



# *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.

2015 Number 2

February 2015

## LOCAL NEWSMAN REPORTS on TEDDY ROOSEVELT

The February 16 meeting of the Boynton Beach Historical Society will feature Tom Peeling from *The Palm Beach Post* speaking about President Theodore Roosevelt and sharing some information about items on Roosevelt from his personal collection.

Tom is a "native son" having been born in West Palm Beach and graduating from Lake Worth High School. He attended Pennsylvania State University in the 1970s and completed a double major in Journalism and History. He worked for three years at the Pocono Record in Pennsylvania before joining *The Palm Beach Post* in 1985 as a copy editor on the newsdesk. In his 30 years at *The Post* he has been Op-ed Editor, news assignment editor, assistant business editor, creator and editor of *The Neighborhood Post* community news sections and is now Community Editor in charge of local government coverage. He lives in Lantana with his wife, an associate vice president at Palm Beach Atlantic University. They have two sons who are graduates of Palm Beach Atlantic University. One of his hobbies is collecting political campaign items, especially those pertaining to Theodore Roosevelt.



Tom Peeling

**WHAT:** Discussion Presentation on Teddy Roosevelt by *Palm Beach Post* Editor Tom Peeling

**WHEN:** Monday, February 16, 2015, 6:30 p.m.

**WHERE:** Boynton Woman's Club  
1010 South Federal Highway

**PROGRAMS ARE FREE  
AND OPEN TO THE PUBLIC**

## BOARD OF DIRECTORS--2014-15

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Our website is [www.boyntonhistory.org](http://www.boyntonhistory.org). The e-mail address is [boyntonhistory@gmail.com](mailto:boyntonhistory@gmail.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. Boynton Beach Historical Society number is 561-327-4690.

You can also find us on Facebook and Twitter:

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

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

### LIFE MEMBERS

Randall Gill  
Alexander "Sandy" Simon  
Dorian Beck Trauger  
Charlotte Tatum Weaver  
Curtis and Nain Weaver

### CORPORATE MEMBERS – 2015

Boynton Woman's Club  
Donald Day/Delray Awning, Inc  
Scobee-Combs-Bowden Funeral Home and Crematory  
George and Christine Weaver Ternenyi

## DUES REPORT

Just a reminder to those of you who may not realize our membership year runs from January 1 to December 31 each year. If your name is not listed on the membership list in the November 2014 or January 2015 or this issue, we have no record of receiving your dues. We hope you will continue to participate in the Boynton Beach Historical Society. A special dues form is included for you in this issue. You may also pay membership dues through PayPal on the internet at [www.boyntonhistory.org](http://www.boyntonhistory.org).

The memberships we have recorded since January 1 include the following:

### LIFE:

Charlotte Tatum Weaver

### CORPORATE:

Boynton Woman's Club  
Scobee-Combs-Bowden Funeral Home and Crematory

### PATRON:

Evelyn C. Howell  
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John R. and Jayne Strocchein Rousseau

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Susan Eve Oyer  
Barbara Ready  
Anne C. Rimler  
James "Jim" H. Weeks  
Herbert Zobel

Because of a typographical error in the January *Historian*, Gillian Davis was listed incorrectly as Gillian David.

Thank all of you have joined the Boynton Beach Historical Society for 2015. We are proud to announce that we have added Charlotte Tatum Weaver as a new Life Member. Thank you, Charlotte.

You may also notice that we have begun listing Corporate Members for the year on the masthead.

## SOME TRIVIAL RECOLLECTIONS

Before World War II school buses were painted orange. The first yellow one for Boynton Schools came into use right after the war for use in transporting students who lived along what is now A1A and to Briny Breezes.

The Range Line (now U.S. 441 and State Road 7) was still unpaved in the early 1940s and sometimes washed out during heavy rains so automobiles and the school bus could not get through until the washout was repaired, often days later.

2-15

## ABRAHAM LINCOLN AND H.B. MURRAY

by Voncile Smith

In February we celebrate Presidents Day and one of the Presidents so honored is Abraham Lincoln, so the following seems appropriate to connect Boynton directly to this celebration.

Several articles in *The Historian* this past year have concerned Horace Bentley Murray who arrived in Boynton from Bailey, Michigan in the late 1890s at the behest of Major Nathan Boynton to help build the Major's Boynton Beach Hotel.

Murray arrived with his wife and their four children—Florence, Clyde Sidney, Glenn Lucius, and Eleanor—all of whom had been born in Michigan. Six other children were born after they arrived in Florida—Arthur Edward, Sadie, Horace Bentley, Theodore Alton, Margaret, and Rose.



The first Murray home was constructed of palmetto fronds over a pole structure. Note a curtain at the door for privacy. The frond ceiling provided a good home for roaches and other insects and often encouraged the owners to permit black snakes to live on the premises to discourage insects and rodents.

Murray later served as Boynton's first Mayor. His children are all deceased, and most of his grandchildren and great-grandchildren have moved away. But, as we have reported, some have continued to live in Florida, and several have been, or still are, active members of the Boynton Beach Historical Society.

