

Arenac County Historical Society

ACHS NEWSLETTER



May 2011

A MESSAGE FROM OUR PRESIDENT . . .

Welcome home to all the snowbirds and anyone who spent all or part of the winter in a warmer climate. Many of us who stuck out the winter in Michigan found out what a real Michigan winter is like. Remember when we were children and slid down mountains of snow the snowplow built? We had one of those winters, lots of snow and blizzards, school closings and plenty of cold weather!! Whether you like winter or prefer a warmer location, we are glad you are home again because we have another eventful summer planned at the Arenac County Historical Society.

We have some exciting programs scheduled for this year at the ACHS Museum and at Ye Olde Courthouse. The cities of Au Gres, Omer and Standish are planning events that involve us as a society. Watch for fliers and get out and enjoy some of the good times the county has to offer. Many of these events are not expensive and are still very enjoyable. We are aware that economic times are still difficult, so why not support our local communities and enjoy what we can.

We are looking for volunteers to help us with the museum and courthouse. If you can spare a few hours this summer, we need people to spend a bit of time on weekends when we are open greeting visitors and showing them around the buildings. We can always use people who can index, people who can fold and help us get our newsletter out (which is only 4 times a year), people who will help with refreshments for our programs and a lot of little odd jobs that may only take a few minutes to complete. Maybe you don't have a lot of time, but any amount that you could donate would be greatly appreciated.

Our sympathy goes to the family of Tim Shimmons of Ann Arbor, one of our ACHS members. Tim wrote 5 or 6 books on the history of Melita and provided copies to our museum. We appreciate the work he did in helping us preserve more history of Arenac County.

This is the summer to check out our new genealogical section in the museum. We have designated a large area and arranged so much data in that area to help everyone find all types of information about people, events, township records, Michigan history and much more. If you are looking for ancestors or just want to know more about our great county, you need to check out this section of the museum. While you are here, there are many displays that will draw your attention. Our website is awesome and you can now find us on Facebook. I hope this summer will be a great one for you! Come and share a little time with us, so we can share a bit of summer fun with you.

Best Wishes,
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	Linda Proulx
Marilyn Van Sickle	
Pam Findlay	

ACHS Standing Committees

Building and Grounds:

Collections/Exhibits:

Annabell Goodman

Accession Committee:

Sandy Proulx	Linda Proulx
Ann Ennis	
Joann Gulau	

Hospitality:

Linda Proulx
Pam Findlay

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

Website 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

YE OLDE COURTHOUSE/MASONIC HALL

The Courthouse will be open Memorial Day weekend on Friday, May 27th and Saturday, May 28th from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. It will be your opportunity to purchase some delicious baked goods provided by our Omer Area Bakers. We also have several boxes of books available for purchase and a few items in our mini Junque Sale

We are pleased to announce that a \$2,500.00 grant was donated to us by the America's Farmers Grow Communities program presented by The Monsanto Fund. Our organization was selected by Don and Mary Wojtowicz, local farmers and friends of the Courthouse/Masonic Hall Project. The America's Farmers Grow Communities program is a way that Monsanto recognized the vital role that America's farmers play in caring for our land and growing our economy, as well as helping them to grow their community by supporting local organizations such as ours. Don and Mary were responsible for this Monsanto grant and also very generously donated \$1,000.00 to the Courthouse/Masonic Hall; many thanks to Don and Mary from the Arenac County Historical Society and the Courthouse/Masonic Hall Committee.

We are planning several programs for this year. Please consult our Coming Event in this newsletter for details. Our annual Junque Sale will be held on the 4th of July weekend. This is our largest sale of the year and our biggest fundraiser. It is your chance to purchase some great bargains in gently used merchandise. If you have "good junque" you would like to donate to us, please contact us to make arrangements to either drop it off or we would be happy to pick things up.

Our penny drive has been doing very well. We only need 253,633 more pennies to reach our goal of one million. A few of our Arenac County Historical Members and friends who live in other states have mailed us checks to contribute to this project. Our Financial Chair, Joann, is more than happy to accept checks and paper money instead of counting and rolling pennies. Of course, we are very pleased to accept the pennies, or their equivalent, in any form!

The Courthouse/Masonic Hall committee has been busy making improvements to our building. We are in the process of painting our main room and installing picture rail shelves. This has added greatly to the attractiveness of the building. We have also begun adding a universally accessible restroom to our facility. This will be done in three phases: the restroom being the first phase, widening our south entrance and doorways as necessary will be the second phase and a ramp to the south entrance will be the third. We have replaced all the shades in the second story and will begin replacing the others very soon.

We were open for Sucker Weekend in April. We held a very successful bake sale with an amazing profit of \$639.75. Thanks to the Omer Sucker Festival Committee for very generously donating \$500.00 to us. We sold books and Easter Junque during this weekend and profited \$224.50. The community support for this project is outstanding.

Our committee has been keeping track of the hours we spend at the courthouse and our total for 2010 was 1,440 hours. This does not include all the baking time for the bake sales, penny counting time or the time we spend at home or away from the courthouse working on this project. The ACHS will have a booth in the brown building at the Arenac County Fair. We will have several scrapbooks on display, information about the ACHS and the Courthouse/Masonic Hall. You

may bring your pennies to us at the fair, browse through our scrapbooks and rest at our booth.

