

Arenac County Historical Society

ACHS NEWSLETTER



August 2011

Summer seems to be passing by very quickly. A lot of us probably would not like to see it end. However, there are such beautiful seasons in our great state of Michigan. Arenac County is no exception! It is only early August and I see those beautiful green leaves looking a bit like they may already want to turn colors. Perhaps it's just the dry weather we've had. In any case, I do find myself saying, "God keep them green for just a little bit longer." Be that as it may, we will enjoy all that fall has to offer.

I'm so proud of the events and work going on at Ye Olde Courthouse in Omer. In such a short time we have paid off an enormous amount of the mortgage on the building. A handicap bathroom is being installed and eventually, a handicap ramp will be built. The citizens of Omer should be very proud of all they have accomplished to help make the building and the town what it is. It may be a small town, but its citizens show a lot of community pride. Thank you, citizens of Omer, for helping make the Arenac County Historical Society a source of pride in the history of our small county.

If anyone is interested, we are still looking for volunteers to help us at the museum and courthouse. If winter doldrums are leaving you with feelings of what can I do, we need people to index some of our books. It's not hard work and you can certainly work at our own pace. We could use a few people to fold newsletters (only four times a year). It doesn't take a lot of time if a couple of people work at it. Maybe you only may be able to do it once, and that is great! Someone else can do it another time. We can always use a good handyman to take care of minor repairs at our buildings. We are looking for anyone who may want to serve as a board member. I would love to hear from you. We need all the fresh ideas and help we can get.

We recently received a grant from the Arenac County Fund to help us with the purchase and installation of new ceiling fans for the museum. We are hoping this project will be completed this fall. I would like to say thank you to the members of the Arenac County Fund for the great support in our communities.

Thank you to the volunteers who worked on weekends while our museum and courthouse were open. We appreciate all your help. I would also like to thank a few people who have volunteered to help in the future. It's not too late to lend a helping hand.

Are you researching your family tree? Check out our genealogical section at the museum. We have loads of information. We hope to see you soon!

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:

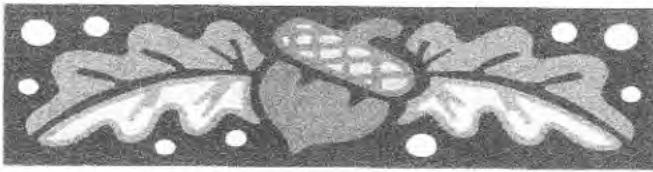
Greg Knopp

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



Arenac Heritage Route Authority
Standish Historical Depot.

Our summer concerts are coming to a close. These are held every Thursday evening from 6:30 to 8:30 at the Depot. We will conclude with Devin & Yvette Chisholm on September 1st. We book a variety of entertainment for these free evenings. We have hosted county, gospel, folk, pop, classics, classic rock and a polka band, that added greatly to our line up. Just bring your lawn chair and enjoy yourself.

Depot Days will be held the first week end in October, the 1st and 2nd. The Antique Tractor Club will have several tractors on display, vendors will be there (vendor spaces are still available.), and the Arenac County Historical Society will have scrapbooks available for your entertainment and research. We will again be having a pie baking contest and a silent auction. The Saganing Eagle's Landing Casino will be there on Saturday only with player's coupons.

Entertainment will be provided on Saturday which includes, Amanda Kari, Silver Fox, Point Blank, and Omer City Limits. On Sunday you will have the opportunity to enjoy Gunsmoke Express and the Steve Drzewicki Band. These are all great entertainers. We will have a tent with chairs provided for our guests while they are enjoy this variety of music. Bring your toe tapping and dancing shoes and have a fun time.

Our long awaited memorial brick sidewalk is installed. Indian Summer Landscaping placed the bricks and completed our landscaping around the bandstand. The sprinkler system was installed on the north end of the depot property and Ray Stein (maintenance Ray as he is known) has been repairing the sprinkler system that covers the east and south end of the depot site. Ray did a lot of research and many hours labor to get this system to operate. Ray has saved us several thousand dollars by fixing this system. Thanks Ray, we really appreciate this. Our bandstand is nearly complete. We still need to install some posts and more decorative trim. Many thanks to all who purchased bricks for the walkway. This was a fundraiser to provide the money to build the bandstand and we appreciate your patience in completing this project. We continue to take orders for bricks.

