

# THOSE MAGNIFICENT BIG BARNs

IN MERCER COUNTY  
OF WESTERN OHIO

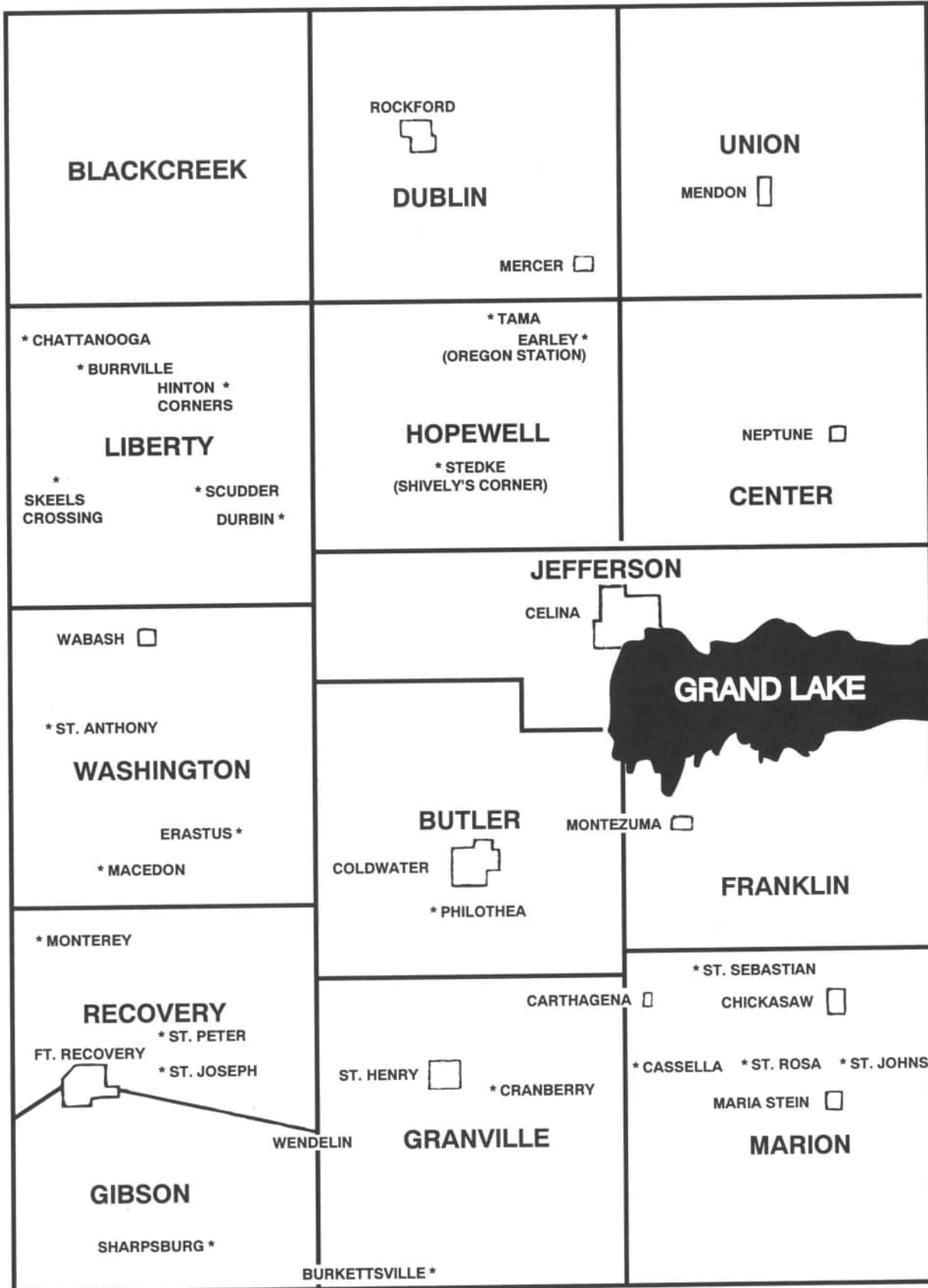


Director: Joyce L. Allig

PASSPORT TO HISTORY Series, BOOK II

Mercer County Historical Society, Inc., Celina, Ohio

# Township Map of Mercer County, Ohio



Map Copyright: Joyce Alig, Mercer County Historical Society, Box 512, Celina, Ohio 45822



## THE MERCER COUNTY HISTORICAL MUSEUM, THE RILEY HOME

The Mercer County Historical Museum, the Riley Home, 130 East Market, Box 512, Celina, Ohio 45822, is owned by the Mercer County Commissioners, and administered by the Executive Board of Directors of the Mercer County Historical Society, Inc.

The Mercer County Historical Society, Inc. was founded in 1958 and the Museum was opened in 1959, at the northeast corner of Main and Fayette Streets in Celina. The Museum was moved to the Riley Home, in 1975 and opened in 1976 to the public. Public and private funds have supported the Museum, and building maintenance.

Prior to serving as the Mercer County Historical Museum, the Riley home was built in 1896 by Calvin Riley, the grandson of Captain James Riley. \*See the Riley Home Heritage. A note of interest is that Calvin Riley's grandson Roscoe Riley, with Carleton Reiser and Carroll Stubbs, were the three persons instrumental in founding the Mercer County Historical Society in 1958. Roscoe Riley's son David Riley coordinated the transition of the Riley Home to the Mercer County Commissioners in 1975.

Over eighty thousand guests have toured the Mercer County Historical Museum in the last three decades. Guests include Mercer Countians, Ohioans, as well as guests from across the United States, Canada, Mexico,

South America, Europe, Africa, Asia, and Australia. Guests include tourists, people seeking recreation, scholars seeking historical research in the archives, genealogists seeking family history, people with German ancestors seeking their German cultural heritage, museums professionals studying museum administration, and school student tours, and civic organization tours.

For administration of the Mercer County Historical Museum, the Riley Home, the 1993 Executive Board of Directors of the Mercer County Historical Society includes David Riley, Frank Snyder, Donald Muhlenkamp, Bradley Bubb, and Raymond Feltz; and Officers, President Joyce L. Alig, Vice President Philip Naumann, Secretary Marjorie Pierstorff, and Treasurer Vera Speicher. Joyce L. Alig has served as Director of the Mercer County Historical Museum since January 1973. Membership in the Mercer County Historical Society, Inc. is open to the public. Civic organizations and individuals are always welcome to volunteer their time and services to the Mercer County Historical Museum.

The purpose of the Mercer County Historical Museum, the Riley Home, is to preserve Mercer County's rich cultural heritage. Financial donations are always welcome to help serve this purpose.

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### **PASSPORT TO HISTORY Series, BOOK II Mercer County Historical Society, Inc., Celina, Ohio**

Printed by The Messenger Press, Carthagen, Ohio 45822

Staff: Allan Kremer, Randy Heitkamp, Linda Kessen, Lois Siefiring, Brother Charles McCafferty, Elmer Wellman, Susan Giere, Jenny Moeller, Patsy Schwieterman, Nate Partin, Jeremy Hess

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# PASSPORT TO HISTORY



## PREFACE

Project Director Joyce L. Alig

THE PASSPORT TO HISTORY SERIES is a passport to Mercer County's past, with the reader as the guest traveler of the Mercer County Historical Society, Inc. The 1980's Passport to History Series included the MERCER COUNTY, OHIO HISTORY; ST. HENRY SESQUICENTENNIAL, CELINA SESQUICENTENNIAL, COLDWATER AT 150. The 1990's Passport to History Series includes BOOK I, NATIVE AMERICANS AND EARLY SETTLERS, 1780's to 1980's.

BOOK II, PASSPORT TO HISTORY SERIES, is THOSE MAGNIFICENT BIG BARNS IN MERCER COUNTY OF WESTERN OHIO, 1990-1993.

THOSE MAGNIFICENT BIG BARNS IN MERCER COUNTY OF WESTERN OHIO features over a thousand big old barns in Mercer County, Ohio. BOOK II takes the reader down the dusty roads on a 175 year old journey through Mercer County's rural history. Barn raisings, threshing, barn fires, barns destroyed by tornadoes and rebuilt with the help of neighbors, barn dances, barn stories, farm families' rural heritages including migration patterns and genealogy, German bank barns, English barns, Dutch barns, grundscheier barns, log barns, double crib barns, and thoughts that hard work and the belief that farm life is the good life, all contribute to the preservation of Mercer County's rural heritage.

BOOK II, PASSPORT TO HISTORY SERIES, THOSE MAGNIFICENT BIG BARNS IN MERCER COUNTY OF WESTERN OHIO takes the reader on a journey into Mercer County's rural past, and brings the reader home to the Mercer County Historical Museum.

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# FOREWORD

By: Joyce L. Alig

Why did I do this book? How could I not do this book!

My goal, as President of the Mercer County Historical Society and Director of the Mercer County Historical Museum, is to preserve Mercer County's rich heritage.

Preserving Mercer County's rich heritage includes a multi-faceted position. Preservation of the exhibits and administering the Mercer County Historical Museum is one facet. Serving the public via guided tours, research service, and public lecture series all contribute to other facets of this position. Recording Mercer County's heritage through history books is another facet of this position. The history books include a 1978 MERCER COUNTY HISTORY, 1984 CELINA SESQUICENTENNIAL, 1987 ST. HENRY SESQUICENTENNIAL, 1988 COLD-WATER AT 150, and NATIVE AMERICANS AND EARLY SETTLERS, 1780's TO 1980's.

Mercer County is number one in agriculture in the State of Ohio. What are we doing to preserve Mercer County's agricultural or rural heritage? To write a book about Mercer County's entire agricultural heritage would result in several volumes of books, whether about machinery, planting and harvesting, kinds of crops, kinds of animals, kinds of buildings, economic conditions, farm families, etc. How could we focus on one theme and produce a book which reflects the rural heritage of Mercer County?

When the idea came to me to write about big old barns, I fell in love with the project. The more I thought about it, the more I knew it would be a worth-while project. No one has ever written about the architectural masterpieces, these big old barns in Mercer County. Some farmers are remodeling their barns to meet the needs of today's modern equipment. Some farms are sold and the new owners want to use the land, but not the buildings, and the buildings are falling into a state of disrepair. The biggest thought that loomed over me was that no one, absolutely no one, is building these big old barns, with hand hewn beams and wooden pins, anymore. When these big old barns are gone, that will be it; the end of an era!

In the autumn of 1990, I put out news releases that I would be doing this book, and that people should bring their old and new photographs of their barns, with their stories, to the Museum, to be printed in this book. About fifty barns came in, to be in this book, which was not enough to print a book. I believed in the project too much, to just let it drop. So, I set out, driving down each road, stopping at each barn, asking permission to photograph the barn, town-

ship by township, for this book. I used over 125 rolls of film, and drove hundreds of miles photographing barns, and then returning the photographs, requesting the farmers to write about their barns and to put them in this book. Some barns were photographed by others; I tried to include their credit line.

I read every book about barns, and farm buildings, that I could find through libraries, universities, and book stores, and antique book sales. I studied the architectural terms used in those books and found out that those terms or names are not standardized and not everyone agrees on the same names for barn architectural features. I also talked with the farmers and asked for their help for identification of kinds of architecture used in barns.

The farm families welcomed me with warm farm hospitality. I sat at their kitchen tables while they told me about their barn and their farm, and showed me old photographs. They permitted me to borrow their precious family photographs to put copies in this book. I enjoyed seeing old friends, and I enjoyed making new friends. Of the twenty-one years I have worked for the Mercer County Historical Society, I have to say that these three years on this project have been the most enjoyable three years I have spent, 1990-1993. If I were given the choice, I would do it all over again! Yes, even in spite of all the teasing I take from my family and friends, about my "barn book," I would do it again.

I also thank the Ohio Humanities Council and the Joint Program of the Arts and Humanities for their support of our public programs for this project.

I have to thank Alvin my husband, my children: Lorna and her husband Rod Teeter; Brenda and her husband Don Soldatis, and Colleen, and my family, for standing by me and putting up with me through not only the last three years of doing this book, but also the last twenty-one years of working for the Mercer County Historical Society. I thank my family and friends for listening to "barn stories."

I have to thank the Executive Board of Directors and Members of the Mercer County Historical Society for the past twenty-one years. With their friendship, kindness, encouragement, smiles, laughter and support, I have made it this far. What started out as a fun position for me twenty-one years ago, is still a fun job. I only hope that someone cares enough to keep the Museum doing well, and that someone cares enough to keep working to preserve Mercer County's rich heritage in the future generations.

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### THE RILEY HOME HERITAGE

October 27, 1777, Captain James Riley was born to Asher and Rebecca Sage Riley, at Upper Houses, Cromwell, Connecticut, the year after our nation declared its independence from Great Britain. In 1792, James Riley went to sea.

James Riley married Phoebe Riley in 1802, the year before Ohio became a State. In 1808, Captain Riley lost his unarmed ship, "Two Marys" to the French. From 1809 to 1812, Riley traded with Spain, Portugal, Brazil, West Indies, and New Orleans. During the War of 1812, the Captain served as Captain to a Volunteer Artillery Company in Connecticut. After the War, he returned to sea. In August 1815, during a fog, their brig, (a two masted ship) hit a reef off Cape Bajador, Africa. Since they were near to land, Arabs captured the men and made them slaves in the desert. Finally, William Willshire paid the ransom and Captain James Riley returned home in March, 1816. In 1816, President James Monroe suggested to Riley that he write a book about his experiences in Africa; this resulted in the book, *NARRATIVE OF THE LOSS OF THE BRIG COMMERCE* by Captain James Riley. This book is on exhibit at the Mercer County Museum. In 1818, Captain Riley was a member of the Convention that framed the Constitution of Connecticut.

June 23, 1819, Edward Tiffin, Surveyor General of U.S.A., appointed Riley as his lawful Deputy Surveyor. Riley reported to Chillicothe, Ohio in 1819; in July he was sent to Fort Wayne, Indiana to survey lands acquired from Indiana. By November 1819, Riley was at the headwaters of the Wabash River, south of Fort Recovery, and he began his survey of Northwest Ohio lands.

In 1820, Riley purchased land on the St. Marys River, and in January 1821 moved his family there and built a two story log home. In 1822, Captain Riley laid out the original town plat of Willshire, Ohio; this plat is recorded in Darke County, Ohio Courthouse because Mercer County was not separated from Darke County until 1824.

October 1823 Riley was elected as State Representative from Northwest Ohio to the Ohio State Legislature. In December 1823 Riley corresponded with Governor DeWitt Clinton of New York, about implementing a canal system in Ohio. Riley returned to New England in 1826 and returned to the sea in the 1830's. In the 1970's, his ship log and correspondence were found in an attic of a Rhode Island home; Parker Snyder (whose Mother was a Riley) purchased these records and placed them in the Museum. In the autumn of 1839, Captain Riley visited William Willshire at Mogadore for the last time. March 13, 1840, Captain Riley passed away and was buried at sea, North of Puerto Rico.

In 1834, Captain James Riley's son James Watson Riley, with three others, platted Celina.

James Riley named Celina, after Salina, New York, (which stood at the head of a lake), but changed the spelling due to Post Office mailing addresses. James Riley was elected to Ohio Legislature in 1843.

In 1896, Calvin Riley, James Watson Riley's son, built the home which houses the Museum today. Calvin E. Riley was President of Commercial Bank (later Citizens Commercial Bank) at the turn of the century.

James Zura Riley, son of Calvin, and his family lived at the Riley home next. Zura is known locally, for joining others and participating in the great 1898 to 1900 Gold Rush in Alaska. A copy of his diary is on exhibit at the Mercer County Museum.

Roscoe Riley, a descendent of the Captain, founded the Mercer County Historical Society and Museum with two other gentlemen, in 1958. Roscoe was the son of Ashley Riley, brother to James Zura Riley. Zura's daughter Lena Riley was the last to live at the Riley Home, 130 East Market. Her Cousin, David Riley, Roscoe's son, coordinated the transition of ownership of this building to the Mercer County Commissioners, in 1975. In 1975, the Historical Society moved the exhibits of the Museum to the Riley Home.

An exhibit telling the story of the Riley Home Heritage is on display at the Mercer County Historical Museum, the Riley Home.



**Captain James Riley**



**James Watson Riley**



**Calvin Riley**



**James Zura Riley**



**Lena Riley**



**Roscoe Riley**

## MERCER COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY, INC.

1958 — January 28, 1958, the First Meeting of the Mercer County Historical Society Inc. was held. Persons instrumental in founding the Society were Roscoe D. Riley, President; Carleton C. Reiser, Vice President; and Carroll Stubbs, Secretary/Treasurer.

1959 — The Society leased the second floor of the Richardson Building at Fayette and Main, for the Museum, and employed Bronsart Gilberg as Curator. The Museum was funded via the Mercer County Commissioners and private donations. The Museum opened September 9, 1959.

1960's — The Mercer County Historical Society held annual meetings.

1971 — Lee Kuhn, John Suhr, and Ralph Schindler were elected officers. Vera Speicher contacted volunteers to open the Museum on Sunday afternoons. The Society sold reprints of the 1896 HISTORY OF VAN WERT AND MERCER COUNTIES, OHIO.

1971-1993 — Vera Speicher served as Membership Chairperson.

1973 — President Joyce Alig initiated hosting quarterly meetings, and as Museum Director initiated preservation of exhibits at the Museum, with Vera Speicher and her daughter Carolyn.

1973-1980 — The Mercer County Commissioners requested that the Historical Society make a complete list of Mercer County Cemeteries and then list the names on the monuments. Ray Eblen and Bernard Gebhart listed the cemeteries and their sites; Members made lists of names on monuments. Two thick notebooks of this original work are at the Museum, except for the few which were stolen, e.g. Mead Cemetery Record.

1975 — President Joyce Alig initiated monthly meetings due to the increased level of interest in the Historical Society.

1975 — The Historical Society was given notice to move the Museum.

1975 — David Riley made it possible for the Mercer County Commissioners to purchase the Lena Riley Home for the Museum.

1975 — The summer of 1975, Joyce Alig, Ray Eblen, Vera Speicher, Donald Muhlenkamp, and a few volunteers moved the Museum to the Riley Home; this was a big task for a few.

1976 — The winter of 1975/1976 Director Joyce Alig catalogued the exhibits and prepared the Museum to open in April 1976.

1976-1993 — Bernice Baker and Deloris Imel were employed as professional cleaning personnel.

1976-1993 — The Historical Society hosted many special exhibits over the years. The two exhibits which have continued in popularity are the Indian Artifact Exhibit, the last Sunday of June, hosted by the Mercer County Indian Relic

Collectors; and the Antique Tractor Exhibit, hosted by the Old Fashioned Farmers, during the July Celina Lake Festival.

1973-1978 — Joyce Alig gathered histories of communities, businesses, churches, schools, and initiated the 1978 MERCER COUNTY HISTORY BOOK, the first county history book to be printed since 1907, and the one before that was 1882.

1978-1980 — The Historical Society worked on the 1978 MERCER COUNTY HISTORY BOOK, gathering over a thousand family histories, in addition to the historical articles.

1980 — 2500 copies of the 1978 MERCER COUNTY HISTORY BOOK were sold. Two or three times that number have used the book for historical and/or genealogical research, as well as those who used the book as resource material for their own publications. Most people thanked the Historical Society; however, plagiarism exists.

1980-1993 — The Board of Directors encouraged the Director to apply for grant funds via the Ohio Humanities Council, the Joint Program of the Arts and Humanities, the Ohio Museums Association, and the Ohio Bicentennial Commission. These grant funds provided the scholarly programs for the public lecture series, each year.

1980-1993 — Raymond Feltz and Louise Hileman served as weekly volunteers at the Museum.

1958-1993 — The Combined Drives of the county have contributed funds to the Society to administer the Museum. The County Commissioners have contributed funds for administration and maintenance, e.g. a new roof, insulation, wiring, window repair, siding, and grounds care. Township Trustees, City and Village Councils also contributed funds which were used for porch repair, new siding, and other repairs. Private individuals contributed funds for a new lawn, new shrubbery, new drapery, new wallpaper, new linoleum, new carpet, and other repairs.

1958-1993 — Private individuals contributed books, files, and donations for the Mercer County History and Genealogy Archival Collection.

1978-1993 — Businesses, civic organizations, county, township, and community governments and private individuals have contributed to the local history books printed to preserve Mercer County's heritage.

1984 — CELINA SESQUICENTENNIAL BOOK, 1834-1984, was printed.

1987 — ST. HENRY SESQUICENTENNIAL BOOK, 1837-1987, was printed.

1988 — COLDWATER AT 150 BOOK, 1838-1988, was printed.

1989 — NATIVE AMERICANS AND EARLY SETTLERS, 1780's to 1980's, was printed.

1992 — Mercer County German Heritage and Genealogy Commission was founded via the Historical Society. This organization is received well by the public.

1990-1993 — THOSE MAGNIFICENT BIG BARNs IN MERCER COUNTY OF WESTERN OHIO book was printed.

1994 — The Mercer County Historical Society Executive Board of Directors, and its Members will be making plans for the second half of the last decade of this Twentieth Century, in an effort to preserve Mercer County's rich heritage. The public is encouraged to join the Mercer County Historical Society Membership and be a part of this cultural organization.

2000 — Will you be a part of the preservation effort of the Mercer County Historical Society, and be a part of the Membership? You are welcome, and you are invited.

Administration by the Mercer County Historical Society consists of an Executive Board of Directors, with five directors and four officers. The Executive Board employs the Museum Director and the cleaning staff. The Museum Director oversees the Museum-operations, public programs, grantsmanship, and public relations. Volunteers assist in a variety of activities with the various programs.

\* \* \*

### RECOGNITION & HONORS

- \* Over 5000 guests and tour groups tour the Museum annually
- \* The 1978 MERCER COUNTY HISTORY BOOK received the award of "Most Outstanding County History Book in the State of Ohio" in 1980 by the Ohio Association of State and Local Historical Societies.
- \* Recognized by the Ohio Humanities Council for outstanding scholarly public programs in history.
- \* Recipient of over 30 grants from the Ohio Humanities Council, the Joint Program in the Arts and Humanities, the U.S. Bicentennial Program, and The U.S. Constitution Program.
- \* Honored by having the Director appointed by the Governor of Ohio to the State Board of Trustees to the Ohio Historical Society, and elected to the State Board of Trustees to the Ohio Academy of History, the Ohio Association of Historical Societies and Museums, the Ohio Museums Association; and County Representative to OHIOANA.
- \* Recipient of numerous local honors, and recognition for local accomplishments in local history.
- \* Serves as Service Organization Coordinator to the Celina Combined Services Appeal.

### 1993 EXECUTIVE BOARD OF DIRECTORS \* MERCER COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY, INC.

#### OFFICERS



**PRESIDENT**  
Joyce L. Alig  
Saint Henry  
Mercer County  
Museum Director



**VICE PRESIDENT**  
Phillip Naumann  
Coldwater  
Engineering Test  
Lab Supervisor;  
White New Idea  
Farm Equipment



**SECRETARY**  
Marjorie Pierstorff  
Hopewell Township  
Museum Volunteer  
Homemaker



**TREASURER**  
Vera Speicher  
Celina  
Museum Volunteer  
Homemaker

#### BOARD OF DIRECTORS



**Raymond Feltz**  
Cassella  
Toolmaker,  
Inventor,  
Artist



**David K. Riley**  
Celina  
Vice President  
Citizens Commercial  
Bank & Trust



**Frank Snyder**  
Celina  
Associate Publisher  
Standard Printing Co.



**Bradley C. Bubp, AIA**  
Fort Recovery  
Project Architect  
Fanning/Howey  
Associates, Inc.



**Donald Muhlenkamp**  
Coldwater  
Custodial Maintenance  
Coldwater Schools

**THE MERCER COUNTY  
HISTORICAL SOCIETY, INC.  
FOUNDATION FUND**

The Mercer County Historical Society Foundation Fund was founded by providing an endowment to assure a stable future source of funds as various public budget concerns make future public sources less certain. Only the interest earnings from the Foundation Fund are to be used by the Historical Society, assuring a continued future source of income for the Society's operation of the Museum. The Foundation Fund is managed by the Mercer County Civic Foundation. Contributions to the Mercer County Civic Foundation for this Historical Society Foundation Fund qualify for the maximum deductability for income, gift and estate tax purposes. The Mercer County Civic Foundation also provides for separate independent management and investment of Donation Fund assets. Contributions to the Historical Society Foundation Fund may be made in current gifts of cash, property, corporate matching gifts, and securities; planned gifts may be made by life insurance, bequests, pooled income funds, charitable trusts, and memorials.



**Dr. Charles Cole, Jr., Member of the Ohio Northwest Ordinance and United States Constitution Bicentennial Commission, and Executive Director of the Ohio Humanities Council, presents Joyce L. Alig, Chairperson of the Mercer County Bicentennial Commission, and Director of The Mercer County Historical Museum, with the Certificate of Recognition, in appreciation for the local society's "distinguished service in the interest of commemorating the 200th anniversary of the Northwest Ordinance and United States Constitution." October 16, 1989.**

**WHY THE MERCER COUNTY  
HISTORICAL SOCIETY, INC.  
IS WORTHY OF YOUR SUPPORT**

- \* The Historical Society works to preserve the heritage of Mercer Countians, which includes the work ethic, and the principles of hard work, honesty, education, and religion.
- \* The Historical Society works to preserve exhibits at the Mercer County Historical Museum which illustrate this heritage of hard work, honesty, education and religion.
- \* The Historical Society provides educational programs and books and tours that reach into every community in the county.
- \* The Historical Society programs strengthen communities by fostering mutual respect among community groups and self-respect within communities, for their heritages, past and present.
- \* The Historical Society programs supplement, strengthen, and extend local resources and talent by providing public programs for and promoting partnerships among libraries, museums, universities, schools, historical societies, and civic organizations.
- \* The Historical Society programs spark literacy, learning, and the lifelong growth of individuals.
- \* The Historical Society programs affirm the importance of values in our lives, and increase our understanding of the many cultures in Mercer County, and in Ohio.
- \* The Historical Society programs promote public discourse, enrich citizen participation in public affairs and thereby strengthen democracy.
- \* The Historical Society programs bring to the public, the stories about outstanding accomplishments of Mercer Countians, many of whom have quietly passed on, without the recognition which they richly deserve. The Historical Society encourages the young to recognize that necessity is often the mother of invention, and that they should greet the future with a quest to learn and to create and to meet the needs of the future, as our forefathers have done in the past.

## PASSPORT TO HISTORY TOUR

### Mercer County Historical Museum ARCHIVAL COLLECTIONS

"No matter how far you travel in history, you are in for a great trip with the Mercer County Historical Museum Archival Collections."

- \* Mercer County History
- \* Mercer County's prehistoric sites
- \* Mercer County's prehistoric peoples and their artifacts
- \* Native Americans, e.g. Miami Tribe
- \* Fur Traders, e.g. Anthony Shane
- \* Northwest Territory
- \* Indian Wars of the 1790's; Fort Adams & Fort Recovery
- \* Captain James Riley's survey of Northwest Ohio & Fort Wayne, Indiana
- \* Miami and Erie Canal & Grand Lake St. Marys Reservoir
- \* Agricultural heritage & antique tools
- \* Architectural heritage of homes, businesses, churches, barns, outbuildings & schools
- \* Church & religious heritage, cemetery records
- \* School history
- \* Black heritage: Carthagena; Emlen Institute; Randolph Freedmen
- \* Community histories
- \* Business & civic organization histories
- \* Mercer County railroads & electric traction line
- \* Military heritage, in reference to Mercer Countians
- \* Family heritage & genealogy
- \* German heritage & Genealogy Commission
- \* Over 10,000 index cards with names for Genealogy Research
- \* Rural Preservation Commission
- \* European Imprint on Mercer Countians' cultures
- \* Media in Mercer County; microfilm information
- \* Mercer County health care practices
- \* Maps and Atlases of Mercer County
- \* Artifact information/antique identification
- \* Period furniture & costume
- \* Nearby County Community history books
- \* J. Zura Riley's Klondike Gold Rush, 1898 to 1900 Group
- \* Photograph files on above topics
- \* Children's toys and games
- \* Mercer County's old Directories
- \* Help with research for Term Papers, Theses & Dissertations



Ted Ryan, WHIO Travel Director, interviewing Director Joyce Alig and Treasurer Vera Speicher, about the Mercer County Historical Museum in Celina, for WHIO, Channel 7 Television, Dayton, Ohio.

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### PASSPORT TO HISTORY BOOKS MERCER COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY, INC.

- \*1978 MERCER COUNTY HISTORY
- \*1984 CELINA SESQUICENTENNIAL
- \*1987 ST. HENRY SESQUICENTENNIAL
- \*1988 COLDWATER AT 150
- \*1989 NATIVE AMERICANS & EARLY SETTLERS, 1780's to 1980's
- \*1990 to 1993 THOSE MAGNIFICENT BIG BARNs IN MERCER COUNTY OF WESTERN OHIO



Chief Floyd Leonard, Miami Tribe, presents Joyce L. Alig, Director of the Mercer County Historical Museum, with "The Great Seal of the Miami Tribe of Oklahoma" October 16, 1989.

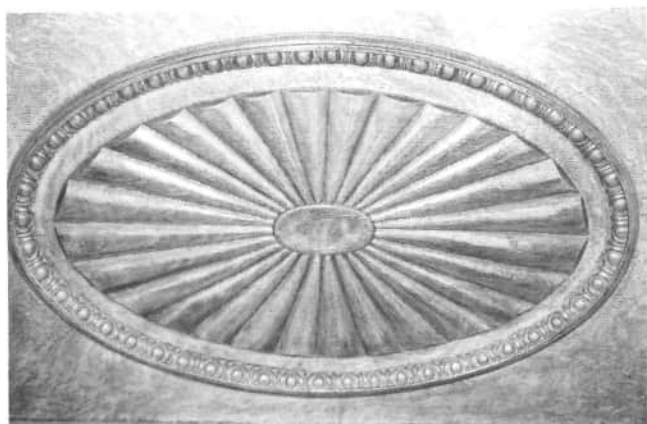
## "PASSPORT TO HISTORY TOUR"

Take a Victorian Tour of the Mercer County Historical Museum, the Riley Home.

1. Stop outside the Mercer County Historical Museum, the Riley Home, and enjoy the architectural elegance of this Queen Anne Home. The Victorian tower to the right houses the two octagonal rooms. The Victorian round windows to the left, are actually windows with rounded glass, upstairs and down. Inside, inspect these extravagant examples of glassmaker's art, and carpenter's craftsmanship.

2. Check the bell from the Old Courthouse, and the historic plaques.

3. As you walk up the steps to the porch, see the stained glass window to your left. Remember, when you are inside, see it again as the sunlight shines through with rainbow radiance.



4. Observe the old oak door, with the sunburst pattern in oak. Step softly on the parquet patterned oak floor just inside. Be certain to look behind the inside door, at its beautifully designed brass hinges, a touch of class.

5. Turn to your right; this is not a display of the dinosaurs which lived on earth millions of years ago. But it is a piece from Cranberry Prairie, with the 9000 year old elk antlers and bones on display, and a 10,000 year old Mercer County mastadon mandible. Early pre-historic man left his (and her) artifacts of stone, flint, and slate. (If this is your interest, be sure to attend the annual Indian Relic Exhibit the last Sunday of June!)



6. Enter the 19th Century in the vestibule. Calvin Riley built this house in 1896. He designed this entry to resemble the Captain's Quarters on his ship, that is, Calvin Riley's Grandfather Captain James Riley's ships in the early 1800's.

7. Follow the Riley heritage to your left. Step into the Living Room and read about Captain James Riley's shipping career, his 1815 shipwreck, and subsequent trials and final return to America. Note the book *NARRATIVE OF THE LOSS OF THE BRIG COMMERCE*. See the Compass Captain Riley and his son James Watson Riley used in surveying Northwest Ohio, and Fort Wayne, Indiana. Note how James Watson Riley and others platted Celina in 1834. Another son William Willshire Riley wrote *SEQUEL TO THE NARRATIVE*, telling about the platting of Willshire, and their living there and establishing the mill. James Watson's son Calvin built this home. Calvin Riley's son James Zura Riley had an exciting adventure on his Alaskan Klondike Gold Rush, 1898 to 1900. James Zura's daughter Lena lived a quiet life in this elegant home, which, after her death, became the Mercer County Historical Museum, the Riley Home. Read about Lena's Uncle Robert Riley and the Riley Drug Store.

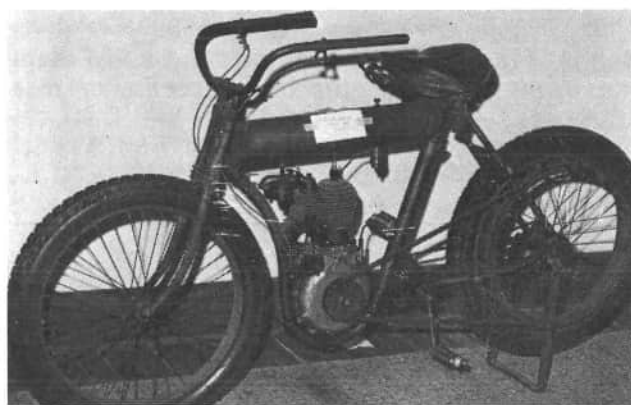
8. Relax in the Living Room and peer through a stereoptican; listen to the parlor organ and smile at the other old musical instruments, like the graphophones and harmonicas. Stop at the old Court House time clock. Look at the quaint kerosene lamps. Admire the Mersman Tables.



9. Walk with care over the antique carpets and enter the lovely dining room, with the rich Civil War era China Cabinet, and an old built in oak china cabinet, while memories of the Sunday afternoon family dinner wander through your mind.

10. Keep in mind Grandma's kitchen and recall the taste of butter from the butter churn; apple butter, apple peelers and copper kettles; sad irons, hot stoves, and linens.

11. Be careful when you descend the narrow basement steps. Pass by the blacksmith and farrier displays; cross into the carpenters' room. See the ice saw used on the winter lake. Wonder at the wooden flails and grain cradles resting from the autumn harvest. Remember to visit the annual Antique Tractor Exhibit during Celina's July Lake Festival. See Mark Speicher's motorcycle.



12. Return to the front oak stairs and see the sunlight highlight the stained glass window on the landing. The second floor has old office equipment for the business person.

13. The Octagon Room in the Tower holds the old school exhibit; McGuffey Readers, tin lunch pails, slates, pump organ, one room schoolhouse photographs, textbooks in German, sports equipment, and children's toys including hobby horses, dolls, buggies, cradles, etc. A new addition is Huffy's 25th Anniversary Bicycle.



14. Across the hall, the Master Bedroom has exquisite quilts, spinning wheels for flax and wool, steamer trunks, and needlework, costumes and accessories, and sewing machines.

15. March into the military room and meet muskets, powder horns, shot, rosters of soldiers, discharge papers, scrapbooks of World War II military, and photographs which speak silently of times past. Accoutrements accent the exhibit.

16. Stop by Val Fortman's General Store and be greeted by coffee grinders, crocks, cigar cutters, spice cabinets, glass candy jars, the NCR Cash Register, and a drawer of customers' receipts. For the scientific person, study the raw glass from the Celina Glass Factory, from which the canning jars and bottles were made.

17. Marvel at the medical instruments, and the great strides made in education since the Country Doctor. Remember the pain in the old dentist's chair. Imagine a silent shave and a haircut in the old barber's chair.

18. Like to go camping in Victorian Times? Take a look at the portable bath tub, with water heater, for the great outdoors.

19. Return to the Dining Room. Read about every aspect of Mercer County's heritage in the most complete Archival Collection on Mercer County History and Genealogy in the State of Ohio. Ask the Director for help in research; she has been there for 21 years and organized the Archives. If it is there, she will show you.

20. Savor your memories. Support your Mercer County Historical Museum. Bring your family and friends. Join the Historical Society. Join the German Heritage and Genealogy Commission. Come back soon.



Marion School Tour; Anne McDaniel, Teacher.

**MERCER COUNTY  
RURAL PRESERVATION  
COMMISSION**

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Mr. & Mrs. Alvin Alig



## INTRODUCTION

A book about barns? What could anyone write about barns! A barn is a barn!

A premier edition, *THOSE MAGNIFICENT BIG BARNs IN MERCER COUNTY OF WESTERN OHIO* is the first book and the only book, giving tribute not only to Mercer County's magnificent big barns, but also to Mercer County's farm families, their skill, their ingenuity, their hard work, and their love of the land.

They will never build these big old barns again. The old barns are not practical for the big tractors and combines which cannot enter barns without doors being enlarged and beams removed. The big round hay bales are no longer "tossed on the elevator to be sent to the mow." Methods of animal care have been modernized. Maintenance of the big old barns has become cost prohibitive. The barns no longer pay for themselves. There was a day, when a farmer would look at the log house and log barn, and decide to build a "new modern barn" and tell his wife that the barn would come before the house because a barn built many a house but no house ever built a barn.

Barns in Mercer County, Ohio have evolved from the early log barns to the big barns and now to the pole barns of the 1990's. Barns have evolved under the influences of three conditions: (1) building materials available in this environment; (2) economy of this area; and (3) needs of the farmer.

Mercer County's first barns were built from the abundance of trees available in the natural forests. The logs were placed on stone pillars, so that the bottom logs of the foundation of the barns would not rot. These barns were large enough to house animals and to store grain for the family for a season. Farmers had to be self sufficient and travel great distances to take their products to market, and/or to have their grain ground at the mill. Some farmers went southeast to the mill at Piqua; others went north to the Riley mill at Willshire.

From the 1830's to the 1870's, the Miami and Erie Canal provided a quicker and cheaper route to the market for the farmer, as well as providing a quick route to the interior of Northwest Ohio's farmland which went on sale in the 1820's from the U.S. Government, for European immigrants. Inventions, such as John Deere's steel plow, Cyrus McCormick's reaper, the steam engine for threshing machines, etc., tractors, and a multitude of inventions provided the farmer with means to increase the acres of land he farmed and the size of herds of animals he raised.

The coming of the railroads in the 1880's provided a cheaper and quicker route to the markets, than did the canal system, and the farmers prospered again. With the improvement of the economy due to the railroads, came more farm improvements. Several of the big old barns built in the 1860's and 1870's are still standing. Many of the big old barns were built in the 1880's and 1890's and they are celebrating their centennial years, still standing straight and true.

The big old barns and their style of architecture continued through the 1950's. Many of the barns built in the 1950's had the big rounded roofs, sometimes called rainbow or gothic roofs; these roofs allowed for more storage space in the hay mow.

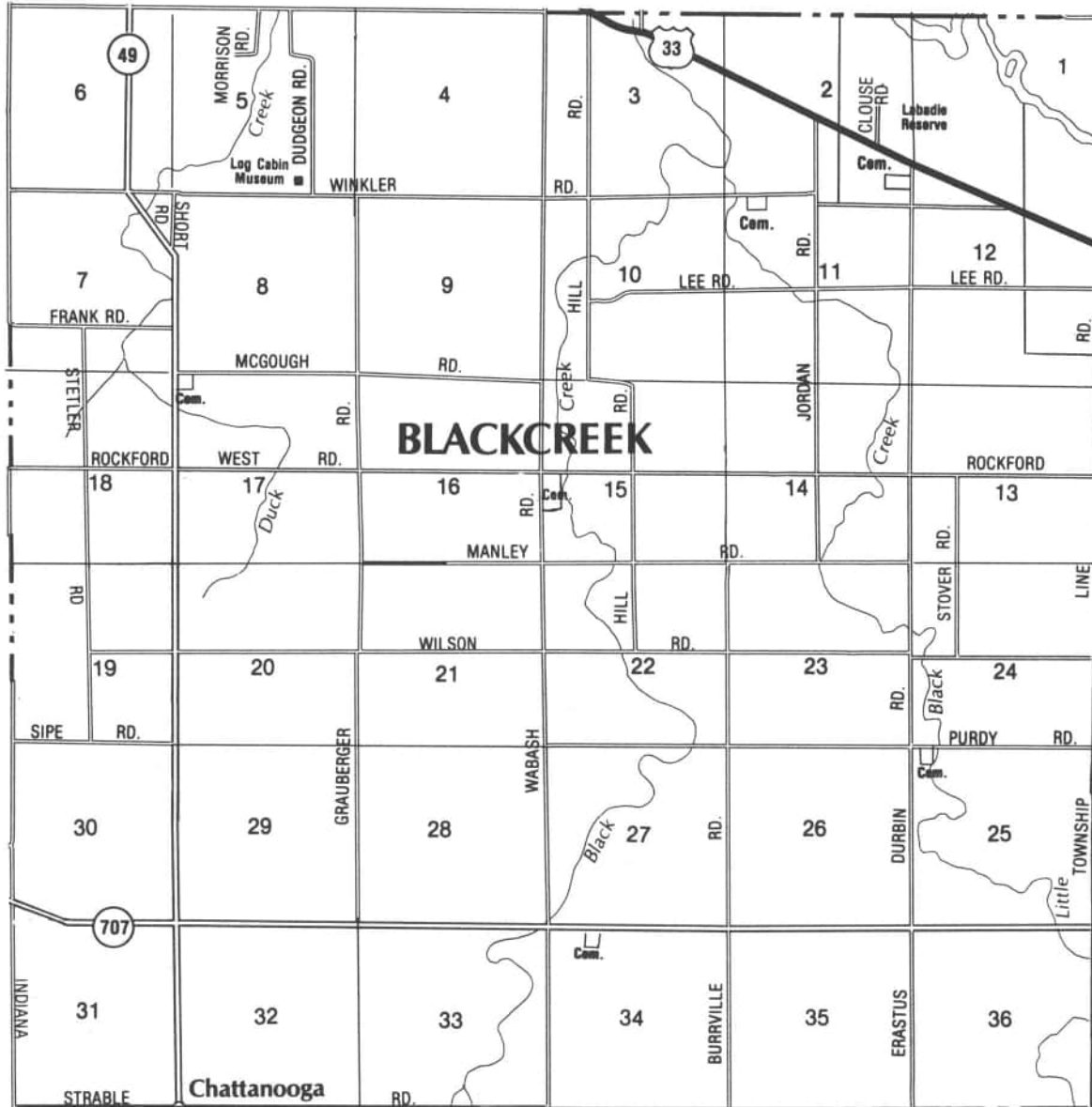
Barn architecture continued to evolve and changes came with improvements. Farmers erected silos. The hay bales' size was increased to the big round bales which were either put on the barn floor, or left in the field. The big hay mows were no longer needed. Farmers began building the pole barns and discontinued building the big old barns. (Many farmers remodeled their big old barns, to fit their needs. But, when they needed a new building, they built the pole barns.) Most Mercer County barns are used for dairy, hogs, or poultry, except for the ones standing empty or being used for storage.

Barn architecture will continue to evolve, with the style of the building dependent upon the building materials available; the economy of the area; and the needs of the farmer. Perhaps, the next generation will be writing a book about the 'history of the polebarns' for their children.

Thus, to preserve the heritage and the integrity of these magnificent big old barns, is the reason this book was written. The day will come when there are few of these architectural strongholds, the barns, left on the rural landscape. Perhaps, this book will remind our grandchildren and their grandchildren that our ancestors took their ingenuity and their skill and applied hard work, and built their barns and then maintained their barns for the love of their land, their home place. Each farmer placed his mark of individuality on his barn, because no two barns are alike in Mercer County, Ohio.

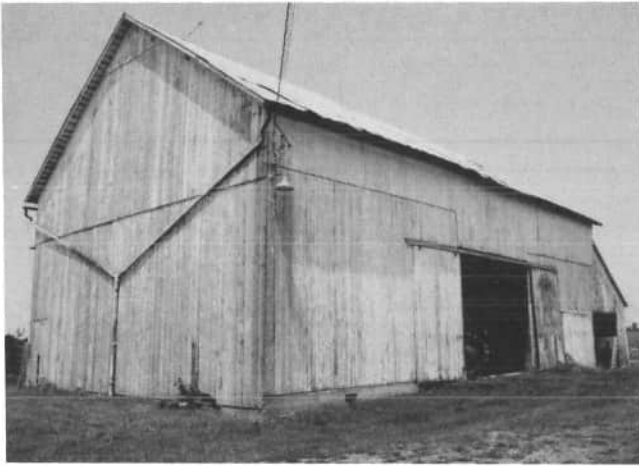
In studying the evolution of the big old barns in Mercer County, Ohio, this book will be a landmark in Mercer County's history books. This book will be a keepsake for generations to come. May this book contribute to the appreciation of our rural heritage in Mercer County, Ohio.

# Blackcreek Township, Mercer County, Ohio

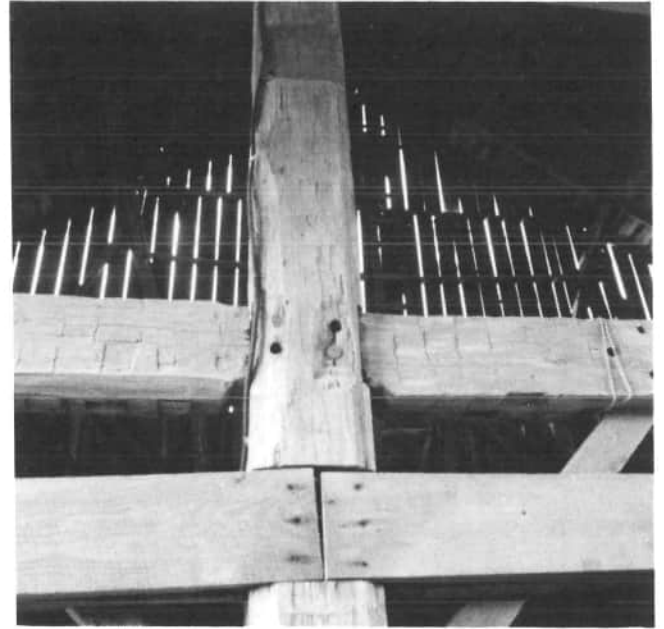


\* This page was sponsored by the Blackcreek Township Trustees for the convenience of those who wish to tour Blackcreek Township roads, to see the big barns and to appreciate our rural heritage. The 1992 Blackcreek Township Trustees in 1992 are Dennis Hoffhines, Gene Koch and Kenneth Luginbill. Richard Figley is Clerk.

\*\* The map was printed by permission of Spectrum Map Publishing, Inc., 909 Sycamore Street, Cincinnati, OH 45202.



The oldest barn frame in Mercer County has been documented as being the barn frame for Clarence Hamrick's barn, 12921 State Route 49, just south of Willshire. The history behind this barn frame dates back to the man who surveyed Northwestern Ohio, and who platted Willshire, Captain James Riley from Upper Houses, Cromwell, Connecticut. In the spring of 1821 Captain James Riley and his family built a two story log home, about sixty feet long, on the east bank of the St. Marys River, in Willshire. Captain Riley spent the winter of 1821-1822 getting logs ready for his saw and grist mill. In the spring of 1822, invitations were sent out to Fort Wayne, Indiana; Fort Recovery, St. Marys, and Piqua. About one hundred men traveled to Willshire, for the occasion of raising the frame of this mill, the first frame building ever erected north of Dayton. Captain Riley was later elected to the Ohio Legislature for 1823-1824. Due to illness, and poor health dating to his days of shipwreck and trials during 1815/1816, the Captain returned to his family's care on the east coast, in 1825. Meanwhile, in Willshire, the original mill was sold to David Major who successfully operated the mill for several years. Later, the original mill was torn down, and the frame was used for the barn, on the Clarence Hamrick farm, about a mile south of Willshire. (This story was taken from the History of Willshire.) Clarence Hamrick's barn, therefore, has the oldest barn frame in Mercer County, Ohio. On the outside of the barn, the rain water from the barn is piped into a huge cistern (see photograph of the pump and millstone). Mr. and Mrs. Clarence Hamrick live in a historic home of brick veneer, built in 1906; interior woodwork includes carved quarter cut oak, and parquet floors of oak, with cherry and walnut for the design border. Clarence is the son of Samuel Hamrick



This interior view of the Clarence Hamrick barn is of the north end. The vertical post, and cross beams, show the marks of the ax blades, and are wooden pinned. One can also see that at one point, probably when the new barn was being built with the old frame, the vertical post was cut, and an additional horizontal beam was added; the circular saw marks are evident on this cross beam.



This interior view of the Clarence Hamrick barn is of the northeast corner. On the side of the vertical post, one can see the mortise or opening, where at one time, probably at the old mill site, there was a cross which fit into this post. There is another mortise at the same height on the post which supports the ladder. Some of the logs supporting the mow, still have their bark. The big wood pulley, which ran the old Riley mill, is a good four feet in diameter, and is stored in this barn loft.



This interior view of the Hamrick barn is of the center. The hand hewn beams show their blade marks. Note that the upper cross beam has seven mortises, or openings, for posts that are no longer there. Either, at the old mill, there were posts fit into this cross beam, or, at the old mill, this cross beam was used at another position in the mill frame. Note also the purlin support posts, are placed just to the outside of where the vertical posts fit beneath this cross beam. The rope is still attached to the pulley, for the old hay track at the roof ridge.

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This is an interior view of the frame of a side wall in the Hamrick barn. Note the Y support from the center post to the corner posts. The center post appears to have mortises or openings, where there probably were beams which fit it, in the old mill. Note also, the number and spacing of the horizontal cross beam supports.

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This is another interior view of the old mill frame, dating from 1822, which is used for the frame of the Hamrick barn.

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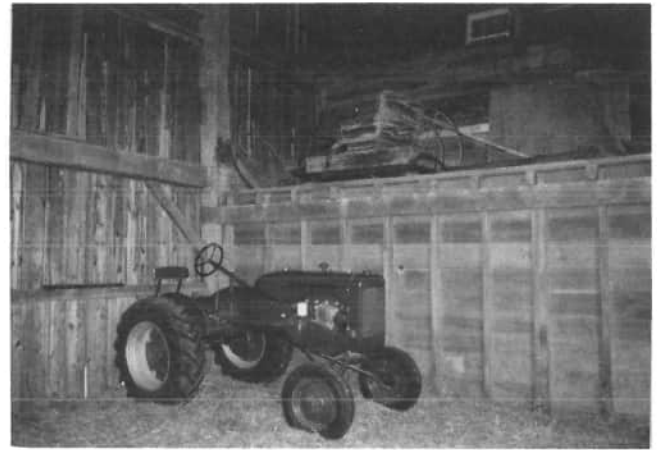
This is an interior view of another end wall in the Hamrick barn. Contrast the framing of this end wall, with the side wall in the previous photograph. The two vertical posts, have two main cross beams, with lesser cross beams. The purlin support posts are slightly inclined or slanted to the outside. There is a support in the shape of a trapezoid on the upper story of this end wall. A ladder leads to the gable peak. In consideration of all the major posts and beams, all hand hewn in 1821/1822 by Captain James Riley, a considerable amount of respect is due this man, and all the pioneers of this land, which put their labor, their heart and soul, into building a country for their families then, and for generations to come.

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The editor stopped outside Clarence Hamrick's barn, when she saw this old mill stone, resting next to the old pump. She asked Clarence Hamrick if this could possibly be an old mill stone from Captain Riley's 1822 mill; Clarence replied that he did not know. Perhaps, someone will read this, and know the story of this millstone, and call the Mercer County Historical Museum in Celina, and share the story. This millstone is one example of the multitude of clues to good stories in history for Mercer County's heritage. Mercer County's true history is always a thousand times better than fiction any day. The pump stands on the top of a huge cistern; rain water from the barn was piped to this cistern. This is a big cistern because the original owner Jeff Moser ran a steam engine; he had three steam engines. He hired people to run the engines and the threshing machines, in this farming community. He invented and patented an automatic blowing system on the threshing machine to control building the straw stack.

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To contrast the old, with the older, the attractive 1941 B Allis Chalmers stands proudly in the corner of the Clarence Hamrick barn, while a buggy (with convertible top and window in back) which belonged to a doctor in Greensprings, Ohio, rests on the upper level.

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#### ANOTHER BARN BUILDER

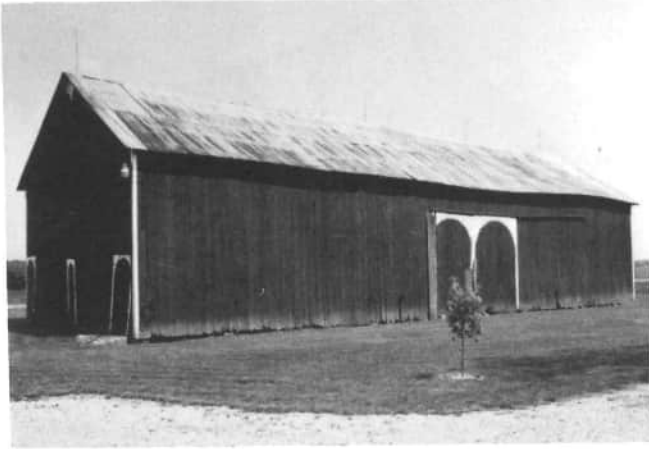
This editor received the following letter from Mrs. Edith E. Adams, 2786 Willshire Ohio City Road, Willshire, dated October 26, 1992: "I am the 87 year old daughter of the late James Elmer Snyder of Blackcreek Township who built many barns in the area of Blackcreek Township, Chattanooga area, Willshire area, and some in Eastern Indiana. Many of them have been destroyed by fire, wind, or lightning. I love barns, so will look forward to receiving this book."

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#### A WILLSHIRE HISTORIAN

A local historian, Sondra Samples, 2290 Purdy Road, Rockford, took an interest in this project and photographed many local barns for this area. Her credit is given under her photographs. She also works to gather history of Willshire, which was founded by Captain James Riley. Willshire is located on State Route 49, just across the Mercer County line, in Van Wert County. The Mercer County Historical Museum, which is located in the Riley Home, 130 East Market, Box 512, Celina, Ohio 45822, works to gather history of Captain James Riley. Captain Riley's son James Watson Riley platted Celina; his son Calvin Riley built the home which houses the Museum, in 1896.

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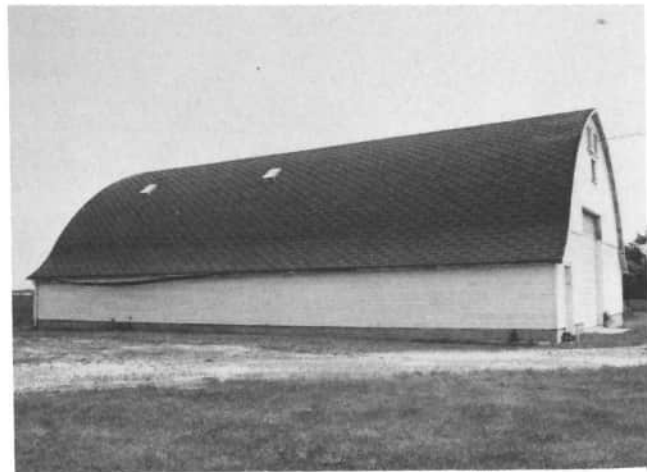
In looking at this barn, it appears to be twice as long as one would expect. David M. Sipe, 11151 Stetler Road, Willshire, writes about his barn: "The front half of the barn was moved from across the road by John H. Sipe and his sons. They then built from the side doors, back around 1900, as told by my Grandfather Jesse Sipe, son of John Sipe. The front half of the barn has hand hewn timber and tree limbs for rafters." The barn was used for livestock and hay storage; today, it is used for storage. White arches trim the double doors as well as the stable doors in the end. Note the form the white arches have taken in the gable end. Five lighting rods grace the roof ridge.



Mrs. Vernon (Donna) Caffee's barn, 10780 State Route 49, Willshire, Ohio 45898, was built in the early 1900's. They purchased this farm in 1943, and converted the barn into a dairy barn, with stanchions in the east end. This barn was then taken down in 1972, after they had disposed of the cattle, in order to make room for a large pole building, used as a shop and machinery storage. This gable roofed barn had a triangular hay hood at one end. The doors are outlined with arches. VERNON CAFFEE is lettered above the barn doors; CHATTALE FARM is lettered across the silo.



This farm has been in the Byer Family for over a hundred years; Franklin Byer, father of Odus Byer. Odus's daughter Martha (Byer) Koontz owns the hundred acres of land and Martha's Granddaughter Ellen (Ray) Brickley owns the buildings. In 1910, this gambrel roofed barn was built for Odus and Cloyd Byer, for livestock and hay mow, on St. Rt. 49. Today, this barn is used for storage. This barn is one of the few barns in northern Mercer County which have the side gable dormer over the double doors. (This feature can also be seen on nearby Van Wert County barns.) (Sondra Samples photograph)



Mrs. Vernon (Donna) Caffee's barn on State Route 49, was built in 1959 by Hoge Lumber Company, New Knoxville. The barn was used for grain and machinery. Today, the barn is used for grain and wagon storage. The entry to this barn is in the end wall. The round roof, sometimes called a gothic or rainbow roof, has a slight rise at the eaves, known as a 'ski jump.'



Thomas E. Brandt's barn, 12521 State Route 49 S., Willshire, Ohio 45898, was built in 1885. Sliding doors are at the four entries to the side of this very long barn. Seven lightning rods are across the ridge of the roof; not many barns have seven lightning rods for protection. This big barn has been used for livestock, dairy, horses, hay and grain.

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This is another of less than half a dozen barns, which have the small shed roof over a single door; this door happens to be a double door, with the top half open, with a Z brace. Another barn with this rare shed roof over a single door is located at the southwest corner of St. Rt. 49 and McGough Roads where Phyllis Kessler lived; the other barn with the shed roof over the single door is located on State Route 707, half mile west of Township Line and a half mile east of Erastus Durbin Road. This particular barn has a pair of green double doors, with rust colored arches at the top. This is a beautiful weathered old barn.

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Phyllis Kessler's barn, 11980 State Route 49, Willshire, is well over a hundred years old. The weathered siding has been given a soft patina by nature's palette. Louvered vents provide ventilation. The track for the sliding doors is protected by the overhang of the vertical boards. What is unusual about this barn, is the small shed roof, for protection over the stable door next to the double doors. It is rare to find such a roof in Mercer County; only a few exist.

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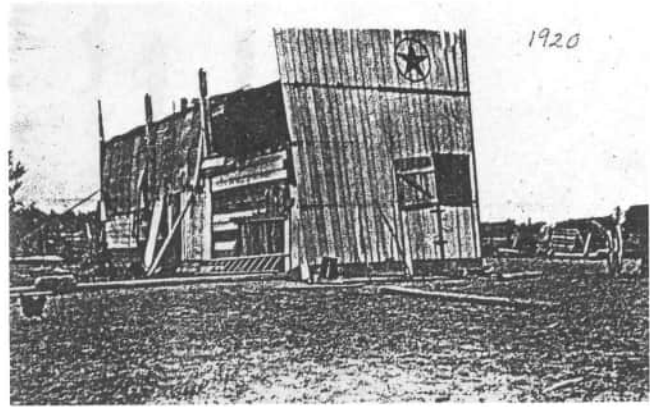


J. Alvin and Helen Buchanan's barn, 11319 State Route 49, Willshire, was built in 1942. The barn was used for livestock, and now used for storage. The pink tricycle and two bicycles reminds us that children are about. By the time they grow up, they will probably not have the opportunity to stack bales of hay in the big hay mow, with the round roof, sometimes called a rainbow or gothic roof. Farming has changed. Five lightning rods protect this barn. The track for the sliding doors is protected by the vertical boards.

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A Piper built this barn in the late 1800's or early 1900's. Mr. and Mrs. William Okeley bought the place from Piper; they sold the place to their daughter Fern and her husband Ralph Alt, in 1921. This aerial view of the farm, not only shows the red barn, its white trim, and green gambrel roof, as well as the other buildings and brick home. The barn has been used for livestock and for machinery. The place is located on State Route 49, just north of Route 707. It is owned by Mr. and Mrs. Ralph Alt, 1671 Schaadt Road, Rockford.



This barn stood on Grauburger Road, and was owned in 1920 by Clarence and Pearl Hoblet, who are both deceased now. This photograph shows the storm damage from the 1920 tornado. The star within the circle to the right of center of the front wall is interesting.



Paul Leistner's red barn at 10129 State Route 49, Rockford, was built in 1926 by John Nash. The barn has been used for cows, horses, hay, and machine storage. White arches grace the doors, as well as frame the window at the peak of the end wall. This type of end wall decoration is usually found in northern Mercer County, but not in southern Mercer County. An unusual feature of this barn is the three pairs of windows, each with six panes, across the center of the end wall. Two windows are placed lower in the wall, at each side. The editor did not see another barn with windows like this at this level on the end wall of the barn. The gambrel roof has four lightning rods across the ridge. A night light is mounted on the end wall.



