



# ACHS NEWSLETTER

**Arenac County Historical Society**  
Preserving The Heritage of Arenac County, Michigan

February 2017

## A MESSAGE FROM YOUR PRESIDENT

I would like to take this opportunity and give a huge thank you to John and Catherine Maser. This couple have passed away but left a trust fund that benefited their family and many area organizations. This endowment was set up through the Bay Area Community Foundation which the Arenac County Historical Society received a huge monetary benefit. Each year we can receive a percent of the money gifted to the society that will help us preserve history, artifacts and historic buildings of Arenac County.

We have parameters and stipulations as to how we can spend the money each year. At this time we have not made any decisions. However, at our next regular board meeting there will be discussion as to how to use the money this year. A subcommittee of five people from the board will be chosen to serve as advisors to the Bay Area Community Foundation. These five people will move forward with a decision and application. It will be their job to have all documentations, and estimates to complete any project or projects we choose to do. If there is a year we choose not to use the money it will stay in the fund for future use.

I would like to give you a little history lesson on the lives of John and Catherine. They lived in the Au Gres area for many years and were upstanding citizens of the community. They owned and operated the Au Gres Telephone Company. As they prospered they expanded the company to the Omer, Turner and Twining Area. At some point the Turner and Twining phone area was sold to the Pigeon Telephone Company. Sometime during the late 1970's the Au Gres and Omer phone area was sold to CenturyTel. After John passed away Catherine supported the Arenac County Historical Society with donations. She and John also supported the local fire department and the Au Gres Sims School District. Many of their family descendants graduated from Au Gres Sims and some served as firefighters on the Sims Whitney Fire Department. John and Catherine were members of what is now known as Christ United Methodist Church of Au Gres. These people supported the community with their time, energy and finances. They obviously saw a need to support the community in the event of their passing away. They have left a legacy for our communities so we may appreciate and enjoy the benefits. Other organizations that benefitted from the endowment were the Sims Whitney Fire Department, the Iosco Arenac District Library in Au Gres, Christ United Methodist Church and the Au Gres Sims School District. This area received the best Christmas Blessing we could ever imagine. Now we can move forward to dream and build a better community. There are not enough kind words to express our thanks to a great family and their generosity!!!!!!!!!!!!!!

A little bit of further news concerning the Arenac County Historical Society is that I am looking for some programs for this summer. I have found some interesting ones but still need to find more. I need to make some contacts to be sure presenters will be available. As always we are always looking for volunteers. Feel free to contact us if you are interested. We hope you will like to be a part of a great organization. We also hope to see many of you this summer.

Sandy Proulx  
President

NEW BOOK BY LOCAL AUTHOR: *CHANGING TIMES*  
by Chris Miller  
Available at ACHS Museum  
\$15.00

### ACHS OFFICERS

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

### ACHS TRUSTEES

Joann Gulau  
Brenda Matt  
Marilyn Van Sickle

### ACHS STANDING COMMITTEE

#### BUILDING and GROUNDS

#### COLLECTIONS/EXHIBITS

#### ACCESSION COMMITTEE

Sandy Proulx  
Joann Gulau  
Mary McLaughlin

#### HOSPITALITY

#### NEWSLETTER EDITOR

Fred Robel

#### PUBLICITY

Marilyn Van Sickle

#### ACHS REPRESENTATIVE 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

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

## Ye Olde Courthouse/Masonic Hall

Thanks to the generosity of our community the Ye Olde Courthouse enjoyed another very successful and profitable year. Here is our total income for 2016:

<u>Junque Sales</u>	<u>\$ 12,286.67</u>
<u>Christmas Greens</u>	<u>\$ 950.00</u>
<u>F Bay Sales</u>	<u>\$ 2,803.06</u>
<u>Book Sales</u>	<u>\$ 1,646.56</u>
<u>Bake Sales</u>	<u>\$ 2,239.35</u>
<u>Donations</u>	<u>\$ 3,125.62</u>
<u>Pledge</u>	<u>\$ 100.00</u>
<u>Memorials</u>	<u>\$ 190.00</u>
<u>Rent</u>	<u>\$ 2,820.00</u>
<u>Saginaw Chippewa 2% awarded</u>	<u>\$ 20,388.46</u>

Over \$ 17,000.00 of this money was raised from selling items that our donors have given to us!

