



# The Old BARN POST

*A publication of Friends of Ohio Barns • February, 2023 • Vol. XXII, Issue 1*

## Learn How to Register your Historic Family Farm

Has your land been continuously owned by the same family for a century or more? Will it eventually be a part of the same family for 100 years? Learn how to qualify for Ohio Historic Family Farm status. Research the history of your farm and, if eligible, apply for the Ohio Department of Farmland Preservation designation.

The Ohio Department of Agriculture recognizes the many social, economic, and historic contributions made by Ohio's founding farm families. Ohio's Historic Family Farms program was developed as a way to honor these families for their enduring legacy to our state. Ohio's founding farm families contribute greatly to the state's history and legacy of agriculture which is the number one industry in Ohio contributing more than \$100 billion annually to the state's economy with one in seven jobs in agriculture.

The program grants three designations based on the number of years of same-family ownership: Century Farms (100-149 years); Sesquicentennial Farms (150-199 years); and Bicentennial Farms (200 years and more).

Qualified registrants receive an heirloom certificate signed by the Governor of Ohio and the Director of the Ohio Department of Agriculture.

Just like the farming industry, the Ohio's Historic Family Farms program has evolved over time. Starting out in 1993 as the competitive "Outstanding Century

Farm Awards" program, it honored a total of eight farms each year.

In 2003, the program title changed to "Ohio Century Farms", and all qualified farms received the century farm designation.

During Ohio's bicentennial celebration in 2003, 13 farms were recognized for 200 years of same-family ownership. Ten years later, in 2013, the Ohio Department of Agriculture created the "Ohio Bicentennial Farm" designation to officially recognize farms reaching this anniversary.

**Please See HISTORIC, Page 2**



submitted by Barb Lang

**An example of the Ohio Century Farm signage (100 – 149 years in the same family).**



**Indiantree Family Farm barn near Walnut Creek in Holmes County, Ohio.**

# CALEB'S CORNER

Over the course of the last few iterations of our newsletter I've chronicled the adventure of my company in the finding and re-homing of an old cider press and wooden stave tank. Without intending to do so, that story has provided a great prelude into this year's conference and an example of my favorite aspect of the conference. The cider press we found and rebuilt was manufactured by The Hydraulic Press Manufacturing Company (HPM) of Mt. Gilead, Ohio. If you weren't already aware, Mt. Gilead is the county seat of Morrow County — the location of this year's event!

HPM began business in Mt. Gilead in 1877 and became the premier manufacturer of all hydraulic cider presses and components in the country. Their niche dominance continued into the early-20th century when after WWI when they began to evolve into hydraulic presses for all types of industry, ultimately leading into injection molding. This company maintained a presence in Morrow County until the end of the 20th century.

This minuscule connection I have to Morrow county only scratches the surface of what is there, but thanks to the mission of this organization to showcase a different county each year, I get the chance to immerse myself there for three days and learn so much more about it and the people. Last year's conference in Preble County (a place that I had never been or would have no reason to visit) opened my eyes to what a great community it was and the dedication to community their inhabitants have — which feeds my desires to find out what Morrow County entails. I can't wait to see y'all there this spring and experience this together!

Caleb Miller, President – Friends of Ohio Barns

## *Membership Renewal Time is here!*

Each year we are excited to send out our Ohio Barn Conference newsletter to all our past members. We do so to invite all Ohio stewards of our magnificent barns to see more excellent examples of barns in the state and be better informed of what is being done by Friends of Ohio Barns and our current members to help preserve the Ohio barn heritage.

We also do this in the hopes that you consider re-joining us by renewing your membership with Friends of Ohio Barns. Your membership helps us maintain valuable programs such as the barn survey, the Barn Detective program, the Barn Conservation Grant program and, most importantly, all the educational and awareness programs that arm enthusiasts with information and aid in their preservation efforts.

Please note that if there is a hashtag (#) by your name on the front of this issue you are in danger of being dropped from this mailing list due to high costs of printing and mailing. So please consider renewing your membership! Check out our website for costs and our secure online payment method. Thanks, and we look forward to seeing you in April!

