

ACHS

NEWSLETTER



Arenac County Historical Society

November 2009

A MESSAGE FROM OUR PRESIDENT . . .

Thank you to all our volunteers who helped us at the courthouse and museum this year. Whether you baked cookies for different functions, greeted our guests when we were open, did research, moved chairs, cleaned or whatever was needed, your support helped us a great deal. When everyone does a little, so much can be done.

I hope you have noticed the refurbished Arenac County Historical Museum sign in front of the building. It looks beautiful. Thank you, Joann Zibble, for the generous donation to have the sign completed and to Jim Derocher for bringing it back to life.

On December 12th and 13th, we will be open for our annual Christmas Walk. The Rifle River Strings will be entertaining on Saturday afternoon, refreshments will be served, and a bake sale will be held at museum, along with a candy sale at Ye Olde Courthouse. Come and enjoy a bit of the holidays with us and take advantage of the "goodies" both at the museum and down the road at the courthouse in Omer. Decorated trees and wreaths will again for sale at the courthouse. Your support will help finance many worthwhile projects.

This winter we will be doing some serious cleaning and renovating at the museum. New track lighting and ceiling fans are being installed. Hopefully better lighting and air circulation will create a more cheerful atmosphere. If anyone would like to help us move, clean, and redecorate, please let us know by contacting one of our board members.

Your board is planning next year's programs and projects. We look forward to seeing you again. There will be some money making projects to help raise funds to support the preservation of Arenac County history. I am proud of our communities' support to help pay off the courthouse mortgage. In a very short time we have paid off half of what we owe. We are part of a small group of communities with large, giving hearts.

As president of the ACHS, I would like to wish everyone a most joyous holiday season! May God's blessings follow you through the New Year.

Sandy Proulx
Arenac County Historical Society

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**



Standish Historical Depot
Arenac Heritage Route Authority

The Standish Depot will be honoring our veterans during the month of November. Many of our veterans left from the depot to serve our country. The display includes uniforms from several branches of the military from the Civil War to the present. Pictures of some of our local veterans will highlight the exhibit, which was assembled by Mina Stodolak. A scrapbook of pictures and stories is also on display. We would like more pictures and stories to add to the veterans' scrapbook which will be kept at the depot.

The depot was decorated beautifully for fall and our annual Depot Days Celebration. Our entertainment committee did a fabulous job providing our guests with a variety of music during the three day event. The bands were outstanding and the visits from Elvis, Frank Sinatra, Dean Martin and Buddy Holly were certainly a high light and quite a surprise for Standish. Schmidt Amusements (Doug Schmidt and Family) provided carnival rides, games, and food for the event. We had several vendors present and a display of railroad cars, including a restored dining car. Our local Venture Troop served a delicious lunch of chili and chicken noodle soup (prepared by the Standish Bakery Restaurant), rolls and beverage in the dining car. The Arenac County Historical Society had Indian and fishing artifacts on display inside the depot and several scrapbooks from the Arenac County Historical Museum for people to research.

Volunteers have covered our English cars with tarps for the winter months. The caboose will still be open when the weather permits

Santa will arrive at the Depot on November 27th at 7:00 p.m. and Mina, Carrie, Angie and crew will have the depot beautifully decorated for Christmas in time for Santa's visit. Please stop and see us during the holidays to enjoy the decorations. The depot is a great place to shop for Christmas gifts. We have train items for sale, including some beautiful Christmas ornaments, denim shirts with the depot logo and, now, we have added yellow, green, and red twill shirts. Other popular gift items are our T' including long-sleeved T's, sweatshirts and hoodies with the picture of the depot and steam engine.

The Standish Depot scrapbooks continue to be a work in progress. We have added some stories and pictures of some of our local people who worked for the railroad. We are also including stories of people who traveled through here on the trains. Another scrapbook contains pictures of Standish, school pictures, our citizens and Arenac County. If you have any information that you would like to share with us you may drop things off at the depot or call Brenda Matt at 989-846-0501. We would also like class yearbooks to display.

We have several more people identified from the three school pictures from the ACHS that are on display at the depot. The Standish School picture is the 1940-1941 school year. The other two are from the Sterling School.

