



# The Old BARN POST

*A publication of Friends of Ohio Barns • October, 2018 • Vol. XVII, Issue 3*

## FOB Fall Driving Tour 2018

Thirty-five members of Friends of Ohio Barns met at Lost Creek Reserve near Troy for a tour of their facilities. We were joined by naturalist Tama Cassidy who led our group through the barn, hay barn, and house.

The main barn, built in 1832 is very nicely preserved and had many interesting features. The pegged threshing floor was mostly original and the waste walls were still there where they were originally built. We didn't get measurements on the barn, but it is a 5 bent Sweitzer barn and it's big. The house was constructed in the 1860s and is now being used as offices for the Miami County Park District.

From there we traveled to Basil's on Market in Troy for lunch and then headed to the Manchester Farms' round barn near Lakeview.

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**Top: Upper Sandusky Indian Mill curator Jim Snodgrass (center) receiving an FOB sign from Dave Hamblin, tour coordinator and Pam Gray, FOB president, as thanks for his participation in the 2018 FOB driving tour.**

**Bottom: Naturalist Tama Cassidy (center) of Miami County Park District at Lost Creek Reserve near Troy, receiving a barn preservation and stewardship sign from FOB president Pam Gray and Dave Hamblin, driving tour coordinator, as thanks for her input to our second annual driving tour.**

All pictures by JoAnne Hamblin





Bumps in the road and silver linings go hand in hand. My western vacation was going beautifully and the drive across the country was gorgeous. As always, I was on the lookout for barns. Crossing Indiana, Illinois, and Iowa was eye candy for this barn lover. Then comes Nebraska, Colorado, Utah, and Arizona where the population of barns diminishes to almost non-existent.

Moab, Utah is where I hit my bump in the road. My car died! Well, not dead. The engine ran okay, the wheels just would not go round and round. What to do, oh my, what to do.

So, here is where the silver lining started. The people of Moab are so friendly and helpful. With their help I rented a jeep and continued on my way while the car was being fixed, vacation saved. Not so much.

Bump number two, car not fixed, nor could they find the problem. What to do, oh my, what to do. Oh, yes, rent a car and drive home. No car available within 150 miles. What to do, oh my, what to do.

My silver lining comes to the rescue. On my bucket list is a ride through Glenwood Canyon and across the country on a train. That's it! AmTrak is the answer to my way home. On the two-and-a-half-day rockin' train ride I saw the majestic mountains, and the rolling prairie, without being distracted with the responsibility of driving. I was headed back to beautiful barn country.

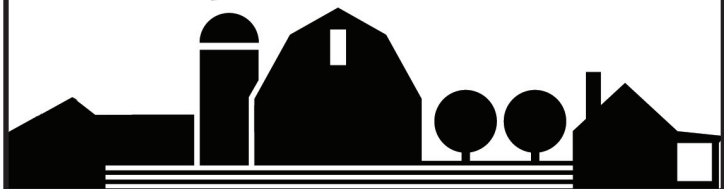
All of this renewed my faith in my fellow human beings and once again sparked the wonder in our extraordinary country. It also underlined the fact that Ohio is beautiful, diverse, and filled with a myriad of wonderful historic barns. And that we have our own national treasure right here in our own state, counties, and small towns. And once again I am filled with the passion to preserve our agricultural, architectural, and cultural history represented here in the form of large of historical icons, The Family Barn.

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

## Upcoming Event

**FOB Ohio Barn Conference –  
Licking County**

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



## Robert (Bob) Rowland

It is with great sadness that we announce the passing of former FOB Board Vice President and friend Robert (Bob) Rowland. He and Nancy (past secretary) were faithful, hard-working members of Friends of Ohio Barns for many years. Their work in Ashland County paved the way to establish the barn county survey state wide. They were both a big presence representing Friends at the Annual Malabar Fall Ohio Heritage Days Festival each autumn.

