



The Old BARN POST

A publication of Friends of Ohio Barns • December, 2018 • Vol. XVII, Issue 4

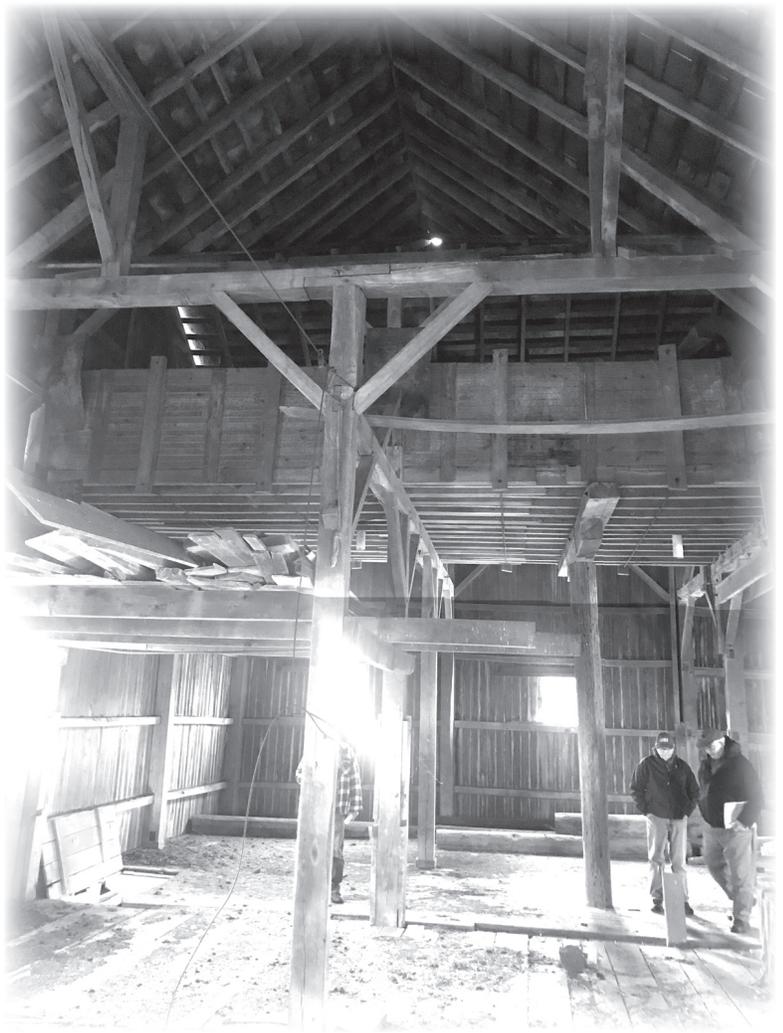
Barn Storming for Spring Conference in Licking County

In my opinion, there are few perks for being a Friends of Ohio Barns board member better than barn storming a county to find suitable barns for the Ohio Barn Conference.

Usually a group of 2-4 members and the local hero will tour barns in the selected county for possible gems to put on the following spring's barn tour. Over the years, we have met some incredible barn owners. We have had food and coffee with them and we've listened to their amazing stories...which sometimes turned a barn storming day into two or three days!

Over time, we have developed criteria for the barns we would like to see on a tour. The biggies are something unique or historic to the county, usually a true timber frame although we've seen some younger ones, and as many different varieties of barns as we can find.

Please See BARN STORMING, Page 3



Above: Check out the loft granary...it's the entire width of the barn loft!

Left: The dropped tie beams in this loft were cut out for more hay storage.
Images: by Ric Beck



How Sausage Gets Made — or rather, the current status of Ohio House Bill 12

We are to be forgiven if we do not know precisely how sausage is made or our laws are enacted. In both cases it involves a process that is best left to experts and we trust that they know what they are doing. Because it is often difficult to draft a good bill, get the bill sponsored by those in the legislature, debate on its behalf before the appropriate committees, and then have passed on the floor of both the house and senate before it ever gets to the governor's office where it is signed into law, the process has often been compared to the behind-the-scenes efforts required to make good sausage.

