

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.

Winter 2016

Executive Committee

President
Rose Putnam

1st Vice President
Martin Kubacki

2nd Vice President
Gerald Auten

Treasurer
Joan Koch

Recording Secretary
Ardis Monroe

Corresponding Secretary
Marilyn DeSimpelare

Grant Writing Chairman
Dennis Anderson

Purdy Home Chairman
Marilyn Phillips

Museum Committee
Douglas Monroe

Grounds Chairman
Louis Wehrman

Special Projects
Richard Stacer

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Web Site
www.thumboctagonbarn.org

Preserving Mr. Purdy's Dream

*Dennis Anderson,
Site Committee Chairman*

Dennis Anderson has a plan to preserve Mr. Purdy's Dream and presents the following report.

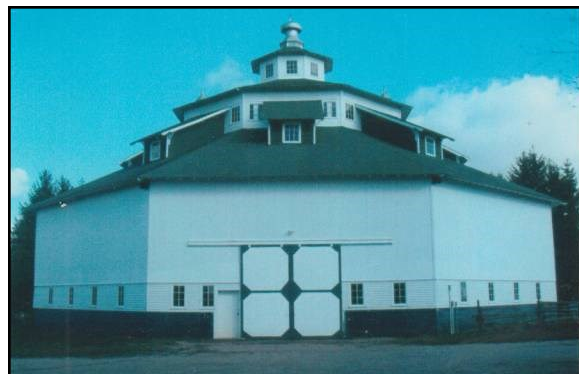
We are all aware that the Barn needs attention with a new roof, electrical upgrades, window repair and painting. The question the Executive Committee asked was what do we want to do and how will we address these needs. My assignment was to gather all the information and report back to the Board with a recommendation.

To accomplish this task involved a large number of "Friends" to whom I am forever grateful. We spent 3 months considering every idea by talking with contractors, getting quotes, and researching materials and looking back into the history of how the Barn was saved in the beginning.

Somewhere I read "You can't find what you don't look for, and If you don't know what you're looking for, you won't find it either." From the beginning of this assignment this stuck in my mind. "What am I looking for? We were going in so many directions that I soon realized I was looking for GUIDELINES! When I turned in this direction, things started to come together.

The Octagon Barn is a special historical landmark. If this was a barn at our home, we probably would be doing something more modern and completely different. This is not the case. **In 1977 the Octagon Barn was placed on the State Register as a Michigan Historical Site.** This fact helped the Friends save the Barn from being destroyed in the beginning. **With an historical site there are guidelines for restoration and preservation to maintain the integrity and significance of the Octagon Barn.** I started to pursue this further.

It was then that I was introduced to what we now call **Bob's Book.** Martin Kubacki and several others knew this book existed and we were fortunate to receive it from **Mary Ann Hirn.** The title is **"Plan to Restore the Thumb Octagon Barn Farmstead."** Dated 1997.



In 2002 Bob Hirn as Barn Restoration Chairman reported that the exterior of the Barn was pretty much completed except for patching some cracks in the foundation and replacing some doors. Fast-forward to 2016 and Mr. Purdy's air castle needs window replacement, a new roof and upgrades on the electrical system in the Barn. **The Friends are committed to protecting and preserving the Octagon Barn for generations to come.**

The book contains a wealth of information on the restoration of the Barn and surrounding buildings with before and after pictures and a written narrative of what was done to restore the Barn. Bob included a complete cost breakdown in detail. **Bob's book is a major task in and of itself.**

Upon further exam it was clear that Bob was aligning the restoration with the guidelines from the Michigan Historical Site Register. Further research into our By-Laws led me to our "Purpose". **"This organization is committed to the restoration and preservation of the Barn complex in its natural habitat as an historical site, tourist attraction and agricultural museum, which can be enjoyed for education, entertainment and recreation by the community and others."** The guidelines were there all along. Bob's footprints are evident everywhere at the Octagon Barn along with those of many others who have worked hard to make the Octagon Barn what it is today. **I often say it will take 5 people to replace Bob and that is a fact but this group of Friends will pull together and move the Octagon Barn forward. This is what Bob and all the others would want us to do.** (continued on p. 2)

Letter From the President
FRIENDS of the THUMB OCTAGON BARN
Rose M. Putnam



Dear Friends,

The wonderful thing about the Thumb Octagon Barn project is that there is never a dull moment. We have had a lot of recent education on metal and shingled roofing material and the installation of both. My head was spinning by the end of all the presentations. Then of course we had to consider the condition of the windows while we are working on the roof. We don't want to have to walk on a new roof to replace windows. Thus more education. When Dennis Anderson retired from teaching, I am sure he did not think he would be back researching, finding presenters and teaching a group of barn lovers about construction material and methods. What was also discovered or should I say reinforced was the purpose that drives our organization-our mission statement. Please read

Dennis' article to get the answer to our research project to replace the roof on the Barn.

