



ACHS NEWSLETTER

Arenac County Historical Society

Preserving The Heritage of Arenac County, Michigan

Fall 2020

A MESSAGE FROM YOUR PRESIDENT

I hope this newsletter finds everyone free of the Covid-19 virus. This certainly has been an unusual year for everyone. I hope the world never sees something like this again. It has really turned everything into a confusing, what will happen next situation. However, we will push forward and enjoy each day as it comes. Hopefully, this virus will run its course soon and we can get back to our regular everyday life again.

Since this virus has hit, we still are working on the everyday operation of our society. We are keeping the bills paid and looking to the future when we can be open again. We know there is a lot of work that needs to be done to the museum. Right now contractors, electricians, plumbers and many other businesses are behind trying to catch up with work that couldn't be done for several months. I am hoping that next year we can get our electrical work done. From there we will tackle other projects that need to be completed. Maybe some new carpet for the upstairs and new siding will be done in the future. We also have a little bat problem. Our building is not the only one. I have seen bats swarming around town at dusk when I am in town. We will continue one step at a time.

Brenda Matt and Joann Gulau have finished a book about the Arenac County Civil War Soldiers that served during the war. I have taken a quick look and it looks like an amazing read. It will go to the publishers soon and we will have copies for sale. This book took a lot of research and time to put together. Congratulations to Brenda and Joann. Thank you for all your time and hard work. It certainly was a labor of love.

We are still offering tours and genealogical research at the museum. It can be done by setting up an appointment. We will follow all state guidelines concerning the virus when anyone enters the museum. Please feel free to call, we like to give tours and show off our artifacts.

We thank you so much for keeping your dues paid and for the donations we receive. Since we have very little income finances become fragile. I know once this pandemic is over, things will improve. Right now I just want to keep you informed about the society and let you know we are still working and striving to keep our buildings in order. We look forward to seeing all of you soon.

Sandy Proulx-President

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
Elaine Knoch
Greg Dittenber
Phyllis Klender

ACCESSION COMMITTEE

Sandy Proulx
Joann Gulau
Mary McLaughlin

NEWSLETTER EDITOR

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PUBLICITY

Marilyn Van Sickle

**ACHS REPRESENTATIVE to the
Arenac Heritage Route Authority**
Brenda Matt

YE OLDE COURTHOUSE & MASONIC HALL

Brenda Matt	Chair
Elaine Knoch	Secretary
Phyllis Klender	Treasurer

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.ArenacHistory.org

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

Ye Olde Courthouse/Masonic Hall

All of our 2020 spring plans and schedule for Junque Sales, Bake Sales and events were cancelled but we stayed busy planning for future sales and events. We held our first Junque Sale of the year from October 12th thru 18th. Our guests were very cooperative wearing masks and socially distancing. Our sale was a great success and helped us to clear out our building. We will be holding our Christmas Junque Sale on November 20, 21 and 22 and our Christmas Greens on December 12th and 13th. Watch the Arenac County Independent, face book and our sign for details. Hope you can join us for these events.

Thank you to all of our friends who participated in Give Local Bay which was held on May 5, 2020. The Courthouse received \$ 8,430.00 from 78 donors; our percent of the incentive pool was \$ 1,840.87 for a total added to our endowed fund of \$ 10,270.87. The Ye Olde Courthouse has three endowed funds invested with the Bay Area Community Foundation. As of June 30, 2020 The Arenac County Historical Society Omer Courthouse Preservation Agency Fund had a total of \$ 12,659.03, the Omer Court House Designated Fund had a total of \$ 102,169.58 and the George Brookins Viele Courthouse Designated Fund had a total of \$ 89,822.37. A percent of these funds are available to the Courthouse each year but we have chosen to leave the available funds invested for the future. These funds as well as available grants insure the future existence of the Ye Olde Courthouse.

We will be holding an open house at the Courthouse on Sunday, October 25 from 1 pm to 3 pm to present and sell our Civil War Veterans of Arenac County book. Joann Gulau and Brenda Matt have been researching and writing this book now for several years. It will be available for purchase at the Courthouse, the museum in AuGres and the Standish Historical Depot after the 25th. The cost of the book is \$ 30.00. We worked with several descendents of Civil War Veterans to obtain Civil War headstones for three veterans. One in Woodmere, Nelson Miller, and two in Resurrection, Charles Clarambeau and Eustace DeMars. We plan to host a ceremony in the spring to dedicate these tombstones. The Ye Olde Courthouse was happy to pay for a portion of the cost of having the stones set.

