



The Historian

The Newsletter of The Boynton Beach Historical Society

Voncile Smith, President

Volume 2006, No. 5, May, 2006

Voncile Smith, Editor

COVERED-DISH SUPPER for MAY MEETING

In keeping with tradition for our May meeting, the **Boynton Beach Historical Society** will meet for a covered-dish supper at the Boynton Woman's Club on Sunday, May 21, 2006 at 5:00 p.m. For the past several years we have shared this meeting with **The Mizner Foundation**. The two organizations divide the costs for providing the meat dishes and the beverages. We ask members to bring a vegetable, salad or dessert sufficient to serve eight. Guests are welcome, so bring your friends and family members to share good conversation, recollections, and a warm, friendly atmosphere. In the past we have installed officers and board members at this meeting; but because we have changed our bylaws to install in April, this meeting can be devoted primarily to fellowship.

WHAT: Covered-dish Supper
Bring vegetable, salad, or
dessert to share

WHERE: Boynton Woman's Club
1010 S. Federal Hwy.
Boynton Beach, FL

TOPIC: Fellowship and Good
Conversation—Getting to
Know One Another

DATE: Sunday, May 21, 2006

TIME: 5:00 P. M.

PLEASE NOTE THAT THIS WILL BE OUR LAST MEETING UNTIL SEPTEMBER.

Also note the day and time change—Sunday at 5:00 p.m.

There are no summer issues of *The Historian*. Our next issue will be in September.

From the Produce Market Shareholders A FEW BRIEF PORTRAITS

[In the April *Historian* we printed information on the Boynton Produce Market of 1939 and its shareholders. Below are brief summaries of some of the people who were involved. We will include more in later issues.]

The Lambs.

Ellis I. Lamb and **John A. Lamb** are listed as holding 10 shares each. They were brother farmers who lived in Delray. They owned a farm west of Boynton on the south side of what is now Boynton Beach Boulevard. Another brother, **Charles Lamb**, farmed on the west side of the Range Line (now U.S. 441 or S.R. 70). His wife was Esta and all their children went to Boynton Schools. They were Howard, Phyllis, Gerald, Ellis, and Margie. Some of the *Historian's* readers who were in school in the 1930s and 1940s may remember these Lambs who are not to be confused with their Delray uncles.

W.O. Plunkett.

W. O. Plunkett, who owned ten shares of the Produce Market stock, farmed west of Boynton. He had met and married a widow, Mrs. Brown, in North Florida before moving to the Boynton area. Mrs. Plunkett had a number of children from her marriage to Brown who became successful in their own right in the area. Among these were **Hugh Brown** who married **Callie Mae Rousseau**, **Howell Brown**, Market Master for the Boynton Produce Market, who for many years spent his summers in North Carolina where he had a 250+ acre farm. [For more on Howell Brown, see old house photos on p. 3.] and **Clyde Brown**, a navigator in the Army Air Corps during World War II who was shot down over Germany and was interred in a German war prison camp. Clyde returned home to marry Peggy. He stayed in service as a career Air Force officer. Two other Brown children did not live in this area.

[Source: Harvey E. Oyer, Jr.]

**BOYNTON BEACH HISTORICAL SOCIETY
BOARD OF DIRECTORS—2006-07**

OFFICERS

President	Voncile Smith
1 st Vice President, Programs	Randall Gill
2 nd Vice President, Membership	Bev Cormany
Recording Secretary	Betty Thomas
Corresponding Secretary	Linda Brown
Treasurer	Claire Weems