## Website revamp in the works!

Our brilliant IT guy, Chris Clower, is working on a revamp of our website to help those that like to view and make reservations on their mobile devices. In the past the full menu and sign up options have been hard to view on phones and tablets but Chris will have it all figured out by the time the Ohio Barn Conference registration is open. We have also found that using Chrome as the browser makes the website work better. Feel free to drop us an email at friendsohiobarns@gmail.com if you have any suggestions or comments about our website.

## Quotable quote

“We require from buildings, as from men,  
two kinds of goodness; first, doing their  
practical duty; then that they be graceful  
and pleasing in doing it.”

*~John Ruskin, The Seven Lamps of Architecture*

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The fall driving tour group at Indian Creek Memorial

## FALL, Continued from Page 1

After a photo session at Manchester Farms we crossed the Parker Covered Bridge in Wyandot County which, within the past few months, had work done on it, and then on to Indian Mill State Memorial. At the Mill, curator Jim Snodgrass shared the history of the mill along with the process of grinding grain into flour and he explained how the Wyandot Tribe had befriended the local settlers supporting them in the War of 1812. The mill was constructed in 1861, mostly of walnut, down river from pieces of two original mills built upstream in the 1820s. A mark near the top of the mill's front door shows the depth of the 1913 flood in the area — mind-boggling. Our final destination was the Steer Barn in Upper Sandusky for dinner.

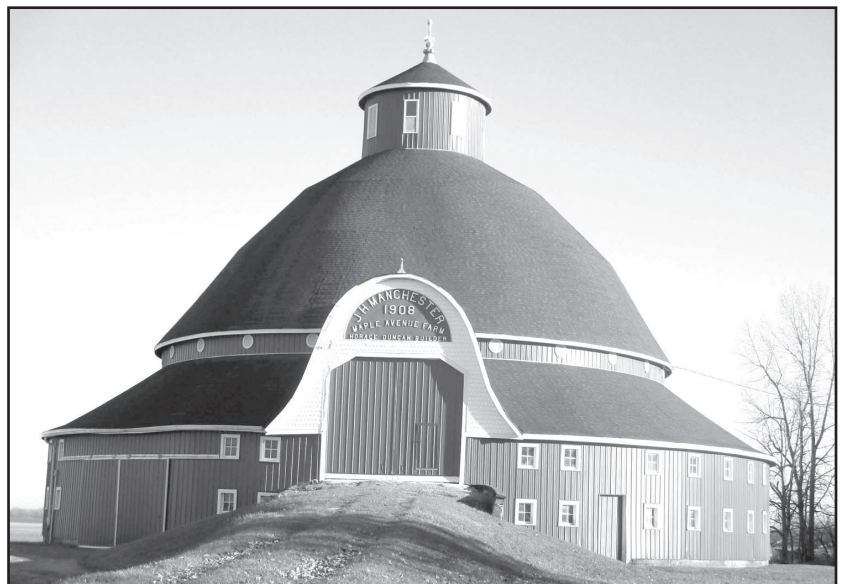
Thanks to all who participated. Not everything went as planned — don't think we've ever seen three funeral processions in one day let alone getting stuck in two of them. And the “homecoming — wedding celebration” of dozens of formal-clad youth gathering for photo ops at Indian Mill was a real surprise, but hopefully everyone enjoyed the day. And maybe learned something — even if by accident.

Dave & JoAnne Hamblin



Barn at Lost  
Creek Reserve  
built in 1832

The Manchester  
barn near  
Lakeview, Ohio





# Timber Frame Shelter Protects Ancient Native American Heritage Site

A hand-hewn timber frame structure in Leo, Ohio serves as a picnic shelter and protection for ancient petroglyphs etched into the top surface of a sandstone outcrop on the edge of this Jackson County hamlet.

The ancient petroglyphs depict more than 30 curious images of animals, foot tracks, and human figures. Some archaeologists suggest the images were made by Late Woodland or Fort Ancient people between 900 and 1600 A.D. Exposed to continuous weathering on the top surface of the sandstone, some think it could not be much older and still be visible today. But the precise age is unknown as well as who is responsible for these carvings and their meaning.

