

# ACHS

## NEWSLETTER



*Arenac County Historical Society*

*May 2009*

### A MESSAGE FROM OUR PRESIDENT . . .

We certainly had a true Michigan winter this year. I am looking forward to a warm spring and summer full of green trees, grass and colorful flowers. We are also looking forward to many events this season at the museum and courthouse. We have some very interesting programs in store. There will be a listing later in this newsletter. You can check out our website for more information too. We will be looking for volunteers to help with the upcoming programs, events and weekends that we are open. If you have a particular weekend when you wish to volunteer, please let us know, so we can plan ahead.

I would like to take a moment to give a huge thank you to Walter Fales. Walter has been treasurer of the ACHS for a number of years. He has spent numerous hours keeping our accounts balanced, in order, and up – to – date. He has applied for and received many grants. The monies we received helped pay numerous bills and carry out projects of a historical nature. He put together several manuals when projects were completed which also took a great deal of time. Walter became ill this winter and has not been able to carry out his duties. We have appointed Carla Dittenber as deputy treasurer until September, when new officers will be installed. Here's hoping Walter's health improves and that he will be among us soon. We also make note of the passing of three long time historical society members: Lydia Felsing, Mary Bergeron and Albert Lundgren.

Economic times are certainly not good for the State of Michigan, but there are a lot of fun activities in Arenac County that will make for a memorable and inexpensive summer experience. Check out our museum and courthouse; attend the Arenac County Fair, the several car shows and many festivals. Get out there and enjoy our great state. Have fun and see you this summer!

**SANDY PROULX**  
PRESIDENT

### ACHS Officers

President	Sandy Proulx
Vice President	Ann Ennis
Recording Sec.	Mary McLaughlin
Treasurer	Carla Dittenber

### ACHS Trustees

Joann Gulau	Nancy Selle
Brenda Matt	Doug Juras
George Tolgo	Linda Proulx
Pam Findlay	

### ACHS Standing Committees

**Building and Grounds:**  
George Tolgo

**Bylaws Review:**  
Walter Fales

**Collections/Exhibits:**  
Annabell Goodman

**Accession Committee:**  
Annabell Goodman  
Sandy Proulx  
Ann Ennis  
Joann Gulau

**Hospitality:**  
Joann Zibble

**Newsletter Editor:**  
Norah Wolthuis

**Publicity:**  
Marilyn Van Sickle

**ACHS Representation to the  
Arenac Heritage Route Authority:**  
Walter Fales – Brenda Matt

**Ye Olde Courthouse/Masonic Hall:**  
Brenda Matt            Chair  
Phyllis Klender        Secretary  
Joann Gulau            Financial Chair

**ACHS Website Webmaster:**  
Greg Knopp

**Coordinators:**  
Mike Melvin – Joann Gulau

ACHS WEBSITE: <http://www.rootsweb.ancestry.com/~miachs/index.htm>

THE ACHS NEWSLETTER IS PRINTED COMPLIMENTS OF PROULX FINANCIAL SERVICES OF AUGRES

## ARENAC HERITAGE ROUTE AUTHORITY STANDISH HISTORIAL DEPOT

Spring has arrived at the depot and our tulips and hyacinths are blooming. It is nice to enjoy these spring flowers after such a long winter. We are now welcoming more visitors to Arenac County and are providing information, maps of the county, points of interest and events. We have opened the caboose again for touring and the protective covers will be removed from our British passenger cars, soon.

We are pleased to announce that the Arenac Heritage Route Authority and the Michigan Department of Transportation have been selected to receive a Michigan Historic Preservation Network 2009 Building Award for the Standish Historical Depot Welcome Center Rehabilitation Project. This award is presented once a year to an outstanding rehabilitation project that has made a significant contribution to the preservation of Michigan's heritage. Representatives from the Authority will be attending the reception and ceremony in Grand Rapids to accept this prestigious award. We are proud and excited to receive this recognition. It would not have been possible without the citizens of Arenac County who have been outstanding in their support.

Our Diamonds, Denim and Camo dinner was held at the VFW in Standish in March. Dixie Dave Minar was again our "Wild Game" Chef. The menu included: elk, pheasant, buffalo, venison, emu and pork loin. The profit from the dinner was \$7,773.84. This included a \$1,000 donation from the Standish Kiwanis. This will be used to start a fund to build a canopy over our rail cars. The rain and snow are causing deterioration to the cars and some protection is needed. We would like to thank all of our donors and guests who made this fundraiser so profitable.