Another exciting research project was to locate new performers of our "Music Weekend in the Barn." Again, I am learning so much. Thank you to the Committee of Ron Kuenzli, striving for more music in the Barn, with Dave Jaroch and Richard Wroblewski. This group has special background knowledge to get the job done. Our weekend will start with Classic Rock, then move to Country music and finishes up with old-time gospel bluegrass. I am sure you will find each performance well worth your time. If you are willing to volunteer, consider camping out for the weekend. July is usually a great time to enjoy a little music and outdoor fun around a campfire. We will also be asking for some great homemade cookies to serve, too. Look for more information in the newsletter. The proceeds from the concerts will go toward renovation in the Barn.

The addition to the elevator is well underway. Like I said, even in the cold, winter months there is never a dull moment. It's a little muddy around the elevator right now, but when the area dries up, please stop by for a look.

In just two short months School Tours will be underway. The committee is moving along with plans for another great year. Please see Diane's article for an update. The event will premier our very exciting theme for this year – **Our Wonderful World of Water**. Even in Michigan surrounded by all the Great Lakes, we cannot take this valuable resource for granted. Again, here is another opportunity for more education. Come on out and find out what Greg Alexander and Tammy Grifka, Theme Co-Chairs, have up their sleeves.

But before that happens, we hope to see you during spring-cleaning on May 7th. All hands on deck. And we haven't even opened for the season. And of course, I hope to see you all at our opening activity at the Annual Meeting/Dinner/Auction on April 16th. We are steamrolling into 2016!

Your Friend and President,
Rose M. Putnam

Preserving Mr. Purdy's Dream

(continued from p. 1)

We are looking at a two-year project with the window repairs first after which will be painting, a new roof, electrical upgrades and plans for a 100-year celebration will surely follow. This will all be done around our busy schedule of events. We will do what we can with volunteers and hire contractors as well.

We know from history that those who were involved in the saving of the Barn looked into applying to the National Register as an historical site before the restoration, but this was

put on hold because it is a two-year process. We have a lot of work to do to apply **but we feel it is worth the effort. We think we have a "special Barn" worthy of being placed on the National Register as a Historical Site.** The work has begun!

The Executive Committee approved of the recommendation and we are proceeding with plans to take care of the Octagon Barn and surrounding buildings. Thank you to all the folks that gave to this effort.

Monday Work Crew

The Boys, Co-Chairman

The Monday work crew has been busily working most Mondays on various projects on the site. One of these projects was to build three additional people movers to be used during FFD. Since our parking area is down the road from the Agricultural Museum site, people movers were invaluable in getting folks to the grounds. They worked very well but it was felt that we really could use some additional movers. So a crew worked in **Jerry Auten's** heated workshop to build the movers with one being specifically designed to accommodate those with wheelchairs and other special needs equipment. Working on this project from January 15 until February 5th were **Martin Kubacki**, Ubly, MI, **Dan Caister**, Cass City, **Lew Martin**, Decker, MI, **Ron Hoffman**, Bad Axe, MI, & **Jerry Auten**, Cass City, MI.

Some of the other projects that the Monday Work Crew have designated as needing attention are: complete

barn loft displays, install lights in new storage building, repair picnic tables, install storm doors on house, screens & storm door installed in the Welcome Center, repair schoolhouse roof, repair cider mill door, repair Barn doors, paint garage & paint back porch of house, new roof on the Barn, caulk & paint windows as needed in the Barn and repair house porch & decorative braces.

Wow! That's an amazing list. You can see that there is much work to do and we can always use more volunteer help. So come and join the work crew, as they are hard at work most Mondays unless the weather prevents them from working. It is really rewarding to see what can be accomplished when folks work together. To find out more about the work schedule, request that your name is on the list to receive email updates by emailing David Jaroch at tdjaroch@yahoo.com.

