

# 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.

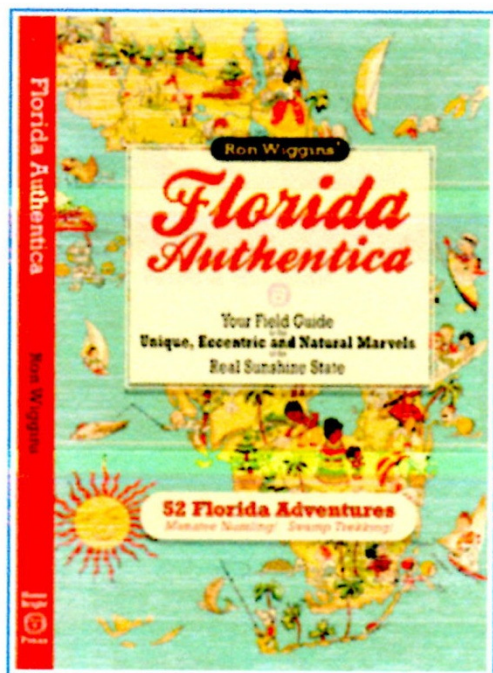
2012 Number 7

October 2012

## WRITER RON WIGGINS DISCUSSES FLORIDA AUTHENTICA:

Your Field Guide to the Unique, Eccentric and Natural  
Marvels of the Sunshine State

at the Monday, October 15, meeting of the Boynton Beach Historical Society. A former journalist with the *Palm Beach Post*, Wiggins provides humorous insights in this book from his exploration of wetlands, historical sites, state parks, and whatever else strikes his fancy. He includes locations as diverse as Corkscrew Swamp, the Flagler Museum, and the Devil's Millhopper Geological State Park as well as several dozen other well, or sometimes lesser, known attractions. His humorous view of himself and information on some of his other books can be found at his website [www.ronsfunnybooks.com](http://www.ronsfunnybooks.com).



**Florida Authentica**

**WHAT:** Discussion of *Florida Authentica* by Ron Wiggins writer and retired journalist

**WHEN:** Monday, October 15, 6:30 p.m.

**WHERE:** Boynton Beach City Library  
Program Room

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

## BOARD OF DIRECTORS--2012-13

### OFFICERS [Elected Annually]

|                                |                       |
|--------------------------------|-----------------------|
| President                      | Voncile Smith         |
| 1st Vice President, Programs   | Janet DeVries         |
| 2nd Vice President, Membership | Ginger Pedersen       |
| Recording Secretary            | Diana Dennis          |
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| Treasurer                      | Frances Tuite McKeral |

|                              |               |
|------------------------------|---------------|
| Editor, <i>The Historian</i> | Voncile Smith |
| Archivist and Webmaster      | Janet DeVries |

### DIRECTORS [3-Year Staggered Terms]

|      |                        |
|------|------------------------|
| 2013 | Tim Bednarz            |
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| 2015 | Sheila Rousseau Taylor |
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### TRUSTEES [3-Year Staggered Terms]

|      |                         |
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| 2014 | Randall Gill            |
| 2014 | Wendy Franklin          |
| 2015 | Christian Oyer Macoviak |
| 2915 | Audrey Gerger           |

Our website is [www.boyntonbeachhistoricalsociety.org](http://www.boyntonbeachhistoricalsociety.org). The e-mail address is [boyntonhistory06@yahoo.com](mailto:boyntonhistory06@yahoo.com). Please mail inquiries or information to our local address P.O. Box 12, Boynton Beach, FL 33425. Voncile can be reached at 561-734-5653.

You can also find us on Facebook and Twitter:

[www.facebook.com/historicboyntonbeach](http://www.facebook.com/historicboyntonbeach)

[www.twitter.com/@boyntonhistory](http://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.

## CORRECTION

The article about Richard Monahan's program on the Boynton Post Office in the September 2012 *Historian* contained some incorrect information.. We reported that Richard was Postmaster from 1961 to 1963. He served much longer, 25 years, from 1961 to 1986.

We regret the error.

## BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING

The Board of Directors of the Boynton Beach Historical Society will meet Monday, October 29, 6:30 p.m. at the City Library. Information is also posted on our website. Any member of the Society is welcome to attend any meeting of the Board of Directors and may participate in the discussion. However only members of the Board may propose motions and vote on issues.

