

THE HISTORIAN

The Newsletter of THE BOYNTON BEACH HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Serving Boynton Beach, Ocean Ridge, Manalapan, Gulf Stream, Lantana, Hypoluxo, the Village of Golf, Briny Breezes and all areas of West Boynton to US Hwy 441
Post Office Box 12 Boynton Beach FL 33425-0012

Voncile Smith, President

Volume 2004, No. 4, April, 2004

Voncile Smith, Editor

FORT MOSE: Free Black Town on the Spanish Frontier, Program for April 12, City Library

Darcie MacMahon, Exhibits Coordinator from the Florida Museum of Natural History, University of Florida, will present a slide presentation on this early settlement of free former slaves who escaped from English colonies in the 1730s and were granted sanctuary by the Spanish to settle in a free community south of St. Augustine. She will discuss the archeological findings at the location of this former settlement and what they reveal about 18th Century colonial life from the African-American experience. This program is sponsored by the **Florida Humanities Council** and is co-sponsored locally by the **Boynton Beach Historical Society** and the **Friends of the Boynton Beach City Library**. The program begins at **7:00 p.m.** and is open free to the public.

PINEAPPLE FARMING ONCE A MAJOR INDUSTRY IN BOYNTON AREA

In the early summer of 1879 a boat with a load of pineapple slips arrived from Key West. Several thousand of the slips, which were used to start pineapple plants, were purchased by the settlers. What resulted was referred to as "pineapple fever," and although no one had ever grown them before, most who bought them were convinced that they would produce an extra source of income.

Those slips that were planted on hammocks did not need fertilizer because of the peat humus which was more fertile than some of the surrounding sandy soil. But clearing a hammock field took time and the fields were limited in size, often to an acre or less. The centers, or hearts, of many of the plants filled with sand, and thus the soil had to be mulched to hold down the sand. Initially the pineapple growers used a coarse bunch grass which grew around the shore of the lake, but it was time consuming to collect and apply.

Pineapples are a summer crop, but after more than a year the plants are only a little more than half grown. A field worker had to take precautions to dress appropriately to deal with the sharp, curved spines on each side of every pineapple leaf. Strong canvas gloves protected the hands, and most workers wore two shirts and two pairs of pants to save the body from the thorns. Mosquitoes were often another problem.

Originally the most common point for shipment was Titusville which had to be reached by boat. From there the pineapples were carried by wagon eight miles to a lake port to be shipped up the St. Johns River by steamboat to Jacksonville. After 1913 the Florida East Coast Railway was used to move them to North Florida and to other states.

Much of the land that now makes up the cities of Boynton, Lake Worth, Lantana, and Hypoluxo was once pineapple fields. They were also grown in the Fort Pierce, Stuart, West Palm Beach, and Delray areas.

Sometime in the 1920s, pineapple growing began to suffer setbacks. The beginning of drainage of the Everglades was a contributing factor. Another was the growth of pineapple production in Cuba, and later in

Central America, where labor costs were lower, and growth of the plants more rapid. Finally, the land boom in Florida made property more valuable for building development than pineapple growth.

CHARLIE EARNS HIS FIDDLE

[The following was adapted for "The Brown Wrapper" of the *Palm Beach Post* by B.W. White from *Pioneer Life in Southeast Florida* by Charles W. Pierce.]

During the Christmas season of 1879 after the pineapple slips had arrived, all the settlers around the Lake (the lake known as Lake Worth) held a grand get together at Captain Dimmick's Hotel. "Young Charles Pierce was totally fascinated with the music of the event, especially with the fiddlers. He then decided that he had to own a fiddle of his own.

"Alec Carlisle, who was the assistant lighthouse keeper at the Jupiter Lighthouse, had a fiddle and offered to sell it to Charles for the price of six dollars. Unfortunately, Charles had spent all of his money he had earned by plume hunting [!] and would not have any other income until next spring.

