



Start making plans now for
Ohio Barn Conference XII
to be held
April 29-30
in Fairfield County

Background photo (from left): FOB president Ric Beck, barn owner Steve Miller, and Fairfield County resident Joe Steiger approach a rehabilitated bank barn with a double forebay. The rear forebay not visible (of course). This barn is one of several possibilities for the 2011 Barn Tour. Photo by Tom O'Grady



FRIENDS OF OHIO BARNs
P.O. Box 203
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The Old **BARN POST**

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A true community effort . . .

The crisp, sunny fall day provided a fitting backdrop for the conclusion of a historic project for this central Ohio community—the raising and adaptive re-use of the city's lone remaining link to its agricultural history.

Three short years elapsed between discovery of this mid-1800s barn and its introduction to Upper Arlington as a new four-season community center. It really shows what a community can do when they put their minds (and money) to it!

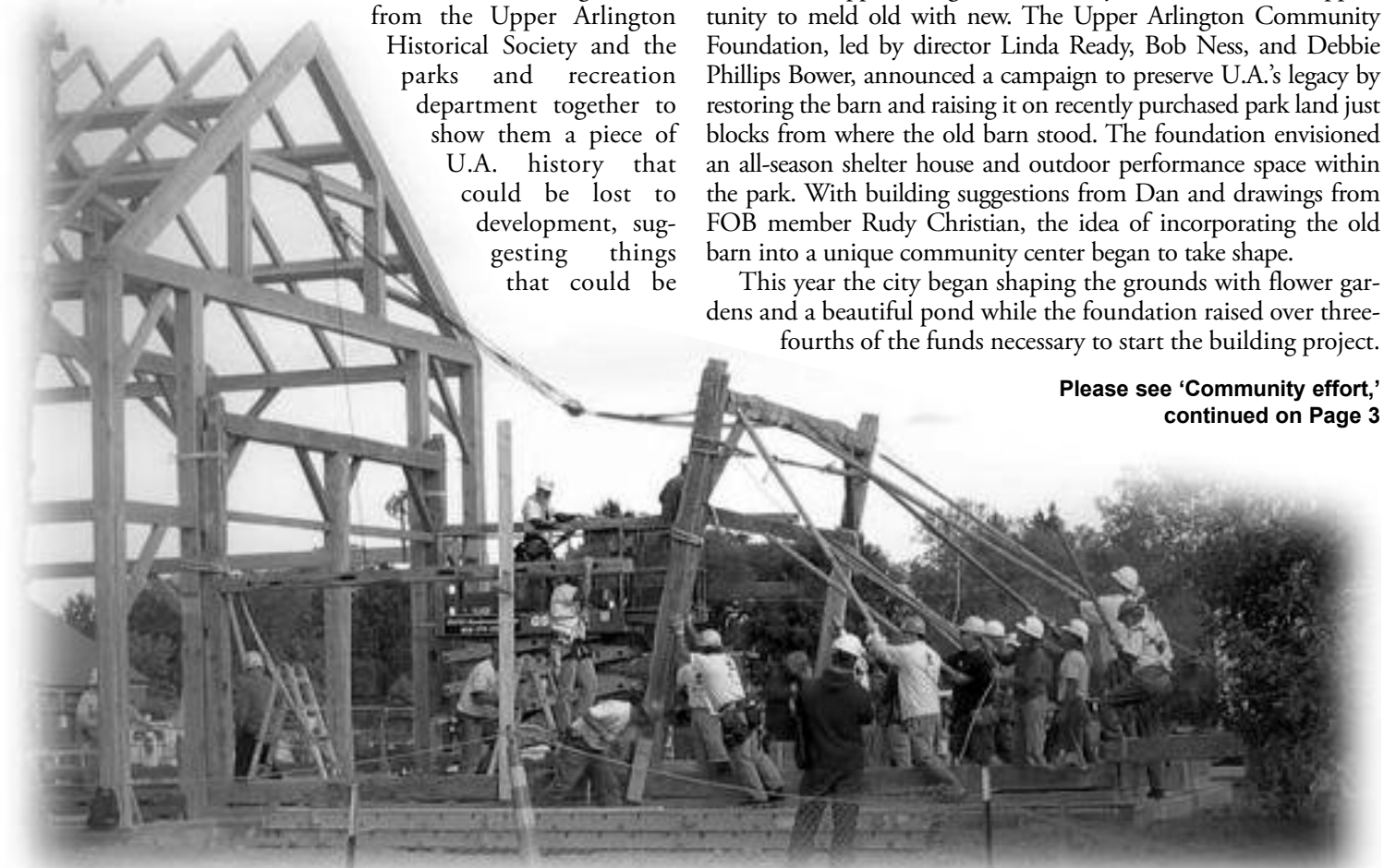
In the fall of 2008, Friends of Ohio Barns members Ric Beck and Dan Troth brought folks from the Upper Arlington Historical Society and the parks and recreation department together to show them a piece of U.A. history that could be lost to development, suggesting things that could be

