

ARCHER HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Whistle Stop News : Happy New Year

The Farmers Market at the Depot on Tuesdays from 3pm to 7pm is still going very well. We have completed Eight months of weekly markets and if you haven't attended you are missing the best opportunity we have come up with to build community.

The vendors like coming to Archer and we are overjoyed with the people that come to the Market and come in the Museum to learn some of Archer's rich history. Our "trainman" Jonny Nelson invites kids in to see the electric train display and he shows some of them how to operate the trains and they are thrilled with that.

The vendors pay a \$10 donation for vendor space and they think that is very reasonable comparing with other places. From the beginning the committee felt that bringing visitors in the Museum was tantamount to buyers coming to the Market and being a fund raiser was not a motivating factor.

However, the funds raised has gone into the General Fund and has been been spent on depot restoration. One big project that had been talked about since reopening the Museum was putting 3m on the windows to keep pictures, maps and other artifacts from fading from sunlight and that will also save on the electric bill. That project is complete.

Other projects were picture/map restoration. Overall, the Market has been a great experience

and we could always use a few more hands on Tuesdays.

We are so appreciative of Darla Eberst of Beltz Portable Toilets that has placed a unit next to the building. Our vendors and guests are appreciative too! We like to visit with the locals that come in and say, "I always wondered what was inside this building" or "I never knew that about Archer".

Come to the Market, you may learn something about Archer that you didn't know or find that you would like to buy from a local farmer that works in the cold and heat so we have good things to eat!



Vegetables



Strawberries



Eggs by the Dozen

by Ann Green

Whistle Stop News Content

- Farmers Market Update: Ann Green
- History of Axe Heads : Linda McMahon
- Archers Ghost Dwellings: Bill Zettler PhD

Archer Historical Society will be organizing a membership drive in the next month and will have new groupings.

You will be notified by mail and email of the changes. We hope this will make it easier for new and old members alike.

Thank you for your patience. AHS

At the Museum - History of the Axe Head

The Axe head has been around for a very long time, 1.5 million years. Our ancestors were using stone, shaping them into a wedges until 6,000 BC. Later they attached these to antler or bone with rawhide. The increased extension created leverage when swung and thus far more power.

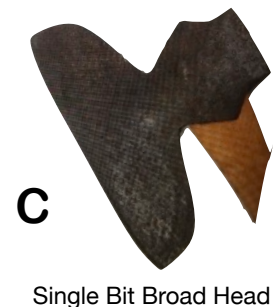
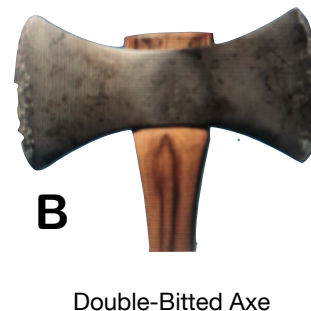
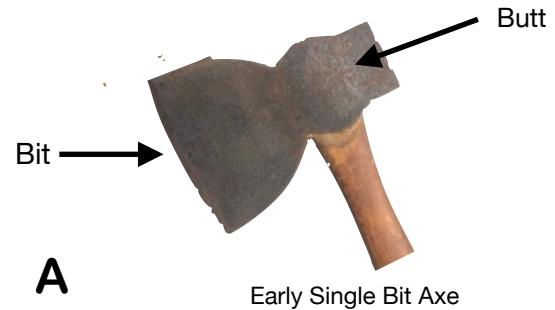
Much later the axe head itself began changing shape. The immigration of Europeans to the Americas played a large role in its development. With the various tradesmen came a need for multiple patterns. They needed tools that suited their trade. At one time there were over 300 patterns being sold. The heads were made by one company and the handles from another. The handle too were shaped to fit the tool. They were made from Ash. The wood grain with stood its heavy task.

Several examples has been gifted to our museum by Dr. Bill Zettler. We thank him for these wonderful examples dating from the mid 1800's to the 1940's. Single headed (Bit) to Double sided (Bit) axe, Broad Edge Axe both used for (Hewing) shaping natural rounded logs to flat sided for use as timber.

