



ACHS NEWSLETTER

Arenac County Historical Society

Preserving the Heritage of Arenac County, Michigan

Fall 2023

A MESSAGE FROM YOUR PRESIDENT

We will be closing on another year soon. There were a lot of events, programs, sales and visitors. The museum will be closed for the winter but spring will be here sooner than we think. If anyone would like to visit the museum during the winter months, please call and leave your name and number. You may also contact me directly. We are glad to open the museum upon request at a mutually agreeable time. There are people who like to come and look through the museum and especially look through the scrapbooks. Many come to research their family genealogy.

Now that we have new lighting in the museum, it puts a brighter picture on things. We may try to do some rearranging and possibly add a couple new displays. We have run out of space because we have so many new items. The way I see it, some displays may come down and a different one will go up.

Remember we have Rada Knives and lots of books for sale. These items make great gifts. Money from sales help support the operation of the museum.

We did have a couple of glitches with programs at the museum this year. I have been on the board for a lot of years and this is the first time we had a problem. Many of you are asking about having the Edson Program next year. After the first of the year, I work on our summer program schedule. If it works out I will try to have the Edson program next summer. I have several programs in mind that I think you will enjoy. I want to thank Brenda Matt and Marylou Bugh for stepping up and making our Author's Program a big success.

Check out our website and face book page. You'll find a whole new look that may be helpful when doing research and enjoying the picture and news sections. A huge thank you goes out to Gaynol Fales who took charge and gave us a new useful site. She has done a great job. Working together gets things done. We are still looking for people to serve on our board and more volunteers. Face book is a great place to find upcoming events.

Congratulations to the Graves Family for 100 years of service in the Eye Care Industry. Eventually the Graves family moved to the Standish area and opened an office there. A big majority of those 100 years was serving families within the area giving great eye care to their customers. We thank them for their outstanding service. Next summer you will see an old optical chair that the family has donated to the museum. We will be proud to have it on display.

Remember our Bakeless Bake Sale this year. All donations will be used to support the operation of the museum. We thank you so much for your support in the past and hope you will continue to do so.

Happy Thanksgiving and Merry Christmas to all!!!!

Sandy Proulx

ACHS OFFICERS

President	Sandy Proulx
Vice President	Mary Lou Bugh
Secretary	Mary McLaughlin
Treasurer	Greg Dittenber

ACHS TRUSTEES

Brenda Matt
Phyllis Klender
Gaynol Fales
Mary Delaat

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Sandy Proulx
Mary McLaughlin

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PUBLICITY COORDINATOR

Phyllis Klender

ACHS REPRESENTATIVE to the Arenac Heritage Route Authority

Brenda Matt

YE OLDE COURTHOUSE & MASONIC HALL

Brenda Matt	Chair
Mary DeLaat	Rec. Secretary
Phyllis Klender	Financial Chair

ACHS WEBSITE TECHNICIAN

Gaynol Fales

FACEBOOK COORDINATOR

Phyllis Klender

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.

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

The Ye Olde Courthouse Committee is busy preparing for the holiday season. Our first event in November is our annual Christmas Junque Sale. Next we begin preparing for our annual Fresh Greens and Bake sale.

CHRISTMAS GREENS & BAKE SALE 2023

December 15-16

Ye "Olde" Courthouse in Omer

The Olde Courthouse will be looking mighty festive for our 2023 Christmas Greens & Bake Sale on December 15 & 16. Fresh Greens arrangements priced from \$5.00 to \$50.00 will be available for purchase for that "perfect" gift for a special friend, loved one or yourself for the Christmas season.

We will also have a Christmas Bake Sale with lots of baked goodies from the Omer Bakers for your holiday needs including candy, cookies, fudge, popcorn balls, and pies. If you would like to donate some items to our bake sale, we would greatly appreciate it. Just bring your goodies to the Courthouse in Omer on Friday the 15th of December.

We will also have available for purchase RADA items for last minute gifts and stocking stuffers.

Last year our group delivered over 60 fresh arrangements to residents of the local nursing homes. We plan to do that again this year because the residents enjoyed them so much last year.

If you would like to help make these fresh "greens" arrangements, please join us on December 12th & 13th from 9 a.m.--???. Lunch will be provided and it is a GREAT way to meet new people, have fun, and also help make arrangements which make the Christmas season BRIGHTER for many people, including residents of our local nursing homes.

Thank you from the Ye "Olde" Courthouse Committee Members

The Iosco –Arenac District Library, the Omer Little Eagles Nest Library and the Courthouse hosted two Ric Mixer programs this fall. Ric, a Great Lakes Historian and shipwreck researcher, entertained our guests (it was a full house both nights) with stories of shipwrecks and the Great Lakes.

