

# ACHS NEWSLETTER



*Arenac County Historical Society*

*November 2011*

We've had a good year at the Arenac County Historical Society. We've had some excellent programs this summer at the museum and we are continuing with more programs at Ye Olde Courthouse through the fall. We will be having our annual Christmas Walk at both locations with bake sales and candy sales. We are hoping to get some entertainment at the museum that will get us in the Christmas Spirit and spread some holiday cheer. We will be having a holiday memory tree at the museum. If you have Christmas pictures from past holidays we would love to have them to hang on our memory tree. Just tell us who is in the picture and write a brief message about the occasion on a post card (the recipe size). You may mail them to the museum address or contact one of our board members and we will pick them up for you. We will save the pictures for you and they may be picked up after the holidays.

I am looking into programs for next year. Some people have given us some wonderful ideas. I am still looking for volunteers to help at the museum this coming year. We have so much to offer visitors and citizens of our communities. I am hoping that people realize that a visit to each of our locations is free, however monetary donations are really appreciated. The money helps with expenses at each location.

We have had a lot of response concerning our genealogical research center. We have had a lot of requests from people about information we may have. If we don't have the information they request, we are able to refer them to other agencies that keep certain records. Many people enjoy looking through the many scrapbooks reminiscing about people and events of the past. While I was volunteering at Depot Days in Standish, several people approached us questioning if they could donate old treasures they had in their possession with historical value concerning Arenac County. We explained that our accessions committee would evaluate these objects and determine if we will keep them for display. We like to change our display cases with different articles, so if you or anyone you know have treasures that may be of significant history from Arenac County let us know. We would love to display them.

There will be a pie sale on November 19th at the Au Gres IGA starting at 9:00 a.m. until all pies are sold. Funds collected from the sale will help support the museum. We thought deer hunters could stock up the deer camp with refreshments and a great homemade pie or two. Of course any non hunters may be welcome to purchase also. Hunting season in Michigan is a great time for many people. They look forward to getting that perfect buck with a huge rack. It is one of the many ways people get out and enjoy our great state.

We hope all of you have a wonderful tasty Thanksgiving and a memorable Christmas. May the New Year be filled with all God's blessings.

Sandy Proulx  
President

## ACHS Officers

President	Sandy Proulx
Vice President	
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
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

The depot invites you to visit us in November to see our veterans display. November is Veteran's Month and our display in the freight room is in their honor. Uniforms from the Civil War, World Wars I and II, Korea, Vietnam, and Desert Storm are in this exhibit. We have several scrapbooks honoring our veterans and would like to add pictures and information concerning local veterans to this collection. Most Arenac County veterans who served in World Wars I and II, left on a train from this depot, many of them not returning.

Christmas is around the corner and our decorators, Mina and Angie, are busy planning. Flower boxes will be filled with greens and winter accessories. They are preparing for a large decorated tree in the bandstand. Travelers and local people all enjoy and comment on the beautiful decorations that adorn the depot. Please stop in during the holiday season and enjoy them too. Santa Claus will arrive at the depot the day after Thanksgiving and will visit with children in the caboose.

The Depot will be hosting a book signing on Saturday, December 10, at 11 a.m. John Cuthbertson, the author of *THE MIGHTY RIFLE RIVER* will be at the depot to greet people and discuss his book. This is the second printing and contains several colored pictures and additional information. Please join us for a visit with John and several local people who contributed information to John for his research.

Our summer concert series was very successful and enjoyed by our guests. We are busy planning for next year's concert series where we will again host a variety of performers. Let us know if you have someone you think would be enjoyed. The concerts are free to our guests; however we pay the performers and the sound system people. Sponsors are needed to ensure the continuation of these performances. We would like to take this opportunity to thank our sponsors of the 2011 Summer Concerts. Many thanks to the Standish Chamber of Commerce, Medi Lodge of Sterling, Chemical Bank, The Arenac Community Foundation, Arenac-Bay Veterinarian Services, St. Mary's of Standish Community Hospital, Saganing Eagles Landing Casino, Area Home Party Consultants, R.I.C.C., Forward Corporation, Richardson Chevrolet-Buick and The Trading Post. We would not be able to host these concerts with the support of these very generous sponsors.

