

Join FOB for the annual
Fall Picnic

to be held

Saturday, September 24, 2011

in
Somerset, Ohio.

See Pages 1, 4, and 5 in this issue
for additional information and pictures.

Background photo: Somerset Town Square. Photo by Tom O'Grady



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The Old BARN POST

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Fall picnic to be held in Somerset

The annual Fall Picnic will be held on September 24 from noon to 5 p.m. in Somerset, Ohio, at the Jacob Miller Tavern on US 22. It is easy to find with the historic marker in front.

The Jacob Miller Tavern is an original log tavern built on the Zane's Trace in 1808 and served as the boyhood home of Civil War General Phillip Sheridan. Somerset is a German settlement with a classic Pennsylvania diamond square in the downtown with

one of Ohio's very few equestrian statues at its center. The buildings in the downtown area are attached to each other similarly to the way they exist in Fredericksburg and Chambersburg in southeastern Pennsylvania, where the settlers of Somerset originated.

Tom Johnson, mayor of Somerset, will give our group an update on some of the fascinating urban archaeology projects and tree ring dating of log and timber frame buildings. He will also share with the group an ongoing effort to preserve open land in and around the village for the development of a park system and an emerald necklace, as well as efforts to pre-

serve land adjacent to a nearby Native American earthwork. The nearby Glenford Fort is a 25-acre hilltop enclosure surrounded by a stone wall and encompassing a 15-foot-high stone mound.

Picnic attendees will get an opportunity to walk two blocks from the Jacob Miller Tavern across Pigsfoot Square to visit the original Perry County Courthouse and County Jail, the oldest continually used government building in the former

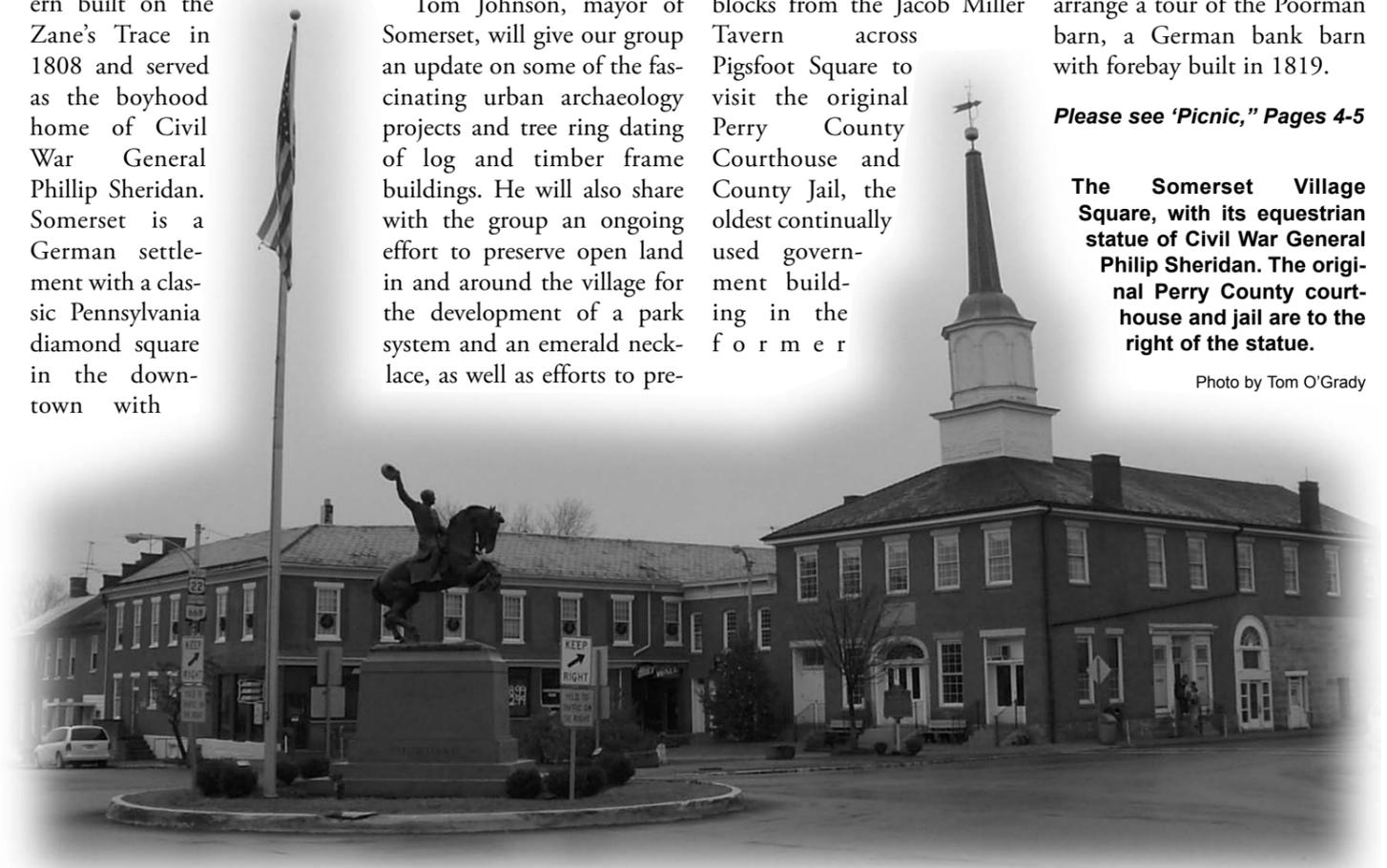
Northwest Territory. A Lutheran pioneer cemetery and the site of the first Lutheran synod in Ohio with locally carved stones, some in German, is half a block from the courthouse.

