



Arenac County Historical Society

Preserving the Heritage of Arenac County, Michigan

ACHS NEWSLETTER

Winter 2025

A MESSAGE FROM YOUR PRESIDENT

We are getting close to the end of another year. Huge holidays are coming up and lots of preparations for them. We hope you enjoy each one of them. Through our travels, Jim and I realize how blessed we are to see places here in Michigan and around the world. We live in an area where friends, family and events throughout the year mean something special. Arenac County may not have centuries of history, but we have history unique to the area. It is rich in history and traditions with a variety of people involved. It is important to save that history so we all can enjoy it and learn from the mistakes as well as the successes. All of these bits and pieces of history put meaning to our lives. This is what we do at the Arenac County Historical Society. We work hard to save that history.

It is with great sadness again to announce we have lost 2 more people who served the Historical Society. Joann Gulau and Jerry Heinrich served in many capacities throughout many years. Both of these people were long time and lifetime residents of Arenac County. They loved the community they lived and worked in. We will remember Joann for all the scrapbooks she put together with pictures and stories. She also helped write a book about the Civil War veterans buried in Arenac County with Brenda Matt. These are just a couple of things she did. Jerry served the Historical Society for many years in many capacities. He served as a board member and welcomed guests on weekends that were open. His wife Rosemary said he loved this community he lived in and enjoyed talking with others about its history. Both of these people will be missed. We certainly appreciate all the work they did to keep the society going.

We had a good year at the museum this year. People came to visit, and a good amount of research was done for inquiring guests. This is a good sign as far as I am concerned that the Arenac County Historical Society will be around for a good many years. People want to know about their ancestors and events that happened here. Some people even inquired about world events and the effects on Arenac County. This is so great to hear!!!!

We thank you for all your support and interest. It is greatly appreciated. If you are looking for holiday gifts, we have a large number of books for sale. They make good reading on those cold blustery winter days and nights. We also have the Rada Knives and kitchen utensils for sale. They are useful and are quality made products.

I would like to thank my board members for all the work they have done to help make the Historical Society a success. Each one has different ideas and different talents to use that keep the society successful. We have a good group willing to give of their time and talents no matter how big or small. Thank you!!! I appreciate all your help.

May your holidays be filled with love, laughter and many blessings. On behalf of the board members, we wish you all the very best. "Merry Christmas and Happy New Year". We hope to see all of you in 2026. Let's make some more history together.

Sandy Proulx
President of ACHS

ACHS OFFICERS

President	Sandy Proulx
Vice President	Austin Hazeltine
Secretary	Tammy Wiltse
Treasurer	Greg Dittenber

ACHS TRUSTEES

Brenda Matt
Phyllis Klender
Gaynol Fales
Mary Lou Bugh
Mary McLaughlin

ACCESSION COMMITTEE

Sandy Proulx
Mary McLaughlin

NEWSLETTER EDITOR

Fred Robel

PUBLICITY COORDINATOR

Phyllis Klender

ACHS REPRESENTATIVE to the Arenac Heritage Route Authority

Brenda Matt

YE OLDE COURTHOUSE &

MASONIC HALL

Brenda Matt	Chair
Regina White	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 Christmas Junque Sale will be held on Friday and Saturday, November 21 and 22 from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. These are gently used (and some new) decorations and a great opportunity to purchase beautiful decorations at a very inexpensive price.

HOLIDAY BAKE SALE

Our Holiday Bake Sale will be held with the Christmas Greens Sale. Our wonderful "Omer Bakers" will have lots of sweet and delicious baked goods for you to purchase. Included will be popcorn balls, candy, cookies, pies, breads and cupcakes. These are great to serve at home, gift to your friends or to take when attending a holiday occasion.

JOANN GULAU, ARENAC COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY AND YE OLDE COURTHOUSE VOLUNTEER

The ACHS and the Ye Olde Courthouse Committee was saddened with the passing in October of volunteer and organizer, Joann Gulau. Joann grew up in Omer and her husband, Al Gulau's, career in the Coast Guard took them to stations from Bay City to Alaska. When Al retired from the Coast Guard, they built a home in Kingsley and lived there for several years. In 1985-1986 they built their "forever home" on Saginaw Bay. Joann joined the Arenac County Historical Society and immediately saw the need for organization. (Joann kept scrapbooks during their Coast Guard years and shared her information with Ric Mixter, a historian, author and documentarian on Great Lakes maritime history) Joann began compiling and indexing many of the museum scrapbooks and recruited other volunteers to help with indexing. Joann was instrumental in establishing the indexing system that is used today by the ACHS. She spent many hours at the Arenac County Independent scanning and copying articles and obituaries and placing them in scrapbooks. She forwarded many of these to people around the country who became supporters of the ACHS and the Courthouse. Joann worked closely with Michael Melvin to compile and publish the *History of the Arenac County Normal* which was printed by the ACHS in 2012. In 2020 Joann co-authored another book published by the ACHS, *Civil War Veterans of Arenac County*, with her friend, Brenda Matt. For many years she staffed the museum, handled the mail, was responsible for the printing of several books for the ACHS, organized the newsletter and helped arrange exhibits. She was one of the original members of the Ye Olde Courthouse Committee where she shared her organizational skills. Joann worked every Junque Sale and contributed to every Bake sale held at the Ye Olde Courthouse. We are so thankful that she shared her many talents and friendship with us. She is missed as a volunteer and friend. Her legacy will continue for many years through the Arenac County Historical Society and the Ye Olde Courthouse.

