ACHS NEWSLETTER

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

Winter 2017

A MESSAGE FROM YOUR PRESIDENT

Another year is almost finished. Where has the time gone? It seems like the year just began, summer came and then it extended well into October. Fall is here but winter is just around the corner. We hope you have had a great year. Here at the Arenac County Historical Society we were very busy. We had a lot of research and genealogical requests. It's been fun looking up research for people because you find all kinds of information in the process. Some of it is pretty funny and some can be pretty serious. In any case, it feels great to help someone find information they never knew before. People even chuckle at some of the goofy pictures we find. Hair styles and apparel can say a lot.

We had some very interesting programs at the museum and at Ye Old Courthouse this year which were very well attended. I think next year we may be looking to have five programs during the summer months at the museum. We get more visitors at our programs than we do any other time of the year. Ye Old Courthouse will have programs in the fall to follow up until the end of the year.

Ye Old Courthouse really looks wonderful with a new coat of paint and new windows. The Mason insignia towards the top of the building stands out. It is something I never noticed until all the painting was done. It took a lot of fund raisers and some money from the Catherine and John Maser Historic Preservation Fund through the Bay Area Community Foundation to complete the renovation projects. We thank the Maser Family for their generous donation that will help us preserve historic buildings throughout the county.

We hope you were able to enjoy many of the events this year throughout the county. Arenac County has a rich history and many fun activities to enjoy all year long. Taking a road trip through the county as well as around our great state can be a fun experience. Fishing, boating, camping, hiking, snow skiing, canoeing and swimming are just some of the things to enjoy. Visiting lighthouses, wineries, breweries, waterfalls, the Mackinac Bridge and Mackinaw Island are great destination places that show us the diversity of our state. There are so many more places to name but I would run out of space to mention them all. We have what I would consider one of the most beautiful states in our union. I hope all of you at one time or another get out to enjoy what Michigan has to offer.

The holiday season is quickly approaching. Children had many events to enjoy during Halloween. I am sure the local dentists will be busy taking care of the after effects of Halloween. Thanksgiving is a holiday we all should appreciate. We can never be thankful enough for all of God's Blessings. Besides, a little too much turkey and dressing, and all the trimmings just taste too good not to be thankful. Christmas is God's gift to us. May all of us enjoy our families, friends and neighbors throughout the rest of the year. May 2018 be our best year ever! The same goes to all of you. If you are making charitable donations to a great cause, The Arenac County Historical Society would love that donation to support the work we do here. All monetary donations are appreciated and remember they are tax deductible.

Peace, Love and Hope to you!!!!!
Sandy Proulx-President

All historical news clippings courtesy of *The Arenac County Independent* (unless otherwise noted)

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

Ye Olde Courthouse/Masonic Hall

The Christmas Season has arrived at Ye Olde Courthouse. Please join us on Friday December 16th and Saturday December 17th for our Christmas Greens and Candy Sale. Our very talented volunteers will be creating beautiful Christmas arrangements from fresh greens and decorations. Keep these arrangements watered and they will last for several weeks. Decorate your home with these or purchase them for friends, businesses and relatives. This is your opportunity to purchase delicious Christmas goodies made by our famous Omer Bakers just in time for holiday celebrations and gifts. We have some nice Christmas decorations still available to purchase.

Our three phase renovation project is complete! The foundation is repaired, the windows installed and our paint job is complete. The building looks amazing! Thanks to our volunteers, our wonderful friends who do so much to support us, the Saginaw Chippewa Tribe through the 2 % program, the City of Omer for submitting the grants in our name and the Catherine and John Maser Historic Preservation Fund of the Bay Area Community Foundation we were able to complete these major renovations.

Our committee is now planning several smaller renovations to the building. An upgrade to our electrical, replacing the two small windows on the North side, replacing the porch floor, repairing the boarded up window on the South side, replacing the fire escape, repair to our historical marker, repairing our outhouse and re-homing our bats are all on our to do list. We will continue to conduct our famous Junque Sales, raffles, bake sales and apply for grants to complete the preservation of this beautiful Arenac County treasure.

