

# The Old BARN POST

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## 14<sup>th</sup> Annual Ohio Barn Conference

The 14th Annual Ohio barn Conference will be held in Athens County. The barn tour will visit selected farmsteads established on the unglaciated plateau of Ohio. Most of the barns in this region of the state are the work of Yankee settlers and their descendants from New England and the southerners migrating from Virginia. You will see the New England three-bay barns with a side entry and some southern barns with the gable end entry as you come into the Hocking River watershed.

The region was first settled by migrants from Massachusetts who came down the Ohio River from Pittsburgh and established Marietta. The same folks who created Ohio's first organized settlement in Marietta headed up the Muskingum Valley and over into the valley of the great Hocking River and soon founded the first educational institution west of the Alleghenies, the American Western University, soon changed

to Ohio University. They brought their cultural baggage with them and that included the three bay English barn. Some are ground barns and many are built into a bank with a basement for livestock.

The other migrants entering this region came up the Muskingum, The Hocking, the Scioto and the Little Miami rivers from Virginia and the Carolinas. Virginia was just across the Ohio River as West Virginia wasn't established until the Civil War. Among the cultural artifacts these Virginians brought with them was the southern barn, typically a ground barn with the entry at the gable end. Some have a hayhood over the doorway.

The Pennsylvania bank barn is relatively unknown in this section of the Ohio landscape. If you see one, it's an outlier. However, the 1850 Census indicates that a substantial number of migrants from Middle Atlantic states, such as Pennsylvania

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**Pictured:** Dairy Barn Cultural Arts Center in Athens. This facility is an adaptive reuse of one of the old barns of the Athens State Hospital. It is coming up on its 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary.

