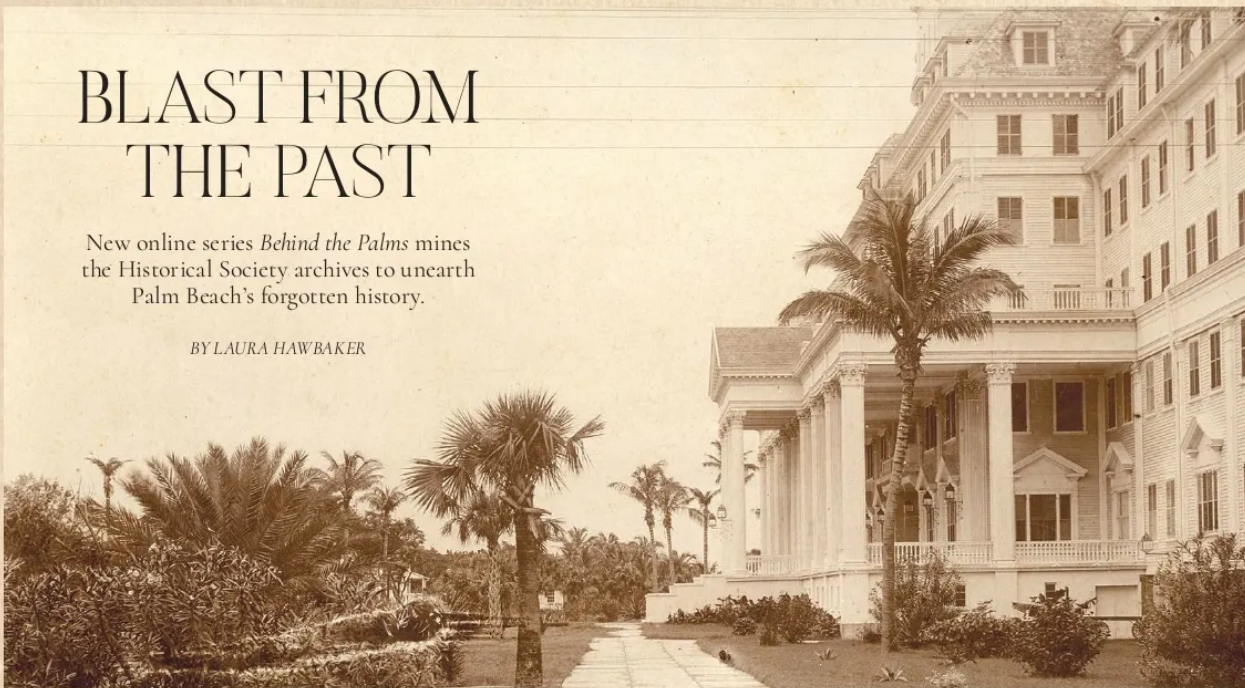


BLAST FROM THE PAST

New online series *Behind the Palms* mines the Historical Society archives to unearth Palm Beach's forgotten history.

BY LAURA HAWBAKER



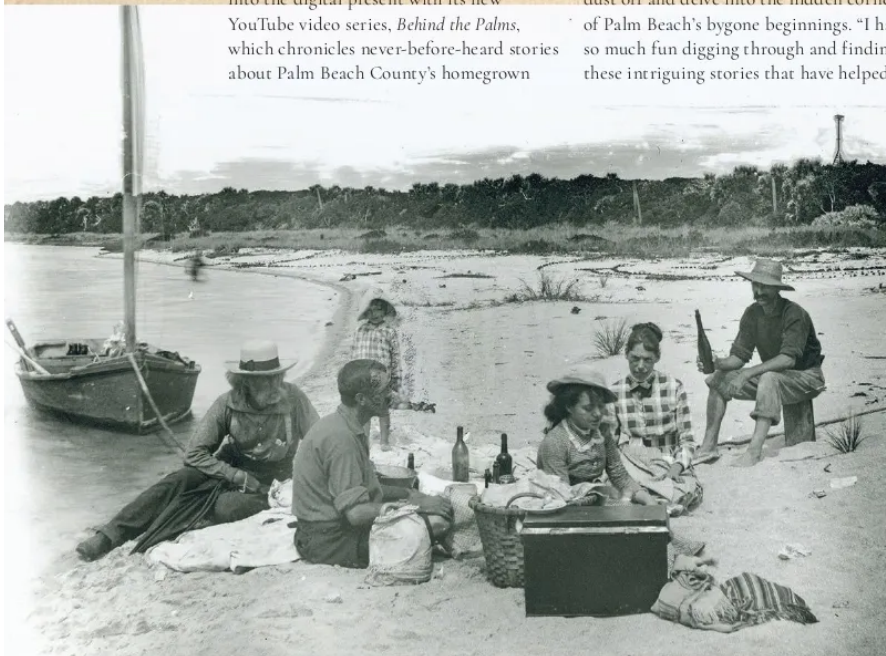
The Historical Society of Palm Beach County brings Florida's fascinating past into the digital present with its new YouTube video series, *Behind the Palms*, which chronicles never-before-heard stories about Palm Beach County's homegrown

history. Host Kent Anderson, a born-and-bred Palm Beach resident, is thrilled to dust off and delve into the hidden corners of Palm Beach's bygone beginnings. "I have so much fun digging through and finding these intriguing stories that have helped

shape the Palm Beaches into the unique place it is today," shares Anderson. "The archives of the Historical Society are filled with unbelievable stories that I'm so excited to share."

The first episode, which premiered in January, chronicles the unique tale of the James Judge—a four-masted schooner that, in 1904, was swept up in a hurricane, ran aground in south Palm Beach and morphed into a turn-of-the-century tourist attraction. "The community knew that this shipwreck had occurred," says HSPBC Director of Research Rose Guerrero in her episode interview. "It was a scene to go look at." A popular site for picnics, tea parties and photographs, the James Judge

From top: Front of the Royal Poinciana Hotel; Pioneer Picnic.



HISTORICAL PHOTOS COURTESY OF HISTORICAL SOCIETY OF PALM BEACH COUNTY. BACKGROUND PHOTO BY DAN CRISTIAN FADURE/UNSPASH



Clockwise from left: Jungle Trail colored postcard; the original Breakers, Palm Beach Inn; Marie Dresler, Addison Mizner and Richard Barthelme.

attracted prospective property buyers to the mostly uninhabited beach that would later blossom into what is now the infamous half-mile stretch of land hosting more than \$2 billion worth of private properties.

The James Judge is just the first of many captivating tales on *Behind the Palms*' docket. The next episode of the monthly series will drop in May. *Behind the Palms* supports the HSPBC's mission to collect, preserve and share Palm Beach County's rich history through community and educational programming. Jeremy Johnson, the HSPBC's president and CEO, says, "The Historical Society is excited to launch this new series and provide the public with engaging educational content from the priceless archives we've gathered over



80-plus years." For more fascinating nuggets about the area's coastal origins, visit the Historical Society's archival collections at the Richard and Pat Johnson Palm Beach County History Museum in the Historic 1916 Court House, 300 N. Dixie Highway, West Palm Beach, pbchistory.org ◻

