

ACHS

NEWSLETTER



Arenac County Historical Society

August 2009

A MESSAGE FROM OUR PRESIDENT . . .

I hope everyone is enjoying the summer. It may not be the best we've ever had, but it isn't the worst either. I can remember a summer in the early 1980's when temperatures didn't exceed 75 °; and who can forget the summer of 1986, the summer of daily rain. Many of you have memories of good weather years and bad, but it's the price we pay for living in our great state of Michigan. Our ancestors were a hearty breed that took each season as it came and made the best of what they had. The Arenac County Historical Society has a lot of memories stored away in our museum and at Ye Olde Courthouse. Bring your family and friends to our facilities and share your memories with them. It doesn't cost a thing but a little time, and what better way to spend some quality time with them.

Many of you are enjoying our summer programs. These programs are free of charge, but we also appreciate donations. These donations really help defray costs for many projects we conduct. The Omer Courthouse had their annual Junque Sale and made a considerable amount of money, which will help pay off our mortgage on the building.

We are conducting another raffle this summer, so . . . hurry and get your tickets. Tickets are \$2.00 each or 3 for \$5.00. The drawing will be held during our August summer program and you could win a beautiful matted and framed print of the Edmund Fitzgerald or a HDTV. You can get tickets at the museum or contact a historical society member.

We are working on some plans for the museum for the next year. We are considering changing many of our displays and we are looking for ideas and volunteers.

I would like to thank our volunteers who graciously donate their time to support the ACHS. Some make baked goods and refreshments to serve our visitors; some donate time to sit at the museum or courthouse to greet our guests. If you would like to help, please let us know.

There is a lot of summer left and fall can be a beautiful time of year in Arenac County. Get out and enjoy some of the events here as well as in our great state of Michigan.

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

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:

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 HISTORICAL DEPOT



Construction of the bandstand is in progress at the depot. Several volunteers, headed by Dave Hertzberg and Bill Wilson, have been busy with the building. Our volunteers have spent several weekends donating their time to this project. Several other friends of the depot have also donated their time and talents. We plan to have it ready for use during Depot Days in October. We will be thankful for all these great volunteers when it is finished. The framing for the roof and sheathing are finished and the cedar shakes are being installed on the roof. If anyone would like to help, there is still a lot to be done with all the trim work and railings. Call the depot at 989.718.3021 and leave your name, if you would like to volunteer. As soon as the bandstand is complete, we will be installing the memorial brick walkway. There is still time to purchase an engraved brick with your name or a memorial name. Forms are available at the depot.

Several volunteers, under the direction of Mina Stodolak, Carrie Stodolak and Angie Pieniozek, have also been busy spreading new mulch and adding plantings, which include canna lilies, groundcover and flowering kale. Glad bulbs, donated by the Arenac Conservation District, were also planted and are growing beautifully. Our Director, Sue Stein, and our staff have been extremely busy watering the trees, shrubs and plantings.

The little signal building between the white depot fence and the railroad tracks has been painted and shingled, thanks to Brenda Matt and Curt Hillman. This building is owned by the railroad and is no longer in use. We were given permission by the railroad to restore it. One of our authority members, Mark Winslow, has been busy putting the finishing touches on the caboose. Mark finished installing the seats and is now completing the stenciling on the interior and exterior. Ray Stein, known as MAINTENANCE RAY, is kept busy repairing locks, lights, the sprinkler system and everything else that needs attention around our buildings.

The DAV, under the leadership of Carl Stodolak, donated \$50,000.00 to the depot project several years ago. Dr. Schwab had a large rock placed in front of the depot and has now attached a plaque to the face of the rock to acknowledge their donation. The plaque reads "In appreciation to the Disabled American Veterans Chapter 100 for their generous donation to the preservation of the Standish Railroad Depot. Many soldiers, over the years, departed for war from the Standish Depot and never returned. The donation was given commemorating their sacrifice for the Standish area and our great country."

This has been a very busy summer at the depot with many guests from all over Michigan and several other states. The caboose and English cars continue to be a very popular exhibit.

We have three school pictures on display from the ACHS and are trying to identify the students. The Standish School picture is the 1940-41 school year. One picture is from the Sterling School and one is unidentified. We also have a Sterling football team picture and we would like to identify the players. This is probably from the 50's.

The Depot Days entertainment committee is busy planning for Depot Days, which will begin on October 9th. Our committee did an outstanding job last year. If you are interested in helping, please call the depot and leave your name and number.

We have added two pictures from the Alger Depot to our collection and are seeking information to add to our collection 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.

Questor Group 328, an international antique study group that works for the preservation and restoration of antiques, has generously donated two more cabinets that we use for storage and display. We were pleased to host this great group for a tour in July and they also visited the historic Omer courthouse.

The Arenac Heritage Route 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



Ann Ennis, on left, presenting the **OUTSTANDING VOLUNTEER AWARD** to Joann Gulau

OUTSTANDING VOLUNTEER JOANN GULAU

It's confusing as to whether Joann Gulau was our first outstanding volunteer, along with Annabell Goodman, or our second one! Joann was not able to be at the meeting to get her certificate, so we saved it until we could present it to her in person. According to Joann, she had no idea she was to receive this award. It is Joann's organizational skills that have been a tremendous asset to the museum. She has sorted, filed, compiled, and made innumerable documents accessible to the public. The museum is a much more user friendly place because of Joann. Also, Joann has been responsible for much of the book publishing and so many other things that need to be done. I'm sure she would welcome some help. **THANK YOU, JOANN; WE DON'T KNOW WHAT WE'D DO WITHOUT YOU!**

Who will be our next outstanding volunteer? Come to the September meeting and find out!



