

Barberville  
Pioneer Settlement's  
Quarterly Newsletter—  
Summer 2016

### From the Director's Desk



*Photo from October 1977—one of the first gatherings at the Pioneer Settlement*

**What's Forty Years?** While Steve Jobs and Steve Wozniak were churning out the first Apple computers at Jobs' parents' house in Los Altos, California—forty years ago—Lura Bell and several other visionaries were busy making plans to establish an Arts Center and to save an abandoned, dilapidated school in Barberville, Florida.

The dream grew and the groundwork escalated after Lura Bell, the tenacious art teacher and a small group of her friends gained access to the vacated property. The first of many letters to the Superintendent of Volusia County Schools, Dr. Donald G. Gill asking for support of the concept, was authored by Lura Bell on September 23, 1975.

Eleven months later, on August 20, 1976 the first official Board Meeting to establish the non-profit organization was held at the Howard Johnson's on US 92 in Deland. The Articles of Incorporation were signed and notarized and the organization was born. By December of 1976 Volusia County Schools had approved a 25-year lease agreement which launched a successful 31 year cooperative partnership between the two organizations.

Lura Bell continued tenaciously to petition the Volusia County School Board to provide additional support by having them fund two full time positions to augment the growing educational field trip programs. Her efforts succeeded. Lura became the first full time Director/Teacher on Assignment and eventually was able to add a full time clerical person. Another benefit of being an adjunct classroom of the Volusia County School District was that the Settlement was entitled to the use of equipment, furniture, printing facilities and instructional support. In addition for many years the School District funded field trips to the Settlement for all of Volusia County second grade students.

Sadly Lura Bell's health began to decline. In 1986, Mrs. Marilyn Breeze was chosen to carry on as the second Director/Teacher on Assignment. Marilyn served as the Pioneer Settlement's Director for the next twenty years.

During the 1980's and 90's an important transition began to occur. The Pioneer Settlement began acquiring and moving local and regional historically significant buildings onto the property. This transition enhanced the historical value of the property. What started out to be an Art Center has emerged into what you see today, a historical village museum with the mission to educate and entrust the public and future generations with knowledge of the pioneer lifestyle of our forefathers, through hands on experience, folk life demonstrations, preservation and historical exhibits.

*(Continued on Page 2)*

# BARBERVILLE PIONEER SETTLEMENT

## BOARD OF DIRECTORS

John Case—President  
Frank Paulhamus— Vice President  
Diana Johnson—Secretary  
Joe Underhill—Treasurer  
Brian Polk  
Jimmy Rogers  
Richard Schuler  
Jim Schrader  
Dennis Thomas  
John Kern  
Erwin Wunderlich  
Joan Carter

## STAFF MEMBERS

Executive Director —Debra West  
Associate Director—Gudrun Benson  
Office/Customer Services Ambassador  
—Katie Straka  
Events Coordinator —Shiloh Thomas  
Facilities & Field Trip Assistants—  
Jack Whitman  
Joe Rozycki  
Lyle Behnke  
Connie Campisi  
Charlie Langrick  
Lynn Purvis  
Eric Dusenbery

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During the early years a huge volunteer staff was developed to aid the needs created by field trips, special events like the Fall and Spring Country Jamborees and other activities. Supporters from all walks of life and trades offered help to build and move structures. Community support was also provided through financial donations, membership dues, sales in the Commissary Store and the Bridge House Gallery and food sales from the