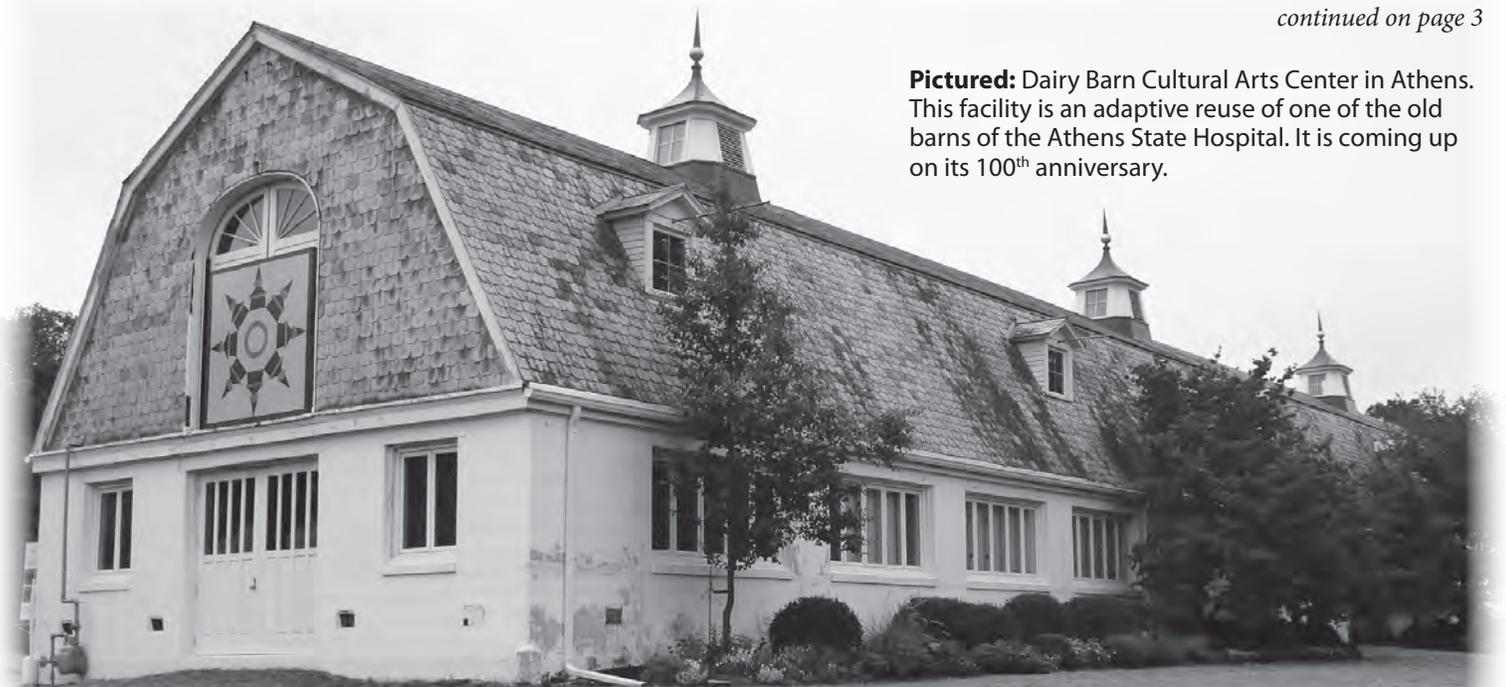


Image: By Tom O'Grady

# Brighter Economic forecast for FOB?!

Hopefully you all have survived one of the hottest summers on record and are ready for some cooler days! The heat didn't slow the production of your board members; so allow me to highlight our progress...

Thanks to our volunteers in Summit County, our recent barn conference was one of our most successful, both for content and revenue! Keeping membership and conference fees at last year's prices, we still managed to see some much needed profit. With it, we will be able to replenish needed supplies, update our merchandise inventory, and replace worn out materials.

The bigger news is that our endowment fund is now well over the \$10,000 goal we set. Yet another generous donor has come forward with a \$500.00 gift! The Charles Bauer Charitable Fund was the gracious donor...Charles is a member from Illinois. Many thanks to you, Charles!

We have met with the Columbus Foundation regarding the establishment of our endowment fund, and look forward to utilizing the monies for our programs. We will soon be printing more survey manuals, as we look to get another county involved barn documentation. The JBD folks are also rolling out a new prototype table top "mini-barn". This model will be available not only to kids and schools, but we also hope to use it in adult programs and presentations as well. It will make the logistics of traveling and handling the model so much easier as well as providing us more possibilities to raise awareness.

As a teaser, we have begun preparations for next year's barn conference to be held in Athens County. This will be our furthest venture southeast yet, but it is shaping up to be another good one! We may have a few surprises at the conference, and maybe a non-typical barn stop on the tour too, so make plans to attend! It will be April 26th & 27th 2013.

Thanks to those who ask how my barn/house project is coming along...we will be close to moving in (with tons of work still to do) near the anniversary of the raising date. We couldn't have done it without the help of our friends!!

Respectfully submitted,  
Ric Beck, president



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*"Let us in our turn with equal courage, equal hardihood and manliness, carry on the task that our forefathers have entrusted to our hands; and let us resolve that we shall leave to our children and our children's children an even mightier heritage than we received in our time."*

—THEODORE ROOSEVELT, MAY 21, 1903

# 14<sup>th</sup> Annual Ohio Barn Conference, continued from page 1

and Maryland, were living in Athens, Meigs, and Washington counties at the time. Research continues to be done on settlement of Ohio such as that being done by Dr. Timothy Anderson of Ohio University. Settlers from Pennsylvania, Maryland and other Middle Atlantic states were the most abundant migrants in Athens, Washington, Meigs, Gallia and Lawrence counties. The apparent absence of the Pennsylvania German bank barn with a forebay in this region is somewhat curious. The barn-builders predominant in the region may simply not have been from Pennsylvania.

The Barn Conference is scheduled to be held in the Auditorium of the old Athens Asylum. While many of these old institutions have been demolished in the past few decades around Ohio and the rest of the nation most of this old complex of buildings is still standing, albeit in disrepair. It is badly in need of attention but still standing. Nearby is one of the institution's old agricultural buildings which has been converted into the Dairy Barn Cultural Arts Center.

—Tom O'Grady



**Left:** The Auditorium of the old Athens State Hospital, one of the many buildings of the old state hospital now owned by Ohio University. The 2013 Ohio Ban Conference will be held in this building.

**Right:** The main administration building of the old Athens State Hospital, this structure from 1868 was built on the Kirkbride plan for asylums which had separate wings for male and female patients. The central porting of this enormous structure now houses the Kennedy Museum of Southwest Native American Art.



# Annual FOB picnic held in small town on Western Reserve farm



Rain, sunshine, showers, and blue sky made for an interesting Sunday afternoon at the Museum of Western Reserve Farms and Equipment owned by Jim and Laura Fry near Richfield, Ohio. A crowd of sixty people gathered in the picnic shelter for fellowship and food. The tables were laden with homemade goodies while Rudy Christian and Laura Saeger grilled buffalo burgers and brats. During lunch the crowd was serenaded by bluegrass musicians and singers.

