



ACHS NEWSLETTER



Arenac County Historical Society

May 2013

Welcome to summer and we are glad you are back. For some of you, the winter may have been warm and cozy, but for us who stay in Michigan it was a long winter. We survived and will continue to work on ideas and projects for the Historical Society. We are having a raffle this summer to raise money for the museum. First place will be a huge basket of Michigan goods. Second place will be a Kindle e-Reader with a gift card to use at Amazon.com to purchase books the winner will enjoy reading. Third place will be a gas gift card. Members are encouraged to pick up tickets to sell. Tickets will sell for \$2.00 a piece or 3 for \$5.00. Let's get out there and make some money for our great organization.

We will be having some interesting programs this summer at the museum. Eric Jhyla will be here June 11th presenting a program on the importance of Memorial Day. We can never say "Thank You" enough for the services our military personal perform every day. Those who gave their lives for our country to keep it free should not be forgotten. We will also have a display of military memorabilia. Last year our local VFW in Au Gres closed and we received a lot of their artifacts. We will have a designated corner in the museum displaying many of these. I am hoping to dedicate this display on the same night Mr. Jhyla will be here. In July Jeff Ford will be here to give a program on the last wolverine that was found in Michigan. He happened to be the one to find the deceased wolverine. It has been preserved and is on display in Bay City. We are on a waiting list to have it on display at our museum in Au Gres. It may not be possible to have it here because it is in the possession of the DNR. It has become a huge ordeal to keep moving the display; however, we are still on the list if they will continue this practice. In August we are working to have a program on railroading in Michigan and the Engine #1225. The engine was used as a model for the train in the movie The Polar Express. That engine also came through our area in Arenac County. We are having a program on genealogy in September. Anyone who is interested in researching their family tree should make a point to be at this program. We do a lot of research for people who are looking for long lost family members. We have a great website to help anyone get started. This winter we had people from across the country inquiring and looking for help to find information. Watch for dates and times for these great programs. They will also be listed on our web site.

As your president I am asking for help with the work we do at the Arenac County Historical Society. We need volunteers to index articles for our books and volunteers to help on weekends while we are open. There are numerous other small projects that we need help getting done. Anyone interested in serving on our board would be greatly appreciated. Please feel free to contact me or any board member if you are interested. There is only one meeting a month and any ideas and help we get keeps our organization on a positive note. So many people don't realize we have a museum or Ye Olde Courthouse in Omer. The more involvement we have and the more advertising we do will help keep us operating efficiently.

A new book about The Arenac County Normal School will soon be published and on sale. Many thanks go out to Joann Gulau and Mike Melvin who have made this new book possible. Joann did the research and Mike did the editing and format. It took a lot of time and effort by these two people to complete this book. I would also like to thank everyone who donated the ads that helped pay for the publishing. There will be a lot of pictures and many people you may remember who were your teachers from the local schools. These people went to Arenac County Normal to become teachers and spread the importance of a good education to help us succeed in life. Many of us owe a lot to these people who influenced our lives and made us productive citizens of our communities.

We hope to see many of you this summer. Invite your friends and family. Check us out. There is a lot to see and learn about the history of Arenac County.

Sandy Proulx
President

ACHS Officers

President Sandy Proulx
Vice President
Recording Sec. Mary McLaughlin
Treasurer Carla Dittenber

ACHS Trustees

Joann Gulau
Brenda Matt
Marilyn Van Sickle

ACHS Standing Committees

Building and Grounds:

Collections/Exhibits:

Accession Committee:

Sandy Proulx
Joann Gulau
Mary McLaughlin

Hospitality:

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

Facebook

Greg Knopp

**Arenac Heritage Route Authority
Standish Historical Depot**



The long winter is finally over and spring has arrived at the depot. Our crocuses, hyacinths, tulips and spring shrubs are blooming. Mina, Carrie, Angie, Bobbi and crew have been busy cleaning up our flower beds and preparing for summer. Our visitors throughout the summer and fall season are always amazed at our landscaping and we receive many compliments. Mina and crew spend many hours and are always in need of volunteers to help with this project. You may leave your name at the depot if you would like to help.

