

FOB Barn Workshop set for September at Dawes Arboretum

Dawes Arboretum and Friends of Ohio Barns will join forces to kick off our barn workshop September 6 and 7, 2003.

The September workshop will be the first of two to help the Licking County arboretum restore the Holman Farm barn, which is part of a recent expansion of the Dawes' properties. Although no research has been done into the barn's history, it would appear to be a late nineteenth century timber frame threshing barn that was added on to and modified for twentieth century farming. As is usually the case, the additions and modifications were not done as well as the original barn and suffered greatly from little or no maintenance.

With help from Friends, Dawes hopes to take the barn back to its nineteenth century form. The purpose of the weekend workshop will be to teach proper methods of slate removal and storage, siding removal and storage, and stabilization techniques. It should be of considerable interest to barn repair specialists and those learning the trade. Instructors will include Joe Jenkins and Rudy Christian.

Please contact Tim Mason at the Dawes Arboretum office (800-443-2937) if you would like more information. In case of bad weather, the workshop will be held the following weekend.

Background photo: This Barn at Dawes Arboretum will be the focus of September's barn workshop.

All photos by Tom O'Grady



FRIENDS OF OHIO BARNs

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The Old BARN POST

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Tour turns up oldest known Ohio barn

After climbing around in six old barns, multiple early farm structures, and a large timber-framed flour mill, participants of Ohio Barn Conference IV got a bonus barn added to the annual Barn Tour. And it was an old one!

As the barn enthusiasts were reboarding the two tour buses after exploring the Maxwell round barn, a member of the Maxwell family offered to make arrangements to visit another nearby barn. At first glance the barn, belonging to Gene Carter, didn't appear to be any more unusual than many we had passed on the tour. A doorway into the dark interior of one of the shed additions brought a double crib log barn into view — the second of the day.

The "Barn Detectives" went right to work looking for clues to the age and story of the barn. The hand-hewn timbers were very large and in excellent condition.

Volunteers climbed into

that parts of the log structure had been sided at one time. Riven boards were used to gird the log walls to keep grain contained on the raised threshing floor (now gone).

V-notched corner joints indicated a very early barn. The overhead log spanning the area between the two cribs had holes in the lower side on each end. Wooden poles had apparently fit in these routed holes and were fitted with some sort of hinges. On these the doors could swing wide open. The log structure seemed to have had a floor at one time.

Over the years, with changing needs and farming techniques, the barn evolved to what it is today. However, one only has to enter the dimly lit interior to appreciate the real charm, age, and story of this old barn.

Volunteers climbed into

the upper sections of the crib to explore for more clues and hidden details. That effort turned up a circle with a flower-like design carved into one of the posts, likely the "signature" of the joiner who framed this barn.

The "Barn Detectives" approximated that the barn was constructed sometime between 1795 and 1800, making it one of the earliest barns in the state of Ohio.

Do you know of an older barn? Friends of Ohio Barns would be delighted to learn of any contenders.

Barn tour participants are grateful for the generous hospitality and spontaneity of the Maxwell and Carter families, as well as the McKee, Carroll, Yaw, Mote and Douglas families for allowing so many of us to nose around their farms.

Gene Carter's barn, one of Ohio's earliest, graces Ross County several miles outside Chillicothe. The shed additions protect the original double crib log barn. The original barn, now covered with metal siding, shows above the shed roof.



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Help plan Ohio Barn Conference V

Have you considered how you might be able to help protect Ohio's barns? Consider lending a hand organizing the next conference. Friends of Ohio Barns is beginning now to plan Ohio Barn Conference V.

Board member Ric Beck has volunteered to be the conference coordinator, but he needs help. It's a bit of a task planning a statewide conference in your spare time from halfway across the state. The more help he has the better the conference will be.

Ric could use help locating a conference site, setting up speakers, and arranging food, lodging, events, and publicity. Maybe you want to help put together the auction or trade show. How about helping put together the next barn tour? Imagine exploring the region for interesting barns, knocking on doors and asking if you might be able to snoop around in the old barn out back with the hopes of eventually dragging a hundred like-minded souls through behind you — and actually getting permission to do so!

The goal of FOB has been to host the barn conferences in various geographic

locations around the state. In so doing we can bring the conference to different communities and give participants an opportunity to see and experience barns with varying histories.

FOB is looking to southwest Ohio for Ohio Barn Conference V. Different physiographic features will give attendees another taste of how various terrain and soils influenced settlement patterns and culture, resulting in quite a variety of Ohio barn types.

