



# *The Old* BARN POST

*A publication of Friends of Ohio Barns • February, 2017 • Vol. XVI, Issue 1*

## The Music Barn in Millersburg

Just outside Millersburg, Ohio there stands an unusual barn owned by Rusty Baker.

Let's start with the unusual. School bus yellow? I'm not sure I've seen a school bus yellow barn, until now. So the first thing you notice is its unusual color. And then it gets stranger. Murals. Lots of them. Lots and lots of them. Of musicians. Pick one. Johnny Cash, the Beatles, Patsy Cline, Ludwig Beethoven, Elvis, and hey, is that a propane tank or a yellow submarine? Well its right next to the David Bowie 1210 tractor.

We spent quite a while visiting with Rusty and found he has done murals all over the world. Rusty has also hosted many musicians for jam sessions at his barn.

"In 2005 it was time to paint the barn," said Baker. "I thought I'd just do a portrait on the side." By the end of the day, Baker had painted a larger-than-life likeness of The Beatles on his 60-by-60 late 1800s barn along County Road 150.

Since then portraits of two dozen musicians adorn the barn, ranging from Beethoven to Bob Dylan, Pink Floyd to Dolly Parton.

On weekends, Rusty says, travelers come from all over, filling his driveway with visitors who tell him how much they appreciate his creativity.

Years ago, Baker said, a young Asian girl approached him with her camera, requesting permission to take some photos. Baker found out that the girl was from the University of Japan. Her professor



**Please See MUSIC BARN, Page 3**

# Check your Address on the Front of this Issue!

If you have a hashtag (#) by your name then please be aware that we will be removing your name from our mailing list for the conference newsletter after this issue due to high costs of printing and mailing. Our intention was to entice our past members to come to the conference and perhaps rejoin by mailing the conference newsletter to all of you. Please consider becoming a member (there is a form to do so inside this issue) — then you will receive *The Old Barn Post* plus enjoy other benefits of being a member with Friends of Ohio Barns.

## Board Member Elections

Friends of Ohio Barns will once again be seeking candidates to fill board positions of members whose terms are expiring.

Responsibilities include participating in the annual barn conference, attending board meetings and conference calls, and representing Friends at festivals and events with the satisfaction of knowing that you are doing something to help save a part of Ohio's rich agricultural heritage.

If you are interested in a board position, please send a short biography with your goals and ideas to Friends of Ohio Barns, PO Box 203, Burbank, OH 44214 or email us at [friendsohiobarns@gmail.com](mailto:friendsohiobarns@gmail.com). Remember, new blood brings fresh ideas and keeps the organization alive with promise!

## A Special Thanks to our 2016 Endowment Fund Donors!

We would like to extend a special thank you to all who donated funds to Friends of Ohio Barns in 2016! The following list of donors is in alphabetical order and bears no association with the amount of the donations we received. Donors: Charles Bauer, Betsy Becker, Karen Campbell, Diana Jones, David Spahr, Susan Stewart and Slate Run Living History Farm. We also received \$385.00 in cash donations stemming from the generous "round-up" on Auction purchase amounts and the donations received at the Barn Raisers Movie event that took place in Columbus. Thank you all for helping to build our Endowment Fund!

— Laura Saeger, Treasurer

## Upcoming Events

### Indiana Barn Foundation's Annual Meeting

Friday, July 21, 2017 – barn tour out of Greenfield, Indiana

Saturday, July 22, 2017 – Annual Meeting at Normandy Barn

Check [www.indianabarns.org](http://www.indianabarns.org) for more information

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### Friends of Ohio Barns Fall Picnic

Saturday, October 21, 2017 at the Rus-Men Farm in Galion

Check [www.friendsohiobarns.org](http://www.friendsohiobarns.org) for more information



Brrrrrrrrrr, it is cold outside! And as I sit in my warm and cozy kitchen looking out at the snow and cold I remember a similar morning many years ago. It was 5:30 am and the livestock had to be fed before I caught the bus for school. I dressed for the cold and barn chores. It had been a short night since I last slipped out to the barn to check on the ewes. As it turned out, Dad's careful planning for lambing went awry when it turned out he was going to be gone for the two weeks of the glorious event. Leaving me, the #2 shepherd, in charge. On that morning I was surprised with two sets of twins. It was so thrilling to see little, white, wooly bodies with wiggly tails eagerly bumping their mom's udders for more milk. This was the first of a 210% lamb crop, without losing nary a one. After settling them in their pens I am off to spend a few minutes with Tony, my horse, at the other end of the barn, before it was time to leave the cozy feel of the barn, the sweet smell of hay, and the quiet munching and rustling of its inhabitants for a good warm breakfast and off to school. I do believe I made my Dad proud that year.

