



The
**Pioneer
Press**

Barberville Pioneer
Settlement's Newsletter
Spring 2023

From the Settlement Desk

18th Annual Spring Frolic Recap

Spring has sprung at the Barberville Pioneer Settlement and community members flocked to mark the occasion at the 18th Annual Spring Frolic.



Chances to watch and learn hands-on skills were abundant during Spring Frolic. Weaving demonstrations, as well as spinning, wagon wheel making, rope making, wood carving, basket making, chair caning, broom making, blacksmithing and pottery. Visitors gathered around to witness history come alive as these talented demonstrators put on a show with traditional techniques.

Many spent the day on the hunt for the 12 wooden fiddles hidden around the 20 historic buildings for the chance to win a prize. Some diligent fiddle hunters even found them all.

Over 250 Musicians filled the air with feel-good melodies, some visitors sat and enjoyed the music while others couldn't help but get up and dance along. Storytellers drew in huge crowds and took listeners on journeys through the past. The

Jam Tents were packed and altered between different styles of music throughout the day. Anyone who was inspired to get musical themselves was able to attend one of the several music workshops. Visitors had the chance to learn a variety of skills, from fiddle-playing to songwriting to the musical saw.

Nobody went hungry at the Spring Frolic. The dessert kitchen was filled with delicious homemade treats and coffee, vendors offered an array of delicious snacks and drinks, and the Barberville Summer Kitchen had countless repeat customers raving about the made-from-scratch, hickory-smoked pulled pork sandwiches.

A Car-lover's paradise was the open house in Herman's Garage. The Antique & Vintage Car Show boasted 60 Model A's along with several antique tractors and engines. For antique fans, another great stop was the Pierson Railroad Depot where there were demonstrations on Telegraph Operation, and the Firehouse, where antique engines and fire-fighting equipment were on display.

For those who wanted the chance to bring a piece of history home, the silent auction was the place to be. Visitors bid on antique items in hopes of winning a unique treasure to remember their exciting day at the Spring Frolic.

Thank you to those who joined us and helped to make Spring Frolic 2023 such a wonderful event. And a very Special Thanks to the musicians, demonstrators, storytellers, and volunteers that worked so tirelessly to put on this amazing fundraiser.



Idella's Crisp Biscuits

By: Carlye Mahler

Idella Parker worked as a maid to the author Marjorie Kinnan Rawlings. Rawlings is famous for her widely known book, *The Yearling* published in 1938. This recipe comes from the *Cross Creek Cookery* historical cookbook first published in 1942. Idella Parker went on to write two books of her own after working for Rawlings, but made her first appearance in publication in *The Cross Creek Cookery*. Her recipe for "Idella's Biscuits" appears in the book.

2 cups flour
4 teaspoons baking powder
 $\frac{3}{4}$ teaspoon salt
6 tablespoons butter
 $\frac{3}{4}$ cup milk



The instructions prompt the baker to "mix as usual, using a fork throughout. Roll out once, to a thickness of one-quarter inch. Cut in very small rounds, one inch in diameter. Bake twelve or fifteen minutes in a very hot oven."

The vague directions like "hot" oven rather than an exact temperature may be difficult for bakers today to follow, but it's characteristic of pioneer cooking. Barbara Swell writes in her book *Log Cabin Cooking* about the experience of pioneer cooking, calling the method most used in the pioneer's day "Make-Do Cooking". The basic point of make-do cooking was to focus on instinct and trial and error to successfully cook due to the lack of exact measurements of uniformity in cooking supplies. Pioneer's couldn't have simply set their oven to 450 degrees Fahrenheit.

This recipe might seem unexciting, but it is characteristic of the simple use of ingredients by the Florida pioneers. This recipe was described by Marjorie Kinnan Rawlings as "crisp as shortbread" not a flaky biscuit recipe, in a true Southern fashion.

In *Cross Creek Cookery*, Rawlings tells a story about a Northerner who came to visit her. Rawlings would prepare a biscuit before telling a long story. As the tourist went to eat the biscuit, the hostess would insist on replacing his biscuit with a hot one, and this cycle continues so that he never eats one of the biscuits. This somewhat odd story seems to highlight the joy of eating a biscuit when it's perfectly warm.