A book signing with Marion Poole Maday was hosted by and at the depot on April 25<sup>th</sup>. Marion's book, A HISTORY of MAPLE RIDGE, ARENAC COUNTY, MICHIGAN, will now be available for purchase at the depot.

The depot recently acquired a beautiful antique oak file cabinet. This cabinet was donated by Questers # 348. Questers are an international antique study group that works for the the preservation and restoration of antiques. We are appreciative of the participation of this prestigious group.

Preliminary plans are being made for Depot Days, which will be held on October 9, 10, and 11<sup>th</sup>. Watch for announcements in the Arenac and at the depot for activities during these days.

The Delta College documentary on the history of the railroad and the development of Michigan as connected to the railroads is available for viewing at the depot. Our depot is featured in this documentary.

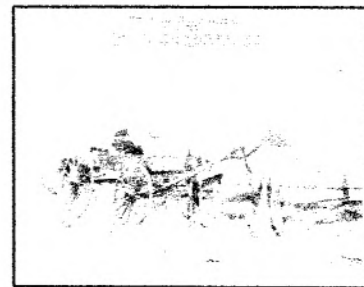
We are seeking information to add to our collections of railroad artifacts, memorabilia, pictures and stories of people from this area who worked for the railroad or depot and travelers to and from the depot. We would also like yearbooks from area schools to display. We have two pictures of students and schools that we believe are from Arenac County that we would like to identify. Please stop in and help us with the identification.

The AHR Authority meets at the depot on the first Monday of each month at 7:00 p.m. This is an open meeting and everyone is welcome to attend.

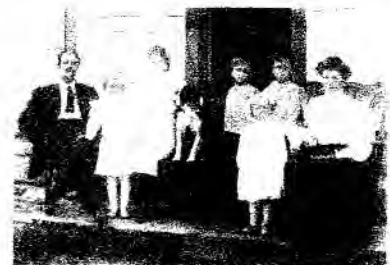
Brenda Matt – Authority Representative

### ACHS PHOTO CORNER

We were recently given on loan, a collection of 82 unidentified glass negatives from the early 1900's, by the Van Horn family. With the help of Alonzo Sherman at the Huron Shores Genealogical Society in Oscoda, who scanned and put them on a disc for us, we are now in the process of getting them put on our web site. We have identified a few of them and they will be available at the museum for viewing. Many of these were taken at the Pt. Lookout area. Once you view them on the website, please let us know if you can identify any of them. See the website address on the bottom of page one. Two of the pictures in this series are below.



Mrs. Thomas (Rhoda) Webster in the early 1900's. She took fresh vegetables, eggs and meat to Pt. Lookout 3 times a week.



Unidentified family portrait found in the glass negative set.

**A SPECIAL THANKS TO  
MIKE and MARY MELVIN  
WHO SPENT MANY  
HOURS EDITING AND  
PREPARING THE MAPLE  
RIDGE BOOK!**

## Ye Olde Courthouse/Masonic Hall

Great news from the Ye Olde Courthouse/Masonic Hall in Omer! We are now over 40% of the way to our goal of ONE MILLION PENNIES! We have deposited 400,089 pennies in our account of \$4,089.89. We will continue this penny drive until our goal is met, so please keep those pennies coming in. There is a large pig in Ma's Girls and a donation jar in Greg's Market, both in Omer. You may drop your pennies in those jars, bring them to the courthouse on Memorial Day weekend or call one of our members, and we will gladly pick them up. (Of course, we are also accepting silver coins and paper money, too).

More exciting news concerns the balance on our mortgage. When we financed with Chemical Bank in June of 2008, our balance was \$61,000. We have paid several lump sum amounts since then, plus our regular payments. Our balance is now \$46,841.41. This is only possible because of our great committee members and the support we have from the citizens of Omer and Arenac County. Some of the profits from recent fundraisers include: the Christmas Tree/Wreath Auction - \$1,036.89, the Christmas Candy Sale - \$351.00, the Christmas Junque Sale - \$500.70 and lunch sales of \$164. We had several donations, memorials, and pledge payments during that time, also.

