



ACHS NEWSLETTER

Arenac County Historical Society

Preserving the Heritage of Arenac County, Michigan

Summer 2023

A MESSAGE FROM YOUR PRESIDENT

It is so nice to see the spring and summer months returning again. The landscapes are turning green and lawnmowers are humming. Flowers are blooming. It is one of my favorite times of the year.

We have spruced up the museum this year with a grant from the Maser Funds from the Bay Area Community Foundation. Bock Electric installed a new electrical system in the museum and it makes a world of difference. Everything looks almost new again. We would like to thank Bock Electric, the Bay Area Community Foundation and the Maser Family for helping us complete this project. Our goal is to save as much history of Arenac County as possible. Having a new electrical system assures us our artifacts can be kept in tiptop condition. The Maser Family left a legacy for our communities to assure us our history will be saved. The Bay Area Community Foundation deserves a thank you also. They manage the funds from endowments so we can continue the work we have in mind to complete.

We would like to thank all of you for your donations to our Bakeless Pie Sale. These funds will help us with the day-to-day operation at the museum. We are so grateful for any and all donations.

I have some interesting programs set up for the summer months. You will see them listed later in the newsletter. There will be one each month, June through September. We will also be open on the 2nd and 4th Saturdays during the summer months. We will also open the museum upon request. We will gladly set up mutually agreeable times. Many people have come to do research and just visit our museum.

We have a new, redesigned website. It is user friendly and better organized. The cross-referencing feature will be a big help when looking up information. The Picture Section is more organized too. Gaynol Fales deserves a huge "Thank You" for taking on the task of improving the website. The new site went online in June, but the address remains the same: www.arenachistory.org. Digitizing many of our records has started. Thanks goes out to Mary DeLaat for taking on this huge undertaking. There is always lots of work to do at the Historical Society!

Remember we have Rada Knives and books for sale. Those sharp knives are handy cutting up the summer produce. On a hot summer day, a good book soothes the mind and soul. Take time to read some of the great books written by local authors.

We look forward to seeing you again this year. Come visit, enjoy the new lighting, and see some of the interesting artifacts we have on display.

Sandy Proulx - President

NEW MUSEUM ELECTRICAL UPGRADE

The Arenac County Historical Society Museum was the grateful recipient of a Grant from the Catherine and John Maser Historic Preservation Fund of the Bay Area Community Foundation. The Grant was awarded in the amount of \$35,000.00 for the purpose of rewiring the historic structure. The safety of the old wiring has been a big concern to the ACHS Board, whose mission is to "Protect and preserve the history of Arenac County". We would like to say **Thank You** to the Maser Family and the Bay Area Community Foundation for their generosity in helping us with this effort.

NEW ACHS MAIL POLICY

Due the rising costs of Postal Service and our effort to streamline operations and increase efficiency, the Arenac County Historical Society has decided to offer members the option of receiving ACHS correspondence electronically. Please look for our revised membership form or, send your email address to with a note indicating your preference.

ACHS OFFICERS

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

ACHS TRUSTEES

Joann Gulau
Brenda Matt
Phyllis Klender
Greg Dittenber
Gaynol Fales
Mary Delaat

ACCESSION COMMITTEE

Sandy Proulx
Joann Gulau
Mary McLaughlin

NEWSLETTER EDITOR

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ACHS REPRESENTATIVE to the Arenac Heritage Route Authority

Brenda Matt

YE OLDE COURTHOUSE & MASONIC HALL

Brenda Matt	Chair
Regina White	Secretary
Phyllis Klender	Financial Chair

ACHS WEBSITE TECHNICIAN

Gaynol Fales

FACEBOOK COORDINATOR

Gaynol Fales

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 JIMCO FIRE PROTECTION OF AUGRES

Ye Olde Courthouse/Masonic Hall

Our committee of volunteers at the Courthouse completed several projects over the last two years. In doing so, we moved everything out of our storage room into the Lodge room on the second story including boxes of merchandise for our Junque Sales, our own Christmas decorations, containers and enhancements for our Greens Sale and many boxes of Christmas Junque for our sale in November. Our downstairs closets were overflowing as well as the area next to the jail cell. Our upstairs renovations including a new ceiling in our storage room, a new furnace for the second story, replacing the boarded up window and mis-matched siding on the south gable end and the new steel fire escape on the south end. Junque is now all sold or downstairs and we spent an entire day re-organizing the storage room, cleaning the Lodge room and our closets. The Lodge Room is back to looking like it did in 1910 and we are happy to take our guests upstairs for tours.