Grounds/Clean-up Day

Louis Wehrman, Chairman

Clean-up Day at the Barn is scheduled for **Saturday, May 7th beginning at 9:00 a.m.** Rain or shine, volunteers are needed to prepare for the upcoming season opening at the Thumb Agricultural Museum. Bring your favorite cleaning supplies for windows, floors, etc and tools for yard work. Bring a sack lunch to enjoy as you fellowship with other volunteers at the noon hour. Any help will be greatly appreciated. So get some friends together and come lend a hand and have some fun.



The crew working on one of the people movers. This was a great winter project and how exciting that they are completed and all ready to go for School Tours and our other Events. Great job!

Annual Meeting, Banquet & Benefit Auction

Nancy Hrabcak, Chairperson

Our Annual Meeting has grown through the years from a small gathering in Gagetown with a few tasty snacks to a Banquet and Benefit Auction. Our 2016 Annual Meeting will be held on **Saturday, April 16, 2016** at the **V.F.W. Hall in Cass City, MI** beginning at 5 p.m. with dinner served at **5:45 p.m.** prepared and served by **McDonald's Food & Family Center of Bad Axe**. Following dinner there will be a short business meeting, election of officers and a look back at our accomplishments in 2015. Individuals, businesses and organization will also be recognized for their contribution.

After the short business meeting it will be time for our Benefit Auction that will be conducted by **Osentoski Realty Co. & Auctioneering**. **Marty Osentoski** and others will once again be handling the Auction. They always make this a fun event and are so enthusiastic about getting folks involved in the bidding to bring in the greatest dollar amount to benefit the Octagon Barn.

The items that are auctioned are a result of attendees bringing, the night of

the Annual Meeting, items that are in good saleable condition and can include antiques, humorous items, mystery boxes, baked goods, crafts and items for everyday use. So look for that something special that you think someone else just might also think is very special and would be happy to bid to possess it. One thing that we know for sure it that the homemade goodies are always a big hit. What would you bid for a homemade lemon meringue pie or perhaps a raspberry pie? Hopefully our bakers will once again go to work and create one of their fantastic pies.

A **reservation form** has been included with this newsletter and we hope you will consider joining the Friends for a fun-filled evening as we begin our scheduled calendar of Events for 2016. We need your reservation by April 1st so that we can provide the caterer with an accurate number attending. If you have any questions please contact chairperson **Nancy Hrabcak** at **989-551-6495** or email her at:

njbraun15@yahoo.com.



Marty Osentoski will do anything to get folks involved in the bidding during the auction. Here is one of many handmade aprons that have been donated. Certainly Marty's modeling of one of the aprons will get folks attention.

Annual Meeting, Banquet & Benefit Auction

WHEN: Saturday, April 16, 2016 beginning at 5 p.m.

Where: V.F.W. Hall in Cass City, MI

What: Dinner at 5:45 p.m.

Prepared by McDonald's

Food & Family Center.

Benefit Auction

conducted by

Osentoski Auctioneering

Why: To join the Friends for a fun-filled evening of fellowship and fund raising for the on-going improvements of the Thumb Agricultural Museum.



Each year **Jerry Auten** makes many peanut clusters that are delicious and always bring in a good return. Ummmm are they ever good. Sometimes the highest bidder takes all the plates and shares them with the folks. We hope that Jerry will once again make his delicious treats for our auction.

Annual Meeting Recommendation

The Annual Meeting Committee would like to request that folks bring quality items for our Auction. We are looking for quality not quantity that will then bring in the greatest dollar amount to help us continue our restoration efforts. We have found that the home-made pies, cookies and other treats receive our highest bids. Also, we are very aware of time and want to keep the Auction to an acceptable amount of time for our guests. So once again we are looking for quality rather than quantity. Thank you for your understanding and helping us keep Our Annual Meeting and Benefit Auction the success that it has been and will continue to be.

