



The Old BARN POST

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2019 Licking County Ohio Barn Tour

Due to lots of legwork by the Licking County Local Heroes Howard Siegrist and Joe Steiger, we're looking forward to a memorable bus tour highlighting some excellent barns. The featured barns will give us a nice glimpse into the evolution of Licking County agriculture and the different paths that families chose to keep up with the times.

The morning portion of the tour will consist of two stops which show different approaches to adapting to changing times. In the first case a relatively small (20'x40') barn remains at the core as a series of successive alterations took it from shake-to-slate roof, gable-to-gambrel roof style and multiple shed additions. We'll learn about how changing farming practices drove the conversions.

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Photos by Alan Walter

A very large, 54'x140' barn on the Graham farm which is the replacement for two earlier Crawford barns that burned in 1927. Maintaining this barn has been a labor of love and a commitment to preservation for the Grahams since the barn is impractical for modern farming practices.

The Licking County Barn Tour is sold out!

The Barn Detective Workshop is also sold out. However, there is still room left for the Saturday Conference.

Please email us at friendsohiobarns@gmail.com or call Sarah at 330-550-6982 for availability.



The hipped roof house with a monitor has a commanding view of the valley at the Graham farm.



Writing my “Musings Over the Barnyard Fence” today brings back many memories beyond the twenty years we celebrate as Friends of Ohio Barns this year.

My memories of barns goes back to my childhood days of playing in Grandpa’s barn with my cousins, then moving to our own farm in Mount Vernon, Ohio in 1959. I was delighted with the huge old barn. I spent many hours in that barn taking care of my horse or working with Dad caring for the sheep and Charolais cattle we had over the years. I know that it hurt us all when Dad finally proclaimed the barn unfit for use. He tried to interest anyone he could to salvage the beautiful weathered siding to no avail. The public at large was not yet aware of or cared about the plight old barns, in general, were facing. And so, alas, the old barn was burned.

The next thing I remember is Dad coming home one day with the news that his favorite barn, the Pagoda Barn, had burned to the ground. I do believe that is the spark that started to ignite his passion for all barns. The second inspiration was an old neighbor who, in years gone by, was a master barn builder and raised many of the barns around Bangs, Ohio. From him Dad learned the basic skills of timber framing. These two events combined fueled his thirst for barn knowledge that would grow to become Chuck Whitney, The Barn Consultant.

After several years of traveling as the Barn Consultant in the 1990s Chuck realized there was a real growing interest in old barns and a need for educating the public about the part these iconic hulks on the rural landscape played in the birth and growth of our country. And in that vein he started the Barn Consultant Newsletter and did public speaking hauling along his collection of carpenter tools for show and tell. He conceived the idea of a barn conference and to his delight over two hundred people attended the first one at the Liberty Presbyterian Church.

At the second Ohio Barn Conference Chuck proposed forming an official barn organization by laying out a brief suggestion of officers and by laws. And from there the rest is history.

Of course, by that time I was married and had moved to Colorado, but on every trip home Dad would have one or two barns lined up for us to go see. I always looked forward to those excursions in his red pickup truck, aside from the fact the day was always topped off with ice cream. Dad also solicited my help in putting together the first two conference booklets. So I really feel as though I have been involved from the very beginning when Friends of Ohio Barns was born.

From the inception of the Ohio Barn Conference by Chuck Whitney at the Liberty Presbyterian Church and the following years along the trail of 18 featured counties we have lots to celebrate. Twenty years for a volunteer organization is quite a mile marker. The organization has grown as has the annual Ohio Barn Conference. So here is hoping for another twenty years of great works by the Friends of Ohio Barns!

And, as always, keep the Barn Doors Closed.

Pamela Whitney Gray, President

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 during the day
- able to walk on uneven terrain in potentially slippery conditions inside and outside the barns and around the 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

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Photo by Alan Walter

The horseshoe shaped concrete arch over the driveway to the Graham farm indicates the interest “Col. G. W. Crawford” had in horses.

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Although the next stop also involved some barn alterations, that family’s approach mostly included erecting new barns each time there was a need! The original barn was (and is) located closest to the house and each successive barn was built parallel to the first and a bit further up the hill each time.

