

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.

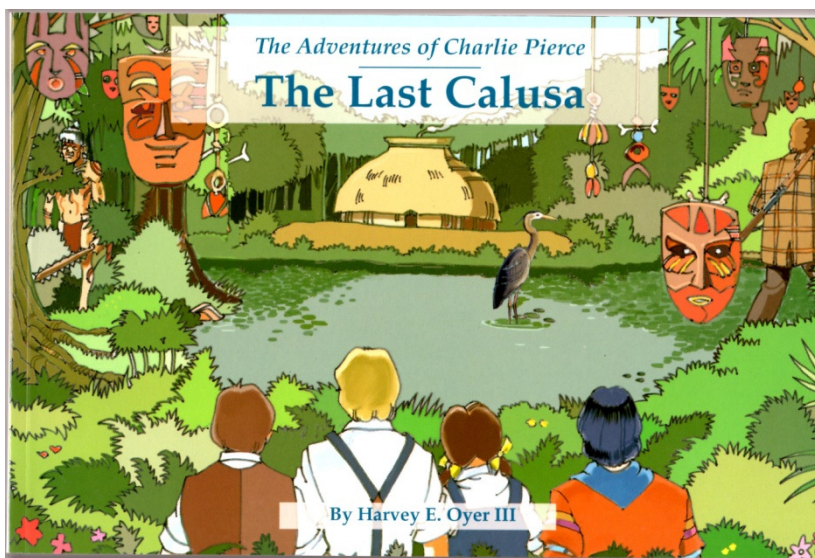
2013 Number 5

May 2013

DINNER with HARVEY



Harvey E. Oyer III



Cover from *The Last Calusa* – Latest edition in *The Adventures of Charlie Pierce* series

Please come and join your friends at the Boynton Beach Historical Society's last meeting until September. We feature a covered-dish dinner at 5:00 p.m. on Sunday, May 5, at the Boynton Woman's Club. Harvey E. Oyer III will be our guest speaker and he will discuss his series of children's books which have been widely acclaimed for their ability to make South Florida history exciting and alive to 4th graders in nine Florida counties. Harvey is a fifth-generation Floridian who is descended from one of the earliest pioneer families in South Florida. He is the great-great-grandson of Captain Hannibal Dillingham Pierce and his wife Margretta Moore Pierce who settled in South Florida in 1872. Harvey's great-grand uncle Charlie Pierce, the subject of Harvey's books, left a detailed journal which provides the basic information for the books. Harvey's books have received numerous awards, and this year he was designated Florida Author of the Year.

For the dinner we ask that you **bring a salad, a vegetable dish, or a dessert** large enough to serve at least 8. **The Society will provide the entrees—meat and vegetarian—the beverages, and the place set-ups** (flatware, plates, cups, glasses, and napkins). If you are **unable to bring a dish**, please come anyway, but **you will be asked to pay a cover of \$7.00 per person at the door.**

WHAT:	COVERED-DISH DINNER AND SPECIAL PRESENTATION on Early South Florida by Harvey E. Oyer, III
WHEN:	SUNDAY MAY 5, 5:00 p.m.
WHERE:	BOYNTON WOMAN'S CLUB 1010 South Federal Hwy.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS--2012-13

OFFICERS [Elected Annually]

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

DIRECTORS [3-Year Staggered Terms]

2014	Steven Anton
2014	Barbara Ready
2015	Sheila Rousseau Taylor
2015	Linda Stabile
2016	Tim Bednarz
2016	Judith Merkle Howard

TRUSTEES [3-Year Staggered Terms]

2014	Randall Gill
2014	Wendy Franklin
2015	Christian Oyer Macoviak
2015	Audrey Gerger
2016	Virginia Farace
2016	Nancy Hood McNamee

Our website is www.boyntonbeachhistoricalsociety.org. The e-mail address is 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

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. Copies from past years are posted on the website.

NEW OFFICERS AND BOARD OF DIRECTORS

At the Annual Meeting on April 15 the membership elected new officers for the year who together with the Directors and Trustees comprise the Board of Directors for the Society.

JANET DEVRIES is the new president. Most of the membership knows Janet from her many years of service on the Board of Directors, more recently as First Vice President in charge of Programs. Janet also has served as our Archivist when she worked as the Archivist for the City of Boynton Beach. Although Janet has moved to Palm Beach State College Library, she will continue to serve as the Archivist for the Historical Society and she will also continue as our webmaster. Needless to say, your Editor is most pleased that Janet has elected to serve.

GINGER PEDERSEN has moved into the position as First Vice President for Programs. Ginger is well-versed on the history of South Florida and continues to do research on the people and events that have been responsible for life in our area.

