



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.

2012 Number 4

April 2012

MAJOR NATHAN BOYNTON and HIS BOYNTON BEACH HOTEL

Janet DeVries, Library Archivist and Local Author, will present the April program for the Boynton Beach Historical Society, at the City Library program room, 6:30 p.m. on April 16. This is your opportunity to learn how the Town of Boynton was named. Janet will present a history program showcasing Civil War Veteran Nathan Smith Boynton and his ocean front hotel.

Janet does double duty in her archival work. She not only serves the Boynton Beach City Library, but she archives materials for the Historical Society and serves as our First Vice President in charge of programs. She continues to make significant, positive contributions to the running of the Society and to the preservation of Boynton Beach's history.



BOYNTON HOTEL - 1895

Although this picture is marked "Boynton Hotel" the sign to the left indicates it was named "Boynton Beach Hotel" probably better to describe its location which was ocean front.



AT THE BOYNTON BEACH HOTEL, BOYNTON, FLORIDA

Another view of the Hotel showing its proximity to the beach.



Janet DeVries

- WHAT:** Talk, "Major Nathan Boynton and His Boynton Beach Hotel" by Janet DeVries, Archivist and Author
- WHEN:** Monday, April 16, 6:30 p.m.
- WHERE:** Boynton Beach City Library

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

BOYNTON BEACH HISTORICAL SOCIETY BOARD OF DIRECTORS—2011-12

OFFICERS [Elected Annually]

President	Voncile Smith
1 st Vice President, Programs	Janet DeVries
2 nd Vice President, Membership	Ginger Pedersen
Recording Secretary	Diana Dennis
Corresponding Secretary	Anne Watts
Treasurer	Frances McKeral
Editor <i>The Historian</i>	Voncile Smith
Archivist and Webmaster	Janet DeVries

DIRECTORS [3 year staggered terms]

2012	Sheila Rousseau Taylor
2012	Delma Swilley
2013	Tim Bednarz
2013	Gloria Partin Turner
2014	Steve Anton
2014	Barbara Ready

TRUSTEES [3 year staggered terms]

2012	Christian Oyer Macoviak
2012	Victor Norfus
2013	Brian Edwards
2013	Virginia Farace
2014	Randall Gill
2014	Wendy Franklin

The Boynton Beach Historical Society's website is www.boyntonbeachhistoricalsociety.org. Our e-mail address is boyntonhistory06@yahoo.com or mail inquiries or information to our mailbox at P.O. Box 12, Boynton Beach, FL 33425-0012. Voncile can be reached at 561-734-5653.

Find us on Facebook:

www.facebook.com/historicboyntonbeach

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.

2012 MEMBERSHIPS

The following have paid memberships for 2012 since the last edition of *The Historian*. Members who joined prior to March 1 were listed in earlier editions. If you joined in 2011 or earlier, you can tell when your membership expired by reading the upper corner of your address label on the front of this newsletter. Memberships run for the calendar year, January 1 through December 31.

PATRON

Bob and Cindy Lyman Jamison
Curtis and Alice Nain Weems Weaver

FAMILY

James R. and Marjorie L. Bynum
Gayle C. Kranz and George Greider
Charlie and Martha Meeks Light
Helen, Charles and Fred Senior (for 2013)

INDIVIDUAL

Nancy Hogan
Anne Watts

A special thanks to all who have joined for 2012. We are pleased to welcome new members Nancy Hogan and Gayle Kranz and George Greider. We are grateful to the several members who have joined ahead for 2013.

To those who have been members in prior years, we are attaching a dues notice and a special envelope to this copy of *The Historian* for your convenience, in case you wish to renew your membership. This is an economy measure for us to reduce the cost of mailing separate invoices. Thank you for your cooperation.

APRIL MEETING IS OUR ANNUAL MEETING

The Society's Bylaws require that we elect new officers, directors and trustees during our April meeting. The Chair of the Nominating Committee, Virginia Farace, will report on a list of nominees at the start of the meeting. The meeting will then be opened for nominations from the floor.

All officers serve for a term for one year, and directors and trustees are elected for 3 year terms on a staggered basis. Vacancies for any position are filled for the remainder of the term. Any member in good standing is eligible to serve in any office—as an officer, director, or trustee. Please contact Virginia or consider nomination (which may be self-nomination) from the floor if you are interested in holding any of these positions.

The report of the Nominating Committee, nominations from the floor, and the election will be first on the agenda for this meeting. Usually this process takes less than 20 minutes after which we will have our program—Janet DeVries' presentation.

.A GIFT TO THE SOCIETY

Sarah and Ron Bollenbacher have presented a cash gift to the Society to honor the memory of Sarah's mother, Betty Thomas, who passed away last year. The Board of Directors has designated a special contribution to the new Galaxy School to help defray costs of the principal's suite which is to be named in honor of Betty Thomas who was the first principal to serve the original Galaxy School.

