



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.

2017 Number 3

March 2017

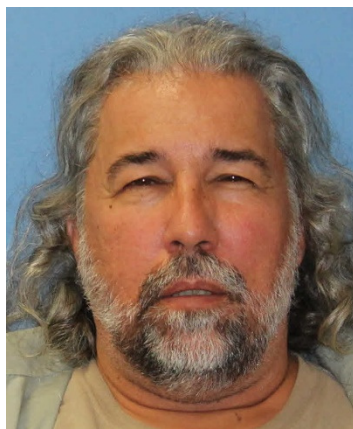
TWO-PART PROGRAM for MARCH:

At 6:30 Mayor Steven B. Grant, "Status of the Development of Boynton Beach"

At 7:00 "Marjorie Kinnan Rawlings' Life and Work," by Steve J. Brahlek



Mayor Steven B. Grant



PBSC Professor Steve J. Brahlek



Postal image of Marjorie Kinnan Rawlings, Author, *The Yearling*

[Continued on page 3 – March Program Preview]

WHAT: Double Program for the Boynton Beach Historical Society for March –

WHEN: Monday, March 20, 2017
6:30 p.m. Mayor Grant, "Status of the Development of Boynton Beach"
7:00 p.m. Professor Brahlek, "An Overview of Marjorie Kinnan Rawlings' Life and Work"

WHERE: Boynton Beach City Library, 208 South Seacrest Boulevard, Program Room

ALL PROGRAMS of the BOYNTON BEACH HISTORICAL SOCIETY ARE FREE and OPEN to the PUBLIC

**BOYNTON BEACH HISTORICAL SOCIETY
BOARD OF DIRECTORS--2016-17**

OFFICERS [Elected Annually]

President	Randall Gill
1 st Vice President, Programs	Anne Rimler
2 nd Vice President, Membership	Voncile Marshall Smith
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Corresponding Secretary	Anne Watts
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[Non-Elected]

Editor, <i>The Historian</i>	Voncile Marshall Smith
Archivist/Facebook/Webmaster	Janet DeVries
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DIRECTORS [3-Year Staggered Terms]

2017	Steven Anton
2017	Barbara Ready
2018	Sheila Rousseau Taylor
2018	Vacant
2019	Tim Bednarz
2019	Judith Merkel Howard

TRUSTEES [3-Year Staggered Terms]

2017	Vacant
2017	Sarah Thomas Bollenbacher
2018	Diana Dennis
2018	Vacant
2019	Susan Merkel Shaffer
2019	Virginia Farace

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

[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

Lenore Benson Raborn Boonstra
Randall and Ann B. Gill
Robert and Christian Oyer Macoviak
Melear Bros., Inc. - Cliff and Rick Melear
Wayne and Eva Brooks Knuth Netzler
Scott and Camilla Smith Richardson
Alexander "Sandy" Simon
Ernest G. Simon
Voncile Marshall Smith
Dorian Beck Trauger
Charlotte Tatum Weaver
Curtis and Nain Weems Weaver

CORPORATE MEMBERS – 2017

Boynton Woman's Club
Delray Awning, Inc., Don and Regina Day
Easy Pay Tire Stores, Inc., Doug Besecker (2017)
George and Christine Weaver Ternenyi
Scobee-Combs-Bowden Funeral Home & Crematory
Delma and Billie Jo Swilley

MEMBERSHIPS, 2017

The following are the names of members who have paid dues since the last issue of *The Historian*. The names on those memberships we received prior to March 1 are listed in the November, January and February newsletters.

LIFE

Wayne and Eva Brooks Knuth Netzler

PATRON

John and Rannie Melear

FAMILY

James and Marjorie L. Bynum
Don and Jeanne Combs
Robert L. and Virginia Foot
Richard V. and Judith Merkel Howard
The Eleanor Murray Sala Family
David and Ann T. Wilkins

INDIVIDUAL

Kay Baker
Helen Adams Bonomini
Doris Braunworth
Boni "Butch" Buoni
Brian Combs
Emme Cortelyou
Ellen Curtin
Diana Dennis
Sally Dye
Katherine Garnett Eubanks
Diane Lynn Gerino
Carl Hackle
Edris Hatch
Marie Horenburger
David C. Kennedy
Suzanne Kruse
Mildred Hackle Lofley
Dorothy J. Mann McNeice
Susan Oyer
Jean Ann Thurber
J. H. "Gym" Weeks
Cynthia C. Weeks
Sarah Williams
Suzy Winchester

We welcome new members David and Ann Wilkins, Kay Baker and Boni "Butch" Buoni. And we have new Life Members Wayne and Eva Brooks Knuth Netzler. Thanks to all of you for your interest in maintaining Boynton's heritage.