The significance behind these etched images is unknown. They may be some sort of sacred testimony to their ancestors. It has been suggested that an image of a human face with two sets of horns and what appear to be birds' claws attached at the chin may be a shaman or medicine man. Other images, more challenging to define, may represent some sort of mythological creatures.

The hand-hewn timber frame shelter house protects the etchings from rainfall and any other onslaught of the elements. A walkway around the outcrop allows visitors to look over the pegged railing for close views of the figures. Under the same roof the shelter was extended to allow for picnic tables and built-in benches. The picnic area was laid out with a flagstone floor and the roof rafters converge at a point creating a half hexagon, vaulted space on that end of the shelter.

The braces were formed with a hewn angular shape and fitted into housings in the tie beams and pegged flush against the posts. The railings surrounding the petroglyph and the perimeter of the shelter were also fastened with mortice and tenon joinery. The original wooden shake roof covered with a thick matting of moss, was replaced with asphalt shingles about thirty years ago.

The shelter was likely the work of the CCC (Civilian Conservation Corps) or



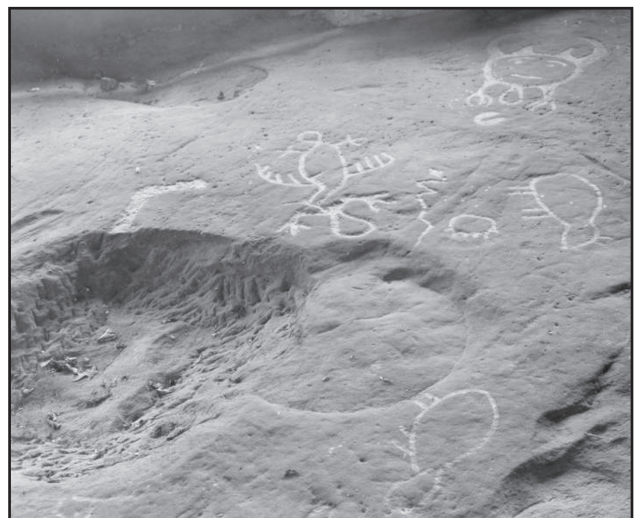
Photos by Tom O'Grady

**Timber frame shelter house at Leo Petroglyph. The right side covers the Native American heritage etchings in the sandstone outcrop. The left side is a picnic shelter.**



**Above: Side view of shelter with half a hexagon covering the picnic area to the left.**

**Right: Petroglyph showing from right to left — Human head with two sets of horns and birds claws hanging from the chin, a couple of four-legged animals, a claw print, a snake, and some sort of creature with feathers — maybe. To the left a gaping hole where a key feature of the petroglyph has been chiseled out of the outcrop to be the prize artifact in some private collection somewhere.**



Please See SHELTER, Page 5





Wooden pegged railing and walkway surrounding the petroglyph.



Large picnic pavilion area with flagstone floor and hewn pegged railings and braces supporting the roof system.

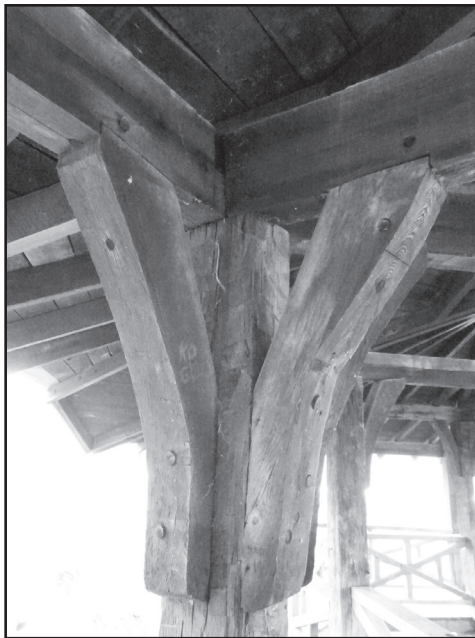
## SHELTER, Continued from Page 4

WPA (Works Progress Administration) during the 1930's. It is rather apparent that the construction of the shelter was led by an artisan/craftsman as the work is elegant and was installed without diminishing the native artwork or the natural setting.