After a lunch at the scenic Virtues Golf Club (which also will be the site of the all-day Saturday conference) we’ll visit two immense barns linked to the “scientific” farming enterprises of George W. Crawford — one is still used by an active farming family and the other is quite a treat since it was moved by Rudy Christian in 1998 and reconstructed as a highlight of the Longaberger Homestead.

The planning committee opted to limit the bus stops to only four sites this year with extended exploration time at each site to allow in-depth discussion. As an added bonus, three of the stops have homes with interesting architecture which reflected the wealth of the families. We’ll be able to view the exteriors of the homes and hear brief histories of them.

By: Alan Walter



Credit: <https://cellcode.us/quotes/longaberger-crawford-barn.html>

Historic Crawford horse barn relocated by Rudy Christian for the Longaberger Basket Company in 1998. Horse stalls were converted to basket making spaces. Outfitted with electric and plumbing it offered a food service and restrooms. A splendid example of adaptive reuse.



McDonald Barn
— site of the 2019 workshop. This old barn is filled with idiosyncratic construction puzzles.

Photo by Alan Walter



Photo by Alan Walter

The Montgomery Barn is part of an interesting collection of barns showing a progression of construction styles as you climb the slight grade. Hayhoods and gable end entry indicate barns of southern heritage.

The 'Hall of Freedom' and the 'Granville Riot' of 1836 in Licking County

No room could be found at the inn, or any other location in the village, so they were forced to retreat to a barn at the edge of town. Space was unavailable because it was opposed by seventy-five men, including the mayor, members of council, and other officials. It was a rather hostile opposition with a considerable crowd on hand to ensure that no abolition business would take place in downtown Granville, in the spring of 1836.

Local history records this as a gathering at the "Hall of Freedom." The 1836 meeting of the Ohio Anti-Slavery Convention, on April 27th, was forced to retreat to the barn of Mr. Ashley Azariah Bancroft, well beyond the village limits of the day. The barn, nearly empty of hay at this time of year, could accommodate a large number of convention goers.

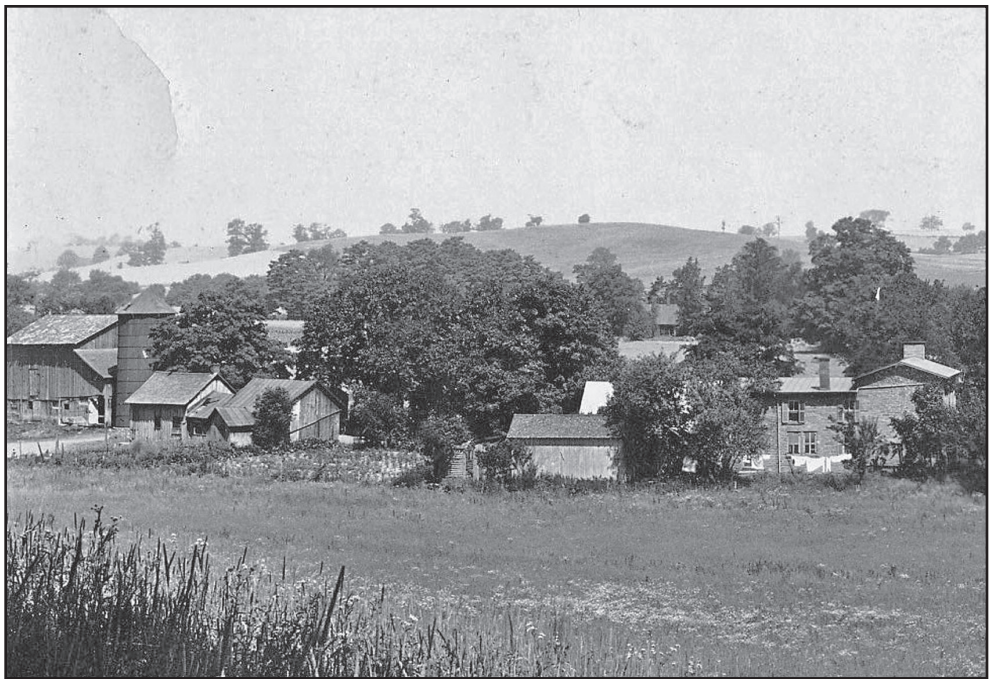
A few decades earlier Ohio became the world's first government created with the prohibition of slavery as one of its basic founding principles. Its people were making great efforts to abolish that grisly aspect of American society. In the early days of statehood many African Americans suffered at the hands of Ohioans, but a large number of its citizens were working to change that too. Many families and individuals worked toward the abolition of slavery in America and many were part of the extensive Underground Railroad network, helping freedom seekers make their way across the state to safety and opportunity in Canada.