done to save this structure. An old farmstead was being auctioned off after the last descendant, Anna Marie Davidson Drake, had passed away, and the original 20 by 30 hand-hewn barn was in danger. The history lesson challenged the group to act. Society director Kate Erstein and park director Tim Moloney brought more parties on board and convinced them to save this building. They persuaded the new landowners to donate the barn to Upper Arlington. Dan and Ric documented and dismantled the structure and hoped for the best.

Another Upper Arlington community member seized the opportunity to meld old with new. The Upper Arlington Community Foundation, led by director Linda Ready, Bob Ness, and Debbie Phillips Bower, announced a campaign to preserve U.A.'s legacy by restoring the barn and raising it on recently purchased park land just blocks from where the old barn stood. The foundation envisioned an all-season shelter house and outdoor performance space within the park. With building suggestions from Dan and drawings from FOB member Rudy Christian, the idea of incorporating the old barn into a unique community center began to take shape.

This year the city began shaping the grounds with flower gardens and a beautiful pond while the foundation raised over three-fourths of the funds necessary to start the building project.

Please see 'Community effort,'
continued on Page 3



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Hats off to volunteers!

I've had the privilege of doing many things in my short life. The recent effort at the Upper Arlington barn workshop was particularly gratifying, because I got the chance to work with so many wonderful volunteers. People from all walks of life and all over the country came to Upper Arlington,

Random Thoughts

Ric Beck
Friends of Ohio Barns president

camped, worked, sweat, laughed, and gave of themselves for the good of a community many didn't even know. Residents of the city I have served for the last twenty-four years came out in droves to support us, feed us, and express their heartfelt gratitude for our efforts. If cookies were cash, we would have all been millionaires! Dennis Orre said it best from the volunteers' perspective: "We get a place to stay, we get fed great, we don't owe anybody anything, and we get to work with great people on a great project. What could be better?!"

It's that volunteer spirit in us all that makes projects like this so much fun. It's people like Chris Neuman, who day after day gave of himself to educate the hundreds of school kids who stopped by to learn about barns and history. Because of his efforts, I expect to be working on an FOB or Timber Framers Guild project one day and talk to a young kid who says he got his interest in barns from listening to Chris.

Our own FOB members did us proud too. Volunteers Sarah and John Woodall, Gary Clower, Dan Troth, Gene Moore, Rick Secrist, and more came out, leaving their jobs behind to help with this workshop. What can you say about terrific people like these who so graciously give of themselves to help others? We will be saluting volunteers at our next conference, and I can't think of a better way to kick it off than to say thanks to all our FOB volunteers throughout the year!

Friends of Ohio Barns

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When the Frost Is on the Punkin



When the frost is on the punkin and the fodder's in the shock,
And you hear the kyouck and gobble of the struttin' turkey-cock,
And the clackin' of the guineys, and the cluckin' of the hens,
And the rooster's hallylooyer as he tiptoes on the fence;
O, it's then the time a feller is a-feelin' at his best,
With the risin' sun to greet him from a night of peaceful rest,
As he leaves the house, bareheaded, and goes out to feed the stock,
When the frost is on the punkin and the fodder's in the shock.

They's something kindo' harty-like about the atmusfere
When the heat of summer's over and the coolin' fall is here—
Of course we miss the flowers, and the blossoms on the trees,
And the mumble of the hummin'-birds and buzzin' of the bees;
But the air's so appetizin'; and the landscape through the haze
Of a crisp and sunny morning of the airly autumn days
Is a pictur' that no painter has the colorin' to mock—
When the frost is on the punkin and the fodder's in the shock.