I am sure many of you have similar stories and fond memories of farm life. Although, unfortunately, that barn was burned because of its terrible and irreparable condition, and a new pole structure was built in its place with timber from our woods.

Then I was drawn back to the present with a call from Alan Walter and a story of another barn being saved and set to a new purpose in its life. I was pleased to be invited and attend the raising of the old frame. I also had a chance to renew my friendship with Myron Graber of Sugarcreek Construction who dismantled, moved, and raised the barn for Alan.

Now that the holidays are over and 2017 is in full swing the board members and I must put the final preparations for the 2017 Barn Conference. See you all there.

**Remember to keep the barn doors closed,**  
*Pamela Whitney Gray, President*

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# Silent Auction Donations Needed!

Part of the fun we have each year during the Ohio Barn Conference is, of course, the silent auction. Friends of Ohio Barns encourage everyone to bring silent auction items for the Saturday event. The proceeds help us offset the costs of the conference, and still provide you, the members, with a quality program.

We hope you can contribute an item or two — something handmade, collectible, store bought, or something interesting you've found in your travels. The more you bring, and the better the items, the more exciting the auction gets!

If you can't find anything to bring, at least come prepared to make someone else bid a little higher before walking off with a treasure!

## ---Barn Tour Restrictions---

The Barn Tour is a day-long event that requires some physical activity on your part. Please sign up and enjoy the tour if you are able to abide by the following stipulations:

You must be:

- physically able to get on and off a bus several times
- able to walk on uneven terrain in potentially slippery conditions outside the barn/property
- able to go up and down barn stairs and ramps/banks
- aware of possible dangerous conditions inside the barn and be able to move in tight spaces
- aware that low light conditions could exist inside the barns
- aware of the weather conditions for the day and dress accordingly

### Quotable quote

"Rehabilitating historic properties conserves taxpayers' dollars, conserves our local heritage, and conserves the natural environment. Rehabilitating historic buildings and using the infrastructure that is already in place to serve them is the height of fiscal and environmental responsibility."

~Donovan Rypkema, Place Economics

# Arson Takes Belmont County Barn

A Quaker City, Ohio man pled guilty to arson and became the second person to be sentenced in the destruction of a pre-Civil War-era barn in Belmont County in March of 2016.

The owner said the 150-year-old structure was more than just a barn. It was the generational centerpiece of the family farm. "It weathered our family's cattle and horses, and in one night of petty anger, it was destroyed," he said. But more than the financial loss, there's just a deep cut in all of our souls" said David Wagner Jr.

One offender was sentenced to 6 months in jail and 6 months in the Eastern Ohio correction Center, and he must register as a lifelong arson offender with the state of Ohio. The other awaits sentence.

Judge Frank Fregiato ordered \$5,000 in fines to the offender. He and his yet unsentenced co-defendant will share \$523,000 in restitution.

### Food for Thought

It has been said that stories are part of the most precious heritage of mankind. Every barn is a book full of stories.

## MUSIC BARN, Continued from Page 1

had given her a list of things to shoot in America, and Baker's barn was one of them.

When one enters the barn you will experience the British street scene inside the barn door. Ten Baker Street is the address, I think. Rusty Baker has been busy, really busy and inventive. After entering the Baker Street address, you will immediately be inundated with a room full of stuff. Amazing stuff. Guitars, a piano, paintings, couches, and cats. Display cases full of memorabilia.

Think I'm kidding? Come with us for the upcoming 2017 Friends of Ohio Barn tour and conference April 28 and 29 in Millersburg, Ohio. Then YOU can see this unusual barn with your own eyes.

— Dave Hamblin



# The Eighteenth Ohio Barn Conference Comes to Holmes County!

Mark your calendars and book your hotel room now, Friends of Ohio Barns is coming to Holmes County! The two and one-half day event runs from April 27th through the 29th in and around the beautiful Millersburg community.

We first want to thank Barb Lang for being the Local Heroine this year; she has really stepped up and brought a lot of enthusiasm to this year's event, so thanks Barb!

