21st Fall Family Day 2016 featuring “Our Wonderful World of Water.”

Martin Kubacki, FFD Chairman

Dear Friends of the Thumb Octagon Barn,

The 21st Thumb Octagon Barn Fall Family Days is planned to be another great event. This year’s theme “Our Wonderful World of Water” promises to be a good one. So stop by the Theme Tent and check it out. All the committees are putting the final touches in place and are getting ready.

We will once again begin with the Fish Fry with our own Fish Fry expert, Greg Talaski. It starts at 4:00 p.m. Friday afternoon, September 9th in the Munro Building and will be served until 7:00 p.m. or until we run out. Prices are $10.00 for adults, children (6–12) $5.00 and children under 5 are free. Gates open at 8:00 a.m. on Saturday and Sunday with breakfast served from 8 a.m. to 10:00 a.m. on Saturday and on Sunday from 8:00 a.m. until 11:00 a.m. on Sunday prepared by the Caro Knights of Columbus. The cost of breakfast is $7.00 for adults with children under 12 $5.00. The site is open from 8 a.m. until 5 p.m. Daily gate admission on Saturday and Sunday is $5.00 per person 6 and older.

Demonstrations will start in the morning and will include digging potatoes that is one of our spectators’ favorites. There will be threshing, baling, an operating grist mill, corn shelling, corn binders and silage cutting. Also, returning will be horse drawn wagon rides, sorghum pressing and evaporating, children’s activities, barrel train rides, apple cider pressing, the blacksmith shop in action, wood shingles and log sawing. Our visitors will also enjoy the house tours, schoolhouse activities and programs and a working grain elevator. The Elevator has had a big addition put on over the last year, so stop by and see what has been added. Also, we will have a new look in our music area with different bands playing on Saturday and Saturday evening. The music will continue with Sunday morning gospel and some good old Country music on Sunday afternoon.

There will again be plenty to eat and drink including: homemade pie, French fries, donuts, bean soup, cotton candy, home-made ice cream made by the Thumb Area Antique Car Club, apple cider, kettle popcorn and concessions on the grounds. We bet you’ll have a hard time picking your favorite.

Another big part of our Event to see is the old engine displays and our huge antique tractor display with over 100 tractors. Also, don’t miss our huge flea market with over 250 crafters and vendors.

Frank Franzel of Franzel Well Drilling from Mayville has drilled two wells on the Thumb Octagon Barn site at no charge to the Friends. Frank also plans on being at FFD to share information on well drilling and the equipment used to produce water for household needs. We are very excited to have this new demonstration for FFD and thank Frank for all of his efforts on behalf of the Thumb Agricultural Museum. Certainly this will demonstrate “Our Wonderful World of Water” how appropriate it is to demonstrate how water is brought up to the surface for our use. Franzel Water Well Drilling drilled two new wells on the property, at no cost to the Friends, and will be available during FFD to talk with visitors about the process and indeed the importance of water in our lives.
Letter From the President
FRIENDS of the THUMB OCTAGON BARN
Rose M. Putnam

Dear Friends,

Fall Family Days is coming up quickly. Plans have been underway since the day after Fall Family Days last year. We need to get a head start to be ready for all of our visitors. There is a lot of current information in Martin’s message and a copy of the brochure is on line on our website at thumbcagonbarn.org. Our theme this year has proven to be quite exciting. There is a lot of great information provided by our partnership with the DNR & DEQ. They have been most helpful. Please stop at the theme tent. It will be well worth the stop. All the barn members are just as excited about the new well drilling demonstrations.

Our summer has been filled with a lot of fun, including our first volunteer picnic, the concerts, the tea parties, our open house and lots of new visitors stopping by. We have been busy, too, with the completion of the addition to the grain elevator.

You must take time to stop in. There is a new and very interesting piece of equipment that is fully operational. Don’t forget to see the one and only (that we know of) round wooden granary, which was just recently moved to the site just next to the grain elevator. The windows in the Barn are being repaired or replaced. Please check it out. What a project! Please be sure to thank Dennis Anderson and Richard Stacer for staying on task to get this done. Did you notice the beautiful flowers? Gail Osbourn has been busy planting and watering all the flowers. When Gail is not on site, there are many hands that have helped to keep the flowerbeds weeded and watered. Information about the Thumb Quilt Trail will be in future newsletters or check out their website at Thumbquilttrail.com.