This is another view of the Clarence and Pearl Hoblet farm on Grauburger Road, after the 1920 tornado. (Sondra Samples found these old photographs, while going through old photographs.)





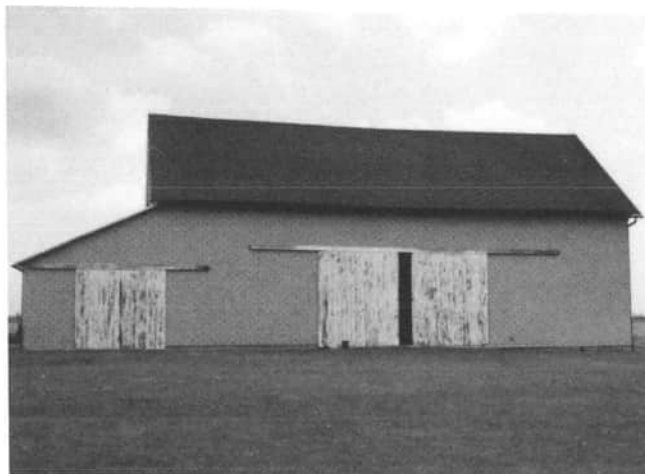
This barn was built in 1947 for the Winkler Brothers, Lee and Walter. The barn to the right in the photograph was built by the Sell Family. Harvey Wilson was the owner when in 1919, the barn was partially destroyed by a tornado, and he rebuilt it. Again in March 1949, it was torn apart by a tornado and was rebuilt by the Winkler Brothers, Lee and Walter, the owners at that time. Today, the barn is owned by Walter Winkler, 12148 Grauberger Road, Willshire, Ohio. A "topknot" is the name given to the extension built on the top of the roof of the center building in the photograph. (Sondra Samples Photograph)

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This barn was built in 1948, after World War II. The round roof, without walls, reflects the style of the quonset hut first used by the U.S. Army in World War II. The barn has been used as a dairy barn, and for storage of farm machinery. A smaller building with a gable roof stands next to this building. Nearby is another barn, with a block wall, and round roof, with the "ski Jump" eaves. A sliding door gives entry to the upper level. This set of buildings belongs to Walter Winkler.

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J. Mathias Winkler built this barn prior to 1914 (before World War I). The barn has been used for hay and livestock and is now used for machinery storage. This gray barn, with the white doors and green gable roof, belongs to Walter Winkler, 12148 Grauberger Road, Willshire, Ohio 45898.

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This barn was located on Wabash Road, and was in the process of getting a new paint color when this photograph was taken. The barn was built in 1905 for the Carr family on a farm that has been in the family since 1850, and the land is currently owned by Dorothy Carr Humbert. The gambrel roof was slate. The barn was dismantled and moved to the southern part of Mercer County in 1980.

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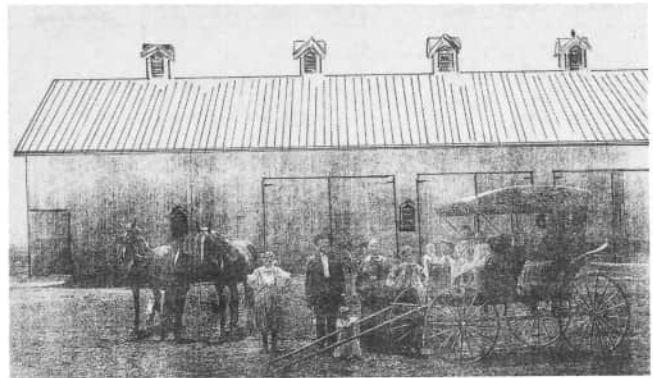
This is the Homer and Leona Baker Carr Farm on State Route 707, near the State Line. This big barn was built before 1875 for the Henry Baker family. Note the rutted lane, as well as the windpump or windmill at the buildings. Henry Baker's Great, Great Granddaughter Rita Ripley now owns and lives on the farmstead site.



This barn on the Lee Winkler Farm on Wabash Road was built around the late 1870's, as primarily a haybarn with louvered wall ventilators and its five vented roof cupolas. It was quite large for that time, measuring 110 feet by 40 feet. It originally had a full plank floor and the big doors were hinged and swung out. There were several box stalls for horses and overhead grain bins. As farming practices changed over the barn's long history, it has been updated as needed with new siding, cement floor and foundation, sliding doors, and a rolled standing seam tin roof over the original wood shingles. Several years ago it was covered with steel siding and roof to better maintain it for current farm use. Martin Winkler homesteaded in Blackcreek Township about 1837 and the farm has remained in the family since that time. The big brick house which was built in the 1880's still is in use today, and is considered the Homeplace by the entire Winkler family. For information on this barn, the person to contact would be Lee Winkler's son, Nicholas Winkler, 795 Winkler Road, Willshire, Ohio. (Sondra Samples Photograph)



This is the same farm, of Homer and Leona Baker Carr Farm, on State Route 707. A later barn was built around 1900 by T.W. Baker. Note the white barn, with darker arches on the doors, as well as in the peak of the end wall. This big barn was dismantled by the Amish, and separated into its three parts, and each part was moved to a different farm in 1990; the three barns are still in use.



This 1909 photograph was taken of the Winkler family in front of the 1870's barn at the Lee Winkler farm, 12561 Wabash Road. The five cupolas still stand on the roof of the barn today.



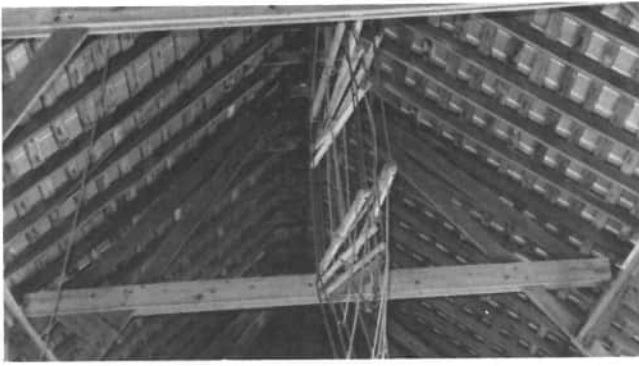
This barn was built in 1937 for James Figley by Charlie Gray, a carpenter from Coldwater. A portable sawmill was brought in to saw lumber from timber cut from a seven acre woods on the farm. Originally built for hay and straw, a small dairy herd, hogs, and sheep, it was later used to stable Farmer's show ponies. The barn is now used for general farm storage. The barn has a gambrel roof, and a smaller pent roof on the end. The rafters are exposed beneath the eaves of the roof. The barn belongs to LaDoyle (Farmer) and Mabel Figley, 11355 Wabash Road, Rockford, and has been in the Figley family for 120 years. (Sondra Samples Photograph).



This is the Luther E. Martz farm barn, 10100 Burrville Road; the barn was built about 1900 by William Squires, a well known barn builder. This address, 10100 Burrville Road, Rockford would be the address today of Ronald E. Martz and Ronald B. Martz. This barn had a carbide type lighting system, a very advanced (but hazardous) concept of lighting. This was long before electricity was invented or available in the area. Because of the good lighting system, a 10 or 12 inch concrete floor and a clear area in the center of the barn, young men in the area formed basketball teams; there were no rules which made for a very rugged game. Spectators sat in the hay mow. In the early days of this barn, it housed two thorough bred stallions, 16 work horses, 10 to 12 milk cows, and some sheep. The two stallion stalls, most of the draft horse stalls and the cattle feeding areas are still intact. The harness room is still intact. In 1922 Luther E. Martz installed a Delco electrical system. This was a kerosene powered internal combustion engine and combined generator system. The system consisted of 24 glass container storage batteries. The system was a 12 volt, direct current system. Some of the electrical fixtures are still in the barn. The barn that preceded this current barn burned to the ground. All contents were destroyed including animals, hay, wheat and oats, plus farm machinery. This article was written by Ronald E. Martz, 10006 Lynbrook Dr., Houston, TX 77042.



A.D. Miller, 1892, in the slate roof, acknowledges the owner and the year this barn was built, at 10041 Burrville Road, Rockford. Three of the barn doors are outlined with darker arches. A pent roof gives protection at the end of the barn. In the past, the barn has been used for livestock, and hay and straw storage. Today, the owner is Helen Hasis, 1107 Yorkshire Court, Celina.



This view of the Luther E. Martz barn shows internal construction and the rope sling and car for moving hay. Hay could be hoisted by a mechanism of track and car, ropes, pulleys, hay fork; hay sling. By a team of horses the hay could be lifted higher than the hay mow floor, locked in place by combination of twine ropes and hay car. The load could then be traversed horizontally by hay car and track to the desired longitudinal location in the mow. In most devices of the time, the hay fork load had to be hoisted to the car at the cone of the barn, traversed to desired position and dumped. Dumping in an empty mow meant the hay had to drop several feet, (e.g. 30 feet). Whereas with the unloading (hoisting) system used in the new barn, the load only needed to fall a few feet, (e.g. 2 feet). This new design was a very desirable system, particularly for the safety of the person working in in the haymow. Also, the impact of the load of hay hitting the mow floor was greatly reduced. The new system was a very successful and desired operation. This article was written by the owner Ronald E. Martz.



This Belgium Stallion was purchased in Belgium about 1910 for \$3000. Ernest Binkley, the hired hand, is holding the horse. Left to right, the Martz children are Ronald B., Donald C., Wallace, and Raymond O. This is in front of the Luther E. Martz barn, 10100 Burrville Road, Rockford.

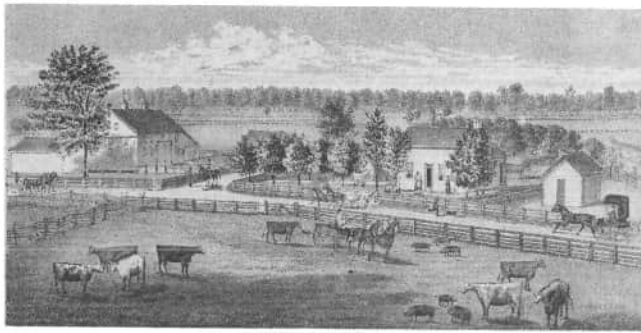


Ernest and Betty Mihm's barn stands at 12115 Jordan Road, Rockford. This big barn was built in 1910 for Silas Jordan, Betty Mihm's Grandfather and Dillon Jordan's father. The date of settlement for the first member of the Jordan family was 1835; they were among the first settlers in Blackcreek Township. The farm has remained in the Jordan family for well over a hundred years.

This barn features an unusual embossed tin roof that gives the appearance of shingles. The barn originally sheltered workhorses and other farm livestock; now it is used for storage. The white barn has a series of entry doors, each outlined with a green arch, across the front of the barn. (Sondra Samples Photograph).

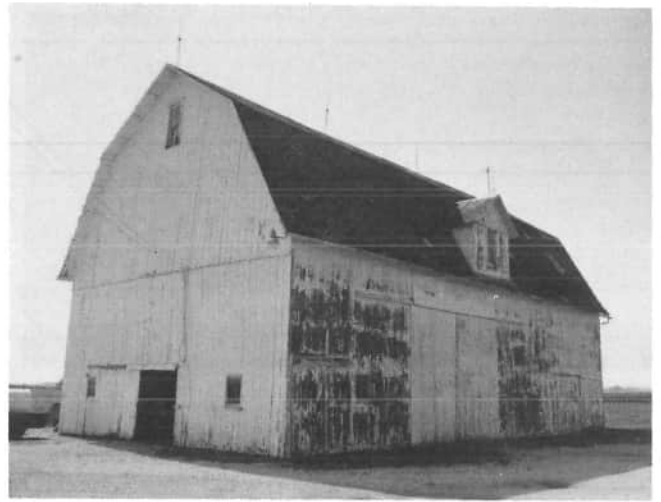


This is a view of the internal construction of the Luther E. Martz barn. The horizontal and vertical structure was put in, in the late 1970's; they were needed to repair structural damage from a major wind storm. The construction was unique and advanced concept of construction; the structural framework was that there were no internal cross beams. This barn also had a slate roof. This barn is 94 feet long and 40 feet wide.



This drawing is in the 1882 History of Van Wert and Mercer County, on page 307. Silas Jordan came to Mercer County in 1835. His son Charles H. Jordan was born in 1835 and lived on the farm until 1862-1865, when he served in the 99th Ohio Volunteer Infantry. In 1865, he returned to the farm and married; they resided at this homestead, in Blackcreek Township. Note the barn has two square cupolas on the top; the barn also has several openings for ventilation.

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Dennis Hoffhines' barn is located at 10342 Erastus Durbin Road, Rockford. The gambrel roof has four lightning rods across the roof ridge, as well as a gable roofed dormer, centered above the double doors. The track and double doors are protected by vertical boards. Both the gabled dormer centered above the double doors, and the vertical boards protecting the double doors are architectural features found in Northern Mercer County and not Southern Mercer County. In the past, the barn was used as a dairy barn; today it is used for storage.

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Rolland Bollenbacher's barn, 10200 Erastus Durbin Road, Rockford, was built in 1902, for his Grandfather, Adam Bollenbacher. Andy Maurer was the carpenter; he built three barns in this area, one of which was Lou Anselman's barn on Tama Road. This gable roofed barn has red siding, with white trim. Four lightning rods are on the roof ridge. The spouting comes together to form a "Y" at the end of the barn wall.

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Joanne Bash's barn stands at 10694 Erastus Durbin Road, Rockford. The gambrel roof is graced with five lightning rods. A gable roofed addition is to the back of the barn. A pent roof serves for protection at the end wall. This barn has been used for livestock and storage. (Sondra Samples Photograph)

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Orciness Stover, Robert Linn's Grandfather built this barn in the late 1800's, on the farm that Moses Stover homesteaded in 1844. The land has remained in the Stover/Linn family for nearly a hundred and fifty years. This barn was taken down in 1977, after this photograph was taken August 22, 1977. This red barn, with the white trim, and gable roof, stood at the farm of Robert and Beatrice Linn, 11261 Erastus Durbin Road, Rockford.

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This barn belongs to the Rogers Farms, 11699 Township Line Road, Rockford. This gambrel roofed barn has the milk house attached to the one side, and a shed roofed extension to the other. At the building nearby, the two extensions on the top of the roof are known as "top knots." (Sondra Samples Photograph)

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This barn was built around 1900, at the Putmans, Flat Land Farm's Inc., 11549 Township Line Road, Rockford. Two ventilators and five lightning rods are on the barn roof ridge. The barn has been used for animals, milking, hay, straw and grain storage, and machine storage.

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This barn was built for Frank Rogers in 1912. The barn was used for milking cows, storing hay and straw, and hogs and sheep. Today, the barn is used for beef cattle. This barn belongs to the W. Rogers Farms, Rockford West Road, Rockford. This barn is one of the very few barns in northern Mercer County which have the gable roofed dormer centered above the double doors. (A few nearby barns in Van Wert County also have this feature.) This feature is not found in southern Mercer County. (Sondra Samples Photograph)

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Michael Hopf, a cabinet maker, came from Germany. He purchased the farm from United States of America about 1850. This barn was built about 1870, just after the Civil War. This photograph was taken about 1953. Michael Riley is on the pony; Michael is a great grandson of Michael Hopf. (Michael Riley is with the Riley Garage in Rockford. His family is from another Riley family, and not the Riley family who founded Willshire.) This barn stood on the east side of the State Line Road, back a long lane; this would be south of Winkler Road and north of Frank Road. This barn was destroyed in the 1965 tornado, along with the house, at Rural Route #1, Willshire.

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Helen Ross and her husband moved to this place in 1937. The barn was standing there on Van Wert-Mercer County Line Road, west of State Route 49, at that time. The Rose girls had owned the place. This barn has a gambrel roof, with two pairs of sliding double doors, and a shed roofed addition to the right side.

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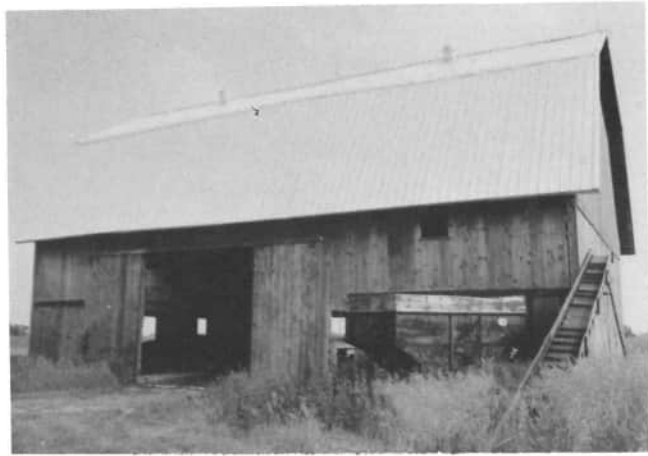
Bill and Margaret Gamble's barn stands at 698 Mercer-Van Wert County Line Road, Willshire. The barn was built about 1895, which almost makes the barn a century old. Five louvered vents across the front of the barn and three across the end, provide ventilation to the interior. Additions have been made to the side and back of the barn. A series of double sliding doors provide entries to this barn. The barn has been used for general livestock and for the farm over the years. Today, the barn is used for bulk fertilizer storage, and machinery storage. The wagon wheel leaning against the barn reminds one of the days of horses and buggies and wagons, preceding the tractors and machinery of today. (Sondra Samples Photograph)

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This big barn on Dudgeon Road has the weathered look of a working barn. The red barn is trimmed with white arches on the double doors, as well as four windows across the end wall. A gable roofed barn stands at a right angle in back of this main barn. The barn is used for beef cattle and a farm shop and belongs to Bill and Margaret Gamble, 698 Mercer-Van Wert County Line Road, Willshire. (Sondra Samples Photograph)

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Max Hamrick lives at this farm, 1288 Mercer Van Wert County Line Road. The owner is Clarence Hamrick, 12921 State Route 49, Willshire, OH 45898; this farm is the center of the farm operations for the Hamrick County Line Farms. This history of this particular barn goes back to a David Carr living here; he married Truman Dudgeon's daughter Florine; this place has been called the Noah Hinton farm. Clarence Hamrick bought this farm from Agnes Bailey, Noah Hinton's daughter, in 1972. In the background is a Brock grain bin, 48 feet in diameter, with 12 rings high, and a capacity of 56,000 bushel; it stands higher than the barn. The three smaller grain bins are 27 feet in diameter, and hold 10,500 bushel each; they are as high as the barn. They have a computerized full flow automatic drying and grain transfer system, controlled by a computer. This computer sets the high and low temperatures in moisture of corn, and turns the dryer on and off, and also augers it to holding bins. It records all grain transfer and transactions on tape. Clarence Hamrick and his son Tim are on this photograph; Max was out working when the editor photographed this barn. In front of the barn stands a John Deere tractor 4430 with hydraulic front assist, pulling a Hardie 60 foot sprayer, for weed control for farm crops; this is controlled by a computer in the cab. This was made in Germany and they had to go to Canada to get it.

This barn is located on Wabash Road, and is on the old Noah Hinton farm, owned by Clarence Hamrick; this barn is adjacent to the 1288 Mercer Van Wert County Line place where Max Hamrick lives. This barn was built in the 1920 to 1922 time; the tornado took down the other barn in 1919; David Carr helped build this barn. It was owned at that time by Noah Hinton, David Carr's uncle. The barn is sawed and wooden pinned. It has a self supporting gambrel roof, which allows for more space in the mow. Clarence Hamrick just put a new roof on this barn, and plans on restoring it with steel siding.



This is an interior view of the Clarence Hamrick barn on Wabash Road. Note the symmetry of the gambrel roof, and how this type barn roof allows for more space in the mow, without the extra posts and beams. (Surely those who have put hay in the mow and cracked their head on the crossbeams, recognize the value of this type roof.) Note the size of the logs supporting the mow floor. This roof may be functional, but it is also artistically beautiful. This book is printed in black and white; the golden color of the wood does not show. After seeing the barn photographs in this book, the reader will have to visit the barns, after asking permission from the owner, and enjoy the barns first hand.





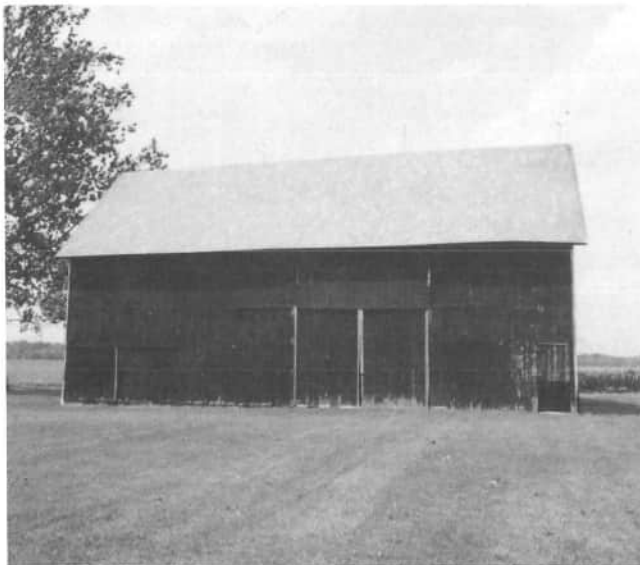
This barn on U.S. Route 33, east of Willshire, was built after the original barn was destroyed in a cyclone about 1918. The farm has been in the Samples family since the 1930's, and at one time, Ervin Samples, well known harness race horse driver, raised horses there. The barn was used for small dairy, livestock, hay storage, and harness race horses. Several years ago, the buildings on the farm were sold to Doyle Stetler. (Sondra Samples Photograph)

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This old barn, built around 1875 on the farm of Bill E. Clause and Sharon, located on Clouse Road off Route 33, and four miles west of Rockford, was built by Ferd and Laura Dryer. The Dryers had purchased the wood land of eighty acres, and an old house which stood just north and west of this location. They needed a barn so they proceeded to cut down large trees for the lumber, to start from scratch to build a barn. With the help of neighbors and friends, they soon had the foundation and framework ready for framing. The special day came when men came to set the frame on its foundation, made of large planks from the trees they had cut. Women and children came and made a bountiful dinner. As there were oil wells on the farm, and the men who pumped them were boarded in the neighborhood; they were a big help, also. In a few days the barn was finished; windows, small and big doors, were propped from the inside with two by fours, to hold them shut. There were no tracks for pulleys in those days. Just a dirt floor was in the barn; it was ready for all their animals with stalls and mangers for horses, another for calves. Cows and pigs ran in and out. Hay was made in the summer; first it was pitched on a wagon, then into the mow, then pulled up with a horse and pulley with a rope, later came the baler, making work simpler and much easier. In 1938, it was sold by Dryer to Edgar and Neva Clouse, who moved there in 1942 with their daughters, Sally and Peggy, now living in Florida and Virginia, respectively, and four sons, Bill, Tom, Jack and Jon Clouse, all in Mercer County. There was a basket ball hoop in the barn, to practice shooting. In 1970, Bill and Sharon Clouse bought the 80 acres and 32 more from a neighbor. (written by Mrs. Neva Clouse, 12750 Clouse Road, Rockford.)

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Gordon Brown's barn, 2297 U.S. Rt. 33 W., Rockford, was built in the 1890's. The beams used in the barn still have the original bark of the tree. The beams are pinned with wooden pegs. The barn has been used for shelter for animals and for storage.

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Nicholas and Verna Winkler currently own and live on the farm at 795 Winkler Road, where this big barn stands. The front part of the barn, with its pretty gambrel roof, was added to the much older back part of the barn around 1940 for O.G. Dudgeon by an Amish carpenter crew from Indiana. The new addition included a more modern milking parlor, a milkhouse, and ample mows for hay and straw. This farm is the site of the former Ruby Dudgeon Log Cabin Museum. Two log buildings remain today. The barn is now used for storage of straw and some of the smaller farm implements since the Winklers are grain farmers. (Sondra Samples Photograph)

Norman Fleming, 2732 Winkler Road, also had an old barn built in 1890 by Henry Gephart. The barn was used for hay and corn storage, and livestock feeding and milking. This barn was dismantled in 1972.



This log building was one of the set of buildings at the Ruby Dudgeon Museum. After the Museum was closed, there was a sale and this building was sold at auction. This log building was then dismantled and moved. The log building had a second story. The front porch protected the two front entry doors, of which this photograph shows have screendoors. (Sondra Samples Photograph)



Norman Fleming's barn, 2732 Winkler Road, Rockford, was built in 1926 by William Schumm. The sliding double doors have the track protected by the vertical siding above. The sliding doors are propped shut right at the smaller service door cut into the sliding door. This small door within the larger door is called "le Petit Guichet." Livestock feeding and hay and grain storage were the past uses of the barn; today it is used for machinery storage.



This log building was also one of the set of buildings at the Ruby Dudgeon Museum. The chimney can be seen at the end of the one and a half story building. A gable roofed protection was added to the back of the building, which is surrounded by the wood fenced enclosure. A small covered wagon stands near-by. This building is still standing at this property. (Sondra Samples Photograph)



Edna and Paul Plikerd's barn, 177 Frank Road, Willshire, originally stood farther back from the road, and stood east and west. The barn was moved prior to the Plikerd's ownership. There was a lean-to on the north end, which blew off in the tornado in the 1940's. A man by the name of Bumgardner built the barn. The barn was used for shelter for horses, cattle, and sheep, as well as hay. Today, the barn is used for storage of implements.

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Richard Figley's barn, 2116 Rockford West Road, just before Jordon Road, Rockford, was built about 1906. This barn is a typical English barn, with the double doors centered, and room on either side for the animals. A shed roofed addition was added to the side. To remind visitors of the past, a one horse walking plow rests in front of the barn.

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This red barn, with its white double doors, and gambrel roof, stands on Rockford West Road, Willshire. The barn has been used for livestock, hay and grain storage, and machine storage. Today, the barn is used for grain and machine storage. Note how the barn stands alone in this rural setting, and does not have so many other buildings nearby as so many farms do today. This old barn is probably over seventy years old, and belongs to Ruthilene Dudgeon Wilson, 7354 State Route 703, Celina, Ohio 45822.

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This long barn, with a pair of double sliding doors on either side of the smaller service door, stands on Lee Road, just east of Hill Road. A pent roof serves for protection from the elements at the end of the barn. The interior beams are hand hewn. Five lightning rods stand across the ridge of the gable roof, of this barn belonging to Kenneth Luginbill, 688 Rockford West Road, Willshire.

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This weathered barn has its double doors placed to the right side. One wonders if the barn was originally smaller, and an addition was made to the left side. A small shed-roofed addition was made to the right side. The barn appears to be resting on its original foundation, on the spring day in 1992 when the photograph was taken. The barn stands on Hill Road, north of Rockford West Road and belongs to Kenneth Luginbill, 688 Rockford West Road, Willshire.

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The barn stands on the east side of Jordan Road, south of Lee Road, and dates back to 1920, built by Louise Behymer. The barn has been used for horses, dairy, machinery, hay and grain storage. The round roof, sometimes called a rainbow or gothic roof, has a slight lift at the edge of the eaves, known as a "ski jump." The large roof allows for more space in the mow. This barn belongs to Max Shock, 2350 Rockford West Road, Rockford.

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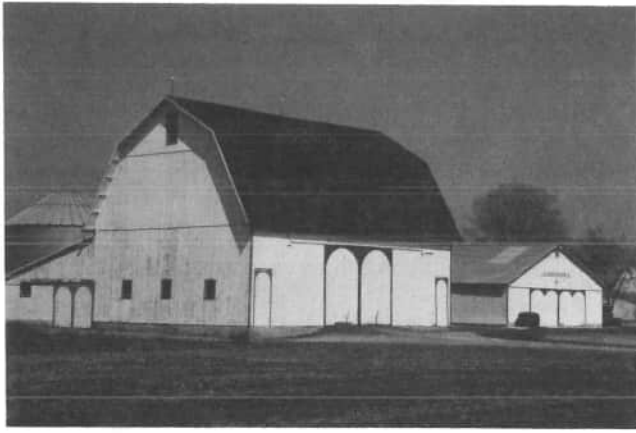
This old barn was built in the middle 1800's by the Shock Family, and has been used for dairy, horses, and storage of hay and grain. Today, the barn is used for dairy, and belongs to Max Shock, 2350 Rockford West Road, Rockford. Currently this is the only dairy barn in Blackcreek Township.

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J.D. Johnson was the owner and Charles Grey, was the builder of this barn in 1935. This long barn, with the gambrel roof was used for a sheep barn, and is now used for storage. The barn belongs to Mr. and Mrs. Ted Bollenbacher, 1740 Manley Road, Rockford.

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Glenn S. Sheets' barn, 2619 Wilson Road, Rockford, was built around 1916 for Claude Stover. The barn was built from timber cut from trees on the farm and the adjoining farm. The Sheets family purchased the farm 56 years past, and have lived at this place 55 years, as of April 12, 1991. This gambrel roofed barn has three lightning rods of the roof, with the glass globes still intact. Green arches grace the doors of the barn. An addition was made to the back of the barn. The original barn was constructed of oak, which was abundant at that time. Over the years, the barn has been used for small dairy and beef cattle; today the barn is used for machinery storage. (Sondra Samples Photograph)



This magnificent and unusual barn may have dated to the Civil War times or earlier. The farm on which this barn stood was once owned by J.D. Dysert, a prominent Rockford businessman of the late nineteenth century. His only daughter Mrs. Fannie Gregory, who died in 1956, inherited the farm. The main frame of the barn is 40 x 60 feet, 20 feet to the square. It was divided into three divisions, each 20 x 40 feet; contained two haymows, one of which was a ground mow; and a driveway floored with heavy timber (Threshing floor). West of the main barn, to the left in the photograph, was another barn attached to it, 24 x 34 feet, with hay storage above horse stalls. In the 1940's this was remodeled to accommodate cattle stanchions, and in 1948 a concrete block milk house was added so that Grade "A" milk could be sold by the then tenant. All the beams in the barn were hewn by hand; the rafters were round poles. Lean-to sheds surrounded the barn on north and south ends and the entire east side. They were 18 feet wide on the north and east, and 20 feet wide on the south end. The shed on the south was used as implement storage as was the driveway.

The remainder of the shed room was used to house cattle and hogs. Part of the north shed had cow stanchions in it, used before stanchions were installed in the horse stable portion. This was truly a large, useful barn, one of the old great barns in Mercer County. This article was written by the owners; Lavondale Little, 2611 Purdy Road, Rockford. Mr. Little is on the photograph.



G.W. SMALLEY, 1896, in the slate of this roof, identifies the owner and the year this barn was built, where Dennis Little lives at 1176 Manley Road. Many barns in Mercer County still have the date on their slate roof, but very few have both the name and the date, surrounded by a border, on their roof. This barn has been used for dairy, sows, and storage for straw and hay in the mows. Today, the barn is used for storage for farm machinery, and is owned by Lavondale Little, Little Farms, 2611 Purdy Road, Rockford.



Richard and Sondra Samples' barn, 2290 Purdy Road, Rockford, was built for Walter Nutt in 1917, after the 1885 Victorian farm house was moved from the back of the farm with a half-mile lane, to make it closer to the road. Originally the barn was used for livestock and milking, ear corn crib, overhead grain bin, and hay storage. Today, the barn is used for storage and the farm shop. The gambrel roofed barn has gray siding, with white trim. (Sondra Samples Photograph)

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This 1942 photograph shows the same barn, belonging to Stanley and Marie Samples, after a lean-to and corn crib were added to the barn. Note the partial white arches in the gable peak. This design is usually found in northwestern Mercer County, but not often in southern Mercer County. This barn was taken down, and replaced with a pole barn, for machinery storage.

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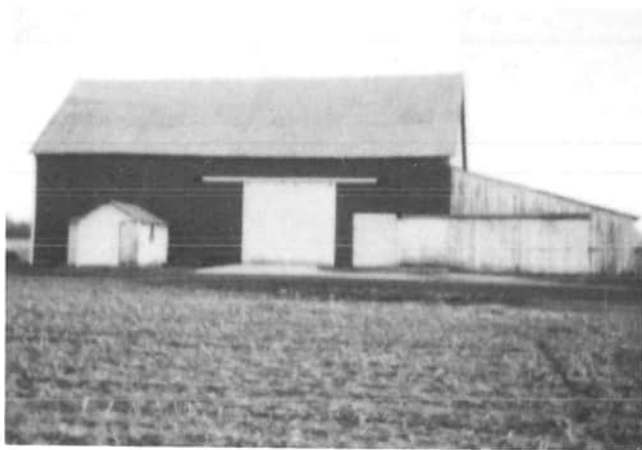
This 1940 photograph shows the old barn, with the white trim, which belongs to Stanley and Marie Samples, State Route 707, Rockford. Note the huge straw stack, which was left behind the barn after the threshing was completed. Note the 1942 photograph of this same barn.

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J. L. Sipe, Naomi (Sipe) Lehman's grandfather, built this barn in 1900; the barn is located on Sipe Road, west of State Route 49. This barn appears to look much as it did when it was built, without a lot of additions being made. The barn has been used for hay, straw, horses, and some machine storage. Today, the barn belongs to Naomi (Mrs. Eugene) Lehman, 946 Mill Pond Road, Berne, IN 46711.

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This barn is located on Sipe Road, a half mile west of State Route 49. This farm has been in the Miller Family for 118 years. Our Grandfather Jacob Miller purchased it in 1873 from Jesse Hartzog, with a log house and log barn. In 1909, the current barn was erected and replaced the log barn. Upon Jacob's death, our father Carl Miller purchased it in 1919. Upon his death, his son Herbert Miller and wife purchased it in 1974, and are the current owners. The barn originally was used as were all barns then, for a horse stable, cow and hog barn, as well as corn, wheat, oats storage and hay. There was always a straw stack on the north side of the barn which lasted through the winter. A horse tank (pictured) was put up in 1925 on the northwest corner of the barn. It currently houses the machinery used to farm the eighty acres of Herbert Miller. (written by the Millers)



Howard Caffee, Ruth Helen Miller, Emilene Miller Henkle on her father, Carl Miller's lap, at the horse tank at the Miller barn.



Ralph Alt, with the buck rake. Note the split rail corn crib.



Carl Miller, in front and Herbert Miller in back of the wagon at Carl Miller's barn on Sipe Road.



Jack Weitz, getting ready to farm.



Gene Koch's barn, 761 State Route 707, Rockford, has been used for milking cows and for storage. Today, the barn is used for raising steers and storage of hay and straw.

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Clara Reef's barn, State Route 707, Willshire, Ohio, has the name C.W. Baker, 1888 on the roof. Clara tells they bought this home in 1928 and she was 92 years old December 4, 1991. Mr. Caffee and sons are farming the ground. This barn has been used for raising cattle, a milking parlor, raising calves, and storage of hay.

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Arlie and Ruth Koch moved here, 830 State Route 707, Rockford, in the early 1930's. Arlie built the milk house about 1940. This is a neat barn with white siding. The barn has been used for milk cows and hay storage, and machinery storage.

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Gerald and Isabel Lautzenheiser's barn, 905 State Route 707, Rockford, has a gambrel roof, topped with three lightning rods. One door opens to the mow, at the top of the end wall. Above the double doors in front, vertical siding protects the track, and doors. This type of track protection is found in the northern part of Mercer County, but not in southern Mercer County.

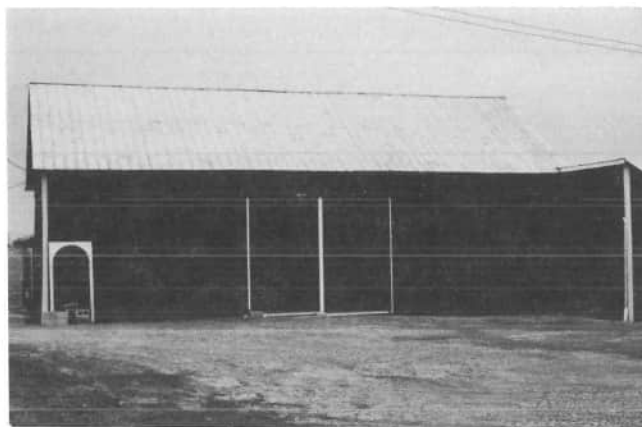
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This long barn, with a series of sliding doors, is located at 1318 State Route 707. The barn was built for John Kettering, about 1880, and has been used for general farm use, and now used for storage. The unique barn belongs to Lois Koch, 810 Heirholzer Street, Celina. (Sondra Samples Photograph)

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This barn, belonging to Paul E. Miller, 1630 State Route 707, was probably built about 1900. The beams are all hand hewn and pinned with wooden pins.

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Paul Miller's barn, 1630 State Route 707, Rockford, was one of the first pole barns with open free stall housing with raised milking parlor. Ralph Kirkham came from Powell, Ohio and hauled the lumber from there (a distance of over a 100 miles). There wasn't anyone doing that kind of construction in this area. The barn was designed to handle 40 plus cows. The barn was built in 1953 and was originally used for dairy and now used for storage.

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Note that the barns are connected at Paul E. Miller's place, 1630 State Route 707. In New England, it was common to see barns connected, for protection in the winter time. Paul built this connecting section for convenience.

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Mrs. Earl Fisher used to live at this barn, as a child of the Maynard Purdy family; she remembers the barn being there over 80 years ago. Fred Brehm bought the place from the Purdy's and their son Earl Brehm and his wife Viola owned it next. Today it is in Viola's name; she lives at 904 South Elm, Celina. The barn stands at David Bollenbacher, 2030' State Route 707, Rockford. Five windows are placed high on the barn wall, across the front. The sign above the doors is no longer legible. A basketboard is mounted on the wall, for the young and young at heart. Five lightning rods are perched across the ridge of the roof. The original foundation is still under this barn.

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This barn, belonging to Jerome Bollenbacher, is west of his place, on State Route 707. This barn is the kind that artists seek. In its rural setting, the rust colors of the roof, and the heather colors of the weathered siding will bring back the memories of childhood when many barns were thus colored. A pent roof is to the end of the barn, for protection from the elements. The barn has been used for general farming, with hay and horses, and today, for machinery storage.

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Jerome Bollenbacher's barn, 2429 State Route 707, Rockford, has the golden harvest colors of autumn, with the double doors and trim a rich brown. This gambrel roofed barn has been used for general farming, with animals and hay. Today, the barn is used for a shop and grain storage.

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Ronald Frahm's barn, 2850 State Route 707, Rockford, was built for Adam Alt between 1930 and 1935. The rainbow roof, with a slight lift or "ski jump" at the roof's edge, has three lightning rods across the ridge. (The round roof is sometimes called a "gothic roofline.") The red barn with its white painted arches on the doors, has an additional feature of the partial white arches framing the window with six over six panes. The double doors also have paned windows. When this barn was built, they had a neighborhood barn dance. The barn has always been used for animals and grain storage. (Sondra Samples Photograph) \*After this barn was turned in for this book, the editor received the note from Sondra that this bar burned down in May 1991.

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William Hoverman built this barn in 1896. The barn stands on the north side of State Route 707, a half mile west of Township Line Road, and a half mile east of Erastus Durbin Road. The barn has been used to store hay, grain, machinery and livestock, and is still used to store machinery. Five lightning rods with white glass globes stand across the roof ridge. The white arches can still be seen on the gable end wall, as well as across the double doors, on this rich old weathered barn. Several barns in Mercer County have a pent roof for protection across the end wall of the barn. However, this editor has only seen less than a half a dozen barns with the small shed roof above the one door. One barn on the southeast corner of St. Rt. 49, and McGough Roads, and one barn, north of that, on St. Rt. 49, have this unusual type roof, over a single door. One can see the white pump just to the right of the barn. This wonderful old barn belongs to Glen Cross of Burbank, Ohio.



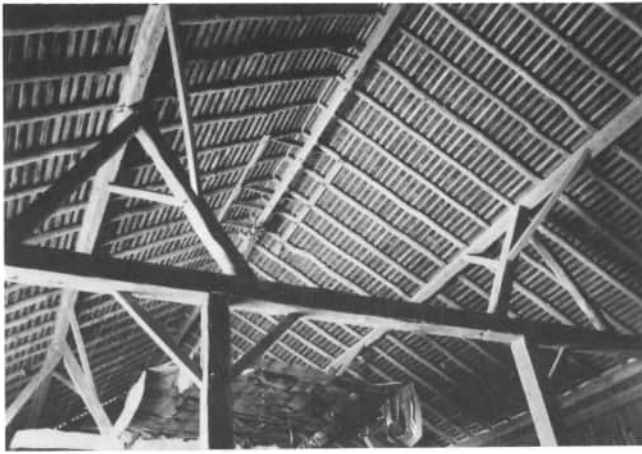
Lewis G. Baker, the original owner, was the builder of this barn in 1897; the date is on the roof. The barn was typical of the time; it was used for housing animals, storing hay and machinery. By 1990, the farm was owned by an Amish Family. It might be interesting to note, how the use of the barn has come full circle and is again a working barn, being used in much the same way as when it was built, with horses, milk cows, hogs, and chickens. This is a November 1990 photograph, of the barn on St. Rt. 707. \*The editor received a call that this barn burned down in April 1991. The Amish family who lives there had many Amish neighbors come in and put up another barn the next week.



Glen Cross, 1672 Cockrell Road, Burbank, Ohio 44214, owns this barn at 2925 State Route 707, Rockford, as of October 1, 1990. The barn was built in 1895, by a Robinson; it was used for general farm purposes and today is used for storage. Two unique features highlight this big barn; first, the date 1895 is a part of the original roof, with its side-lined pattern and second, the double doors are moved to the side and trimmed with white arches, while the pent roof, with side-trimmed, matching pattern, covers the side doors. The old well pump still stands in front of the barn. (Sondra Samples Photograph)



Eugene Behm's barn, 89 Strable Road, Rockford, was built about 150 years ago. On the outside this barn appears to be much like other barns. However, the interior framing is unique.



This interior view of Eugene Behm's barn, 89 Strable Road, shows the frame, with its hand hewn beams. Note that the purlin on either side of the roof, is supported by inclined purlin supporting posts. (Note the position of the vertical posts supporting the cross beam.)

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Beatrice Pifer's barn, 663 Strable Road, Rockford, was built nearly 150 years ago. In the past, the barn was used for livestock. The lightning rods still stand across the ridge of the gable roof. A slight rise goes up to the double doors. Three louvered vents allow for ventilation in the barn. Note the barn stands without a lot of other buildings next to it, in this rural setting.

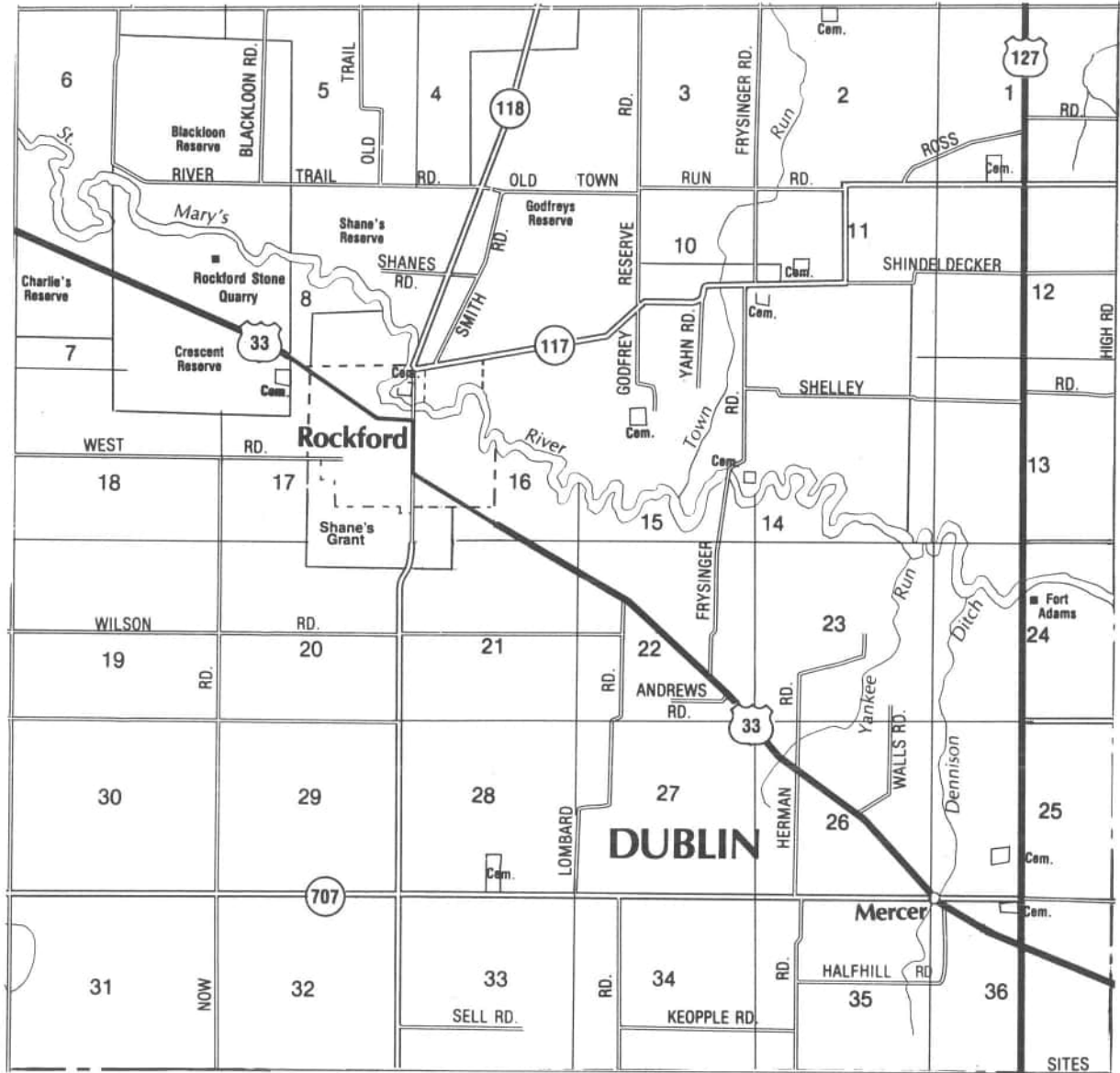
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Another view of the support frame of Eugene Behm's barn, 89 Strable Road, Rockford. Note tree limbs supporting the rafters.

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# Dublin Township, Mercer County, Ohio



\* This page was sponsored by the Mercer County Historical Society for the convenience of those who wish to tour Dublin Township roads, to see the big barns and to appreciate our rural heritage.

\*\* This map was printed by permission of Spectrum Map Publishing, Inc., 909 Sycamore Street, Cincinnati, OH 45202.



Paul and Joan Kimmel's barn at 10340 U.S. 127, Mendon, was built in 1890. P. Kimmel, White Lily Farm, is lettered in green on the end wall. The green is carried out with the green arches on the barn doors and window trim. In the past, the barn was used for horses and cattle. Today, the barn is used for storage, beans, and machinery. (Editor's note: This appears to be the only barn in the county with a red tile roof, which lends itself to an attractive barn.)



In the fall of 1906, John High cut the native timber on the farm, and let it lay a year to cure. In 1907, Henry and Albert Stoner brought their sawmill and sawed out heavy timber. In the spring of 1908, they dug the basement in the side of the hill and built the barn in the spring and summer of 1908. The loft in the west end of the barn was used for straw; two bins in the east end were used for hay or shredded fodder. Under the loft, they stored farm machinery. Lela Dudgeon, John's daughter, told the story of this barn; she remembers they had a big rope swing, and they would swing from the north barn door to the south door. The barn belongs to Mark Davis, 11862 U.S. 127, Rockford.



The Wursters built this barn at 5981 Mercer Road, Mendon, in 1937, replacing the one burned in 1936. The barn was used for dairy cattle, and storage for hay and straw. Today, the barn is used for beef cattle. The green rainbow or gothic roof, with the slight 'ski-jump' at the roof's edge, tops the red barn with the white arched barn doors. Mr. and Mrs. Verl Friedly write, "Fill my cup' describes the unique artesian well, (fountain to us) which has flowed over a hundred years. We moved here April 9, 1948, planning to stay one year, and return to plastering, but have stayed forty-three years; a wonderful place to raise five children. Our thanks to the three Alspaugh sisters who own the farm: Marjory Alspaugh, St. Marys; Ruth Buchanan, Rockford; and Mildred Botkin, St. Marys."



This view from the north, shows Mark Davis's barn, as it is cut into the side of the hill. Barns positioned on the transverse side of the hill, whereby one can enter the barn at the main floor at the double doors, or walk about to the lower level and enter the barn, without the use of a bank going to the main doors, are known as Grundscheier barns.



Wayne Heindel's barn, 12120 U.S. 127, Rockford, was built around 1900. The barn is wooden pin type construction. The main barn was added to, on the south end, with a lean-to added on beyond that; a lean-to was added across the back of the main barn. The milking parlor on the northwest corner of the barn was added about 1973. In the past, the barn also housed horses; today, the barn is a dairy barn.

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This white barn, with the large sliding door, stands on U.S. 127, and belongs to Paul Hays, Route 2, Rockford. The barn was built in the late 1940's and is used as a machine shed.

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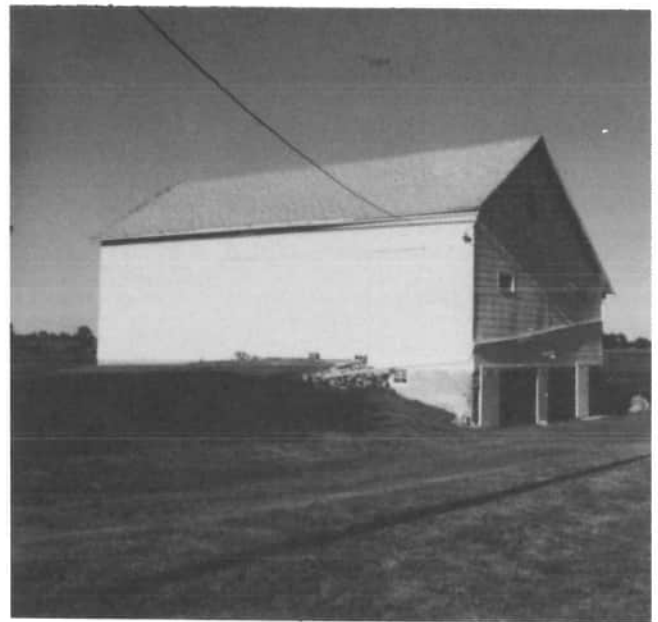
An aerial view of Wayne Heindel's farm at 12120 U.S. 127, Rockford.

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Clarence Buckloh's barn, 12269 U.S. 127, Rockford, was built in 1906. This white barn, with the green gambrel roof, was used for livestock and hay and straw storage. Today, the barn is used for machinery storage. It's natural to see a red pickup truck out by the barn.

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This barn was built around 1913, for John and Fanny (Ransbottom) Granger, by a Mr. Branstetter. It has been in the Granger family since then. The barn has some beautiful wood on the inside. There are long, beautiful beams, with wooden pegs. The outside is getting bad now, but they hate to see it go; it seems like a part of the family. The barn belongs to Dale Granger, and is located on 117, just a mile and a half west of 127. Dale's sister, Normal Dell, Route 2, Box 83, Rockford, lives at this place.

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Bud Hayes, 4807 St. Rt. 117, Rockford, owns this white, gable-roofed barn which was built in the early 1900's. The barn has been used for dairy and grain storage.

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The David B. Thor family owns this barn in the quiet countryside at 5132 St. Rt. 117, Rockford. Mrs. Thor writes, "My husband and I have plans for our barn. We are going to restore and paint it. Doing that, we can have horses and cows in the near future. We have small children and we feel we are going to bring a lot of life back to that big old barn. If that big barn could talk, I'm sure it would have lots of stories to tell, and a lot more in the future."

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Curtis Hayes owns this white barn located at 4583 St. Rt. 117, Rockford. The barn, built in the late 1800's, was first used as a horse barn and hay storage; then, it was used for dairy. Today, the barn is used for storage.

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This Centennial Farm located on the Mercer-Van Wert County Line, just east of St. Rt. 118, is owned by Vergil and Helen Shaffer, Rt. 2, Box 1, Rockford. This farm has been in the Shaffer Family many years; Vergil's great grandfather Samuel Shaffer, sold the farm to his son William W. Shaffer in 1873. William had the barn built probably before 1900; Mat Davis was the carpenter. At William's death, the farm was sold in 1937 to three of his sons: Acada, Frank, and Ray Shaffer; who later sold it to Vergil and Helen Shaffer in 1947. The red barn with the white arched doors and gambrel roof had a cow stable, horse stable, storage of hay and grain, and shelter for machinery.

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The Silver Spur Stables is located at 12622 Godfrey Reserve Road, Rockford and is owned by William G. Book. Paul Shaffer of Van Wert, was born and raised at this place and told that this barn is 72 feet by 56 feet, and 40 feet high, built with timber cut and hewed from the farm, in 1918, and built by the family. This red barn, with the white trimmed windows, has a shed-roofed dormer on the gambrel roof. It had been used for horses, cows, and hogs before; now it has horse stalls and storage.

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This white barn, with the gable roof, was built in the early 1900's, and stands on Shelley Road, and has housed horses, cows, sheep, rabbits, hay and straw. The barn is used for storage and belongs to Bernice Roebuck, 12100 Yahn Road, Rockford.

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The land, being section 5 of Dublin Township, upon which this barn sits, was purchased by Ruel Roebuck from Louis Godfrey, a Miami Indian in 1926, and this particular tract has been in the Roebuck family ever since that time. This barn was built in 1903, and the residents at that time, Harry and Otie (High) Roebuck, parents of the present owner Max Roebuck, lived in the north end of the barn while they added two rooms to their house. Max Roebuck's barn, 12100 Yahn Road, Rockford, has also housed horses, cows, goats, hogs, hay and straw, with bins for oats, wheat, and beans, and machinery.

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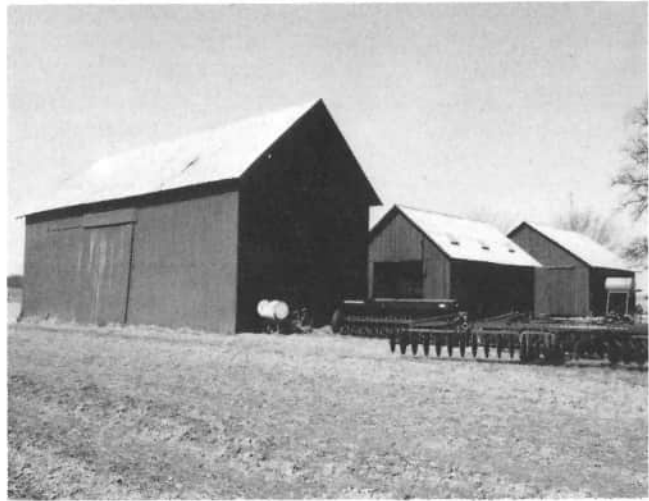
This is the view of the farm at 12565 Frysinger Road, Rockford, when Russel G. Howell had the barn. The windmill (or windpump) is still standing at the end of the long drive, across from the barn. The barn was built on or before 1915.

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Russel G. Howell, starting in 1936, used the barn to house work horses and dairy cattle. A rope and pulley system, the length of the loft, forked in "loose" hay through the top east door. The barn was originally built and used for dairy (with an all cement floor). Since February 1989, Michael D. Mefferd, R.R. No. 2, 12565 Frysinger Road, Rockford, has owned the barn and used it to house dairy cattle, and hay. The milking is done with a portable unit.

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The farm land, farm buildings and the Frysinger School on Ross Road, were purchased in 1971 by Lowell and Mary Davis, 145 Finsbury Lane, Troy, Ohio 45373-1553.

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Tuesday morning, the day after the big snow of February 26, 1979, this photograph was taken of the barn at 12565 Frysinger Road. Seven inches of snow and drifting had closed everything.

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Lowell E. Davis, 145 Finsbury Lane, Troy, Ohio, writes: "The Frysinger School, 1862-1939, was in the Daily Standard on 9-15-77 and 6-5-75. My grandmother Cecil Davis attended the school; she lived on the adjoining farm. My wife Mary and I purchased the school, farm land and other farm buildings in 1971. Working on the farm I have had former students stop and take a look. Needless to say, they aren't young at this stage of their lives."

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This grey barn, with the gambrel roof, belongs to Victor Shindeldecker, 5453 Shindeldecker Road, Rockford. The barn was built by Tom Tester in the late 1800's, and used for horses, hogs, cows, and hay. Today, the barn is used for calves, hay and straw, and storage.

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This barn, with its green gable roof, was built in the late 1890's, and used for livestock, hay and straw, and machinery. The barn belongs to Basil E. Davis, 5009 Shelley Road, Rockford. (Note the 1948 photograph of this same barn.)

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This barn with the green gable roof, was built in 1884 by Jacob and Elizabeth Shindeldecker. The house has since been sold, but the land and barn has been in the family since Jacob Shindeldecker. The barn has been used for horses, cows, grain and machinery. Now the land and barn is owned by Mrs. Victor Shindeldecker.

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This is the 1948 view of the previous barn, belonging to Basil E. Davis. The March 19, 1948 storm took its toll on the barn. Even though the white arched barn doors are still on the front at the side, the roof is gone.

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Basil E. Davis' barn, 5009 Shelley Road, Rockford, was originally a self supporting hip-roof, until the tornado in 1948, at which time the present roof structure was built. In 1990, new doors and track were added. The barn was built in 1919 by William Squires.

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On the back of this photograph is written, "Basil Davis' folks barn after the March 19, 1948 cyclone."

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This is a view of the Cecil T. Davis Barn, on March 19, 1948, which is Basil Davis' place today.

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Another view of Basil Davis' barn, back in 1948. This photograph belongs to their neighbor Lloyd Ketchum, 5159 Shelley Road.

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The red barn, with white trim and a gambrel roof, carries out the rural theme, in Basil Davis' mailbox, 5009 Shelley Road, Rockford.

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Lloyd Ketchum's Grandfather Ezekiel Harv Davis, moved to 5159 Shelley Road, about 1913; the barn was here before that. As the old photograph shows, the barn doors were highlighted with white arches and four-paned glass windows were in the gable end. The boy in the photograph is probably Cecil Davis, father of Basil Davis. The barn went down in the 1948 tornado. (See the following photographs.)

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Another view of the barn at 5159 Shelley Road, after the 1948 tornado. While the barn was destroyed, the hog pen stayed standing. (The hog pen's doors were also highlighted with white arches; the white trim around the end wall window is unique.) These are Lloyd Ketchum's photographs.

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The barn at Lloyd Ketchum's place, 5159 Shelley Road, after the March 19, 1948 tornado.

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S. BROWN, 1886, is imprinted on the roof of John and Steve Gamble's barn at 12771 River Trail Road, Rockford. Two gable-roofed cupolas with louvered vents are astride the ridge of this big barn. The red barn has six louvered vents across the front and three across the side of the barn. White arches surround the pairs of sliding doors on the front. In the past, the barn was used mainly for livestock; now it is used for straw storage and machinery storage. (photograph by S. Samples)

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Another view of the barn at 5159 Shelley Road, after the 1948 tornado.

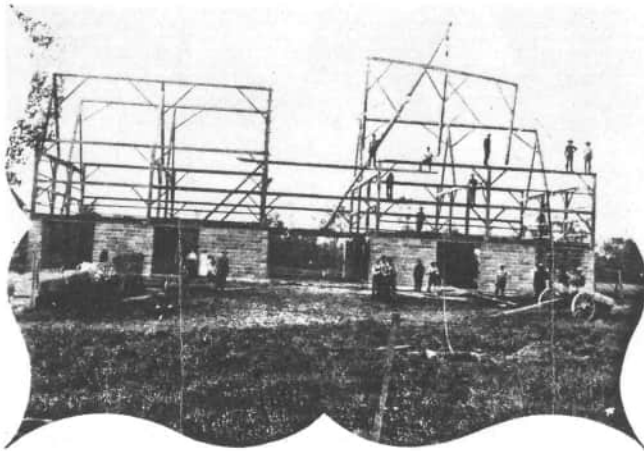
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Many Mercer Countians drive by this barn, as they travel Route 33, enroute to Fort Wayne. This barn is located at Stober Farms, Inc., 3133 U.S. 33 W., Rockford. This gambrel roof has a gable roofed dormer which is centered over the double doors. The tri-part windows in the dormer, are echoed in the tri-part window at the end wall. This centered gabled dormer is only found in northern Mercer County. (The editor has also seen this gabled dormer over the double doors in some Van Wert County barns and concludes that perhaps, the carpenter who designed this type barn lived in the Mercer-Van Wert area. Or, this may have been a popular style in the area, and many farmers used it.) This barn is used for livestock, machinery storage, hay and straw storage. The barn was built approximately 1900 for Charles Schumm. (photo by S. Samples)



This is one of the very few brick silos in the area. The brick silo with the windows on the circumference at the top, stands next to the barn at Stober Farms. In the background, one can see the barn with the 'top-knot' entryway for grain. (photo by Frieda Stober)



This is a copy of the barn raising of Charles J. Schumm barn, which is now the barn at Stober Farms, Inc. 3133 U.S. 33 W., Rockford.



