

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 33425-0012

Voncile Smith, President

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Voncile Smith, Editor

NEW OFFICERS TO BE INSTALLED AT MAY MEETING

Traditionally, new officers of the Boynton Beach Historical Society have been installed at a family, covered dish dinner at the May meeting. The Society will meet at the Boynton Woman's Club on **SUNDAY, MAY 18 at 5:00 p.m.** for a **social hour**, followed by **dinner at 6:00**, and the installation. We will follow a practice we began last year, and combine our meeting with **The Mizner Foundation** who will also install their officers. We encourage all members and friends to come. The Society will provide meat entrees and the beverages. Please bring a casserole, vegetable, salad, or dessert sufficient to serve 8. We will have a brief program appropriate to the preservation interests of the members of both organizations.

NEW OFFICERS AND DIRECTORS ELECTED AT APRIL MEETING

The following officers, directors, and trustees for the Boynton Beach Historical Society 1903-04 were elected at the April meeting. All officers serve one year terms; directors and trustees serve three year staggered terms. Those newly elected will be installed at the May meeting.

President	Voncile Smith
First Vice President	Harvey E. Oyer, Jr.
Second Vice President	Claire Weems
Recording Secretary	Betty Thomas
Corresponding Secretary	Gloria Gregory
Treasurer	Sue Beaman
Director 2003-06	Nain Weaver
Director 2003-06	Helen Meisenheimer
Trustee 2003-06	Virginia Farace
Trustee 2003-06	Jay Rowley

Those continuing as Directors include **Barbara Harrison** 2003-04, **Gloria Turner** 2003-04, **Lucile Dickinson** 2003-05, **Fain Weems** 2003-05. Ongoing Trustees are **Janet DeVries** 2003-04, **Marion Weems** 2003-04, **Harvey Oyer** 2003-05, **Stanley Weaver**, 2003-05.

A WORD FROM YOUR PRESIDENT

Dear Members and Friends,

Thank all of you so much for your support this past year. We have tried to present quality programs at our meetings and your attendance and comments have indicated that you have enjoyed them.

One of the best attended was the one held on the lawn of Boynton Beach Community High School when **Judge Nelson Bailey** mounted his horse and revealed a new picture of old Florida through his "Cracker Storyteller" pose. A large audience also turned out to hear about "The Highwaymen" from author **Gary Monroe** and to view our little exhibit of their paintings. Among our own historians, **Callie Rousseau Brown**, discussing her recollections of life and her teaching experiences in south Florida, was a wonderful treat and the audience didn't want to let her stop.

LeRoy Mitchell, Jr. as James Weldon Johnson, and the audience participation effort for the great Veterans Day program lead by city employees **Bill Coup** and **John Wilder** were outstanding. We also learned more about how local government affects us and our historic efforts through CRA Executive Director **Doug Hutchinson**, and Lake Worth Drainage District speakers **Danna Ackerman-White** and **Stanley Weaver**.

If you missed some of these and have an opportunity to hear any of these people sometime in the future, please make an effort to do so. You'll be pleased by how much they have to share. [Continued, p. 2]

To build your Florida vocabulary—

Cabbage of the palm. The cabbage palm (*Sabal palmetto*) grows almost everywhere in the state, and the leaf-bud or "cabbage" at its top may be eaten either raw, cooked, or pickled. It has a pleasant nutty flavor and is sometimes considered a delicacy. Unfortunately, removing this bud usually kills the tree which is a serious consideration today compared to what it was in sparsely populated early Florida.

Thank you for your memberships and donations. I hope we are on the brink of moving to more visibility and a louder voice in the community. The Board of Directors have a number of plans in the works to try to make this a stronger organization and to provide more information and service to the membership and others in our service area.

We have long had a cooperative arrangement with the Boynton City Library, and I thank **Virginia Farace** and the **Friends of the Library** especially for cooperating in the presentation of programs and providing the use of Library meeting space and other facilities.

Another good friend to the Society is **The Boynton Woman's Club** which has been one of our homes for many years. Thanks again to **Lee Buffan** and the other officers for their help through memberships and meeting facilities.

Boynton Beach Community High School has become a new rooting team and supporter for our efforts. We thank especially **Dr. Walter Cornell, Mr. Randy Davis, and Dr.**

Leslie Kozlow for their recognition and the many kindnesses they have extended to us.

We have worked in the past with **The SchoolHouse Children's Museum** and **Arleen Dennison**, and a number of our members are directly involved in promoting their efforts. There are so many others in the communities we serve that we hope to become closer to in the future. These joint commitments are important to us in helping to fulfill our mission.