Hundreds of Ohio farmsteads played a role in the effort. Homes, barns, out-buildings, wells, cisterns, and other places on the farm were used as hiding places. Some barns had secret spaces built into granaries and lofts. The abolition of slavery was of the utmost importance to some Ohioans. The Fobes barn, in Ashtabula County, was used for the temporary storage of pikes, rifles, and revolvers awaiting shipment, across Pennsylvania via canal, for use by John Brown's raiders in the attack on the arsenal at Harper's Ferry in 1859. Ohio's barns were used for more than storing hay.

The "Hall of Freedom", a recently built



Images: Courtesy of Theresa Overholser of the Granville Historical Society
The Bancroft House, a two-story, Federal Style home built of locally quarried sandstone between 1832 and 1834 on the northern edge of the village of Granville, Ohio, in Licking County.



The Bancroft farmstead with the stone house at far right and the three bay New England bank barn at far left. The barn was no more than a year or two in service by the time of the convention.

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three-bay, New England bank barn in Granville, was another Ohio farm building being used in the cause of liberty, almost a quarter of a century before the Fobes barn in Ashtabula County was used to conceal weapons.

Abolitionist, Theodore Weld had been to town the previous year lecturing at the Granville Female Academy. He always stirred interest along his widespread lecture circuit. He attracted the attention of the female students at the local Academy.

The day of the Convention, in 1836, the village was crowded with men of opposing factions. The anti-slavery crowd was headed by such men as President Mahan of Oberlin College, the honorable J.G. Birney of Cincinnati, publisher of a weekly newspaper, *The Philanthropist*, and other likeminded citizens. Oberlin College was fiercely anti-slavery from its inception, admitting students of all races within two years of its founding. Birney, writing for his newspaper had developed ideas for fighting slavery legislatively. He used these ideas to protect slaves who escaped to Ohio as he worked with attorney, Salmon P. Chase, a future Ohio governor, presidential candidate, U.S. Secretary of the Treasury under Abraham Lincoln, and Chief Justice of the Supreme Court.

The other multitude, numbering about 200 men, was an assorted mob assembled from all parts of Licking County. They assembled without a definite plan or leaders. They tried to get a militia captain to organize and lead them, but failed. They spent the day in tirades, rants, and outbursts.

The mayor purposely absented himself that day and the constable declined to act until the afternoon brought violence.

According to Henry Howe, in his two volume *Historical Collections of Ohio* (1846),

The abolitionists quietly assembled and proceeded with their business. Word was sent to them that if they did not adjourn by a given time, they would be assailed. They determined on self-defense, if attacked, and Mr. Bancroft, with a log-chain, secured the gate leading to the barn, thus making it necessary for assailants to scale the fence. A load of hoop-poles was brought from James Langdon's cooper-shop; each one was cut in two, affording an abundant supply of shillelaghs in case of necessity.

By mid-afternoon the convention fin-



The "Hall of Freedom" a 20th century close-up of the 1830's New England three bay bank barn on the Bancroft farm. Note the basement wall of stone, the wind door to the threshing floor, a shed roof addition, and an adjacent wooden silo. The barn no longer stands.

Image: Courtesy of Theresa Overholser of the Granville Historical Society

ished its business. Meanwhile the mob had gathered and prepared to meet the members of the convention as they came up the street in procession. The women of the ladies academy, which had suspended classes for the convention, were in the center of the march.