THE "RUTH JONES" COTTAGE

In recent years, the Boynton Beach Community Development Agency (CRA) has bought several properties between Federal Highway and I-95. One of these was a little house at 201 N. E. 1st Avenue that is believed to have been built by Otley Scott ca. 1940. Several years ago, the CRA purchased it from Ruth Jones who had lived in it for a number of years.

Ruth is the widow of Mason Jones who was a brother to Lois Jones Partin and whose mother had operated the Jones Hotel on East Ocean Avenue in the 1930s and 1940s. Besides Ruth, several other members of the Jones and Partin families maintain membership in the Boynton Beach Historical Society. Among these are Wilese Jones Langford, Gloria Partin Turner, Emilie Jones Little, City Commissioner Marlene Ross (her grandmother-in-law was Ailene Jones Ross), and Judith Merkel Howard (whose mother was Rebecca Partin Merkel). Ruth grew up in the Yanke family with Erna Yanke Weaver. Erna's daughter, Christine Weaver Ternenyi, is also a Society member.

Of course, Lucille and Otley Scott, earlier owners of the house, represent two other families important in Boynton's past—the Tucks and the Scotts—who were here in the early years prior to World War II.

Ruth Jones sold the house to the CRA several years ago and moved to a house in Leisureville. The old house sat vacant on the lot on first avenue until slightly over a year ago. Then the CRA moved it to the corner of east Ocean Avenue and 5th Street which had been a City parking lot and earlier had housed the shuffleboard courts.

The City and the CRA continue to refer to it as the "Ruth Jones Cottage" because she was the last owner and the person from whom the CRA purchased it.

The CRA has substantially reconstructed it with the intent of leasing it as a restaurant in its new location. Little of the original building remains except perhaps the chimney to the fireplace. At present, the original restaurant proprietor who was expected to move in and operate it, has declined allegedly because of the present economy.

The decisions concerning this little house were made prior to the City's establishing the Historic Preservation Board. Whether the fate of the building would have been any different if the Board

had been in existence at the time it was purchased is unknown.



The cottage shown during its reconstruction after being moved to east Ocean Avenue

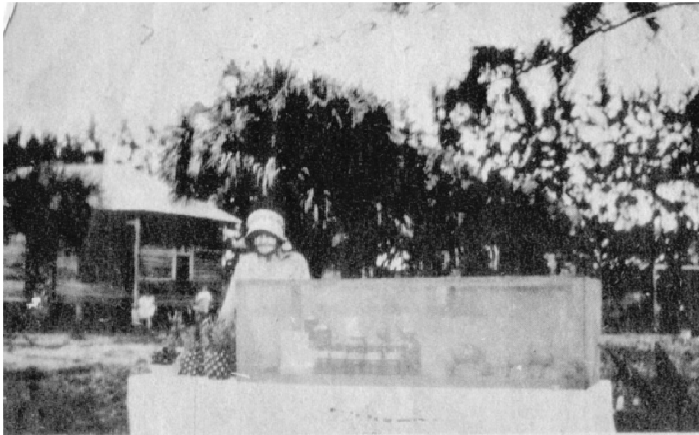


CRA sign in front of the cottage project

The CRA is composed of the members of the City Commission plus two appointees. An earlier CRA, made up entirely of appointees, was dissolved several years ago under a previous City Commission.

BUILDINGS THAT ONCE WERE

The following are pictures of buildings of Boynton Beach that no longer exist. Most have appeared in earlier editions of *The Historian*, but we have not shown them together before.



What is thought to be the first roadside stand catering to tourists in Boynton was that of Mrs. Meredith, mother of Mrs. Samuel Adams. The stand was alongside of the Dixie Highway leading south to Miami. Pineapples, home-made preserves and what appears to be watermelons attracted the Florida visitors, in 1920.

The caption is self-explanatory. The house, with children in front, can be seen behind the roadside stand.



Boynton Beach State Bank at the southeast corner of Ocean Avenue and Federal Highway [U.S. 1]



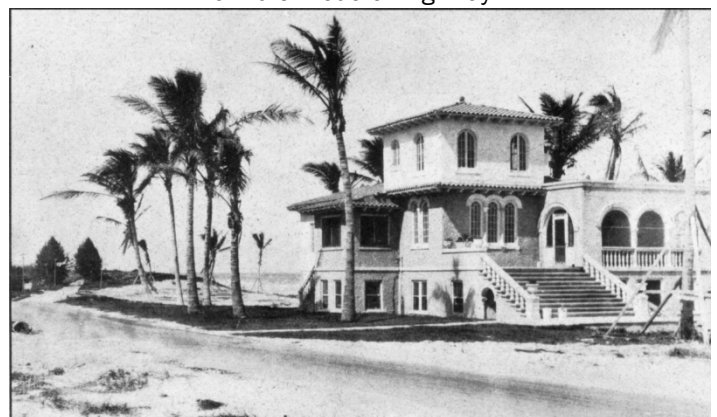
Austin Supply ca. 1920



Old City Hall, Fire Department and Water Tower on west side of north Federal Highway.