"Charles' uncle Will Moore stated that he would hire Charles to plant pineapple slips if Charles did not charge him too much for labor. Uncle Will and Hamilton Pierce had gone to Key West to pick up another ship load of slips before the Christmas bash. Uncle Will had six thousand slips that he wanted planted at his homestead.

"Charles had no idea how long it would take for him to plant six thousand slips, but he wanted that fiddle, so he agreed to do the planting for a total charge of six dollars. Early the next morning, Charles started trimming the slips and by noon he had trimmed one thousand. After a hearty lunch, he started setting the plants. This was done by stretching a line, with pieces of cloth tied every eighteen inches, over one row to be planted. A plant was dropped at each of these pieces of cloth, then with a short thick stick called a dibber were pushed into the ground. He kept steadily at this and by a half hour before sunset, had the first thousand plants set. For six days, Charles labored at this chore of setting pineapple plants and on the seventh day he went hunting. Six thousand pineapple plants were in the ground and Charles had earned his fiddle."

50 YEARS OF PINEAPPLE CULTIVATION



1905 - Pineapple Field on Ridge West of Boynton



Pineapples - Spring of 1930



Bill, Oscar, and Jim Winchester 1950s
At one time Oscar Winchester was the largest producer of pineapples in the United States.

ADDENDUM: 2004 MEMBERS

The following are the names of members who have joined the Boynton Beach Historical Society since the end of January, 2004. For the names of members who joined prior to that date, see the January and February copies of *The Historian*.

Corporate Membership:

Charlotte Oyer
Randy Rau
George Tobin, Sr.

Patron Membership:

Don and Ruth Besecker
Patricia M. and James E. Jones, Jr.
Ralph E. Myers
Donna S. and Phillip L. Parker
John I. and Carnella Rogers
Claire and Fain Weems

Family Membership:

Derle and Cecilia Bailey
Ron and Sarah Bollenbacher
Leone Buffan
James and Marjorie L. Bynum
J. Paul and Joan Carrodus
Irene and Martin J. Feeney
Wendy and Verbon Franklin
Betty W. and Vincent J. Gallo, Sr.
Bill and Emma James
Mary B. and Nicholas G. Kaleel
Kenneth A. and Helen C. Lyman
Robert and Christian Macoviak
John A. and Rannie Melear
Amy W. and Harvey E. Oyer, III
Martha and Ward C. Parker
Georgie P. and James B. Raulerson
Norma B. and Ernest G. Simon
Billie J. and Delma W. Swilley
Christine W. and George Ternenyi
Barbara S. and Phillip B. Traylor
Charlotte T. and Melvin E. Weaver
Elsie and Bill R. Winchester

Individual Membership:

Carl M. Allison
Helen J. Avery
Sue M. Beaman
Tim Bednarz
Barbara Bonin
Cleo Bowers
Doris Braunworth
John E. Breithart
Marlyn Brook
Elsie H. Coyne
Arleen Dennison
Janet DeVries
Lucille Dickinson
Lois Oyer Dooley
Judy Duxbury
Virginia K. Farace
Christine Francois
Blanche Girtman
Gloria Gregory
JoAnn Hackle
James Irvin Lacey
Nancy Murray Lacy
Fred W. Love
Rita Martin
Sandra McGregor
Gene Moore
Rosalie A. Morrissey
Cheryl Muster
Stormet C. Norem
Susan E. Oyer
Barbara A. Poleo
Lenore Benson Raborn
Dan Rousseau
Jay Rowley
Charles J. Simon
Jean Ann Thurber
Dorian Beck Trauger
Dorothy James Turner
William Raleigh Weeks
Marion Weaver Wester

Thanks to each of you for your support and encouragement.