We will begin Thursday afternoon at Ivan Miller's (the Historic Stutzman Farm), near Sugarcreek Ohio. We will be discussing our barn survey program with the interested folks in Holmes Co. It's been a while since we've had folks thinking of documenting their area barns, so we are excited to help out any way we can. We will also allow time for taking a tour of the Stutzman historic farmstead. The pre-Civil War barn is very interesting, and I think we may have found some new joinery to study!

Friday, we load the busses in the host Hotel parking lot at the Comfort Inn, Millersburg. Registration starts at 8am at the hotel and the busses leave sharply at 9am. There will be coffee, water, donuts, and apples available before and during the tour. As always, we have a very interesting variety of barns and homesteads to see plus some firsts for the tour. We will see our first stone end barn! It is a remarkable structure complete with double outshots. It has some not so remarkable modifications, but representative of changes that allowed the barn to continue its useful life. Also, on the farmstead is a really cool clapboard farmhouse with brick infill throughout. The thought was the brick provided thermal mass and insulation from Ohio winters. There will also be stops at Barb and Loren Lang's working dairy farm to see the transformation the farm has taken after a devastating fire in 2015. We will see their beautiful timber frame barn with its amazing chamfered interior posts. Also on the tour is an Amish working farm with a real nice hewn Sweitzer barn and the County Home barn of Holmes County (it is the official bicentennial barn in Holmes County). There will be two repurposed barns on the tour. One is the Shreiner

## Register Securely Online for the Ohio Barn Conference XVIII and Barn Tour

Click on the Event Calendar at the top of the menu column to the left on the homepage located at [www.friendsofioibarns.org](http://www.friendsofioibarns.org) and you will then see the registration button to click on in the Ohio Barn Conference XVIII box. There will be a JBD Workshop this year and you will have to register for it separately. For the Conference please select your type of registration on the first page knowing that you will be able to sign up your guest/spouse on the second page where it has a button to "add a guest" at the guest/spouse reduced rate. If you have any questions or difficulties, please call Sarah Woodall at 330-856-9053 or 330-550-6982. Online Registration ends April 23rd, 2017.

Please note that mail in registrations must be postmarked by April 19th, 2017.

Barn that was dismantled, repaired, and moved to the new Holmes County Fairgrounds, and the wonderful and eclectic barn known as the "Legends of Music" Barn. This stop is not to be missed!

Saturday's conference locale will be at The Flying Ridge Hunt Club on a scenic hilltop just outside Millersburg. Our preservation theme will begin with a keynote address from Mariangela Pfister, Technical Preservation Services head and deputy SHPO from The Ohio History Connection. Ms. Pfister will discuss the importance of physical conservation of buildings and how federal and state tax credit programs aid in that effort. This is always a timely subject, and Ms. Pfister is a dynamic speaker, sure to enlighten and educate.

During our 2016 fall driving barn tour, we stopped at the Carriage Hill Metro Park for a tour of their amazing barns. One in particular, caught the eye of our beloved VP Dan Troth. He and Nick Wiesenbergs are going to discuss the Allan Barn. Dan will discuss its history, unique design, and preservation efforts, while Nick will talk about dendrochronology, its importance in dating structures, and share the results he found after his inspection of this interesting barn.

We will have a first breakout session in several years on Saturday. It might be viewed as a guys' and girls' session. For the girls (and maybe some guys), Barb Garbriel will be speaking about the "barn quilt movement" in Hancock County as well

as other quilt trails in Ohio. Ladies, feel free to bring a long any quilts to show as part of the presentation. For the guys (and maybe some girls), John and Caleb Miller of JCM Timber Works will have a timber hewing session where they will discuss the tools used, layout and notching, as well as broad axing the timber, much like the framers of the day would have done. Chips will be flying in this presentation!

Our final preservation presentation will be from Fred Krift owner of Nutwood Place, the historic farm complex on the northern edge of Urbana, Ohio. Those of you who attended the tour last fall got a glimpse of the magnificent brick and timber round barn and farm house. Mr. Krift will discuss a bit of the history of William Wards creation, his love and reverence for Nutwood, as well as the challenges he faces to preserve the incredible round barn.