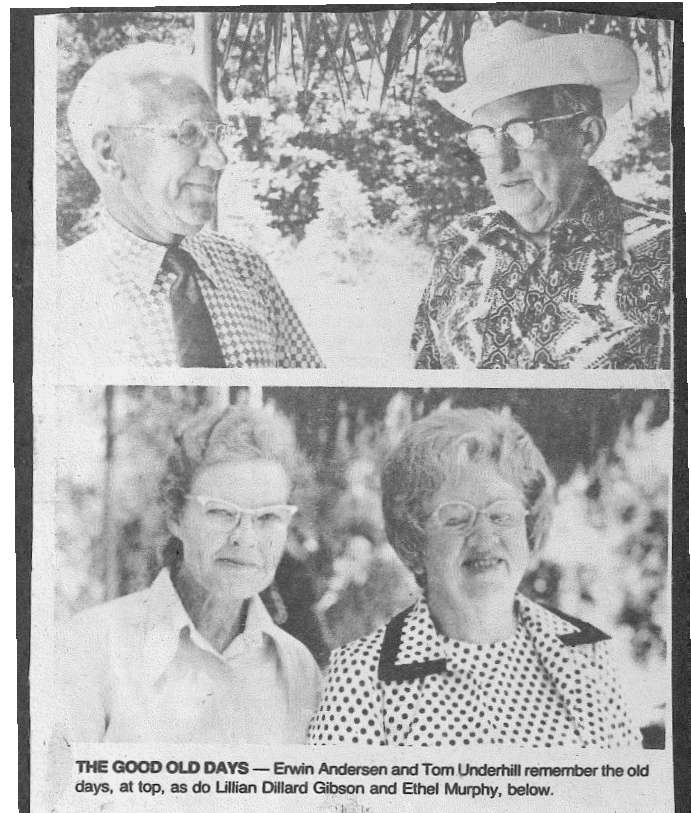
summer kitchen. Many of these special activities that were created forty years ago are still in place today and are significant to our financial well-being.

When the lease expired in 2001, ownership of the property was bestowed from the Volusia County School District to the Board of Directors of the Pioneer Settlement for the amount of one dollar and the stipulation that the property remain in use for educational purposes.

The effects of the Great Recession of 2007—09 had a great toll on the Pioneer Settlement. Due to financial cut backs the Volusia County School District had to withdraw all of its financial support. That combined with other surrounding schools ceasing travel for field trips and a decline in donations, memberships, and admission, the Pioneer Settlement like many other organizations and businesses during that time went into “survival mode”.

Little do people realize that the existence of this organization today is owed in a large part to the persistence of a few fundamental staff members and a handful of passionate volunteers and supporters. Had it not been for their efforts, one of the region’s most valuable historic resources could have become depressed beyond repair or even extinct. What a shame that would have been!

Even now we continue to recover from those years of being in a survival mode. Our aged buildings and infrastructure are in constant need of repair and maintenance. The abundance of educational volunteers that once existed has progressively dwindled and they have become increasingly difficult to replace. Positions where we once could rely on volunteers we now must fill with paid staff. It has become essential for us, like many non-profit organizations to think and operate more like a business.



THE GOOD OLD DAYS — Erwin Andersen and Tom Underhill remember the old days, at top, as do Lillian Dillard Gibson and Ethel Murphy, below.



We have a couple of typically slow months ahead. Last summer we got by with only four staff members. This summer in order to cover the field trips already scheduled in July we have increased to seven staff members this year. Just the other day we had 150 students and fifteen walk-ins, the like of which has not happened on a hot July day in many years.

Our vision to be known as the area's premier living history destination is attainable. We are expanding our marketing efforts to include a focus on tourism. We are working on building relationships with more community partners. We are researching ways to develop new revenue sources, to generate repeat donors and visitors, to grow membership, increase attendance and expand our events.

