

Thumb Octagon Barn News



Home of the Thumb Agricultural Museum

Our mission is to maintain a volunteer group of Friends of the Thumb Octagon Barn involved in the restoration and preservation of the Barn Complex as an educational tool preserving our rural and agricultural history for the benefit of our visitors.

Fall 2016

Fall Family Days 2016

A letter from **Martin Kubacki**, chairman Fall Family Days

Executive Committee

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Rose Putnam

1st Vice President
Martin Kubacki

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Gerald Auten

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Joan Koch

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Ardis Monroe

Purdy Home Chairman
Marilyn Phillips

Museum Committee
Connie Osentoski

Grounds Chairman
Louis Wehrman

Special Projects
Richard Stacer

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Web Site
www.thumboctagonbarn.org

Gratifying, very gratifying, was the outcome of Fall Family Days 2016. Considering the weather on Saturday, we were very fortunate the Event came off as well as it did. The second half of the weekend, Sunday was a beautiful day with a record crowd. Despite the weather and lower attendance this year once all the bills are paid we anticipate net earnings of around \$78,000.00 that is close to last year.

The Theme, Our Wonderful World of Water, turned out to be quite an attraction. There were a number of water related displays including **Franzel Well Drilling** with a rig from the 1920's showing how wells were drilled. It was a crowd pleaser.

The Volunteer base continues to amaze me. We again had close to 400 volunteers working in some capacity throughout the weekend. Four hundred volunteers seem like a lot, but because we handle almost all aspects of the Event, it takes a lot of people to pull it off. I want to thank all those who gave of their time, their financial backing and their leadership to make Fall Family Days happen.

Fall Family Days 2017 is promising to be another farm related theme. **"Grain Elevators"**.



FFD Chairman, **Martin Kubacki**, conducted Opening Ceremonies each day that featured the presentation of the colors by the **Tuscola County Civil Air Patrol Cadets** and the singing of our National Anthem. Once again the Mother & Daughter team **Cynthia & Tina Beauvais** from Akron impressed the audience with their beautiful a capella rendition of our Anthem.

We will feature the grain elevator we have on site that has received a big addition just completed this year. We hope to get all the local grain elevator companies involved. This will provide a lot of history and information to share with our visitors. We hope to see you and your friends next year. Fall Family Days 2017 will be held on September 9 & 10.

Thank you, Have a good, safe winter.

Yours truly,
Martin Kubacki
Chairman, Fall Family Days



A very special presentation was made in honor of the late **Bob Hirn** who was one of the founders of FFD & Chairman of the Event for 20 years. **Martin Kubacki** FF Days Chairman & President, **Rose Putnam** in their comments thanked Bob for all of his years of dedicated service to the Thumb Agricultural Museum. A plaque with the Octagon Barn and a picture of Bob in his John Deere green is in one corner and a **special tribute written by Jill Ogryski**, Martin's daughter, is in the other corner. The tribute reads as follows: "In memory of a man with his vision, hands and hammer restored a piece of history that spans across generations. The restoration of the Thumb Octagon Barn was Bob's dream and now it will forever be his legacy." The plaque is on display at the entrance to the Octagon Barn that Bob so dearly loved.

Additional FFD articles and pictures can be found on pages 4 & 5.

Letter From the President **FRIENDS of the THUMB OCTAGON BARN**

Rose M. Putnam,
Dear Friends,



This is the time of the year to celebrate our successes and look toward many more exciting opportunities in the coming year. You may be tired of me saying this, but I wish to "Thank You" for all that you do. Everyone working together makes this all happen.

We had a wonderful Fall Family Days even though we had a little rain. However, that did not stop our visitors from coming and staying. When the wind picked up on Saturday, it became quite interesting watching tents rise and then a few fall. But all was well at the end. There were so many precious moments watching the young children experience something for the first time. The picking of the potatoes was a big hit again. The demonstrations offered by Frank Franzel and his crew were most interesting and had people clustered to hear and see it all. The schoolhouse program children from Cass City performed an impromptu dance just outside the Munro Building. A young lad's curiosity about the sawmill was infectious. There was joy on the faces of young and older as they rode the horse drawn wagon ride. Everywhere I looked the visitors were having fun. There are more interesting stories in the newsletter.

As many of you know, we have started replacing the windows in the Barn and will replace the roof next year. This will be a huge project for us and with the funds raised over a period of several years we are able to completely fund the project. So thank you for all of your financial support.

Next year's theme "Grain Elevators" will be quite exciting. If you haven't seen the demonstrations in the elevator, you will be able to do so during our open house weekend on July 29th and 30th. Look for more details at a later date.

On behalf of the members of the Executive Committee, I would like to wish you and your family a very Happy New Year.