Paul Knoebel introduced the new carrying case for the table top barn model. Members of the group helped to construct the forebay barn complete with walnut foundation; maple, butternut, and cherry members.

After lunch Jim Fry addressed the gathering to tell the story of his farm and collection of barns, buildings, and antique equipment. Then he led a tour through his little town.

Thirty-nine different buildings, from five counties, are now on the property and all have been saved from the bulldozer. Each structure is dedicated to its original purpose and represents an industry common to a town of a century and a half ago. Among the buildings are a general store, a blacksmith shop, a post office, a school, a weaver's shop, and more. The huge raised barn is filled with antique tools and equipment just waiting for additional buildings to represent their trades.

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**Above:** An old U.S. Post Office and some of the buildings saved from demolition now residing at the Museum of Western Reserve farms and Machinery.

**Right:** Local bluegrass band setting the tone at the 2012 FOB picnic near Richfield, Ohio.



**Picnic images:**  
Photos by Pamela Whitney Gray

# Hundreds travel to Knox County for barn tour



**Above:** These decorative crescent moons, German crosses and small diamond are a type of design commonly referred to as owl holes. Owl holes, seen here in the gable end of the Troyer barn, are thought by some intended to allow owls inside the barn to keep rodents to a minimum and protect the grains stored within.

**Below:** The Schultz barn, with its hipped roof, louvered windows, and dormers, is another one of those impressive barns dotting Ohio's countryside that doesn't fit neatly into one of the three common barn styles typical of the state. It may have started as one of them but it has grown into a category all it's own.

This year the 2012 Knox County Barn Tour was a great success with over 700 people in attendants. Of the 700 people 57% of them visited all five barns, 55% were from Knox County, 34% from around Ohio, and 6% from out of state.

The tour featured five barns in the northeastern corner of the county. The variety of barns and special events at each location enhanced the experience of life on the farm and offered a great opportunity to observe and reflect on days

gone by in Knox County. The barn is where the fruits of the fields were stored and processed for feed. It is where the livestock was born, raised, and readied for market or for the family's own tables. It is where everyday chores, hard work, and family frolic such as barn dances took place. Many activities were centered around the family barn.

Some of the special events included the FOB mini barn raising, Kokosing Valley Antique Tractor Club, a petting zoo, blacksmith demonstrations, and antique farm implements.

The Snively barn was built circa 1900. A new barn by timber frame standards, it is over a hundred years old, none the less. This timber frame is constructed with sawn timbers. The posts and beams have circular saw kerfs. Extending from the cross tie in each bent are canted purlin posts which support the purlin plate which supports the roof. The original stones in the foundation of the barn hill have been reworked and cement block added at each end of the barnhill wall. The barn has been sided with metal siding. This protects the original wood siding and frame from the outside while retaining the rustic feel inside.

The Kauffman's big red barn is striking with its traditional red siding and white trim. The large wagon doors sport batwing hangers that run on the track. The original three-bay frame is constructed of hand-

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Images for Knox County Barn Tour:  
Photos by Pamela Whitney Gray

# Timber Frame addition to slaughter house at Algonquin Mill

FOB members, Paul Knoebel and Gary Clower, recently engineered, cut and helped raise a Timber Framed (TF) lean-to onto an existing 100 year old TF slaughter house in Carroll County. The new 10 x 20 white oak addition was attached to a 16 x 20 TF structure that had been taken down in Delroy, Ohio in 2004. It was moved 8 miles to the Carroll County Historical Society's (CCHS) Algonquin Mill site where it was repaired and rebuilt in 2008 by CCHS volunteers. The original lean-to had long ago disappeared and no pictures of it existed so a new TF one was designed, cut and recently raised. FOB/CCHS member Paul Knoebel did the TF work and the Mill volunteers raised the structure under the leadership of Paul and experienced FOB TF'r Gary Clower.

The present massively constructed TF grist mill was built in 1818. It was originally powered by an undershot water wheel that was replaced by a steam engine not long after the civil war. It operated continuously until it was finally shut down in 1938 for the first time in 120 years. The boiler and steam engine were cut up for scrap during the Second World War. The CCHS purchased the sad looking mill in 1969. Local volunteers cleaned up the building and its' original equipment, located and installed a replacement boiler and steam engine, all in time for the first annual fall festival in 1972. Three original burr stones individually and simultaneously grind wheat, corn and buckwheat. Their horizontal shafts and relatively small diameter stones are powered by belts from an old under-floor line shaft with

wooden pulleys. The wood fired boiler and steam engine faithfully and quietly continue to power the process each year during the annual three-day Fall Festival in early October. The ground corn meal, buckwheat and wheat flour are available to the public. However, during the Festival, a significant quantity of the wheat flour goes directly into the production of homemade bread in an adjacent log cabin and outdoor oven. A farm tractor is used at other times of the year to power the mill as flour is usually available all year long.