21st Fall Family Days 2016

Martin Kubacki, Chairman

Dear Friends,

Our Fall Family Days Kick off meeting will be held **Wednesday, March 15th at the Elmwood Township Hall at 7:00 p.m.** The theme for this year's 21st FFD event is **OUR WONDERFUL WORLD OF WATER.** **Greg Alexander and Tammy Grifka** are co-chairs and are very excited about this year's theme. They are both hoping to have a lot of resources to show the importance of one of our most valuable resources in today's world. **Clean Water!**

We will also continue to have harvesting demonstrations and exhibits that are representative of farming as in years gone by. We are building an addition to the grain elevator and Louis Wehrman and the Monday crew have been working hard all winter to hopefully have it done by Spring.

This year's **FFD expense budget is set for over \$45,000.00.** This seems like a lot of money but when you consider the cost of advertising, printing, postage, rental of canopies and porta-johns, buttons, plaques, food licenses, security and waste removal, etc. It doesn't take long for the costs to add up.

If you are interested in getting behind this Event by being a sponsor this year, we have included a form for your consideration. Last year, we were very pleased to have over 20 new sponsors. **Our FFD's financial sponsors have been a key to the success of the Event.** If you or someone you know would like to be a sponsor, please let us know by **May 15.** This will insure that the sponsor's name will appear in the various printed advertisements.

We are still looking for more volunteers to help during the two-day Event. Please consider lending a hand. We have lost some very hard working volunteers through the years and we need people to step up and help in all areas including the sawmill, house and farming demonstrations. We need your talent to keep our Event going. Come out and join our fun group – **try it you'll like it,** as the saying goes. If you can help, please let us know. We will find a job to suit you. Contact **Martin Kubacki, chairman, at 989-551-0526 or Devin Irion, Co-Chairman, at 989-553-0587.**

Yours truly,
Martin Kubacki, Chairman



In the final hours of FFD 2015 Martin was already preparing and thinking ahead to FFD 2016. He was looking for a new approach to our advertising brochure for the Event. He thought, "How about some elevated shots of the grounds rather than the usual ground level views." So volunteer photographer, **Connie Osentoski**, agreed to be raised up on a secure platform and move around while taking pictures. **Louis Wehrman** has assured her that all is well. Look for the results in our FFD advertising.

Grain Elevator

Louis & Linda Wehrman, Co-Chairmen

Work has begun on the long-awaited addition to the Grain Elevator. In December, the **Monday Work Crew** installed the support posts. **Tracy Moore of TDM Construction** has been hired to complete the building of the addition and work has been progressing during the winter.

The new addition will provide much needed additional space to demonstrate working vintage equipment as well as display space for artifacts and photos recalling the history of local grain eleva-

tors and agriculture.

The ground level of the new addition will be used to house the Grist-mill equipment and provide an area for demonstrations.

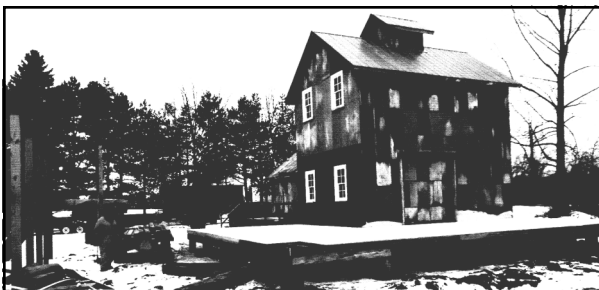
We sincerely appreciate all the folks who have been kind enough to donate items to help us tell the story of our agricultural and rural heritage.

We continue to search out and accept donations that will enhance this area of the Thumb Agricultural Museum. **If you**

have any items you might care to donate including photos or historical information relating to local grain elevators and farming in the area, call Louie at 989-948-3480.

Donations earmarked for the grain elevator have assisted in the funding of this project. These donors love farming and the major part that agriculture has played in Michigan's Thumb and the importance of the local elevator through the years.

The photos below show the before and after of the construction process.
How exciting to see all the increased demonstration space this addition is going to provide.



School Tours 2016

Diane Rapson Gabil, Chairperson

School Tours 2016 for students from pre-school through 8th grade will be held on Wednesday, May 11th, Thursday, May 12th & Friday May 13th at the Thumb Octagon Barn, Gagetown. The Theme for 2016 is "Our Wonderful World of Water!" chosen in 2015. Cost is \$2.00 fee donation for each student and each chaperone attending and collected the day of tour. Tours begin at 8:30 a.m. with the last tours beginning at 1 p.m.

