The Old Barn Post

A publication of Friends of Ohio Barns • December, 2022 • Vol. XXI, Issue 3

Getting Articles into the Hopper

Cranking out an issue of *The Old Barn Post* is always an undertaking. After twenty plus years there are still plenty of things to say about Ohio barns but that doesn't come without some head scratching and prolonged pondering. Once in a while, but very rarely, we end up with an article or two more than will fit into an issue. They end up in the hopper, as fodder for an upcoming issue.

Folks thinking about articles on barns or related topics might wonder where such an expression comes from.

Fodder, of course, is usually dried hay or grain for livestock. And, a *hopper* is part of an agricultural or industrial machine that works as a sorting device for separating things such as grain from chaff or gold or precious minerals from mud and rock. *In the hopper* is an idiom that means something is in preparation. When something is in the hopper, it is going through refinements before the next step of processing or final presentation. The hopper shakes causing the unwanted surrounding material to fall away leaving behind the desired grain or mineral. *In the hopper* derives from the English word *hoper*, first seen in 1277, referring to the *hopper* in a mill that processed grain.

The earliest Oxford English Dictionary example of the word is from a Middle English version of the Bible's book, *Exodus*, also dated around 1250. The *hopper* in that example was referencing a grasshopper or other hopping insect. A hundred years later, the term came to mean a receptacle or container, shaped like an inverted pyramid or cone. Grain poured into it passed into a mill to be ground. The Oxford English Dictionary explains that the *hopper* was so called because it originally had a hopping or shaking motion to nudge the grain through the funnel.

Corn in the hopper – Source: explorepahistory.com: The Mill at Anselma Preservation and Educational Trust, Inc.

In the 1700s the use of *hopper* widened to include several similar contrivances for feeding some form of material into a machine as well as to articles resembling a mill hopper in design or use.

American politicians began using the word *hopper* in the late 19th century referring to a box on the desk of a clerk in which proposed bills were placed for consideration by a legislative body. An early example from an 1889 issue of an Indiana paper uses grinding-mill terminology in reference to a *hopper* in that state's legislature. An article stated "the governor's veto-mill stopped grinding yesterday for want of grist" but it was in excellent order and ready to go should the opposition just "throw a few more long-eared bills *in the hopper*."

In the hopper took on the enlarged sense of "in progress" or "under consideration"

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Caleb's Corner

Pursuit of a wooden stave tank and cider press and hydraulic press — continued from the winter and summer 2022 issues of *The Old Barn Post*:

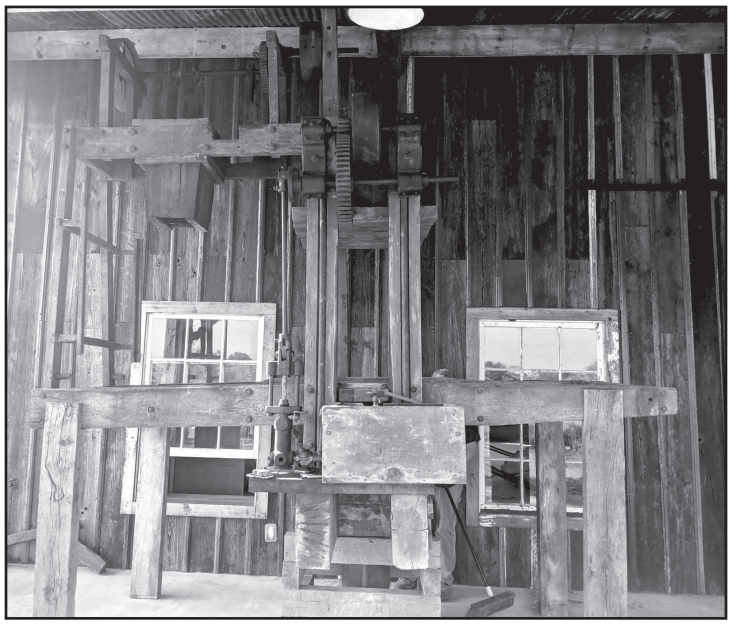
Part III: Finale

Once everything was in our shop and cleaned up, considerable time was spent discussing and theorizing on how the transformation would take place. Some of the many factors to be considered were the delicate nature of the material, size and stability throughout transportation across seven states, the humid climate of East Texas, and the durability over time in a climate susceptible to hurricanes.