Brenda Matt, Committee Chair 989-233-1428
Phyllis Klender, Financial Chair 810-938-6991

BOBBI DZURICKY

We lost another volunteer with the passing of Roberta "Bobbi" Dzuricky, on October 4. Bobbi joined us a few years ago when she moved to this area and was a very talented "Greens Maker" and "Omer Baker." We enjoyed Bobbi's talents and friendship. We extended our sympathy to her family.

UPDATES AND MAINTENANCE TO THE YE OLDE COURTHOUSE

We hired The IXL Company LLC to "soft clean" our wood siding, Trex deck and wood decking. They did an amazing job and the Ye Olde Courthouse is white and clean again. (Almost looks like a new paint job) We also contracted with Clean View to have all of our windows washed, inside and out. They did a great job. We had a very large branch of one of our maples fall on US 23 that thankfully did not fall on anyone. We took a good look at our more than 125 year old maples and knew we had to do some more trimming. The dead limbs were removed and one tree completely removed. We knew the age of our trees from the old minutes of the Masons and a few years ago had young maples planned between the existing ones. They are doing very well and we plan to keep our old ones as long as possible.

RESEARCH CENTER

Our Research Center is open in Omer and ready to assist you with your genealogy search through Ancestry and our collections. Contact Brenda at 989--233-1428 or Phyllis at 810-938-6991 to make an appointment or for information. Phyllis has permission to research the Arenac County Independent newspapers that are now stored at the Ogemaw Herald offices in West Branch.

Hope to see you for our holiday events. Stop in and enjoy a cookie, hot chocolate, coffee and a visit with us.

The Ye Olde Courthouse Committee meets on the second Friday of the month at 9:30 a.m. All are welcome. For more information contact: Brenda Matt, 989-233-1428 or Phyllis Klender at 810-938-6991

CHRISTMAS GREENS

The annual Christmas Greens sale at Ye Olde Courthouse in Omer is December 12th and 13th from 9-4 each day. We will have many beautiful fresh green arrangements for you to purchase for gifts or for yourself.

We will be creating the arrangements on December 9th and 10th starting at 9 a.m. We will have all kinds of fresh greens and hundred of items to select for decorating each arrangement. We have a dedicated group of workers who help us each year and we WELCOME anyone who would like to come and help. It is a fun two days meeting new people and creating beautiful arrangements. We usually make over 100 small mug arrangements to take to the local nursing homes. Lunch and snacks are provided. If this sounds interesting to you just show up at the Ye Olde Courthouse in Omer anytime during those two days. Please call or text Phyllis Klender at 810-938-6991 if you have any questions.

Arenac Heritage Route Authority

Standish Historical Depot

We had a great summer at the Depot. We held nine concerts, our Vintage Car Show, our Farmer's Market was held every Friday afternoon and Depot Days was celebrated on October 4th and 5th. Thanks to our generous community our Silent Auction and deer blind donated by Vantage Plastics was a great success. Many thanks to all who donated to the Silent Auction, our bidders, everyone that purchased raffle tickets and our sponsors.

We are now full speed ahead for our Christmas events. Our lighting crew began hanging lights in the trees the first week of October. They have most of the trees done and are planning displays. It is so much easier to get the lights done while the weather is nice, and their fingers and hands are not freezing while they work. Watch for our new display that we are saving for a surprise. Look for the announcement on our Facebook page and an opportunity to name him. (clue) We'll be looking for volunteers to help with the Christmas displays. If you can spare an hour, a few hours or several hours let us know.

SANTA PARADE AND DEPOT LIGHTING

Our 6th annual Santa Parade and Depot Lighting will be held on Friday, November 28th. The parade steps off at 6:00 p.m. When Santa arrives at the Depot he will "flip the switch" and all the lights will come on. Refreshments will be provided inside the Depot where children can visit with Santa. All our guests can walk around outside and enjoy the beautiful lights and displays.

We invite businesses, civic groups, Girl Scouts, Boy Scouts, churches, school bands, leaders, and families in the community to participate. We are encouraging lighted entries such as classic cars, floats, costumed participants, tractors, 4 x 4's, school and athletic groups, musicians, choral groups, and others to enter the parade. We ask that there be no live Santas—the Fire Department will be traveling with the one and only! Forms are available at Standish City Hall and the Depot to register or call us at 989-718-3021.

