

## Historic Barn Photos

If you have historic photos of significant barns from your part of the state, please bring them to Ohio Barn Conference XII. We would like to archive Ohio's lost barn heritage. Many large barns have been lost from family farms and various institutions around the state. County homes, state hospitals, prisons, convents, children's homes, retirement facilities, fairgrounds, large commercial operations, and others had some significant structures built to aid their farming operations. Many of these structures were photographed. Maybe you can find a picture or two in the local history section of your library or the local historical society. We would like to scan these images and begin an archive of these missing links.

If you can bring photos, or if you can scan images and bring digital jpegs, that would help us get a start. If you scan the image or bring an electronic image, it should be a 6-inch by 4-inch picture with a resolution of 300 dpi.

Please provide as much information as possible, including barn type, year built, interesting features, location, owners, etc.

If you bring scannable images, please bring a self-addressed envelope so the images can be returned.

**Background photo:** This historic photo is of the Rock Mill gristmill in Fairfield County. The mill, built in 1824, featured a 26-foot waterwheel. The structure has since been restored and will be part of the 2011 barn tour. For more on the upcoming conference and tour, read this issue! Photo submitted by Tom O'Grady



FRIENDS OF OHIO BARNs  
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# The Old BARN POST

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## Ohio Barn Conference XII

It's that time again ... time to usher in the spring, ready the gardens and fields for planting, and spend a great weekend in beautiful Fairfield County for the twelfth annual Ohio Barn Conference, sponsored by Friends of Ohio Barns!

As always, we will have a lot happening on two days in April. We will get the weekend rolling early on Friday, April 29, with our day-long coach bus tour through the countryside to view our prestigious Ohio barns, thanks to the help of our local hero, Joe Steiger. A highlight of the tour will surely be the Rock Mill, a rare restored gristmill on the rock gorge bank of the Hocking River. Built in 1824, it is the pride of the Fairfield County Historical Parks. Under the watchful eye of David Fey, the restoration is nearing completion, and we will get an up-close view of this engineering marvel. We will also get a chance to see some adaptive re-uses of barns and some unique double forebay barns. This is one tour not to miss!

Saturday, April 30, will be a day of presentations, displays, and demonstrations sure to interest any barn enthusiast. It will be held at the Crossroads Conference Center in Lancaster. Our keynote speaker this year will be Randy Nash. Mr. Nash has worked for many years promoting the preservation of New York State Barns. He was integral in the development of the New York State Barn Grant Program and is a member of the Dutch Barn Preservation Society.