We, of course, won't be complete without the 2017 version of our favorites, Rudy and Dan as "The Barn Detectives". They are hoping for some live tweet commentary during their performance... We will also have our Barn of the Year awards during the lunch hour, the annual member meeting, our fabulous silent auction, as well as some vendors and exhibits. All in all, another exciting, educating, and very enjoyable way to spend your day. Come out and see old friends; make some new ones; and help us celebrate Ohio's icons of Agriculture, Our Ohio Barns!

— Ric Beck

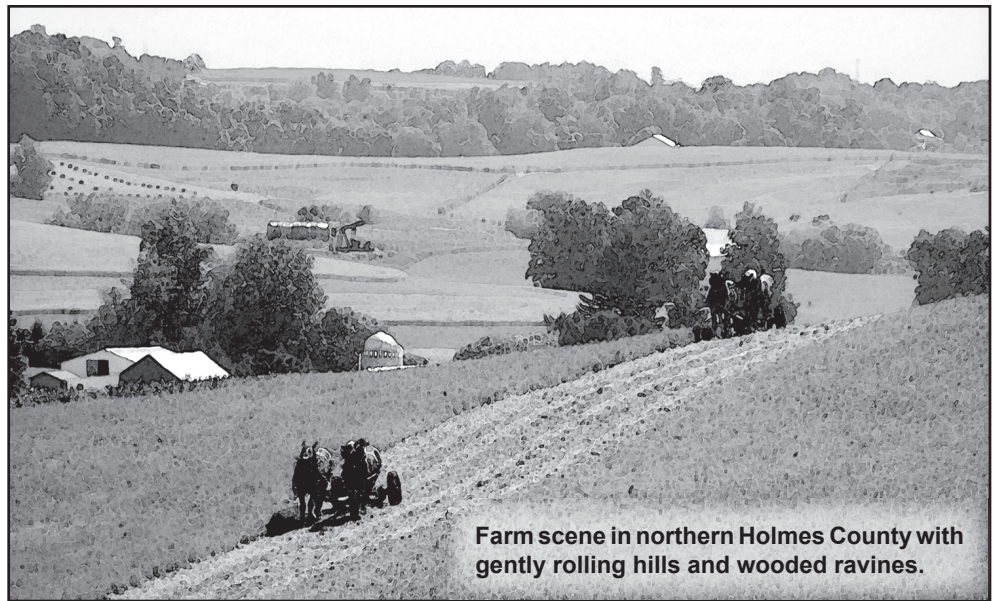


# Holmes County's Farmland Varied

Holmes County lies at the interface of the glaciated and unglaciated plateau of Ohio. All of eastern Ohio is part of the great Allegheny plateau. Once a high plateau on the western side of the Appalachians, the northern part of it was overridden by the Wisconsin glacialiation and has a graceful rolling disposition. The southern and southwestern part of the plateau has been severely eroded into the familiar ridge and valley landscapes of that physiographic region. Holmes County straddles that boundary with the glaciated northern part of the county exhibiting the more level and undulating topography. The southern part of the county has more winding roads and steeper slopes.

The soils of Holmes County are indicative of their geologic history and natural factors working on the parent materials at specific sites. Northern Holmes County's soils are composed largely of low lime glacial drift. The southern part of the county derives its soil make-up from the breakdown of the bedrock, sandstone and shale. These sandy and clay soils, along with steeper slopes, varying degrees of moisture and directional orientation can result in a great variety of specific soils.

The glaciated part of the county with its gently undulating topography supports general farming and especially dairy. Because of the strength of the large agricultural community the steeper slopes of the southern part of the county also support general farming and dairy but with a significantly



Farm scene in northern Holmes County with gently rolling hills and wooded ravines.

higher percentage of hilly woodland.

The 1850 census recorded 20,452 people in Holmes County. By 1950, a hundred years of farming was supporting an significant agricultural economy on the soils for a somewhat diminished population of 18,760. In 1950 records show that nearly 100,000 acres were devoted to the production of corn, wheat, oats, hay, and pasture. The soils were supporting 16,000 dairy cows, 44,000 hogs, 10,000 sheep, over 620,000 chickens, and the sales of nearly a half million dollars of beef cattle. More than 3,100 maple trees tapped for syrup production, nearly 650 bee hives managed for honey, and more than \$150,000