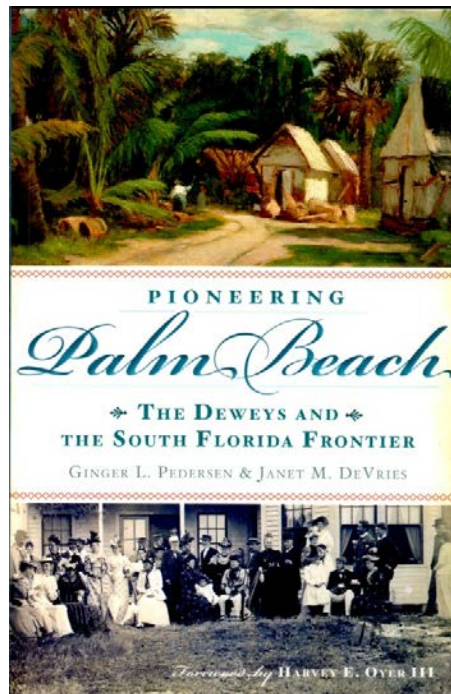
## A CHANGE AT THE LIBRARY

Janet DeVries has announced her resignation from the Library staff at the City Library in order to accept a position at the Palm Beach State College Library. That means that the Boynton Beach City Library is beginning a search for a new archivist. Janet has said that she expects to continue her involvement with the Boynton Beach Historical Society. She will continue program planning and handling our internet sites.

Both the Library Director Craig Clark and the Assistant Director Anne Watts have voiced strong support for the future of archival preservation for the City and the Historical Society expects to continue what has been a long-standing, pleasant and productive relationship with the Library staff.

## A NEW LOOK AT BOYNTON HISTORY

Some of you were perhaps fortunate enough to have attended the book signing two of the Society's officers, Janet DeVries and Ginger Petersen arranged last month at the Little House Restaurant (formerly the Ruth Jones cottage), to celebrate the publication of their new book *Pioneering Palm Beach: the Deweys and the South Florida Frontier*.



The Deweys' story relative to their impact on both Boynton and Palm Beach is remarkable. Despite the fact that they platted most of the Town of Boynton, they were all but forgotten to local history until Ginger and Janet rediscovered them.

If you want to learn more, contact either Ginger or Janet to purchase a copy, or order one through Amazon.com. The two will present a program about their research to the Historical Society early in 2013.



## THE WRECK OF THE COQUIMBO

Stories about the Coquimbo and what happened to its cargo and framework still survive whenever an early building is torn down in Boynton Beach, but as time has passed, the name and the history of the wreck have become less and less familiar to people in the area. For hundreds of years ships have been lost off the Florida coast, and many of those losses occurred in times that seem distant past. The loss of this ship, however, happened soon after Boynton was established as a thriving community and in the same year that Palm Beach County was created from the northern portion of Dade [now Miami-Dade] County. Some of the people in Boynton who experienced seeing the wreck lived into more recent times.

On an early morning around 5:00 in early 1909, the classically built barkentine "Coquimbo" ran hard aground about a mile south of present day Ocean Avenue. She was a large sailing ship of a kind that had prevailed during the nineteenth century equipped with two square rigged masts forward and a schooner rigged mast aft. The ship of Norwegian registry had taken on a full cargo of pine lumber at Gulfstream, Mississippi.



Wreck of the Coquimbo—residents, small boats in foreground

The sound of foghorns on the stranded vessel evidently awakened the guests at Major Boynton's Boynton Beach Hotel, and word of the ship's plight quickly spread to the residents of the town. Undoubtedly this was one of the better shows of that winter season. A breeches buoy was built to rescue the crew—three Swedes, one Dane, one Finn and ten Norwegians including the Captain—fifteen in all.

The crew was not extended the amenities of the Hotel, but reportedly spent the next two months on the beach camped under make-shift tents created from the ship's sails. They awaited a steam tug dispatched from Key West to push the stranded vessel off the reef, and although the tug pushed and pulled for days, it made no

progress in moving the ship. By May the hull had begun to disintegrate from the constant pounding of the waves.

The lumber cargo, including neatly cut 4 x 4s, 4 x 10s, and 6 x 12s, some nearly 30 feet in length, washed up on the shore.

Settlers in the area had long salvaged lumber from the beach to use in building their homes and other structures, and here now was a veritable bonanza of such material. Residents of the town pulled the lumber from the surf and stacked the pieces in great piles. A Federal Marshall arrived soon thereafter and told them that all the wood would have to be auctioned. However, the Boynton residents were allowed to mark their piles and later were given the opportunity to buy them for very low bids.