We are in the process of organizing our office/Arenac Eastern School Exhibit room and preparing to copy and digitize our historic records as well as the collections at the museum in Au Gres. Our future plans include the internet and Ancestry so that we may assist guests with genealogical research. The ACHS received a Pro Active Grant from the Arenac Community Fund in 2020 for preserving these collections. This included records backup, recovery, retention storage and a record retrieval system. The grant consists of a laptop, External LG Ultrafine SK Display, cords, adapters, a trackpad, portable external hard drive, software and two fire proof safes for storage. ACHS Member, Mary Delaat, has been working with this program and in the process of installing it in our office and teaching volunteers to use it. We are looking for volunteers who would like to help with this project.

JUNQUE SALE NEWS

In 2007 the *Ye Olde Courthouse* committee made a major decision to begin having rummage sales to pay-off its mortgage. We began asking people to donate items toward the effort and soon lots of people began calling us to pick up items they no longer wanted or needed as well as left over items from their yard sales. Because our items were often unique, we came up with our official name for our sales: Ye Olde Courthouse JUNQUE Sales, meaning that many of our items were not only unique but often in excellent/good condition. We picked up donated items from Sanford, Midland, Saginaw, Bay City, West Branch, Standish, Sterling, northeast to Tawas and beyond. The shoreline (Pinconning-Tawas) was particularly fruitful for donations throughout the years. We have made many friends over the past 16 years.

In addition to our *JUNQUE* Sales which often included not only our Courthouse building but often three large outdoor tents, we also conducted a large auction sale because of a generous donor family from Au Gres. A unique *Omer Bakers* sale added fine baked goods to our *JUNQUE* sales. We also added used book sales, Holiday Junque sales, Holiday Greens sales. One of the most unique items we ever possessed was a huge mounted Moose head which a gentleman from Au Gres donated and now proudly hangs in a cottage near Tawas. Rosemary who lives in Canton visited one of our early sales and continues to provide many great items year after year from her yard sales to our cause.

But as you all know having a rummage sale is a lot of work. We have traveled as far as the Detroit area with a moving truck and pickup trucks to collect items. Trucks, trailers, procure 1,000+ banana boxes (Jay's Fruit Market), pack them full! Then load them in the trucks/trailers and drive to Omer. Unload them and carry them upstairs to the storage room till the next sale. Then we carry them downstairs to price the items and place on display for the *Junque* sale. Then when the sale is over the leftovers have to be disposed of. . . some become "Free" on the front porch, others went to local thrift shops and many boxes were transported to the Newberry Senior Center thrift shop in the Upper Peninsula.

But as with all GREAT things-- we are all 16 years older and many are not only "Retired" but also "TIRED." The July 4th (June 30-July 1) sale will be our last scheduled *JUNQUE* Sale. We are finding it more difficult to do all the work involved with having sales. We want you "ALL" to know that we certainly have appreciated your support for the Ye Olde Courthouse and "ALL" of you who have contributed and purchased items through the years. It has been rewarding for the Committee members and a lot of fun making and renewing friendships. We are going to miss seeing all of our Courthouse friends.

Because of your generosity between 2007 and 2022, we generated \$156,863.78 in revenue during all our sale efforts. We will continue having the *Christmas Greens* Sale and the *Christmas Junque* Sale, possibly, if we get enough Christmas items donated before November—please start searching your storage areas.!!

From our *Ye Olde Courthouse* Committee, Arenac County Historical Society to all our supporters— THANK YOU!!

WE WILL CONTINUE TO HAVE BAKE SALES ON HOLIDAY WEEKENDS AND AT CHRISTMAS

Our new maple trees that we planted last year funded partially with a grant from Consumers Energy are doing well. They were planted between our maple trees on the east side that were planted in 1915 by the Masons. We also planted two on the north side of our property. Many thanks to Dick Klender for watering them last year and this year. Mary Daniels killed the weeds growing on our property to the west where we removed the old concrete. We are having black dirt brought in and Mary will plant grass seed. Thanks, Mary.

Arenac Community Fund Grant

The Ye Olde Courthouse was awarded a grant from the Arenac Community Fund in the amount of \$1,875.00 in May for folding chairs. We host many events and programs, our folding chairs are old, and have all been donated to us by various organizations. Many of them were donated by the City of Omer when they tore down their community center. They are metal and very uncomfortable and cold. We are purchasing contoured folding chairs with this grant for the comfort of our guests and ourselves.