REGISTERED VOTERS IN BOYNTON IN THE 1920s (Continued)

The February and March issues of *The Historian* contain the names of registered voters whose last names begin A through part of M. The list includes voter's name, party affiliation, occupation, and race. The editor has attempted to make an accurate transcription of what is in the record, but handwritten information is often difficult to read. The names are listed in the order in which they occur in the original records. This transcription represents an effort to adhere to the spellings used originally by the city clerk. The writing by different clerks varies in legibility, and some clerks made more errors than others. Our purpose is not to correct errors the clerks may have made; we are simply attempting to show you what is there. Other pages, not included here, indicate whether the registrants had receipts to prove they had paid the required poll tax. Voters had also to pass non-standardized literacy tests, and only whites were permitted to vote in the Democratic White Primary. Some names appear more than once, possibly because the poll tax was not paid, or they were purged from the voters' list for some other reason.

1924 Letter "M" continued

Miller, Arlene	D	Housewife	B
Moore, Alta M.	D	Housewife	W
Miller, C.O.	D	Nurseryman	W
Miller, Leona A.	D	Housewife	W
Muste, Mary E.	D	Housewife	W

1926 Names with "M"

Mellett, Gertrude E.	D	Housewife	W
Murray, Horace B.	D	Co. Bridge Supt	W
Miller, Chalmer C.	D	Scientist	W
Morris, Robert	R	C. laborer	B
Montgomery, W.A.	R	Mechanic	W

1927 Names with "M"

Meredith, G.C.	D	Farmer	W
Morris, Daniel	D	Real Estate Salesman	W
Marsh, George W.	R	Carpenter	W
Murray, Samuel	R	Laborer	B
Martin, S.P.	R	Stone Mason	W
Miller, Helen	D	Teacher	W
Mason, Allen	R	Laborer	B
Miller, W.C.	R	Laborer	B
Marcus, Harry	D	Operator	W
Mayberry, Z.J.	D	Operator	W
Mercer, Mrs. Paul	D	School Teacher	W
Martin, Mrs. Hattie M.	D	Housewife	W
Mace, Romaine A.	R	Housewife	W
Mace, E.V.		Lumber	W
Mercer, Paul			W
Macaau, Peter	D	Farmer	W
Miller, Geo.	D	Farmer	W
Miller, J.W.	R	Printer	W
Meredith, Martha	D	Wife	W
Muelier, Carl	R	Farmer	W
Myers, M.E.	D	Minister	W
Maddox, M.M.	D	Wife	W
Meeks, Wm. E.	R	Farmer	B
Meeks, Francis	R	Wife	B
Major, W.A.	R	Wife [sic]	B
Major, Eloise	R	Wife	B
Mitchell, Sam	R	Laborer	B
Myers, Isabel		Wife	W
Myers, Chas		Farmer	W

1928 Names with "M"

Marous, Igzatz	I	Retired	W
Miller, Paul L.	R	Developer	W
Miller, Bernice H.	R	Housewife	W
Muste, Paul T.	D	Clerk	W
Medley, Frederica	D	School Teacher	W
Mitchell, Sam	R	Laborer	B

1929 Names with "M"

Milton, Jennette	D	Housewife	W
Murray, Rev. J.D.	D	Methodist Minister	W
Murray, Helen	D	Housewife	W

1920 Names with "Mc"

McLean, F.W.	R	Farmer	W
McKay, James	I	Farmer	W
McKay, Stella H.	R	Married	W
McLean, Clara	R	Married	W

1921 Names with "Mc"

McMillan, Clara	D	Married	W
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1922 Names with "Mc"

McCrae, Fate	D	Laborer	B
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1924 Names with "Mc"

McGown, John	D	Laber [sic]	W
McLain, T. M.	D	Bee Keeper	W
McLain, A.B.	D	Housewife	W

1925 Names with "Mc"

Mrs. Emma MacKay [sic]	R	Housewife	W
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(Out of order. Should be under "M")

Z.J. Mayberry [sic]	D	Operator	W
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(Out of order. Should be under "M")

1926 Names with "Mc"

Marcus, Harry	D	Operator	W
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(Out of order. Should be under "M")