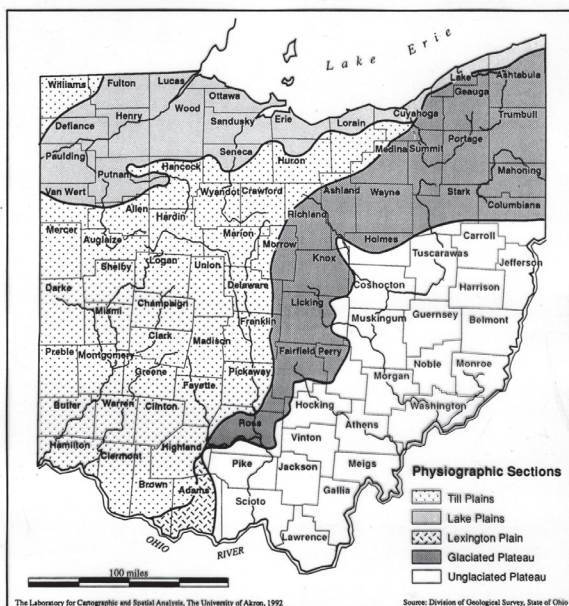
of fruit sales were typical of a strong farm based economy in Holmes County and in Ohio and across America mid-century.

Industrial minerals mined in Holmes County are also indicative of the bedrock and glacial deposits in the area. The leading minerals harvested in Holmes County include sand and gravel from large glacial deposits and clay and limestone from other regions.

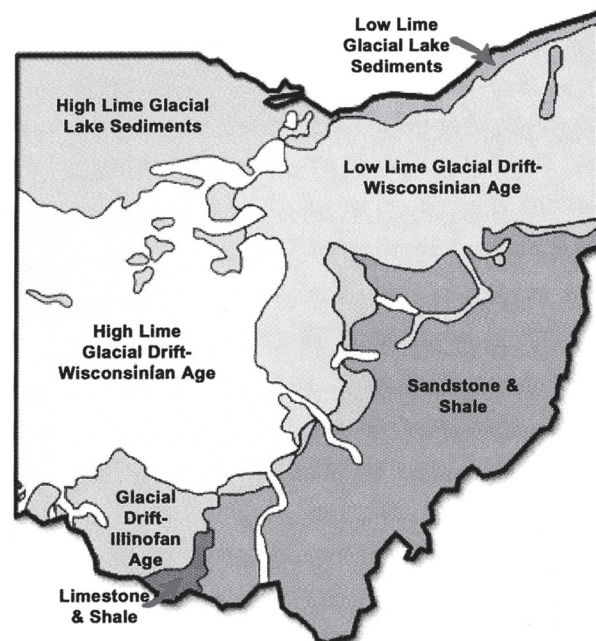
The natural resources and the migrants and immigrants who settled Holmes County converted it from a wilderness to a thriving small farm economy surrounding the county seat of Millersburg.

— Tom O'Grady

Map of the five physiographic regions of Ohio. Holmes County straddles the glaciated and unglaciated plateaus.



Ohio's Physiographic Sections



Generalized soils map of Ohio indicates that Holmes County has glacially influence soils in the north and soils derived from sandstone and shale in the south.