Efforts are being made to arrange a tour of the Poorman barn, a German bank barn with forebay built in 1819.

Please see "Picnic," Pages 4-5

The Somerset Village Square, with its equestrian statue of Civil War General Philip Sheridan. The original Perry County courthouse and jail are to the right of the statue.

Photo by Tom O'Grady



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Plans taking shape for 2012 conference, fall picnic, and more

This is going to be another busy time of year for Friends of Ohio Barns! We had a chance to catch our breath briefly this summer, but starting with our annual face-to-face

Random Thoughts

Ric Beck
Friends of Ohio Barns president

board meeting in July, we are laying the groundwork for fall activities and next year's conference.

Denny Hendershot and some of his friends have taken the lead in getting next year's conference off the ground. It is going to be in the Cuyahoga

Valley area of Summit County, with some beautiful scenery and barns. Thanks to Denny and crew for jumping in so enthusiastically!

Paul Knoebel and Gary Clower will be busy toting the mini-barn around to various venues this fall. Check the Friends website events page for locations and try to visit one of the sites. Maybe even help man the booth!

Tom O'Grady is completing plans for the September 24 Friends picnic in Somerset. Not only will we get a chance to visit and dine, but the Somerset mayor may lead us on an historic tour of the village and visit a really impressive farmstead as well, so mark your calendars!

As a reminder, please submit your Barn of the Year nominations to Dan Troth by October 31 this year. We are trying to do a better job of rewarding the selections with an in-depth article in the spring newsletter. Check out the Barn of the Year icon on the website for more details on the process.

Finally, you may have a chance to be a part of a barn raising this fall! An 1810 English ground barn was dismantled in Geauga County about eight years ago and will finally be raised as a house frame in Morrow County, just south of Lexington. Final repair preparations and underway for the 30-by-40-foot frame, and a raising date (weekend) has been set for September 17-18.

It will be a crane raising, but there will be plenty of work to prep the bents and place the girts. By the way, it is my wife's and my frame! We have five acres on which to camp out, and there will be food and drink for those who come to watch or participate. Hope to see you there. Check the website for updates, or call me with questions.

Have a great fall!

