



# 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.

**Recipient of the 2021 Judge James R Knott Historical Contribution Award**

January 2023

## 2023 Florida Highwaymen Art Show & Sale

**SATURDAY, February 04, 2023 @ 11am - 3pm**

**Boynton Beach Arts & Cultural Center, 125 E. Ocean Ave, Boynton Beach, FL 33435**

**FREE Admission \* FREE Parking**

We proudly present the fourth **Florida Highwaymen Art Show & Sale**. The art show is presented by the **Boynton Beach Historical Society** in partnership with the **City of Boynton Beach**.

This group of African American artists painted their way out of a life otherwise destined for the citrus groves and packing houses of 1950's Florida, into the 2004 Florida Artists Hall of Fame and international acclaim. Selling door-to-door or out of the trunks of their cars on the side of the highways, the mostly self-taught artists produced an astonishing number of paintings that depict Florida as it once was, with wind-swept palms, billowing clouds, lazy rivers, and spectacular sunsets. Today their work is widely sought by collectors all over the world.

These popular legacy Highwaymen artists will be on hand to discuss their artwork and will have paintings and other merchandise available for purchase. Visitors will have the opportunity to speak to the artists individually and will enjoy hearing their fascinating history. The artists scheduled to attend are **Doretha Hair Truesdell and Roderick Hair, Kandi Ingram (daughter of Mary Ann Carroll), Robert L Lewis, Al Black, Curtis Arnett, and Gertrude Walker (wife of Charles Walker)**.



Alfred Hair 1941-1970 • Indian River, Circa 1966 • Oil on Upson Board • M. Randall Gill Collection

The **Boynton Beach Arts & Cultural Center** is a fitting showcase for these artists and for this Art Show. The Historical Society had been vocal in the forefront of the fight to save the 1926 Boynton High school building from destruction. The Society was awarded the 2021 **Judge James R Knott Historical Contribution Award** in recognition of those efforts. The City of Boynton Beach rose to the challenge and saved the building, transforming the structure into the vibrant cultural arts hub and gem of downtown Boynton Beach.

The Historical Society is honored and proud to serve the Community and we THANK YOU for your support. Members of the Society will be on hand to welcome you. We will be offering Art Show posters, featuring the work of Alfred Hair, for a donation. Proceeds will defray show costs. Come and meet these inspirational, entrepreneurial artists and tour the renovated City of Boynton Beach Arts & Cultural Center.

All Programs of the Boynton Beach Historical Society are FREE and OPEN to the Public  
Boynton Beach Historical Society    The Historian    January 2023



**Boynton Beach Historical Society**  
*Since 1968*  
**2022-2023 Board of Directors**

**OFFICERS** Elected Annually

President – Anne Rimler  
 1<sup>st</sup> Vice President, Programs - Barbara Ready  
 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President, Membership - Sheila Rousseau Taylor  
 Secretary – John Shelly  
 Treasurer – Robert Taylor

**TRUSTEES** 3-Year Term

2023 – Steve Anton  
 2023 – Heidi Bell  
 2024 - Donna Artes  
 2024 – Chadda Shelly  
 2025 - Virginia Farace  
 2025 - Ben Lowe

**Non-Voting Appointees**

Editor, *The Historian* - Anne Rimler  
 Archivist/Facebook/Webmaster – Janet Naughton  
 Facebook Admin/Webmaster – Ginger Pedersen  
 Promotions/Publicity – Nora Gallagher Michuda

**Boynton Beach Historical Society**

PO Box 12, Boynton Beach, FL 33435

Web [www.boyntonhistory.org](http://www.boyntonhistory.org) Facebook [@HistoricBoyntonBeach](https://www.facebook.com/HistoricBoyntonBeach)

Questions or comments: **Programs** [bbhsprograms@gmail.com](mailto:bbhsprograms@gmail.com)

**Membership** [bbhsmembership@gmail.com](mailto:bbhsmembership@gmail.com)

**The Historian**

*The Historian*, the newsletter of the Society, is sent about six times a year, between October and April, to dues-paid members (one per paid membership). Previous issues are on our website. See the mailing label for your **membership expiration date**. If you would prefer to receive *The Historian* via email (saves postage and printing costs, arrives earlier, links are clickable), tell us by emailing [bbhsmembership@gmail.com](mailto:bbhsmembership@gmail.com). Dues paid at/after the last meeting of the season will be credited toward the following season. Membership runs Jan 1 to Dec 31.

**Become a Member or Renew your Dues Thank you!**

Go to [boyntonhistory.org](http://boyntonhistory.org). On the **Membership** tab, pay securely via **PayPal** or download the form and mail in with your check. Don't forget to email the contact info of your **BOGO** to [bbhsmembership@gmail.com](mailto:bbhsmembership@gmail.com) and we'll do the rest.

