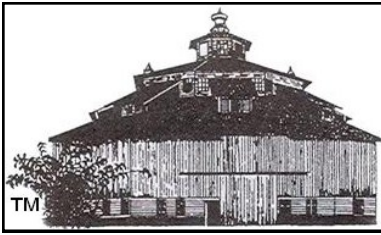


Thumb Octagon Barn News



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 2020

Executive Committee

President
Martin Kubacki

1st Vice President
Dennis Anderson

2nd Vice President
Gerald Auten

Treasurer
Joan Koch

Recording Secretary
Michelle VanHorn

Corresponding Secretary
Patti Parker

Purdy Home Chair
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Museum Chair
Connie Osentoski

Grounds & Grain Elevator Chair
Louis Wehrman

Barn/Float Chair
Paul Deo

Alert Team Chair
Norm Parker

Past President
Rose M. Putnam

Visit our website
thumboctagonbarn.org
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[thumboctagonbarn](https://www.facebook.com/thumboctagonbarn)

2019 Fall Family Days a Great Success

Another amazing Event, very organized, friendly people, excellent weather, more for visitors to see and do. These are the comments we heard from our visitors. Like all community service projects that need people so willing to spend time preparing for and carrying out their duties, the volunteers are to be commended on a job well done.

The battery charger is the distance some of them drive to be a part of this Event and the energy they bring with them. We had over 60 Thumb area high school students put in 459 hours of service. Their

help benefited both their schools and our Event.

The weather committee did an excellent job that brought over 18,000 visitors out, which set a new record. The Friday night Fish Fry saw 1250 people served-another record. Thanks to **Luci Kubacki** and her crew for a job well done. The concession stands on the grounds broke all records from previous events. **Amazing!!**

The net profit raised from FFDs will go to the replacement of all the side boards on the Barn, plus a fresh coat of paint. In addition are all the maintenance jobs that need to be done. All of these pro-

jects require money.

The 2020 FFD will follow the annual theme which will be "Farm Livestock:.. There are some exciting new exhibits that will be announced and also a 25th Event celebration.

Thanks again for all of your help and support See you March 10, 2020 for our first organizational meeting . Please bring your ideas for 2021's theme that will be picked that night.

Happy Holidays to Everyone and God Bless!

Lisa Geiger and Martin Kubacki, Co-Chairs.

Field Demonstrations

Wayne Lenton is driving the tractor to dig potatoes with **Terry Keinath** following to be sure all went well. Terry was also busy sorting pickles on the newly renovated sorter. Many hours are spent keeping the crops and the equipment maintained and ready for demonstrations. We thank all those who assisted with this event.



In keeping with our annual tradition of showcasing our past rural heritage, field demonstrations draw many visitors. Many are happy to purchase a bag of freshly dug potatoes to enjoy later at home.



President's Message

2019!! What a great year we had at the Thumb Octagon Barn. In May we opened up the site for the well organized, well attended School Tours. Then we went into our Auction/Volunteer Picnic, which saw our largest attendance to date.

On site, there was a lot of activity being done by our Monday Crew, as always. First, we started out by adding a lean-to on our Storage Building. New floor tile was laid in the kitchen area, bathroom and storage closet in the Munro Building making them easier to clean. After that the Amish Crew was busy putting fresh paint on the One Room Schoolhouse and Garage. They also fixed the windows on both buildings and replaced all the pillars on the Garage.

Denny Anderson and the Amish

Crew replaced the siding on the One Room School Museum with a cement siding. Both projects look very nice! Thanks Denny and Crew for a job well done. Next we put up a new rail fence along the road and put in electricity for new camping sites, which were moved from the east ditch.

Lastly, the flagpole and flower beds were redesigned with field stones. (See story in Summer 2019 edition) Yes, we accomplished a lot! Thank you again to everyone that helped.

