

Thumb Octagon Barn News



Home of the Thumb Agricultural Museum

The Friends of the Thumb Octagon Barn are area volunteers committed to the restoration and preservation of the barn complex for the community.

WINTER 2012

Annual Meeting, Banquet & Benefit Auction

Lila Arroyo, Chairperson

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Web Site
www.thumboctagonbarn.org

Our Annual Meeting is **Saturday, April 14, 2012 at the V.F.W. Hall in Cass City beginning at 5 p.m.** This facility works out perfectly for our needs to comfortably seat 150 people while still providing ample space for our Auction items both silent and traditional and of course our buffet table. Lila is hoping that we receive reservations for the greatest number of participants ever for our Annual Meeting.

The evening will begin with a Social Hour at 5:00 p.m. and Dinner will be served at **5:45 p.m.** prepared by **McDonald's Food & Family Center of Bad Axe.** Following dinner there will be a SHORT business meeting, including the election of officers, a look back at our accomplishments in 2011 and our plans for 2012. Also, several Friends will be recognized for their contribution to our organization over the years including identifying the **2012 Barn Friend of the Year.**

After the formal meeting the fun will begin with our Benefit Auction featuring **Dave & Marty Osentoski of Osentoski Realty Co. & Auctioneering** who will once again be donating their time and yes talent. They work very hard to make the evening successful and bring in as much as possible from our Benefit Auction. We ask that items for our auction be brought **the evening of the Event** and that you consider selecting one or two very special items. Auction items can be new or used in saleable condition and can include antiques, humorous mystery boxes, tool items, baked goods, crafts and items for everyday use. Lila is quite excited because she will have some 1908-1914 Post Cards that will be auctioned during the Live Auction. Also, folks can bring some treasures to be included in the silent auction that will be going on all evening.



Dave Osentoski is pictured at last year's Annual Meeting & Auction encouraging a bidder, using his right hand, to keep going and bid higher. Marty and Dave really work at getting as much a possible bid for each item to benefit the Thumb Octagon Barn Agricultural Museum.

We have included a **reservation form** with this newsletter and we hope that you will consider joining the Friends for our Annual Meeting. Because we need an accurate count for the caterers, the deadline for reservations is **April 4th, 2012.** If you have any questions or could volunteer to help Lila the day of the Event, please call her at **989-872-2658** or her cell phone at **989-912-0405.** Once again, Lila would like to see guests wear their Octagon Barn logo clothing. What's that, you don't have anything with our Logo, well you can call **Joan Koch, our Souvenir Chairperson, at 989-665-0081** and she'll be able to accommodate your needs.

One of the items put up for auction will be a special wall hanging that **Shelley Corsini, Bad Axe** created to honor **Ruby** the potbellied pig born during our 2002 FFD. Since Ruby has died, Shelley wanted to donate this wall hanging in hopes



that it would generate needed funds for our restoration efforts. The wall hanging is on Octagon Barn siding and Shelley used the age-old technique of Australian Locker Hooking and wool from her sheep.

Grounds

Louis Wehrman, Chairman

In preparation for the beginning of our yearly Events, the buildings and grounds need to be spruced up so that we will be ready for School Tours, May 9th through May 11th. Therefore **Saturday, May 5, 2012, 9:00 a.m.** has been designated as our Clean-up Day. Even if the weather is not perfect we will have enough inside tasks to complete that we will be kept busy. As always, the more volunteers that show up the quicker that we will get the job done.

Louie said that if you can bring rakes, cleaning supplies, especially window cleaner, it would be most helpful. So, mark your calendar for **Saturday, May 5th,** bring your equipment and help get the site ready to be opened to the public. Also, Louie would like to remind volunteers that are able to stay on into the afternoon to bring their lunch.

Letter From the President

FRIENDS of the THUMB
OCTAGON BARN

Rose M. Putnam



Dear Friends,

2012 is well underway. It's amazing how time goes by so quickly. We've been in the process of "Saving the Thumb Octagon Barn" and preserving its rural heritage since January of 1994. Wow - eighteen years! Over the years I've met a lot of people at the barn and have made many friends.