**Historical Society Bylaws**

Society Bylaws: [www.boyntonhistory.org/membership/](http://www.boyntonhistory.org/membership/)

**2022-2023 Season – via Zoom except for on-site Art Show**

Feb 4: Florida Highwaymen Art Show -BB Arts & Cultural Center  
 Feb 27: Magdalena Lamarre: Underground Railroad in Florida  
 Mar 27: Michael McKeich HSPBC: The Gilded Age in Palm Beach  
 Apr 24: Annual Meeting/Convertito:Key West Hand Print Fabric

**Zoom Program Meetings are Recorded**

Find us on YouTube at "BBHS Programs"  
 Like and Subscribe



**The following represents our Membership Roll to date & Dues received from 11/06/2022 to 1/07/2023**

**Thank You to our Life Members**

Vickie & Anthony **Barbar**  
**EasyPay Tire**, Doug & Ruth **Besecker**  
 Candy & Doug **Brueggemann**  
 Linda & Mike **Callaway**  
 Robert and Jeanne **Gayler**  
 M Randall **Gill**  
 Robert & Carrie **Parker Hill**  
 Robert & Christian **Oyer Macoviak**  
**Melear Bros.**, Cliff & Rick **Melear**  
 Wayne & Eva Brooks Knuth **Netzler**  
 Susan **Oyer**  
 Scott & Camilla **Smith Richardson**  
 Sandy A **Simon Jr**  
 Voncile Marshall **Smith**  
 George & Christine Weaver **Ternenyi**  
 William & Gaye **Weaver**  
 Marion Weaver **Wester**  
 Bill & Elsie **Winchester**

**Thank You to our Corporate Level Members**

**Boynton Memorial Chapel**, Stormet C **Norem**  
 Dan & Regina **Day, Delray Awning**  
**Scobee-Combs-Bowden** Funeral Home & Crematory  
 Daniel & Lisa Ames **Suiter**

**Thank You to our Patrons**

Tim <b>Bednarz</b>	Charles & Mary Theresa <b>Bilthuis</b>
Richard B <b>Castagnoli</b>	Ron & Sarah Thomas <b>Bollenbacher</b>
Michelle <b>Donahue</b>	Gayle <b>Kranz</b> & George <b>Greider</b>
William G <b>James</b>	Charles & Betty <b>LaBella</b>
Sandra & Eugene <b>Palchanis</b>	Ward & Martha <b>Parker</b>
Mary <b>Scheitler</b>	Billie Jo <b>Swilley</b>
Sheila <b>Rousseau</b> & Robert <b>Taylor</b>	Anne <b>Watts</b>
Mary <b>Burns</b> & Tom <b>Warnke</b>	Suzy <b>Winchester</b>

**New and Renewed Memberships**

Pamela **Anwyll**  
 Heidi **Bell**  
 Bit **Shaw** & Barrie & David **Byron**  
 Emme **Corteyou**  
 Maria **Freed**  
 Robert **Granger**  
 Richard & Judith **Merkel Howard**  
 Jeffrey **Morgan**  
 Warm & Martha **Parker**  
 Sandie **Pike**  
 Susan **Revie**  
 Vito & Helen **Rinaldo**  
 John & Chadda **Shelly**  
 Billy Jo **Swilley**  
 Jean Ann **Thurber**  
 Drs David & Ann **Wilkins**  
 Sarah **Williams**

**Thank You!**

Jose **Arvelo**  
 Marjorie **Bynum**  
 Jeanne **Combs**  
 Diana **Dennis**  
 Ann **Gill**  
 Larry **Grosser**  
 Ann & Elizabeth **Michael**  
 Michael & Janet **DeVries Naughton**  
 Ronald & Isabella **Pause**  
 Tom **Ramiccio**  
 Clifford & Rosemary **Rifkin**  
 Wyman & Barbara **Scott Jr**  
 Donna **Fuller Smith**  
 Susan **Thaler**  
 Arleen **Van Brunt**  
 Gerald **Wilcox**  
 Suzy **Winchester**

**A Special Welcome to our BOGO Recipients! HELLO!**

Barbara <b>Berry</b>	Annabelle <b>Fuhr</b>
Susan <b>Kitching</b>	Greg <b>Traylor</b>
Rebecca <b>Wilkins</b>	



# The Historian

Excerpts from "Memories of Early Boyhood in Boynton" by Daniel Ford Rousseau

Sep 2022

## Part One

Our grandfather, **Abel Augustus Rousseau** (nicknamed Eb), 1878-1960, first arrived in Boynton in 1898, when he was twenty years old and still single. He was born and raised in Clearwater but had been hearing about all the activity on the east coast stirred up by Flagler. He rode his horse from Clearwater to Tantie, named for the first schoolteacher. Tantie later became Okeechobee City, but in 1898 it contained two buildings—Raulerson's store (trading post) and the one-room schoolhouse. From Tantie he followed the Telegraph Road to Jupiter. It was called the Telegraph Road because the army had strung a telegraph wire from Fort Jupiter to Lake Okeechobee in the late 1840's. From Jupiter he picked up the old Military Trail and followed it through the woods down to Boynton. He made the trip several times, saying it usually took him a week each way, depending on the weather and whether the rivers were "at flood." There was a hand-pulled ferry at the Kissimmee River where old Fort Bassinger once stood. He once had to camp there until the river's water subsided enough to use the ferry.