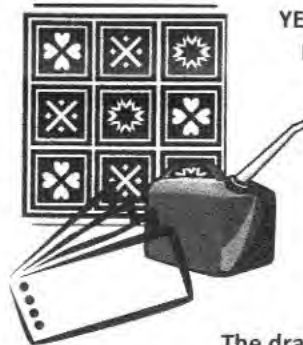
In addition to our regularly monthly payments on our mortgage, we paid a lump sum of \$5,000.00 in January. We are pleased to announce that our mortgage balance is now \$15,884.84. This is great news and we would like to thank everyone who has contributed to this historical building.

We continue to collect Arenac Township and Omer history to display and are in the process of adding historic pictures and family pictures to our walls. Our pledge board is on display in the front entrance. We are still seeking pledges and would be glad to provide you with more information. Please join us this year, attend our many events, volunteer and enjoy a visit with us. Volunteers are always welcome.

Brenda Matt Committee Chair 846-0501

Phyllis Klender Reporting Chair 653-2762

Joann Gulau Financial Chair 876-6468



YE OLDE COURTHOUSE and MASONIC HALL RAFFLE

How would you like to Win \$500.00 in gas and gift cards? Ye Olde Courthouse and Masonic Hall is having a raffle.

The drawing will be held on December 4th, 2011. The second prize is a queen size quilt and pillow donated by the Wednesday Night Strippers from Au Gres, along with more quilted items. See any ACHS member or call and we will get some tickets to you. We will even mail them to our out of town members. The tickets are \$1.00 each or 3 for \$6.00.



AU GRES SCHOOL YEARBOOKS.

We have a lot of duplicate yearbooks and are selling them for \$20.00 each. Let us know if you are interested in purchasing one.



**ARENAC HERITAGE ROUTE AUTHORITY
STANDISH HISTORICAL DEPOT**

Everyone at the SH Depot is glad to see spring arrive. Our flower beds have been cleaned and crocuses, daffodils, hyacinths and tulips are in bloom. Our caboose is cleaned and open for viewing. The tarps are removed from the English passenger cars and we are once again ready for guests to tour our popular railcar display.

The contract to repair and install our sprinkler system at the north end of the depot property has been signed and the work is expected to begin by the middle of May. Indian Summer Landscaping has been notified to begin our landscape work in that area as soon as the sprinkler system is complete. The best news is the landscape work also includes the installation of our brick walkway. We have set a target date of June 1st for the completion of this project. There still remains some finish work on the bandstand which will also be completed this spring. We have received a grant from the DDA which will help us fund this work.

Our concert series will begin on June 9th. The entertainment for that evening is the ever popular Sunshine String Band. This group, with their sing a long style, was one of the most popular entertainers last year. Concert times are 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. These free concerts continue throughout the summer on Thursday evenings and end on September 1st with Devin and Yvette Chisholm. Bring your lawn chair and enjoy the concerts with us this summer. We still have a few sponsorships left. Sponsors are encouraged to set up at the depot and promote themselves the week of their sponsorship and during the concert.

The SH Depot web site is now online. We are still in the "Coming Soon" phase for many of the topics but this should be completed very soon. The site is www.standishdepot.org and the email is depot@standishdepot.org, all of our coming events will be posted on this site including the concert entertainers and dates. We also plan to include community events. If you would like to add an event, please email the depot with your information. When our site is complete it will also have links to sites throughout the county and state, including the Arenac County Historical Society, the Heritage Route, area chambers and Pure Michigan.

Depot Days is set for Saturday and Sunday, October 1st and 2nd. We are planning a train ride for Saturday only and the great news is it will be pulled by the Steam Locomotive 765. Prices and times are not set yet, but if you are interested in being a passenger on this excursion, please notify the SH Depot at 989-718-3021 or email us and you will receive notification when final plans are complete and tickets are available.

Plans for the installation of the antique clock on the depot property are being finalized. This will be placed in the berm on the east side of the parking lot. This clock was purchased last year by the Downtown Development Authority and is being stored until all paperwork is complete to install it.

The Heritage Route Authority held its annual fundraiser, the Diamonds, Denim and Camo Dinner on March 19th. Profit from this dinner was \$6,475.00 Our not so wild, wild game dinner was

provided by Dixie Dave. We would like to take this opportunity to thank everyone who attended or donated to this successful event. The generosity of the community to the depot is very much appreciated, special thanks to Don and Mary Wojtowicz who presented us with a check for \$1000.00 for the depot.

We are now open Monday through Saturday from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. and Sunday from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. Volunteers are needed to staff the depot. Volunteers may name their own hours. Please call Sue at 989-718-3021 if interested in more information. It is great to have local people for staff to provide information for our guests who usually have questions about people, our history, or are seeking places to visit throughout the county.

As always, we appreciate information to add to our collection of memorabilia, pictures and stories of people from this area who worked for the railroad or depot. We are also collecting school yearbooks and local history. Our scrapbooks are displayed on our "new" round oak table in the lobby.