If you're curious to create the recipe for yourself, there are guides and videos to follow online, showing that the tried and true method of making Idella's Biscuits still holds up, head over to YouTube and try it for yourself!

Bibliography

Edible Tampa Bay. 2022. "Idella's Mini Biscuits from Marjorie Kinnan Rawlings' Cross Creek Cookery." https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=QtZ_8-TnonA.

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———. 1942. *Cross Creek Cookery*. 1st ed.

Swell, Barbara. 1996. *Log Cabin Cooking*. Native Ground Books & Music.

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& Jed Lewis

Carlye Mahler



Event Schedule

(tentative—as of Jan 2023)

Open Mon— Sat 9am—4pm

Sunday noon — 4pm

6-foot social distance from others

Masks are recommended in all buildings

Service animals only

Sept 2nd Fire & Ice: Chili Cook-off & Ice Cream Churn-off

Oct 7th Playing on the Porches

Nov 4th & 5th 47th Annual Fall Country Jamboree

2022-2023 Calendar of On-Going Events

Square Dancing - almost every Friday 6:30pm—Call ahead to confirm

FABA Monthly Meeting—1st Saturday of most months.

Playing on the Porches — 1st Saturday of most months

Fiber Guild Meeting — 3rd Saturday of most months

All dates subject to change—For full listing of events and the most up to date information visit our

Facebook page or

www.pioneersettlement.org

The following events have been put on hold until further notice.

- First Saturday Music Workshops
- Second Saturdays at the Settlement
 - Weekly Mixed-level Yoga

Ambassador Club Members

* LIFETIME MEMBERS

Sarah D Abrahamson

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* A Barberville Pioneer Settlement Lifetime Membership is an honorarium granted to supporters that have demonstrated exemplary patronage either through monetary donations, contributions of time and talents or a combination thereof. Candidates for this esteemed honor may be presented to the Board of Directors for approval by any member in good standing or by the administrative team of the Settlement.

Music & Living History Festival



18th Annual

Spring Frolic

A Family-Friendly Event at the Barberville Pioneer Settlement







BARBERVILLE
PIONEER SETTLEMENT
Discover Yesterday Today



Barberville Pioneer Settlement



Barbervillesettlement

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The Coolest Hottest Event Ever!

Chili Cook Off

& Ice Cream Churn Off

Where You can Be the JUDGE!

Cash prizes to be awarded to People's Choice

Chili & Ice Cream Judging/Tasting — \$5.00 per person

Tasting begins at 11:30am until it's gone, so arrive early.

To Registration for the Competition visit our website or stop by the Bridgehouse.

PLAYING ON THE PORCHES

FREE ADMISSION!
SEPTEMBER 2, 2023
9AM TO 4PM

BECOME A MEMBER!

Live Acoustic Music 11am-2pm

Living History Demonstrations, Story Telling and More!

Community Yard Sale starts at 9am-4pm — \$10.00 Per Space

Arts, Crafts and Non Profit Vendors

Summer Kitchen Open Serving BBQ Pork, Hot Dogs and Hamburgers

We recommend bringing cash for concessions.

THANK YOU TO ALL OF OUR SPONSORS!



A Big Shout out to our Sponsors! Please support them for supporting us!

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THE
MAGNOLIA
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Announcements & Tidbits