I would like to share a story about others making friends at the barn. (*Do you know someone who's moved from a small town where they knew everyone and were comfortable with their friends and neighbors? Then a new job came along for dad and everyone was moving. There is so much to do like packing and getting the new house ready. Then there's the fear of going to school that first day when you don't know a single soul.*)

I heard that a new family had just moved to the area (they hadn't even unpacked all their boxes yet). They had young kids that were the perfect age to participate in the "Teamwork and Timbers" project at the barn. I gave the dad a call and he said the project sounded great and to call his wife as she was better at handling the details. The mom and kids came and had a great time, even though the oldest daughter thought she might be too "old". The following week on the first day of school, the oldest son and daughter came rushing home to tell mom all about their day. Top of the list were the friendly faces they met on the school bus. Two boys from the neighborhood were part of the team they had met at the Octagon Barn. They were readily accepted both on the bus and at school because their two new friends made them feel welcome. These kids have remained friends since.

The mom recently told me how lucky she is to be part of a community where people still say "hello" when they see a friendly face and it all started at the barn. I certainly share her sentiments.

Your friend and president,

Rose

Sixth Annual Barnyard Sale & Swap Meet

Lila Arroyo, Chairperson

The 6th Annual Barnyard Sale & Swap Meet will be held during the Memorial Day Weekend beginning on Thursday, May 24th, Friday, May 25th and Saturday May 26th from 9:00 a.m. until 5:00 p.m. at the Thumb Octagon Barn Agricultural Museum.



The arena of the Barn is all set up ready for customers to shop at our sale. The tables were packed and it was fun to see how shoppers could find several things that they liked and felt they needed.

Visitors will be able to purchase collectible farm items, period household items, vintage farm machinery and implements, assorted items at the Barns garage sale, Octagon Barn souvenirs and swap meet stuff. Also we will have Vendors who have already been signing up to reserve spaces during our Sale. All spaces are \$20.00 for all three days and can be arranged for by calling Louie & Linda Wehrman at 989-693-6743.

Lila has arranged to have food available for sale during the three days in the Munro Building. There will be coffee and doughnuts available each day starting at 8 a.m. Then from 11 a.m. until 3:00 p.m. lunch will be available and will include soup, sloppy joes, hot dogs, French fries, nachos and cheese, etc.

Lila has a couple of requests. Please think of the Barnyard Sale as you do your

spring cleaning and then donate those no longer needed items to the Barn. If you know of someone who is having an Estate or Moving Sale and has items left over after the Sale, offer to make arrangements for them to be taken off their hands and then added to our Sale. It takes many volunteers to take care of everything during the three-day Barnyard Sale and even before. We need volunteers to help set up, price sale items and serve as cashiers. We also need folks to help out in the Munro Building preparing food, taking orders and serving the food. If you can help out with our Sale in the Barn or with food in the Munro Building, please contact Lila at 989-872-2658 or 989-912-0405.

School Tours 2012

Diane Rapson Gabil, Chairperson

School Tours 2012 are scheduled for Wednesday, May 9th & Thursday, May 10th and Friday, May 11th 2012 during the school day by appointment only. We ask for a donation of \$2.00 for each person attending School Tours. This is an exceptional, educational experience for students from Pre-K through 8th grade. Those interested in bringing a group of students to School Tours or for more information contact Diane at 989-892-3105 or drapsongabil@chartermi.net

School Tours will be highlighting our Themes for the year, The One Room Country School and Michigan Potatoes. Visitors will be able to visit our One-Room Country School and plans are to have

students participate in potato planting using old-fashioned potato planters and of course their hands.

School Tours works because of the many Volunteers and Diane thanks all those that have given of their time year after year. However, we can always use more volunteers to help out during the three days and also during Clean up Day on May 5th. Contact Diane using the above information if you would like to join us.

