



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

Recipient of the Schoolhouse Children's Museum 2023 Spark Award

April 2024

The History of the Lake Worth Drainage District: Flood Control and Water Supply in Palm Beach County Monday, April 22, 2024 @ 7-8pm Eastern via Zoom

For emails in our files, check your inbox for an invitation from BBHSPrograms@gmail.com. Remember to set reminders in your calendar. If your email isn't already on file with us, simply send a request to join to BBHSPrograms@gmail.com and we'll send you an invitation.

The **Lake Worth Drainage District** was created on June 15, 1915, under Chapter 6458 of the 1913 General Drainage Laws of Florida for the purposes of reclaiming, draining, and irrigating the lands within its boundary, providing water control and water supply, protecting the lands within its boundary from the effects of water by means of the construction and maintenance of canals, levees, pumping stations, and other works, and providing improvements for the purpose of making the area habitable for both settlement and agriculture.

The Lake Worth Drainage District has a rich history with the agricultural community. Though the agricultural production of early settlers was just enough to feed themselves, it marked the beginning of a booming industry that would grow into a billion-dollar economy providing Palm Beach County with the nickname *Winter Vegetable Capital of the US*. The western portion of the county, the "Glades," hosts nutrient-rich muck soil famous for its sugar and rice production. In the east, mostly in or near Boynton Beach, Delray Beach, Boca Raton, Wellington, and Jupiter, the sandy soil is excellent for growing vegetables and landscape vegetation.

Agriculture in our area today has expanded exponentially and our population continues to increase. Our speaker, **Tommy Strowd**, will tell how the plans made over 100 years ago formed a solid foundation for water management and continue to meet the new demands of these two diversified communities.

Tommy invites you to enjoy the 12-part Centennial Video series: <https://www.lwdd.net/resources/videos-publications>

Tommy Strowd, P.E., Executive Director, Lake Worth Drainage District. Strowd joined the District in April 2014 serving as the Director of Operations & Maintenance. He was appointed Executive Director in 2019. He has more than 45 years of experience in civil, environmental and water resource engineering in the public and private sectors, including the South Florida Water Management District. He has a B.Sc. in Oceanographic Technology from Florida Institute of Technology and has been a professional engineer registered in the State of Florida since 1983.



Right: Tommy Strowd. Courtesy LWDD.



Boynton Beach Historical Society

~ Since 1968 ~

2023-2024 Board of Directors

OFFICERS Elected Annually

President – Anne Rimler

1st Vice President, Programs, Interim – Robert Taylor

2nd Vice President, Membership - Sheila Rousseau Taylor

Secretary – John Shelly

Treasurer – Robert Taylor

TRUSTEES 3-Year Term

2024 - Donna Artes

2024 – Chadda Shelly

2025 - Virginia Farace

2025 - open

2026 – Linda Allen

2026 – Nora Gallagher Michuda

Non-Elected

Editor, *The Historian* - Anne Rimler

Archivist/Facebook/Webmaster – Janet Naughton

Facebook Admin/Webmaster – Ginger Pedersen

Promotions/Publicity/YouTube – Nora Gallagher Michuda

Boynton Beach Historical Society

PO Box 12, Boynton Beach, FL 33425

We are on the web www.boyntonhistory.org, and on Facebook

[@HistoricBoyntonBeach](https://www.facebook.com/HistoricBoyntonBeach). Questions or comments:

Programs bbhsprograms@gmail.com

Membership bbhsmembership@gmail.com.

The Historian

The Historian, the newsletter of the Society, is sent six times a year, between October and April, to dues-paid members (one per paid membership). Previous issues are on our website. If you would prefer to receive *The Historian* via email, let us know by emailing bbhsmembership@gmail.com. Benefits include: savings on postage & printing costs, access when you're away, eco-friendly, arrives faster than print, and links in articles are active.

Become a Member or Renew your Dues

Membership runs Jan. 1 to Dec. 31 with dues expiring annually on Dec 31st (except for Life Memberships). To pay securely online via PayPal, go to the **Membership** tab at our website www.boyntonhistory.org. To pay by check, complete the membership form and mail your check to our PO Box. Our Program Season runs from Oct to Apr. Thank you for your support!

Historical Society Bylaws www.boyntonhistory.org/membership/

2023-2024 Season Programs Monday Evenings via Zoom

Apr 22: Annual Meeting, History of Lk Worth Drainage District – **T Strowd**

2024-2025 Season Programs

Oct & Nov 2024 and Jan-Apr 2025 – stay tuned for deets



Zoom Program Meetings are Recorded
Find us on YouTube at "BBHS Programs"

The following represents our Membership Roll to date & Dues received from 3/04/2024 to 04/05/2024:

Thank You to our Life Members

Vickie & Anthony **Barbar**

Doug & Ruth **Besecker, EasyPay Tire**

Michael & Gloria **Bowden**

Candy & Doug **Brueggemann**

Linda & Mike **Callaway**

Robert and Jeanne **Gayler**

M Randall **Gill**

Robert & Carrie **Parker Hill**

Robert & Christian **Oyer Macoviak**

Cliff & Rick **Melear, Melear Bros**

Wayne & Eva Brooks **Knuth Netzler**

Susan **Oyer**

Anne **Rimler**

Sandy A **Simon Jr**

Voncile **Marshall Smith**

Scott & Camilla **Smith Richardson**

Robert & Sheila **Rousseau Taylor**

Mary **Burns** & Thomas **Warnke**

William & Gaye **Weaver**

Marion **Weaver Wester**

George & Christine **Weaver Terenyi**

Elsie **Winchester**

Thank You to our Corporate Sponsors

Donald & Regina **Day, Delray Awning**

Laura **Hinzman, Scheurer's Chocolates**

Scobee-Combs-Bowden Funeral Home & Crematory

Dan & Lisa Ames **Suiter**

Thank You to our Patrons!