Then, of course, the very successful Fall Family Days. What can I say? The good Lord blessed us all again with great weather. Many, many hours were put into the organization of the event and it showed. It makes my heart swell with pride every time I think about it. I cannot thank everyone enough for their

help, whether it was in a big way or small way. A lot of time is spent all year long making plans and decisions. I would like to again say "Thank You" to each and everyone who has made a contribution of time, talent or money for a successful 2019. Please enjoy the upcoming holidays with your family and friends. We hope to see you at our next regular meeting on December 10th at 7PM at the Purdy Bank Building in Gagetown.

God Bless You, Martin Kubacki

Interesting comment made by a visitor during FFD to **Lorna Gray**. "This is better than Greenfield Village." Wow, what a compliment to all our volunteers.

Fish Fry Draws Largest Crowd Ever!

Even though the clouds moved in and rain was predicated, this did not stop the fish lovers from lining up for the great fish prepared by the crew pictured to the right. The Fish Fry was organized by **Luci Kubacki** with many, many more helping hands to serve the over 1250 people in attendance. We couldn't have done it without them!! Thank you.



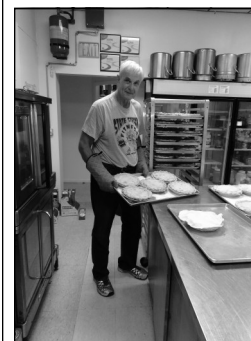
Bean Soup is Always a Favorite!

Below is the family of **Dan and Beth Walz** who start preparing the soup following the Fish Fry and stay up quite late into the night to be sure the soup is ready for lunch. Yummy!



Caro Knights of Columbus Serve Farmer's Breakfast and Bake Pies, too!

It took 62 volunteers from the **Caro Knights of Columbus** to serve over 500 Farmer's Breakfasts to our visitors on Saturday and Sunday. Pancakes, eggs served your way, potatoes, bacon and sausage were on the menu. The KofC wives were also on hand to serve coffee and juice. Another crew led by **Joe (far right) and Mary Beth Greene** made and sold 106 apple pies. The **Thumb Area**



Antique Auto Club had home-made ice cream available to top off the pie if desired. It was perfect weather for these treats. We thank both organizations for their continued support.

Fall Family Days Fun

Sharon Cummins (top right) who has chaired making donuts during FFD for 20 years is going to resign and turn the reins over to her 23 year old grandson, Tyler Brandel. She has had 9 grandchildren volunteer to help over the years. They also have some fun while working so hard. "Dancing with the Donuts" was the case as they listen to the music near their tent under the walnut trees. Did you know that it takes 600 pounds of donut mix, 180 pounds of cinnamon sugar and 500-550 pounds of grease to make over 13,000 to 14,000 donuts in 2 days? Sharon said they have reached the maximum that they can do in this time period. Sharon will still be around to assist as needed. Thank you to the Cummins family for their years of volunteering.



Pictured at the bottom left is the kitchen crew who so diligently served both days during FFD. How many chicken and fries was that again??

One of the biggest draws are the antique tractors. There were 132 tractors on display that can also be seen later in the afternoon tractor parade. Pictured below is **Martin Kubacki**, FFD Co-Chair, greeting **Ron Hoffman** on his tractor during the parade..



Munro and Wilson News from the Past



Jim Munro, (pictured to the left) George Munro's grandson, came to visit with his family during FFDs. Jim remembers "his Uncle Leslie "Boss" Munro carrying shingles up on the roof of the Barn when it was reshingled. It took 117 squares. Boss would also replace broken windows and do some caulking."

Jim was friends with **George Wilson**, (pictured with Jim Munro) grandson of James & Cora Purdy. They shared

that when the Pisarek family owned the Barn they would come over and ride their bicycles around the inside of the barn.

George Wilson also remembers stoking coal in the furnace in the basement of the State Savings Bank in Gagetown when James Purdy was Bank president. It took 24 shovel fulls to keep it hot or only 18 shovel fulls to make it cooler. After George left this job Jim Munro took over for awhile.