School Tours 2012 committee meetings are scheduled at Rawson Memorial Library, Cass City, at 12:30 - 2:30 on the following Wednesdays, March 7th, April 4th and May 2nd. All are welcome.

Fall Family Days 2012

Bob Hirn & Martin Kubacki, Co-chairmen

Another year is flying by and here we are already planning for the 17th Annual Fall Family Days Event. As always it will be the **weekend after Labor Day, September 8th & 9th**. This year's Themes are **Michigan Potatoes** and the **Country School**. A lot of ideas have already come in about the Potato Theme including harvesting with old equipment and even cooking potatoes with old recipes. The Country School Theme will highlight our One Room Country School and our new Country School Museum building that will be open for the first time this late summer.

Our 2011 Fall Family Days was a huge success and we are looking forward to another successful year. The income from this Event plays a big part in reaching the goals we have for the Thumb Octagon Barn Agricultural Museum and Village. We are always looking for volunteers to help pull off this weekend. If you are interested in getting involved please give us a call. We had just under 400 volunteers last year. People say that sounds like a lot and yes we are very

fortunate to have all those folks, but with all the demonstrations we do as well as being responsible for all the food on the grounds, parking, collecting money, etc., the more help the better. Call **Bob Hirn at 989-872-3761 or Martin Kubacki at 989-658-8450 to volunteer or with questions.**

Throughout the years, our FFD Sponsors have been essential in providing the needed funds to put on the Event should we have inclement weather. As FFD has grown so have our expenses. It seems early but because we need this information by May 1st for our advertising, we are including a **Fall Family Days Sponsor Form** with this newsletter. If you have been a sponsor in the past we would appreciate your continued support and of course we always welcome new businesses and individuals to become Sponsors for 2012.

Our kick off meeting for our 17th Annual Fall Family Days is set for Tuesday, March 27th at 7:00 p.m. at the Gagetown Village Hall.



One of our Themes for this year's FFD is **Michigan Potatoes**. Potatoes play a very big part in our food preparation for FFD. Thanks to **Hampton Potato Growers**, Essexville, for donating 2400 pounds of potatoes. We use these to prepare potatoes for the Fish Fry, Farmer's Breakfast and French Fries to go with the Chicken Strips. Pictured are potatoes that have been prepared by the volunteers for scalloped potatoes to be served at the Fish Fry. Not only will we be using potatoes but we'll be demonstrating potato planters and harvesting tools during our 17th Annual Fall Family Days.

2012 Tour Guides Needed

David Jaroch, Chairman

Looking ahead to the touring season, we are asking for members to volunteer as tour guides on Sundays. It would be wonderful if you could volunteer for one Sunday in June, July and August to be at the Barn to meet visitors and share the story of the Barn.

The Friends will provide training and have printed materials to assist with the narrative to be shared. Also, our book "The History of the Mud Lake Estate" is very informative. Your help is needed to continue to **pursue our goal to introduce the past to the present.**

We are also looking for folks who have RV's and might be able to bring their unit to the Barn and stay for a week or month and serve as hosts while on the site. If you would like more information, please call **David Jaroch at 765-409-5891 or 989-658-2133.**

ATTENTION!!

For Fall Family Days in September of the past two years, elementary students from the Caro and Cass City Area have presented two thirty minute **Patriotic Programs** in the One Room Country School at the Thumb Octagon Barn. These have been very well received, packing the Schoolhouse at all four performances. This coming September we would like to include students from other areas of the Thumb. If you have or know of any school, church or home school groups that would be interested in participating please contact **Katie Jackson** for more information. Call Katie at **989-872-3109** or e-mail jackson@speednetllc.com.



The second Theme for FFD is the **One Room Country School & Museum**. Old and young love to visit the Schoolhouse and sit in the old fashioned desks complete with inkwells. Pictured are some students in 2008, from Port Hope, who came to spend a day learning as youngsters did years ago.