Much time and effort has been put forward over the last couple of years to pass Ohio House Bill 12 which will "designate the barn as the official historical architectural structure of the state." It all started with a field trip to the Ohio Statehouse by a group of middle school students led by their State Representative, Ann Gonzales, who challenged them to come up with a symbol for our state. Four girls researched and then offered up Ohio's historic barns, a great idea that was subsequently sponsored by Rep. Gonzales and PASSED the Ohio House last year 94-0. Hopefully, you are now intrigued enough to enact your own Google search. Type in Ohio House Bill 12 Ohio Barn Bill to learn more. It's also been covered by the press and TV.

So where are we today? The bill currently sits with the Ohio Senate Agriculture Committee where they are waiting to vote it out of committee when it can then be put to a vote before the full Senate. We have been told that nothing will be done until after this coming November election and we enter into the "Lame-Duck" session. It is in this short window of time that the vote can be made or it will most likely "Die in Committee."

Unfortunately, most people haven't even heard of the bill but everyone, and by that we mean EVERYONE, we speak to about this bill supports it. Quite often the reaction is surprise that it hasn't passed yet. House Bill 12 has no appropriations attached to it meaning it costs you, the taxpayer, nothing. Reaching out to our representatives will help.

We extol the virtues of democracy, feel blessed to live in America and forever encourage all, especially our young people, to engage in our communities and our government. The hard-fought freedoms we take for granted were not easily won by the pioneers that settled Ohio over the last 200 years. There is no greater iconic representation of our agrarian past than the historic barns that dot our landscape but are quickly being taken down and shipped out of state. Communities came together to build the barns and the universal hope for a better tomorrow is encapsulated in them. They represent our roots, help define our identity, and give us a common sense of place which helps us all to connect. House Bill 12 pays tribute to those who came before us and will help give their barns much needed recognition and preserve them for future generations. It will take a community effort.

Time marches on, but if we fail to rise to the task of saving Ohio's barns we will not be forgiven.

By: Daniel M. Troth, VP Friends of Ohio Barns



As winter descends upon us, we look back on a year of good works and put them to rest in the annals of FOB history. It is the season to spend time with family and friends in the joy of the holidays. So it is with this in mind that I send good will and holiday wishes to all friends and families of Friends of Ohio Barns.

While we all have been preparing for family holidays the FOB board has also been turning their heads and thoughts to the New Year and the coming events for 2019. This will be FOB's 20th year for its annual Barn Conference and Barn Tour. This is a great accomplishment for a volunteer run organization and it is as strong as ever.

In celebration of this fact, the year 2019 brings us back to the center of this great state, Licking County. The local heroes have been working hard to round up the cream of the crop for the barn tour, the board is corralling a great lineup of speakers, and strap on your boots for an interesting workshop.

Over the last few years we have experienced new interest in old barns, and the annual events offered to FOB members and the public. The Conference, Tour, and Workshop have filled to capacity and sold out early. Mark your calendar NOW with three BIG RED BARNs on the 25th, 26th, and 27th of April. A word to the wise, watch for registration information in February and REGISTER EARLY!

Be safe in your holiday travels. See you in the spring.
And, as always, keep the Barn Doors Closed.

Pamela Whitney Gray, President

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Another year at Algonquin Mill

Friends of Ohio Barns continued its tradition of hosting an information booth at the Algonquin Mill Festival which draws tens of thousands of visitors to the tiny community of Petersburg, Ohio the second weekend of October each year. The “Friends” booth rides on the coattails of Paul Knoebel’s reputation as the mini-barn raiser. Many people stopped to inquire whether the mini-barn was still being raised but had to settle for seeing the tabletop model instead. We assured them

that the mini-barn is still continuing to educate the public in its permanent home at the Hancock County Historical Museum. Great thanks is expressed to Paul Knoebel for providing the canopy and tables used in the “Friends” booth and for making the necessary arrangements with the Algonquin Mill staff to continue the tradition of publicizing the mission of Friends of Ohio Barns.

By: Alan Walter

BARN STORMING, Continued from Page 1

There are the logistic issues to setting up a barn tour such as access for busses, weighing the condition of the barn for 100 visitors, and the best place for a lunch stop. Then there are the barns themselves... what do they teach us? How are they built and how old are they? What makes them unique and what was their original intent? We’ve seen as many as 20 barns in a day, so we need to be skilled and fast in deciding which ones make the initial cut.