We are finding as we grow, that there are many more maintenance issues to be handled on site. We have a great many volunteers who keep the site open and maintained. Thank you all for helping to keep our site top notch and making our visitors feel welcome.

We hope to see you all during Fall Family Days. Don’t forget the Fish Fry on Friday night!

Your Friend and President,
Rose M. Putnam

Barn Restoration

Site Committee Chairman, Dennis Anderson
Special Projects Chairman, Richard Stacer

In our Winter Newsletter, Dennis Anderson identified the following needs of the Octagon Barn: a new roof, electrical upgrade and window repairs and painting. Work is already underway on several of these areas of concern. The windows are being repaired, painted and structurally corrected to hopefully solve the problem of water damage.

When Richard Stacer started working on the windows, he made a sad discovery. Because the sill was level, when it rained, the water built up behind the sill resulting in the trim boards and sills eventually rotting. So new sills and trim boards were needed. Now when they are installed they will be on an angle so that the build-up of water hopefully will not occur. Working on the window project with Richard Stacer is David Jaroch, Terry Keinath & Ron Hoffman.

Richard Stacer was surprised to see all the water damage on the windows on the lower level of the Barn. There are thirty windows that encircle the lower level, so this is a really big job to get all of them rebuilt and installed so as to eliminate the problem in the future.

This and that regarding FFD

Each day at 2:30 p.m. in front of the Barn, Sue Battel will bring her Cass City home school group on stage to share some patriotic songs. Following their performance will be the Parade of antique tractors again moving across in front of the Barn.

Adult Craft Workshops taught by Linda Bailey will be held in the Garage. These workshops are for adults who want to learn a craft using their hands. Youngsters are welcomed to attend but MUST be accompanied by an adult. Participants are encouraged to be in attendance at the beginning of the workshop to get instructions.

Programs in the one room country school Students are from K-8 as was typical in one Room Country Schools for both boys & girls.

21st Annual Fall Family Days 2016
Thumb Octagon Barn Agricultural Museum

- Fish Fry in Munro Building
  Friday, September 9 from 4 p.m. until 7 p.m.
  Adults $10.00
  Children (6-12) $5.00
  Children under 5 – Free

- Fall Family Days
  Saturday, September 10 and Sunday September 11 from 8 a.m. until 5 p.m.
  Daily gate admission
  $5.00 per person 6 and older

- Farmer’s Breakfast
  Saturday 8 a.m. to 10 a.m.
  Sunday – 8 a.m. to 11 a.m.
  Adults $7.00
  Ages 5 – 12 $5.00
  Children under 5 Free
  NO PETS ALLOWED

Adult Craft Workshops
- Corn husk dolls – Learn the history and construct a corn husk doll
- Oriental water flora – Learn basic strokes using a bamboo brush and watercolor techniques to do a simple flower and bird painting.
- Folded Fabric Batik – Using water and dye; fabric will be folded and dyed to create a unique blended design.
- Or-resistible painted fabric – Design is pre-drawn on fabric and watercolor wash will be applied.

Student Schedule
- 10:00 a.m. Corn husk dolls
- 11:00 a.m. Oriental water flora
- 1:00 p.m. Folded Fabric Batik
- 2:00 p.m. Or-resistible painted fabric

Programs in the one room country school Students are from K-8 as was typical in one Room Country Schools for both boys & girls.

Saturday Schedule
- 10:30 a.m. Cass City Home School Students
- 11:30 a.m. Cass City Public School Students
- 5:00 p.m. Cass City Public School Students

Sunday Schedule
- 11:30 a.m. & 1:30 p.m. Thumb Area Community Theatre Players
Teas in the Purdy Home

Two teas were hosted in the Purdy Home that is such a very lovely setting for these occasions. It is wonderful to showcase this beautifully restored house that is not your typical farmstead. Many volunteer hours have been dedicated to bringing back the ornate beauty that originally was designed into this house.