VONCILE SMITH will continue to serve the Society as Second Vice President for Membership and to edit *The*

Historian. Since the editor mails out the newsletter and thus tries to keep the membership mailing list up to date, it seemed efficient to put her in charge of membership.

DIANA DENNIS, ANNE WATTS, AND FRAN MCKERAL were reelected as recording secretary, corresponding secretary, and treasurer respectfully. **TIM BEDNARZ** was re-elected a Director and **VIRGINIA FARACE** was re-elected a Trustee, both to serve 3-year terms until 2016. **JUDITH MERKLE HOWARD** is a new Director and **NANCY HOOD MCNAMEE** a new Trustee, both terms also running 3-years until 2016. The names of the continuing Board members may be seen in the masthead on the left.

Special thanks to the Nominating Committee of Diana Dennis, Chair, and other members Steve Anton, Christian Macoviak, Nancy McNamee, and Sarah Bollenbacher for their work in preparing the slate.

NEW LAURELS FOR JANET AND GINGER

At the January meeting of the Society, Janet DeVries and Ginger Pedersen presented a review of their recently published book, *Pioneering Palm Beach: The Deweys and the South Florida Frontier*. Since that time they have been invited to present a review and to discuss their new research findings on the Deweys to numerous groups in the area. Last Tuesday, April 23, they were honored by the Historical Society of Palm Beach County who bestowed upon them the 2012 Fannie James Pioneer Achievement Award.

This annual award was established in 2003 to recognize the achievements of individuals or organizations that have significantly contributed to preserving and sharing the history of Palm Beach County's pioneering days. The award is named for the late Fannie James, an African American pioneer who served as the first postmistress of the Jewell Post Office (now Lake Worth) which was open from 1889 to 1903.

Janet has also been appointed by the Society of Florida Archivists to edit their newsletter *The Florida Archivist*.

IN MEMORIAM

BARBARA HARRISON

ANNE "Nancy" MAURY MILLER

Both these ladies had been long-time members of the Boynton Beach Historical Society. *The Historian* has little information to include. Anne Miller's son wrote asking for her name to be removed from our mailing list. She was a former journalist. Barbara Harrison passed away April 18, 2013 at age 90. She became a member after having coffee frequently at Dunkin' Donuts with Harvey Oyer, Jr.

MEMBERSHIPS – 2013

The following memberships have been received since March 1st. No list was published in April, but if you renewed by March, your name should have been included in the November, January, February, or March *Historian*. The expiration date of your membership is included in the upper right hand corner of the mailing label on your copy of *The Historian*. Some members are paid through 2014.

PATRON:

Marie Horenberger [2014]
Bob and Cindy Lyman Jamison
Anne Weems Michael, Elizabeth A. Michael, and Michelle Michael DePollo
Susan Oyer

FAMILY:

Ron and Sarah Thomas Bollenbacher
Beverly M. and Margaret Shepard Brown
Nancy and Bill Earnhart [2014]
Gayle C. Kranz and George Greider

INDIVIDUAL:

Theresa Dimatteo
Robert Ganger
Barbara Gellner
Mary L. Haggard [2014]
Gerald Murray
Nancy Rosa
Dr. Marilyn K. Rousseau
Ovedia Weeks Stevens
Jean Ann Thurber
Mary Ann (Bernice Traylor) Wilson

Thank all of you for joining the Boynton Beach Historical Society. A special welcome to new members Elizabeth A. Michael, Michelle Michael Depollo, Theresa Dimatteo, and Ovedia Weeks Stevens.

A LETTER TO SHARE

One of our members, Bob Gayler, Seacrest H.S. 1955, now lives in Phoenix, Maryland. The following is quoted from a letter he sent to the Society in April:

"In the April issue of the *Historian*, there is an article about the Seminole Inn in Indiantown, built by S. Davis Warfield. As a former resident of west of Boynton, 1940 to 1955, and now in Maryland, I quickly was interested in the connections to local history. Wallis Warfield was born in Maryland and after her marriage to the then former King Edward was a regular visitor to Palm Beach County. The Duke and Duchess of Windsor were good friends of Harvey Ladew, a 'country gentleman' who lived in Baltimore County, Maryland. Mr. Ladew was an accomplished

gardener and developed a wonderful private garden with a superb topiary collection, which my wife and I have visited many times. It is about 8 miles from our home. There is a book about Mr. Ladew, 'Perfectly Delightful, the Life and Gardens of Harvey Ladew' which has a number of references to the Windsors and visits to Delray Beach, Gulfstream and Palm Beach. The book may be of some interest to members of the Historical Society. I have taken the liberty of ordering a copy which I will send to you when it is received, as my contribution to the Society. It offers a picture in sharp contrast to the lives of the people like my parents and most of the people profiled in the *Historian*.