Plans are being finalized for the installation of the antique clock. The base is being installed and we are waiting for the electrical company that maintains our lights to install the electricity to the clock site.

The depot has been extremely busy this summer. More and more visitors are seeking information to northeast Michigan. We have brochures for every county along the US 23 Heritage Route. The depot has a computer for public use and we direct guests to the many web sites available for our travelers. Two very popular and informative web sites are www.michigan.org and www.heritage23.org.

Brenda Matt and Joann Gulau met with NEMCOG, other historians along the Heritage Route and a media team for a project that is called "Telling the Story". This team will produce mini

documentaries along the 23 Heritage Route. We have the opportunity to submit ten stories which may be selected for the documentary. Our goal is for visitors to explore all of the stories and we promote northeast Michigan. The Standish Historical Depot will be one of our stories as well as the Courthouse in Omer.

The depot is open daily Monday thru 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 and help with gardening, paint projects and maintenance. Volunteers may name their own hours. Please call Sue at 989-718-3021 if you are interested in more information. Local people can provide information for our guests who usually have questions about people, local history and are looking for places to visit throughout the county.

We continue to add information to our collection of memorabilia, picture and stories of people from this area who worked for the railroad or depot. We are also collecting school yearbooks and local history.

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

Brenda Matt
Authority Representative.



5-18-1916
**GRAVEL ROAD FROM
PINE RIVER TO OMER**

Rey Williams of Arenac hustled out last week and got 18 signers out of a possible 26 for a gravel road from Pine River to Omer. The petition has been sent to the state highway commissioner for action. It is being planned to get a petition for a gravel road from Pine River to Standish. Several property owners along this road have said they would be glad to do all they could to

3-30-1916
GRAVEL ROAD TO PINNIE

Yesterday the petitions for a gravel road from Pinconning to Standish was completed. Over 68 per cent of the owners along the road signed the petition. 51 per cent was all that was necessary.

State Highway Commissioner Rogers will hold a hearing in the near future and all persons interested will have a right to appear at this meeting.

The work of getting the petition signed was left to Orlan Brennen who did the work up in fine shape.

4-27-1916
**FOR GRAVEL ROAD
TO STERLING**

A petition with over 90 per cent of the land owners along the right of way on it has been sent to the state highway commissioner for a gravel road from Sterling to Standish. As this is an important link in the east shore trunk line road it will undoubtedly be surveyed and built this summer. Clark Pomeroy hustled around and got the petitions signed.

The year 1916 appears to have been an important year for improvements in Arenac County transportation. The articles are from the Arenac Independent.



The Courthouse will be open for Labor Day weekend on Friday and Saturday, September 2nd and 3rd. Our Omer Bakers will again be contributing their delicious baked goods for sale and we will be hosting a mini-junque sale for your shopping pleasure.

Our annual huge July 4th weekend "Junque" sale was a great success. Our total for the sale was \$ 2,293.64 and our bake sale made us a profit of \$523.00. The Courthouse junque sales have totaled over three thousand dollars so far this year. In addition to the junque sales, Joann sells items for us on E Bay which are not included in this total. We will have a report at the end of this year which will show totals for all of our income. Because of the generosity of our benefactors our mortgage balance is now \$ 13,576.46.

Special thanks to Benny's Party Rentals for supplying us with a tent for the sale.

The penny drive continues and is making excellent progress. Our goal is one million pennies (or \$ 10,000.00) and we now have \$ 8,120.00 in pennies. The end is in sight, just 188,000 more pennies to go. Please remember that we are more than happy to accept your pennies in the form of dollar bills. That saves Joann a lot of counting and wrapping time.

We are in the process of remodeling the bathroom to make it universally accessible. The rough plumbing is complete and the electrical underway. As soon as the electrical is roughed in we will begin insulating and dry walling. The floor has been replaced as well as the floor joists and the window. We would like to thank the Arenac Community Foundation for a grant of \$ 500.00 for this project. Brenda is almost finished painting in the main room and Mike and Jack have been installing picture rails for the display of Omer and Arenac Township pictures.

Our raffle is in progress also. The top prize is \$ 500.00 in cash and gas cards. We have several other great prizes including a Queen Size quilt and pillow, a beautiful stained glass angel and quilted table runners and placemats. Contact any of our committee members, ACHS members or stop in a purchase your ticket during the Labor Day weekend.