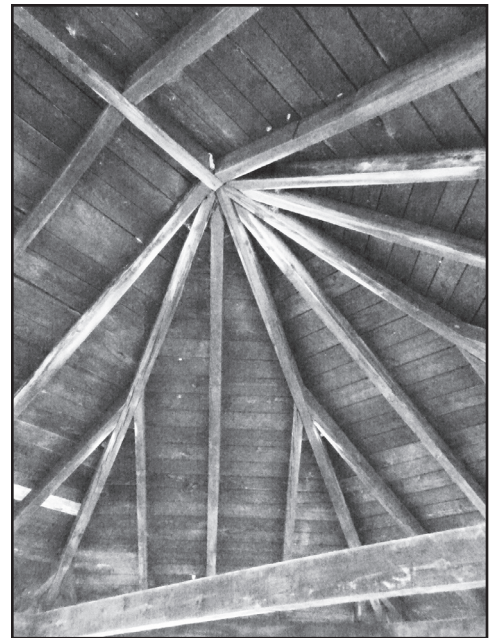
The petroglyph and the shelter combine to make this an ancient Native American and a Depression Era Cultural Heritage Site. The large barn nearby in Leo, serving as an agricultural supply store, is a classic high-style southern barn according to Professor Hubert Wilhelm who frequently referenced this particular structure and its raised lofts and attached cattle sheds. An attached wooden silo was torn down about two decades ago.

The barn, the shelter, and the ancient petroglyph make this out of the way site worth seeking out for a visit.

Tom O'Grady

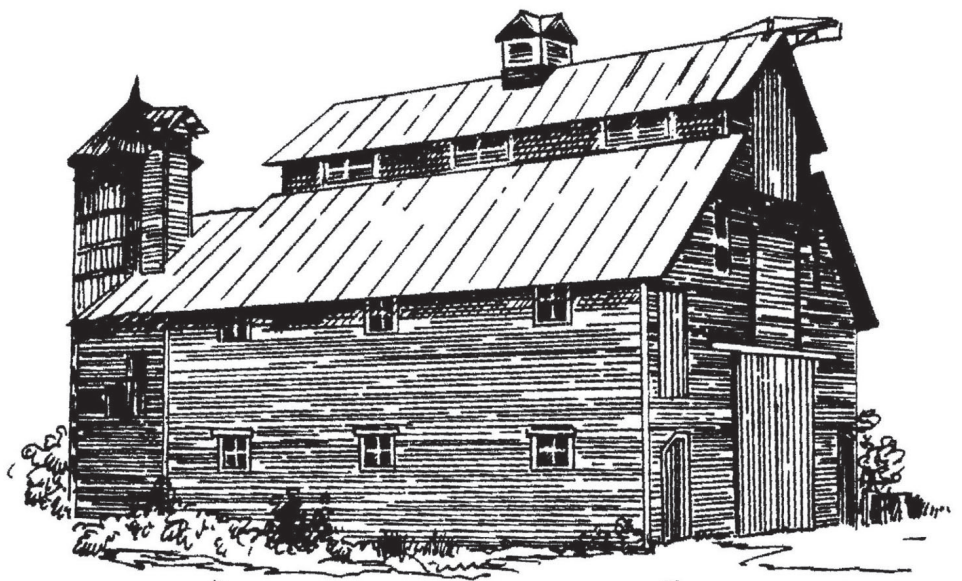


Above left: Angled braces with housings in tie beam pegged flush with posts.



Above right: Half hexagon roof system over the picnic pavilion end of the structure.