Carl B. Thomas' barn was built in the early 1900's. This barn, at 5119 U.S. 33, Rockford, was used to house livestock and store hay and grain; today it is used for storage. A foundation has been added to this red barn. Four lightning rods stand on the metal roof.



Carl Fisher's barn stands on Wilson Road, Rockford. The original part of this barn featured horsestalls at one end and an overhead oats bin with a chute that emptied into a wooden box with lid that stored oats for easy dipping to feed the workhorses. The other  $\frac{2}{3}$  of the barn is a bit unique in older barns in that it has a 36 ft. by 36 ft. freespan open area with no haymow or supporting posts in the interior space. The roof is supported by a bridge-like truss of 8 in. by 8 in. beams that transfer the weight load to outside and corner posts with tripod bracing timbers, which is an unusual construction feature. This large open area with re-inforced plank flooring makes a good machinery storage space now where it used to have hay and straw stacked from floor to roof. (photo by S. Samples)

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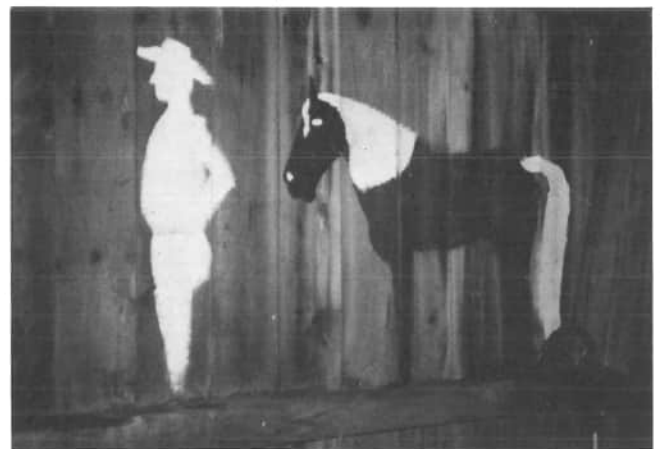
An interior view of the unusual construction of Carl Fisher's barn. The old leather harness can be seen at the right; a part of the artwork can be seen at the left. (photo by S. Samples)

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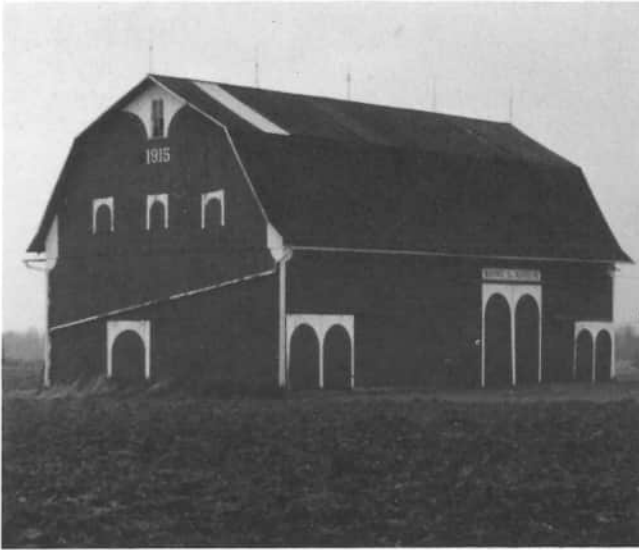
A back addition was added to Carl Fisher's barn at some point that was used as a milking parlor for about eight cows. This barn has been in the Carl Fisher family for fifty years. (photo by S. Samples)

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This is an example of the primitive folk art signature painting of farmer and horse, which was done on the inside of Carl Fisher's barn, by an Amishman who painted the barn. It was done with a four inch paintbrush. (photo by S. Samples)

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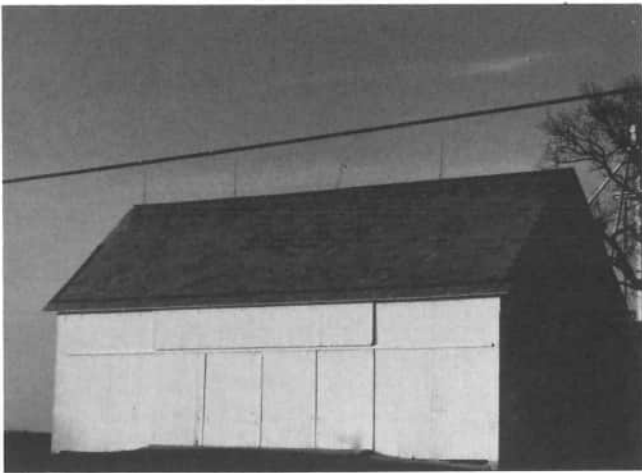
Marie Snider provided the story of this barn, which stands at the corner of State Route 707, and Township Line, Rockford. The barn was built in 1915 by Wm. Squires, and is now under the Wayne Morrow Trust. The barn has been used for livestock, grain and machinery storage. The sliding doors on the ground floor and in the mow, are all outlined with white arches. The paneled window in the end wall, is framed with the reverse white arches, and underlined with the date 1915. (photo by S. Samples)

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Homer Koontz' barn was owned by William Clutter, when the tornado struck on March 19, 1948. He rebuilt the barn, using the same floor and some of the old beams and lumber. He also added a metal quonset-type roof. The barn is still in use by Homer Koontz.

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Joe Wolf built this barn in 1897, at 3344 St. Rt. 707, Rockford. Today, Homer Koontz owns the barn. This is one of the very few barns, which not only has the date imprinted in the roof, but also has a pattern outlining the roof edge. The barn was used for livestock, and for storage of hay in the mow. (photo by S. Samples)

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A view of Homer Koontz' barn today, which is the one rebuilt by Wm. Clutter, after the 1948 tornado. (photo by S. Samples)

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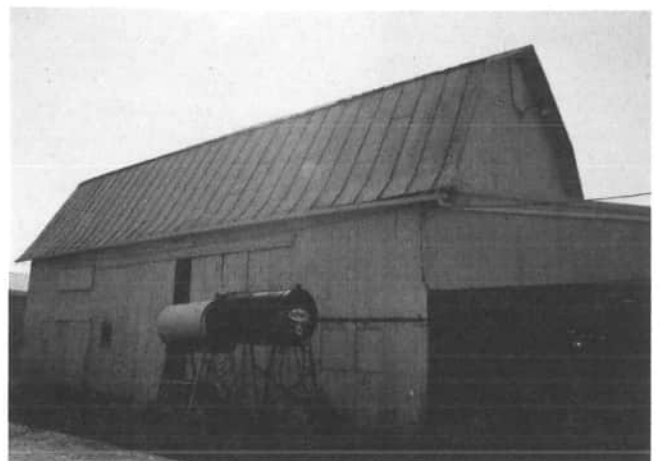
This barn, which stood at 3311 St. Rt. 707, was owned by Dale Koontz in 1948 when the March 19th tornado damaged many buildings in the area along St. Rt. 707. The storm destroyed the roof on the north side of the barn, and all outside buildings, including a large tile one that was used for hogs. It also took down all the farm fences and blew over the windmill, which fell on a cow and killed it. With the outbuildings and fences down, the hogs and cows were wandering all over the farm. They just loaded them all up and sold them regardless of size or age. The Homer Koontz family was at home when the storm struck; they took shelter in a closet. The house roof and chimney were destroyed and windows blown out. Washing that was hanging inside the home to dry on a line was blown down and scattered about. The main barn was repaired after the storm and stood until 1987 when it was taken down due to age and condition. This story was submitted by Martha Koontz.



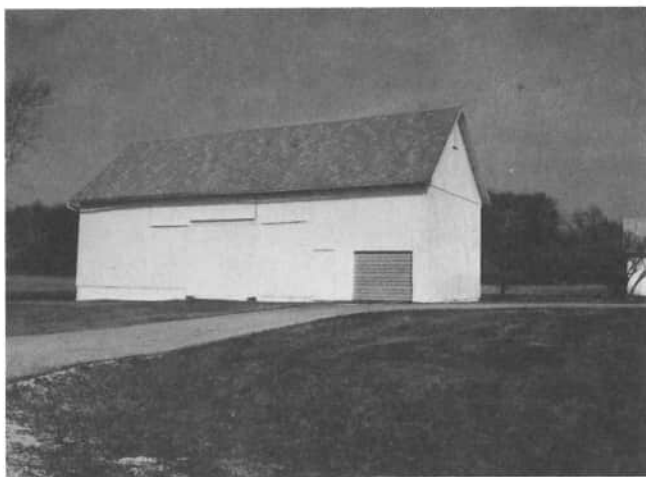
Carl and Lowell Sell, 400 E. Warren St., #13, Celina, own this barn, which Steve Thompson rents, at St. Rt. 707, West of 118. The barn was built in 1908; Kable built the north section. The barn was used for horses, cattle, hogs, hay and straw; an old threshing machine is still in the barn. Today, the barn is used for grain, straw, and machinery storage. On this old red barn, one can still see the hints of the white arched sliding doors. A triangular hay hood protects the haymow door in the wall, beneath the gambrel roof.



The hour-glass design on the double doors on this barn, are the only designs like this, which the editor saw, in traveling the Mercer County Roads. (Of course, others may exist which she did not see.) Donald W. Fisher's barn, at 10972 Now Road, Rockford, has the old wooden timbers which are notched and pegged. It was used for milking cows, livestock and grain storage. This photograph was taken in March 1991; one can see the springtime buds of the tree limbs.

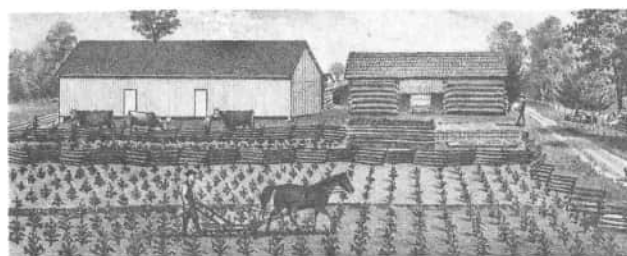


Ray Leighner owns this white, gambrel-roofed barn, which stands at 12577 St. Rt. 118 N., Rockford. In the past, the barn has been used for raising sheep; today the barn is used for steers, hogs and rabbits.



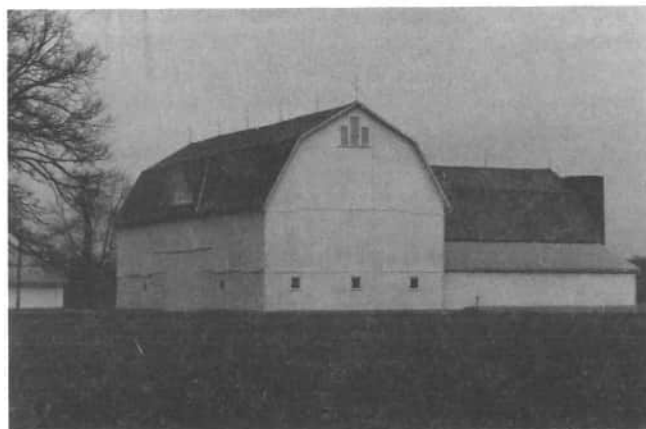
John Karns built this barn in 1898 and the barn was used for cows, and hay and corn storage, at 12042 Township Line Road, Rockford. Mrs. Philip Runyan, the owner, writes, "Swiss ancestors settled here in 1837 and members of the Karns family have lived here ever since. My father started farming it in 1912. I have two children and two grandchildren. Future farming here looks good!"

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A double crib log barn is a rare sight in Mercer County. Two squares of logs were constructed for two pens; then a roof was built across the two pens, leaving an equal amount of width between them. Today, very few log buildings exist in Mercer County, and only one double crib log barn is known to still exist. This drawing is of the Homestead farm of Peter Dull in Dublin township, from the 1882 HISTORY OF VAN WERT AND MERCER COUNTIES, OHIO, on page 416. Peter Dull was born in 1800 in Pennsylvania and came to Dublin Township in 1840. Both his sons served in the Civil War. Note, next to the log barn stands a newer barn, standing on stone pillars. Thus, it would appear that the log barn was built in the 1840's and the frame barn built later, sometime between 1840's and 1882. A smaller log building stands behind the frame barn. Note the rail fences in the foreground. Note the plow.

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Ferdinand Shumm had this barn built in 1912, at 12270 Township Line Road, Rockford. This barn is another one of the Rockford area barns which has the gable-roofed dormer above the double sliding doors. The ventilation is via the tri-part vents in both the dormer and the end wall, beneath the gambrel roof. This huge barn also has an addition to the back. The barn has been used for cattle, horse stalls, pigs, grain and hay storage; today the barn is used for grain storage, hay and straw, and implement storage. (photo by S. Samples)

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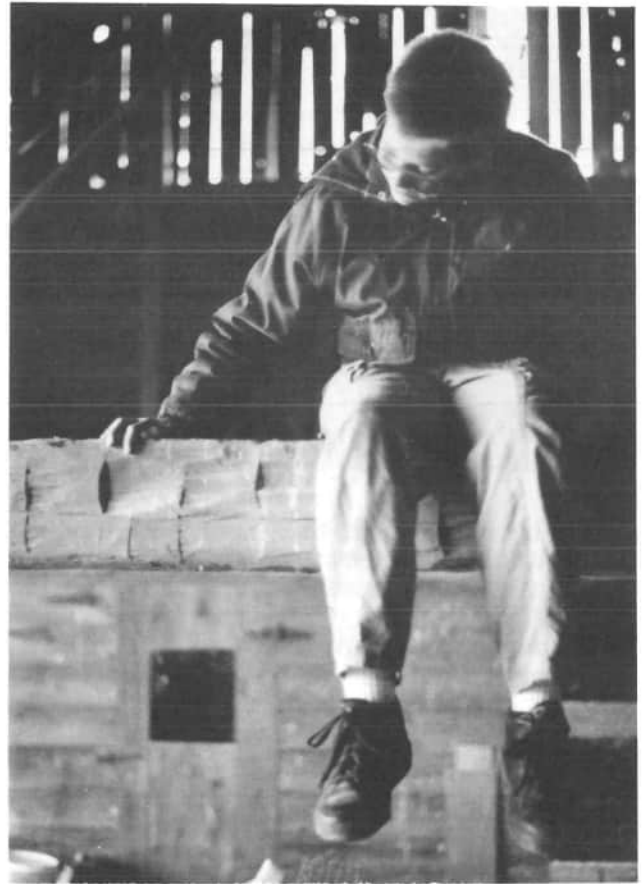
A rail fence is a rare sight in Mercer County in the 1990's. However, in the 1890's, many rail fences were used to enclose fields around the barn. This rail fence belongs to George Wilson, 5198 Shelley Road, Rockford. George is known for his tree farm, and his work in conservation. The site of Fort Adams (from the time of Anthony Wayne in the 1790's) is located on George Wilson's property, east of State Route 127, in Dublin Township.

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Ronald A. Obringer's barn, 11749 U.S. Route 127, Mendon, was built prior to 1905 (by tax records) by Milton and Clayborn Hays. The barn was used for dairy with milk stanchions, grain storage, horses, and a mow for hay and straw. Today, the barn is used for raising poultry, doves, and steers. The pond in front of the barn is filled with wildlife.

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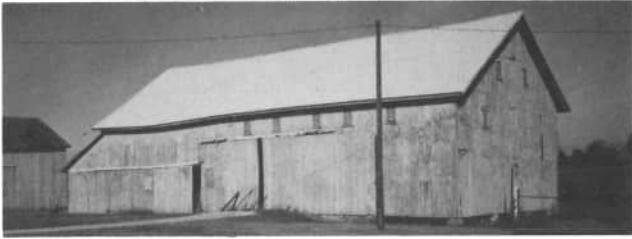
David Obringer is seated on the main cross beam of the barn; this cross beam was hand hewn. At the wall behind him, a door has the old hinges and latch. What will ever become of these big old barns? Will David's Great Grandchildren be able to climb the ladder and sit on this cross beam, or will their only knowledge of this barn be through photographs and the stories passed down?

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David Jeremiah Obringer is standing in front of a unique set of posts and beams in his barn at 11749 U.S. Route 127. The post and beam to David's right are hand hewn. The post in the center shows evidence of the saw marks. The post at the right, also cut with a saw, shows an empty mortise, when a tenon of another beam fit there at one time. From the hand hewn beams to the saw cut beams shows progress, but even those beams are now no longer used in the pole barns of the 1990's.

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This barn stands on what is known as the "Asparagus Farm," a mile and a half north of Motor Inn, the intersection of Routes 33 and 127. This place was bought by Lester and Ramona Goings, 716 N. Washington, Van Wert, Ohio in 1962. Formerly there were small buildings and a large home for the migrant workers. There was also a pea sheller for the area farmers. Verl Friedly and Don Shaffer farmed the farm until their retirement; now Tom Friedly continues to farm it. They tell that Les and Ramona have been excellent landlords over the years. Five louvered vents are placed on the end wall, in the form of a triangle. Five louvered vents are also placed across the front of the barn, just beneath the roof eaves. In looking at this barn, one wonders if it had an addition to the left of the louvered windows, plus the shed roofed addition to the left end wall. Or, seeing the rectangular patches of white, in relation to the other louvered vents, one wonders if there were more louvered vents, but have been closed in over the years. Note, this barn stands on its original foundation of piers of flat stones. Poles brace the barn doors, not only to keep them closed, but also to keep the wind from catching them and blowing them off the track. This is a grand old weathered barn.

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John and Libby Provcí's barn, 11101 Lombard Road, Rockford, was built in the autumn of 1912 and finished New Year's Day 1913, by Lon Bice. The barn looks much as it did when it was built, without a lot of additions. The barn has been used to house cattle, horses, hay and grain, as well as machinery. Today, the barn is used to house machinery. John Williams gave this information to the Provcí family. John said that Lon Bice also built his father's barn, which stood just to the south of Provcí's place.

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William Squier, well known local barn builder, built this barn in 1928 or 1929, at 10171 State Route 118, Rockford. The red barn has its doors trimmed with white arches, and has a green gambrel roof. The barn has been used for animals, hay, straw and machinery; today, the barn is used for machinery.

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This red barn, with the white trim, and green gambrel roof, stands at 10820 Lombard Road, where K. and A. Bills live. The barn was built in the 1910's, and has been used for livestock. Today, the barn is used to house machinery; it belongs to Jon Sidenbender, 10084 Eichar Road, Rockford.

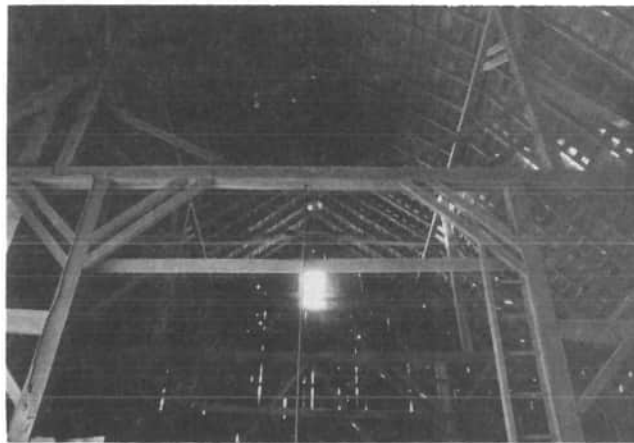
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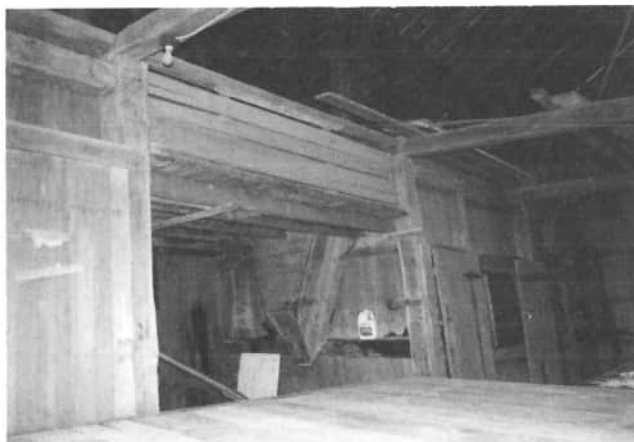
Casey Nuttle's barn, 10759 Lombard Road, Rockford, was built in 1912 by Lon Bice. (Lon Bice also built John Provcic's barn at 11101 Lombard Road.) The barn has been used for livestock, hay, straw and grain. The story is told, that when they were building the horse stall, they took the driving horse, "Old Dan" and put him in the stall to see if he would fit. This barn has always been red; the interior framing of the barn is pinned with wooden pins.



A large red barn and a smaller white barn are standing on this photograph, for the farm at 10741 Lombard Road, which farm belongs to Ken Myers, 11060 Lombard Road, Rockford. K.G. MYERS is written on the wall of the larger barn. This barn was here in 1906, when Ken came from Illinois during the depression; there was a mud lane and two families had lived at this place before Ken's arrival. The double doors and track are protected by vertical board overhang. The gambrel roof is made of slate.



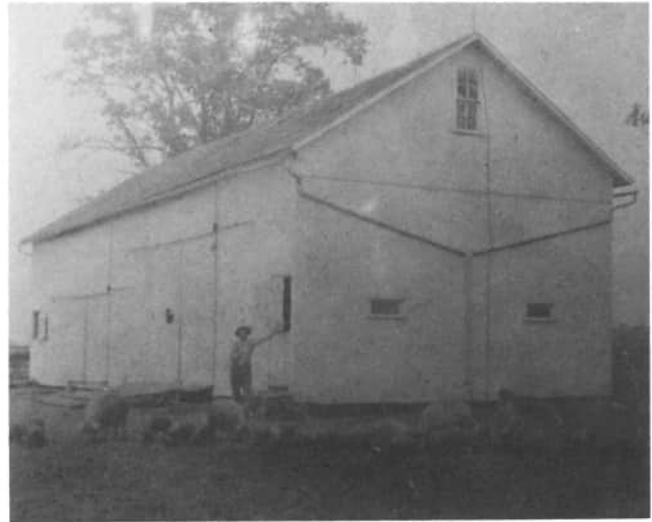
The interior framing of Ken Myers' barn at 10741 Lombard Road, is unique. This 60' x 40' barn has double bracing. Note how the cross beam has double inclined supports from the posts below. The back wall has this double brace as well as an A frame brace. In the 1947 tornado, the cross beam in the mow, which is 8" x 8", was cracked; it is now braced. The tornado twisted the barn and knocked one brace out, when roof went off the white barn and hit it.



This interior view is of the smaller white barn at Ken Myers' place at 10741 Lombard Road. This older barn had three grain bins, and a grain chute to the left; a corn crib was on the right side. The barn has a wooden floor. Note the hand hewn beams and wooden pins.



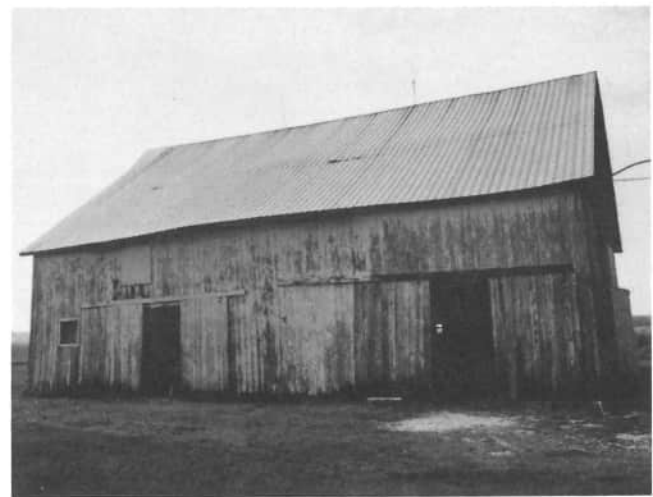
This is another interior view of the smaller barn at Ken Myers' place, at 10741 Lombard Road. The roof of this barn went off in the 1947 tornado, and hit the roof of the larger barn.



Richard Palmer was the first of the family to come to Mercer County; he came from Miami County, Ohio in 1834. This barn was built about 1870, at 5843 Mercer Road. Tom and Elza Palmer owned this barn, when this photograph was taken about 1907. The barn has been used for horses and livestock and now used for storage. Winifred Maurer, 5843 Mercer Road, Mendon, owns this land; the land has been in her family for four generations. Winifred's son, the fifth generation, farms the land. If one looks closely, one can see that this barn is two barns put together; two pairs of double doors are on the front of this barn.



Jon and Martha Sidenbender, 10084 Eichar Road, Rockford, own this attractive white barn, trimmed with arches around the doors and shutters next to the windows. Three lightning rods grace the ridge of the gambrel roof. The barn was built between 1910 and 1920 and was used for livestock production in the past; today the barn is used for a shop and grain storage. This barn has a feature, similar to other barns in Northern Mercer County, but rarely seen in southern Mercer County; that is the vertical board overhang which protects the track at the top of the double doors.



This weathered barn has a metal, gable roof, and two pairs of sliding doors on the front. One square window is located to the left side. A night light is attached to the right end wall. Today, 4-H cattle are housed in this barn, which belongs to Steve Bowen, 5934 Van Wert Mercer County Line Road, Rockford.



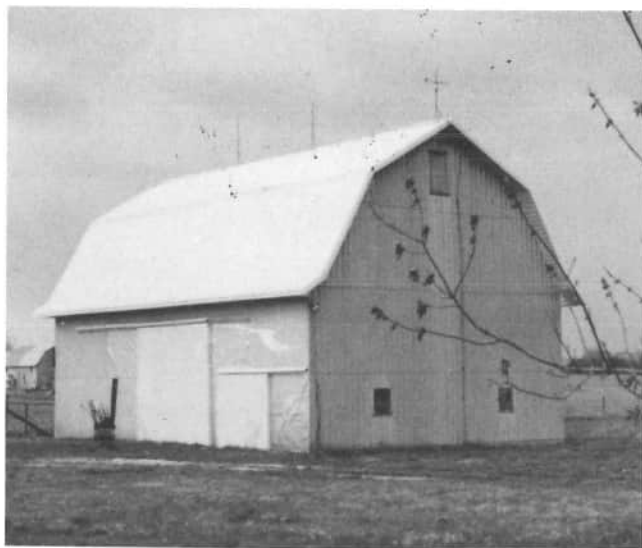
This red barn, with white trim, stands in Dublin Township, and belongs to Paul and Faye Clay, 613 West Spring Street, Saint Marys, OH 45885. This barn has been used to store farm produce and machinery. The green gambrel roof allows for more storage space in the mow. A window with four panes over four panes is located in the end wall at the peak of the roof. A shed-roofed addition has been made to the right of the barn.

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This barn was built for Steven A. Clay in 1896; then it was passed down to Claude Clay Youngblutt, around 1942. All the materials for the barn were purchased in Chicago and sent per train to Rockford. In the past, this barn was used for stock, cows, horses, raising pigs, hay and straw storage, and machinery storage. This red barn has its doors trimmed with white arches; one window is located on the front side. The barn is used for machine storage, and is owned by Mary Youngblutt, 3765 Rockford West Road, Rockford.

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This gray barn, with the white doors and gambrel roof stands on Shindeldecker Road, just east of U.S. Rt. 127, and west of Tomlinson Road. The lightning rods are still standing tall on the roof ridge. Three windows are in the end wall, for light, and for mow entry. The barn belongs to Paul Hays, 12448 U.S. 127, Rockford, OH 45882.

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This barn stands on Route 707, just east of Route 127. T. PALMER, 1887, is lettered in the slate roof. Thomas Palmer was the uncle of Tom and Elza Palmer. These beautiful weathered old barns, with their slate roofs have lived beyond their usefulness; whatever will happen to them! It is cost prohibitive to put on a slate roof, as well as remodel the barn to fit the needs of today's farmers. The owner of this Palmer barn is Winifred Maurer, 5843 Mercer Road, Mendon.

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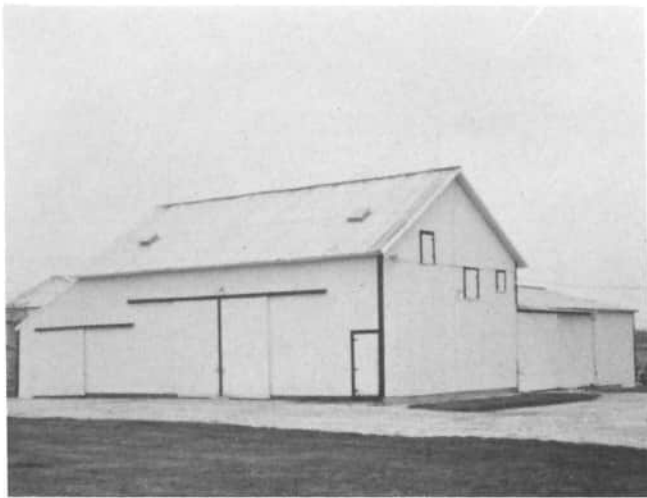
Susan Deitsch, 4146 St. Rt. 707, Rockford, owns this big barn. The white barn has two sets of double, sliding doors in front, as well as several four-paned windows, plus louvered vents. The dog house at the end, seems a miniature of the big barn.

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The date 1908 is in the roof of this three bay barn to identify the year the barn was built by Delbert Dietrich and neighbors. The barn has been used for cattle, horses and hay; today, it is used for hay and machine storage. The red barn is trimmed with white, with white arches on the doors. The pair of sliding doors has a diamond window in each door. Mr. Dietrich raised his family on this farm and later his daughter & son-in-law, Joseph & Opal Rhodes lived there for a number of years. In 1952 Charles and Romola Beougher moved to this farm and raised their four children. In 1981 the farm was purchased by their daughter and son-in-law, Jerry and Connie Sell, 12238 Smith Road, Rockford. The barn is located at Charles W. Beougher, Box 4789, State Route 707, Rockford. On the photograph is Charles W. Beougher, Blackie, the Lab, and Schwartzkopt, the cat.

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Sam Hays owned this barn, when it was built in 1890. This white barn has an addition with a shed roof to the left. The doors are neatly trimmed, and make for easy access to the barn. In the past, the barn was used for livestock; today the barn is used for machinery storage. Tom Hays, 4556 State Route 707, Rockford, owns this barn.

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This barn was built before 1900 by the Charlie Herman Family. The barn has been used as a horse barn. On this photograph are the previous owners, Charlie and Hattie Herman. On the white barn, one can see the upper part of the stable door open, with its "Z" bracing. Two windows are in the lower part of the barn, while a window is at the peak of the mow. A windmill is located at the west corner of the barn, and can just barely be seen. Today, the barn is used for hogs, and is owned by Norman Dietrich, 4842 State Route 707, Rockford.

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Donald and Linda Hays, 4931 State Route 707, Rockford, own this barn. W. Keoppel, 1893, is in the slate roof, and states who owned the barn when it was built. In the past, the barn has been used for livestock. In the 1940's and 1950's, the barn was used to store equipment for a seed corn business. Today, the barn houses antique equipment.

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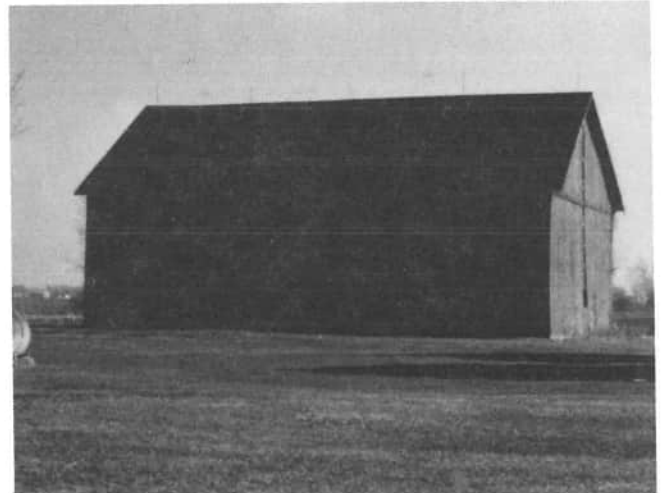
Jim and Bev Blount own this barn at 5102 State Route 707, Rockford. This white barn, with its gable roof, may have been built between 1830 and 1850; it is put together with wooden pegs. The doors are trimmed with darker arches. A shed-roofed addition has been made to the left end. In the past, the barn has been used for stock and hay storage; today, the barn is used for storage.

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Richard B. Hays, 10767 Herman Road, Rockford, owns this white barn, with the brown trim. Four louvered windows and one glass-paned window are across the front. Brown arches brighten the white doors. A. Hays, identifies Alan Hays, who built the barn in 1895. This barn may be the only barn in the county with a round cupola with a square base and the cone-shaped roof. Boone Shindeldecker redid the interior of the barn and made it into one of the first grade A milk set-ups in the area of Dublin Township. Mr. and Mrs. Richard Hays are standing in front of their barn, on this photograph.

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Robert L. Lloyd, 205 E. First, St., Box 265, Rockford, owns this barn, which stands at 4998 Koepple Road. William Zizelman built this barn in 1904. The barn stored grain, cattle, and farm equipment. Anyone whoever grew up on a farm can appreciate the quiet of standing by this barn in the evening, and watching the sun go down.

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## OLD FASHIONED FARMERS

The OLD FASHIONED FARMERS hold their exhibit of antique tractors and gasoline engines over Fourth of July Weekend, annually, at the Van Wert County Fairgrounds, on U.S. Route 127, Van Wert, Ohio. They also host a series of events and exhibits, including craft shows, tractor square dances, musical shows, children's events, antique tractor pulls, flea market, threshing wheat, hog roast, parade, auctioneer bid calling contest, chainsaw sculpture, and more.

The first show of the Old Fashioned Farmers was held in 1976 on the Clay farm northeast of Rockford. The show consisted of some of Paul Clay and Merlin Winer's old equipment being pulled out along the lane, and some wheat being threshed. Approximately twenty people, Paul, Merlin, and their friends, were then treated to a Thresherman's meal prepared by Mrs. Clay and Mrs. Winer. That first show had two exhibitors and about ten or twelve pieces of equipment.

In 1978 the Rockford Lions Club helped by sponsoring the show and it was increased to a two day affair. Larger amounts of equipment were displayed, a food stand was added, and some entertainment was added. The show continued with the Lions Club sponsorship through 1982 when the Old Fashioned Farmers Association was formed. The club was formed with charter member families. Many of us remember that cold October night we first met in the machine shed at the Clay farm to start organizing this great group.

The annual show kept growing each year as we added new members and displays. Flea markets were added, antique trucks were displayed, and new things were tried. The club has acted as host for the 1985 Ohio State Plowing Association competition, had hot air balloon lift-offs, and many varied activities. In 1987 the club made one of the biggest decisions to move from the Clay Farm at Rockford to the Van Wert County Fairground. This decision was a hard one to make after all the wonderful years on the farm, but it was felt that if the organization was to continue to grow this move must be made. The move paid off as expected; the club grew from 37 exhibitors in 1986 to 124 exhibitors in 1987.

The club has had some very rare and unusual exhibits on display in the years at Van Wert, including the only Wallis Bear tractor known to exist, the 120 horsepower Reeves steam engines, and the 1924 Case Roadster automobile, the only restored Case Roadster in the world, and one of only two known to exist. Past shows have displayed 60 horsepower single cylinder Patton Bros. engine, a 1928 Caterpillar tractor and Caterpillar pull type combine, and a large display of antique trucks and cars as the club hosts a rally in conjunction with the Ameri-

can Historical Truck Society, Black Swamp Chapter. Over the years this small one day, two man show has grown to an organization of about 220 members and three full days of work, fun, and fellowship; from ten pieces of equipment to over 750 pieces. Those interested in joining this organization OLD FASHIONED FARMERS may sign up for Membership at the Fourth of July Weekend Exhibit at the Van Wert County Fairgrounds each summer.

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Don Salway is cutting wheat with a cradle scythe. (This was used before binders.)

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Harvey (Corky) Brown and Lowell Lewis are binding the wheat with a binder. Harvey is driving a 1937 "A" John Deere.

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Another view of No. 2

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Merlin Winer threshing wheat with an Avery Thresher.

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Shocking wheat are Lowell Lewis, Don Salway, Eldon Fuhrman, Harvey (Corky) Brown, Mike O'Rourke, Marlin Oechsle, Bernie Poe, Hal Parrish.

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Paul Uhlenhake, 1936 International WK 40 (summer 1982)

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Dennis Straw, son and daughter, shocking wheat.

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Jim Uhlenhake, Paul's son, 1936 International WK 40 (July 1992)

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Ed Brush and his father Noel Brush (summer 1983)

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Harold Schroer, Farmall H, 1947.

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Merlin Winer and Paul Clay, Belle City Threshing Machine. (summer 1983)

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Don and Mary Harris, 1933 Farmall F12, Waukesha, was built 1933-1934; only a few were made until International got its own engine perfected.

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1945 Farmall IA, driven by Mary Ann Salway. Waldo Thomas on the trailer with two of his stationary engines; an Economy and a John Deere.

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Hal Parrish, International Cub, 1949.

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Joe Hertel and Grandchildren Bryce and Amber Wiseman, John Deere, Model D., 502 Cui., 2 cyl., 1952.



Gary, Diane, Jeff and Jenny Fullenkamp, 1939 H, John Deere.



Alvin Alig, 1936 A John Deere.



Harvey Corky Brown, Farmall (C) 1951.



1917 Frick Steam Traction Engine; weight 7 tons, 12 horse power on draw bar, 36 horse power on belt, built in Waynesboro, PA. Engine owned jointly by Willis Lehmann, Duane Clegg, and Bill Clegg.



Harvey Corky Brown, John Deere (L), 1937



Don Hays, 1938 Silver King "R 66"

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Terry Muhlenkamp, Roger Braun, Greg (Woody) Borger, Matt Gilmore, Mary Jo Schmitt, Theresa Bruns, and Zeno (Sam) Homan in front. Gasoline Engine Exhibit.

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Don Hays, 1930 John Deere "GP"

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Ron and Brian Gruss, 1936 Farmall, F20, with buck rake.

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Kent Leising, 1941 SC Case

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Ron Gruss, 1948 Minneapolis Moline "Z".

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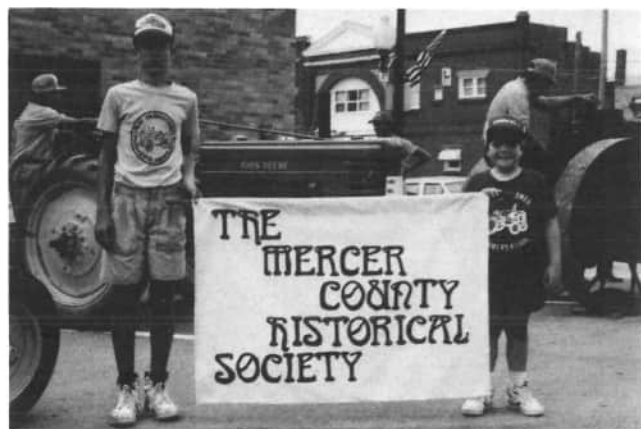
Lowell Lewis, 1935, F 20 Farmall.



Rick Muhlenkamp, 1953 Massey Harris, 44 Special.



Lowell Lewis, 1941-2 Allis Chalmers C. The Mercer County Fairboard bought this new, about 50 years ago. It was used to care for the racetrack, and to cut the grass at the fairground. Lowell Lewis now uses the tractor to cut grass; he has owned it since 1970.



Jeff Fullenkamp and Doug Hays, carrying The Mercer County Historical Society banner, getting ready for the Lake Festival Parade in 1992.



Wayne Lacy, 1947 Oliver 70.



Alvin Alig, John Deere "LA", approximately 1943-1944.



Dean Stegaman, helping at the Museum, Celina Lake Festival 1993.



These three ladies are the wives of the families which have hosted tractors at the Museum for 16 years. Back row: Diane Fullenkamp, Linda Hays, and Marilyn Gruss. Front row: Tami Metz (a friend), Julie Fullenkamp, Danielle Hays, Diane Hays. 1993 Celina Lake Festival at the Mercer Co. Historical Museum, Celina.



Doyt Stegaman with Allis Chalmers WC 1942.



Kelly Gruss and Trisha Gruss with A.C. "B" 1938.



Doug Hays with Allis Chalmers WC 1935.





David Neate standing in front of Corky Brown's 1937 John Deere A.

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Marilyn Neate, driving Lowell Lewis's John Deere H in Celina Lake Festival Parade, 1993.

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Maurice Dowler standing with his 1955 John Deere 40.

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Roger Ricketts, with his 1950 Oliver Row Crop 88.

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John Caywood with his engines; 1993 Lake Festival.

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Don Salway with his 1945 Farmall B and Mary Ann Salway with her 1945 Farmall A.

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Joe Hertel with his 1950 Oliver 66 at the Mercer Co. Museum, during 1993 Celina Lake Festival.



Les Norris, with his son, sitting on his 1951 Farmall H at 1993 Celina Lake Festival at the Mercer County Historical Museum.



Paul Clay, with the I.H. Hay Press, (hay baler), 1933, which belongs to Dick Germann, at the Mercer Co. Museum, during 1993 Celina Lake Festival.

## WILLIAM SQUIRES BARN BUILDER

William Squires was one of the "Barn Builders" of Mercer County. William Squires built the barn, which belongs to Basil E. Davis, 5009 Shelley Road, Rockford, in 1919; in 1948 a tornado took off the self-supporting roof of Davis' barn, and the present roof was added. Other barns built by Squires were as follows: Murph Knapke's barn, 7541 Fleetfoot Road; Richard Schleucher's barn, 2906 Frahm Pike; Steven Siebert's barn, 1918, 4570 Oregon Road; the barn at 10171 State Route 118, 1928-29; and Luther Martz's barn, 10100 State Route 118, Rockford, 1900. Mr. Bill Squires remodeled Leon Hanni's barn, 3373 Hone Weir Road, eighty-five years ago when Arthur Miller owned the barn. William Squires probably built many other barns, but these are the ones which were identified as his, when the barns were turned in to the Mercer County Historical Society for this book.



Bill's BP, Complete Auto Service Center, is located at 205 North Main Street, Rockford. On the photograph, left to right, is Bill Severt; Doug Severt, Bill's son; and Cecil Ballard. They are standing in front of the 1980 GMC Tow Truck.



## ROCKFORD CARNEGIE LIBRARY

The Rockford Library Association, under the leadership of Mrs. W.T. Barbour, helped set up library service in Rockford in January of 1902. Members of this association were required to pay dues of \$1.00 per year. This money, along with funds raised through socials and entertainments, was to furnish the finances necessary to start the library service.

By 1903 a room had been secured, equipped, and with books borrowed from the State Library or donated, the library was opened. The village council appropriated money to help with expenses. In 1905 a regular librarian was employed for \$.50 a day. Mrs. D.C. Kinder was selected and held this position for 29 years. In 1906 the library was opened free to residents of Rockford, with non-residents paying \$1.00 a year for library service. By 1910 the library was free to all residents of Dublin Township.

At this time a representative from the State Library, Miss Mary Downey, suggested the librarian request money from Andrew Carnegie to build a library. A \$10,000.00 grant was received from Carnegie and the library was built on the present site. The building was opened on May 1, 1913. The library was doubled in size in 1969 when an addition was put on the back of the building.

The library was organized under the School Board plan in 1927. Those serving as librarian/director have been: Mrs. Mary Kinder (1905-1934), Mrs. Vida Smith (1934-1940), Mrs. Elsie Keopple (1940-1950), Mrs. Ethel McSherry (1950-1972), Mrs. Harriet Pugh (1972-1974), Miss Marcia Winscott (1975-1988), Ms. Deborah Williams (1988-1989), and Mrs. Rozann Maurer (1989-present).

Members of the Board of Trustees in 1993: Mark Rutledge, Marcia Stansbury, Aurelia Grieshop, Zona Shindeldecker, Phillip Reyman, James Gibson, and Evelyn Beerbower. Robert Maurer serves as clerk-treasurer and employees are Rebecca Stephenson and Nancy Salway.

## THOMAS M. SANTANELLO, D.O.

Thomas M. Santanello, D.O. has his office located at 221 South Main Street, Rockford, Ohio 45882. Dr. Santanello not only serves family medicine, he also provides the medical services for sports medicine; rehabilitation of sports related injuries and industrial injuries; peripheral nerve surgery, (Carpal Tunnel Syndrome, etc.); spinal and neurological disorders, including chronic head, neck, and back pain.

Dr. Thomas Santanello grew up in a predominantly Italian neighborhood in Providence, R.I. and was awarded an athletic scholarship to Notre Dame University, from which he was graduated with a Bachelor of Science in Biology in 1974. He earned his medical degree from the University of New England in Maine in 1982. During High School he was an all state baseball player, and later he played football for Notre Dame, boxed in Golden Gloves competition and performed for Philadelphia in the World Football League. He had wanted to be a neurosurgeon, but while he was performing his residency at Grandview Hospital in Dayton, he studied under a sports specialist and worked with the University of Dayton Football Team. He also was working in three hospital emergency rooms in the Dayton area. "Eventually," Dr. Santanello stated, "I just burned out. I found I did not like the big city and its problems. People were stabbed right outside of the hospital."

Dr. Santanello negotiated a contract with Community Hospital at Coldwater, and worked for a month at the Community Medical Center in Celina. Dr. Santanello liked the area, and accepted Community Hospital's offer to practice in Rockford.

He provides a wide variety of services for all types of area athletes, from football to gymnastics, etc.



Susan, Dr. Santanello, T.J., Gina, Tianna, and Alanna.

# Bolton's Motor Inn



Bolton's Motor Inn, Inc. is located at the intersection of U.S. Rt. 33 and U.S. Rt. 127 at Mercer, Ohio. It is owned by Richard and Shirley Bolton and employs approximately forty people with both full and part-time jobs, many of whom have been long-time employees at this same location.

Motor Inn has been a part of the community for many years, the present building being constructed in 1954, and is well know for good home cooked meals, along with friendly service in the restaurant. Although it serves many truckers, it also caters to both the traveler and the local families.

In addition to good food at the restaurant, Motor Inn has added a convenience store to accommodate the customers in need of a snack item or other merchandise needs, such as bread and milk, etc. Also available are both gasoline and diesel fuel.

The owners and employees very much enjoy being a part of the community, and look forward to serving the public for many years to come.



Motor Inn shift supervisor Don Hays, Shirley and Richard Bolton, owners (front), Greg Bolton, maintenance supervisor (back left), and Ted Ballinger, fuel manager (back right)



Motor Inn's Restaurant Manager, Bea Sattler (center) and long-time employees Alice Bruns (left) and Helen Davis (right)

# Shane Hill Nursing Home



Shane Hill Nursing Home, 1978

Shane Hill Nursing Home, RR #3, Rockford, Ohio was founded by Olen C. Ransbottom and his son-in-law John L. Smith. The original fifty bed unit was built in 1971 with open house held December 12, 1971 and the first patients taken on December 16, 1971. The home was soon full and a continual waiting list prompted the building of an additional fifty beds. The new addition was opened in May 1976.

Olen Ransbottom had been a life-long resident of the Rockford area, and had been in the dairy business some 39 years. Following a heart attack in 1970, Olen sold his dairy business which was known as Ranny's Home Dairy. John Smith had been in the nursing home business since 1964. He, and his mother, Florence Smith were in business together in the Smith Nursing Home in Rockford. Smith Nursing Home was founded in 1961 by Florence Smith and her late husband Rev. Harry L. Smith. Rev. Smith passed away in late 1961. Smith Nursing Home was closed in 1976 at the time that the new addition to Shane Hill Nursing Home was opened.

Shane Hill Nursing Home was incorporated in 1971. The original officers of the corporation were: Olen C. Ransbottom — President, Nancy A. Smith — Vice-President, Mildred O. Ransbottom — Secretary, and John L. Smith — Treasurer. Each officer owned one-fourth of the stock of the business. Olen Ransbottom passed away in 1977 and his stock was divided evenly among his three children, Thomas, Robert, and Nancy.

The nursing home was placed on five acres of land which belonged to Olen Ransbottom. The land had previously belonged to his parents, Clifford L. and Charmie A. Ransbottom. The land was the highest land and nearest town and had frontage on State Route 118.

The name for Shane Hill was decided upon by the family after thinking of many possibilities. The Shane came from the history of the community as Anthony Shane founded Rockford. Rockford had previously been known as Shane's Crossing and later Shanesville. The Hill part came from the fact



Left: John and Nancy Smith. Right: Olen and Mildred Ransbottom.

that it was the high ground of the Ransbottom farm and was always called the hill. A good part of the hill was lost while leveling the land to build upon.

Shane Hill is one of the few individual family owned and operated one hundred bed nursing homes in a day of large corporations and chain operations. The motto "Shane Hill Care is a Family Affair" was originated by Olen Ransbottom. He was known within the community for his sayings and home spun poetry. The family affair thought was brought out to emphasize the personalized operation of the home.

The home provides 6 private rooms, 47 semi-private rooms, and an isolation room, making 100 beds plus the isolation room available. Shane Hill provides 24 Hour Skilled Nursing Care. The home has six lounges, two dining rooms, beauty and barber shop, therapy, three patio areas, and activity areas. Activities include weekly Protestant and Catholic services, crafts and ceramics, card parties, bingo, sing-a-longs, Bible study, exercises, and other activities. Special events are held such as Mother and Daughter Tea, Father and Son Banquet, 4th of July Picnic, Halloween Party, Christmas Party, and at other holiday times. Complete dietary services are provided as well as laundry service.

Visiting hours are open so that friends and loved ones can visit at their convenience. Each room has a restroom, closets, nurse call system, individual control of heat, and other conveniences. The home has its own well and sewage system. There is ample parking area for employees and guests.

The staff includes 80 employees to care for the 100 residents. John Smith has served as Administrator and Mary King as Director of Nursing since the home began operation in 1971.

Shane Hill became a reality because of a concern for a better life for those who must look to others. The desire of the Ransbottom and the Smiths is that this personal care always be a prime concern of all persons involved.

## King Brothers Restaurant



King Brothers Restaurant, 157 North Main Street, Rockford, officially opened April 1, 1993. Pictured above (left to right) are the owners/managers Tony and Sandy King, with partner Bob King. The King Brothers Restaurant features small town service with a big city taste. The King family is betting that casual, relaxed dining and a family barbecue recipe spell success in the restaurant business. "People can go to Fort Wayne for ribs and sit in elegance, but they can get the same thing here and leave the coat and tie at home," Tony King commented.

The establishment currently employs six full time and six part time employees. Both brothers had experience in the restaurant and bar business prior to their venture in downtown Rockford. Opening a family style restaurant, Tony explained, was an opportunity to be creative: "After seeing everyone else's mistakes (in the restaurant business), I had a good idea of what not to do."

A driving force behind launching the restaurant, he added, has been his wife and general manager, Sandy. "We call her the third King brother; without her the restaurant would not be running as smooth as it is now. We call her the Boss."

Support for the restaurant also came from other family members and townspeople who helped with the building renovation, King reported.

King Bros., open from 8:00 A.M. to 2:30 A.M., Monday through Saturday, and 8:00 A.M. to 10:00 P.M. Sunday, offers a full menu. The customer can order biscuits and gravy anytime; and a complete bar service, from cocktails to beer, is available.

The King family invites the public to have a good time and good food together.

## Rockford Ohio Post Office



The settlement's first post office was opened in 1838 with William Hedges, postmaster. This office was located on Franklin Street, midway between Front and Columbia Streets, later moved to West Market Street.

The records show that in 1885 postal rates were: first class mail, 2c per oz. for drop letters at free delivery or 1c per oz. for drop letters at offices with no free delivery; 2nd class mail (newspapers and periodicals) 1c per pound.

For many years a list of unclaimed letters were published in the local paper at the beginning of each month.

Notice appeared February 11, 1910 that: Hereafter the Post Office will no longer be open on Sunday mornings, but will be kept open on Saturday evenings until after the arrival of the night train and distribution of that mail.

Postal savings system was inaugurated in December of 1911 and the six rural routes in Rockford were reduced to five.

The Post Office moved to its present location in 1938 from the Davis Room now occupied by Brandt's Cleaners. In 1990 the office was remodeled and expanded.

The Rockford office now has four rural route carries: Fran Miller, Route 1, Martha Sidenbender, Route 2, Carol Lugabihl, Route 3 and John Fritzinger, Route 4.

The present postmaster, Michael A Ringer, began his duties on January 14, 1993. Clerks are Deb Matthews and Larry McDonough.

## Family Medicine Associates

Family Medicine Associates, Inc. began as a sole proprietorship for the practice of medicine by Jerry D. Sell, M.D. on July 13, 1979, with six employees. The practice began with a large population of patients from the practice of Dr. R. D. Bradrick who had been practice for twenty years prior that time, and decided to devote his energies to emergency medicine and anesthesia.

Dr. Sell had grown up in the Rockford community, graduated from Parkway High School, and married Constance Beougher of Rockford. Having spent thirteen years away from the community during service in the U.S. Army and during college, medical school, and residency they felt a strong desire to return and practice medicine. It was that in mind that Dr. Sell chose the specialty of family medicine. After graduating from Ohio State University and completing residency training at St. Elizabeth Hospital in Dayton, Ohio he and his wife returned with their two children to Rockford.

He and Tom Schumm were sold the property on the corner of Main and Second Streets by Lela Dudgeon. The current building has been expanded since it was originally built by Bruns Construction Company from St. Henry. The medical office expanded to allow for the needed room required for Dr. Jeffrey Easley who joined the practice in July 1990.

Dr. Easley grew up in Winamac, Ind. and graduated from Indiana University School of Medicine and also completed his residency at St. Elizabeth Hospital, Dayton. Dr. Easley and his wife Michelle Fellingner, who is from Huntington, Ind. and their three children enjoy living in this area and serving the practice. With the addition of another physician and X ray facilities the number of employees grew to fifteen.

Both physicians are certified in the specialty of Family Practice, a specialty devoted to the care of the entire patient and family. The scope of practice includes adult and pediatric medical diseases, minor orthopedics, obstetrics, geriatrics, dermatology, minor psychiatry, industrial and sports medicine.

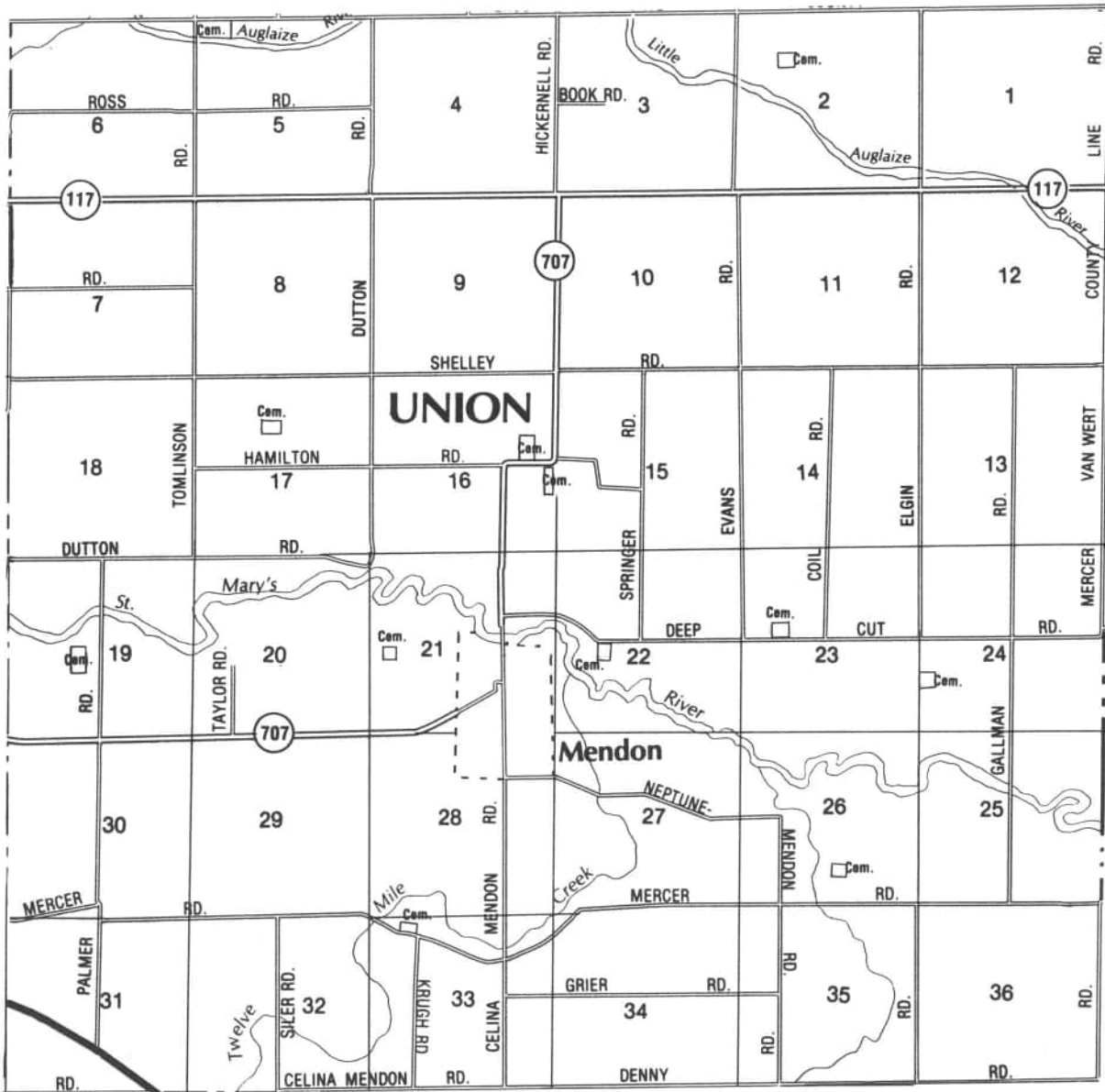


## Tuway Products Company

TUWAY PRODUCTS COMPANY is located at 191 East Pearl Street, Rockford, Ohio 45882. The President CEO is James Koester. TUWAY is the manufacturer of industrial and institutional cleaning products. TUWAY manufactures dust mops, wet mops, carpet bonnets, hand dusters, and finish applicators of all varieties and sizes. The products are made with cotton and synthetic yarns using polyester and cotton duck. They also manufacture metal and plastic frames using wood, aluminum, and fiberglass handles. TUWAY markets their products throughout the United States; they also export to many countries.

TUWAY PRODUCTS was founded by Otto T. Schaefer in 1932 with a plant in Detroit, Michigan. Another plant was opened at Rockford, Ohio in the mid 1940's. By 1970, all the manufacturing was moved to the Rockford plant. Tuway was acquired by the current owners on May 1, 1983. They also acquired American Textile Products in Baltimore, Maryland and the company was changed to "TUWAY AMERICAN GROUP." TUWAY now operates manufacturing facilities in Rockford, Ohio and Baltimore, Maryland. World Headquarters are located in Troy, Michigan. TUWAY employees include approximately 100 factory and administrative personnel. TUWAY has always been known for quality and innovation.

# Union Township, Mercer County, Ohio



\* This page was sponsored by the Mercer County Historical Society for the convenience of those who wish to tour Union Township roads, to see the big barns and to appreciate our rural heritage.

\*\* This map was printed by permission of Spectrum Map Publishing, Inc., 909 Sycamore Street, Cincinnati, OH 45202.





Jacob Alexander Tingley built this barn, and his house, in 1900. Jacob Tingley is the grandfather of James Tingley, who lives at this residence today, 12541 Tomlinson Road, Rockford. This barn housed steers, hogs, sheep and horses until 1917. The barn was remodeled in 1917 for twelve dairy cows. Again in 1950, the barn was remodeled for more dairy. Today, the barn is used for hay storage and some machinery. This photograph and story is found on page 477, HISTORY OF MERCER COUNTY, OHIO, 1907. This elegant barn was topped with three cupolas with louvered vents. The front and sides of the barn also had louvered vents for ventilation. Above the double doors, there were two round windows, sometimes called haloes windows. The windpump stands proud in front of the barn. Jacob Tingley was proud of his barn and had his family stand in front, with the horses, for their photograph.