DIRECTORS

2007	Gloria Turner
2007	Curtis Weaver
2008	Lucile Dickinson
2008	Fain Weems
2009	Helen Meisenheimer
2009	Nain Weaver

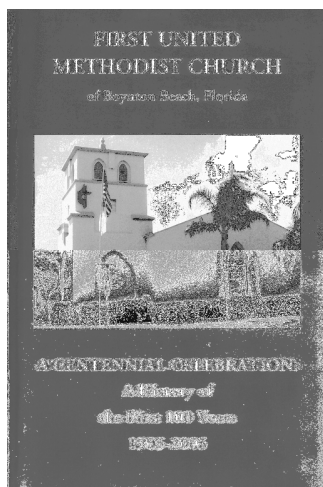
TRUSTEES

2007	Janet DeVries
2007	Marion Weems
2008	Harvey Oyer, Jr
2008	Stanley Weaver
2009	Virginia Farace
2009	Dan Rousseau

Inquiries may be directed to the Historical Society President Voncile Smith at 561-734-5653 or smithvm@bellsouth.net

AN EARLY BOYNTON CHURCH—

What is now the First United Methodist Church of Boynton Beach was founded in 1905. Last fall the Church celebrated its Centennial. One of the projects of that celebration was the publication of a 100 page history which includes 50 black and white photographs from early times to the present. It also contains a color photo insert. The history committee charged with the writing assignment included Marie Shepard, Harvey Oyer, Jr., Lenore Benson Raborn, Sandra McGregor, Helen Adams Meisenheimer, Curtis and Stanley Weaver, Callie Brown, Cecile Weems, Marjorie Anne McGregor Miller, and Voncile Smith. Anyone wishing to buy a copy at \$15.00 plus \$2.00 S&H please contact Voncile Smith, POB 244072, Boynton Beach FL 33424 or telephone 561-734-5653.



LILLIE VOSS RECALLS—

[In November, 1949, Jean Ann Thurber, while a young student was assigned a paper about Hypoluxo. She contacted Lillie Pierce Voss who was born in South Florida in 1876. Mrs. Voss wrote the following for her to use in her paper.]

"Hypoluxo, Seminole Indian name meaning a big lake with no outlet.

"In 1873 the island, 3 ½ miles long lying at the south end of Lake Worth a body of water 22 ½ miles long was uninhabited, as was also the shores of the whole lake, except for a couple, Maulden by name, living at the north end of what is now Palm Beach, where there was a small inlet, open part of the time, but more generally closed.

"The first settlers on Hypoluxo Island were Mr. & Mrs. H.D. Pierce and small son Charlie Also Mrs. Pierce's brother, Capt. Will Moore. They arrived in the fall of 1873 after the Pierce family had lived at Jupiter Light for a year where Mr. Pierce as assistant keeper. They were followed to the island a few months later by Mr. & Mrs. Wm. Butler. Both Mr. Pierce and Capt. Moore homesteaded the island, which took in the whole of it except for the very northern tip of it.

"In May 1876 the Pierces moved to the newly built United States Live Saving Service House of Refuge about five miles south of the south end of the Lake. Here their daughter Lillie was born; the first white girl baby born in that wilderness between Jupiter and Miami, both places at that time being little else than a name. At Jupiter three families, and at Miami eight or ten.

"While the Pierces were at the Station as it was called, another family, also from Chicago, Mr. & Mrs. E. R. Bradley and 3 children came to the island, living first in Mr. Pierce's homestead shack, and later in Mr. Moore's cabin, on the north end of the island where the second girl born in this wild district was born and named Rose; she lived to be sixteen and is buried in Lantana Cemetery. A very few single men, old bachelors we called them, came, built camps and went away never to come back.

"One of them, a Mr. Pease, entered a homestead on the west side, which right he later sold to the Lyman family.

"In 1885 the Kentucky boys, A.W. Garnett, Edward Hamilton, who lost his life at Hillsboro in 1888 (?) while carrying the mail, and James Porter, father of Henry Porter, came and homesteaded here, after buying a fifteen acre tract of land on the Lakefront where they lived for nearly a year. Then Mr. Porter built a homestead house where the Porter Apts now stand.