In 2015 we had 1,125 students that attended from the following counties Arenac, Bay, Huron, Lapeer, Sanilac and Tuscola counties. There were 26 educators that brought their classes and were accompanied by 372 chaperons. Already we have 701 students signed up and times are still available all three days but teachers are encouraged to sign up soon as we can only accommodate so many students each day. Those interested in scheduling a tour should contact Diane

Rapson Gabil at drapson-gabil@chartermi.net. More information about the tours is also available on our website at www.thumboctagonbarn.org.

Our Theme selected in August of 2015 will be very timely with the situation that is occurring in Flint. The Theme Chairs, **Greg Alexander & Tammy Grifka** are developing displays and presentations in conjunction with the Michigan Department of Natural Resources (DNR), the Michigan Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) and the Soil Conservation Units in surrounding counties.

Diane has scheduled School Tours Meetings to be held at **Rawson Memorial Library in Cass City**. Meeting begin at **12:30 p.m. until 2:30 p.m.** on the following Wednesdays, **April 6th and if needed on May 4th**. All are invited as we can always use more volunteers. We'll find a job for you.



A very early picture of School Tours shows that the Barn is in need of extensive repair and a close look even shows the "Band-Aide" that was covering the west section of the Barn roof. Also, students gathered in front of the Barn to have a picnic lunch with just a few picnic tables. In case of bad weather the only place to eat would have been in the Barn that had many roof leaks. Now we have dozens of picnic tables as well as tables set up in the Munro Building should students need covering while enjoying their sack lunch.



One of the popular stations that students visit is the display of tractors when they have an opportunity to sit on the stationary tractor and pretend that they are driving. Wouldn't you love to know what these three little guys are talking about?

Music Weekend in the Barn

Music Committee, David Jaroch, Ron Kuenzli, Rose Putnam, & Richard Wroblewski

The committees' goal was to arrange for a weekend of music at the Barn with some new musical groups. They had great fun researching various groups and making the necessary arrangements to secure their performance dates and times. They have confirmed a nice variety of music including Classic Rock, Country Music and Old-Time Gospel Bluegrass. The cost for each concert will be \$10.00 per person with children 12 and under admitted free.

Refreshments will be served at all three concerts. **David Jaroch** has agreed to be MC for all concerts and will promote the concerts as a way to benefit further renovations to the Thumb Octagon Barn.

The schedule is as follows:

- ❖ **Friday, July 15th "Classic Rock Band" will be announced at a later date. Performance will be 7 to 9 p.m.**
- ❖ **Saturday, July 16th "Mandi Layne and The Lost Highway". "Country 2 The Bone" 7 to 9 p.m.**
- ❖ **Sunday, July 17th Silverwood Bottom Boys "Old-Timey Gospel Bluegrass" 2 p.m. to 4 p.m. Valley Lutheran High will be warm up group starting at 1:30 p.m.**

Can't wait to hear these new groups perform and fill the Barn with their melodic sounds. So mark your calendars and plan to come to the Thumb Agricultural Museum and enjoy the **Music Weekend in the Barn**.

Octagon Barn Cookbook

Mary Bell & Tammi Hensley,
Co-Chairladies

Two of our Host Couple Ladies are putting together our third Octagon Barn Cookbook and they need your help. We would appreciate folks sharing some of the recipes for all the delicious dishes that they prepare for our potluck meals during the summer months. The ladies said, **"We need recipes in all categories and hope you'll help us out."**

Their plan is, with your help, to be able to put together the recipes collected in May and have the Cookbook ready for sale during Fall Family Days 2016. Feel free to enter as many recipes as you would like. Recipes should be sent to either Mary Bell & Tammi Hensley.

Mary Bell
5140 S Baker Blve.
Carthage, MO 64836

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

2015 Host Couples

Our Host Couple program began in 1999 when we realized the importance of having folks on site to greet visitors and offer tours of the site and most importantly provide security for the Thumb Agricultural

Museum. We are so very fortunate that we have a number of couples who come back year after year as they consider the site their summer home away from their southern winter homes. We thank them

many times over for providing this very important role for the Friends. Following are a few comments from our 2015 couples.