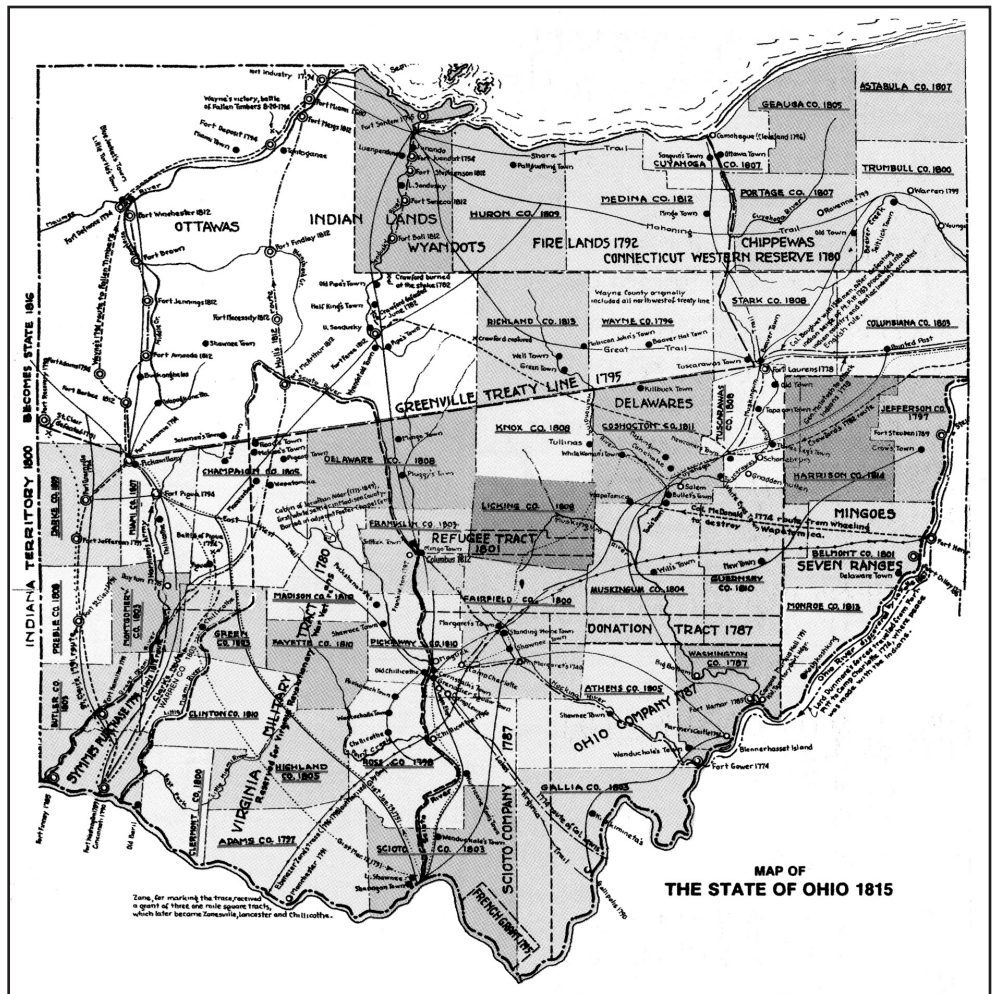
# German Influence in Holmes County

The Ohio Barn Conference and Barn Tour 2017 will be conducted in Holmes County in April. Home to the largest Amish community in the world, a renowned pacifist religious organization, known for simple living, plain dress, and reluctance to adopt many conveniences of modern technology, the county was named after Andrew Holmes, an officer killed in the War of 1812.

Carved from portions of Coshocton, Tuscarawas, and Wayne counties it was formed in 1824. The Greenville Treaty Line of 1795, which was for several years a boundary between Native American territory and lands open to European-American settlers, runs across northern Holmes County. That same line is the border between the Congress Lands of 1799-1804 and the U.S. Military District of 1797-1798. The Military District was established by the Congress to compensate veterans of the American Revolutionary War for their service. The Congress Lands made land available for sale to members of the general public through land offices in various cities, and through the General Land Office.

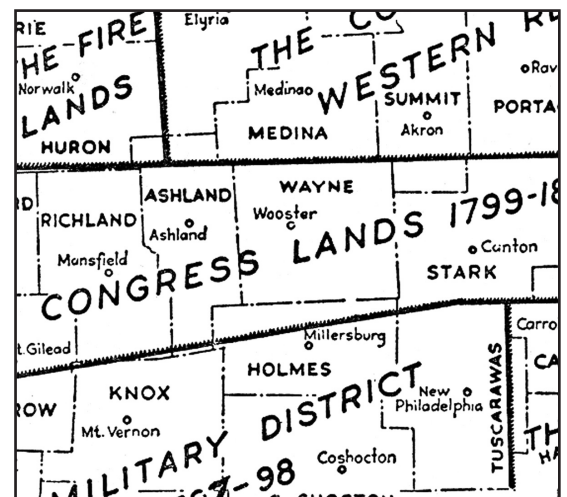
Of the 5,567 migrants to Holmes County recorded in the 1850 Census, a little over 5,000 of them came from the Mid-Atlantic States, primarily Pennsylvania. Of

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1815 Ohio county map showing the Greenville Treaty Line of 1795, Native American trails and towns, military roads and forts, and some of the early land subdivisions.

Early Ohio Land Divisions superimposed on today's map of Ohio counties with the Greenville Treaty Line referencing the southern boundary of two sections of Congress Lands.



Closer view of the Ohio Land Subdivisions centered on Holmes County illustrating its location with reference to the Congress Lands, U.S. Military District, Western Reserve and the Fire Lands. To the east of the Military District and southeast of the Congress Lands is a very small glimpse of The Seven Ranges, where the township and range survey began in the United States.



