



ACHS NEWSLETTER

Arenac County Historical Society

Preserving The Heritage of Arenac County, Michigan

Fall & Winter 2019

A MESSAGE FROM YOUR PRESIDENT

Another year will soon be history. It is sad to me to see time pass so quickly. However, we need to count our blessings, move on, and enjoy all the great things in the time we have. The Arenac County Historical Society has been busy this year with events at the museum and at Ye Olde Courthouse. Several of our programs this summer at the museum were a huge success. So good in fact, we may have some of them come back next summer. We encourage suggestions, so if you know of anyone who has a program you think would be enjoyable feel free to let me know. The Courthouse in Omer also has programs through the fall. The junk sales in Omer have turned out to be a financial success again this year. Evidently many people find other people's junk is a treasure to someone else. You just never know when the junk in your home maybe somebody's great find of the day.

Can you believe it? Next year will be the 50th anniversary of the Arenac County Historical Society. I would like to think the founding members would be happy to see the society still functioning and doing things to preserve and protect the history of our county. Over the years we have received a lot of artifacts, pictures, stories, and folklore about Arenac County. Many people are amazed at what is here. We are running out of space and that is ok because we need to show off the history and be proud of the heritage of our county. This history has helped people find their family roots, have a good chuckle over what was so important to their family and put a wonderful tree of life together for everyone to enjoy. We have enjoyed helping others find their family's history too. Pictures are worth a thousand words. The stories and history of people brings out pride that we all can share. Our ancestors were a great bunch of people, hardworking and still found time to pull a few shenanigans every now and then. These are the things we need to remember. Life wasn't always easy but fun still could be found. We hope to have a celebration sometime in the coming year. It will probably be during the summer. We will keep you informed because we want all of you to join our celebration.

We thank you for your donations throughout the year and hope you will continue to support us. Your donations help us continue the work that needs to be carried out to preserve and protect our history. These monetary gifts also help us pay the bills and continue to keep our buildings in shape and our finances in order. Anything you can give is truly appreciated. Those that volunteer are also appreciated. We need all the volunteers we can to help us out. A handful of people can't do all the work but if we all pitch in and do a little a lot can be accomplished.

We hope this year has been prosperous for all of you. On behalf of the Historical Society we send out a Happy Thanksgiving, Merry Christmas, and a Happy New Year to all of you. May the holidays bring you good food. Joy and happiness!!!!

Sandy Proulx-President

ACHS OFFICERS

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

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Brenda Matt
Marilyn Van Sickle

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Brenda Matt

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MASONIC HALL

Brenda Matt	Chair
Phyllis Klender	Secretary
Joann Gulau	Financial Chair

ACHS WEBSITE WEBMASTER

Greg Knopp

WEBSITE COORDINATORS

Joann Gulau

FACEBOOK

Greg Knopp

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ACHS WEBSITE: www.ArenacHistory.org

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Ye Olde Courthouse/Masonic Hall

We are busy at the Ye Olde Courthouse preparing for the holiday season. Our annual "Christmas Junque" sale will be held on November 23rd & 24th. We have a very large amount of gently used and beautiful Christmas decorations. So many that we will have merchandise both upstairs and in our main room downstairs. A few items will be priced but most will be sold by donation. This is a great opportunity to add some very nice decorations to your Christmas display or purchase for friends and family.

On December 14th & 15th we will hold our annual Holiday Greens Sale and our Bake Sale. Our green arrangements are very popular and reasonably priced. These arrangements keep for a long time as long as they are watered. They are a beautiful addition to your holiday decorations and wonderful gifts for friends, shut-in's and relatives. Our times are 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. for both of these events.

Thanks to the grant we received from the John and Catherine Maser Historic Preservation Fund of the Bay Area Community Foundation our kitchen, main room, entry and stairway are painted and kitchen improvements have been made. We added two new cabinets and all new countertops. Make sure you look at our kitchen when you shop at our sales. You will agree, our kitchen is fabulous!

Our potluck dinners are usually held on the first Monday of every month and are very well attended. Our guests enjoy an evening of friendship and a sense of community.

Our Ye Olde Courthouse Committee decided several years ago to establish endowed funds with the Bay Area Community Foundation as a way to provide for future funding for our building. Money may be donated to these funds throughout the year and we participate in the Give Local Bay fundraiser in May to add to these funds. Money is deposited forever and a percent becomes available to us yearly, known as a "spendable". We have a very active committee and conduct several fundraisers a year including bake sales, Junque sales, raffles, and Christmas sales. We established our endowed funds so that future volunteers would not have to work quite so hard with fundraisers to continue this project and the Ye Olde Courthouse will remain an important part of the history of Arenac County and Omer. Our funds have done very well. Our Designated Omer Courthouse fund had \$ 89,435.65 with our last report on June 30, 2019. We also have an Agency Courthouse fund that has over \$ 5,000.00 in it. As these funds continue to grow a portion of them is available to use every year to spend as we see fit. We have chosen not to take these dividends at this time and leave the money in there to keep growing for the future. We also have funds from the George Brookins Viele Ye Olde Courthouse Masonic Hall Designated Fund.