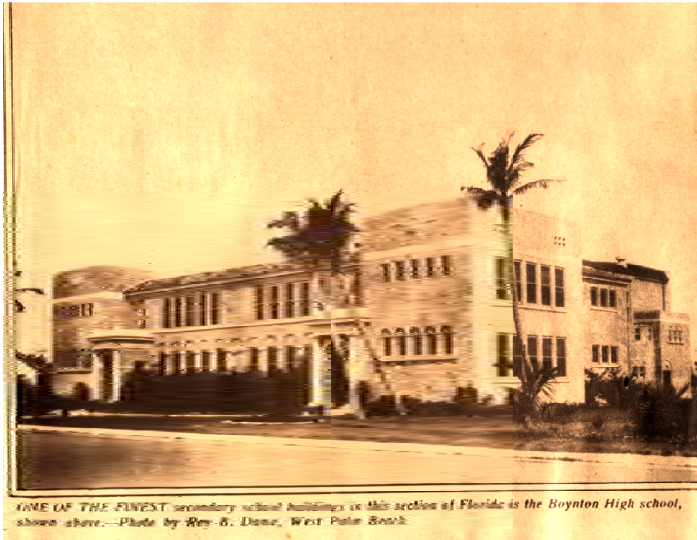


Boynton Casino showing wide beach was torn down ca. 1967 by the City and replaced with the present Oceanfront Park



W.B. Miller house on beach front before 1947 hurricane

**PLEASE PLAN TO ATTEND!
A PLAN TO PRESERVE 1927 HIGH SCHOOL**



Boynton High School ca. 1930 [Courtesy Ruth Jones]

In the past few years several new voices have taken up the cry to save the 1927 schoolhouse. Two who have made outstanding efforts are Barbara Ready who serves as a Director for the Boynton Beach Historical Society and John McGovern who is currently the Chair of the Greater Boynton Beach Foundation. Jeff Auslander should also be mentioned. Jeff visited Harvey Oyer, Jr. several years ago to discuss the availability of tax credits for use in restoration of historic sites.

Now a proposal has been prepared for presentation to the City Commission which includes input from both an architectural firm and a builder and a bank interested in the tax credits.

Because of budgetary restrictions, the City has been adamant that whatever is proposed must have provisions for self-support. The new proposal would include possibility for some commercial ventures, but in that context would provide recreational, educational and cultural facilities. In short, it would serve the community. It would contain some shops, restaurants, and provisions for various public and private events.

This is the most complete proposal for funding and utilizing the old building that has come forward in the 20 years the building has been sitting idle.

**WE NEED YOU TO HELP US SHOW SUPPORT
FOR THIS PROPOSAL TO THE CITY COMMISSION.**

At present we expect it to be on the Commission agenda for **Tuesday, April 17 at 6:30 p.m.** Please try to come to that meeting. Your presence is doubly important because there may be a competing interest advanced by the CRA. The

proposal we are supporting would do far more to serve the community and also preserve the structure of the building.

If the item is on the agenda (please check before the meeting because the Commission has previously postponed it), we need people to speak for it. The appropriate time to address the proposal is when it is presented, not during the public audience (where only "non-agenda" items are addressed by the audience).

Please do come. This is the type of proposal we have been struggling to achieve or many years. Your help is most important.

MAY MEETING

OUR ANNUAL COVERED-DISH DINNER

The May issue of *The Historian* will contain additional information, but currently we expect to meet Sunday, May 6 at 5:00 p.m. for our covered-dish dinner at the Boynton Woman's Club.

As it has done for the past several years, the Society will provide the main courses, the beverages, and the service settings (plates, napkins, cups, and flatware). You are asked to contribute a salad, a vegetable dish, or a dessert to serve 8. For those who wish to come, but do not want to prepare a dish, you may make a contribution of \$7.00 per person at the door.

Sheila Rousseau Taylor is coordinating the planning with Jim Guilbault who is well-known locally for his catering services and who operates the Sailfish Café at the City Library.

The dinner will be followed by a special program by Steven Anton, a local photographer and one of our Board members.

SOME FLORIDA POPULATION FACTS

Florida is the 4th most populous state in the United States behind California, Texas and New York.

Florida population growth in past 32 years:

2011 -	19,057,542
2010 -	18,801,310
2000 -	15,982,378
1990 -	12,937,926
1980 -	9,746,961

Palm Beach County in 2010 - 1,320,134 is the 3rd largest County in population behind only Broward and Miami-Dade.

[Data from www.stateofflorida.com]

**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.

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 HISTORIAN

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

TWO MAJOR PERSONS IN BOYNTON HISTORY



Addison Mizner



Nathan Smith Boynton