Last November we toured 13 barns and a covered bridge in the day long tour of Licking County. There were a few outstanding gems and some not so great, but overall a great experience and another opportunity to some beautiful countryside.

Here a few pictures of some of the ones we may see on next April’s tour, and some we won’t, but I thought you might enjoy them.

Thanks go out to Howard Siegrist and Joe Steiger for being Licking County’s local barn heroes!!

By: Ric Beck



Image: by Ric Beck

Ever seen this type of brick “coursing” for a house?



Image: by Ric Beck

Every outside wall in this barn was braced with this swell beam balloon frame construction



Image: by Ric Beck

Big Teaser...what’s inside this barn, will amaze and astound!



Image by: Alan Deeds

Barnstormers in Licking County — Clockwise from left — Joe Steiger, Ric Beck, Dave Hamblin, Howard Siegrist, Alan Walter, Pam Gray, and Dan Troth.

A Struggle with Integrity

I'm saddled with an omnipresent dilemma when assessing barn foundations. Can we maintain the structural integrity of the barn foundation while maintaining the integrity of the craft used to build the foundation?

There are typically two styles of stone foundations in our region; a single course of large hand cut stones, or a two course wall of smaller stones with a fill cavity between them. Both of these styles can withstand the test of time as long as water is kept away (gutters & runoff), and oc-

casional maintenance on the joint has occurred over the years.

We find that compromises in the structural integrity of these foundations occur most often under the drive bays and on corners. Generally speaking, we are able to repair these by re-laying the existing stone with new bed and head joints of clay and lime mortar. In the case of two course foundations, we will bring in large stones to lay, which will tie the two courses together.

The struggle intensifies when the foundation is in dire straits, or it's been patched

together with modern masonry products. Is the right answer to bring the foundation back to its original stature, or is it to start fresh using the modern masonry products like poured concrete, concrete block, or insulated concrete forms?

I believe the answer to the beginning question, albeit superficial, is yes- but when the variable of cost (time & material) is factored in, the struggle for maintaining the craft integrity is felt by all parties involved in the restoration.

By: Caleb Miller



Photos: by Caleb Miller

Foundation 1 before: corner foundation in need of repair



Foundation 2 after: repair completed



Foundation 2 before: wall foundation in need of repair



Foundation 2 after: repair completed

Architectural treasure in Licking Co. seat

Many beautiful buildings grace rural Licking County and the streets of its cities and villages. In the Licking County seat, a beautiful 1878 courthouse occupies Newark's entire center square with an entry and stairway facing all four directions with a statue of blind justice above the pediment over each. The courthouse is surrounded by a lawn and numerous shade trees. It's a gem and very inviting.

The courthouse square is wrapped by a block of commercial buildings, one of which is an especially remarkable American treasure, the Home Building Association Bank. *The Old Home*, designed by renowned American architect, Louis Sullivan, has graced the public square for more than a century. Sullivan designed *The Old Home* along with two more of these iconic banks in 1914, and six others between 1908 and 1919 throughout the Midwest. Collectively they are known as Sullivan's "Jewel Boxes." Ohio has a second of these in Sidney, in Shelby County built in 1918.

Sullivan, responsible for many American buildings, was called the "father of skyscrapers" and the "father of modernism." He was a mentor of architect, Frank Lloyd Wright. Though Sullivan designed many steel high-rise buildings, his series of banks were of a more human scale. The exteriors often feature ornate terracotta, colored glass, and mosaic tiles. He generally preferred brick in these banks but stepped away from this theme with the Newark bank using gray-green terra cotta slabs beaded with terra cotta ornamentation.

The Home Building Association moved out of the building within a year of its opening. Over its tenure, *The Old Home* served as a butcher shop, a jewelry store, and an ice cream parlor. Each new tenant modified the interior but its historic and architectural significance has endured. It was placed on the National Register of Historic Places in 1973.

Gifted to the community by a local citizen in 2013, the Licking County Foundation and a team of community volunteers have been working to develop a plan for the historic building's restoration and reuse.