[March Program Preview – continued from page 1]

Status of the Development of Boynton Beach: We are honored to have Mayor Steven Grant present a brief update on development of Boynton Beach which will include the status of work already begun and plans for the future of Boynton Beach.

About Mayor Steven Grant: Mayor Grant is an attorney currently practicing law for his firm TheFloridaLawOffice.com in Boynton Beach. He is also licensed in the District of Columbia, Maryland, West Virginia, and the United States District Court for Southern Florida. He received his Juris Doctorate from the Florida Coastal School of Law in 2010. His Bachelor of Science in Finance is from the University of Maryland Robert H. Smith School of Business in 2005. While obtaining his degree, Mayor Grant studied abroad at the Royal Melbourne Institute of Technology, China University of Political Science and Law in Beijing, and the University of the Netherlands Antilles.

Marjorie Kinnan Rawlings' Life and Work: Professor Steve Brahlek will present an overview of Marjorie Kinnan Rawlings' life and works. Rawlings was the Pulitzer Prize winning author for *The Yearling*. She also wrote *Cross Creek*, *Cross Creek Cookery* and other works. She lived and worked in the tiny Florida community of Cross Creek in the Ocala National Forest Southeast of Gainesville. Her home and farm where she wrote *The Yearling* have been designated a National Historic Landmark. Rawlings' friend and attorney, Philip May, wrote to her, "Ponce de Leon discovered Florida in 1513, but he had found only the physical and material Florida. Then, more than 400 years later, you came to discover the heart and spirit of Florida and revealed them to the world in writings of rare beauty and sensitiveness."

About Steve J. Brahlek: Professor Brahlek grew up in Michigan and received his Master of Arts in English from Northern Michigan University. He moved to Florida in 1990 and has been teaching at Palm Beach State College since that time. His accomplishments include serving as President of the Florida College English Association, the College English Association and the Marjorie Kinnan Rawlings Society.

IN MEMORIAM

KATHLEEN MAYBERRY CASTAGNOLI—We are sad to Report that Kathleen Castagnoli passed away soon after we mailed the February edition of the newsletter. We showed a picture of Kathleen which we had mislabeled with her sister Ann's name in the November Historian which we corrected in January after her son Richard notified us of our error. Kathleen was a member of the graduating class of 1945 of the historic 1927 Boynton High School. [A copy of that 1945 picture with all the class members identified follows on a later page.]. Both Kathleen and Richard are current members of the Boynton Beach Historical Society.



Kathleen Oliver Mayberry Castagnoli as a high school senior in 1944-45.

LORRAINE KEATTS GOUGE—Lorraine was a long-time member of the Boynton Beach Historical Society until her health declined in recent years. She passed away in the summer of 2016. Her parents, Herbert and Clorice Keatts were active participants in many civic, business and social groups within the City during the 1930s through the 1960s. From her mother, who was a McGregor, Lorraine had numerous McGregor and Murphy cousins who also lived in Boynton when she was growing up. Lorraine spent her adult years in North Carolina where she met her husband and reared their children.



Lorraine Keatts Gougé in June, 2016

[Photo courtesy of Sue Murphy Beaman who took the picture during a visit with Lorraine and recently posted it on FACEBOOK.]

Boynton High School Class of 1945



The Historian received a very nice letter from Mildred Hackle Lofley, a member of the Boynton Beach Historical Society and also a member of the Class of '45, who identifies all the members—

Row 1: Muriel DeLoach, Mildred Hackle, Cheryl Muster, Nancy Murray, Betty Jean Magnuson, Louise Bell. Row 2: Edgar Neil Fountain, Charles Senior, Pearl Cline, Kathleen Mayberry, Thelma Partin, Jacqueline Tattersall: Row 3: Mary Edna Sterett, Curtis Weaver, Merna Miller, Jack Hayes. Since it was the close of World War II, some who had been in the class were in service and could not be pictured: Bert Peterson, Bobby James, Raymond Weeks, and Tommy Rhoden. She also mentions Lloyd Murray who was in the class at one time, but was killed at age 16 soon after enlisting in 1943.

MISIDENTIFICATION



ANN WEEMS, GLADYS WEEKS, BETTY BELL
DOROTHY SHOOK, MARILYN BASKIN, OVIEDA WEEKS

In the February *Historian*, Gladys and Ovieda Weeks are identified as the daughters of Cogdel Weeks. BJ Swilley emailed us that their father was actually Brewster Weeks.

PRESERVATION CONFERENCE

Janet DeVries has forwarded to *The Historian* information about "The Many Faces of Preservation Conference" to be held at St. Gabriel's Episcopal Church in Titusville, FL April 28-30, 2017. It is organized and presented by Classic Property Resources and their partners in history—the North Brevard Heritage Foundation, Museums of Brevard, Florida Historical Society, and the Titusville Historic Preservation Board.