We are planning events for next year. The popular pot lucks will continue, and we have another Junque sale planned for February. Watch our sign, Face book and the Independent for information on our events. We are looking forward to your visit us on December 16th & 17th. Join us and enjoy coffee and cookies while you shop.

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

Arenac Onion Farmers in 1,000 Bushel Club

9-1-1943

Three Arenac county farmers are enrolled in the Keystone 1,000 Bushel Onion Club contest sponsored by the Michigan Muck Farmers Association in cooperation with the Michigan State College soils department and the Pennsylvania Railroad agricultural department. A trophy will be awarded to the grower with the largest yield in addition to the crown and one of the gold medals for the grower of 1,000 bushels or more of onions per acre. The local county farmers entering the contest are Edmond and Harry Bailiff and Frank Kus, Jr., all of Omer.

Bay City Times. Feb 7, 1965

A great deal of excitement was Created in 1875 over the discovery of coal in Arenac County. Ira Bennet found a bed of coal exposed by the Rifle River north of Standish. He revealed his find to a couple of enterprising Bay City men and they at once formed a company called EUREKA COAL CO. with a capital of $250,000 and dug the first coal mine in Michigan. It was abandoned, however, due to an excess amount of water which the company could not cope with.

Later, following another discovery, "THE DEEP RIVER COAL CO." was formed. The coal was of an inferior quality and not abundant enough to make the operations profitable, it too was abandoned. Thus far Arenac's coal fields remain undeveloped.

Farming began to make headway after the turn of the century. The lumber barons had no further use for the land and, thinking it useless sold it cheap. This promoted another great influx of settlers: The Polish, in 1910.

AuGres to Have Dial Phones

8-24-1946

John Maser Announces Approval of New System

John Maser of the AuGres Telephone Co., announces Tuesday that the Michigan Public Utilities Commision had placed its approval upon the installation of a new dial telephone system to be installed at AuGres. He stated that the plant would be completed and ready for service about July 1, 1947.

Mr. Maser has plans for a complete new office building and equipment, the whole installation representing an investment of approximately $20,000. All equipmet has been ordered and some of of it is already on its way to AuGres.

The AuGres Telephone Co. has been under the management of Mr. Maser for the past 22 years. He has made constant efforts to improve the service and this last step is his big ambition. AuGres patrons appreciate his effort.

Arenac Heritage Route Authority
Standish Historical Depot

The Christmas season is in full swing at the Depot. Santa arrived on a Standish Fire Authority fire truck on November 24th. He turned the switch on for the beautifully lit Depot grounds. Children enjoyed a visit with Santa, complete with hot chocolate and cookies provided by the Depot staff and volunteers. He will return on December 2nd, 16th and 23rd from 12 to 2 pm to visit with children. Our new lights were provided through a grant to the Friends of the AHRA of $ 1,000.00 from the Arenac Fund of the Bay Area Community Foundation. Many thanks to our hard working Arenac County residents who contribute so much time to the success of the Arenac Fund. Many of our friends donated Christmas lights also.

Kids Day in Standish is set for Saturday, December 9th. The day begins with Breakfast with Santa from 8:30 a.m. to 10 a.m. in the Courtyard Café at St. Mary's of Michigan Standish Hospital. This is a free family event. It is recommended that you RSVP by calling 989-846-3445. From 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. children are invited to various businesses including the Depot to participate in a Christmas craft project.

The Depot is joining with the Gateway Destination Group's Arenac County's Northern Lights Christmas Celebration. Emphasis is on the US 23 Heritage Route as well as homes and businesses throughout Arenac County. Join AuGres on December 2nd for the Christmas Parade through down town and continue to the AuGres City Campground for the Christmas in the Park Festival.

The Veterans Exhibit is in place at the Depot. This is a collection of uniforms, pictures and memorabilia from the Civil War, World Wars I & II, Vietnam and Iraq. We have added several items to this exhibit including a naval uniform donated by the family of Albert J. Bourdon who served in World War II and some pictures from France donated by John and Vi Lincoln. John's father, Walter served in France during World War I.

