



JANUARY—MARCH 2014

A Message from the President of the Board—John Case

Spring Forward

As we look ahead to welcome the arrival of spring we are pleased to announce the arrival of several exciting happenings here at the Pioneer Settlement.

Since last fall we have welcomed two new team members Jennifer and Jonathan Larsen to the Settlement. They are sister and brother and they have brightened the atmosphere here with their youthful enthusiasm, fresh ideas and an incredible work ethic. You'll most likely find Jennifer in the Bridge House smiling and polishing as she answers the phone, greets visitors and schedules field trips.



Jennifer Larsen



Jonathan Larsen

And it's anyone's guess which project or task Jonathan will be given next to tackle with his innovation and energetic charm.

With Co-Director Diana Johnson's decision to retire last fall the Board passed a motion to change the structure of the administration team and has since hired a new Executive Director. The Board unanimously chose and welcomes Debra West into this position. As Debra gets acclimated she welcomes your involvement, looks forward to building positive relationships with volunteers, members and donors and is focused to maintain the sustainability and expand resources to enhance the future of the Pioneer Settlement.

On behalf of the Board of Directors we extend a deep appreciation to Diana Johnson for her many dedicated years to the Settlement. As well as sending her best wishes on her retirement, as she enjoys spending more time with her family and new great granddaughter! You will still see Diana around as she volunteers, since like many of us—her passion for the Settlement is unwavering.

Speaking of unwavering we would also like to recognize our Associate Director Gudrun Benson whom has been with the Settlement for nearly twenty years. Gudrun's economical methodology, dedication to preserving historical artifacts and vast knowledge of the Settlement's history have helped to navigate the Pioneer Settlement and sustain us through the last several challenging years.

To both Gudrun and Diana—Many thanks and know that we are counting on you—as we spring forward!

The Pioneer Settlement
PO Box 6
Barberville, Florida 32105
386.749.2959
www.pioneersettlement.org

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EXECUTIVE STAFF

Debra West—Executive Director
Gudrun Benson—Associate Director



From the Director's Desk

Livestock, Peacock's and Plans



Moo

Many new things are happening here at the Settlement since my arrival but it never crossed my mind that my first acquirement for the Pioneer Settlement would be livestock! With the adoption of Tamale, a miniature burrow and Moo, a miniature steer from our friends at the Spring Garden Ranch we have begun to grow the farm animal segment of our field trip programs. We are still looking for a few female sheep to enhance our group and provide wool for spinning.



Tamale



Gudrun, Jim Schrader and Jonathan



Jimmy Rogers and Ed Rinderle

The reconstruction of the Peacock Aviary Pen was more of a challenge than expected. We didn't realize until the guys got into it that the original construction was not based upon anything being straight and/or square!

Thanks to the help of local business owner Steven Jones and volunteers — Jimmie Rogers, Linda Rogers, Jim Schrader, Ed Rinderle, John Case and staff members Lyle, Jack and Jonathan. Kudos to all on a job well done!



What it looked like in the beginning



Steven Jones, Jim Schrader, Jonathan and John Case



The peacock pen now

The Underhill House was built in 1879 and is said to be the oldest brick home in Volusia County. Our resurrection volunteers had to halt their work this past fall due to health reasons and a very challenging sagging wall. Stop by and meet them and take a tour at the upcoming Spring Frolic. They will be available to answer questions and share ideas for the future of the house. If you have a love for saving old buildings and experience in brick structures we could use your help, please contact me.



The Underhill House

We are gearing up and looking forward to a great turn out for our annual Spring Frolic fundraiser. Along with the music and dancing please remember to visit the Silent Auction. The proceeds from the auction this year will benefit the restoration project for the Astor Bridge House. We have plenty of posters and postcards available for distribution if you would like to support us in getting the word out about the event.



Jan Morris— Work Camper working with clay in the Pottery Shed

We wouldn't be able to do what we do if it wasn't for volunteers and as usual volunteers are needed for many jobs around the Settlement. Not only for the special events but as we expand our education program to include more field trips our need for volunteers to demonstrate the pioneer arts grows as well. If you have an interest in the education of youth, would like to learn and then weaving, spinning, pottery, blacksmith, cook lassie cakes or storytelling, please let us know.

As we begin to realize a vision for the future of the Pioneer Settlement please know that your input is welcome and your interest is appreciated. I am looking forward to getting to know you and to working together as we... spring forward!

Debra

One of these days that old building will be of real value to the entire community.

— The Pioneer Settlement’s founder Lura Bell, regarding the Astor Bridge House move quoted in the Daytona Beach News Journal, September 11, 1980.

For more than five decades the Bridge House that was built in 1926 served as the home for men who operated the bridge’s swing span to allow river traffic to pass. Originally located on the west bank of the St. John’s River the Astor Bridge House evokes much history and mystery. McQueen Johnson, the former ferry operator and the first bridge tender was on duty in the middle of the bridge when he was shot in the back, and fell across the very middle of the bridge, with his head in Lake County and his feet in Volusia County. Both counties refused to claim jurisdiction and they say that the murder was never solved.



The Astor Bridge House 1957

The move of the canopy itself was a major headline maker due to many hurdles like fundraising, time constraints, and it required a very involved massive coordination effort with the State Department of Operations, as well as a team of over 15 construction workers. Once removed the structures were stored on the west side of the bridge awaiting the opening of the newer wider bridge in order to begin its journey to the Pioneer Settlement.

It is appropriate that while the Bridge House had once stood as the entrance way for Volusia and Lake Counties, that for nearly 24 years now it has served as your entrance way to The Pioneer Settlement. The Bridge House makes a perfect welcome center and gift shop and functions as a home for displays and information about the local area and both the River of Lakes Heritage Corridor Scenic Highway and the Florida Black Bear Scenic Byway.

The Bridge House Restoration Fundraiser was launched this past fall with the proceeds of the Silent Auction at the Jamboree being dedicated towards restoration efforts. The restoration plans include foundation stabilization, a new roof, insulation and central heating and air. All of which will help to defray operating costs and enhance the longevity of our very important entrance way to the Settlement.

Grab your family and friends, put on your dancing shoes and come meet MOO at the... Presented in part by **Beacon**

Pioneer Settlement's 10th Annual
SPRING TROLIC
MUSIC & DANCE FESTIVAL
March 29 & 30 2014
Saturday 9am—9pm · Sunday 9am—4pm

Admission: \$8.00 Adults · \$5.00 Children 6-12
Located just West of Rt. 17 just off of Rt. 40, Barberville, FL 32105
(386) 749-2959 · www.pioneersettlement.org · Only service animals allowed

Due to the vision of Lura Bell and others that supported her vision, the Astor Bridge House was saved from demolition and has been repurposed as a vital and useful resource for the Pioneer Settlement, our visitors and members like you. Any contribution you can make to help us achieve our goal to raise all of the \$40,000.00 needed to complete this project is greatly appreciated.

There will be more information available in the near future on specific ways that you can participate. Contact Debra West for details. dwest@pioneersettlement.org or 386-749-2959



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Volunteer Salute



Many Thanks to Harriet Bolin! Among other things as well as her financial support, Harriet has served on the Board, in the Pottery Shop, as Events Coordinator, in deserts at special events and now she is helping out with the Silent Auction.

Pioneer Settlement's WISH List

1. Contractor services for Underhill House
2. Central heating and air for Bridge House
3. Old Pick-up truck in good condition for running errands and advertising
4. Storage Building
5. Golf Carts
6. Nice tables and chairs to use for weddings and meetings.
7. Shelving and Storage Bins

**For more information or to make a
donation contact Debra West
386-749-2959**