



ACHS NEWSLETTER

Arenac County Historical Society

February 2014

Old man winter is certainly giving us a run for our money this year. We have the snow, ice and freezing temperatures to remind us what winter is really about. Can you remember the days when driving down the road, all you saw was snow banks? Or better yet, have you seen the picture on our website where the huge snow plow is stuck in the snow? Where I live, that has happened more than once this winter! It makes you appreciate a warm home and a good book on a cold wintery day.

I am so excited and thankful to the Arenac County Foundation for their generous grant of \$1,000.00. This grant will be used at the museum for a large scanner. We have so many township and county records we would like to scan and save. If there was ever a fire at the museum all that information and history would be lost. With the scanner, an electronic record will be on file. We also received \$3,000.00 grant to help build a handicap ramp for Ye Olde Courthouse. Without organizations such as the Arenac County Foundation, accomplishing many of the things we would like to do to preserve the history of our county would be very difficult. Remember the ceiling fans we purchased a couple of years ago? It has been hard to find anyone to install them. Recently Wayne Lamoureux volunteered to help us find an electrician and complete the project at no cost to us. Thank you Wayne!! This project will be completed in the very near future.

We are inquiring and working to find new and interesting programs to present this summer. If anyone has ideas we would appreciate them. We are still looking for anyone who would like to serve as a board member. I know many of you have great ideas and we would like any one of you to help us. It doesn't take up a great amount of time. If we all do a little, so much can be done. Volunteering can also be very rewarding. You hear stories, see pictures, help with research and learn so much about the people, events and history that shaped our county into a great community where people enjoy living, working, playing, and worshipping.

We hope you have a warm, safe winter. We look forward to seeing many of you this year at the museum and courthouse.

Sandy Proulx
President

The Korth Family Foundation has generously provided the ACHS with the necessary funds to reprint Valerie Korth's book **A Point to Remember: The History of Point Lookout, Michigan.** The book will be available from the ACHS very soon. Price of the book will be \$30.00 and shipping will be \$5.00.



ACHS OFFICERS

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

ACHS TRUSTEES

Joann Gulau
Brenda Matt

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BUILDING and GROUNDS

COLLECTIONS/EXHIBITS

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Joann Gulau
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Heritage Route Authority
Brenda Matt

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Phyllis Klender	Secretary
Joann Gulau	Financial Chair

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Greg Knopp

WEBSITE COORDINATORS

Mike Melvin
Joann Gulau

FACEBOOK

Greg Knopp

ACHS WEBSITE: <http://www.rootsweb.ancestry.com/~miachs/index.htm>

THE ACHS NEWSLETTER IS PRINTED COMPLIMENTS OF PROULX FINANCIAL SERVICES OF AUGRES

All of us at the depot are patiently waiting for spring so that we may continue with our tree planting project and re-seeding our lawn on the north end of the depot grounds. This is Dr. Ron Schwab's project and in the spring, the remaining trees will be planted. The Arenac Community Foundation awarded the depot a \$ 1,000.00 grant for this landscaping plan. We would like to thank the foundation for this grant and for the great service these dedicated volunteers contribute to our community.

Our Arenac Heritage Route Authority Board is busy making plans for 2014. We will again hold a Model A and Model T car show, plans are underway for our Summer Concert Series and hopefully we will have the 1225 Steam Engine for train rides this year. These plans are still tentative so watch our local paper for announcements.

The 9th annual fundraising dinner "The Bounty of the Lakes" is planned for May 3rd. This will be a great opportunity to try a variety of fish prepared in several different ways. Our outstanding appetizers are always a high light of this dinner. Guests also enjoy several raffles and a silent auction. Watch for posters, our local paper and our website (www.standishdepot.org) for more information.

The depot will celebrate its 125th anniversary in October. Plans for a celebration and Depot Days are being discussed.

We would like to invite anyone with a few hours to spare to volunteer to staff the depot. Please call Sue at 989-718-3021 if you are interested. This is a fun job and involves answering the phone lines and visiting with our guests.

The Heritage Route Authority meets at the depot on the first Monday of the month at 7:00 p.m. This is an open meeting and all are welcome to attend. Memorial bricks are still available for the sidewalk. Forms may be picked up at the depot or printed from our website.

Brenda Matt
Depot Representative

Newspaper articles on pages 2, 3 and 4 are courtesy of the Arenac Independent.