George Viele, a longtime supporter of the Courthouse established this fund to provide perpetual care to several family members' graves in the Cedar Valley Cemetery. The Ye Olde Courthouse is responsible for the care of these graves and additional funds are for the Courthouse use.

We look forward to seeing you at our Christmas Junque Sale and our Holiday Greens and Bake Sale. Please stop in to visit with us and enjoy conversation, coffee, hot chocolate and cookies.

Our committee meets on the second Friday of each month at 9:30 at the Courthouse. Volunteers are always welcome to join us.

Brenda Matt, Committee Chair	989-846-0501
Phyllis Klender, Financial Chair	989-653-2725
Elaine Knoch, Recording Chair	989-653-2004

COURTHOUSE SHARES WITH THE COMMUNITY

The Ye Olde Courthouse Committee obtains a lot of goodies from various people in our community. We have a couple of estate companies who call us to pick up left-overs from their sales and we have a lot of people who call us to come and pick up things they no longer need or want.

This is a list of organizations and people we have donated some of our items to during the year.

Boys and Girls Club of Pinconning-games, magazines, craft items

Head Start of Omer-Children come over and select items at Christmas time to take for their families. Books and other craft items

Arenac Community Fund Auction-Donation of items for their annual auction

North East Michigan Art Council-Items for their annual auction and craft materials for their summer art program.

Friends of the Pinconning Community Center-Items for their auction to raise money for renovation of the building

Newberry Thrift Shop-Books and left over items for their store

Animal Shelter-Old blankets, sheets, towels

Arenac Baby Pantry-Clothing for babies and young children, books, stuffed animals, toys

Standish Baptist Church-Material and sewing items for their many charity sewing projects

Local church members-Barbie dolls and small items for Operation Shoebox

Local Thrift Shops-Excess items we have

Arenac Heritage Route Authority Standish Historical Depot

Our volunteers here at the Standish Historical Depot have been busy preparing for this Christmas season. Our first Christmas event will be held on November 29th, with our second annual Christmas Santa Parade and Lighting of the Depot. Many of our lights are already installed in the trees, shrubs and around the buildings. Chemical Bank employees were here to volunteer on Columbus Day and were a great deal of help putting up lights under the direction of volunteers, Dennis Whitney, Derik Wilk and Josette Rang. Our goal is to get lights up before the weather turns to cold and snow. Our lights and displays were spectacular last year and we're adding and improving on them this year thanks to the DDA.(Downtown Development Authority) The DDA paid to have additional outlets and timers added to our electrical service. We are now able to add additional lighting on the west side of the Depot and have less extension cords in the front. The Christmas Parade will step off at 6:00 p.m. and will continue to the Depot where Santa will arrive on a fire truck to visit with the children and enjoy hot chocolate and cookies.

The Lake State Santa Train is back this year and will arrive at the Depot on December 7, at 8:00 a.m. You may board the train to meet Santa, take pictures and share your Christmas wish list. Donations will be accepted at the Depot for Christmas for Kids. Disney and storybook characters will be on the train to greet our guests also. Cider and donuts will be served in the Depot.

We had a great and busy summer here at the Depot. Our Model A & Model T Car Show in July was well attended, we had a wonderful concert season, and are planning next year's entertainers. Our Gateway Destination committee held another successful Farmer's Market and is working on the Christmas Santa Parade. Back to the Brick's stopped at the Depot as part of their tour of over 300 cars. We served coffee, water and donuts and gave them a basket of Arenac County products. Josette Rang's flower Club and her great group of volunteers kept our grounds and landscaping looking good. Angie Pieniozek used her gardening and artistic abilities in the planting of our flower boxes and planters. They were beautiful and we received many compliments on them. Halloween lights and fall decorations were added this year by Josette, Derek Wilk, Wendy Hillman, Carl and Carrie Stodolak. Angie and Carrie added fall decorations to our planters in time for Depot Days. Beautiful fall weather contributed to the success of Depot Days. Schmidt Amusements entertained families with carnival rides; we had horse drawn rides by Paul Mier on Saturday and a petting zoo on Sunday. We sold out of chili, pie, soup and brownies on Saturday and Sunday. Thank you to all of our sponsors and volunteers who make all of these events possible.

Harold Woolhiser donated a wood trunk to us that is stamped "H. Schlinger" with Standish stenciled on the side. There is also a logo on the end that reads "Pacific" that we think is an old railroad logo. The trunk belonged to Lola and George Woolhiser, Harold's grandparents. We believe this trunk was shipped to the Hotel Shillinger which was purchased by George Shillinger and sold in 1881 when it became the Standish House. It burned in March of 1902. It was located on the north east corner of Main and Cedar Streets. These facts date the trunk as approximately 138 years old. Many thanks to Harold for donating this historic treasure to the Depot.

Put the Christmas Santa Parade, the Lighting of the Depot and the Lake State Santa Train on your calendars and come and enjoy these holiday events with us.

The AHRA meetings are held at the Depot on the first Monday of each month at 7 p.m. These are open meetings and all are welcome to attend.