It was during one of my grandfather's trips from Clearwater to Boynton that two gunmen tried to waylay him. Thanks to his fox terrier dog, it didn't happen. His dog, "Dot," would trot along beside the horse until she tire, then she rode on the saddle. The intended ambush happened somewhere between Indiantown and Jupiter, at a place where the trail cut through a cabbage palm hammock. Dot was on the saddle when suddenly her hackles raised and she began growling. Granddad rode off the trail and was circling the hammock when he saw the two men. As granddad told it, "I came up behind and got the drop on them." He took their boots, guns, and horses. He told them, "You'll find your horses tied along the trail." At different places along the trail, he tossed their boots into the palmettos, then threw their guns in the Loxahatchee River. He tied their horses a mile west of Jupiter.

Around 1905-1906, my granddad met a young lady, **Katharine (Kate) Ford**, at a barn dance in Boynton. She and her two sisters had moved to Boynton from Alabama, and all three were part of Boynton's first Ladies Club. My grandparents married in 1908 and two years later started a family. Aunt **Callie Mae** was the first child born in the Rousseau home in 1910, our dad, **Jesse Ford**, came along 1912, followed by **Mabel Claire** in 1913, **Esther Barbara** in 1915, **Laura Katharine** in 1917, **Wilbur** in 1919, and **John Robert** in 1920. After WWII, my Uncle John graduated from veterinary school and became Boynton's first veterinarian.

My earliest memories are of living at **Tal Melear's** dairy, southwest of Boynton. One memory especially is the day my dad was working on a barbed-wire fence. The wire broke and ripped open the underside of his arm. My dad needed to close the wound until he could get medical help, but my mom wasn't home to thread a needle for him. At four years old, it became my job. I finally managed to thread the needle. Then, without any pain killer, my dad took a few stitches in his arm and wrapped a bandage over the wound. I rode behind him on his horse named Midnight as we made our way across pastures and through woods to **Dr. Weems'** office in town. I waited outside while my dad went in. I remember standing there holding the reins while the horse grazed on the lawn grass. People who had known me all my short life bragged on me for taking care of the horse while I told them why my dad was in the doctor's office. Very quickly all of Boynton knew of my dad's accident.

*And stay tuned next month for **Part Two**: featuring highlights of Downtown Boynton, Boynton Elementary, Partin's Ice Cream Parlor, Schooner *Red Squirrel*, and more!*



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**Archivist's Corner** by **Georgen Charnes, Library Archivist, Boynton Beach City Library**  
<https://www.boynton-beach.org/city-library> (561) 742-6390 100 E Ocean Ave, Boynton Beach, FL 33435 [charnesg@bbfl.us](mailto:charnesg@bbfl.us)

## Missing Collections

Sometimes I run across clues that there exist important collections of Boynton Beach history not in our archives. One such collection was mentioned in a 1963 issue of the *Boynton Beach Star*. The newspaper notes there was a "huge mound of rubbish," with a "great number of old photographs" behind a building which "once housed a weekly newspaper." This would have been the *Boynton Beach News*, published between 1946 and 1963. If only someone had saved those images!

We also have an incomplete collection of local newspapers. We have a very limited number of the *Boynton Herald* (we have three issues, all from Vol. 1: no. 7, no. 14, and no. 23, 1927), and *The Boynton News* (we have two issues, Vol. 1 no 1 and Vol 1, no 39, 1925). More issues are out there somewhere!

Another unfound collection is the oral history interviews made by **Helen Anderson Glass**. Glass was secretary of the Boynton Beach Chamber of Commerce between 1962 and 1966 and was very active with the American Legion. In a 1966 interview, Glass notes that she'd been researching Boynton Beach history. "It has been lots of fun to get some of the stories of early pioneers on my tape recorder... I'd like to record the facts about early Boynton before the witnesses all die" (*Palm Beach Post* 1966-06-18). Last July, I contacted Ms. Glass (99), and she answered back that she did not have the tapes, but that she had interviewed **Harvey Oyer, George and Frances Kelley, Dr. Weems Sr.**, and others. She had apparently collected them for the Chamber, but my inquiries to the new Chamber have gone unanswered.

In 1979, Library Director **Virginia Farace** organized a far-sighted oral history program, conducted by **James Nichols**. We only have transcriptions for the interviews with **Bertha Chadwell** and **Blanche Girtman**, no recordings. I do know that the Chadwell tape existed in 1998; it was mentioned in the recording of an organizational meeting for another oral history program. Since I've found that "transcriptions" and what was said in an interview can be very different, I would love the original tapes.

And lastly, there's the *Mystery Scrapbook of May 1927*. I have some very low-quality copy prints of several images with "May 1927" scribbled on them, all featuring excellent images of Boynton Beach. Some look damaged. Who knows what else this scrapbook holds, or how it's being cared for now, or if it still exists.

These clues are like glimpses of a lost treasure map, leaving me wishing for more.



"May 1927"  
Photographs  
Courtesy  
Boynton  
Beach City  
Library  
Archives