- Thanks to the financial support of **The Questers International** we have repaired the back wall of the **Country Store**. Hopefully we will have it reopened by **Celebration of Olde Florida**.
- During the May 6th **Playing on the Porches**, We will have another **community yard sale**. Just in time for spring cleaning. Booth space will be \$10 for 12'x12'.
- We have hit **12k followers on Facebook!!** If you haven't checked out our Facebook page yet, please do so! It will let you know about all our upcoming events, current projects, and just general fun posts about local history and art. If you are a volunteer, join our private Facebook Group, **Barberville Pioneer Settlement Demonstrators, Volunteers, and Team Members** so that you can be kept up-to-date on the Settlement's current needs.
- Veggies abound in **Ellis Garden's** spring garden thanks to volunteers like **Mike Starinchuck & Susie Lewis**. Come out on Saturdays and join in the gardening parties. There is always weeding and pruning needed to be done. Many hands make light work.
- We love our volunteers! However, like many other non-profits over the past several years our **volunteer base has diminished drastically**. We could really use more volunteers. If you are interested in volunteering at the Settlement, you can find applications at www.pioneersettlement.org/volunteers or call us at 386-749-2959.
- We are a drop off location for **Christine's Blankets**. They need new blankets, towels, and socks to distribute to the homeless. Christine's Blankets provide blankets and other essentials to the homeless for comfort and encouragement in order to remind them that they are loved and not forgotten.
- We accept all kinds of **donations!** Of course artifacts (from the 1870s—1920s) are most welcome (as is cash). We also have all kinds of other needs though. If you have a **propane grill, riding lawn mower, golf cart, or vehicle** that is just taking up space at your house; before you call the scrap man, call us. One man's junk could be the Settlement's treasure. Since we're a 501(c)3, all donations are tax deductible.
- We are a **Harvest Host** site. If you own an RV, you should definitely consider becoming a Harvest Host or Boondockers Welcome member. You can stay overnight at thousands of eclectic sites— like **The Barberville Pioneer Settlement** —for no cost beyond patronizing the business and your annual membership to **Harvest Host**.
- Will still need your **old Christmas Cards**. We use these cards during our Holiday Traditions field trips in December.
- Check out our **YouTube Channel**. We have been digitizing our old VHS tapes. There are some real Blasts from the Past on there to be enjoyed.
- Have you ever wanted to learn how to be a **blacksmith**? You're in luck. We offer Blacksmith classes! 1st responders, military, and teachers get a \$25 discount on classes. Learn more at www.pioneersettlement.org/blacksmith—coal.
- **We also sell Blacksmith coal**. \$45 for 100lbs. Please call ahead and give us 24 hours to prepare your order.
- **Board Member Opportunities**— Those interested in joining our Board of Directors are encouraged to send a letter of interest along with a resume via email to directors@pioneersettlement.org. Our Board meetings are held on the third Thursday of every month at the Settlement at 7pm. Directors are expected to attend all meetings, hold a minimum annual level of a Patron membership, and contribute to the annual fees for Directors & Officers Insurance.
- We are still accepting **Sponsorship of The Settlement's Animals**. Keeping our farm animals hale and healthy is expensive! If you'd like to help us care for them, we would be deeply grateful — AND you can score some cool merch! Learn more at www.pioneersettlement.org/animal-sponsorship.
- Membership has its benefits. FREE general admission including special events, 10% discount in our country store and Bridge House Gallery! Half-price Guest Passes! And even more benefits for those in the **AMBASSADOR'S CLUB!** Learn more at www.pioneersettlement.org/membership-opportunities.

In Memoriam



Bettina Maraldo

Bettina Maraldo had been a frequent & stalwart volunteer at the Settlement for over three decades. She was a matron in both the Fiber Guild & The Rug Hookers. A skilled hooked rug artist herself, Bettina organized several antique hooked rug exhibitions for the Settlement. In recognition of her dedicated service to the Settlement, Bettina received the Lura Bell award and a Lifetime Membership. Before moving to Florida, Bettina was a demonstrator at the famous Brandywine-Wyeth Museum in Chadds Ford, Pennsylvania. She was well loved by Settlement staff, volunteers, and guests alike.

John L. Alison was a talented guitarist and teacher. John volunteered with the program Guitar 4 Vets, a national program that provides veterans with free guitars and guitar lessons. John—an army vet himself—participated in Guitar 4 Vets by teaching vets suffering from PTSD how to play the guitar. John spoke of music the same way a spouse speaks of love. He once said of teaching music, “I depend on it for my daily sanity and at the same time it keeps me centered. To give someone the gift of music is one of the best things you can do for someone.” John was a frequent volunteer musician at the Settlement. Not just during the Frolic and Jamboree, but also during 1st Saturday Music Workshops and Playing on the Porches. Everyone who met him was moved by his smile and gentleness.



John L Alison



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