If you prefer to pay by check through the mail then please send your dues to Friends of Ohio Barns, PO Box 203, Burbank, OH 44214. Dues are as follows: Senior = \$40, Individual = \$45, Family = \$65 and Organization = \$100. Check your profile online to see when your dues are due! Our online renewal process is easy!

# Board Member Elections

Friends of Ohio Barns will once again be seeking candidates to fill board positions of members whose terms are expiring.

Responsibilities include participating in the annual barn conference, attending board meetings and conference calls, and representing Friends at festivals and events with the satisfaction of knowing that you are doing something to help save a part of Ohio's rich agricultural heritage.

If you are interested in a board position, please send a short biography with your goals and ideas to Friends of Ohio Barns, PO Box 203, Burbank, OH 44214 or email us at [friendsohioharns@gmail.com](mailto:friendsohioharns@gmail.com). Remember, new blood brings fresh ideas and keeps the organization alive with promise!

## HISTORIC, Continued from Page 1

The "Ohio Sesquicentennial Farm" designation was added in 2016 for farms in the same family for at least 150 years. To encompass all three designations — century, sesquicentennial and bicentennial — the program's title was changed to "Ohio's Historic Family Farms".

In order to enroll in the program, the farm must be documented to be in the same family for at least 100 years. Complete copies of deeds showing the transfers between generations of the family are required with each registration. Ohio Department of Preservation staff will check the deeds to ensure consistency of the property description, and also look for an unbroken chain of title with your family.

For more information on Ohio's Historic Farm Families Program call 614.752.4505 or email [centuryfarms@agri.ohio.gov](mailto:centuryfarms@agri.ohio.gov) or visit the website at <https://agri.ohio.gov/programs/farmland-preservation-office/ohio-historic-family-farms>.

Information submitted by: Barb Lang

## FRIENDS OF OHIO BARNs BOARD

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Barb Lang                              Holmes County                      (330) 464-0624

# The Friends We Will Miss

As we all experienced, the last three years have been a challenge to navigate and to stay safe and well. Last year we lost two (that we are aware of) Friends members that meant a lot to our organization.

James “Jim” Howard was well known and well loved by many who called him “Doc” as he carefully cared for their 4-legged family members. He and his wife Sue moved to Wooster in 1970 and opened a veterinary service focused on small animals. They also raised, exhibited and sold Southdown sheep. Jim joined Friends in 2010 and volunteered early on in the Wayne County Historic Barn Survey program and was able to pull in many volunteers from his wide connections in the Wooster community. His involvement led to him joining the Board of Directors of



Jim Howard



Denny Hendershot

Friends in 2011. Jim passed away in July of 2022 at the age of 81.

Dennis “Denny” Hendershot became a member of Friends along with his wife Judy in 2010. Many of us remember him as the guy who always showed up for the

hands-on workshops and particularly for the Junior Barn Detective events and workshops. Denny was always smiling, always had encouragement for others and did all he could to learn more about barns. Frequently he was one of the regulars at our public events, raising the kid’s barn with Paul Knoebel over and over. He and his friend Jim spent hours on restoration projects. Helping each other renovate their historic homes and doing barn repairs using knowledge they gathered at Friends events and conferences. He and his wife Judy could be relied upon to help out on our tours, at our auctions and conferences. His big voice and laugh will be missed. Denny passed away in September of 2022 at the age of 76.

By Laura Saeger

## Speaking of Barns and Trees — Conference 2023

A full lineup of engaging speakers awaits attendees of the 22nd Ohio Barn Conference in Morrow County! Conference-goers will gather at Flying Horse Farms on Saturday, April 29th. The impressive, multi-acre camp in Mt. Gilead, with its adaptively-reused “Big Red Barn” as a center point, will serve as the perfect setting for the day.

Keynote speaker, Alan Miller, will kick things off on Saturday with his presentation “The Adventure of Uncovering the History of Your Farm.” Miller has taught journalism at Denison University for the last 23 years. He was the executive editor of The Columbus Dispatch and regional editor for USA Today Network Ohio’s 21 newsrooms across the state from 2015-2022.

