

Dudley Farm Journal

Dudley Farm a National Historic Landmark

Volume 28, Issue 2

March - April 2024

When Phillip Benjamin Harvey Dudley, Sr. died in 1881, Dudley Jr. known as Ben, built the farmhouse to accommodate his growing family that grew to eight girls and four boys. He added a general store, kitchen, stables, smokehouse, dairy and canning shed, stable, milking room, outhouses, corn crib, tobacco barn, chicken houses, cane syrup house and furnace and hay barn. Of the original 21 structures, 18 remain. They are cared for, kept in original condition, by the Florida Park Service, Division of Recreation and Parks.



“We took pride in what we had; took care of it. That is what I still want for this place.”

~ Myrtle Dudley

OUR MISSION STATEMENT

Our Mission is to enhance the visitors experience through supporting preservation and through education at Dudley Farm, a one of a kind 1880's farm.

STORIES and FOLK TALES


'Stories and Folk Tales' were told, and enjoyed by many, at our park on March 30th. It was an evening event with tales from a Trapper-Trader and his adventures and stories from a Civil War soldier. We heard fascinating stories about the Cedar Key Light Station and other fun stories.

Story telling, what fun! To continue with the story telling lets think about All Fools Day, April 1st. which has been referred to as "the most light day of the year". April Fool's Day has historically been "a day of laughter, celebrating life by throwing away evil thoughts" with the custom of playing practical jokes, pranks and hoaxes.

It's a day when nobody should actually be offended while friends and family celebrate foolishness, sometimes at their expense. This fun has been celebrated each year as far back as ancient times (too ancient to track). It was first recorded in 1392 but believed to have existed before that.

Some have taken it to the extreme, here's a couple of examples: In 1976, the BBC announced that on that special day the gravity of earth would be reduced and whoever jumped would lightly float on the air. We wonder how many actually tested that prediction, not realizing the date! Here's another one: A travel site offered a trip to Mars (yup! the red planet), for a specified period, had anyone checked the date? And, when Google launched Gmail on the eve of April Fools Day, many thought it was a prank, just too good to be true!

It seems that the mischievousness of this old fashioned 'fun day' has gone by the wayside, basically forgotten. Though playfully naughty, it is harmless fun!

How about we attempt to revive this fun day. I doubt that many of the younger generation have experienced being 'fooled' as our older generation enjoyed back then. I intend to think up a few fun 'pranks' to play on my friends. You had better watch out! 

The Soil Sisters of the Heritage Plant Nursery presents their **SPRING PLANT SALE Saturday, April 27th, from 9:00 to 2:00 at Dudley Farm Historic State Park**

Heritage plants, as those in the Dudley farmhouse gardens, native plants, pollinators, trees and shrubs.

This is the place to find healthy heritage and native plants in one location, at great prices.

It would not only take hours of travel to multiple locations to find what we offer, right here.

We are a part of the Friends of Dudley Farm's Citizens Support Organization. All proceeds support the Dudley Farm Historic State park. While at the park take a stroll through the historic and all original Dudley farmstead. Park admission is \$5. per vehicle.

The Presidents Note

We have had some beautiful days to enjoy all that has been in bloom at the park and also all over the area. Unfortunately, I limited how much time I can spend in the sun or even outside with my allergies, but I try to at least volunteer in the store. I should be able to fill in for some days in the store in the coming months. We have been coming up with some grand plans as a board and should have information for you all soon.

I wanted to share an interesting fact about volunteering. Look at the history of being a volunteer. The idea of giving of oneself for the benefit of others has its origins in early African associational life, which had a strong formative and moral basis. Different words are used in different cultures to describe this idea. One such word is kujitolea, the Kiswahili word for service, meaning the giving of oneself for the benefit of others. A similar concept, ubuntu, derived from Bantu culture, is cited to illustrate the historical origins of mutual aid and support in fostering humanness (botho/ubuntu). Similarly, in Botswana various terms are used to describe this ethos, including boithaopo, which describes volunteering and refers to the act of helping other people; tirelo (something that is done for others); or go thusa batho, which simply means helping others. Traditional cultural beliefs and practices encouraged collective responsibility, solidarity, and reciprocity; these ideas were fundamental to expressing an individual's humanity through his or her social relations with others. I bet that others could say volunteering started with them. But one thing I do know about volunteering is how it makes you feel about yourself. I believe your self-worth and attitude increases. You get to meet some really cool people. And if needed you could add it to your resume.

I was reading reviews for our beautiful park and every one of them said how wonderful it is. Everything from away from the traffic noise and under the cool trees, even in the summer, how much fun it was to pump water, and buying goodies in the commissary. They also spoke of the people (volunteers) that told them about the park. They appreciated all the knowledge and wouldn't have gotten as much out of the park if it wasn't for the volunteer's input. I am so proud of the volunteers that we have and remember we can always use more.