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This English barn with its red paint, and green gable roof stands at 12034 Tomlinson Road, Mendon. The barn is owned by Nola Drake of Toledo, Ohio.

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In the early 1900's, Lou Ross owned this farm at 6586 Ross Road, Rockford. O.O. Whyman was the next owner, followed by William Milhouse. In 1951, Sam Galloway bought the farm.

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Irvin Butler owns this barn at 6891 Ross Road, Route #2, Rockford. This red barn has its barn doors trimmed with white arches. The green gambrel roof is topped by three lightning rods. In 1952, Irvin Butler bought this place from Peter F. Diebert. In the past, he had dairy cattle. He had fed steers and just sold them, just before the 1978 Blizzard. He has grain stored in the hay mow.

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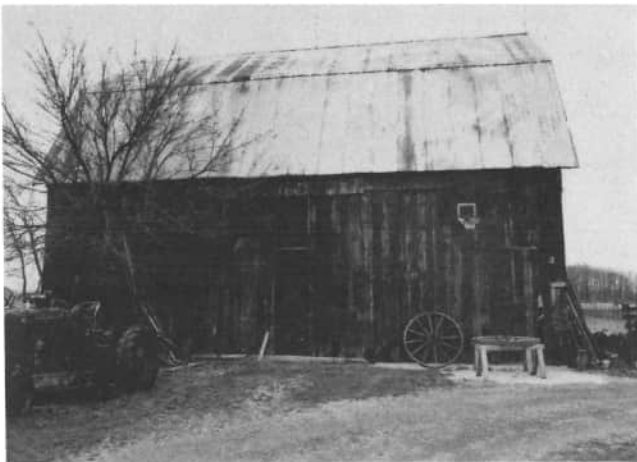
Sarah Wilken owns this barn at 8320 Mercer-Van Wert County Line, Venedocia, Ohio 45894. G.W. Sill owned the barn when it was built in 1912. For the foundation, the sand pit was here on the farm. The carpenter was Jim Burnett. They used to have the barn full of hay, with horses and cows. The tract is still in the barn which was used to move the hay up into the mows. They used slats and rope slings to pull the hay from the wagon to the mow. William and Osie Swygart bought the farm after Mr. Sill died. Today, their daughter Sarah Wilkin owns this property. The red barn, has some white trim on the barn, with the black gambrel roof. This is one of the very few barns which has a rectangular window in both of the sliding doors.

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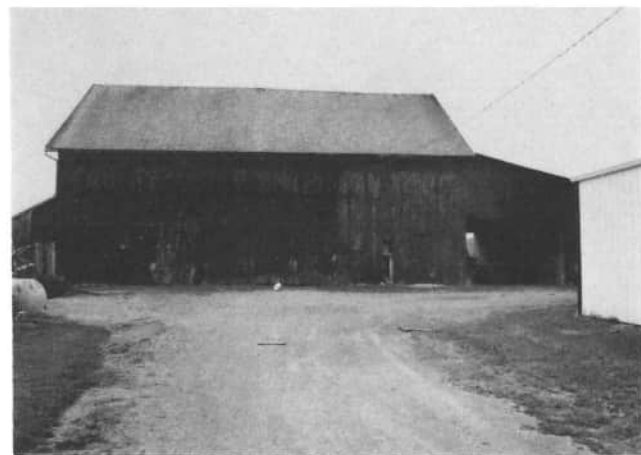
This barn was built about 1875 by James Clover who was mustered out of the Civil War in 1864. Clover's family came from Virginia. Scott Garwick is a great, great grandson of James Clover. Other farm buildings were a granary, hog house, wood house, smoke house, and an ice house. The windmill pumped cool water into a cooling tank for milk and butter. On the photograph, the barn has a cupola with louvered vents on the sides. Johnnie and Billie Quilling, hired hands, are pictured with their dogs. A horse and cart are to the right side of the barn. The barn was torn down in 1985.

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This is the George and Thomas Mayes barn, located at 7226 St. Rt. 117, Rockford. Billie Emmands bought this place, when he was married about eighty some years ago. This barn is about 110 years old. This red barn, with its gambrel roof, has served its owners. The basketball rim on the wall shows that children have enjoyed the barn over the years.

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Roy McDorman, 7905 State Route 117, Mendon, owns this red barn, which stands at 7938 State Route 117. In the past, the barn was used for milk cows and hogs. Today, the barn is used for storage.

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This huge barn was built by George F. (1851-1935) and Mary Olida Griffin (1855-1933). The dimensions of the barn are 100 feet in length, 50 feet in width, and fifty feet to the peak of the roof. In 1900, it cost \$800 to build the barn to the (square) — no roof! This barn has a gambrel roof, with four gable-roofed dormers. A pent roof is to the side, where the wagon and horses are standing. The doors have a ribbon of small windows across the top. (Note the other buildings in the old photograph, from the 1907 HISTORY OF MERCER COUNTY, page 531.) Lyn McMichael, 8871 St. Rt. 117, lives at this place today.

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George Griffin and his family lived in this log home on the homestead farm, from 1897, until he built his home, and moved in, in 1902, at 8871 St. Rt. 117. (This log home was built by Claudius Griffin in 1839, when he married Elizabeth Arnold.)

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The barn at 8871 St. Rt. 117, which was built by George Griffin in 1900, now has belonged to Lowell McMichael since 1966. Lowell McMichael lives at 537 N. Broadway, Spencer-ville, Ohio 45887, and his oldest son Lyn McMichael resides where the barn is located. In 1975, the bottom part of the barn was going bad, so the lower four feet of the barn was cut off, and sat on concrete blocks. This beautiful old barn still retains its four dormers and the pent roof to the side.

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Talbie Derossett, 6300 Shelley Road, Mendon, owns this barn. The red barn is trimmed in white, with a gable roof topped with lightning rods.

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This is a famous barn . . . it was the home of Elmer, the cross-eyed cat, who went to Hollywood in 1958, and starred on the Millionaire Show! Edna Hamilton, 7251 Hamilton Road, Mendon, owns this barn, which was built in the 1800's. The front part is hewed timber, the middle is sawed timber and the back part was added on in the late 1950's. The barn was used as a livery stable until 1918, then a poultry house, and was a livestock auction 1931 to 1970. It is used as a stockyard today.

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A picturesque barn sets quietly in the springtime after serving a lifetime as a working barn. Kenneth F. Dutton, 12235 Dutton Road, Rockford, owns this barn, where Tom and Charlotte Dutton live, at 12348 Dutton Road. The north end of this weathered old barn has flagstone for the foundation. Tom built the south end about 1928; the south end has a poured cement foundation. Inside the barn, one can see the old wooden pegged posts and beams, which supported the barn when it was used for general farming and livestock.

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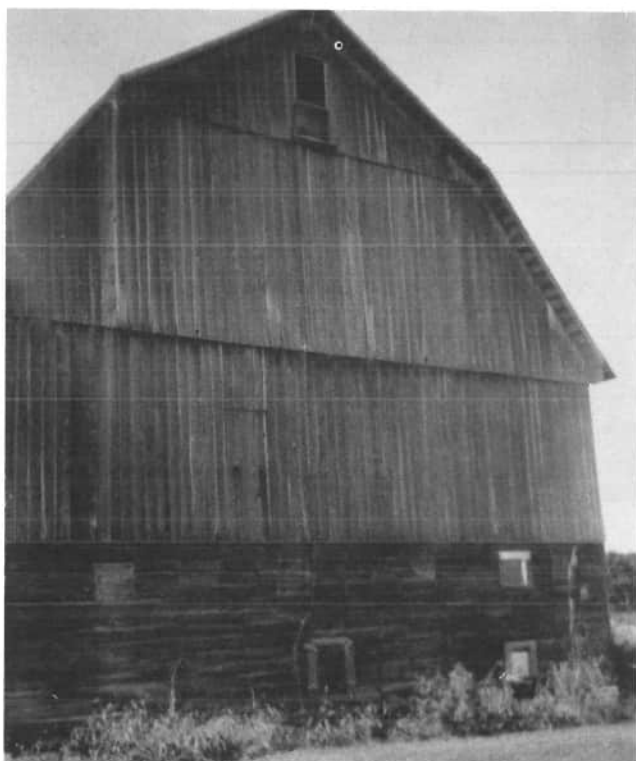
Larry and Betty Hamilton, 10470 Celina-Mendon Road, Mendon, own this barn. The barn was built in the 1800's, by J.P. Patterson. The barn is 36 feet by 100 feet, with a shed on the north end. The south half of the barn is hewed timber and the north half is sawed timber. The south half is a bank barn, with a bridge. The block hog house was built in 1914 by A.C. Presho. The hog house is 24 feet by 48 feet, with a cement floor, hay mow, drilled well, and chimney. It was built at a cost of \$400. This aerial view shows the red barn, with its double doors trimmed with white arches. The bank, with the bridge under it, is visible, and one can see the slope of the hill behind the barn.

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E.N. DRAKE, 1901, is written on the roof which tells the story of who built the barn and when! James M. and Jeanne Sprague, 12029 Dutton Road, Rockford, own this beautiful, old barn.

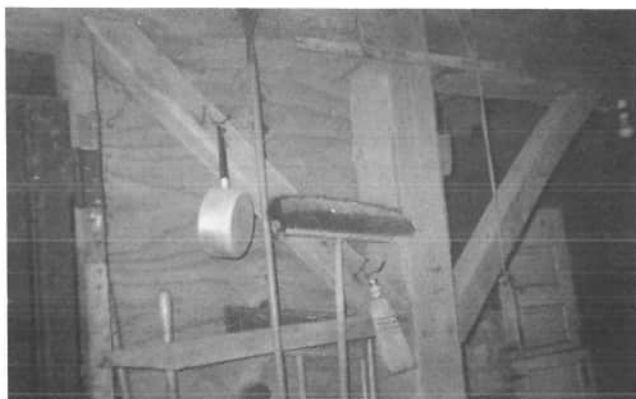
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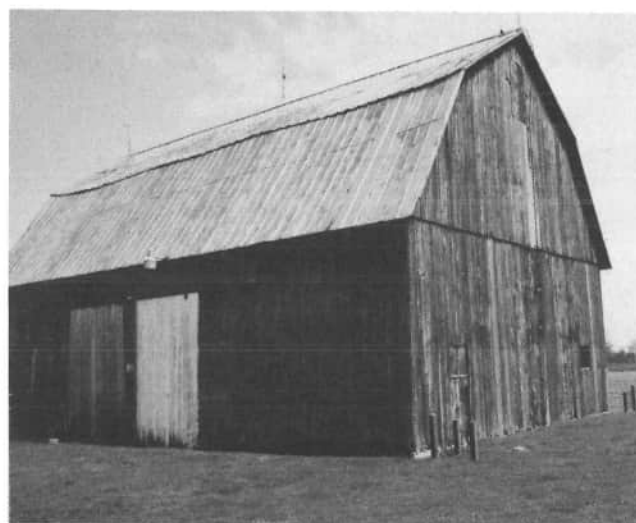
The east end of the Sprague barn gives one a feeling for how big this barn really is. The door to the haymow is dropped down, almost as if it is ready for the next hay season. This barn housed work horses, milked dairy cattle; loose hay was stored in the haymow (the hay fork still hangs in the mow). The barn has a corn crib on one end which was probably used to store ear corn.



An interior view of the barn shows the huge cross beams, which are pinned with wooden pins, into the vertical posts. Today, the barn houses a pony, and sometimes feeder calves, and stores baled hay in the mow. The barn is used to garage tractors where work horses used to be; and has a combine and baler in the barn. The Spragues also use part of the barn as a garage for their cars.



Another interior view of the Sprague barn. They were told that part of the lumber to build the accompanying house was dried in the mow of this barn.

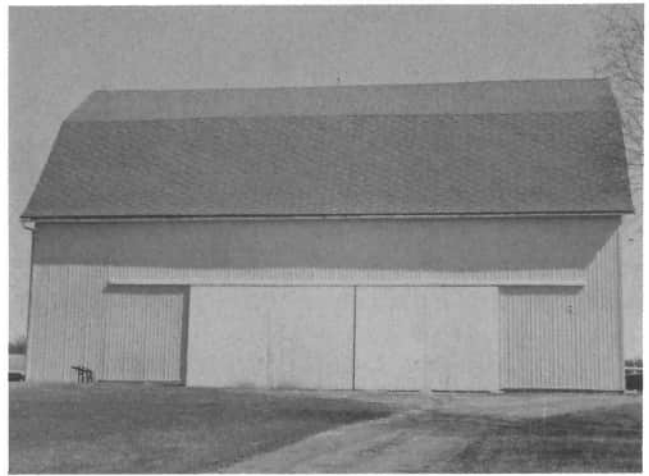


The barn which stands at 6057 State Route 707, Mendon, originally belonged to Lida Palmer Fireoved. The barn was most likely built about 1920. She had it built to replace a barn that had burned. The barn was used for hay storage, and shelter for cows, horses and machinery storage. Today, the barn is used for machinery storage, and a shelter for goats, donkeys and horses. The present owner is Lida Palmer Fireoved's great grandson, Clifford Howick, and Dorothy Garwick.



This attractive red barn, trimmed in white, with its gambrel roof, was built around 1900. It was used for milking cows and some hogs have been raised in it. Today, Wayne R. Miller, 6912 State Route 707, Mendon, lives at this quiet place in the country. The barn belongs to his sister, Ron and Betty Simons, 15019 Fackler Road, Monroeville, Indiana 46773.

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This barn was built, with a gambrel roof, for David Fireoved in 1898, with Ed Clay as the carpenter. The barn was used for livestock, hay and straw storage. This barn belongs to Wayne E. Fireoved, 11630 State Route 707, Mendon and is now used for machinery storage and a workshop for repairing farm machinery, by a fourth generation of the Fireoved family.

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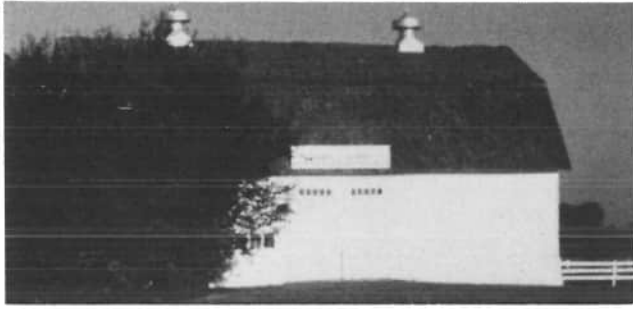
This barn was in the village of Mendon, on the corner of Walnut and Wayne Streets; Cecil Hamilton, 102 West Walnut, Mendon, owns this property. The Clel Hepppard owned this property several years ago. The barn was built in the late 1800's; the beams were mortised and wooden pegged. The siding was put on with square nails. The barn was used to house some livestock, and a threshing machine. This barn was torn down in July and August of 1990, in order to put up a new car garage.

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This barn belongs to John F. and Jean Adams, 11750 State Route 707, Mendon. They purchased the farm in 1951. One side of the barn has had hewn beams that were put together with wooden pegs. The other side of the barn with sawed timbers was probably added to the original structure. The section with the hand hewn timbers is probably a century old. The barn has been used for raising hogs and cattle, and for storage for hay and straw and farm machinery. The Adams family added a cement feeding floor for hogs on the back side in the early 1960's. They also use the barn for straw storage and farm machinery storage.

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Grace Rolsten, 12295 S.R. 707, Mendon owns this barn. The white barn, has a ribbon of windows across the double doors. Two ventilators set proudly on the ridge of the gambrel roof. Since the barn was painted, it is now called "Family Acres" which is on the barn. The barn was used for dairy and hay storage in the past. This barn is over a century old.

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A LONELY BARN was situated on the north side of Route 33 at the corner of Sites Road, on what was formerly the Rezin Webb Farm. "A granddaughter" Mrs. Mae Cain Dick, daughter of Joseph and Ida Bell Webb Cain, had this barn built on her farm, probably in the early 1940's. My three brothers and I spent many hours with our grandparents, Ira and Mariah Webb, watching from the south side of Route 33, as this magnificent barn was being built. I remember the joy each day as the work of the carpenters (unknown now) progressed. Thru the years, this barn was the home of a few milk cows and a couple horses, and a shelter for farm machinery and hay in the loft. Although not an old barn, the years of weather began to take its toll on it. Finally, in need of much repair, and really not needed to store hay or farm machinery or stock on the farm, the destiny of this magnificent barn was inevitable. But until the very last day, it stood very proud. So, forty some years later, on a beautiful summer evening in August 1989, I sat alone on the south side of Route 33, sadly watching from the same door and window of my home, which was the home of my grandparents and great grandmother, Mrs. Rezin Webb, as this magnificent barn was being bulldozed down and burned so the ground could be farmed. This barn was the last building on the farm to be torn down. Now, in June 1991, only the well pump stands across from my house as witness to any life and buildings ever being there. Since the death of Mrs. Dick, the farm is owned by her nephew, Frederick Cain, 6420 Oregon Road, and his son William Cain. (Picture and story by Mrs. Helen M. Flore Parker.)

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Emanuel and Cecile Backey own this barn which is two and one-half miles north of Mendon, at 12384 State Route 707. When they purchased the farm in 1947, Verl Clay told them that the grandfather Ben Van Eman loaned money to help build said barn. The barn was built in the 1880's by John R. Fryer, and used for horses, cattle, and sheep. Today, they use the barn for machinery.

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John Fryer married Elizabeth Griffin in 1865; this is a view of their farm in the 1900 MERCER COUNTY ATLAS. In 1991, the farm belongs to Emanuel and Cecile Backey, 12384 State Route 707, Mendon. Cecile is related to the original owners. Compare the photograph with today's photograph and see that the barn has changed little.

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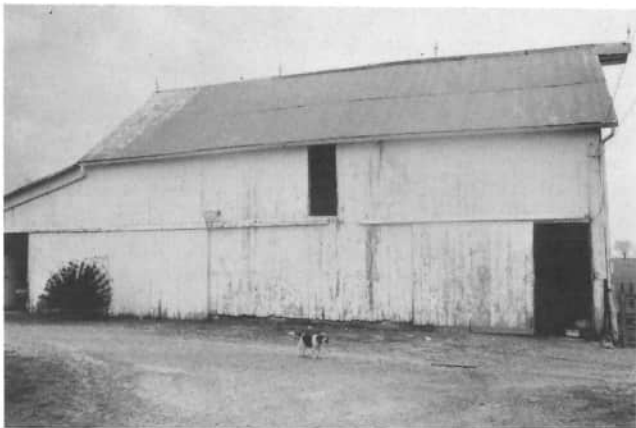


This is a closer view of the peacock at Ermon Huston's farm.

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Dick and Marilyn Hesse, 8715 Denny Road, Mendon, own this red barn, with white arches on the doors. The green gambrel roof has four lightning rods across the ridge. The barn was built in the early 1900's by Charlie Hesse and used for livestock, cattle and horses. Dick and Marilyn bought this farm in 1958 from Mrs. Charlie Hesse, grandmother of Dick. The barn is in need of a lot of repair, and they are considering plans to tear this barn down, and build a new barn.

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Ermon E. Huston, Sr. has this barn at 8838 Mercer Road, Mendon. The barn has been used for livestock shelter, and a corn bin, and small farm storage. Today, the barn is used for livestock shelter and machinery storage. The roof has four lightning rods, with the extension of the hay hood over the gable end. At the left side, one can see the peacock, with the beagle walking away.

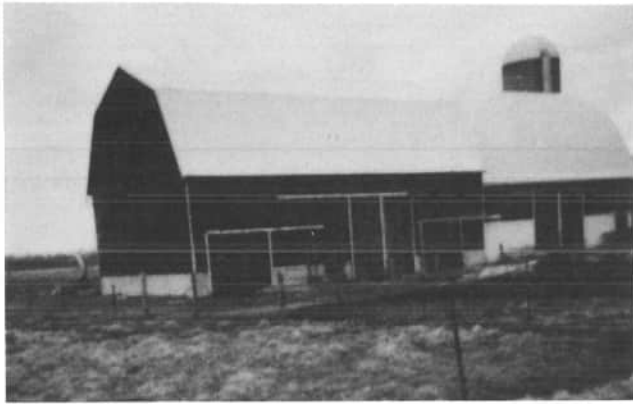
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This barn originally stood in Hopewell Township, at the John Hoenie Farm, 8320 Hoenie Road, Celina. The barn was built in 1910 by Charles F. Frahm. The barn was used for livestock and hay storage. The barn was moved in 1983 to 8583 Mercer Road.

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This barn originally stood at John W. Hoenie's place, 8320 Hoenie Road. In the spring of 1983, Daniel K. Schwartz was the Amish carpenter who took this barn down and rebuilt it in Union Township, where Paul E. Miller lives at 8583 Mercer Road, Mendon. The land belongs to Lester N. Miller, 10110 Adams Road, Mendon. Compare the two photographs, and see how the barn has changed little in appearance, as it is attached to the barn at the Miller place. The original barn set on the ground, whereas it now sets on a foundation. The Miller barn next to it has a gothic or rainbow roof, with the silo behind it.



This is a later view of the barn on the William and Mary Diegel Property. The bank still leads to the twin pairs of double doors, which are trimmed in white arches, as the barn is painted red. This barn was torn down in 1989. This property belongs to William and Evelyn Fent, 248 Bayview Drive, Celina.



This bank barn used to stand at the south edge of Mendon, on the Celina-Mendon Road. It was built in the 1890's, possibly by Henry Kuck. It was used for storage of grain above, and livestock in the bottom. It was located on the farm of William and Mary Diegel. In later years their daughter Margaret (Diegel) Fent and their son Luster William lived there. The old photograph shows the windpump and another building; the photograph belongs to Patricia Diegel Hartings, 4390 St. Rt. 29, Celina.



Lavon Boroff's barn at 10599 Neptune-Mendon Road, Mendon, was built in 1900. It contained a milking parlor and also served as housing for the milk and beef cattle. Today, the barn is used as a bike shop, and to store straw, hay and general storage.



An old photograph of Lavon Boroff's barn at 10599 Neptune-Mendon Road, shows the barn has changed little, except for the siding. When the barn was built in 1900, it was built to last.

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At Dave and Diane Sheets, 10620 Neptune-Mendon Road, the original barn caught on fire from a kerosene heater, left under the hay mow. So the neighbors and the church people built a new barn in 1950.

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This barn was used for milk cows, and they raised hogs in it; it also stored hay and straw. This barn was at the place of Dave and Bernice Sheets, 10938 Neptune-Mendon Road, Mendon. The barn was getting in bad shape so their son tore it down with his bulldozer in 1978. Now they have a pole barn.

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Jerry and Catherine Rasawehr, 11585 Elgin Road, Mendon own this barn. The barn was built before 1929. A family named Rexroat lived here, but it is not known if he built the barn. The barn has been used for animals, hay and straw and machinery. Today, it is used for machinery storage. The red barn, with its gambrel roof topped with three lightning rods, has a shed built to each end.

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Robert and Shirley Adams, 11609 Gallman Road, Spencerville, have owned this barn since 1962. The barn sets at 8970 Deep Cut Road. For the first twenty years that Robert Adams owned this barn, it was used to support a Grade A dairy of 45 to 60 cows. Today, the barn is used for hay and straw storage. The gambrel roofed barn, has an addition to the end. This addition has two, six-paned windows on one side, with four, four-paned windows set on the diamond edge on the other side.

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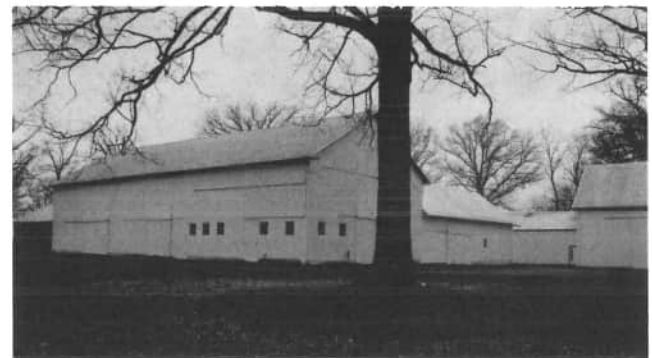
This big barn, with its gambrel roof, is located on Shelley Road, just east of Gallman Road. It belongs to Robert and Shirley Adams, 11609 Gallman Road, Spencerville.

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This old English barn, with its weathered gambrel roof, still has the front and back doors which were opened during the time when they threshed on the threshing floor in the central bay of the barn. The barn is used for hay and straw. The barn is located on the east side of Gallman Road, just south of Shelley and belongs to Robert and Shirley Adams, 11609 Gallman Road.

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Wayne and Betty Kennedy purchased this farm at 10211 Mercer-Auglaize County Road, Mendon, in 1940. The buildings were moved immediately from where they sat at a quarter of a mile off the road, to the present location. Since then, thirty feet have been added to the south end, and a fifty foot hog facility to the west side of the barn. Wayne and his father Joseph S. Kennedy who lived across the road in Auglaize County, worked together as one unit. The original barn was built approximately 1850. It was used for work horses, beef and dairy cattle, hogs, and feed storage. Today, the barn is used for feed and equipment storage. This photograph was taken in April 1991, and one can see the wild flowers just starting to bloom in front of the background of the white buildings.

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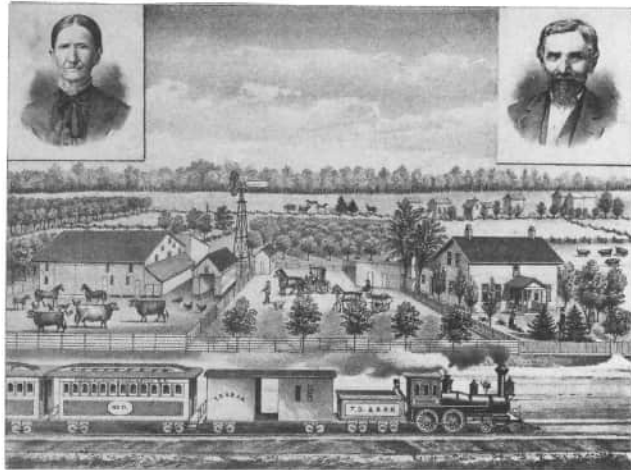
John U. Kennedy and Hoge Lumber Company built this barn in 1933. It was used to store hay and straw, as well as house horses, dairy cows and feeder cows. The barn belongs to Tim and Sandra Kennedy, 10331 Mercer-Auglaize County Line Road, Mendon. The red barn is trimmed in white, with a green gambrel roof. The four-paned diamond windows are unique in the double doors. Very few barns in the county boast the diamond windows. J.U. KENNEDY, 1933 is lettered across the double doors which illustrates the pride the farmers took in building their barns. (Doris Glass photograph)



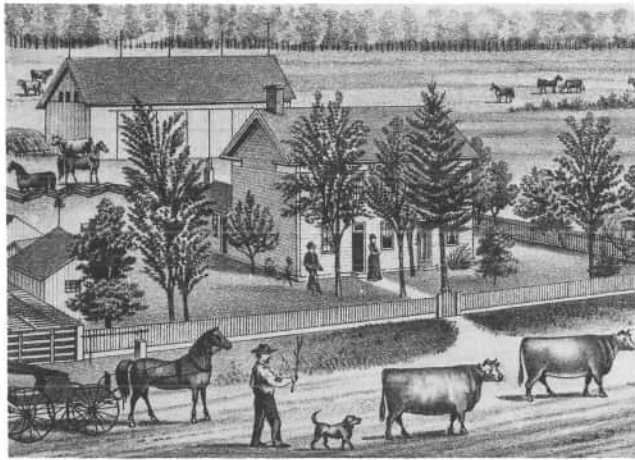
An interior view of Tim Kennedy's barn shows the wooden pins pinning the post and beam which support the roof. (Doris Glass photograph)



This view shows the addition to the barn, at Tim Kennedy's place at 10331 Mercer-Auglaize County Line Road. (Doris Glass photograph)



This 1882 drawing from the HISTORY OF VAN WERT AND MERCER COUNTIES, OHIO, shows the residence of Christian Maurer, on State Route 707, in Section 28. The barn has large double doors, with louvered vents on either side, with six louvered vents on the end wall. The other buildings are located in relation to the main barn. The Toledo, Delphos and Burlington Railroad, which went through Union Township, is drawn in the foreground.



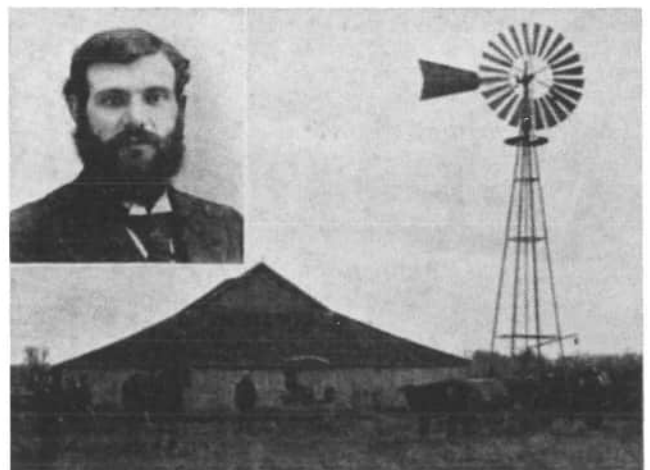
Michael Miller, born in Fayette County, Ohio in 1821, came to Union Township in 1829. He married in 1845. This was his residence two miles south of Mendon in 1882. (1882 HISTORY OF VAN WERT AND MERCER COUNTIES, OHIO, page 403) Note on the drawing of the barn, there are three windows in a row across the gable end wall. It appears as if the barn has two pairs of double doors. The horses are penned in with a wood rail fence, while a perfect picket fence is to the front and side of the house. There is a straw stack at the end of the barn.



Joseph W. Archer's story is told in the 1907 HISTORY OF MERCER COUNTY, page 717. In 1880 he purchased a farm of 140 acres, where he resided. He rebuilt the house, built a new barn, and made other changes (between 1881 and 1907). This land was located in section 17, on Dutton Road, the north side, about a half mile east of Tomlinson Road. The gambrel roofed barn has a large six pane over six pane window, just above the double doors, trimmed in darker arches. Above the door the overhang protects the sliding track. (This may be the only barn in this book, with a window this large, set into this overhang above the double doors.)



Dr. W.C. Cole, born in 1815, New York, was graduated from Medical University of New York in 1837. After practicing in other states, he came to Mendon in 1867, after the Civil War. In 1870 he purchased this home "Oak Grove," in Union township. (1882 HISTORY OF VAN WERT AND MERCER COUNTIES, OHIO, page 400) The barn appears to be a conservative English barn, with a small shed added to the right side. A board fence is next to the barn. A picket fence leads to the house and back to the garden and privy. Rail fences can be seen in the background fields.



This barn photograph is on the same page as the Joseph Archer barn. Note the low sloping shed roofed additions to the sides of the barn. The windmill or windpump is a silhouette against the sky. A horse and buggy, with family members are standing on both photographs. Harry Stevens is in this photograph inset.



This barn belonged to Clement Vallandigham Hood, in the 1907 HISTORY OF MERCER COUNTY. In looking at this photograph, it appears, as if the original barn is to the right, with its double doors centered between four louvered vents on either side. The addition to the left of the barn was made; on this photograph that addition had not yet been painted and trimmed in white. There was a pent roof added to this end wall, as well as a window in the gable end. This barn stands on State Route 117, west of Elgen Road.

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Vernon and Margie Baxter's barn, 11446 State Route 707, Mendon, was built by John Buck Stauffer, for T.G. Fireovid in the early 1920's. They call this a spike frame barn; they spiked 2 x 10's (four together) to make a frame. The round roof rafters were cut by Stauffer on the site, with a buzz saw. The green shingled round roof, also called a rainbow roof, has a lift at the bottom called an "overjet" and sometimes called a "ski jump." The four foot high foundation is original with the barn. This red barn is trimmed in white. Originally, the barn had two metal round ventilators, about 6 feet tall, on the roof. At one time there were cows and horses in the barn.

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George Washington Willcutt was born in 1853 in Center Township and was the son of Scotch ancestry on his paternal side and Dutch on the maternal. George purchased this farm in Union Township in 1894; this farm was 40 acres and partially cleared. This farm was located on Tomlinson Road, at the northeast intersection at Ross Road. This history is in the 1907 HISTORY OF MERCER COUNTY, OHIO, pages 681-2. The gambrel roofed barn has three windows at the end wall. A protective overhang is just above the double doors. A windmill or windpump stands next to the board fence.

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Paul Miller brought in this old photograph. This barn stood southeast of Mendon, way back off the road. There were two doors, one above the other, to put hay in the mow. On each side of the barn was a corn crib. On the side of the building was a well pump.

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Claryce Ann Hickernell, 332 Sunset Drive, Mendon, wrote the following story about this barn: The Hickernell barn was located on the East half of the N.E. quarter of Section 4, Town, 4, South Range 3 East, containing 82 acres, more or less, in Union Township. The barn was built in 1898 by J.D. Hickernell. Alexander Brown sold the acreage to Charles W. Brown and he sold it to J.D. Hickernell. It wasn't recorded until April 9, 1901. In 1932, half interest was deeded to his wife, Sally Ann Hickernell. It was sold to settle their estate to Dale Mark and Ruby Stose, and was recorded April 6, 1942. Other owners have been Eltie Welker and wife Anna Jane and Lowell A. Welker as of 26th January, 1951. On the 4th of May, 1957, the acreage was divided into two parcels. The Latimer J. Breese family purchased 57.59 acres and 25.80 acres was sold to Clarence J. Baker and wife Nora. The next owner was Paul Edwards and wife on 27th September, 1979. The 22nd September 1989 they sold it to Ralph and Darrah High and they are the present owners. The barn was so deteriorated it has been torn down. The barn was used for livestock, to store hay, and some machinery.



This painting is of a barn which had hand hewn beams, and was wooden pinned. The barn was a strong building. A shed was added later, but not with proper support, and one winter, a heavy snow load took it down. The barn was also old at that time, so they took the entire structure down. Today, this place is owned by Max Shaffer, 7049 State Route 707, Mendon, OH 45862.



This is an interior view of the barn at Max Shaffer's place, 7049 State Route 707, Mendon, OH 45862.



Patty Hartings, 4390 State Route 29, Celina, is the artist for this painting of the Diegel farm, on the south edge of Mendon. The frame for the painting, is from the original barn. (A photograph of this barn is illustrated earlier in this Township.)



Librarian — Carol Mullins

The Mendon Branch Library serves the citizens of the town of Mendon and Union Township. The building consists of 1200 square feet, plus a basement. The building houses a collection of 5,000 books as well as other services. The building was constructed in 1980 using a combination of federal funds (U.S. Department of Energy Grant) and local fundraising.

# Maurer's Hardware

Since 1885 Maurer's Hardware has been a family owned and operated business in Mercer County, Mendon, Ohio. In this span of time, three generations of Maurer's — John (J. B.), Fred W., and now John F. — have contributed successfully to business and community.

Over one hundred years ago, 1870, John (J. B.) Maurer of Tuscarawas County, near Bolivar, Ohio, journeyed by train and horse and buggy to Mendon, some 200 miles distance, to help farm for his Uncle Christian Maurer.

In 1881 J. B. married Caroline Haglock of Bolivar, and brought his new wife to a rented farm just south of Mendon. However, after several years of crop failures, J. B. sought other means to provide a living for his wife and new baby. On borrowed money, he started a hardware business on Main Street in Mendon.

The first hardware, a frame building located on the west side of Main Street, was stocked with such items as farm tools, tubs, dynamite, stable blankets, and horse shoes. Prices, as recorded from an old ledger, were: wheelbarrow, \$2.75; step ladder, 65¢; gallon of white paint, \$1.30; and one wood stove, \$16.00.

As soon as J. B.'s sons, Monroe and Fred, were old enough to help, they were assigned jobs. Following a school day, both boys were expected to work until closing time, which was 9 o'clock p.m., six days a week. One of Fred's earlier tasks was to blacken and polish stoves to sell to customers.

In 1906 a raging, uncontrollable fire destroyed almost one block of businesses on the west side of Main Street; Maurer's Hardware also was destroyed. In fighting the fire, the Maurer boys, along with many others, were able to save some of the more expensive items. But as the fire continued to spread, they were told not to go into the store again. Realizing the hopelessness and danger, J. B. himself locked the door. Stock was lost, but lives were saved. The next day a tent was erected in a vacant lot one block north and used for selling merchandise.

Plans for rebuilding were began immediately, and in 1907 a new concrete building was erected on the same location as the old store. However, with the expense of



Maurer's Hardware, Mendon, Ohio 1977

building and stocking a new store, the family could not send son Fred to college; instead Fred became a paid clerk in his father's store. Eventually the store became a father and son partnership and supported two families. For years the business operated from 7 a.m. to 9 p.m. six days a week. In addition the store was, and still is, a meeting place for farmers and town men to exchange stories.

When J. B. died in 1946 at the age of 89, he had been in the hardware business for sixty-one years. Son Fred W. then became sole owner of the store; he was often assisted by his brother Monroe. One of the slack periods of business occurred during this time; due to the war, many necessary items were impossible to buy or stock.

During his high school days, John F. Maurer, Fred's son, helped stock shelves and clerk in his father's store, just as Fred had done some years earlier. However, John F. was reluctant to become associated with the hardware business. Not until 1949, after a two-year period in the army and an A.B. degree in science from Bowling Green State University, did John join his father in business. He became the third generation in the family business. (Monroe never married). The father and son ownership continued until Fred's death in December, 1964. Fred was seventy-seven years old and had devoted fifty-eight years to the hardware business.



Maurer's Hardware, circa 1912



Maurer's Hardware, Mendon. Owners J. B. Maurer and Fred W. Maurer, Circa 1920



## W.H. Dick And Sons Funeral Home



The funeral home, founded by W.H. Dick and his brother-in-law Fred Lutz was established in Mendon, Ohio in 1913. The business was purchased from William Miller in that year.

A furniture store on Main Street housed the "funeral parlor" and funeral arrangements were handled from this site for several years. At this time viewing and services were held in the family home or at church, and a team of matched horses pulled the hearse to the final resting place, the driver resplendent in dark suit and derby.

Sometime later, the family home on Market Street in Mendon became the site of the establishment and continued there for many years. Through the years, Fred G. Fisher was also associated with the firm in Mendon, as was Carl Stallter, Mr. Dick's son-in-law, who was associated both in Mendon and Celina.

The furniture store in Mendon was in operation for nearly fifty years. In 1973, a funeral home and residence on Sunset Drive in Mendon was opened. This facility now serves that area. In 1993 this funeral home has been serving the area for 80 years.

## Drake And Shaffer, Inc.



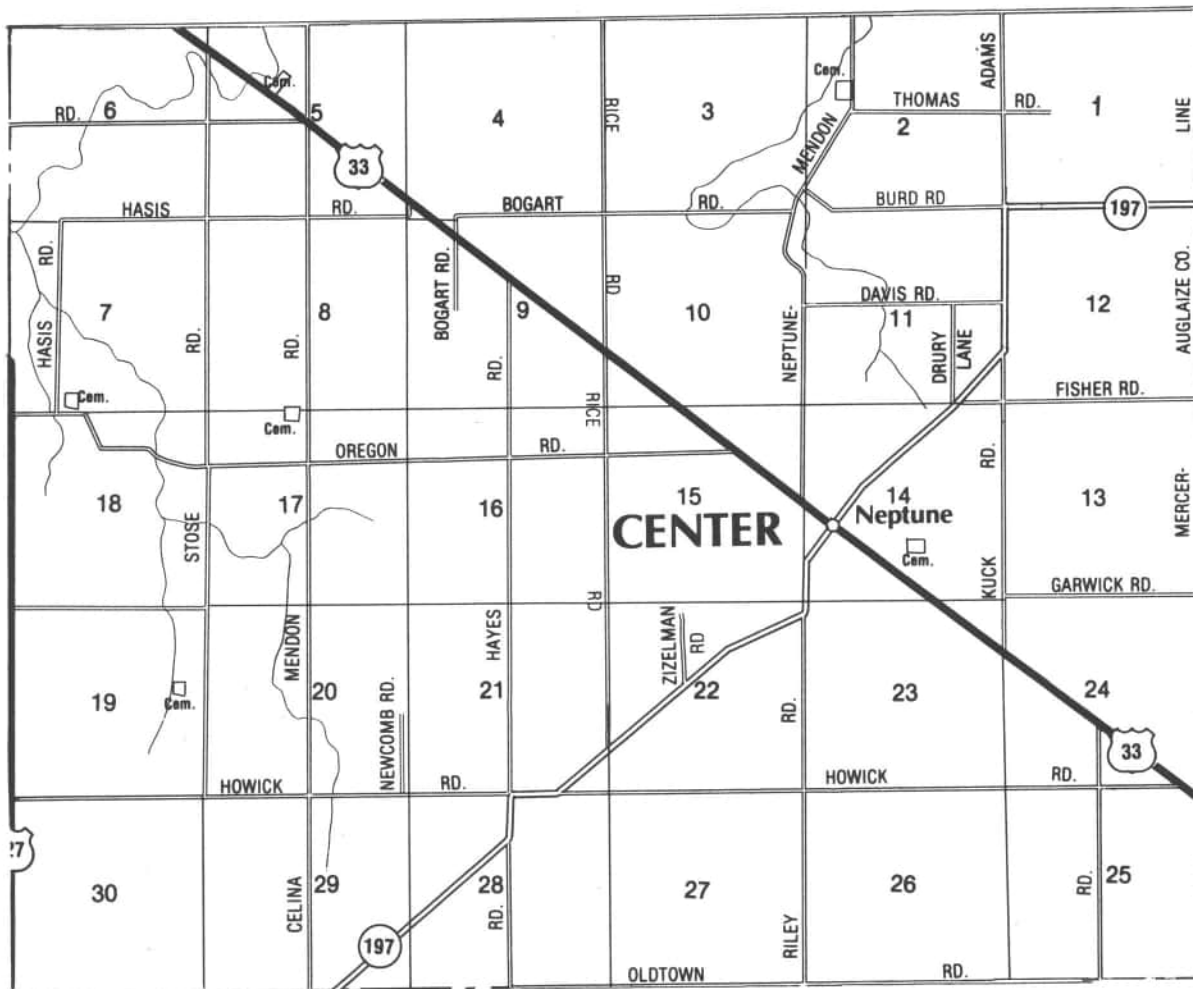
Drake and Shaffer, Inc., is located at 101 and 103 North Main Street, Mendon, Ohio 45862.

In 1920 Henry Drake established a grocery business after he returned from serving in World War I. It was a grocery store and meat market. In 1924 the business was expanded to include dry goods and ready to wear, e.g. dresses, shirts, shoes, etc. In 1933 the business expanded to include Hudson Terraplane automobiles. The family business was once again expanded in 1937 to include farm implement sales and service. Allis Chalmers and New Idea farm implements were sold. Often people would trade horses for a tractor. The grocery, meats, and dry goods and ready to wear were discontinued in 1941. The merchandise in the ready to wear was traded for a large store building, 101 North Main, Mendon.

In 1941, Henry and Louise Drake obtained the Pontiac franchise for sales and service of New Pontiacs. In 1941 the cost price of a new Pontiac was \$780; in 1973 it was worth \$3400, and in 1983 it would cost \$13,500. In 1942 through 1946 during World War II few new cars were manufactured. There was a shortage of dairy products so Henry and Louise turned to dairy farming. They owned some 100 Holstein cattle; these cows produced one ton of milk daily.

Max Shaffer joined the business on December 23, 1945, shortly after he returned from over seas duty in World War II, making the partnership of DRAKE AND SHAFFER. The automobile business was made a family corporation in 1978. Jim and Henni Shaffer became a part of this corporation and Jim became actively involved in the business. The business now consists of Automobile Sales and Service, Automobile Financing and Grain Farming.

# Center Township, Mercer County, Ohio



\* This page was sponsored by the Mercer County Historical Society for the convenience of those who wish to tour Center Township roads, to see the big barns and to appreciate our rural heritage.

\*\* This map was printed by permission of Spectrum Map Publishing, Inc., 909 Sycamore Street, Cincinnati, OH 45202.



J P CAIN is noted in the slate roof of this barn, which was built in 1903 by the Cain family. The Cain family is of German descent. This farm has been in the family for over six generations, with the barn being used for cattle, horses and family livestock. Fred Cain, 6426 Oregon Road, Celina is the owner of this barn, where the Stan Chapin II family lives at 6433 Oregon Road. "The Cain Patch" is neatly lettered in white above the double doors. The white-arched doors grace each entry to the red barn. Note the window in the gable end.

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Standing on the Hayes Road farm, the barn was built by Raudabaugh, circa 1880; the barn faced south. Around 1910, the barn was turned to face the east and moved closer to the road; the back part of the barn was added then. In 1967, the farm was purchased by the Chapin Family. The front half of the roof was replaced in 1986; the back half will be replaced by 1995. The foundation was fixed in 1991; the barn has a complete concrete floor. The barn is 70 foot by 70 foot with mortice and peg construction. Plans are being made to completely reside the barn. The barn belongs to Stan Chapin, 6433 Oregon Road, Celina.

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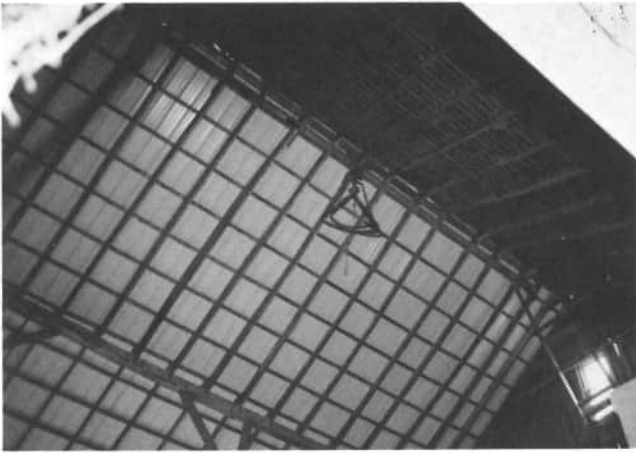
This barn was once a schoolhouse and now stands on the Fred Cain property at 6433 Oregon Road. This school was used in the late 1800's, until the new school (Kiser School, No. 3) was built at the corner of Oregon and Stose Road around 1900.

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An interior view of the Chapin barn on Hayes Road, gives a view of the mow, supported by the old posts and beams. The rooster is standing watch over his domain.

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Taking its position in graceful retirement, the hay hook is still hanging from the central track of the gable roof in the Chapin barn on Hayes Road.

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This is the back of the grand barn which stands among the fields of grain, on the Stan Chapin farm, west of Neptune on Route 33. The elegant old barn has the mortice and peg construction.

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This gambrel-roofed, grey barn stands on the Chapin farm, one mile west of Neptune on Route 33. This might be the only barn in Mercer County designed by a blind man. The 1907 HISTORY OF MERCER COUNTY, OHIO, page 418, tells of J. Frank Lumb, who came to Mercer County at age six weeks, in 1854, with his family, and at age nine years was stricken with blindness as a result of scarlet fever. Lumb went to become a graduate of Ohio State School for the Blind, and Ohio Wesleyan University of Delaware. In 1884, he designed the home "White Hall" for his parents. He also designed the barn. His neighbors, the J.J. Stoner family, were next to own the farm. The double doors not only have white arches but also are enhanced by the diamond windows. The barn belongs to Stan Chapin, 9189 U.S. 127 N., Celina.

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This red barn with the weathered metal, gambrel roof belongs to Steve Ford, 9751 Neptune-Mendon Road, Celina. The sliding barn door has a wide white arch across the top. Doris Glass took a series of photographs in a study of this Center Township barn.

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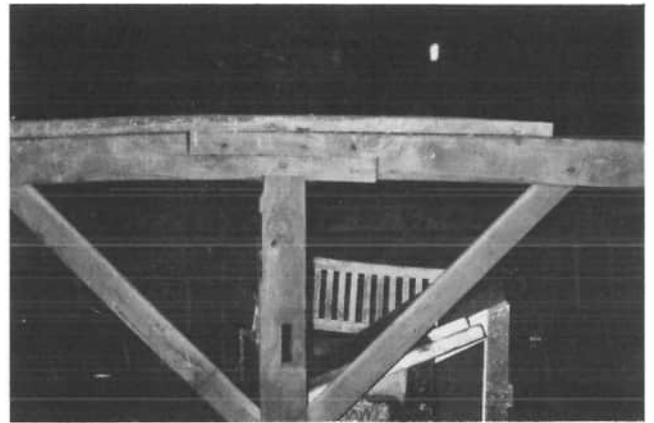
An attached shed also has the wide white arch on the sliding doors, of the Ford barn.

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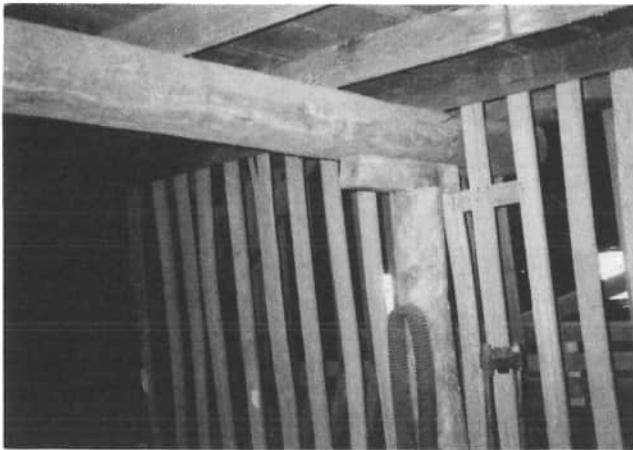
The Ford barn stands amidst the autumn harvest of crops; the shiny new car looks out of time and place in this rural scene.

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This view of the interior of the Ford barn, by Doris Glass, shows the lapping or splice of the beams, over the post, with the wooden pins securing the junction. The empty mortise in the vertical post, shows the place to receive the tenon of another beam, long since removed.

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An interior view shows the structure support of the Ford barn.

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Miletus Newcomb built this barn at 6991 Howick Road, before the Civil War. The barn was used for horses, dairy and hay. Having a rich texture of weathered barn siding, the barn has a unique triangular hay hood, extending from the gable end. Today the barn is used for hay and storage, and is owned by Bonnie and Miletus Miesse, 6560 Howick Road, Celina.

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Another interview shot shows the support structure, with a twentieth century snow shovel asleep between seasons.

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This barn in Center Township on U.S. 33, was built by Silas Harner, Sr. in 1894. The barn has been re-sided and a tromp shed added to the east. This big white barn was used for farm animals and hay. The barn belongs to Lucile Elam, 6909 U.S. 33, Celina.

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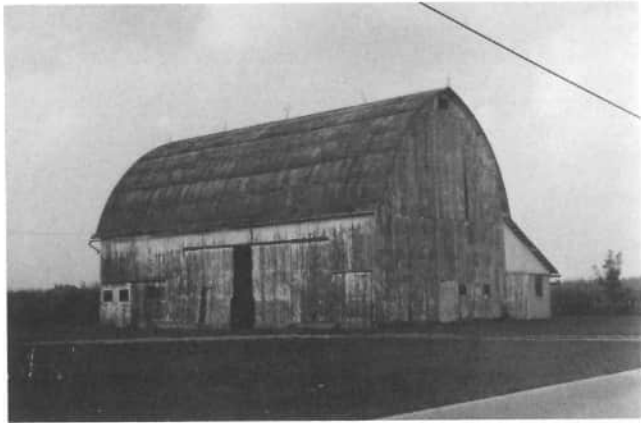
Clem Webb built this barn about 1917. The timbers in this barn have been morticed together. Some of the timbers in the mow have been hand hewn. The barn was used to house horses and cows and for hay and straw storage. Today, Lyle and Esther Snider, 6671 U.S. 33, Mendon, own the barn and use the barn for storage and as a home for four cats. This red barn, with the gambrel roof, has a symmetrical appearance, with the centered double doors and the two rectangular windows on either side.

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Joseph Bates built this barn for Edward Bates approximately in the 1890's. The farm barn was used for animals, grain and hay and straw storage. Today, this big white barn is used for animals, hay and straw storage, and is located on State Route 33, in Center Township. Idajeane Bates, 534 East Fulton, Celina, is the owner.

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This barn was originally owned and built by Miletus Newcomb, probably around 1898 or 1900. It was used for livestock and storage for hay and straw. Purn Copeland family lived on this farm in the twenty's. Today, Mr. and Mrs. Max Zizelman, 8179 State Route 197, Celina, own the barn.

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The view from behind the Bates' barn shows the double doors on the back side, which indicates that the farmer opened both sets of double doors, in order to create a draft through the barn, as he was threshing on the wooden threshing floor. The three windows in the end of the barn are set in the triangular configuration as many other Mercer County barns are.

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An interior view of the Bates' barn shows the wooden posts and beams, pinned with wooden pins. The bales are neatly stacked. Many farmers no longer use these smaller rectangular bales, but are using the huge round bales which never fit into the hay mow. How many people tell of playing in the hay mow as children and building tunnels in the hay or straw bales!

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This building is standing next to Carl Johnson's barn at 8862 Denny Road. Barnologists, or people who like to study barns and outbuildings, sometimes call a building of this style, 'hens and chickens' because of the similarity of a mother hen spreading her wings over her chicks.

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Carl Johnson, 8862 Denny Road, Mendon, has this gambrel-roofed barn. Note the triangular hay hood, over the large hay door to the mow. Hay loft doors are gradually disappearing because more farmers are using mechanical elevators to load in the hay.

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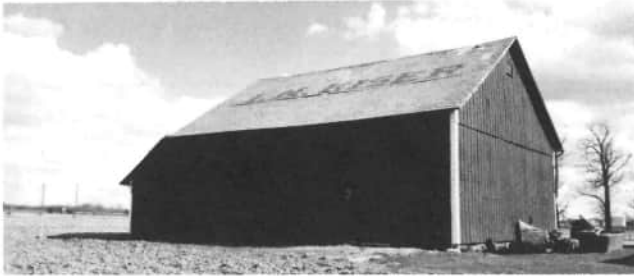
Ferd Dick built this barn in 1927; the barn has been used for cattle, hogs and hay. Today, Ruel Harner's barn, 9944 Celina-Mendon Road, Celina, is used for machinery, and bean and oats bins. This gambrel-roofed barn is painted red, with white trim, and is one of the few barns that has its owner's name across the door. Four lightning rods stand upright across the ridge of the roof.

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This neat gable-roofed barn, located on Celina Mendon Road, belongs to Olan Stoner, 6681 Oregon Road, Celina.

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This gable-roofed barn has I.N. Kiser imprinted on the roof. The red barn, trimmed in white, belongs to Olan Stoner, 6681 Oregon Road, Celina. As the years go by, fewer and fewer barns retain their roofs with names or dates. It is always a pleasure to drive through the country side and see a barn with this kind of historic roof with the original barn builder's name proudly printed across the roof.

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This English barn, with the gable roof and grey siding is located on Hayes Road and belongs to Olan Stoner, 6681 Oregon Road, Celina.

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This interior view of Olan Stoner's barn on Hayes Road, gives a view of the grain bin, which was used for shelled corn or wheat or beans. Note the base whereby logs are used for the floor support. The posts are hand hewn and wooden pinned.

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Calvin Houts' barn, 9209 Celina Mendon Road, Celina, was built in 1918 by John Flanders. It was used for livestock and machinery storage; today, it is used for machinery storage. Diamond windows decorate the double doors.

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An interior view of Calvin Houts' barn shows the vast space available which the gothic or rainbow-roof made possible.



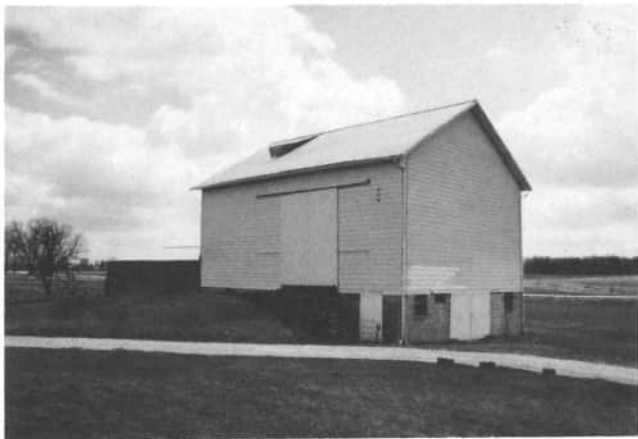
This attractive sun dial caught the eye of the editor when visiting the Calvin Houts' farm.



Ruth Houts Raudabaugh, sister to Calvin Houts, stands in front of the barn, when it was painted red, with a white star on each end, designating The Star Farm. Fay Houts lived on and farmed the place at that time; later he purchased it from his brother. Today, Fay's son Calvin Houts owns the farm.



Copps Chapel M.E. Church, which was organized in 1851, first met at Jacob Copps' home and then met at Copps' School House. The families erected a frame building 46' x 32' located on the Northwest corner of the Southwest quarter of section 7. At a cost of \$1800, the final church was dedicated in 1873 by Rev. Wilcox. The church was used until 1923. Edith Slabaugh's father's funeral was the last funeral held in this church, in 1923.



After the church was closed, Grover Nuding moved the church building (Copp's Chapel) in 1924 from its location on U.S. 127 and Oregon Road, to their farm at 6018 Hasis Road, Celina. He put the basement under the barn to create a bank barn. Mrs. Lee Searight said her brothers, children of Grover Nuding, remember jacking up the barn and moving it with the help of one horse. Grover's daughter Josephine (Mamie) Nuding Searight and her husband Lee moved to this place in 1946. Today, the barn is used for storage. This is one of the several old church buildings in the county which have been preserved by being used as barns.

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Margaret Wurster, 9455 State Route 197, Celina, has this well-maintained white barn. This barn would be recognized as an English barn, with a shed added to the end. The rectangular windows with the four panes provide light for the interior; there is an additional opening above the double barn doors. The barn was built about 1900 and has been used for dairy and chickens. Today, the barn stands empty.

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Kevin and Judy Kuhn, 6241 Oregon Road, Celina, live on this farm, which belongs to Ker-man K. Kuhn, 6266 Oregon Road, Celina. The barn was built before 1900, and was used for dairy; today, the barn is used for machinery storage. As one visits this farm, one may look at the sign over the door and smile as he reads, "The Kuhn Den."

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Paul and Marie Cordier, 8361 Burd Road, Celina, have this English barn, with the attached shed. The extension of the barn to the back, has a round roof, with a shed-roofed dormer. The interior of the main barn shows its age, with hand hewn timbers and wooden pinned frame. The barn is used for storage today, but was used for raising livestock and storing hay and grain in the past.

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Edith Kruger, 8090 U.S. 33, Celina owns this barn, which stands at 9130 State Route 197, Center Township. This barn was built in 1894, after the preceding barn was destroyed by fire. See the 1900 photograph of this barn.

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Ralph E. Fleck, 9094 State Route 197, Celina, has this English barn, also known as a three bay barn. The barn has straight, unadorned lines, with the gable roof, and was built about 1900. Traditionally, it was used for livestock and hay; today it is used for storage.

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This is the 1900 photograph of Edith Kruger's barn at 9130 State Route 197. Carl and Fredericka (Miller) Kruger came from Germany in 1853, to Columbus, Ohio; and moved to Mercer County to this farm in Center Township in 1868. The son Charles, who married Susan Custer, was next to live here. In the 1880's, the cyclone which swept through this county, leaving in its path, desolation and destruction, went through the Kruger farm and damaged a fine orchard, buildings and fences. In 1894, fire totally destroyed his large barn and eight head of cattle, five horses and a number of sheep were killed. He rebuilt the barn finer and better than before. In the photograph, the three louvered vents are in the gable end; with a cupola topping the gable roof. The windpump or windmill, a once familiar sight in the county, is gone now.

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John Meinerding, 8809 State Route 197, Celina, owns this red barn. The weathered metal roof has the hay hood extended over the end wall. The swing set in front of the barn reminds us that children are about, which reminds those of us who had the childhood pleasures of playing in the haymows and running the rafters.

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This stately old barn was built in the 1880's and is one of the older barns in Mercer County. The barn was a livestock barn, and had a hay mow, and used for cattle and pigs; later it was used for some machine storage. This barn is located in one of the quieter places in Mercer County. Standing in the quiet of the country would bring peace to any farmer's soul. The barn belongs to Lenora Elder, 9339 Neptune-Mendon Road, Celina.