In the January *Historian*, we reported that one of Murray's granddaughters, the daughter of his son Glenn, had passed away in November. Her husband, Juan Sala, had her ashes interred in the Boynton Cemetery on Woolbright Road. In going through her papers, Juan came across some interesting information about H.B. Murray that is new to most of us—H.B. Murray was a third cousin, twice removed, to Abraham Lincoln. The relationship is derived from a common ancestor with Nancy Hanks Lincoln, Abraham Lincoln's mother.

Nancy Hanks' great-grandfather was Benjamin Hanks (1665-1755). One of Benjamin Hanks' sons, William is the grandfather to Nancy Hanks. Another son to Benjamin Hanks was named Benjamin. The younger Benjamin had a son William who was thus a first cousin to Joseph Hanks, Nancy Hanks Lincoln's father. William's son Arunah Hanks was therefore a second cousin of Nancy Hanks Lincoln. Arunah's daughter, Lucy Hanks Murray was a third cousin to Abraham Lincoln. Lucy Hanks Murray was the mother of Lucius Bentley Murray who was Horace Bentley Murray's father. Since Lucy was Lincoln's third

cousin and was two generations removed from Horace Bentley Murray, Horace was born Lincoln's third cousin, twice removed.

Through this same line, Horace Bentley was also a descendent of Governor William Bradford of Plymouth, one of the Mayflower passengers, but we will not detail this genealogical record at this time.



The house Murray eventually built for his family still stands in Boynton. This is a recent picture of the house. It is no longer owned by any Murray descendant.

## WEEKEND HISTORY STROLLS

The history strolls take participants to places of historic and cultural interest. The free History Strolls include a 60 to 90 minute guided tour and are open to the public. Participants are encouraged to register in advance since space is limited.

### February Weekend History Stroll – Palm Beach Lake Trail Tour, Saturday, February 7, 2015. 9:00 a.m.

A history tour and stroll along the picturesque Lake Trail in Palm Beach. Meet in front of Flagler Museum. Parking is in Royal Poinciana Chapel Parking lot or on the street. Narrated by Janet DeVries and Ginger Petersen (60 minutes). Please wear comfortable walking shoes, bring water/sunscreen. There are no facilities on site. You may register for this tour at <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/historic-lake-trail-stroll-pteented-by-the-boynton-beach-historical-society-tickets-15950341875>

**All tours are free and open to the public: donations accepted.**

**For more information, please call 561-327-4690.**

**2015 Weekend History Strolls:** Call for information; all are currently TBA.

Boca Harbor Marina	TBA
Bedner's Farm	TBA
Delray Beach Historical Society	TBA
Downtown Boynton History Tour	TBA
Mangrove Park History Tour	TBA
Green Cay Wetlands Tour	TBA
Heritage Hen Farm	TBA
Wakodahatchee Wetlands	TBA



## THE STORY OF A BEAUTIFUL FASHION MODEL— a Review to Honor Black History Month

In the February, 2014 *Historian* we featured a story about Everee Clarke and her struggle to maintain the Pleasant City Family History Museum in West Palm Beach, a repository of historic artifacts, photographs and papers from the West Palm Beach black community.. We lauded her efforts and also expressed our appreciation for her continuing to mail us copies of each issue of her newsletter, *The Pleasant City Family Newsletter*, which she has prepared and mailed out for years.

Her October/November/December issue contained what for me, your editor, was a pleasant surprise—the story of an icon of the black modeling world and one of her students. The article is about Ophelia DeVore, and her story is interesting enough, especially as Everlee Clarke describes Ophelia's struggles to develop opportunities for black models by helping to train them at her schools, the Ophelia DeVore School of Charm and Modeling and the Grace del Marco Modeling Agency in New York City and to create opportunities for them in the mainstream media and on the fashion runway. Among her graduates were Cecily Tyson, Gail Fisher, Diann Carroll and—surprise—the lovely Everee Jimerson Clarke.



Ms. Clarke opened The Everee Clarke School of Modeling and Dance in Newark, N.J. in 1960. To me Ms. Clarke's modeling and business successes add a new dimension to a person I already knew writes well and is committed to history.

Most of us recognize the names of the modeling school graduates mentioned above. We are familiar also with other beautiful black stars such as Whitney Houston, Lena Horne, and Halle Berry, but I doubt we begin to realize the struggles they had to gain stardom and recognition. It is exciting to learn that we have a similar star sharing the preservation of our local history. Thank you, Everee Clarke, for sharing your story with us.

## MOONLIGHT CEMETERY TOURS

In addition to conducting strolls through historic sites around the county described on page 3 above, Janet DeVries and Ginger Pedersen conduct monthly Moonlight Tours of West Palm Beach's "Oldest Gated Community," Woodlawn Cemetery. These tours are scheduled on or near the night of a full moon. The tours are sponsored by the City of West Palm Beach Historic Preservation Program and the Parks and Recreation Division. Reservations are required and can be made by calling 561-804-4900 (Francene)..