Sponsor forms are also available for the Parade. We have several categories including Christmas Tree Sponsor and Lighted Arch Sponsor. Checks may be made payable to the Friends of the AHRA, dropped off at the Depot or mailed to AHRA, P.O. Box 456, Standish, MI, 48658. Hope to see you at this holiday event.

LAKE STATE SANTA TRAIN

The 2025 Lake State Santa Train will arrive on Saturday, December 6th at 9 a.m. and will depart for West Branch at 10 a.m. Santa and Mrs. Santa will be on the train along with several cartoon and storybook characters. These are great photo opportunities. Hot chocolate and cookies will be served to all our guests as Santa and Mrs. Santa visit with the children inside the Depot.

STANDISH DEPOT SIGN

We had a traveler stop at the Depot a few months ago and informed us of an original sign that hung on the west side of the Depot was on display at an antique store in Parma, Michigan. We called immediately and found that the sign was priced at \$ 1300.00. One of our sponsors mailed a check for \$ 100.00 for a down payment. One of our board members approached the DDA and they generously offered to pay the balance. Another member drove to Parma to pick it up. It is an original sign that reads: Standish (in the middle) Mackinaw 154 miles(on the north end) and Detroit 137 miles(on the south end.) We are thrilled to have this original sign. It is now hanging inside the Depot. We plan to have a duplicate made to hang on the exterior. Thank you, Standish Downtown Development Authority, we appreciate you.

ANNUAL GOURMET NUT SALE FUNDRAISER

We are conducting our annual nut sale fundraiser. These gourmet nuts are still \$ 25.00 per jar. There are no peanuts in this nut assortment. They make great Christmas and hostess gifts. Great for snacking and while watching games on TV! They are available at the Depot, Arenac County Courthouse, Independent Bank, Sunrise Family Credit Union, Owen Moore Agency, Standish City Hall, Veteran's Club and the Twining Market.

CARRIE STODOLAK

We lost a Depot supporter and volunteer in October of 2024 with the passing of Carrie Stodolak. Carrie and her family have been with the Depot since we began restoration efforts and fundraising. She was also an original member of the Sunrise Side Antique Tractor Club. We have placed a concrete John Deere Tractor and a plaque honoring Carrie between the concrete benches in our flower bed that remember her mother, Mina Stodolak and friend, Angeline Plenionzek. Carrie was always willing to give her time and talents to help at the Depot. She is remembered and missed.

Watch our digital sign, our website and Facebook for information on our events and happenings at the Depot. Volunteers are always welcome. Our number is 989-718-3021. The Depot Committee meets on the first Monday of the month at 7:00 p.m. at the Standish Historical Depot.

Brenda Matt. Depot Coordinator

Arenac County Historical Society Balance Sheet As of September 30, 2025	
	Sep 30, 25
ASSETS	
Current Assets	
Checking/Savings	
Certificate of Deposit	
CD #1 (2/28/26)	27,787.06
CD #2 (2/24/26)	11,803.37
CD #3 (2/19/26)	70,000.00
Total Certificate of Deposit	109,590.43
Courthouse Checking	9,271.63
General Checking Account	14,190.54
Petty cash	200.00
Total Checking/Savings	133,252.60
Total Current Assets	133,252.60
Other Assets	
BACF Endowment Fund	
Courthouse Agency Fund	18,750.00
Courthouse Agency Revenue	9,931.09
Courthouse Agency Spendable	-116.00
Total BACF Endowment Fund	28,565.09
Total Other Assets	28,565.09
TOTAL ASSETS	161,817.69
LIABILITIES & EQUITY	
Equity	
Courthouse Fund	
BACF CH Fund Gain/Loss	8,585.90
Courthouse Fund - Other	127,137.88
Total Courthouse Fund	135,723.78
General Fund	26,093.91
Total Equity	161,817.69
TOTAL LIABILITIES & EQUITY	161,817.69

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:

\$4.00 for book #11

\$5.00 for book #4, #8, #10, #16-20, #25,
#27, #30, #36, #40

\$6.00 for book #7, #12, #13, #33, #38

\$7.00 for book #31, #32

\$3.50 for all other items

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

Nov 21 & 22, 9am to 4pm: Christmas Junque Sale; in Omer at Ye Olde Courthouse/Masonic Hall

Nov 28, 6pm: Santa Parade & Depot Lighting; in Standish at the Standish Historical Depot

Dec 6, 9am: Lake State Santa Train; in Standish at the Standish Historical Depot

Dec 12 & 13, 9am to 4pm: Christmas Greens & Holiday Bake Sale; in Omer 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)~

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

~The Depot Committee meets on the 1st Monday of each month, at 7pm – at the Depot in Standish.~