McGregor, Ludie	D	Seamstress	W
Miller, W.C.	R	Laborer	B

(Out of order. Should be under "M")

Nutting, Frank	R	Real Estate Broker	W
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(Out of order. Should be under "N")

1926 Names with "Mc"

McLinden, G.D.	D	Gen. Contractor	W
McBride, Geo.	R	Laborer	B
McBride, Archie	R	Laborer	B

1927 Names with "Mc"

Miller, C.C.	D	Developer	W
(Out of Order. Should be under "M")			
McCormick, Rudolph	R	Farmer	W
McGowen, John	D	Laborer	W
McCants, G.B.	D	Filling Station	W

1928 Names with "Mc"

McBride, Mary	D	Housekeeper	B
Medley, Frederica	D	School Teacher	W
(Out of Order. Should be under "M")			
1920 Names with "N"			
Newlan, T.A.	D	Druggist	W
Newlan, Lila P.	D	Married	W

1925 Names with "N"

Narfus, Alex	R	Laborer	B
Near, J.A.	R	Garage	W
Near, Ada	R	Housewife	W

1926 Names with "N"

Nixon, Albert	D	Retired	W
Nixon, Alpha	D	Married	W
Nutting, John F.	R	Filling Station	W
Nutting, Frank	R	Real Estate Broker	W

1927 Names with "N"

Newkirk, Bertha A.	R	Housewife	W
Newkirk, L.L.	R	Paving	W
Robnot, Bessie L.	R	Housewife	W
(Out of Order. Should be under "R")			
Nelson, Moris	D	Farmer	W

1928 Names with "N"

Newlan, M.B.	D	Filling Station	W
Nutting, Everett	D	Filling Station	W
Nutting, John	D	Filling Station	W

1921 Names with "O"

Oyer, H.E.	D	Carpenter	W
1922 Names with "O"			
Oneal [sic], C.T.	D	Contractor	W

1925 Names with "O"

Lillian F. Oyer [sic]	R	Housewife	W
Offermon, Harry D.	R	Carpenter	W
Owen, E.E.	D	Carpenter	W

1927 Names with "O"

Otwell, W.F.	R	Railroad Man	W
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1920 Names with "P"

Powell, J.C.	R	Farmer	W
Powell, Rousema V.	D	Married	W
Pierce, Charls [sic]	W.	D Post Master	W

1921 Names with "P"

Pierce, C.L.	D	Banking	W
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1922 Names with "P"

Perkins, L.V.	D	Married Real Estate	W
1924 Names with "P"			
Porter, A.B.	D	Farmer	W
Pierce, Cora A.	D	Single	W
Pierce, H.D.	Ind	Retired	W
Pierce, Mary	Ind	Married	W
Porter, Estelle L.	D	Housewife	W

1925 Names with "P"

R.T. Parker [sic]	D	Dairyman	W
Ethel Pierce [sic]	I	Housewife	W
Patrick, Charlie	R	Laborer	B
Phillips, J.H.	R	Asst. Contractor	B
Peterson, C.E.	R	Gardener	W

1926 Names with "P"

Perkins, D.A.	R	Real Estate	W
Perkins, D.G.	R	Real Estate	W
Arnold Parmer [sic]	D	Restauranter [sic]	W
Palmer, Katherine	D	"	W
Parker, E.F.	D	Plasterer	W
Powell, W.A.	D	Bridge Tender	W
Porter, C.C.	D	Truck Driver	W
Porter, E.E.	D	Housewife	W
Partin, Louis [sic]	D	"	W
Partin, M.H.	D	R.E. Salesman	W

1927 Names with "P"

Poole, Harry H.	D	Engineer	W
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1927 Names with "P" continued

Poore, W.H.	D	Police Chief	W
Peabody, R.F.	D	Banker	W
Peabody, Glenydene	D	Housewife	W
Proskine, J.L.	D	Engineer	W
Proskine, Estella	D	Housewife	W