The Courthouse lost a very good friend with the passing of John Cuthbertson in May. John wrote The Mighty Rifle River and donated dozens of his book to the Courthouse and the Depot for us to sell. The barber chair in our entrance that was once in the Omer barber shop, (1895) was donated by John, along with the school clock in our office, the display case with the World War I Army uniform that belonged to John's father and many artifacts from the lumbering era. His obituary lists him as a good father, a faithful husband, a dear brother and a follower of Christ Jesus. We would like to add: A historian and a great friend to the Ye Olde Courthouse.

Our plans were to hold an open house this year to showcase and celebrate our renovations and thank all of the wonderful people and organizations that have contributed to the restoration and preservation of our historic building. We put those plans on hold and are looking forward to this event in 2021.

Our committee meets on the 2nd Friday of every month at 9:30 a.m. 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

REPURPOSING OF THE ARENAC EASTERN ASSETS

During the past year as the Arenac Eastern School District was being divided between Standish-Sterling and Au Gres a huge repurposing of assets was undertaken by the Arenac Eastern Board of Education. Many of the assets went to the two gaining school districts, but many other assets needed a new home. The school rock, sign and bell found a new home along M-65 in Twining. The Senior Class composites (from many years) and class yearbooks were adopted by the Arenac County Historical Society for display in Ye Olde Courthouse in Omer. A number of other items were also gifted to the Society and are displayed in Omer. The membership of the ACHS would like to thank the AE Board of Education for entrusting these items to us to preserve for present and future generations to view and remember.

Arenac County Historical Society Balance Sheet As of September 30, 2020

Sep 30, 20

ASSETS

Current Assets

Checking/Savings

Certificate of Deposit

CD #2

10,901.56

Total Certificate of Deposit

10,901.56

Courthouse Checking

38,373.85

General Checking Account

882.32

Money Market (Savings)

16,637.58

Petty cash

200.00

Total Checking/Savings

66,995.31

Total Current Assets

66,995.31

Other Assets

BACF Endowment Fund

Courthouse Agency Fund

11,750.00

Courthouse Agency Revenue

1,198.98

Courthouse Agency Spend...

-116.00

Total BACF Endowment Fund

12,832.98

Total Other Assets

12,832.98

TOTAL ASSETS

79,828.29

LIABILITIES & EQUITY

Equity

Building Fund

4,404.79

Courthouse Fund

51,306.83

General Fund

8,333.10

Memorial Fund

15,783.57

Total Equity

79,828.29

TOTAL LIABILITIES & EQUITY

79,828.29

Arenac Heritage Route Authority Standish Historical Depot

Our busy summer season that we planned changed as did almost all other events that were planned for this year because of Covid-19. We did hold our outdoor concerts that were well attended and appreciated by our guests. The every other Saturday event, Fun in the Sun, hosted by area vendors was successful. Depot Days was also held with several changes to keep people safe. Schmidt Amusements and Anderson Midways provided their food wagons, our vendors were busy out on the lawn and we held our Silent Auction inside the Depot. Our next event will be the Santa Parade and Lighting of The Depot which will be held on Friday, November 27. The parade steps off at 6 p.m. and the lights will be turned on at the Depot when Santa arrives. Our displays and lights are spectacular and we will be adding to them this year. They will be on through January 1st so you will have lots time to enjoy them.

Thanks to Derek Wilk, Josette Rang, Wendy Hillman and Carrie Stodolak we have some beautiful fall lights and decorations at the Depot. Carrie donated pumpkins, corn stalks and a beautiful Mum plant in memory of her mother, Mina Stodolak, and AM Construction donated several large pumpkins. These decorations made a beautiful background for a wedding held at the Depot on Saturday, October 10th.

Thanks to our volunteers, led by Josette Rang, we held a cleanup day to weed, mulch, trim trees and bushes, edge sidewalks and paint white posts. Volunteers are also scheduled to put the tarps on the train cars and several days will be scheduled to begin putting up lights and decorations. We like to get as many strings of lights up as possible before the snow starts and it gets too cold. Contact the Depot at 989-718-3021 or info@standishdepot.org and leave your name and number if you would like to volunteer to help with the Christmas lights and decorations.