Your Friend and President,
Rose M. Putnam

Site Committee

Dennis Anderson, Chairman

Thanks to **Gail Osbourn**, one of our Host Couples and Tour Guides, we enjoyed a variety of flowers and plants this season. Gail has taken a special interest in making the site look attractive for our visitors all summer and especially this Fall.

When Gail is not giving a tour of the site, you will find her caring for the flowers and landscape plants that require much watering and weeding. We expanded the two flowerbeds by the Munro Building this year and they looked great. We received many comments on how good the grounds looked this year. Gail deserves all the credit for a job well done and indeed she has a green thumb. She is especially good at keeping geraniums in full bloom all season and has a secret formula that really works.

We also are thankful to the **Big Acre Store in Caro** who donated eight potted geraniums and Sun patience to the Octagon Barn just prior to FFD. They helped us to add more color to the site. Dennis appreciates the interest that the folks at Big Acre have taken in the Octagon Barn. They always seem to be there at the right time and we thank them.

So now we settle in for Winter but plans are being made for the Spring when we start over for another successful year. Happy New Year.



Gail Osbourn is out and about putting the final touches on the flowers prior to Fall Family Days. She loads up the golf cart and goes from flowerbed to flowerbed making sure all is in order. She truly loves gardening and the results of her efforts are fantastic.



We know that Mr. Purdy had a hired man that stayed in the basement for periods of time. The bed that the hired man slept on has a frame and rope stretched from top to bottom to support the person sleeping on the bed. Marilyn put in new roping as the old cord had disintegrated. The bed was donated by **Ray Armstead** from his Museum in Cass City, MI.. Marilyn was also wondering if anyone knows anything about the pictures that are on the bed. One day they just appeared and Marilyn has no idea who and where they came from.

Purdy Home

Marilyn Phillips, Chairperson

Marilyn was pleased that for the first time during FFD the basement of the Purdy Home was going to be open to the public. Many items appropriate for the basement of a home have been gathered in the basement just waiting to be arranged so that we could safely allow visitors into that area. Visitors to FFD were delighted to be able to view, appropriate to the 1920's canning items, cleaning supplies, washing machines and other laundry equipment generally found in the basement of a home. Marilyn was delighted that there was a steady stream of visitors that came through the newly opened basement museum of the Purdy Home.

Souvenirs

Joan Koch, Chairperson

A big "Thank You" to all those who purchased souvenirs during FFD. Every time you wear a logo you are advertising who we are and you might even have to answer – where or what is that? Thank You! We still have a good selection for your holiday needs. We have T-shirts, hoodies, sweatshirts, polo shirts, denim shirts and zipper hooded sweatshirts. Just give Joan a call at 989-325-0041 and she would be glad to let you come to Gagetown and shop or she can shop for you and mail it to you for the cost of postage. We also have a good supply of stocking stuffers: slinkies, coloring books, frisbies, pencil sharpeners, tape measures, lanyards and many other items. Our special for the season will be the DVD for \$10.00 and the History Book for \$10.00 or the COMBO for \$15.00 with \$3.00 shipping charge.

Octagon Barn Cookbook

Two of our Host Couple Ladies are working to put together the Third Octagon Barn Cookbook. Do you have some favorite recipes that you would be willing to share with others? They would love to have you send as many recipes in all categories as you would like to. Send them to:

Mary Bell
5140 S. Baker Blvd.
Carthage, MO 64836

Tammi Hensley
P. O. Box 2037
Lehigh Acres, FL
33970-2037

Please note: We apologize for the misspelling of many names on Pages 4 & 5 of our Summer 2016 Newsletter. Everything was in order for the letter with all pages checked and rechecked. One final check when Spell Check was activated on those pages. The computer decided that it had a better way of spelling many names with the most noticeable Louie & Linda Wehrman. The Wehrmans became the Behrmans with just a click. I talked with most who had a new spelling of their names and folks were very understanding. Thank you and we learned from the experience

School Tours

Diane Rapson Gabil, Chairperson

School Tours 2017 will be held on Wednesday, May 10th, Thursday, May 11th & Friday, May 12th at the Thumb Agricultural Museum in Gagetown, MI by reservation only. There will be over twenty-five demonstration/presentation stations that teachers will be able to select based on student interests and suitability for their classroom. Tours begin at 8:30 a.m. with the last tour of the day scheduled starting at 1:00 p.m. We ask for a donation of \$2.00 from each student and chaperone. Most tours last for four and a half hours but shorter tours can be arranged based on the age and scheduling needs of the students.

Our 2017 School Tour Theme is **"From Farm to Table"** with special emphasis on the Grain Elevator. Students will learn the production of food for people and animals in the early 1900's, how it was attained, kept/processed for use and why the grain elevator was such an

important place. Students will have the opportunity to learn more about how the food they eat today gets from being grown on a farm, the preparation of that product to get it ready to eat or put in other foods we eat.

