



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.

March 2021

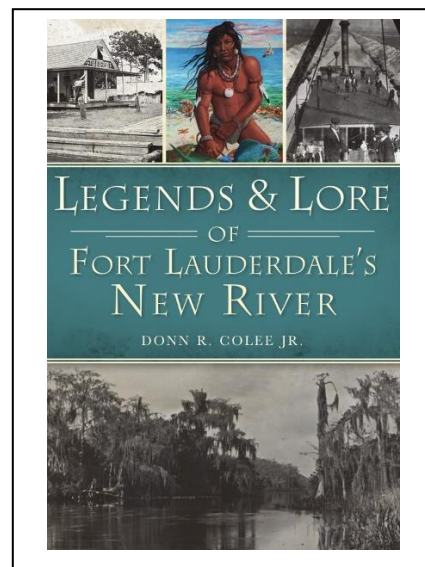
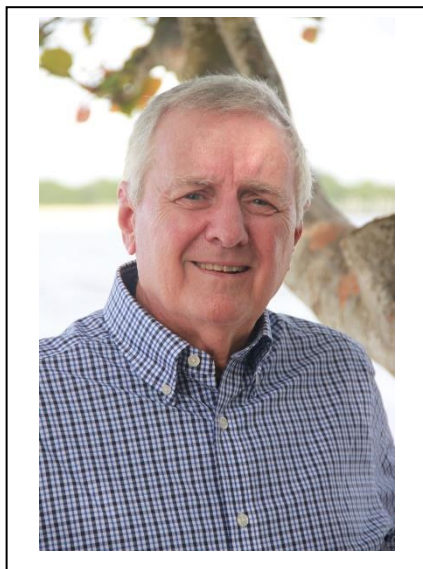
Legends & Lore of Fort Lauderdale's New River By Donn R. Colee Jr.

Monday, March 22, 2021 @ 7-8pm via Zoom

If your email is on file with us, check your inbox for the invitation. If not, send a request to join to BBHSPrograms@gmail.com by 3pm on the day of the event and we will send you an invite.

Donn R. Colee Jr. is a seventh-generation Floridian and a direct descendent of George Colee, who immigrated to the St. Augustine area from England in 1821. Donn grew up in Orlando but frequently visited relatives in the ancient city, where his curiosity was piqued by stories about a massacre of long-ago family members at Fort Lauderdale's New River. While the "Colee Massacre" story was later debunked, it refused to die. His book, *Legends & Lore of Fort Lauderdale's New River*, published by Arcadia Publishing/The History Press in February 2021, began as an attempt to finally resolve the last vestiges of that myth, but the power of New River quickly propelled the book to become a history of the river, its fascinating people, and the transformation of its wilderness into a metropolis.

Colee is a member of the Florida Historical Society, Fort Lauderdale Historical Society, St. Augustine Historical Society and Historical Society of Palm Beach County. He is a former commissioner of the Florida Inland Navigation District, the state agency responsible for maintenance and improvements of the Atlantic Intracoastal Waterway from Fernandina Beach to Key Biscayne. It was built by a company that was cofounded in 1881 by his great-great-great-grandfather, who became its civil engineer. The book "Legends & Lore of Fort Lauderdale's New River" can be purchased from Arcadia Publishing at DonnColeeWriter.com or at Amazon.com.



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, and on Facebook [@HistoricBoyntonBeach](https://www.facebook.com/HistoricBoyntonBeach) and on Twitter [@BoyntonHistory](https://twitter.com/BoyntonHistory).

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

The Historian

The Historian, the newsletter of the Society, is usually sent six times a year, October through April (except December), to dues-paid members (one per paid membership). Previous issues are posted to our website. Issues were not published Apr '20 to Jan '21 due to COVID-19. The first line on your **mailing label** has your **dues expiration date** – are yours current? If not, please mail 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.

2020-2021 Season Mondays @7pm Save The Date

Mar 22 Fort Lauderdale's New River, Donn R Collee, Jr
Apr 26 Annual Meeting, Excellence Awards & More!

Zoom Meetings are Recorded

Zoom Meetings are recorded and will be made available for viewing at a later date. Check our website for details.

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.

