



# The Pioneer Press

Barberville  
Pioneer Settlement's  
Newsletter  
Spring 2019

From the Director's Desk

## IT'S "STILL" STANDING

As stewards of one of Florida's last standing Turpentine Stills those were our thoughts exactly after each of the hurricanes Matthew and then Irma blew through.

Most folks that visit are unfamiliar with the odd structure representing the little known yet very significant part of Florida's history. Nearly 100 years ago, the pine forests of Florida were the center of a booming "naval stores" industry, including pine gum, pine resin and turpentine. According to an excerpt from *"Liquid Gold from Florida's Pines" Know Florida, Issued by the State Department of Agriculture, Tallahassee, circa 1937*, the industry in Florida utilized over three million acres of pine forests annually to produce seven million gallons of turpentine and 800,000 barrels of rosin. In 1938 the industry's operations generated \$7,750,000.00 and 15,000 wage earners were employed.

The workers tapped "V" shaped slashes into the trees and nailed metal gutters beneath the "cat faces" to funnel the oozing pine gum into the clay pots. Men with mule teams and wagons would collect the raw gum and take the sticky pitch back to the still for refining. The jobs were dangerous, collecting the gum was very labor intensive and working the still was hot and very dirty work.

Turpentine stills like the one we have here at the Settlement were once



busy centers of entire communities that sprang up around them. The camp from where our still originated was one mile west of Highway 92 in Daytona Beach. It was owned by Consolidated-Tomoka Land Company and in operation from 1924 through 1942. The camp included a gum platform, spirits shed, cooperage house, commissary, office, a church-school building, and living quarters for the laborers, overseers and their families. The housing for the workers was considered temporary and was usually poorly constructed. Most of them would receive their pay in the form of company script or coin. This could only be used at the company commissary.



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When ships began to be built with steel and petroleum and synthetic oils replaced turpentine in paints the demand for the resin and turpentine dropped. The once flourishing communities then faded away, the lands were often sold to lumber companies and the camps became abandoned.

In 1985 Consolidated-Tomoka Land Company announced they were going to donate the still to a state farm museum in Tallahassee. At that time there were only two or three stills in the state that hadn't been torn down. Local history enthusiasts rallied along with the Volusia County Historic Preservation Board to keep the still in Volusia County.

After nearly two years of negotiating, Volusia county won and the still was moved to the Barberville Pioneer Settlement in February of 1988. Harold Cardwell, President of the Florida Anthropological Society at that time was quoted to have said, "It was the only authentic turpentine still remaining in the state and we're very fortunate to keep an artifact like this."

The "still" still stands today, however the tin roof panels, cypress pole trusses and boards of the roof structures that protect the vat and fire box have weathered many a storm in the last thirty-one years. The weakening and rusted-out roof combined with the twenty-five foot height became a cause for concern. The challenge was finding someone to take on the job of dismantling and restoring the structure.

There is a saying here, that the Settlement has a way of taking care of itself and in my five years I have found numerous times that this holds true. We were fortunate to find Tom Fragomeni of Carjuda Construction Services through our good friend Mark Shuttleworth, Owner-President of Florida Victorian Architectural Antiques. Tom and his crew were able to creatively arrange their schedule to immediately remove the roof panels and trusses, stabilize the structure and create a safe perimeter for our visitors. Now the plans for the rebuild are underway utilizing what reusable materials we could save.

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## Volunteer Salute



Dennis Thomas, Board President with  
Dick Shuler, Board Director

John Case, past Board President with  
Debra West, Executive Director

During the Annual Membership meeting held on January 26, 2019 Dick Shuler and John Case were presented with the Lura Bell Award for their exceptional and continued volunteer service. John Case began volunteering here in 1990. He is the Chief of our Emergency Services Department and just recently finished two consecutive terms as our Board President. Dick Schuler became active on the Board when he retired in 1991 from his supervisor position overseeing the Settlement for Volusia County. It would be impossible to share the numerous contributions that these guys have made over the years. The Barberville Pioneer Settlement would not be what it is today if not for these two passionate and dedicated men.