We are able to accommodate only 500 students each day so it is important that teachers register early to assure a place at the Thumb Agricultural Museum. We already have over five hundred students registered and spots fill up quickly. You can register by going to our website thumboctagonbarn.org or contact Diane Rapson Gabil at drapsongabil@chartermi.net.

TOYS WANTED - Mary Inbody & Bernadette Schwalm, Children's Activities are looking for old toys that could be used by the children during School Tours and FFD. They are looking for old metal tops, toy farm equipment, farm sets & dolls from the mid 1920-1950's that you would consider donating.



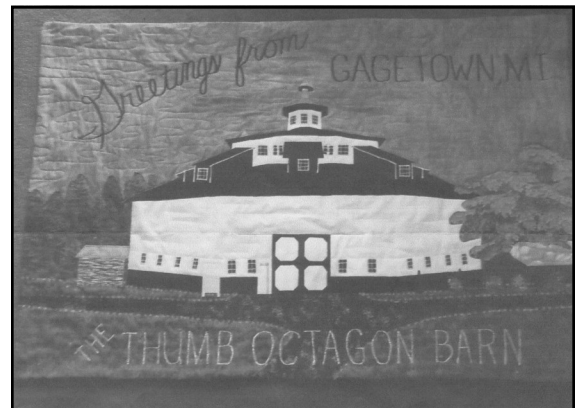
Our School Tours Theme for 2017 is **"From Farm to Table featuring the Grain Elevator"**. **Louis and Linda Wehrman** have done an excellent job of equipping the Elevator with demonstrations and appropriate displays. They talk with students about the different grains that are grown, stored and eventually into products that they can consume. Students will be able to see what the harvested grain looks like and what it becomes for our use.

More Quilt Blocks and a Post Card sized Quilt too!

Pam Stillwell-Binder who chairs The Thumb Quilt Trail notes that it has been a very exciting and busy year. Twenty-two new barn quilt blocks have been installed bringing the total to 65. The 22 were chosen from a request of 50 property owners anxious to have a quilt on their Barn. A group of Thumb Octagon Barn volunteers built the new blocks that are used to display the quilts all over the Tri-county area. Our Barn volunteers that worked with the quilt square workers are **Richard Stacer, Norm Parker, Terry Keinath and Wayne Dillon**.



Our quilt square on display at the Thumb Agricultural Museum was completed beautifully by **Paula Gardner** and **Ardis Monroe**. It's hard to believe that it is sooooo big. Those little people dwarfed by the size of the quilt block are Joan Koch and Rose Putnam. Our quilt block is shown waiting to be permanently installed in front of the Octagon Barn and visible from Richie Road.



Laurie Sytsma, White Cloud, MI made this quilted wall hanging in response to her Tall Pines Quilt Guild's President's challenge for a landmark quilt which would look like a postcard (landscape orientation) with "Greetings from" across the top. Laurie was very interested in the Thumb Octagon Barn when she first visited the Thumb Agricultural Museum in 2014 and thought that it would make a perfect, unusual landmark quilt. The finished quilt was displayed at the Quilter's Glory Quilt Show in Big Rapids, MI in June 2015. It was accepted along with seven other landmark quilts to be displayed at the American Quilter's Society (AQS) Quilt Show in Grand Rapids, MI in August of 2016 and at her Tall Pine Quilters guild show in Fremont, MI in September 2016. Congratulations, Laurie for an amazing job. Perfect! Dimensionally correct and so small.

In Their Own Words

Our mission is to maintain a volunteer group of Friends of the Thumb Octagon Barn involved in the restoration and preservation of the Barn Complex as an educational tool preserving our rural and agricultural heritage for the benefit of our visitors.

Following are the comments from a few of our visitors to FFD 2016 that indicate that we are indeed accomplishing our mission.



Carolyn Komperda, Fostoria, has been coming for three or four years. She comes with her husband, Daniel and they love everything and spend the whole day. Carolyn is about to attend the history talk in the Barn and is curious if the original owners had any children. She got the answer and found everything very interesting and educational. What she likes best of all is that it doesn't cost an "arm and a leg" to attend and enjoy.



Brittany (16) & Logan (14) Richmond, Pigeon, have been coming to the Octagon Barn for 14 years. Their Grandma, **Ivornia Schwartz** lives just around the corner from the Barn. She encouraged visits to the Barn and learning about the story that accompanies this special Barn. Brittany said, "I come for the historical factor. Love history in general and to see how different life is now. Like to see how history has shaped how we do things today." Logan likes the wide selection of antiques offered by the vendors and finds the Barn and residence interesting with all of the antique items that are displayed."



