

The History of Christmas Cards: From Tradition to Crafting



Christmas cards have long been a cherished part of holiday traditions, sharing warm wishes and festive cheer. But how did this tradition begin? The story takes us back to Victorian England, where Sir Henry Cole and artist John Callcott Horsley brought the very first Christmas card to life.

In 1843, Cole, a civil servant and inventor, wanted to encourage the use of the new postal system and sought a way to send holiday greetings quickly and efficiently. Horsley illustrated a triptych design featuring a family enjoying a festive meal in the center, with scenes of charity on either side. Beneath it read the message, "A Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year to You." This first card sparked a movement that spread across Europe and beyond.

Fast-forward to 1915, when Joyce and Rollie Hall, founders of Hall Brothers (later Hallmark), revolutionized the Christmas card industry in the United States. They introduced folded cards and envelopes, departing from traditional postcards. This innovation made sending cards more personal, sparking the

massive popularity of the Hallmark brand and cementing Christmas cards as a cornerstone of holiday celebrations.

Today, the tradition of Christmas cards continues to connect loved ones across the globe, blending nostalgia with creativity. At the Pioneer Settlement, we honor this history by sharing it with visiting children during our **Holiday Traditions Field Trip**.

Here, students step back in time to learn about the origins of Christmas cards and the craftsmanship behind them. They hear about the ingenuity of Horsley and Cole, and how the Hall Brothers brought new life to this tradition. Then, they create their own holiday-themed cards using lacing techniques, mimicking the hand-crafted aesthetic of a bygone era. These beautiful, festive cards double as unique decorations, ready to hang on trees or around the home.

This activity not only teaches the history of Christmas cards but also allows children to connect with the spirit of the season through art, imagination, and tradition. At the Pioneer Settlement, we're keeping this piece of holiday history alive, one handmade card at a time. Please consider donating your Christmas cards after the holidays for next year's field trips.

The first Christmas Card By Henry Cole & J.P. Horsley 1843



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Event Schedule

(tentative—as of Nov 2024)

Dec. 14, 2024 — A Christmas
Remembered
Jan 4, 2025 — Playing on the Porches
Feb 1, 20245— Playing on the Porches
Mar 1, 2025 — Playing on the Porches
April 5 & 6, 2025 — 20th Annual
SPRING FROLIC
May 4, 2025 — Playing on the Porches
June 7, 2025— Celebration of Olde
Florida
Sept 6, 2025 — Fire & Ice: Chili Cook-
off & Ice Cream Churn-off **Open Mon—Sat**
9am—4pm; Sun noon—4pm

2025 Calendar of On- Going Events

Square Dancing - almost every Friday
6:30pm—Call ahead to confirm

FABA Monthly Meeting—1st Saturday
of most months.

Playing on the Porches — 1st Saturday
of most months

Fiber Guild Meeting — 3rd Saturday

Music Lessons & Jam Sessions — 4th
Saturday of most months

All dates subject to change—For full
listing of events and the most up to
date information visit our

Facebook page or

www.pioneersettlement.org

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**For Membership info visit our
website or give us a call.**

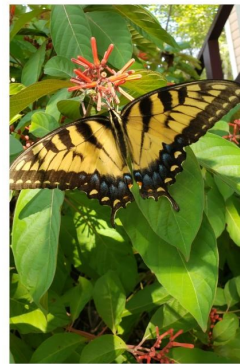
* A Barberville Pioneer Settlement Lifetime Membership is an honorarium granted to supporters that have demonstrated exemplary patronage either through monetary donations, contributions of time and talents or a combination thereof. Candidates for this esteemed honor may be presented to the Board of Directors for approval by any member in good standing or by the administrative team of the Settlement.

Mandi's Butterfly Garden Gains Prestigious Registrations

Mandi's Butterfly Garden, a heartfelt memorial located at the Barberville Pioneer Settlement, has been officially registered with the North American Butterfly Garden Association and designated as a Monarch Waystation by Monarch Watch. These recognitions honor the garden's contribution to preserving vital butterfly habitats and promoting conservation efforts.

The garden serves as a tribute to Mandi Leibee, the Settlement's former event coordinator, who passed away in 2023. Inspired by her memory, the garden was lovingly envisioned and brought to life by her parents, Gary and Susan Leibee. Their unwavering dedication to Mandi's legacy is evident as they devote countless hours each week tending to the garden, infusing it with their care and affection.

In addition to its natural beauty, Mandi's Butterfly Garden serves as an educational space, demonstrating the importance of pollinator habitats and inspiring others to engage in conservation. The garden is a vibrant reflection of Mandi's impact and a testament to her family's enduring love.



In Memoriam



Benjamin "Tinker" Carl Rogers Jr., 78, of Reddick, Florida, passed away peacefully on October 23, 2024, surrounded by his loving family. Born in Nashville, Tennessee, to Dr. Carl Rogers and May Louise Williams Rogers, he grew up in Shelbyville, Tennessee, where he attended Columbia Military Academy and graduated from Shelbyville Central High School in 1966. He later earned a degree in Mechanical Drafting from Massey Technical Institute in Jacksonville, Florida, in 1968.