The Friends of the Octagon Barn hosted its first tea party of the year on July 28, 2016 during our Open House Weekend. The theme was “Christmas in July.” The house was simply decorated just as Mrs. Cora Purdy would have done while living in the house. She loved to use red bows and fresh green. About a dozen ladies enjoyed the chicken salad croissants, along with salads and homemade cut Christmas cookies. The ladies were greeted on the portico-cheer with Christmas songs on the harp played by Sharron Patterson. Rose Putnam read the story written by Florence Purdy Moore, daughter of James and Cora Purdy, called “Christmas on the Farm”, a delightful tale of a young girl on a farm. This story can be found in the historical account of the Octagon Barn “The Mud Lake Estate.” We think Cora Purdy would be proud of the gathering, much the same as she would have hosted back in the early 1930’s.

On August 4th our Host Couple Ladies volunteered to host a themed, dessert tea that would include a presentation about “Woman Suffrage” presented by Carol Cavalry, volunteer and Friend of the Octagon Barn. Since this is a Presidential election year, it was felt that this was a very timely topic to look back at the efforts to give women the right to vote. The movement began in Great Britain in the late 1800’s and was lead in this country by Susan B. Anthony & Lucretia Mott. As a result of the efforts of many, on August 26.1920 the 19th amendment was adopted. As Carol researched this topic she was somewhat surprised to learn of the struggle that women went through fighting for this right. Many lost their children, homes and marriages while pursuing this effort.

Volunteer Picnic - A Giant Thank You Party

On July 12, 2016, the first ever Volunteer Picnic was held in the Munro Building. The idea came from our Host Couples who felt that this type of recognition was needed. Our volunteers need to know how much they are appreciated and are deserving of a Giant Thank You Party. The Friends of the Thumb Agricultural Museum are admired by other organizations for our tremendous volunteer army that come forward year after year to assure the success of our Events. So the Executive committee agreed with the idea and Mary Bell and Tammi Hensley, host couple ladies, put their heads together to organize the event. All felt it was important to keep the agenda simple and focus on the chance to chat with fellow volunteers in a relaxed environment.

K & K Catering prepared the food for the Volunteer Picnic and it was a feast. No one had to bring a dish to pass or bake any cookies. Mary & Tammi decided to surprise everyone with their famous homemade cupcakes instead of the caterers providing desserts. Helping with the baking of the cupcakes were Mary Curtis, Tammi Hensley, Karen Lenton, Linda Wehrman & Glenda Wilson. Over 275 volunteers were in attendance so you can imagine how many dozens of cupcakes they baked.

There were many positive comments and folks were amazed at the large number of people who volunteered during the year for School Tours, Fall Family Days, our Monday work crew and on and on. No wonder we are the envy of other organizations in the area.

We did take a few moments to recognize Marilyn DeSimpelare for her six years of service as our Corresponding Secretary for the Executive Committee. The door prize was a 2’ by 2’ quilt square block made by the Thumb Quilt Trail Committee and won by Peggy Helwig.

We are very interested in your thoughts. If you have any suggestions for next year’s picnic, please contact the Executive Committee or Mary Bell & Tammi Hensley.

Our volunteers attending the ‘Thank You Party’ filled the Munro Building. Many were dazzled by how many volunteers we have and in reality we could have filled another building if ALL our volunteers had been able to attend.
Monday Work Crew

A recent visit to the site on a Monday showed the hustle and bustle that is going on all over the site by our faithful volunteers. It’s no wonder that folks marvel at the dedication of our volunteers. Following are just a few of those working on this particular Monday including the group working on the windows in the Barn.

Duane Phillips has just finished painting the front of the garage and is checking to make sure that he has not missed a single board. It looks great, bright and fresh.

Byron Arnold is installing a new part on our International Lawn Mower that Howard Gehrls uses to cut grass on the east side of the ditch. The belt tightened was broken. Byron took off the old part, it was welded and Byron is putting it back on. It worked!

In preparation for the arrival of the granary, a floor is being constructed next to the Grain Elevator Building. Those working on this project are Wayne Lenten, Mark Battle, Ron Colton, Jerry Meredith & Louie Behrman. The boards used for the flooring are being sawed at our sawmill from old telephone poles.

The group working at the Grain Elevator need a longer board or two for the flooring that they are building for the new granary. Wayne Lenten is dragging a used telephone pole to the sawmill to cut the needed boards.

Marilyn Phillips has been working in the basement of the Purdy home arranging all the many laundry, canning and oh so many things so that folks will be able to tour the basement for the first time during FFD. For those of us that are a little older, this will bring back many memories.