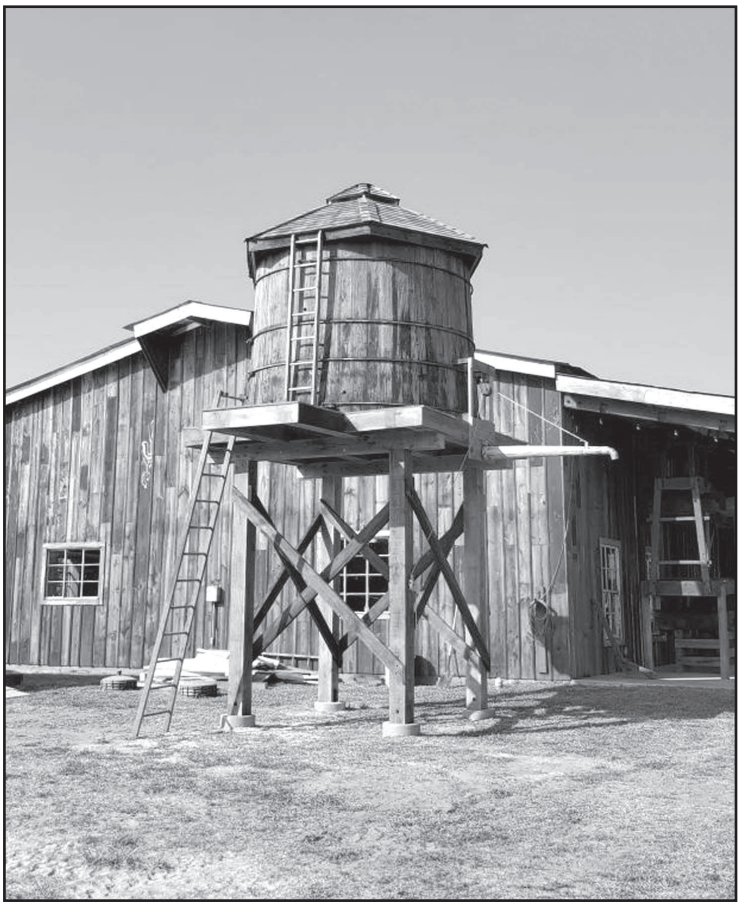
A timber framed platform was constructed from reclaimed material which would be anchored to concrete piers. In order to eliminate any pressures on the tank during transport and in place, we built a spider web-like matrix inside the tank running from the bottom to the top, then welded a 1 1⁄2 inch steel rod through the center of the matrix allowing us to pick up and rotate the tank, much like a hamster wheel. The rafters and shake-paneled roof were then prefabricated to attach to the matrix.

Utilizing the matrix even further we were able to build a carriage that suspended the tank on its side, attached to the through-rod. The tank and carriage were then loaded on a low-boy trailer, just inches inside the height and width limits of highway travel. Upon arriving in Beaumont, Texas, with a semi-truck and two gooseneck trailers we were relieved to find out everything made the transport without any issues. In what turned out to be the three hottest days of that year we assemble everything just as planned. Ultimately, the client was overjoyed with the final result and all of us left with a beaming pride that still exists whenever we think or talk about that project!

Caleb Miller, President – Friends of Ohio Barns



1895 Mt. Gilead 100 ton cider press, originally operated by Killbuck Cider Company, Killbuck, Ohio.



Images by: Caleb Miller

5000 gallon cypress cider tank converted to a railroad water tower, originally owned by Killbuck Cider Company, Killbuck, Ohio.

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Interested in being the Treasurer of Friends of Ohio Barns?

Can you balance a checkbook? Are you somewhat detail-oriented? Do you want to see Friends of Ohio Barns continue as an all-volunteer organization? Laura Saeger, our treasurer, wants to transition her role to a new volunteer. She will work side-by-side to assist in the transition for as many months as is needed for the new person to get their footing. The treasurer duties take approximately 2-3 hours/week on average as described here: Regular duties include writing checks, processing credit card transactions, updating & reconciling QuickBooks, making bank deposits, and updating membership database (approx. 3 hours/month), participating in teleconference board meetings (1-2 hours a month), preparing financial reports for board meetings (1 hour/month), managing the FOB PayPal account (1-2 hours/month), sending receipts and thank you to donors (< 1 hour/month), miscellaneous other tasks revolving around our annual conference and barn tour and follow up (15-30 hours). We use QuickBooks for Non-Profits desktop version and we have an accounting firm that provides support, reviews our account and files our taxes yearly.