One Room Schoolhouse



Beth Brown, (pictured on the far left) put together two patriot programs for our visitors who filled the school house. Our visiting students also enjoyed "playing school" and didn't want to leave.

The **TRACTOR GAMES** were a huge success. There were more participants and spectators this year, who were excited about the different tractor games and looking forward to next year with more new games and fun.



Special Donations

Donation in memory of George Moslander given by Ena Reintjes, St. Clair Shores, MI and Margaret Sergeant, Gagetown, MI. George is the husband of Lois Moslander who skillfully did the design layout for our newsletter for many years.

Donation in memory of Pat Gibbard given by Susan Ignasiak, Grosse Pointe Farms, MI Susan wrote, "I appreciate the Thumb Octagon Barn, Thank You."

Donation in memory of Gwen Bell given by Willa Vargas, Bellevue, NE

Donation in memory of my wife,

Vivian, who died two years ago given by Dick Smith. Smith's Alpaca Acres.

Donations in memory of Sherry Ann Will were given by Terry & Sandra Keinath, Martin & Luci Kubacki, Louis & Linda Wehrman and the Will Family. Dale Will wrote, "Sherry always enjoyed attending FFD and visiting with her friends from the Barn."

Donations in memory of Al Sowles, Dar Dumaw & Evelyn Rogo were given by Evelyn Schadd, Filion, MI

Donations in memory of Earl Schember were given by Peggy McKnight, Cass City, MI Ervin Haley, Sebewaing, MI, Fredrick & Sandra Haley, Elkton, MI, Charlotte

Menzel, Sebewaing, MI, Heather Schember, Midland, MI, John & Sarah Schwannecke, Midland, MI, Alene McCracken, Bad Axe, MI, Ena Reintjes St. Clair Shores, MI & Margaret Sergeant. Gagetown, MI.

Donation in honor of Joan Marie Lenz Kuhne, Frankenmuth was designated as Michigan Fraternal Alliance 2019 Volunteer of the Year. The organization is committed to improving our communities through benevolence and active civic involvement. Joan has been a Friend of the Thumb Agricultural Museum for many years. Thank you Joan and the Alliance for your support.

Delores Garety donated a variety of knick knacks for the Purdy Home.

Awakened Light

Dennis Anderson had a vision to promote the Thumb Octagon Barn, which is now a traveling exhibit known as "Awakened Light." A photo, taken by **Nikki Schuler**, of the very center of the interior of the Barn was framed and donated by **Thomas and Karla Bardwell of Frame Workz**, showcases the wonderful architecture of this "Gem in the Thumb". An additional donation was made by **Dennis and Joyce Anderson** to complete the framing. The first stop was at the office of Osentoski Realty & Auctioneering in Caro. Pictured

below is **Dave Osentoski** with **Rose Putnam**. We thank them for the opportunity to display our photo and promotion of Fall Family Days.



If you know of a great location for display, please contact **Dennis Anderson**. (989-550-4416)



The next stop was at the Caro Area Library during the month of September, which also featured a promotion of types of barns.

Museum & Other Donations

Linda Kenther, Port Austin-Box of records of Bradleyville store owned by John Brustmaker

Henry Lange, Pigeon-Case corn binder

Shirley McMann, Brown City- 1 1/2 Hp Hit and miss engine & Volt meter

Gary Sutherby, Leonard-25Hp Superior oil well engine

Richard Sylvester-One load of black dirt

Jim Osentoski-One load of gravel

Correction

An article published in the Summer 2019 edition stated that Maurer Electric of Bad Axe installed the new lighting in the kitchen of the Munro Building. However, three volunteers-**Gerald Auten, Byron Arnold and Jerry Meredith** installed the new lights. The lights were purchased at Medler Electric.

Benefactors

The following made a donation of \$10.00 or more since our last newsletter through November 16, 2019.

