

ALBUM PRIMARY SOURCES FOR "SAVING AMERICAN BEACH: THE BIOGRAPHY OF AFRICAN AMERICAN ENVIRONMENTALIST MAVYNEE BETSCH"

Album Description

Last week I read Heidi Tyline King's *Saving American Beach: The Biography of African American Environmentalist MaVynee Betsch* and was fascinated to learn this story. After going down my own rabbit hole, I decided to create an album for anyone looking for primary sources to pair with this picture book biography. In the days of Jim Crow, the beaches in Jacksonville, Florida were segregated, so MaVynee's grandfather purchased land and created his own beach, American Beach. After a career as an opera singer, MaVynee returned to American Beach where she fought to save the Beach. [Pre K - 2](#) [3 - 5](#)
[Conservation](#) [American Beach](#) [MaVynee Betsch](#)



Reference Link: <https://chroniclingamerica.loc.gov/lccn/sn83004231/1949-08-13/ed-1/seq-5>

Newspaper: The Miami times. [volume] (Miami, Fla.) 1923-current

Newspaper Link: <https://chroniclingamerica.loc.gov/lccn/sn83004231/1949-08-13/ed-1/seq-5>

Image provided by: University of Florida

PDF Link: <https://chroniclingamerica.loc.gov/lccn/sn83004231/1949-08-13/ed-1/seq-5.pdf>



Teaching Notes:

I've been to American Beach on Amelia Island, Florida. There is now a museum at American Beach led by a dear friend of Mavynee Betch (the great-granddaughter of the founder of American Beach). Here is the link to its website: <https://americanbeachmuseum.org/>



Teaching Notes:

I have been to Jacksonville before but now must go back to visit the beach and learn more of its important history. Yes, reading Zora Neale Hurston on American Beach seems apropos.



Teaching Notes:

Oh wow. Thank you so much for sharing this story of Bruce's Beach. There was a segregated beach and amusement park (Lincoln Beach) here in New Orleans, too. Now I want to look into the history of it. The space is essentially abandoned now. I have some photos from when I snuck onto the property when I was in college--empty swimming pools and abandoned structures. I now want to explore more of the history of that beach, what is happening to that property, is there a plaque or monument?



Teaching Notes:

Yes! I LOVE Ekua Holmes, too! I was so excited to discover the book and her story. I really want to visit American Beach!



Teaching Notes:

Such a wonderful album. I love American Beach and when I went there the first time was unaware of its important history. Can't wait to access the interview with Zora Neale Hurston!!! She may be my next "beach read" when I visit again.

Teaching Notes:



Wonderful album [Soline Holmes](#)! Thanks for the information on MaVynee Betsch and *Saving the American Beach*. We've been following another historic segregation story about a beach in Southern California that has been making the news, Bruce's Beach. I was looking for a connection in the Library of Congress- and with the MaVynee Betsch story, you have found it! It is a different story with the same beginning and end - beaches segregated because of Jim Crow and civil rights activists fighting to save those beaches.

Bruce's Beach in the News:

- Los Angeles Times - [Bruce's Beach can return to descendants of Black family in landmark move signed by Newsom](#)
- Insider: [Gov. Gavin Newsom signed a bill returning historic 'Bruce's Beach' land to descendants of Black couple who were run out a century ago.](#)
- NBC News - [After California moves to return Bruce's Beach to Black family, a push to recover other seized land](#)
- NPR [A Black family got their beach back — and inspired others to fight against land theft](#)


My son lives near there and he sent a couple of pictures of the plaque at the Beach.







Teaching Notes:

 [Soline Holmes](#) I bought this book because I am such a fan of Ekua Holmes, but I was thrilled to learn more about MaVynnee Betsch -- thanks so much for this terrific album!



NPR INTERVIEW ABOUT ZORA NEALE HURSTON VISITING AMERICAN BEACH



**SAVING AMERICAN BEACH: THE BIOGRAPHY OF AFRICAN AMERICAN
ENVIRONMENTALIST MAVYNEE BETSCH**

THE MIAMI TIMES.



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Reference Link: <https://chroniclingamerica.loc.gov/lccn/sn83004231/1949-08-13/ed-1/seq-6>

Newspaper: The Miami times. [volume] (Miami, Fla.) 1923-current

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SMITHSONIAN MAGAZINE: "BEACH LADY"



NATIONAL BOOK FESTIVAL 2021: SAVING AMERICAN BEACH



FLORIDA HUMANITIES "FOR THE LOVE OF AMERICAN BEACH"



AMERICAN BEACH MUSEUM



AUDIO INTERVIEW WITH MAVYNEE BETSCH



NATIONAL PARK SERVICE: MAVYNEE "BEACH LADY" BETSCH