Our Ye Olde Courthouse Committee works very hard and puts in countless hours to make all this happen but it could not happen without all of you. We thank you for your generosity and continued support for 2017.

We are asked quite often what we do with all of our left over Junque Sale items and books. We are fortunate to have so many of you who donate your unwanted items to us for our sales which are held throughout the year. The following are organizations we are able to help because of your involvement.

**AuGres Garden Club** - Vases that they use for their annual flower sale.

**Trackside Senior Center**- Any medical equipment (crutches, walkers, shower chairs, etc.) small decorated Christmas trees that they distribute to shut-ins.

**Head Start** - Paper, pencils & books. We also invite the children to visit & select Christmas items for their parents. This visit is a yearly high light for us!

**Arenac County Baby Pantry** - Stuffed animals, toys, books and clothing for babies & children under the age of 5.

**Arenac County Animal Shelter** - Towels & blankets for the animals.

**Newberry Senior Center Thrift Shop** - 3 or 4 times during the year a member of our group transports left over books & rummage items to their shop in the Upper Peninsula. They in turn save bud vases for us to give to a worthy project in the Detroit area.

**Beaumont Hospital Project** - Along with the vases from Newberry we also send additional vases to a lady in Detroit who fills them with flowers donated from a florist and then gives them to patients at Beaumont who don't have many visitors.

**Barbie Doll Project** - All dolls collected are given to a lady in the Tri-City area who dresses them and then ships them overseas for children in poverty areas.

**Suitcases** - Are sent to a group in Tawas that fills them with blankets and clothing which are shipped overseas to needy groups.

**Shoes** - Are given to an Animal Rescue group in Midland that sells them by the pound. The proceeds help fund their organization.

**Fabric** - Donated to a Baptist Church in Standish. They make baby items to ship to overseas missions.

**Christmas Fresh Greens Arrangement** - Give to Omer Library and residents of area nursing homes.

All of us working together have made a huge impact on our community and the lives of others.

(Special thanks to Phyllis Klender for preparing these reports)

Our contractor will have our new windows installed by spring and we will be ready for the next phase of our renovation project, painting our historic building. We had a small Junque sale in January and are now getting ready for a Book Sale on February 17<sup>th</sup> and 18<sup>th</sup>. We will have several Junque Sales throughout the year. Watch for our ads in the Arenac County Independent and on our sign in front of the Courthouse.

We will begin selling raffle tickets soon on a collector's Arenac County Limited Edition Henry Model 30-30 Rifle. This rifle is engraved with historic Arenac County landmarks. Prizes two through ten are Civil War and Wild West collectable knives. Tickets will be available from our members and at the Courthouse.

The Ye Olde Courthouse will again be participating in the Give Local Bay campaign conducted by the Bay Community Foundation and the Arenac Fund. The Ye Olde Courthouse has a Designated Fund established with the Foundation to secure the future of our building. Watch for a mailing on this tax deductible opportunity to establish funding for the coming years.

Please contact us if you have some good "Junque" for our sales. Our committee members will gladly make arrangements to pick things up or meet you at the Courthouse if you would like to drop your items off.

The Ye Olde Courthouse Committee meets at the Courthouse in Omer on the second Friday of each month at 9:30 a.m. Visitors and volunteers are welcome to join us.

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

### Volunteers Needed

We have numerous record books and scrap books in the museum that need to be indexed. Once they are indexed we can add them to our long list on line where people will find them when researching their ancestors. If you are familiar with doing a spreadsheet, and have the time and would like to help us, please leave a message for Joann at the museum 989-876-6399, You would have to be local, so you could come in and get the books. Thanks.

