



# The Old BARN POST

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## Ohio Backroads: a Friends Fall Driving Tour

On a cool but beautiful fall weekend, 28 explorers gathered for the first Friends of Ohio Barns fall driving tour. The two-day event had us traveling southwest from Delaware to Lebanon, then northeast from Dayton to Urbana. Traversing the backroads with detailed directions and interesting highlights of things to see while motoring, our guides, Dave and JoAnne Hamblin, did a remarkable job of organizing and leading the tour. They allowed the right amount of time between each stop, had food stops at interesting historic restaurants, and even suggested hotel accommodations for the evening. Dave and JoAnne provided travelers with written, detailed directions which made it easy for all cars to navigate from one stop to the next...the Hamblins really went all out to ensure a very successful tour! Most importantly, there were things to see for every taste, not just barns for us barn nerds.

Some of the highlights...

The Gallant Farm Preserve was our first stop, and while the barns were good the highlight was the replicated farmhouse. My wife, not a barn nerd by any means, particularly enjoyed the period furnishings in the house and the authenticity of the trim detail in the house. There may be some future workshops in FOB's future, as the preserve is interested in obtaining some restorable farm structures...

Next was a stop at the Lucy Depp Park. This is a restored barn that had a significant role in the Underground Railroad movement. The new owners were excited to show us the place and discuss

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**Tour members stop and inspect the Engle Mill Covered Bridge, a \$639,640 restoration effort in 2015 has kept this piece of Americana in the Greene County landscape for a long time to come.**



**FOB tour group with Al Stapleton at Caesar Creek State Park's Pioneer Village 1820's barn October 22, 2016.**



This has been and continues to be a beautiful and busy fall. I hope you all have had the chance to take at least one afternoon drive on some of the less traveled roads to delight in the beautiful colors, all the while keeping your eyes open for that big beautiful barn on the horizon that you have never noticed before. When you see it, make it a photo-op. Snap a photo and post it on the Friends of Ohio Barns' Facebook page for all to appreciate.

The Knox County Barn Tour in October was a great success. I had a wonderful time seeing old friends and meeting new ones. This year the tour-goers were even more inquisitive and interested in the structure and workings of the barn. This is very encouraging when it comes to evaluating the job the Friends of Ohio Barns and other barn organizations are doing to raise the awareness and educate the public about the historic and cultural value these icons represent in our various communities.

The other festivals we regularly take part in are Malabar Farm, and the Algonquin Fall Festival. Paul Knobel works with the younger generation giving them an experience of raising a mini-barn to instill in them the wonder of the craftsmanship it takes to create a timber frame barn.

In October we were invited to take part in Moreland Historical Heritage Day. We had a prime location so we could hear the informative talks, musical entertainment, and partake of the delicious homecooked food. There were many exhibits and fun things to do for the whole family to do throughout the day.

But, by far, the Friends Fall Driving Tour was a whopping accomplishment. It is planned to alternate the Driving Tour and Fall Picnic. Next year plan to attend the bi-annual Friends Fall Picnic. Who knows where in the state we will end up and what amazing and fascinating things we will see and learn.

In November I spoke to the Bremen Historical Society, and at the Mount Vernon Library's Brown Bag Chat group. And Ric Beck and his crew conducted a workshop at Slate Run Farm doing a couple of repairs to help preserve a barn there.

In between all of this I have spent several days in Holmes County with Barb Lang, our local heroine for 2017, rounding up a great lineup of barns for your edification and enjoyment the last weekend in April of next year. Millersburg people have been most welcoming and helpful and are looking forward to having the Ohio Barn Conference and Tour in their county. Mark your calendar and come join the fun.

**Keep the Barn Doors Closed**  
**Pamela Whitney Gray, President**

*"Forests were the first temples of God and in forests men grasped their first idea of architecture."*

*~ James C. Snyder, Introduction to Architecture*

## New 'tie into plate' joint found on fall driving tour

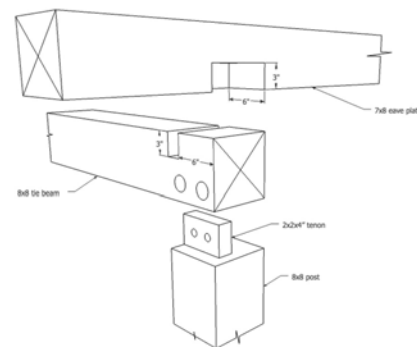
We timber framing geeks are always on the lookout for a different type of mortise and tenon joint whenever we venture out to look at barns.