We are thankful to the hard working volunteers of the Arenac Community Fund who do so much to provide grants to non-profits in Arenac County.

Give Local Bay

The Ye Olde Courthouse did very well in this fundraiser to support our endowed fund with the Bay Area Community Foundation. We placed third with \$ 10,250.00. We had \$10,000.00 in gifts, we won a prize for the most donors (70) \$ of \$250.00 and our percent of the incentive pool was \$4,083.00 for a total added to our endowed fund of \$14,333.00. Phyllis prepared a letter which she mailed to individuals, (approximately 150,) notifying them of Give Local Bay and we put flyers in sale bags at our Junque Sale.

We are fortunate to have so many wonderful and generous donors who support the Courthouse. These totals have been amazing every year and we are grateful. This money goes in our Designated Fund to support the Courthouse in the future. We also have an Agency Fund and the George Viele Fund with the Bay Area Community Foundation that also provides income for now and in the future.

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

Brenda Matt, Committee Chair 989-846-0501
Mary DeLatt, Recording Secretary 225-247-6746
Phyllis Klender, Financial Chair 989-653-2725

Arenac Heritage Route Authority

Standish Historical Depot

Our busy summer season is underway at the Depot. Our concerts are held on Thursday evenings from 6:30 to 8:30, our Farmers Market takes place on Friday, 2 p.m. to 6 p.m., Fun in the Sun, a sales event for direct sales and crafters is every other Saturday at 10 a.m. and our Vintage Car show is scheduled for July 8th at 10 a.m. Check our website, www.standishdepot.org and our face book page, Standish Historic Depot, for details on our events. Travelers on the U.S. 23 Heritage Route which begins at the Depot and continues to Mackinac City are stopping in daily seeking information on area events, things to see and do in Arenac County and travel in Northeast Michigan. We live here and take our rivers and lakes for granted but people travel from all over the world to view the Great Lakes. Fishing, our canoe liveries and campgrounds bring thousands of people to Arenac County all summer.

Digital Sign

Our digital sign is programmed and displaying non-profit and community events in the area. Our sign sponsors, the Arenac Community Fund, the Standish Downtown Development Authority, the Standish Chamber of Commerce, the Saginaw Chippewa Indian Tribe and our own funds made this sign possible. We advertise our own events and have included programs for the Northeast Michigan Arts Council, the Arenac Community Fund, the Loyalty Day Parade, the Standish Chamber, City of Au Gres Music in the Park, Arenac County Fair, the Community Center, the Sunrise Side Antique Tractor Club, Christmas for Kids Golf Outing, Foster Children, Ducks Unlimited, Sterling Sportsmans Club, The Well, Great Start Families and the Veterans Affairs Office. Many thanks to our sponsors and to board member, Wendy Hillman, who chaired and organized this project and continues to put in many hours programming the sign. Our stone columns were completed in June by DeShais Masonry and are a beautiful addition to the sign. Watch for our landscaping which will complete the project.

Gourmet Nut Sale

Our Gourmet Nut Sale (formerly the Kiwanis Nut Sale) has been a great fundraiser for the Depot. We have a few cans left which can be purchased at Owen Moore Insurance Agency, Whitney's Laundromat, Independent Bank, Turner Bean & Grain, Twining Market, the Arenac County Clerk's office and here at the Depot. These are vacuumed packed and stay fresh for more than a year. They are \$25.00 per 2.25oz. can. They make great hostess gifts and birthday gifts.

Give Local Bay

The Friends of the Arenac Heritage Route Authority, (our non-profit) once again participated in Give Local Bay on May 2nd through the Bay Area Community Foundation. This is an opportunity for us to add to our endowed fund to provide for the future of the Depot. Our total in gifts this year was \$4,305.00 and our percent of the incentive pool was \$1,714.95 for a total added to our endowed fund of \$6,019.95! Thanks to all who donated to this worthwhile event.

Bring your lawn chair and enjoy our concerts on Thursday evenings. Our concession stand sells popcorn, pop and water. The Farmers Market on Friday night will continue until September. Volunteers are always welcome to staff the Depot and maintain the grounds.

The Arenac Heritage Route Authority meets on the first Monday of the month at 7:00 p.m. at the Standish Historical Depot. This is an open meeting and all are welcome to attend. For more information you may call the Depot at 989-718-3021 or e-mail us at info@standishdepot.org. Don't forget to check out our website and face book page for events.