# Arenac Heritage Route Authority

## Standish Historical Depot

The Depot has added an early Standish display in the freight room. It consists of souvenirs and advertising items from many years ago.

The Arenac County Rail Trail committee of the AHRA continues to plan for a link of the Iron Bell Trail in Arenac County. This first Arenac County link will run from Omer to AuGres. A DNR reimbursement grant has been submitted with the required \$25,000.00 match. The Arenac County Economic Development Corporation committed this money from their funds so that this rail trail project could proceed. Representatives of the AHRA met with Bill Earnst of EMCOG to work on an agreement with the Saginaw Midland Water Line for an easement on their property between Omer and AuGres. This committee is small and will need community involvement to succeed. We are hoping to involve other groups and organizations including the Arenac County Board of Commissioners, the Central Michigan District Health Department, Sterling Area Health Center, schools, track and cross country coaches, runners clubs, hospitals, physical fitness and physical therapy groups.

We have several copies for sale of "Echo", a book that was compiled by Carl and Mina Stodolak featuring our local Veterans and published several years ago.

Entertainers are being contracted for our Summer Concert Series which will begin on June 22<sup>nd</sup> at the Depot. Watch the Arenac County Independent and our website for information.

The Depot will be participating in the Give Local Bay Fundraiser which is conducted by the Bay Community Foundation. Our non-profit group, "Friends of the Arenac Heritage Route Authority" is eligible for the first time and excited to be a part of this unique fundraiser. We have established a designated fund with the Foundation to help secure funds for the future of the Depot.

The Heritage Route Winter Map Guide has been published. We will have copies available here at the Depot. A u tube video is also available on line promoting winter in North East Michigan.

Plans are being made to host our 3<sup>rd</sup> Art Show with the Gladwin Art Guild. They are a great group to work with and we enjoy hosting them and their variety of art work.

The Model A & Model T Car Show is scheduled for Saturday, July 8<sup>th</sup> and Depot Days is set for the first week end in October.

The Depot is participating in the Spartan Nash Family Fare Direct Your Dollars Fundraiser. Please save your Family Fare cash register receipts and bring them to us at the Depot. Containers are also available at Wheelers, the Arenac County Courthouse, Standish City Hall, the AuGres Township Hall, the Arenac Township Hall and Bethlehem Lutheran Church. We will receive \$1,000.00 for every \$150,000.00 in points from the cash register tapes.

Volunteers are needed for staffing as well as maintenance and landscaping. If you would like to help please call the Depot at 989-718-3021.

The Arenac Heritage Route Authority meets the first Monday of the month at the Depot at 7:00 p.m. This is an open meeting and all are welcome to attend.

-Brenda Matt, Depot Representative

## Arenac County Historical Society Balance Sheet

As of December 31, 2016

Dec 31, 16

ASSETS	
Current Assets	
Checking/Savings	
Certificate of Deposit	
CD #1	1,200.81
CD #2	10,443.50
CD #3	6,386.04
Total Certificate of Deposit	18,030.35
Courthouse Checking	35,544.52
General Checking Account	1,198.95
Money Market (Savings)	7,681.60
Petty cash	100.00
Total Checking/Savings	62,555.42
Total Current Assets	62,555.42
Other Assets	
BACF Endowment Fund	
Courthouse Agency Fund	2,925.00
Courthouse Agency Fund -Rev...	-18.70
Total BACF Endowment Fund	2,906.30
Total Other Assets	2,906.30
<b>TOTAL ASSETS</b>	<b>65,461.72</b>
LIABILITIES & EQUITY	
Equity	
Building Fund	4,304.12
Courthouse Fund	38,500.82
General Fund	7,552.35
Memorial Fund	15,104.43
Total Equity	65,461.72
<b>TOTAL LIABILITIES &amp; EQUITY</b>	<b>65,461.72</b>

11-1-1917

**NEW TOWNSHIP NAMED SIMMS**

The Supervisors Tuesday voted unanimously to divide towns 19 and 20, N. R. 7 east into two townships as the petitioners requested. The older township, Whitney, will remain its present name and the new township will be named Simms in honor of Edwin Simms, owner of the Bay Meadow ranch, which comprises several hundreds of acres in the new township.