"It is a national policy to preserve for public use historic sites, buildings, and objects of national [and regional] significance for the inspiration and benefit of the people."

—Historic Sites Act of 1935, United States Congress

FOB has new VP

At a recent gathering of the Friends of Ohio Barns board at the new timber frame community center in Upper Arlington, we elected a new vice president. Long-time board member and founding member Dan Troth was nominated and elected, though he was watching the World Cup soccer match somewhere in the Outer Banks when the deed was done. Miss a meeting, and see what happens? FOB president Ric Beck gave Dan a courtesy call and a brief moment to consider the position. He graciously accepted and is now vice president for life. Not really, but we really do appreciate his willingness to formally accept the title for the role he has already been serving for the past several years. Welcome aboard, Mr. Vice President.



Barn of the Year nominations

Nominations for 2012 Barn of the Year are due by **October 31**. We'll need the barn owner's name, address, and contact information, as well the location of the barn, a description of its current use, approximate date of construction, whether it's a ground barn or bank barn, any modifications or significant repairs and the dates of such work, and any other significant historical information and family history associated with the barn's existence.

Nominations should include photos of both interior and exterior views. Electronic images should have a minimum resolution of 300 dpi and an image size of 4 by 6 inches.

FOB is giving awards in three categories: Agricultural Use, Adaptive Re-Use, and Stewardship. Awards will be presented Saturday, April 28, 2012.

Send nominations to: Dan Troth, 7591 Perry Road, Delaware, OH 43015, or email to: dtroth@columbus.rr.com. Nomination forms are available online at www.friendsofohiobarns.org.

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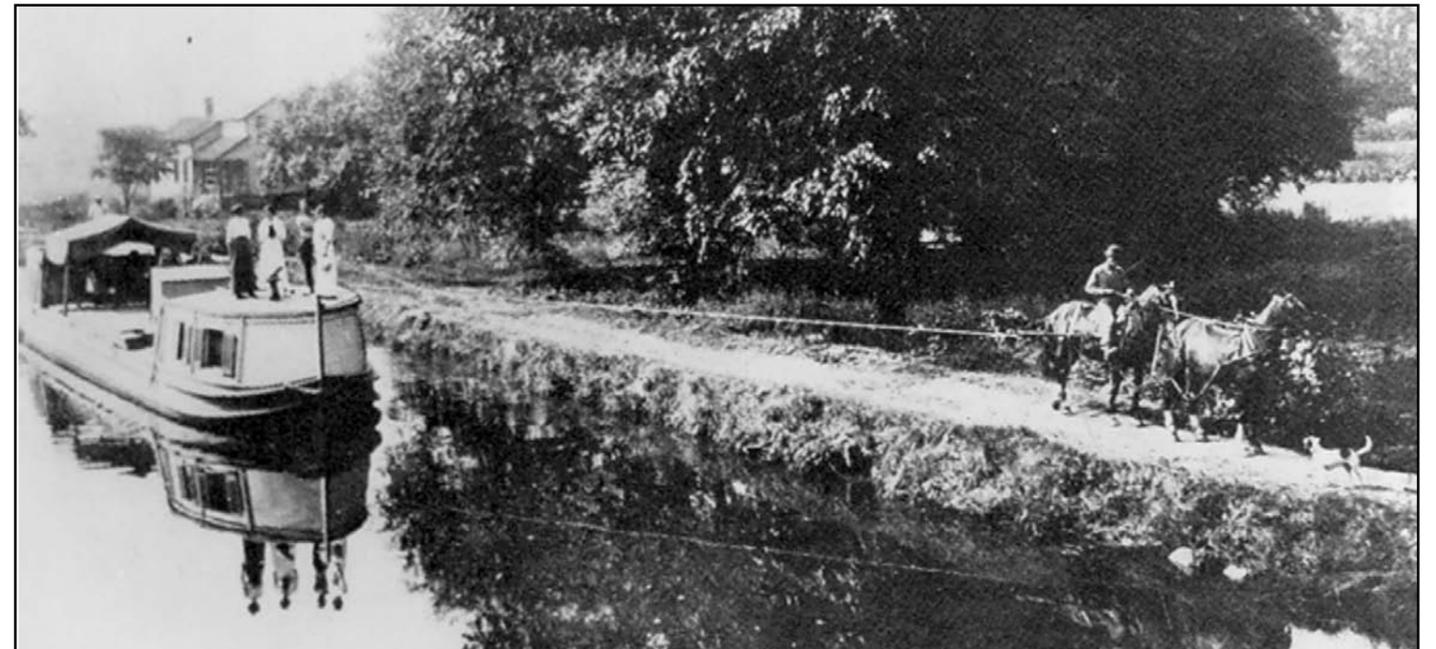