One goal for the future is to open up new avenues of participation to our members. We will continue to need your help in discovering ways we can preserve that which is valuable in Boynton's past.

As many of you know, I am retiring this year from my professorship at Florida Atlantic University. I hope to have more time to make this next year an even more productive one for the Boynton Beach Historical Society.

Please continue to help me.
Gratefully,

Voncile

Pictured right: The Boynton Woman's Club before the widening of U.S. Hwy 1 in the mid 1950s, and the removal of the northwest corner of the building. [Photo courtesy of Marjorie Anne McGregor Miller]

Pictured Below: Winston G. McGregor, driver of Boynton School Bus. Probably early to mid 1930s. [Photo courtesy of Marjorie Anne McGregor Miller]



COPIES OF *OUR CENTURY* STILL AVAILABLE

Copies of *Our Century*, a lovely, hardcover Book, filled with photographs of people and events of the past 100 years in Palm Beach County are available for a donation of \$15.00 or more to the Society. Originally priced at \$28.00, this book makes a lovely gift or memento for anyone interested in local history. Mail requests accepted for an additional \$6.00 shipping and handling, or pick up one in person from Harvey Oyer at 511 E. Ocean Avenue, Boynton Beach FL 33435.

SCOTIA PLANTATION

Those of us who have lived in Florida for many years have been amazed or amused, or sometimes both, at the names developers confer on their subdivisions to add to their sales appeal. Sometimes, however, those names are grounded in history rather than fancy. Such is the basis for "**Scotia Plantation**," a large apartment complex located between South Federal Highway and the Intracoastal Waterway in Hypoluxo.

[The following is an adaptation of an account given of the history of Scotia Plantation by **Margaret Garnett Harris** in *Pioneer Daughter*.]

John Brown came to Hypoluxo from Dunfermline, north of Edinburgh, Scotland in the 1890s. He built a house on fertile land he purchased that was several tracts south of where the Garnetts lived on what is now U.S. Highway 1. After the house was completed, he returned to Scotland to bring to Florida his wife and four children. He sent his two daughters to St. Joseph's Academy in St. Augustine where one became ill and died. The other became a nun and devotedly continued work at the school. The older son, Gordon, moved to Australia where he remained. The younger son, **James Murray Brown**, married **Harriet (Hattie) Wilkinson**. In 1920 James and Hattie Brown began construction on a house just south of his father's place which was somewhat more pretentious than the one his father had built. The two-story house was stucco over cement block with a red tile roof. Harriet Brown supervised the extensive landscaping. They named it Scotia Plantation. After Hattie's death, James married **Florence Parsons**. No children came from either marriage.

The property changed hands several times after James Brown sold it. The so-called mansion surrounded by overgrown landscaping has evoked some fanciful stories of its past. At one time it served as a movie set where parts of the movie *Body Heat* were filmed.

John Brown, the father, had specialized in growing winter vegetables and was known locally as "the pepper king." His son James was known as the gentleman farmer of Hypoluxo and grew asparagus plumosus under half shade made of wooden slats just north of Hypoluxo Road where High Ridge Road is now.

NEW MEMBERSHIPS

[Received since April newsletter]

INDIVIDUAL:

Ms. Nancy James Jones
Mr. Mike Law
Mr. Ralph E. Myers
Ms. Marie Shepard



Scotia Plantation. Mr. and Mrs. James Murray Brown.



James and Florence Parsons Brown, standing by mahogany stair rail hand-crafted by neighbor, Ray Wilcox.

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Special Thanks to Don and Sean Fenton, Investment Representatives, EDWARD JONES, 901 N. Congress Av., Boynton Beach 33426 for the mailing of this Newsletter.

Boynton Beach Historical Society memberships are for the calendar year, January 1 to December 31. If you are not currently a member and would like to join, please complete the form below and return it with your check for the type of membership you desire payable to The Boynton Beach Historical Society, P. O. Box 12, Boynton Beach, Florida 33425-0012.

BOYNTON BEACH HISTORICAL SOCIETY MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION FORM
WORKING TOGETHER TO PRESERVE BOYNTON BEACH'S HERITAGE

NAME _____

STREET _____ CITY _____ STATE _____ ZIP _____

TELEPHONE _____ FAX _____ E-MAIL _____

TYPE OF MEMBERSHIP	INDIVIDUAL (\$25.00) _____	FAMILY (\$35.00) _____
	PATRON (\$50.00) _____	CORPORATE (\$100.00) _____