Such a new joinery method may have been discovered on the FOB fall driving tour. During our stop at the Engle Mill covered bridge near Caesars Creek, Vice President Dan Troth spied a old barn just across from the bridge. I wondered over to nose around too. I spied an unusual tie joint at the bent posts in this barn.

A closer look revealed an 8x8 eave plate that sat on top of the tie beam at the bent post. Where it sat on the tie, the eave plate was notched 3" from the bottom of the plate, 8" wide and 6" deep with a 2"x3"x8" tenon that slotted into a notch on the tie beam. The tie beam was tenoned into the post. I couldn't be sure if the eave plate pegged down into the tie beam or not.

I reviewed the Historic American Timber Joinery book written by Jack Sobon to see if such a timber joint existed. I view Mr Sobon's book as a very good guide for american joinery, and I couldn't find anything quite like this. If I can't find proof against this joinery method, I plan to submit it for consideration.

By Ric Beck



Drawing by Ric Beck  
**Sketch of the unique joinery found in the old barn near Engle Mill in Greene County.**

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its history. They have a real enthusiasm for preserving the place!

From there our first real drive took us southwest from Delaware through Plain City, West Jefferson, and London to the Red Brick Tavern in Lafayette. Built in 1836, it was the second stage coach stop ever built in Ohio and operational as a tavern by the time the National Road was completed in the area in 1837. After a catered lunch we continued southwest to Caesar Creek State Park. On the way we took a short break to see the restored Engle Mill covered bridge.

Pioneer Village was our next stop where we were treated to a collection of 1800's log and timber frame structures from the Lukens farm and the surrounding Cesar Creek area. Primarily funded by local supporters, and donations from visitors, the park is challenged every year to keep up with maintenance of these threatened buildings. We were invited to assess an early timber frame ground barn in real need of restoration. This swing beam, gunstock posted, hand hewn beauty is struggling to survive, as are many of the buildings there. It was a very interesting place with an uncertain future.

By now, we were ready for some libations and dinner. Dave and JoAnne selected the Golden Lamb in nearby Lebanon for our final stop. Operating since 1803, it is the oldest active restaurant in the state. The Hamblins secured a private room and specialized menu to accommodate us... very much appreciated!

Sunday saw us traveling northeast to the Carriage Hill Metropark, just outside Dayton. This state-run system is similar to Pioneer Village, but in much better condition physically and fiscally. There were many buildings to see and some very cool barns. Again, my wife enjoyed the period furnishings and the idyllic setting. The tour guide provided us with many interesting bits of information about the farm and the morning weather was perfect!

Lunch was next up, and the busy local establishment in New Carlisle didn't disappoint. Studebaker's Country Restaurant is a great stop for anyone in the area!

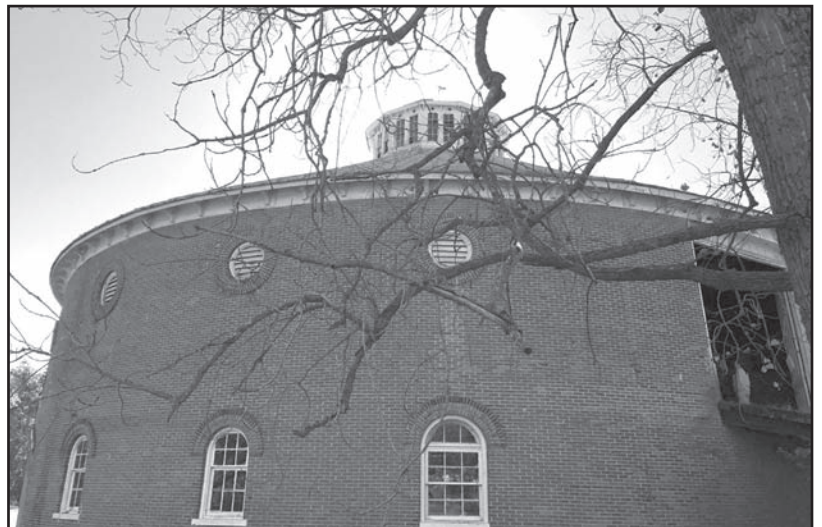
Back to the countryside we went for our final stop in Urbana, the Nutwood Place. Fred and Ellen Krift have been the caretakers of this amazing farmhouse and brick round barn for a few years now. Fred granted us access to his 1810 Virginia vernacular home, complete with many period furnishings of the day. In 1858, A.C. Jennings commissioned the barn to be built. Jennings was known for breeding fine race horses and Jersey cattle. The brick and timber frame round barn is like no other. It has over 180,000 bricks and 30,000 feet of oak timbers! The Krifts are in the process of a hopeful and successful restoration. There is so much history to this place that pictures alone don't do justice to either of the structures.