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In 1913-14, this huge barn, with the round roof (also called rainbow or gothic), was built. S.F. Howick was the owner. His son Edwin Howick helped Buck Stauffer, the carpenter, build the barn. The sawmill was put out in the woods, where they cut the lumber for the barn. The carpenter cut and made the beams, posts, and rafters before any went up; they all went up and fit. They bought the asphalt shingle and sheeting for the roof. Originally, the same shingles were on the side as on the roof. The barn was used for livestock. Today, the barn is used for sheep in the winter, and storage for machinery and lawn mowers. Harold Howick, 7541 St. Rt. 197, Celina owns this barn; S.F. Howick was his Grandfather and Edwin was his father.

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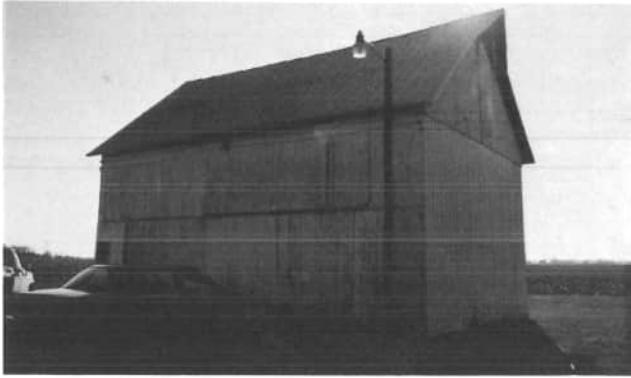
Gilbert Muhlenkamp, 9620 Neptune-Mendon Road, Celina, owns this big white barn with the round roof (also called gothic or rainbow roof). They bought the farm from Catherine Burd in 1961 (Paul was deceased). They used the barn until 1974 for milking cows. From 1974-1990, they have raised steers. The barn would have to be at least fifty to seventy-five years old, and maybe older.

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This barn belongs to J.P. Moore, 8520 Rice Road, Celina, who has lived here since 1980-1981. The farm was formerly the Springer Farm. The symmetrical arrangement of the rectangular windows sets off the barn. The four-paneled windows are unique in the double doors, as well as in the end wall of the gambrel-roofed barn. The barn housed a few cows and horses in its past, but is used for storage today.

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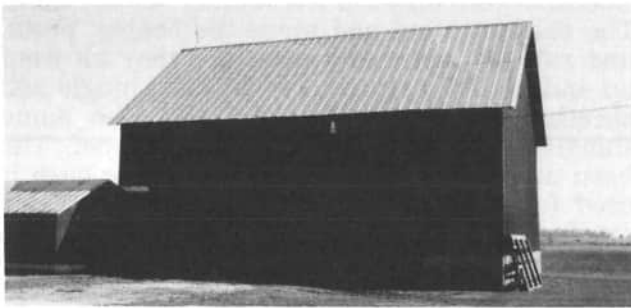
Stanley Nottingham owns this barn on Rice Road South of U.S. 33 in Center Township. Note the triangular hay hood in the gable end of this English barn.

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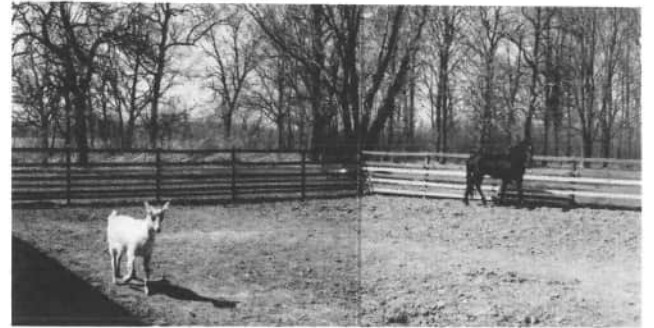
This English barn is painted a soft wheat-gold color and is used for horses. This barn was built in the early 1900's and belongs to Michael J. Hasenjager, 8539 Old Town Road, Celina.

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This English barn is a forthright structure and belongs to Harry Krogman, 7693 Bogart Road, Celina. The barn is located at 7320 Bogart Road, where David Krogman lives. The barn was used for livestock; there used to be a machine shed (lead-to) on the west side of the barn, but it was torn down in 1981.

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Contented in the country, the goat and the horse enjoy the sun on this spring day, behind the barn of Michael Hasenjager, 8539 Old Town Road, Celina.

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Raccoons are a part of the rural wildlife in Mercer County. This photograph captures David Krogman, 7320 Bogart Road, as he was trying to get a raccoon off the roof. He was successful.

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A quiet country day catches this rural scene, with the white, gable-roofed barn, built in 1888. In the past, the barn was used as a dairy barn. The barn belongs to John Rasawehr, 8820 Kuck Road, Celina.

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This English barn is painted white, and stands near the patriotic scene of the American flag, and the colonial iron kettle. In the past this barn was used for dairy; today the barn is used for storage, and belongs to Gene Bricker, 8761 Kuck Road, Celina.

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Merlie Boroff, 8370 Riley Road, Celina, owns this barn which is over a century old. The farm had been in the Sealscott family for over a hundred years. The old garage and granary still stand. The house was remodeled in 1960 and moved onto a basement, closer to the road. The Boroff family bought the farm in the fall of 1950 when the estate was settled, after the last surviving member of the Sealscott family passed away (which was Henry). There were two other brothers and three sisters in the family. In the past, the barn was used for regular farm use of storing hay, raising animals: steers, hogs and sheep. Today, the barn is used for storage. One can see the small doors at the end of the barn, as well as the triangle of windows in the gable end.

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This English barn has the traditional red paint, highlighted with white trim, and white arches on the double barn doors, and the smaller doors. Bob Hoenie, 7888 Hoenie Road, Celina owns the barn; the barn is located at 8169 Mercer-Auglaize County Road and the Pitars are living there. In the past, this barn has had animals and straw, and served a working farm; today, the barn is used for storage, including straw and wood.

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This old barn, built between 1900 and 1910, has character, with its weathered siding. People from the city comb the countryside for 'weathered barn siding' for their decorating projects; hopefully, these people seeking weathered barn siding will not drive through Mercer County. This barn belongs to Joanne Highley, and is located at 7872 Howick Road. The barn was used for milk cows and draft horses in the past; today, the barn houses two riding horses and machinery. The two riding horses can be seen grazing on the spring grass behind the barn.

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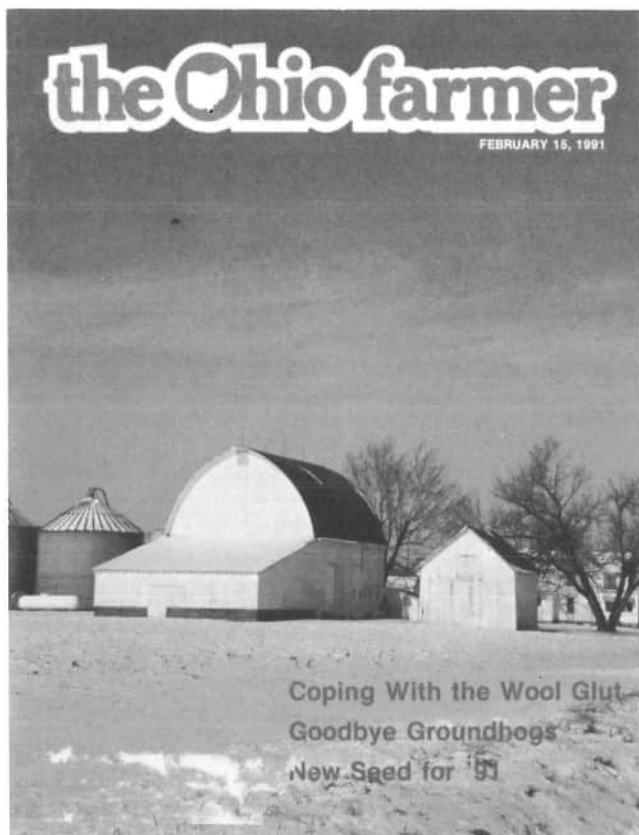
This well-maintained barn, with straight, unadorned lines, belongs to Martin and Elaine Lochtefeld, 8271 Howick Road, Celina. The barn was used for cattle and milking; today the barn is used for hog production. Note the slight elevation of the left end of the barn, compared to the right end. When a barn is built on a slight rise, barnologists sometimes give such a barn the name 'a transverse bank barn' meaning that the bank does not go up to the front double doors, but the bank is a long slope across the transverse side of the barn. Other barnologists give such a barn the name, 'GRUNDSCHEUER' because it has more than one level on the ground floor and that you can enter the barn on any side from this ground level. . . .



This barn located at 7570 Howick Road, belonging to Bernice Cisco Williams, was built before the turn of the century. The dimensions of the barn are eighty feet long, thirty-eight feet wide, and twenty feet to the eaves. Inside the barn are twelve by twelve hand-hewn beams.



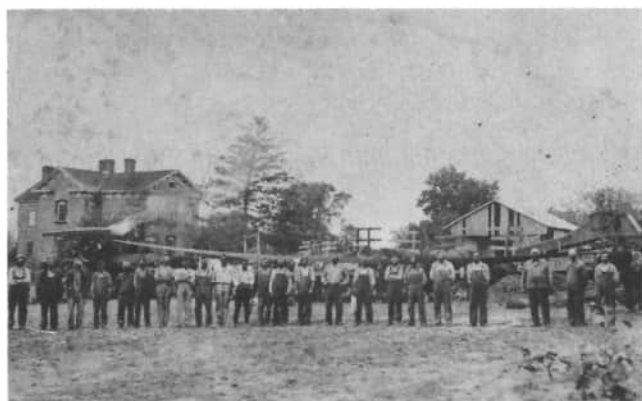
B.L. Baumgardner purchased this farm with his son Forrest Baumgardner in 1938. In 1942 Forrest sold his share to his father. B.L. Baumgardner sold the farm to his daughter Bernice Cisco Williams in 1965. The house was torn down in 1968, and they built their new house in 1970. The farm is at 7570 Howick Road.



This Center Township barn was featured on the cover of THE OHIO FARMER, February 15, 1991. The barn belongs to Lucille Elder Bair, 8911 Neptune-Mendon Road, Celina. One can sense the cold, crisp air as the afternoon sun brightens the snow-white barn and the white of the crystals of snow.



Stephen Howick was born in England in 1812 and emigrated to Quebec in 1831, then going to New York, then to Lancaster, Ohio, then to St. Marys, Ohio. He moved to Center Township and settled on 80 acres in 1837. This drawing is dated 1882, from the 1882 Van Wert and Mercer County History. The old log barn and log house are on this drawing, as well as the new barn, new brick home, and several additional buildings.



This view is of the old Stephen Howick place, as of the previous 1882 drawing. Today, 1992, this place belongs to Harold Howick, 7541 State Route 197, Celina. The original barn (on the 1882 drawing) burned down, when it was struck by lightning in 1912. Then the present barn was built in 1913/1914. All inside lumber came out of the woods to build this barn. They set a sawmill inside the woods to cut the timber for the barn. This photograph was taken about 1918/1919. Edwin Howick, Harold's father, is the fifth one from the right. They are threshing, with an old steam engine. Edwin Howick told of the Indians coming to this house, to ask for food. The brick house on this photograph, is the same brick house as the one in the 1882 drawing. This brick house had four chimneys and a beautiful curved staircase; the house is gone, but the brick from this house was used to build the Ralph Bomholt home, on 7749 State Route 197.

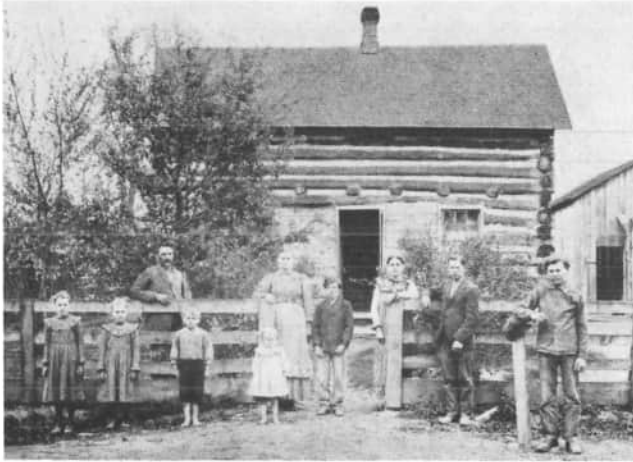


HOWICK'S SALES AND SERVICE is located at 7541 State Route 197, just east of Celina. The owners are David and Dennis Howick. Howick's Sales and Service provides several products and/or services to the public: Sales and Service of Ingersoll (formerly Case) Lawn and Garden Tractors and attachments; Toro walk behind mowers; Toro/Wheelhorse Lawn and Garden Tractors and attachments; Toro ProLine Commercial Mowers, both riding and walk behind; Homelite authorized warranty service center and sales of Homelite outdoor power products; authorized Briggs and Stratton sales and service dealer; sales and service Dealer for BCS rear tine tillers, power units and attachments; Sachs-Dolmar and Jonsered chainsaws; parts and service for Kohler, Tecumseh and Onan engines; parts and service for most major brands of snowmobiles. The Howick's started their business in 1988. They offer service on other brands of power equipment for lawns and gardens. They are the home of The Wild Thang Garden Tractor Pulling Team. Howick's Sales and Service also offers high performance parts and mechanical work on garden tractor pullers.



Wheel Horse, owned by Howick's Sales and Service, with its winning trophies placed on the side.





#### ORIGINAL HOME OF JOSEPH S. SPRINGER

Joseph S. Springer erected a log cabin in the spring of 1883. It was not entirely finished, although the family moved in, at the time of the great snowstorm of May 20th and 21st, when sixteen inches of snow fell. It sifted through the cracks to a depth of six inches on the second floor of the home. (History of Mercer County, Ohio, 1907, p. 552).

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This is a view of Joseph S. Springer's tile works and sawmill taken between 1903 and 1907. (These photographs and story are from the 1907 History of Mercer County, Ohio, pages 551 to 556.) \*Names of those on the photograph were not listed.

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The old barns and buildings of Joseph S. Springer's tile works and sawmill were located in Center Township. He started the tile manufacturing business in 1882, and became the sole owned in 1887. In the fall of 1892 he started the sawmill and built new sheds in 1893. Between 1894 and 1903, he was running 16 to 22 kilns annually. This photograph was taken in the 1880's.

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Over twenty five years ago, this barn stood at the corner of Rice Road and Route 197; the owner was Emma Hamilton. Glenn E. and Mary Rice moved this barn then, to the present location at 8413 Rice Road, Celina. This big old barn has been used for hay and machinery storage. Mary Rice owns the barn today.

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John Tobens' barn, 8695 State Route 197, Celina, was built about 1870, probably by Lewis A. Hall. This barn is built into a hill, which makes it possible to enter the barn at ground level, at the top or the bottom of the hill; this type barn is known as a 'grundscheier barn,' meaning a ground level barn. This set of buildings is just off the old plank road of the 1850's, which is now U.S. Route 33. In the past, the barn was used for cattle, horses, livestock, hogs, etc. Today the barn is used for storage and Siberian Huskies. John Tobens bought this place from Ted Colby in 1992.



This interior view of John Tobens' barn shows the interior structure of the main rounded roof, as well as the gable roofline to the back addition to the barn. One can see the arched timbers bending to the center; this gave more space in the mow.

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This view of John Tobens' barn, 8695 State Route 197, shows the main barn, as well as the addition to the back. The main barn has a rounded roof, known as a ship's hull roofline. The original settlers of this place were of a family with sea captains in the New England states. The back addition of the barn has a gable roof. Windows provide lighting to the interior of this big barn which stands in Neptune.



This interior view of the John Tobens' barn, shows the framing of the back addition. Note the inclined purlin supports, which were braced with posts running parallel to the rafters. Look at the end wall, and see the carpenter's marks cut into the wall; the light outlines them above the window. The editor saw no carpenter marks like this in the county.

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This interior view of the John Tobens' barn, shows the opened door of the floor, leading to the basement or ground floor of this grundscheier barn. The steps are wood. Next to this basement door, is the wood threshing floor of the main floor of the barn. This was a grand barn in its day.

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Lewis and Ruth Gray, 8637 U.S. Route 33, Celina, own this barn. They purchased this place in 1956. The barn has been used for young cattle, hay, straw, and corn storage.

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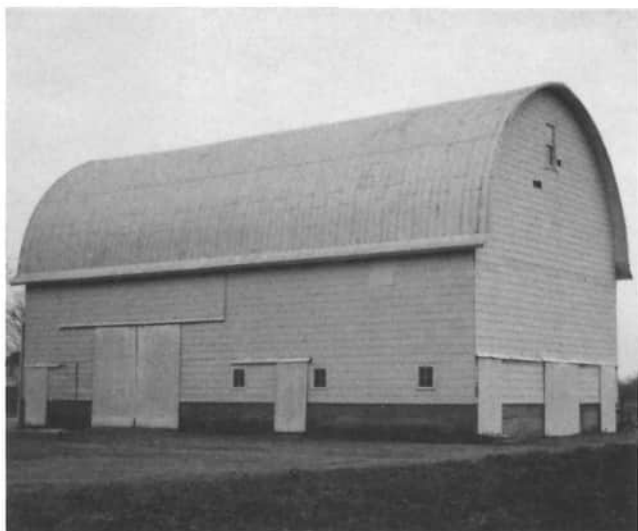
Paul and Lela Siebert, 8560 State Route 197, Celina, own this barn. Four lightning rods stand across the ridge of the gambrel roof. The barn stands much as it did when it was built.

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This is a view of the east end of Lew and Ruth Gray's barn, 8637 U.S. Route 33, Celina. Look to the gable end and see a star cut into the peak of the end wall. This is the only barn in Mercer County, where the Editor saw a star cut into the gable end walls; some say the reason is just for the art design and others tell it was the carpenter's identification mark. Others tell of stories related to their culture or time period in history.

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This barn, which stands at 7984 U.S. 127, Celina, where Jerry Weisman lives, was originally the Henry Miller Farm. The barn was built in 1920, and used for horses, hay, and storage of equipment. There was a wing on the east side of this barn to house horses. This is a tall barn; the round roof has been called a ship's hull roof, and/or a rainbow roof. There is a slight flare at the base of the roofline, known as a ski-jump. Several sliding doors provide entry to this barn. This barn is owned by Ralph Heffner, 509 North Main, Celina. (Dave Slusser photograph)



Harlan Freeman's Granddaughter Sylvia Van Houten visited Celina and took pictures in 1979. Her mother, Margaret Freeman Brown, was born on this farm 16 June 1905. In 1991 when this was written, she is still living with Sylvia in New York. Harlan's son Hyrtl, living in Michigan and Florida 1991, compiled the farm information. The farm is located on Celina-Mendon Road, midway between Wayne Street (197) and Howick Rd., on the east side.

"There was always excitement on the farm; chickens hatching, new calves being born, sometimes a colt, litters of pigs, lambs came before we got there. Too, sometimes the stock would get through a fence or some other

place they weren't supposed to be. When we arrived most of the 'planting' (in both gardens and fields) was done, but we got in on most of the harvesting. I got old enough to shock grain, drive the team with the hay loader hooked on the back of the hay wagon. Each end of the hay wagon had a rack (sort of a wooden fence). The front rack was high and a drivers seat was built in front of it; which put you almost over the near team (usually had two teams pulling a loader).

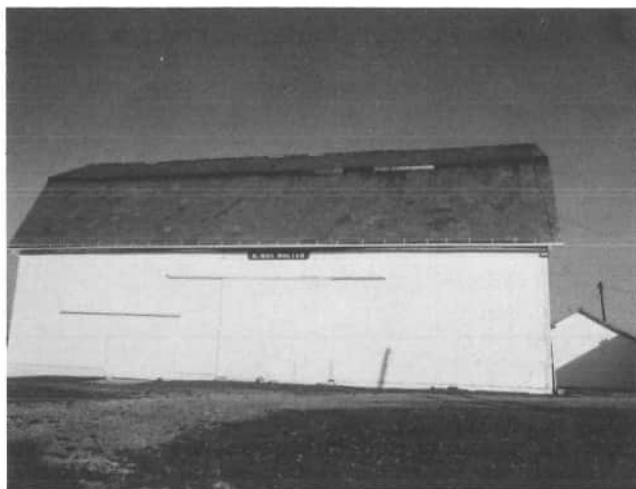
"I have cultivated corn with a team. The cultivator would straddle a corn row with a gang of 6-6 blades (like little spades) turning soil as the horses pulled the cultivator. The driver sat on an iron seat right over the corn row. Each foot was in a foot rest and would guide the gang on each side so to work the dirt up around the stalks and reach the weeds. During haying, we'd bring in a load of hay, Uncle Harry would take the lines and get a running start up the steep ramp to the barn floor by shouting and cracking a whip. The horses really dug in to get that load up the grade. Then we'd hook a horse to the hay rope, which, thru pulleys, hauled the hay fork with its load of hay off the wagon, up to the track in the gable and off to one side where it was dropped (tripped) into the hay mow. Then, men with hand forks would move it back to the edges of the barn 'mowed it away.' New mown hay had a perfume all its own. That was one of the delightful summer smells."



CHEW MAIL POUCH, W.V.A. COLESLAW, is neatly lettered across the end wall of this small barn. The barn even has a triangular hay hood, as well as a five sided hay door which drops to open. The old barns with CHEW MAIL POUCH are rarely seen anymore. This barn was located in Celina, and Keith Ley purchased the barn and moved it to its present location at 8136 Stose Road, north of Howick Road.



Phyllis Stose's barn, 9889 Stose Road, Mendon, was built in the late 1890's by Harrison Webb. Note, this barn was built into a hill, so one can enter the bottom floor or main floor at ground level; this kind of barn is known as a grundscheier or grundscheuer barn, meaning ground level. The cement floor was put in, in April 1911. The addition of the barn was built in 1971, after they bought the farm. The original roof was slate, which was replaced. Two diamond windows are in the double doors. In the past, the barn was used for milking cows, horse stalls, and farming tools; today the barn is used for hog farrowing and machinery storage.



Russell Max and Colleen Walter. 9074 Neptune-Mendon Road, Celina own this attractive barn with its new coat of white paint. R. Max Walter is printed across the front of the barn above the barn doors. The gambrel roof is a slate roof. The Walters put an addition on to the barn in the early 1960's, to house sheep.



This big barn stands at 9005 Hayes Road, on the west side, just north of Oregon Road, and south of U.S. Route 33. Henry McKirnan got a land grant of 120 acres from congress. Dan J. McKirnan, one of Henry's sons, bought the farm from the heirs. This barn was built in 1917 after the original barn burned; Jake Holtman was the farmer when the barn burned. This barn has hand hewn beams and is wooden, oak pinned. This barn is 60 feet to the comb, one of the highest, if not the highest, barn in the area. This barn was used for hay and horses, cattle, and machinery. It was torn down in 1981. Thomas Holtman lives at this place; he tore down the barn and replaced it with a machine shed. The original owner, Henry J. McKirnan, served two terms, 1874 to 1878 as Mercer County Sheriff; he was the first sheriff to occupy the present jail building. Henry McKirnan was also elected Treasurer of Mercer County for two terms, 1888 to 1892. Today, this place is owned by Patrick and Irma McKirnan, 120 South Vine, Celina.



This rugged old barn is located at 8930 Kuck Road, just south of Fisher Road. This barn still stands straight and tall and has withstood the test of time over the years. The double doors have a tilted window; both doors have an inverted "V" brace on the bottom half. The children playing in front of the barn remind everyone who has ever played in a big old barn, that a barn is a wonderful place to play. This barn belongs to Kenneth and Becky Rasaweher, 8101 Howick Road, Celina.



This charming barn was built in 1890. It stands much as it did when it was built. There is a protective overhang, just above the track for the double doors. This is a typical English barn, with three bays, the center bay being for threshing and the two side bays for animals and/or hay or grain. The barn rests on a slab of stone on the corners. It still has its wood shingle roof. The barn belongs to the Harris family, 7681 Harris Road, Celina.

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Jeff Everman's barn stands at 7790 Harris Road, Celina. The previous owner was Mrs. Clarence (Gladys) Harris. This barn was built in 1915, and used for livestock. Four lightning rods stand across the ridge of the gambrel roof. One window is at the peak of the end wall, with two lower windows on the ground floor. The barn has been resided, and is a soft wheat gold color. Today, the barn is used for livestock and a workshop.

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This barn stood on the east side of Harris Road. On this photograph the men are fixing the roof. A 1951 44 Model Massey Harris is standing in front of the barn. The barn was built in 1900; it was used for raising livestock until 1984. The barn belonged to the Harris family, 7681 Harris Road, Celina. This barn is no longer standing.

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This barn stands at 17122 County Line Road, and is a part of the Bryson Estate. It appears the barn was built after 1888, but before 1900, in reference to the 1888 and 1900 Mercer County Atlas, Center Township. The barn has been re-sided. Two ventilators are on top of the gable roof on the right side on the barn.

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Hope Nevergall's barn stands at 8450 Denny Road, Celina. The barn and house were built by Philander Davis, who was considered an excellent carpenter in this area. Some of the neighbors are great grandchildren to Mr. Davis. The barn was originally a bank barn, but because of the timbers giving away, in the lower part of the barn, they moved the upper part of the barn to its present location, to preserve the barn. The original barn was built in the late 1800's. After the Nevergall family moved the barn, they resided it. The barn housed animals, hay and some grain storage. Today it is used for hay and straw storage as well as machinery storage.



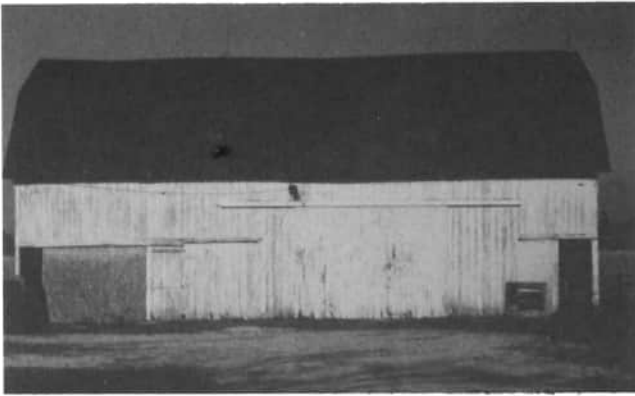
This barn stands on the home place of Floyd John Tigner, who was born here, October 6, 1911, at 6649 Hasis Road, Celina. Floyd has lived here his entire life. His grandfather Elza Simmons, the father of his mother, Maggie (Simmons) Tigner, built this wooden pinned barn, for his father, John Tigner, in the year 1900. Today, the place belongs to Floyd and Norma Tigner.



Mrs. Walter Spicer's barn stands at 8310 Howick Road, Celina. The barn was built in the early 1920's. It was purchased by Walter Spicer in 1935 and used as a dairy barn for Jerseys and Holsteins until 1969. The round roof is sometimes known as a ship's hull roof, or a rainbow roof. The slight flare to the edge of the roofline is known as a ski-jump. Diamond, four-paned windows are centered at the top of the sliding doors. Five lightning rods are across the roof ridge.



Milton Davidson and his granddaughter Lindsey Rammel, daughter of Shawn and John Rammel, are mowing the lawn in front of their big old red barn at 8098 Howick Road, Celina. This barn was built in 1907 by Clem and Anna Hainline. Clem hauled the material to this location from Fort Recovery on weekends, to build the barn. Milton Davidson moved here and bought the place from Hainlines in 1975.



Arthur and Ida Hecht owned this barn from 1929 to 1990. The barn stands on the north side of Oldtown Road, just east of Riley Road. This barn was probably built before 1900; the barn has hand hewn beams and wooden pinned. When Arthur bought the place, the barn had a dirt floor; the roof had been raised before he bought it. Arthur put on a new standing seam roof about 1936. They recall that when they moved there, there was no electricity. The barn has been used for dairy, cattle, and horses.

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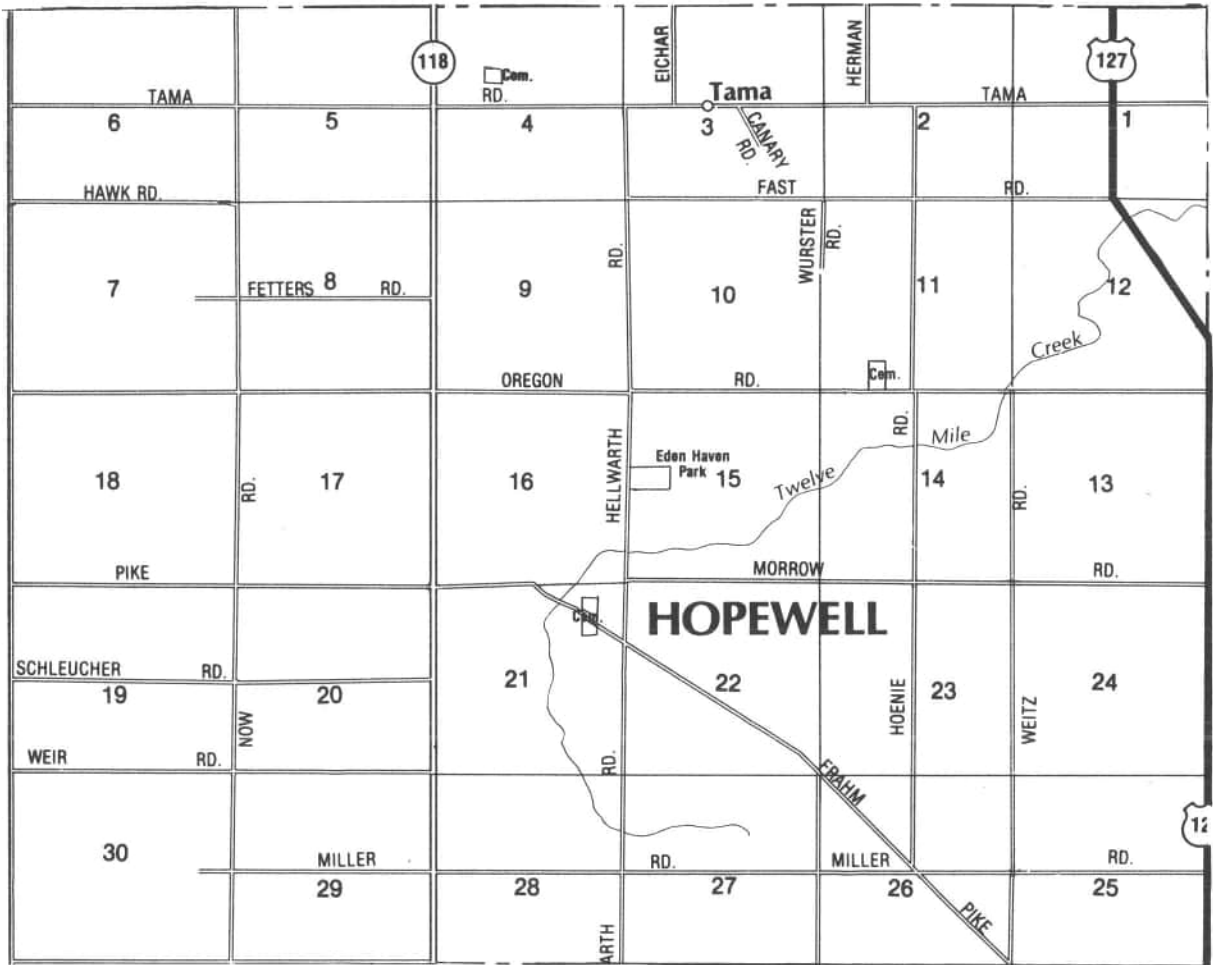


This red barn, with white trim and green gambrel, roof stands at 8169 Mercer/Auglaize County Line Road. August 1, 1991, Jeff Rasawehr bought the farm from Robert and Mary Ann Hoenie. Robert Hoenie had purchased the farm from the heirs of his father Carl Hoenie's estate. When Carl owned the farm and his family helped with the farming, they used the barn to store hay, oat straw, wheat straw, and fodder. They had some farm machinery in the barn; including a riding, one bottom, 14 inch plow which took three horses to pull, and a walking, 12 inch plow for two horses. At one time they had as many as 13 horses and 12 cows in the barn. Carl Hoenie had purchased the farm from a Moneysmith family in 1927. Moneysmith built the barn about 1919/1920. Moneysmith had purchased about fifty acres from a Piper family who had owned about eighty acres.

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# Hopewell Township, Mercer County, Ohio



\* This page was sponsored by the Mercer County Historical Society for the convenience of those who wish to tour Hopewell Township roads, to see the big barns and to appreciate our rural heritage.

\*\* This map was printed by permission of Spectrum Map Publishing, Inc., 909 Sycamore Street, Cincinnati, OH 45202.



Two pairs of sliding doors are on the front of this barn at 9940 Township Line Road, Rockford. In the past this barn has been used for dairy; today the barn is used for storage. For convenience the building is attached to the back of this barn belonging to Tom Sidenbender. The small doghouse is protected from the weather in its corner next to the two buildings.

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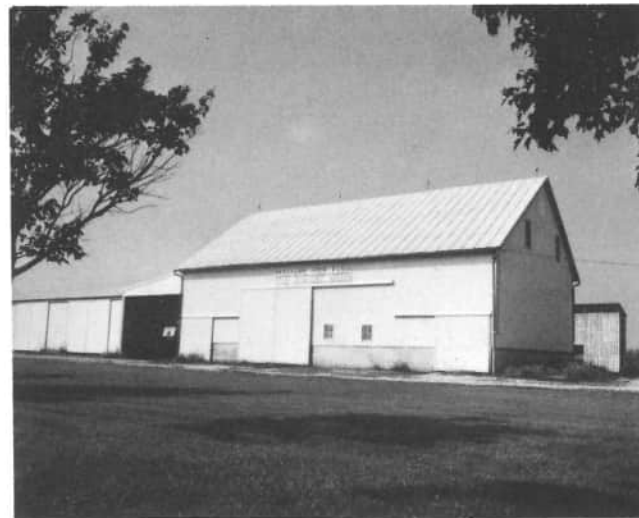
This aerial view of John and Darlene Black's place, 7528 State Route 118, Celina, shows not only the barn, but the other buildings and the pond. Farm ponds are found across Mercer County, in that the ponds provide a source of water in case of fire, and they provide a place of summer recreation.

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John and Darlene Black's barn, 7528 State Route 118, Celina, is an attractive red barn, trimmed in white. Two red ventilators are on top of the gable roof. Dances used to be held upstairs. Today, this barn is used for farm and storage.

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PLEASANT VIEW FARM, IVAN & DOROTHY MILLER is written above the double doors at Ivan and Dorothy Miller's barn, 7685 State Route 118, Celina. This white barn with the gable roof was built in 1900 by Bill Roberts. In the past, the barn was used for livestock and hay; today the barn is used for machinery storage.

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Ivan Miller is standing with his new Allis Chalmers 7000 tractor in October 1976, at 7685 State Route 118.

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This barn was half this size at one time. It now stands in a quiet field on the east side of State Route 118, just north of the owner's home, Ivan and Dorothy Miller. This used to be Hellwarth place.

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This photograph was taken at Miller's Pleasant View Farm, 7685 State Route 118, between 1905 and 1910. From left to right are Richard Miller (Ivan's Uncle); Asa Meister (Ivan's Uncle by marriage); Frank Miller (Ivan's Grandfather), and Walter Feters (Ivan's Uncle by marriage). Their clothes and hats reflect the styles of the times.

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This barn was built in 1880 by Daniel Feters, and stands at Gordon and Gretchen Feters Hayes, 8191 State Route 118, Celina. In 1991 the barn belonged to Cora C. Feters, Celina. This is an L shaped barn and in the early days, it stabled many horses. The interior has been remodeled several times. They always had big straw stacks back of the barn. In the past, the barn stored hay, straw, wheat, corn fodder, oats, stabled horses, fed cattle, milked cows, etc. Today, the barn has baled hay, tractors, wagons, and sheep. The barn has had halloween parties for children and grandchildren. They also raised 4 H calves in it.

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Urban Hoenie, 8339 State Route 118, Celina, owns this neat barn. In the past, the barn has been used for general farming. Today, the barn is used for storage. This green, gambrel roofed barn has white siding, with an addition made to the north end. Two overhead doors have been added to the front. Urban says that he was told that this barn was a church at one time. He does not know if this is true, or where the building was moved from.

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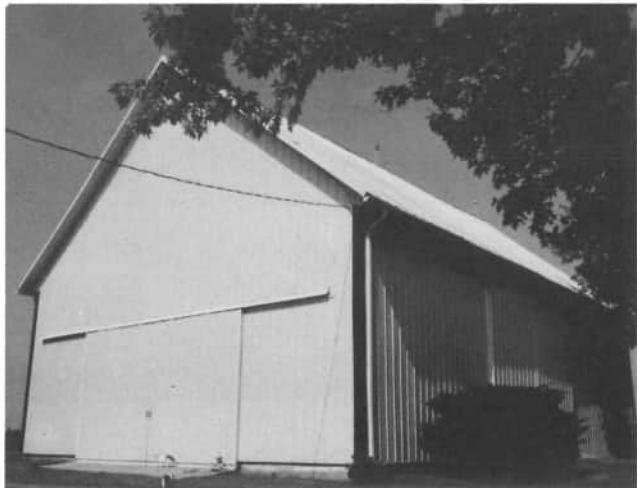
This interior view of the Pierstorff barn at 8671 State Route 118, shows the framing of the barn. The main cross beam supports the vertical post, which in turn supports the purlin plate which runs the length of the barn and supports the rafters. The original hay track can still be seen running beneath the ridge of the roof. In the past, this big old barn was used for horses, cattle and hay. Today, the barn is used for machinery storage.

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Henry Krogman had this barn built at 8671 State Route 118, Celina, in the 1880's. This barn belongs to Edson and Marjorie (Buck) Pierstorff; the barn is from Marjorie's mother's side, Krogman family. This was Marjorie's great grandfather's farm. Edson and Marjorie's son and his family, Mr. and Mrs. Niles Pierstorff, own the home and live there now. Niles is Henry Krogman's Great Great Grandson.

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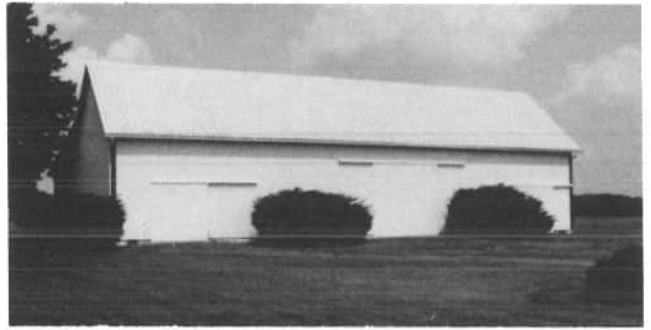
Wayne Shively's barn, 8675 State Route 118, Celina, was built in the early 1900's. The original stone foundation is still in existence. Part of the barn has been revamped for small equipment and a cement floor was poured.

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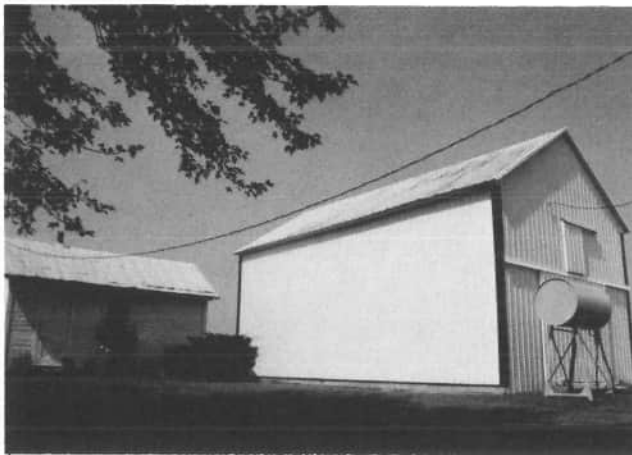
This is a close up view of the stone foundation of Wayne Shively's barn, 8675 State Route 118, Celina.

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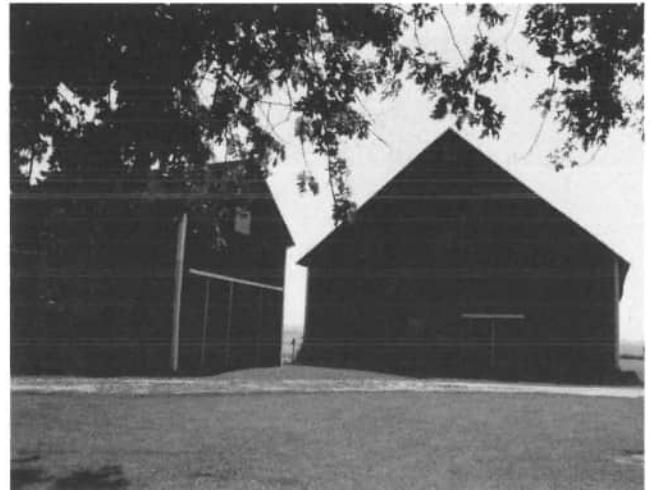
This Shively barn is located at the Northeast corner of State Route 118 and Frahm Pike. The barn in this photograph was built in 1941 and 1942. It was put together from two other barns that sat on the half acre at the corner of Frahm Pike and State Route 118. One of the two barns was the old horse barn and stable for the grocery store that stood on the same half acre. Wayne Shively's Grandfather ran three huckster wagons and so the horses were kept in this barn. The other barn was for the drygoods to be stored for the grocery. These two barns were originally built in the early 1900's.

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The granary in this photograph was the original grocery store that sat on the half acre at the corner of Frahm Pike and State Route 118. J.W. Shively, Wayne Shively's Grandfather, established the store in the early 1900's. In the 1940's, Wayne's father moved the store to its present location at 8675 State Route 118, and then remodeled the building into a granary.

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Hulda Luth's barns, 8722 State Route 118, Celina, were built about 1895 by Giesiger Family (not sure of spelling). The farm was purchased by John Luth, Eileen Bollenbacher's Grandfather, in 1914; when George Luth was nine years old. The barn and granary are the same basic structures as they were when they were built. The buildings have been kept in good repair. In the past, the barn was used for cattle feed, horse stalls, milking stanchions, and hay storage. Today, the barn is used for machinery storage.

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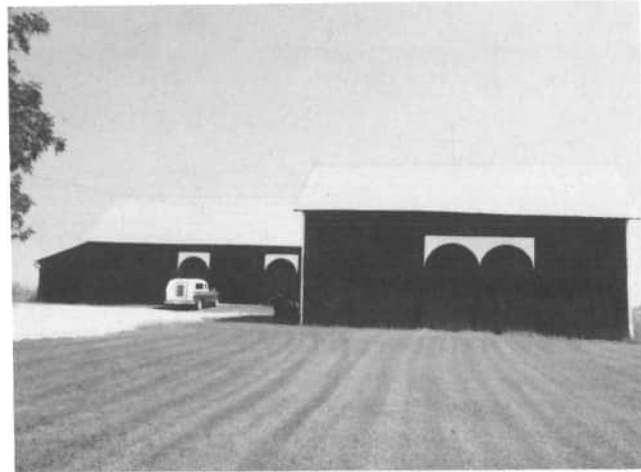
Janice Luth (daughter of Hulda and sister of Eileen) and Carolyn Speicher (daughter of Mark and Vera Speicher) were standing in front of the building about 1950. The building at the left was used for grain storage and corn cribs; it has been resided like the barn, at Hilda Luth's place, 8722 State Route 118.



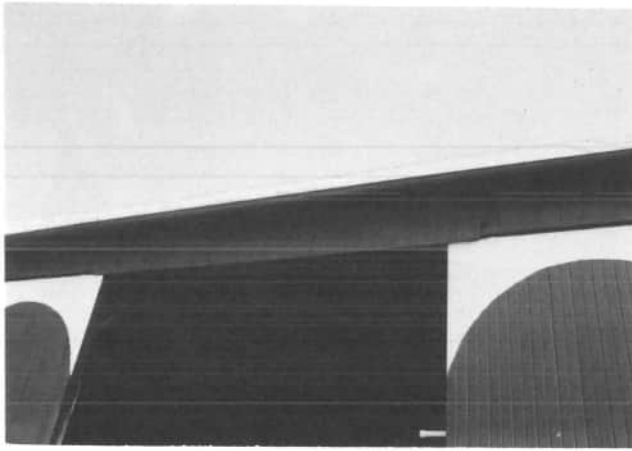
Jeff and Carol Hayes' barn, 9615 State Route 118, Rockford, write that their barn was built in 1838, by Frank Buck. The farm was bought from the government. In the past, the barn was used for cattle, pigs, horses, and hay. The gable roofed barn has a lightning rod at both ends of the roof. Dark arches highlight the sliding doors. The stable doors, topped with rectangular windows, can be seen on the end wall.



Eldon Eichenauer's place, 8780 State Route 118, Celina, shows an aerial view of the barn, as well as the other buildings. Charles Frahm built the main barn in 1895. The barn was a general purpose barn, for cattle, horses, hay, and machinery. The main white barn has a gable roof, with the addition having a gambrel roof. Today, the barn is used for sheep and machinery.

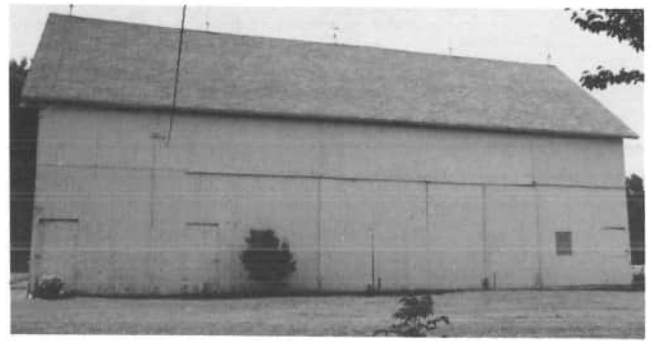


Glen and Dorothy Miller's barns, 9926 State Route 118, Rockford, are both graced with arches on the double doors. The main barn was used for livestock and hay in the past. Today, they use the barn for small machinery and storage. Glen and Dorothy Miller got the farm in 1974. Before them, Charles and Estella Miller had the farm since 1928.



A close up view of Glen Miller's barn door, shows the protective overhang mounted above the track of the double doors. This provided protection from the weather.

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Margaret E. Deitsch's barn, 8093 Hellwarth Road, Celina, was built in 1888, possibly by a man named Squire. (Mr. Squire was a well known barn builder in this area of Mercer County.)

The barn was built from all native timber taken from the wooded area on this farm. Margaret Deitsch's Grandfather told how a saw mill was moved in and all the material used was sawed to shape for this barn's structure. He also told that flour and sugar was purchased by the barrel to provide board for the carpenters. Her Grandmother prepared the food for the carpenters. In the past, the barn was used for livestock, cows, horses, sheep, hay, oats, and wheat for threshing. Today, this white barn is used for machinery storage. The five lightning rods can be seen on the roof ridge.

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An interior view of Glen and Dorothy Miller's barn, 9926 State Route 118, shows the framing of the barn. The notches on the main cross beam indicate the beam was hand hewn. The vertical posts above the cross beam, support the purlin plate which runs the length of the barn and supports the rafters.

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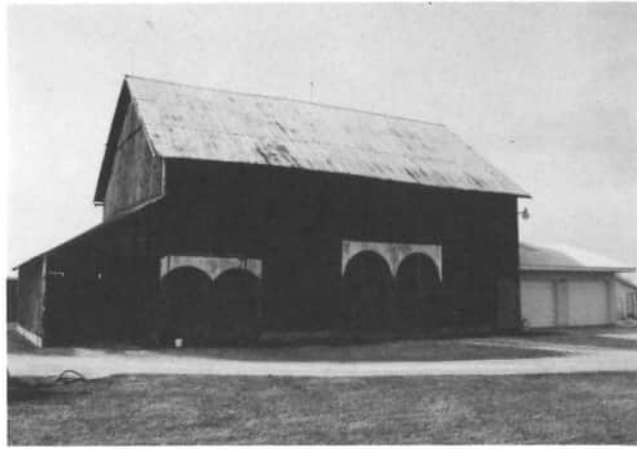
This is a close up view of the latch on one of the service doors of Margaret Deitsch's barn, 8093 Hellwarth Road. Many readers probably remember statements like, "Shut the barn door," and "He shut the barn door after the horse ran away." Old sayings about barns probably go through a lot of peoples' memories as they read this book about big old barns.

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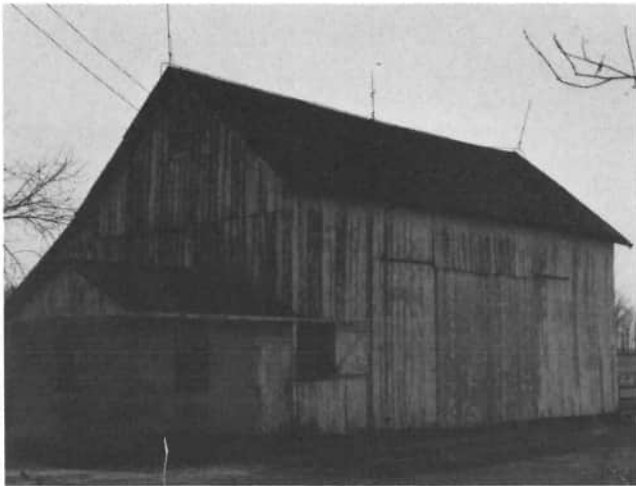
This barn stands at the Northwest corner of Hellwarth Road at Oregon Road. The barn belongs to Mrs. Harold Siebert, 3228 Swamp Road, Celina. She said that Harold's father owned this barn before them. The Siebert's built the barn; it has hand hewn beams and is wooden pinned. This barn is an English barn, with the double doors centered in front. There is a shed roofed addition to the back of the barn. Two lightning rods still stand on the ridge of the roof. This barn is like many of its age and was not painted, but left to weather to a soft gray color. The barn served its purpose and still stands straight in the country. (Dave Slusser Photograph)

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James Zizelman's barn, 9691 Hellwarth Road, is a neat red barn, with white arches painted on the double doors. A shed roofed addition has been added to the left of the barn, while a garage has been added to the right side. A night light is attached to the corner wall beneath the roof. This March 1991 photograph was taken by Dave Slusser.

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Lee Siebert's barn, 8985 Hellwarth Road, is an English barn, which was probably built about 1890. The barn's double doors are centered in front; the track is protected by a slight overhang, above the double doors. The one stable door has the top half standing open, and the Z bracing can be seen on this door. The green gable roof has three lightning rods standing across the roof ridge. One lone window is located in the gable end wall. The barn has been used for cattle and to store hay. (Dave Slusser Photograph)

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How many people have stood at the board fence, and watched the horses at the barn? This peaceful rural scene would make many people want to leave their job behind on a summer afternoon and go horseback riding. In consideration of the barn, it was built by one of Mercer County's well known barn builders, a man by the name of Squires, in 1912. The barn belongs to Murph Knapke, 7541 Fleetfoot Road, Celina. In the past, the barn has been used to hold hay and livestock. Today, this brown barn with the white trim, and gambrel roof, is used for machinery, horses, and hay.

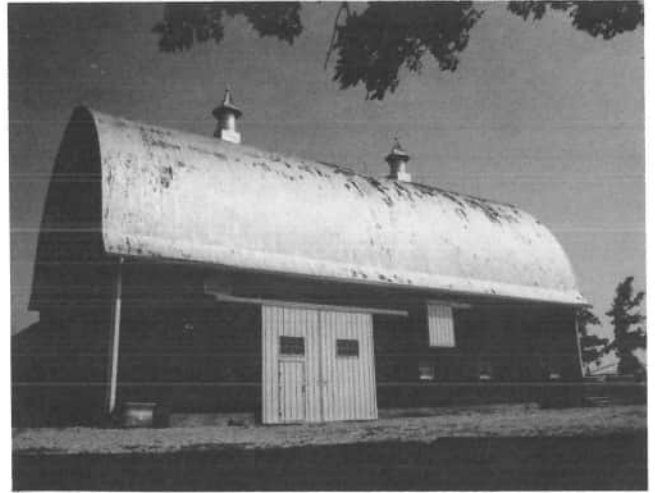
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Charles Beckstedt was the first owner when the barn was at 7983 Fleetfoot Road, Celina; he used the barn for dairy. His son Ernest Beckstedt, also used the barn for dairy. Today, his son Robert E. Beckstedt owns the barn, and it is used for storage of grain and machinery. This white barn has a gambrel roof, and dark arches painted on the doors. There is also a triangle painted at the peak of the end wall. Above the double doors, there is a slight overhang, built to protect the track and the double doors. This barn was built around 1900, and is similar in style to other barns built in this area.

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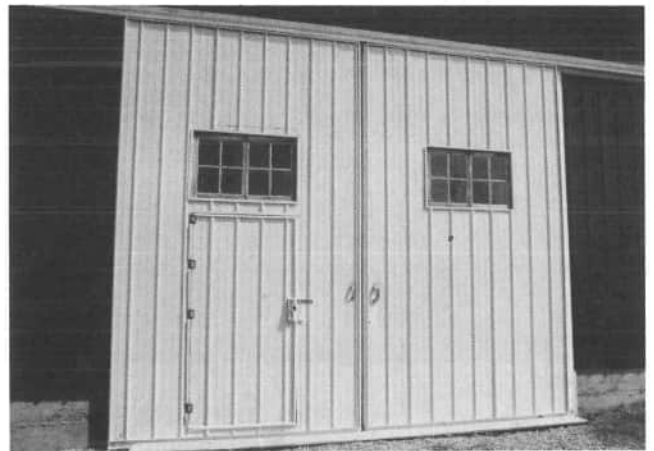
Don Montgomery, 635 North Main, Celina, purchased this place in 1989, at 7800 Hoenie Road. This attractive barn has brown siding, trimmed with white. The round roof, sometimes called a gothic or rainbow roof, is topped by two ventilators. This barn is used as a horse barn.

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Wilbur Grossnickle's barn, 9996 Herman Road, Celina, was built about 1916 or 1917. The carpenter was Herman Shinabery, for Grandfather Fred Scherer and George Grossnickle. Set up in their woods was a saw mill, propelled by a steam engine. The lumber was sawed, and the timber from the woods built the frame of the barn; the cost was a thousand dollars. This barn has been used for hay, straw, grain and livestock. Note the diamond windows in the double doors, which are trimmed with white arches. This photograph was taken about 1918, with George Grossnickle, Effie (Scherer) Grossnickle, Fred Scherer, Wilbur Grossnickle, Mable (Grossnickle) Crider. The horses were named Trix, Nell, and \_\_\_\_\_.

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This is the first metal door, cut into the larger metal sliding door, that the editor saw in Mercer County. A few of the barns across countryside have wooden doors, with smaller service doors cut into them. This smaller door cut within a larger door is called a "Guichet." Four sets of four paned windows are also placed in the larger sliding doors of Don Montgomery's barn at 7800 Hoenie Road.

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Doug and Marcia Alt's barn, 7908 Hoenie Road, Celina, has been used for livestock and farm machinery. It appears as if it has been raised on its foundation. New siding was added to this barn, and the barn was redone in 1957. Today, the barn is used for livestock and storage.

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George and Norma Hoenie's barn, 8404 Hoenie Road, Celina, was built in the 1870's by their Uncle Charlie Frahm. This barn was built out of native timber and the beams were hewed out by hand and pinned together. The original doors swung open on hinges.

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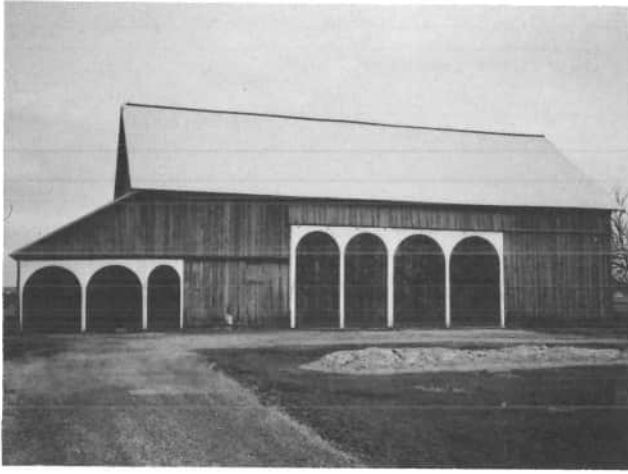
Sue Counterman's barn, 8279 Hoenie Road, Celina, was built in the 1890's. This barn originally sat on Morrow Road, on the north side of this farm. The barn was moved by Jackson Movers to its present location, around 1950, by the heirs of Jim Morrow. This barn still has the wooden hay track in the top of the barn. Four lightning rods stand across the ridge of the gable roof. The old wagon wheel remind one of the days when the horse did the pulling. Next to the wheel is a horse trailer to remind one of these days when the horse is being pulled. In the past the big old barn was used for livestock and feed storage. Today, this barn is used for horses and machinery storage.

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Wilmer Hoenie and his horse Dick are standing in front of the Hoenie barn at 8404 Hoenie Road. The lightning rods can be seen on the gable roof ridge. The double doors are braced open, and they opened on a hinge.

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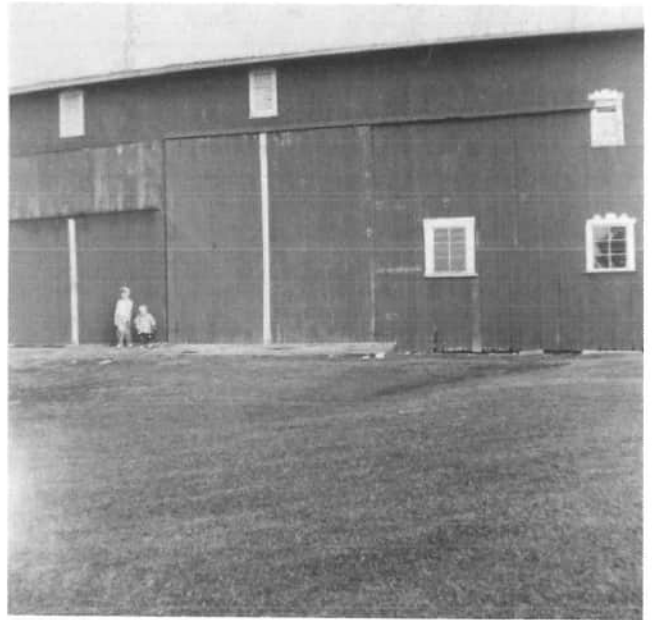
George and Norma Hoenie's barn, 8404 Hoenie Road, has seen three generations of owners: John William and Minnie Hoenie, Wilmer Franklin and Minnie Hoenie, and George Robert and Norma Hoenie. This barn has had an addition added to the left side. Red sliding doors with white arches are mounted on tracks; those tracks are protected by a slight overhang. In the past, the barn stored loose hay, corn food, wheat and oats. The wheat and oats were later threshed out the back doors. Horses were kept in the barn and milk cows in the shed attached to the barn. Today the barn has hay and straw bales, starter calves, weaning pigs, and farm machinery.

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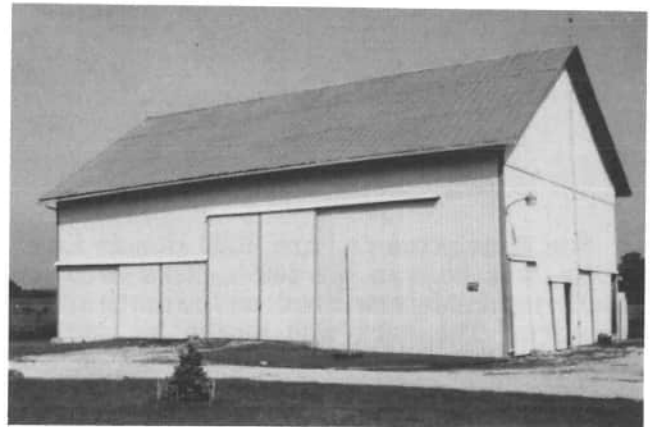
This interior view of George and Norma Hoenie's barn not only shows the hand hewn beams, but also how they were pegged together, and the size of the beams. George and Norma Hoenie reside at 8420 Hoenie Road. The Road being named Hoenie indicates the Hoenie family was here before this road was named.

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Randy and Kim Highley live at 9150 Hoenie Road, Celina, where this barn stands. Simien and Pearl Highley, 9150 Hoenie Road, own the big barn. This March 1957 photograph shows Patty and Andy Highley standing in front of "Grandma Highley's barn." The family tells that his barn was built around the 1840's. Note the three louvered windows for ventilation across the front of the barn. The double doors to the left, have a slight overhang for protection built above the track. Two windows with six panes each are to the right of the big double doors. This barn was used for cattle, sheep, hogs, horses, and farm machinery.