Raymond Baur, Unionville, MI
Jack & Terri Beith, Linden, MI
Stan & Ruth Bentley, North Branch, MI
Donna Burke, Perrysburg, OH
Scott & Jackie Beutler, Burton, MI
Barbara Chambers, Troy, MI
Dale & Pat Churchill, Deford, MI
Jim & Jan Collin, Lakeport, MI
Russ & Bonnie Coones, Unionville, MI
Rich & Lori Corl, Colorado Springs, CO
Shelley Corsini, Bad Axe, MI
Janet Cummings, Mt. Pleasant, MI
Gerald Deeg, Sebawaing, MI
Tony & Diane Eisele, Vassar, MI
Elkton Lions Club, Elkton, MI
Dan & Marlene Erla, Cass City, MI
Foster & Pamela Kinney Findlay, Freeland, MI
Maris & Judy Fravel, Bainbridge Island, WA
Delores Garety, Cass City, MI
Walter & Ann Hagen, Bay City, MI
Robert W. Harcourt, Alger, MI
Dorothea Hass, Brookline, MA
Peggy Hellwig, Owendale, MI
Diane Hoag, Cass City, MI
Loren & Lois Hollister, Sioux Falls, SD
James & Shelly Hudgins, Ortonville, MI
Susan Ignasiak, Grosse Pointe Farms, MI
Deloris Jensen, St. Clair Shores, MI
Tom M. & Jane S. Johnson, Williamston, MI
Diana Kausch, Sanford, MI
Henry King, Imlay City, MI
Peter M. & Marilyn A. Leiterman, Gagetown, MI
Wendy & Sam Leppert, Cass City, MI
Joyce Loeffler, Gagetown, MI

Kim Loeffler, Gagetown, MI
Fran Lovejoy, Cass City, MI
Mary Lou Mac Neil, Kawkawlin, MI
Don & Carla McKimmy, Bad Axe, MI
Kenneth & Theresa Micklash, South Lyon, MI
Vera Milz, Troy, MI
David & Jane Morse, Cass City, MI
Marie Myszkier, Albuquerque, NM
Janet Muntz, Cass City, MI
Tom & Sue Muto, Midland, MI
Frank O'Donnell & Helen Weber, Ferndale, MI
Lynne O'Rourke, Lincoln, NE
Wayne A. & Linda L. Patterson, Attica, MI
Tom & Denise Patrick, Fostoria, MI
William & Deborah Posak, China, MI
Donald Ramaut, Clinton Twp, MI
Robert Rolston, Gagetown, MI
Dick Roth, Caseville, MI
Saginaw River Marine Society, Bay City, MI
Mark & Mary Sayles, Essexville, MI
Jerry & Mary Ellen Schley, Dearborn Hgts. MI
Ivernia Schwartz, Gagetown, MI
Susan Scott, Saginaw, MI
Cheryl Corsini Smith, Carmel by the Sea, CA
Kim Strunz, Caro, MI
Richard & Nancy Sylvester, Fairgrove, MI
Allen & Gloria Thorsby, Colorado Springs, CO
David & Penny Turner, Mayville, MI
Susan Walker, Caro, MI
Ken & Margaret Watson, New Hudson, MI
Larry & Suzanne Wegner, Pigeon, MI
Darlene Weinrich, West Branch, MI
Leo & Molly S. Wildman, Gagetown, MI

Chemical Bank Cares Day

Once again, the Thumb Octagon Barn was blessed with volunteers from **Chemical Bank** during their annual community service day- Chemical Bank Cares Day on Monday, October 14, 2019.

Kim Stevenson, Manager at the Caro office, took the lead to organize the support of three employees from the south eastern part of the state. They were very excited to visit the Barn for the very first time and were very impressed with what they saw. They definitely felt the "Wow factor" as they stood in the center of the Barn.

