

Ethnohistorical Study of the Community of Archery, Georgia

USF'S REU PROGRAM

Under the direction of Dr. Antoinette Jackson of the USF Department of Anthropology, the Heritage Research Experience for Undergraduates (REU) Program entitled, **Heritage Research USA**, was designed to help prepare participants to study emergent social-cultural research and resource management issues faced by communities interested in heritage as a key cultural resource in areas such as quality of life programs and policies; education; tourism; historic preservation; youth activities; civic and environmental empowerment; and neighborhood revitalization. It is conducted in collaboration with local community groups, the National Park Service, the USF Department of Anthropology Heritage Research Lab, the Office of Community Engagement, and the Office of Undergraduate Research.



Mr. Milton Raven and Dr. Antoinette Jackson at May Day.

Specifically, this project was conducted in collaboration with the Friends of Archery Historical Society, members of the St. Mark AME Church, and President Jimmy Carter, as part of an agreement between the National Park Service and the University of South Florida (grant number H5000085095-J5690090007). An analysis of the Archery and Plains, Georgia communities—both past and present—was conducted through specific research projects and presentations prepared by USF graduate and undergraduate student researchers as part of this program under the direction of Project PI, Dr. Antoinette Jackson.



Heritage REU 2010 Archery Project members (left to right): Dr. Antoinette Jackson, Gary Ingram, Aaron Frost, Jenny Loh, Whitney Goodwin, Justin Hosbey, Sheryl Daisley

PROJECT ACTIVITIES

1. Mapping and recording the St. Mark A.M.E. Cemetery

Because of the wealth of information this cemetery contains on the past residents of Archery, including family relations, one of the major goals of the project was to fully record the cemetery, before more of its information is lost. This activity included the recording of all grave marker information, photographic recording of each grave and grave marker, as well as a map showing the location of each grave.



Work at the St. Mark A.M.E. Church cemetery included tape-and compass mapping, photography, and recording all information on the grave stones.

2. Interviews with Key Members of the Community

Project members conducted formal interviews with local community leaders and elders, as well as conducted tours of the cemetery and the town of Archery in order to obtain more information of the location of houses, landmarks, and graves no longer there.



Mr. U.D. Solomon



Ms. Lillian Picket



Mr. Johnnie Raven



Mr. Jack Cox

3. Archival and Bibliographic Research

Project members visited the archives of the National Park Service office at the Old Plains High School, the St. Mark A.M.E. Church, the Webster County Courthouse, and the Lake Blackshear Regional Library, in order to copy and catalog all historic information relating to the community of Archery. The project was able to catalog deed records, information regarding the cemetery, photographs, videos, interviews, and more.



The St. Mark A.M.E. Church contains a wealth of information and photographs donated by its members.



Part of the project included Dr. Jackson's interview with President Jimmy Carter regarding Archery and the influence this community has had on his life. The interview was held at the Jimmy Carter National Historic Site in Plains, Georgia on July 16, 2010.

Acknowledgements

This ethnographic profile is the result of research done as part of a six week course in heritage research and preservation entitled, *Researching American Culture*. It is based on fieldwork and archival research conducted as part of the Heritage USA REU Summer 2010 program at the University of South Florida. The course examines issues associated with conducting ethnographic fieldwork and analysis in an American cultural setting and asks what is American culture and how do we conduct research in an American cultural context.

Credits

Photos courtesy of USF Heritage REU 2010 and St. Mark A.M.E. Church.

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