Charles & Mary **Bilthuis**

Sarah & Ron **Bollenbacher**

Marcia **Crossman**

Gayle **Kranz**

Charles & Elizabeth **LaBella**

Alan **Molle**

Ward & Martha **Parker**

James & Edith **Bennet Pitts**

Billie Jo **Swilley**

Anne **Watts**

Sarah **Williams**

Suzy **Winchester**

Membership Renewals

Donna **Artes**

Thank You for Your Support!

Mary **Burns** & Thomas **Warnke**

Mary **Schiltz**

A big SHOUT OUT to our Newest Members Welcome!

Carol **Artes**

Mickey **Farley**

Patricia **Richards**

Robert **Wilt**

Volunteer with the Historical Society

The Historical Society is run entirely by a small group of dedicated volunteers. We have an opening on the Board for someone with some technology expertise (e.g. email, Zoom, YouTube). If you are interested, email us at bbhsmembership@gmail.com and let us know if you'd like to join us and make history happen.

A positive team-oriented attitude of historical proportions and a good sense of humor are firm requirements. You might just find the extraordinary within yourself.





The Historian

Historical Society Annual Meeting & Elections

Monday, April 22, 2024 @7pm

On Monday, April 22th, prior to the Program, we will hold our **Annual Meeting** to conduct Society elections.

Annual Election of Officers and Trustees – The Society's Officers (President, 1st VP/Program Chair, 2nd VP/Membership Chair, Secretary, and Treasurer) are elected annually and the three-year terms for two Trustees positions will expire.

Thank you - The Society is sincerely grateful and wishes to thank all those who have served in the past, those who serve now, and all who have given so generously of themselves and their time. The Society's Board not only drives direction but performs the actions necessary to make our mission come to life for our members and friends. We were saddened to report the recent resignations of **Barbara Ready** and **Ben Lowe**. Each has served many years with the Historical Society. We will continue to benefit from these efforts for many years to come. We look forward to their contributions to the City's Historic Resources Preservations Board (HRPB).

Nominating Committee – **President Anne Rimler** appointed members to the Nominating Committee in March 2024. The Committee, chaired by **Sheila Rousseau Taylor**, with **Virginia Farace**, is charged with nominating candidates who are in good standing to serve on the Society's Board. Per our bylaws, the Committee Chair will report a list of candidates to the membership prior to the vote during the Annual Meeting. Candidates will be presented for Officers and Trustees. Each member in good standing is welcome to cast their vote during the Zoom presentation. Please unmute yourself to vote when called upon during the meeting.

Boynton Beach Garden Club Meeting

Tuesday, April 23, 2024

The Boynton Beach Garden Club extends a gracious invitation to Historical Society members to attend the **Tuesday, April 23d** meeting at 1pm for a presentation on *Ikebana flower* arrangements presented by **Lynn Jones**. The meeting will be held at the First Presbyterian Church of Boynton Beach at 235 SW. 6th Ave, Boynton Beach 33435. Looking ahead: Tuesday, May 28th at 1pm. Mad Hatters Lunch (tea sandwiches) and installation of new officers at the First Presbyterian Church. Reservations required. Contact Linda by email at Linda_L_Christianson@comcast.net or call 503-789-4530.



Boynton Beach Woman's Club Meeting

Thursday, April 18, 2024

The Boynton Beach Woman's Club extends a gracious invitation to Historical Society members to attend the **Thursday, April 18th** meeting at 11:30am at the Historic Woman's Club of Boynton Beach, 1010 Federal Hwy, Boynton Beach 33435. The guest speaker will be **Tammy K. Sirmons**, RN, CDP,LNC. Her topic will be *Aging Gracefully*. A lunch of sandwiches, dessert and soft drinks will be provided for minimal cost. For further information and reservations, email bwc1909@gmail.com.

Looking ahead: Thursday, May 9 at 11:30am. The newly elected 2024-2026 Executive Board will be installed and a lunch served at the Quail Ridge Country Club. Reservations are a must. For further information email bwc1909@gmail.com.



Boynton Beach Historical Society Membership Form

Select One: ___ **New** Membership or ___ **Renewal**.

My Name _____

Street _____

City _____

State/Zip _____

E-mail _____

Phone # _____

New Member? Welcome! How did you hear about us?