Our first open weekend of the year was our Annual Sucker Days Celebration. Our Omer Bakers did another outstanding job and profit from the bake sale was \$699.00. Thanks to all of our bakers. We also made \$106.00 on our Easter Junque, \$77.00 on the Easter Basket Raffle, donated by Phyllis Klender, and \$538.75 from lunch proceeds. This was a great start for the new year and we again want to thank everyone who donated, bought and worked. We couldn't do it without you.

Marion Poole Maday was our special guest for this opening weekend. Marion has written a book called A HISTORY OF MAPLE RIDGE, ARENAC COUNTY, MICHIGAN, written and compiled by Marion Poole Maday & Friends, 2008. Marion conducted a book signing and sold copies to our guests. The book is dedicated to the pioneers and old-timers whose dreams and hard work made Maple Ridge a one-time thriving community. She also dedicated it to the many volunteers of the ACHS, the Standish Depot and the Omer Courthouse. The book is available for purchase for \$28.00 at the ACHS, the courthouse and the depot. It is very well done and we appreciate Marion's skill and dedication. It would be great if it would inspire other local authors to write a book on their family heritage. Marion is donating all of the proceeds

from the sale of this book to the Arenac County Historical Society. Thank you, Marion.

Our next opening date will be for Memorial Day weekend, which is May 22<sup>nd</sup> and 23<sup>rd</sup>. We will again have a bake sale and will be conducting tours of our building.



### ATTENTION BASEBALL FANS

Tom Stanton, a Detroit – area baseball expert and journalist since 1979, will be joining us for a program on June 2, at 7:00 pm at the courthouse in Omer. Stanton

Has authored four nationally published books:

- THE FINAL SEASON – the Casey Award – winning memoir of Tiger Stadium
- THE ROAD TO COOPERSTOWN – a poignant story about a journey with his elderly father
- HANK AARON AND THE HOME RUN THAT CHANGED AMERICA
- TY AND THE BABE – named one of the five best sports books of the year as a finalist for a Publishers' Weekly Quill Award

**Funded in part by the Iosco-Arenac District Library, this promises to be a great program by an expert on baseball history. This is a free program. Refreshments will be served.**

Don't forget our annual Junque Sale, which is always held on the 4<sup>th</sup> of July weekend. This is one of our most successful fundraisers. We are accepting your donations for this sale and would be glad to make arrangements for you to deliver them to the courthouse or we will be happy to pick them up. Please contact one of our members for more information.

Our pledge board is on display in the front entrance. We are still seeking pledges and would be happy to provide more information on this project. We would also like more information and pictures from Omer and Arenac Township to add to our scrapbooks.

We will be looking forward to your visit on Memorial Day weekend.

Brenda Matt	- Committee Chair	989-846-0501
Phyllis Klender	- Reporting Chair	989-653-2762
Joann Gulau	- Financial Chair	989-876-6468

ARENAC COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY  
BALANCE SHEET  
As of March 31, 2009

ASSETS

Current Assets	
Checking /Savings	
Certificate of Deposit	
CD #1	1,099.97
CD#2	13,656.91
CD#3	5,688.29
Total Certificate of Deposit	20,445.17
Charity Island Checking	3,332.85
Courthouse Checking	3,170.87
General Checking Account	75.96
Money Market (Savings)	2,625.29
Total Checking/Savings	29,650.14
<b>TOTAL ASSETS</b>	<b>29,650.14</b>

LIABILITIES & EQUITY

Equity	
Building Fund	476.98
Charity Island Fund	3,332.85
Courthouse Fund	3,170.87
General Fund	11,037.64
Memorial Fund	11,631.80
Fund Reconciliation	-3,303.28
Net Income	-3,303.28
	29,650.14

TOTAL LIABILITIES & EQUITY 29,650.14

MUSEUM BOOK STORE

All of our book selections are for sale at the MUSEUM, the Depot, and the Northeast Art Center in Standish.

HISTORY OF STERLING *Price: \$8*  
A reprint of Virginia Adams book.

HISTORY OF STERLING (2<sup>nd</sup> Generation) *Price \$8*

AUGRES CENTENNIAL 1865-1965 *Price \$6*

ARENAC COUNTY FAIR PREMIUM BOOK. Printed in 1885, it describes the first Arenac County Fair that was held in Omer when it was the County Seat.