According to Howe;

The two crowds came in collision. A part of the mob gave way and allowed the procession to move partially through its outskirts; but the mass of them resisted, and the procession was crowded into the middle of the street. As the excitement increased, eggs and other missiles began to fly. Efforts were made to trip the ladies in the procession.

Near the center of the town a student of the college, and a lady he was escorting, were pushed into a ditch. Hastening to place the lady among friends, the student returned, found his assailant, and knocked him down. This incident precipitated a general free

fight. The student made a gallant fight, laying several of the mob in the dust before he was overpowered by numbers. At the rear of the procession a furnace man got an abolitionist down and was pounding him unmercifully, when a citizen interfered, crying, "Get off; you're killing him!" "Why," said the man, "I s'posed I'd got to kill him, and he 'aint dead yet!" and he gave him another blow. A little farther on, several of the mob had laid hands on two of the young ladies. Citizens endeavored to hold back the mob and protect them until they could reach places of safety, when one of them sank to the ground from fright, but soon gained courage enough to flee to a place of refuge.

Individual abolitionists were caught and assaulted. Eggs were thrown and there was more or less personal injury.

The closing scene was the ride of Judge Birney past the mob, now re-assembling

Please See GRANVILLE, Page 7

Annual Ohio Barn Conference XX – Licking Co.

XX! That's right! 20 years! Back in 1999 fellow barn enthusiasts Chuck Whitney, Rudy Christian, county extension agents Jim Skeeles, Jeff Lehman and Howard Siegrist came together to figure out how they could do more for Ohio's barns. Then in 2000 Chuck Whitney, The Barn Consultant, organized a Barn Conference at the Liberty Presbyterian Church in Delaware with 250 attendees! Ohio Barn Conference II was held the next year in Wooster with Dr. Hubert Wilhelm as the featured speaker. Afterwards a small group of those barn enthusiasts got together and formed the 501c3 organization known today as Friends of Ohio Barns. So who is the current president? You all know her, Pamela Whitney Gray, the daughter of the late Chuck Whitney. And who is one of our local heroes? County extension agent Howard Siegrist. Howard partnered with Joe Steiger to help find our barns for this

year's tour. Who is our Keynote speaker for Ohio Barn Conference XX? David Wilhelm, son of the late Dr. Hubert Wilhelm. Moreover, Rudy Christian, Laura Saeger, Dan Troth and Tom O'Grady are still very much involved with the organization and they were founding members 20 years ago! There seems to be a pattern here. A circle, kind of. And there will be more patterns emerging at the conference so please join us to find out!

We have a Pre-Conference Barn Detective Workshop on Thursday at the McDonald Barn in Hebron. Please see the back of the insert in this newsletter for more details. Then, of course, we will have the Barn Tour on Friday with several Licking County barns to please. Saturday's portion of the conference will be held at the Virtues Golf Course in Nashport which is a short drive from Newark. We are very pleased to have David Wilhelm as our Key-

note speaker as well as architectural historian, Chris Klingemier, Tom O'Grady and, of course, the Barn Detectives. There is a presentation being prepared to acknowledge the passing of Senate Bill 86 making the barn the State of Ohio's official Architectural symbol as well as a 20th Year Celebration Panel for a look back into our 20 years of service. The Annual Meeting and Awards Ceremony will take place during lunch and the Silent Auction will be happening as usual. So come on out and support the Friends of Ohio Barns Annual Barn Conference and help us celebrate our 20th year anniversary!

Please make your arrangements for your hotel room. Information is on the back of the insert. Also, be aware that last year we sold out early, very early. So get your reservations in for the conference! Now!

By: Sarah Woodall

Ohio barn now the state symbol for architecture thanks to Westerville teens

More than 400 bills were introduced by state lawmakers in 2018 and just over 70 have been signed into law. One of those bills signed into law was largely the work of four advocates, teenager girls from Westerville High School.

On December 19, 2018 Ohio Governor John Kasich signed into law Senate Bill 86 that contained a measure to add the barn structure as the official architectural symbol for the State of Ohio!

"The barn, an agricultural building located on farms and used for many purposes, is hereby designated the official historical architectural structure of the state."