Boys Day Out

The Boys, Co-Chairmen

This winter has been different, weatherwise, and we have actually gotten some outside work done. We moved an 18' x 30' timber framed building on site last November to use for our Cider Mill. The **Beecher Family**, from north of Caro, donated the building and being a timber framed building makes it fit in well with our era. We have replaced the roof and have begun residing the building. Once the weather warms up we will put in the concrete floor and then start to install the old cider press that was donated by **Jim Hunter and Roy Reinke from Port Hope**.

This last month we have been inside getting some work done in the Grain Elevator, the new School Museum Building, the Sawmill and the north loft of the Barn. We moved a **Horse Treadmill**, donated to us many years ago by **Randy Filkins** of Back Woods Properties in Sand Point, MI, off site to a shop where we are completely restoring it. All

the iron parts are very rusty and the wood has to be replaced.

Almost every Monday **Lila Arroyo** shows up with homemade soup during lunchtime. The Boys really appreciate this and it warms them up for the afternoon tasks that lie ahead.

On Boys Day Out in 2011 we had as many as 31 different folks show up over the course of the year. We had 5 volunteers who logged over 300 hours, 4 had over 200 hours, another 4 logged 100 hours, 6 had over 50 hours and 12 had under 50 hours for Boys Day Out Work time. This gave us a total of 4,065 volunteer time on work projects last year to continue the development of the Thumb Octagon Barn Agricultural Museum and Village. That is remarkable and the main reason that we are able to continue to improve the site while keeping the costs down. If it wasn't for the fun and fellowship it would be work.



Pictured is the 18' x 30' timber framed building on a flatbed truck being carefully positioned for placement on pre-set posts by **Louie Wehrman**. It was fascinating to watch this process and especially the way the Boys worked together to make this move happen. This building will be used for our Cider Mill in our Village and is placed between the Grain Elevator and the Blacksmith Shop.

The Blacksmith Shop

Lew Martin, Chairman

Lew Martin is asking for your help in getting the Blacksmith Shop equipped and ready for visitors during our Events. He is looking for a **leg vise** or post vise that someone might be willing to donate to our Shop. Also, Lew is asking folks to look for **lengths of steel** from one foot and longer that again they might be willing to donate that can be used for demonstrations. Lew is planning on crafting a fencing unit that will provide separation from the viewing area and the forge for the protection and safety of our visitors. This fencing unit will also serve as a visual teaching tool as each post will have an example of the various shapes and designs that a blacksmith can create. If you can help Lew get the Blacksmith Shop equipped and ready for demonstration and have something to donate or have a question, please give **Lew a call at 810-672-9913**.



The Boys Day Out Crew are pictured on the new bridge connecting the south mow to the north mow at the east section of the Barn. Wait until you see it, you'd think that it had always been there. Pictured are The Boys that were working on this particular Monday and are from the left, **David Jaroch**, Ubly, **Louis Wehrman**, Reese, **Jack Hill**, Marlette, **Wayne Lenton**, Ubly, **Howard Gehrls**, Reese, **Lee Sowden**, Owendale, **Dave Klama**, Ruth, **Ron Hoffman**, Bad Axe, **Richard Stacer**, Ubly, **Ron Coltson**, Marlette and **Bob Hirn**, Cass City.



Standing on the new bridge is Richard Stacer who spearheaded the construction of the bridge and the railing across and around the mow.

Summer Host Couples/Caretakers

Dave Jaroch, Chairman

Our host couples/caretakers are a very important to the Friends and our events throughout the summer months. The program began in 1999 when we realized that as we were growing rapidly there were a number of concerns that needed to be addressed. One of these needs was to have representatives on site to greet visitors, share some of the history of the site and conduct tours of the various buildings. Also, their presence would provide some security for our treasures that we have worked so hard to restore.

This is not an easy job and we are very grateful to those who agree to come with their RV unit to spend at least a month or two at the Thumb Octagon Barn Agricultural Museum. If you or someone you could recommend would be interested in helping us out with this issue, we would love to hear from you. Contact **Dave Jaroch at 765-409-5891 or 989-658-2133.**

We thank our 2011 host couple. Photos of those great folks and some of their thoughts about their experience during their stay are on this page.