The board sincerely hopes that an FOB member will apply for this position because otherwise we'll have to hire it out which will become expensive and detract from our barn education and preservation mission. If you are interested in exploring whether you can provide a valuable service in this area please contact Laura (phone 330.465.7001, or email friendsohiobarns@gmail.com) or Caleb (330-231-9042, jcmtimberworks@gmail.com). We ask that you be willing to make a 3-year commitment to justify the investment in training for the transition.

Thank you.

Submitted by Alan Walter

2023 Barn Conference and Tour — Thursday event

The Thursday, April 27th Friends of Ohio Barns event will be held in a converted potato barn. 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 in a power point presentation. You will then have a few minutes to introduce yourself and your barn and tell us a little about it. For instance, what it needs or what you've done (or not done) to it, a little history about it and about you, and such.

We don't have an exact number of how many the venue will hold, but we would like to have anyone 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 (ph. 419 947 1360). Please include your name with the barn photos.

Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year ! Hoping to hear from you!

Dave Hamblin

Woodman, Spare That Tree!

Woodman, spare that tree!
Touch not a single bough!
In youth it sheltered me,
And I'll protect it now.
'Twas my forefather's hand
That placed it near his cot;
There, woodman, let it stand,
Thy ax shall harm it not.
That old familiar tree,
Whose glory and renown
Are spread o'er land and sea—
And wouldst thou hew it down?
Woodman, forbear thy stroke!
Cut not its earth-bound ties;
Oh, spare that agèd oak
Now towering to the skies!

When but an idle boy,
I sought its grateful shade;
In all their gushing joy
Here, too, my sisters played.
My mother kissed me here;
My father pressed my hand—
Forgive this foolish tear,
But let that old oak stand.

My heart-strings round thee cling,
Close as thy bark, old friend!
Here shall the wild-bird sing,
And still thy branches bend.
Old tree! the storm still brave!
And, woodman, leave the spot;
While I've a hand to save,
Thy ax shall harm it not.

George Pope Morris (1802-1864)

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in the 20th century. During World War II a religious newspaper noted that millions of soldiers would be spending Christmas away from home. However, it continued, "parents need not fear that their loved ones will be lonesome or neglected, for USO has plans *in the hopper* which would delight the folks back home."

In the hopper had become a more popular phrase from around 1910 to about 1970. Its use has fallen considerably — except when trying to gather articles for the current and future issues of this newsletter.

While *in the hopper* now generally implies things are in progress, underway, or being considered some in the northeastern states judge the word to mean "toilet." One blogger says "I've lived all my life in Greater Boston, where *in the hopper* means 'in the toilet.' How did the expression come to mean 'in progress' elsewhere in the country?"

Should any readers of *The Old Barn Post* contemplate submitting an article on barns or some such related topic of interest we'll consider it fodder going into the hopper in the sense that it would be in in preparation or under consideration for publication but not headed for the lavatory.

Maybe someone will consider expanding the discussion of the *hopper* by submitting an exposition on the use and origin of the term *clodhopper*, otherwise known as a *ploughman*, or one who works on plowed land; a rustic. Maybe there is a clear explanation of how that expression evolved to imply a clumsy or foolish person or one who moves in an awkward way!

By: Tom O'Grady

Ohio's Primeval Forests Still Disappearing

Tales of the primeval forests of Ohio and surrounding states report trees of monstrous size in comparison to what we are familiar with in the 21st century. So dense and dark were the native forests that the earliest settlers feared the vast encumbering woodlands and the perceived threats it harbored from wild animals and indigenous people. Some stories recall families taking shelter in a hollow sycamore for extended periods of time or of a couple men on horseback standing within an old hollow tree.

The first instinct of the pioneer was to open the canopy and let the light in. After raising a cabin he girdled nearby trees and planted corn and other sustaining foods in the spaces between the giant stems. Untold numbers of giant trees were eventually drug by oxen into piles and burned in this deadening of the forest. While this was an enormously wasteful practice settlers thought it necessary at the time.

So many were the trees that, even with the diminishing of the forests, there remained plenty to build tens of thousands of farmsteads with their barns and houses and numerous outbuildings and wooden rail snake fences. Nearly a thousand towns and small villages were built with all of the buildings needed for housing, commerce and industry, education, worship, government, and transportation. Nearly 50 iron furnaces consumed 300-350 acres of forest per year in the Hanging Rock Iron Region of Southern and Southeastern Ohio. The trees provided the raw materials for tools, furniture, and most all of the community's needs from the cradle to the coffin including the wooden stir spoons used to prepare sustenance in all the years between. Meals were cooked and space was heated with wood. And a lot of trees were made into paper and boxes and barrels.