By: Tom O'Grady



The Old Home bank in Newark, designed by important American architect, Louis Sullivan, in 1914 for the Home Building Association. Now undergoing restoration for reuse by the Licking County Foundation. Image from Wikipedia.



Mosaic and terra cotta detail on the Sullivan building facing the courthouse square. Image from Wikipedia.

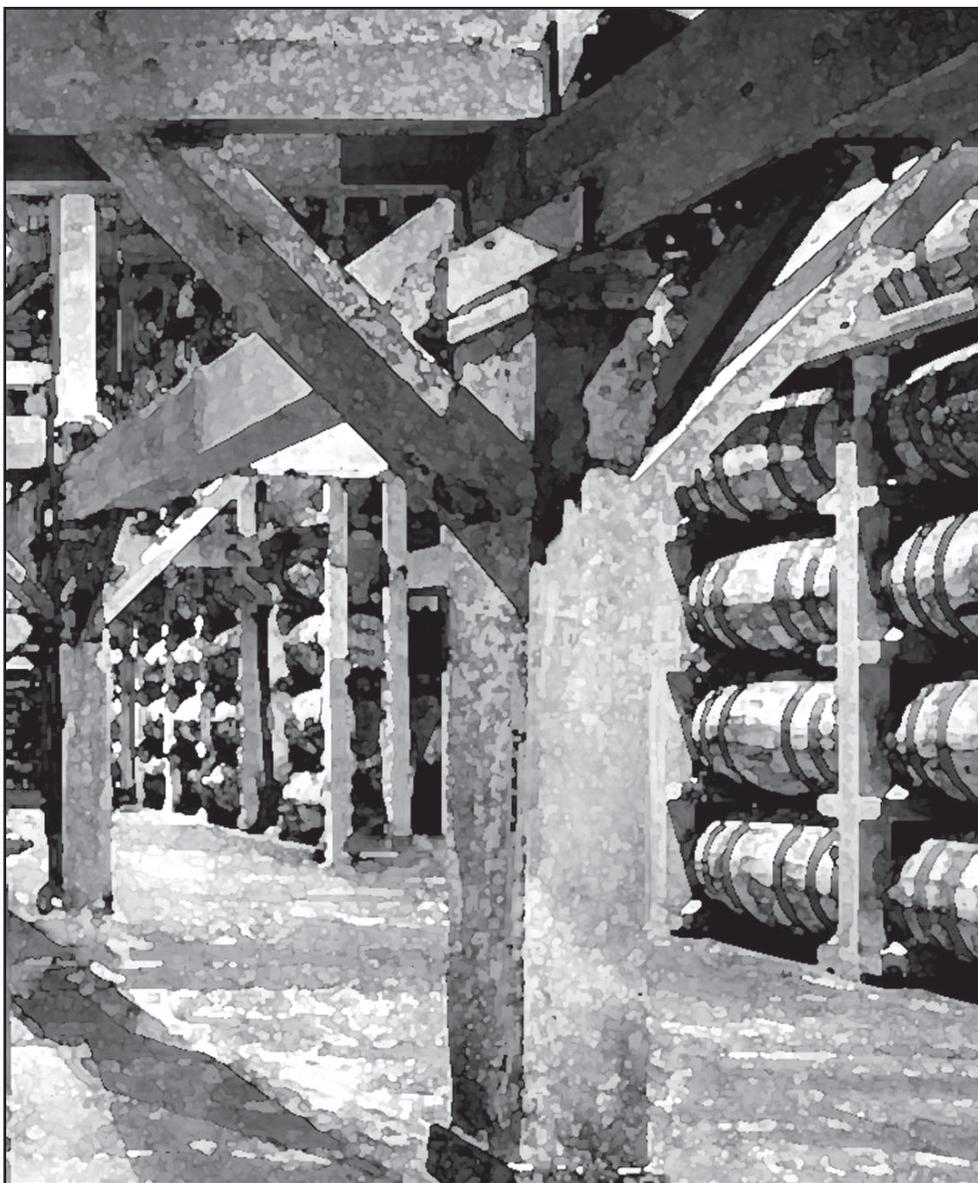
The timber frame and the still

When farms were first settled in the Ohio country, pioneers girdled the primeval trees that created the great canopy darkening the forest floor where they lived. They planted corn amongst the standing dead trees. Each year the harvest in the Ohio wilderness grew. Markets were distant and transportation routes were few and primitive. Most produce had to be consumed locally. It wasn't long before early settlers were growing more corn than they needed for food. Surplus corn was the greatest impetus for digging a couple of gigantic ditches from Lake Erie to the Ohio River. These were the Ohio-Erie and the Miami-Erie Canals.

