



# ACHS NEWSLETTER

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

April 2018

## A MESSAGE FROM YOUR PRESIDENT

Isn't it amazing how a fresh snowfall can make everything look clean and beautiful! If the sun shines that super cold weather doesn't seem quite so bad. We live in the great state of Michigan and we know how to prepare for cold and snowy weather. We may not like it much of the time but we live in a state where the four seasons show their beautiful colors. I can't imagine living anywhere else. I may complain about the weather but I still believe Michigan is one of the most beautiful states in the union.

Winter is the season of planning for the Arenac County Historical Society. What type of work needs to be done on our buildings? What programs are we having this summer? Who is going help clean and spruce up the grounds? Well, you know the list goes on and on. Some of the thing I am working on is contacting contractors to check out our museum to see how sound and solid the building is. It is over one hundred thirty years old, I would like to know if it is sturdy enough to last another one hundred and thirty years. The results are good and we need to decide where to start fixing things that should be done so the building does stand for future generations to enjoy. When our buildings are this old it is a constant job to keep then in tip top shape.

We are having a drawing at the end of the summer raffling of a Henry 22 gun, a couple of gas cards and two collectible hunting knives. Contact one of our board members for tickets. If you are interested in guns, this one is a beauty. It is a gun with historical value. It will be engraved with the Historical "Ye Olde Courthouse" Building and it is perfectly useable. If you are a collector or love to hunt this gun is for you! Tickets are ten dollars (\$10.00) a piece. Your support is greatly appreciated and it helps us continue to preserve the history of our county.

We will be having programs again this summer at the museum. Programs will continue throughout the fall at Ye Ole Courthouse. Watch for advertisements and up dates in our newsletters. Summer music programs will continue in Au Gres and Standish. There usually is a schedule listed in the Arenac paper and I believe on face book too. If any of you have suggestions and ideas for programs and want to volunteer at the Historical Society, feel free to contact us. You can leave a message on the museum telephone or contact one of our board members. We certainly can use all the help we can find.

We look forward to seeing you again at many of our events at the museum and courthouse. Take time this year and enjoy the seasons and events of Arenac County.

Sandy Proulx-President

## GIVE LOCAL BAY

The ACHS Ye Olde Courthouse will be participating again in this 24 hour fundraiser run by the Bay Area Community Foundation to provide for the future of the Courthouse. In 2017 we received \$ 13,011.00 in donations and incentives to add to our endowed fund. Your donation can make a huge impact toward our continuing efforts to restore and preserve this historic structure for future generations. You may make your donation during the 24-hour time frame, May 1<sup>st</sup> beginning at 12 a.m. Donations can be made by going to GiveLocalBay.org. There will be a box on the right where you enter the name of the organization you wish to donate to. Type in Arenac County Historical Society and follow the directions. Master & Visa Credit and Debit cards are accepted. You may also call 989-893-4438 to donate by phone with your credit or debit card. Minimum donation is \$ 10.00. Your gift is tax deductible! If you wish to donate by check, date your check May 1, 2018, made out to the Bay Area Community Foundation and mail it to Joann Gulau, 2274 Bay Ridge Dr. AuGres, 48703 by April 25. For any questions, call Brenda Matt, 989-846-0501, Joann Gulau, 989-876-6468 or Phyllis Klender, 989-653-2762.

## 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

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

**ACHS WEBSITE: [www.rootsweb.ancestry.com/~miachs](http://www.rootsweb.ancestry.com/~miachs)**

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

## Ye Olde Courthouse/Masonic Hall

Ye Olde Courthouse would like to extend a huge THANK YOU to all who supported our preservation efforts during 2017. We successfully raised \$ 26,477.54 through donations and sales. We continue to believe our efforts are well worth the hard work we do to preserve this symbol of a by-gone era. We hope this bit of history can be preserved for future generations of Arenac County residents to visit and enjoy as well as visitors passing by on U.S.23.

In 2017 we completed the 3<sup>rd</sup> major project of our preservation plan. The 1<sup>st</sup> was the stabilization of the foundation, the 2<sup>nd</sup> was the replacement of most of the windows, and the 3<sup>rd</sup> was the painting of the exterior of the building. We believe that the grand "OLDE" lady looks mighty fine for the 2018 visitor season. We're not done yet! The next projects include replacing the front porch decking, re-wiring some or all of the building, replacing the rest of the windows, and re-homing of our BATS (real live bats) from the attic of the building.

Our success with these projects and yearly expenses depends on contributions from individuals like you and include: Junque Sale items, Bake/Candy sales, Christmas Greens, and individual donations. This year we also received grants from the Saginaw Chippewa Indian Tribe and the John and Catherine Maser Historic Preservation Fund of the Bay Area Community Foundation for much of the cost of our larger projects.