We plan to include Ric in our program schedule in 2024.

We are enjoying the new chairs that were purchased with a grant from the Arenac Community Fund. We had a very mismatched assortment of metal chairs that had been donated to us through the years. With our new chairs, we not only look good when our building is set up for a program but we are also comfortable. Thank you Arenac Community Fund members for your hard work and all you do to provide grants for non-profits in our community.

We have met with Dr. Jay Martin, Director, Professor of History, CMU Museum Studies, and two of his students concerning preservation of the baseball exhibit. Dr. Martin's students are assisting in preparing grants that we will be able to apply for. We plan to take the knowledge on preservation that we learn from them and apply to other collections at the Museum and the Courthouse.

We are preparing our office/research room/Arenac Eastern Exhibit room so that we can assist people with their family and Arenac County research. We are in the process of connecting to the internet and subscribing to Ancestry. The ACHS has a large collection of historical records at the museum in Au Gres and at the Courthouse. We are also working at copying and digitizing these documents, stories and pictures to preserve our collections. Our committee is looking forward to working with interested people in exploring their history and the history of our area. (Another excellent volunteer opportunity!)

Our committee meets on the second Friday of the 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

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES WITH THE ACHS-MUSEUM-COURTHOUSE

- Help make fresh green arrangements—December 12-13; 9am to ? Each Day
- Attend meetings and help preserve the history of Arenac County
- Make an index (on paper) of books and scrapbooks
- Type the index (need to use EXCEL on your computer)
- Prepare articles for scrapbooks (cut out articles-paste on paper-put in plastic page protectors)
- Sort a box of old letters
- Download and copy obituaries from the local funeral homes web sites
- Bake for the Courthouse Bake Sales we have on holiday weekends during the year
- If you would like to help us in any way please call or text Phyllis Klender (989-653-2762) (cell 810-938-6991)
- ACHS Meetings-Third Thursday at 7 pm (at Museum-April-October--(at JIMCO November-March)
- Ye Olde Courthouse meetings-Second Friday of the month at 9:30 am in Omer

Arenac Heritage Route Authority

Standish Historical Depot

VOLUNTEER ANGELINE PIENIOZEK

Volunteers at the Standish Historical Depot have been busy preparing for our Christmas events. Our annual Santa Parade and lighting of the Depot on Friday, November 24th and the Lake State Santa Train arrival on December 2nd take many hours of preparation. Our lighting crew starts right after Depot Days to install lights in our trees, shrubs and fences. Next is installing the arches and icicle lights. They try to get as much done as they can while the weather is nice but still spend many hours working in the cold and wet weather. Our decorating crew also tries to get outside planters, posts wrapped, the freight wagon and porch decorated before it gets too cold. AJ Rental donated the use of their lift so our volunteers could reach to put the icicle lights around the depot and lights in the tall trees. Chris and the City of Standish DPW Crew store our snowman, snowflakes and Santa and set them up for us. We are thankful for all these people who help to make our Christmas events a success. It is great to know that when travelers enter Arenac County they are greeted with our amazing display. As they travel north, they pass through the lights in the City of Omer and are met with the beautiful lights in Au Gres and the amazing display in the Au Gres City Park. The Depot lights will be on from November 24th through January 1st. Our very generous sponsors contribute the funds to make all this possible.

GOURMET NUT SALE

These delicious nuts have been delivered and are available in several places. The Depot, Whitney's Laundry, Arenac County Clerk's Office, Independent Bank, Sunrise Family Credit Union, Standish City Hall, Owen Moore Agency, Turner Bean & Grain, Twining Market and the Veteran's Club. These are the same nuts that the Standish Kiwanis sold for many years. They are still \$25.00 per 2lb. 4oz. can. They are great to serve for the holidays, or to use for a gift.

DIGITAL SIGN

Our digital sign has been a great addition to our site and continues to advertise our events as well as events for non-profits in the area. The sign was completed in September with the addition of landscaping. This sign was made possible by our sponsors, The Arenac Community Fund, Standish Downtown Development Authority, Standish Area Chamber of Commerce, and the Saginaw Chippewa Indian Tribe. Depot volunteer and board member, Wendy Hillman, has spent countless hours programming the sign and working with tech support. Organizations eligible to advertise their events on our sign may reach Wendy at info@standishdepot.org.

SUMMER AND FALL EVENTS

Summer and fall events including our Summer Concert Series, Vintage Car Show, Farmer's Market and Depot Days were well attended and successful in spite of a little rain and cold weather. These events will be back next year so watch our sign, ads in the Arenac County Independent, Face book and our website. www.standishdepot.org.