See you at the park.
Emelie

KIDS DAY ~ ALL ABOUT COTTON

Kids Days are so much fun! And, always very well attended. They're educational, geared to children but us adults relish learning these interesting things too. Knowing the original process, now it was done before automation, is an eyeopener for most of us. Grown-ups love Kids Day's too!

The All About Cotton event showed us what it is, where it comes from, why we grow it and what its uses are. We learned how cotton was harvested and how it's prepared 'carded' before spinning it into thread and then material.

Sea Island cotton was a very desirable and a lucrative crop grown by the Dudley's. It could only be grown under certain agricultural conditions which fortunately are present right here.

Now-a-days cotton growing is monitored very strictly to prevent the reinfestation of the boll weevil, a permit is required in many areas. Almost all parts of the cotton plant are used in some way, including the cottonseed, linters, stalks and hulls. It is both a food (parts processed for animals) and a fibre crop which is processed into yarn and fabric.



She is 'carding' the cotton.



This is carder



The fibers are spun ~ Meg spun fiber into thread and wove this sweater.



<- This is the Domestic Skills Group, all the material you see is cotton. Their clothes, the quilts and rag rugs they are working on. You are probably wearing cotton right now.



But this is a different fiber, it's wool.

<- Here is our Dudley Girl, Lilly, dressed from head to toe in cotton. Just like the children from years past whose clothes were made of two materials, cotton and wool (from sheep). Sweet Lilly is a lovely young lady now!

TRACTOR DAYS

Plowing up the Past ~ Plow Days at Dudley Farm is always a great event! These wonderfully generous tractor folk came from all over Florida and distant states as well. Their antique and vintage machines were on display for examination while others were busy at the farm, plowing and discing a field, preparing it for planting. This event honors agricultural innovations in methods and equipment. These tractor owners, with their big strong machines, volunteer to do this 'show' to educate the public on the historical significance of the tractor to agriculture. If you missed this years event, plan on enjoying it next year.

Thank you Larry Shannon and the entire North Florida Antique Tractor Club and their great tractor friends!

Larry Shannon wrote on Facebook to the members of the Florida Vintage Tractor Enthusiasts: "Plow days is over. We had a great turn out and had a great time. The news media was there both days taking pictures and interviewing tractor folks. Senior citizens rushing from tractor to tractor saying look at that one over there. There was a great success."

(pictures are from their Facebook page)



The Truth about the Dudley Ancestry

April 1, 2024 ~ Thomas Fasulo

During my 2021 research of the Dudley Family tree, which appeared in the last newsletter, there were a number of corrections and additions to the previous genealogy developed by Mary Ballou in 2002. With 19 years between the two genealogies, it's not surprising new and more correct information is available. However, one aspect which bewildered me was, while Mary Magdeline Thomson's - sometimes spelled Thompson - family could be traced back several more generations, Philip Benjamin Dudley's tree went back no further than him. So, on April 1st of last year I began an exhaustive investigation into P.B.H. Dudley's background.

In the 1700s, Georgia and the Carolinas were dumping grounds for convicts deported to Britain's American colonies. Might Ben Dudley Sr., have concealed his origins due to his forefathers being convicts? However, I could find no proof of this. But what I did find was a record of a Filippo Beniamino Dudleoni disembarking from the Italian merchant ship Pesce D'Aprile in Charleston, South Carolina, on April 1st, 1828, with custom records listing his age as 14. This means he was born in 1814, which is when our Philip Benjamin Dudley, Sr., was born.

Considering the southern American colonies were settled by Scottish and Irish immigrants who looked down upon people from southern European countries, the acceptance of a young man from Italy into that culture would be difficult. Filippo probably learned that very quickly, and so he probably quickly Anglicized his name from Filippo Beniamino Dudleoni to Philip Benjamin Dudley. He also probably tried to eliminate any reference to his Italian background. Which is why, unless you dig deeply as I did, we have no record of his family further back than himself.

This revelation has serious implications into our portrayal of the Dudley family. I won't list them all here, except for a very important one. The ladies who do the cooking in the kitchen during our festivals and other events, will now need to incorporate olive oil and Italian seasonings into their recipes. And to commemorate his arrival on our shores on April 1st, 1828, I suggest during every April festival they serve Italian sausage calzones and/or pizza to the living historians.

TIDBITS from the FARM

The sounds of music are heard throughout the park each Saturday and often at the farmstead on weekdays as well. The wonderful **Dudley Musicians** contribute their old timey tunes which enhances the visual atmosphere of this peaceful historic place.

