

# ARCHER HISTORICAL SOCIETY

## Whistle Stop News

### THE DEPOT TICKET OFFICE RENOVATION

Renovation of the Depot Office began last month thanks to the contribution of Mary Bennett our most valuable member. Without her contribution we could not have gone forward with this needed project.

It was carefully thought through. The first task was finding what was above the false ceiling. Did the bead board continue to meet the old ceiling? Was the original ceiling also bead worked?

We took many pictures and several board members climbed a 18ft ladder to look through what appears to be an exterior window placed before the ticket office was added.

The process of moving display cases, a Victrola and iron pot belly stove, packing fragile items including paper files was a major task. Several days Brenna Lee and Joyce Lewandowski sorted through cabinets, careful to pack them in air tight boxes to store them further within the Depot. This project began the first week of September.

September 17 the false ceiling began to come down. The baseboards were also removed. A thorough cleaning and washing the walls and window sills was then completed.

A decision of matching white wall and ceiling was made. For the windows, doors, wood hanging file, stairs and window table were given a warm brown, more consistent with the original wood that was probably left natural in the past.

Then in late September the painting was begun and finished by October 1st. Again without the generous gift from *Mary Bennett* this could not have happened. Mary has been instrumental in the success we have had at the *Art at the Depot* and our new event *Vintage Market Sale*. Her fresh ideas and gentle nudging has kept AHS moving forward. Mary Bennett we thank you!



*August 15th* Moving and Cleaning

*August 17th* Ceiling Floor Boards Down



*September 28th* Painting Depot- Project Finished!

## DISCOVERING OUR DEPOT MUSEUM ARTIFACTS

**QUESTION:** This device, found recently in a local antique store, was a tool used widely over a century ago in North Florida's turpentine industry, an industry that was second only to citrus in commercial value.

Can you guess what it was called and what it was used for?

**ANSWER:** This tool was called a "Turpentine Hack and Shave" and relates to a class of instruments used to tap (or "chip") the bark of pine trees and harvest crude turpentine gum, which exuded from the resulting "cat face" wounds. The "face" was a series of V-shaped slashes made by the hacker, aligning down the tree trunk in order to direct the flow of sap toward the bottom of the face, where it was collected in terra cotta "Herty cups." The collected gum was then distilled to produce multipurpose "naval stores" needed to caulk holes in wooden boats and protect their rigging from salt water.

The turpentine industry was particularly onerous to the men who

tapped the trees and harvested the resin. They lived in isolated camps and were often staffed with leased convicts obliged to work under a penal servitude (peonage) system. (It was this peonage that Archer's resident, Frederick C. Cubberly, sought restitution and launched his career as U.S.

District Attorney under President

Theodore Roosevelt.) The turpentine gum industry in North Florida flourished throughout the late 1800s but by the 1920s was replaced with timber harvesting.

The featured tool was purchased in Gainesville and might have been made by a local blacksmith in Archer. Archer residents, Monroe Venable and Archibald McNeill were both "naval store" entrepreneurs, and it was likely that Fred Cubberly knew them well. Also, other Archer residents, Carl, Buren, and Harvey Brice, operated a large sawmill and wood treatment plant, which burned down in the 1950s, and put an end to Archer's timber business.

by Bill Zettler



Cat Face and  
Herty Cups

Bill and Carol Zettler has donated the above Hack and Shave to AHS. A unique and important artifact for the Archer Museum. Thank you for your invaluable donation. In the near future it can be seen in the *Turpentine Industry* section of the museum.

## A LITTLE HISTORY ABOUT OUT DEPOT

Many tales are told how our Depot Museum came to be. How I wish the witches of Darden Hammock would tell us the story but, as of this writing that has not happened.

We know that when the first train, Mr. Yulee's RR, rolled through our village in 1859, there was a warehouse over on McDowell Street where you can still feel the bump in the street where the rail crossed over and we think it was built as the rails were being laid about 1856.

Early 1890's another rail line came through Archer and went south toward Williston and another warehouse/depot was built up the track to the East on our present site and a ticket office was added.

The years rolled along and the trains stopped running and the old building that

actually put Archer on the map was vacant and lonely.

In 1977, the Archer Historical Society was organized and the Seaboard RR gave us the depot. We organized with 78 enthusiastic charter members who were anxious to have a museum in order to embrace not only the railroad but, to preserve and protect those things peculiar to Archer history.

The ticket office today is our Depot Museum.. Watch for our Grand Opening!



## VINTAGE MARKET SALE OCTOBER 17TH 2020

Our 3rd Vintage Market Sale will be held on the grounds of the Archer Community Center October 17th Saturday 2020 from 9am -3:30pm

We will have ample spacing for the vendors following CDC rules. There will be vendors selling numerous vintage items from pottery, toys, books, homemade jams, furniture, tools and lots more.



This event was a great success benefiting the Archer community and the Archer Historical Society. Church groups are invited along with community groups.

There will be food and refreshments available.

Information and application can be found on our Web Page [www.ArcherHistoricalSociety.org](http://www.ArcherHistoricalSociety.org).

[ArcherHistorical@gmail.com](mailto:ArcherHistorical@gmail.com) or Call Linda 352.374.8240





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happen!

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We always welcome story's and pictures about the history of the area. If you have one, don't hesitate to contact Linda McMahon at the above address, or email [lindamcm22@bellsouth.net](mailto:lindamcm22@bellsouth.net) Phone 352.374.8240  
Member Dues are \$10.00

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