The brainchild of seventh graders about five years ago, that one-sentence proposal unanimously passed the House of Representatives in March 2017. It then stalled in the Senate. Sarah Gellner, Anna Borders, Rachel Kaufman and Adriane Thompson started out with a dream of designating the barn structure as an official symbol for the State of Ohio five years ago while in 7th grade at the Genoa Middle School in Westerville, Ohio. They had the support of their teachers, Debbie Pellington and Caley Nestor Baker. State Representative Anne Gonzales, (R)-Westerville, helped

these teens navigate their idea through the legislative process.

Traveling the typical pathway of making a bill into law, it was eventually re-introduced as a part of Senate Bill 86, sponsored by state Sen. Bob Hackett, R-London.

When Rep Gonzales introduced the house bill she expected it to move more rapidly. She said these teens have shown perseverance. "I wasn't expecting this bill to take as long as it did ... and I'm really impressed with the dedication of these girls."

"We've been able to learn a lot about government and what it takes to pass a bill," Sarah Gellner said. She said she and the other girls were gearing up for another round of lobbying for their bill. Writing letters. Making calls. Over the years, they've taken trips to the Statehouse when necessary.

Dan Troth, Vice President of Friends of Ohio Barns, testified in front of the legislature, in support of the bill. "It was a no-brainer," he said. "What does the barn represent? It represents our agrarian past," he said. By seeking to preserve barns and honor their place in Ohio history, "we honor our ancestors and our past." By having the barn recognized in such a way,

Troth believes it could open up more ways to preserve them.

Friends of Ohio Barns have been behind these students along the way hoping they would succeed. Our hats are off to them for a tremendous effort! The barn now joins the cardinal, the carnation, the trilobite, the paw paw, the buckeye, and other symbols of the great state of Ohio.

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.

Barn Conservation Grant Update

The Etler family purchased our three acre property with a historic house and barn in Jenera, Ohio on October 3, 2013 with a goal of restoring the buildings to their original glory that were built by Lauren's great, great, great grandfather. Some of you may have visited our barn during the 2015 Barn Conference! We want to educate a new generation on the importance of local history and instill an appreciation with the stories our barn can tell.

As a (newly) married couple in our twenties, we aspire to be an inspiration to others our age that preservation is extremely important and possible. The Barn Conservancy Stewardship Grant we received in 2017, has spurred a much larger project. We fixed the sill beam and foundation on the south and east sides of the barn, fix/built doors on the west side, and even gave the barn a makeover with a fresh coat of paint. It has fueled the completion of many projects in order to get the gutters installed correctly. We were thankful to have these funds to help us to get moving on a historic barn that needed a lot of attention. With this additional help, we were able to focus our financial efforts towards other repairs. This grant gives people the incentive to preserve their legacy and heritage in a world where we see so many barns disappearing. Even looking beyond our farm; barn conservation has been taking place around our community.

The Glick-Etler Barn has already hosted one large community event, Hancock Historical Museum's *Breakfast in the Barn*, to kick off the 2017 Historic Barn Tour. We welcomed nearly 200 people to enjoy a delicious hot breakfast in our historic barn. Guests were invited to learn more about the history of the farm, as well as the restoration of the barn. Guests perused



through a conservation timeline, starting with photos of when we first acquired the property in 2013.

After learning the benefits of half round galvanized gutters at the 2018 Barn Conference, we switched our focus to finding an installer. Thanks to Friends of Ohio Barns, we were able to hire Glick Construction to install galvanized gutters on our barn to ensure there is no further water damage done. These gutters are crucial to preserving the structure and timber framing which tells the amazing story of our ancestors, area and even the forest. We look forward to providing more education opportunities with the Hancock Historical Museum and beyond. We want to sincerely thank Friends of Ohio Barns for their investment in our historic property. We couldn't have done this step without you, now we are that much closer to achieving our dream of reviving my great, great, great grandfather's barn to its origi-



nal splendor and sharing it with others.

