

# ARCHER HISTORICAL SOCIETY

## Whistle Stop News

### Success: The Vintage Market Sale

Despite the dismal forecast we were able to have a successful first time Archer Vintage Market. Part of our success was due to the Vendors who toughed it out in the first few hours. Praise also goes to the City of Archer Public Works with special thanks to Brandon and his sons who were on the job early to set up two tents and six tables for our visitors and AHS information booth. We believe this will become a steady and fast event for AHS and the city of Archer. We would like to thank every one who attended the Archer Historical Society fundraiser for the restoration of the Archer Historical Depot Museum. The continuing work could not move forward without your support.



### “Museum News”

**Brenna Lee** is our Museum curator. For many years she has kept the Depot Museum doors open. For up and coming projects volunteers are always needed. One project will be painting the inside of the ticket office: If you would like to help contact by e-mail [archerhistorical@gmail.com](mailto:archerhistorical@gmail.com) or drop by the museum. Become a member. We have many projects and will be anticipating the need for your help.

**Next Archer Vintage Market December 7th,  
Sat 9-3:30**

### MONTHLY MEETING NOVEMBER 21st Thursday 7pm

#### Guest Speaker : Nick West

We are pleased to announce our guest speaker Nick West, a longtime Archer resident. He is an accomplished author of four books. *The Great Southern Circus, The Long Road Home, The Sandspur Special and To Light a New Fire*. West was born in Gainesville, Florida and grew up on a family farm near Archer, Florida. He attended Gainesville High School and the University of Florida. He is a veteran of the United States Navy, and together with his family, has owned and operated a landscape business in the area for over twenty years. He and his wife Kay and their children, Tammy, John and Christy, along with their families all live on the farm where he grew up near Archer. Autographed books will be available by the author. Held at the Archer United Methodist Church 17121 SW 37th Ave. Archer. Free. Light refreshments will be served.

# Archer's Historical Bauknight House

## **The Bauknight House** circa 1850

Written by Ann Green

When the first cross-state railroad ran in front of this home in 1859, it was a Florida-style cracker house. John and Matilda Fleming came from Laurens, SC in the 1850's to Wacahoota. Their sons John and Sam soon moved to Archer and opened a general store and bought land. They actively engaged in the local political scene and Sam and John were on the first city council. In 1878, youngest daughter Ida married Charles Wesley Bauknight, a prosperous merchant whose parents, Jacob and Mary also hailed from Laurens, SC and settled first at Micanopy. The newlyweds were given this home, where they reared 2 daughters. About 1900, they added the beautiful turret rooms and the wrap around porch, making this a showplace in our little village. Charles Bauknight was also a merchant and farmer along with his brother Frank. We are told that Mr. Bauknight's buggy shed was one of the early schools in Archer. The small cottage across the street was built for Junius Jackson, a black man who worked for Mr. Bauknight and was a teamster, which is a person who drove a team of horses, mules, or oxen for delivering merchandise in and out of Archer; as the railroad had created a significant commercial center. You have heard location, location,



location. Well Archer sits 10 miles from Newberry which is north and would have been a day's journey up and back. The same for Bronson to the West; Williston to the South; Gainesville to the East. Junius, according to the early census was apparently a free black man born in Alabama. He and his wife, Emma, had no children and she

worked as a servant at the Magnolia Hotel that was owned by Seigfried Frei. Emma was known for her good fried chicken and they often met the train at the passenger depot to sell fried chicken there. The story is that they always sold out, because what the travelers did not buy, the locals did. Later the Jackson cottage

became the office of Archibald McNeill.

About 1923, the beautiful home sold to Archibald and Clara McNeill when they came to Archer with their 7 children. Mr. McNeill had Naval Stores and was a land speculator and operated a dairy. Their large family contributed greatly to the cultural (literary society) as well as educationally and were very active in the Presbyterian Church. The years moved on and if Laurel Hill could talk we would have volumes as to the positive contributions made by the Flemings, Bauknights, McNeills, and later, Ogborns and Wheelers. Today this beautiful home is a showcase and we still lovingly call it the "Bauknight House".

*We hope to have in every Whistle Stop News a story which highlights places and people of Archer. If you have a story of interest that you would like to share please contact us at [archerhistorical@gmail.com](mailto:archerhistorical@gmail.com)*

*Vintage Market :A Big thanks to these volunteers.*

Melanie Wells  
Brenna Lee  
Mary Bennett  
Diane Bjornseth  
Green/Ann & Gabe

Kasikie/Linda & Bob  
Joyce Lewandowskie  
Linda McMahon  
Frank Roberts  
Wheeler/Christie&Wade

**The Archer Vintage Market went well in spite of the forecast. Between drops of rain a steady stream of visitors came and bought many treasures.**



### **MARK YOUR CALENDARS NOW**

4th Annual Art at the Archer Depot Festival is coming March 14th, 2020

Art at the Archer Depot is coming to Archer, Florida a small town with a big heart. This is a family friendly festival with a parade, bounce house, children's art activities, all day music, dancing in the streets as well as food vendors, artists and craftsmen showing and selling their wares, and information booths of all kinds. All happening around the historic Archer Depot in downtown Archer. There will be a wonderful display of artwork by students at the Archer Elementary School along with a balloon man and magician as well as the Child ID program at the Masonic Lodge. For a vendor application visit [www.archerhistoricalsociety.org](http://www.archerhistoricalsociety.org)

**HOPE TO SEE YOU THERE!**





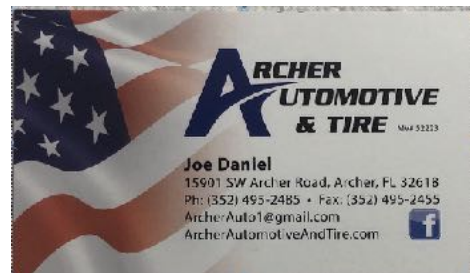
**Archer Historical Society**

**P.O.Box 654**

**Archer Florida 32618**

**NAME**

RENT THIS SPACE  
\$8.00



13046 SW FL-45 Archer, FL 32618 (352) 495-9090

**Annual dues are \$10 per person.  
Send items to Linda McMahon,  
editor at the above address, or email  
[lindamcm22@bellsouth.net](mailto:lindamcm22@bellsouth.net)**