Last year, Miller was inducted into the Ohio Journalism Hall of Fame and was presented with a Lifetime Achievement Award by the Central Ohio Society of Professional Journalists. Alan grew up in the farm country of Wayne and Holmes counties, and in his spare time, he mends fences, cuts hay and picks apples at his family’s Ohio Amish country farm, which has been in his family for more than 200 years.

Consulting forester, Dave Duell, will follow with the next morning session. Dave is the founder of Legacy Land and Wildlife in Valley City, and works with

landowners across Ohio and Pennsylvania. Duell holds a bachelor’s degree in Forest Management from Penn State University. He will speak about land stewardship and conservation, as well as the varieties of timber in the Morrow County region.

Finishing out the morning lineup, local historian, Stan Sipe, will provide us with a historical overview of Morrow County. A Trustee with the Morrow County Historical Society, Sipe has written several local history books, and will also serve as a docent on Friday’s bus tour of Morrow County barns.

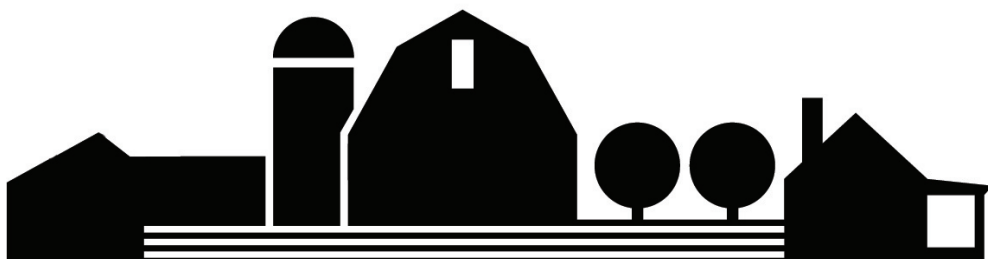
After lunch on Saturday, everyone’s favorite Barn Detectives, Rudy Christian and Dan Troth, will take a humorous look at the many highlights of the previous day’s barn tour. Matt Stooksbury, Program Administrator with the Morrow County Soil and Water Conservation District, will follow with a presentation about farmland preservation. FOB Board member, Tom O’Grady, will then share a presenta-

tion about Indian Signal Trees. Tom has been teaching Observational Astronomy at Ohio University for thirty-nine years, and is Director Emeritus of the Southeast Ohio History Center.

Wrapping up the day, Raymond Friend will present “Keeping Ohio Barns in Ohio by Creating Ohio Homes.” Raymond is founder and co-owner of The Barn & Cabin Friend, a Southern Ohio company that has been partnering with building owners, preservationists, and craftspeople to save historic structures since 2017. Raymond has been working in the field since 2006, and learned timber framing at The Heartwood School.

Everyone is certain to learn something new and come away inspired from Saturday’s conference! Don’t miss your opportunity to register and join us in April before it sells out! Visit [friendsofohiobarns.org/annual-conference](http://friendsofohiobarns.org/annual-conference) for more information or to register online.

By: Sarah Sisser



# Flying Horse Farms — “Where children with serious illnesses live without limits”

Actor and Ohio native Paul Newman started the Paul Newman Association of Hole in the Wall Gang camps in 1988 dedicated to serving children with serious illnesses. Today the association is called SeriousFun Children’s Network. The network is a community of independently managed and financed camps and programs creating opportunities for children with serious illnesses worldwide to heal, grow, and thrive.

One of these 14 camps, Flying Horse Farms, is located just east of Mount Gilead, Ohio. The first full year of camp sessions was held in 2011 on the 200 acre farm serving children from age 7 through age 15. A Morrow County based quilting group, Snuggled in Hope, donates quilts, which placed on the campers’ twin beds, brightens their rooms and each quilt goes home with the camper as a memento and a reminder of the love shared while at camp.

Flying Horse Farms hosts camps for families, residential camp for children with serious illnesses, and a sibling camp for brothers and sisters who aren’t ill but would still enjoy having fun at camp. F.H.F. offers two things that makes it different from most other camps: a full-time medical staff on site, and free of charge camps to the families.