We sincerely hope that you will continue your support of Ye Olde Courthouse in 2018. Please call us if you have a monetary donation or items you wish to contribute to our efforts. (Thanks to Richard and Phyllis Klender for this Thank You written to our members and friends)

Our committee has been busy with Junque sales in February and March and planning our Junque Sale, and first Bake Sale of the season for April 6, 7 and 8<sup>th</sup>. The chili will be on as well as hot dogs and our delicious baked goods from our famous "Omer Bakers". Sale dates are set for Memorial Day and 4<sup>th</sup> of July. Watch for our ad in the Arenac and information on our sign.

Brenda Matt, Committee Chair 989-846-0501

Phyllis Klender, Recording Chair 989-653-2762

Joann Gulau, Financial Chair 989-876-6468

### Jean "Audrey" Lentz

Our Courthouse Committee was saddened to learn of the passing of our friend and Omer Baker, Jean "Audrey" Lentz. Audrey, a retired teacher and community supporter passed away on February 19 after a brief illness. She was committed to the Arenac County Historical Society and the preservation and restoration of Ye Olde Courthouse in Omer. Audrey contributed dozens of loaves of her delicious home-baked bread to our bake sales. Audrey always took time to sit and visit with us when she delivered her bread. We enjoyed her visits, her sense of humor and the great conversations we had with her. She will be remembered and missed.

### GRANT AWARD

The ACHS received word in November that the grant we applied for to the John and Catherine Maser Historic Preservation Fund of the Bay Area Community Foundation was granted. This is great news for Ye Olde Courthouse as we continue the renovations of our historic building. The grant for \$ 5,469.43 is to remove and replace the front porch floor. We appreciate the Maser Family's interest in historically significant buildings in Arenac County and their vision to preserve them for future generations.

### City Ready to Borrow. 10-20-17

In last week's Enterprise the ordinance necessary for the borrowing of the sum of \$7,000 by An Gros city for the building of a new bridge, was printed and has now become a law. The Enterprise office is now printing the bonds, which includes the coupons, and then the money is ready. To Mayor Dougherty and members of the city council is due high credit for the careful manner in which the borrowing negotiations have been made, and for the manner in which the city is protected.

### NEWS FLASH

We are ecstatic with our latest news! The Saginaw Chippewa Tribe awarded us a grant to re-home our bats. The grant is for \$ 9,880.00 and is from the 2 % program which is held twice a year by the Tribe.

The grant includes building bat houses which will be installed around Omer. The bats will be kept from returning to the building through professionally installed doors which allow the bats to leave but not re-enter. We want the bats to live in Omer and continue to consume mosquitoes and bugs at the rate of over 1,000 per night but no longer reside in our attic and tower. (Bats are great pollinators also) Thank you Saginaw Chippewa Tribe for your generosity to our historic building and to the City of Omer for allowing us to apply for this grant through the city.

## Arenac Heritage Route Authority Standish Historical Depot

A busy summer schedule is ready at the Standish Historical Depot. Concert dates and entertainers are all scheduled, the Model A & Model T Car Show is set for July 14 and Depot Days are scheduled for October 6 & 7. The popular Farmers Market begins on May 4<sup>th</sup> through October 15 from 2 p.m. to 6:30 p.m. The Summer Concert Series begins on June 21 at 6:30 p.m. and continues on Thursday evenings through August 9<sup>th</sup> when we hold our final concert in Omer. The Model A & Model T Car Show on July 14 will be held rain or shine. 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Registration forms are available at the Depot and online at [www.standishdepot.org](http://www.standishdepot.org). A complete list of concerts is on our website. Registration forms for the Farmers Market are available at the Depot.

Thanks to a grant from the John and Catherine Maser Historic Preservation Fund of the Bay Area Community Foundation the heat source for our public bathrooms was replaced in November. We are very grateful for that grant of \$ 4,270.00 that enables us to operate as a visitor and information center.

We are still receiving compliments on our beautiful Christmas light display. The Arenac Fund of the Bay Area Community Foundation provided us with a \$ 1,000.00 grant to purchase lights. Arenac Opportunities put out boxes in the area and people donated new and used lights. Several people brought lights and decorations in and Olsen Independent Real Estate bought \$ 100.00 worth of lights for us. We are already planning more lights for 2018!

### RICHARDSON DONATION

The AHRA received \$ 2,000.00 from the Mid Michigan Chevy Dealers Association in November thanks to Larry Richardson at the Richardson Dealership. This is a program where dealerships can apply for grants to assist their community. This is a great help to us here at the Historical Depot. Many thanks.

### CHALLENGE GRANT

The Friends of the AHRA were given a challenge grant to add funds to our endowment fund. An anonymous donor agreed to a 1:1 match up to \$ 1,000.00 raised and deposited in our endowment fund by the end of the calendar year. Thanks to our many friends, Richard and Phyllis Klender, Joann and Al Gulau, Matt Builders L.L.C., Timothy Hagley, Courtney Hagley, Jessica Schlenderer, Karen Fales, Curt & Wendy Hillman, Mark Winslow, and Ronald and Jeanette Schwab we were able to meet the \$ 1000.00 challenge. Special thanks to our "anonymous donor" for this opportunity to provide funds for the future of this historical structure.