*Price \$5*  
THE STORY OF STANDISH AND ITS PEOPLE: 1876-1976  
This is a reprint of Allan McCready's book; an index of names has been added

*Price \$10*

ARENAC COUNTY PLAT BOOK, circa 1920 *Price \$6*

THIS IS THE WAY WE WENT TO SCHOOL *Price \$6*

8 1/2" x 11" ARENAC COUNTY MAP (Shows location of each of the 43 early Arenac County Schools) *Price \$1.25*

WAH SASH KAH MOQUA, by Mary Sagatoo *Price \$10*  
This is a reprint done by the Book Nook in East Tawas

THE HISTORY OF ARENAC COUNTY, MICHIGAN\* *Price \$20*  
This best-seller is in its 4th reprint!

THE HISTORY OF ARENAC COUNTY ROADS *Price \$6*

24<sup>th</sup> ANNUAL ARENAC COUNTY FAIR BOOK *Price \$3*

ONE ROOM ARENAC COUNTY SCHOOLS, Vol. 1,2,3,4 *Price \$7each*

1947 ARENAC COUNTY DIRECTORY *Price \$6*

FIRST FAMILIES OF STANDISH TOWNSHIP *Price \$10*

ARENAC COUNTY PIONEER SOCIETY, AUGRES 8-26-1911 *Price \$6*

A HISTORY OF MAPLE RIDGE, ARENAC COUNTY, MI Marion Poole Maday *Price \$28*



WEBSITE INDEXES

If you are looking for family history, you may want to check out the ACHS website. We now have 159 indexes entered with a total of 93,526 name entries. One of our most recent additions are the original and transcribed records of the old St. John's Lutheran Church in Sterling. Our thanks to Greg Knopp, our Webmaster, for sharing this with us. We still need indexers for this on-going project.

<http://www.rootsweb.ancestry.com/~miachs/index.htm>

ARENAC COUNTY NORMAL SCHOOL

Did you, or do you have a member of your family that graduated from Arenac County Normal School in Standish between the years 1903 – 1957? The ACHS is trying to collect a group picture of each of the graduating classes. Please look through those old boxes and books of family pictures and see if you can help us with this project. Call Joann at 876-6468 if you find one, please.



ARENAC COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY COMING EVENTS

**Museum** is open Saturdays and Sundays

May 23 – 24 through September 5 – 6

1:00 – 4:00 pm

2009 Summer Education Programs the last Thursday of the month at 7:00 pm at the **Museum**

- May 28<sup>th</sup> - Don Comtois – Saginaw River Marine Historical Society - Davidson Shipyard
- June 25<sup>th</sup> - Ric Mixter – Whalebacks on the Lakes
- July 30<sup>th</sup> – Debbie Hanson – The Story of Spic 'n Span (Stenglein Family of Saginaw and Pt. Lookout)
- August 27<sup>th</sup> – Casey Wise – Recollections of his father's business and Pt. Lookout.

**Courthouse Events in Omer**

- May 22<sup>nd</sup> – 23<sup>rd</sup> – ~~Memorial Day~~ Memorial Day Weekend – Bake Sale and Tours
- June 2<sup>nd</sup> – 7:00 pm – Tom Stanton – Journalism Professor and Baseball Historian – author of The Final Season – a memoir of Tiger Stadium and other baseball stories
- July 2<sup>nd</sup>, 3<sup>rd</sup>, 4<sup>th</sup>, and 5<sup>th</sup> – **HUGE** Annual Junque Sale
- Sept. 4<sup>th</sup>, 5<sup>th</sup>, - Labor Day Weekend – Bake Sale and Tours
- Nov. 10<sup>th</sup> – 7:00 pm – Ric Mixter – The Wheelsmen: Lake Michigan and Huron Wrecks



Annual Tree and Wreath Auction – Dates to be Announced

**Community Events**

- October – AuGres VFW Craft Show: Dates to be Announced
- November – Standish Lions Bazaar – Dates to be Announced
- December 12<sup>th</sup> – 13<sup>th</sup> Annual Christmas Walk – Times to be Announced

**Arenac County Historical Society**

**P.O. BOX 272**

**Au Gres MI 48703-0272**

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**ACHS NEWSLETTER For:**

**OR CURRENT RESIDENT**