**Have Your Buildings
PAINTED**
BY THE
Seroco Pneumatic Painter



Sears, Roebuck and Co. of Chicago
Stand Back of This Machine
With An Ironclad Guarantee As To
Satisfaction
Let Me Estimate Before Painting
PHONE OR WRITE
Calvin Ennis, Au Gres, Mich.
Local Licensee

05 - 11 - 1922

History of Au Gres.
2-4-1922 *How Au Gres Got Its Name*

In the eastern part of Arenac county there is a stream which from time remote, Indians used to travel up in the early spring. They would paddle their canoes through its grassy mouth, up its winding course about fourteen miles to a point one-half mile below the place, where the Santiago school house now stands. There on a ridge near what is now known as the Day corner, they would make their camps and would begin their annual occupation of making their year's supply of maple sugar. Both sides of the stream for miles were covered with huge maple, pine, oak and other trees, some of which may be seen at present at the site where Santiago stood.

The Indians having no modern tools, they cut their sap by cutting v-shaped notches in them under which they cut a narrow slit. Into this they drove a flat piece of wood used as a spile. For containers to catch the sap they made wooden troughs cut from bass wood. They carried the sap to their camp in pails, made of birch bark and boiled it down in earthen kettles. Thus year after year they tapped the trees till the butts of the older maple trees became enlarged, due to the scars made from the many tappings.

The country abounded with game. Fishing was good, berries of all kinds were plentiful, *Isaks*, wild onions, were abundant. Therefore, in time the Indians made a settlement on the east side of the stream, which because of grass growing in it, they named the Au Gres, meaning the grassy stream.

Thus the Indians settlement, their burying ground, where for generations they had buried their dead, was at Au Gres before Marquette and LaSalle came to our state.

Next week—"Au Gres" first house cost \$5.00 and a quart of whiskey."
—Compiled by Ethel Dunford of the ninth grade of the Au Gres School. C. A. Ennis, teacher.

02 - 04 - 1922

ICE CREAM 6.29.22
STAND ON "M-10"

We have opened our new ice cream parlor and lunch room two miles west of Omer on M-10. We have installed new equipment. Everything sanitary and home made. Try a dish of our home made ice cream, then order a supply for the Fourth—James Tulloch, Omer, Mich. R. 1.6-3*

06 - 29 - 1922

STORK'S VISITS

Mrs. Andrew Fisher, South Branch, July 14, a girl.

Mrs. Felix Proulx, South Branch, July 9, a girl.

Mrs. Oliver Buffman, Saganing, July 15, a boy.

Mrs. Walter Saunders, Gibson, July 15, a boy.

Mrs. Mike Oeder, Johnsfield, July 9, a girl.

Mrs. Mose White, Saganing, July 16, a girl.

Mrs. J. Fitzpatrick, Lengsville, a girl.

Mrs. Fred Burgquist, Melita, a girl.

Mrs. A. Reets, Melita, July 17, a boy.

Mrs. Lyn Dourkie, Pinconning, a boy.

7-21-1910

07 21 1910

RADIO STATION AT TURNER

5.4.1922

Frank Hunt Receives Programs From Detroit and Pittsburgh. Other Turner News.

TURNER—F. M. Hunt has installed a radio outfit in the pool room and is receiving programs from both Detroit and Pittsburgh broadcasting stations.

Mrs. W. C. L. Philips, Ellen Smith and Bessie Wurster attended the Senior play in East Tawas last Wednesday.

F. A. Dunham was in town last Saturday.

Gladys Armstrong wrote on teacher's examination in Standish last week.

Mrs. Coulson Blair of Standish visited friends in town Friday.

Wm. McCourt has bought a lot of Mat Hahn on south Main street and will build a residence thereon.

W. A. Armstrong was in Standish Monday.

John Shaffer is quite ill at this writing, as is also N. LeFevre.

A new boy has arrived at the home of Morley Weiderhold.

Warren Briggs spent Sunday in Pinconning.

Geo. Marentette returned to Bay City on Monday.

Big auto races Sunday, May 7.

05 - 04 - 1922

Ye Olde Courthouse

2013 was a great year for the Ye Olde Courthouse/Masonic Hall. Our highlight was the "Burning of the Mortgage" celebration which was held in August. Many of you joined us for the party which celebrated our history and the unveiling of our Early Arenac Exhibit. The generosity of all of our friends through bake sales, Junque Sales, book sales, pledges, donations, the Masons, the Arenac Community Foundation, and our great committee members made this historic project possible. We cannot thank all of you enough.

In December the Arenac Community Foundation, through the Gladys C. Noeske Arenac County Disability Fund awarded us \$3,000.00 to build a ramp and install a door on our south entrance to make the building universally accessible. This project will be completed just as soon as weather permits. Many thanks to the Community Foundation for making this possible. We are also replacing two ceilings in our building that are falling down. These will be completed soon. Painting of the exterior was planned for our next big project but our committee is considering replacing many of our windows first. The frames in many of the windows are rotted and the glass is loose. They cannot be opened and are extremely energy inefficient. These windows are original to the building, making them around 125 years old!