We are on our winter hours now which are 12 p.m. to 6 p.m. Monday thru Friday, Saturday 10 am. to 6 p.m. and Sunday 11 a.m. to 4 p.m.

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

**VETERAN'S DAY
NOVEMBER 11TH
2009**



The Arenac County Historical Society takes this opportunity to remember and thank Arenac County veterans as Veteran's Day approaches.



Russell Weishuhn – 1944



William Martin Jr. William was Arenac County's first WWII casualty. He was on the USS Wasp and was killed September 15, 1942.



**Albert L. Vane
1942 - 1945**



YE OLDE COURTHOUSE/MASONIC HALL

Please join us at the courthouse on Tuesday, November 10, when Ric Mixter returns for another of his very interesting programs. Ric will present "The Wheelmen", based on his soon-to-be-released book. Ric's enthusiasm and speaking abilities captivate his audience and will provide you with a very entertaining evening.

Our committees at the courthouse have been very busy preparing for the Christmas season. Our Christmas "Junque Sale" is all set up and waiting for our visitors. You may begin shopping on November 10th. Our decorated trees and wreaths will also be on display and available for purchase. Our annual open house is scheduled for December 12th and 13th. We will also hold our popular homemade candy sale during that time. Alice Sproule will be having a children's Christmas Program on Saturday, the 12th at 3 p.m. We have several vendors in attendance on Saturday for your shopping pleasure including a Gold Party Fundraiser. At this fundraiser people receive cash for their unwanted gold and silver items and then we receive a cash bonus for the courthouse. This is a great opportunity for you to get rid of broken and unwanted jewelry just in time to give you some extra money for Christmas shopping. The gold buying will be held from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. We will be at the Standish-Sterling Middle School on November 14th for their bazaar. This will be another opportunity to purchase decorated trees, wreaths, homemade Christmas stockings, and a very nice assortment of collectible Hallmark Christmas ornaments.

We continue to make progress on our Million Penny Drive. We have reached the halfway mark and now have over 500,000 pennies. We plan to keep on until we reach one million pennies which is \$ 10,000.00. We accept pennies in any form including dollar bills. There is a canister at Greg's Market and a large pig in Ma's Girls in Omer. In Standish, the Standish Bakery, Wheelers Restaurant, Little Joes Radio Shack and Joes Electric also have canisters. We are very appreciative of these businesses allowing us counter

space for this project. We have great news to report from our auction which was held on September 6th. The auction total was \$ 8,801.50 and we cannot thank the generosity of the Fordyce family enough for this outstanding contribution. Our Omer bakers made many delicious pies and desserts for our lunch sales during the auction. Our receipts in the kitchen totaled almost \$ 600.00 for the day. In addition our recent E - Bay sales also contributed over \$ 500.00 to the courthouse project. The family of Frank and Alice Kopasz were also very generous with their donation of Frank's inventory from his golf sales business. We made several hundred dollars from the sales of golf clubs and accessories and still have several sets of clubs to sell at our next "Junque Sale. The Kopasz Family also donated a large sign with changeable letters for our use. Our auctioneers, Karen and Dave Douville of Treasure Hunt Auctions, (web site auctionzip.com Id # 13024) worked tirelessly to promote and conduct our auction. Because of all of our wonderful supporters, our super volunteers, and the generosity of all of our customers, we were able to pay a lump sum of \$ 9,000.00 on the balance of our mortgage bringing it down to \$ 35,277.00. Our original mortgage was for \$ 85,000.00 in 2005. We believe this is outstanding in a little over four years and thank everyone involved in this great historical and community project. We continue to collect your good "junque" for our summer sales. Please call us if you have items to donate. Our members are happy to pick them up at any time. We will store them until our sale. We plan to hold a sale during the Memorial Day weekend and also at our regularly scheduled sale during the 4th of July.

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

Don't forget our program on November 10. We are looking forward to your visit during our Christmas Open House Weekend in December.