Right: Sketch of high style southern barn with raised loft and attached cow sheds. The cupola and wooden silo disappeared in a building improvement project a couple decades ago. From: *The Origin and Distribution of Settlement Groups: Ohio:1850* by Hubert Wilhelm.





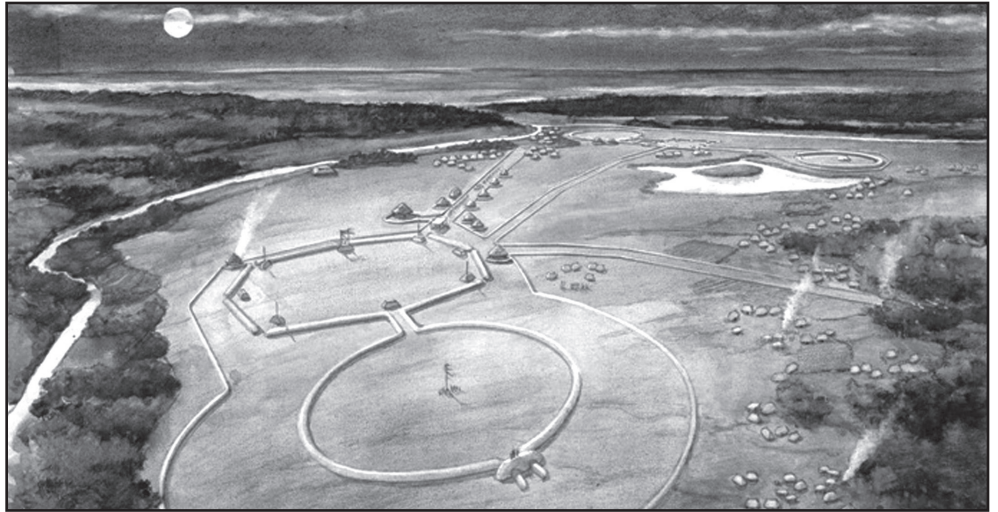
# Next Barn Conference Set Amidst Rich Licking County History

The 2019 Ohio Barn Conference and Barn Tour is scheduled to take place in Licking County. Founded in 1808 and deriving its name from the salt licks in the region, Licking County straddled the edge of the glacier in Ohio. The eastern quarter of Licking County reaches into the unglaciated Allegheny Plateau of Ohio while the rest of the county sprawls across the glaciated portion of the plateau.

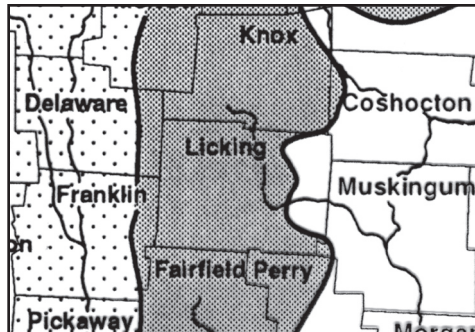
The rich soils parented by the glacial deposits in the western three fourths of the county have supported agriculture for two centuries. Migrants from the Northeastern states, Middle Atlantic, and the South all swarmed in relatively high numbers to the Licking County region once Ohio was opened for settlement. Immigrants from Germany, Ireland, and England came in similar numbers as well. Nearly a thousand Welsh also settled in Licking County.

Licking County is largely in the early subdivision known as the U.S. Military District, a land tract in central Ohio that was established by the Congress to compensate veterans of the American Revolutionary War for their service. While many Pennsylvanians of German descent did not participate in the Revolutionary War due to religious convictions. Numerous veterans receiving land in the Military District sold their warrants to speculators or jobbers at a fraction of their true value. With its proximity to Pennsylvania and available routeways many migrants from the Middle Atlantic purchased these tracts and settled the region. With large numbers of New Englanders and Southerners settling in Licking County as well, one might expect to see a relative mix of barn types surviving in the landscape.

