



ACHS NEWSLETTER

Arenac County Historical Society

Preserving the Heritage of Arenac County, Michigan

Fall/Winter 2024

A MESSAGE FROM YOUR PRESIDENT

We hope everyone had an enjoyable summer. As we go into fall and winter, we hope you may enjoy what Mother Nature sends us. We had a good summer at the museum and at Ye Olde Courthouse. We had three great programs at the museum and one at the courthouse. We certainly enjoyed seeing everyone again and we also enjoyed meeting many new people who came to our programs. We have made new friends and found some new contacts to help us continue to save the history of Arenac County. Thank you to all who came to our programs and to our presenters. Our presenters did an excellent job. Thank you for your donations too. All donations help us so much.

We have a large selection of books for sale. We did a reprint of the Au Gres Centennial Book which was our best seller this year. We have a new booklet called "Manual of the Public Schools" dated 1917 to 1918. It's quite an interesting book giving information about the school, Board of Education, courses of study for students in elementary through high school. It has some general information and advertising. Turner was considered a booming town during those years and it's fun to see what types of businesses were flourishing. The holidays are coming, and books make great gifts and great reading through the cold winter months. We also have the Rada knives for sale. These knives are sharp and work really well for any cook working in your kitchen.

We have been doing some continuous rearranging of artifacts in the museum. I've found some that have been stored a while and need to be viewed again. We are having new gutters and downspouts installed. We are hoping to have them done by winter.

We always are asking for volunteers and some of you have stepped up to the challenge. If you are interested, you can call me or leave a message at the museum. There are always things to be done and it becomes an ongoing process.

I would like to thank the Arenac County Historical Board for all their work and help. We work together to get the business of our organization completed.

I'll be working on getting programs ready for next summer. Gail Demco would like to continue the saga of the Sims family, so she is putting together another program for next year. Another speaker said she would be willing to return too. I just recently found two more programs I think you will enjoy. I am going to keep you in suspense so you will have to come to see and hear for yourself. We have had some great turnouts and hope they will continue.

We hope you enjoy the rest of the year of 2024. May your holidays be filled with peace, joy, harmony, and good food. Having good food makes Thanksgiving and Christmas enjoyable holidays. Spend time with your families and we will see you again next year.

Sandy Proulx
President of ACHS

ACHS OFFICERS

President	Sandy Proulx
Vice President	Mary Lou Bugh
Secretary	Tammy Wiltse
Treasurer	Greg Dittenber

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Phyllis Klender
Gaynol Fales
Mary Delaat
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Mary McLaughlin

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Phyllis Klender

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Brenda Matt

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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 committee at Ye Olde Courthouse is busy making preparations for the holiday season.

Make your calendars now for our amazing Christmas Junque Sale which will be held on November 15th & 16th from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. We have a very large assortment of gently used Christmas items, (and some new items) for you to purchase to decorate your home for the holidays.

GREENS AND BAKE SALE

Our annual greens and bake sale will be held on December 13th & 14th from 9 to 4 each day. Thanks to our wonderful Omer Bakers we will have lots of sweet and delicious goodies for you to buy for yourself or for gifts. Included will be popcorn balls, candy, cookies, pies, breads and cupcakes. (All great to take when attending a holiday party.) Our beautiful fresh green arrangements will be available for purchase. Our volunteers always have a great time gathering to make these beautiful arrangements. We will be assembling these arrangements together on December 10th and 11th. If you would like to come and join us for a fun day, please text or call Phyllis Klender at 810-939-6991. (Not a decorator? Volunteers are needed to serve lunch and clean up.)

We've had a great spring and summer season at the Courthouse. We held a few very successful "Junque Sales" and outstanding bake sales. Ric Mixter was our guest speaker in September. His program, Howling Winds, was very interesting and informative as are all of his programs. Brenda and Phyllis attended the NEM Baseball reunion in June held at the Cheese House in Pinconning. Several baseball alumni visited the NEM Baseball Exhibit at the Courthouse after the reunion. More baseball uniforms were donated and a generous check from them to assist us in maintaining the exhibit.