Ron (Too Tall) & Tammi Hensley, Lehigh Acres, FL have been coming to the Barn for five years arriving in May and stay until after FFD in September. They learned about the opportunity through the Good Sam magazine and arrived not knowing anyone. Tammi said, **"The Octagon Barn Friends are now our second family."** Tammi and Mary Bell are working on a recipe project and Tammi said, "We're begging the Friends to send in recipes. We need all categories to make it a complete collection."



Curtis & Mary Bell, Carthage, MO are returning for the third year and originally learned about the Friends of the Thumb Octagon Barn through an advertisement in the Highway magazine. They asked questions about the job and what the average temperatures were in July and August and decided this was doable. They said, "That sealed the deal for us if the Friends would have us. So we came to the Thumb of Michigan. All that summer we had so much fun meeting all of the Barn guests and getting to know the volunteers better and the other Host Couples. All of this is the reason we keep asking to come back and thankfully we are asked back."



John & Carolyn Longmuir, Box Elder, South Dakota are preparing to spend their third visit to the Barn arriving July 1 and staying until mid September. They first learned of the Thumb Agricultural Museum from an ad looking for volunteers to be host couples. The Longmuirs said, **"We fell in love with the Barn and if we lived in the area we would be involved all year long."** The most amazing thing was watching everyone get ready and run the Fall Family Days. Amazing! **The organization and execution of FFD is better than anything we've seen.** It's interesting to see the reaction of different people who tour our Barn, some are fascinated, some are very interested, some take hundreds of pictures but **the older farmers are the best**, they sometimes know more about the antique tools we have than we do. "The Longmuirs will welcome Carolyn's sister **Judy Robertson** and her husband, **Clyde** who will also serve as Host Couples until September. The Longmuirs added, "We must introduce them to **OUR** Barn. Ha! Ha!"

One Room Country School

We invite and would welcome student groups from other areas to participate in the programs presented in the One Room Country School during FFD 2016. They need not necessarily have to be patriotic programs. Perhaps a school play, Christmas or holiday program, spelling or geography bee or something that would be typical of old fashion, one-room school programs about 30 minutes in length.

Please contact Katie Jackson by email at jacksonkt30@outlook.com if you are interested or perhaps have a recommendation.



Duane & Gail Osbourn, New Baltimore, MI have been involved with the Barn for many years. Originally they came for an extended visit but health issues make that impossible. "We love the Barn and could move into the Purdy Home any time. We enjoyed being at the Barn when we could do it. We would be willing to fill in anytime if needed but we just can't do anything other than be a presence on the Site." Gail loves tending to the flowers. Last summer they filled in for two weeks while the Curtis' attended a family reunion.

The Purdy Home

Marilyn Phillips, Chairperson

The house has been buttoned up for the winter months and will be in need of major cleaning when we open the site for School Tours and the season. Clean-up Day is May 7th and Marilyn could really use help with Spring cleaning in the Purdy Home. We have new storm and screen doors that were made by Amish contractors in Middlefield Ohio and are "absolutely beautiful."

Marilyn is hosting a **Christmas** in July Tea on **July 28th**. Also there will be **Christmas in July Open House Weekend** on July 29, 30 & 31 when the Friends will be offering free admission and tours the entire week end during our regular hours that the site is open.

Teas in the Purdy Home

Two teas are planned for the 2016 calendar year. Reservations are required for admission by calling the designated hostess. Space is limited so reserve your seat early. The details for each Tea follows:

***Marilyn Phillips will be hosting a Christmas In July Tea/Luncheon on Thursday, July 28th at 11:30 a.m.** **Rose Putnam**, President will share **Christmas at the Farm** written in the 1930's by Florence Purdy Moore. This is the story of her visit to her parent's home, the Purdy Homestead, built in 1919. The cost for the Tea/luncheon is \$15.00 and must be pre-paid to assure a place at the table. Please call Marilyn at **989-977-0025** to make your reservation. There is limited seating available so reserve your seat quickly.

***Our Host Couple Ladies** will be hosting a themed Tea on **August 4th at 3 p.m. until 5 p.m.** serving desserts only. The tea will feature a conversation about **Women's Suffrage presented by Carol Caverly** of Gagetown. This is a very timely topic in this presidential election year. The ladies are planning on having door prizes, souvenir teacup, entertainment & tours of the Purdy Home. The cost is \$15.00 payable upon reserving your place at the Tea (adults only). Your reservation can be made by contacting **Carolyn Longmuir at 609-851-4958**. **There are only 25 seats available so reserve early.**

Please note: Christmas in July Open House Weekend, July 29, 20, 31. Free admission and tours the entire weekend.

