

From the Settlement Desk

We Survived the Pandemic—And Never Has Normal Looked so Nice.

COVID-19 hit us hard! “Us” being the Settlement, the state of Florida, the nation, and the world. 601k deaths in America—and over 37k here in FL—, to say we survived the pandemic is to count our blessings. But COVID has affected us in more ways than just the virus itself. Shut-downs and quarantines have weakened our economic immune systems. We see it in empty grocery store shelves, in rising consumer prices, and in shuttered small businesses. Small independent museums, like us, suffered too. All the school districts in the region canceled field trips last year (Can you imagine your childhood and going an entire grade level without a single field trip?!). 2020 saw our youth admissions drop from around 11,000 to around 1000!

Also, we had to cancel, postpone, or scale-back a lot of our joc-und, fund-raising festivals and events. And some of those that we were able to launch, Mother Nature was less than cooperative. The 2020 Spring Frolic was scratched completely. The 44th annual Fall Country Jamboree was postponed and became our inaugural January Jamboree in 2021. And while the January Jamboree was successful (and a lot of fun if we do say so ourselves), the frigid temperatures of January were considerably colder than autumnal November and that was reflected in the attendance.

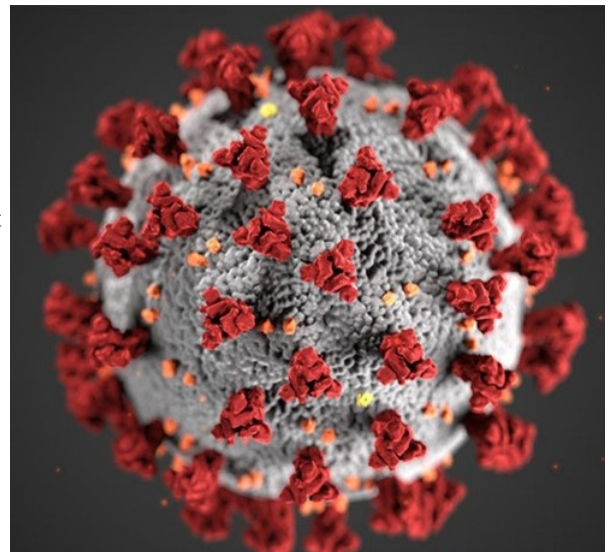
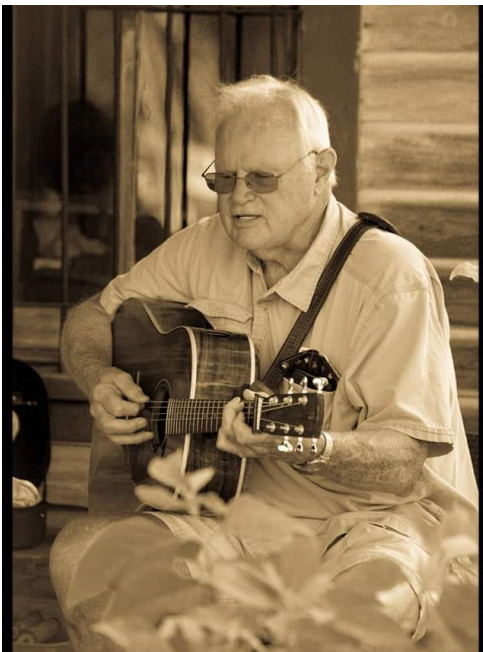
The 2021 Spring Frolic, too, was not without weather complications. Saturday started out clement and delightful. However, by the afternoon a nasty piece of weather moved in and sat on top of us until late

Sunday. It dumped something like 3 inches of rain in 24 hours.

We canceled Sunday entirely due to this monsoon-level rain event.

We have been able to survive as an organization despite the best efforts of COVID and the weather. That isn't to say that we aren't struggling though.

A return to normality is on the horizon, however.



With vaccinations going up and new COVID cases going down, we are hopeful that more and more visitors will come out to enjoy the Settlement. It is customary to see a sharp decline in attendance as we head into summer. Self-guided walk-ins decrease as snowbirds head north. Field trips all but stop while schools close for summer vacation. And events are put on hold—mostly because it is too freaking hot! However, we are already starting to see a seasonal high in walk-ins as well record numbers of social clubs and large groups booking docent guided tours! It’s pretty obvious we all just want to get out of the house!

Moving forward, we are busy working on our upcoming events and programs. We have already had some Volusia County schools make field trip reservations for the next school year, which is really exciting after not having school districts visit us for a year and a half.

Also exciting is our new Animal Sponsorship program. You can help us help our animals by sponsoring a specific animal at a base level. For example, you can be an “Animal Lover” for Sancho, our LaMancha goat, for only \$25. Your money will go to offset the cost of food and vet care for Sancho. Also, you’ll score some sweet swag! “Animal Lover” levels are \$25 and comes with a sponsorship certificate with your animal’s picture and a Barberville Pioneer Settlement keychain. “Animal Keepers” are a \$50 level which receives all that and 2 single day tickets to visit the Settlement (even during events)! “Animal Caretaker” levels are \$100. Caretakers get all the swag as a Keeper plus a sweet T-shirt!

We are also very excited about our upcoming event season which will kick off September 4th with our Labor Day Celebration. This one-day event will also reconvene our 1st and 3rd Saturdays “Playing on the Porches” with live music and fun. September 4th will be a free event with NO ADMISSION FEE! Our summer kitchen will be open, and we will host a community yard sale. If you are interested in setting up a yard sale booth, visit our website. www.pioneersettlement.org/event-schedule

After September 4th, our next big event is the 45th annual Fall Country Jamboree! This the largest event we do every year. This year it’ll fall on the weekend of November 6th and 7th. We’ll have hundreds of musicians, arts and craft vendors, food, historical demonstrators, storytellers, and much more!