Sally Brauer, Troy & Mary Brauer, Clawson, granddaughters of George Munro, one of the brothers who built the Purdy Home and Octagon Barn, come every year. Often they meet **George Wilson**, Gagetown, grandson of the Purdy's and cousin **Jim Munro**, Gladwin and that is why they love coming. "Family, it's family. Love seeing it all and remembering."



Potatoes were back at Fall Family Days. **Walther Farms** were kind enough to plant and care for the potato field for demonstrations during FFD. **Rod Romain** planted the field of potatoes and came back during FFD with his Oliver Tractor and one row plow to dig potatoes the old-fashioned way. Visitors love this demonstration as they can go right into the field and pick fresh potatoes and take home a 10 pound bag for \$2.00. Two year old **Oden Brissette** and his Dad Canton from Pinnebog loved picking potatoes and didn't mind that it was a little wet in the field because of a recent rain.



The **Gonzales Family, Michaela, Mom Rachel, Isabella, Dad Michael & Christopher** from Mayville come every year to Family Days in the Fall. "Isabella & Dad came to School Tours and learned so much. Michaela loves the corn demonstration. Oldest daughter, Abigail (not pictured) loves the Schoolhouse. Christopher loves the Octagon Barn and Isabella loves the animals most. It's a great day of fun for family of any income level."



Larry Chambers, of Linwood, shown at left, has just received his raffle prize, a 40" Samsung Smart television.

Fall Family Days Raffle Prizes 2016

Sherry Kappen, Joan Koch & Rose Putnam, Raffle Chairmen

Our raffle was well received and following are the donated prizes and the lucky winners. We thank all who participated in our Annual Raffle.

Queen sized quilt donated by **Ruth Ann Brown & Thumb Thimble Quilt Guild** won by **Don Mosher**, Burton, MI

40" Samsung Smart TV donated by ***FOTOB** won by **Larry Chamber**, Linwood, MI
\$300.00 cash prize donated by ***FOTOB** won by **Joy Doss**, Chesterfield, MI

Case International Pedal Tractor donated by **Osentoski Farm Equipment**, Bad Axe won by **Ardis Monroe**, Gagetown.

Samsung Tablet donated by ***FOTOB** won by **Bonnie Zeidler**, Cass City, MI
John Deere Pedal Tractor donated by **Tri-County Equipment** won by **Carrie Miller**, Gagetown, MI

Craftsmen Tool Set donated by ***FOTOB** won by **Dave Campbell**, Caro, MI
Handmade Queen sized quilt donated by **Dorothy Bergsten** won by **Kevin Rice**, Filion, MI
\$100 Menard's Gift Card donated by **Green Acres Farm**, Akron won by **Gloria Orban**, Caro, MI.

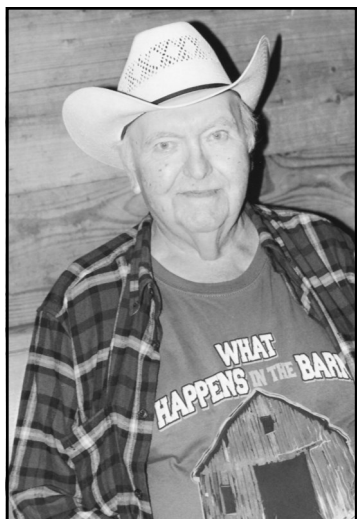
\$100 cash prize donated by ***FOTOB** won by **Ken Keener**, Jeddo, MI
Books & Bucks donated by **John & Carolyn Longmuir & *FOTOB** won by **Dennis Rievert**, Gagetown, MI

Handmade Afghan donated by **Toni Ventline** won by **William Webster**, Grosse Pointe Farms, MI

*FOTOB Friends of the Octagon Barn

Newsletter

Database and labels.....David Eichler
Editing.....Rose Putnam
Design Layout.....Lois Moslander
Newsletter Coordinator.....Margaret Sergeant



Ed Treso, Clio, wanted to talk about Bob Hirn who was a good friend. Ed said, "I'm sure everyone is missing him but I'm sure missing him a lot. I always thought he was a great man, a great person. He always took time to talk to me and I had a great time talking to him. Always had a minute or two to chat. I always donate to the Barn the profit from the first cutting of hay. I'm sure you folks will do something to remember and honor Bob."



Brother and sister came as a family to visit. **Michael R. Creer**, Saginaw has been coming for 4 years and this was the first time coming with his sister, **Cathy Wight**, Saginaw. Cathy came to listen & learn more about the history of the Barn. She also loves to participate in the craft workshops and have breakfast. Michael found the lady who talks about the Barn to be very informative and wanted her autograph for his collection. He collects autographs from famous people. He enjoyed breakfast.



