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The Boca Raton Historical Society & Museum Celebrates Palm Beach County's Centennial

The BRHS is preparing for the 2009 centennial year of Palm Beach County by writing a new webpage highlighting Boca Raton in 1909. A tiny railroad based farming town, the community boasted about 60 residents in 1909 including the Japanese settlers at the nearby Yamato Colony, located near the present day Yamato Road in Boca Raton. Donald Curl, retired FAU history professor and local historian, is preparing the webpage using primary resources available at the BRHS. The highlight will be an annotated transcription of pioneer Frank Chesebro's 1909 farm diary, which gives a timely insight into the every day activities of those hardy pioneers. This will be supplemented with some wonderful and wondrous photos of early 20th century Boca Raton, a world away from the 200,000-resident, beautifully landscaped, and much touted community of today. The website will be available for viewing in 2009; visit www.bocahistory.org and click on Boca Raton's History or Exhibits to view our online historical resources.

Photo caption: A cow was a rare site in early Boca Raton and a source of community pride; livestock often did poorly in bug infested South Florida in the pioneer era.

The Boca Raton Historical Society (BRHS) is a non-profit membership organization, founded in 1972. Since its inception, the BRHS has taken on ambitious restoration projects, provided first rate cultural programming, and followed its mission: to collect, preserve, and present information and artifacts relevant to the past and evolving history of Boca Raton, and to maintain a visible role in education and advocacy of historic preservation in our community.