Lee Sowden has finished cutting the grass in the area that he is responsible for and is now cutting the grass that Jack usually cuts but is unable to because of the flat tire.

Site Committee
Dennis Anderson

Now that we have had some rain the site is looking better every day. A great big thank you to Gail Osbourn for the loving care that she is giving the flowers. Gail, one of our Host Couple ladies, was in charge of arranging, planting, fertilizing and of course weeding the flowerbeds. Denny said, “I brought the flowers she requested and Gail planted them. Recently, Big Acres donated many flowers and we thank them. Flowers are beautiful and add so much to the site.

School Tours 2017
Diane Rapson Gabil, Chairperson

It’s hard to believe but planning is already underway for School Tours 2017. During the wrap up meeting for School Tours 2016 the consensus of the group was that the dates for School Tours 2017 would be Wednesday, May 10, Thursday, May 11 and Friday May 12 during the school day.

This is an outstanding educational field trip that has become very popular with area educators and most importantly the students from pre-school through 8th grade. The fee is $2.00 per student and chaperone. Educators may sign up for School Tours 2017 starting in September 2016 through April 15, 2017 on the website under “Events” at thumboctagonbarn.org or they can contact Chair, Diane Rapson Gabil at drapsongabil@chartermi.net
Grain Elevator Building
Louis & Linda Behrman, Co-chairs

The Germans have been working long hours getting all the displays ready for FFD. They appreciate all the extra space for demonstrations and displays. Now they are very excited that they have a new redwood, tongue and groove, granary that was donated by James & Veronica Haines of Vassar.

Veronica’s father, Willis Stoic, bought their farm on Kirk Road, Vassar, where she grew up around 1940. The granary was already on the farm at that time. The granary is believed to have been constructed circa 1920.

Last year the Haines attended FFD and visited the Grain Elevator and decided that this was the perfect home for their 1920’s granary. So the site needed to be prepared for placement of the granary that also needed to be structurally reinforced for the move from north of Vassar to the Thumb Agricultural Museum site by Anthes Brothers Movers. The movers did a great job and the granary arrived in excellent condition. More work is needed on the interior of the granary so that folks will be able to enter the granary. Stop by and take a look during FFD and also see the new displays in the building. The Wehrmans have done a fantastic job re-creating a grain elevator of the past.

Benefactors
The following made a donation of $10.00 or more since our last newsletter through August 18, 2016

Danny & Patricia Allen, Deford, MI
Anonymous Donor
Ralph & Theresa Byelaws, Fraser, MI
Ruby Boise, Birch Run, MI
Mary Breuer, Clawson, MI
Jim & Jan Collin, Lakeport, MI
Leonard Debrain, Harbor Beach, MI
Paul & Linda Eland, Port Hope, MI
Sherrill French, Reese, MI
Bob & Beth Garner, Cadillac, MI
Janet Garrett, Troy, MI
Leo “Bob” Gentler & Grace Janowski, Cass City, MI
Susan M. Ignasiak, Grosse Pointe, MI
Debra & Joe Jenness, Cass City, MI
Deloris Jensen, St. Clair Shores, MI
Ione L. Kreger, East Tawas, MI
Peter M. & Marilyn Leiterman, Howell, MI
Sam & Wendy Leppert, Cass City, MI
Mark McKevey, Chicago, IL
Don & Carla McKeimmy, Bad Axe, MI
Glen A. Moore, Unionville, MI
David & Jane Morse, Cass City, MI
Janet Munzi, Cass City, MI
Kenneth & Arlene Musser, Kawkawlin, MI
Bevery J. Perry, Cass City, MI
Janet Retford, Owendale, MI
Larry & Muriel Reynaert, Lexington, MI
Betty Ruth Robinson, Jacksonville Beach, FL
Gretchen Rodammer, Auburn, MI
Mark Schubel, Caro, MI
Dick & Vivian Smith, Smith Alpaca Acres, Gagetown, MI
Kim Strunz, Caro, MI
Milke & Toby Weaver, Pigeon, MI

Souvenirs
Joan Koch, Chairperson

Don’t forget to bring your Christmas shopping list to Fall Family Days. We have just cut the price of our DVD in half to $10.00. Also, I took advantage of a sale on assorted women’s T-shirts. They will be sold at the souvenir trailer at the north end of the garage. We will also be showing a new color called antique sapphire in ‘T’s and sweatshirts. All sizes of denim shirts are in.