Evan & Lena Beaudin & Reuben Kubacki of Cass City visited the Thumb Agricultural Museum for the first time. They found it to be inspirational and ten year old Evan talked about nothing else than the story of the Octagon Barn and how it was built. Lena worked in a wood shop for many years building trusses for Barns. She said: "I have a history of being a worker." Perhaps she will get involved with our work crew in the Sawmill Building. The family definitely will be coming back for another visit next year.



Jerry, Collin and Carmen Blatt from Brown City have been visiting during FFD for many years. They first visited when their quadruplets, **Charis, Chandler, Collin and Christopher** were two years old. They are now 19 and attending College in different fields and locations each pursuing their special interest. The family continues to come each year because of the memories and nostalgia and hope this will become a tradition with their grandchildren. After that first visit, arrangements were made for Carmen to bring her 5th grade students and fellow teachers from the Marlette Public Schools to the Octagon Barn while the Smithsonian's Barn display was on loan to the Octagon Barn. The family has visited often usually with all four children almost every year for all these years. There are wonderful memories of all of the activities and love seeing what's new each year.



The Becker Family from the left are **Mom Denise, Noah, Micah, Dad Matt, Selah and Jonah** came for their first FFD. In May the family came during School Tours with their Home School Group. They have returned to see what they had missed. Denise said, "We always appreciate the "simple" ways of life and learning more and being a part of "Living history." Thank you for all the dedicated volunteers that take time to share history with us. The Friends are hopeful that Noah and Jonah might volunteer to be shuttle guides/riders during FFD 2017.



Kathleen & David Eichler, Pigeon, and Granddaughter **Emily Rhodes** from Sebewaing came for a visit to FFD 2016. Back in 1996 the Eichlers were looking for a family activity. In August, they saw an advertisement for Fall Family Days and decided to take the younger children to see what it was all about. There was an old stagecoach on the grounds and the kids played on it, we took a picture and they had a wonderful time. Music under the big trees was amazing. The Eichlers could see the potential in the House and vision of the Group. So we got involved and chaired the Children's Activities for several years, brought a group of Girl Scouts to help with clean up in the Spring and David volunteered to manage our data base and print labels for our mailings. He continues to volunteer in that capacity for all these



Karen Shovels & Joyce Clevenger, neighbors from Flushing, were interested in learning more about the Barn and came prepared with questions. Karen asked, "What was the primary use?" Joyce was curious about the shape of the Barn and wondered why. They got their answers listening to the history talk presented by Margaret Sergeant.



Sandy & Leonard Klosowski, Bay City came to Fall Family Days in 1999 to see the Bessimer Steam Engine. Leonard loves the big flywheel. We were amazed with the Barn and it has drawn us back every year. In 2000 we got engaged in the center of the Barn on the dirt floor and were married in the same spot the next year on the newly poured cement floor. We think we were the first couple to get married in the Barn.

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Monday Work Crew

Following FFD when everything was stored away for the Season, several crews got busy on a couple of projects.

Richard Stacer, Special Projects Chair noticed that the granary in the Barn was in need of some attention. His main concern was the condition of the flooring and the safety of those walking through that area. There was a 2 inch drop coming off the concrete flooring of the Barn. He also felt that this was a much larger area than first meets the eye and could be put to better use with a good solid, safe floor. The crew that worked on the floor were: **David Jaroch, Mark Battel, Norm Parker, Lew Martin, Terry Keinath and of course Richard Stacer.**

Richard is very pleased that the windows encircling the lower level have all been repaired, the electrical wiring has been upgraded and visible wire held to a minimum. Richard has the promise of an Amish work crew to repair the windows on the upper level. Also, working with **Connie Osentoski**, Museum Chairperson, the displays on the mow have been rearranged and in some instances relocated to be more appealing and easier to view and enjoy.

Wayne Lenton, Sawmill Chairman is pleased to report that we now have concrete on the south entrance to the building that will provide a great surface for working on machinery plus make moving about the building easier and cleaner. A great crew came together to prepare the area for the concrete. They were: **Gerald Auten, Mark Battel, Bruce Brown, Ron Coltson, Howard Gehrls, Tony Grifka, Jack Hill, Martin Kubacki, Wayne Lenton, Lew Martin, Jerry Meredith and Norm Parker.**

Martin Kubacki made arrangements for **Lance Krueger, Jim Morrell & Joe Patrika** all from Ubyly to help with the finished concrete work. Wayne said, "They have had more experience working with concrete but most importantly they are considerably younger than

Tuckey Concrete, out of Cass City, delivered the concrete. They poured the project by pouring the walkway at the entrance to the East door. What a difference this sawmill building is making in the overall appearance.