"There is a Baltimore business journal named Warfield's,' so the prominence of the family heritage continues."

Thank you, Bob. We appreciate your gift and I know a number of us look forward to reading it, and perhaps eventually visiting Ladew Gardens when we are in Baltimore.

THE PIERCE HOME ON HYPOLUXO ISLAND

On page 6 in the April *Historian* we included the following picture:



The Pierce home on Hypoluxo Island was built in 1876 from lumber and driftwood salvaged from the beach. H. D. Pierce is leaning against the doorway on the right

The intent of the editor was to show what an early house built of driftwood looked like.

However, the picture did draw a reaction from one of the Pierce descendants and a long-time member of the Boynton Beach Historical Society. Marjorie W. Nelson, who was married to Walter Voss, one of H.D. Pierce's grandsons, and whose children are H.D. Pierce's great-grand children wrote,

"Please understand that this is not a criticism. I just feel compelled to write to you about the picture of the H.D.

[Continued on page 4, PIERCE HOME]

[PIERCE HOME, Continued from page 3]

Pierce home on the last page. That view, from *Pioneer Life in Southeast Florida*, p.99, gives people the wrong impression of the Pierces. Donald Curl edited Pierce's manuscript and would have written the captions. I'm sure that if Lillie Pierce Voss saw that one, she would have said the house was under construction and earlier than 1876. Later in Pierce's book, on p 210, is the picture of the finished home, and on p. 211 is an east side shot."

[210] PIONEER LIFE IN SOUTHEAST FLORIDA



Pierce family home on Hypoluxo Island, 1886. From left to right: H. D. Pierce, Margretta M. Pierce, A. W. Gamett, Ed Hamilton, Lillie Pierce, Charles Pierce



East side of Pierce home on Hypoluxo. From left to right: Lillie Pierce, Margretta M. Pierce, H. D. Pierce with Tommy Jumper and Tommy Lustee, Big Cypress Indians

[pgs. 99, 210, 211 from *Pioneer Life in Southeast Florida* by Charles W. :Pierce, edited by Donald Walter Curl, University of Miami Press, Coral Gables, 1970.]

Marjorie Nelson continues:

"I found a great clipping, pasted on the back cover of Lillie Pierce Voss's scrap book that I copied and am enclosing for you. It refers to the house as having a 'thatched' roof but it was shingled—see the note Lillie wrote."

1962 clipping, pasted inside the back cover of the scrapbook of Lillie Pierce Voss:

"Grounds Have Figured in Local Pioneer History"

"Figuring prominently in the history of Southeast Florida, Hypoluxo Island was the site of one of the first homesteads in the area.

"In the 1870s, H.D. Pierce, keeper of the House of Refuge between Delray Beach and Gulfstream, built a palmetto-roofed home for his family at the south end of the island on grounds now occupied by the Manalapan Club. Mrs. Pierce's brother, Will Moore, homesteaded the northern half of the island.

"The Pierce's daughter, Lillie, [Mrs. Fred Voss, Hypoluxo] first white girl to be born in this aea, recalls rowing the barefoot mailman, Ed Hamilton, from the island to a haulover near the present Manalapan Inlet when he started the journey ending with his disappearance at Hillsborough Inlet.

"A later owner of the property, a millionaire from Atlanta, Ga., named Hopkins, converted the Pierce's thatched pioneer home into a lodge, with rooms in vivid shades of red and green.

"The most prominent owner of the property, Madame Balsan, was the Duchess of Marlborough before she married Col. Balsan.

"After Col. and Madame Balsan purchased the grounds, the pioneer building was used as a gardener's cottage.

"Other parts of Hypoluxo Island came into the foreground of news during World War II when men of the AAF Tactical Center, Orlando were placed there for survival training before transfer to the South Pacific.

"The student officers were landed on the island with equipment consisting only of machette [sic], web belt, canteen, insect repellent and mosquito netting.

"In classes of 15 to 50, they learned to forage off the land, typical meals consisting of fresh clams, sea mussel broth, fried oysters or baked fish, salad of hibiscus flowers and sea pipes. Instruction included ways to find and dig for fresh water in sand banks and coral reefs.

"Today the island is lined with attractive residences."

Note in Mrs. Voss's handwriting:

"Pierce home shingled in 1882 with home riven shingles, made by Will Moore from logs on ocean beach."

Marjorie Nelson continues:

"I am also enclosing a picture of the Pierce home after Russell Hopkins bought it – he laid the palmetto fronds over the shingled room to give a tropical look, I guess. Also note that he painted the rooms red and green. Somewhere I have Freda's [Lillie's daughter, Freda Voss Oyer] account of going over there and laughing at what he had done to the house. This picture was in Mary Linehan's files and was given to her by Nancy Tilton. To me, this view is the other side of the one on p 210 of Pierce's book. It had a two story part next to the one story part. The Voss house in Hypoluxo was similar, the kitchen, pantry, back porch all one story, the rest two story."