Select Membership Type:

- ___ **Individual \$25**
- ___ **Family \$35**
- ___ **Patron \$50**
- ___ **Corporate \$150**
- ___ **Student* \$10** (with a valid student ID)
- ___ **Life** (one-time payment) **\$500**

Special Offer: Give a free one-year membership to a friend!
 Buy One. Give One. BOGO! **Mail with payment to:**
 Boynton Beach Historical Society
 PO Box 12
 Boynton Beach FL 33425-0012
 Pay via PayPal at www.boyntonhistory.org/membership/ and
 send an email to BBHSMembership@gmail.com with your
 BOGO recipient's info.
 *BOGO Recipient must be a new member.

Select Gift type and indicate amount:

___ **Gift** ___ **In Honor** ___ **In Memory** \$ _____

For(name): _____

The Society is a 501(c)(3) Organization; dues are tax deductible. Membership year runs Jan 1 to Dec 31.
THANK YOU!

Did you already renew membership? THANK YOU! In case you forgot to provide your BOGO recipient, email their contact information to BBHSMembership@gmail.com.

Are you a Life member? THANK YOU! You are eligible to give a one-year membership too! Email their contact information to BBHSMembership@gmail.com

I'm taking advantage of the BOGO* Special Offer! Please send a free one-year membership to:

BOGO Recipient's Name _____

BOGO Recipient's Street _____

City _____

State/Zip _____

BOGO Recipient's E-mail _____

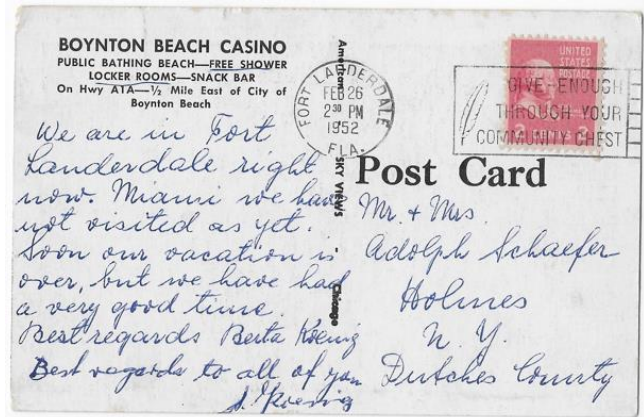
BOGO Recipient's Phone # _____

THANK YOU!



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Boynton Beach Casino Postcards – prior to 1967



For more information about the Casino, visit <https://www.boyntonhistory.org/the-boynton-beach-casino/>.

Postcards Courtesy Sheila Rousseau Taylor



The Historian

Robert H Rousseau - My Grandfather, My Mentor

Part II

Daniel R Suiter



Left: Rousseau Family Portrait c. 1913. Right: South side of the Boynton Inlet West of Bridge c. 1950.
Photos Courtesy - DR Suiter

From 2000 to 2003, **John N. Suiter** (1931-2008), son of Verna H. Rousseau (sixth of seven children, born in Boynton in 1907 to **Robert H Rousseau** (seated left, in the Family portrait) and **Wilda Shipp-Rousseau** (seated right, in the Family portrait)), wrote 36 short stories of life growing up in Palm Beach County beginning in the 1930s. The following is the second in the series; excerpted from one of his short stories.

In the spring of 1942, my grandparents, **Robert H Rousseau** and **Wilda Rae Shipp**, called us in West Palm Beach and told us a ship had been torpedoed straight off the Boynton inlet, less than one-half mile out. After school my mother, **Verna Rousseau**, drove my brothers (**William** and **Robert Suiter**) and me (**John N. Suiter**) down there. The ship was a southbound English ship and it had been sunk in such shallow water you couldn't tell it was sitting on the bottom. A boat captain named **Jack Williams**, who was a friend of my grandfather, had just come in through the inlet, was tying up his boat at the docks just south of the inlet when he heard the explosion of the torpedo. He threw off his lines and headed out the inlet to pick up survivors from the ship. Right after he cleared the mouth of the inlet, he felt his boat turning like it was in a whirlpool and the stern of the 36-foot craft was almost pulled under. He looked down and saw the conning tower of a German submarine right under him. The submarine had lay right off the mouth of the inlet waiting for its prey.

The ship's crew had been brought into the inlet by lifeboat and put into a pavilion on the south side where the present pavilion is located. Several of them had been killed. My grandparents were talking to them about their experiences. Ships of several nations were torpedoed by German submarines between Miami and Daytona during World War II, many of them at night. The entire coast was on a "brown out" meaning little or no lights along the coast. Even car lights were covered with black except for a slit. Black curtains were over all windows. All streetlights and advertising signs were extinguished. The Coast Guard had men on horseback patrolling the beach and wooden lookout towers every few miles. This was all part of the war effort.

Buried in Palm Beach Memorial Park off Seacrest Blvd in Lantana: D Suiter's great uncle **C. Sam Faust** and great aunt **Alice Faust** (Alice is Verna Rousseau's sister and D Suiter's grandma); **Ivan Rousseau**; **Paul D.** and **Verna Suiter** (the grandparents of D Suiter and **John, Bill,** and **Bob Suiter's** parents) and Bill's first wife **Beth**.