-Brenda Matt, Depot Representative

\$34,700.00

That is the amount of money the Courthouse has made on BAKE SALES since 2007, when we had our first one. We have a group of dedicated ladies and gentlemen who make some of the best homemade pies, rum cakes, cookies, muffins, fudge, popcorn balls, candy, pineapple upside down cakes, brownies, cream cheese goodies, etc.

We usually have 5 bake sales each year starting with Omer Sucker Days, Memorial Day, 4th of July, Labor Day and ending with our Christmas Treat Sale.

We have about 30 people on our list that we call about a week before the date of our next sale and they respond with enthusiasm and goodies. Some of our ladies have passed away and we seem to always find some new people to add to the list.

We recently held a soup and dessert supper for all of the OMER BAKERS to thank them for their tremendous support of our Ye Olde Courthouse Committee.

WE COULDN'T HAVE DONE IT WITHOUT YOU!!!

Arenac County Historical Society Balance Sheet As of September 30, 2019

Sep 30, 19	
ASSETS	
Current Assets	
Checking/Savings	
Certificate of Deposit	
CD #2	10,527.35
Total Certificate of Deposit	10,527.35
Courthouse Checking	39,684.25
General Checking Account	1,167.34
Money Market (Savings)	8,648.67
Petty cash	200.00
Total Checking/Savings	60,227.61
Total Current Assets	60,227.61
Other Assets	
BACF Endowment Fund	
Courthouse Agency Fund	4,750.00
Courthouse Agency Revenue	805.24
Courthouse Agency Spend...	-116.00
Total BACF Endowment Fund	5,439.24
Total Other Assets	5,439.24
TOTAL ASSETS	65,666.85
LIABILITIES & EQUITY	
Equity	
Building Fund	4,325.67
Courthouse Fund	45,223.49
General Fund	838.11
Memorial Fund	15,279.58
Total Equity	65,666.85
TOTAL LIABILITIES & EQUITY	65,666.85

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 McCreacy, 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
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
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

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ACHS Newsletter For:

Or Current Resident

COMING EVENTS

Nov 23 & 24 ; 9 am to 4 pm : Christmas Junque Sale, at Ye Olde Courthouse in Omer

Nov 29 ; 6 pm : 2nd Annual Christmas , Santa Parade & Lighting of the Depot, at Standish Historical Depot

Dec 7 ; 8 am : The Lake State Railway Santa Train, at Standish Historical Depot

Dec 14 & 15 ; 9 am to 4 pm : Holiday Greens Sale, and Bake Sale, at Ye Olde Courthouse in Omer

HOW CHARITY ISLANDS WERE NAMED

The late William Kohr, one of Saginaw Bay's old fishermen, who lived at Sand Point and fished Little Charity Island for 30 years, related that this small island of 537 acres once brought a price of \$130,000. He said he was told by old Indians who said that the Charity Islands were put there as an act of God's Charity to help mankind. For centuries the Charity Islands were used by the Indians as an over-night stopping place during the crossing of the treacherous waters of Saginaw Bay. Here the Indians with their families and the French voyagers with their fur-laden canoes were grateful to their God for a place of relief and rest, for these islands were the only haven between Point Lookout and Sand Point on the other shore. Here, if they were storm bound, was safe water and good fishing. - *Arenac Independent* 8-14-1948



Arenac County Historical Museum

P.O. Box 272

Au Gres, Michigan 48703

Arenac County Historical Society

989-876-6399



Ye Olde Court House - Masonic Hall

P.O. Box 84

Omer, Michigan 48749

Dear Arenac County Historical Society Members,

Our number of members is great, however our members available to operate the museum and raise funds is very small. The museum exists mainly on membership fees and donations. We are always in need of funds to operate the museum in AuGres. We struggle to meet daily expenses including supplies, utilities and insurance.

There are some grants available to us through the Arenac Fund and the John and Catherine Maser Historic Preservation Fund of the Bay Area Community Foundation. The Maser Fund is for the preservation of historic buildings in Arenac County. We were awarded grants from both of these funds last year which were used to replace our furnace and power wash and stain our steps and accessible ramp. These grants are specific to certain criteria and cannot be used for daily operations.

In searching for a fundraiser that could be successful, without a lot of man power, we found and are asking you to participate in our "Bakeless Bake Sale." You are invited NOT to bake a pie, you do NOT have to find the recipe, you do NOT have to shop for the ingredients, you do NOT have to cook, you do NOT have to clean your kitchen, you do NOT have to deliver your pie and we do NOT have to sit somewhere selling pies. Instead you can write a check to the ACHS for \$ 10.00 for one pie, \$ 20.00 for two pies, \$ 30.00 for three pies, etc. We can all stay home and enjoy doing something for ourselves or with our families and know that we have contributed to the continued existence of our museum.

Checks can be made out to the ACHS and mailed to our Bakeless Bake Sale Chairman, Brenda Matt at 3828 Wheeler Rd., Standish, MI. 48658. We would appreciate it if you could send your "Pies" (checks) to us by November ~~28~~ 30.

Our sincere thanks,

Arenac County Historical Society Board Members