It is our pleasure to honor you both with this prestigious award!

### 2019 Calendar of Special Events

- April 6&7 **15th Annual Spring Frolic** Members Free
- June 8 **5th Celebration of Olde Florida** Free Admission
- Sept. 14 **Fire & Ice Annual Open House - Chili Cook Off and Ice Cream Churn Off** Free Admission
- Nov. 2&3 **43rd Annual Fall Country Jamboree** Members Free
- Dec. 8 **Florida Christmas Remembered** - Members Free

### 2019 Calendar of On-Going Events

**First Saturdays Free Music Workshops & Jam**—the first Saturday of every month—our renowned volunteer teachers offer Free Music Lessons with paid admission or membership.

**Second Saturdays at the Settlement**—Every Second Saturday features different living history demonstrations, workshops and exhibits

**Fiber Arts Guild** meets on the third Saturday

**Rug Hookers** meets on the fourth Saturday

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

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

# News & Announcements

It's hard to believe that in just a few weeks we will be saying so long to our seasonal helpers! Thank you to all for your dedication and hard work this past season. We really did get a lot accomplished in a short amount of time. **Joanna and Jonathan Demarest, Richard and Rhonda McCutcheon, and Lyle Behnke** have agreed to return for another season this fall. **John and Lucy Rasmussen, Page Harris and Bob Pavlechko** will be traveling on to new adventures and we wish them the best and welcome them back anytime!

Once our seasonal helpers leave in April and May we will experience a huge vacuum of resources. Also, like many other non-profits over the past five years our **volunteer base has diminished drastically** and we are **in great need** of individuals to teach our children attending on field trips. If you know of anyone that is interested in **volunteering or in a part-time paid position** that can help us out please have them contact us. Resumes can be sent to [directors@pioneersettlement.org](mailto:directors@pioneersettlement.org) or inquiries can be made by calling Debra West or Gudrun Benson at 386-749-2959.

If you are a **volunteer, demonstrator or musician** we encourage you to join our new group on Facebook. This is a closed group which means that unless you join and become an approved member you cannot read or see our posts. The group name is **Barberville Pioneer Settlement Demonstrators, Volunteers and Team Members**. It is a great way for us to share ideas and Settlement related information with a large group at once.

**YOGA CLASSES** — Join us on **Wednesdays at 5:15pm** in the High School Auditorium for Easy Yoga. All levels are welcome from novice to experienced. The class explores breathing, stretching, postures, alignment and balance. Wear comfortable clothing, bring water or hydration beverage and a yoga mat. \$7.00 per person per class. Class instructor is Uma Valerie Carruthers, Certified Group Fitness Instructor (AFAA) and Certified Yoga Teacher.

We are now **accepting donations for our Silent Auction** at the Spring Frolic. We are attempting to **raise the quality** of the items that we accept into the silent auction. If you are thinking to donate an item please ask yourself if it is auction worthy or more of a yard sale type item. If you are not sure if an item is deemed as auction worthy please call ahead or email us a photo so we can help to determine that for you. **Clothing—unless it is vintage** and in good condition, will not be accepted.

**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](mailto: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 need your old Christmas Cards!** One of the lessons during our Old Fashioned Traditions Program (when the children visit England at the Cabin) is the history of the Christmas Card. Please pass the word and send us any cards you no longer need.