The southern portion of Licking County is part of the Refugee Tract. This long narrow tract stretched across four counties for more than 40 miles. The easternmost 12 miles in southern Licking County was only three miles wide. The land had been granted to people from eastern Canada and Nova Scotia, who sympathized with, and rendered aid to the American colonies, some of them joining the American Army. The British government confiscated their possessions for such disloyalty. For their



The largest geometrical earthworks in the world, built more than a thousand years ago, can be seen in Licking County. Recent research indicates that these massive earthworks, built by people carrying soil in woven baskets, are an engineering marvel. These earthworks appear to be built in alignment with an 18.6-year cycle of the moon and the structure appears to have served as a giant observatory. <https://www.facebook.com/GreatCircleEarthworks>



Licking County encompasses two of Ohio's physiographic regions. The Licking River drains much of the county and drains into the Muskingum beneath the Y-Bridge in Zanesville. Eastern Licking County reaches into the unglaciated portion of the Allegheny Plateau (white) while the rest of the county falls in the glaciated plateau (grey). West of Licking County is the glacial till plain which comprises the largest portion of the state (speckled). From Hubert Wilhelm papers.

support of the colonists in the struggle for independence, the government of the United States set aside this strip of land to be granted to the Canadian refugees.

Glacial till deposits on top of the glaciated plateau created high ground and a watershed divide capitalized upon in the construction of the Ohio-Erie Canal.

Ground was broken for the canal on July 4th, 1825 at the Licking Summit in Hebron, Ohio. The Great Buffalo Swamp a high ground wet region nearby was dammed up to form a large feeder lake for the canal. Known as Buckeye Lake, it provided water northeastward along the canal toward the Muskingum and Tuscarawas watersheds and southwestward toward the Hocking and Scioto rivers.

Buckeye Lake grew to be a large tourist destination during the era of interurban railways. Electric trains ran from Columbus east to Newark, and Buckeye Lake was on the way. A large amusement park, surrounded by vacation cottages, and replete with a roller-coaster, Ferris wheel, dance pavilion, food and game arcades, swimming and boating opportunities, and a host of other attractions made the Great Buffalo Swamp/canal feeder reservoir into a regional destination of its own. The amusement park is long gone, and cottages have been replaced with upscale residential homes, but it still offers a significant aquatic attraction for Central Ohio.

A lesser known cultural heritage artifact in Licking County are the great Hopewell earthworks. Although much

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# *New Twist on Old Marriage Marks*

Sam Hipsher owns an early 18th century barn in Higganum, Connecticut. Many times, we have discussed Scribe Rule verses Square Rule method of construction as used in laying out barn frames. Usually in the Scribe Rule method Roman numerals were used to identify the various timbers for later assembly. A two-inch chisel was used to make the bold numerals.

But Sam Hipsher shows us a new twist on marriage marks. In his old 18th century barn the bents were marked with Arabic numerals. The builder used an auger to make a light circular mark then added straight marks with a chisel to form the various Arabic numerals. In the accompanying photo and illustration notice how the auger bit was tilted to leave an open side on the circular base of the "5" with straight lines being added to complete the number. (The photo has been enhanced). Visualize the other Arabic numerals, with all the round portions of the numbers being made with an auger bit.

The reconstructed barn is 30' X 40' with three bays. We would call this an English Threshing barn. Sam says it is a hay barn. He also says the ridge beam is diamond-shaped and forty feet long. Same idea as the pentagonal ridge beams we have in Ohio. The rafters are mortised into place and pegged.

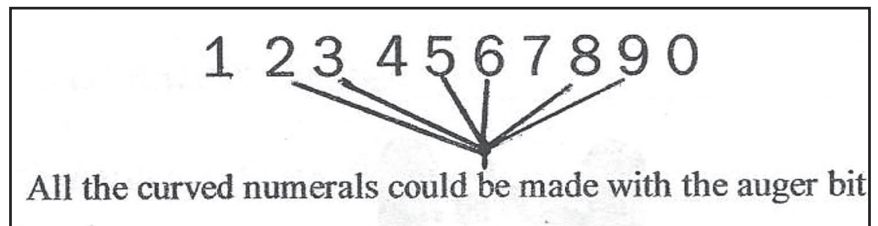
We thank Sam Hipsher for sharing his circa 1700s barn with us.