The lumber that remained was bought by a Key West salvager who had learned of the wreck from the unsuccessful tugboat captain. The salvager built a narrow little railroad and used an oxen cart to pull the lumber over the tracks on a small car to be loaded onto an anchored barge at the Intracoastal. The lumber was transported to Key West where some of the homes built with it are probably still standing.

One of the buildings reputed to have been built with part of the lumber that remained in Boynton was the original 1909 Boynton Woman's Club building on Ocean Avenue. About 10 years ago the City demolished that building, which had become known before its destruction as the Beane Building.

The ship's bell was reported to have been installed in the steeple of the First Methodist-Episcopal Church, South, which stood at the corner of Ocean Avenue and Federal Highway. When that building was razed in 1925, the bell was relocated. Some reports suggest it was given to another church, either to St Cuthbert's Episcopal Church or to St. Paul's AME Church, both located on Martin Luther King Boulevard.



The 1908 Boynton Methodist-Episcopal Church, South, where the bell from the Coquimbo was originally installed.

## HISTORIC LANTANA PHOTOS

The Lantana Public Library, 205 West Ocean Avenue, Lantana, has made available The Linehan Historic Lantana Photographs Collection on-line at [www.lantanalibrary.org](http://www.lantanalibrary.org). This collection compiled by the late Mary Linehan, whom the town regards as their unofficial historian, consists of 430 images which had been located in a special room at the library. Now they are free for anyone to view through the internet. The website also includes a biographical sketch of Mary Linehan.

Below are some selected pictures from that collection:



Lantana First School, Foot of Osborne Road  
1893-1908



Frank Lyman and Mary Linehan ca. 1971

## PIONEERS AROUND LAKE WORTH

Some of our readers may be familiar with *Pioneer Days on the Shores of Lake Worth: 1875 - 1893* by Mary Linehan and Marjorie Watts Nelson that describes the early pioneer families that moved into this area. Marjorie Nelson, a member of the Boynton Beach Historical Society and an active member of the Pioneers of Lake Worth [identified as the area around the body of water, not the town] recently presented a program to the Boynton Beach Historical Society about Paul Dunbar and his Ye Tower restaurant, Lantana 1925.



Lake Worth Pioneers - 1952

Seated: Mrs. John N. Clarke, Mrs. George Potter, Everard Geer, Mrs. E.E. Geer. Second Row: M.E. Gruber, Mrs. A.W. Garnett, Mrs. Gertrude Miller, Mrs. W.D. Voss, Fred C. Voss, Mrs. Fred C. Voss, Mrs. Belle Dimick, President. Back Row: Walter Moore, Mrs. Maude Burkhardt Seaman, Mrs. Sara Moses Dean, Henry J. Burkhardt, A.P. Anthony, Stewart Rowley, Mrs. D. F. Dunkle, F.J. Frazier, Louis S. Clarke, Louis P. Spencer, J.W. Richbourg, Mayor James M. Owen (speaker), Ed Hosford. [Photo reproduced from book mentioned above.]

The descendants of the original pioneers continue to meet regularly. They hold their Annual Meeting at the Norton Museum since the conditions for the use of the land upon which the Norton was built specify that the Pioneers shall have the right to meet on the premises in perpetuity. Although the Norton seems to prefer not to acknowledge it, part of the land on which the museum sits was an early cemetery. Most of the graves were moved at the time the building was constructed to the cemetery across the street, but a few families choose to leave their ancestors graves undisturbed. The museum provides a trap door to crawl space for access to those intact gravesites under the building.



## PICTURES FROM THE PAST



Nellie Woolbright congratulates Clorise McGregor Keatts at her 90<sup>th</sup> birthday party in 1995 at the Boynton Woman's Club



Inlet Village Tourist Court ca. 1942



Boynton Beach State Bank—US 1 and Ocean Avenue



Austin and Sons, later Austin Supply



Annie Shepard on her 80<sup>th</sup> birthday was one of first teachers in 1913 at the new schoolhouse and taught there until after World War II. She was mother of two current Boynton Beach Historical Society members, Marie Shepard and Margaret Shepard Brown.



Margaret Shepard, Richard Saylor, Charles Weaver, Thelma Partin, George Stanford—February, 1942



**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.

**THE HISTORIAN**

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.



Boynton School – 6<sup>th</sup>, 7<sup>th</sup>, and 8<sup>th</sup> grades 1921. Can anyone identify anyone?