Depot Days was held the first week end in October. Schmidt Amusements again provided rides which were a great success; we had antiques tractors on display courtesy of the Sun Rise Side Antique Tractor Club and several vendors for the shopping pleasure of our guests. Dr. Schwab arranged for pop to be donated by Pepsi of West Branch. We held a pie baking contest, a chili cook off, a 50-50 drawing and a raffle. Thank you, Carrie Stodolak, for conducting our 50-50 raffles for Depot Days as well as the Summer Concert Series. These were a great help in providing funds for our entertainers. We would also like to thank our guests who purchased 50-50 and raffle tickets. Our entertainers were great and we had some large crowds present to enjoy them. The Farmers' Market was also on hand for people to be able to purchase fresh vegetables and products supplies by our local growers. Once again we would like to thank the Saganing Eagles Landing Casino for being present with vendor coupons. The \$ 5.00 that people paid to receive their coupons was for the depot. The sponsorship of the casino played a tremendous role in making Depot Days a financial success. We are very appreciative of Eagles Landing for their continued support.

The Arenac County Historical Society had several of their scrapbooks on display during depot days. Many of our guests enjoy looking through them and reminiscing about the schools they attended, family members, churches and pictures and articles about our community.

We are always interested in what we can do to improve Depot Days. Suggestions are welcome. We are considering adding a bean soup cook off

for next year. Let us know if you have some ideas we may be able to utilize.

Our memorial brick sidewalk is complete. We had a few late bricks but they are now engraved and placed in the sidewalk. Our landscaping by Indian Summer is also complete around the bandstand. We will continue to take orders for memorial bricks which will be placed in another sidewalk. Forms are available at the depot and may also be requested by calling the depot at 989-718-3021.

The antique clock which was purchased by the Downtown Development Authority is now installed in the berm in front of the depot. We have received many positive comments on the clock and thank the DDA for providing this beautiful clock to compliment the depot grounds.

The depot continues to provide information for travelers throughout Arenac County and Northeast Michigan. Many of our visitors utilize the computer in our lobby when seeking information on traveling in Michigan. We have several web sites we direct people to that are helpful including [www.michigan.org](http://www.michigan.org) and [www.heritage23.org](http://www.heritage23.org).

The depot is now on winter hours which are Monday thru Friday from 12 noon to 6 p.m., Saturday 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. and Sunday 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. We will soon be placing large tarps over our English Passenger Cars to protect them from the winter elements.

Volunteer are need to staff the depot and they may choose their own hours. It is great if we have local people for staff because they can provide much of the information to our guests who have questions about our local history. Please call Sue at 718-3021 if you think you may be interested in staffing the depot.

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

Brenda Matt  
Authority Representative



#### HISTORICAL LADIES

Two of our committee members and trustees of the ACHS, Joann Gulau and Brenda Matt were featured in an article by the Arenac County Independent in their Fall 2011 edition of the Senior Times. The article is titled "Historical Ladies" keeping up with the times. Joann is currently researching material for a book which will be published by the historical society on the Arenac County Normal and Brenda is researching the Settlement of Arenac which will also be published in book form. The books sold by the ACHS have been profitable and our main source of income. Much of the research being conducted by Brenda and Joann is from the archives of the Arenac County Independent. The Historical Society would like to take this opportunity to thank the Independent and their very helpful staff for allowing Brenda and Joann access to their archives.



Preparations for fall and Christmas are underway at the old courthouse. Our soup supper was held on November 2<sup>nd</sup>. This supper is made and served by our volunteers at the courthouse to our group of benefactors, known as the "Omer Bakers". This group of people makes delicious homemade baked goods for our bake sales which are held four times a year and our home made candy sale which is in December. The total profit from these sales totaled \$ 2,429.75 in 2010. This is a tremendous help in paying on our mortgage and expenses for our building. We will report a total for 2011 in our next newsletter.

Join us on November 19<sup>th</sup>, from 9 to 5 at the courthouse for a Christmas Junque Sale. We will have a few other items available for purchase including a beautiful wooden rocking horse. Our Christmas open house week end is December 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup>. We will have additional Christmas items for sale and, of course, our annual homemade candy sale. This is a great opportunity to purchase some excellent candy for the holidays. Our raffle will be held on December 4<sup>th</sup>. The top prize is \$500.00 in gas cards and cash. Our second prize is a beautiful quilt and matching pillow donated by the Wednesday Night Strippers and several other beautiful items. Tickets are available for purchase at the courthouse and from committee members. Please join us on Dec. 3 & 4<sup>th</sup> and enjoy coffee, cookies and a visit to the festive Courthouse.