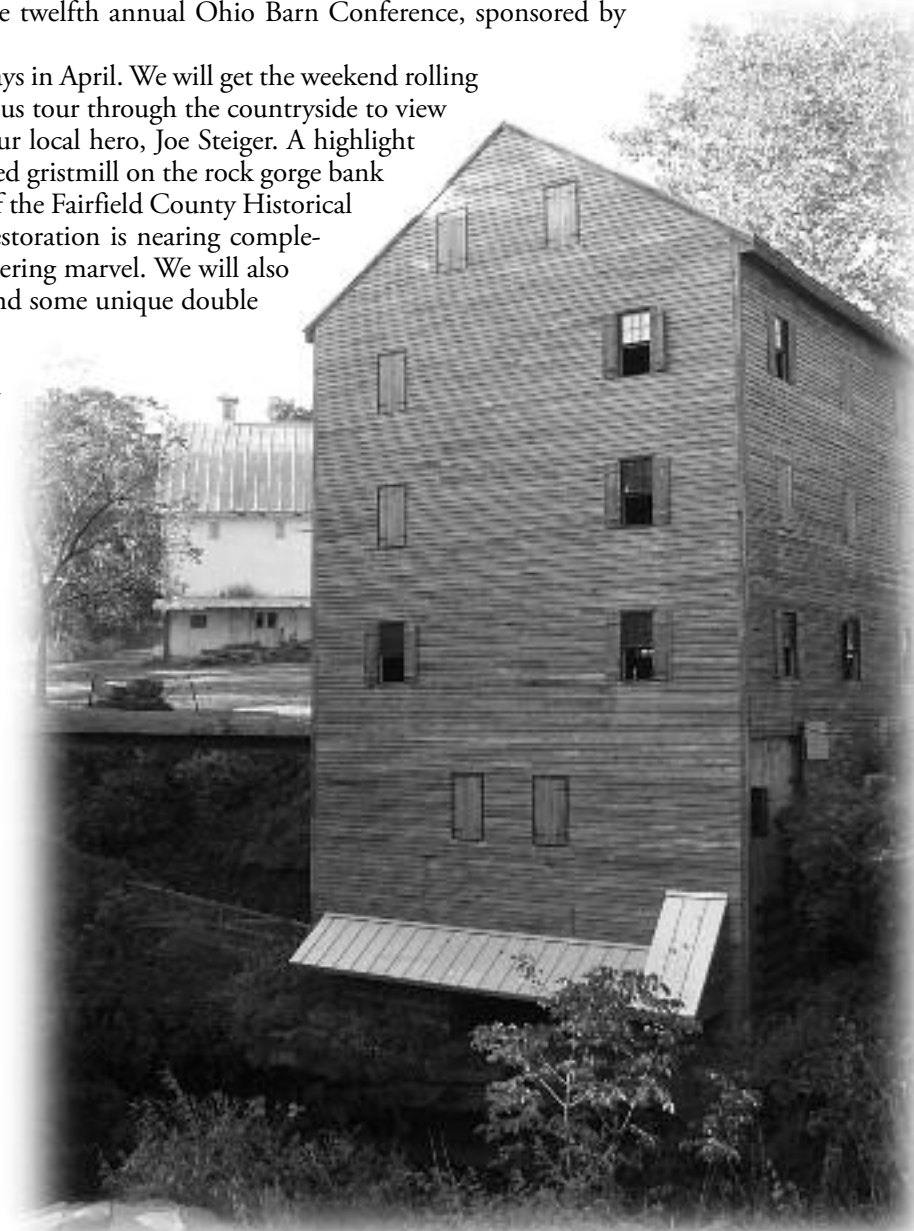
We will have valuable information on farm grants and tax incentives, the history of Fairfield County and the Erie Canal, and our Junior Barn Detective Program. And those intrepid Barn Detectives will make a return visit.

Mark your calendars and plan to attend a great weekend of fun and valuable information!

**The recently-restored Rock Mill will be a highlight of the 2011 barn tour. Note the three bay-English bank barn with gambrel roof and cupolas and a lower pent roof in the background.**

**For more on the upcoming barn conference and tour, read the rest of this issue, including the centerfold. To attend, fill out the registration form insert, or register online at the address below.**

All photos in this issue by Tom O'Grady



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Printed on recycled paper, of course.

## FOB at a crossroads

Friends of Ohio Barns has entered its second decade of existence ... no small feat for a grass roots non-profit organization. We have accomplished much since our inception, notably raising awareness through education, the barn survey program, the mini barn display for kids, the barn detective program, and our collaboration with other organizations to promote, preserve, and restore our beautiful Ohio agricultural symbols.

### Random Thoughts

Ric Beck  
Friends of Ohio Barns president

We continue to promote the educational component of our mission statement every chance we get. We have also been raising money for an endowment fund to directly impact restoration efforts for Ohio barns. These are all noble causes, but are they enough and will they go on?

Barns continue to disappear at an alarming rate. They decay from lack of use. They are being dismantled and parceled out for flooring, burned or buried for modern, throw-away storage buildings. What can be done?

Our organization, like our barns, is coming to a crossroads. In order to keep pace, we need to keep Ohioans informed. They need to be aware of maintenance, stabilization, and restoration options. They need to know about adaptive re-use options and possible farm incentives.

To do that, we need funding. We need to get more young people involved so our efforts and our organization will continue to grow. We need people willing to step into a board of directors role so there will be a smooth succession of leadership and a continual influx of fresh ideas.

Most important, we need to have our membership grow. The costs of providing the services described above is dwindling our savings. Without membership growth and a steady revenue stream, we will have some hard decisions ahead.

The current directors have been in their positions for several years now, and they do an amazing job. Totally volunteer, we devote hours to keep barns in the collective hearts and minds of Ohioans. We also have a small but mighty core group of volunteers who help out tremendously. But we can't do it alone. We need to find folks willing to help us bring in more membership; raise more money, and volunteer more time to help the cause. We need an infusion of new ideas and new blood on the board, both now and when our current members decide to take a well-deserved reduced role in the organization.

Please help us and the organization by stepping up and taking a more active role, even if it is just to provide us with suggestions of how to tackle our future challenges. We will be the better for it, and our beautiful Ohio barns will thank you!