Too far to market, the next best way to store the grain was as alcohol. Whiskey stills came into Ohio at the outset. The early settlers put away much alcohol, a shocking amount to the contemporary reader. Hard liquor was ever-present — consumed at work sites, with meals, while mustering militia, at raisings of cabins and barns, at social events, at religious gatherings, and around the general store. Many were known to drink a tankard of hard cider, or apple jack, for breakfast. Ale too. And the children were in on the apple jack and ale more often than one would think, dipping bread in it for their morning meal. Water around settlement sites was not always reliably potable.

The Quarterly of the Granville Ohio Historical Society states that "George Knepper, Ohio historian, notes that in 1820, Licking County boasted of 38 operating stills, producing mostly corn and rye whiskey. This amounted to some 97,000 gallons of whiskey annually. Of this amount, less than 30,000 gallons were exported. Hence nearly 70,000 gallons remained for local trade — and, Knepper writes, 'plenty of drinking whiskey was left to keep the county's 12,000 inhabitants well supplied.' Several of these thirty-eight stills functioned within Granville Township."

In his book, *Ohio and Its People*, Knepper states that 'Alcohol lubricated work in the frontier. The distillery was usually among the first buildings erected in a new settlement. Converting the perishable and bulky grain into whiskey enabled the farmers to move their product to market and it served somewhat as a currency. But still, a



Whiskey barrels stored in timber frame structure. vinepair.com/spirits-101/history-of-distilling/

lot was consumed not far from the still.

Many a timber frame structure may have been raised to house or support the apparatus used to distill these liquid corn mixtures that were heated to a boil and then cooled to condense the vapor into some form of crockery container. Oh yes, and into barrels for shipment to market! If the timber frames didn't support the distilling of spirits, the distilling of spirits certainly supported the raising of the timber frames.

Plenty more references are found regarding the use of hard liquor in and around Granville, Newark, and Licking County during the early settlement period.

But these same references are also found associated with many other settlements in the pioneer era. Undependable water for drinking, isolation in the new territory, abundance of produce, lots of hard work and an unsure future could keep many a man within an arm's reach of the jug and a half day's walk of the still.

These early Ohioans built tens of thousands of outstanding barns and buildings across the Ohio frontier, in Licking County, and everywhere else. If it took a bit of spirits to help them get it done, then maybe we should order up a few barrels of what they were drinking ourselves!

By: Tom O'Grady

Flint Ridge a long time destination in Licking County

Long before the age of barns many trails led to a ridge in Licking County. Not far from the remarkable geometric earthworks near Newark and the effigy mound near Granville is Flint Ridge. An expansive deposit of flint put this location on the maps before there were maps, and before there was a Licking County. People have been beating pathways to this extensive deposit at the edge of the glacier for more than 10,000 years. Approximately 3 by 9 miles in extent, running in an East-West alignment the deposit ranges from 2 – 10 feet in thickness.

Native Americans came from all directions to secure flint from pits still visible along the ridge. Flint was needed for spear points, arrow heads, cutting tools and other needed items. A good number of the points are likely to have been affixed to the end of a spear and thrown with an atlatl. It appears to have been very functional in situations where the bow and arrow were less so. In any event, the flint was crucial to the survival of early peoples in North America. Numerous excavated pits remain readily visible at Flint Ridge.

The “Great Indian Quarry of Ohio” is an extensive vein of high quality Pennsylvanian-age Vanport flint straddling Licking and Muskingum Counties. The hundreds of quarry pits making up the prehistoric flint mines range in size from 12 to 80 feet in diameter and from 3 to 20 feet in depth depending on the repose of the bedrock.