## BARBERVILLE PIONEER SETTLEMENT BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Dennis Thomas - President  
Jimmy Rogers - Vice President  
Diana Johnson - Secretary  
Joe Underhill - Treasurer  
Joan Carter  
John Case  
Dell Hoyt  
John Kern  
Emily Mieras  
Frank Paulhamus  
Richard Schuler  
Erwin Wunderlich

**STAFF MEMBERS**  
Executive Director —Debra West  
Associate Director—Gudrun Benson  
Customer Service and Reservation  
Specialist — Lynn Deland  
Events, Sponsorships & Marketing —  
Lori King-Kocsis

**Facilities & Field Trip Assistants—**  
Stan Arel  
Heinrich Hole  
Jack Whitman  
Su Edgar  
Sam Edgar

**SEASONAL TEAM MEMBERS**  
Lyle Behnke  
Joanna and Jonathan Demarest  
Richard and Rhonda McCutcheon  
John and Lucy Rasmussen  
Page Harris and Bob Pavlechko

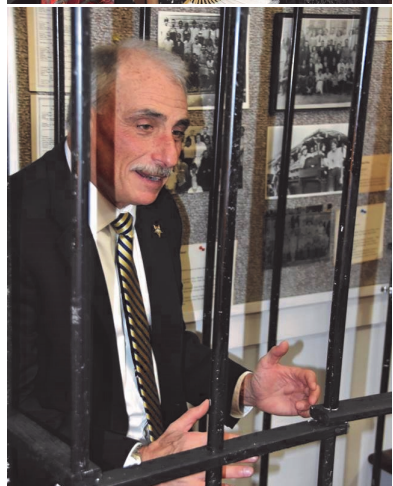




# ROARING TWENTIES PARTY

Centennial Celebration  
Barberville Central High School 1919—2019

It was a great time at the 100th Anniversary celebration of the Barberville Central High School. The Roaring Twenties came to life on Saturday, January 19th, 2019 as the Volusia County Sheriff & Deputies reenacted a raid on the Speakeasy at the Pioneer Settlement and arrested some of our most prominent guests.





# Ambassador's Club Members

## LIFETIME MEMBERS

Richard & Lou Ellen Hagstrom  
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  
Frank & Jean Underhill  
Marilyn & Rich Breeze  
Sarah D Abrahamson  
Harriet B. Bolin

## ADVOCATE MEMBERS

Hagstrom & Son, Inc  
Richard Hagstrom Ferneries  
Underhill Ferneries  
Hidden Valley Park

## SMALL BUSINESS MEMBERS

Blackwater Inn & Williams Landing

## PATRON MEMBERS

Gretchen & Dennis Delman  
Heinrich Hole  
Jim Schrader & Louise Stedman  
Jim, Lori & Ernest Rogers  
Rick & Bonnie Stam  
Dennis Thomas and Family  
Joe & Sandra Underhill  
John Case  
Rick & Pam Rintz  
John & Carol Izzo  
Mary Jo Errico  
Joan Carter  
John Kern  
Erwin & Susan Wunderlich  
Dell & Helen Hoyt  
Emily Mieras

*Members have special benefits.  
For Membership info visit our  
website or give us a call.*



Special Thanks to our  
Photographer  
Gail Carson  
for the great pictures!





## Music, Dance & Living History Festival

# Spring Frolic

15th Annual

Saturday, April 6th, 2019 9am-9pm  
Sunday, April 7th, 2019 9am-4pm



Arts & Crafts too!

**\$10 Adults \$5 Children 6-12**  
**Members & Parking FREE**

Seven Stages of Acoustic Music—Folk, Bluegrass, Old-Time, Celtic and Gospel

200+ Musical Performers - Music Workshops - Jam Tents

Old Fashioned Barn & Contra Dancing - Living History Demonstrations

Hand Made Arts & Crafts Vendors - Business and Direct Sales Vendors

Visit the Farm - Find the Hidden Fiddles - Silent Auction

Antique Car Show (Saturday Only)