Our annual dinner fundraiser was held on May 4th at the VFW in Standish. Dr. Schwab organized the dinner, "Bounty of the Lakes" which included a very interesting menu of various fish prepared by Dixie Dave and staff. The appetizers, fried smelt, salmon pate, various cheeses, and Dr. Ron's very own smoked turkey were popular and the fish was delicious. Gun and fishing rod and reel raffles were held as well as a silent auction. The profits exceed \$ 4,000.00 and are made possible by the generosity of our donors and guests. Thanks Dr. Ron Schwab for all of your hard work in organizing this event and for the VFW for hosting it.

Local farmers, Don and Mary Wojtowicz, applied for and received a grant for \$ 2,500.00 from Monsanto Seed Co. for the depot. Don and Mary also donated \$ 1,000.00 to the Heritage Route Authority and we appreciate their generosity to this community project. We should add that the Wojtowicz's also received a \$ 2,500 grant from Monsanto for Arenac County Habitat for Humanity.

The Arenac Heritage Route Authority received a grant for \$ 17,500.00 from the Central Michigan Health Department which has to be used for engineering and planning for the rail trail. This is just the beginning of this project which will be located in Arenac County.

The tarps have been removed from the English Passenger cars and the caboose cleaned and ready to receive our visitors. The cars are a very popular exhibit with our guests as is the opportunity to obtain information for travelers in Arenac County and people seeking historical information. Books from the Arenac County Historical Society are available for purchase at the depot.

Summer Concert dates are set as well as the Model A & T car show which will be held on Saturday, July 13. This

is a depot event which will be held at Richardson Ford in Standish. Please check our web site, www.standishdepot.org for more information.

The Arenac Heritage Route Authority meets on the first Monday of every month at the depot at 7:00. All are welcome to attend. Volunteers are needed to staff the depot. Please call Sue at 989-718-3021 if you would like to help.

Brenda Matt
Arenac Heritage Route Authority Representative

OLD CLIPS n' SNIPS

TALKING PICTURE HERE NEXT SATURDAY, SUNDAY 1930

The R. C. A. sound reproduction equipment is now being installed by company engineers and will be completed for showing next Saturday and Sunday. Some extent of the equipment is gained from the fact that it weighs over 2,500 pounds and comes packed in 16 boxes or crates. So far as is known Standish is one of the first small towns in Michigan to install standard sound equipment same as is used in the large city theatres. An exceptionally good feature, "The Virginian" starring Gary Cooper and Mary Brian has been set for the opening date next Saturday and Sunday, Sept. 6 and 7. In addition to the feature is a Fox movietone news and Pathe cartoon. Admission prices, 15c and 35c. adv.

An advertisement taken from The Arenac Independent in August of 1930 informing its readers of the upcoming "talkie" coming to Standish, in early September. "The Virginian" starring Gary Cooper, Walter Huston and Mary Brian is to be playing on RCA sound reproduction equipment. Note the admission prices!



Ye Old Courthouse/Masonic Hall May Newsletter Article

Great news from Ye Olde Courthouse! Our mortgage is paid off! Thanks to our long time benefactor, George Viele, we are debt free. George attended school at Arenac Eastern and later taught there. He now lives in Virginia and has been interested in the Courthouse project since its inception. George has generously donated \$ 1,000.00 every year since we purchased the Courthouse and in March sent us a check for \$ 3,000.00 to pay off the mortgage. Our balance at that time was \$ 1,984.61. We are applying the remaining funds to our next big project, which is painting the exterior of the building. Thanks, George, for your generosity and your interest in preserving this historical building. Plan to join us on August 18th from 1pm. to 4 pm. for an open house celebrating the "Burning of the Mortgage". Our Arenac Exhibit will also be unveiled on August 18th. We have several historical artifacts including a post office pigeonhole cabinet and a hawk that was donated by Eileen Wyatt Burns from her family estate. This cabinet was in the post office in Arenac that closed in 1895. "Man in the Woods", Larry Wells of Sterling, built a beautiful oak and glass cabinet to display the hawk. Thank you, Larry.