Paon, Joseph C.			W
Porter, Wm. L.	D	Millman	W
Pratt, Jesse	D	Machinist	W
Powell, J.C., Sr.	D	Realtor	W
Partin, William H.		Salesman	W
Porter, Burnett W.		Engineer [illegible]	W
Peterson, Amos		Engineer	W

1928 Names with "P"

Partin, William H.	D	Salesman	W
Peterson, Mrs. Minnie	R	Domestic	W
Powell, Jr., Joseph C.	D	Bottler	W
Powell, Ethel M.	D	Housewife	W
Powell, W.S.	D	Truck Driver	W
Phillips, G.S.	D	"	W
Phillips, Mary	D	Housewife	W
Powell, John C.	D	Electrician	W
Powell, Eva M.	D	Housewife	W
Price, B.J.	D	Farmer	W
Price, J.A.	D	Laborer	W
Porter, A.B.	D	Farmer	W

No names beginning with "Q"

1920 Names with "R"

Rousseau, A.A.	D	Farmer	W
Roberts, E.—See page 100—[sic] [??]			
1921 Names with "R"			
Rousseau, Kate	D	Married	W
Rousseau, R.H.	D	Farmer	W
Rousseau, Wilda	D	Married	W

1922 Names with "R"

Rousseau, Kenneth [?] H.	D	Engineer	W
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1924 Names with "R"

Rousseau, M.D.	D	"	W
Ramsey, John	D	Dairyman	W
Rousseau, V.R.	D	Engineer	W
Rhoden, Loyed	D	Laborer	W
Roberts, Jim	D	"	B
Ruehman, C. [illegible]	D	Carpenter	W
Ruehman, E.	D	Housewife	W

1925 Names with "R"

Rousseau, Ivan	D	D. Sheriff	W
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1926 Names with "R"

F.M. Richardson [sic]	D	Inspector	W
Roberts, John	D	Laborer	B
Rogers, O.L.	R	Laborer	B
Reinschmidt, D.	D	Housewife	W
Reinschmidt, R.	D	Real Estate	W
Rollins, Robert	R	Painter	W
Raney, Lola	R	Housekeeper	W
Raney, Charles L.	I	Laborer	W
Rousseau, Elwy	D	Housewife	W
E. Roberts [sic]	R	Farmer	B

1927 Names with "R"

Ross, Ralph	D	Butcher	W
Rogers, Arthur F.	R	Engineer	W
Rayman, Charles A.	R	Contractor	W
Rayman, Gladys	R	Housewife	W
Ruth, C.R.	D	Cigar Packer	W
Rohnolt, Bessie L.	R	Housewife	W
Russell, Clem	D	Trucking	W
Russell, Edna M.	D	Housewife	W
Robinson, Jake			W

1928 Names with "R"

Ross, Edith	D	Housewife	W
Ross, Claude	D	Meat Cutter	W
Swindell, Mrs. Fannie	D	Housewife	W

(Out of Order. Should be under "S")

Rousseau, Mildred	D	Single	W
Ruth, Grace I.	D	"	W
Rayscher, John	D	Farmer	W
Ronce [?], H.	D	Laborer	W
Roberts, Essie N.	R	Laundress	B
Roseke, A.W.	D	Labor Foreman	W
Richards, Mrs. Mae		Wife	W

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

Boynton Beach Historical Society memberships are for the calendar year, January 1 to December 31. If you are not now a member and would like to join, 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, CALENDAR YEAR 2004
 WORKING TOGETHER TO PRESERVE BOYNTON BEACH'S HERITAGE**

Member's Name _____ 2nd Member's Name _____

Street _____ City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Telephone _____ FAX _____ E-Mail _____

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

Yes____, I would like to serve on the following committee(s)

Archives/Preservation_____	Program/Planning_____	Mailings_____
Telephone_____	Hospitality_____	Membership_____
Public Relations_____	Seeking Sponsors_____	Minority History_____
Fundraising_____	Other (Specify)_____	