We are getting closer and closer to our goal of one million pennies. At last count we still need 169,950 pennies. Of course, we are happy to take your nickels, dimes, quarters and dollar bills as well. Your good "Junque" is very much appreciated and we continue to collect your gently used items for our sales. Contact us and we will be happy to pick things up from you.

Several interesting programs have been held recently at the courthouse. Ric Mixer's presentation, Offshore Lighthouses in September was well attended and enjoyed. Michigan Mysteries, Ghosts and Dogmen held in October was very entertaining and interesting. Ric returned on November 9 for his program The Edmund Fitzgerald, From Beginning to End. These programs are organized by Phyllis Klender and are co-sponsored by the Omer Little Eagle's Nest Library, Arenac County Historical Society, Ye Olde Courthouse/Masonic Hall Committee and funded in part by the Iosco-Arenac District Library.

Our bathroom project is progressing and should be complete before our December open house. We will be finishing the painting in our main room soon and adding the remainder of our picture rails.

Our mortgage balance is now \$ 12,404.52. This is tremendous news. We have approximately 21 more payments and the mortgage will be paid. We will then be able to continue to make improvements to our building.

Our little mini junque sale held during our Labor Day weekend netted \$1,057.75 and the bake sale profit was \$ 487.45. Several

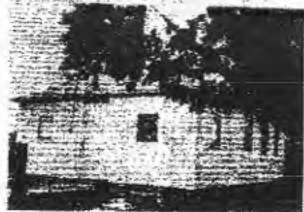
people have paid on their \$ 1,000.00 pledges recently and we have updated the plaque that contains the names and memorials for the pledges. Pledges are still available and forms may be obtained at the courthouse and from committee members. The pledges are for \$ 1,000.00 and may be paid over a ten year period.

We are always glad to add information from Arenac Township and the city of Omer to our scrapbook collection.

You may contact the following people for more information.

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

**Hickory Island**  
SCHOOL  
AU GRES TOWNSHIP,  
DISTRICT NO. 6  
Orville Greanya, Teacher



The Hickory Island school has on its managing board Mable A. Lentz as director; Leo Reinhart, moderator, and Homer Brainard, treasurer. Orville Greanya is completing his third year as teacher of the school. William Tulloch, Misses Alice Pear-sall and Emma Vieu are listed as teachers before that time.

Pupils:  
Beginners—Eugene Berry, Laura Reinhart, Gerald Rittenberg, Louis Tremble.  
First grade—Russell Keltner, John Keltner.  
Second grade—Harold Berry, Doris Nowak.  
Third grade—Doris Kinch, Nancy Locke, Eugene Reinhart, Elsie Will-man.  
Fourth grade—Robert Huerle, Evelyn Reinhart, Melvin Rittenberg.  
Fifth grade—Evelyn Merkel, Bernice Nowak, Florian Nowak.  
Sixth grade—Donald Locke.  
Seventh grade—Norman Keltner, Elmor Lentz, Evelyn Nowak.

The Ye Olde Courthouse raffle drawing will be held on Sunday, Dec. 4<sup>th</sup> at 3:00 p.m. The top prize is \$500.00 in gas cards and cash. The second prize is a beautiful quilt and matching pillow donated by the Wednesday Night Strippers of Au Gres and several other lovely items. Tickets are available for purchase at the courthouse and from committee members.