We are obtaining bids for painting the exterior of the courthouse. It will be quite an expensive project and requires power washing, scraping, priming and painting the entire building, including the steeple. Government regulations which include lead safe and fall protection laws add to the expense. There is also some necessary wood repair to the exterior. We have two ceilings on the interior that are in need of repair and we are continuing the second phase of our universally accessible bathroom project to provide access through the kitchen.

Please plan on visiting us on Memorial Day Weekend for a Junque and Bake Sale. We will be open on Friday, Saturday and Sunday, (May 25, 26 27) from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. On June 14th and 15th we will be hosting another popular Book Sale. Our closets and storage are full with a new load of books which we picked up at the Dow Midland Library. Our volunteers loaded 90 banana boxes full of books in 30 minutes! This is a very labor intensive project and we are always happy to have volunteers to help with all of our projects. Our last book sale netted a profit of \$ 444.00.

Our Omer Bakers continue to amaze us with the profits from the bake sales. The Sucker Weekend bake sale brought in \$ 464.70 and the mini junque and book sale totaled \$ 316.85. The Masons rent from us, which helps greatly with our monthly utility expenses. Several people continue to pay on their \$ 1,000.00 pledges and many have completely paid them. Pledges are still available. One of the main sources of income is our Junque Sales so please continue to save your good junque for us. We will be glad to pick up your donations.

You may contact the following people for more information:

Brenda Matt	Committee Chair	989-846-0501
Phyllis Klender	Recording Chair	989-653-2762
Joann Gulau	Financial Chair	989-876-6468

THE PHOTO CORNER



A baseball game in Twining, MI, in April of 1949 between Standish and Twining. George Brookins Viele is at bat. Notice the old Arenac Eastern School building in the background. This hard playing fellow is the same one who has made it possible for Ye Olde Courthouse to pay off its mortgage. THANK YOU, George Viele!

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

Arenac County Historical Society
Balance Sheet
As of February 28, 2013

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	\$25
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

	Feb 28, 13
ASSETS	
Current Assets	
Checking/Savings	
Certificate of Deposit	
CD #1	1,181.78
CD #2	10,277.77
CD #3	6,284.72
Total Certificate of Deposit	17,744.27
Courthouse Checking	13,497.69
General Checking Account	1,322.94
Money Market (Savings)	10,153.95
Petty cash	100.00
Total Checking/Savings	42,818.85
Total Current Assets	42,818.85
TOTAL ASSETS	42,818.85
LIABILITIES & EQUITY	
Equity	
Building Fund	4,258.36
Courthouse Fund	13,547.69
General Fund	10,431.41
Memorial Fund	14,581.39
Total Equity	42,818.85
TOTAL LIABILITIES & EQUITY	42,818.85

CIVIL WAR VETERAN DEDICATION

A dedication for two Civil War Veterans, John Caton and Henry Serens will be held on May 18th at the Arenac Cemetery at 12:00 noon. The dedication will be conducted by Civil War Re-enactors, Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War and our local Veterans Honor Guard. Guests will include descendents of these veterans. Please join us for this very impressive ceremony. (The cemetery is located on Main St Rd. behind the Arenac Store just off from State Rd.) . Joann Gulau and Brenda Matt are researching Civil War Veterans of Arenac County for the ACHS. This will be published in book form in the future. Contact them if you have information you would be willing to share.



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 August 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

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ACHS Newsletter for:

or Current Resident

COMING EVENTS

ACHS Museum in Au Gres

June 11 th	Eric Jhyla	Military Veterans
July 25 th	Jeff Ford	Story of the Wolverine
August	Engine #1225	Date to be announced

YE OLDE COURTHOUSE in Omer

May 24 th , 25 th , and 26 th	Junque and Book Sale
June 14 th and 15 th	Book Sale
July 4 th , 5 th , and 6 th	Junque Sale
August 18 th	"Burning of the Mortgage" Party

OMER LIBRARY Programs Held at Ye Olde Courthouse

July 30 th	My Childhood Years, During and after Nazi Germany
August 6 th	Walk With the White Tail Deer
Sept. 17 th	1,000 Letters Home (WWII)