

19<sup>TH</sup> CENTURY HISTORIC HOMESTEAD AND GROVE ON THE INDIAN RIVER

# Field Manor E-Newsletter

## JUNE 2020

STAY HEALTHY AND HAPPY

## Homestead News

by Korinn Braden

Spring came through with a whisper, dotting us with sunshine, coolish breezes, and lovely sunsets. Despite being in the middle of a pandemic, we are thankful for the world and people around us. It has been wonderful to see families and friends walking in the evening or folks social distancing, yet keeping a presence, through modern technology. I do not know about you, but I am a hugger, and this has been hard. Air hugs only go so far, so watch out once we are in the clear!

Like most of you, the novel corona virus derailed our lives. And through the chaos and frustrations, light led us. We have had to adapt and change, as it is always good to grow, and we have also slowed down just a bit. May we redefine normal.

We have been fortunate to remain open and that encouraged us to work on projects and fine-tune others. In April we began virtual tours for the events side of Field Manor. We were fortunate to book three weddings this way.

As of 2 June we are opened to the public for both home and venue tours. We have implemented procedures to keep everyone healthy, which includes hand sanitizers in strategic locations throughout

the house and bathrooms, and mobile stands for outside events.

Our USDA approved and partially sponsored project is closing out its first phase, which is the eradication of Brazilian pepper trees and let me tell you, there are literally a *brazillion* of them on these 43 acres.

We are excited to move forward in the planning of our Fifth Oyster and Fish Fry here at Field Manor, which is Saturday, 3 October 2020! We know this will be our biggest and best to date and hope you will join us. Details will follow.

Our archaeology dig has been scuttled until cooler weather visits us. However, check out this article for information: <https://fliphtml5.com/ndti/myj>. Thank you, Austin Rushnell and Merritt Island Now. Analysis and research on the part of Ais Village Trail continues and we will keep you updated.

Our WebChat Wednesdays just celebrated its 13th week and is a huge success on Facebook. Would like to thank Florida's Space Coast tourism group for giving us a push on social media. We enjoy researching and teaching others about the history of Indianola, Merritt Island, and Brevard County. Alexis has blossomed as the host and genuinely enjoys the process. If you have any suggestions or subjects you'd like to learn more about, please let us know.

These live chats are fun to put together and we are thrilled that so many tune in or watch later.

We still have our homestead-made products available, including salt scrubs and honey. Guava jam and jelly will hopefully return in a month or so.

## Ed's Room

I have been working on the transcription of letters home from Joseph Ed Field, Jr. 1942 is completed and I'm looking forward to seeing the world through his eyes as he embarks on a four-year journey through the US and Europe. How does one's perspective change, coming from a smallish village on an island, to a continent in turmoil? We have recently jumped ahead in chronology to read the letters dated around D-Day and VE Day. It felt a bit like cheating but they were interesting to read. We have those up on our Facebook page. One room in the house has always been referred to as 'Ed's room' and has remained so. This is the room where we feature the items of Ed Field (1913-1983), from a child's feeding chair/potty training seat, his old baseball glove, his promotion papers, and Army regalia, to an old apron from Travis Hardware, where he worked from as a clerk after the war and later became president.



SGT. JOSEPH ED FIELD, JR

ED SERVED IN C BATTERY, 93<sup>RD</sup> ARMORED DIVISION FROM 1942-1946

## Recent Donations



Accepting donations into a historic home can be a tricky business, especially when you are lucky enough to have so many original items in the home.

However, over the last year we have been fortunate to have era-appropriate, local items donated and they are so lovely!

Our most recent items were donated by the Blakeslee family in the form of a lady's toilet set, with a Moss Rose motif from the early 20<sup>th</sup> century.

The items belonged to a woman named Martha Blakeslee, née Green, from Nashville, who vacationed with her family in Rockledge in the late 1890s, where she met Albert Blakeslee. They later married in Nashville in 1908 and honeymooned in Rockledge. Their descendants still live in this area.

## USDA Project

This has been a huge project and we would like to thank Chuck O'Rourke and Doug Ryan of the USDA, and local contractors, Thad Johnson and Wayne Crisafulli, for their expertise, guidance, and good nature. Grove Manager Darren, and his assistant Nemon, are working alongside the contractors to expedite the process. The next phase, excavating a pond, will be equally exciting. We would also like to thank our neighbors for their support.

This process will take close to two years and we are very excited about the future.



While working on clearing a ditch, the excavators rediscovered two artesian wells. One we knew of but could not locate. Water samples were taken and proved to be as salty as an existing pond. Upon advice and protocol, Brevard County and St. Johns Water Management were contacted. STWM will be out to cap the wells free of charge.



Photo of Eliza and JR Field (seated, right) watching an artesian well on their property, circa 1880s



## New Pricing for Events and Weddings

Email:  
[events@fieldmanor.org](mailto:events@fieldmanor.org)

Alexis Pernal, our Event Coordinator, has designed some streamlined packages, tailored to our current times, for both weddings and events.

As we move into the Fall, micro-weddings are very popular. Alexis has created a wonderful, inclusive package to accommodate 50 guests. The package includes tables/chairs, a florist, a baker, caterer, and access to our catering area in the garage.

Through a generous donation, 80 chairs have been added to our quiver, which pair nicely with the ten tables donated by the same benefactor. This enables some of our event packages to include seating for up to 80 people, which is always a plus.

Although we are renowned for our wedding venue, we are also proud to host birthday parties, reunions, and company parties. We are sure we have a package that works for you and your guests.

Recently a group of seven friends, while socially distancing themselves, came out to lunch on our front lawn and to catch up. We have always encouraged people to come sit for a bit, bring a cup of coffee and a newspaper, or a brown bag lunch, and enjoy.

Please call ahead.



# Field Manor Wish List

- **A tractor with a PTO**

A bush hog

A box blade for the tractor

A roof to shade driver



- **A golf cart that works**
- A truck or other pulling device
- A road certified trailer
- An electric pole saw
- **Water barrels for downspouts**
- Electrical wiring for the packing house to bring it to code
- Railings for the packing house
- New stringers and planks for the dock
- A sign by the road with letters we can change
- Installation of the hand water pump
- **Rip-Rap for shoreline**



## Education:

- Group leaders
- Group helpers
- Curriculum development
- Curriculum guidelines
- Curriculum resources
- Research

## Archives:

- Written material
- Collections
- Research

## Grove:

- Cultivation
- Historic Gardens
- Plant propagation
- Research
- Weather issues
- Water issues
- Ground testing

## River:

- Oyster bag and mat clean-up
- Trash pick-up

## Grant Writer/ Writing

## Stained-glass Artist

## Volunteers for

- Oyster and Fish Fry 2020