In Memoriam

On January 24, 2016, Doris Florence (Bitzer, Bang) Schember, Gagetown, MI passed away suddenly after a brief illness at age 84. In 1994, Doris was one of the original community volunteers who came together to SAVE the OCTAGON BARN. She served on the Executive Committee and was Treasurer of the Friends of the Octagon Barn organization until 2012. Doris and her husband Earl Schember volunteered through the years helping in whatever way possible and where they were needed. They were wonderful promoters of our project to create the Thumb Octagon Barn Agricultural Museum and were always encouraging others to become involved. Doris enjoyed spending time with family, reading, was

an avid Detroit Tiger fan, liked working crossword puzzles, an Elvis fan, traveling, painting Earl's woodcrafts, preparing tasty treats in her beautiful kitchen and flower gardening.

Following are a few of the many comments that folks shared about Doris. Pam Kohl, Doris' daughter said, "She was a great Mom. We're going to plant a tree in her memory at Glacier National Park's Trees of Remembrance. Janet Muntz of Cass City said, "She was a lovely lady." Mary Ann Hirn of Cass City told Earl, "Bob spent the money and Doris paid the bills." and Ena Reintjes of St. Clair Shores said, "She was a good person. A really good person." (Memorial donations on p. 8)



Doris Schember

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.

Ray Armstead, Jr., Cass City, MI donated a hired-man bed, a Victorian style bedroom chair & a two quart size crock.

Richard Burk, Saginaw, MI donated line shaft, Gustafson seed treater, steel wagon gravel box & silage unloader.

Jim & Debra Krantz, Cass City, MI donated a porcelain pail, coffee percolator, aluminum picnic jug, tractor seat, kitchen type utensils, watering can, meat grinder and three blades.

Items donated in memory of Arnold Neuman Estate, Kunding Brothers, Sebewaing, MI., May 22, 1928 hay car, rail road jack, 40' 3/4" hay rope, rope hook, sling trip, large wood pulley & three wood pulleys.

Benefactors

The following have made a donation of \$10.00 or more since our last newsletter

Anonymous Donor
Bob Ashmore, Owendale, MI
Carolyn Baldwin, Vassar, MI
Tom Barton, St. Clair Shores, MI
Bernard & Patty Billingsley, Sanford, MI
Louise Buehrl, Palmetto, FL
Donna Burke, Perrysburg, OH
Ray Christie, Freeland, MI
Karl & Marilyn DeSimpelare, Unionville, MI
John & Pat DeWyse, Bay City, MI
Robert & Eleanor M. McDonald Ethier, Milledgeville, GA
Thomas & Elizabeth Fritz, Gagetown, MI
John Gallagher, Carsonville, MI
Dorothea Hass, Brookline, MA

Doris Hendrick, Decker, MI
Tom & Jane Johnson, Williamston, MI
Walter Kloc, Deford, MI
Stanley & Rita Knopf, Marlette, MI
Tim & Debbie Kubacki, Sebewaing, MI
Elizabeth Lambert, Kingston, MI
Ken & Theresa Micklash, Cass City, MI
David & Jane Morse, Cass City, MI
Mark & Tina Palinsky, Bay Port, MI
Mike & Drucila Pisarek, Cass City, MI
Judy Ann Rau, Reese, MI
Rob & Sharon Rumon, Caro, MI
Dorothy (Dotty) Scollon, Cass City, MI
John R. & Janet Blondell Stahl, Tillamook, OR

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

989-665-0081

Non-Profit Org.
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Gagetown, MI
Permit No. 3

We're on the Web!

<http://www.thumboctagonbarn.org>

*George Pettinger,
Web Manager*

Souvenirs

Joan Koch, Chairperson

Joan would like to let members know that our historical DVD telling the story of the Octagon Barn is still available. The DVD features **Marilyn Phillips** touring the Purdy Home, **Al Eicher**, Program Source International, producer of the DVD telling the history of the Purdy Family and the Friends efforts to Save the Octagon Barn and a wonderful, memorable tour of the Barn by the late **Bob Hirn** who devoted many years of dedicated hard work and expertise to restore the Octagon Barn. This DVD is a must have keepsake and tribute to Bob.