The husky, rusty russel of the tossels of the corn,
And the raspin' of the tangled leaves as golden as the morn;
The stubble in the furries—kindo' lonesome-like, but still
A-preachin' sermons to us of the barns they grewed to fill;
The strawstack in the medder, and the reaper in the shed;
The hosses in theyr stalls below—the clover overhead!—
O, it sets my hart a-clickin' like the tickin' of a clock,
When the frost is on the punkin and the fodder's in the shock.

Then your apples all is gethered, and the ones a feller keeps
Is poured around the cellar-floor in red and yaller heaps;
And your cider-makin's over, and your wimmern-folks is through
With theyr mince and apple-butter, and theyr souse and sausage too!

I don't know how to tell it—but ef such a thing could be
As the angels wantin' boardin', and they'd call around on me—
I'd want to 'commodate 'em—all the whole-indurin' flock—
When the frost is on the punkin and the fodder's in the shock.

— James Whitcomb Riley

Long before the ax fell, the early barn builder plotted out the routes of sunshine and wind, the slopes of drainage, and decided just how the seasons might affect his barn site.

— Eric Sloane

Picnic barn tour turns up treasures

This year's annual FOB picnic coincided with other important events. The barn raising in Upper Arlington occurred on the same day. And the picnic was scheduled to be held at Slate Run Living Historical Farm on the edge of Pickaway County, which coincided with a barn tour scheduled and conducted by Slate Run staff member Charles Brookover.

The tour was able to visit an old log barn along the Ohio-Erie Canal south of Circleville. A unique feature in this barn was a long room no wider than a corncrib with stacked logs on all four sides. We could have used a few barn detectives on site to help interpret the function of that particular component.

The second barn visited on the tour was a Pennsylvania German bank barn with a forebay. Modifications concealed

much of the overhanging forebay, although it could be seen on close inspection. The bank barn was built on flat farmland, so a ramp was originally constructed to reach the threshing floor. However, changes in farming practices resulted in the removal of the ramp. Another good opportunity for barn detective work.

The tour then joined FOB members at the shelter house at Slate Run for the annual cookout and picnic. After the picnic a larger group joined the tour for the last farm. The barn was built with planks and was one of about a dozen old buildings on the farm, including an old brick home.

The tour wound up back at the Slate Run Farm, where Charles and other members of the staff harnessed up a horse and demonstrated the use of the hay track. Visitors had the remainder of the day to explore the many displays on the historical working farm or tour the rest of Slate Run Metro Park's woodland hiking trails and expansive wetlands.

Charles Brookover and the staff at Slate Run did a fine job of organizing the barn tour, researching the history of the land and farms visited, conducting demonstrations with the use of the hay track, and just being downright fine hosts for the event.

— Tom O'Grady



Photos by Tom O'Grady

Above: Barn tourists exploring the outside of the bank barn built with planks. Notice the pent roof on three sides.

Below: Slate Run staff and visitors head into the barn to demonstrate the use of the hay track.



Above: Charles Brookover and the horse operating the hay track at the Slate Run barn.

Below: Corncrib-sized compartment in a log barn along the Ohio-Erie Canal.



**‘Community effort,’
continued from Page 1**

In July the Timber Framers Guild and Friends of Ohio Barns put together a workshop to restore and raise the old frame, as well as assemble a new timber frame designed by Rudy to become the 3,700-square-foot indoor center.

Volunteers from all over the country joined the Upper Arlington community in September to begin the process of combining old with new—a first for the Guild! Many FOB members joined the project, including board members Gary Clower and Sarah Woodall. Led by Community Foundation project coordinator Suzanne Kull, the volun-

teers were fed, educated, and entertained in first-class fashion by the residents and local restaurants. A highlight of the workshop was daily visits from elementary school kids from Greensview School, the next door neighbor to the park. We were treated to lunch at the school with the kids, several beautiful stories and pic-

tures that the kids drew for us, and numerous goodies baked by the residents surrounding the park. The ten-day workshop provided volunteers with opportunities to work with the old and new frames. The new Douglas fir frame was raised by crane during the week, and the original frame was then raised by hand on September 26. Descendents of the original barn owners came from



Photo by Dan Troth

Teamwork bringing together new and old frames on the Amelita Mirolo Community Center Barn in Upper Arlington.

out of state to be part of workshop and raising, Helen Legg Detrick and Ruth Legg Krabach were deeply moved by the community’s efforts to preserve their family’s history.