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The Highley barn at 9150 Hoenie Road, was hit by a storm on July 2, 1980, which did damage to the barn. At that time, the barn was sided by the Chatt. Supply Company. This white siding with the green trim gives a new appearance to the barn. A nightlight has been added to the right corner of the barn.

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Floyd Highley's barn, 9258 Hoenie Road, Celina, was on Fast Road; they moved it to Hoenie Road. This photograph shows Kenny Jackson crossing the railroad, with the barn, when they moved home in August 1969. The Highley's tell that this barn is about 150 years old.

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This white barn with the blue trim just does not look like the big old red barn which they moved to this place in 1969. Floyd Highley, 9258 Hoenie Road, tells that the Searights lived at this place when they bought it and there was an old log house at this place then.

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Floyd Highley and Douglas are standing in front of their barn, which had been moved from their other place on Fast Road, to the 9258 Hoenie Road place. (They did this after their other barn burned.) Floyd had the foundation ready when Kenny Jackson bought the barn. Kenny set the barn on the foundation and it fit perfectly.

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This barn stands on State Route 118, south of Rockford, and just across the road from Coldwater Grain. There is a name in the slate on this roof, but with roof repairs, the name is difficult to read. A date 1893 is in the slate, just beneath the name. Sue Counterman, 8279 Hoenie Road, Celina, owns this barn. This barn stands as a quiet reminder of all the farm activity that once went on at this place.

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Urban H. Buschur is in front of his barn in 1950.

During the 1880's, Chester Weaver of Hopewell Twp., Mercer County, Celina, Ohio was born at 8206 Weitz Road in the house that remains today and is owned by *Chris and Kim Stachler*. It is presumed that the barn, northeast of the house, too, was over one hundred years old.

When Urban and Rosena Dippold Buschur bought the farm in 1932 after Mr. & Mrs. Jacob Reynolds had owned it, the barn's two double doors in the middle of the east and west sides were swing-out doors that Urban replaced with sliding doors.

The southeast corner milking stable was vacated after the north horse stable was converted into a milking area at the time tractors replaced horses.

Urban applied the first coat of paint to the barn when he painted it red with white trim. Later, during the 1950's while he was covering the red with white, a neighbor observed and advised, "You CAN'T paint a red barn white!" After applying more than one coat of white paint, Urban completed the job, and the barn remained white, thereafter. Urban managed to paint the barn siding but, disliking heights, hired Amishmen and a close friend, Leo Pfister, to paint the roof several times.

Through the years the barn has been used for stabling horses, milking cows, and its north and south mows for hay and straw storage. Machinery was kept in its south lean-to shed.

On Sunday noon, June 14, 1981, fire destroyed the entire barn with its farm machinery contents, and neighbors *George and Tom Hoenie*, present owners of the acreage, assisted in cleaning up the debris. The barn was never replaced. By: Mrs. Jim (Thelma Buschur) Homan)



Urban H. Buschur is in front of his barn in 1977.

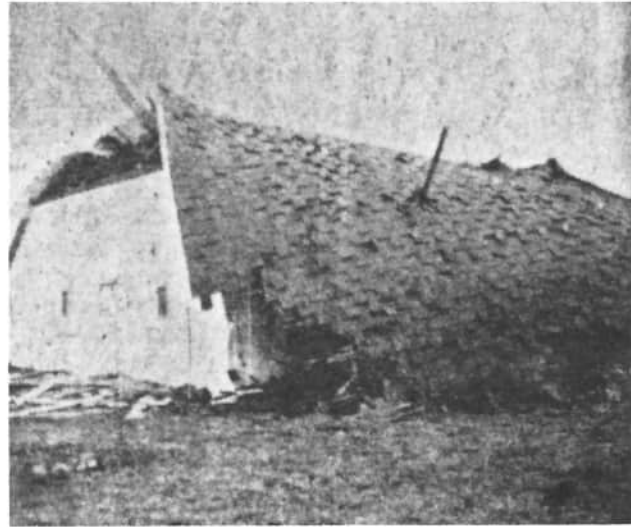


This barn stands at 7916 U.S. 127, and belongs to Bob and Rita Kimmel. This barn has hand hewn beams, and was known as the old Livingston Farm. The barn was used for cows and horses. Bob's Dad bought this place from a Bergman. The hay mows have been taken out so larger equipment and machinery could be put in the barn. Bob's Mother Ruby Kimmel resided the barn in 1978. Today, the barn has two pairs of sliding doors on the front, as well as a pair on the end wall. Four lightning rods stand across the ridge of the roof.



This barn stands at 8512 U.S. 127. Frank Brown used the barn for dairy; he later sold it to Don Nuding, who sold it to Bill Kimmel in the mid 1960's. Cow stanchions and both hay mows are still in the barn. The barn was resided and a new metal roof added in the late 1960's. Today, the barn is used for equipment storage and hay and straw storage, and belongs to Bob and Rita Kimmel, 8577 U.S. 127. (Dave Slusser Photograph)

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February 15, 1967 a windstorm ripped off large segments of the roof on William Kimmel's barn, which now is Bob and Rita Kimmel's place, 8577 U.S. 127. The wind twisted the entire roof. The roof collapsed, as shown in this photograph. So, William C. Kimmel put a new roof on the barn in August 1967; the work was done by Amish carpenters, the Schwartz Family.

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Frank Orr was the original owner of this barn, which has hand hewn beams. This barn was used for horses, dairy, beef cattle, sheep, and hay and straw. The roof originally was a big rainbow roof. It belongs to Bob and Rita Kimmel, 8577 U.S. 127. (Dave Slusser Photographs)

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Bob and Rita Kimmel, 8577 U.S. 127, Celina, have their name on their white barn today. The two nearby buildings have their sliding doors trimmed with arches. Maple Lawn Farm is written across the building to the right. Two wagon wheels stand as reminders of the past, on the inside edge of the circle drive. (Dave Slusser Photograph)

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Gale and Audrey Hertel, 9309 U.S. 127, bought this barn at auction in 1950. They used it for dairy, hogs, and chickens until the 1970's when the barn was torn down. They tell that a Wilson Family built the barn. This photograph was taken in the summer of 1969.

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Ole K. Sites' barn, 9582 U.S. 127, Celina has three lightning rods standing across the ridge of the gable roof. The barn was built in 1892, possibly by the Brookharts. This barn has had a shed roofed addition added to the left end wall. A few windows are across the front. Behind the barn is standing a silo, and a corn crib, with a "top knot" on the roof. (Dave Slusser Photograph)

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This aerial 1983 photograph shows Gale Hertel's barn, 9309 U.S. 127, today, after the big barn was torn down. Other smaller outbuildings were also torn down since the 1969 photograph was taken.

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John and Cheryl Opperman's barn 9554 U.S. 127 North, Celina, was built in the 1800's. Five lightning rods are across the green gambrel roof. A larger window is at the peak of the end wall, while smaller, square windows are across the level of the mow, and across the ground level. One tipped window is still in the one sliding door. This sliding door has a slight overhang above it, protecting the door and the track from the weather. (Dave Slusser Photograph)

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This barn is located on the south side of Tama Road, just east of Township Line Road. Mrs. Howard Harner's mother's father, Clement May owned this barn, and then Frank and Ina Davis (their daughter) owned it. They had the barn when Ina (May) Davis was a child and she lived to be a hundred in 1988, when she passed away. Thus, the barn is over a hundred years old. (Ina's daughter is Mrs. Howard Harner.) Inside, the barn is original. The barn just has a ground floor, (no cement floor). The driveway is in the center, and a haymow on each side. The original horse manger is there, with the trough for oats for the horses to feed. Over the years the farm has changed ownership, but the barn is still standing.



This Concrete Ventilator and Stave corncrib and granary at 3409 Tama Road, is owned by the Bob Stover family. It featured a double crib with a granary in the center above the driveway. It was completed in 1921 for Peter Coil for \$2400 and purchased from the Portable Electric Manufacturing Co. of Bloomington, Illinois; the materials were shipped to Rockford by train. The capacity was 4620 bushel of earcorn and 2900 bushel of oats. It was equipped with a giant bucket elevator which is still in use today as the crib has now been adapted for storage of shelled corn and soybeans. Doris Stover, 10105 Now Road, Rockford, told the story of the building. (Sondra Samples Photograph)



This barn was built during the Civil War years, on land owned by Moses McChristy. Later the barn was sold to Hipshers, then Kendalls, then Charles Wood. The present owner is Ethel Marbaugh, 3101 Tama Road, Rockford. This gable roofed barn, with lightning rods across the roof, is red, with white trim. The posts and beams are pinned with wooden pins. The barn was moved from a north/south position to its present east/west position. As Ethel Marbaugh says, "The barn is resting now." (Dave Slusser Photograph)



R. Thomas Stover's barn stands at 3409 Tama Road, Rockford. This red barn is trimmed in white, with white arches and four-paned windows on the double sliding doors. There is a slight overhang built above the track to protect the track and the double doors from the weather. Seven six-paned windows are located across the front of the barn. In the past, the barn had livestock. They tore out the haymow, in order to be able to put in big machinery. When the machinery is out of the barn, the young can play basketball or volleyball; they also have parties in the barn.





**SITES HAMPS** is written across the end wall of this barn belonging to Ruth E. Sites, 4459 Tama Road, Rockford. This white barn, with the dark arches on the doors, has been used for beef cattle and dairy, as well as hay and grain storage. Today, the barn is used for housing sows and finishing out feeder pigs, as well as for hay and straw.

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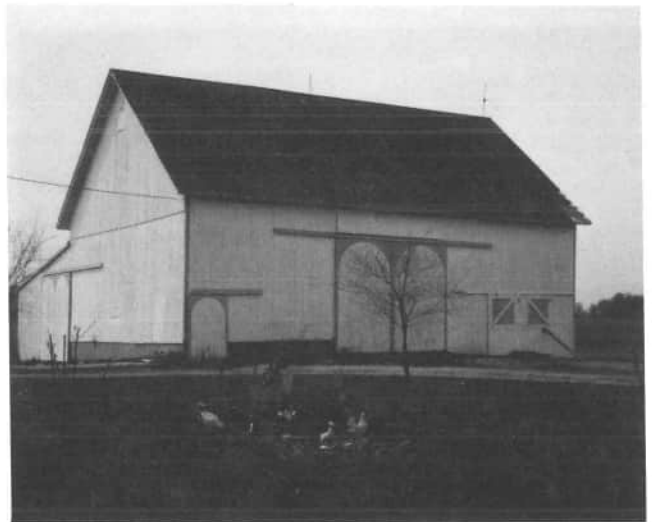
A star above the double doors is a unique sight in Mercer County barns, and this star is located on the Earl Fisher barn at 4929 Tama Road. Earl Fisher was born in 1904, across the road from his barn. At that time, his Grandparents lived where the barn is located. The barn was built nearly a hundred years ago, by Joe Hansel and Fred Sheer, (Scheer?). The barn has been used for livestock, hogs, and machinery. (Dave Slusser Photograph)

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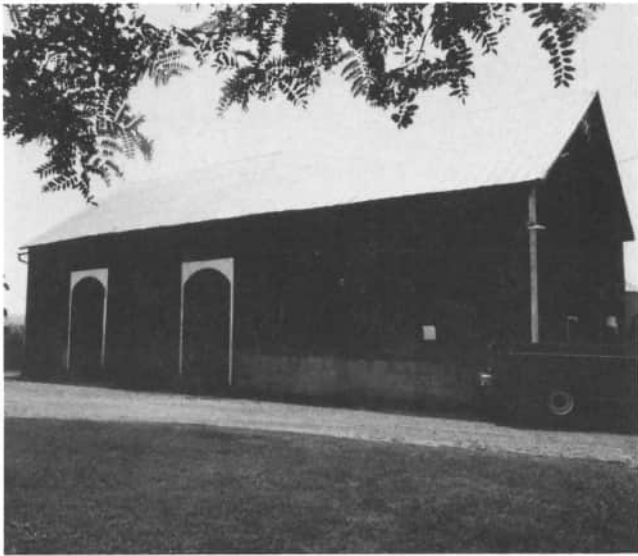
Richard Hughes' name is on the front of this barn, at 4587 Tama Road. Richard's parents, Henry and Mary Hughes, owned the farm when the earlier barn burned. They built a new barn about 1934; this barn is the one standing today. Their son Richard and his wife Edna were the next owners of the farm about 1946. Today Edna Hughes still owns the farm, but lives at 115 Magnolia, Celina. In 1991 Edna told how Cathy Leugers is responsible for the neatness around the buildings. (Dave Slusser Photograph)

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Paul Lehman's barn, 5450 Tama Road, has been used for livestock, and today is used for storage. This white barn, is trimmed with light green arches on the sliding doors. The two smaller sliding doors to the right are braced for strenght. A rural scene of country lawn ornaments is in the foreground. (Dave Slusser Photograph)

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Paul E. Meyer's barn, 4674 Fast Road, Celina, is a red barn with white trim. The double doors are placed to the left of the barn instead of being centered. This makes one wonder if an addition was made to the right side of the barn, at some point in time. The original barn was built between 1880 and 1890. They used the barn for livestock, hay, straw, corn fodder, and machinery. Today, they use the barn to raise hogs and for straw storage.

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Carson Fast's barn, 5429 Fast Road, was badly in need of repair. They were advised to demolish it and build a new pole barn. Carson Fast, the owner at that time, wanted it to look like it did when his father had built it. He had Amish builders to restore it in 1979; that was his last project before his death in 1980. The barn has been used for storing farm machinery.

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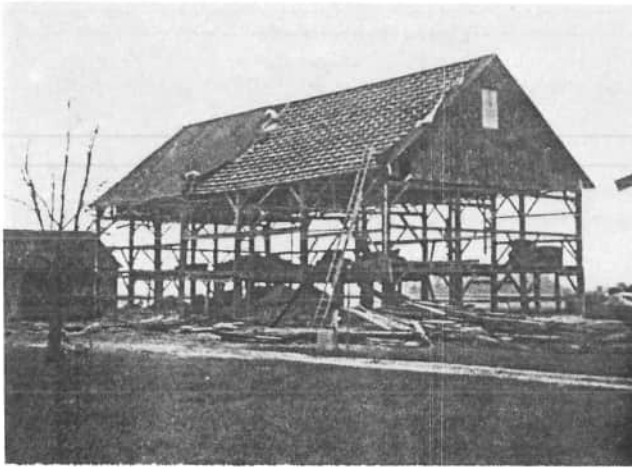
Eathen Fast built this barn at 5429 Fast Road, Celina, about 1911 or 1912. Lumbermen Ben and John Siebert came to stay at the Fast home while they worked to saw lumber to build the barn. The weather stayed so cold and there was so much snow that it took them all winter to saw the lumber and they stayed in the Fast home all that time. The barn was used for housing cows and horses, plus milking area, and for hay and straw for winter use. Eathen Fast's son Carson and wife Loretta are standing near the Ford in this August 1934 photograph.

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Loretta Fast's son Larry Fast remodeled the chicken house and added stained glass windows. This book is printed in black and white and does not do justice to the colors of Loretta's flowers in the foreground.

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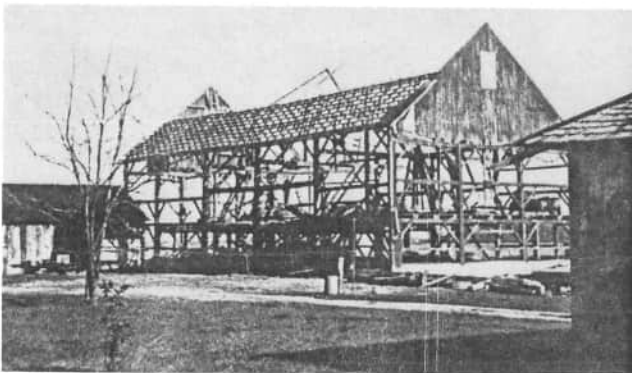
The family farm was established in 1868 by John Willrath. A new barn was constructed in the mid 1920's by his son, Charles Willrath. The barn was used for cattle, horses, hay, straw, and grain storage. This photograph shows the barn being razed in 1986, because of the barn's deterioration. Today, the farm at 3099 Oregon Road, is still owned by the heirs of Charles and Mary Willrath.

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This stately old barn stands at Ned Meyer's home, 3265 Oregon Road, Celina. The red barn has a shed roofed addition at both ends. The sliding doors are trimmed in white. The barn has been used for milking dairy cows. Today, the barn is used for storage of machinery and belongs to Neil Meyer, 3265 Oregon Road, Celina. (Dave Slusser Photograph)

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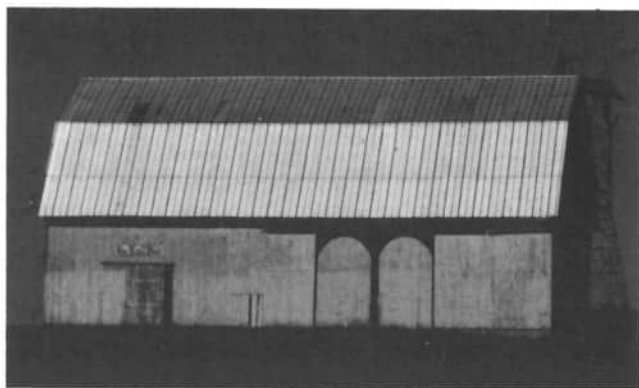
Another photograph of the Charles Willrath barn at 3099 Oregon Road, shows the framework of the barn, the vertical posts, the horizontal beams, and the supports, as well as the rafters of the gable roof. This 1986 photograph shows the barn before the final dismantle of the barn.

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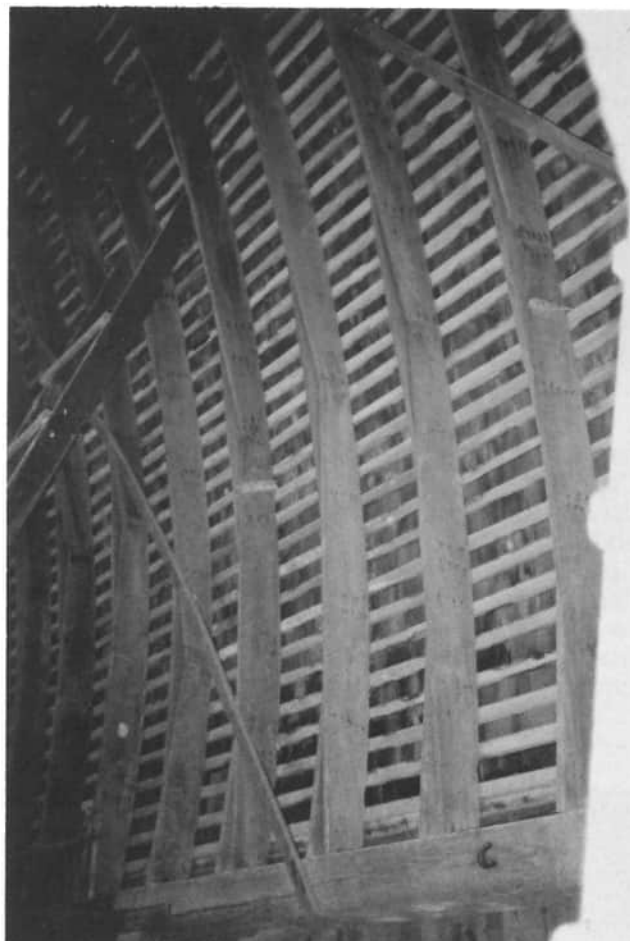
August Frahm built this barn, in 1890-1891, at 3335 Oregon Road, Celina, which belongs to Harold Pierstorff today. This red barn is trimmed with white trim and has an addition built to the back of the barn. The barn has been used for livestock, as well as for hay and grain. Today, the barn is used for machinery and a shop. (Dave Slusser Photograph)

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Freda Lay's barn, 3713 Oregon Road, Celina, was built in 1945 by Charlie Gray and Lawrence Schaadt. The barn has been used for grain and hay storage, and raising livestock. Freda told that the barn was a favorite place to play, and her children had a basketball court in the hay mow. Freda tells that today the barn is used for storage as well as a place where her thirty two grandchildren love to play. The old barn had to be replaced after it burned to the ground on Christmas Eve. (Dave Slusser Photograph)

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This photograph shows the overlapping of the rafters of the Steven and Linda Siebert barn, 4570 Oregon Road.

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Steven and Linda Siebert's barn, 4570 Oregon Road, was built in 1918 by Mr. Squires, who built other barns in this area. The barn was built from native timber. The round roof was formed by rafters (approximately 6 foot in length) which were sawed in a slight arc on one side. The rafters were then overlapped and nailed together. The barn has housed milk cows and horses, and stored loose hay. The barn stored wheat and oats, which were threshed out of the barn later. Today, the barn is used to raise steers. The three generations of owners were Edward Martin and Alvena Siebert; Earl Joachim and Audrey Siebert; and Steven Jay and Linda Siebert.

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E. Van Tilburg's barn, 4818 Oregon Road, Celina, was built in 1924-1925 by Andy Gast. The barn was built from the native timber from this farm. The tree tops were made into firewood by the neighbors. This white barn, with the round roof, which is sometimes called a rainbow roof or a gothic roof, has been used for livestock, hay and straw. Today, the barn is being used for storage for machinery. (Dave Slusser Photograph)

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This white barn with the gable roof stands where Kevin Meyer lives at 4841 Oregon Road, Celina. The barn not only has the big double doors in the front, but also a smaller pair of sliding double doors to the end of the barn. Across the front, there is a series of smaller doors. The owner is Paul Meyer, 4674 Fast Road, Celina. The barn has housed all kinds of livestock and straw in the mow. Today, the barn is used for machine storage.

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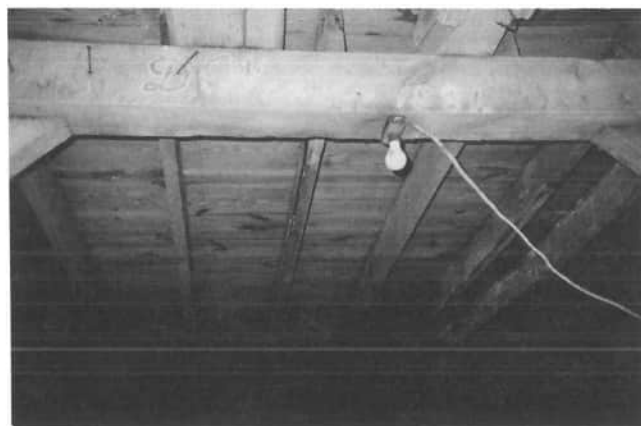
Mr. and Mrs. Owen E. Weaver's barn, 4911 Oregon Road, Celina, was built approximately 1895. Originally the barn had tongue and groove wooden siding, was painted red, and trimmed in white. Then, the barn was painted white several times. In 1984, it was covered with metal siding. The barn has had at least two wooden and one lock asphalt shingle siding. In 1987 a steel covering was added. The barn has sawn timbers put together with pins. The horse stalls have been taken out to make room for grain bins. The barn was put on a solid foundation around 1940. The barn was bought by Tobias Eichenauer in 1920; D.W. Eichenauer in 1908, and in 1973, by Owen and Leota (Eichenaur) Weaver. (Dave Slusser Photograph)

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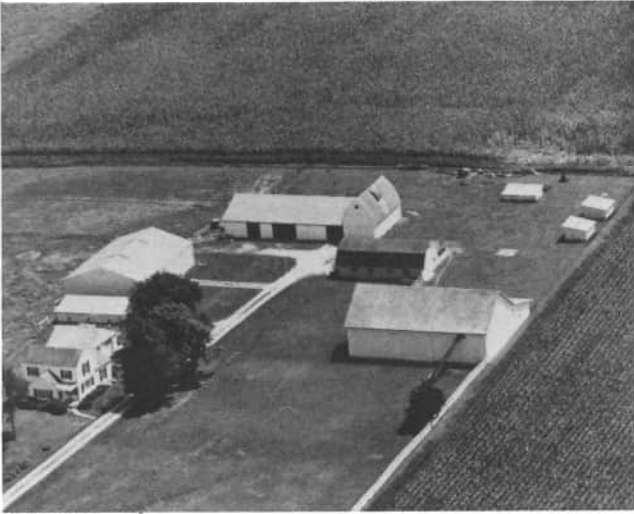
John A. Wilson's barn, 5430 Oregon Road, Celina, was built in 1881 by Daniel Weaver. Twenty years before this, the farm was owned by John Wilson who was the grandfather of the present owner, John Wilson III. In 1861, John Wilson II was born in the house of this present day farm. When an adult, John II bought the farm again and it has remained in the Wilson family. (In 1887 John Wilson II's sister Samantha married Willis Weaver, a son of Daniel Weaver.) The original barn was enlarged and remodeled in 1949.

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This interior beam has the original marking, "D. Weaver 1881" in the John Wilson barn, 5430 Oregon Road.

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This aerial view of John Wilson's farm, shows the barn as well as the other outbuildings.

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This barn is neat with its new siding, at John Karch's place, 3449 Frahm Pike, Celina. The barn was built about 1900 and has been used as a dairy barn. Today, the barn is used for machinery storage and a beef barn and belongs to Donald E. Karch, 8448 Now Road, Celina.

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This is the original barn as it was being readied for remodeling in 1949. They had just removed the doors, before beginning to remodel the barn at John Wilson's farm.

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This barn on Frahm Pike was built about 1890 by a man named Smith. The barn was used for cattle, horses, and storage. Today, the barn is used to store farm machinery and belongs to Edith M. Slabough, Shane Hill, Rockford. The barn not only has the pair of double sliding doors, but also a series of small sliding doors for various levels of entry to the barn.

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Russell K. Eichenauer's barn, 3806 Frahm Pike, Celina, was built by John Lehman in 1886. The barn has been used for storage of machinery and hay and straw. This aerial view gives a perspective of all the buildings on the farm.

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This barn was built a year before our nation's centennial, in 1875 by a Mr. Colus. Seven lightning rods, with their glass globes intact, stand tall across the ridge of the gable roof. Louvered vents are spaced along the top of the front wall. This barn, forty feet wide by ninety feet long, has oak frame work, with hand hewn beams, pinned with wooden pins. The barn has a wood floor in about three quarters of the barn and has two drive ways. This barn has been used for cattle, horses, and storage for straw, hay, and machinery. Today, the owner, Edson Pierstorff, 3701 Frahm Pike, Celina, uses the barn for grain and machinery storage.

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John and Don Smith and Sons, Farlane Farm, have this farm at 4370 Frahm Pike, in the family for over a hundred years, to make this a Centennial Farm. The main barn has a round roof, (also known as a rainbow roof or gothic roof), which allows for more space in the mow. Today, they use this barn for dairy, for Registered Holsteins.

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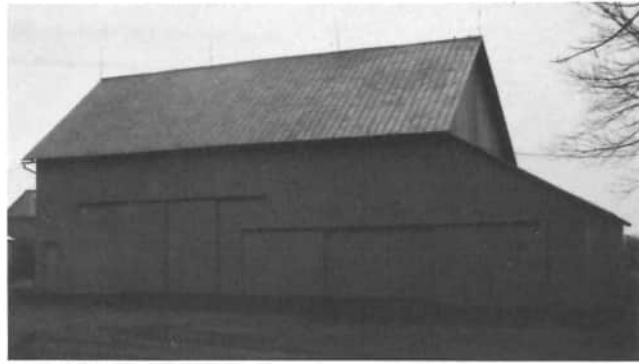


This interior view of Edson Pierstorff's barn, not only shows the symmetry of the framing, but also identifies a unique type of framing. Note above the main cross beams, that the inclined posts are supporting the purlin. Most Mercer County barns have vertical posts supporting the purlin, beneath the rafters. This type framing suggests that the builder had knowledge of shipbuilding from the east coast, because they used these inclined support posts for the ship they were building. At the end of the barn, the sunlight outlines the vertical boards.

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Another view of Edson Pierstorff's barn not only shows the inclined support posts for the purlin, but also shows the stepping boards on the posts to climb higher in the mow.



Lyle and Lucille Hamilton's barn, 5850 Morrow Road, Celina, was built in the late 1800's. Though not confirmed, it is thought that Charles Weaver built the barn for Hainlines. The barn has been used for cattle, hay and machine storage. Prior to Lyle and Lucille Hamilton's purchase of the farm in 1952, the previous owners were Herb Kreimendahl (1943-1952); Albert Pax (1934); Charles Weaver and Cora (1923); Nathan Hainline (1898); Caroline Roberts (1893); George Fox (1890); Joshua Roberts (1883); Adam Barver (1852). In 1944 the Kreimendahls added new redwood siding; in 1987, the Hamiltons added metal siding. (Dave Slusser Photograph)

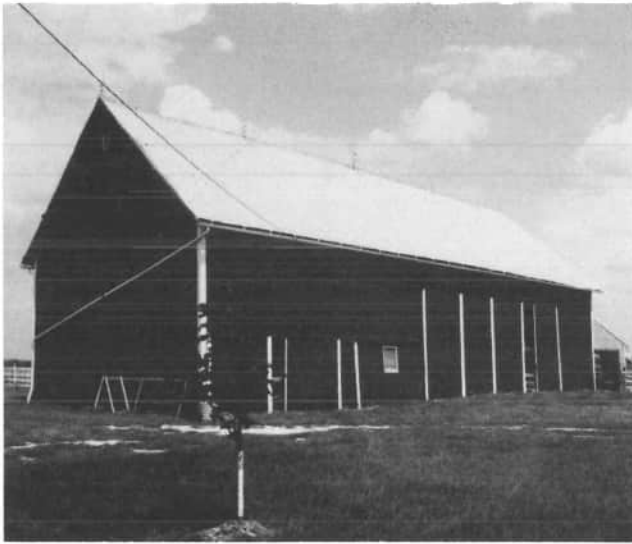


Gary and Sue Miller's barn, 5720 Morrow Road, Celina, probably looks much as it did when it was built, being that it does not have several additions to it. The main double sliding doors are to the front of the barn. A smaller service door is on the right side. The barn has been used for dairy cattle. Today, they use the barn to store farm machinery and to raise calves.



Edith Slabaugh's barn, 5025 Morrow Road, Celina, was an old barn before her father S.V. Slabaugh moved from Licking County to Mercer County in 1888. The double doors are to the right side of the barn. A series of four paned windows are across the front and side. A double window of four panes each is in the gable peak. The barn was hit by lightning about 1907 with the siding knocked off on the west end, but the barn did not catch fire. As more storage was needed to store more machinery, twenty feet was added to the barn, and the siding was restored. In 1938, it was resided and sliding doors replaced with the large doors. Originally the large doors swung out; otherwise it looks as it was at first.





Clifford Eichenauer's barn, 3687 Schleucher Road, Celina, was built in 1900 by Andrew Smith. This attractive red barn is trimmed in white. The large double sliding doors are to the right, while a smaller pair of sliding doors is to the left. This barn has always been used for livestock and feed.

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Mr. and Mrs. Rex Ferguson's son Ryan is standing in front of their barn at 3053 Hone-Weir Road, Celina. The barn is about a hundred years old. This barn has been used for livestock. The barn has siding put on it. The larger double sliding doors are in the center, with small sliding doors on either side. Ryan was two years old in January 1992; when he grows up, he will show his grandchildren this photograph and tell them about the barn where he used to play.

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Mr. and Mrs. Ed Scheucher's barn on Scheucher Road was built in 1900. Apparently, the road received its name from their family name, so the family has been here as long as the road. The barn has housed dairy cattle, draft horses, hay and straw, and farm machinery. Today, the barn is used for farm machinery storage. This barn will soon be a centennial barn, at the turn of the century. Mr. and Mrs. Ed Scheucher today live at 429 Johnson Avenue, Celina.

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This aerial view of Garrett and Judy Hellwarth's place at 3096 Hone Weir Road, Celina, not only shows the barn, but also the other buildings. This barn is used for steers and cattle housing, and hay and straw storage. The former owners were Frank Steele, Frank Fetters, Sam and Bernadine Hellwarth, Sr., and Sam and Nita Hellwarth Jr., and Garrett and Judy Hellwarth.

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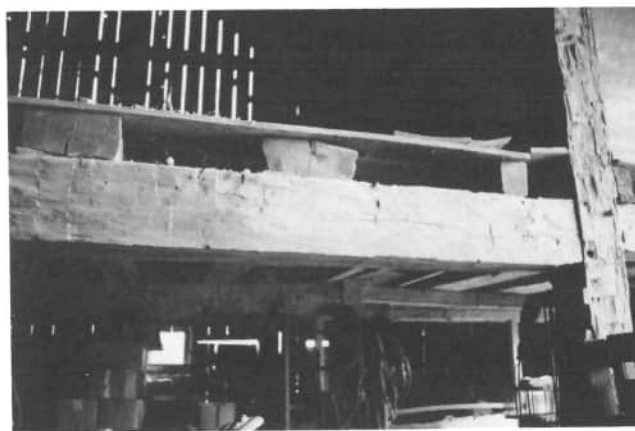
This red barn, with its white arches on the barn doors, also has a partial white circle painted in the peak of the end wall. A few barns in northern Mercer County have a white partial circle painted at the peak, like this one does, at Leon Hanni's barn, 3373 Hone Weir Road, Celina. This farm did belong to Arthur Miller; his son Paul Miller said the barn was remodeled and a hip roof was added, and a "L" shaped section was put on the back. This was over 85 years ago, so the original barn was probably over a 100 years old. The man who remodeled this barn was Mr. Bill Squires. (Mr. Squires was a local well-known barn builder.) The barn has been used for dairy cattle, hogs, and sheep. Today, the barn is used for storage for hay, and a pony. "L & J FARM" is lettered across the front of the barn.



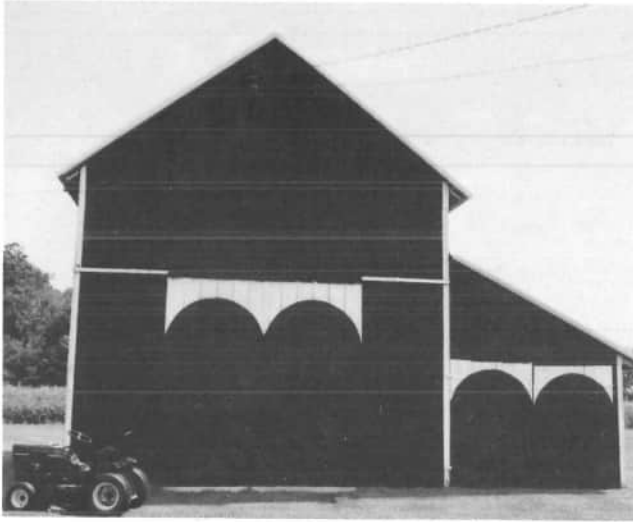
An interior view not only shows the symmetry of the frame, but also the height of the vertical posts supporting the purlin. The top cross beam is placed slightly lower than the purlin. The vertical boards of the end wall are outlined by the sunlight, of Lisle Eichenauer's barn.



Lisle Eichenauer's barn, 3725 Hone Weir Road, Celina, was built in the middle eighteenth hundreds. Five lightning rods stand across the ridge of the gable roof of this red barn, trimmed in white. The barn has been used for livestock, hay, and machinery. Today, the barn is used for machinery and firewood.



A closer look at the main cross beam in Lisle Eichenauer's barn, still shows the blade marks, made when the beam was hand hewn; the wooden pins are still in place.



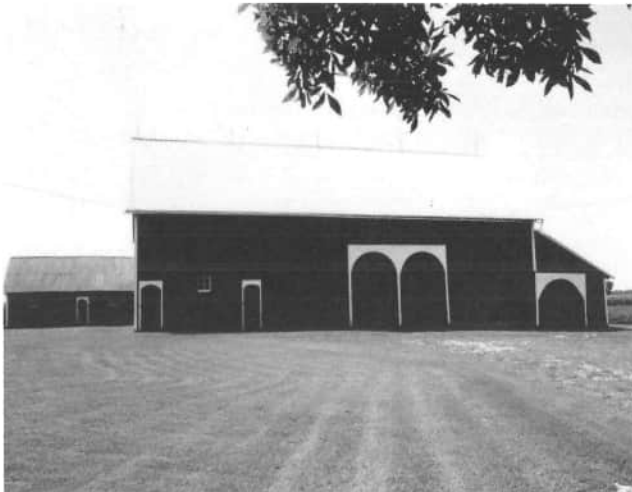
The Model 1985 Murray Lawn Tractor sits in front of the adjacent building, also red and trimmed in white, at Lisle Eichenauer's place, 3725 Hone Weir Road.

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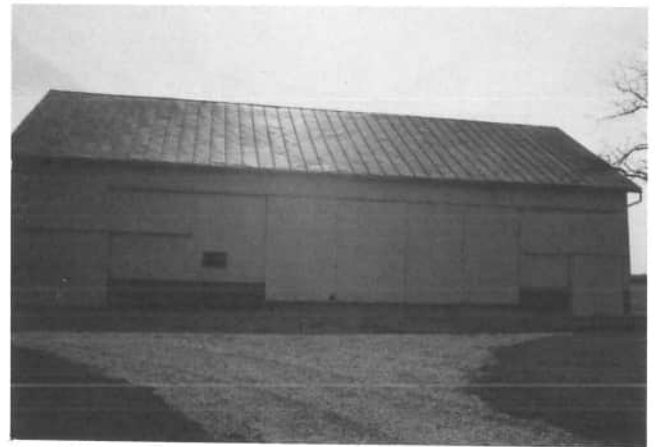
This aerial view shows Lowell Stetler's buildings, 4206 Miller Road, Celina. Note the way the barn sets parallel to the road, to the right side of the house. The barn has two sets of main double doors, as well as smaller sliding doors to the side. One lone window is on the front. Windows can be seen across the end wall.

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Rolland Zimmerman, 3820 Hone Weir Road, Celina, has the original bill for when the barn was built, for Roland's father, Ralph Zimmerman, in 1911. The trees were cut from this farm to build the barn. The siding and shingles were purchased from Estry and Stephenson planing Mill. The 34,000 shingles cost a total of \$251.07. Nails, barn door, track and car, pulleys, 396 feet of hay rope; all cost \$59.35, of which bill was from Empire Cream Separator Company. The barn has been used for horses, cattle, hay, straw and grain, and is now used for storage.

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This October 1992 view shows Lowell Stetler's barn, 4206 Miller Road. There is a slight rise to the bank, leading to the main double doors.

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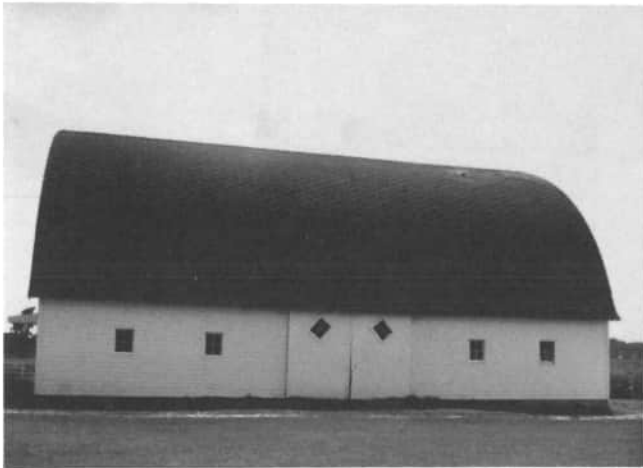
This barn stands at John S. Hellwarth's place, 7909 Hellwarth Road. George F. Hellwarth built the barn in 1917. This barn has been used for feed and livestock. The red siding and white trim give a new look to the barn, which was built at the end of World War I, in 1917. John F. Hellwarth, 4347 Miller Road, owns this barn.

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Jerry and Kathryn Hellwarth's barn, 4590 Miller Road, Celina, was built in the 1880's. The old barn has a slate roof, and the barn frame is pegged together with wooden pegs. This red barn with the white trim, has a double set of sliding doors on the front, as well as a smaller sliding door to the right. In the past, the barn has been used for general livestock, and it had horse stalls for the horses. Today, the barn is used for dairy cattle, and to store hay.

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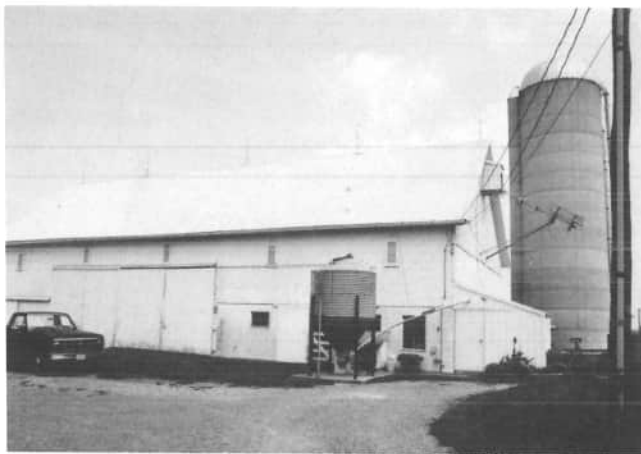
Helen Brandon's barn, 4366 Miller Road, Celina, was built in 1958, at a time when people were building these big round roofed barns in the fifties. Four four-paned windows are across the front wall, with two tipped four-paned windows in the double doors. This round roof has sometimes been called a rainbow roof or a gothic roof; it allows for more space in the mow. The barn has been used for cattle, hay and straw.

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This white barn, with the many louvered windows was built in the 1880's, at 4672 Miller Road, Celina, where Mabel Hellwarth lives. The barn has two pairs of double doors on the front, in addition to the smaller sliding doors. In the past, the barn was used for general livestock, and it had horse stalls for the horses. Jerry and Kathryn Hellwarth, 4590 Miller Road, Celina, own the barn. Today, the barn is used to house hogs and calves.

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John F. Hellwarth's barn, 4347 Miller Road, Celina, was built in 1898 by George F. Hellwarth. Five lightning rods stand across the ridge of the gable roof. Five louvered windows are across the top of the front of the barn. Note the type of protected entry to the mow, to the right end of the barn. In the past, this barn was used for hay and livestock housing. Today, the barn is used for hay and milking facility.



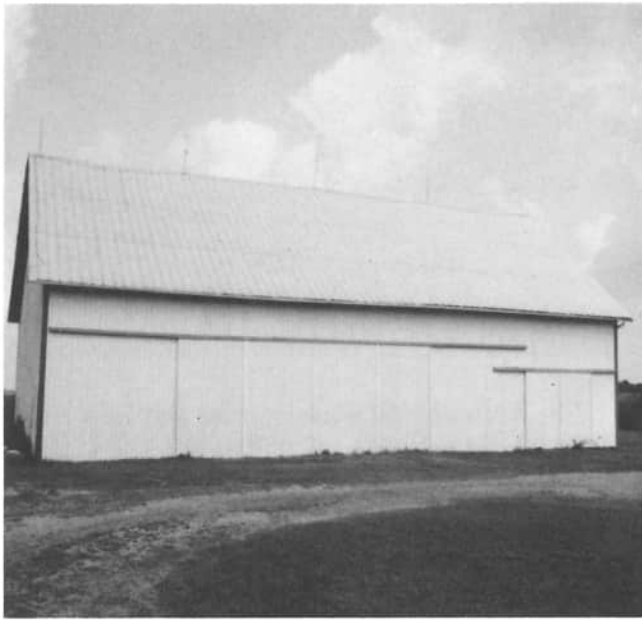
The past owners of Sam and Nita Hellwarth's barn, 3081 Carmel Church Road, were Andy Smith, then Albert Kanoor. Sam Hellwarth, Sr., and Bernadine purchased the farm in 1940. Sam Hellwarth, Jr., and Nita purchased the farm in 1973. The barn was used for hay and straw storage, milking stalls, and cattle housing.



Sam and Nita Hellwarth's barn stands at 3081 Carmel Church Road, Celina.



This aerial view shows Sam and Nita Hellwarth's place at 3081 Carmel Church Road. A new milking parlor was added to the west end of the original barn in 1963. In 1990 a new free standing double 8 milking parlor was built to the east end of the barn yard. Today, the barn has four different groups of calves, and hay and straw storage. This aerial view not only shows the other buildings and silos, but also the farm pond.



This barn was standing when the Howard Harner family bought this place in 1954. They then resided the barn, at 3581 Carmel Church Road, Celina. The gable roofed, white barn has straw stored in the hay mow.

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William J. Hoenie wrote the following story about his place. "John B. H. Hoenie and wife came to America from Germany about the year 1837. They bought 80 acres of ground from the Government in 1840. They had six children: Henry, Mary, Julie Ann, John, William, and George. The boys all farmed. George, the youngest, stayed with his parents; when they died, the farm was given to him for taking care of them. He built the barn and the house. The barn is 84 feet by forty feet; it is all pinned with wooden pins. The beams are all one foot square and in one piece (ends are forty feet and sides are forty two feet). It was built in the late 1870's or early 1880's. It has been in the family ever since; first, John B. H. Hoenie, then son George Hoenie, then daughter Caroline Hoenie, and now William J. Hoenie, Grandson of William Hoenie. William moved to this place in 1939 and bought the farm in 1958."

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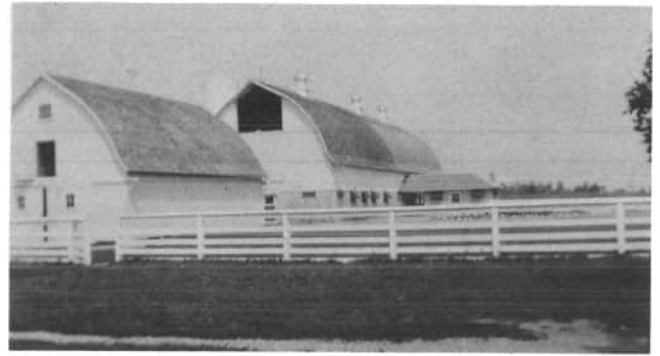


William J. Hoenie's barn stands at 5669 Miller Road.

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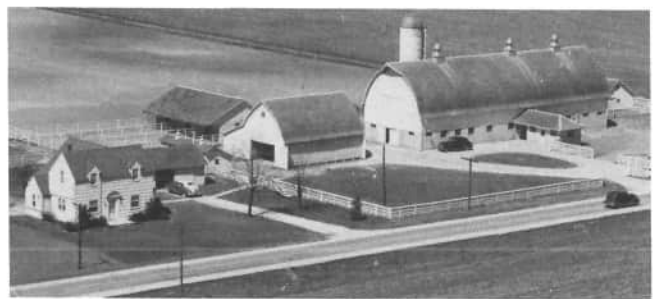
Joe and Vickie Kapp, 6768 Lakeacres Drive, Celina, purchased Ivan and Dorothy Miller's barn, located eight miles south of Rockford, on the east side of State Route 118. They had Amish carpenters tear down the barn. They are going to relocate this barn and use the post and beam frame for a home they are building in South Carolina. This May 1993 photograph shows the frame of the barn, as the siding and roof are taken away. The hand hewn beams can be seen.



The Krimendahl Family had the Sun Blest Farms on State Route 127, north of Celina. Herb F. Krimendahl was President of Crampton Canners. H.F. Krimendahl hired Gayle Bowen as Herdsman, and Manager of the Farms in 1939. The old barn was standing and he built an extension of the barn to the north end of the barn; the new barn had glazed tile block about 8 or 9 feet and they raised the old barn and put glazed tile block under it, also. This dairy barn had about ten Guernsey cows when Bowen went there.



This view of Joe and Vickie Kapp's barn shows the framing of the barn. Note the inclined purlin support posts, above the cross beam. The inclined purlin support posts are also supported by posts, running parallel to the rafters. Not a lot of Mercer County barns, have these inclined purlin support posts. The barn, just to the north of this place, also has this type of framing.

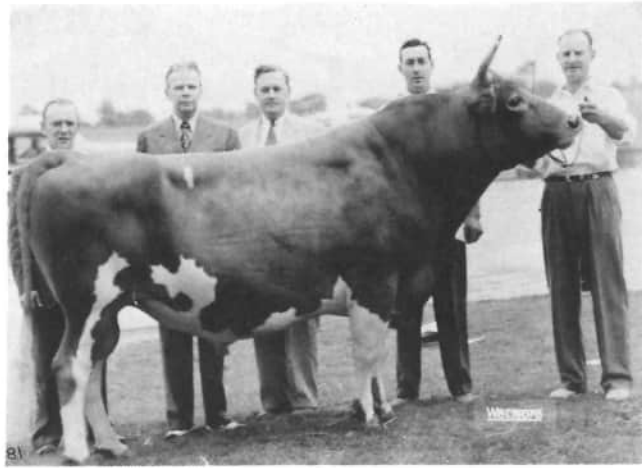


This is an aerial view of the Krimendahl farm, on State Route 127, about 1943 to 1944. They also had land across the road, of which the dairy barn is similar to this one.



In 1943 Purina Mills, St. Louis, MO, published a brochure with this photograph and the following statement:

“Mr. Krimendahl and his herdsman, Gayle Bowen, have built one of Ohio’s leading Guernsey herds by securing top producing females and breeding to production bred bulls. The offspring from this combination are proving outstanding, both in type and at the pail. While this method of herd building would be too costly for the average farmer, it is producing very fine young bulls and heifers worth consideration of any practical farmer or breeder who wants really good breeding stock to build up his herd. Purina Mills is pleased to recommend this fine breeding establishment.”



H.F. Krimendahl became President of Stokley Foods in Indianapolis, and then in 1948, Krimendahl had a sale for the Guernseys. This bull, Langwater Esquire, sold for \$10,000 at this sale. Herb Krimendahl is second from the left and Gayle Bowen is second from the right.



This is a photograph of the 1948 sale of Guernseys. They sold about 150 head of cows, heifers, and calves, which sold approximately \$1000 a head. Krimendahl also had a herd of pure bred Angus cattle, which he moved to Noblesville, Indiana and had Gayle Bowen move there as Manager of Sun Blest Farms. Ralph Stuckey remained to farm the farms for Krimendahl. He still lives there today, on the east side of the road. Today, Mr. and Mrs. Gayle Bowen are retired and own a farm east of Wren, and they live at 101 Jackson Street, Wren, Ohio 45899.



# Schroyer, Inc.

SCHROYER, INC. is located at 9411 U.S. Route 127 North, Celina, Ohio 45822 and is a local family owned trucking company. In 1948 or 1949, George D. Schroyer started hauling livestock from and to farms in Mercer County to nearby livestock sale barns. Then, in 1950, this operation was continued by Dale Schroyer, brother to George. In 1952, George Junior Schroyer, son of George D. Schroyer, purchased the truck from Dale and continued hauling livestock. By the year 1955, one straight truck and two semi's were being used.

A few years later, livestock trucking was changed to a more diversified farm related trucking operation. Today, in 1993, SCHROYER INC. transports grain, feed, seed, fertilizer, anhydrous ammonia, L D gas, chemicals for farm useage, and other commodities; almost everything transported is related to farms.

The company consists of a terminal which includes a garage, office, and approximately four acres of parking for the 12 tractors and 30 semi trailers being used. The different type of trailers includes hopper grain trailers, tank trailers, van trailers and flat trailers. Each year this equipment covers 750,000 miles of operation.

The Company is owned by George and Marie Schroyer, with three of their children keeping good control of the operation. Cindy Schatzer, daughter, has clerical control in the office, with Dave (son) as President and in charge of operations. Craig (son) is a driver and customer relations person. George and Marie have a few old trucks, including a 1919 Fort TT, which one similar to it was used to haul cream from farms to Midwest Creamery in Celina in the 1920's.



1951 Chevrolet Livestock Truck



1964 International with 1963 Grain Trailer



1966 Chevrolet with 1963 Grain Trailer

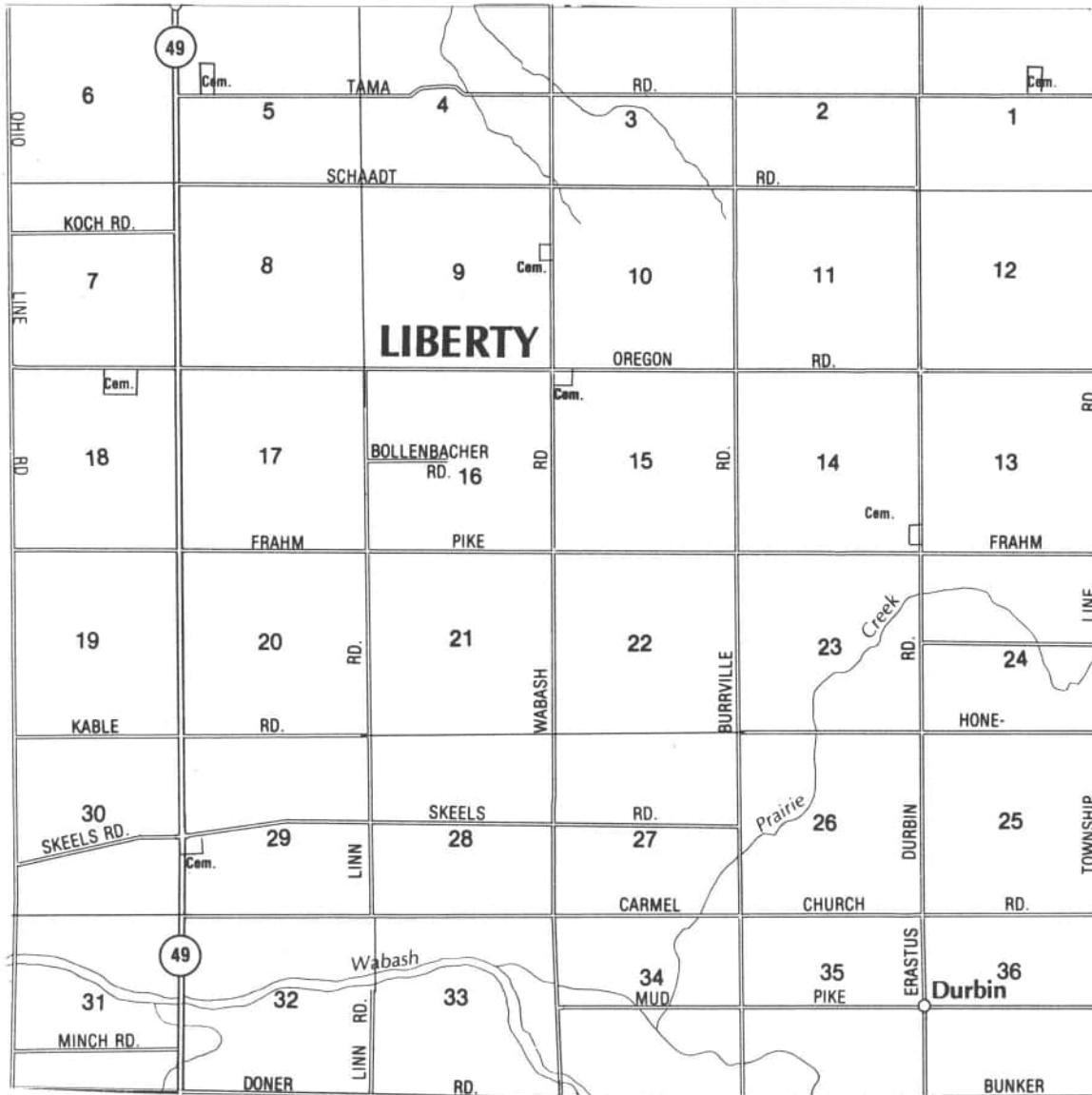


1919 Ford



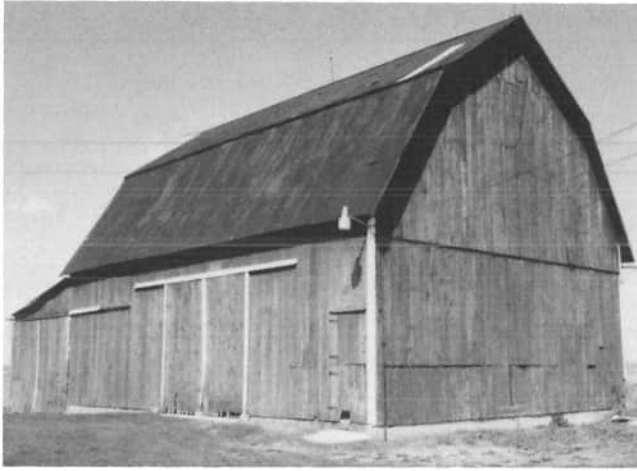
1987 Freightliner with Anhydrous Ammonia Trailer.

# Liberty Township, Mercer County, Ohio



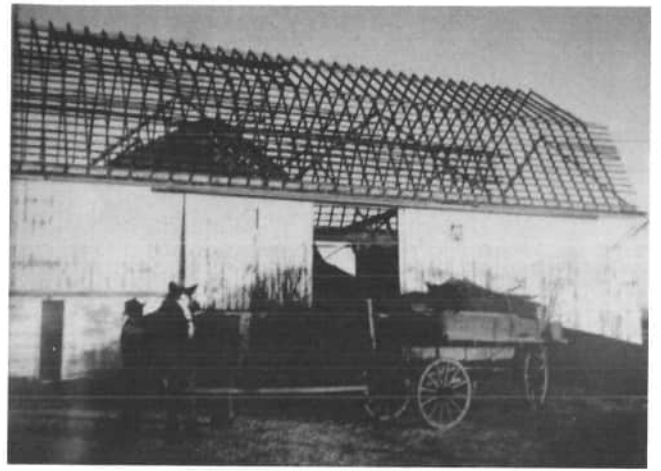
\* This page was sponsored by the Liberty Township Trustees for the convenience of those who wish to tour Liberty Township roads, to see the big barns and to appreciate our rural heritage. The 1992 Liberty Township Trustees are Carl Carr, Duane Linn, and Terry Linn; Kathleen Branstetter is Clerk.

\*\* This map was printed by permission of Spectrum Map Publishing, Inc., 909 Sycamore Street, Cincinnati, OH 45202.



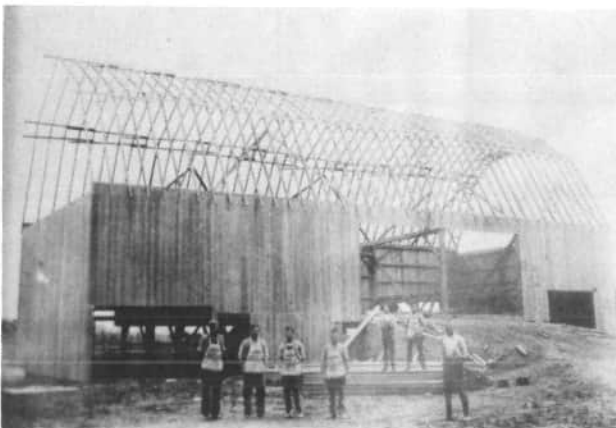
This red barn with the white trim belongs to Madge Stolz, 7420 Indiana-Ohio State Line Road, Celina. This barn was built in 1907. An addition has since been added and a foundation was added to the barn. The black gambrel roof allows for more space in the hay mow.

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Gertrude Hoblet's barn, 9814 State Route 49, was used for hay, straw, oats, and wheat storage on the upper level, and for horses, cows housing and milking on the lower level, under the bank barn. This barn was dismantled in 1988, in Chattanooga.

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Gertrude Hoblet's barn, 9814 State Route 49, was built in 1912 by Henry Baker. This photograph shows the barn during construction.

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Clifford Hoffhines' barn stood the first place south of Chattanooga, on the west side of State Route 49. One can see the stable doors on the front of the barn on this photograph. One window is in the gable end wall. This barn was dismantled in 1978, and rebuilt at Bearcreek Farms, Indiana, where they took this barn and another barn together to make the gift shop.

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Clarence (Jack) and Emily Minch's barn, 7135 State Route 49, Celina, was built in 1893, by Anthony Feipel, the maternal Grandfather of the present owner. The original owner's name and date is in the roof of the barn. In the past, this barn was used for horses, cattle, and feed storage. Today, the barn is used for hogs and feed storage. This photograph was taken in April 1992, so one can see the equipment in front of the barn, being used at this time.