By: Lauren & Nathan Etler,
2017 BCSG Recipients

GRANVILLE, Continued from Page 5

at the hotel. He started from Dr. Bancroft's and rode slowly by the mob, while they pelted him on every side with eggs; and when past the reach of their missiles, he put spurs to his horse, and in that plight rode out of town. An immediate reaction followed this outbreak, and the citizens were filled with shame that such violence should be done in their midst. The same

evening an abolition meeting was held in the stone school-house on the Welsh Hills, without molestation. The abolition party received great accessions as a result of the day's work, and soon Granville became a well-known station on the Great Northwestern Underground Railroad.

The storied barn of Licking County, the

"Hall of Freedom", on the Bancroft farm no longer stands. The old farmhouse, documented as an Underground Railroad station, remains on the road out of town to the north, taking up a lot on the edge of the Dennison University campus. Bancroft's was another Ohio barn that played a critical role in state and national politics while being repeatedly filled and emptied of hay.

By: Tom O'Grady

First Woman Candidate for President Born in Licking County

Victoria Claflin Woodhull, of Licking County, Ohio announced her candidacy for president of the United States by writing a letter to the editor of the *New York Herald* on April 2, 1870. Woodhull, seventh of ten children, was born in 1838 in the frontier town of Homer. An American leader of the women's suffrage movement, she threw her hat in the ring a half century before women won the right to cast a vote.

Woodhull, nominated as the first woman for the presidency, was the candidate in 1872 from the Equal Rights Party, supporting women's suffrage and equal rights. They nominated the former slave and abolitionist leader Frederick Douglass for Vice President. He did not attend the convention and never acknowledged the nomination.

She was also among the first women to found a newspaper in the United States, *Woodhull & Claflin's Weekly*, which began publication in 1870. Woodhull, with sister Tennessee (Tennie) Claflin, became

the first female stockbrokers and in 1870 they opened a brokerage firm on Wall Street. Woodhull made a fortune on the New York Stock Exchange by advising clients such as Cornelius Vanderbilt. She is known to have advised him to sell his shares short for 150 cents per stock. Following her recommendation he earned millions on the deal.

Many historians and authors agree that Woodhull was the first woman to run for President of the United States. Others have questioned that priority given issues with the legality of her run based on her age. She was 34 years of age and the constitution mandated an age of 35. Contemporary newspaper coverage does not indicate that it was a significant issue at the time.

Woodhull was up against many candidates including Ulysses Grant and Salmon P. Chase of Dayton, two Ohioans who played a key role in the outcome of the Civil War. Grant was re-elected president in 1872.

By: Tom O'Grady



Victoria Claflin Woodhull circa 1870. Photo by Mathew Brady. Source: Wikipedia

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 programs such as the barn survey, the Barn Detective program, the Barn Conservation Grant program 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!

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. Remember, new blood brings fresh ideas and keeps the organization alive with promise!



Post card of Buckeye Lake Park in the 1920s during its heyday as an amusement park and an attraction for swimming and boating. Big bands frequented the park and the lake was surrounded by cottages amid the farmland of Fairfield, Perry, and Licking counties.

Ohio-Erie Canal Influences Licking County Growth

New York Governor DeWitt Clinton and Ohio Governor Jeremiah Morrow met at Licking Summit near the town of Hebron on July 4th, 1825 to turn the first spadeful of soil for the building of the Ohio-Erie Canal. Nearby the Great Buffalo Swamp was dammed to create a great reservoir to feed water to the locks and dam system of the canal northward toward the Muskingum and Tuscarawas valleys and southward toward the Scioto Valley.

Known today as Buckeye Lake, the reservoir has had a long career as a vacation getaway. The interurban rail brought visitors from Columbus and other communities to an amusement park replete with roller coaster, ferris wheel, and numerous other rides. A dance pavilion attracted big bands from around the country and attracting a strong following from central Ohio. Boating and swimming were mainstays for families staying in the numerous cottages along the shore.

Cranberry Bog, a mass of sphagnum moss which broke loose and floated to the surface when Buckeye Lake was formed, is a relic of glaciation. The plant association, transferred from Canada by the Wisconsin glacier, includes carnivorous species such as pitcher plant and sundew. Cranberries, orchids, poison sumac and other rare plants have persisted there for more than 11,000



At the turn of the century, the canals gave way to railroads, including "light rail" electric trolley systems. Amusement parks were common at the terminus of street car and traction lines. Roller coasters were an extension of their specialty. The Columbus, Buckeye Lake and Newark Traction Company's Interurban Electric Railway was completed in 1904.

years. The trees on the floating island act like a sail and the mass drifts. When the island was created, along with the Ohio-Erie Canal in the 1820s, it was just over 50 acres in size. The wake from boats on the lake has eroded the island to approximately 11 acres. It is a state nature preserve today.