Annual Ohio barn conferences help keep members and interested individuals

informed about better ways to conserve and maintain their barns. By working with other organizations like Barn Again! in Ohio, the National Barn Alliance, the Ohio Historical Society and Ohio State University Extension, FOB also helps put barn owners and barn specialists together.

It is our mission "to support and promote through education the awareness and understanding of the significance of Ohio's historic barns within their agricultural and architectural context, and their maintenance requirements, and to encour-

age programs that provide resources for their stewardship and conservation as a lasting icon of our cultural heritage."

To do this we need much more help. Friends of Ohio Barns is calling upon its membership and other interested people to lend a hand and get in on some of the fun. The board of directors is stretched to its limits and the only way to do more for Ohio barns is to have more people help out.

We're ready to help you help us help Ohio's barns. Ric has a few people in mind to help out in the southwest and is calling on their assistance. We need contacts and helpers in other parts of Ohio. What do you think? Let us know.

Sign on to FOB's interactive e-mail list

Friends of Ohio Barns wants to hear from you. We want your input. We want your help. Send us your e-mail address and your county. FOB has brochures, newsletters, and tabletop displays for use at county fairs, community festivals, and other events around Ohio. Let us know when these events are scheduled and we will try to get a representative there. Better yet, we can get these materials to you, our membership, and you can be an FOB representative in your area.

We also hope to put together an Ohio Barn Registry, along with an archive of photos. We need your help. Contact us: friendsohiobarns@aol.com.



Barn Detective Rudy Christian (right) and his support group interpret the history and future maintenance needs of Loren Carroll's barn from the loft while more than 60 tour participants listen below.



Remnant siding made of hand riven clapboards from Ohio's primeval trees still cover the old hand-hewn timbers in Gene Carter's double crib log barn.

In the spirit of barn preservation, Friends of Ohio Barns has shared its mailing list with The Barn Consultant. We appreciate and value the unique partnership with our members and friends. We look forward to continuing to foster goodwill and stewardship of the agricultural built environment.

Board of Directors,
Friends of Ohio Barns

Mark your calendar

Vienna, Ohio Bicentennial Celebration August 2, 3

Members of Friends, Gary and Dohna Clower will be setting up a display. If you are local please join them for the celebration. For more information on the schedule, call the Vienna Chamber of Commerce at (330) 393-2565.

Dairying: Then and Now Wayne County Historical Society, Wooster, Ohio June 14 to August 17

The history of milk production in Wayne County, photos from 1875, milking equipment, milk bottles. Call (330) 264-8856 or go to www.waynehistorical.org for more information.

Wooster, Ohio Bicentennial Celebration August 16

Parade downtown and events at Wayne County Fairgrounds. Presentations and demonstrations will be given by local historical societies. Rudy Christian will give a talk on barns. Call (330) 264-1800 for schedule of events.

Holman Farm Workshop, Dawes Arboretum, Newark, Ohio September 6, 7

Rain date September 13, 14.

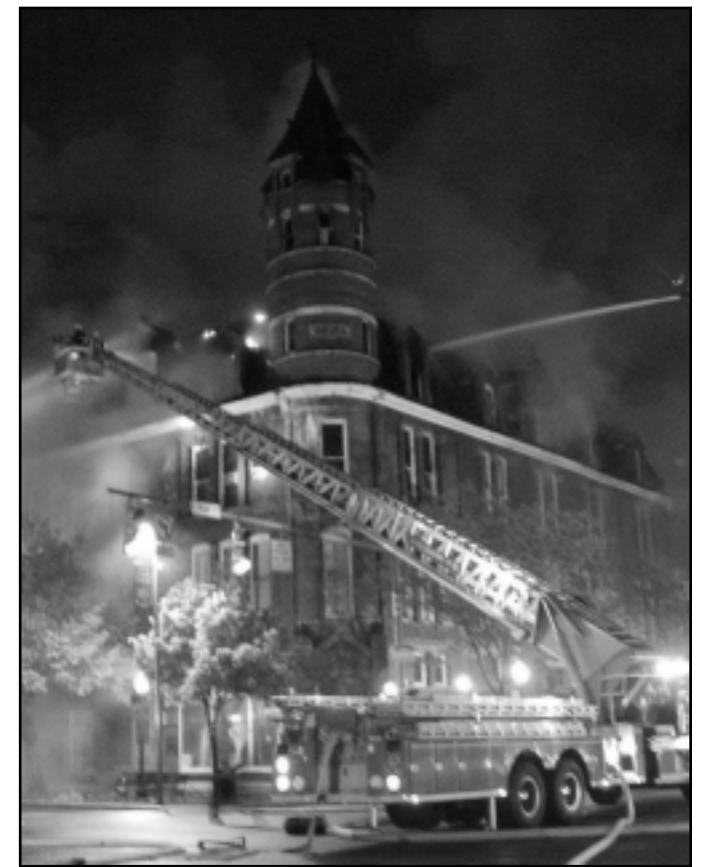
Focus on slate. See workshop article on back page of this newsletter for more information.