We take credit cards, stop by and say “Hi” and shop for a bit. Joan will be available for early sales on Friday, September 9 from five until seven and both Saturday and Sunday during the regular Event hours. There will also be a volunteer available to handle new memberships as well as renewals at the souvenir booth.

WANTED: VOLUNTEERS AND MORE VOLUNTEERS
- We are in need of volunteers the day of the Fish Supper from 8:30 a.m. until 10:00 p.m.
- We need folks to help sell refreshments and take orders for the Food Concession.
- Helpers needed the week before the Event and for several days after the Event.
- We have many sit-down jobs and we can always find a place or task for everyone who wants to help during FFD.
- We need tractor drivers for the people movers and folks to help direct traffic the weekend of FFD.
- If you are able to help out anytime during FFD, please give a call to Joan Merchant at 989-872-3395 or Tori Pine at 989-665-2254 and they will find a place and job for you. We need you and will always have a job for you.

James & Veronica (Stoic) Haines of Vassar are meeting with Louie Behrman, Chairman of the Grain Elevator, to make arrangements for the granary to be moved from their farm to the Thumb Agricultural Museum.

Please note several corrections from our Spring Newsletter. Under Benefactors, Ione Kreger is from East Tawas, Mi not Ubly, MI. The picture caption accompanying Children’s Activities volunteer should have read Rita Green.

This Seed Corn Grader is on loan from Dan Manley in memory of Fritz Manley, Fairgrove and can be seen in the expanded Grain Elevator Building. The purpose of this piece of equipment was to separate the different size kernels for planting. Be sure to check it out as it is quite interesting and a wonderful addition to our Agricultural Museum. I’m sure those in the granary will be glad to tell you more about it.
Music in the Barn
David Jaroch, Ron Kuenzli, Rose Putnam & Richard Wrobleski, Committee

David Jaroch submitted the following article and wrap-up meeting report.

Music in the Barn weekend is now an annual event. This year the barn hosted a full weekend of music that included classic rock, country and gospel. Hundreds of people are now able to enjoy Mr. Purdy’s Octagon Barn while listening to music. On Friday night the rock band vibrated the rafters while the Sunday afternoon Gospel trio soothed the soul.

Six years ago a musician from Sebewaing, Richard Wrobleski, had a desire to bring his band “The Lonesome Mountain Boys” to the Barn for a concert. The Executive Committee agreed with the idea and the first concert was successfully held. The original goal for the music in the Barn effort was to improve lighting in the Barn. This year during “Music in the Barn” weekend the electrical wiring was being upgraded.

Along with the new wiring the music committee has expanded. The original members, Richard Wrobleski, David Jaroch and Marilyn Peters were joined a few years ago by Ron Kuenzli. This year Rose Putnam joined the group to plan and host the event. The success of the event is through the efforts of Marilyn Peters & Mary Bell finding enough snacks for intermission, Ron Kuenzli setting up and operating the sound and lighting, Richard Stacer and Ron building the stage used by the performers, Richard Wrobleski bringing talented musicians and coordinating advertising and Thrivent Financial for Lutherans sponsorship for every concert.

Along with the talented committee are numerous volunteers working to bake cookies, set up the stage and seating, cleaning the facility, parking cars, collecting at the door and overall support. Our host couples generously help every night of the concert, our treasurer, Joan Koch, handled the finances, Tori Pine, Marie Jaroch and Carol Caverly assisted at the gate, Ray Caverly assisted with parking.


The host couples: John & Carolyn Longmuir, Mary & Curtis Bell, Duane & Gail Osbourn helped wherever needed. These individuals and many others were involved in making the Barn come alive with sound. I believe that the Purdy Family smiles on everyone that brings life and memories to the Barn. I hope they have a special smile for using their masterpiece for music.

The committee held a wrap up meeting on August 11 and David has presented the following summation of that meeting.

Ron & JulAnn Kuenzli hosted the Music Committee’s wrap up meeting at their home on Thursday, August 11, 2016. In attendance were Ron & JulAnn, Richard Wrobleski, Rose Putnam and David Jaroch. The purpose of the meeting was to review this year’s 6th Annual Music Weekend. We wish to thank Emily Kuenzli, a future accomplished Elementary Teacher, for her contributions.