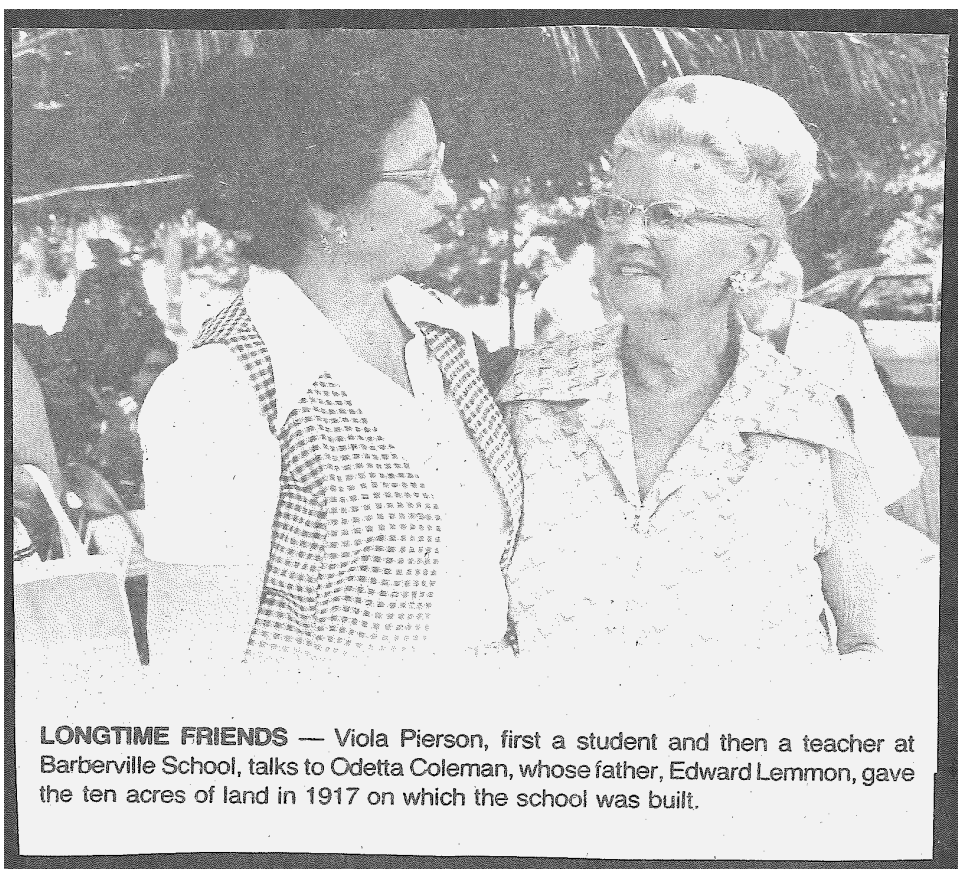
As we enter into this next phase of growth your continued support is crucial. There are many projects that are outside the scope of our annual operating budget that require extensive repairs/restoration. Most government grants available for restoration projects nowadays require matching funds. Considerable fund raising will need to be done in the future to continue to preserve and save the Underhill House, the Turpentine Still and the Pastime Boat.

The good news is now that the phase one at the Underhill House is complete we are planning to have the roof of the Astor Bridge Tender's House replaced in the very near future. Thanks to all of you that contributed to this campaign! It took over a five year period but current funds for this project have reached \$24,322.00.

So... What is forty years? After delving into forty years' worth of Board Meeting minutes and other documents, I can tell you this... First and foremost it's the people. Forty years-worth of people from all walks of life, some that are still with us and many that are not, some that stayed a short time and others a lifetime. Passionate, persistent and patient people, each providing an

individually unique contribution to the Pioneer Settlement's history thereby leaving an everlasting mark on our future. It's for these immeasurable people that we salute the success of forty years!

Although we have not had quite the fame and fortune comparable to that of Apple Computers, we are still going to celebrate our fortieth in a really big way! We are giving away \$4,000 and as you will see throughout these next pages there are many fun opportunities for you to join and support us! I look forward to seeing you here in Barberville real soon!



**LONGTIME FRIENDS** — Viola Pierson, first a student and then a teacher at Barberville School, talks to Odetta Coleman, whose father, Edward Lemmon, gave the ten acres of land in 1917 on which the school was built.



The Joseph Underhill House ca. 1879—Phase One Restoration is complete!

*Debra*





## The Prize List is GROWING!



In addition to the  
\$4,000 Drawdown Prize you  
could also win...

- Ocean Front Accommodations  
2 Nights at the  
Tropical Winds Daytona Beach
- An eight hour pontoon rental  
from Holly Bluff Marina
- Accommodations for 2 Nights at  
the Hampton Inn Debarry
- Airboat Rides
- Theater Tickets
- Waterpark Passes
- Gift Baskets
- Gift Certificates
- Baseball Tickets



### Play for Prizes—

Bingo, Black Jack, Slots

Enjoy Live Music,

Heavy Hors D'oeuvres,

Beer & Wine Cash Bar

Guest Bartender—

Mark Shuttleworth

Check out our website and

Facebook Page for prize updates

more details and to get your tickets!