## Important barn tour details

Tour buses will meet at the host hotel (Holiday Inn Express) on Friday to take us on a fabulous day-long journey through Fairfield County.

Registration for the conference and tour/conference packets will be handed out at this time for those signed up for the full conference. Please be at the parking lot by 8 a.m. so we can start the process. We need to be boarded and on the road no later than 9! Coffee and morning treats await you, so don't be late!

## Board member elections

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

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, P.O. Box 203, Burbank, Ohio 44214, or e-mail friendsohio-barns@gmail.com. Remember, new blood brings fresh ideas and keeps the organization alive with promise!

## Membership renewal time!

Each year we are excited to send out our Ohio Barn Conference newsletter to all our past members and invite all Ohio stewards of our magnificent barns to see more excellent examples of Ohio barns and be better informed of what Friends of Ohio Barns is doing to help preserve Ohio's barn heritage.

We also do this in the hopes that you consider rejoining us by renewing your membership, which helps us maintain valuable programs such as the barn survey, our junior barn detective evaluation, the kids' mini-barn raising, and most important all the educational and awareness programs that arm enthusiasts with information and aid in their preservation efforts.

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!

## Donate to the Silent Auction

Part of the fun during each Ohio Barn Conference is the silent auction. Friends of Ohio Barns encourages everyone to bring items for the Saturday event. The proceeds help us offset the costs of the conference and still provide members with a quality program. We hope you can contribute an item or two—something handmade, collectible, storebought, or something interesting you've found in your travels. The more you bring, and the better the items, the more exciting the auction!

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

## Friends of Ohio Barns Board of Directors

<b>President</b> Ric Beck	Delaware County	(614) 738-4302
<b>Vice President</b> Vacant		
<b>Secretary</b> Sarah Woodall	Trumbull County	(330) 856-9053
<b>Treasurer</b> Laura Saeger	Wayne County	(330) 624-7282
<b>Membership</b> Dan Troth	Delaware County	(740) 549-1774
<b>Newsletter</b> Tom O'Grady	Athens County	(740) 593-7552
<b>Board Members</b> Rudy Christian	Wayne County	(330) 624-7282
Gary Clower	Trumbull County	(330) 394-2613
Paul Knoebel	Stark County	(330) 882-5027
Larry Sulzer	Summit County	(330) 657-2135

## Randy Nash to be featured speaker

Every town has its oldest barn. It's unlikely that you know exactly which one it is. Randy Nash, featured speaker at Ohio Barn Conference XII, will talk about characteristics that will help you identify the earliest barns in your area. He will also explore some ethnic characteristics that may connect one of these early settlement barns with old world barns.

Randy and his wife Betsy raised their family in the three-bay Ripking Dutch barn that he carefully dismantled in East Fishkill, New York, in 1985. When he found it, the building was in poor shape and the loose hay in the loft had been abandoned there 35 years before. In the 2001 second edition of Fitchen's New World Dutch Barn (Fitchen #1, plate 11), he writes that the Ripking barn was saved by a "barn renovator" in 1985 and moved to a site southeast of Syracuse. He dates the Dutch barn circa 1790, and the renovator was Randy.

He moved, repaired and put the barn back up in Cazenovia, New York, in 1990. Its conversion to a home/office/shop has been an ongoing project ever since. The 44-foot-wide by 36-