Flying Horse farms - source: <https://flyinghorsefarms.org/>

Even though our conference session will not be in the Big Red Barn, a tour of the barn is included on our conference schedule. The barn was part of the Weiler family farm and has been converted into office space and individual rooms for the medical and program staff who assist and run the camp programs.

Our conference day will be spent in the dining hall, a timber-framed structure with a homey feeling. A portion of

your registration for this conference will go towards rental of the facilities to continue the vision of Paul Newman and the thousands of staff members at the camps around the world. These camps allow children to sleep in a log cabin, not a hospital room. And in the words of the late Paul Newman, the camps are intended for children with life-threatening illness to “raise a little hell.”

By: JoAnne Hamblin

## *Quality is in the name*

Our home away from home for the XXII Friends of Ohio Barns Conference is Quality Inn Suites and Conference Center, 1000 Comfort Plaza Drive (State Route 97), Bellville, OH 44813. Located on the southeast corner of the I-71 and State Route 97 Intersection (exit 165), standing on the covered front porch you can see several restaurants: Der Dutchman, Panchos Tacos, Buckeye Express Diner (railroad dining car), Burger King, McDonalds. Just up the hill across the road is Deer Ridge Golf Club and their restaurant which includes the Black Dog Tavern. One mile east is the Ohio Genealogical Society. But more importantly, our Friday motor coaches will depart for our barn tour that morning from the Quality Inn Suites.

Friday, March 10 is the deadline for reservations at the \$125 a night room rate. March 11, the cost goes up considerably. So call 419-886-7000 for the Thursday, Friday, Saturday deal — no online reservations at this rate will be taken. Only 20 minutes south from Quality Inn Suites is the Saturday conference venue — Flying Horse Farms, 5260 State Route 95, Mount Gilead. 43338.

See you for our 2023 Morrow County barn adventure!

By: JoAnne Hamblin

## Barn Tour Restrictions

The Barn Tour is a day-long event that requires some physical activity on your part. Please sign up and enjoy the tour if you are able to abide by the following stipulations:

You must be:

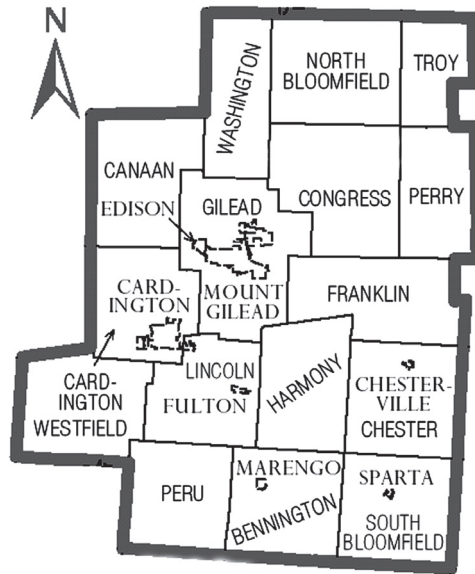
- physically able to get on and off a bus several times during the day
- able to walk on uneven terrain in potentially slippery conditions inside and outside the barns and around the property
- able to go up and down barn stairs and ramps/banks
- aware of possible dangerous conditions inside the barn and be able to move in tight spaces
- aware that low light conditions could exist inside the barns
- aware of the weather conditions for the day and dress accordingly

# Celebrating 175 Years! 1848-2023

Happy 175th Birthday, Morrow County! In February 1848, one township each from Richland, Marion, Delaware, and Knox counties joined to become Morrow County, Ohio. The county was named for Jeremiah Morrow, Ohio governor from 1822 to 1826, and the official date of the county's organization is March 1, 1848.

The red, white and blue Morrow County flag was chosen in 1985. The blue silhouette of the county has a white image of the monument located in the middle of the square. In 1919 this monument was dedicated to county citizens by the United States Government for the highest World War I war bond sales per capita. Sixteen red stars in a circle represent the county townships with the Morrow County name and 1848 date of organization part of that circle.