The township will continue as one unit until the present fiscal year expires in the spring. The officers for the new township will be elected at the regular township election the first Monday in April.

Mr. Simms was here from Chicago Tuesday when the matter was acted upon by the board and appreciates very much the courtesy showed him by the supervisors. He was quite taken by surprise when the board named the new township Simms and is highly pleased over the honor.

## Arenac Historical Society Books & Publications – Mail Order Form

The Society has a number of books and publications for sale related to Arenac County history and people. All of our selections are also for sale at the Museum, the Depot, and Ye Olde Courthouse.

**Mark selection box in left column, and add price to subtotal for each item desired. Then add shipping as detailed at bottom.**

Title & Description of Book or Publication	Price
<input type="checkbox"/> "A Point to Remember" - A Pictorial History of Point Lookout, Michigan - Val Korth, 2014 - Second Edition	\$ 30.00
<input type="checkbox"/> Arenac County Normal, 1904-1957 - written and compiled by the ACHS; 2013	\$ 30.00
<input type="checkbox"/> 1906 Standard Atlas of Arenac County, Michigan: including a plat book of the villages, cities and townships of the county - includes index - reprinted by the ACHS; 2012	\$ 12.00
<input type="checkbox"/> Soldiers & Sailors of Arenac County That Served in the Great War. (WWI)-written and compiled by the ACHS 2010. 300pg	\$ 28.00
<input type="checkbox"/> A History of Maple Ridge, Arenac County, Michigan - written & compiled by Marion Poole Maday & Friends; 2008 282 pgs	\$ 28.00
<input type="checkbox"/> A History of Arenac County, Michigan - by Calvin Ennes; edited, compiled and amended by Paul Michalke; 2003, 208 pgs	\$ 25.00
<input type="checkbox"/> Wah Sash Kah Moqua, or Thirty-Three Years among the Indians - by Mary A. Henderson Cabay Sagatoo; 1897 - Reprinted by Printer's Devil Press. Content: 140 pages plus illustrations	\$ 12.00
<input type="checkbox"/> The Story of Standish and its People, 1876-1976 - by Allan McCready, 1976 - Reprinted. 108 pages plus illustrations.	\$ 10.00
<input type="checkbox"/> First Families of Standish Township, 1974 - Reprinted; Lots of family names and pictures. 32 pages.	\$ 10.00
<input type="checkbox"/> Omer Centennial Book, 1872-1972 - Reprinted.	\$ 10.00
<input type="checkbox"/> History of the Sterling Area - by Virginia Adams, 1976 - Reprinted, 16 pgs	\$ 8.00
<input type="checkbox"/> History of the Sterling Area, Second Generation - by Virginia Adams, 1977 - Reprinted. 15 pgs	\$ 8.00
<input type="checkbox"/> The Handy Cook's Book - 1915 - by the Ladies Aid Society of the M. E. Church, Au Gres.	\$ 6.00
<input type="checkbox"/> Arenac County "First County Fair" Premium Book - 4 1/2" x 6", originally printed in 1885. Reprint	\$ 6.00
<input type="checkbox"/> 100th Anniversary - Omer Masonic Lodge #377 F. & A. M. - Reprint; Includes a history of Omer & Free Masonry	\$ 6.00
<input type="checkbox"/> Arenac County Fair Premium Book - 1914 - Reprinted, includes ads of the period, showing businesses in the County	\$ 3.00
<input type="checkbox"/> Short History of Arenac County Roads - 2004 - With 3 different color maps of the county. 30 pages.	\$ 6.00
<input type="checkbox"/> This is the Way We Went to School; West and Northwest of Saginaw Bay Around the Turn of the Century	\$ 6.00
<input type="checkbox"/> One Room Country Schools, Arenac County, Michigan - edited by Marie Bauer & Friends of Arenac County Historical Society, 1992. Reprinted with additional photos, names and information. 4 volumes with illustrations and maps.	\$ 7.00 Per Vol.
<input type="checkbox"/> One Room Country Schools Map - Content: Map of Arenac County showing all of the 42 One (and two) room schools that were in the County at one time. 8 1/2" x 11"	\$ 2.00
<input type="checkbox"/> Arenac County Directory - 1947 - Reprinted. Lots of local information. 90 pages.	\$ 8.00
<input type="checkbox"/> St. John's United Church of Christ - Au Gres 1912 - 1981 - Content: Known as "Old German Church", located on Delano Road. Later closed and now sits in park in Au Gres across the street from the ACHS museum.	\$ 5.00
<input type="checkbox"/> Plat Book of Arenac County - villages, cities and townships - circa 1920 - Reprint; aps showing land ownership + index	\$ 10.00
<input type="checkbox"/> Au Gres Centennial 1865-1965: From Timber to Tourists - History of Au Gres Area, 1965 - Reprint	\$ 6.00
<input type="checkbox"/> Rifle River Centennial Sucker Festival, Omer Michigan, April 8, 9, 10, 1983 - Content: Schedule of events, committee members, history on Omer and sucker fishing, sucker recipes history on logging and more.	\$ 4.00
<input type="checkbox"/> POINT LOOKOUT, The Famous old Summer Resort located on the West Shore of Saginaw Bay. Unrivaled as a Summer Resort. - 12 pg booklet, to promote the area when the Steamers were bringing in tourists. Pictures, time tables and more.	\$ 3.00
<input type="checkbox"/> Au Gres Harbor Story - Short story of how Au Gres got the Harbor of Refuge and Marina, spanning 1945 -1973 12 pgs	\$ 3.00
<input type="checkbox"/> Program Pioneer Picnic & Homecoming - Au Gres - 1942 - Published for the annual Pioneer Picnic in Au Gres. 20 pg bklt	\$ 3.00
<input type="checkbox"/> 1883 to 1983 - Arenac County Centennial - One Hundred Years of Growth - Road Tour Guide; Small 12 page booklet	\$ 3.00
<input type="checkbox"/> The Early Au Gres Area - A Series of maps with Buildings and Landmarks. Edited and Modified by Mike Melvin	\$ 5.00