Tour Volusia County's Oldest Brick Residence the Joseph Underhill House

Dance in the 100-year-old Barberville Central High School

Enjoy the Settlement's famous BBQ Pork and other food items

## Many thanks to our 2019 Annual Event Sponsors!



**A. G. Pifer Construction Company Inc., All Volusia & Flagler Heating & Air,  
Barberville Yard Art Emporium, Boulevard Tire Center,  
Blackwater Inn and William's Landing, EO Painter Printing Company,  
Florida Credit Union, Friends of Florida Folk, Gram's Kitchen, Hidden Valley Park,  
Kaiser Buick GMC Truck, Mainstreet Community Bank,  
Milzarch Architect—Jerry Mills, Page Insurance Agency,  
Pierson Family Restaurant, Total Comfort, WCA**

Contact Lori at [events@pioneersettlement](mailto:events@pioneersettlement) for more information about becoming a sponsor and supporting our events year round.



Isn't this class of eager young minds just calling out to you?

We are in great need of **field trip volunteers!** We offer flexible hours and free training and promise you will find it to be a rewarding experience.



**You can help us keep the old traditions alive for our children and grandchildren.**

Field trips are Monday – Friday 9am - 1pm. Once a week or once a month can be a big help! We can assist with period correct attire. Must be able to pass a background check. Contact us 386-749-2959 or [events@pioneersettlement.org](mailto:events@pioneersettlement.org)

**Did you see us on TV?**

On January 10th we were on Fox 35 News Good Day Orlando live with David Martin. It was so much fun!



Then Caitlin Wilson, Reporter from News 13 Florida on a Tankful was here last week from Spectrum News 13 !



And...coming up soon...we are being featured in the award winning "What's Up in West Volusia" video series!



**Help is needed for Field Trips & Events**

**We will train you**

**CONTACT LORI**

**386-749-2959 or**

**email**

**[events@Pioneersettlement.org](mailto:events@Pioneersettlement.org)**



**Second Saturdays at the Settlement**

**Join us every Second Saturday for Living History Demonstrations and Workshops of the Traditional Arts, Crafts and Trades.**

Programs and fees vary month to month see our website our Facebook page or call for details.

Admission \$8 adults, \$7 for Seniors  
\$4 for Children ages 6-12

FREE for Members and  
Children 5 and Under

Sponsored by:



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





# BARBERVILLE

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



\*A COPY OF THE OFFICIAL REGISTRATION # CH15101 AND FINANCIAL INFORMATION MAY BE OBTAINED FROM THE DIVISION OF CONSUMER SERVICES BY CALLING TOLL-FREE (800) 435-7352 WITHIN THE STATE. REGISTRATION DOES NOT IMPLY ENDORSEMENT, APPROVAL OR RECOMMENDATION BY THE STATE

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To help off-set the costs of this preservation project we are introducing the “Keep the Still Standing” fundraising campaign. Estimated total costs for the tear down and rebuild of the roof structures and the deck are just shy of \$17,000.00. Of course our plans include keeping the authenticity of the structure and utilizing as many original materials as possible. Your contributions are needed now to help us fulfill our mission of preserving and protecting this very unique and rare piece of local history. Our predecessors who rallied to keep this Turpentine Still here in Volusia County realized its historical significance. Now it is up to us with your help to carry on with the role of its continued preservation.

Won't you help us “Keep the Still Standing” so we can all continue to share this important piece of history with your children, grandchildren and generations to come? It's more than just a still. It represents a lost and nearly forgotten way of life. Thank you in advance of your support.

*Debra*

*Cut on the line below and mail to us with your contribution. Barberville Pioneer Settlement PO Box 6 Barberville, FL 32105*

**Yes, I want to support this campaign with my contribution of \$ \_\_\_\_\_**

Name \_\_\_\_\_  
Phone \_\_\_\_\_  
Email \_\_\_\_\_  
Card #: \_\_\_\_\_  
Exp. Date: \_\_\_\_\_ CVV: \_\_\_\_\_  
Signature: \_\_\_\_\_  
Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
City: \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_  
Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Please make checks payable to Barberville Pioneer Settlement.

## KEEP THE STILL STANDING