And then, the primeval forests were gone. Or are they?

While there are a few stands of old growth forest in Ohio they may only date back a couple hundred years. The five and six and eight hundred year old trees are gone — except for those that are holding up the roofs of barns and mills and factory buildings built in the 19th century. Log cabins, timber frame barns, mills, and factories, and early houses represent the oak, beech, poplar, walnut, hickory, and chestnut trees of Ohio's hills and glaciated till plain. Ohio's oldest buildings are made of the primal materials of Ohio's native landscape. Sandstone and limestone blocks were cut from Ohio's bedrock to make foundations. Granite boulders transported by ice from Canada are found in foundations in the glaciated portion of Ohio. The great output of structures and products from the primeval forests is indicative of the abundance they offered.

Early builders had little choice in the matter. If it was going to be built they had to dig in and cut down. The availability of material was abundant but unprocessed. The craftsmen had to cut and shape and stack and bring from the random and apparent chaos of the wilderness the order of farmsteads and communities that became the state of Ohio.

When one gets in under the covers of these old buildings one gets up close and personal with these indigenous materials. In some cases it is difficult to believe that people wrested such massive material resources from the landscape. Most impressive were the largest stones and the largest trees.

All of these sticks and stones were harvested by hand by immigrants and their descendants and, with the skills and craftsmanship of a time gone by, fashioned into the structures that made Ohio a leading state in agriculture and industry. Wooden posts in an old barn were commonly 10 – 12 inches square with some ranging as large as 16-18 inches. Some heavily constructed factory buildings had posts upwards of 20

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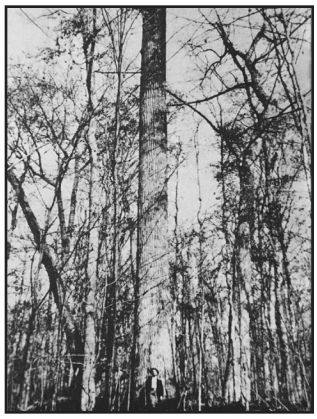
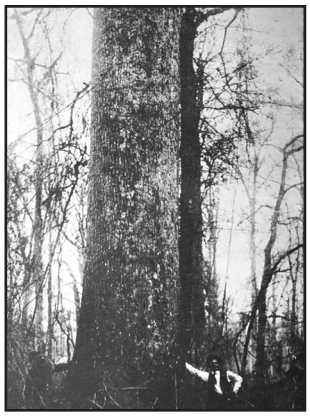
Much of the timber cut for Ohio barns and farmsteads was felled before the invention of photography. Images associated with this article are of trees and lumber operations in Southeast Ohio and neighboring West Virginia between 1908 and the mid 1920s. It gives a glimpse of the forest wealth that helped build the Midwest. Images from: Southeast Ohio History Center and *Tumult on the Mountains: Lumbering in West Virginia 1770-1920* by Roy B. Clarkson.

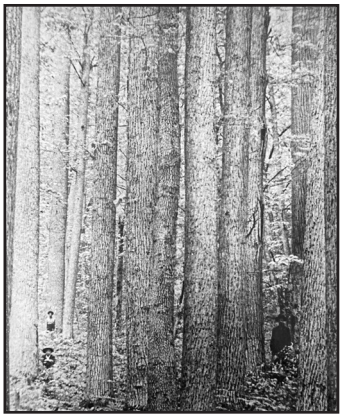
A huge white oak with a notch cut for felling in Tucker County, West Virginia in 1913.



A large tulip poplar cut in 1920.



White oak cut in 1914.



A stand of uncut timber in Southeast Ohio around 1900.

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inches square. A top plate running the length of a flouring mill in Southeast Ohio was measured at 60 feet in length. Larger timbers have been reported. These hearty structures were fastened together with wooden pegs and were designed to shrink and swell with the weather and sway in a heavy breeze.

American society will never see the likes of that kind of building again. No one will be cutting massive stones from the bedrock to build foundations of houses, barns, mills, factories, schools, churches or government buildings. There are no large forests of giant trees. Immense timbers will rarely be used to frame the common buildings of our communities. That makes the remarkable barns and houses and other historic buildings that grace our countryside and towns and cities that much more valuable. They are irreplaceable. Our historic buildings are our society's wealth.