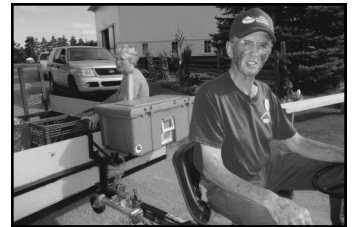
A close look at the picture shows the positioning of the new flooring and the fellows working on this job. It was tight quarters in this section and took considerable placement and rearranging. Once the flooring was in place Richard used screws rather than nails as they stay in place much better.



Putting the finishing touches on the newly poured concrete in the Sawmill Building.

Recycling Report

Ron Hoffman has been in charge of gathering as much of the material left behind that can be recycled during Fall Family Days for the past six years. Because of his efforts we can report the results in the following categories: cardboard 347 pounds, 81 pounds of plastic bottles, 89 pounds of metal or aluminum cans and NO glass or garbage. GOOD JOB!



Ron Hoffman has his trailer all set up to gather and sort the recyclable items and look who he has helping, **Mae Hoffman**, his wife. Also helping with the sorting was **Richard & Cathy Stacer, Devin Irons and Rose Putnam**. We thank them for tending to this task.

A Very Special Thank You

The following businesses made a special donation for Fall Family Days that enabled the Friends to save considerably on expenses. Many have been donating for years and we appreciate their continued support.

Michigan Milk Producers, C. Johnson donated a cube of butter that was used at the Farmer's Breakfast and the Fish Fry.

Cass City Oil & Gas donated 100 lbs. of LP gas used in food preparation.

Country Fresh, Bruce Hartman, donated 300 quarts of half & half used to make the Homemade ice cream.

Hampton Potato Farm donated 2600 pounds of potatoes used for the Fish Fry, Farmer's Breakfast and French Fries to go with the Chicken Strips.

Cooperative Elevator Company, Pigeon, MI donated 300 lbs. of beans used for the bean soup.

DJ's Portable Toilets offered special pricing.

McDonald's Food & Family Center Bad Axe gave special pricing on purchased items.

Caro Wal-Mart donated egg beaters used to make homemade ice cream.

Northstar Bank donated 150 lbs. of pop corn, bags and seasoning.

MMR (Mobile Medical Response), Scott Smeader, arranged for their services to be available if needed during FFD.

Big Acre Store of Caro donated many flowers.

Walther Potato Farm planted and cared for a potato field used for demonstrations.

Mary Ann Hirn is very pleased to report that all the ingredients for the homemade ice cream were donated by the following: Sugar donated by Michigan Sugar, Half & Half donated by Country Fresh and Egg Beaters donated by the Caro Wal-Mart.

Annual Meeting/Dinner & Benefit Auction

Nancy Hrabcak, Chairperson

The scheduling of our Annual Meeting Dinner and Auction is undergoing a change. The final details are being worked out but we wanted to let you know of the proposed changes. Our Annual Meeting will take place before the regularly scheduled General Membership Meeting at the Elmwood Township Hall on **April 11, 2017**. Our **Dinner and Benefit Auction** will take place on **Sunday, June 11, 2017** at the Thumb Octagon Barn in the Munro Building. There will also be some changes in the Auction format. We will have more information for you in the Winter Newsletter but the Board wanted you to know of these proposed change.

Museum Committee

Connie Osentoski, Chairperson

Connie has been working hard to improve our Agricultural Museum by reorganizing the displays and labeling the pieces. She was very pleased that she was able to tag a number of items with octagonal, green tags that identify the item and who donated it to our Museum.



Connie is pictured with one of the tags and the very interesting piece that goes with it. Connie encourages visitors and members to check out the tags and learn about all the wonderful donations that we have received through the years.

Museum Donations

Gerald Auten, Museum Records

Charles J. Bush formerly of Clare and a very good friend of Bob Hirn made an amazing donation of farm machinery and farm related items too numerous to mention in Bob's memory. Several items that he donated are: 1948 Farmall Cub S tractor, a John Deere 1941 LA tractor & a John Deere #70 Mower plus several truck loads of stuff. Charlie met Bob early on in our project and they became devoted friends. Charlie is relocating from Clare, MI to Leesburg, FL and was pleased to find a home for his treasures.

We thank Louie Wehrman & Wayne Lenton for picking up the donated items. Bill & Sharon Kraft, Cass City, MI donated a hand cultivator in memory of Bill & Marge Eberline.

St. John Lutheran School, Paula Cepelchla donated a number of items for the Schoolhouse. The donated items are Child's wooden sink & cupboard,

18 childrens wooden chairs, wooden sand table and 3 Michigan History books.

Ken Walker, Harbor Beach donated 4 x 4 water main.

Leslie Severance, Decker, MI donated a 1930's football helmet, Kerosene container, 1915 meat slicer, a canner size National pressure cooker, A.T.

Ferrel mill

Mr. Z's Carpet Man, Cass City donated an 8' by 12' floral rug for the Purdy Home.