Barn tour participants in 2012 may get a glimpse of remnants of old farming history as well as some of the remains of the Ohio-Erie Canal that hauled some of the first agricultural commodities out of Ohio in its early years.

Above: Deep Lock Quarry Lock No. 28 along the Ohio and Erie Canal.

Right: The Duffy three-bay New England Bank Barn in the Cuyahoga Valley.

Below: Ohio and Erie Canal scene in the Cuyahoga Valley.



2012 barn tour prospects

Searching for the 2012 conference



Images courtesy of the Cuyahoga Valley National Park website.

Wallace three-bay New England barn with basement and ramp to threshing floor, Northfield Center



Above: The Botzum bank barn with forebay in Cuyahoga National Park. Right: Lock and aqueduct Peninsula in Peninsula along the Ohio and Erie Canal.

barns in good weather than bad. What about buses? Just lots to think about and do! We are busy but having fun. We went to one hotel that had an antique hearse display in the parking lot.

This search committee appreciates all the hard work members have done for past FOB conferences and welcome any help, tips, or suggestions. In the meantime, mark April 27-28 on your 2012 calendars, no matter where the next conference is held.

— Summit County Search Committee



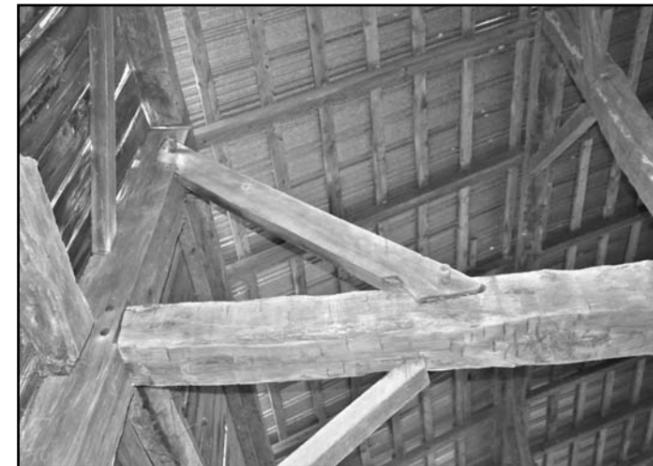
We had only been home a few days from the wonderful conference in Lancaster when Denny Hendershot began making calls. "Let's see what northern Summit County has to offer," he said.

And so the search has begun. Old barns, conference centers, caterers, hotels, Hale Homestead, Boy Scout camps, Historical societies ... The Cuyahoga Valley National Park is rich with resources. It isn't always easy to talk with the right person; sometimes they need tracked down. It isn't always easy to get a response; you have to keep calling. Sometimes the costs seem ridiculously high, so you have to keep asking. It's easier to look at

Snooping Around Again

I was driving around the back roads about an hour east of Columbus when I came across a barn that appeared to be abandoned. I like to stop and look at just about any barn, but I feel even more compelled to do so when they appear to be neglected in the middle of a field. It is usually a guess as to who owns the barn, and I invariably find myself sneaking up to it to take a quick look, first glancing up at its rafter tails to see if they are two-by-sixes or fatter pole rafters, the latter of which we find on older barns.