Sponsor Tamale the Donkey, Ollie the Goat , or any of our many many other loving fur-friends!

This December we have two events to look forward to: Our Florida Christmas

Remembered on Dec. 11th and an inaugural Yule Time Train Show on Dec. 18th. Santa will at both these events. Christmas Remembered is for kids aged 1 to 99, with make and take crafts, food & cookies, and Mr. & Mrs. Claus with their whole host of elves! Our Yule Time Train show will feature our improved model railroad exhibition and a swap meet for train & model railroad collectors and enthusiasts.

So, as you can see, while 2020 affected us all, we’re hopeful and excited for this trend toward normality. We do implore you, if you are in a position where you can donate money or volunteer time, we really could use your help to right the ship. Thank you!



Crank’n A’s Car Show at the Spring Frolic

2021 Calendar of Special Events

Sept 4th	Labor Day Celebration <small>Free Admission</small>
Nov. 6th & 7th	45th Annual Fall Country Jamboree <small>- Members Free</small>
Dec 11th	Florida Christmas Remembered <small>- Members Free</small>
Dec. 18th	Yule Time Train Show - <small>Members Free</small>

2021 Calendar of On-Going Events

Playing on the Porches— Reconvening on Sept 4th, every first Saturday & third Saturday of the month we will have live music and historical demonstrators.

Rug Hookers meets on the fourth Saturday

Sincere Farewells

Saying good-bye is never easy. In fact, it is often the most difficult thing in the world to do. We have had to say these parting words a lot in 2021. The end of spring and beginning of summer is always the time we say “So Long” to our itinerant work campers. We couldn’t do what we do without these nomadic volunteers. This year we said thank you, farewell, and safe travels to Jim and Anne-Marie; Steve and Carrie; and Jim and Laurie. To Rhonda and Richard McCutcheon, we said thank you, safe travels, and see y’all later as they have committed to return for their 4th season with us in October.



Debra Ann West, Executive Director

2014-2021

Another recent farewell we had to proclaim went to our long-time executive director, Debra Ann West. Debra was the captain at the helm of the Settlement for 7 years. She recently began a new chapter in her career when she was offered the position of Charitable Giving Coordinator at The Neighborhood Center of West Volusia. We all miss her here at The Settlement, and we wish her only the best. It is no surprise that she transitioned within the field of public service to that of Charitable Giving Coordinator. Anyone who knows her, knows she has the most generous heart.

We also had to say “Happy Trails” to long-serving board member, Frank Paulhamus who announced his retirement. Serenity and Good-Health, Frank. Mr. Paulhamus’s experience, wisdom, and presence will be missed at the board meetings. Try to leave some fish in the lake for the rest of us.

Sadly, we have had two recent final good-byes. These are the kind of good-byes that we wish we didn’t have to say. Ever-giving and talented Margie LeRoe and Stout-Hearted Frank Underhill both recently went to Paradise to be with the Lord. Margie LeRoe was a talented musician and life-long supporter of the arts and the Settlement. Frank Underhill was an oak among palms and previous board member. We know they no longer feel pain and that someday we shall see them again. However, until that day, there will be an absence in our hearts. Rest in



Frank Paulhamus,

Happy Retirement

Peace, Margie LeRoe and Frank Underhill. We are deeply saddened by their passing.



Margie LeRoe, May 9, 1944– May 21, 2021

Rest in Peace



Frank Underhill, April 5, 1941– June 14, 2021

Rest in peace

Pioneer Settlement Goes to the Movies

Did you know that the Barberville Pioneer Settlement is a movie star? But don't worry; we won't go all Hollywood on y'all. Many filmmakers over the years have fallen in love with the Settlement and used it as a setting in their movies and projects. Here are a few of them for your binge-watching pleasure:

Last year, in 2020, Jon Anderson, Rachel Wright, Oliver Peters, and Joseph Stone won two Emmys for their documentary, *W.A.S.P. :A Wartime Experiment in Wo-men Power*. Their documentary was partially filmed in the Barberville Central High School. Even more recently—back in March— 14-year-old filmmaker, Candido Soto III, shot his short film, *Axe Soup*, at the Lewis cabin. *Axe Soup* was nominated for two categories in June at the 2021 Orlando Independent Filmmakers Escape Challenge, including Best Original Story. Hopefully, we will be able to host a screening of Candido's film once it is released to theaters.

In 2015, the biopic film on Walt Disney, *Walt Before Mickey*, was partially filmed here at the schoolhouse. And the 1989 Brooke Shields and Timothy Dalton action/adventure movie, *Brenda Starr*, used our tour boat, *The Pastime*, as a vehicle prop (prior to the Settlement's acquisition and dry docking of her).

The Barberville Pioneer Settlement does not limit itself to the Silver Screen. We also have been featured on the small screen. Parents of toddlers and young children will most likely be familiar with *Blippi!* Back in February, Blippi and his crew shot all over the Settlement for their YouTube program. We have also produced our own YouTube content. If you have not already seen it, go to our YouTube channel or our Facebook page and check out our *History Matters* series.

How many movies or TV shows starring the Settlement have you seen? Get your popcorn popping and find a comfy seat on the couch. Because you might have some watching to do! And the next time someone is name-dropping, you can butt in and tell them you know a movie star too: The Barberville Pioneer Settlement!



Candido Soto sets the scene with his leading lady, Alanna Breault. Page 4



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