Tinker began his professional life as a draftsman while raising his family. In 1992, he fulfilled his dream of becoming a blacksmith, establishing Tinker's Forge in an original 1880s blacksmith shop in Irvine, Florida. For over three decades, he was a skilled craftsman, educator, and mentor, earning the title of Master blacksmith. He was an active member of the Florida Artist Blacksmith Association (FABA) and the Artist-Blacksmith's Association of North America (ABANA). His artistry can be found in museums, monasteries, casinos, and private collections, reflecting his dedication to the craft. Tinker often joked, "I never shoed a horse."

Beyond blacksmithing, Tinker enjoyed gardening, fishing, antique cars, and spending time with animals. He was a passionate advocate for the art of ornamental blacksmithing and a cherished mentor to many. His legacy lives on in his work and the countless lives he inspired.

the 48th Annual

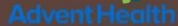
Fall Country Jamboree

at Barberville!

November 2nd & 3rd

BARBERVILLE
PIONEER SETTLEMENT
www.PioneerSettlement.org

Heartfelt Thanks to our Sponsors!



Thank you to all the volunteers, demonstrators, performers, storytellers, and musicians that came out and made this fundraising event a smashing hit! Your love for the Settlement is shown in your stewardship for it! We can't thank you enough for all your hard work & dedication!

The 48th Annual Fall Country Jamboree, held on November 2nd and 3rd, brought together a vibrant community of music lovers, history enthusiasts, and families for a weekend of unforgettable memories. With fair weather setting the stage, the event delivered everything it promised: good friends, great music, excellent food, and an enchanting dive into history.



The 48th Annual Fall Country Jamboree

This year's Jamboree featured over 200 talented musicians performing across nine stages, filling the air with lively tunes that ranged from bluegrass to folk. Workshop, Musical petting zoo, & jam tents offered hands-on opportunities for budding musicians and seasoned players alike to share and grow their skills. Storytellers wove captivating tales, while a gunslinger encampment added a thrilling touch of the Old West.

Food lovers had plenty to savor, from sizzling BBQ to classic hamburgers and hotdogs, swamp cabbage, and a traditional corn boil. The aroma of these delicious dishes mingled with the excitement of the crowd, creating a feast for the senses.

Arts and crafts vendors showcased handmade goods perfect for early holiday shopping, while historical demonstrators brought the past to life. Blacksmiths hammered away at glowing metal, while weavers, spinners, and fiber artists displayed their intricate crafts. Each demonstration celebrated the rich heritage of traditional skills that continue to inspire and educate new generations.

The Jamboree wasn't just an event—it was an experience, a time for families and friends to come together and celebrate the best of community, culture, and history. From the toe-tapping rhythms on stage to the warmth of shared meals and the wonder of historical demonstrations, this year's Fall Country Jamboree proved to be a joyous occasion for all who attended.

We would like to thank **The Will McLean Foundation** for their generous grant that allowed us to provide a healthy and delicious lunch to our volunteers and musicians.

If you didn't get a chance to attend this year, don't miss our 20th Annual Spring Frolic on April 5th & 6th. Also we are already planning on how to make next year's Jamboree even better.

If the big crowds aren't your thing, visit us on the 1st Saturday of almost every month for Playing on the Porches. These one day events are similar to the Jamboree & Frolic, only smaller, with more opportunity to intimately experience the music and demonstrations.

Thank you again to all our volunteers. The Barberville Pioneer Settlement is a mostly volunteer run organization. We cannot do it without help, support, and love from the community.



Preserve History, Folk Art, and Music: Support the Barberville Pioneer Settlement



As the year draws to a close, we invite you to make a lasting impact by supporting the Barberville Pioneer Settlement. Our mission is to educate and inspire future generations with the pioneer lifestyle of our forefathers through hands-on experiences, folk life demonstrations, preservation, and historical exhibits.

Your tax-deductible donation helps us restore historic buildings, showcase traditional crafts, and keep the vibrant sounds of folk music alive. Together, we can ensure these rich traditions endure and continue to inspire.

Make your year-end gift today and be part of preserving history, art, and culture for generations to come! Please use the enclosed self-addressed envelope. Anything you can donate will be much appreciated.

A Big Shout out to our Sponsors! Please support them for supporting us!