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Images provided by Pamela Whitney Gray

Sam Hipsher's 1700s scribe rule barn



All the curved numerals could be made with the auger bit



Above: Arabic marriage marks made with auger bit and finished with a chisel

Left: Arabic marriage mark

## CONFERENCE, Continued from Page 6

of the extensive complex was destroyed by the growth and expansion of the city of Newark over the past century and a half, the great octagonal earthwork built by the Moundbuilders, possibly as long as two millennia ago, remains. Built in alignment with an 18.6-year cycle of the Moon, the Great Octagon Earthwork has been nominated for World Heritage Site status. The great Octagon, serving as the backdrop for the Moundbuilders Country Club for a century, has been protected from development sprawl but has not necessarily been treated as the

important heritage site that it is. Once it receives World Heritage designation the impact of tourism in Licking County could well become a threat to many other of its important cultural assets, not the least of which is its agricultural heritage and farmsteads.

Another nearby Earthwork is known as the Alligator Mound. However, it is more likely an effigy earthwork of a feline. Once an attraction on a Licking County farm, it too found itself associated with a golf course. The links gave way to the pressure of a new subdivision and today the wildcat

earthwork is domesticated in a neighborhood on a hill overlooking the Raccoon Creek valley.

Licking County is home to several other Ohio heritage assets including Dawes Arboretum, Denison College and the Swasey Observatory in Granville, the downtown square in Newark with an impressive recently restored county courthouse, and a rediscovered architectural treasure by Louis Sullivan, the Home Bank.

Licking County is as rich in state and local history as anywhere in Ohio.

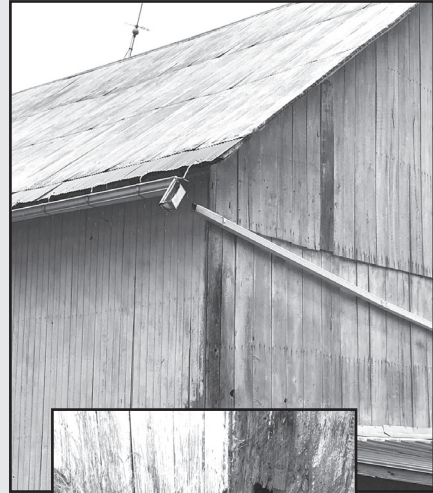
By: Tom O'Grady

# Get your Mind *IN* the Gutter!

Recently I was called by the son of a local farmer in Holmes County, to come and inspect the possible repairs to his parent's barn. On their property sat a very nice late-19th century, Pennsylvania Dutch Bank Barn sitting on an exquisite hand-cut sandstone foundation. The son met me and began to explain that a corner post and sill in the barn was rotten and wondered how much work/money was required to fix it. I politely walked up the bank to see this bad post knowing that a rotten post bottom is almost always the symptom of a greater problem. Before I reached the corner in question I saw the culprit in a glance, like a red bulls-eye on a white barn. A detached downspout protruded from the gable end, roughly two feet from the greatly mangled gutter corner where it used to be attached.

The story plays out from here as so many others have and will. Water had run out of the gutter and down the barn, saturating the wood and penetrating the foundation. Rot, decay, and living organisms consumed the wood fibers, while the water washed out the bed mortar between the stones, destabilizing the foundation one frost at a time. Now you're probably wondering what the point of this little story is: at \$7.00 a linear foot for seamless 6" gutter (labor & materials), it is way too cheap to not maintain your gutters!! Pay attention to how your gutters and downspouts work, call a gutter company if they're not right, otherwise you'll have to call someone like me for major repairs that could've been easily avoided.

By: Caleb Miller



**A disconnected gutter allowed water to flow down barn siding.**  
Photo credit: Caleb Miller



**A rotten sill is the result of disconnected gutter.**

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