Work began with the cleaning of the buggies in the loft area that needed special attention from all

the bat droppings. Then a plastic covering was placed over each one to protect them during the winter months.

The crew moved to the front lawn to rake black walnuts. The next job was shaking the apple trees in the orchard to gather apples for pie making.

Kim assisted Marilyn Phillips with preparing the house for winter.

We thank them for their efforts and continued support of our project.

Pictured from left to right: Kim Stevenson, Joe Russo, Mark Vertin and Eric Flick.



Teamwork and Timbers



On August 24, 2019, the Teamwork and Timbers annual project brought together a great group of young men and their dad's to build a replica of a timber framed barn. The day starts with a little education about timber framing and a movie showing an actual old-fashioned barn raising. Then to building the barn, which takes a lot of teamwork to get the job done. This is a project of the Michigan Barn Preservation Network and is available across the state.

Look for next year's event on Saturday, August 22, 2020. Boys and girls ages 9 and up are encouraged to participate.



Thank you to **Jared Sorenson, Paul Deo, and Rose Putnam** for spearheading this project.

Michigan Barn Preservation Network Update

Beth Brown attended the Michigan Barn Preservation Network Annual Conference on May 31 & June 1, 2019 as a member of the Friends of the Thumb Octagon Barn. This was Beth's first time attending and she explained that she is now "hooked on barns". On Friday, May 31st a tour was given of 6 barns in Washtenaw County. 3 barns were of the pre-Civil War era, 2 were built in the 19th century and 1 was built in the 20th century. Very impressive barns.

The conference was held at the Dawn Farm in Ypsilanti, which is quite an impressive event center.

Beth reported that the MBPN continues to host barn workshops to save barns by working with contractors who have a working knowledge of barns. The Barn and Farmstead Surveys are still in development and most importantly a guest speaker spoke on the merits of restoring barns to protect our rural heritage as part of our history.

She was so thankful to be a part of this annual event and won't miss another. She invites other barn members to consider attending next year's event at the Kellogg Center on the MSU campus in East Lansing.

In Memoriam



George Gray was a volunteer at the Sawmill Museum for many years. He loved working on and repairing vintage tractors and trucks. He was able to fix most things and therefore was a valuable asset to our Agricultural Museum. Left to cherish his memory is his wife of fifty five years, Lorna Gray.

The family has requested that all donations be used for a memorial at the Sawmill Museum in George's memory.

Donations in Memory of George Gray

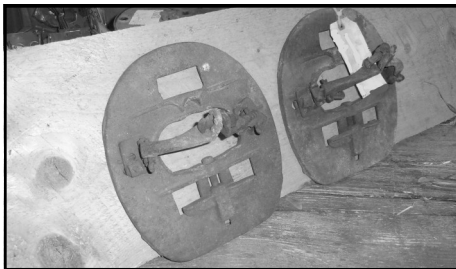
Lola Stein, Pigeon, MI
 Thumb Two Cylinder Club
 George & Glenda Wilson, Henderson, NV
 Mr. Mrs. Richard Campeau, Vassar, MI
 Mr. & Mrs. Richard Coon, Hale, MI
 Mr. & Mrs. Dale Heinlein, Vassar, MI
 Dick & Alice Starkey, Fairgrove, MI
 Nancy Bierlein, Reese, MI
 Dale & Mary Lanway, Clifford, MI
 Roger Peirce, Vassar, MI
 Vicki Smith, Port Huron, MI
 Bernice Spencer, Brown City, MI
 Bill, Linda & Michelle Gray, Vassar, MI
 Mark Culbert, Caro, MI
 Dennis Anderson, Cass City, MI
 Irene Rodammer, Reese, MI
 Chris & Sherri Kischneck, Vassar, MI
 Martin and Luci Kubacki, Ubly, MI
 Mary Ann Hirn, Cass City, MI
 Mark & Sue Topham, Frederick, MI
 Bernie & Barb Romain, Grand Blanc, MI
 Louis & Linda Wehrman, Reese, MI
 Jan Dinsmoore & Gary Gleich, Saginaw, MI
 Tom & Judy Cline, Cass City, MI
 Lloyd Walz, Vassar, MI
 Jim & Lynn Prime, Fairgrove, MI