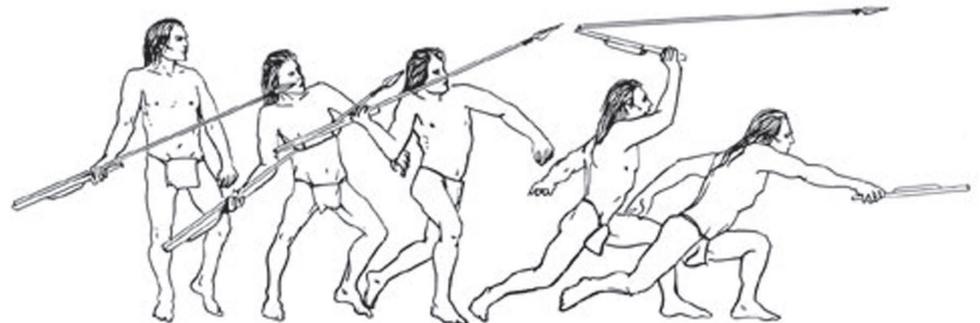
The flint from this site is particularly distinctive for its bright coloration. While white flint with gray streaks is most common, other colors included various shades and combinations of green, blue, yellow, pink and red.

It appears that the Hopewell culture (100 BC – AD 500) valued it for making knives. Europeans making their way into the Ohio country were also dependent on flint for guns, fire starters and for use in some mills. Some archaeologists believe that the Hopewell culture traded the



Left: A relief sculpture of early Ohioan harvesting flint. Source: <http://touringohio.com/central/licking/newark/flint-ridge.html>

Below: Early Ohioan using the atlatl to throw a spear, a common tool used in hunting. Source: <http://www.mexicolore.co.uk/aztecs/home/aztecs-and-the-atlatl>



brightly colored flint from this area for materials from other areas of North America.

In 1933, Flint Ridge State Memorial was established and is listed on the National Register of Historic Places. Flint is recognized as the State of Ohio’s official gemstone.

Each year over the Labor Day weekend, people from all over the country gather for the Flint Ridge Knap-In which is one of

the largest prehistoric-arts and stone crafting events in the world. The flint-knappers exhibit their trade alongside demonstrations of arrowhead and knife making, and exhibitions including atlatl throwing.

Tom O’Grady

Quotable quote

Pressures to sweep away in the name of “progress” such irreplaceable examples of our heritage seem to grow steadily stronger, but the movement to resist those pressures through a farsighted historic preservation effort is gaining strength even faster, with both public and private support.

It is as important to preserve the common experiences and places of our lives as it is to preserve and restore the iconic public sites of the past.

Comments by President Richard M. Nixon in his Proclamation establishing National Historiuc Preservation Week in 1973.

Upcoming Event

FOB Ohio Barn Conference –
Licking County

Thursday, Friday, Saturday,
April 25-27th, 2019



Drummer Boy of Shiloh

In the early 1860's a young lad from Licking County ran away from home at the age of nine to join the Union Army. John Clem, rejected repeatedly because of his young age, finally attained a role in a regiment as the drummer and saw action in Tennessee.

Some accounts have young Clem at the Battle of Shiloh. Having his drum destroyed by a Confederate shell he was given the sobriquet "Johnny Shiloh." In September of 1863 he found himself at the Battle of Chickamauga. After getting separated from his unit he was set upon by a mounted Confederate Colonel. Armed with a sawed off musket, Clem reportedly shot and killed the rebel officer to avoid capture. Clem was promoted to Sergeant, the youngest to ever achieve noncommissioned officer status in the U.S. Army. Here he picked up the nickname "Drummer Boy of Chickamauga." Captured later in 1863, he was afterwards part of a prisoner exchange.

In the Veterans Park in Newark, Ohio is a six-foot bronze statue of John Clem from his drumming days. The sculpture, create by Mike Majors of Urbana in 1999, captures the young drummer in beat.

By: Tom O'Grady



John Lincoln Clem (1851-1937), of Licking County, during the American Civil War.



The "Drummer Boy of Chickamauga" and "Johnny Shiloh" created by Ohio sculptor, Mike Major of Urbana in 1999. Images from Wikipedia.

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P.O. Box 203
Burbank, Ohio 44214