Late that afternoon, we went our separate ways back to our own homes. Judging from the comments made to the Hamblins during and at the end of this terrific weekend, I'd say it was a smashing success! If anyone has some ideas for another driving tour journey, please let us know. I'm sure the Hamblins can provide the guidance needed to make it great!

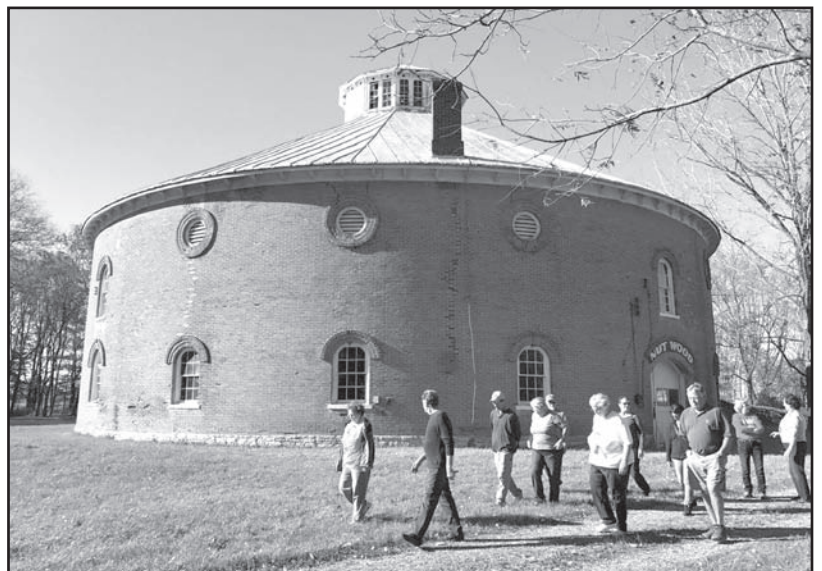
By: Ric Beck



Gabe Ross, Farm Manager of the Gallant in Delaware County receives FOB placard from board member, Dave Hamblin.



The brick round barn at Nutwood Place near Urbana, listed on the National Register of Historic Places, was built in 1861.



FOB's Autumn Tour crowd departs after exploring Nutwood Place and its iconic round brick barn.



# Slate Run Metro Park Workshop — all done!

It has been a few years in the planning stages but we finally pulled off the workshop at Slate Run! I suppose that all of us that attended could have been at our respective homes raking leaves but instead we were at the beautiful site of the historic farm located at Slate Run in Canal Winchester. We were greeted on our first day by Mike Huels, who, when asked what his position was, said he was an Historic Farmer and had been at Slate Run for thirty years. Soon, Slate Run farm hands Dave and Jeremy appeared and were more than willing to help with whatever we needed.

We knew that we had the center part of the tie beam to replace, two posts and probably two braces and two nailers as well. But in the week prior to the workshop Mike had sent pictures to Rudy of the barn after they had pulled off the rest of the siding and found that the entire tie beam needed to be replaced! We needed more flooring to be removed on the second floor of the barn for the eventual temporary header. As students arrived Wednesday, work immediately ensued. Jim Myers climbed the steps to the second floor to help Dave rip up more flooring. Soon Nate Stitzlein and David Simmons showed up and while Dave and Jim continued pulling up flooring the rest of us got a lesson from instructor Rudy Christian in how to look over the new timbers and figure out what timbers were going to be used where in the repair. Things were happening and we didn't even have all the students there for any pre-workshop discussion. Oh well, off we go to the races!

Mike had the material and Rudy assigned the man power to get the job done. After all, that was going to be more work than first anticipated. No worries. We measured and checked the timbers for twist, knots, rot, insect damage and felt we had what we needed. Now that Jim and Dave were done, Ric Beck, our other instructor, and John Woodall went upstairs to start pulling nails to release the joists from the tie beam and found them to be masonry nails! And there were a lot of them! Maybe the last repair guy thought the more the better? After a couple hours of trying to release the joists from the tie beam Rudy convinced Mike that maybe a good winter job would be replacing the joists that we were now going to cut off so we could move the project along? Mike



**Slate Run building up on cribbing with Mike Huels, John Woodall and Nate Stitzlein preparing to remove a tie beam. Author, Sarah Woodall collecting runaway nails.**



**Ric Beck and Sarah Woodall at left discuss timber layout with Mike Huels, Jim Miller, John Woodall and Jim Myers.**

agreed, the sawzall came out and the “nail pullers” rejoiced!