The cost of the DVD is \$20.00 plus \$3.00 shipping costs. Our History Book is also available for \$10.00 plus \$2.00 shipping costs. **Joan is still offering special pricing on the purchase of the DVD and the History Book for \$25.00 plus \$3.00 shipping charges.** Make your request by mailing your order to P. O. Box 145, Gagetown, MI 48735 or contact Joan at 989-325-0041 to pick up. These items will also be available for sale during all of our Events and when the site is open to the public.

Special Donations

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

Donations in memory of Mildred Spiekerman were given by Ruth Ann Stevenson, Pickford, MI & Rob & Margaret Bienenstein, Grosse Ile, MI

Donation in memory of Bob Hirn were given by Leon & Lillian Farmer, Runaway Bay, TX, Geraldine Auten, Centerline, MI, Patrick & Deb Walters, Chesterfield, MI, Patricia Hester, Cass City, MI, Karl & Lorna Fretz, Ridgeway, Ontario, Canada, Mark & Betsy McKelvey, Morton Grove IL, Duaine & Marilyn Phillips, Caro, MI, Mary Brauer, Clawson, MI & James W. & Linda Buss Perkins, Wolcottville, IN.

Donations in memory of Fred Kausch, Sanford, MI were given by Roger Fritz, Owendale, MI, Tim & Debbie Kubacki, Sebawaing, MI, Bill & Cindy Lutz, Sebawaing, MI, Ken & Maureen Rasmussen, Rasmussen Transport, Sebawaing, MI, Bob & Cheri Lutz, Sebawaing, MI & Tom Fritz, Owendale, MI.

Donation in memory of Bill Brasgalla a member of the Lonesome Mountain Boys who performed in the Barn 2011-2015 was given by fellow musician Richard and his wife Vera Wroblewski of Sebawaing, MI. Bill died February 4, 2016 at age 69 Richard said, "We thank God that Bill was able to bring his talents to us in the Thumb and more specifically at the Octagon Barn."

NOTE: Please be sure to provide any change of address.

2016 Upcoming Events

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| April 16 | Annual Meeting, Banquet & Auction |
| May 7 | Clean-up Day, 9 a.m. |
| May 11, 12, 13 | School Tours by appointment only |
| July 15-17 | Music Weekend in the Barn |
| July 28 | Christmas in July Tea in the Purdy Home Marilyn Phillips |
| July 29, 30, 31 | Christmas in July Open House Weekend |
| August 4 | Host Couple Ladies Tea, Theme: Women's Suffrage |
| September 9 | FFD Fish Fry, 4 p.m.-7 p.m. |
| September 10 & 11 | 21st 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.

The following have made memorial donations in memory of Doris Schember:

Carol Tacey, Reese, MI, Sandra Nizzola, Cass City, MI, Joan Koch, Cass City, MI, Ena Reintjes, St. Clair Shores, MI, Margaret Sergeant, Gagetown, MI, Jim & Rhonda Bolzman, Sebawaing, MI, Iola Eby, Elkton, MI, Wayne Schember, Pigeon, MI, Vern & Maxine Winter, Sebawaing, MI, Ervin Haley, Sebawaing, MI, Rich & Vera Wroblewski, Sebawaing, MI, Doug & Ardis Monroe, Gagetown, MI, Don & Janet Beers, Sebawaing, MI, Mr. & Mrs. William Kain, Sebawaing, MI, Barbara Neuman, Sebawaing, MI, Ray & Carol Caverly, Gagetown, MI, Elsie Mischung, Essexville, MI, Gilbert & Pamela Kern, Cass City, MI, Tom & Joyce Lindner, Reese, MI, Louis & Linda Wehrman, Reese, MI, Scott & Kim Bitzer, Bay City, MI, Rose M. Putnam, Cass City, MI, Stan & Char Menzel, Sebawaing, MI, Fred & Sandra Haley, Elkton, MI, Janet Muntz, Cass City, MI, The Keast Family, Spring Lake, MI, Diane Rapson Gabil, Essexville, MI, Mary Ann Hirn, Cass City, MI, Management Team at the Saginaw RICC, Unemployment Insurance Agency, Saginaw Connection & George & Glenda Wilson, Gagetown, MI

Newsletter

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