Ohio Heritage Days, Malabar Farm State Park September 27, 28

Members of Friends will be on hand with displays, information and a barn model. There will be some timber demonstrations and a working sawmill. Come see the newly restored Working Farm Barn! Call (419) 892-2784 or go to www.malabarfarm.org.

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Conference attendees watched helplessly as the historic Carlisle Building in Chillicothe burned Friday evening of the 2003 Barn Conference. The fire is being investigated as an arson.

Thank you, thank you, thank you!

Members of the Friends of Ohio Barns Board of Directors would like to extend a thousand "thank yous" to all who helped put the Ohio Barn Conference together in Chillicothe.

While we may have been a bit disappointed in the lower than usual turnout, especially in Chillicothe during Ohio's bicentennial year, there is no question that all had a great and enjoyable time. Thanks go out to the Ross County Fair Board, the Ohio Bicentennial Commission, and OSU Extension and Ray Wells, Don Davis and Deanna Tribe.

Special thanks to the McKee family, Mary Lou Yaw and Mike Douglas, Loren Carroll and Todd Carroll and their families, the Mote family, the Gene Carter family, Pete Lyons, and the host of hosts that make up the extended Charles Maxwell family.

"Do your work as if you had a thousand years to live and as if you were to die tomorrow."

"Mother" Ann Lee, 1776
United Society of Believers in Christ's Second Appearing (Shakers)

Overview of Ohio Barn Conference IV

(This article first appeared in Farm and Dairy's "Let's Talk Barns" column on May 15, 2003)

By Lawrence Drake Sulzer

Have you ever attended a conference and said to yourself, "Why am I wasting my time and money listening to boring speakers when I could be doing something productive?" I know I have on many occasions.

Well folks, the most insightful and best-kept secret on the conference circuit is the Friends of Ohio Barns yearly get together called the Ohio Barn Conference. This annual event is in its fourth year and is usually held over two days. The conference travels to a new location each year so that you can check out the beauty of Ohio and its barns.

With 2003 being Ohio's Bicentennial and Chillicothe being the first state capital (and also very rich in early settlement history), it was chosen as the location to celebrate Ohio's Barns. Ohio Barn Conference IV was held on the April 25 and 26, 2003 at the Ross County Fairgrounds in Chillicothe. The conference was well attended by 100 people from five states and Canada. It offered educational presentations, unique demonstrations, book signings, and a motorcoach barn tour that showcased the area's rich agricultural structures.

The conference allowed people with similar concerns and interests to connect with each other and talk one-on-one with the presenters. Our goal is for everyone to feel that it's his or her conference and actively participate with the diversity of people in attendance.

The conference schedule on Friday morning featured topics such as the history of Chillicothe, painting the bicentennial barns, slate roof repairs, barns and farm buildings of New England, and preservation strategies for rural historic resources.

Of special interest to many in attendance was the engaging presentation by Joe Jenkins. Mr. Jenkins is the award winning author of *The Slate Roof Bible* and the editor/publisher of "The Traditional Roofing Newsletter." Mr. Jenkins has also had numerous articles published in *Traditional Building Magazine*.

During the conference, Jenkins discussed repair techniques for slate and various other historic roofing materials. He showed examples of his past projects and shared his historic roofing knowledge, which has been acquired from personally working on over a thousand slate roofing jobs. He consults on projects across the country and has a very informative web site (www.jenkinsslate.com) which provides a wealth of material regarding traditional roofing.

A buffet style hot lunch was provided with time set aside for a book signing by two of the morning presenters: authors Joe Jenkins, *The Slate Roof Bible*, and Thomas Durant Visser, *Field Guide to New England Barns and Farm Buildings*. Mr. Visser is an Associate Professor of Historic Preservation at the University of Vermont and directs the graduate program in preservation.

After lunch and back by popular demand was the insightful and humorous program by the Barn Detectives, Lawrence Drake Sulzer and Rudy R. Christian.



Photo by Tom O'Grady

What? You didn't see this silo in the Maxwell round barn? Well it's time you stopped missing out on FOB activities.