YE OLD COURTHOUSE

GOING – GOING – GONE! That is what you will be hearing at Ye Olde Courthouse in Omer on Sunday, September 6th. Due to the generosity of one of our members, Stuart Fordyce of Au Gres, we will be hosting an auction. We are excited over this very special fundraiser. The Fordyce family donated many antiques. These antiques include:

- unique crocks
- beautiful baskets
- wooden boxes
- metal toy trucks
- other toys
- dolls
- dishes
- tables and chairs
- vintage clothing
- tools
- many dishes, including children’s china

and many other desirable items. We also have duck decoys, carving tools, wooden basket making forms and lots of collectibles, including Clothtiques and Boyds Bears. Lunch will be served, so plan to arrive early and enjoy the day with us. The great Omer Bakers will be making pies, which will be part of the menu.



Our annual Junque Sale, held during the 4th of July weekend, was again a huge success. The profit was over \$2,400.00. Thanks to everyone who donated their “good junque” for this sale. Special thanks to Harold and Mary Poole for all of their donations. Harold and Mary cleaned their attic, shed, and craft room and generously donated everything to the

courthouse. Mary is a very talented crafter and also donated many finished items and lots of craft supplies. The Poole’s’ collection of Boyds Bears are available for purchase from the courthouse. See Phyllis at the courthouse if you are interested.

If you have items YOU would like to donate, our members are happy to pick them up, year ‘round. We have storage space available until our next sale. A thanks also to Benny’s Party Rentals for the tent and tables for our sale.

Our profit from the July bake sale was \$360.00. We have many travelers heading north for the weekend that make our bake sale one of their regular stops. They even request certain items. We continue to collect pennies for THE MILLION PENNY DRIVE and now have over 458,459 pennies. We plan to continue until we reach one million. You may bring your pennies to the courthouse or drop them in the containers at Joe’s Electric, Wheeler’s Restaurant or Standish Bakery in Standish and at Greg’s Market and the glass pig at Ma’s Girls in Omer. The balance on our mortgage for the building at the end of July was \$46,565.11. Thanks to all of our benefactors and great volunteers, we have paid almost \$40,000.00 on the principal in four years. Marion Maday generously donated the proceeds from her MAPLE RIDGE book to the museum and the courthouse. The books are available for purchase at the museum in Au Gres, the courthouse and the depot in Standish.

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 are also seeking information and pictures from Omer and Arenac Township to add to our collections and scrapbooks.

We will be looking forward to seeing you at the auction of September 6th.

Brenda Matt	Committee Chair	989.846.0501
Phyllis Klender	Reporting Chair	989.653.2762
Joann Gulau	Financial Chair	989.876.6468

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 Adam's book

HISTORY OF STERLING PRICE \$8
(2ND Generation)

AU GRES 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
This is a reprint done by the Book Nook in East Tawas
PRICE \$10

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

THE HISTORY OF ARENAC COUNTY ROADS PRICE \$6

24TH ANNUAL ARENAC COUNTY FAIR BOOK
PRICE \$3

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

1947 ARENAC COUNTRY 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



We are still getting requests for our latest book, THE HISTORY OF MAPLE RIDGE. We had 202 printed and have About 25 left. We want to thank Marion Maday, who gathered information for the book and then turned it over To the ACHS, along with all the profits from the sale of the books.



We are still looking for pictures of the yearly classes of County Normal. Call Joann at 876.6468 if you can help.



We are in the process of getting another book reprinted. The title is THE HANDY COOK'S BOOK, written and compiled by members of the Ladies' Aid Society of the M.E. Church of Au Gres in 1915. Most of the recipes have the contributors' name with it. This should be ready in a couple of weeks and will be available at the museum.

Arenac County Historical Society Balance Sheet As of June 30, 2009

June 30, 09

ASSETS		
Current Assets		
Checking/Saving		
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		3,336.18
Courthouse Checking		3,752.78
General Checking Account		442.12
Money Market (Savings)		2,776.53
Total Checking/Saving		30,752.78
Total Current Assets		30,752.78
LIABILITIES & EQUITY		
Equity		
Building Fund		507.01
Charity Island Fund		3,336.18
Courthouse Fund		3,752.78
General Fund		11,343.72
Memorial Fund		11,813.09
Fund Reconciliation		- 5,618.80
Net Income		5,618.80
Total Equity		30,752.78
TOTAL LIABILITIES & EQUITY		30,752.78

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**

- August 27th – Casey Wise – Recollections of his father's business, the Chris Craft Company, and Pt. Lookout

COURTHOUSE Events in Omer

- Sept. 6th 1:00 pm
Antique and Collectables Auction at Olde Courthouse in Omer
- Nov 10th – 7:00 pm – Ric Mixer – The Wheelmen: Lake Michigan and Huron Wrecks



Annual Tree and Wreath Auction – Dates to be Announced

COMMUNITY Events

- STANDISH DEPOT DAYS Oct. 9 – 10 – 11
- STANDISH Lions Bazaar – November – Dates to be Announced
- AU GRES – December 12th – 13th – Annual Christmas Walk – Times to be Announced

ARENAC COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

PO BOX 272

Au Gres MI 48703-0272

NONPROFIT ORG
US POSTAGE
PAID
AU GRES MI
PERMIT NO. 50

ACHS NEWSLETTER For:

OR CURRENT RESIDENT