All the more reason to protect what we've inherited from our ancestors. Many of the best and most impressive buildings we have in this country were built by immigrants and their descendants with the skills and craftsmanship of a time gone by. All of those buildings were well built and built to last for centuries. Americans have not done a very good job of maintaining this inheritance. Instead of incorporating these buildings and repurposing them for future use we have been too quick to show up with a track hoe or wrecking ball and tear these buildings to pieces and send them for burial in landfills and demolition dumps.

We are in the Anthropocene epoch of Earth's history, where the effects of human activity are nearly everywhere abundant and the volume of materials made by mankind outweighs the entire volume of all living beings for the first time in history — a new geologic era. In 1900, the anthropogenic mass (buildings, cars, clothing, bottles, etc.) only amounted to 35 gigatons, which is a mere 3 % of its present weight. Since then, this mass has doubled every 20 years to reach today's weight, as derived from the data from the last five years. This represents an annual increase of 30 gigatons, equivalent to each person on the planet producing their own weight in manmade stuff every week.

Some of the worst things humans can be doing in a period of global climate change in the Anthropocene epoch, besides the outright denial of the facts, is widespread deforestation and demolition of useful buildings. The inherent energy in a building is non-recoverable. The inherent energy in a building is the energy it took to harvest trees, transport them to mills, mill the lumber, and transport the lumber to a building site. The energy invested in the installation of the lumber is also significant. The energy used in mining ore and processing the ore to make iron or steel nails in early buildings is substantial. Mining and transporting slate for roofing, cutting rock from the crust of the Earth for foundations and transporting it all

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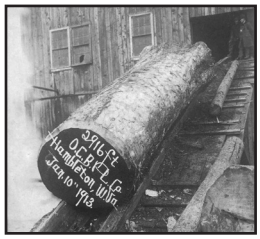
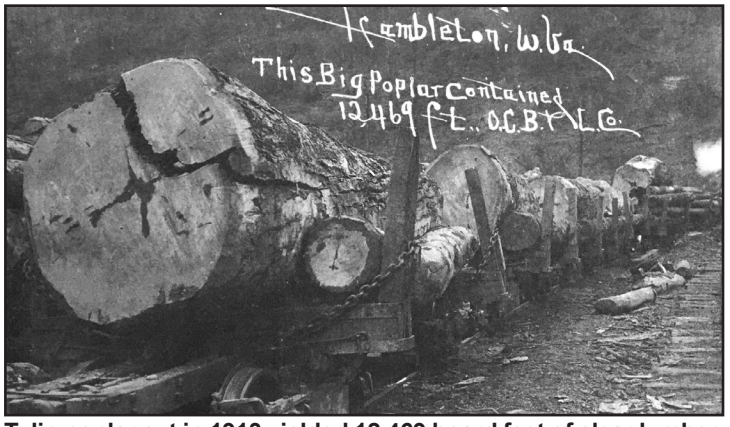


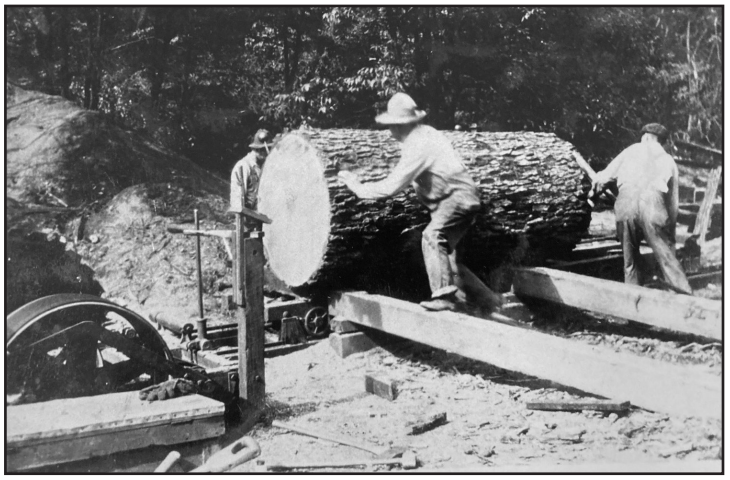
A poplar log containing near 3,000 board feet goes up the jackslip to the mill.

Some beefy pieces of lumber to be used for scantlings.