The Rhode Island Red hens are now in the old, but renovated, turkey coop. More are on their way probably including a rooster.

Randy donated some new chicks. **Meg** is raising 4 baby Rhode Island Reds for Dudley. They were so cute when they arrived but growing so fast! We're hoping no roosters! “>>>>

The house is back together and once again open after the work to stabilize the chimney.

The lilies and amaryllis have started popping up in the front garden. Weeders are needed so we can stay ahead of the summer rush of unwanted plants. A little training is required so you know what to pull out.

The Soil Sisters are busy preparing for the **Spring Plant Sale on April 27th** Keep the date open, they might appreciate some help.



A note from Gloria Hughes:

It's been eight years since I took over as Editor-in-Chief of the Dudley Farm Journal, after Linda Rengarts passed. For a while before that, I assisted Linda by gathering information and articles for the Journal. Linda did an amazing job, I think of her often.

Now, I've made the decision that it's time for me to pass on this 'baton' to someone else. It's been an interesting experience and one that I never expected. Let me tell you how it came about:

At a meeting of the Board, we were outside, sitting between the Commissary and the Visitors Center, Art Wade, President of the CSO at that time, asked me if I would help Linda with the Journal. Well, in a nanosecond this went through my mind - I know nothing about the Journal - I know nothing about computers - I know nothing! And, out of my mouth came "Oh sure!".

Therefore, as Linda's 'helper', after she passed, I inherited the position of Editor-in-Chief of the Dudley Farm Journal.

Thanks for tolerating my misspelled words and mistakes, I've made some doozies! I'm looking forward to just sitting back and relaxing while reading future Dudley Farm Journals.

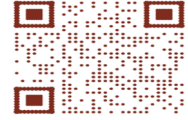
If your interested in this position contact CSO President, Emelie Matthews, at emeliedudley@zoho.com

**THE FRIENDS OF DUDLEY FARM CITIZENS SUPPORT ORG.
MEMBERSHIP CATEGORIES**

Student - yearly - \$10. Individual - yearly - \$20. Organization - yearly - \$80. Corporate - yearly - \$200.
Family (same address) yearly - \$30. Life Individual - \$350. Life Couple - \$550.

Yearly membership runs from
January 1st to December 31st.

Use this QR



Or Submit membership dues to “The Friends of Dudley Farm”,
at 18730 W. Newberry Road. Newberry, Fl. 23669. We are the Dudley Farm Citizens Support Organization.

Members can check and update their information by going to friendsofdudleyfarm.org/Sys/Login or click on the **Log In** button in the upper right corner of our website.

This is a link to the actual PDF file <https://friendsofdudleyfarm.org/resources/Documents/Member%20Login%20Instructions.pdf>

WELCOME NEWEST MEMBERS

We are please to announce that the Friends of Dudley Farm’s Citizens Support Organization has grown:

WELCOME and THANK YOU!

Diane Wilson; Susan Smith; James Smith; Linda Maureen; Charlie Jackson; Sue Ash

Like us on Facebook

Visit us at:

www.FriendsofDudleyFarm.org

**The Friends of Dudley Farm
Citizens Support Org.**

Board of Directors

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Vicc President: Art Wade
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Entrance Sign: Lorraine McDowell
Journal: Gloria Hughes ✍
Journal Proofreader: Pat Svorinich

Park Service Specialist

Sandra Cashes ~ 352-258-6648
Park Office ~ 352-472-1142

**We are encouraging those interested in history,
in particular preserving history,
to join our Collections Building Group.**

This is a volunteer position.

The Dudley family possessions are housed within the 'Collections Building'. This volunteer position entails categorizing items and the proper storage of the Dudley family’s belongings.

The building was built, under strict specifications, to preserve the extensive possessions of the Dudley family. Built in 2007, available to accommodate these treasurers in early 2008 when the extensive collection of items were brought 'home' from Tallahassee.

Before her death in 1996, Ms. Myrtle Dudley, the last remaining child of P.B.H. Dudley and Mary Thomson Dudley, deeded her farm to the State of Florida. After her death the contents were brought to the Bureau of Natural and Cultural Resources in Tallahassee for cataloging while the farm buildings were under renovation in preparation to open this new State Park to the public.

This building safely stores, preserves and makes available for research the wonderful collection that reflects the lives of the Dudley's. This collection was planned to give researchers the opportunity to examine a treasure-trove of books, documents, sheet music, letters, photographs as well as historic clothing, quilts and fabric items saved by family members since a time prior to the Civil War. There are toys, collectables, glass and China and more - all history!

Plans included a rotating exhibit of these items in the three display cases, built for this purpose, in the parks Visitors Center.