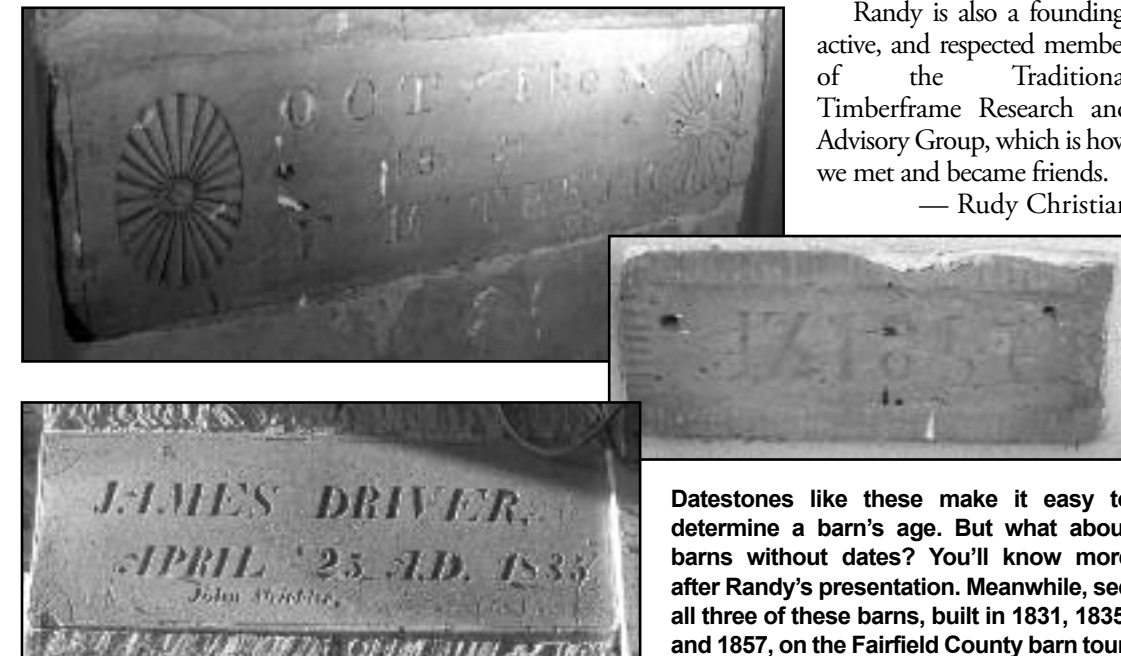
foot-deep barn has classic early lines with low 9 1/2-foot-high side walls. Randy has taken down and erected about fifty barns including an English threshing barn he restored at the Farmers Museum in Cooperstown, Otsego County, New York.

In 2000 Randy Nash retired from carpentry and began working with the \$4 million New York State Barn Grant Program. He has visited all of the New York barns awarded grants. The nearly 5,000 original applications and the 1,300

applications for the year 2001 have all been saved. These files include photographs, descriptions, and measurements of about 6,300 barns. They are sorted by district and most certainly will be valuable in future studies of New York State barns. This opportunity also enabled Randy to continue his personal research and study of New York barns and their builders. He has gathered a great deal of information about the settlement patterns and agricultural practices of those homesteaders.

Randy is also a founding, active, and respected member of the Traditional Timberframe Research and Advisory Group, which is how we met and became friends.

— Rudy Christian



Datestones like these make it easy to determine a barn's age. But what about barns without dates? You'll know more after Randy's presentation. Meanwhile, see all three of these barns, built in 1831, 1835, and 1857, on the Fairfield County barn tour.

## Do you own the 2011 Barn of the Year?

We are anxiously awaiting your entry for the 2011 Barn of the Year award. Have you been a good steward of your barn, doing your best to preserve it for this and future generations? We want to hear from you. Send us your nomination form and include photos.

Deadline for entries is April 17!

Ohio has the greatest variety of styles of barns in the world, and we know that many of these barns are sitting out there, alone in their field, patiently waiting to be nominated. So ...

Bring 'em to the dance!

Nominations will be judged in three categories this year: Agricultural use, Adaptive re-use (non-agricultural), and Stewardship. Some of the criteria we use to select barns are:

Agricultural Use: History of your barn, its original intent and current use, current condition, and efforts made to preserve

the barn.

Adaptive Reuse: History of barn and present day use, completed restoration work, aesthetics, significance, exposure and accessibility to the community.

Stewardship: Well-maintained or restored barns that don't meet the criteria above, but serve a family function such as storage, or an entertainment structure not readily accessible to public. We created this category because some barns just don't fit into either of the first two, and we want to celebrate them as well.

Nominations should include photos, the current owner's name, location of the barn, current use of the barn, history of the barn including the date you believe it was built (with supporting facts), the barn's builder, if known, and information on repairs and who made them, if known.

Perhaps a fourth category?

We would love to see photos of timber-

framed outbuildings you have come across in your travels. What is the greatest timber-framed corncrib, smokehouse, out-house, chicken coop, or other outbuilding you have seen?

We work hard to be as objective and unbiased as humanly possible when we select the winners, but if anyone happens to send Friends of Ohio Barns a check in the amount of \$1,000,000 along with their Barn of the Year entry, we must admit that it would weigh heavily in your favor.

For a registration form, call Dan Troth, (740) 549-1774, or copy one from the Friends website. Nominations may be mailed to Dan Troth, 7591 Perry Road, Delaware, Ohio 43015. The award plaques, each painstakingly handmade from antique barn siding by an FOB director, will be proudly presented at the conference on Saturday, April 30, 2011.