Give Local Bay-2024

The Ye Olde Courthouse participated in Give Local Bay in May. We came in second place out of 59 organizations in Bay and Arenac County. Our donors (91 of them) were very generous and our total in donated funds was \$12,605.00. The percent of the incentive pool was \$3,147.00 for a total of \$15,752.00 added to our endowed fund. This money remains in our fund drawing interest. Thanks to all our donors who contributed to this fundraiser that provides for the future of the Courthouse.

John Cuthbertson Family Visit

Phyllis received a phone call from Catherine Cuthbertson, John's daughter. She asked if she and her family could come to the Courthouse to see her grandfather's World War I uniform. (John donated his father's World War I uniform including the showcase that houses it, a wooden wall clock, Charlie Jose's chair that came from the Omer barbershop and the showcase in our second story).

Several family members visited including Catherine, her children, her brother and his children and her mother, John's widow, Margaret. They were there for two hours enjoying our building and artifacts. The teenage grandchildren were very enthusiastic and enjoyed the time spent with Phyllis at the Courthouse. John wrote the book, *The Mighty Rifle River* and generously donated many copies to us to sell at the Courthouse and the Standish Historical Depot. He also wrote, *Coming to Scratch, or Down for the Count*, a book about early boxing history in the area. John's father, Jim, and his uncle, John, were boxers and sons of Edward Cuthbertson who was a lumberjack. Our Courthouse Committee has great memories of John, his generosity and the historical memories and visits we shared.

Phyllis received another call from Anita in New Jersey. She wanted to donate her father's Masonic Apron that he had received from the Omer Masonic Lodge back in the 1950's. After some conversation Phyllis asked who her father was and she replied it was Harry Wallerstein. Harry taught at Arenac Eastern and was Phyllis's high school band director. Anita is planning a trip to Michigan this fall and will contact Phyllis to visit the Courthouse and donate the apron to the Masonic display at the Courthouse.

Watch for the opening of our Research Center, our Christmas Junque Sale and our annual Greens and Bake Sale. Please join us for a visit, refreshments and conversation during these events.

Our committee meets the second Friday of the month at the Courthouse at 9:30. Volunteers and visitors are always 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 Community Funds Awards Grant

The Ye Olde Courthouse was awarded a grant of \$ 2,235.00 from the Arenac Community Fund for our research center. We have installed our new desk top computer, a 24" monitor and Spectrum Internet. Later this month we will join Ancestry and purchase a new printer. We will be available soon to assist people who are interested in exploring their history and the history of our area. Watch for our announcement and dates when we will be open. This research center is a great volunteer opportunity for all ages. We are also looking for volunteers to come to the Courthouse and work on indexing our records. Thank you, volunteers of the Arenac Community Fund for this grant and for all you do for our community.

Arenac Heritage Route Authority

Standish Historical Depot

The Depot hosted Depot Days on October 5th and 6th and our Christmas Light Crew is anxious to begin hanging Christmas lights. They have a few boxes tested and ready to go. This is a really big job and involves many days that begin when the weather is nice and continues until the day of the lighting. Interior decorating will begin the second week of November.

We had a great Summer Concert Series that was well attended and enjoyed by our residents and guests. Many thanks to our wonderful sponsors that make it possible to provide these evenings of entertainment. The Depot held our annual Vintage Car Show in July. It was a great show with several "new" entries. Plans are underway for next year. Our Farmer's Market began in May and ended the last week of September. It was extremely busy this year and all our vendors plan to return in 2025. We participated in Give Local Bay in May. Donations totaled \$4,730.00 and our percent of the incentive pool was \$1,124.00 for a total of \$5,854.00 added to our endowed fund. This fund generates a spendable amount each year and provides funds to support the Depot in the future.

Depot Days, October 5th & 6th, enjoyed great fall weather. Schmidt Amusements provided rides in the parking lot, vendors were present on the grass for our guests shopping pleasure, we hosted our Silent Auction inside the Depot, Vantage Plastics donated a deer blind for our raffle and the Standish Area Chamber of Commerce sponsored horse drawn wagon rides by Three P's Express. Depot Days is a celebration of the opening of the Depot on October 7, 1889. It was our 135th Anniversary this year. Thanks to Vantage and all who donated for the Silent Auction and our generous bidders. This is a major fundraiser for us and contributes to our expenses.

