012. Or pay online using PayPal at www.boyntonhistory.org/membership/ and send BOGO Recipient Info to us in an email to bbhsmembership@gmail.com.

The Society is a 501(c)(3) Organization; dues are tax deductible.
Membership year runs Jan 1 to Dec 31. Dues are not pro-rated.
Expiration date is shown on first line of your mailing label.

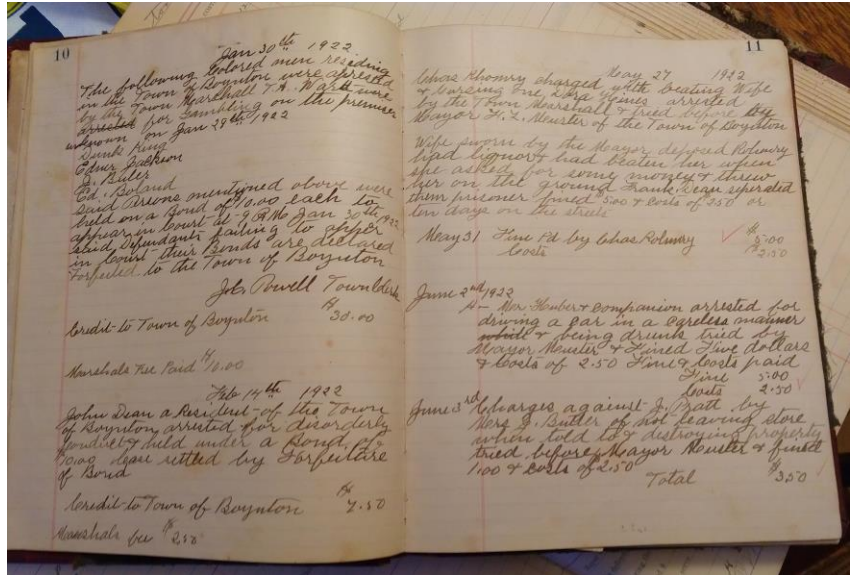


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Take a Sneak Peek at a Recent Donation to the Boynton Beach Historical Society

Susan Sinclair, longtime resident of Boynton Beach and former employee of both the City of Boynton Beach and the West Palm Beach Libraries, recently presented several treasured historical Boynton record books as a donation to the Society. They were given to Susan many, many years ago by a friend who worked with the Boynton Police Department. Susan is pictured (left) reviewing the donation with **M Randall Gill**, President of the Society.

The donation includes several **Mayor's Court Dockets**, some dating to the 1920's, and several **Police Blotters** dating to the 1930's. The Mayor's Court Docket lists offenders who had to appear in Mayor's Court before there was a County court. A page from the January to June 1922 records of the Boynton Mayor's Court Dockets is pictured on the right.



The Society actively promotes a better understanding of the history of Boynton Beach and nearby communities and encourages research and involvement by its members and the community at large. As we do not currently have a location suitable to appropriately maintain these important and fragile records, they will be turned over to the City of Boynton Beach Library for inclusion in the Local Archives. After the items are cataloged, they may be made available for review according to the Library's Guidelines. For more information on the Library Archives see <https://www.boynton-beach.org/library/archives> or speak to the Library Archivist, Georgen Charnes, Boynton Beach City Library.

If you need assistance donating items of local historical and antiquarian significance, please contact President Gill by sending an email to boyntonhistory@gmail.com.



Happy 176th Birthday, Florida!

On March 3, 1845, Florida became the 27th state of the United States of America. Its first governor was William Dunn Moseley. Boynton wouldn't be platted until Sept 1898 and incorporated as Town of Boynton, until 1920.



The Historian

Archivist's Corner by Georgen Charnes, Library Archivist, Boynton Beach City Library

One of the great pleasures of being an archivist is the detective work. I see a photo one day and a mention in an oral history on another, and soon I'm investigating to make all these bits and pieces of information create a story.

An interesting story is that of **Carl M. Jensen** (1852-1932). My first exposure to him was a mention in an oral history with **Margaret Meredith Stanley** (1917-2002). She spoke of a Carl Jensen, who lived near the Woman's Club and who invited people to come down and listen to his collection of classical music and opera on Edison cylinder recordings. How intriguing, I thought, I'd love to know more about him. Then I found a photograph of Carl Jensen standing on the stoop of a bungalow with the name "Little Denmark" above the door, holding a pipe. Such a face. I needed to know more.



After checking the census, I found that he immigrated from Denmark in 1892 and became a naturalized citizen in 1910, when living in Boynton. An investigation of digitized newspapers showed he was very active in the community. He grew tomatoes and operated a fernery. His farm, Denmark Gardens, was adjacent to the Woman's Club property on the east side of Federal Highway and his house, Little Denmark, was on the west side. According to an article published about him in *The Lake Worth Herald* on 14 April 1924, he had a vast collection of plants from around the world. Palms, coffee, hibiscus, fruit trees, frangipani, bougainvillea, and more, grew in a profusion. He was famous for his crotons. He loved nature and trained bluebirds to perch on his shoulder to peck at a cracker held between his teeth. After no one had seen him for a day in July 1932, friends Harry Benson and Ben Evans came to the house and saw him through the window, lying dead on his bed at age 79. It was reported that his death was due to a heart attack in the night. He left no will, and was noted that after satisfaction of debts, any estate left would go to the state.