The next lesson was how to set cribbing correctly and using math and knowledge of wood strength, Rudy ran us through the numbers in figuring out how to build the temporary header with the wood available and how to build the cribbing using six by

six oak timbers and then four by four pine sticks to reach where we could install screw jacks. Rudy and Ric led a discussion on how and where to place the come alongs in order to raise the temporary header, set it on the box cribbing and carry the load of the barn wall and loft so we could remove the old tie beam. Once the temporary header was in place we then punched out the old pegs and installed drift pins in some of the important joints. The next step was to remove the center part of the tie beam as the whole tie beam was not one timber but three put together with scarf joints. We then removed the posts after we removed more masonry nails from the base of the post at the sill and then moved onto removing the remaining two parts of the tie beam with their braces using the same system. The pieces were moved to where the new pieces were to be laid out in front of the granary. First day and we are already ahead of schedule!

Day 2 started with a morning discussion about the challenge of any repair project; that there are lots of ways to do repairs so how do we do it? Rudy spoke about the three methods of timber framing. Rudy talked about Scribe Rule with the carpenter's marks on the timbers and how those pieces are not interchangeable. He then

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## SLATE RUN, Continued from Page 4

talked about Square Rule and how all the similar pieces are now interchangeable because the measurements based on a determined nominal dimension. The method used on this barn Rudy calls Mill Rule, a term he said he coined, and that method is based on the fact that timbers were cut at mills using precise measurements. If one asked for six by eight by 12 foot piece of oak the builder knew that the timber was going to be 6 inches by 8 inches and twelve feet long. This made it easier for carpenter's to make their measurements and eliminated the need for housings, saving time.

At this point we all separated. I, for one, wanted to learn, or relearn, how to do layout on braces so Ric, John, Laura and I moved into the barn to do that. Rudy took the others to do the mapping of the timbers by taking measurements of the old timbers and also measurements of where they had been so they could layout the new timbers. At this point we had some discussion about replacing all of the braces (four) and all of the nailers (four) instead of just the ones that were rotten. We also had discussed and made the decision to make the scarf joints match the ones on the other tie beams in the barn. You see, the problem was the repair that we were re-doing had been done differently than the rest of the barn and because it was not done 50 plus years ago it is not considered historic and we felt that we could make our repairs and should make our repairs to match the joinery of the historic barn and not the previous repair. Did that make sense? I hope so. Ric decided it was time that he start to work on the in-situ repair in the big barn and while he did that Laura, Jim and I cut the braces while John laid out the nailers and the rest of the group finished the mapping and watched Rudy lay out the large timbers. Still ahead of schedule!

Day three brought all the chisels and mallets out to play. There were still nailers to cut which Jim did and scarf joints to cut that Laura and I worked on. Meanwhile Nate, David and new addition, Ethan Simmons, started working on the tenons. I'm wondering if we should have charged Nate less for his workshop considering the large knot that he had to work on with his fist tenon? Glad I didn't get that one. Not only was there a huge knot but it was also two hearted. Not an easy task and again, I'm glad I didn't have to



Crew members Nate Stitzlein, Dave Simmons, and Ethan Stitzlein cut timbers for framing.



Rudy Christian consults John Woodall in the use of the boring machine.

deal with it! A few jabs were made about the Stanley chisels and claw hammers that showed up — thankfully John Woodall brought a tote full of chisels, mallets and extra tools for people to use. I'm betting they're all are out looking for a nice Barr or Greenlee chisel now! And maybe even a nice wooden mallet?? Anyway, we got a lot done and felt like a Saturday raising was well within our grasp. Oh, did I forget about drilling the mortise pockets? Rudy and Laura brought their 1800s boring machine and John tried his hand at drilling the white oak timber that had been sitting



Rudy Christian observes the careful removal of a part of the deteriorated tie beam.

around for two or more years. Two holes! That's right. Two holes and he passed it on to our youngest and strongest student, Ethan. Ethan gave it his all but after one said "uncle" (he really didn't but I could see it in his expression) and out came the drill. Everyone had their chance to clean out a mortise pocket or two — again, the Stanley chisels were set aside and Dave, Ethan and Nate were, again, happy that John brought along a few extra timber framing chisels made for the job. Ric had gone back to finish his repair in the big barn and was definitely happy with the outcome.