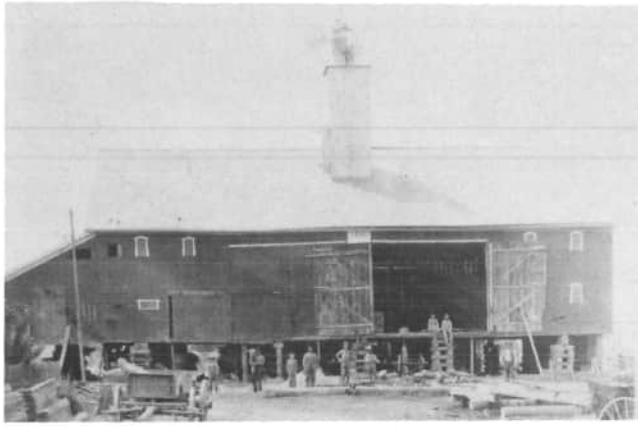
This windpump, on windmill, on the Clarence Minch farm, is most unusual, in that it has a water holding tank, partway up the frame. A martin birdhouse has also been mounted on this frame.



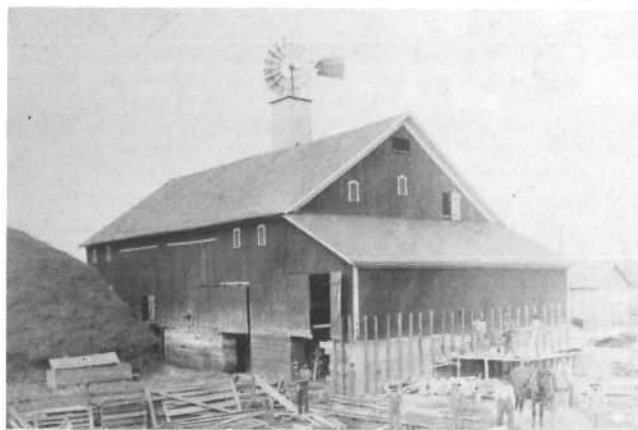
The date 1893 is also on the roof on the back of Clarence Minch's barn, 7135 State Route 49. The two pair of double doors are on the front and the back of this barn, and were opened when they were threshing. The windows on the lower end wall, as well as the window in the gable peak can be seen from this side.



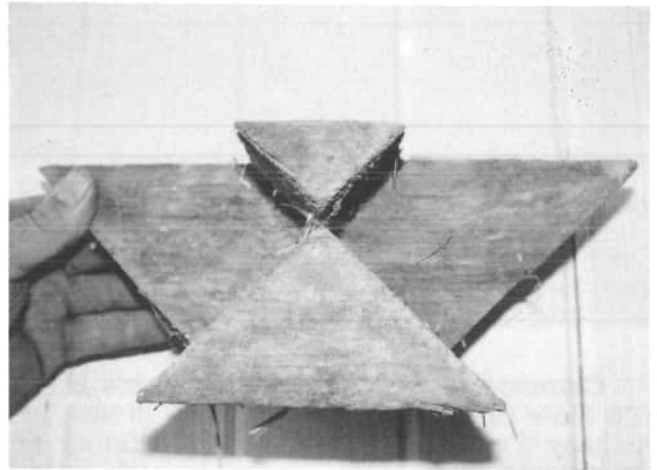
This red barn with the gambrel roof, stands a mile south of Chattanooga, on State Route 49. This barn is sixty feet by fifty-four feet, and is of mortice and peg construction; it has a dirt floor. It was built by a Baker circa 1910. The painter of this barn put an interesting triple arch on the main sliding doors. The artist also added white arches on the other doors. He added the partial white arches at the peak of the end wall; this type white arch is found more to the northern part of the county, than in the southern part. In the past, this barn has been used to house race horses. This barn is owned by Stan Chapin, 9198 U.S. 127 North, Celina, Ohio.



William Muhlenkamp's barn, 7911 State Route 49, Celina, was built in 1880. The date 1880 is written over the main door. Bill's Grandpa Joseph Turckes moved to this place in 1896. He put the windmill on top of the barn. He had some carpenters work on the barn about all summer to jack it up and put a foundation under it and make a bank barn out of it; it was lots of work. Bill's Grandpa used to sell windmills; he sold around a hundred of them and put them up. He also sold wire fence, fence posts, fertilizer by the train car load. He would sell about one car load of fence; one car load of the fence post, and twelve to twenty car loads of fertilizer. He sold electric light plants, Essex cars, International farm machinery, Massey Harris farm machinery, New Idea farm machinery, and Chevy cars, and Bell City Threshing machines.



When William Muhlenkamp's Grandpa Turckes had this barn raised, Mark Kessen, from near Carthagena, did the cement work. The louvered vents can be seen. Two pairs of threshing doors are in front and back of the barn. A straw stack, left from threshing, is in back of the barn. In the windmill, there is a door. Even though the windmill is gone today, one can still see where it was located by looking inside the roof.



Bill Muhlenkamp had the Amish carpenters do some repair work on the end wall of the barn. This is the piece they used when they were cutting the supporting post to mortise them into the vertical posts.

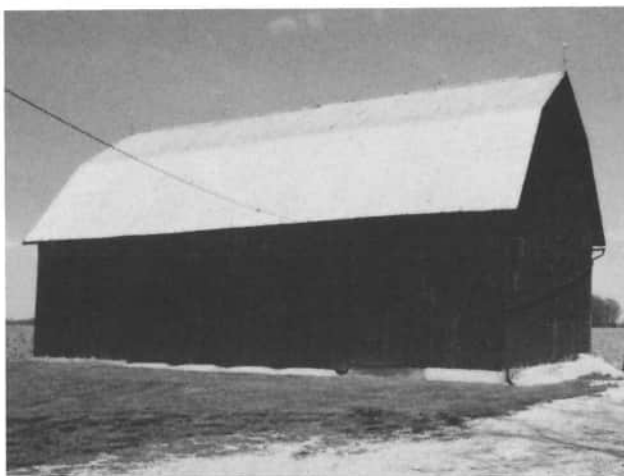


The interior framing of Bill Muhlenkamp's barn, 7911 State Route 49, is unique. The main cross beams are supported by vertical posts as are other barns. However, above the main posts, and on either side of them, are the inclined support posts for the purlin plate or beam which runs the length of the barn and supports the rafters of the roof. A few of the barns, which have these inclined supporting posts for the purlin plate, have the inclined post mortised into the cross beam, right above the vertical post; in this barn, the inclined post is mortised into the beam on either side of the vertical post.



Another view of the interior framing of Bill Muhlenkamp's barn not only shows the inclined supporting posts for the purlin plate, but also shows this particular cross beam, has an additional supporting cross beam beneath it, above the vertical post. These beams and posts are all hand hewn.

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This barn stands just south of Charles Strabel's place, 8466 State Route 49. Charles Strabel's father Pete bought this place in 1914, at \$125.00 an acre; relatives said this was an outrageous price and he would lose the farm, but he paid it off in four and one-half years. Before this, the Spangler Brothers, who had a little store at New Corydon, Indiana, owned the place and built this barn. Pete Strabel's son Rudy married and moved into this place, 1957 to 1984. Then Bill Muhlenkamp bought the place in 1984.

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This interior view of Bill Muhlenkamp's barn, shows the hand hewn posts and beams next to the wooden threshing floor (which is still intact). Lightning struck this barn about twice; the second time was in the 1960's. The first time lightning struck the windpump on top, and Joseph Turckes took the wind pump down. (In the barn, they put a metal brace on the post, to reinforce it.) Turckes built a windpump next to the barn; during the spring 1947 tornado, this windpump went down. (Barns around Chattanooga also went down in this tornado.)

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Harold Muhlenkamp, 8058 State Route 49, Celina, owns this barn which was built in 1890, by Charles Bollenbacher. The barn is no longer used for livestock, but is used for grain storage and a garage. The tractor shown is a 1953 Massey-Harris 44 Special, originally owned by Lawrence Purdy, then Howard Muhlenkamp. The tractor is now owned by Rick Muhlenkamp, who restored it during the winter of 1992.

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An interior view of Harold Muhlenkamp's barn, at 8058 State Route 49, shows the framing of the barn.

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John and Rose Sudhoff built this barn around 1900, on Skeels Road, west of State Route 49. In the past, the barn was used for livestock, hay, and grain. Today, the barn is used for storing machinery. Harold Muhlenkamp, 8058 State Route 49, owns this barn.

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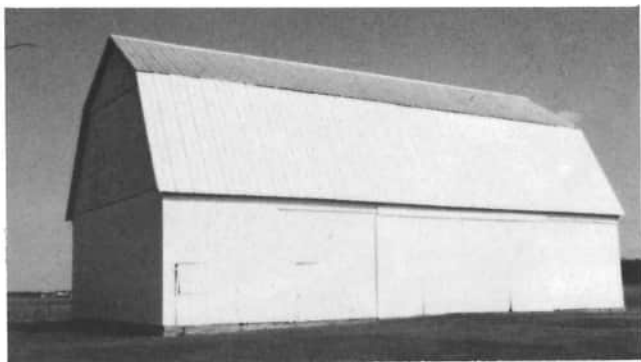
Fred and Rose Meyers built this barn in 1906; the barn stands on State Route 49, and is owned by Harold Muhlenkamp, 8058 State Route 49, Celina. In the past the barn was used for livestock, hay, and grain; today, the barn is used for machinery.

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This barn is 85 years old in 1992. The farm is in the third generation of the Fisher family; first Christian Fisher had the farm, then his daughter Louisa and her husband Peter Strabel; and now, Charles W. Strabel has the farm. When the family first moved here, forty acres of land were cleared and forty acres were woods; the log house was already on the farm. The barn is 36' x 60' and was resided about six years ago and given a new roof two years ago. This red barn with the white trim stands at 8466 State Route 49.

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This attractive white barn stands alone on State Route 49, north of Frahm Pike. A previous barn had burned. The lumber for this barn was from the woods on this farm, and was built approximately in the late 1930's, by Johnny Bollenbacher. In the past, the barn was used for horses, cattle, hay, straw, wheat, oats, and beans storage. Today, the barn is used for small machinery storage. Mr. and Mrs. Kenneth Bransteter, 918 Schaadt Road, Rockford, own this barn.

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Kirby and Judy Stetler's barn at 8517 State Route 49, was built about 1900. Originally, a log farmhouse stood in place of their present home, and there was a log barn south of them on State Route 49, on the Charles Strabel Farm. This barn was damaged by the 1920 Chattanooga area tornado; the tornado made the barn lean heavily to the north, but it was straightened and reinforced. E.J. Brookhart owned this barn at one time, and at least three generations of the Weisenborn family lived on this farm. In the past, the barn was used for dairy cows, milking, livestock, and hay. Today the barn is used for a workshop and storage. The old milkhouse is a playhouse for their eight-year-old daughter Jessica. Through the years, Kirby has thought about replacing this barn with a pole bar, but there is too much history in this old barn with its wood-pin construction.

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This barn was built by The Henry Schwartz Construction Company of Geneva, Indiana, in September 1937. The foundation was marked and measured and cement poured by the owner Elmer Fritzing, 8883 State Route 49. The lumber was bought from The Hoge Lumber Company at New Knoxville, Ohio, on September 2, 1937. The beams were fastened together with large wooden pins and the barn's rafters were raised and put in place by many Amish hands. It is believed this barn was the last barn built this way in Mercer County. In the past, the barn was used for raising livestock, and storing hay, straw, grain and machinery. Today, the barn is used for storing machinery.

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The weathered barn siding is typical of these old barns, and gives them a dignified class all their own. When the original barn builders built these barns, the barns were meant to last. They have survived the years, and are still the symbol of the family farm. This barn belongs to Carl and Betty Carr, 9324 State Route 49, Rockford.

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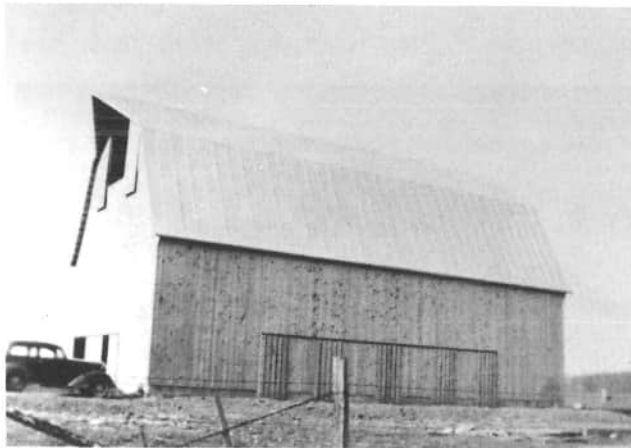
The KESLAR Name, with the date 1887, stands as clear as day, on the roof of this old barn, standing at 9391 State Route 49. It belongs to Mr. and Mrs. Harold Stetler, 215 Dogwood, Celina. The barn has been used for livestock, hay and grain. Today, the barn is used for storage.

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Kenny and Rita Branstetter, Schaadt Road, own this barn on Linn Road. This barn was built in 1980 by the Morton Co. This barn has been used for tools and machinery. This barn shows the contrast between the big old barns of the past, and the kind of barns which have been built in the 1980's.

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This June 1939 photograph is of Carl Schroeder's barn at Chattanooga. This barn was built in the 1930's by Amish carpenters, and has been used for housing cattle, prior to being taken to the stockyard or cattle sales. This photograph belongs to Lowell Schroeder; on the photograph one can see the hay hood extending in a triangular shape above the two sliding doors. The gambrel roof allows for more space in the mow. The barn belongs to Marcella Schroeder, 1198 Schroeder Road, Rockford.

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James Bransteter, 8212 Linn Road, Celina, owns this barn, which is mortised and pinned. Their house was built about 1915, but they are not sure when the barn was built. The gable roof has four lightning rods. An addition has been added to the rear. A basketball board indicates that children are about.

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This aerial view shows the William Frit-zinger's barn and other buildings at 8710 Linn Road, Celina. The main barn has a gable roof, with a barn built behind it, with a gambrel roof. In the past, the barn was used for cattle, horses and grain. Today, the barn is used for storage.



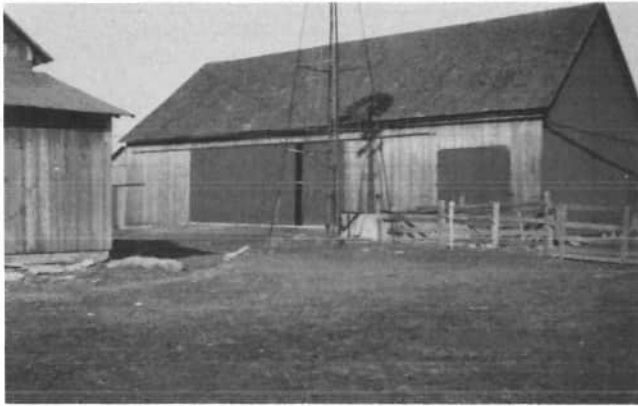
John W. and Naomi Robbins' barn, 8149 Wabash Road, Celina, was built from hewn timbers, and pinned with wooden pegs, 1895-1900; the rafters are round native timber. The owner's name, John W. Robbins, is printed across the end of the barn. (Putting the owner's name on the barn is almost a lost art in Mercer County.) This barn has been used for livestock, machinery and hay storage. In 1992 this barn presently houses Belgian Draft horses, which are used for work, pleasure and profit.



Six lightning rods stand across the ridge of this barn belonging to Duane Linn, 8881 Linn Road, Celina. The barn has been used for live-stock and milk cows; today, the barn is used for machine storage.

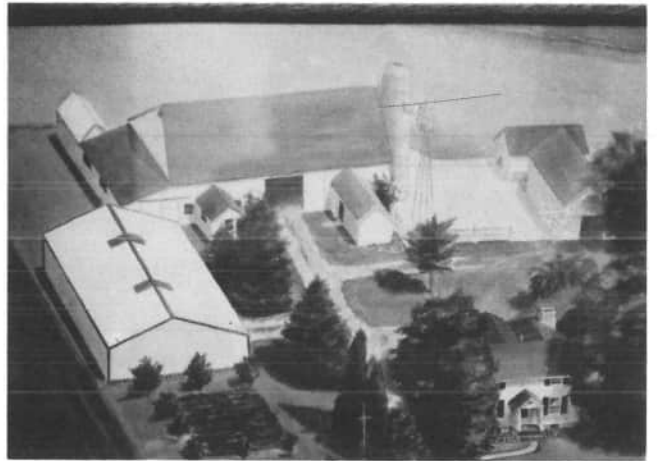


Holding the draft horses at Robbins' barn is John W. Robbins on the left, and Donald Lugin-bill on the right.



This March 1945 photograph shows Frank and Marcella Smerick's barn at 8580 Wabash Road, Celina.

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A painting of the aerial view of the Frank and Sally Smerik farm, shows the big barn still standing, as it is a century old, with its additions, the windmill, and the new buildings.

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This 1946 or 1947 photograph is an aerial view of the Frank Smerik farm. One can see the big barn, in relation to the other buildings, the windmill, and the slate roofs show their detail.

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The summer of 1992 Frank Smerik painted his silo and windpump white.

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A later aerial view of the Frank Smerik farm continues to show the evolution of the farm buildings.

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Across the cornfield, the newly painted silo and windpump stand out against the blue summer sky, at the Smerik place.

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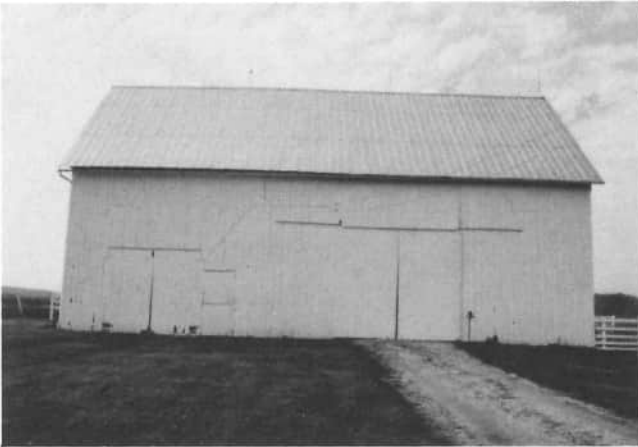
Joe and Amy McQuillan's barn stands at 8667 Wabash Road, Celina. This barn stands straight with its weathered siding; the barn was built to last, and has withstood the years well. If farming had not changed so much with modern equipment, these big old barns would still be used for cattle, horses, and hay. Our ancestors meant for these barns to last several generations. In the past, the barn was used for milking, hogs and beef. Today, the barn is used for beef and steers.

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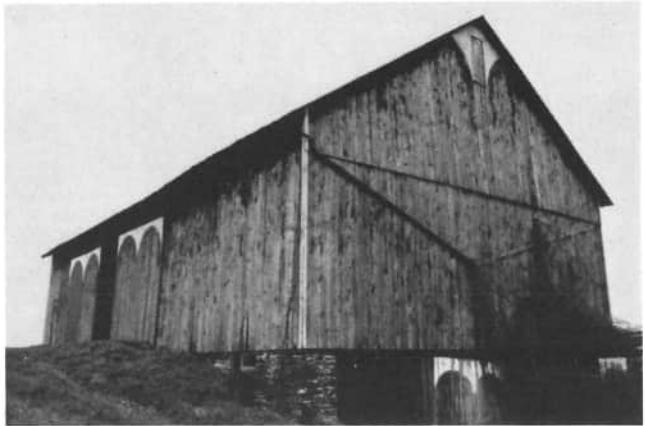
This barn stands on the northeast corner of Wabash Road and Oregon Road, and belongs to Celesta Schaadt, 9180 State Route 49. The barn was built in 1910. This round roof is sometimes called a Gothic or rainbow roof; there is a slight flare to the edge of the roof, sometimes called a ski jump. This roof allows for more space in the hay mow. This barn has been used for livestock and storage.

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This barn, stands on the west side of Wabash Road, and south of Oregon Road, and belongs to Celesta Schaadt, 9180 State Route 49, Celina. The barn was built before the 1900, and looks much like it did, when it was built. Looking at this old barn, one would almost expect the horses to come up to the barn. The barn has been used for livestock and storage.

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This barn stands on Wabash Road, south of Strable Road, and was built in 1916, and belonged to S. J. Leininger. Note that this barn has a raised foundation, in order for a bank to be built up to the main doors. The pair of double doors have white arches painted on them, as does the gable end wall, and the basement doors. This white arch painted on the gable end wall, on either side of the window, is unique to northern Mercer County. In the past the barn was used fo livestock and grain storage; today, the barn is used for small machinery storage.

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Donald Stachler's barn, 7515 Burrville Road, was built in 1913. This white barn, with the brown trim, was used for general livestock in the past; today, it is used for raising sheep.

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This is a view of the Ezra Laffin barn at 7780 Burrville Road, in the 1960's. Today, the original structure is covered with white aluminum siding. The farm was passed to their daughter Velone Laffin Bricker in 1981; she had the farm until October 31, 1989. The present owners are Mr. and Mrs. Kevin Day. The hand notched, rough hewn logs of the original framework are still visible today.

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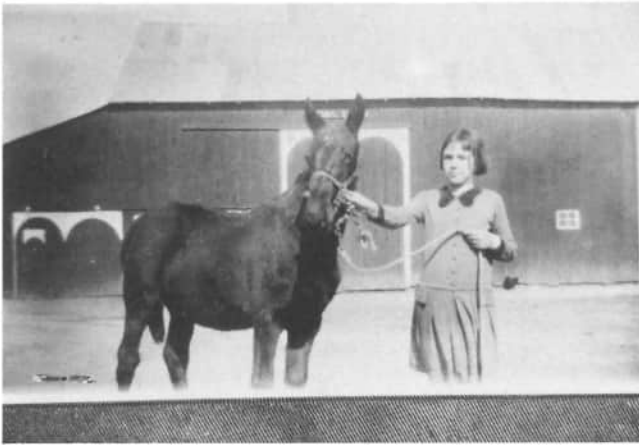
This barn originally stood on the northeast corner of the intersection of Hone-Weir and Burrville road; in 1938 it was purchased from the Kendall's by Ezra and Nellie Laffin and moved to its present location at 7780 Burrville Road. Note the pent roof on the end; the barn is also trimmed with white arches. A white diamond decorates the gable end; this is an unusual design in barn decorations of gable ends.

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Ezra Laffin on the Case Tractor with his granddaughter Judy Bricker (Coppess) in front of his barn about 1944, at 7780 Burrville Road.

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In 1926, Velone Laffin, daughter of Ezra Laffin, stood in the front of the barn which originally stood at 7780 Burrville Road. This barn was torn down in 1938, and replaced by a larger barn that was moved from a location one-half mile away.

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Gale Thomas, 8155 Burrville Road, owns this barn which was built around 1900 by Gale's Great-Grandfather. This barn was used to shelter the horses and cows in its early years; there also was a hay mow over the entire barn. This barn measures 96 x 38. In 1953 the barn was turned a quarter turn to set it on a new foundation, in its present east and west location. Today, the barn is used to keep hogs.

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This neat barn, with its gambrel roof and white siding, stands at 7882 Burrville Road, and belongs to Mitch Scott, 7636 Weitz Road, Celina. In the past, the barn was used for livestock; today it is used for storage.

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Carl and Goldie Fahncke's barn, 8356 Burrville Road, Celina, was built in 1915 by Andy Mauer. In the past, the barn was used for an animal shelter, and feed and storage.

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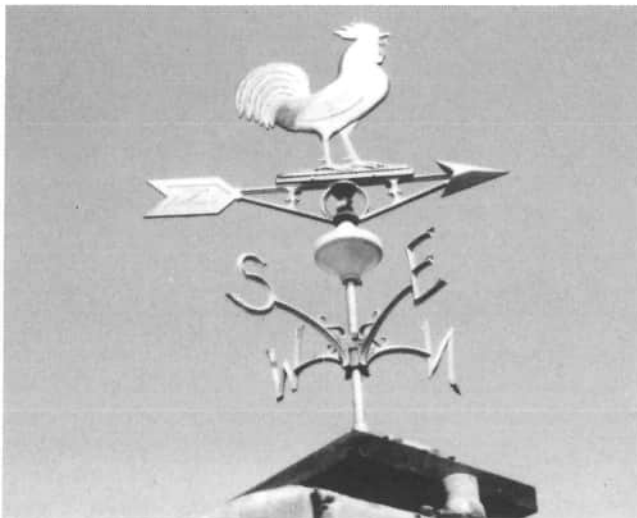
Today, Carl and Goldie Fahncke's barn, 8356 Burrville Road, is used for machinery storage. There are a few windows in this barn; the horse stable doors can still be seen.

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Marlin Bollenbacher's barn stands at 8690 Burrville Road, Celina. This barn is probably 75 or 80 years old, and possibly older. This barn was built strong and stand straight; it has housed horses, cattle, and storage of hay and straw. Today, the barn is used for grain storage.

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This rooster, atop the weather vane, stands at Carl and Goldie Fahncke's farm.

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Adam Bollenbacher purchased this farm in July 1888. In November of that year, it was deeded to the son J. J. Bollenbacher, who built the barn in 1892. His daughter Pearl and her husband J. Ervin Wood purchased the farm in 1923; their son Duane Wood purchased the farm in 1961. This barn which stands at 7700 Staeger Road, has been used for livestock and grain storage; today it is used for machinery storage, and is owned by Duane R. Wood, 9186 Erastus Durbin Road, Rockford.

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Adam Bollenbacher built this barn, between 1884 and 1888. The barn was used for storage of hay and straw, and livestock. CASEY BOLLENBACHER is written above the barn door. Today the barn is used for grain and machinery storage and belongs to Casey Bollenbacher, Rural Route 3, Rockford.

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David Hileman, 9471 Erastus-Durbin Road, Rockford, owns this barn with the gambrel roof. D. R. Smalley built this barn, and this barn has been used for raising cows. Today, the barn is used for storage of grain and equipment.

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Russell Ferguson is written on the front of the barn, above the double doors, which identifies today's owners Russell and Ruth Ferguson, 9442 Erastus Durbin Road, Rockford. On the roof is written G. B. Jr., 1896, which identifies the owner George Bollenbacher who built the barn in 1896.

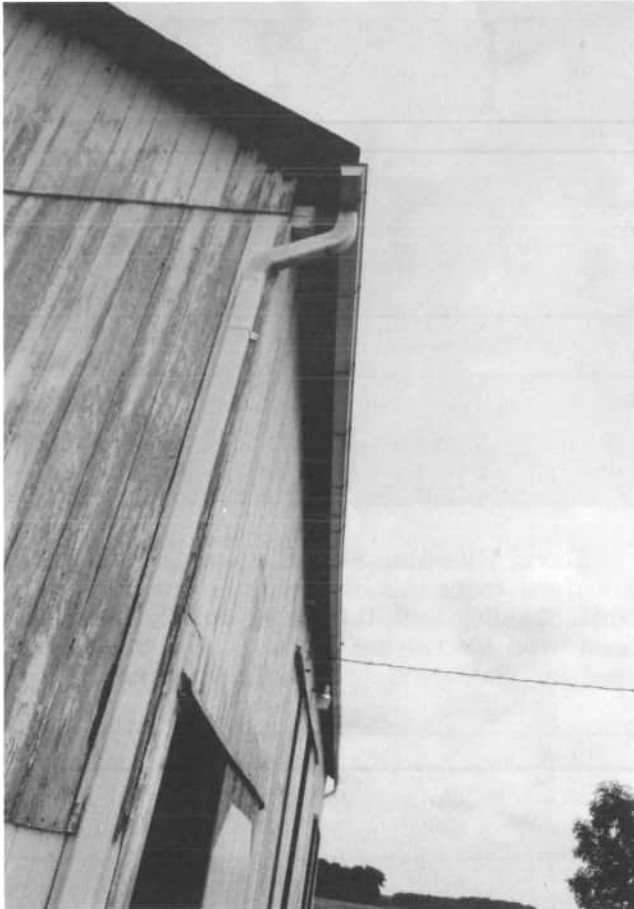
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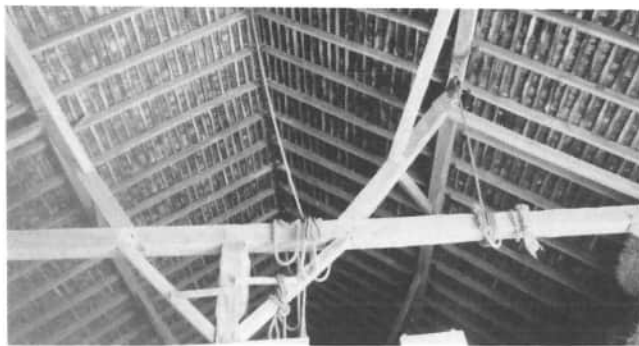
James Carter's barn, 7689 Township Line Road, Celina, was built in the 1880's and has been used for cattle, hay and straw. The timber in this barn is of hand hewn oak. The barn is 30 feet wide and seventy feet long.

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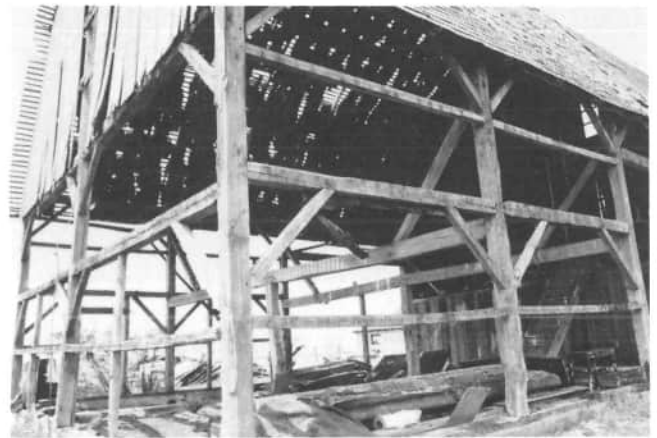
The cross beams are visible under the eaves on either side of James Carter's barn. Many of the older barns in the county have this type framing, with the cross beams extending wall to wall and through it, extending under the eaves. It takes a sharp eye of a barnologist to catch this architectural feature.



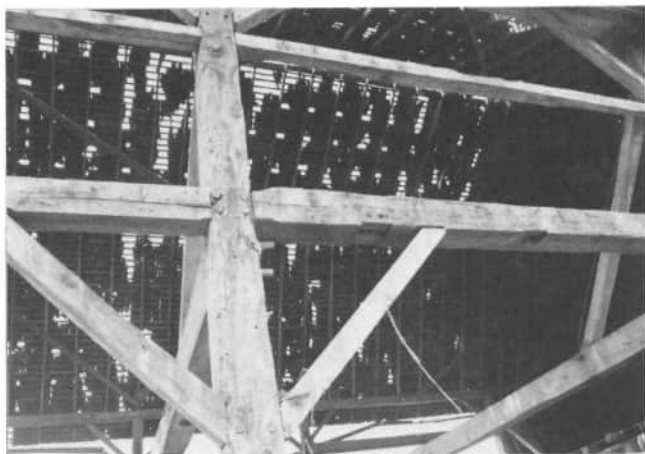
This interior view of James Carter's barn illustrates that the hay track and old rope are still intact. Note the framing that the interior post is centered, and the brace goes at an angle to the purlin plate. Some barnologists suggest that this type framing was influenced by ship builders' making their frame for the hull of the ship.



Mr. and Mrs. Lester McDowell, 8185 Township Line Road, Celina, are in the process of tearing down this big barn, which is 102 years old (1890). They are going to take the small remaining part and make it into a small barn; the roof will be lowered and the barn will have a storage area and a loft. In the past, the barn was used for cattle and storing of hay and machinery.

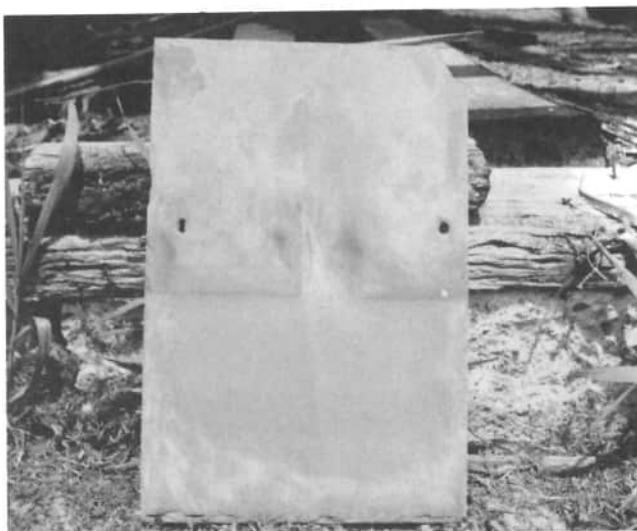


A close-up view of Lester McDowell's barn illustrates the framing of the building.



A close-up of Lester McDowell's barn shows the hand hewn beams and the wooden pins. Lester is interested in history and is a descendant of the Samuel McDowell who served under Generals St. Clair and Wayne in the Indian Wars at Fort Recovery in the 1790's.

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A piece of slate is an example of the slate that was used for the roof of many, many old barns in the county. This piece of slate is at the McDowell Farm.

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Lester is illustrating how the adze was used in hewing the old beams. Of course the sharp-eyed reader will see that Lester is standing on beams cut by a sawmill.

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Richard Stephenson's barn, on Tama Road, east of Route 49, is the last barn that Charlie Grey built, back in 1950. The gambrel roof allowed for more space in the mow, and was used on many barns in the 1950's. The triangular hay hood is still intact at the peak of this roof. The sliding door under the hay hood, is unusual, being mounted on the diagonal track in this way. Not many barns have their hay mow door mounted in this manner. In the past, the barn was used for dairy cattle, beef cattle, and hogs; today, the barn is used for grain storage.

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Matthew A. Ford's barn, 1366 Tama Road, Rockford, is really unique, the way it is built into the side of the hill. When one drives through parts of Ohio or other states where the land has more hills, it is more common to see barns built into the hillside like this one. But, in Mercer County, not many barns are built into the hillside as this barn is. At one time, this big barn was used for dairy; now the barn stands quietly in the country, resting in its retirement.



This red barn, trimmed in white, is over a century old and belongs to Fredrick Shope, 1859 Tama Road, Rockford. Across Mercer County, many red barns have white arches on the doors, and people have given a variety of reasons why they painted white arches on the doors. However, the white arches painted at the gable end, framing the window, are most often found in northern Mercer County. Is it a pattern someone chose and others utilized? Or, is there a reason for this design in the gable end? No one has given an answer to this question. In the past, this barn was used for cows and pigs, and hay and straw mows. Today it is used as a machine shed. Looking at the barn, it appears it still stands on its original foundation.



August Weitz's barn, at 760 Schaadt Road, a half mile south of Chattanooga, was built approximately 1900 by Lewis Egger. Originally this barn was used as a horse, cow, and hog barn with ample grain (corn, wheat and oats) storage as well as hay and straw in the lofts, and whatever machinery was needed then. In about 1940 two lines of ten stations each for dairy (Holsteins) were installed. Then they advanced to four elevated stantions with a pipe line and a huge bulk tank in approximately the years 1955 thru 1969. This barn is unique in that the bank goes up to the end wall instead of the side of the length of the barn.



Another winter view of the barn at 760 Schaadt Road, which belongs to August Weitz, 805 Pro Drive, Celina, shows Ron Weitz with the snowman in the late 1940's



Looking at the roof, one can see that Adam Bollenbacher built this barn, in 1886, for one of his sons Charles Bollenbacher. The wood for the barn came from the woods on the farm, which has since been bulldozed down. Charles married and he and his wife Mary had two daughters. One daughter Lucille married Argyle Branster, and they settled on the farm. Later, their son Kenneth, who married R. Eichenauer, and they started their married life there and still remain on the old homestead of his great-grandparents. The barn and house have been remodeled; with a few changes in appearance, at 918 Schaadt Road, Rockford.

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Kenneth Bransteter and his sons Terry and James, are enjoying the winter outside their barn, at 918 Schaadt Road.

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A September 1979 aerial view shows the Kenneth Bransteter barn. (Three cupolas are removed from this barn.)

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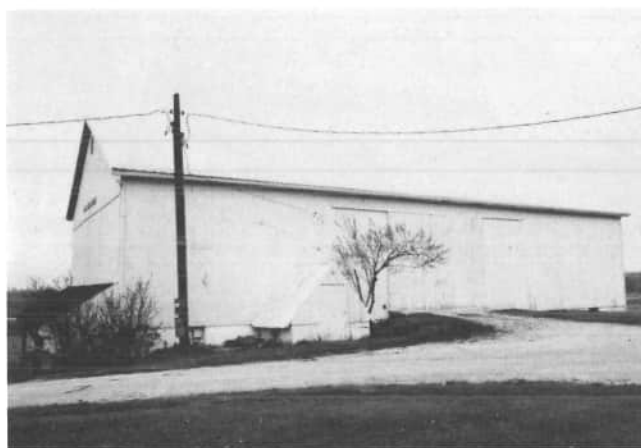
Mr. and Mrs. Isaac Hileman, 1462 Schaadt Road, Rockford, moved to this place in March 1948. This photograph and the next one illustrate the changes at this place.

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This aerial view of the Isaac Hileman farm shows the buildings as they are today.

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Isaac Hileman's barn is built into the side of a hill, with a bank to the main double doors. In the past, the barn was used for livestock and hay; today the barn is used for storage.

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The builders are erecting Isaac Hileman's barn. Some say Floyd Vining built this barn, July or August 1972.

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This aerial view of Mr. and Mrs. Ralph Alt's place, 1671 Schaadt Road, Rockford, gives a good overall view of the red buildings and their white trim. William Schaadt Sr., built this barn around 1882. The barn had hard wood siding when it was built. Ralph and Fern Alt remodeled this barn in 1966 and put new siding on the barn, with a new foundation under the barn; Ohmer Hinton was the boss over the remodeling job. In the past, the barn was used for livestock; now it is used for machinery.

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This barn is a Pre-Civil War barn, being built in 1860 by John Alt. John's son, Henry Alt, built an addition to the barn in 1935; the top of this addition can be seen over the top of the gable roof of the main barn in this photograph. White arches grace three pairs of double doors, as well as the windows in the gable ends. These white arches in the gable ends of the barns tend to be more in the northern part of Mercer County. This big barn was used for livestock in the past. Today, Henry's son, Ralph Alt, is the third generation to use this barn. Ralph Alt lives at 1671 Schaadt Road.

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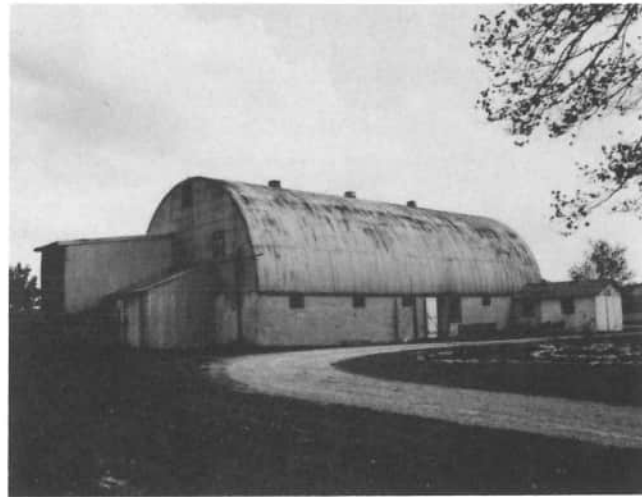
This photograph of Wayne and Martha Bollenbacher's farm, 60 Oregon Road, Celina, certainly is historic! It can be found in the 1900 Mercer County Atlas. Jacob Bollenbacher came to America in 1852 and bought a farm in Liberty Township. His son Daniel Bollenbacher had this farm next; after Daniel and his wife Laura Bollenbacher were gone, their daughter Leota Pauline Bollenbacher had the farm. Next her nephew Wayne and Martha Bollenbacher have the farm. In the 1900 photograph, Daniel is sitting on the fence. The left barn is still standing; the older barn on the right was torn down. In the past, the barn was used for dairy farming; today, Wayne Bollenbacher uses the barn for a hog buying station.

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Charles Stephenson's barn, 261 Koch Road, Rockford, has a light grey siding, with deep red trim. The double doors are located to the left, while a smaller pair of double doors are sheltered under a slight pent roof to the right. An addition has been added to the back wall. This barn has been used for cows, hay and straw, corn storage and machinery storage. Today, the barn is still being used, not only for storage and machinery, but also for a shop, and a place for the grandchildren to play. When these grandchildren look at this photograph a half-century from now, they will daydream about all the good times they had at their grandparent's barn.

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Mike and Susan Etcorn, 666 Oregon Road, Celina, have an unusual barn, in that there is a covered bank leading to the entry of the barn in the end wall. Vernon Linn built this barn in 1948, when the previous barn had been destroyed by a tornado. The dairy barn has a round roof, with three ventilators on the roof. Today, this barn is used for storage, at this quiet place in the country.

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Charles Wendel lives at Oregon Road, the second set of buildings, just east of Route 49. This barn has a pent roof to the end, for shelter. In the gable end, a window is framed in the door to the haymow. Above the double doors, on the side, the boards overlap the track for the sliding barn doors; this protects the track from the weather.

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Snow is piled up along the side of Melvin Linn's barn in January 1974 snowstorm. In this photograph, one can see the original siding, the double pair of sliding doors, and the stable door, and the windows.

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Melvin Linn's barn, 1075 Oregon Road, Celina is over a century old. This barn is held together with wooden pegs instead of nails. The roofing is of heavy slate. The first Linn family came from Germany. The Germans in Mercer County built strong barns. In the past, this barn was used for livestock and storage of hay and grain. Today, the barn is used for storage of farm machinery; the large sliding doors make for easy entry into the barn.

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The family name of this barn and farm was Jacob and Mary Gehm, 2181 Oregon Road, Celina. The left side of the barn, on the photograph, was built eighty rods from the road, in the 1880's; it has hand hewn timber. The barn was then moved up to the road in the 1910. In 1916, the covered barn, on the right side of the photograph, was built by William Kable of Liberty Township. The covered barn was used for dairy, horses, and hay and straw storage in the past. Today, the barn is used for machinery storage. The owners today are Jerome and Helen Gehm, 9271 Wabash Road, Rockford.

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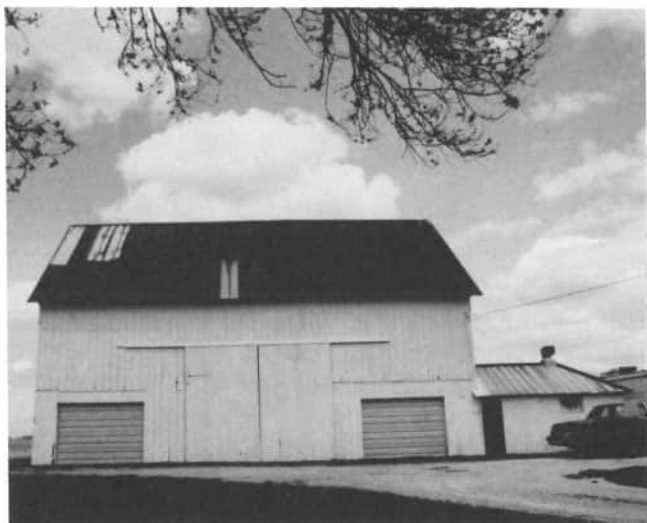
This interior view of the Gehm barn, 2181 Oregon Road, shows the unique framing of the barn. The vertical posts support the hand hewn cross beam, which supports the inclined posts which support the purlin plate which runs the length of the barn and supports the rafters. Not many barns have this type framing, with the inclined purlin supports. On the roof, one can see the outline of the roof of the adjacent part of the barn.

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Edgar Bollenbacher's barn, 2560 Oregon Road, Rockford, was built in 1910. Originally the barn was used for livestock; today it is used for storage. A tornado, in the mid 1970's, pushed the barn's gable end, east, for two or three feet, and damaged the end of the roof. The wind of the tornado blew the bales off the wagon, across the road where Ed's father Theodore Bollenbacher was bailing. Bruce walked outside of the barn and the wind picked him up and carried him to the road. The tornado did no more damage there. Ed put on a new barn roof in 1991.

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Ralph Brehm's barn, 2311 Oregon Road, Celina, was built in the early 1900's by Henry Klopfleisch, Sr. Originally this barn was used as a shelter for livestock and hay. Ralph Brehm has adapted the barn for a new purpose, in using the barn for a wood shop, and for storage. The original pair of sliding doors are centered, with an overhead door placed on either side of them.

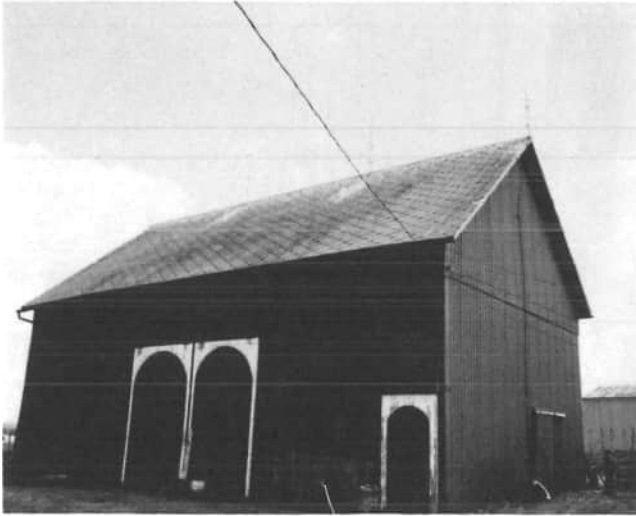
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Ed Bollenbacher's barn has a unique framing. Two 2" x 12" vertical planks stand at a right angle to the wall, with another 2" x 12" plank standing and bolted between them, at an angle, going from the floor to the angle of the purlin plate. The gambrel roof is supported with 2" x 12" planks. The posts go from the square up to the peak of the roof. Six of these posts are located fourteen feet apart in the barn.

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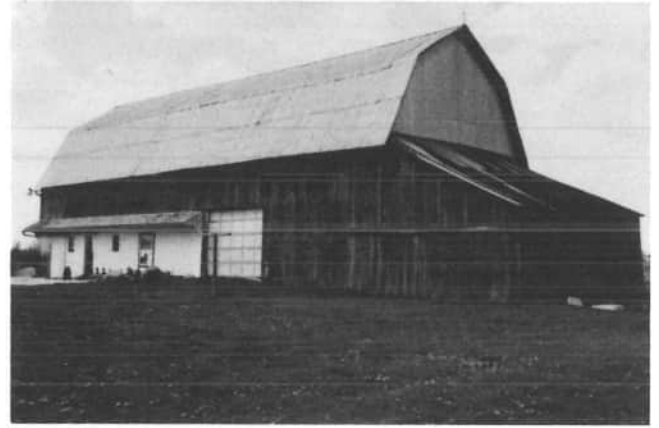




Lester Smith's barn, 2947 Oregon Road, Celina, was built in 1902 by D. B. Baker. In 1848, the first family came to this land, and lived in a log cabin. This barn was built from the virgin timber of the farm. In 1937, Lester Smith's brother, Floyd B. Smith and his wife Margaret R. Smith lived there. After they passed away, Lester Smith had the farm. Lester and Floyd had between 500 and 600 colonies of bees. They were connected with Sioux Honey Association, Sioux City, Iowa. The Smiths got a lot of their bees from Georgia, and they also raised some of their own. The Smith's honey has gone around the world. Today, with the changes in farming, the beekeeping industry has faded away. Lester still has some bees and honey.



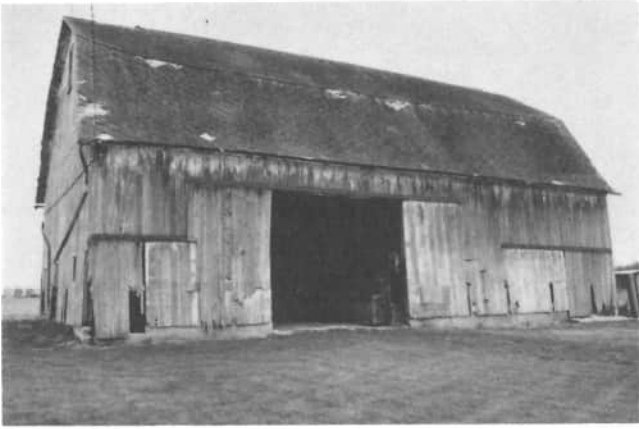
This barn, located on the south side at 2952 Oregon Road, where Larry Downam lives, the first set of buildings west of Township Line Road, was built in 1911, by Ell Squire. The red barn with white trim, and a gambrel roof, was used for horses, cattle, sheep and goats. Today, the barn is used for storage and belongs to Lloyd P. Smith, 501 Portland Street, Celina.



Greg and Karen Youngker's barn, 601 Frahm Pike, Celina., was built in the late 1800's or early 1900's, by the Brehm family. In the past, the barn was used as an animal barn, with hay storage, and tractors and equipment. Today, the barn is used for storage. One can see the changes in the front of the barn.

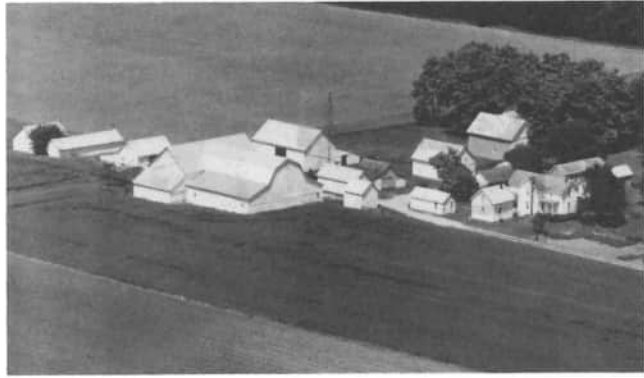


Mr. and Mrs. Orville Eischen, 944 Frahm Pike, Celina, own this barn. David Schaadt had this barn built in 1903; David Schaadt and 1903 are printed above the double barn doors on this photograph. The barn is now painted white. David and Ida Schaadt cleared all this ground and built all the buildings on these premises. They lived there all their lives and raised their six children here. David's father was the original owner of this farm. The barn was used for cattle, horses, hay, straw, corn and machinery. Today, the barn is used for sheep, hay and straw. Note in the photograph, how the doors are outlined with white arches. One of the double doors has a smaller door within it; this is known as a "guichet." Partial white arches frame a window at the peak of the gable end wall. (This photograph belongs to Edith Lime, 920 South Elm, Celina.)



This neat old barn belongs to Jeff Baker, 1058 Frahm Pike, Celina. Even though the barn is weathered with age, it still stands straight and tall; the barn has served its time as a working barn. The barn has been used for hogs, and to store farm equipment.

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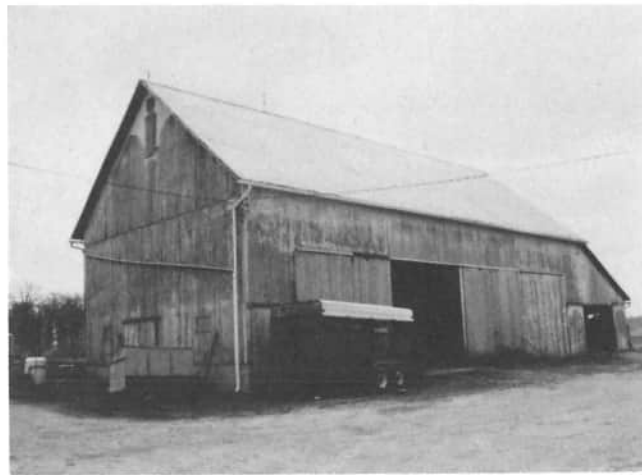
Mrs. Bessie Regedanz, 1311 Frahm Pike, Celina, wrote the following story about her barn. "It was built around 1904, before my time. My Grandfather Brehm had it built, but I do not know who the carpenters were. After my Grandparents passed away, it belonged to my Father Philip Brehm and Mother Emma Brehm. After my father died in 1971, it belonged to Mother Emma Brehm; after Mother passed away in 1981, I tried to keep the farm. So it now belongs to me, Mrs Bessie Regedanz. It is my home place; I was born here. The barn in the background, or to the right in this picture, was built in the late 1890's. The barn was also used for livestock and hay and straw. The barn is still used for storing hay and machinery."

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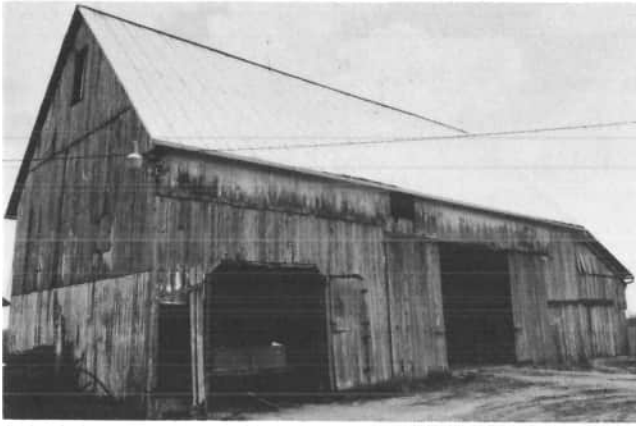
John Fritzingler's barn stands at 1210 Frahm Pike, Celina. In the past, this barn has been used for livestock and for farm equipment. The barn roof was cut off and lowered three or four feet in 1961. The larger double doors allow for entry for the storage of the farm equipment.

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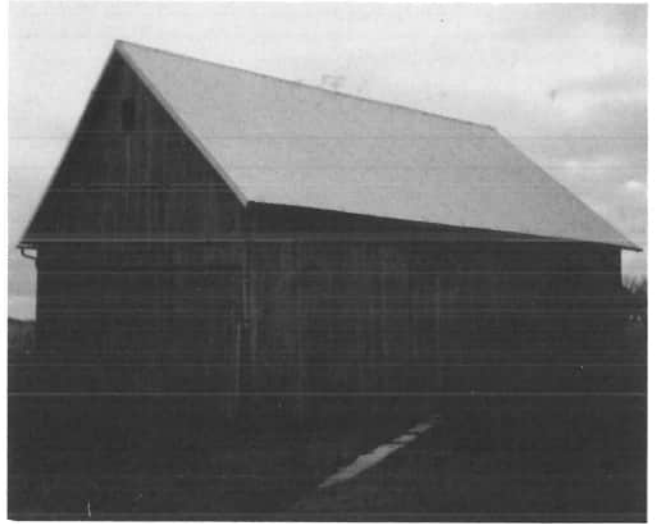
Paul Fahncke's barn, 1320 Frahm Pike, Celina, was built in 1906. John and Louisa Fahncke had this barn built; Andy Maurer was the head carpenter. Their house had been built in 1899, and they moved into their new home between Christmas and New Year's Day, 1900. When they began to build the barn, the carpenters came on Monday morning and worked until Saturday evening, and then went home. Mrs. Fahncke had to board them all week and feed them three meals a day. The barn has been used to shelter livestock, machinery, hay, and straw.

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Paul Fahncke's barn, 1320 Frahm Pike, Celina was built in 1887; the head carpenter was William Deitsch. The larger timbers in this barn were hand hewn. This barn has been used for sheltering livestock, machinery, and storing hay and straw.

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This sturdy old barn stands at 2196 Frahm Pike, where Dan and Susan Maier live. George Hines owned this place, when Fred Kable purchased it in 1919. The barn had just been built in 1917 or 1918, after World War I. The barn was used for horses, cows, and other animals. Fred Kable sold the place to Lewis Kable, 2862 Hone Weir Road, Celina, who owns the place today. Susan, who lives there, is Lewis' Granddaughter. Today, the barn has a cement foundation, and the barn is used for machinery storage.

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Erma Schadt's barn, 1805 Frahm Pike, Celina, may have been built around 1925. The gambrel roof has five lightning rods across the ridge. Two pairs of sliding doors are centered on the front of the barn. Two smaller stable doors are to the right of the double doors. In the past, the barn has been used for cattle, horses, machinery, some grain, and hay and straw; today the barn is used for storage.

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Chris Weitz's barn, 2431 Frahm Pike, Celina, was built in the early 1900's. The weathered barn has gained a silver patina. An addition was made to the left end. A protection of vertical boards was built over the track above the double doors. In the past, the barn has been used for horse and cow stables, farm machinery storage, and a hay loft. Today, the barn is used for storage.

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Carl Wendel's barn, 2557 Frahm Pike, Celina, is two barns put together. One barn was built on the present site; the other part was built down the road and moved to this site to make one big barn. The barn belonged to Carl's Grandfather, and then to his Uncle before Carl owned it. The barn has been used to store hay and machinery, and for livestock.



This barn was built around the turn of the century. Jessie and Clayton Smith owned the land and Mrs. Smith's father (Mr. Squires) built their house and the barn. (It might be noted that Mr. Squires was noted for building barns in this area of Mercer County.) This particular barn was not painted, but had some type of a shingle on the exterior; the roof was metal. In June 1990 a small tornado blew several trees down and blew the end of the barn away. The barn was torn down and a Morton building was built on the same location. The house was torn down in 1980. No one had lived in it for several years and it was in need of repair. A new home was built in 1988. This place is owned by Mr. and Mrs. Richard Schleucher, 2906 Frahm Pike, Celina, Ohio.



Henry Hone's parents, Johann Dietrich (John Richard) and Catharina Maria Mohrmann (Katie) came from Oldenburg, Germany to Maryland in 1832, bought land and settled on a farm near New Bremen, Ohio in 1934. Katie Hone's parents, Johann (John) and Lenora Meier, about the same time came from Hanover, Germany and settled in New Bremen, owning a tavern and hotel. Mr. and Mrs. Henry (Katie) Hone had ten children: John, Frank, William, David, Christian, Henry B., George, Edward, Katie, Andrew. Bernard Heinrich (Henry) was born in New Bremen, Ohio in 1836 and married Catharina Georgianna Meier, in 1861. They moved, with their three sons, to Liberty township in 1866. He purchased 80 acres of virgin forest land, renting five acres on which to live. He then purchased 120 acres adjoining the first 80 acres. Only 30 acres were cleared. In 1881, he erected a large fine barn, 54 x 80 feet. Henry and his sons were engaged in manufacturing draining tile, much needed for the level land. He also was a general grain farmer and raised various kinds of cattle and swine for the market. In 1900, he erected a new modern home, moving from the log cabin. The house and barn in the picture were facing east on the Northwest corner of Hone Weir Road, and Erastus Durbin Road in Liberty Township. The picture was taken about 1889. Pictured are Henry and Katie, with their only daughter Katie; the sons with the horse are Henry, Chris, Andy, and Bill. (Written by Carol J. Hone, Great Granddaughter) Note the size of the barn, the pitch or slope of the barn roof, and the three cupolas on the roof, and the number of louvered vents in the end wall of the barn.



The original barn at Robert F. Post's place, 726 Skeels Road, Celina, burned down when it was struck by lightning. The barn was built by Pat and Marie Murphy. Robert Post bought this place in 1953, from his father, who bought the place from the Murphy's during World War II. The barn standing today was built in 1938 or 1939, by Amish carpenters. After the Amish carpenters got the rafters up, one Amish carpenter stood on his head at the rafters' peak. The barn was painted in July of 1939 by Jay Walters of New Corydon, Indian, where he still lives. In the past, the barn was used for horses, cows, hogs, hay and straw. Robert says that today the barn houses machinery, supplies, and 'junk that a guy should throw away.'



Richard Post's barn, 920 Skeels Road, Celina, was built in the early 1900's. Past owners were George Stein, and then Bill Post. Richard has owned the barn since 1960. The barn used to have all wood siding; now it is steel siding. The barn has been used for hogs, and to store straw.



The first barn at the home of Charles Post, 791 Skeels Road, was struck by lightning, when they built this barn. Henry Post built this barn part way, and it was struck by lightning in 1915. Bill Post was the next owner. There used to be an extension on the North end where the corn crib was, and another storage area. In the past, the barn has been used for hogs, hay, beans, basketball court on the third level, a stable and a corn crib. Today, the barn is used for hogs, hay and beans. The barn is owned by Richard Post, 920 Skeels Road, Celina.



This attractive barn stands at the corner of Wabash and Skeels Roads, and faces Skeels. Four lightning rods with their glass globes intact stand across the ridge of the gambrel roof. Three small windows are at the peak of the end wall. A pent roof at the end wall provides protection from the weather. In the past, the barn was used for milking, and to store hay, straw, and machinery. Today, the barn is used for machinery and hay. It belongs to Hope Rock Stein.