Participants are asked to bring a flashlight, insect repellent, and water and are reminded that there are no facilities on site. One should also wear closed-toe shoes.

The tours are limited to 50 guests and are free, but a \$5.00 donation is appreciated and will be used to help restore this historic site.

The tour will cover some of the most prominent pioneer families who arrived in the area more than 100 years ago.

All tours begin at 6:30 p.m. or 7:30 p.m. Participants should arrive at least 15 minutes early for check-in. In the event of rain, the tour will be held the following evening. If it rains on the next night also, the tour will be suspended for that month.



Woodlawn Cemetery, West Palm Beach

### TOURS currently scheduled for 2015:

**Wednesday, February 4 (6:30p.m.) Call for Reservations**

**Thursday, March 5 (6:30 p.m.) Call for Reservations**

**Friday, April 4 (7:30 p.m) Call for Reservations**

Other cemetery tours led by these two officers of the Boynton Beach Historical Society are being developed. They will include cemeteries in Boynton Beach, Delray Beach, and Lantana.

### BOYNTON BEACH HISTORICAL PROGRAMS FOR 2015

Monday, February 16 , 6:30 P.M. **Teddy Roosevelt**, presented by Tom Peeling, Boynton Woman's Club.

Monday, March 16, 6:30 P.M. **The Photography of Stan Sheets**, presented by David and Larry Sheets, Boynton Beach City Library

Monday, April 20, 6:30 P.M. **Sweet Pineapples**, presented by Dr. Martha Meeks Light, Boynton Beach City Library.

Sunday, May 17, 5:30 P.M. **Annual Covered-Dish Dinner**, Program TBA, Boynton Woman's Club..





10<sup>TH</sup> Grade – Boynton High School – March 21, 1947  
[Photos courtesy of Juan Sala]

#### BOYNTON HIGH SCHOOL – THE CLASS OF 1949

Two years after the photograph above was taken, most of these students would graduate in 1949 as the last class from Boynton High School which had been housed in the 1927 historic schoolhouse. Pictured **above** as tenth graders, in the first row, L to R, are Mae Franklyn, Dot Keller, Patsy Woolbright, Margaret Fassig, Eva Brookes, Alice Nain Weems, Sue Murphy, Gloria Partin, Eleanor Murray and Eileen Pelanick. In the back row, L to R, are Eugene DuBois, Bob Bowers, Bill Keller, Lee Robbins, Pat Murphy, Helen Siedle, Mary Shook, Marvin Baker, Paul Muster, Wiley Austin and Monty Klemmens.

In May 1949, the class above, now in their last year at Boynton High School, took a "Senior Skip Day" trip to Havana Cuba. Such trips had become a pattern in the past few years for seniors at Boynton High School. The photograph **on the left** and **the other which follows** were taken in 1949 on that excursion some ten years before Fidel Castro came to power and the Cuban embargo began.



*Havana, Cuba  
May 1949*

Pictured are Eva Brooks, Nain Weems, Sue Murphy, Eleanor Murray and Ovedia Weeks.



**BOYNTON BEACH HISTORICAL SOCIETY  
MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION**

Member's Name \_\_\_\_\_  
 2<sup>nd</sup> Member's Name \_\_\_\_\_  
 Street \_\_\_\_\_  
 City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_  
 Phone \_\_\_\_\_ Cell \_\_\_\_\_  
 E-mail \_\_\_\_\_

THE SOCIETY IS A 501 © 3 Organization so dues are TAX DEDUCTIBLE!

TYPE OF MEMBERSHIP: (Check one)	INDIVIDUAL	(\$25.00) _____
	FAMILY	(\$35.00) _____
	PATRON	(\$50.00) _____
	CORPORATE	(\$100.00) _____
	STUDENT	(\$10.00) _____
	LIFE	(\$500.00) One time Payment only.

The membership; year is from January 1 to December 31 of each year.  
 Dues are not pro rated.

Complete this form and mail it with a check for the appropriate amount to  
 Boynton Beach Historical Society, POB 12, Boynton Beach FL 33424-4012,  
 You may pay by PayPal at [www.boyntonhistory.org](http://www.boyntonhistory.org)

*The Historian*

**Boynton Beach Historical Society**  
**Post Office Box 12**  
**Boynton Beach FL 33425-0012**



**Reunion of the Boynton High School Class of 1939**

[Photo courtesy of Louise Raulerson through Sheila Rousseau Taylor]

(Does anyone know the year of the reunion.? The Editor's guess it was possibly the 25<sup>th</sup> year reunion about 1964.)

On the back is written "Class Reunion: Homer Adams & wife, John Rousseau & wife, Bill Culpepper & wife, Evelyn Raulerson, Harriet Goepfert & husband, Joe Cornman & wife. 'A Happy Time' Gene Wright & wife are missing. We lost contact with Dorothy Whitehurst."  
 Please share with us any additional information you may have about the picture and/or the people in it.