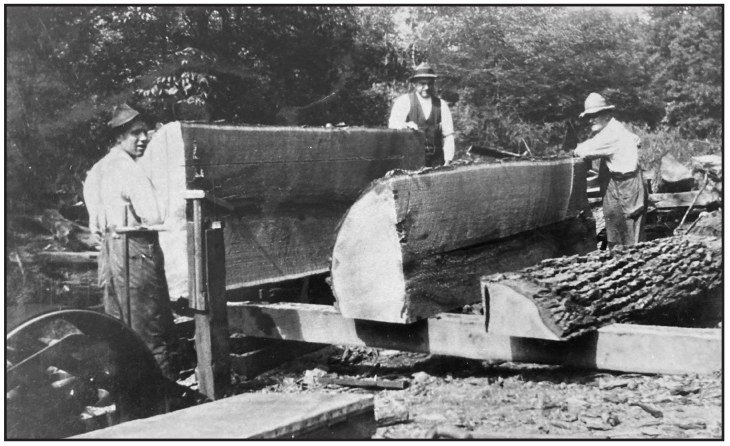
Spruce cut in 1908.



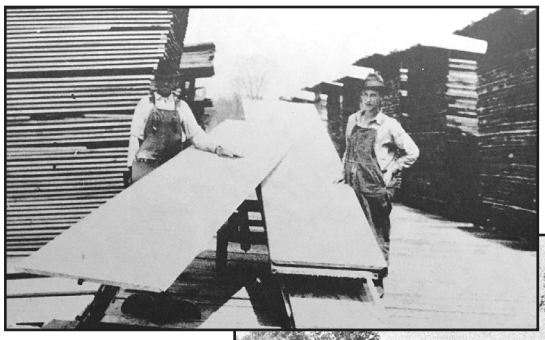
Tulip poplar cut in 1913 yielded 12,469 board feet of clear lumber.



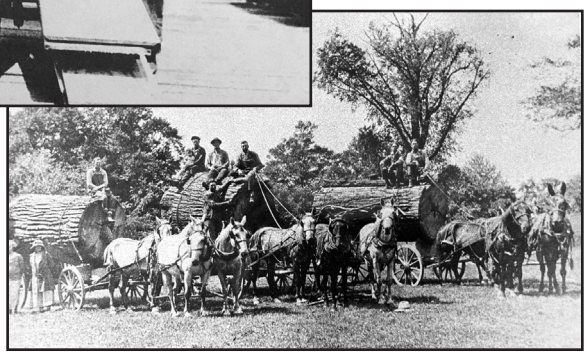
Preparing to saw a log.



Cutting into some heartwood.



Left: Piling panel poplar in the lumber yard for drying in 1916. Some good sized boards likely to be used in grain bins or waste walls in a barn.



Right: Part of a tree headed to a southeast Ohio saw mill on three wagons.

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adds up to a lot of inherent energy. If a building is made of brick one can imagine the energy used to mine clay and transport it to a kiln and the energy used to fire the clay into brick and then transport it to a building site. And more energy is used in the mortar and brick laying. If windows are involved we know it takes substantial energy to transport and melt sand to make glass and then transport it again for installation. The amount of inherent energy an existing building represents is dependent on its material make up, size, and distance from the source of materials. But it always represents an incalculable amount of non-recoverable energy.

It has been stated repeatedly over the last two decades that the greenest building is the building that already exists. Even if in a state of disrepair, it can be rehabilitated and repurposed for another career in service to the community. It can be done preserving the primal materials that are sufficient to do the job and those buildings compromised beyond repair can be deconstructed for their materials for the repair and rehabilitation of other old buildings or the construction of new ones. If it is important to reduce, reuse, and recycle for purposes of sustainability then historic preservation and reuse of old buildings is sustainability on steroids. But we have not yet learned this lesson and we continue to demolish the best.

Eric Sloane wrote *Our Vanishing Landscape* in 1955 bemoaning the loss of barns and granaries, corncribs and springhouses, covered bridges, mills, and the folkways and skills that these structures represented. The rate of disappearance of farm buildings and farm land, as well as historic buildings and neighborhoods in our cities and villages has increased by a scale of magnitude Sloane could only begin to comprehend.

Our history, our environment, and the buildings that surround us define us as individuals, as communities, and as a society. The more our landscape changes into a sprawl of shopping centers, car lots, cookie cutter subdivisions, highway interchanges, and an automobile world, the more our identity and character changes and our sense of place is diminished. The American countryside and the integrity of the nation's cities and towns have been sacrificed and compromised for the motorcar. Some people see this. Many others only see their destination as they drive down the road past the rapidly changing landscape.