Other artifacts of the Ohio-Erie Canal system in Licking County include remnants of locks and the towpath and

remains of the Granville feeder canal extending into that Licking County town. A historic marker next to an old stone lock identifies the site of the groundbreaking for the Big Ditch on St Rt 79 near Hebron where the canal crosses the National Road. Both transportation systems were started on the same day in 1825. Ground was broken for the National Road in Martins Ferry, near the Ohio River.

The petroglyph of a black hand was dynamited off the face of this sheer cliff in the Licking River gorge in 1828 for the construction of the Ohio-Erie Canal towpath — stone blocks seen at the base of the precipice. Source: <https://trekohio.com/2012/04/30/blackhand-gorge-a-step-back-in-time/>



Natural Attractions in Licking County

Licking County, situated in the very heart of Ohio, offers a rich diversity of wonder. The geologic features of the glaciated plateau, Flint Ridge, and the Black Hand Gorge have had a very strong attraction for people for thousands of years. The numerous quarry pits on Flint Ridge, the expansive geometric and effigy earthworks in the Raccoon Creek Valley, and the petroglyphs on the sheer cliffs of Black Hand Gorge.

Evidence of the early attraction, for man and beast, is seen first in the name Licking County which indicates the presence of salt. The butchering marks on the Burning Tree Mastodon bones, discovered in 1989, are an indication of the strong attraction to the region. Salt and flint were of great demand to early people. The numerous pits on Flint Ridge where people came to harvest spear points make it clear that the region was a destination for many over relatively long periods of time. The expansive geometric and effigy earthworks that still grace regions of Licking County date back millennia. The enormity of the task involved in design and construction

indicate the size of the population needed for the work and the production of food shelter, clothing and other sustenance needed by the people engaged in this undertaking.

A glacial lake, formed by ice blockage, spilled over a watershed divide, turning a westward flowing stream into the south flowing Licking River which carved through resistant sandstone creating the Black Hand Gorge. When first discovered by settlers in the region, a prehistoric petroglyph in the shape of black hand with spread fingers and part of a wrist was found on the sheer cliff face over the river.

This petroglyph gives its name to the well-known Black Hand Sandstone, of Early Mississippian age, which is responsible for some of the most fascinating and enthralling scenery in Ohio. The Black Hand Sandstone is up to 200 feet thick and composed of almost pure quartz sand and pebbles. In some portions, it is dominated by white, rounded quartz pebbles and forms a conglomerate. Because of its thickness and resistance to erosion, the

Black Hand forms precipitous cliffs and gorges. A less well-cemented middle portion of the unit weathers more rapidly than the upper or lower parts and forms recesses or rock-shelter caves. Waterfalls are common where the Black Hand is exposed. The Black Hand sandstone underlies much of Ohio's landscape stretching from Vinton County up to Richland and Ashland counties near Mansfield with its most dramatic exposures in Hocking County at Old Man's Cave and Cedar Falls.

The gorge is a capsule of Ohio transportation history beginning with Native Americans on foot and in canoe. The Ohio-Erie Canal came through in the 1820's destroying the Black Hand petroglyph in the construction of a towpath. A deep cut through the bedrock was made for and the first train came through the gorge in 1851. The interurban Railway connecting Newark with Columbus coursed through a tunnel in the gorge beginning in 1903. The last trip was made in 1929.

Black Hand gorge is a state nature preserve today near the town of Toboso.