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 A reprint of Virginia Adam's book	PRICE	\$8
HISTORY OF STERLING (2 ND Generation)	PRICE	\$8
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 4 th 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
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 with most of the contributors' names with it.	PRICE	\$6

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

The family of Walter Nowak recently gave the museum a collection of Standish School Year Books, dated 1931 – 1956. Bob and Marian Maday also gave us two Sterling School yearbooks. These are all greatly appreciated, as we didn't have many from Standish and none from Sterling School.

Even though the museum is not open on weekends through the winter months, we want to remind you that if you wish to visit the museum for research, you can call and leave a message and someone will get back with you and make arrangements for your visit. You will also find a lot of our indexes on our web site and copies are available by mail or email.

Arenac County Historical Society Balance Sheet As of October 31, 2009

	Oct 31, 09
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
Courthouse Checking	6,172.25
General Checking Account	588.90
Money Market (Savings)	7,767.08
Total Checking/Savings	34,973.40
Total Current Assets	34,973.40
TOTAL ASSETS	34,973.40
LIABILITIES & EQUITY	
Equity	
Building Fund	3,943.53
Courthouse Fund	6,172.25
General Fund	12,875.76
Memorial Fund	11,981.86
Fund Reconciliation	-10,644.68
Net Income	10,644.68
Total Equity	34,973.40
TOTAL LIABILITIES & EQUITY	34,973.40

THE HANDY COOK'S BOOK is now available at the museum for \$6.00. This book was originally published by the Ladies' Aid Society of the Au Gres M. E. Church in 1915. This book and many of our other publications would make nice Christmas gifts for the special person on your list.



Arenac County Historical Society
P.O. Box 272
AuGres, Michigan 48703-0272
989-876-6399

Membership Information

The Arenac County Historical Society (ACHS) was incorporated in 1970, and operates the County Museum in AuGres, Michigan. Membership is open to anyone. Dues are payable IN ADVANCE of each fiscal year, September 1 to August 31. Dues of a NEW member joining after March 1 will be credited through the following fiscal year. Renewals are accepted at any time.

I would like to: Join Renew.

Name _____

Street Address _____

City, State, Zip _____

Phone (With Area Code) _____

Enclosed is \$ _____ for Membership circled below.

Category	Dues	Category	Dues
Student (under 18 years)	\$3	Patron	\$250
Senior (over 55 years)	\$10	Business	\$50
Senior Couple (over 55 years)	\$15	Life over 55 years (individual)	\$150
Individual	\$15	Life over 55 years (couple)	\$225
Couple/Family	\$20	Life 55 and under (individual)	\$300
Contributing	\$50	Life 55 and under (couple)	\$400
Benefactor	\$100	Gift to Building Fund	\$

Mail to:

Treasurer, ACHS
P.O. Box 272
Au Gres, MI 48703-0272

ARENAC COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY COMING EVENTS

MUSEUM in Au Gres

November 14th Museum members will be at the VFW Craft Show in Au Gres
They will be offering RADA cutlery and ACHS published books



December 12th and 13th

THE MUSEUM CHRISTMAS WALK

Saturday from 10 – 4 with the Rifle River Strings playing in the afternoon

Sunday from 1 – 4

BOTH DAYS – THE MUSEUM'S BAKE SALE

COURTHOUSE in Omer

November 10th 7:00 pm at the Courthouse
Ric Mixter, THE WHEELMEN: Lake Michigan & Huron Wrecks



November 14th Representatives of Ye Olde Courthouse will be at the Standish-Sterling Middle School
from 9 – 3 offering decorated small trees, wreaths, and misc. items

December 12th and 13th

THE COURTHOUSE CHRISTMAS DAYS

Saturday and Sunday from 10 – 4

Saturday the 12th – Children's Program at 3:00 pm

Saturday the 12th – Local Crafters

Saturday and Sunday the 12th and 13th – decorated miniature trees,
wreaths, the Christmas "Junque" Sale

BOTH DAYS – THE COURTHOUSE'S CANDY SALE

ARENAC COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY
PO BOX 272
Au Gres MI 48703-0272

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ACHS NEWSLETTER For:

OR CURRENT PRESIDENT