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# A Horse Stall to Behold

Having seen several hundred barns in the past few years and nary a one had a horse stable of elegance, till we came to Joan Sanford's barn in Belmont County. Having lived in the "horse age" such fine fixin's were usually associated with owners who bred fine blooded horses. I can just see big tall Perc heron mares and fine Bay Belgians tied in those stalls. The workmanship is the finest. All the corners and edges are curved and rounded, as were the head partitions. The mangers and feed boxes received the same royal treatment. The stairway is unique. The builder put his craftsmanship and creative artistic abilities to good use when it came to the stable.

Oh! come to think of it, there is also a fine old barn around this fine stable. Fortunately, the roof was maintained to keep the frame dry and preserved through the years. It is still in excellent condition. Some areas of siding were badly weather-worn and plans were in progress to re side the barn. An interesting feature of this structure is a granary door covered with notes and figures. Some of them go back to the 1800s. We tried to preserve some of these writings photographically.

On the same property, there was another barn but due to its condition had been relegated for demolition. Within the older barn there were many signs of it having been built in the very early 1800s. Because of its location near Marietta, where many early settlers crossed into Ohio, it is possible it was built in the late 1700s. There were more pegs in the flooring than I had ever seen, and big ones, too. Hand-hewn and split braces also speak



Photo submitted by Pamela Whitney Gray

of very early construction. Rather than demolition, this type of barn, in spite of its condition, should be preserved as a landmark structure.

And now the rest of the story — this farm is located in an area where long-wall mining had been the practice. The whole farm, along with neighboring farms, had been "let down". No damage to the barn was noted. Joan's family said there was some evidence of slight damage in the grand old house that stands in front of the two barns.

This article was edited and reprinted from the Barn Consultant Newsletter, Sept/Oct 2004 by Charles W. Whitney with permission from Pamela Whitney Gray.

## Holmes County Offers Variety

Holmes County is located in the heart of the world's largest Amish community. The lush, rolling hills come alive in April as farmers both Amish and English prepare the earth for planting. The western side of the county is home to more conservative Amish and still has a mostly rural flavor. In contrast, you will see Cary and Elaine Hulin of Holmes County Pottery who builds and fires functional ceramics in an outdoor wood kiln. Jan Bowden of Bowden Bells is a metal and glass artist who creates wonderful sculptures and garden art, all within minutes of the Lang barn. Whispering Hills is a first-class campground also in the western part of the county. Just 15 minutes west, is the Mohican State Forest. Just south of Millersburg, Rusty Baker, a muralist has created a music museum in his barn and the outside is a show stopping work of art! And for the wine lover, check out French Ridge Vineyards.

Millersburg, the county seat, boasts antique shops, the Victorian House Museum, Historic Millersburg Hotel, restaurants, a pub, microbrewery and several thrift shops to name just a few of the high-

lights. Rails to Trails run through downtown Millersburg. You can walk or ride your bike for miles. For the shopper, you will love Berlin with the little shops that line the downtown streets. Country Craft Cupboard carries wonderful fabrics and patterns for the quilter, crafter and rug hooker. You will want to visit Village Gift Barn for high end gifts, home furnishing and women's clothes. Boyd and Wurthman's is a favorite dining destination. There are bed and breakfasts as well as the upscale Berlin Grande with all the amenities of a big city hotel. You won't want to miss Wendell August Forge.

Just east of Berlin is the charming town of Walnut Creek. The Carlisle Inn offers quaintly furnished rooms and the Walhouse is a sleek, modern high rise hotel. For dining, you might want to try Rebecca's and for a treat, stop at Coblenz Chocolate where you can watch the delightful creations being made. And you don't want to go home empty handed. Bring your cooler to take home some of the delicious cheese and baked goods. Bulk food stores dot the county, as well as bakeries and



Photo by Tom O'Grady

**A common scene in Holmes County — slow moving vehicles. Always good to be vigilant.**

cheese factories. You will also find many fine furniture stores which high quality pieces for your home or office. I hope you will enjoy your stay and plan to spend a few more days in our wonderful county!