How many of the old barns and buildings that house the remains of the primeval forests of Ohio will be preserved in our rapidly changing world? As a society we have not demonstrated that we consider our history as an important part of our present or our future. It has been said that you never know what you've got until it's gone.

Tom O'Grady

The following could be substituted for many places in Ohio or many places between the Eastern seaboard and the Rocky Mountains. A sign of our changing times.

Farley, Iowa

By: Christopher Wiseman

The farm is gone. The Comer farm is gone/
Your mother's brother, Uncle Joe, has sold it.
He's old now and his kids don't want to farm,
Have different lives in towns. He has coins, too,
From Somerset. His grandfather's. We sit for the last
Time in the farm kitchen, driven for days
To get here before he finally moves out,
Summer lightning starting, the way it does,
The evening air heavy, full of growth.
Joe will move. There's sadness in us all.
And you, my wife, drinking all of this in,
Talking about our children, asking Joe
About the Iowa you left, the people,
The whole big thing that was your life, your childhood,
You used to bike here, on the gravel roads,
From Cascade, for lemonade and ice cream, to see
The barns, the animals. Back in the fifties.
He got to here from Somerset, that man.
Joe talks about the richness of the soil,
Blizzards, tornadoes, heat beyond belief,
Guesses about ships and wagons, breaking the land,
Clearing stones from grass. His grandfather.
What will you do without the farm, you ask him.
I'll be fine, he says. Live somewhere else.

Christopher Wiseman, "Farley, Iowa" from the longer poem "Standing by Stones"

From *Crossing the Salt Flats*.

Submitted by: Dan Troth, V.P. - FOB

"If before the nineteenth century we cleared the forest to make way for the farm, with the entrance of the industrial pioneer we began to clear the farm to parcel out the city. We have called this process the settlement of America, but the name is anomalous, for we formed the habit of using the land, not as a home, a permanent seat of culture, but as a means to something else — principally as a means to the temporary advantages of profitable speculation and exploitation."

Lewis Mumford (1895-1990)

Help us grow our ranks. Give a gift membership of Friends of Ohio Barns to a family member or a friend.

The Carlisle Building: *A Chillicothe Success Story*

Twenty years ago Friends of Ohio Barns held their Ohio Barn Tour in Ross County and the Barn Conference in the county seat Chillicothe, Ohio's first capitol. It seemed appropriate to do so in the spring of 2003, two hundred years after Ohio became a state in March of 1803.

After a day of touring double crib log barns and southern barns typical of the Virginia Military District in Ross and Pickaway counties, some of the crowd had dinner at the Cross Keys Tavern. While dining the four-story brick building across the street broke out in a blaze.

With the help of several local fire departments and the solid and compartmented construction of the building the blaze was extinguished. The historic building languished for a decade vacant and without a roof.

The Carlisle Building on the corner of Paint and Main Streets in Chillicothe is one of the iconic buildings in the state's first capitol city. A landmark built in 1885, the building suffered that catastrophic fire that gutted the structure in 2003. It survived a nearby subterranean water main break and sat vacant for a decade, a burned out shell of its former glory.

Schooley Caldwell architects of Columbus, under the leadership of Bob Loversidge, designed the transformation of the historic Carlisle Building in downtown Chillicothe. Keeping the Carlisle Building standing long enough for it to be restored and renovated was perhaps the biggest challenge the redevelopment team faced.

The Carlisle Building reopened in 2015 and now houses offices of Adena Health System, along with 32 apartments for medical residents and visiting staff for $8-10 million.

The adaptive reuse of the historic Carlisle Building after its tragic fire and abandonment is a Southeast Ohio success story today. In an era when tourism and travel is the largest engine of the economy our natural and cultural heritage assets are our greatest attractions. Repurposing historic structures and making them the green buildings of the future preserves the attraction as well as the character and sense of place in our communities. Buildings are society's wealth and historic buildings, made of the primal materials of our native landscape, are the most valuable and have the most to teach us.

We have entered the Anthropocene epoch of Earth's history. Extensive evidence of human activity is found throughout the sediments of the Earth for the past two centuries and will be a part of the record for eons of geologic time. Plastics and micro plastics have now become a part of the long term history of the planet. And, with the arrival of global climate change two of the worst things humans can be doing is wide spread deforestation and demolition of buildings. The inherent energy that is a part of every existing building is inestimable and non-recoverable. For humans to move in the direction of sustainability they need to preserve forests and plant more and reuse the forest fibers already in use and in the waste stream. And humans need to repurpose existing buildings whenever possible — and it is usually possible.

