



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 4

April 2017

The HUMAN HISTORY of the EVERGLADES

A Program by FAU History Professor Evan P. Bennett for Monday, April 17, 2017



Professor Evan P. Bennett



Shark Slough



Everglades – merged

Professor Bennett will explore human history from the earliest times to the present in hopes of providing of the options for the Everglades future. Vast and wild in the public imagination, the Everglades, in fact, has both shaped and been shaped by human actions throughout its 5,000-year history.

[Continued on p. 2 Program]

WHAT: THE HUMAN HISTORY OF THE EVERGLADES

WHERE: BOYNTON BEACH CITY LIBRARY

208 S. Seacrest Blvd., Program Room

WHEN: Monday, April 17, 2017

Meet & Greet, 6:30–6:45p; Annual

Meeting, 6:45-7:00p; Program, 7:00p

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

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

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[Non-Elected]

Editor, <i>The Historian</i>	Voncile Marshall Smith
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2017	Steven Anton
2017	Barbara Ready
2018	Sheila Rousseau Taylor
2018	Vacant
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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

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
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Melear Bros., Inc. - Cliff and Rick Melear
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Scott and Camilla Smith Richardson
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Ernest G. Simon
Voncile Marshall Smith
Dorian Beck Trauger
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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

[PROGRAM – Continued from page 1]

About Professor Evan P. Bennett: Dr. Evan P. Bennett is an Associate Professor of History in the Department of History at Florida Atlantic University who teaches courses in Southern history, labor history, environmental history and Florida history. His research focuses on the intersections of rural, environmental and labor history. He wrote, "When Tobacco was King: Families, Farm Labor, and Federal Policy in the Piedmont" and co-edited "Beyond Forty Acres and a Mule: African American Landowning Families Since Reconstruction." He is currently pursuing two projects. The first is a history of small crossroads of Cedar Grove, North Carolina, in order to understand the dynamics of change for black rural southerners in the twentieth century. The second is a cultural, labor and environmental history of the Florida Straits.

About Our Annual Meeting: The Bylaws of the Society mandate that we schedule our Annual Meeting for April. Our primary, and often our only Order of Business, is to nominate and elect Officers, Directors and Trustees for the coming year. All Officers are elected for one year terms annually. Since Directors and Trustees are elected for 3-year staggered terms, we will elect only two members for each of these two categories unless there is a vacancy to be completed for one of the other terms. The masthead in the right hand column indicates that we have vacancies for both a Director and a Trustee for 2018. So those terms will be filled for one year. The expiring 2017 terms will be filled for 3 years each. If you are interested in more information or would like to serve in one of these positions, contact Sheila Taylor, Chair of the Nominating Committee at shenopain@aol.com.

The report of the Nominating Committee and the election itself is usually a very quick process and we estimate we will be able to begin the program presentation promptly at 7:00.

2017 MEMBERSHIP

The following represent 2017 paid memberships not previously acknowledged:

PATRON:

Harvey E. Oyer, III

FAMILY:

Michael Fitzpatrick and Lisa Hanley
Bob and Cindy Lyman Jamison
Gay, Kathleen and Stephen, II Voss
Sheldon, Terri and David Voss

INDIVIDUAL:

Gladys Baker Knuth
Anthony J. Lawson
Linda Stabile
Michele Walter

FROM OUR FILES

Hazel Daughtary who owned a house, now demolished, on the north side of Ocean Avenue about six lots east of the Florida East Coast Railroad track began compiling information on Boynton's early families before the Boynton Beach Historical Society was created. She organized the materials she collected by families. Some of this information is in our archives.

One family was the Hodges, Bowen, Ward family. The following was written by Gladys Ward Myer, who was a daughter of Terry A. Ward and granddaughter of Barney G. Hodges. She was married to the Methodist minister, M.E. Myer. She probably wrote this in the 1950s when her husband was a minister to a church in Melrose, Florida.

"Here are a few facts that might help with the history of Boynton and Boynton Beach..

"Highway 1 was a narrow limerock road until boom came. In early 1910 and into 20s the east side of that road was used for pastures and barns for the peoples [sic] cows and horses. There were only a few houses on that side. Main street, now Ocean blvd. went west past the school house to about where Seacrest is now and the northern street was just north of the railroad station and the southern street about where the ball field is now.

"People lived in this area with dirt paths leading back to some homes. Seacrest went north to where the Baptist Church is now and south to the Library and the rest was wilderness until 1925 when the Bowens, Wards, Seniors, Thompsons and others began building in the edge of the wilderness.

"Barney S. Hodges left Georgia in 1908 and went to the area that is Burdine's in Miami but after a few weeks his wife hated the mosquitoes and alligators so bad, they returned north to settle in Boynton. They bought the hotel on Ocean Blvd, that was torn down a couple of years ago.

