

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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**BRHS Curator Susan Gillis to present Boca Raton 1909 lecture
at West Boca branch of the Palm Beach County library**

Boca Raton, FL... On July 1, 100 years ago this year, Palm Beach became Florida's newest county. At the time, the county borders reached from present day Oakland Park in the south to Stuart in the north. In 1915, Broward became a county, establishing the current southern boundary. Jupiter became the county's northernmost town when Martin became a county in 1925.

The little farming community of Boca Raton was centered along the Florida East Coast Railway tracks (adjacent the present Dixie Highway) and boasted a population of possibly 50 people in 1909. To the north, at today's Yamato Road, lived another community of Japanese farming families along with a number of Americans. It was a time we can scarcely imagine today, when the natural beauty of South Florida, a sight few modern residents have ever seen, was prominent.

In recognition of this anniversary, the BRHS presents *Boca Raton 1909*, based on the diary of Boca Raton farmer Frank Chesebro. Chesebro's memories are a timely insight into the everyday lives of the hardy pioneers of the little community of Boca Raton. His accounts will be illustrated with historic photographs of early twentieth century Boca, when Florida panthers and bobcats were still a threat to livestock and humans, and the sandfly kept sane people from purchasing beachfront property; not property taxes.

Boca Raton 1909 will be presented by Boca Raton Historical Society curator Susan Gillis at the West Boca Branch of the Palm Beach County Library on Thursday, July 16th at 2PM. The address is 18685 State Road 7 in Boca Raton. For further information call the library at 470-1600.

Photo Caption : Susan Gillis

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