**This is a fascinating, but can be tedious experience.
But, just right for the right person!
Experience preferred i.e. curator, museum technician, archivists.**

If interested kindly contact: ladyg8r@gmail.com

A New Chapter Begins

WELCOMING THE PERKINS HOUSE TO DUDLEY FARM

THE HOME BUILT BY JAMES AND
REBECCA PERKINGS IN 1906

We warmly invite you to celebrate the arrival of the Perkins House at its new home in Dudley Farm. This event symbolizes a significant stride towards embracing Truth and Reconciliation within our community. Join us to witness and understand the profound impact of this historic relocation.

10:00 AM

ENTER THE
PARK FROM
STATE ROAD 26.

SATURDAY
4
MAY

DUDLEY FARM
HISTORIC STATE
PARK
18730 WEST
NEWBERRY RD.



FOR MORE INFO, CONTACT (352) 472-1142

OUR VISION STATEMENT

Dudley Farm Historic State Park preserved for the appreciation of future generations.

The advertiser section has, obviously, been moved in from the back page, referred to as the mailing page.

Here's the reason, actually a good reason to do so:

With each mailing of the Journal a few were returned with no explanation such as address change, wrong address, etc.

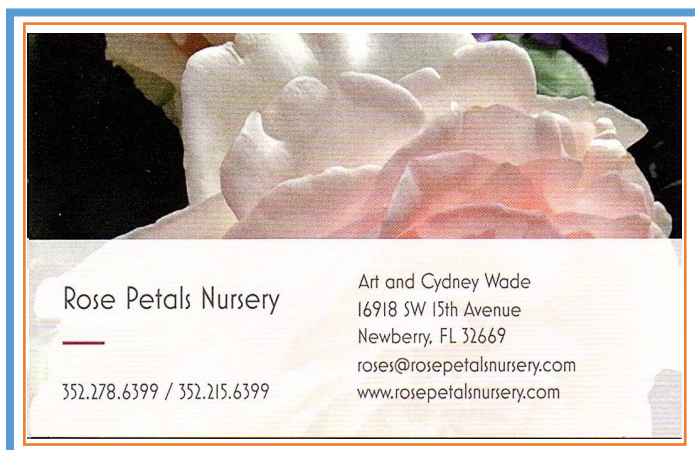
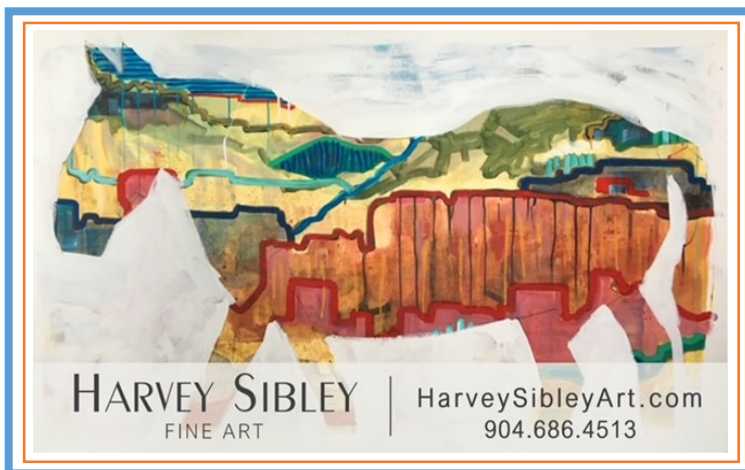
Strange, we couldn't figure it out, very puzzling!

Finally, Joey Malphurs spoke to a Post Office employee with a logical answer:

The automated address readers of the Post Office were confused by the numbers on the business cards of our wonderful advertisers.

Now, isn't that interesting! We'll see how it goes from here. Hopefully, the problem is now solved.

We hope that you will support these generous advertisers who contribute to the printing and distribution of this Journal:



To become an advertiser, supporting our Journal at \$25. per issue, please contact emeliedudley@zoho.com



This issues featured plant ~ the Bridal Wreath

Spiraea prunifolia, commonly known as the bridal wreath. A species of the genus *Spiraea* (or *Spirea*). It produces gorgeous double white blooms on naked branches in Spring and its tiny dark green leaves turn brilliant Fall colors of orange, red, yellow. A deciduous shrub with gracefully arching branches that is easy to grow, loves full sun, is drought tolerant (once established) and even deer resistant. Pruning it in the Spring after the flowers have dropped and again in the Fall will keep it the shape and size you choose. Wildlife such as hummingbirds, butterflies and other birds are attracted to it's flowers.

The picture shown here is of one growing in our Heritage Plant Nursery.

Friends of Dudley Farm
18730 W. Newberry Rd.
Newberry, Florida 32669