"They ran it for a few years before settling back of the old Woman's Club. He had a large red barn and numerous horses in a lot directly back of the present Newlan's Pharmacy and extending nearly to Hwy. 1.

"He rented these horses out to the Beach Hotel visitors. Among these visitors were Edgar A. Guest, the Poet. He and others rented local cars and Mrs. T. A. Ward made orange and grapefruit crystalized peel for them. Mr. Guest had a standing order for several years.

"The favorite eating place for a number of years, folks coming from the whole area, was a large stucco house with a wide open porch with the old rockers and a 3 tier revolving table that was known for the large bowls of homecooked foods. This place was where Dr. Weems, Sr., now lives.

"James P. Bowen came in 1910 and he owned and ran the lumber yard that stood on the So.E. corner of First. St. and Railroad St. and covered the area to State Road 1.

"It was across the Street from where Austin's had their hardware for years, but took up most of what is now the street for the road then was just a narrow dirt road.

"Terry A. Ward came in 1911 and was one of the tomato farmers on the Beach east of the canal until the big freeze came and wiped everything out and farming did not go on after that as it had before.

"In 1912 there were several cases of typhoid fever and the Doctors came as far away as Jacksonville. Mrs. Bertha Williams (now Chadwell) was the nurse for several and literally pulled some from the clutches of death by her constant care.

"In 1917-18 the Flu epidemic hit and among the less than 200 residents few escaped it. Some families were all down at once. The few that remained up would make pots of soup and drinks and deliver them to the doors of the sick families.

"Boynton Methodist Episcopal Church, So. Became a station church in Dec. 1921 when the Rev. M.E. Myer was appointed pastor. He lived with Mr. and Mrs. McKay about a block east of the school."



The parents of Gladys Ward Myer, Terry Ward and Bessie Hodges were married in 1905'



In 1954 Terry and Bessie Hodges. Ward posed with their two daughters, rear, on left, Clarence W. Shelton and Lou Anna Ward Shelton and rear, on the right, Gladys Ward Myer and her husband Rev. M. E. Myer

Bessie Ward's parents were Barney and Dove Anna Parker Hodges. One of Bessie's sisters, Bertha Hodges, was married to James Perry Bowen.

James Perry Bowen was a Spanish-American War Veteran, a life member of the Masonic Lodge, and a member of Woodmen of the World. He participated actively in business and political matters in the City of Boynton Beach.

MORE SCHOOL PHOTOS



1933 photograph when they were juniors of the Boynton High School Class of 1934. Back, L to R: Dan Scott, James Brown, Clarence Benson, Miss Granger [teacher], Winston McGregor. Front, L to R: Inez Strickland, Martha Myers, Alice Miller, Lou Anna Ward, Christine Jordan, Margie Harvel, Vivian Swindel, Faye Austin.



Some of the same group shown above, but labeled, "Part of the Sophomore Class of 1931-32." Boys in back row L to R: Kermit Andrews, James Brown, Clarence Benson. Girls L to R: Sponsor-Miss Mildred Granger, Martha Myers, Lou Anna Ward, Alice Miller, Christine Jordan and Faye Austin.



Boynton Junior High School Graduation Class 1953 posed on steps of 1913 schoolhouse. Some students in the picture are James Shelton, Julie Weems, Margie McGregor and Genia Greer. Does any reader know which they are? Can you identify any others?

MORE ABOUT THE BOWENS, WARDS AND MYERS



Terrance Alexander [T.A.] Ward in his grocery store in Boynton in the 1930s. At various times he was a constable, a grocer and a mail carrier.



In 1934 James and Bertha Bowen stand in front of their house at 115 South Seacrest which James built and they both lived in the remainder of their lives. Lou Anna Ward Shelton and James Sheldon lived here from the late 1950s to the late 1970s when they moved to north Florida. Bertha and James Bowen were Lou Anna Ward's aunt and uncle.



The Ward house at 117 South Seacrest as it looked in 2006 is immediately north of the Bowen house. Both Gladys and Lou Anna Ward were born here and the T.A. and Bessie Ward lived here the remainder of their lives. T.A. died in 1958 and Bessie in 1966.

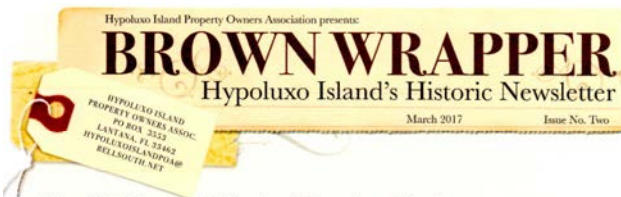
[The pictures on pages 3 and 4 and the information on the Hodges, Bowen, Ward, Myer and Shelton families was sent to the Boynton Beach Historical Society in 2005 and 2006 by James Shelton. Sadly he passed only a few years after corresponding with us.]