The Depot Days Festival was held in October. We had great weather which contributed to a successful celebration. Horse drawn rides by Mike Stein were provided by the Standish Area Chamber of Commerce, Suzy's Coop and Petting Zoo, sponsored by GLD Management Co., and Matt Builders L.L.C. were a great attraction as well as Schmidt Amusements. The silent auction, chili, pie, chicken noodle soup contests and the vendors netted us a profit of over $ 2,500.00.

Thanks to the Saganing Eagles Landing Casino employees who donated $ 235.00 from their casual dress program to us and to John Cuthbertson, author of The Mighty Rifle River who donated a case of his books to us to sell.

The Depot board has been busy with several projects this year. We have plans submitted by the architect firm of WTA for a canopy over the rail car exhibit. It is a very expensive structure and we will be seeking grants to finance it. The Farmers Market which is a project of the Gateway Destination Group was held here at the Depot this summer and was a very big success. Plans are underway for the market in 2018. The Rail Trail project is making progress on the route between Omer and AuGres. Our popular Model A & Model T Car Show was held in July and dates are set for July 13th & 14th, 2018.

Watch our website, Face book page and the Arenac Count y Independent for upcoming events to be held at the Depot. The AHRA meet on the first Monday of every month at the Standish Historical Depot at 7 p.m. This is an open meeting and all are welcome to attend. Volunteers are always welcome to staff the Depot, help with decorating and landscaping. Our e mail is info@ Standish depot.org and our number is 989-718-3021.

-Brenda Matt, Depot Representative

NEWS FLASH

Great news for the Standish Historical Depot! The Friends of the AHRA (our 501c3 non-profit) applied for a grant to the Arenac Fund of the Bay Area Community Foundation for outdoor Christmas lights to participate with Gateway Destination's Arenac County Northern Lights Christmas Celebration. We received word on November 7th that we were awarded a $ 1,000.00 grant. Thanks to the Arenac County residents who contribute their time and talents to the Arenac fund which provides grants to non-profits in Arenac County. Their efforts create a better community for all of us. Thank you, Arenac Fund Members.

Arenac County Historical Society
Balance Sheet
As of October 31, 2017

	Oct 31, 17
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	26,111.80
General Checking Account	735.50
Money Market (Savings)	5,917.85
Petty cash	100.00
Total Checking/Savings	50,895.50
Total Current Assets	50,895.50
Other Assets	
BACF Endowment Fund	
Courthouse Agency Fund	2,925.00
Courthouse Agency Revenue	335.89
Courthouse Agency Spend...	-116.00
Total BACF Endowment Fund	3,144.89
Total Other Assets	3,144.89
TOTAL ASSETS	**54,040.39**
LIABILITIES & EQUITY	
Equity	
Building Fund	4,304.54
Courthouse Fund	29,306.69
General Fund	5,323.17
Memorial Fund	15,105.99
Total Equity	54,040.39
TOTAL LIABILITIES & EQUITY	**54,040.39**

MORE GREAT NEWS FOR THE DEPOT

A grant from the Catherine and John Maser Historic Preservation Fund of the Bay Area Community Foundation was awarded to the Friends of the AHRA in the amount of $ 4,270.00 to replace the water heater in our restrooms. This heater provides the radiant heat and is necessary to the operation of the Depot as a visitor and information center for Arenac County and Northeast Michigan. The Catherine and John Maser Historic Preservation Fund established in 2016 supports renovations, maintenance or repairs of historically significant buildings in Arenac County. We appreciate the Maser Family's generosity and thoughtfulness in providing for the future of our historic buildings.