"The Post Office was established in 1886 on the west side of the Lake, with A. W. Garnett as P.M. About a year later it was moved over to the Island, in Mr. Pierce's house with Charles Pierce as P.M. and again in a years time, the office changed hands with H. D. Pierce as P.M. which he held until his death in Aug. 1898, but in the meantime it had been taken across to the west side of the Lake again and until 1898 it was in Mr. Pierce's store on the outer end of

[Voss, Continued from Page 2]

the Porter dock. Hypoluxo was the southern terminus of the Star Mail Route between Jupiter and Hypoluxo and a little later the northern terminus of the Miami—Hypoluxo Barefoot mail route.

"Settlers had come in, all up and down the Lake front [a small portion of the copy is illegible here] . I should add here that in 1894, the Pierce's daughter Lillie was married to Frederick C. Voss of Bath, Maine, the engineer of the first steam boat on Lake Worth, and for many years employed on the Steamers, Lake Worth, Capt. Hendricks and Hypoluxo, owned and operated by Capt. Will Moore, running daily trips from Hypoluxo to Juno on the north end of the Lake.

"Their daughter, Lillian Frederica, now Mrs. Harvey Oyer of Boynton, was the fourth girl born in Lake Worth, and the second one born on Hypoluxo Island.

"After the R.R. came thru transportation was opened up, for the huge quantities of tomatoes, egg plant, cukes, and peppers raised on this new and productive land.

"Many thousands of crates of vegetables were shipped out from our station which was a good strong two room

F.E.C. building right at the track. Hundreds of cars were loaded on our side tracks, and hauled away, and in May and June we loaded cars with pineapples.

"In 1928 came a Hurricane, which badly damaged a few of the R.R. stations, but ours was unhurt except for a corner of the roof where a pine tree had fallen. Shortly afterward a blanket order went out to tear down and burn all damaged buildings, so that I saw our station torn down and burned up one day, much against the will of any of us, but as it was sprung as a complete surprise there was no way to stop it. Later they put up the coop that stands on the ashes of our good station.

"L. Voss

Nov. 25, 1949"

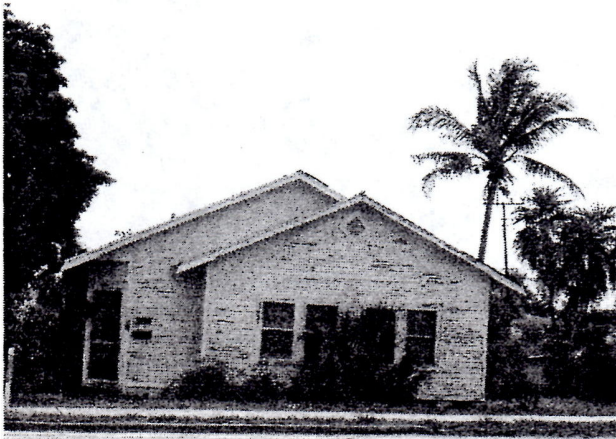
[Mrs. Voss wrote some additional information sideways in the margins:]

"Hypoluxo originally was much more territory, taking in from north of Lantana, south and including Hypoluxo Beach, now Manalapan."

"Pierces moved back to Island in 77-78 when S.N. Anderson took over as keeper of the Station.

A NEW CULTURAL VENTURE

At a recent meeting of the Board of Directors of the Boynton Beach Historical Society, a group who have been involved for several years with The Museum of Lifestyle and Fashion History in Delray Beach presented a proposal they are working on to move the Museum to just south of the Boynton Beach City Library. They have bought a number of lots including the houses and land that Howell Brown had owned and a 1920s stucco house once called the Klatt house. Their intention is to build a 18,000 square feet, 3 story museum on the property while refurbishing the existing houses which they plan to tie in with the Museum because of their cultural significance. Former Delray Beach City Commissioner Charlotte Durante and her daughter Lori Durante are spearheading the effort. They envision a cultural consortium in that area consisting of the Schoolhouse Children's Museum, the City Library, the historical old high school, the historical society and their museum. We will have a Board of Directors meeting in June to consider what role we might be willing to play. Tentatively the Durantes see the Klatt house becoming a headquarters for the Historical Society. At this point we have made no commitment, but are open to suggestions. Any member of the Historical Society is welcome to attend the Board meeting when we consider this. Call Voncile at 734-5653 for further information.