The community center continues to take shape. Local building trades are donating their time and materials to finish the project.

Slated to open next spring, it will truly be a unique facility on a wonderful piece of park land. The timber-framed center will be a lasting testament to the farming community that was once a vital part of this city and an educational piece to Upper Arlington residents for generations to come. Friends of Ohio Barns is proud to have been an integral part of bringing another Ohio community together for such a worthy cause.

— Ric Beck

Photos by Dan Troth and Gene Moore



Above: Parks director Tim Moloney talks with Greensview students.

Right: Instructors Ric Beck, Tom Cundiff, and Kirk Doolittle discuss frame repairs.

Left: The crane lowers a truss into place on the Douglas fir frame.



Wayne County Barn Survey moves forward

The Wayne County Historic Barn Survey is moving along at a clip. After many months of planning and monthly meetings with township captains and volunteer crews at the Wayne County Historical Society, the survey is in full swing. Wayne County has 16 townships; 13 volunteers have stepped up to the challenge of surveying their townships. Wayne, Plain, and Wooster township surveys have been completed. Those completed supply a total of 380 barn surveys, accompanied by barn photos (generally four to six photos per barn).

Township captains who have completed their township have been very important spokespeople at the survey committee’s monthly meetings. Their reports on personal interactions with barn owners have been very positive. The local paper has provided good coverage, and many barn owners had the opportunity to talk with representatives at the Wayne County Fair, which led to a local level of acceptance and expectation. Most folks are pleased to have Friends of Ohio Barns recognize the importance of their

historic barn, and the survey teams have experienced overwhelming hospitality at almost all the barn sites visited.

Volunteers who have completed their township surveys are Frank Veres and Don Battig (Wayne Township), Dave and Donna Anderson (Plain Township) (also our hosts for two barns on the 2010 FOB Barn Tour), and Jim Howard and Jenny Adams and the Andersons (Wooster Township). In active pursuit of surveys are Jerry Payne (Chester Township), Nick and Dave Wiesenberg (East Union Township), Fred Winkler and Ed and Anita Riggerback (Milton Township), and the Andersons and Jim Howard (Clinton Township).

An unbelievable amount of time and effort, scheduling and coordination, are involved, but everyone is having a great time surveying wonderful old barns and meeting their owners. I’m sure some interesting personal stories are yet to come!

— Laura Saeger



Photos by Dave Anderson

Above: Donna Anderson shows owner Roger Gwinn of Clinton Township the survey form and process. His farm is fortunate to have one of the largest natural springs in the area.

Above right: Donna Anderson fills in the information as Jim Howard inspects the stone foundation. Note the water sill that protects the stone at the base of the siding.

Right: A large and well-maintained bank or raised basement barn on the Wooster Township survey.



Second JBD training workshop held in Logan County

The second Junior Barn Detectives training workshop was conducted near Bellefontaine, Ohio, on November 6. The indoor discussion sessions were held in the Bellefontaine Regional Airport’s conference room. Afternoon barn assessment visits were made to three local barns. Eleven FOB folks attended, with a total of six new JBD graduates. At day’s end, each participant went home with a signature JBD course notebook.

A highlight of the morning was JBD Denny Hendershot’s review of a report that he and fellow JBD Jim Taylor compiled after having recently conducted an analysis of a barn in northern Summit County. The recipients of the report, two local historical societies, are now cooperatively considering rehabilitation of that

old timber-framed icon. Gary Clower unlimbered his articulated timber-frame “gizmo” in preparation for and anticipation of the challenge the group would meet at the second barn that afternoon. A fabulous hot lunch, snacks, and meeting room site were all arranged by host Sandy Musser of nearby Whitmore House Bed and Breakfast and Catering.