This barn had a new roof installed within the last ten or twenty years. I easily squeezed inside its center bay and



Vertical queen post on right with example of dovetail joinery in the bracing at left.

glanced around. It is an English style barn, or a Yankee barn as some say, with four bents and three bays. The western bay is 20 feet wide, the center threshing bay is only 14 feet wide, and the eastern bay a mere 10 feet wide. That's unusual. It has vertical queen posts, and I could see from the empty mortises that its original collar ties and their braces had been removed on the two interior bents to allow for a hay track, so I am guessing the barn dates to before the Civil War.



Photos by Dan Troth

Three-bay Yankee barn in Central Ohio containing unusual dovetail-pegged joints in bracing.

But what really caught my eye were lapped half-dovetail braces with their large inch-and-a-half-thick pegs. These four unusual down braces were only on the barn's two interior bents and held the drop tie beams and posts in tension. Perhaps the builder felt that those interior bents needed to resist greater outward thrust, where the roof load wants to push out and roll the plate. The tie beams appear to be dropped about four feet below the plates at all four bents. Why do we not find these lapped half-dovetails on either gable end? None of the other braces in this barn have I'm guessing they are about 3-by-3

1/2 inches in dimension where the lapped braces are about 3 by 7 inches.

The barns we come across in Ohio certainly have their roots in the barns and timber frame houses of our eighteenth century English, Dutch, and German settlers, but they all went through a transformation by the time the barn builders came to our state in the early nineteenth

century. Different framing styles merged to create hybrids. (I have seen a gunstock posted barn with an English triple bypass tying joint sitting on a Pennsylvania forebay barn foundation. The German husband might have had an English brother-in-law.) These hybrids were certainly different from their European frames and are now known as American barns.

I might figure this one out on my own by the time you read this, but I would love to hear from you barn detectives out there. You also have to cut me a little slack, as I was only in this barn for about five minutes, unlike the forty-five minutes or so we enjoy when we go on our barn tours. But I didn't want to get arrested or shot or even yelled at, so I hopped back in my truck. Maybe I worry too much. With all of my gray hair, I am not as threatening as I once appeared.

— Dan Troth



Vertical queen post on the left with example of dovetail joinery in the brace at the right.



Top left: Stone house and double crib log bank barn with forebay along old Zane's Trace between Somerset and the Glenford Fort. **Top right:** Double posts and bracing in a corner of the Poorman barn near Somerset. **Bottom right:** The Clay Haus, a restaurant with German cuisine and fireside dining in a two-century-old building on the old Zane's Trace. **Center:** St. Joseph's, the first Catholic church west of the Alleghenies, and its cemetery and working farm, located a few minutes outside of Somerset. **Center bottom:** Attached buildings in downtown Somerset are reminiscent of those in southeastern Pennsylvania, where many of the early settlers of German descent originated. **Left center bottom:** Example of the double framing inside the Poorman bank barn just outside of the Village of Somerset. **Below:** Brick farmhouse on land adjacent to St. Joseph's expansive church grounds. **Right:** Natural entryway to Glenford Fort, a 25-acre hilltop native American earthwork that has a 15-foot-high stone mound within.

Photos by Tom O'Grady



Picnic, continued from Page 1

This unique barn has double timber framing throughout and incorporates scribe rule construction along with some dovetail joinery. It is a busy time for the Poorman family, and if this barn doesn't make the cut, another fascinating barn along the old Zane's Trace will fill the bill.

Early arrivals can visit nearby historic St. Joseph's church, cemetery, and working farm. St. Joseph's was the first Catholic church west of the Alleghenies. A seminary and dormitory, once part of the complex, housed many of the clergy buried nearby. An interesting spot seven to ten minutes from the Somerset square.

The picnic lunch will include locally raised meat, which will be provided by Friends of Ohio Barns. Attendees should bring a covered dish for a potluck and their beverage of choice.

Don't miss this opportunity to visit one of Ohio's historic gems, the town of Somerset and its environs in Perry County.