Victor & Betty Woehlert, Decker, MI donated a 3 shelf book case and a tablecloth & 4 napkins.

Mary Ann Hirn, Cass City donated a full ruffled half slip, woman's 1930 to 1940's dress. 3 men's hats and 10 women's hats in excellent condition.

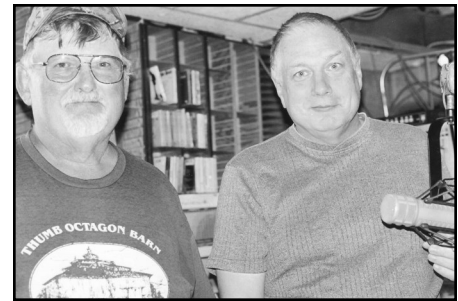
Lila Arroyo, Cass City, donated over 200 items including a sterling Mason jar, Kraft wooden cheese box, Coca Cola wall mount bottle opener, 1950's poodle skirt, antique bedroom lamps, hay rope pulley and table top radios.

Kim Strunz, Caro, MI donated 25 items that included some of the following. 5 boxes Ritz dye, building blocks, Serve All, Saginaw, MI gallon milk bottle, Monopoly Game, framed school chalkboard, 50 piece Tinker Toys & Underwood portable typewriter.

James & Veronica Haines, Vassar, MI donated a wood stave round granary circa 1920's

Ted Morgan Family, Snover, MI donated a number of items for the Blacksmith Shop. These include, 1890 Anvil, bellows for the forge, new ox yokes & a vise pedestal.

Don Morin, Bay City donated a wooden wheel borrow for the grain elevator in excellent condition.



Diane Rapson Gabil, FFD Advertising Chairperson arranged for **Martin Kubacki** to appear at WLEW radio station in Bad Axe for an hour on the "What Do You Think Show" with Craig Routzahn. Craig had been to FFD so was familiar with the Event and asked wonderful questions. Martin did a super job of promoting FFD and highlighting the special activities that are a part of the Event.



The Potato Man

John Liverance of St. Clair, MI, shown at right, is known as the **Potato Man** because he has been coming to FFD for eight years working with the young folks that **George Pettinger** lines up to work during the weekend preparing the potatoes for the Fish Supper, Farmer's Breakfast and French fries. John has been very impressed with these young folks who are very hard workers. John worked this year but because of some physical issues he will no longer be able to continue. For the past eight years John arrived on Tuesday along with 2600 lbs. of potatoes on pallets. We thank John, the Potato Man, for all his help.

Taking John's place will be **Joe Clark**.



Our 2016 Theme was "Our Wonderful World of Water". **Frank Franzel, of Franzel Water Well Drilling**, drilled two wells on site at no charge to the Friends and demonstrated how wells were drilled in the 1920's during FFD. After drilling the well opposite the Sawmill Building, Frank and his employees constructed this attractive, appropriate well covering. We thank Frank for his generosity and participation in Fall Family Days.

The Sawmill demonstrators lost one of the original crew that demonstrated the sawmill when it was outside and then eventually had its own building. **Paul Linck** of Brown City was a familiar figure to all as he was a large man and took his responsibilities at the sawmill very seriously. He was the sawyer who is the person who was very valuable to the mill as he determined how to get the most boards out of a log by turning it just so before cutting. Paul also demonstrated during School Tours and attended FFD this year but was not feeling well. Paul died on November 29, 2016. He will be missed.



**Friends of the
THUMB OCTAGON BARN
PO BOX 145
6948 RICHIE RD.
GAGETOWN MI 48735**

989-665-0081

Non-Profit Org.
U.S. Postage
PAID
Gagetown, MI
Permit No. 3

We're on the Web!

<http://www.thumboctagonbarn.org>
George Pettinger,
Web Manager

2017 Upcoming Events

April 11	Annual Meeting before General Membership Meeting
May 6	Clean up Day
May 10, 11 & 12	School Tours by appointment only
June 11	Annual Banquet and Auction in Munro Building
July 14, 15 & 16	Music Weekend at the Barn
July 29 & 30	Open House Weekend at the Grain Elevator
September 8	FFD Fish Fry 4 p.m. – 7p.m.
September 9 & 10	22 nd Fall Family Days 8 a.m. – 5 p.m.

FUTURE MEETINGS

General membership meetings
will be held the second Tuesday,
every other month, at 7 p.m.
at the Elmwood Twp. Hall
Feb., April, Oct. & Dec.
With June & Aug. meetings
in the Munro Bldg.

Special Donations

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

Mike Bauerschmidt, Caro of Galaxy Office Machines of Caro donated a 3-door commercial refrigerator for the kitchen.