Two of the actively used barns visited Saturday afternoon were on the nearby Wenner Family farms. The first was an attractive three-bay ground barn that has been adaptively refurbished as a horse barn. The group met with a bit of a challenge at the second barn, a well-kept typical four-bay bank barn with straw shed that houses farm equipment upstairs and the large dairy operation’s numerous calves and young stock below. The Wenners would like to preserve the structure, but they first need to improve the air quality for the young calves’ health by increasing the natural airflow. In order to accomplish that, they would like to

replace the entire stone ramp wall with posts, cut back the ramp itself, and install a bridge to the barn floors. The sturdy barn is already quite open on the other three post-supported sides. As can be imagined, a worthy discussion resulted. The Wenners were most thankful for the input they gleaned from the varied experiences and backgrounds of the individuals in the group. Lesson learned: Being a JBD volunteer is never boring; one can always expect the unexpected.

The third site visited was the Smith barn, a three-bay ground barn in a semi-mothballed state. It received a full barn analysis. Each participant filled out a standard JDB notebook worksheet, the results of which were later reviewed and compiled back in the warm airport conference room. Since the elderly barn owner was ill that day and unable to be present, local JBD Jim Myers will put together a report and review it with him in the near future.

Special thanks to all who helped make this western Ohio JBD workshop a success, most especially Jim Myers, who did the western leg work. Congratulations to FOB participants Bruce Jones, Gene Moore, Rachael Krause, B.J. Hutchison, Ric Beck, and Matt Carter for undertaking another step in their ongoing efforts to help slow the loss of our wonderful old Ohio barns.

— Paul Knoebel



Photos by Jim Meyers

The Smith barn, a three-bay hay barn near Bellefontaine, was analyzed by Junior Barn Detective workshop students during their November 6 workshop.



Mini barns and JBDs go hand in hand

The combination of the FOB display tent and the kids’ mini-barn raising has been very successfully used all over Ohio and in a few adjoining states throughout the past seven years. Although somewhat time-consuming to set up, take down, and haul around, it has proven to be a great FOB attraction and messenger. When put up outdoors, it usually involves the assembly of a small, protective ten-by-ten vendor/display type tent with two tables for the FOB display board, literature, interested barn owner/steward clipboards, merchandise sales, and the new model barn, and lawn chairs for one or two staffers. The mini-barn raising involves the assembly of a ten-by-twenty-foot canopy. The smaller kids’ pounding bench usually sits outside adjacent to both canopies. A new FOB banner has recently been used to better identify the display tent and is especially useful if the mini-barn is not present. Both canopies require complete enclosure walls for multiple-day stays and/or inclement weather.

The effectiveness of our eye-catching display depends upon how well it is staffed. Rounding up enough trained and enthusiastic FOB members to work the display has always been a major task. It usually requires a minimum of three people on duty when both the normal FOB display and the mini barn are set up at a fair or festival, one to do the kids’ barn raising, one to talk with display visitors, and one to help the smaller kids at the pounding bench. Even more individuals are needed if we allow kids to drill holes in our timber with the ever-popular boring machine and T-auger.

During 2010 this FOB educational combo made seven trips throughout five northeastern Ohio counties: Stark, Summit, Richland, Columbiana, and Carroll. These venues were staffed primarily by local JBD volunteers with names like Hendershot, Taylor, Rowland, Moot, Hamblin, Shumaker, and Clower. A more distant one-day setup took place at the Rock Mill Festival near Lancaster in Fairfield County the day after the FOB picnic. Since there are presently no JBD folks living in that area, we were fortunate in being able to enlist the aid of local FOB member Ed VanVickle from Lithopolis, Phyllis Knoebel, and a very helpful Scout Venture Crew from nearby Lancaster.

What might be done to help spread this effective FOB educational process to the other corners of the state? Our FOB/JBD plan is to begin by supplementing this very popular and effective

education tool with approximately ten smaller and more cost-effective ones consisting of a more simple display and a smaller, more easily transportable, table-top size (mini mini model) timber-frame barn. The idea is to deploy them to trained FOB members throughout the state. In order to do that, the training of a larger JBD volunteer base is required. They are the most likely prepared volunteers to effectively utilize these smaller and more manageable SUV-size display kits.