The Arenac Heritage Route Authority meets at the SH 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



May 16th, 1934

TURNER SCHOOL TO GRADUATE 13

Thirteen young people will be graduated from the Turner High School next Friday evening. Charles Molineaux, Superintendent, announced a most appropriate program for the big event at the Turner Community Hall to take place at that time. Elaborate preparations have been completed and the stage is all set for one of the finest events to be held in Turner during the past year.

The program for Commencement is as follows:

Processional	Mrs. W. F. Kelly
Invocation	Rev. R. W. Splane
Violin Solo	Hugh J. Kelly
Commencement Address	Rev. G. T. Nevin
Presentation of Diplomas	W. N. Staebler
Benediction	Rev. R. W. Splane

Members of the Graduating Class :

Pat G. Kelly	Carl A. White
John A. White	Howard Rose
Celia Vance	Alice Britt
Robert Knowles	Marie Hawn
Ralph C. Hamilton	Ellsworth N. Day
Clara Barasovich	Lawrence A. Hahn
Roland Humerickhouse	

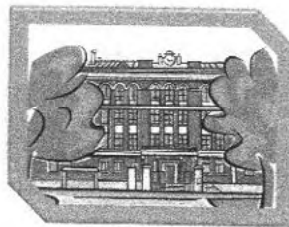
MUSEUM BOOK STORE

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	\$12
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
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
RECORD OF ARENAC COUNTY SOLDIERS AND SAILORS IN SERVICE IN THE GREAT WAR Joann Gulau and Mike Melvin	PRICE	\$28

Arenac County Historical Society Balance Sheet As of March 31, 2011

	Mar 31, 11
ASSETS	
Current Assets	
Checking/Savings	
Certificate of Deposit	
CD #1	1,164.61
CD #2	10,000.00
CD #3	8,200.44
Total Certificate of Deposit	17,365.05
Courthouse Checking	5,785.85
General Checking Account	660.46
Money Market (Savings)	9,045.49
Petty cash	100.00
Total Checking/Savings	32,956.85
Total Current Assets	32,956.85
TOTAL ASSETS	32,956.85
LIABILITIES & EQUITY	
Equity	
Building Fund	4,091.80
Courthouse Fund	5,835.85
General Fund	9,934.66
Memorial Fund	13,094.54
Fund Reconciliation	-4,601.37
Net Income	4,601.37
Total Equity	32,956.85
TOTAL LIABILITIES & EQUITY	32,956.85



We are moving right along on the County Normal book, finding lots of articles in the Archives of the old Arenac Independents. We are still missing some class pictures. If you have any leads or suggestions of people we could contact, please call Joann at 876-6468.

ARENAC COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

P.O. Box 272
 Au Gres, Michigan 48703-0272

MEMBERSHIP INFORMATION

The Arenac County Historical Society (ACHS) was incorporated in 1970, and operates the County Museum in Au Gres, Michigan and Ye Olde Courthouse and Masonic Lodge in Omer, Michigan. Membership is open to anyone. Dues are payable IN ADVANCE of each fiscal year, September 1st to Augusts 31st. Dues of a NEW member joining after March 1st 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:

<u>Category</u>	<u>Dues</u>	<u>Category</u>	<u>Dues</u>
STUDENT (under 18 years)	\$3	PATRON	\$250
SENIOR (over 55 years)	\$10	BUSINESS	\$50
SENIOR COUPLE (over 55 years)	\$15	LIFE – OVER 55 (individual)	\$150
INDIVIDUAL	\$15	LIFE – OVER 55 (couple)	\$225
COUPLE/FAMILY	\$20	LIFE – 55 AND UNDER (individual)	\$300
CONTRIBUTING	\$50	LIFE – 55 AND UNDER (couple)	\$400
BENEFACTOR	\$100		

MAIL TO: TREASURER, ACHS
 P.O. BOX 272
 AU GRES, MI 48703-0272

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

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AU GRES MI
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ACHS NEWSLETTER For:

OR CURRENT RESIDENT

Au Gres Museum

June ²⁹~~30~~, 7:00

July 28, 7:00

Aug (date pending)

Sept. 22, 7:00

Bill Britt

Bob Woolever

Doug Juris

Eric Jylha

Maple Syrup Farm

Before DNA

Trip to the Orient

What Happened in Mid Michigan while WWII was going on.

Omer Courthouse

May 27 - 28 Fri - Sat.

July 1-2-3- Fri - Sat. - Sun.

Aug. 4.

Sept. 14.

Oct. 26.

Nov. 9.

9-5 Bake Sale - Mini Junque & Book Sale.

9-5 Annual Huge Junque Sale and Bake Sale.

Doc Fletcher - Canoeing in Michigan.

Ric Mixer - Michigan's Off Shore Lighthouses

Unexplained Michigan Mysteries - (name not available at this time)

Ric Mixer - Special New Edmund Fitzgerald.

(The above Omer programs are at 7:00 p.m. and are funded by Iosco-Arenac District Library)