



ACHS NEWSLETTER

Arenac County Historical Society

February 2012

I would like to take time to thank my fellow board members for their support in helping to make this a successful year for the ACHS. Each one came forward with ideas and volunteered their time to make each event a success. We managed to raise money from a great pie sale, bake sales and candy sales. Our programs were successful and well attended at the Museum and Ye Olde Courthouse. At this time we are working on getting new programs ready for the coming year. I would like to thank all our volunteers who helped out. Whether you baked goodies for our bake sales or volunteered to work at the museum or courthouse when we were open, your time and service is greatly appreciated. I am proud to serve with all of you.

Congratulations to Dick and Phyllis Klender of Omer, Arenac County Historical Society's volunteers of the year! They are instrumental in helping keep our organization functioning smoothly. They contribute a lot of time and work including: organizing the Junque Sale and traveling the area picking up items for the sale, performing small maintenance jobs around the Courthouse grounds, researching and booking interesting programs for all to enjoy, cooking and cleaning up after special dinners and donating baked goods and candy. The list could go on and on. A huge Thank You is extended to them for all the work and time they contribute.

Brenda Matt and Joann Gulau are continuing with research on two books that will be published for our organization. It takes a lot of time, research and organization to put a great book together. We will be looking forward to their finished products in the future.

We will be diligently working to keep the Arenac County Historical Society an active presence in the county. We need to promote all the activities and events our county has to offer. In these tough economic times we have to do all we can to support our schools, businesses, churches and organizations. This support helps keep our local economy going, people working, children learning and faith thriving. If we all do a little, so much can be accomplished and we will survive in these tough times.

We hope you will visit us this summer and throughout the year. Arenac County and our great State of Michigan have a lot to offer. Let us do our small part and continue to make our county and state a great place to live, work and vacation.

Sandy Proulx
President



**YE OLD COURTHOUSE
BOOK AND JUNQUE SALE**
February 17 – 18 9:00 am to 4:00 pm

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

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 Standish Depot is beautifully decorated for winter with a snowman theme, thanks to our dedicated volunteers: Mina Stodolak, Carrie Stodolak, Bobbi Vaughn and Angie Pienionzek.

Dr. Ron Schwab and his committee members are busy planning for our annual fundraiser which will be held at the VFW in Standish on March 10th. Our famous chef will once again be Dixie Dave with a wild game dinner which will include tasty entrees prepared with emu, buffalo, venison and Dixie Dave's famous beaver barley soup. Specialty appetizers will be served at the 6 o'clock social hour, pates, crackers, cheese from the Turner Cheese Company and several other delicious snacks will be available. Dinner will be served at 7:00 p.m. Tickets are \$ 50.00 each and blocks of tickets of 10 are \$ 400.00. Tickets may be purchased at the depot (989-718-3021) or from authority members. We will be holding a silent auction and some raffles at this dinner. If you would like to donate an item please drop it off at the depot or call the depot and someone will be available to pick it up.

The depot hosted a book signing in December by John Cuthbertson and his book THE MIGHTY RIFLE RIVER. The books are now available for purchase at the Arenac County Historical Society, Ye Olde Courthouse in Omer and at the depot.

The depot is planning to host a Model A and T Car Show on Saturday, June, 30th. Please watch for announcements on this event which will include a lunch, an ice cream social and era dress.

Our popular concert series will begin on June 30th and continue through August 9th at the depot in Standish. Our entertainers are all booked and include a variety of music including country, classic rock n roll, 80's, folk, polka, and gospel by a local group of musicians. On August 16th, we will move to Omer for a concert by Omer City Limits and on August 23rd the concert will be held in Au Gres. Please watch the Independent for further information, call the depot or check us out on Facebook.

Our director at the depot, Sue Stein, attends the Heritage Route meetings and is active on the US 23 Management Council and the marketing arm of the council, the US 23 Coastal Coalition. This is one of the best marketing tools for Arenac County. The main focus has been on the 23 corridor but now has been expanded to include all Arenac County businesses and events. Most traffic is directed to this website via Pure Michigan. Of the top 50 web sites identified on the Heritage Route, 18% are in Arenac County. Eighteen percent is a very high number for our little county. The main function of the depot is to welcome and direct visitors throughout our county and serves as an excellent opportunity to market Arenac County. Arenac County is leading in the Telling The Story Project and our future videos selected include the Standish Historical Depot, Ye Olde Courthouse in Omer, the Rifle River (sucker season, fishing and lumbering), and the legend of The Witchy Wolves of the Omer Plains.

The brick sidewalk is complete however; we continue to accept orders for bricks which we will use to extend another sidewalk near the bandstand.

The depot is open daily and volunteers are needed for staffing. Please call the depot if you are interested (989-718-3021). You may name your own hours. The Arenac Heritage Route Authority meets at the depot at 7:00 p.m. on the first Monday of every month. This is an open meeting and everyone is welcome to attend.

Brenda Matt
Authority Representative

ARENAC INDEPENDENT BITS n' PIECES

5-21-1930

The new Suburban Oil Co. Station is now being constructed at M65 and US 23.

1-20-26

Dr. D. T. Smith is completing the hospital in Omer; the county's only regularly equipped hospital

3-3-1921

Undersheriff James Munroe arrested another hootch manufacturer last week. He had a barrel of wheat mash in his possession.

11-28-18

The Ireland Auto Co. announces that the Ford Motor Company is being released from some government contracts and is making cars again.

11-30-27

The Pine River elevator of Chatterbin & Son is now open.

1-16-19

Women voters must register this month if they wish to vote in the spring election.

7-28-48

Roy Holland and Bob Stiehl are holding the grand opening of the H & H Recreation in Au Gres Saturday.

1-26-38

Arenac voters will decide in April whether or not to allow Sunday hunting locally.