The mechanics of the plan are relatively simple. Building the required cadre of enthused volunteers is a bit more of a challenge. We need your participation. This is an easy and rewarding way for any FOB member to volunteer time and effort toward helping preserve and perk up more of our tired old Ohio barns.

— The JBD team:
Paul, Gary, Larry, and Denny



Paul Knoebel and his traveling mini barn with one of the latest teams to participate in a raising at Malabar Farm for Heritage Days. This was the 100th time that kids put this barn up, but the count has risen to 108 since September.

Goll Woods barn restored since 2002 tour

The Goll Woods barn near Archbold in Fulton County was featured on the barn tour at the Ohio Bar Conference in 2002. It is a unique barn built in the Great Black Swamp around the time of the Civil War. Early work of the Barn Detectives determined that this barn with out-shots was enlarged and had the roof raised from a gable to a gambrel to afford increased hay storage. The barn was also widened to the rear with an addition. FOB members worked closely with ODNR early on to ensure they were aware of the uniqueness of the barn and to guide them in restoration efforts. Since that time a group of local Friends of the Goll Homestead have picked up the ball and the barn has seen considerable work. According to a newspaper article forwarded to FOB, the barn has recently been opened to the public.



Photos, clockwise from left:

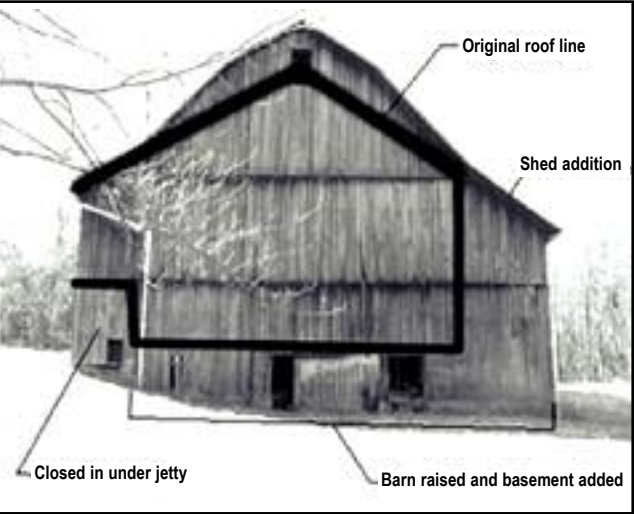
The original Goll Woods barn.

The Goll Woods homestead.

Newspaper article announcing the barn's completion and inviting the public to visit.

Participants in the 2002 Ohio Barn Conference and Barn Tour examine the Goll Woods barn from all angles. Note the out-shots beneath the roof on the facing side of the barn.

Photo by Tom O'Grady



Exciting possibilities for 2011 barn tour

Fairfield County resident Joe Steiger, long associated with the Soil and Water District, has been scouting out some barns for next spring's barn tour. He recently took a couple of FOB board members to look at some exciting possibilities. One farm had two barns recently moved onto it and put to new uses. One now serves as a classroom for students of fabric design. The same farm has two other buildings relocated and attached to the old brick farmhouse to expand the offices, library, and dyeing operation for the fabric work.

The other location included three barns on adjacent farms that have been part of the same extended family for several generations since settlement. Two of the three Pennsylvania bank barns sport a double forebay. Built on level ground on the fair fields of Fairfield County, they have had enormous banks built to reach the threshing floors. Extensive work has been done to preserve these beautiful structures.

Further exploration will be made of the region to see what other structures may be added to the spring tour. The historic Rock Mill, standing on a cliff at the headwaters of the Hocking River, has recently had considerable restoration work done to it. It is accompanied by a nearby farmhouse, a bank barn, and a covered bridge. This site may make the cut. Other possibilities are other barns of the Hocking Valley or those out along the old Zane's Trace. Barns near Lithopolis may be added.

Three physiographic regions come together near Lancaster. Ohio's glacial till plain, the glaciated plateau, and the unglaciated plateau each offered distinct natural features and soils to the early settlers. This diversity attracted a variety of settlers, some coming from Pennsylvania and Maryland, arriving along the Zane's Trace, and others coming from Virginia up the Hocking River from the Ohio.

Many possibilities await those who sign up for the 2011 Ohio Barn Conference and Barn Tour. Fairfield County should prove another excellent choice of locations to hold this annual event.