— Barb Lang, Local Heroine

## SLATE RUN, Continued from Page 5

Day four. Saturday. Busy day at Slate Run. Mike had a group show up for the chicken slaughtering seminar while we got busy finishing up our joinery and preparation for the installation of the new parts and pieces. First Ric had to drill the peg holes, and then we moved the timbers around to the side of the barn where they were going and proceeded to install them in the reverse order that they were removed. So we started with the first and third parts of the tie beam intact with their braces, that fit perfectly I might add, and moved them into position with the come alongs and secured them with temporary pins. Next we attempted to raise the middle part of the tie beam and try to make it fit between the first and the third. We really did try to make it fit but it wasn't going. Hmm. Everything was mapped. The joinery looked fine but I did notice some problems with the old posts and how the new tie beams were fitting. They were snug on one side but gapped on the other which meant both the posts had twists and this caused a problem with the whole fit. So down came the middle header and both the ends with their braces to have the shoulders adjusted and then back up it all went and it still didn't fit. Out came the chisels and John and Ric made some feeders on the scarf joints and we tried again. No go. Next we decided to bring in a couple more screw jacks and set them up under the table of each of the scarf joints and while we raised those jacks we also raised the ones on the temporary header to spread the wall. And there you go, after a layer of paraffin to get it started, the middle part of the beam fit in perfectly and off to lunch we went. Lunch. I have not yet mentioned that Anne Culek and friends Natelle, Donna and Rachael served us warm, hearty, farm lunches every day complete with pie, cookies and the best plum jam ever! Beautiful scenery and good farm cooked food. Do I need to say more?

After lunch it was back to raising the new posts and nailers. This was probably the most physical part of the raising. The posts were cut intentionally 2" short to be able to more easily engage it into the new tie beam. The post had a stub tenon and there was a plinth block at the post base that had a hole for the tenon that was cut in half. The back half of that block was



Ric Beck, above, instructing the new install with Dave Simmons, and Nate and Ethan Stitzlein.



The proud group of barn rebuilders pose after a job well done. Left to right are Ric Beck, upper left, Jim Miller, Ethan Stitzlein, Sarah Woodall, Dave Simmons, John Woodall, Nate Stitzlein, Mike Huels, Rudy Christian and Laura Saeger.

already installed on the sill. All we had to do was thread the tenon on the top of the post into the mortise on the bottom of the tie beam, get the brace in and then make sure the two nailers were in as well. All hands were on deck for this move and we got it done, twice. Only a little bit of nudging was needed with yet another jack and a bunch of levers. Once must always remember to have a chisel, mallet and a hand saw nearby!

Success! The new repairs were in place and looked great. Next the crew of students, farm hands, and FOB members removed the box cribbing, lowered the temporary

tie beam, re-stacked the material and took time to stand back and admire our work. Once Mike and his crew replace the cut loft joists and reside the barn end, that corn crib will stand for decades to come.

Thanks go out to the amazing crew at Slate Run for their hard work and patience with FOB to make this work shop a success. Thanks also to Jim, Nathaniel, Ethan and Dave, our students for their efforts. Finally thanks to Rudy, Laura, Ric, and John for their guidance and instruction. On to the next workshop!

— Sarah Woodall with a little help from Ric Beck



# Timber Frames in Gingerbread



**Above: Meena and the Dairy Barn**

**Right: White's Mill**

Photos by Tom O'Grady



There is hope for a new generation of barn builders. Yasmeena Juedes, "Meena" to her friends and family, has reconstructed the Dairy Barn Arts Center building in Athens, out of gingerbread and jelly candies. She hasn't been through the Junior Barn Detectives program but she may be a good candidate. Her barn took first place in the Child Category.

Meena's work suggests that young people have more of an interest in Ohio's historic buildings than one might have thought. An article in the previous issue of Old Barn Post highlighted a group of school children promoting the Ohio barn as the state historic building symbol when they made their presentation in the Ohio Statehouse on Statehood Day.

Meena submitted the Dairy

Barn in the annual Athens Uptown for the Holidays Gingerbread Competition, co-hosted by the Southeast Ohio History Center, formerly the Athens County Historical Society and Museum. Entries to are often inspired by historic buildings from the area.

Attendees at the Annual Barn conference in Athens in 2012 might recognize some of the entries over the last few years including the historic Athens Asylum, the Union Depot, and other landmark buildings from the area. White's Mill was another submission this year, the first stop on the Athens County Barn Tour.

The Holidays Gingerbread Competition fosters a growing interest in the historic buildings that are such an important part of Ohio's legacy.

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FRIENDS OF OHIO BARNS  
P.O. Box 203  
Burbank, Ohio 44214