Volunteer Opportunities

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

The following represents our Membership Roll to date & dues received from 2/2/2021 to 3/4/2021

Thank You to our Life Members

Candy & Doug Brueggemann Alexander "Sandy" Simon
EasyPay Tire Stores Inc, Doug & Ruth Besecker
Robert and Jeanne Gaylor Voncile Marshall Smith
M Randall Gill George & Christine Weaver Ternenyi
Robert & Christian Oyer Macoviak William & Gaye Weaver
Melear Bros., Cliff & Rick Melear Marion Weaver Wester
Wayne & Eva Brooks Knuth Netzler Bill & Elsie Winchester
Scott & Camilla Smith Richardson

Thank You to our Corporate Members

Dan & Regina Day, Delray Awning Daniel & Lisa Ames Suiter
Scobee-Combs-Bowden Funeral Home & Crematory

Thank You to our Patrons

Ron & Sarah Thomas Bollenbacher Billie Jo Swilley
Michael & Linda Martin Callaway Suzie Winchester
George & Gayle Kranz Greider

Membership Renewals

Cecil Adderley Jr
Peter Aispuro
Steve Anton
Pam Traylor Anwyll
Doris Braunworth
Jackie Brant
David & Barrie Byron & Bit Shaw
Bruce & Judith Carlson
Brian D Combs
Don & Joanne L Combs
Emme Cortelyou
Diana Dennis
Virginia Farace
Dorothy J Ferris
Robert Ganger
Ann Gill
Mayor Steven B & Jennifer Grant
Judith Merkel & Richard Howard
Evelyn Howell
William James
Gladys B Knuth
Charles & Elizabeth Labella

Thank You!

Ben Lowe
Sandra McGregor
Diane & James McCracken
Rosalie Morrissey
Gerald Murray
William & Laura Orlove
Lillian Ostiguy
Susan Oyer
Sandra & Eugene Palchanis
Isabella & Ronald Pause
James & Edith Pitts
Barbara Ready
Susan Merkle Shaffer
John & Chadda Shelly
Joanne Miner Shoemaker
Donna Fuller Smith
JeanAnn Thurber
Barbara Traylor
Dorothy & Paul Wenz
Sarah Williams
Arlene VanBrunt

Welcome to our NEW MEMBERS

Kathleen & Raymond Henderson

Thank You!

And A Special Welcome to our BOGO Recipients*

Lois Weaver Argo Scott & Amanda Maxwell
Ricky J Day Cathy Pomfrey
Dolores Erickson Norman Price
Jay & Barbara Erlichman Barbara Saxton
Cheryl Grimes Kathy & Rod Silverio
Susan & Dean Hillman Joyce Waters
Leslie C Kranz Jerry Wilcox
Marion Krutchkoff Debbie Sutera McHenry

* **BOGO Special Offer: Become a New Member or Renew your Membership and get a FREE 1-year membership for a friend! Restrictions apply. See form for details.**



The Historian

The Historic Boynton Beach High School



Photo courtesy of the City of Boynton Beach

Many will have had their first look at the recently restored, revitalized, and repurposed Boynton High School during the Kinetic Art Exhibit earlier this month. The school, originally opened in 1927, has been rechristened the **Boynton Beach Arts & Cultural Center**. The building is listed on the Boynton Beach Register of Historic Places. Still evident are many original features: the well-traveled stairwells inside and the columns and urns outside. For more photos and information, <https://www.boyntonhistory.org/history/boynton-beach-high-school/>

The following photos courtesy of Barbara Ready



New renovations include -

What were classrooms on the south end of the building are now mirrored and have accordion dividers which can be retracted for increased functionality.



The gymnasium, combining the gym with the stage, has had the wooden bleachers removed to maximize floor space. The stage has been completely renovated and storage space created under the stage floor for the tables and chairs which will be used when the room hosts a function. A catering kitchen, two green rooms and a freight elevator were also added.



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Archivist's Corner

by Georgen Charnes, Library Archivist, Boynton Beach City Library



We recently received a new donation that I thought members might be interested in, and I thought I'd share a little more about what we do with photographs.

It's two boxes of photographs from the attic of the house previously owned by William Beck, former owner of the *Boynton Beach Star*, the *Deerfield Observer*, and Star Printing. The *Boynton Beach Star* started publication in 1961 and ended in 1968. It featured stories of local politics and events, with very opinionated editorials. It also featured photography by Stan Sheets, who was also a jazz musician. His photographs are always very well composed and often quirky, with unexpected poses. These look like the photo files of the newspaper, alphabetically arranged by topic.

After getting a Deed of Gift signed by the donor (I can't do anything to a collection until we own it!), I've started the long process of arrangement, rehousing, and making them accessible. Each photograph will have a number, and those scanned will be cataloged and included on FIU's online database, and later harvested for inclusion in the Digital Public Library of America database.

There are bowling teams and civic leaders and pageant contestants and Little League teams and much more from the 1960s. It's just a delight opening each file and seeing what's there. Since I know they were published in the *Boynton Beach Star*, I also try to find the images in the newspaper that we have available online. While a few of the photographs have information on the back, the ones I can find published in the newspaper have full identifications and other information. And so the search is on, trying to find out who all the people are, and what's going on in the photo.

As you can see, being an archivist is a pretty technical, nit-picky life, but I love the mission of making the materials of history available for those who want to do research.