Dave & Shirley Bates, North Branch, MI
 Wayne & Karen Lenton, Ubly, MI
 Bill & Barb Frost, Saginaw, MI
 Ron & JulAnn Kuenzli, Deford, MI
 Dale & Kyle Will, Caro, MI
 Ron & Marge Stange, Vassar, MI
 Rex & Joyce Colman, Vassar, MI
 Pat Gohsman, Vassar, MI
 Black River Club, Croswell, MI
 Russ & Bonnie Lieber, North Branch, MI
 Kathy Gorski, Essexville, MI
 Dolly Bauer, Vassar, MI
 Dave & Shelia, Shelby & Ann Babcock, Cass City, MI
 Dave & Lisa Streeter, Caro, MI
 Dick & Joyce Mason, Caro, MI
 Tom & Carol Hess, Vassar, MI
 Bernie Dennis, Caro, MI
 Jim & Mary Ann Fox, Akron, MI
 Doug & Christy Kring, Spring Arbor, MI
 Mike & Joann Amend, Caro, MI
 Terry & Sandy Keinath, Reese, MI
 Mary Taggett, Caro, MI
 Tom Gray, Omaha, NE
 Gerald Auten, Cass City, MI
 Thumb Area Old Engine and Tractor Association

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History Mystery Photo!



Can you identify these new museum items? If so, please send your answer to our website: thumboctagonbarn.org., then go to the contact page and complete required fields. All correct answers will be put into a drawing with one winner. Winner will receive a copy of the Thumb Octagon Barn historical DVD. Deadline is December 31, 2019.

Next Meeting :

The general membership meeting will be held on December 10, 2019 at the Purdy Bank Building in Gagetown starting at 7:00 PM. This is our traditional Christmas celebration. Please bring a finger food dish to pass.

Newsletter

Database and Labels.....David Eichler
Editing & Mailing.....Margaret Sergeant
Newsletter Coordinator & Layout.....Rose Putnam
Photos.....Connie Osentoski & Rose Putnam

Our 2019 Raffle Prize Winners. Congratulations!

1. \$500.00 -Donated in Memory of Pat Gibbard & Green Acres Farms, Akron (Winner-Debra Dutton-East Tawas)
2. Handmade Queen Size Quilt-Donated by Rosemary Quinn (Winner-Leslie Markle-Mattawan)
3. 40" Samsung Smart TV-Donated by *FOTOB (Winner-Dan Winchester-Caro)
4. \$300.00 -Donated by * FOTOB (Winner-Don Ramaut-Clinton Township)
5. John Deere Pedal Tractor-Donated by Tri-County Equipment, Sandusky (Winner-Ken Porrett-Applegate)
6. \$200.00-Donated in Memory of Pat Gibbard & Green Acres Farms, Akron (Winner-Susan Ignasiak-Gross Pointe)
7. Samsung Tablet-Donated by *FOTOB (Winner-Bonnie Zeidler-Cass City)
8. Case I-H Red Stake Wagon-Donated by Osentoski Farm Equipment-Pigeon and Bad Axe (Winner-Liz Lambert-Kingston)
9. Craftsman 6 gal. Air Compressor-Donated by *FOTOB (Winner-Tori Pine-Unionville)
10. \$150.00 Gift Basket-Donated by Tammy Bliss (Winner-Laura Mayes-Port Austin)
11. \$100-Menard's Gift Certificate-Donated in Memory of Pat Gibbard & Green Acres Farms, Akron (Winner-Kathy Gilbert-Ubly)
12. \$100.00 - Donated by *FOTOB (Winner-Dan Winchester-Caro)