Brenda and Joann have been selected to represent the ACHS in a project sponsored by NEMCOG, (Northeast Michigan Council of Governments.) They are the Arenac Heritage Route Authority representatives to the Heritage Route Historic Teams. The project is "Telling the Story of the Sunrise Coast". These stories will be produced in mini documentaries that will chronicle the most visually appealing stories within Arenac, Iosco, Alcona, Alpena, Presque Isle, and Cheboygan counties - along the U.S. 23 Heritage Route. We have the opportunity to select ten stories to submit. They will not all be selected, however stories and events that do not lend themselves to this media form will be considered for narrative description on the website, accompanied with photographs. NEMCOG is here to promote northeast Michigan. This project is unprecedented in scope and as they reach out to the people who have spent years in

painstaking research, collecting facts and artifacts, (historians) the hope is to tap into a resource that will enlighten the northeast Michigan traveler for years to come. We are in the process of selecting our stories. Stories rich in history, local culture, and an area's wildlife and natural beauty will be considered, so long as they have a strong visual element—what travelers can see and experience when they arrive in the area. Lore or legend stories will be considered, so we plan to submit our own "Witchy Wolf" legend and of course the Courthouse/Masonic Hall which has played an important role in the history of Arenac County.

The website for the heritage route is www.heritage23.org. This is a travel tourism website. Stories will appear here in written and video format.

The ACHS Booth at the Arenac County Fair was staffed by members of the ACHS and was well received by visitors. It was a great opportunity to reach people in the community with information about the Museum, Courthouse and to provide direction to our website.

Ric Mixer will again be our guest for fall programs. These are listed in another section in this newsletter.

We continue to collect Arenac Township and Omer history to display in our building and to add to our scrapbooks. Pledges are still available for the Courthouse/Masonic Hall project. Please join us during Labor Day weekend. Volunteers are always welcome to join our committee.

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.

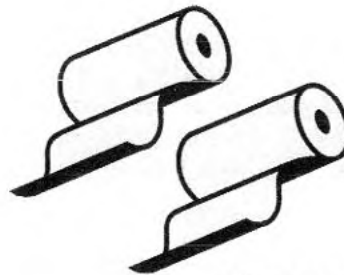
The drawing will be held on December 4th, 2011. The second prize is a queen size quilt and pillow donated by the Wednesday Night Strippers from Au Gres, along with more quilted items. See any ACHS member or call and we will get some tickets to you. We will even mail them to our out of town members. The tickets are \$1.00 each or 6 for \$5.00.

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 July 31, 2011**

	Jul 31, 11
ASSETS	
Current Assets	
Checking/Savings	
Certificate of Deposit	
CD #1	1,164.61
CD #2	10,000.00
CD #3	6,200.44
Total Certificate of Deposit	17,365.05
Courthouse Checking	11,609.32
General Checking Account	74.36
Money Market (Savings)	8,943.69
Petty cash	100.00
Total Checking/Savings	38,092.42
Total Current Assets	38,092.42
TOTAL ASSETS	38,092.42
LIABILITIES & EQUITY	
Equity	
Building Fund	4,091.84
Courthouse Fund	11,644.32
General Fund	9,224.95
Memorial Fund	13,131.31
Fund Reconciliation	-12,033.76
Net Income	12,033.76
Total Equity	38,092.42
TOTAL LIABILITIES & EQUITY	38,092.42



Here at the ACHS we always have a wish list. In this issue our wish list is very simple. We are low on paper towels and would appreciate and donations that come our way.

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:

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 (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

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

ACHS NEWSLETTER For:

OR CURRENT RESIDENT

Museum

Sept 22,	7:00	Eric Jyhla	What was going on in mid Michigan during WWII
Dec 3-4 th			Christmas Open House.

Courthouse

Sept 2-3 Labor Day Weekend	9-5		Junque Sale and Bake Sale
Sept 14	7:00 pm		Ric Mixer: Michigan Off Shore Light Houses
Nov 9	7:00 pm		Ric Mixer: New Fitzgerald Report
Dec 4	9-5		Christmas Open House, Annual Candy Sale and Christmas Junque Sale