We agreed the event was a success. The Barn staging delivered an excellent musical experience for performers as well as audience members. Host couples and volunteers graciously welcomed and assisted our guests making the weekend event run smoothly and efficiently. We were also blessed with great weather all weekend.

Reflecting back on possible changes for 2017, we identified sound control and lighting issues that can be addressed for future concerts. We noted that the advertising was sufficient to the general public but not our own membership. Music in the Barn is a great event for our own members to enjoy while supporting other ongoing projects.

This year’s musical selections were designed to support diverse musical tastes. We agreed that Saturday evening country music with Mandi Layne and the Lost Highway Band be repeated next year. Sunday afternoon gospel music should grow to be a great musical day. Friday evening will be redesigned to include a celebrity host, dance and costume contests and dance instruction.

The schedule for Music in the Barn 2017 is:

Friday evening, July 14 Dance instructor, Celebrity host and Dance and Dress Competitions, Country Dancing with Western Dress will be 2017’s Theme.

Saturday evening, July 15 Country Western – Mandi Layne and the Lost Highway Band will be invited back.

Sunday afternoon, July 16 Old Time Gospel – Group yet to be chosen.

If you have any suggestions for the 7th annual “Music in the Barn Weekend”, please contact music coordinator Ron Kuenzli 989-670-8297 or David Jaroch 989-658-2133. The music committee is seeking a featured Friday night celebrity and Sunday afternoon Gospel musical groups. If you, a loved one, or acquaintance would be “perfect” for hosting an evening of an “Old time barn dance”, we need you to call.

Mandi Layne, right, has just finished a meal prepared and served by volunteer Janice Winter. What a special treat and greatly appreciated by the performers. Mandi liked the John Deere tractor stored in the Munro Building that provided a good background for a picture. The Committee is planning on asking her group back for a concert on Saturday, July 15, 2017.

Raffle Tickets
Sherry Kappen, Joan Koch & Rose Putnam

Many have returned their raffle ticket stubs and money and we thank you for participating in this fund-raiser. The rules of the Michigan State Lottery require that ALL tickets must be accounted for so that if you choose not to participate we still need to have the tickets returned. Please mail all returns to Friends of the Octagon Barn, P.O. Box 145, Gagetown, MI 48735. Tickets may also be returned during FFD at the Raffle Booth up until the drawing for the prize winners on Sunday, September 11th at 4 p.m. following the Parade of Tractors.
Gold Sponsors ($250 & up)