### AMERICA'S FARMERS GROW COMMUNITIES

The Friends of the Arenac Heritage Route Authority is a recipient of a \$ 2500.00 award in connection with America's Farmers Grow Communities, sponsored by the Monsanto Fund. Thanks to area farmers, Don and Mary Wojtowicz for applying for this award to benefit the Standish Historical Depot. The purpose of the Grow Communities program is to partner with farmers to make a positive impact in farm communities across the country by supporting local nonprofit organizations. Since the program began in 2010, more than \$ 29 million has been direct to organizations across America. You may learn more at [AmericasFarmers.com](http://AmericasFarmers.com). These funds are very helpful to the maintenance and operations at the Depot. Thank you, Wojtowicz Family and Monsanto.

Watch our website and the Arenac County Independent for events this year. We will be participating in Give Local Bay for the second year. Please call the Depot at 989-718-3021 or email at [info@standishdepot.org](mailto:info@standishdepot.org) for more information.

Please visit us on Saturday, April 28 before or after the Loyalty Day Parade. We will have a Veterans display from the Frankenmuth Military Museum that features Arenac County Veterans.

The AHRA meets on the first Monday of the month at 7 p.m. at the Standish Historical Depot. This is an open meeting and all are welcome to attend. Volunteers are always needed to help with our landscaping and staffing. Please call Brenda at 989-718-3021 or email at [info@standishdepot.org](mailto:info@standishdepot.org) if you are interest in volunteering.

-Brenda Matt, Depot Representative

## Arenac County Historical Society Balance Sheet As of February 28, 2018

Feb 28, 18

ASSETS	
Current Assets	
Checking/Savings	
Certificate of Deposit	
CD #2	10,485.33
Total Certificate of Deposit	10,485.33
Courthouse Checking	36,906.60
General Checking Account	852.89
Money Market (Savings)	9,027.14
Petty cash	100.00
Total Checking/Savings	57,371.96
Total Current Assets	57,371.96
Other Assets	
BACF Endowment Fund	
Courthouse Agency Fund	4,150.00
Courthouse Agency Revenue	335.89
Courthouse Agency Spend...	-116.00
Total BACF Endowment Fund	4,369.89
Total Other Assets	4,369.89
<b>TOTAL ASSETS</b>	<b>61,741.85</b>
LIABILITIES & EQUITY	
Equity	
Building Fund	4,315.69
Courthouse Fund	41,326.49
General Fund	953.61
Memorial Fund	15,146.06
Total Equity	61,741.85
<b>TOTAL LIABILITIES &amp; EQUITY</b>	<b>61,741.85</b>

## 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.**

	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 ½" 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 ½" 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
<b>Subtotal</b>	
<p>Mail orders, please include the following shipping and handling charges in addition to the price at the right of each item:</p> <p>\$5.00 for "A Point to Remember - A Pictorial History of Point Lookout, Michigan"</p> <p>\$4.50 for "Soldiers &amp; Sailors of Arenac County That Served in the Great War. (WWI)"</p> <p>\$4.00 for "Arenac County Normal, 1904-1957"</p> <p>\$3.50 for "A History of Arenac County, Michigan"</p> <p>All other items:</p> <p>\$3.50 for the first item</p> <p>\$0.50 each additional item</p> <p>Send form &amp; personal check or money order to:</p> <p><b>Arenac County Historical Society</b>  <b>P. O. Box 272</b>  <b>Au Gres, Michigan 48703-0272</b></p>	
<div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px; width: fit-content; margin: 0 auto;"> <p style="text-align: center; margin: 0;">Name &amp; Shipping Address</p> <hr style="border: 0; border-top: 1px solid black; margin: 5px 0;"/> <hr style="border: 0; border-top: 1px solid black; margin: 5px 0;"/> <hr style="border: 0; border-top: 1px solid black; margin: 5px 0;"/> </div>	
<p>Questions? Call 989-876-6399 or email: <a href="mailto:achs@centurytel.net">achs@centurytel.net</a></p>	+ Calculated Shipping
	<b>Grand Total Enclosed</b>

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 - 55 And 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  
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ACHS Newsletter For:

Or Current Resident

#### COMING EVENTS

**May 1:** GIVE LOCAL BAY DAY!

**April 6, 7, 8, 9; from 9 am to 4 pm:** Junque Sale at Ye Olde Courthouse in Omer

**May 25, 26, 27; from 9 am to 4 pm:** Junque Sale at Ye Olde Courthouse in Omer

**July 20; at 7:00 PM:** Free Program, Ric Mixer *STORM PRESENTATION* at Standish-Sterling High School  
Sponsored by Iosco Arenac District Library