Donation in memory of Jackie Garland, Barrington, NH, sister of Sharon Cummins given by Ena Reintjes, St. Clair Shores, MI and

Margaret Sergeant, Gagetown, MI
Anthes Brothers, (Amasa Anthes III) Building Moving donated \$2,000. to cover most of the cost of moving the grain bin from Caro to the Thumb Agricultural Museum site.

Donation in memory of James P. Wilson given by Pat Colman, Blackfoot, SD

Donation in memory of Ken Sadro given by Evelyn Schadd, Fillion, MI

Donation in memory of Bob Hirn given by Edward & Tonya Tresor.

Keny & Laura Hazard, Leesburg, FL, are once again our very first 2017 FFD Sponsor.

Donation given by Ronald Yagelman, Rogersville, TN to support the mugs program and getting Tom & Jerry to perform.

The Owendale Class of 1953 donated in memory of Jo Retzler.

Willa Vargas, Bellevue, NE donated and wished a Merry Christmas to the Friends.

Donations in memory of Paul Findlay, Caro were given by Margaret Sergeant, Gagetown, MI & George & Glenda Wilson, Gagetown, MI. Paul was very involved with the Grain Elevator and contributed much to seeing it become a very impressive addition to our Agricultural Museum.

Paul was also a big supporter of Bay Shore Camp in Sebawaing, MI

Donation in memory of Charlie Creason given

by Marlene Sieradzki, Deford, MI
Ray Armstead, Jr. donated a large oak show case in excellent condition.

Jim Osentoski, Ubly donated 48 yds. of processed gravel and the trucking to deliver. Gerald Loeffler was a life long resident of Gagetown and a passionate supporter of the Octagon Barn. He was our largest individual seller of raffle tickets and had a wonderful gift of talking to everyone. He died suddenly of a severe stroke. He will be missed. The following listed below made donations in his memory.

Dale & Joyce Christner, Pigeon, MI

The Colored Bean Plant Co-op Elevator, Pigeon, MI

Cooperative Elevator, Pigeon, MI

Karl & Marilyn DeSimpelare, Unionville, MI

Donna Fritz, Elkton, MI

Jim & Judy Gremel, Sebawaing, MI

Joel & Lindsay Gremel, Sebawaing, MI

Franklin & Betty Koch, Gagetown, MI

Jim & Carol Koch, Gagetown, MI

Joan Kuhne, Frankenmuth, MI

Mike Loeffler, Sebawaing, MI

Ron & Arloia Lutz, Sebawaing, MI

Grant & Vickie Merchant, Gagetown, MI

Janet Muntz, Cass City, MI

Jim & Sandy Schulz, Unionville, MI

Kathy Sneller, Sebawaing, MI

John Wald, Cass City, MI

Don, Carol & John Wildman, Cass City, MI

Leo & Molly Wildman, Gagetown, MI

George & Glenda Wilson, Gagetown, MI

Benefactors

The following made a donation of \$10.00 or more since our last newsletter through December 9, 2016.

Raymond E. Baur, Unionville, MI

Curtis & Mary Bell, Carthage, MO

Bruce & Charlotte Bollinger, Oscoda, MI

Sally Brauer, Troy, MI

Kim & Cindy Brown, Columbiaville, MI

Rich & Lori Corl, Colorado Springs, MI

Gerald Deeg, Sebawaing, MI

Robert & Charlotte Dennis, Davison, MI

Gayla Eagle, Sandusky, MI

Melvin Gay, Saginaw, MI

Helen Gettel, Southfield, MI

Walter & Ann Hagen, Bay City, MI

Robert W. Harcourt, Alger, MI

Nile & Ruth Hayden, Sand Lake, MI

Ronald & Tammi Hensley,

Lehigh Acres, FL

Carolyn Jackson, Dearborn Hgts., MI

Terry & Sandra Keinath, Reese, MI

Patrick & Nancy Kendall, Bay City, MI

Ron Laeder, Caro, MI

John & Carolyn Longmuir, Box Elder, SD

Arnold & Reita Maxfield, Dade City, FL

Vera Milz, Troy, MI

Tom & Sue Muto, Midland, MI

Timothy C. Neumeyer, Bay City, MI

John & Paula Paterson, Sandusky, MI

Charles L. Pilgrim, Sterling, IL

William & Deborah Posak, China, MI

Dick & Pam Roth, Caseville, MI

William & George Rowan,

Shelby Twp., MI

Jerry & Mary Ellen Schley,

Dearborn Hgts., MI

Marjorie Schwartz, Gagetown, MI

Gloria Thorsby, Colorado Springs, CO

Dave & Penny Turner, Mayville, MI

Patricia Wearmouth, Cass City, MI

Larry & Suzanne Wegner, Pigeon, MI

Richard & Vera Wroblewski,

Sebawaing, MI