KNOLLWOOD GROVES LATE 1950s



Clarence Shelton at Knollwood Groves. He probably did not wear a dress shirt and tie when he actually worked in the groves.

A NEW "BROWN WRAPPER"



Dear Neighbors and Friends of Hypoluxo Island,

Thank you for the wonderful responses we received on the first issue of the *Brown Wrapper*. Since then, we have become immersed as a neighborhood in the magnificent history and heritage we share as Hypoluxo Island residents. Our annual "I Love Hypoluxo Island Day" Pollock Picnic on Sunday, February 26th, brought us together in celebration of our heritage through food, music, storytelling and trolley tours. Our upcoming April HIPOA newsletter will share a recap and more photos of the event.

This issue of the *Brown Wrapper* picks up where we left off with our Island pioneers and first settlers, the Pierce and Moore families in the mid-1880s. It then transitions to the Flagler era beginning in 1894, followed by the serenity of the early 1900's, then to the rapid development of our Island from the late teens throughout the Land Boom and Bust of the 1920s. This general overview of these years are quite interesting, but please note, that each section on its own has the potential to be a stand-alone publication... the depth of our Island history is incredibly amazing!

As you enjoy the *Brown Wrapper*, please consider joining our Hypoluxo Island Property Owners Association. A portion of your annual dues of \$50 covers the cost of research, printing, and mailing. Please mail your dues to the address above or contact me for a membership form. Thank you! We appreciate your support!

Enjoy!

Michelle Donahue
President, Hypoluxo Island Property Owners
Association
306 South Atlantic Drive
mudonahue@comcast.net 561.573.9269

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Harvey E. Oyer III celebrates with Hypoluxo Island and Ft. Lauderdale neighbors.

Family of four enjoy the day with one another! Perfect day for a picnic!

For years *The Palm Beach Post* had a brown wrap-around section which covered various aspects of local history. Now the Hypoluxo Island Property Owners Association [%Michelle Donahue, 561-573-9269] has taken up the name to report on the history of Hypoluxo Island.

PLAN NOW TO ATTEND MAY DINNER

Traditionally the Boynton Beach Historical Society has closed out our program year with a covered-dish dinner on a Sunday at the Boynton Woman's Club. The Society furnishes place settings, glasses, cups, beverages and entrées. Members are asked to bring a salad, vegetable dish or dessert to serve 8. Those who do not wish to contribute a dish may pay an admission of \$10.00 per person and join us for an affable late afternoon meeting..

This year's dinner is scheduled for Sunday, May 7 at 5:00 pm. We will include more information in the May Historian which you should receive in the next couple of weeks since the dinner comes so early in the month

A NEW EDITOR IS DUE

Dear Friends, it has been my pleasure to have served as Editor of *The Historian* for nearly 16 years. When I was elected President of the Society in 2002, I began combining the meeting notice with an eight times a year newsletter patterned after one we had issued quarterly several years before. Your response was, and continues to be, gratifying.

In 2002 I was fortunate to have a number of people around me who had a broad knowledge of the history of the area and of Florida whom I could consult for information and insight. Most have since passed on and my personal contact resources have become more limited. People such as Margaret and Marie Shepard, Stanley and Erna Weaver, Helen Adams, Tom Woolbright, Jack Tuite, Edyth Hood, James Shelton, Callie Rousseau Brown and Harvey Oyer brimmed with recollections and stories of Boynton's early days.

The Boynton Beach Historical Society had been in existence for nearly 35 years and Virginia Farace, the Director at that time of the Boynton Beach City Library, was a great friend to the Society in that she was willing to house for us whatever materials were contributed. Although space is limited in the newer Library, Susan Swiatosz, their Archivist, willingly accepts what paper materials we have.

I do not know who will take on the task of editor. We are fortunate to have a number of capable writers and researchers who could handle the responsibility well. I do know that there will be some changes. That is the prerogative of any editor. One will be giving members the option of receiving an email version vs. copies sent through the mails. This change would make considerable sense, Postage has increased numerous times and the costs of printing have nearly doubled since I first began mailing out copies while our dues have remained the same.

So, in short, I plan to resign as Editor effective with the completion of the May, 2017 issue. You will also elect a new Vice-President for Membership. I am willing to continue service on the Board of Directors, but at the age of 86 I think I must turn my responsibilities over to some new thinkers and doers.

Thank you for your support, enthusiasm and love over the years.

Vonale

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: (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

The Historian

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



The Boynton High School Class of 1934. The only one identified is Lou Anna Ward, front row, second from left. Which name goes with whom? The list of boys' names—Kermit Andrews, Samuel Adams, Dan Scott, Marvin Blackmon, Clarence Benson, Winston McGregor, James Brown. The list of girls' names—Lou Anna Ward, Christine Jordan, Margie Harvel, Alice Miller, Martha Myers, Bernice Ellis, Faye Austin. Can anyone help us match the names with faces?