**MUSEUM BOOK STORE**

**All of our book selections are for sale at the MUSEUM, the DEPOT, and the NORTHEAST ART CENTER in Standish**

<b>HISTORY OF STERLING</b> A reprint of Virginia Adam's book	PRICE \$8
<b>HISTORY OF STERLING</b> (2 <sup>ND</sup> Generation)	PRICE \$8
<b>AU GRES CENTENNIAL 1865-1965</b>	PRICE \$6
<b>ARENAC COUNTY FAIR PREMIUM BOOK</b> Printed in 1885, it describes the first Arenac County Fair that was held in Omer when it was the County Seat	PRICE \$5
<b>THE STORY OF STANDISH and ITS PEOPLE: 1876-1976</b> This is a reprint of Allan McCready's book; an index of names has been added	PRICE \$10
<b>ARENAC COUNTY PLAT BOOK, circa 1920</b>	PRICE \$6
<b>THIS IS THE WAY WE WENT TO SCHOOL</b>	PRICE \$6
<b>8 1/2 "x 11" ARENAC COUNTY MAP</b> – Shows location of each of the 43 early Arenac County Schools	PRICE \$1.25
<b>WAH SASH KAH MOQUA</b> by Mary Sagatoo This is a reprint done by the Book Nook in East Tawas	PRICE \$12
<b>THE HISTORY OF ARENAC COUNTY, MICHIGAN</b> This best-seller is in its 4 <sup>th</sup> reprint!	PRICE \$20
<b>THE HISTORY OF ARENAC COUNTY ROADS</b>	PRICE \$6
<b>ONE ROOM ARENAC COUNTY SCHOOLS,</b> Vol. 1,2,3,4	PRICE \$7 each
<b>1947 ARENAC COUNTRY DIRECTORY</b>	PRICE \$6
<b>FIRST FAMILIES OF STANDISH TOWNSHIP</b>	PRICE \$10
<b>ARENAC COUNTY PIONEER SOCIETY, AUGRES 8-26-1911</b>	PRICE \$6
<b>A HISTORY OF MAPLE RIDGE, ARENAC COUNTY, MI</b> Marion Poole Maday	PRICE \$28
<b>THE HANDY COOK'S BOOK</b> 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
<b>RECORD OF ARENAC COUNTY SOLDIERS AND SAILORS IN SERVICE IN THE GREAT WAR</b> Joann Gulau and Mike Melvin	PRICE \$28

**Arenac County Historical Society  
Balance Sheet  
As of September 30, 2011**

	<u>Sep 30, 11</u>
<b>ASSETS</b>	
<b>Current Assets</b>	
Checking/Savings	
Certificate of Deposit	
CD #1	1,164.61
CD #2	10,000.00
CD #3	6,200.44
<b>Total Certificate of Deposit</b>	<u>17,365.05</u>
Courthouse Checking	13,497.03
General Checking Account	1,082.48
Money Market (Savings)	9,627.27
Petty cash	100.00
<b>Total Checking/Savings</b>	<u>41,671.83</u>
<b>Total Current Assets</b>	<u>41,671.83</u>
<b>TOTAL ASSETS</b>	<u><u>41,671.83</u></u>
<b>LIABILITIES &amp; EQUITY</b>	
Equity	
Building Fund	4,081.88
Courthouse Fund	13,547.03
General Fund	10,555.92
Memorial Fund	13,477.02
<b>Total Equity</b>	<u>41,671.83</u>
<b>TOTAL LIABILITIES &amp; EQUITY</b>	<u><u>41,671.83</u></u>



**HO, HO, HO!!!**

**One of the publications from the Museum Book Store might make a welcome Christmas gift for a history loving friend or relative.**

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 1<sup>st</sup> to Augusts 31<sup>st</sup>. Dues of a NEW member joining after March 1<sup>st</sup> 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**

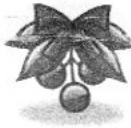
ARENAC COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY  
PO BOX 272  
Au Gres MI 48703-0272

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

ACHS NEWSLETTER For:

OR CURRENT RESIDENT

**Museum**



Saturday, November 19<sup>th</sup>

Saturday and Sunday  
Dec 3 - 4<sup>th</sup>

**Courthouse**



Saturday, November 19<sup>th</sup>

Why pay full price for your Christmas decorations, lights, cards etc. when you can get them at the Olde Courthouse for "You Choose the Item – You Choose the Price?" We also have a beautiful wood rocking horse that some special little child would love to have Santa bring them!

Saturday and Sunday  
Dec 3- 4<sup>th</sup>

ACHS Pie Sale at IGA

Christmas Open House.  
Sat. 10 – 4  
Sun. 1 – 4

Christmas Junque Sale

Annual Christmas Candy and Christmas  
Junque Sale  
9 – 5 – both days

THE DRAWING for the \$500 and More Raffle  
will be held at 3:00 p.m. on Sunday, Dec. 4<sup>th</sup>.