# Perry County Historical Society conducts barn tour

For the second winter in a row, the Perry County Historical Society has conducted a barn tour along the old Zane's Trace. Among the many barns visited along the way, the Poorman barn stands alone in its unique characteristics.

Several of the barns visited are double crib log barns and must be grouped with some of the oldest in the state. Two of the log barns were accompanied by two-story log homes. Another double crib log barn shares the farmstead with a stone house.

The tour also visited the Jacob Miller Tavern, a log structure on Pigfoot Square in Somerset, standing since its days serving travelers along the Trace. The tavern has recently been purchased by the historical society. Working with Dr. Nigel Brush, associate professor of geology at Ashland University, and in conjunction with Dr. Gregory Wiles,

director of the Wooster Tree Ring Lab at the College of Wooster, logs have been dated from core samples and are known to have been cut in the very early 1800s. Other buildings being dated include the

Finck Log Tavern, 1811-1812; Somerset Log Cabin, 1813-1814; and the Poorman Barn, 1818-1819. According to the report, "The log with the oldest ring from the structures we examined in Perry

County was from the Finck Log Tavern—it had a beginning date of 1599. The next three oldest logs were also from this structure with dates of 1601, 1601, and 1605. The only other logs dating to the time period between 1599 and 1610 were two logs with a date of 1607: one from the Finck Log Tavern and one from the Stort Log Barn; as well as a log from the Finck Log Tavern at 1608. For comparative purposes, somewhat older dates were obtained from a log in the Geiser House in Wayne County (1550) and the Darr Barn in Coshocton County (1570). However, given the amount of historical activity in Perry County in the early 1800s, it is quite possible that older logs will eventually be found."

(Continued on the other side)



The Poorman barn in Perry County exhibited some outstanding features. This stone wall provides entry to the horse stables beneath the forebay of the barn. Below: The Poorman barn on SR 13 in Perry County is a double framed Pennsylvania bank barn with some of the logs cut in 1818 and 1819. Inset: This nameplate hangs on the gable end of the Poorman barn.



(Continued from the other side)

Back to the Poorman Barn. A Pennsylvania bank barn with a cantilevered forebay, the exterior hides the fact that the barn has a double frame throughout. The barn has been in continuous agricultural use by the same family since the deed was signed by President James Madison.

The barn has horse stables in the basement and the upstairs contains most of the farm implements used on the farm since it started. Tie beams have been cut through to accommodate the hay track, but the double frame offers more strength than a typical barn has going for it after such surgery.

Other interesting features include marriage marks, some dove tail notching of tie beams, initials etched in stone walls, door handles cut in the shapes of various phases of the moon, a nameplate on the side of the barn with the date September 22, 1819, and decorative swastikas.

Other interesting features on the farm include a name and date stone inscribed "OBED POORMAN 1907" in the foundation of the house, and one can see remnants of an old trace running across the farm just past the barn.

The barn tour was attended by Joe Steiger of Zanesville, who has been working with FOB members to locate barns in Fairfield County for the upcoming tour and conference. Other folks on the tour are working on a barn survey in one of the townships of Perry County. There are also four round barns in Perry County.

The area around Somerset is very historic as it lies near the edge of glaciated Ohio, is on the path of Zane's Trace, and was the first county seat of Perry County and the boyhood home of General Phillip Sheridan. Sheridan's home and the first courthouse in Perry County remain along



The Jacob Miller log tavern on Zane's Trace in Somerset. Logs cut in the early 1800s sprouted as seedlings between 1663 and 1715. The building was recently purchased by the Perry County Historical Society.

with an equestrian statue of the general in the center of the town square and the Clay Haus, a German restaurant that has been serving folks in this little German village for well over a hundred years. A few miles outside of town is the Glenford Fort, a stone enclosure of 25 acres on a hilltop with a stone mound inside. This earthwork is of national significance.

Seems like a good location for an autumn barn picnic and mini tour.

— Tom O'Grady



Above: Double framing in the Poorman barn. Right: Double posting of hewn timbers in the corner. Left: Marriage marks at the foot braces. Below: Door handles are cut in the shapes of moon phases: full, half, and crescent.



Above left: Dovetail notching alongside mortise and tenon joinery in the Poorman barn. Right: Tie beam cut to accommodate the hay rack receives reinforcement from double framing. So far no cables or creative carpentry have been employed to compensate for this excision of the structurally significant tie beam.