11-10-48

Dr. R. V. Humerickhouse has returned to Arenac County to set up veterinarian practice.





YE OLDE COURTHOUSE/MASONIC HALL

Ye Olde Courthouse/Masonic Hall and Ye Olde Courthouse Committee would like to thank all of you for your help in making 2011 a huge success. Our committee was again amazed and delighted as contributions and donations arrived allowing preservation efforts on "Ye Olde Courthouse" to continue. We believe that preservation of historic buildings such as ours is essential for future generations to enjoy and learn from. We also believe that it takes a "whole community" working together to accomplish this effort. We thank the Bowling Lodge #377 Free & Accepted Masons for their continued support toward day to day operations. The old saying, "One man's junk is another man's treasure" certainly rings true for us, as we made \$6,494.86 selling the junk we were given. Combined with monetary donations, the penny drive, rent and bake sales; we took in a total of \$21,506.28 in 2011. Our mortgage balance on January 1, 2011 was \$22,566.82 and today it is \$10,627.30. From all of us to each of you THANKS. We hope you will continue your support of Ye Olde Courthouse preservation project in 2012.

We are getting closer to our goal of one million pennies and will continue to collect them until we reach that goal. Only one hundred twenty two thousand five hundred left to go!

Our raffle during 2011 netted us a profit of \$1,878.00 Many thanks to all who contributed to the prizes and our chair, Phyllis Klender, for the success of this fundraiser. The first prize of \$500.00 in gas cards and cash was won by Sean Maser. Second prize winner of the quilt and matching pillow was Will McLaughlin, third, stain glass angel, Jeralee Mania, 4th, placemats and runner, Rich, and fifth, table runner, Dana Carruthers. Our great benefactors who contributed cash or prizes for the raffle include Jimco of AuGres, Bilacic Trucking of AuGres, Dennis Stanley of Coldwell Banker of AuGres, Forward Corporation of Standish,

Red Lobster of Bay City, Brenda Matt, Mary McLaughlin, B.P. Station of Standish, Dale Weiss of Pier 23 of AuGres, Joann Gulau, Phyllis Klender, Linda Herner and the AuGres Strippers for their beautiful quilt, pillow, place mats and table runners.

Phase one of our universally accessible bathroom project is complete and looks terrific. Phase two, widening the doorways for accessibility is next and a ramp leading to the south door will be phase three.

Please join us on Friday and Saturday, February 17th and 18th, for a book and junque sale. We will be open from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. on both days.

Pledges are still available and forms may be obtained at the courthouse and from committee members. We are always seeking information from Arenac Township and the City of Omer for our scrapbook collection.

You may contact the following people for more information:

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

**THE ARENAC COUNTY
HISTORICAL SOCIETY
WOULD LIKE TO THANK THE
ARENAC COUNTY FUND
FOR THE
\$1000.00 GRANT THEY
AWARDED US FOR THE
RESEARCH WE ARE DOING
ON BOOKS THAT WILL BE
PUBLISHED IN THE
NEAR FUTURE**

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.

**Arenac County Historical Society
Balance Sheet
As of December 31, 2011**

	Dec 31, 11
ASSETS	
Current Assets	
Checking/Savings	
Certificate of Deposit	
CD #1	1,175.89
CD #2	10,226.60
CD #3	6,253.38
Total Certificate of Deposit	17,655.77
Courthouse Checking	12,523.54
General Checking Account	801.77
Money Market (Savings)	11,430.09
Petty cash	100.00
Total Checking/Savings	42,511.17
Total Current Assets	42,511.17
TOTAL ASSETS	42,511.17
LIABILITIES & EQUITY	
Equity	
Building Fund	4,094.80
Courthouse Fund	12,573.54
General Fund	12,209.24
Memorial Fund	13,633.59
Total Equity	42,511.17
TOTAL LIABILITIES & EQUITY	42,511.17

Financial Notes

	CURRENT	YTD
Net Income	\$2,214.62	\$4,988.07
Building Equity	\$593.57	\$2,354.06

**THE ACHS
PHOTO CORNER**



**BORROWED FROM THE ACHS WEBSITE
WITH THOUGHTS OF SPRING**

This is the last picture of our 6 picture series contributed by Kristine Sellers – thanks Kristine. As you can see the left side of the picture and article was cut off as we received it. We left the article with the picture so you may do your own interpretation of the story, but the historical flowers seem a fitting conclusion to the series. The clipping is from 1982 and our best interpretation of the article is as follows:

Eighty-Two-Year-Old Ida Warren of AuGres stopped in at the Independent this morning armed with a bouquet of historical flowers. Included in the dozen or so blossoms was an unnamed rose Warren says she was chosen to grow for Jackson Perkins, one of the prime rose growers of the world along with one percent of his customers. According to Warren if the name she has chosen for the rose is also selected by Perkins she'll win an entire rose garden. Her selection – Lady of Arenac, in honor of the county's upcoming centennial celebration. Other blossoms in her bouquet included flowering currant from the original bush brought to Omer from Canada by early settlers in the mid-1800s; ???gus from her mother's garden; white dahlia, from Hilda Dreyer's garden at Pt. AuGres; the herb yarrow, from AuGres' green thumb queen Helen Maser; and some flowering quince which was propagated from a small sprig Warren retrieved from a bush in Moultrie, Georgia in 1944.

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 EVENTS

At the COURTHOUSE in Omer



BOOK and JUNQUE SALE

**Friday and Saturday
February 17th and 18th
9:00 am to 4:00 pm**

If you have JUNQUE or BOOKS to donate to this sale, call an ACHS member, they will be happy to make arrangements to pick your items up.

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

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US POSTAGE
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AU GRES MI
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ACHS NEWSLETTER For:
OR CURRENT RESIDENT