It has been said many times, the greenest building is one that already exists. Schooley Caldwell and Bob Loversidge and Adena Health Systems have proven that. Historic preservation is sustainability on steroids. And we have never regretted anything we have preserved.

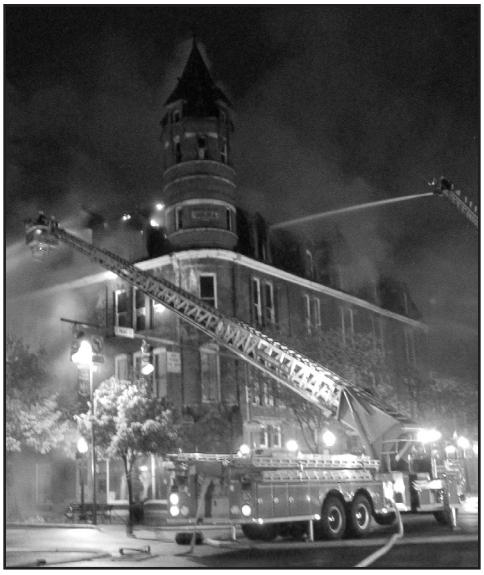


Photo by: Tom O'Grady

The Carlisle Building ablaze in April 2003.

Image by: Schooley Caldwell

The Carlisle Building after adaptive repurposing to Adena Health Systems and residential apartments.

Image: Schooley Caldwell elisabeth-colucci.squarespace.com/the-carlisle-building

The Carlisle Building sustained severe damage from the destructive blaze and a decade of vacancy following the fire.

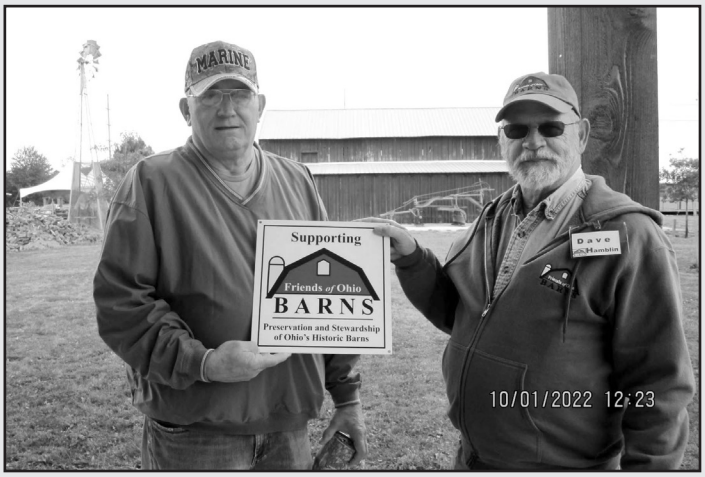
FOB Fall Picnic attendees step back in time

Wind and overcast skies with the threat of rain greeted Friends of Ohio Barns members on Saturday, October 1, 2022 for our annual fall picnic. Nevertheless, 24 members gathered for a sack lunch picnic in a shelter house at Century Village near downtown Grove City. The village is one of three sites and projects of the Southwest Franklin County Historical Society. The village is mostly log buildings moved to the site from nearby homesteads and carefully cared for by a group of enthusiastic and dedicated volunteers.

Our host for the day was John Hines, presently vice president of the society and project coordinator. John guided us through a log farmhouse, two log barns, one a double crib barn which housed a museum of antique tools and other memorabilia from the 1800s. Also toured was a granary divided into three sections for seed storage of three families, a working blacksmith shop where blacksmithing classes are taught, a brick one-room school house, and a non-log railroad depot, their newest acquisition. Most of the buildings are of the mid-1800s era and there is also a windmill, outhouse, garden, and bell in Century Village. Twenty-eight people were treated to a history lesson by Mr. Hines of life in the nineteenth century in the Grove City area. As we departed the village for our trips home, near and far, the sun began to shine!

Century Village would be a great day-trip next year, anytime from May through September. The many volunteers would appreciate your support by touring one of their prides of joy.

By: JoAnne Hamblin



John Hines, Grove City's Century Village vice president, receiving a thank you gift from Friends of Ohio Barns fall picnic coordinator and board member, Dave Hamblin, on Saturday, October 1, 2022.

FRIENDS OF OHIO BARNS
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