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Announcements & Tidbits



- We love our volunteers! However, like many other non-profits over the past several years our **volunteer base has diminished drastically**. Especially as the school year ramps up and fundraising events approach, we could really use more volunteers. If you are interested in volunteering at the Settlement, you can find applications at www.pioneersettlement.org/volunteers or call us at 386-749-2959.
- Speaking of volunteers, we are delighted that **Bill Messer & Marg Chauvin** came and helped set up for **Jamboree**. They continue to help out during the week with field trips and maintenance. Along with Bill & Marg, our work camper crew consists of: **The Lewis Family (Suzie, Donald, Jed, Audrah, & Kyrah), Eric Emery, and Phil Pittenger & Chris Collins**. They are all hard workers & excellent docents. Thanks, All y'all!
- If you are a volunteer, demonstrator, or musician we encourage you to join our group on **Facebook**. This is a closed group which means that unless you join and become an approved member you cannot read or see our posts. The group's name is **Barberville Pioneer Settlement Demonstrators, Volunteers and Team Members**. It is a great way for us to share ideas and Settlement related information with a large group at once.
- Have you ever wanted to learn how to be a **blacksmith**? You're in luck. We offer Blacksmith classes! 1st responders, military, and teachers get a \$25 discount on classes. Learn more at www.pioneersettlement.org/blacksmith-coal. We also sell Blacksmith coal.
- **Board Member Opportunities**— Those interested in joining our Board of Directors are encouraged to send a letter of interest along with a resume via email to directors@pioneersettlement.org. Our Board meetings are held on the third Thursday of every month at the Settlement at 7pm. Directors are expected to attend all meetings, hold a minimum annual level of a Patron membership, and contribute to the annual fees for Directors & Officers Insurance.
- We need your **old Christmas Cards**! One of the lessons during our Old Fashioned Traditions field trip program in December is the history of the Christmas Card.
- Membership has its benefits. FREE general admission including special events, 10% discount in our country store and Bridge House Gallery! Discounts on workshops and seminars! Half-price Guest Passes! And even more benefits for those in the **AMBASADOR'S CLUB**! Learn more at www.pioneersettlement.org/membership-opportunities.
- **The Schoolhouse Fiber Guild** meets every 3rd Saturday from 1pm –2:30pm. Share your love of the fiber arts with other spinners, weavers, crocheters, basket makers, quilters, origami folders, and more.
- In January 2024, we hope to revive our **Saturday Music Lessons & Jam Sessions** on the 4th Saturday of the month. Lessons will be free with admission into the Settlement. Follow us on **Facebook** for information on what will be taught & when. Reach out to us if you are interested in teaching.
- We are a drop off location for **Christine's Blankets**. They need new blankets, towels, and socks to distribute to the homeless. Christine's Blankets provide blankets and other essentials to the homeless for comfort and encouragement in order to remind them that they are loved and not forgotten.
- We accept all kinds of **donations**! Of course artifacts (from the 1870s—1920s) are most welcome (as is cash). We also have all kinds of other needs though. If you have a **propane grill, riding lawn mower, golf cart, or vehicles** that is just taking up space at your house; before you call the scrap man, call us. One man's junk could be the Settlement's treasure. Since we're a 501(c)3, all donations are tax deductible.
- Look for future announcements on how you can contribute to **The Barberville Legacy Endowment**. Let your love for the Settlement exist in perpetuity.

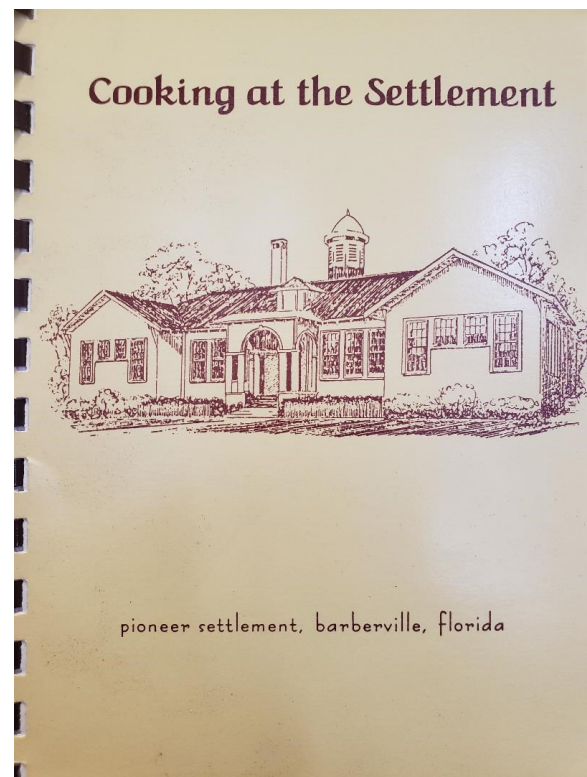
Our Mission

To educate and entrust the public and future generations with knowledge of the pioneer lifestyle of our forefathers, through hands on experience, folk life demonstrations, preservation, and historical exhibits.

Sweet Potato Pudding

6 Medium Sweet potatoes	3/4 c. brown sugar
2 beaten eggs	1/2 c. milk
1/4 lb. melted butter	2/3 c. flour
	1/4 c. orange juice
	1 tsp. vanilla

Boil and mash sweet potatoes. Add remaining ingredients, beating well. Put in buttered shallow baking dish. Place thin slices of orange on top. Bake for 30 minutes at 350 degrees until slightly brown at edges.



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