The slaughter house and lean-to are the most recent TF additions to the 70 acre complex. They join an original three bay 1870's Pennsylvania bank barn, a farm house and a granary. Other structures on the site include five relocated hewn log buildings, a one room school house, a train station, a steam powered saw mill, a cookie house, a farm equipment museum, a sauerkraut building and other structures that have been added throughout the past 40 years. The large cut stones from a local springhouse were recently moved to the property after having been carefully documented. It will be reconstructed on a new foundation at an already excavated spring.

—Paul Knoebel



**Above:** Putting the finishing touches on the timber framed shed addition to the slaughterhouse at Algonquin Mill in Carroll County.



**Left:** Paul Knoebel attaching the traditional evergreen bough to the just finished timber frame project.

**Below:** Paul Knoebel and his raising crew. Well done fellas.



“Topping off” the new frame. The act of placing a bough on the highest peak of a newly completed frame is a practice that has been around for hundreds of years. The bough is always an evergreen. A symbol of thanksgiving and respect. Some say it gives thanks to the forest for providing timber for a new home. Some say it gives thanks for a safe raising. A few simply say it’s “good luck.”

—Gabel Holder

## *Annual FOB Picnic*, continued from page 4

The museum is always looking to expand. At present Jim and Laura are seeking to rescue a small church, a surveyor's office, a doctor's office, a cheese making building, a log cabin and other buildings of historic interest or architecture. Anyone interested in helping to set up and run one of the shops is encouraged to talk with Jim and Laura.

The non-profit museum is entirely supported by the sale of pumpkins, Christmas trees, produce, honey and other products from the farm. Jim and Laura have offered their facility to FOB to hold workshops.

The museum is open to the public seven days a week and admission is free. It makes a great place for a family day trip, picnics, and reunions. For more information go to [www.ohiofarmmuseum.com](http://www.ohiofarmmuseum.com) or call 1-330-659-3507.

—Pamela Whitney Gray  
The Barn Consultant

**Right:** Rudy Christian, former President of FOB, may have retired from the board but he has lifetime FOB duty on the grill.



## *Knox County Barn Tour*, continued from page 5



**Left:** Interesting joinery in the Shultz barn appears to include this hand hewn post with two dovetail notched and housed cross beams with braces that appear to be housed and then nailed. You want a closer look, don't you!

hewn timbers and has swell beams in each end bent. When an additional bent was constructed on the north end of the barn a swell beam was also placed there. A swell beam is one that is thicker in the middle than on the ends and is laid on its side. This protects from outside against wind and inside from load pressure. Over the wagon doors are kingpost trusses. The south side of the barn has a pent roof for the protection of outside animals from weather and also the stable wall.

The Shultz Barn was built in the late 1860s, after the

Civil War. The original barn was L-shaped. Its framing is very unusual. After 1885 when the hay track and hayfork were introduced, the barn was retrofitted to accommodate its use. The purlin ties were cut out and replaced in a lower location. There are two tracks, each servicing a leg of the L. The original cut stone foundation is still in place. The center of the three cupolas, where the two legs of the barn meet, is set on a forty-five degree angle.

Two of the barns on the tour this year are owned by Amish families. The Weaver Barn is the newest barn on the tour having been built in 2003. It is a standard English three-bay barn, constructed in the timber frame style but sided with metal. It was designed and built by Atlee Weaver to suit his needs and house the various animals with which he works.

The Troyer Barn was built circa 1900. Up in the peak of the gable are owl holes. These were usually large enough to permit entry by predator birds to help keep the rodent population in check. The foundation has been replaced and the basement reworked to fit the Troyer operation.

The next Knox County Barn Tour will take place in 2014.

—Pamela Whitney Gray  
The Barn Consultant

# Don't miss Ohio Barn Conference XIV

To be held at the old Athens Asylum Grounds

April 26th and 27th, 2013

Watch for more information on our website at :  
[www.friendsofohiobarns.org](http://www.friendsofohiobarns.org)

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