Depot volunteer, Angeline Pieniozek, passed away in October. Angie was here for many years working with her friend and fellow depot volunteer and decorator, Mina Stodolak. Angie and Mina spent many hours here maintaining our landscaping, planting, weeding and decorating. Many of our plants and flowers are here because of Angie and Mina. She has not been able to be here recently due to her health but was always available when we sought her advice. Angeline was very interested in the history of the Bentley area where she grew up and compiled scrapbooks complete with interviews with Bentley residents and newspaper articles. We are planning a day of remembrance to honor Angie at the Depot after the first of the year.

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 and volunteer opportunities you may call the Depot at 989-718-3021 or e mail us at info@standishdepot.org. Check our website and Face book for more news and events.

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

	Oct 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	28,483.44
General Checking Account	16,084.69
Petty cash	200.00
Total Checking/Savings	80,739.79
Total Current Assets	80,739.79
Other Assets	
BACF Endowment Fund	
Courthouse Agency Fund	16,750.00
Courthouse Agency Revenue	4,003.62
Courthouse Agency Spendable	-116.00
Total BACF Endowment Fund	20,637.62
Total Other Assets	20,637.62
TOTAL ASSETS	101,377.41
LIABILITIES & EQUITY	
Equity	
Building Fund	4,407.26
Courthouse Fund	
BACF CH Fund Gain/Loss	4,003.62
Courthouse Fund - Other	70,033.69
Total Courthouse Fund	74,037.31
General Fund	6,095.55
Memorial Fund	16,837.29
Total Equity	101,377.41
TOTAL LIABILITIES & EQUITY	101,377.41

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

Questions? Call 989-876-6399 or email: achs@centurytel.net

Name & Shipping Address

+ Calculated Shipping

Grand Total Enclosed

Arenac County Historical Society

304 W. Michigan Avenue • PO Box 272

Au Gres, Michigan 48703

(989) 876-6399

Dear Arenac County Historical Society Members,

In the last several years, and especially since Covid became a world issue, we at the museum have been severely struggling financially.

Our membership is good, however our members available to operate the museum and raise funds is very small. The museum exists mainly on membership fees, donations, and book sales. We are in desperate need of funds to operate the museum in Au Gres. We struggle to meet and pay operating costs each month.

There are some grants available to us through the Arenac Community Fund, The Mary Jennings Fund, and the John and Catherine Maser Historic Preservation Fund. All of these funds are managed by the Bay Area Community Foundation. Money from these funds must be requested according to the specific application requirements. The Maser fund must be can only be used for preservation projects of historical buildings in Arenac County. These funds are very generous, and without them we would not have been able to complete the essential preservation projects on our buildings, but generally they cannot be used for any of our general operating expenses.

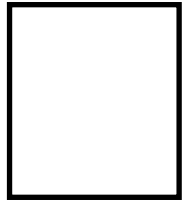
So again we are asking you to participate in our "Bakeless Bake Sale. You do not have to bake anything, dirty your kitchen, find a recipe, shop for ingredients or clean up your kitchen. You do not have to deliver your bake goods to us and we don't have to sit somewhere selling them. All you need to do is send a donation. For example, if you bought a pie for \$10.00, send us the \$10.00. You can send us any amount you would like to donate. This way we can all stay home, do something for ourselves or spend time with family knowing that we have contributed to the continued existence of our museum. Any and all donations will be greatly appreciated.

Checks can be made out to the ACHS and mailed to our museum. Our address is P.O. Box 272, Au Gres, MI, 48703. Our Bakeless Bake Sale will end April 15th, 2024. So make sure your taxes are completed and your check is in the mail to the Historical Society.

Our sincere thanks to all of our dedicated supporters who share our mission of "Protecting and Preserving the History of Arenac County".

Arenac County Historical Society Board Members

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



ACHS Newsletter For:



COMING EVENTS

November 24, 6pm to 8pm: Santa Parade and Lighting of The Depot, at the Standish Historical Depot

December 2, 9am to 10am: Lake State Santa Train, at the Standish Historical Depot

December 12 & 13, 9am to ??: Help make fresh greens for the Greens Sale! (Lunch will be provided), at Ye Olde Courthouse/Masonic Hall in Omer

December 15 & 16, 9am – 4pm each day: Christmas Fresh Greens and Bake Sale, at Ye Olde Courthouse/Masonic Hall in Omer (RADA products available)

~ACHS meets each month on the 3rd Thursday, at 7:00pm – at the Museum (April thru October); at JIMCO (November thru March)~

~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.~

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