[Pierce home after it was acquired by Russell Hopkins is shown on p. 6. Picture and text provided by Nancy Tilton as Marjorie Nelson indicates above.]

ANOTHER LOST PIONEER HOME – THE DAUGHARTY HOUSE



The Daugharty House at 405 East Ocean Avenue as it looked in 1907 before it was demolished.

[Photo courtesy Steve Anton]

Ida and Jesse Daugharty moved to the town of Boynton from Deland, Florida in 1902. Their daughter, Hazel Daugharty Houston, reflected on their history in an article in *The News Journal*, March 18, 1976.

"When my father wanted a house, the builder was H.B. Murray, who, with his family came to Boynton in 1895 . . . Mr. Murray arrived to supervise construction of the Boynton Hotel on the beach for Nathan S. Boynton, for whom the town was named."

Hazel attended the one-room Boynton School on the site of the 1913 Schoolhouse Children's Museum and Learning Center.

"In 1911, Mrs. Charles T. Harper, a Wellesley graduate, lived here, and arranged for us to go to Palm Beach High School," she remembers. "At that time it was the only accredited high school in the county. We went up on the 7:30 a.m. train and came home on the 'short' that ran afternoons from West Palm Beach to Miami."

By the time she was in her second year of high school, Mr. Tynbrook of Delray contracted to transport the students to the high school by car. The following year the county purchased a seven-passenger automobile which Charles Pierce [Editor's note: This is Chuck Pierce, the son of Charles W. Pierce and a cousin to Freda Voss Oyer] of Boynton drove until he graduated in 1915. After that other senior boys served as chauffeur.

Hazel continued, "At that time the highway was a narrow white rock road—a series of potholes after heavy rains. During my high school years the first test strip of macadam was laid just south of West Palm Beach. It covered only a few hundred feet, but we thought it was like riding on velvet."

Hazel said that when her family moved to Boynton, it was part of Dade County. Her parents operated a store and grew

tomatoes, which were a very popular crop in the area at that time. The sighting of various forms of wildlife was common and deer were especially plentiful. Jesse Daugharty planted an orange grove which may have been the first in Boynton. It was called "the 'Flat Woods'" and was located by Military Trail.

Hazel Daugharty completed high school in 1916 and then enrolled at Stetson College in Deland.

The Mrs. Charles Harper, to whom she refers earlier as the one who helped with the arrangements for Boynton students to attend Palm Beach High School so they could qualify for college, was the organizer of the Boynton Woman's Club. Ida Daugharty, Hazel's mother, became a charter member. Of the 11 who graduated from Palm Beach High School with Hazel, nine entered college and one went to Europe to study voice and later sang with the Metropolitan Opera Company.

After Hazel graduated from Stetson, she taught home economics and ran the cafeteria at the Boynton School. Later, while working in Miami, she met her husband Andrew Noel Houston and they were married in Boynton at her parent's home in 1924.

Ida Daugharty was one of the founders of the First Presbyterian Church of Boynton and Hazel and Andy Houston were later members.

Hazel's parents, Jesse and Ida Daugharty continued living in the family home. Jesse died in 1932, and Ida in 1964 at the age of 88. Both are buried in the old section of the Boynton Cemetery on Seacrest Boulevard. Hazel and Andy Houston lived in the home until 1976 when they moved to Terrace Garden in Lakeland to a cottage on an orange grove on the lake.

After the Houstons left, new residents moving into the house were Helen and John Pressley and Lucile Maull. Helen Pressley and Lucile Maull were granddaughters of Jesse Daugharty. The home was to be willed to the Pressley's son Dr. Milton Pressley of Greensboro, North Carolina.

In the 1990s Robert Katz bought the house with the intention of leasing it for a restaurant. He died before he accomplished little more than painting the trim. The building sat idle for a number of years until it was demolished around 2010.



East side of the Daugharty House in 2007

[Photo courtesy of Steve Anton]

**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

This is a photo of the H.D. Pierce home on Hypoluxo Island about 1910 after it was purchased by Russell Hopkins. Marjorie Nelson reports that Mary Linehan apparently obtained the picture from Nancy Tilton who wrote the accompanying text: . "Russell Hopkins House Hypoluxo Island (Pierce Homestead) about 1910-Nancy Tilton. Hopkins, of Atlanta, developed a product to straighten kinky hair & kept the sheep & goats to test it on. He painted the house in gaudy colors and added the thatched roof over the regular one." [Text and photo courtesy Marjorie Nelson]