Brenda Matt, Depot Representative

Catherine and John Maser Historical Preservation Fund Grant

The Bay Area Community Foundation awarded the Friends of the Arenac Heritage Route Authority a grant from the Catherine and John Maser Historic Preservation Fund in the amount of \$8,178.35 to replace our aging air conditioning unit. Our new air conditioner is an Energy Star Rated American Standard 16 SEER unit. It is estimated that this Energy Star Rated unit will give us an annual savings of 50% over our present unit. The Depot operates on a very tight budget so any savings is greatly appreciated. The Maser Fund, administered by the Bay Area Community Foundation, is for the preservation of historic buildings in Arenac County. This fund has been very helpful to the Depot and the Ye Olde Courthouse in Omer in our efforts to preserve and maintain these Arenac County landmarks.

Arenac County Historical Society Balance Sheet As of May 31, 2023

	May 31, 23
ASSETS	
Current Assets	
Checking/Savings	
Certificate of Deposit	
CD #1	25,000.00
CD #2	10,971.66
Total Certificate of Deposit	35,971.66
Courthouse Checking	24,748.50
General Checking Account	1,688.28
Money Market (Savings)	13,472.91
Petty cash	200.00
Total Checking/Savings	76,081.35
Total Current Assets	76,081.35
Other Assets	
BACF Endowment Fund	
Courthouse Agency Fund	16,750.00
Courthouse Agency Revenue	2,016.91
Courthouse Agency Spendable	-116.00
Total BACF Endowment Fund	18,650.91
Total Other Assets	18,650.91
TOTAL ASSETS	94,732.26
LIABILITIES & EQUITY	
Equity	
Building Fund	4,407.22
Courthouse Fund	
BACF CH Fund Gain/Loss	2,016.91
Courthouse Fund - Other	66,482.50
Total Courthouse Fund	68,499.41
General Fund	5,978.49
Memorial Fund	15,847.14
Total Equity	94,732.26
TOTAL LIABILITIES & EQUITY	94,732.26

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 quantity 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
01	Arenac County Centennial 1883 to 1983 - One Hundred Years of Growth, Road tour guide, 12 pages	\$ 3.00
02	Omer Masonic Lodge #377 F&AM 100th Anniversary - Reprint, includes a history of Omer & Free Masonry	\$ 6.00
03	Arenac County Fair Premium List 1914 - Reprinted, Includes ads of the period, showing businesses in the county	\$ 3.00
04	Arenac County Directory 1947 - Reprinted, lots of local information, 90 pages	\$ 8.00
05	First Arenac County Fair Premium List 1885 – Reprint, 4 ½" x 6"	\$ 6.00
06	Arenac County Pioneer Society Au Gres 1911 -	\$ 6.00
07	Standard Atlas of Arenac County, MI 1906 - Including a plat book and index, reprinted by the ACHS in 2012	\$ 12.00
08	Plat Book of Arenac County, MI c1920 – Reprint, shows land ownership and includes index	\$ 10.00
09	Au Gres Centennial 1865 - 1965 - From Timber to Tourists, History of Au Gres Area, reprint	\$ 6.00
10	The Early Au Gres Area - A series of maps with buildings and landmarks, Edited by Mike Melvin	\$ 5.00
11	First Families of Standish Township – Reprinted 1974, lots of family names and pictures, 32 pages	\$ 10.00
12	A History of Arenac County, MI - by Calvin Ennes, edited and compiled by Paul Michalke, 2003, 208 pages	\$ 25.00
13	A History of Maple Ridge Arenac County, MI - Written & compiled by Marion Poole Maday & Friends, 2008, 282 pages	\$ 28.00
14	History of the Sterling Area - by Virginia Adams, reprinted 1976, 16 pages	\$ 8.00
15	History of the Sterling Area Second Generation - by Virginia Adams, reprinted 1977, 15 pages	\$ 8.00
16	Omer Centennial 1872-1972 - Reprinted	\$ 10.00
17	One Room Country Schools Arenac County Volume 1 - edited by Marie Bauer & friends of ACHS, reprinted	\$ 7.00
18	One Room Country Schools Arenac County Volume 2 - edited by Marie Bauer & friends of ACHS, reprinted	\$ 7.00
19	One Room Country Schools Arenac County Volume 3 - edited by Marie Bauer & friends of ACHS, reprinted	\$ 7.00
20	One Room Country Schools Arenac County Volume 4 - edited by Marie Bauer & friends of ACHS, reprinted	\$ 7.00
21	Point Lookout - The famous summer resort located on the west shore of Saginaw Bay, pictures, time tables & more, 12 pg	\$ 3.00
22	Program Pioneer Picnic and Homecoming Au Gres 1941 - Published for the annual Pioneer Picnic in Au Gres, 20 pages	\$ 3.00
23	One Room Country Schools Map - Map showing all 42 schools (1 & 2 room) that were in Arenac Co. at one time, 8 ½" x 11"	\$ 2.00
24	Rifle River Centennial Sucker Festival 1983 - Schedule of events, sucker recipes, history on Omer, sucker fishing, & logging	\$ 4.00
25	A Short History of Arenac County Roads - With 3 different color maps of the county, 2004, 30 pages	\$ 6.00
26	St. John's United Church of Christ 1912 - Old German Church relocated from Tonkey Road to city park in Au Gres	\$ 5.00
27	The Story of Standish and its People 1876 - by Allan McCready, reprinted 1976, 108 pages plus illustrations	\$ 10.00
28	The Au Gres Harbor Story - Short story of how Au Gres got the Harbor of Refuge and Marina, 1945-1973, 12 pages	\$ 3.00
29	The Handy Cook's Book 1915 - by the Ladies Aid Society of the M. E. Church of Au Gres, MI	\$ 6.00
30	This is the Way We Went to School - West and Northwest of Saginaw Bay around the turn of the century	\$ 6.00
31	Record of Arenac County Soldiers and Sailors – Served in WWI, written and compiled by the ACHS 2010, 300pg	\$ 28.00
32	Arenac County Normal 1904-1957 - Written and compiled by the ACHS, 2013	\$ 30.00
33	A Point to Remember - A pictorial history of Point Lookout by Val Korth, 2 nd Edition 2014	\$ 30.00
34	Wah Sash Kah Moqua - by Mary A. Sagatoo 1897, reprinted, 140 pages plus illustrations	\$ 12.00
35	Standish Telephone Directory 1942	\$ 6.00
36	Changing Times - by Chris Miller	\$ 15.00
37	Arenac/Ogemaw Telephone Directory 1928	\$ 6.00
38	Civil War Veterans of Arenac County - by Joann Gulau and Brenda Matt	\$ 30.00