## GERMAN, Continued from Page 6

the nearly 2,000 immigrants from Europe settling in Holmes County by 1850 almost 1,400 of them were from Germany. Immigrants tended to settle in the United States where they had an affinity with existing populations such as family relations, common language, and cultural associations.

When Ohio was subdivided in the late 18th and early 19th centuries, land was set aside for certain cultural groups and veterans of the Revolution. The Western Reserve was claimed by Connecticut, the Fire Lands were set aside for citizens of towns in Connecticut whose homes had been burned in 1779 and 1781 by British forces during the War. Virginia had early claims to Ohio lands and The Virginia Military District between the Scioto and Miami rivers was reserved by Virginia to use as payment in lieu of cash for its veterans of the Revolution. The Ohio Company Purchase in the southeast was spoken for and the Refugee Tract granted land to people from British Canada who left home prior to July 4, 1776, stayed in the U.S. until November 25, 1783 continuously, and aided the revolutionary cause. The U.S. Military District was another region set aside by the Congress to compensate veterans of the American Revolutionary War for their service.

A good deal of the population being of German heritage and pacifists during the Revolutionary War, they did not have land warrants awaiting them and their settlement patterns across the state, as evidenced by the appearance of the Pennsylvania German barns, are strikingly consistent with the distribution of the various tracts of Congress Lands where they able to purchase wilderness farmsteads. The degree to which the Pennsylvania German barns are found beyond the Congress



**Typical Amish farm compound with barn, outbuilding, homestead, and laundry out to dry.**

lands and into both the U.S. Military District and the extreme southern portion of the Virginia Military District may be indicative of veterans selling their land warrants. Such purchases may explain the abundance of Pennsylvania German barns with the overhanging forebay in southern Holmes County, as well as Tuscarawas, Knox, Morrow, and Delaware counties.

While Millersburg and Berlin are communities in the U.S. Military District with a distinctive German connection, many of the other communities in the southern half of Holmes County, such as Charm, Farmerstown, and Walnut Creek are broadly populated by people of German descent as well. Indeed, anyone can purchase land in any settlement district in Ohio today, regardless of their political, cultural, religious background, or military service, and have been able to do so for well over 150 years.

Other groups settling in Holmes County by 1850 included relatively small numbers of migrants from the South and New England and even fewer from the West. Immigrants were represented from 8 or 9 European countries and Canada.

Like many places, Holmes County has had its struggles with culture and ethnicity. There were only 5 African Americans credited with being citizens of Holmes County by the 1850 Census. Later in the century Holmes County newspapers reported that, on April 1, 1892, an unidentified black male was lynched in Millersburg by an unnamed and unknown group. Papers reported that he was the only black man in the county and had been “annoying people in various ways”. The man was found hanged on the courthouse lawn one morning after several people heard noises during the night.

On the other hand, some Amish of Holmes County and Pennsylvania, being part of a wave of European immigrants who forced Native Americans westward, are reaching out to the ‘gatekeepers of the land’ because as pacifists, although the Amish did not fight American Indians, they did take their land for their farms. They are currently asking forgiveness for their passivity in the face of Native American deprivation.

— Tom O’Grady

## Membership Renewal Time is here!

Each year we are excited to send out our Ohio Barn Conference newsletter to all our past members. We do so to invite all Ohio stewards of our magnificent barns to see more excellent examples of barns in the state and be better informed of what is being done by Friends of Ohio Barns and our current members to help preserve the Ohio barn heritage.

We also do this in the hopes that you consider re-joining us by renewing your membership with Friends of Ohio Barns. Your membership helps us maintain valuable pro-

grams such as the barn survey, the Junior Barn Detective program, the kids mini-barn and, most importantly, all the educational and awareness programs that arm enthusiasts with information and aid in their preservation efforts.

Please note that if there is a hashtag (#) by your name on the front of this issue you are in danger of being dropped from this mailing list due to high costs of printing and mailing. So please consider renewing your membership! Check out our website for costs and our secure online payment method. Thanks, and we look forward to seeing you in April!

# Bicentennial Barn



The Holmes County Bicentennial Barn is the structure that served the farming operations at the Holmes County Home.

Please recycle this newsletter. Share it with a friend.  
Printed on recycled paper, of course.



FRIENDS OF OHIO BARN  
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