Points of interest include Mount Gilead State Park, Mid-Ohio Sports Car Course, the birthplace of President Warren G. Harding, the former Ohio Central College, Amish farms and businesses, the Revolutionary War Soldiers' Memorial, a Civil War monument, mid-nineteenth century architecture of the Morrow County Courthouse — completed in 1854, and the Old



Townships of Morrow County - source: Wikimedia Commons

Jail. The county includes seven villages and 35,000 residents and sits at the Allegheny foothills, one of the more centrally located counties in Ohio. The largest employer in the county, at one time, Hydraulic Press Manufacturing (H.P.M.) was originally the



Morrow County flag - source: <https://flagladyusa.com/products/morrow-county-ohio-flag>

maker of cider presses, but unfortunately, is closed and has been razed.

If barns could talk! How many of the eight barns chosen for our three-day conference, including the workshop and bus tour, were built before the county was formed? Join us as we unlock their histories. Yes, barns can talk if we just listen and observe!

By: JoAnne Hamblin

## Silent Auction Donations Needed!

Part of the fun we have each year during the Ohio Barn Conference is, of course, the silent auction. Friends of Ohio Barns encourage everyone to bring silent auction items for the Saturday event. The proceeds help us offset the costs of the conference, and still provide you, the members, with a quality program.

We hope you can contribute an item or two — something handmade, collectible, store bought, or something interesting you've found in your travels. The more you bring, and the better the items, the more exciting the auction gets!

If you can't find anything to bring, at least come prepared to make someone else bid a little higher before walking off with a treasure!

## Barn-bragging at 2023 Thursday Event

The Thursday, April 27 Friends of Ohio Barns event will be held in a converted potato barn starting at 2pm. We will be providing pizza at about 5pm.

This is going to be a new type of event for FOB. We are going to have a "round robin" discussion of member's barns.

The current plan is to have members send us a couple or three photos of your barn that will be put on a power point presentation. You will then have a few minutes to introduce yourself and your barn and tell us a little about both. For instance, what it needs or what you've done (or not done) to it, a little history about it and about you. We are limiting this to 20 people. If interested, send two or three photos of your barn to Daveh2949@centurylink.net or mail them on a thumb drive to: Dave Hamblin 6225 County Road 22, Mt Gilead Ohio 43338 by April 1 (no foolin'). Please include your name with the barn photos.

Ten lucky members, if you choose option two, will enjoy an outing (transportation provided from the potato barn) to Bucyrus to The Pickwick Place and Crossroads Candle Factory Store, featuring 72 fragrances, and all made at the factory behind the store.

The Stalls at The Pickwick Place features unique clothing, décor, antiques, and much more from 60+ vendors. The Stalls, The Market and Café, and Event Center are three restored brick former dairy and horse barns. The cost of these events will be \$20 per attendee. Besides the pizza supper, bagged snacks will be provided for the 30 total members registered for either event. Please bring your own drinks (refrigeration available). Hoping to hear from you!