The building at Seacrest and SE 2nd Ave that was once the home of Howell Brown is now owned by the Museum of Lifestyle and Fashion History.



The building next to the preceding one was Howell Brown's second floor office and is also on the Museum's property.

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.

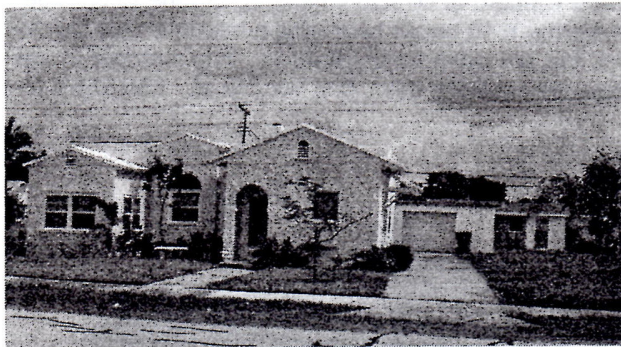
Members' Name _____
 2nd Member's Name _____
 Street _____
 City _____ State _____ Zip _____
 Telephone _____ e-mail _____
 TYPE OF MEMBERSHIP: _____
 INDIVIDUAL (\$25.00) _____
 FAMILY \$35.00 _____
 CORPORATE (\$100 or more) _____
 I will be willing to serve on the following committees (Circle choices):
 Patron (\$50.00) _____
 Archives/Preservation _____
 Program/Planning _____
 Mailings _____
 Telephone _____
 Hospitality _____
 Membership _____
 Public Relations _____
 Fundraising _____
 Other (Specify): _____
 Minority History _____
 Seeking Sponsors _____

BOYNTON BEACH HISTORICAL SOCIETY

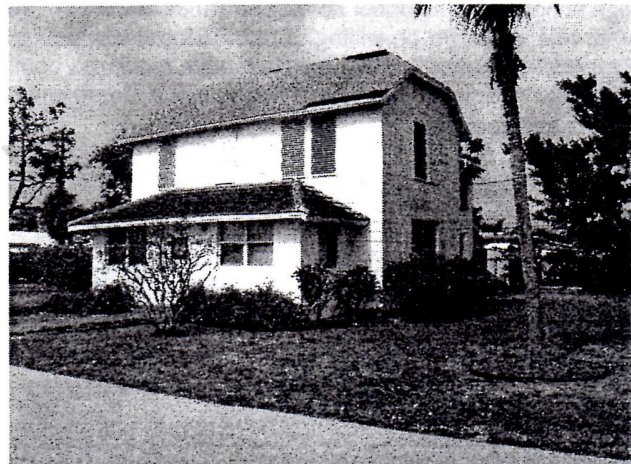
MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION FORM - 2006

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

MORE OLD HOUSES IN BOYNTON:



The house on SE 3rd Avenue and Seacrest Boulevard which was recently purchased by the Museum of Lifestyle and Fashion History. It is sometimes called the Klatt house and the Durantes with the Museum have suggested that the Boynton Beach Historical Society might want to use it for the Society's headquarters. No negotiations are yet underway. The Board of Directors of the Society plan to hold preliminary discussions in June. Members of the Society are welcome to attend all meetings of the Board of Directors. Contact Voncile or any other member of the Board for information.



This house still standing at 217 SE 3rd Street was built at the turn of the century by H. B. Murray, Boynton's first Mayor. The house has been added to over the years. It is one of the oldest houses in Boynton Beach and is still occupied as a residence.