Arnie & Reita Maxfield, Dade City, FL were recognized at last years Annual Meeting for their dedication to our project for the past ten years. They usually arrive in April and stay until October. They are indeed family and we so appreciate their willingness to help us throughout the summer months. Arnie cuts lots of grass and Reita loves the flowers and they team up to provide visitors with information and a tour. Reita said, "Enjoyed doing everything but we can understand the need for change. We are proud of what we did and think that we did a good job. We enjoyed everything, especially meeting people."



Rob & Margie Hendershot, Livingston, TX spent two month long visits to the Barn this past summer and we appreciate them helping us out when we had some cancellations.



Leon & Lillian Farmer, Runaway Bay, TX said, "Of the three times we have been at the Site we think that the six weeks we spent this past summer were the best yet. It has really been fun to develop friendships and see them grow with each trip to Michigan. The fun, jokes, laughing and fellowship makes everything worthwhile. The caretaker program is one that should be nurtured and protected. With just a little bit of effort it could be something that couples would line up to be a part of."



Jerry & Barbara Weber, Winter Park, FL have had several stays through the years with us and said, "It is a great experience and wonderful to meet people especially when you meet someone who had lived in the house in the past. We especially enjoyed visiting with the **Temrowski family** who owned the Barn site in the 1940's. Also, we've been paired up with couples during our stay at the Octagon Barn who have become life-long friends and we've even traveled with several of them."



Calvin & Lavern Ward, Bay City, TX were at the site in September during FFD and Calvin enjoyed talking with the many visitors and sharing some of the history and special features of the Barn.



Duane & Gail Osbourn, New Baltimore, MI said, "We have been coming for three years and always enjoyed the visit. It is a very nice operation with very nice people. We hope it will continue. We will not be able to make it back this year due to health issues. We'll try to come up for a visit because we enjoy the people so much."

MEMBERSHIP

Newsletters that have a membership form with **RENEWAL** written in **RED** are either past due or will be due before our next newsletter. If **FINAL NOTICE** is stamped on the form this means that this will be your **LAST REMINDER** to renew your membership before being **removed** from our mailing list. The levels of membership are: **Associate Membership** - \$5.00 and brings you our quarterly newsletter. **General Membership** - \$10.00 for an individual and \$15.00 for a family, which along with receipt of the newsletter gives you the right and opportunity to hold office. A membership form can be obtained from our website at thumboctagonbarn.org. Also, when you receive notice that your membership needs to be renewed, please feel free to renew for more than one year and know that our records will reflect your wishes. It is important that you indicate how the money included is to be distributed and the total matches the amount of your check.

Important notice – If you have a new address or a seasonal change of address, it is important that you let us know, as bulk mail is NOT forwarded.

Site Committee

Dennis Anderson, Chairman

Landscape Policy

Jim and Cora Purdy maintained an attractive yard with landscaping that was befitting the splendor of their home and unique Octagon Barn. Cora had beautiful flower beds and planted **VanHoutte Spirea** and other varieties of shrubbery in the yard. In 1924, Jim hired a man to plant a flower bed in the front yard of the house in the shape of the Masonic Emblem, a square and compass. Cora also had a large vegetable garden.

A small orchard was planted to provide fruit harvested each fall. Typical of the day, black walnut trees were planted that provided shade in the hot summers and then the walnuts were gathered in the fall. Jim and Cora planted a variety of trees in their yard, some to honor family members at special occasions.

Besides growing their own fruits and vegetables and picking berries around Mud Lake, the Purdy's enjoyed the aesthetic appeal of their garden and surrounding landscape. The yard and plants were well maintained and always neat in appearance. When the Spirea was in bloom, folks from town and the surrounding area would visit the Purdy Farm to enjoy the splendor and have a visit with the Purdys.

It is important that we maintain the landscape legacy at the Octagon Barn. First, imagine if you would, the site without the present landscape. If there were no trees, no flowers, no shrubs, no orchard and no lawn, it would not look complete. It would look cold and not inviting to our visitors. One soon can visualize the importance of maintaining an attractive landscape at the Octagon Barn.

