A COMMUNITY IS BORN

Named for the Sublime Order of the Archery, a relief organization of the A.M.E. church which assisted southern black families, Archery is located 1.5 miles west of Jimmy Carter’s boyhood home. It was established in the 1860’s and by the 1930s it consisted of a train stop, houses for the railroad employees, the St. Mark African Methodist Episcopal (A.M.E.) Church, and three stores.

THE ROLE OF THE CHURCH

Like many other towns in this period, Archery was built around the railroad. However, the St. Mark A.M.E. Church was always the central place in the community. It was through the St. Mark A.M.E. Church and its members that Archery achieved its spiritual, social, and economic growth.

A HISTORY OF COMMUNITY

Whether it was gathering water at the community well and the many springs around the area, or playing baseball at the community park and baseball field, the families of Archery built a strong and positive structure and image for their community.

“
A sense of pride was instilled in each individual to always do your best in whatever your endeavors. This kind of motivation has helped to produce productive citizens for this community, state, and nation.”

-Milton Raven, Archery Community

HOW YOU CAN HELP

Our map is a work in progress, and many landmarks, homes, and features of old Archery remain unidentified, and many will remain lost forever. Help us fill in these blank spaces, and in turn help in preserving the history of your family, your friends, and the community of Archery.

Credits
*Pho courtesy of the National Park Service
*Photos courtesy of the St. Mark A.M.E. Church Archive
*Map produced by James Penn, USF Heritage REC 2010

Raven, Milton “Archery Community”, in Plains Echoes, Volume 7, Number 1.

Special Thanks to:
St. Mark A.M.E. Church
National Park Service
Friends of Archery

For more information contact:
Project Director: Dr. Antonietta Jordan
Department of Anthropology
Heritage Research and Resource Management Lab
University of South Florida
Tampa, FL 33620-8000
Phone: 813-974-2055
Fax: 813-974-3508
info@archusf.edu
HISTORY KEPT ALIVE

Despite many changes over the years, the essence and values that defined the citizens of Archery in the past continue to define their descendants today.

The St. Mark A.M.E. Church continues to be the heart of the community. Activities such as the May Day celebration bring together friends and family members of all ages and from different towns, cities, and states. Traditions like these help keep friendships and family relations strong.

Webster Co.

SUMTER CO.

A watery hole is all that remains of an Archery community well.

St. Mark A.M.E. Church

Joe Bacon’s place, located further down US Hwy 280

SAM Shuffline railroad tracks

Railroad houses of Bishop Johnson Circle

Major Hallmarks
A. St. Mark A.M.E. Church
B. Simpson’s Store
C. Big Stone
D. Johnson Home Industrial College
E. Alvan Johnson’s Store

1. Bishop William Johnson
2. Wiley Wakefield
3. Church Pastor
4. Margaret Beatty
5. Rosie Dunning
6. Roosevelt Wakefield
7. Lizzie King
8. Willie Wilson
9. Eddie Pryor
10. Unknown
11. E.H. Watson
12. Sidney Wakefield
13. C. Whiffield
14. Shade Smith
15. Lela Johnson
17. Joe Hill
18. Minnie Hightower
19. Jim Jack Gordy
20. Eula C. Wakefield
21. John Henry Holley
22. Unknown
23. Dunning
24. Cliff Raven

REMNANTS OF THE PAST

Although much of Archery looks very different today than it did eighty years ago, houses, wells, roads, and everyday reminders of the past are found everywhere in Archery, and are often preserved by residents today.

Children and adults alike anxiously await the SAM Shuffline train of Archery on May Day.

The woods around Archery continue to reclaim everything from glass bottles to whole grave markers.

Photo Credits:
* Photo courtesy of the National Park Service
* Photo courtesy of USF HCF 2010
* Map produced by James Fretz, USF HCF 2010

Special Thanks to:
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National Park Service
Friends of Archery

For more information contact:
Project Director: Dr. Antonietta Ardisano
Department of Anthropology
Heritage Research and Resource Management Lab
University of South Florida
4202 Fowler Ave., SOC 307
Tampa, FL 33620-8400
Phone 813-974-6892
Fax 813-974-3648
ardisano@usf.edu
Cemetery History

Located across the street from the previous location of the St. Mark A.M.E. Church, the Archery cemetery remains a site of special significance today with tombstones dating as far back as 1882.

Los Angeles at a Time

During the course of a two-week survey and mapping project, the research team from the University of South Florida's Heritage Research and Experience for Undergraduates (REU) recorded almost 200 graves and grave markers.

Even though this is a significant number, many more past Archery residents are buried in this cemetery, and they were either given no markers, or the markers have been lost due to weathering, vegetation and other factors.

Vegetation has covered or erased valuable information about graves.

In many cases, infants or babies were given only small markers, such as these, which only preserved for a short amount of time.

SAM Shortline Railroad

Many graves remain unidentified, and many will remain lost forever. Help us fill in these blank spaces, and in turn help in preserving the history of your family, your friends, and the community of Archery.

Credits

*Photo courtesy of the National Park Service
*Photo courtesy of the St. Mark A.M.E. Church Archive
*Map produced by Alumni Press, USF Heritage REU 2010

Special Thanks to:

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Friends of Archery

For more information contact:

Project Director: Dr. Antoinette Jackson
Director, Heritage Research and Resource Management Lab,
University of South Florida
4202 Fowler Ave., BOX 107
Tampa, FL 33620-1010
Phone: 813.974.0882
Fax: 813.974.2409
archeryresearch.usf.edu
COLLEGE HISTORY

Located in the heart of Archery, the Johnson Home Industrial College opened its doors on October 2, 1912. Its construction was an effort coordinated by Bishop William Decker Johnson Jr., with the help and support of several prominent members of the community of Archery, many of them members of the Sublime Order of Archery, who had begun planning for a college since before the bishop's arrival from Columbus.

The College encompassed an area of two hundred acres, and was composed of three large buildings: two dormitories and one building for instruction. Its education model was based on that of Morris Brown University in Atlanta, meaning it offered classes at various levels of education, including primary, high school, collegiate, and vocational.

SOME GRADUATES*

Beatrice Denson
James Dunning Sr.
Alvan Johnson
Semion Johnson
Winfred Johnson
Rosa Kitchen
Amos Riekley
Mary Laster
Raby Laster
Willie Laster
Pauline Peterson
Arena Raven
Carrie Raven
Clifford Raven
Clanton Raven
Booker Schley
Minnie Schley
T.R. Wakefield Sr.
Ulysses Wakefield
Rosa Williams

ARCHERY’S PRIDE

“The buildings are of excellent architectural beauty, and contain all the modern improvements, which are necessary for the comfort and health of the students who are entrusted to the care of the authorities.”

-W.D. Johnson, 1913

COLLEGE TRUSTEES*

Bishop W.D. Johnson
Rev. Levi Raven
Francis Johnson
J.C. Myers
George W. Barnes

OTHER COLLEGE STAFF*

A.J. Johnson – President
Hattie Simmons – Teacher
Annie Simmons – Teacher
W.D. Johnson – Professor