FOB is grateful to John Stitzlein and Nancy Crow and Steve and Debbie Miller for the opportunity to tour their barns and Joe Steiger for making these important connections.

— Tom O'Grady



Photo by Paul Knoebel

Rock Mill and covered bridge on a cliff over the headwaters of the Hocking River in Fairfield County.



Photos by Tom O'Grady

Double forebay Pennsylvania barn with ramp to the threshing floor on far side.



Photos by Tom O'Grady

This bank barn was relocated and converted to a classroom for fabric and textile work.



Photos, counterclockwise from top: This log tavern on Zane's Trace was recently purchased for preservation purposes by the Perry County Historical Society.

This stone house and double-cribbed log barn with overhanging forebay are very early examples of structures built by settlers coming into the Ohio country along Zane's Trace. Dr. Tim Anderson (seated at left in foreground) looks over maps and early survey notes to determine the original route of Zane's Trace through Somerset, Ohio, with members of the Perry County Historical Society. The barn tour was organized by Tom Johnson, mayor of Somerset and director of the Historical Society.

Barn tour members inspect this double-crib log barn, which may be beyond repair. The stone walls, at least fifteen feet high on the lower side, are some of the most extensive seen in the region. The hipped roof seen in the background covers a two-and-a-half-story log home with a full basement and a log kitchen addition on the far side.

Barn tour members explore an early cemetery in the village of Somerset. Many of the grave markers are carved in German. Many of the settlers in the region along Zane's Trace were Pennsylvania Germans. Their Pennsylvania Dutch bank barns with overhanging forebays can be seen along rural roadways.

The Poorman barn exhibits all of the outside features of a Pennsylvania German bank barn with the cantilevered forebay.



Some of Ohio's oldest barns turn up along Zane's Trace

Barns along the general route of Zane's Trace appear to be some of the oldest in the state. A small group met at the old courthouse in Somerset in Perry County in late January to tour some barns and log houses in that region. Somerset, a small town with the classic Pennsylvania diamond square in the center, is along the Trace.

The group first looked at maps and old survey notes, attempting to determine the exact route of the Trace. The first stop was a visit to a log tavern in town on the Pigfoot Square, another public square a few blocks from downtown. The tavern was recently purchased by the Perry County Historical Society.

A short walk from the tavern the group inspected a small graveyard with several stones with carvings in German. Obviously the Pennsylvania Dutch took advantage of the Zane's Trace when they migrated to Ohio.

A short distance out of town they visited the Poorman Farm barn. An overhanging forebay on the bank barn indicated its Pennsylvania roots, but didn't hint at the double framed interior, the rectangular trusses, or the occasional half-dovetail notch used just below the traditional timber-frame braces with mortise and tenon joints. The Poormans had been visited a number of times in the past by barn enthusiasts such as Ohio University geographer Hubert Wilhelm and The Barn Doctor, Chuck Whitney. OU geographer Tim Anderson joined the group on this tour and is helping keep the importance of this barn alive.

The group called on four more barns. All four were double-penned log barns. Two shared a farm with ancient log homes. One was associated with a stone house, and an old farmhouse on the fourth remained undetermined. Friends of Ohio Barns ran into a number of double-penned log barns on the 2003 barn tour on the border of Pickaway and Ross counties. These barns were also strung along the route of Zane's Trace, between Lancaster and Chillicothe. One of these Ross County log structures was determined to be one of the oldest barns in Ohio, though it didn't give away its great age to passersby, as it was covered with tin siding. The log barns on the Perry County barn tour were also covered in tin or wood siding and would easily pass for a timber-frame structure on a drive-by.

Other than the Poorman barn, still in daily use and receiving excellent stewardship, the double-cribbed log barns and log houses were in need of attention. At least the log tavern is beginning to get the care it deserves.

Bringing attention to these important pieces of Ohio's heritage is a good first step in the long-term care of barns and historic farm structures. If someone doesn't know the value of the

neglected building standing in his yard, it helps to let him know. Perry County may be a good candidate for undertaking a barn inventory. With Zane's Trace and the old homesteads that sprung up along it, Perry County holds some important examples of Ohio's settlement history.

— Article and photos by Tom O'Grady