**Subtotal**

Mail orders, please include the following shipping and handling charges in addition to the price at the right of each item:

- \$5.00 for "A Point to Remember - A Pictorial History of Point Lookout, Michigan"
- \$4.50 for "Soldiers & Sailors of Arenac County That Served in the Great War. (WWI)"
- \$4.00 for "Arenac County Normal, 1904-1957"
- \$3.50 for "A History of Arenac County, Michigan"
- All other items:
- \$3.50 for the first item
- \$0.50 each additional item

Send form & personal check or money order to:  
**Arenac County Historical Society**  
 P. O. Box 272  
 Au Gres, Michigan 48703-0272

Name & Shipping Address

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Questions? Call 989-876-6399 or email: [achs@centurytel.net](mailto:achs@centurytel.net)

+ Calculated Shipping

**Grand Total Enclosed**

ARENAC COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

P.O. Box 272  
 Au Gres, Michigan 48703-0272

MEMBERSHIP INFORMATION

The Arenac County Historical Society (ACHS) was incorporated in 1971, 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 the 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 - 55And Under (couple)	\$400
BENEFACTOR	\$100		

MAIL TO: TREASURER, ACHS  
 P.O. BOX 272  
 AU GRES, MI 48703-0272

Arenac County Historical Society  
P.O. Box 272  
Au Gres, MI 48703

**NONPROFIT ORG  
US POSTAGE PAID  
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ACHS Newsletter For:

Or Current Resident

**COMING EVENTS**

**Feb 17 – 18; 9 - 4pm: Book Sale at Ye Olde Courthouse in Omer. You choose the book... You choose the price.**