## CHILI COOK OFF AND ICE CREAM CHURN OFF

Where You can Be the JUDGE!

Cash prizes to be awarded to People's Choice

Chili & Ice Cream Judging/Tasting —\$4.00 per person

Tasting at Noon, until it's gone, so arrive early.

**THE BARBERVILLE PIONEER SETTLEMENT  
ANNUAL OPEN HOUSE**

**Saturday, September 3, 2016 9am—4pm**

**FREE ADMISSION !!!**

Barberville Folk Photography Exhibit

Community Yard Sale, starts at 9am—\$5.00 Per Space

Non-Profit Information Spaces—No Charge

**FREE First Saturday Music Workshops and Jam Session**

Hit & Miss Engines and Antique Tractor Display

Summer Kitchen Open

Located West of Hwy 17 on SR 40, Barberville, FL 32105

386-749-2959 • [www.pioneersettlement.org](http://www.pioneersettlement.org)



No Pets-Service Animals Only

**BARBERVILLE**  
PIONEER SETTLEMENT  
Discover Yesterday Today



YOU ARE INVITED TO THE  
**LUCK OF THE DRAW**  
FEATURING A ONE IN 250 CHANCE TO WIN UP TO  
**\$4,000.00**

DRAWDOWN TICKETS \$40 Admission only \$20 at the  
door. Admission includes a complimentary drink  
ticket and FREE chips for the games.

**Saturday, August 20, 2016 3pm—7pm**



# Staff and Volunteer Update!

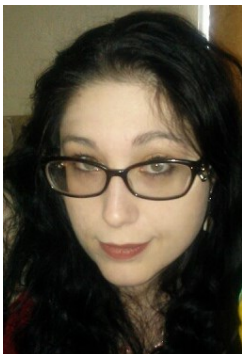


On June 24th, 2016 we had a bitter-sweet goodbye party for our Customer Service Ambassador and Field Trip Coordinator — Jennifer Larsen. Jennifer had been with the Settlement for three years and we wish her the best of luck as she makes her new life and home in Marion County.



Also at the same time we welcomed back our good friend and work camper Joe Rozycki. Joe recently underwent major heart surgery which threw a big wrench

in the couple's summer travel plans. Instead of leaving for the north in June he and Connie are now planning to head out at the end of July, returning in October for their third year here with us!



**Katie Straka** (left) joined our team to fill the role of Customer Service Ambassador and Field Trip Coordinator. Katie comes to us from the healthcare industry and has a passion for technology.

**Lynn Purvis** (right) is an avid history lover. Lynn founded and maintains the DeLand Native Facebook page.



**Eric Dusenbery** (below) teacher, photographer, author, and speaker.

Both Lynn and Eric are demonstrators for field trips as well as helping with maintenance and grounds keeping tasks.

**WELCOME to the TEAM!**



## 40<sup>th</sup> Fall Country Jamboree

LIVING HISTORY AND FOLK MUSIC FESTIVAL



*November 5th & 6th 2016*

Live Folk Music on 6 Stages • Living History • Handmade Juried Arts and Crafts Show

and so much MORE! • \$10 Adults • \$5 Children 6-12 • Children under 6 & Members Free

Hours: 9am-5pm and 9am-4pm • FREE Parking • 386-749-2959 • [events@pioneersettlement.org](mailto:events@pioneersettlement.org)

[www.pioneersettlement.org](http://www.pioneersettlement.org) • 1776 Lightfoot Lane, Barberville, FL 32105