ACE Hardware of Bad Axe, Inc.
Bay Port State Bank, Bay Port, MI
Ruby Boys, Birch Run, MI
Mary J. Brauer, Clawson, MI
Sally J. Brauer, Dry, MI
Cass City Oil & Gas Co., Cass City, MI
Coaithg slain Pharmacy, Cass City, MI
Cooperative Elevator Co., Sue Gottschalk, Pigeon, MI
Dr. & Mrs. William Consiri, Bad Axe, MI
Country Fresh, LLC, Lvirona, MI
Pat Curtis, Cheveoliet, Cadillac, Caro, MI
Dj's Portable Toilet Rental, Owdenale, MI
d/s Services, Inc. Cass City, MI
Flowers Galore & More, Cass City, MI
Franzel Well Drilling, Maryville, MI
Gleaner's Caro Arbor, Mandy Knox, Caro, MI
Hampton Potato Farm, Essexville, MI
Harris & Company, Dave & Heather
Wileier, Cass City, MI
Patricia Hester, Cass City, MI
Hills & Dates General Hospital, Cass City MI
Mary Ann Hirn, Cass City & Don Weber, Frankenmuth, MI
Independent Bank, Cass City, MI
ITC Holdings Corp, Novi, MI
 J. W. Hunt, Inc., MTC, Bad Axe, MI
Katie Jackson, Cass City, MI
Kohl Farms Agriopportunity, Gagetown, MI
Kranz Funeral Home, Cass City, MI
Chad & Joey Kreeger & Family, Cass City, MI
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Tracey Moore, T.D.M Construction, Cass City, MI
Osenoski Equipment, Inc., Pigeon, MI
Jim Osenoski, Ubly, MI
Protrin, Cass City, MI
Ivernna Schottz, Gagetown, MI in memory of Frank J. Schwarz
Margaret Sergeant, Gagetown, MI
Smith Alpaca Acres, Richard & Vivian Smith, Gagetown, MI
Dr. James D. Thomas, DDS, PC Cass City, MI
Thompson Chevrolet, Ubly, MI
Thriftenthal Financ, Randy Kurtz, Caro, MI
Thriftenthal Foundation, Princeton, NJ
Thumb Cellular, Pigeon, MI
Thumb Tool & Engineering Co., Bad Axe, MI
Daniel Toner, Cass City, MI
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Triple R, Collision, Inc., Caro, MI
Walther Farm, Cass City, MI
West Equipment, Frankenmuth, MI
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Agri-Valley Services, Inc, Pigeon, MI
Abatater Farms, Ubly, MI
Bad Axe Tire Service
Betfits's Sugar Producer, Cass City, MI
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Jon & Charmaine Fahmi, Cass City, MI
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Gemini Precision Machining, Bad Axe, MI
Greg & Christine Guza, Cass City, MI
Huron Daily Tribune, Bad Axe, MI
Dean and Nancy Hutchinson, Cass City, MI
Diana Kaucsh, Sanford, MI
Knights Insurance, Ubly, MI
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Alpaca Heights, Mary Hagen & James Flieger, Ubly, MI
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Edmund Armbruster, Sebewaing, MI
Lila Arroyo, Cass City, MI
Bob Ashmore, Owdenale, MI
Gerald & Donna Auten, Cass City, MI
Lawrence, G. Beaterhead, Unionville,MI
Gerald L. Booms, Ubly, MI
Braden Tire & Service, Bad Axe, MI
Brentwood Grains, MI
Louise Buelher, Palmetto, FL
Charles J. Busch, Jr., Clare, MI
Caro Moose Family Center, Caro, MI
Cass City Hardware & Supply , Cass City, MI
Ray & Carol Caverly, Gagetown, MI
Cimino Printing, Inc., Bad Axe, MI
Larry Clerc, Bay City, MI
Janet Cooper, Reo, MI
Rich & Lori Corl, Colorado Springs, CO
Dan & Jean Creyts, Charlotte, MI
Sharon L. Cummins, Gagetown, MI
Karl & Marilyn DeSimpehale, Unionville, MI
Wayne & Sherry Dillon, Cass City, MI
Mary M. Downing, Gagetown, MI
Dan & Marlene Erla, Cass City, MI
Fritz's Family Restaurant, Fred Diedrich, Richville, MI
Diane Rapson Gable, Essexville, MI
Melvin & Beverly Hartz, Port Hope, MI
Kerry & Laura Hazard, Leesburg, FL
Joanne E. Herban, Charlotte, MI
Marie Hobart, Worcester, MA
Drs. Susan Hooper & Charles Reed, Cass City, MI
Jim & Carol Hunter, Port Hope, MI
Douglas R. Jackson, M.D., Midland, MI
David & Marie Janacek, Laph
Delors Jensen, St. Clair Shores, MI
Our 2016 Sponsor Plaque shows a hand water pump that was a step up from using a pail at the end of a rope to lift water up from a well. Martin selected the picture because it represented rural life on the farm in the 1920's and the importance of water and the method used to make it available for our needs. Plaques are presented to Gold, Silver & Bronze Sponsors to recognize their contribution. Sponsors below the Bronze level receive a certificate.

R ichard Stacer cut the wooden base from the original side of the Octagon Barn and Martin Kubacki affixed the commemorative plaque to the wooden base. Please note: Plaques are being delivered locally. For those sponsors that are not in the immediate area and plan to attend FFD Octagon Bash and the Welcome Center/Souvenir Shop next to the Munro Building and Mary Ann Hirn will have your plaque. Those unable to attend will receive their plaques by mail.