GOURMET NUT SALE

Our cans of gourmet nuts are ordered and will be arriving soon. They are still \$25.00 per 2 lb. 4 oz can. They will be available at the Depot, Whitney's Laundry, Independent Bank, Sunrise Family Credit Union, Owen Moore Agency, Turner Bean and Grain, Twining Market, Veteran's Club, and the clerk's office at the Arenac County Courthouse. Great snack for your family, Christmas gifts, hostess and any occasion gift.

DIGITAL SIGN

Our sign has been great for advertising our own events and very useful for other non-profits in the area. We advertise community events and non-profit events and information. Organizations eligible to advertise on our sign may reach Wendy at info@standishdepot.org.

CHRISTMAS EVENTS

Our annual Christmas Parade and Lighting of the Depot will be held on Friday, November 29th. Parade line up starts at 5:00 p.m. and the parade steps off at 6:00 p.m. Santa will turn the lights on for our amazing Christmas display at the Depot when he arrives. Children may visit with Santa and all our guests are invited inside for cookies and hot chocolate. Floats, trucks, side by sides and walking groups are all encouraged to participate in the parade.

Watch for our flyers, sign, Facebook and our website, www.standishdepot.org and the Arenac County Independent for more info. Depot phone number is 989-718-3021. Sponsorship information will be available at the Depot and on our sites.

LAKE STATE SANTA TRAIN

We just received confirmation from Lake State Railroad that the Santa Train will arrive in Standish on Saturday, December 7th in the morning. Time will be published as soon as it is available.

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. Watch our digital sign, Facebook and website for more news and events.

Brenda Matt, Depot Coordinator

Arenac County Historical Society	
Balance Sheet	
As of September 30, 2024	
Sep 30, 24	
ASSETS	
Current Assets	
Checking/Savings	
Certificate of Deposit	
CD #1 (5/28/25)	26,968.09
CD #2 (4/24/25)	11,322.37
Total Certificate of Deposit	38,290.46
Courthouse Checking	35,876.43
General Checking Account	14,134.55
Petty cash	200.00
Total Checking/Savings	88,501.44
Total Current Assets	88,501.44
Other Assets	
BACF Endowment Fund	
Courthouse Agency Fund	18,750.00
Courthouse Agency Revenue	7,114.52
Courthouse Agency Spendable	-116.00
Total BACF Endowment Fund	25,748.52
Total Other Assets	25,748.52
TOTAL ASSETS	114,249.96
LIABILITIES & EQUITY	
Equity	
Building Fund	4,407.26
Courthouse Fund	
BACF CH Fund Gain/Loss	7,114.52
Courthouse Fund - Other	81,578.52
Total Courthouse Fund	88,693.04
General Fund	4,312.37
Memorial Fund	16,837.29
Total Equity	114,249.96
TOTAL LIABILITIES & EQUITY	114,249.96

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	\$ 8.00
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
39	Turner Manual of Public Schools 1917-18	\$ 3.00
40	Alla Lizzie – by Helen Eichsteadt	\$ 15.00

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 _____

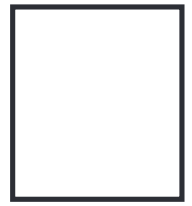
Send ACHS correspondence by email

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:

COMING EVENTS

November 15 & 16, 9am to 4pm: Christmas Junge Sale, in Omer at Ye Olde Courthouse.

November 29, 6pm: Christmas Parade & Lighting of the Depot; Standish Depot; parade line up starts at 5pm, parade starts at 6pm.

December 7, in the morning TBD: Lake State Railroad Santa Train, at the Standish Historical Depot, time will be published soon.

December 10 & 11: Greens to be assembled, Come join us at the Courthouse for a fun day; text of call Phyllis Klender at 810-939-6991, for times.

December 13 & 14, 9am to 4pm: Annual Greens and Bake Sale, at Ye Olde Courthouse/Masonic Hall

~ACHS meets each month on the 3rd Thursday, at 7:00pm –Au Gres 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.~