

IFAS Matters



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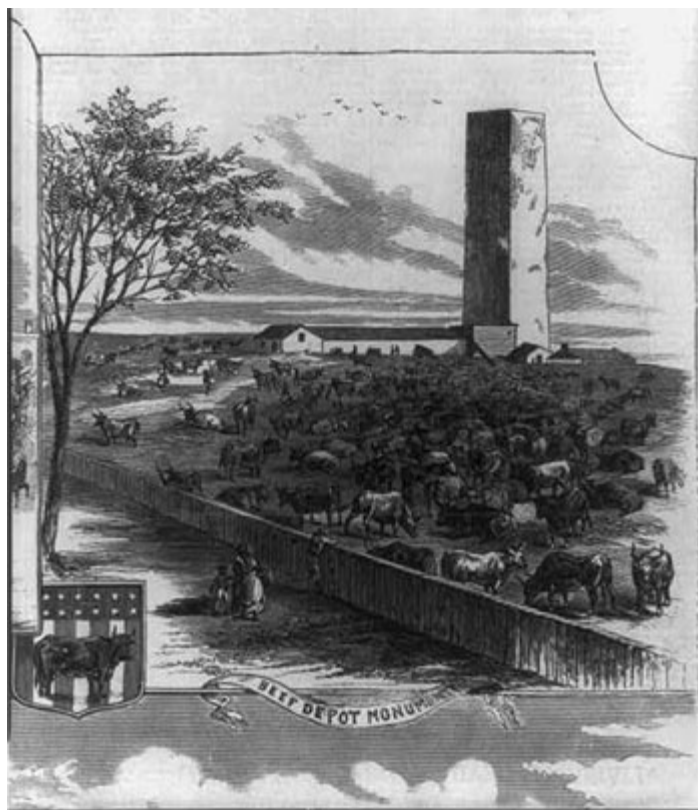
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- [Apply now for NRLI Class XII, which begins in August 2012](#)
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IFAS Matters - July 2012

Posted on July 2, 2012 by Jack Payne

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Beef Depot Monument, 1862. Library of Congress Prints and Photographs Division. Shows cattle grazing at the foot of the unfinished Washington Monument.

Tough Times Demand Courage and Vision

On July 2, 1862, the Civil War had been raging for more than a year. What is now known as the National Mall was a muddy, makeshift campground for Union troops and a holding area for cattle. The Washington Monument wasn't finished yet, so it became known as the "Washington Beef Depot." Confederate



150th Anniversary

Find out how the University of Florida is celebrating...



Smithsonian Folklife

Find out about UF's exhibit at the festival, Water: Discovering and Sharing Solutions



IFAS Land Grant Toolkit

Here are some ways to help promote and celebrate the Sesquicentennial of the Morrill Act.

Videos

[Folklife Festival](#)

TailGATOR: Save the Date

troops were close to the Capitol. Times were tough.

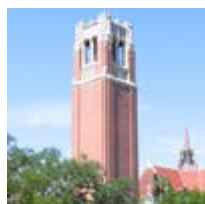
One hundred fifty years later, I stood at a podium on the National Mall, speaking at the opening ceremony of the Sesquicentennial of the Morrill Act. It was difficult to imagine the gloomy scene so many years earlier against the colorful backdrop of people glued to smartphones, tented displays, food vendors and the Washington Monument. It struck me that during one of America's darkest times, the 37th Congress and President Abraham Lincoln continued working on legislation that would revolutionize American education. In fact, the logs show that July 2, 1862, was a busy day for President Lincoln: he had to inform General George B. McClellan that he wasn't able to send him more troops; he ruled that former slaves couldn't be allowed to starve; and he signed the Morrill Act.

Upon signing the Morrill Act, President Lincoln stated, "The land-grant university system is being built on behalf of the people, who have invested in these public universities their hopes, their support, and their confidence." Lincoln and the act's author, Justin Smith Morrill, both undereducated, even by the standards of their day, understood that education was the key to America's economic development. And even though there were monumental and immediate threats to the nation, they had the courage to act upon their vision for the country's future.

As it turned out, their vision for equal opportunity and educating the masses has been the driving force in our prosperity for the last 150 years. Let's hope our current leaders will have the courage to continue that legacy. As Frederick Douglass advised back in Morrill's day: "It is easier to build strong children than to repair broken men."

-Jack

Features



150th Anniversary and Outreach

UF to celebrate land-grant university system's 150th anniversary with outreach, events. [Read More...](#)



Students and Agriculture

As land-grant law turns 150, students crowd into agriculture colleges. [Read more...](#)

UF Breaks Ground on NEON

Environmental sensors are being installed at the University of Florida's Ordway-Swisher Biological Station. [Read more...](#)



Video on land grants' presence at Smithsonian Folklife Festival

Articles

Great Tasting Tomato?



How to grow the tastiest tomato? One secret's in the soil

Sea Turtle Program Award



Sea turtle education program wins national award

Gardening in a Minute



UF's Gardening in a Minute wins silver award

SFRC Gift to Rebuild



UF forest resources school receives \$75,000 gift to help rebuild center at Austin Cary site



Laser-light Labeling of Citrus

Carbon dioxide laser-light “etching” to label citrus fruit may soon be allowed by the U.S. FDA. [Read more...](#)

Diet and Mosquitoes



UF/IFAS study shows how diet affects lab-raised mosquitoes in medical studies

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UF/IFAS Solutions



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