Our Christmas open house, candy sale, fresh greens, e bay sales, donations, pledges, junque, books and gift shop netted \$ 1,548.00 in December. Our committee is busy planning events and fundraisers for 2014. We plan to pick up books from the Midland Dow Library in February (weather permitting) and have set a date for a book sale to be held on March 1st and 2nd. Our annual Sucker Weekend is set for April 5th to coincide with the Sucker Festival being planned for Omer. We will hold our first bake sale of the year on that week end. Watch our website and the Arenac County Independent for notices of these events.

Don't forget to save your good "junque" for us. Our Junque Sales are one of our main fundraisers and we are happy to come to your home and pack up garage sale leftovers and anything else you would like to get out of your house, attic, basement or garage. Pledges are still welcome as is your participation in this project. You may call any of our members or committee chairs at the following numbers.

Ye Olde Courthouse Committee

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

MUSEUM BOOK STORE

All of our book selections are for sale at the MUSEUM, the DEPOT and YE OLDE COURTHOUSE

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
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
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
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
HISTORY OF ARENAC COUNTY NORMAL 1904-1957 Joann Gulau and Mike Melvin	PRICE	\$30
PLAT BOOK of ARENAC COUNTY 1906	PRICE	\$12
PLAT BOOK of ARENAC COUNTRY 1920'S	PRICE	\$8

James Adams Helps Blaze Trail to Township Bearing His Name

1-26-1922

Note: This is our second article giving interesting accounts of various settlements in our county. The following data was compiled by Clark Kerr from the Adams township records. A pleasing feature of this township is that every original officer in Adams township is still living.

Adams township was detached from Deep River township in 1886. The first election was held at the home of James Adams. At this election there were eleven voters. James Adams, after whom the township was named, was elected supervisor, Allen Reahok was elected clerk, David Kerr treasurer and Adam Lucas, highway commissioner.

At this time there was only one road in the township, the old Tittabawassee tote road which led into the camps on the Tittabawassee river. In 1887 Joseph Price came to Moores Junction following the old logging railroad that ran into the camps from Pinconning. The next year he erected a large saw mill in Moores Junction. After the mill was started a road from the Deep River highway was opened up. Mr. Adams and Mr. Lucas blazing this road from the Deep River highway to what is known as Doyle's Corners. When this road was opened up other settlers began buying land from large lumber companies and settling in the township.

Some of the early settlers had followed the old railroad and settled in Moores Junction. At about the time the township was detached, a school district was formed in Moores Junction. A log house built by Ward Wansly was used as a school house. The first officers were Albert Rae, Ward Wansly and Wesley Decker. The first teacher was Grace Morris.

The log house was used until about 1890 when a school building was erected. This was destroyed by fire in the fall of 1907. The term was finished in the town hall. The next summer the present new two room school house was erected.

Between the years of 1890 and 1898 a number had settled in north of the Moores Junction road in sections fourteen and twenty-three. This settlement became known as the Rockafellow settlement. A school district was formed in 1897 with H. E. Rockafellow director, Moses Cumming, moderator and James Kerr treasurer. A log school house was built by Mr. Rockafellow that summer and the following fall school began with Jess Wishard as teacher.

Then settlers began to come in thick and fast. New roads were built, new homes established and the woods cleared away. In 1915 Heath & Son, owning over 6000 acres in the western part of the township, fenced in their land and in 1917 and 1918 began farming. Much of the land had to be drained so large ditches were dug by dredges. The swamps and marshes became dry and farming on such land became very profitable.

In 1918 a state reward road was built from Doyle's corners to within one mile east of Moores Junction. In 1920 Adams school district built a new state approved school building with all modern fixtures. M. F. Parker was the first teacher of the new school.

How the township has grown! A large community at both ends of the township with good farm land improvements. The township isn't what it is going to be. So watch it grow. General.

01 - 26 - 22

Arenac County Historical Society Balance Sheet As of November 30, 2013

	Nov 30, 13
ASSETS	
Current Assets	
Checking/Savings	
Certificate of Deposit	
CD #1	1,181.78
CD #2	10,318.94
CD #3	6,309.85
Total Certificate of Deposit	17,810.57
Courthouse Checking	24,935.62
General Checking Account	991.17
Money Market (Savings)	10,482.09
Petty cash	100.00
Total Checking/Savings	54,319.45
Total Current Assets	54,319.45
TOTAL ASSETS	54,319.45
LIABILITIES & EQUITY	
Equity	
Building Fund	4,268.95
Courthouse Fund	24,965.62
General Fund	10,507.40
Memorial Fund	14,557.48
Total Equity	54,319.45
TOTAL LIABILITIES & EQUITY	54,319.45

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

At Ye Olde Courthouse:

March 1 - 2
Sat. and Sun.
9 - 4
Book Sale

April 5 - 6
Sat. and Sun.
9 - 4
Sucker Weekend
Easter Junque
Bake Sale