It is difficult to determine everything they did at the Barn. We do have some evidence that Jim and Cora had a design plan in mind as they developed their property over the years. It is fitting that we have a game plan as well as an articulated policy that will encourage volunteers interested in the landscape to continue to keep this legacy alive.

Our volunteers are the lifeblood at the Octagon Barn and it is true in the landscape area as well. To assist volunteers interested in providing lawn care service, planting flowers, trees and shrubs and doing seasonal maintenance, the Board has developed a landscape policy. The policy is an attempt to bring all the volunteers together, pulling in one direction. We have excellent volunteers who care about the landscape and work hard to maintain an attractive site. Our goal is to have a landscape that will add to the atmosphere and beauty of the Octagon Barn.



The Mud Lake estate is pictured above without the present landscape. It looks cold and not inviting.



Pictured is the Mud Lake Estate as it appeared in the 1930's. James & Cora Purdy moved to the site on May 19, 1922 and resided there until 1942. When they moved in there were just the buildings and driveways. Through the years they created the landscape that we still enjoy today.

Community Outreach

In October, the **International Maple Syrup Association** had their three-day conference in Frankenmuth. Each year they meet in a different location and this was Michigan's turn. There were twelve States and four Canadian Provinces represented by the 350 maple syrup producers in attendance. One of the days was set aside for folks to tour places of interest in the surrounding area. **Mark Battel and Richard Enos**, local maple syrup producers, made arrangements for a group to tour the Thumb Octagon Barn Agricultural Museum as one of the locations in the Thumb. The visitors found the site very interesting and were sorry that they didn't have more time to take in everything that we have available.



The International Maple Syrup Producers are seated in the arena of the Barn looking up as the special features of the Barn are being pointed out.

Teas at the Purdy Home

Judy Wallace, Chairperson

Judy has arranged for four Teas to be held in Cora Purdy's beautiful home during the summer months. Three of the Teas are on **Saturdays at 12:30 p.m.** The fourth Tea is on Wednesday, but that Tea is already sold out. The cost for the Teas is **\$15.00 per person.** It should be noted that these Teas

would better be identified as Tea & Luncheon. For information about the Teas contact **Judy Wallace at 989-872-2766** or go to our website at www.thumboctagonbarn.org.

The schedule, hostess and theme for each of our 2012 Teas at the Purdy Home are listed in the box below this article.



Marilyn Phillips, Gagetown, was helping prepare and serve during Judy Wallace's Tea & Luncheon last year. The main course was served in vintage banana split dishes with summer squash substituted for the bananas and the scoops were potato salad, chicken salad and a cauliflower, peanut and cranberry combination topped off with a tomato in place of a cherry. As the dishes were all lined up, Marilyn took this picture which is very appetizing.

- *****
- ☞ **June 16th Quilters Tea & Luncheon** hosted by the **Backstreet Quilt Shop**, Elkton
For reservations contact **Barbie at 989-375-4620 or cell 989-375-2483**
 - ☞ **July 18th Tea & Luncheon** Hostess **Judy Wallace**. This Tea is **Sold Out**.
 - ☞ **July 21st Tea & Luncheon**, Hostess **Judy Wallace**. Theme - **Aprons of the Past**
For reservations contact **Judy at 989-872-2766**
 - ☞ **August 18th Tea & Luncheon**, Hostess **Marilyn Phillips**. Theme - **School Days**
For reservations contact **Marilyn at 989-665-0210 & cell 989-977-0025**.
- *****

The Purdy Home

Marilyn Phillips, Chairperson

The beautifully restored Purdy home is a favorite of many who visit the site. The committee welcomes the opportunity to share this 1920's Arts & Crafts style 15 room home with visitors, young and old, during our Events. They find the Teas especially rewarding as we can showcase the elegance and charm of Cora's Home while guests enjoy a delicious Luncheon. Most would not believe the condition that the house was in when we first began our restoration efforts in 1994. The transformation is amazing.