Single -Bitted Ax: (A) These are the most familiar shape, used even today for "felling" trees. One side is the chopping edge and other side is called the 'butt'. The 'butt' end through time has changed, becoming more robust mainly for leverage and accuracy. The wobble is lessened with this added weight with the overhead swing of the Axe. This became known as the American Axe and this adaptation has been copied through out the world.

Double-Bitted Ax: (B) Two sided one edge is sharpened to razor for chopping the other duller for cutting limbs and knots.

Broad Edge Ax (single bitted) (C): They were also used for shaping logs or hewing. This unique axe head is bevelled on one side and flat on the other.



Come and see these examples on display at the Museum with other interesting wood tools of the past.

*3-7pm Every Tuesday
With our Farmers Market and its fresh produce.*

We always need help with our newsletter, growing displays and events.

by Linda McMahon

Archer's Ghost Dwellings

Archer, once known as “Darden’s Hammock,” began as a small cluster of log cabins. Each was elevated 1.5 to 3 feet off the ground by wooden, limestone or brick piers and had wide porches and breezeways to facilitate cooling. Although none of Archer’s original pine log structures still exist, similar “Florida cracker” ones are on display at the Dudley Farm Historic State Park in Newberry and the Morningside Nature Center in Gainesville. The latter is a 300-square-foot structure now referred to as the Hogan cabin. It was built by an Irish immigrant in the 1840s and patterned after the “saddlebag” and “dog trot” pioneer dwellings typical of Appalachia and the British Isles homelands of the Scots-Irish.



Hogan's Cabin Morningside Nature
Nature Center Gainesville

As local populations increased, more elaborate frame buildings began appearing, including Moses Levy’s home at Pilgrimage Plantation near Micanopy. This was a 20-foot-high two-story, 36 x 24-foot building with six rooms, two small hallways, 18 shuttered windows, and a gabled roof. *‘Moses Levy mansion as described by C. S. Monaco (2005) by the Louisiana State University Press, Baton Rouge, LA.’* Unfortunately, was torched in 1835 when the Second Seminole Indian War began.

Later, but before the Civil War began, Moses’ son, David (née Levy) Yulee, built a similar mansion on his Cotton Wood Plantation near Archer. This was an eight-room, two-story weather-boarded structure painted white with green shutters and a gabled roof. Unfortunately, it destroyed many decades ago.

Following the Civil War, and abetted by the railroad, Archer experienced a building boom in response to the lucrative citrus, cotton, turpentine, and lumber industries. The result was a plethora of different building styles, which have been described in C. W. Ewing’s comprehensive treatise of 1997 (*Historic Archer: A Tour Through the Past*). Unlike the aforementioned cracker dwellings and the Levy/Yulee mansions, many of these are still standing and occupied.

One of the first of these was of the French Second Empire style built by W. B. Lipsey in 1879. It was 2.5 stories high and, at the time, was considered to be the largest and most modernly furnished home in town. The C. W. Bauknight and J. C. Neal residences with their wrap-around porches and gazebo-like structures represent Victorian architecture. Likewise, the local iconic Bethlehem Presbyterian and Methodist churches with their tall windows, steeply pitched roofs, bell towers and inset gabled decorations exemplify this style of architecture.

Two other buildings worthy of note are the Archer Depot and the Masonic Lodge, both located on Main Street. The latter, built in 1894, was used as a general store, and is typical of commercial buildings of the period. The depot, which houses the Archer Historical Society’s museum, was built in 1893-1900, replacing the original depot built in 1856.



Moses Mansion

by Bill Zettler PhD



Porta Potties
Call Darla 352.317.2527
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FL45 Archer, Florida

Volunteers Needed

Research
Cataloging
Organizing Items
Photography
Preserving artifacts
Docents

ArcherHistorical@gmail.com
Call Linda 352.374.8240



Come to the Depot and see our new exhibit
Tuesdays 3-7pm Our Locomotive Captain's are
Jonny Nelson and Bob Kasiki.
They may even let you run the trains!



Rafael Villanueva
Software Engineer- Web
and Mobile Developer
Over 15years of
experience developing
custom web applications.
Call: 646.247.2131



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