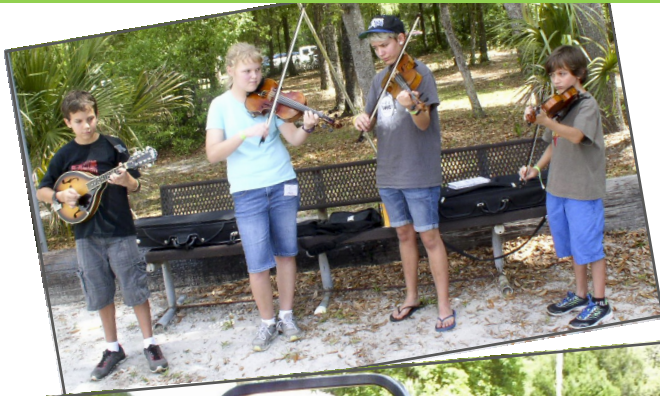


**BARBERVILLE**  
PIONEER SETTLEMENT  
Discover Yesterday Today





Did we capture you at our 12th Annual Spring Frolic?



Thank-you John Izzo for capturing the pictures!



## ***The Golden Teacup Society's***

### **16th Annual Ladies Encampment**

**April 8, 9 & 10, 2016**

Our visitors enjoyed seeing the living historical reenactors from throughout Central Florida as they gathered at the Barberville Pioneer Settlement for the weekend to share, learn and preserve the traditions and ways of civilian women and their families during the Civil War period of 1860-1865.

The Golden Teacup Society began in 1997 as a group of volunteer female reenactors interested in the accurate portrayal of civilian women during the 1860-1865 Civil War period.



### **Donations are now being accepted for:**

Prizes for the Luck of the Draw—Aug 20th

Yard Sale Items for the Fire & Ice Open House / Community  
Yard Sale—Sept 3rd

Silent Auction items for the Jamboree—November 5th & 6th

**Please call ahead to schedule a drop off time or a pick-up!**

386-749-2959

## **Thank You! Ambassador Members**

### **LIFETIME MEMBERS**

Lee & Kay Doughty

Richard & Jean Schuler

Dale Barnhart

Howard & Snooky Grisham

Natalie Hazard & Family

Rachel Jackson

Don & Diana Johnson

Lester & Betty Hollenback

Bertha Lucas

Mary Rinderle

### **ADVOCATE MEMBERS**

Underhill Ferneries

Hidden Valley Park

### **SMALL BUSINESS MEMBERS**

Parramore's Campground

Blackwater Inn & Williams Landing

### **AMBASSADOR MEMBERS**

Ken & Nancy Buchanan

Gretchen & Dennis Delman

Joseph Schrader & Louise Stedman

Jimmie, Lori & Ernest Rogers

Rick & Bonnie Stam

Dennis Thomas and Family

Marilyn & Rich Breeze

Joe Underhill

Harriet B. Bolin

John Case

Rick & Pam Rintz

Brian & Karen Polk

Marie B Schaefer

John & Carol Izzo

Mary Jo Errico

Joan Carter

John Kern

Lorna Jean Hagstrom

Go Natural Living - RDI





# BARBERVILLE

## PIONEER SETTLEMENT

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Barberville, FL 32105

(386) 749-2959

[www.pioneersettlement.org](http://www.pioneersettlement.org)



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## Volunteer Salute



**Jack Nunn and Jan Karnes**

AKA Mr. & Mrs. Santa Claus

A big THANK YOU for your many years of dedication and service to the Pioneer Settlement's children's education programs and special events! You guys rock and we will miss you especially at Christmas.

## 2016 Calendar of Special Events

- August 20 **LUCK OF THE DRAW**  
\$4,000 Drawdown 40th Anniversary Celebration—Ticketed Event
- September 3 **Fire & Ice** - Annual Chili Cook-Off and Ice Cream Churn Off
- November 5-6 **40th Annual Fall Country Jamboree**
- December 10 **A Florida Christmas Remembered**
- First Saturday Jams**—are held on the first Saturday of every month—Free Music Lessons with paid admission or membership.
- The Family Farm Swap** - the first and third Saturdays
- Fiber Arts Guild** meets on the third Saturday
- Rug Hookers** meet on the fourth Saturday
- Square Dancing** on Friday Night
- All dates subject to change—For full listing of events and the most up to date information visit  
[www.pioneersettlement.org](http://www.pioneersettlement.org)