By: Tom O'Grady



The Buxton Inn of Granville in Licking County, established in 1812. Serves fine food in many rooms and at the bar in the stone cellar. Source: https://www.tripadvisor.com/Historic_Buxton_Inn-Granville_Ohio.html

The Buxton Inn — Serving Licking County Since 1812

The Buxton Inn has been providing room and board to Licking County travelers since 1812. Reported to be Ohio's oldest continuously operating inn, it has served as Granville's first post office and as a stagecoach stop. It is said that President William Henry Harrison patronized the place. While he may have dined or slept there, it certainly wasn't as president. He caught a severe cold giving his inaugural address in Washington and died there a short while later. But he was well known in Ohio in the earlier part of the century and he played a major role in the Ohio country during the War of 1812, at the time when the Inn was getting its start. According to the Columbus Dispatch Abraham Lincoln and William McKin-

ley also stayed there — also probably not when they were president.

Granville was settled by hearty and robust New Englanders from a town of the same name in Massachusetts. They surveyed and laid out a village on a New England plan in 1805 and founded Denison College in 1831. Many other New Englanders settled in the rural regions surrounding the village and one will find barns indicative of that region of America dotting the hillsides of Licking County.

The Buxton Inn has been witness to almost all of it. Still open for business one can dine in one of its several dining areas, the garden room, or in the original cellar with its hewn beams, stone fireplace, stone walls, and open bar. In the cellar one can

still conjure the image of the early years when the drivers cooked their meals in the great open fireplace and slept there on beds of straw.

Quotable quote

I stood in the loneliness of an abandoned New England barn and felt the presence of the great American past.

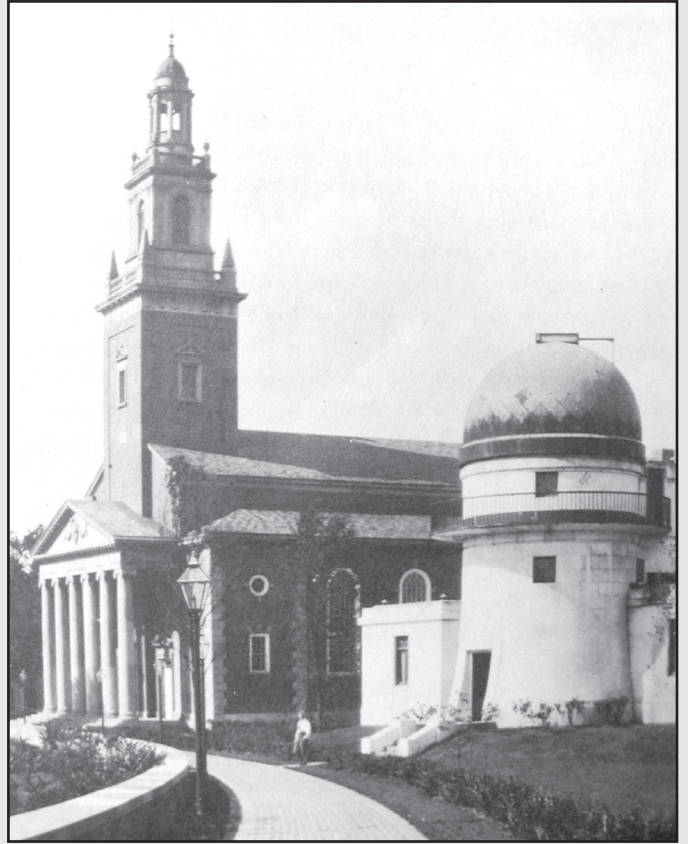
—Eric Sloane
(born - Everard Jean Hinrichs)
1905-1985

Swasey Buildings at Denison University

A large chapel and an observatory at Denison University, in Licking County, are an iconic pair of buildings on the Granville campus, donated by Ambrose Swasey, a member of the board of Trustees hailing from Cleveland, Ohio. Ambrose Swasey (December 19, 1846 – June 15, 1937) was an American mechanical engineer, inventor, entrepreneur, manager, astronomer, and philanthropist.

Swasey and his partner, Worcester Warner, founded the Warner and Swasey Company, an American manufacturer of machine tools, instruments, and special machinery such as turret lathes and milling machines. Warner and Swasey are best known for the manufacture of the largest refractor telescopes in the world between 1880 and 1920. They donated the Warner and Swasey Observatory in Cleveland to Case Western Reserve University.

**Swasey Chapel and Swasey
Observatory at the Denison
University in Licking County.**



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