Give Local Bay, held in May, was very successful. Give Local Bay was a fundraiser held on May 5th which is an opportunity to add to our endowed fund with the Bay Area Community Foundation. This fund is to provide for the future of the Standish Historical Depot. We had 46 gifts donated this year for a total of \$ 4,185.00, we received 3.64 % of the incentive pool, \$ 913.88, for a total added to our fund of \$ 5,098.88. As of July 30 of this year we have \$ 71,960.60 in this fund. A percent of this fund (known as a spendable) is available to us yearly but our goal is to leave it there to draw dividends for the future. Many thanks to all of our friends who donated to Give Local Bay to benefit the Depot.

We continue to collect receipts for Family Fare for their Direct Your Dollars fundraising event to benefit non-profits, churches and schools. The Depot collected 150,000 in receipts from Family Fare two years ago and were given \$ 1,000.00 from this program. We are working on the 2nd \$ 1,000.00 and have 114,000 in receipts. Only 38,000 more to go! You can drop your receipts off at the Depot, City of Standish, Au Gres Township, Arenac Township, Bethlehem Lutheran Church, Treasurer's office at the Arenac County Courthouse, or Whitney's Laundromat. Thank you to everyone for saving your Family Fare receipts for us.

We hope that you enjoy our beautiful Christmas lighting display this year and our 3rd Annual Santa Parade on November 27th. We appreciate any help with the Christmas lights and decorations.

The AHRA meetings are held on the 1st Monday of the month at the Depot. This is an open meeting and all are welcome to attend.

- Brenda Matt, Depot Representative

THANK YOU ARENAC COMMUNITY FUND

We applied to the Arenac Community Fund for funds to purchase a new copier/printer for the Arenac County Museum in AuGres. We were awarded that grant in the spring and we now have our new printer installed in our office at the museum. We struggled for years with donated used printers and our members very often had to take documents home or to a public printer to print them when doing research for people or adding pictures and information to our records. This is a great addition to our museum and a huge convenience to us. Thank you Arenac Community Fund. We appreciate you and all the hard work your members do to support organizations in Arenac County.

THANK YOU JOHN AND CATHERINE MASER HISTORIC PRESEVATION FUND

We were awarded a grant from this fund of the Bay Area Community Foundation in May to continue renovations to Ye Olde Courthouse in Omer. The grant was to install a ceiling in the second story store room at the Courthouse and replace the missing window and mismatched siding on the south end of the second story. Thank you, Bay Area Community Foundation for this grant to continue to preserve this 130 year old Arenac County historic landmark.

PRO-ACTIVE GRANT FROM THE ARENAC COMMUNITY FUND

Thank You, Arenac Community Fund for the \$ 5,520.00 grant received by the Arenac County Historical Society. These funds will support the ACHS Records Backup, Recovery, Retention and Retrieval System Equipment Purchase. This System Project will benefit Arenac County, Bay Area and other residents around the state, country and world who have historical family connections to Arenac County. As a result of this grant we have commenced our project and purchased the initial equipment for Phase I of our project. The first records to be digitized have been selected which includes 3 booklets and other supplemental documents on the logging industry in Arenac County. The goal is to prioritize further records for digitization and use the digitized records to not only preserve information electronically but to make it more accessible to support reprints of documents and the purchase of electronically captured information. We also expect the digitized information to support presentations to the public who wish to learn more about the history of Arenac County. Much of our collection contains original pictures and documents and the ACHS Board has been concerned for many years with the possibility they could be lost or damaged should a disaster occur. Mary DeLaat prepared and submitted this grant to the Arenac Community Fund for equipment to begin this project. The ACF Pro-Active Grant is the first of its kind to be awarded from the Fund. Mary worked closely with ACF Board Member, Elaine Knoch, to secure this grant. We are excited to begin this preservation project and thank the Arenac Community Fund for making it possible.

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 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

November 20, 21, 22 : Christmas Junque Sale, at Ye Olde Courthouse in Omer
November 27 ; 6 pm : Santa Parade & Lighting of The Depot, at Standish Historical Depot
December 12 – 13 : Christmas Greens Sale, at Ye Olde Courthouse in Omer



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,

This has been a very different year for the Arenac County Historical Society as well as all our lives. We haven't been open and for safety and to safe guard the health of our members we cancelled our planned programs for 2020. However, the need for funds to operate the museum continues. Daily expenses including utilities, supplies and insurance still have to be paid.

We participated in Give Local Bay this year which added to our endowed fund to provide for the future of the ACHS and applied for and were awarded a grant from the Arenac Community Fund for a new copier/printer for our office at the museum which was badly needed.

Because the "Bakeless Bake Sale" last year was a great success we are asking for your help and participation this year.

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 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.

Our sincere thanks,

Arenac County Historical Society Board Members