The house committee has been concerned about the severe dampness in the basement so committee member, **Dale Churchill** has been getting bids and suggestions as to how to solve this problem. The goal is to eliminate the source of the moisture in this full basement so that this area can be used to provide much needed additional, usable space for displays and storage.

- Newsletter**
- Database and labels.....David Eichler
 - Editing.....Bob Hirn
 - Design Layout.....Lois Moslander
 - Newsletter Coordinator.....Margaret Sergeant

MUSEUM DONATIONS

Gerald Auten, Museum Records

The following donations have been made to our Agricultural Museum since our last newsletter.

- Arnold & Keith Schuman, Bad Axe, MI donated many tools and machinery items including a bean picker, hay carrier and track, an auger type hand brace, lock type channel pliers, adjustable wood handle wrench, buggie wrench, Ford inscription wrench, 2 tine hay fork, pull type milk can sleigh and barn sliding door rollers and track.
- Johnnie M. & Louise B. Leathers, Centerville, TN donated 7 kerosene lanterns including four Dietz brand, two Paull's brand and one tall red globe lantern.
- Jeff Montei, Caro, MI donated a 4' x 6' chalkboard.
- Duaine & Marilyn Phillips, Gagetown, MI donated many items for the Purdy Home including a R. R. employee log book, an Oldie 10 cent receipt book, ladies civil war era chemise, bed coverlet, a table clock and a variety of doilies.
- Ralph & Millie Hecht, Reese, MI donated a cart bag for the grain elevator.
- Tim Howell, Fairgrove, MI donated a motorized rotary corn cleaning screen for the grain elevator.
- Lloyd Rayner, Fairgrove, MI donated a Chattam Hill grain cleaner and a Keystone horse drawn potato planter.
- Alan Smith, Vassar, MI donated four 30' sections of aluminum irrigation pipe.
- Jim Chinoski, Ubyly, MI donated a reel type gas lawn mower, a miter box and a Ford three point bucket.
- Orvil Beecher, Caro, MI donated an 18' x 30' timber framed building that was moved to the site to become the future Cider Mill.
- Bud & Mary Inbody, Snover, MI donated a Civil War mourning dress, bonnet, cape and two purses.

When donating items for our museum, please be sure to fill out a Museum Donation form so that we will have it in our records and can acknowledge your gift in our newsletter.

**Friends of the
THUMB OCTAGON BARN
PO BOX 145
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989-665-0081

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We're on the Web!

<http://www.thumboctagonbarn.org>
Aaron Davis, Web Manager

FUTURE MEETINGS

General membership meetings are held at the Gagetown Village Hall on the 2nd Tuesday of each month at 7 p.m.

SPECIAL DONATIONS:

Following is a list of memorial donations, acknowledgements and items donated for use on the site.

National Assoc. of Counties, Rural Action Caucus donated following a tour of the site.
Donations in memory of Earl (Red) Keinath (Linda Wehrman's Father) were given by Terry & Sandra Keinath, Reese, MI, Lila Arroyo, Cass City, MI, The Keinath Family, Reese, MI, Byron Arnold, Unionville, MI, Ray & Carol Caverly, Gagetown, MI, Bob & Mary Ann Hirn, Cass City, MI, Bill Hollingsworth, Merrill, MI, Wayne & Karen Lenton, Ubly, MI and Margaret Sergeant, Gagetown, MI
Martin & Luci Kubacki, Ubly, MI donated in memory Doug Rice, Cathy Stacer's dad.
Willa J. Vargas, Bellevue, NE made a Christmas donation in memory of her brother-in-law, Frank J. Schwartz.
Dan Toner, Cass City, MI made a donation for the Country School Museum in memory of his wife, Ellen Faye Toner, a retired teacher.
Gleaner's Caro Arbor #106 made a donation for FFD at the Gold Sponsorship Level.
Robert Darmofal of Toledo, OH donated in memory of his brother Leo who was a cousin/nephew of the Pisarek Family.
A donation in honor of Pat Hester, Cass City, MI was given by her son and daughter in-law, Brad & Beth Kitchin of Mesa, AZ.
Donations in memory of Aeran Hirn, Anchorage, Alaska (Bob & Mary Ann Hirn's sister in-law) were given by Arnold & Reita Maxfield, Dade City, FL and Margaret Sergeant, Gagetown, MI.
Gary & Deb Hansen, Saint Louis, MI donated in memory of Lawton Jurgess & Rose Smith