Dave Hamblin  
419-947-1360

# Wirling Swastikas and Heart Travel to Ohio Barn on 1819 Datestone

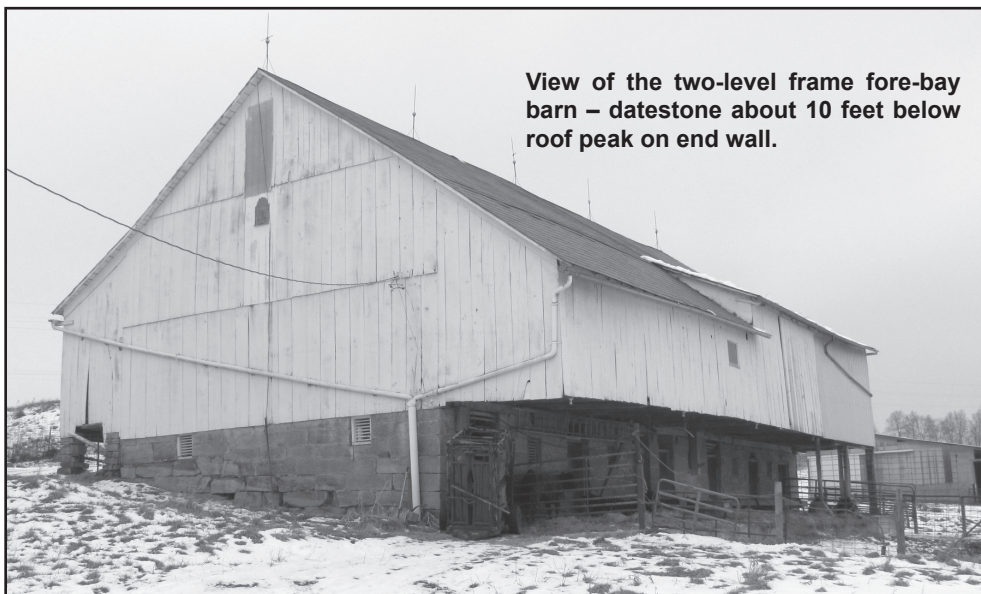
By Greg Huber

On January 11th, 2023, Tom O’Grady of *Friends of Ohio Barns* gave a splendid presentation on — “Geographic Distribution of Architectural Styles on Ohio Farmsteads: Cultural Baggage on the Rural Landscape.” The most intriguing image he showed, for me, was a datestone on the frame end wall, a very rare placement, of an apparent Sweitzer fore-bay barn at the Poorman family homestead. The barn, in the Somerset area of Perry County, is still owned by the Poorman family.

The datestone, 9 or 10 feet below the roof peak, appears over metal siding on the wall. The stone that was re-used from its spot on the original stone end wall that was removed and replaced with frame construction, is about 15 inches wide by 24 inches high. At its bottom, the datestone sits on a plank that emanates from inside the barn. The stone, that was quarried about 50 yards or so to the rear of the barn, is comprised of five sections.

The top section includes a small heart. Hearts, in Pennsylvania German material culture, appear on furniture, ceramics, textiles, gravestones, certain wooden household items and as parts of barn stars on both barn exteriors and interiors. Hearts served in an apotropaic manner, that is, they acted for the warding away of evil or malign forces. The next section has an 1819 date, 12 years after Somerset’s founding in 1807. Settlers here originated from Somerset in Somerset County, Pennsylvania. The middle section includes the month and day of the year; the day possibly when the barn was finished being built. The fourth section has the initial B and family name of Poorman without the last two letters — an. Fairly often, the elimination of the last one or two letters allowed stone cutters to make large enough letters of family surnames on datestones or gravestones to be readily seen from some distance.

The last section consists of two swirling swastikas — mirror images of each other. The left-side swastika, in the human mind, conveys a clockwise movement while the right-side swastika — has an implied counterclockwise motion. Exteriors of certain southeastern Pennsylvania fore-bay barns



View of the two-level frame fore-bay barn – datestone about 10 feet below roof peak on end wall.



Close-up of 1819 datestone with five distinct sections.

have such ‘opposing’ swastikas. The earliest known swastika in Pennsylvania appears on an 1802 barn in Berks County. The use of swastikas appears to have traveled to Ohio. The Sanskrit word swastika signifies ‘well-being’ and swastikas also function in an apotropaic way. The four lobes of each swastika emanate from very close to the center point. Each lobe consists of three half circles — first a ‘larger’ diameter one and then two continuous ‘smaller’ diameter ones. The end of the third half circle touches the beginning of the first half circle, and each lobe is completed.

The most interesting and even curious aspect of the datestone concerns carved ‘underlines’ under each of the top four



Interior view of barn that shows some very rare ‘doubling up’ of timbers.

sections and a — ‘vertical line’ for the fifth section. I spoke to C. Riley Auge, archaeologist and author, about these very rare aspects and she assigned the top, second and bottom sections with arrows as ‘infinite’ lines while the third and fourth sections with ‘finite’ underlines. She says the arrows indicate “beyond the limits of the line” — basically out into the boundless cosmos where the spiritual realm draws its breaths. The ends of the other lines are very short vertical lines that show a bound or more earth-centered condition. All this is food for thought.