Subtotal

Mail orders, please include the shipping and handling charges indicated below in addition to the price:

\$5.00 for book #13, #31, #32, #33

\$4.00 for book #12, #38

\$3.50 for book #7

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

PO 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 calendar year. Dues of a NEW member joining after July 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) _____

E-mail _____

Send ACHS correspondence by email

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
PO BOX 272
AU GRES, MI 48703-0272

Arenac County Historical Society
PO Box 272
Au Gres, MI 48703

ACHS Newsletter For:



Or Current Resident

COMING EVENTS

- June 9th thru Sept 8th, every Friday 2pm – 6pm:** Farmer’s Market at the Depot, at the Standish Historical Depot
- June 22nd thru August 24th, every Thursday (EXCEPT July 20) 6:30pm to 8:30pm:** Free 2023 Summer Concert Series, at the Standish Historical Depot
- July 8, 2023:** Vintage Car Show – at the Standish Historical Depot
- July 11, 2023; 7pm:** “Mary Todd Lincoln: the Dark Years” with Pam Dawson at Arenac County Historical Museum in Au Gres.
- August 19, 2023:** Annual Standish Strong Craft Fair and Business Expo, at the Standish Historical Depot
- August 24, 2023; 7pm:** “Native Americans in the Civil War” with Quita V. Shier at Arenac County Historical Museum in Au Gres.
- September 12, 2023, 7pm:** “U.S.S. Edson” with Jim Reha at Arenac County Historical Museum in Au Gres.
- October 7 & 8, 2023:** 19th Annual Depot Days, at the Standish Historical Depot
- October 17, 2023, 7pm:** “Briny Depths” with Ric Mixter at Ye Olde Courthouse/Masonic Hall in Omer
- November 8, 2023, 7pm:** “The Christmas Tree Ship” with Ric Mixter at Ye Olde Courthouse/Masonic Hall in Omer

~Arenac County Historical Society meets each month on the 3rd Thursday, at 7:00pm – at the Arenac County Historical Society Museum~

~Courthouse Committee meets on 2nd Friday of each month, at 9:30am – at the Courthouse in Omer~

~Arenac Heritage Route Authority Board meets on the 1st Monday of each month, at 7pm – at the Depot in Standish.~