2012 Up Coming Events

April 14	Annual Meeting Dinner & Benefit Auction, 5 p.m., at the VFW Hall
May 5	Clean up Day at the Barn site
May 9, 10 & 11	School Tours 2012 by reservation only.
May 24, 25 & 26	6 th Annual Barnyard Sale & Swap Meet
June 16	Tea in the Purdy Home 12:30 by reservation only
July 15	Concert in the Barn - Lonesome Mountain Boys
July 18	Private Tea in the Purdy Home
July 21	Tea in the Purdy Home, 12:30 by reservation only
August 18	Tea in the Purdy Home, 12:30 by reservation only
September 7	Fish Dinner at 4 p.m. Munro Building
September 8 & 9	17 th Annual Fall Family Days

Additional information about all of these events and reservation deadlines can be found throughout the newsletter or can be obtained from our web site at www.thumboctagonbarn.org

Summer Concert at the Barn

David Jaroch, Chairman

They're coming back. The **Lonesome Mountain Boys** are returning to the Barn, by popular demand, for a Concert on **Sunday, July 15th, 2012 at 2:00 p.m.** The Boys will be playing two sets of traditional music with a little story telling interspersed throughout the concert. At intermission finger foods and cool drinks will be served. There will be a nominal donation suggested to cover expenses and raise funds for the Thumb Octagon Barn Agricultural Museum. So mark your calendars for Sunday, July 15th at the Octagon Barn. Also, put in a word for cooler weather than last year but still sunny and dry. If you would like to help with the Event or have questions, please call **Dave Jaroch at 989-658-2133 or 765-409-5891.**

BENEFACTORS: *The following have made a donation of \$10.00 or more since our last newsletter through February 14, 2012.*

Christine Anthony, Captured by Christine Photography, Cass City, MI
Thomas & Karla Bardwell, Caro, MI
Tom Barton, St. Clair Shores, MI
Laurence Beatenhead, Unionville, MI
Bernard & Patty Billingsley, Sanford, MI
Ray Christie, Freeland, MI
Jack & Marlene Crawford, Troy, MI
Dan & Jean Creyts, Charlotte, MI
Paul & Sandy Deo, Snover, MI

William & Ruth Dodge, Sebewaing, MI
Paul & Linda Elandt, Port Hope, MI
Paul & Phyllis Findlay, Caro, MI
Neal J. Hentschl, Harbor Beach, MI
Robert & Noretta Humpert, Fairgrove, MI
Fred & Kris Kalis, Bad Axe, MI
Elizabeth Knapton, Berkley, MI
Marvin & Liz Lambert, Kingston, MI
Charles Leik, Great Falls, VA
Gerald & Joyce Loeffler, Gagetown, MI

Donna Lowe, Bay City, MI
Lesley Markle, Mattawan, MI
Jason & Carol McCarty, Ubly, MI
James M. & Kathryn McKelvey, Lake Orion, MI
Ken & Theresa Micklash, Cass City, MI
Ken & Arlene Musser, Kawkawlin, MI
Arthur Nitz, Sebewaing, MI
Mike & Drucilla Pisarek, Cass City, MI
Judy Ann Rau, Reese, MI

Mary Ann Hobart Reidinger, Rochester, MI
Dick & Pam Roth, Caseville, MI
Saginaw Valley Air Museum, Inc.
Barbara Scharich, Burton, MI
Mark Schubel, Caro, MI
Robert & Mary Stavenhagen, Geneva, IL
Tom & Lila Thompson, Caro, MI
VIP Salon, Cass City, MI
Susan Walker, Caro, MI