The following businesses and individuals are sponsors who provide the financial backing and/or goods to cover the cost of putting on Fall Family Days. We thank each and every one who became a FFD Sponsor and encourage all to show their appreciation by patronizing those businesses that support the Thumb Octagon Barn Agricultural Museum.
NON-PROFIT ORG.
U.S. POSTAGE
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AGETOWN, MI
PERMIT NO. 3

FRIENDS OF THE
THUMB OCTAGON BARN
PO BOX 145
6948 RICHIE RD.
AGETOWN MI 48735

989-665-0081

WE'RE ON THE WEB!
http://www.thumboctagonbarn.org
George Pettinger,
Web Manager

MUSEUM DONATIONS
Gerald Auten, Museum Records

PLEASE NOTE: When donating items for our museum, please be sure to fill out a Museum Donation Form so that we will have the item in our records and can acknowledge your gift in our newsletter.

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

Jim Morell, Ubly, MI donated an antique lawn edger.
Ron & Mae Hoffman, Bad Axe, MI donated a 12" flat drive belt & a wooden hand water pump.
Ted Morgan Family, Snover, MI donated an 1890 Anvil, bellows for a forge, two new ox yokes and a vice pedestal.
Doug & Ardis Monroe, Gagetown, MI donated sleigh runners for a wheeled buggy.
Dan’s Fireplace & Stove, Cass City, MI donated a four finger grain cradle scythe.
Roy & Shirley Wagg, Cass City, MI donated a three point auger.
Gentner Sales & Service, Melvin Gentner donated a valve grinder.
Don Morin, Bay City, MI donated a wheelbarrow with a wooden frame and a wooden wheel in beautiful condition for its age.
James & Veronica (Stoick) Haines, Vassar, MI donated a redwood, tongue & groove, round granary circa 1920.

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

Fairgrove Oil & Propane, Jeff Fairgrove, Fairgrove, MI donated 1"x 8’ gas hose.
Donation in memory of Marian F. Bauer, Reese, MI given by Raymond E. Baur, Sebewaing, MI
Donation in memory of Clayton & Margaret Turner given by Don & Jean Severance, Naples, FL. Clayton provided much of the funding for moving the One Room Country School from Sebewaing to the Thumb Agricultural Museum site.
Donations were given in memory of Robert “Bob” Anderson age 87 of Grant Township, Dennis Anderson’s father. Bob was a very talented man who could build or invent any part for any purpose. He loved taking scrap metal and creating all sorts of clever figures. One creation was the “Amazing Shovel Head Band” with the Energizer Bunny as the drummer. Bob enjoyed attending Fall Family Days and making sure that Denny was doing a fine job in the Sawmill and Lumber Museum talking with visitors. An important ending to most conversations in the Anderson family is “All is Well, No Problem.” Donations in Bob’s memory were given to several non-profits and included the Thumb Octagon Barn. Donors are: Diana Kausch, Sanford, MI, Franklin & Betty Koch, Gagetown, MI, Anton & Marilyn Peters, Cass City, MI, Martin & Lucy Kubacki, Ubly, MI, Katie Jackson, Cass City, MI, Joan Koch, Gagetown, MI, Ena Reintjes, St. Clair Shores, MI, Margaret Sergeant, Gagetown, MI, Dan & Marlene Erla, Cass City, MI.
A special thank you to Jim Osentoski for the donation of gravel to be used on site.
Donation in memory of Elaine Seibel was given by Diane C. Warack & Timothy Hartman
Thrivent Financial for Lutherans, donated $250.00 to help cover “Concerts in the Barn” expenses.
King’s Daughters & Sons a non-denominational Christian philanthropic organization made a generous donation for School Tours.

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

2016 Upcoming Events
September 9 FFD Fish Fry, 4 p.m.-7 p.m.
September 10 & 11 21st Fall Family Days, 8 a.m.-5 p.m.

2017 Upcoming Events
May 10, 11 12 School Tours
July 14 Celebrity Host Dance & Dress Competitions
July 15 Country Western Mandi Layne & the Lost highway Band
July 16 Old Time Gospel Music

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NOTE: Please be sure to provide any change of address as well as a winter address and the months that you will be gone.

Art Nitz, Sebewaing, MI donated his Octagon Barn button collection to the Friends. He was very proud of his button collection and each year he proudly wore all of his buttons to FFD. He also drove his tractor, patriotically decorated, in the parade of antique tractors. Art was formerly from Sebewaing and is now living in Frankenmuth and unable to attend our Fall Family Days. The entire collection can be seen in the showcase located in the Barn.

NOTE: Please be sure to provide any change of address as well as a winter address and the months that you will be gone.

Newsletter
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Newsletter Coordinator.....Margaret Sergeant