# OHIO BARN CONFERENCE XXII

**MORROW COUNTY**

**FRIDAY, APRIL 28 | 8 AM - 6 PM**

BUS TOUR

Join us for an all day long tour of timber framed barns. Lunch included. Please, dress accordingly and don't forget your camera! Pre-registration is required.

**SATURDAY, APRIL 29 | 8 AM - 5 PM**

ANNUAL CONFERENCE

A full lineup of engaging speakers awaits attendees of the 22nd Ohio Barn Conference in Morrow County! Conference-goers will gather at Flying Horse Farms on Saturday, April 29th. The impressive, multi-acre camp in Mt. Gilead, with its adaptively-reused "Big Red Barn" as a center point, will serve as the perfect setting for the day. Pre-registration is required.

*Flying Horse Farms "Big Red Barn"*

## REGISTER NOW!

Online at  
[www.friendsofohiobarns.org/  
annual-conference](http://www.friendsofohiobarns.org/annual-conference)



Scan here with your  
smartphone camera!

**Early Bird Pricing:**  
Member: \$140  
Nonmember: \$170  
until March 31st

**THURSDAY, APRIL 27 | 2 - 6 PM**

BARN SHOW & TELL AND PIZZA PARTY

Learn more about our members and their barns during our Thursday evening activity; culminating at the Sample - Brick & Tile Potato Storage Barn with pizza. Transportation is provided. Space is limited and advanced registration is required.

## RENEW YOUR FOB MEMBERSHIP

Remember to renew your membership to receive member discount pricing on your conference registration and other great perks throughout the year!

Individual: \$45 | Family: \$65  
Organization: \$100 | Senior: \$40



Scan here with your  
smartphone camera!

✉ PO Box 203  
Burbank, Ohio 44214

🌐 [www.friendsofohiobarns.org/  
membership](http://www.friendsofohiobarns.org/membership)



# Features of Origin, Adaptation, and Ingenuity in Morrow County Barns

The 2023 FOB Thursday Afternoon Event, April 27th, and Friday Ohio Barn Tour, April 28th, offers an opportunity to discover small details, often overlooked, which help to tell the cultural origin and history of barns. Some of these features touch our lives every day in some very unexpected ways. How many times do you hear adages such as: "Fall through the cracks" or "Dead as a door nail"?

The Thursday Afternoon Event will be hosted by Herb and Bobbi Sample. They have two barns. In the gable ends of the timber frame ground barn are swell beams, sometimes called fish belly beams. They protect from the outward pressure of hay and the inward pressure of wind. The second barn is unusual for this area. It is a brick potato barn, designed for climate control for the storage of potatoes.

The Friday Barn Tour starts off on the farm of the Lanker Family. This Sweitzer barn has an unusual joint on the west side of the summer beam. A free tenon is used and has eight pegs holding it together.

Next comes Greg and Marybeth Watterson's barn. This barn has clinched nails, as in "Dead as a door nail". The builder took this common practice to a new level by using his creativity to make a nice pattern.

Roger and Jan Cox will be waiting to greet tour goers to their barn. They will explain the use of the very large triangular truss in the added straw shed.

John Shade is the next host to welcome the tour. The straw shed on this barn is constructed differently from the original timber frame barn. It is built in the Gothic style, providing a large unob-

structed space for storing straw.

The next to the last stop is Marcella Garverick. This barn has been adapted with a gable to gambrel roof to increase the storage area for hay.

The final barn of the day is owned by Randy and Cindy Heidlebaugh. Threshing floors are laid in three different ways. This floor is double planked so grain will not "Fall through the cracks".

In addition to the features mentioned, there are many more to be found in each barn that tell of cultural origin and farmer adaptations. All present interesting and surprising ingenuity. We hope you enjoy Friends of Ohio Barns three-day event this year. For more information and registration go to our web site [friendsofohiobarns.org](http://friendsofohiobarns.org). See you in April.

By: Pam Gray

Please recycle this newsletter. Share it with a friend.  
Printed on recycled paper, of course.



FRIENDS OF OHIO BARNs  
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