Workshops and classes are scheduled as well as exhibits and social events. Full registration is \$140 and one day is available for \$85. Breakfast and lunch are included on Friday and Saturday. For more information contact Ruth Akright 757-477-2795 or Janet DeVries at our website.

A HOME IN THE EARLY 1960s

We include information about a home builder in Boynton Beach in the 1960s. A picture of one of his models is on p.6, the back cover. The homes probably sold for less than \$25,000. As this portion of the brochure shows, one got air-conditioning and electric appliances.



In **HOMES BY LEON, INC.**, you'll enjoy **FLORIDA LIVING** at its best, because it's a **GOLD MEDALLION HOME** designed and equipped for **TOTAL-ELECTRIC LIVING!**

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- **ELECTRIC RANGE** makes cooking a delight, because it's cleaner, faster . . . and keeps the kitchen up to 16 degrees cooler.
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- **ELECTRIC DISHWASHER** spares you a tedious daily chore . . . saves 90 minutes a day.
- **FULL HOUSEPOWER** wiring with plenty of handy switches and convenient outlets so essential to modern living.
- **AMPLE LIGHT-FOR-LIVING** designed to a master plan for decorative beauty and comfortable living throughout the house, inside and out.

THE ABEL “Ebb” AUGUSTUS ROUSSEU FAMILY

Abel Augustus Rousseau, known to family and friends as “Ebb,” arrived in Boynton in 1902 and some of his descendants are today active members of the Boynton Beach Historical Society. Two of his granddaughters, Frances McKeral and Sheila Taylor, sit on the Board of Directors.



Ebb Rousseau as a young man ca 1900

Ebb was born on April 13, 1878, in Hillsborough County, Florida. His parents, John Lewis Rousseau and Dora Ann McArdle Rousseau had four sons and three daughters and Ebb was the youngest child. Both parents and five of their children were born in Florida. The family had been in Florida since 1827 when Ebb's grandparents, Micajah Deen and Rhoda Hinson Deen, had settled in Hamilton County, Territorial Florida.

As a youth, Ebb was known for his ability as a sailor and at one time he sailed a regular route from Tampa to Key West. Other times he sailed down the Little Manatee and Manatee Rivers to Ellenton, Bradenton and Palmetto. But even though he had been offered a position as master of a large ocean-going sailing vessel, he would ultimately opt to become a farmer so that he could continue a life with family and friends in Florida.

He had heard of a successful tomato farms near the Atlantic Ocean, so in January 1902 he rode his horse across the state from Clearwater to Boynton. Ebb farmed during the winters and returned to Clearwater in the spring.

On May 24, 1908, Ebb married Katharine “Kate” Missouri Ford at the home of his brother Robert Henry Rousseau in Boynton.



Kate Ford Rousseau ca. 1900

Kate was born in Girard, Alabama on December 7, 1879 to Eli and Nancy Jane Copeland Ford. The Fords had four children who survived to adulthood—Jessie, who was 13 years older than Kate, Annie who was 10 years older than Kate, and the wheel-chair bound brother Daniel Ford who was nearly 16 years older than Kate and died in 1904.

After the deaths of their parents and brother, the three sisters moved to Florida, first to Delray then to Boynton where they lived to the end of their lives. Kate's two sisters also married in Boynton, Jessie to Wilbur Leroy Forrey and Annie to Daniel David Lee. Jessie and Annie had no children.

Ebb's and Kate's children at Callie's 8th grade graduation.



Clockwise from upper left: Callie, Esther, Ford, Mabel, John and Katharine. A brother Wilbur died in infancy.

Kate had emphasized completing school, and all her children finished high school. Callie and Mabel became teachers and both taught for many years in the Boynton Schools. Esther became a nurse, and John, after serving as a glider pilot in World War II, later became a veterinarian in Boynton..

The children were close friends were their cousins, children of Ebb's brother Robert Henry Rousseau. Robert moved to Boynton in 1899 with his wife Wilda Rae Shipp Rousseau and their three children, Ivan, Kenneth and Mildred who were later joined by their Boynton siblings; Verna Eunice and Alice Belle.



Ebb and two of his siblings, Annie Rousseau Crawley and Robert Henry Rousseau.

[For more information on the Rousseau family, see Callie Rousseau Brown, *Sun on my Hair, Sand in my Shoes*, Hawthorne Publishing, Carmel, IN, 2007; and *The Historian*, 2012, N. 5, p. 4.]

BOYNTON BEACH HISTORICAL SOCIETY
MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

Member's

Name _____

2nd 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:	INDIVIDUAL	(\$25.00) _____
(Check one)	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


The Historian

Boynton Beach Historical Society

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Model Home from the early 1960s from the builder's brochure