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
	"A Point to Remember" - A Pictorial History of Point Lookout, Michigan - Val Korth, 2014 - Second Edition	**$ 30.00**
	Arenac County Normal, 1904-1957 - written and compiled by the ACHS; 2013	**$ 30.00**
	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**
	Soldiers & Sailors of Arenac County That Served in the Great War. (WWI)-written and compiled by the ACHS 2010. 300pg	**$ 28.00**
	A History of Maple Ridge, Arenac County, Michigan - written & compiled by Marion Poole Maday & Friends; 2008 282 pgs	**$ 28.00**
	A History of Arenac County, Michigan - by Calvin Ennes; edited, compiled and amended by Paul Michalke; 2003, 208 pgs	**$ 25.00**
	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**
	The Story of Standish and its People, 1876-1976 - by Allan McCready, 1976 – Reprinted. 108 pages plus illustrations.	**$ 10.00**
	First Families of Standish Township, 1974 - Reprinted; Lots of family names and pictures. 32 pages.	**$ 10.00**
	Omer Centennial Book, 1872-1972 - Reprinted.	**$ 10.00**
	History of the Sterling Area - by Virginia Adams, 1976 – Reprinted, 16 pgs	**$ 8.00**
	History of the Sterling Area, Second Generation - by Virginia Adams, 1977 – Reprinted. 15 pgs	**$ 8.00**
	The Handy Cook's Book – 1915 - by the Ladies Aid Society of the M. E. Church, Au Gres.	**$ 6.00**
	Arenac County "First County Fair" Premium Book - 4 ½" x 6", originally printed in 1885. Reprint	**$ 6.00**
	100th Anniversary - Omer Masonic Lodge #377 F. &. A. M. – Reprint; Includes a history of Omer & Free Masonry	**$ 6.00**
	Arenac County Fair Premium Book – 1914 - Reprinted, Includes ads of the period, showing businesses in the County	**$ 3.00**
	Short History of Arenac County Roads – 2004 - With 3 different color maps of the county. 30 pages.	**$ 6.00**
	This is the Way We Went to School; West and Northwest of Saginaw Bay Around the Turn of the Century	**$ 6.00**
	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.**
	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 ½" x 11"	**$ 2.00**
	Arenac County Directory – 1947 - Reprinted. Lots of local information. 90 pages.	**$ 8.00**
	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**
	Plat Book of Arenac County - villages, cities and townships - circa 1920 – Reprint; aps showing land ownership + index	**$ 10.00**
	Au Gres Centennial 1865–1965: From Timber to Tourists - History of Au Gres Area, 1965 – Reprint	**$ 6.00**
	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**
	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**
	Au Gres Harbor Story - Short story of how Au Gres got the Harbor of Refuge and Marina, spanning 1945 –1973 12 pgs	**$ 3.00**
	Program Pioneer Picnic & Homecoming - Au Gres – 1942 - Published for the annual Pioneer Picnic in Au Gres. 20 pg bklt	**$ 3.00**
	1883 to 1983 - Arenac County Centennial - One Hundred Years of Growth - Road Tour Guide; Small 12 page booklet	**$ 3.00**
	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

Questions? Call 989-876-6399 or email: 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
		BUSINESS	$50
SENIOR (over 55 years)	$10	LIFE - Over 55 (individual)	$150
SENIOR COUPLE (over 55 years)	$15	LIFE - Over 55 (couple)	$225
INDIVIDUAL	$15		
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
AUGRES MI
PERMIT NO. 50

ACHS Newletter For:

Or Current Resident

COMING EVENTS

Dec 2, 12 to 2 pm: Santa Claus will visit with children at Standish Historical Depot

Dec 9, 10 am to 2 pm: Children's craft project at Standish Historical Depot

Dec 16, 12 to 2 pm: Santa Claus will visit with children at Standish Historical Depot

Dec 16-17, 9 am to 4 pm: Christmas Greens & Candy Sale at Ye Olde Courthouse in Omer

Dec 23, 12 to 2 pm: Santa Claus will visit with children at Standish Historical Depot

9-18-1940 Page Seven

SILVER GABLES

Two Miles East of Omer at Junction of US-23 and M-65.

Dancing Every Saturday Night

TO WINSLOW'S SWING QUARTETTE