These two gentlemen are Ohio's answer to the famous Click and Clack, the Tappet Brothers of National Public Radio's Car Talk Show. But the Barn Detectives offer advice on barns, not cars. A good dose of laughter makes learning about these historic structures and their construction painless. Their presentation shows barn owners and people who appreciate these historic structures how to provide good stewardship, evaluate barns for repairs, and understand the evolution of these working buildings through the passage of time.

Numerous breakout sessions were offered showing repair techniques, including slate roof repair demonstrations, and discussing topics such as barn restoration tax issues and hosting a BarnAgain! workshop. Other features were a barn art display, trade fair, book store, and other exhibits.

The final presentation was given by Carroll Niedhart, an award-winning preservation artist, and was titled "Hex Signs, Hobgoblins, and Things that Go Bump in the Night." Niedhart offered a down-home look at barn tales, Kolonie hex-

meister and other superstitions. The day closed with a fundraising auction, the election of new officers for the Friends of Ohio Barns Board of Directors, and a trade fair mixer.

On Saturday, 68 people boarded two buses to enjoy a day viewing six historic structures. The first stop on the tour was a circa 1939 Gothic arch truss barn that was designed and engineered by the Loudon Machinery Company. The construction method used was plank framing built on top of beige glazed tile block. A continuous manger runs around the perimeter inside, with a very large hayloft above. This barn was used for beef cattle and is known as McCafferty Run Stock Farm.

Next we visited the Famulener Farmstead, circa 1806, which is owned by Mary Lou Yaw, a descendant of the original land grant settlement family. The original property deed is signed by Thomas Jefferson and James Madison. The first residence was a log house that was later replaced by the existing circa 1839 brick dwelling. This historic property has a double crib log barn with shed additions that are constructed from scribe rule framing members from an earlier barn. Roman numerals are carved into the timbers that surround the log barn. The bottom logs of the barn measure 24 inches high by 12 inches deep and are 24 feet in length.

After lunch we paid a visit to Carroll's Mill. Local lore has it that the flour mill is the oldest existing building in Hocking County. This hand hewn structure has some very large old growth timbers with the largest measuring 16 by 16 inches and 60 feet long. There are sections of 24-inch-wide flooring boards.

At the Loren Carroll Farm we were able to observe an active farmstead that has a modified three bay gambrel roof threshing barn, recently resided with metal. Sections of the timber framing showed typical structural problems that require attention or had been modified with repairs in the past. This everyday used agricultural building showed the challenges presented by modern farming practices and their impact on historic structures. We also had the opportunity to look at a timber frame corncrib and remnants of an old windmill. Farther back on the property was a much older barn that had canted queenpost and appeared to be constructed from the timbers of an even earlier structure. Remnants of a hayhood and decorative cutouts could be seen on the gable end.

Our next to last stop was at the Maxwell Round Barn, a very impressive structure dating to circa 1910. Charles Maxwell and his family have been great stewards of this barn,

which was built by his grandfather, R.P. Maxwell. The economy of round barns was highly publicized in farm journals around the turn of the last century. Peggy Hays, the daughter of Charles Maxwell, said that over 100 head of cattle could be fed and milked in the lower basement level. On the main floor in the center of this barn stands a great wooden silo 18 feet in diameter. It stands 45 feet tall and can hold over 300 tons of silage. This silo was serviced from a curved hay track that circled the interior perimeter of the barn.

It has been said that round barns don't come without stories and interesting tales, and this one is no exception. Neighbor Pete Lyons, a township trustee, grew up filling that barn and silo. Along with stories of hard work and feats of daring atop the massive silo, he passed along the story of the fellow that died in that barn. Apparently the man in question kept going round and round looking for a corner in which to relieve himself. Alas, to his demise, he never found one. The story was verified and authenticated by several members of the Maxwell family.

The barn enthusiasts were treated to a special last minute detour to visit a magnificent early settlement double crib log barn. This historic structure probably was constructed in the later half of the seventeenth century and showed a high level of traditional joinery craftsmanship. The dimensional size of the logs indicates that the trees harvested from the farmstead must have been veritable patriarchs of Ohio's southern forest.

Everyone in attendance left with big smiles on their faces and excitement in their eyes, something akin to the children who looked into the candy display cases of yesteryear's old pharmacy with a twinkle in their eyes.

So next time you travel the back roads, be thankful for the traditional craftsmen and the farm families who provide stewardship to our cultural landscape. Cherish these great working buildings.

"Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful committed citizens can change the world. Indeed, it's the only thing that ever has."

Margaret Mead



Left: The Loren Carroll Farm gave tour participants a chance to see a variety of out-buildings built through many years. Above: This barn, part of the Carroll Farm, still boasts two intricate owl holes and a hayhood.