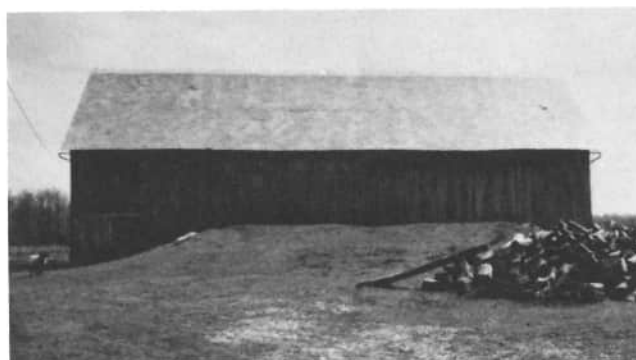
Violet Klenz has this barn located at 2262 Mud Pike , Celina. June 19, 1941, Glen and Violet Klenz bought the farm. In the early 1900's, the Vore family had the farm; it was called the Vore Sweet Corn Farm. At that time, the barns were two separate buildings, and the one barn was used for drying the corn. This barn had an upstairs where the corn was cut daily by six ladies. The corn then was moved to a screen above the dryer; men would stand and move the corn with big paddles, across the screen. When the corn was dried, the corn was then weighed and sold. Trucks picked up the corn and moved it to the market.

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Tim and Kay Wenning's barn stands at 2781 Bunker Hill Road, Celina. This barn was built in 1915. The barn appears as if it has been raised on the foundation. An addition was made to the left end of the barn. In the past, the barn has been used for cattle, horses, pigs, and grains. Today, the barn is used for cattle and pigs.

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Lewis Kable, 2862 Hone Weir Road, Celina is where this big barn stands today. His son Glenn Kable owns the place. Nate Baucher probably was the builder of this barn, when the place was owned by a Brotherton family. When Lewis Kable bought this place from a Doll family, the barn's bottom floor was lower, and the bank was lower; sheep had been kept in this bottom floor. Lewis Kable and his family hauled in dirt to raise the bank and they put cement in front of the bank to hold it. They raised the barn floor (not the barn). Lewis raised cattle on the bottom floor. The main floor had machinery and feed. There was a great big hay mow. At the time, it was one of the longest barns in the area, being 92 feet long, and 40 feet wide. The beams in this barn were cut by the sawmill nearby, and the timber came from the woods on the farm. The barn still has its slate roof. It has a cement foundation. In the photograph, the woodpile is cut and ready for the winter.

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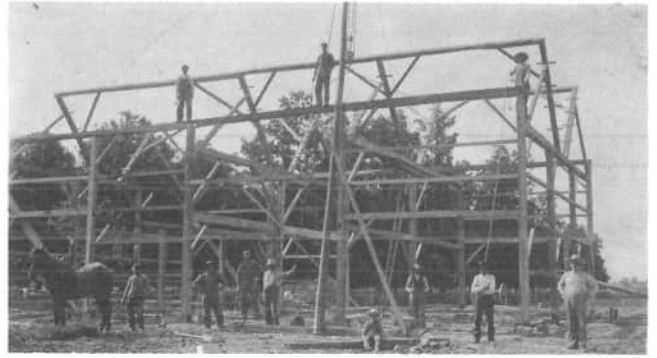
Another view shows the Violet Klenz barn at 2262 Mud Pike.

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Honoring the tradition of the past, with the big old barn, and hopes for the future of this heritage is Connie Black Smuts in this 1940 photograph. Connie is the Great-Granddaughter of David S. Black, the first owner of the Black family for this farm at 2810 Schleucher Road, Celina. David Black bought the farm from McGillvary; the barn was there then and it had the hand hewn beams and the rough siding from the sawmill. His son Noah R. Black was the next owner. Harold "Bud" Kuhn, 2679 Hone Weir Road, bought the place from Noah. Now Harold's son Mark Kuhn lives at this place at 2810 Schleucher Road. The barn is gone now; it was torn down in the 1940's.

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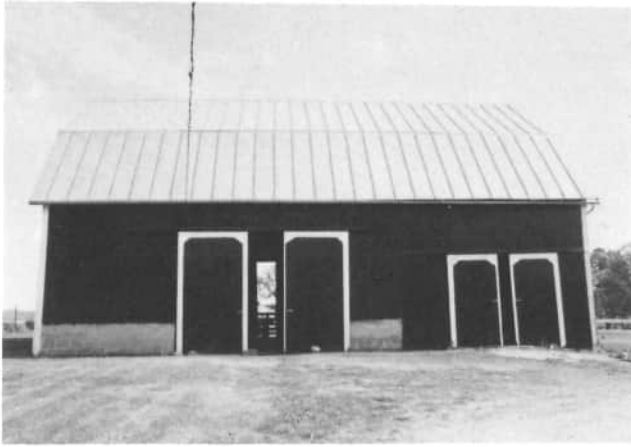
"Andy Boice's barn-raising" is written on the back of this photograph. Note the gin pole is standing in the center with the pulley still attached. The gin pole was used for leverage when the horses and men were using ropes to raise the bents or the frame of the barn. Look at the inclined purlin supporting posts; they are placed in a "V" shape, on the top of the highest crossbeam. The purlin supports have short boards nailed to them, to be used as ladder steps to reach the top of the purlin support, so the workers could easily climb them. This barn is four bents wide; the threshing floor will be placed in the central bay, and the outside bays will be used for storing wheat to be threshed on one side, and the grain bins and straw will be on the other side of the threshing floor; or they may put cattle and/or horses on one side. Each farmer made his own decisions, as to how he wanted to arrange his barn.

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Arnold L. Fast's barn stands at 8585 Burrville Road, Celina. Prior to 1900, this barn was built by Andy Maurer and the barn was used for a dairy barn. Today the barn is used for a Standard Bred Horse Breeding Operation. This barn, in the winter of 1984, was the foaling place of a filly named Dottie Dart, and out of the Sire Billy Dart. Dottie Dart took a two year old record of 1:57 1/5 at Sciota Downs at Columbus, Ohio, in winning the Ohio Sires Stakes Championship and that same year she was voted 1986 Two Year Old Pacing Filly of Ohio. This barn also houses another old time favorite pacer named Good Policy, a winner of 54 races and who is enjoying retirement at the age of 26 years.

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Luther Alt purchased this place at 7145 Township Line Road, Celina, in 1972, from the property of Mary Ellis. He put a new standing seam on the roof in 1989. Luther Alt told that John Ellis had horses in this barn, as there were horse stalls in the barn. Now, Luther Alt uses the barn for horses and calves. Mrs. Alt's Mother was Charlotte Hole before she married B. Fisher; she was born and raised on this farm. Patricia Hoskins' Uncle Len and Aunt Nell were children when this barn was built. Pat's Aunt Nell wrote the following story about this barn.

"The barn was built in the summer of 1916 by Roy Hole with the help from neighbors and friends. All the rough lumber such as the 8 x 8 beams, rafters and lathes which the roof is nailed to come from standing timber that was on the farm. There were around 5 acres of woods at the back side of the farm. A saw mill was moved back on the hill and set up, that is where the lumber was sawed for the barn. I don't remember who owned the sawmill. Two of the men boarded at our house while the sawmill was there. One of the men was Ed Dickey who used to go to the same school that we all went to.

The big beams that go across the barn are not nailed; they are held together with wooden pegs. In my mind I can see my Dad boring the holes for the wooden pegs. He had a boring machine with two handles on each side, with a big bit or auger to bore the holes. The pegs were made from pieces of wood about two inches square and eight to ten inches long. To make the pegs, Dad made a hole in a piece of iron, and the pegs were hammered through the hole and they came out round.

I remember Len and helped make some of the pegs. That was quite a job for a seven year old and a nine year old. My Grandpa David was living at our house at that time and he used to sit on the front porch and talk to himself. One day I heard him say that Roy had no business to make a barn that big. I told Mom what he said and she said, "Don't listen to what he says." They lived in a one room log house until they built the house that is there now. Lewis

was around two years old when the house was built. So that house is around 85 years old. The barn that is on Uncle Hen's place just down the road, is made just like the one on the home place; and Dad helped make it too. I am not sure but I think it was built the next year after ours was made."



This barn is located at 7932 Erastus Durbin Road, Celina, where Pat Hoskins lives today. The barn belongs to her brother-in-law, Gabe Hoskins. This barn was possibly built by Pat's Grandfather Roy Hole. The stable doors can still be seen at the end of this gable roofed barn.



A small farm, with a big barn, is the theme of this rock garden belonging to Pat Hoskins, 7932 Erastus Durbin Road, Celina. The barn is the center of this rock garden just as the barn is the center of the farm.



William Now, 6039 Tama Road, Mendon, purchased several photographs at the Frank Morrison Sale, in the mid 1960's. A few of the photographs are shown here. Now, the barns on these photographs are not the big old farm barns. However, the buildings and the oil fields at Chattanooga, Ohio, in Liberty Township, are a part of Mercer County's rural heritage. These photographs are all dated 1905. The term 'wildcat' is given to a productive oil well, in a previously unproductive area. Therefore, the people who worked these wells were given the name 'wildcatters.' It is interesting to note that just north of Chattanooga, at the corner of Route 707 and Route 49, School Number 9 was located; this school was known as Wildcat School (in Blackcreek Township).

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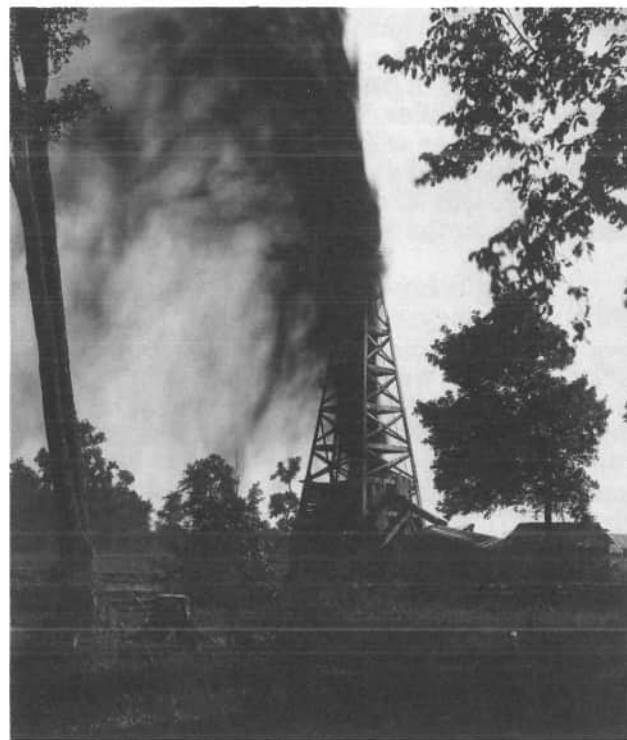
Ohio Oil Co.'s J. Becher Power No. 3, Chattanooga, Ohio Oil Fields, 1905.

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Ohio Oil Co.'s H.R. Baker, No. 1. Chattanooga, Ohio Oil Fields, 1905.

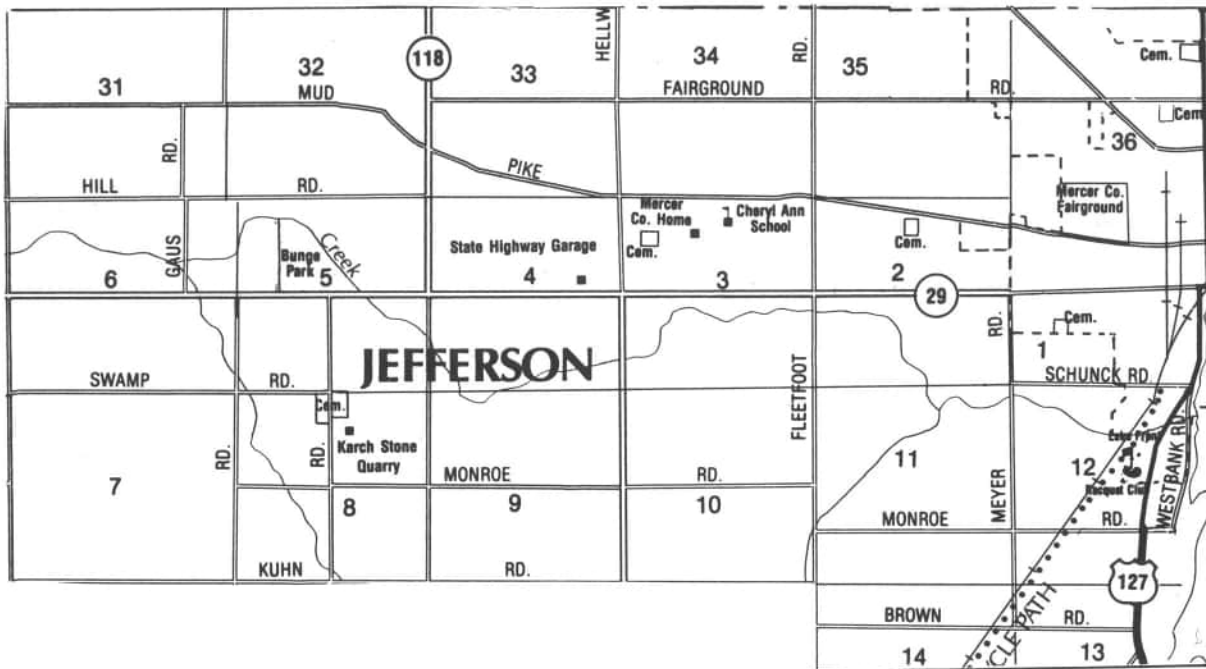
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Ohio Oil Co.'s Dr. G. Bailey, No. 7, Chattanooga, Ohio Oil Fields, 1905.

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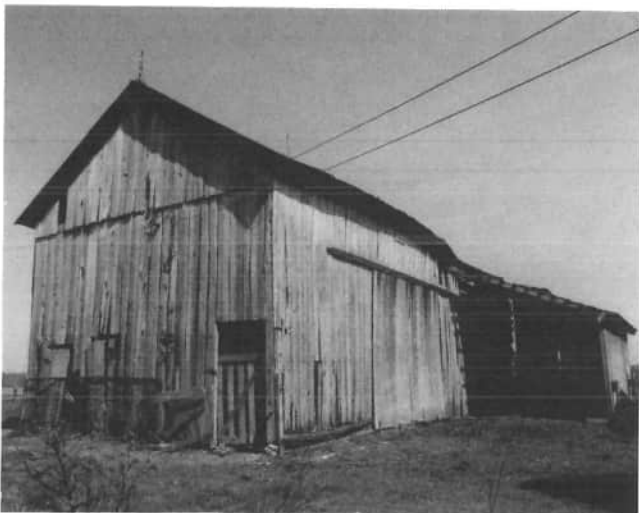
# Jefferson Township, Mercer County, Ohio



The 1992 Jefferson Township Trustees are: Richard Baucher, Glen Heyne, and Kevin Pease; the Clerk is Grant Cook.

\* This page was sponsored by the Jefferson Township Trustees for the convenience of those who wish to tour Jefferson Township roads, to see the big barns and to appreciate our rural heritage.

\*\* This map was printed by permission of Spectrum Map Publishing, Inc., 909 Sycamore Street, Cincinnati, OH 45202.



This quiet barn in the countryside holds the wonderful treasure of a log barn, at 3066 Carmel Church Road. The log barn was built by the forebears of John R. Suhr. Many Mercer Countians remember John R. Suhr for the many years he served as Mercer County Commissioner, 1957-1968. Today, the place belongs to his son, David and Rita Suhr, 7241 Township Line Road.

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This is a close view of the Suhr log barn. Note how the logs are notched at the corners. This is one of the oldest types of notching log buildings. Just the underside was notched, to fit over the log beneath it; this type notch made it possible for water to drain from this corner joint. This type notching is called "round-log saddle notching" by Donald Hutslar, *THE ARCHITECTURE OF MIGRATION, 'Log Construction in the Ohio Country, 1750-1850.'* In looking at the upper logs, the third and fourth logs have been cut out, probably to permit entry to the mow. This building may very well be among the oldest buildings still standing in Mercer County.

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This is a closer view of the Suhr log barn. This photograph was taken on the side, beneath the attached shed. One can see that some of the round logs still have their bark. Some of the upper logs have been hand hewn flat on each side. Seeing the length and size of these logs, one can imagine the work involved in putting up this log barn.

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This is a view of the upper or second story of the log house at the Suhr property, 3066 Mount Carmel Road. If one looks at the side of the house, one can see how the two windows have been set in the wall, and how the logs are supported at the center of the wall. The end wall shows the one window centered in the upper story wall. The next two photographs are close up views.

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This is a close view of the Suhr log house. the dovetail notching is evident in the corner of the house. The logs bear the marks of the ax, which gives one an idea of the work put into these hand hewn buildings.



This is a view of the back of the Suhr log house. The upper story not only gives one an idea of the length of the horizontal logs, but also shows the center supporting logs. The bottom story has the outside wall cut away which very plainly shows how the center support logs were cut. The chinking between the logs is evident, on this photograph, as well as the other photographs. The back side of the stairsteps is next to the central wall. Considering the labor, the thought, the planning, and the limited availability of tools, these log buildings were masterpieces of craftsmanship. (For the young, we might add that the builder might have learned his mathematics on his own, without a lot of formal schooling, and he certainly did not have a hand-held calculator or power saw.)



Arlan and Mary Schmidt's barn stands at 3188 Carmel Church Road, Celina. The barn was built in the early 1900's; the gambrel roof was designed for more space in the mow. Five lightning rods can be seen across the roof ridge. In the past, the barn was used for dairy cattle and beef cattle. For the past fifteen years the barn has housed horses. Today, the barn is used as a shelter for Standard bred Race Horses. (Photograph by Boy Scout Team, Matt Kuhlhorst, et.al.)



Such a quiet building in the country, and it holds a wonderful treasure of a log building. The log building belongs to Don Freeman, 3350 Carmel Church Road, Celina. The building has been used for horses and small equipment. Today it is used to store straw, hay, and machinery. The building was in a tornado in the late 1940's or early 1950's; the south lean-to was blown off.



This is the treasure of the log building which belongs to Don Freeman, 3350 Carmel Church Road. The notches of the worker can be seen on the logs. The corners of the logs are notched in what is called "half dovetail notching. Donald Hutslar in his book, *THE LOG ARCHITECTURE OF OHIO*, tells that half dovetailing permitted a close joining of logs. This building was probably built in the 1800's, but an exact date has yet to be established.

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Carl and Mary Ann Fleck's barn, 4429 Fairground Road, Celina, was built approximately eighty years ago. In the past, this barn was used for livestock and hay and straw; today the barn is used for machinery storage. This barn has had the additions added to either end. The series of double doors across the front allow for easy entry for the machinery.

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This big old barn is still standing on its original foundation. Few changes have been made to this barn, except for the shed being added to the right side, since it was built between 1910 and 1920. The barn stands straight and tall, just as do the four lightning rods across the roof ridge. In the past, the barn was used for general use for cows, horses, and pigs. Today, the barn is used for storage, and belongs to Ray J. Flore, 4221 Fairground Road, Celina.

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Forest Hileman built this barn at 5100 Fairground Road for Don and Lou Mendenhall in 1950; the barn was used for a horse barn. In 1970, the owners Dr. David M. Miller and Joyce I. Miller had Eugene Hirschfeld Construction remodel the barn for use as a Veterinary Clinic. Since 1983, the present owner Dr. David M. Miller uses the barn as Tendercare Pet Hotel, for raising, boarding, and grooming pets. This barn is 60 feet by 40 feet, and twenty-eight feet high; it has cement block, and native lumber. Three ventilators can be seen across the ridge of the gambrel roof.

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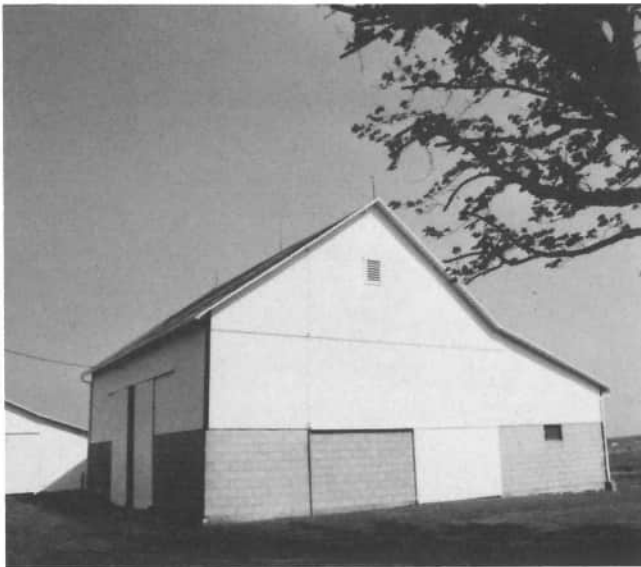
This log house stands at 5315 Fairground Road, and belongs to Lewis Garman. This log house originally stood on the farm of Clarence Rismiller, McFeeley-Petry Road, in Darke County; the log house was built between 1850 and 1860. Mr. and Mrs. Lewis Garman bought the building, tore it down, moved it to this location, and put it back up. Looking closely at the corners, one can see the steeple notching of the logs. Few log buildings can still be found in Mercer County today.

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Paul W. Robinsons's barn, 3529 Mud Pike, Celina, was built by the Bill Buck Family at the turn of the century. The barn housed a team of draft horses and other animals found on a family farm at that time. It included a small milking parlor. Today, this gable roofed barn, with the white siding, is used to house sheep, hogs, and cows. The milking parlor has been removed.

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Lowell Sibert's barn, 3078 Mud Pike, Celina, looks as new as springtime with its fresh coat of paint in 1992. Three lightning rods stand across the ridge of this gable roof. This barn was remodeled in 1954.

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This barn was by Manuel Buck, sometime between 1895 and 1900. In the past, the barn was used for cows and for storing bales of hay and straw. The barn stands in the quiet countryside on Mud Pike. It appears that few changes have been made to the original barn, with only the shed added to the left side. The owners of this barn are Lela Williams, 3735 Mud Pike and Lyle Krogman, 4959 Morrow Road, Celina.

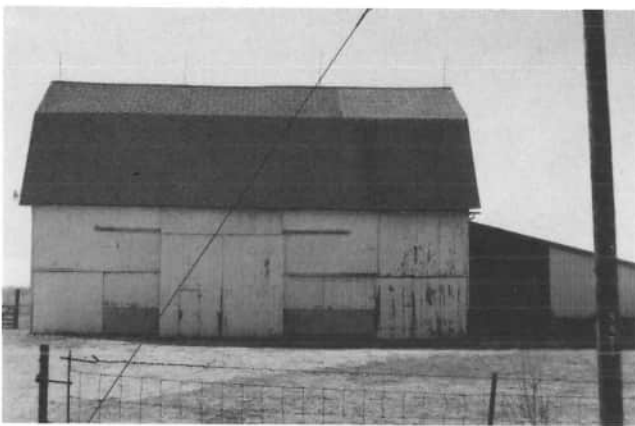
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The Puthoff's have owned this barn at 3830 Mud Pike, since 1918; Andy and Josephine (1918-1976), then Daniel C. and Rita Puthoff, (1976 to present). Painted red with white trim until 1980, the bottom was replaced with cement walls and painted white. A lean-to was added in 1987. Prior to 1918, the owners were John W. Steele (1912-1918); Frank Fetters (1911-1912); Reuben Buck (1911-1870); George Dana (1837-1870); U.S. Government. According to the 1888 Mercer County Atlas, the house and barn were recorded. Russell Puthoff managed the family farm after the passing of his father Andy (1932-1968), till his own passing. This barn was used for dairy cows, feeder cows, nurse cows, with hay and straw in the loft, and ponies. In this photograph, the stack of wood in front of the last building, was from inside the barn where Dan removed the feed bins from the center, and the old feed stables. (1976 photograph)



A star on each of the double doors, and a star above the barn doors, and a star in the gable end make the marking of this barn unique. Albert Fleming's barn, 4038 Mud Pike, Celina, is used for steers and hogs, hay and straw, and storage. Previous to 1973, it was used as a holding place and loading dock for a livestock business (cattle). The small area on the right side of the barn was used as the office for the livestock trucking business of John Bertke.



This is a current view of the barn belonging to Mrs. Daniel (Rita) Puthoff, 3830 Mud Pike. The barn is used for cattle.



A dinner bell stands quietly, after all the years it called everyone to the dinner table, at the Bob and Bonnie Searight farm, 4358 Mud Pike, Celina. The barn with the gambrel roof was built in 1913-1914, by George Menchhofer. In the past the barn was used for livestock and dairy; today, the barn is used for livestock.



Larry and Donna Fiely's barn stands at 4477 Mud Pike, Celina. Even though this barn looks new on the outside, it was built in 1880 and used for cattle, etc. Today, the barn is used for horses. Many barns have the gambrel roof, but not many have the three ventilators on top. The shutters on the windows dress up the barn. Very few barns have the service door cut into the larger sliding door; this smaller door is called "le petit guichet." Some barns have a pent roof to the side, to protect the stable doors and horses from the elements; they have taken the pent roof and extended it into a car port; they took a typical feature and adapted it to their use.



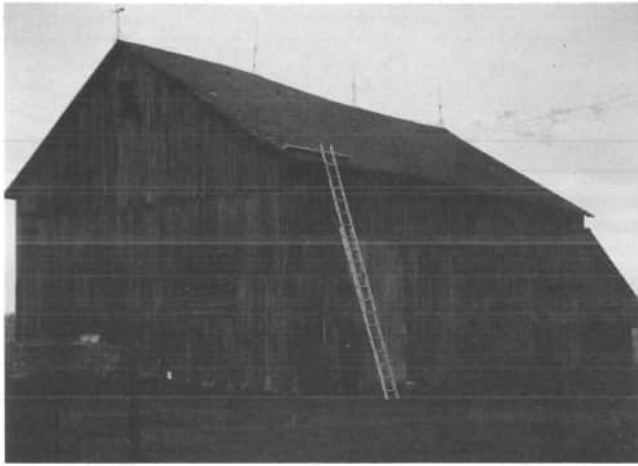
This old barn is located at 5179 Mud Pike, Celina. The following story was submitted by Ray and Mary Wenning, 706 North Second, Coldwater:

"This farm is owned by Ray and Mary Wenning. This barn is about forty feet by seventy five feet, and twenty feet to the spouting. We purchased this farm about 1967 from the Trenary heirs. This barn could have been built in the early 1900's. When we purchased it, it was in need of a lot of repairs. To me, the barn is quite different from most barns, and that is, when they built it, the banks were not put together on the forty foot width, and then pulled up to pin together. The seventy five foot sides were put together and then gin-poled up and pinned together. There was no support for the barn ends to stay in place. When we purchased it, the ends of the barn were bowed out about a foot on one side and in the same amount on the other. So to correct this, I took some three quarter rods and put them across the corners of this barn, and with threaded ends, kept these rods tight and over the period of the winter, we had pulled this barn back to where it should be. Also, we had to cover this with metal siding and the roof has been replaced. This barn has a lot of capacity and will hold up around eight to ten thousand bales. It houses around a hundred head of cattle and is used for a steer operation. It is a solid building and with care could stand for a hundred more years. Hoping this sheds some light on an old barn that's been very faithful."



LeRoy Johnsman built this barn in 1955, at 4927 Mud Pike, Celina. This round roof, sometimes called a rainbow or gothic roof, allows for more space in the mow. The three shed-roofed dormers allow for light in the interior. In the 1950's people were building barns with these round roofs. Looking closely, one may see the six lightning rods across the roof ridge. The barn is used to house dairy cattle. This April 1992 photograph shows the calves standing out front, in their springtime shelters. LeRoy J. Johnsman, 6980 Fleetfoot Road, Celina, is the owner.





Mr. and Mrs. Fay D. Stiverson's barn, 5309 Mud Pike, Celina, was built about 1900, by William Granville Hoel. This barn served as a working barn from the time it was built, until the last cow was sold in 1974, during which time it supported two families. The last of the horses and mules were sold in 1951.

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The afternoon sunlight, in the springtime, is casting a slight shadow across the front of the Charles M. Putman barn, 3009 State Route 29, Celina. This gable-roofed barn is painted red, with white trim and white arches on the two sets of double doors. This style barn is sometimes called an English barn, with a shed added to the left side. In the past, the barn was used for raising livestock; today the barn is used for storage.

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Horse collars, hames, the traces and trace chains, some ornamental celluloid rings, and a neck yoke for a carriage — all for work harness for the horses or mules — are still hanging in the same place as when they were put there after being taken off the horses in 1951, at the Fay Stiverson barn, 5309 Mud Pike.

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Larry Dwenger's barn, 3215 State Route 29, Celina, was built in the early 1900's. The barn was used for dairy in the past, and is used for steers and hogs today. They redid the barn in 1988. The gable roofed barn has an addition to the right. If one looks closely, one can see the small service door, cut into the large sliding door; the smaller door within a larger door is known as "le petit guichet."

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This gambrel roofed barn belongs to Mrs. Robert Weyandt, 3458 State Route 29 W., Celina. Mahala Kincaid owned the place in 1908; she sold it to J.G. Brandon on August 23, 1913; he sold it to Charles and Sara Spriggs on December 30, 1913; they sold it to Frank Spriggs one year later. Robert J. and Virginia Weyandt bought the place from Frank Spriggs November 9, 1968. (Kenny Gahel and Mrs. Earl Watson and Ron Link purchased the other parts of the land.) The barn itself has wooden pegs to frame the barn, which gives an indication of how old the barn is. (photograph by Boy Scout Team, Matt Kuhlhorst, et. al.)



This barn stands on the south side of State Route 29, west of Burkettsville St. Henry Road. The gambrel roof is graced by three lightning rods across the ridge. One can still see the two stable doors in the east end wall, with one small window at the peak of the wall. This white barn is owned by STONECO, INC. whose Celina plant is located at 6430 Karch Road.



The horse on the weather vane stands at the peak of the roof of Mrs. Robert Weyandt's barn, 3458 State Route 29. (photograph by Boy Scout Team, Matt Kuhlhorst, et. al.)



William Stukenborg's barn, 4061 State Route 29, Celina, was built in 1913 by John Holsingers (Holsengers?). In the past this barn was used for cattle, hogs, and crops. Today, the barn is used for hay and storage. Five lightning rods stand across the ridge of this gable roof. The new white siding is trimmed in brown.



This July 1962 photograph shows the family unloading the wagon and putting the bales on the elevator. The others are waiting in the hay mow to take the bales and stack them in the mow. The barn still had its original siding and was painted red, in 1962, at the William Stukenborg barn, 4061 State Route 29.

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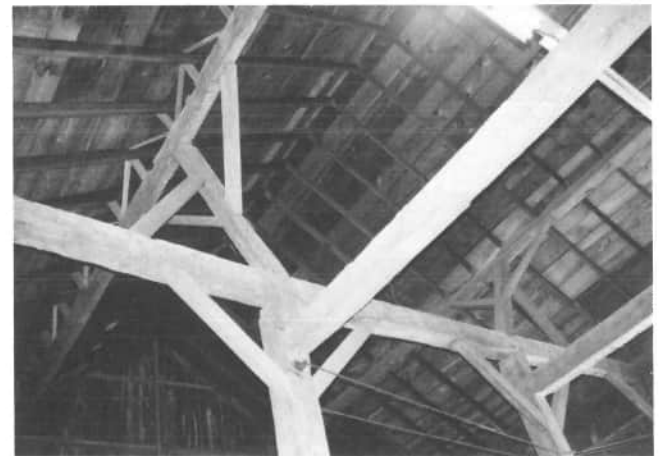
Joe MacDonald is standing in front of his barn at 5368 Route 29 W., Celina. The barn was built in the early 1800's, and was moved to this farm from the area between Frahm Pike and Fairground Road in the early 1800's. It was fully assembled and had to be raised three to five feet into the air, to clear stumps, in the fields, as they moved across the fields, not via the roads. The frame has been resided three times and reroofed at least three times. Approximately five years ago, a tornado moved the west end of the barn approximately ten inches sideways, with no structural damage. A heavy railroad jack was used to push it back into place.

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This attractive barn belongs to Mr. and Mrs. Albert Pax, 5221 State Route 29, Celina. The previous barn burned down in 1949, and they built this barn. Note the slope of the gambrel roof. Three windows are in the end wall, as well as windows are placed across the side walls. The shrubbery outside the barn sets off the barn on this October 1992 afternoon.

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This interior view of Joe and Ruth MacDonald's barn, 5368 Rte. 29 W., shows the framing. The inclined purlin supports are unusual; not many barns have this type framing. Above the purlin plate, Joe added braces to support the roof, when he put on the new roof. The original frame of this barn is black walnut and oak, with some of the beams being 35 feet or longer. Originally, the barn was used for general farming, with cows, horse stalls, and hay mows. Today, the barn is used for equipment storage.

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Joe and Ruth MacDonald's barn, 5368 Route 29 W., Celina has an interesting history. Notice the buggies and the style of clothing worn by the people on the photograph. Arthur MacDonald, Joe's father, is holding the two horses. Hattie MacDonald is holding one horse. Joseph MacDonald, Joe's Grandfather, is in the buggy with Granddaughter Mabel Radabaugh. Lydia (Joseph's wife) is standing next to the buggy. Ward Radabaugh and wife Elizabeth (MacDonald) Radabaugh are standing in front of the buggy. Mabel, Lucy and Grace MacDonald are standing next to the remaining buggy.



Olen Amstutz and Berniece Adams' barn stands on the north side of the road, on State Route 29, at the west edge of Celina. This farm was purchased from Fisher by Frank Kendall in 1917. There used to be a shed on the south end of the barn that was used for butchering by Fisher. The barn was moved and remodeled by Kinnison of Wabash, Ohio, approximately 1920. It originally was located north west of where it is now located. The barn was jacked up and ready to move when a severe storm hit and the barn was moved about two foot, and had to be jacked up again before it could be moved. Henry Amstutz purchased the farm from Kendall approximately 1947. In the past, the barn was used for general farm use, to milk cows, store hay and straw, and to house lambs. A lone pine tree stands in front of the barn; people used to have pine trees on their property.



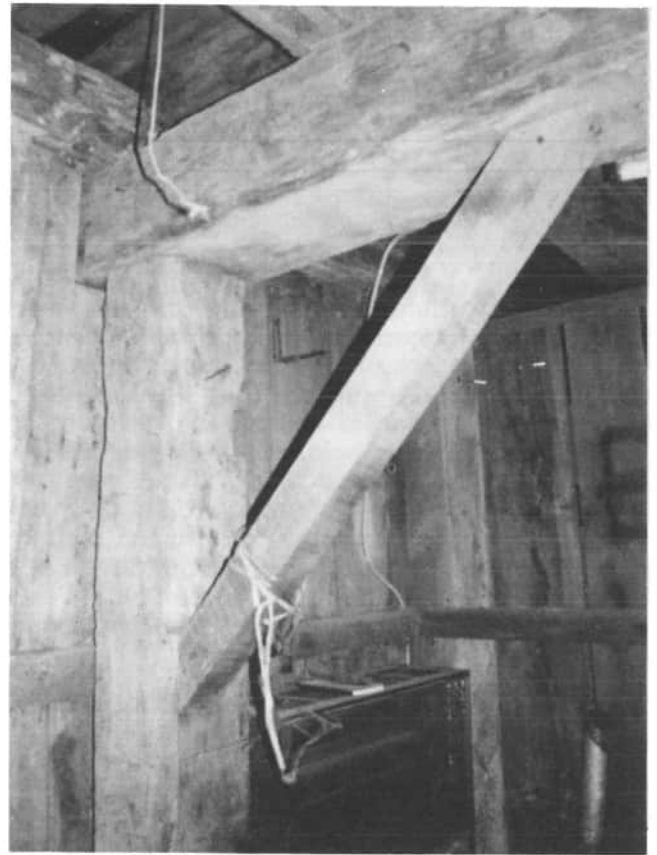
Woody Wilson moved these barns to this location at 1130 West Logan, Celina, about 1975-1976. The barns came from Indiana and Amish carpenters put them up. Both barns have gambrel roofs with matching cupolas on top of the barns. Both barns have a large hay mow entry door, beneath the triangular hay hood. Not many Mercer County barns have hay mow entry doors like these. On the barn to the east, there is a side entry to the mow; it also has the gambrel roof and triangular hay hood. The barns belong to Mr. and Mrs. Carl Jackson.



"CHEW MAIL POUCH, TREAT YOURSELF TO THE BEST" is painted on Carl Jackson's barn at 1130 West Logan, and is a part of American History. Few barns can boast of the Mail Pouch painting.



A view of a side entry door at Carl Jackson's barn shows the X bracing on the upper and lower sections of the door.



This interior view of Carl Jackson's barn shows a corner post and beam, all hand hewn, with a new support added.



This interior view of Carl Jackson's barn shows the cross beam beneath the mow, being supported by an additional beam above the vertical post.



This aerial view, taken in 1985-86, shows the buildings and their relationship to each other, on the David and Carol Marchal farm, 3462 Swamp Road, Celina. The main barn, with its gambrel roof, stands at the center of the buildings, indicating its importance to the farm.



Charles Shaner, Jr. is mowing, in front of the big old barn at 3726 Monroe Road, Celina. (The photograph was taken between 1957 and 1960.) In 1991, this land is the Michael Maharg Trash Service.

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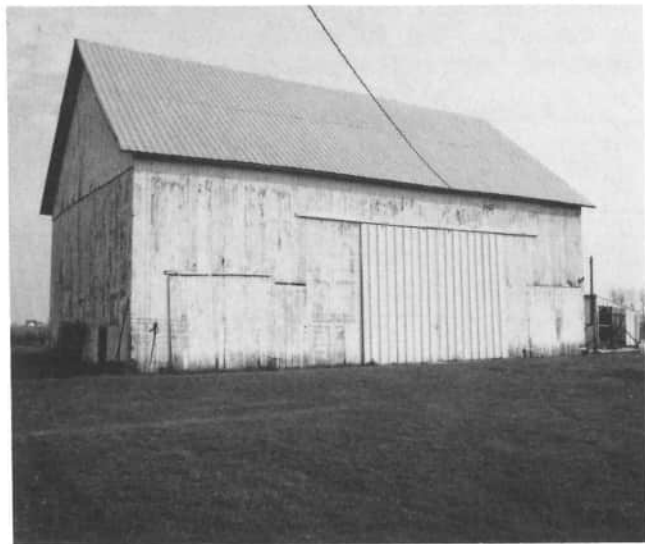
Glenn Heyne's barn stands at 4201 Monroe Road, Celina. This gambrel roofed barn has additions at both ends. The main double sliding door, has a smaller door, within this door; this smaller door is known as "le petit guichet."

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Dan and M. Jane Pease's barn, 4067 Monroe Road, Celina, was built in the early 1900's. In the past, the barn was used to house horses; today, the barn is used for dairy. This white, gable-roofed barn has had the addition added to the right.

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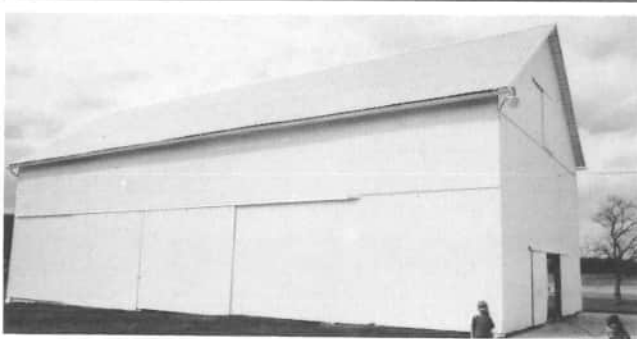
Lester and Alice Baucher's barn, 4228 Monroe Road, Celina, is in the original condition as when they bought it in 1962. The timbers inside the barn were sawed, and pegged together. This gable-roofed barn was used for livestock, hay and straw; today they still have hay and straw in the barn.

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This barn stands at 4744 Monroe Road, Celina; Ray Wenning submitted the following story:

"This barn is owned by Ray and Mary Wenning, 706 N. Second St., Coldwater. We purchased this barn about twenty years ago from a Mr. West, and he had this barn many years before that. I would say this barn was built in the early 1900's. This barn has all sawed lumber and is a very well built barn. It has had asbestos shingles put on, maybe in the thirties, and it has been a green barn for all these years. In the past years some of the siding has been replaced with metal. This barn has been a part of an eighty acre farm and has had the usual horses and cattle and hogs, all in the same building, for many years. Since we owned this barn, we use it primarily for young cattle and it does a good job. The lean-to has always been on, and this is where they kept their hogs. This is a solid structure and could last for another one hundred years, if there is a need for a barn that far down the road. Hoping this sheds some light on an old barn that has been very faithful."



David E. Pax's barn, 5189 Monroe Road, Celina, was built in 1902 by Joseph Pax. The hayloft entry sliding door can be seen in the gable end. In the past, the barn was used for livestock and equipment storage; today, the barn is used for equipment storage. Even though the double doors face this way, this entry way is little used as the lawn is in grass. Erica Pax stands in front of the barn, as their dog patiently sits and watches.



This big old barn is still on its original foundation; the sliding doors are painted with white arches. Three smaller windows allow for interior lighting. In the past the barn was used for steers, and staw and hay storage. Today, the barn is used for storage, and belongs to Bill Bruggeman, 5311 Monroe Road, Celina.

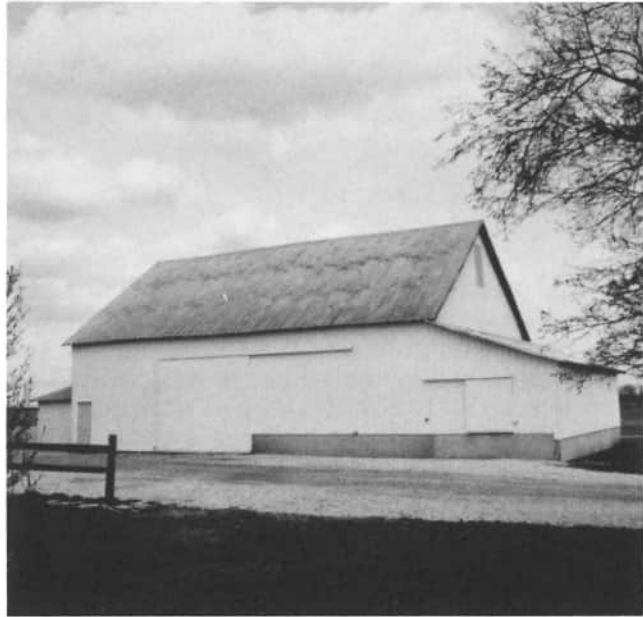


Nelson A. Eichenauer, 5687 Monroe Road, Celina, is retired and uses this barn for storage. In 1921, this barn was built by Harvey Slusser. The barn was used for raising cattle, hogs, and cows, and machinery as well as storing grain and hay. Just seeing the outside of the barn, one might not realize that this barn is pinned together with wooden pins. Four lightning rods stand on the ridge of this gambrel roof.



This gable roofed barn was built around 1925. A shed was added to the right side. The white barn has light blue, almost the color of a robin egg, trimming the arches on the doors and outlining the barn as well as the small window. In the past the barn was used to house milk cows, hogs, and storage of hay and straw. Today, Charles J. Meier, 5670 Schunck Road, Celina, uses his barn for storage.

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This is an April 1992 photograph of Madonna Murlin's barn at 5159 Brown Road, Celina.

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The barn in this photograph was built in 1909. Madonna (Brown) Murlin's father, George Brown, Jr., built the barn out of hand hewn timber, which was cut from virgin forest on the farm. The barn was used for livestock and hay storage. When her parents died, Madonna and her husband Pat Murlin, used the barn for a small dairy. They then went into the hog business and remodeled the interior for that purpose. When her husband passed away, her son, Rik Murlin, and daughter Suzanne, took over the business and the barn continues to be used for hogs. The place is known as Maple Lawn Farms, 5159 Brown Road, Celina.

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This barn stood at on Fleetfoot road, and was built in 1866, while Madonna (Brown) Murlin's grandfather George W. Brown, Sr., was fighting in the Civil War. The Amish built the barn for him. The barn was used for hay storage and livestock and had been in continuous use until 1990. It was torn down in the spring of 1992.

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This barn was built in the early 1800's by the Snider family. The Henry Snider family lived on this farm during the Civil War and the barn was in use at that time. It was located on what is now State Route 118, just north of Coldwater. Madonna (Brown) Murlin's mother Cora Snider Brown was born on this farm. Madonna heard her mother speaking of playing in the haymow of this barn. (Henry Snider was Cora Brown's father.) The barn is no longer in existence.



This white barn, with the gambrel roof was owned by a Dr. Richardson. The smaller door, within the larger sliding double door, is painted a darker color; this smaller door within a door is known as "le petite guichet." The smaller addition to the right side was used for the milking operation, but stands empty now. A cow shed was added on the back side about 1966; the silo was erected in 1964. This farm was rented to Dan Brookhart, who with his family, lived there about 40 years. The house was built when Mr. and Mrs. Dan Brookhart's son Homer was born. (The barn was there before the family lived there.) Van Tilburg's rented the farm next. James Rodgers moved there in the fall of 1945 and lived there until the fall of 1985 (forty years). When James moved there, the barn was setting on limestone; the following year, 1946, Bill Wellman's crew cut the posts off and put a solid foundation under this barn. This barn was originally used for a horse barn and hay storage; the south end did not have a mow; they just stored the hay from ground up. Part of the timbers are hand hewn. Today, 1992, this place is owned by STONECO INC. whose Celina plant is located at 6430 Karch Road. This place is located on Karch Road, just north of Monroe Road, and south of STONECO.



Horses have always had a home in this barn belonging to Peanuts Werling, 6618 Burkettsville-St. Henry Road, Celina. In the past, the barn was not only used for horses, but also for dairy. Today, the barn is not only used for a horse, but also for cows and hay storage. Four lightning rods stand on the crest of the gambrel roof. A roof has been added to the north wall for protection from the elements.



A touch of the past in the country, can be seen at Peanuts Werling's home, 6618 Burkettsville-St. Henry Road. The windmill, the dinner bell, and the rooster on top of the weathervane, all bring back memories of the past in the country.



This red barn, with its gambrel roof, and white trim on the windows and doors, was used for horses in the past. Today it is used for storage, and belongs to Peanuts Werling, 6618 Burkettsville-St. Henry Road. The barn stands on the place just north of the residence of Peanuts Werling. The south end of the barn has an attractive service door; the windows have white shutters, all which make this barn a neat barn.

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New Idea engineers took this photograph on November 14, 1939, of an experimental shredder from New Idea, shredding outside of the Joseph and John Cordier barn. (The horses can be seen just inside the barn doors. Other buildings, which are no longer standing, can be seen to the side of the barn.)

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Franklin Pierce Cordier, whose family came from Alsace-Lorraine, France, built this barn about 1890. This English barn is still standing on its original foundation. A pent roof was added to the east side for protection from the elements. In the past, the barn was used as a shelter for horses and cows, and for hay and grain storage. Today the barn belongs to John Cordier, 6058 State Route 118; the barn stands on the west side of the road, and is used for machinery storage.

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F.P. Cordier (Frank Cordier) built this barn about 1910. The barn was used for milking; the gambrel roof allowed for more space in the mow for hay storage. A shed has been added to the left. Three sets of sliding doors allow for easy entry in the barn. This barn belongs to John Cordier, 6058 State Route 118, Celina.

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Bud Stauffer built this barn in 1933. The round roof, sometimes called a gothic or rainbow roof, allowed for more space in the mow. Four lightning rods are across the roof ridge. The barn had a horse stable, cow stable, and hay and straw storage. Today, the barn is used for hay and straw storage, and is owned by Kenneth and Mary Jean Grandlienard, on State Route 118, just south of Route 29.

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This old barn, which had been made of logs, stood on Monroe Road, just a quarter of a mile west of State Route 118. Frank and Myrtle Stillberger bought this place in 1901 from Lyda Hole. The Hole family may have built this barn in the past.

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In 1910, Frank and Myrtle Stillberger built this barn and windpump. Later, in 1912, they built the house, the hog barn followed in 1913, the granary in 1915. The buildings were trimmed in white; the doors had a small white triangle at the top of each corner. In 1991, William and Edith Stillberger are living at this place, 6319 State Route 118, Celina. This pattern of building, is the pattern followed by most of the early farmers; first, they built the big barn and following the barn, they built the fine house. After the barn and house, the other out-buildings followed.

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The old barn can be seen in the background of this house, which the Stillbergers bought from Lyda Hole in 1901. If one looks closely at the log home, one can see the dove tail notching of the corners of the walls. This old log home and barn are no longer standing. On this photograph, Mr. and Mrs. Frank Stillberger are seated with their children William and Evelyn. These buildings stood on Monroe Road, just a quarter of a mile west of State Route 118.

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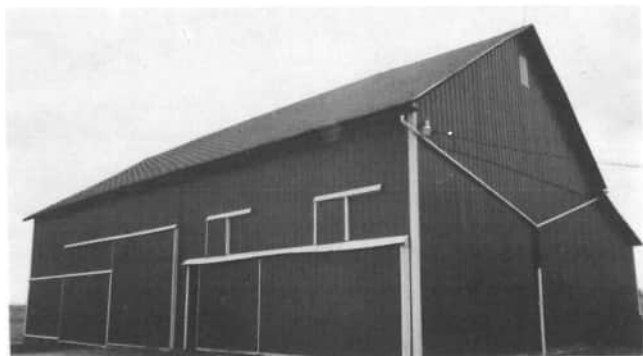
Loa Jean Fox and Jimmie D. Fox, 6461 State Route 118, tell that "Grandpa Newton Petrie, with Lou Gray, built this barn in the 1900's." The barn was originally used for horses and milk cows, and for sheep. The barn has a grain pen in it. Today, the barn is used for farm machinery.



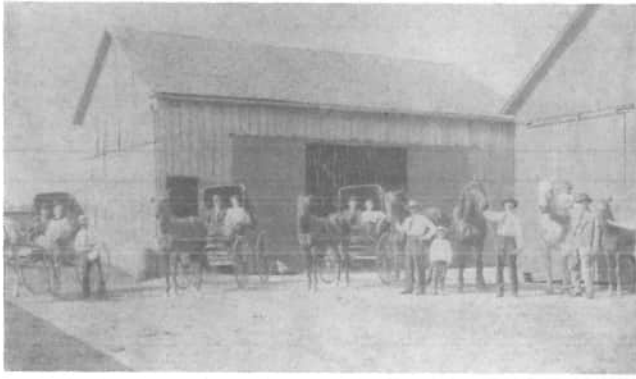
Harvey Beougher of Hocking County bought the West half of the North West quarter of section 11 in township six Jefferson South of range two East in the district of lands subject to sale at Lima, Ohio containing eighty acres on 21 February 1866 for seven hundred and fifty dollars. After his death in 1918, the farm sold to Joseph W. McGee for \$11,600.00. Joseph McGee's son Raymond still owns the farm. Joe Ketcham built this barn in 1892. This photograph is taken from the 1907 HISTORY OF MERCER COUNTY, OHIO, and the history of the Beougher Family is on page 513. Three rectangular cupolas are on the gable roof ridge. A series of rows of louvered vents provide ventilation for the barn. The barn was used for horses, and storing hay, buggies and farm machinery. Today, the barn at 6280 Fleetfoot Road, Celina, is used for sheep and farm machinery. This barn information was submitted by Ruth E. Howell, granddaughter of Harvey Beougher, 605 East Market Street, Celina.



Upon a hill sits the McGee's bank barn, 73 x 48; its timber hewed by John J. McGee. The lower level of this barn was used mainly for livestock, while the upper level was used to store hay, straw and grain. James F. McGee, son of John J., spent two years hauling stone from the railroad cars from Celina; it took another two years to make the bank using a slip scoop to do it. Mitch McGee took this photograph of the barn in 1988, just one hundred years after the barn was built in 1888. The McGee name can easily be seen on the barn roof. The red barn has two pairs of double doors, with those doors and the other doors being framed with white arches. J. Lowell McGee, 5800 Fleetfoot Road, Celina, is the owner of this grand old barn.



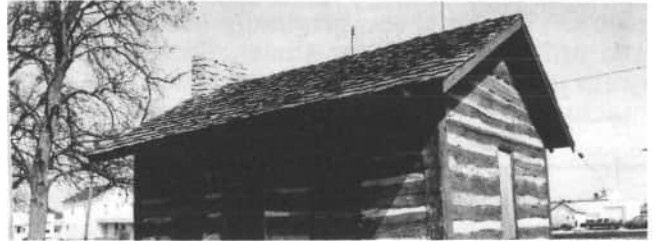
This barn was built around 1890, and stands at the west side of Fleetfoot Road at the corner of Monroe Road. The farm was purchased about 1915 by Mr. and Mrs. Frank Fetters from the Frank Steel family and became the possession of Sam and Bernadine Hellwarth in the early 1960's. The barn has been used for general farming, with livestock and hay storage. Mr. and Mrs. Sam Hellwarth, Sr., live at 650 Linden Avenue, Celina.



This photograph was taken around 1909-1910, of this old barn, belonging to Hulbert Vantilburg, on Meyer Road, south of Celina. Hulbert Vantilburg was Merlie Boroff's grandfather. This must have been an important occasion because the people are all dressed up; even the youngest boy is wearing his hat. One child is seated upon the horse; a colt is standing nearby.



This barn was built in the 1890's by Joe Meyer, and was used for dairy, and hay and straw storage. It appears as if the barn has had a new foundation added, as well as new siding added. This barn belongs to John Zumberge, and stands just south of the Zumberge place at 6612 Meyer Road, at the Monroe Road intersection. Meyer Road must have received its name from the Meyer family.



The Mathias Smith Tavern was built in 1840 to house the workers who built the Grand Reservoir (Grand Lake St. Marys) to store water for the Miami and Erie Canal. The original tavern had two floors and was moved to this site at Lake Shore Park on the South Main Street of Celina. The Celina Jaycees worked to move this log building in the 1960's, from a site to the south and west of the park on the west side of the highway. This log building is owned by the Mercer County Historical Society. Many of the old logs of the original tavern had rotted out. To replace these logs, they used logs from the old medical college log building from Macedon, west of Coldwater. One of the original logs from the Macedon medical college log building is on exhibit at the Mercer County Historical Museum. Note of this Mathias Smith Tavern building, that the corner notching is not exposed, but is enclosed in this mortise and tenon joint. Donald A. Hutslar, in *THE LOG ARCHITECTURE OF OHIO*, Ohio History, Volume 80, 1971, states: "Though this style of mortise and tenon joint is included in the general category of log building, it really belongs to 'plank wall' construction. Obviously such fabrication required more time and care than one of the common notching systems. The few buildings found in Ohio using this method of joining have logs, or planks, ranging from 4 to 10 inches in width." Note that the sill logs, or the bottom floor logs, are supported by stone piers.



John H. Zumberge built this big barn in 1959, at 6612 Meyer Road, Celina. During the 1950's, many farmers were building these barns, with the hugh round roof, sometimes called a rainbow or gothic roof, because the roof allowed for more storage space than the conventional gable roofed barn. This photograph was taken after the barn was built in January 1959.



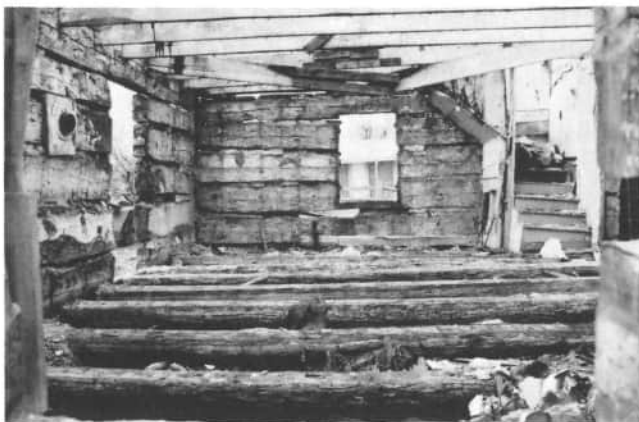
A wonderful treasure of a log building was found under the siding of a house when it was being dismantled at Mark and Rhonda Alspaugh's place, 716 North Brandon Avenue, Celina. Half dovetail notching is used in the corners. One can see the chinking between the logs.

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These farmers are baling straw from the straw stack. This old photograph was found in a house at 546 North Cherry Street, Celina, by Dale Parker, in 1965 or 1966, when he had been employed to tear down the old house. Anyone with information on this photograph may contact the Mercer County Historical Museum, or Helen Parker, 7113 Oregon Road, Celina.

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An interior view of Mark and Rhonda Alspaugh's log building, 716 North Brandon Avenue, Celina. See the size of the log floor joists. The one door and two windows were cut in the log walls. An interior stair can be seen in the northeast corner. At the time of this April 1992 photograph, the Alspaughs were speaking about the building being relocated.

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This photograph was found in a house at 546 North Cherry Street, Celina, by Dale Parker, in 1965 or 1966, when he had been employed to tear down the old house. In the photograph, the log home is still standing behind the home in the photograph. Apparently, this family had gathered to celebrate their new home. Anyone with information as to where this home stood, or the name of the family, may contact the Mercer County Historical Museum, or Helen Parker, 7113 Oregon Road, Celina.

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Bernard and Magalena Everman were the ones who built this fine barn at 7460 State Route 197, which Steve Zumberge owns today. In the past, this was a dairy barn; today it is used to raise steers and for machine storage. Amish carpenters remodeled this barn in 1989; the foundation was redone and doors were made larger to accommodate today's machinery.

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A close up view of the hand hewn vertical post in the Zumberge barn, not only shows the blade marks on the post, but also shows the added supports on either side of the post.

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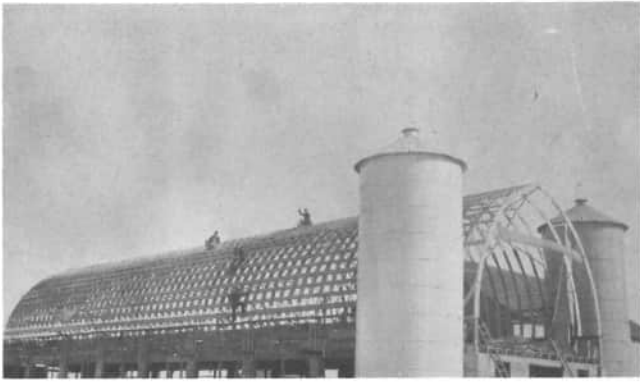
Steve and Ginny Zumberge's barn has a strong frame, which has hand hewn beams, which dates this barn back before the turn of the century. The stringers, or logs supporting the mow, have ends that have been hewn to fit a corner of a previous log building. The vertical posts support the long cross beam; above this cross beam are two more vertical posts which have been moved to either side of the lower posts and they support the purlin plate, which runs the length of the barn and supports the rafters. It is too bad this book is not in color because the sunlight gives a golden glow to the bales and wooden frame of the barn.

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G. Edward and Myrna Glass's log cabin, 8630 Oldtown Road, Celina, is probably the best known log building in the area, as it is visited by hundreds of school children, as well as many adults, annually. The log cabin was built in Noble Township, Auglaize County, northwest of Saint Marys, just west of the intersection of Lampert and Glynnwood Roads, about 1840. Legend has it that it was either built by two Indians or that the ground was bought directly from the Indians. It is of unusual construction in that the logs were not notched on the corners, but they were cut square. The log building was covered with wood siding for years; this contributed to the preservation of the logs. Apparently the original owners were Alonzo and Sarah Yaeger until 1882. About 1885, extensive remodeling was done, in that a kitchen, pantry, and another porch were added, and the outside was covered with wood siding. The spring of 1969, Ed Glass dismantled the log building, and moved to their farm at 8630 Oldtown Road, where it was rebuilt and restored. Ed and Myrna have been local historians and have given tours to all their visitors each year.

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This photograph shows the construction of the large barn on Dr. Robert E. Riley's farm, 2015 State Route 703 East of Celina. Robert Riley's son, Joel K. Riley, 4145 Arlington Drive, Royal Oak, MI 48073, wrote that he remembers being with his father, when he took this photograph in 1915. (Photograph from Joel K. Riley)



This is a 1992 photograph of the same barn, which Robert Riley built in 1915, at 2015 State Route 703 East.



Paul Bonvillian's barn, 4105 State Route 703, Celina, was built in 1910. This barn is an English barn, with the main double doors centered on the front, and trimmed with white arches. The red barn also has a white triangle painted in the gable peak. It appears as if a new foundation has been added to the barn. Other than the addition to the back of the barn, the barn probably looks much as it did when it was built; it still has straight lines. If it were not for the night light and the van, one might not be able to date when this photograph was taken. In the past, the barn was used for animals and farm equipment; today it is used for storage.



The "North Shore Stock Farm" of Dr. Robert E. Riley, 2015 State Route 703 East, was noted for registered Holstein and Guernsey Cattle. This barn was the centerpiece of the farm. The barn had stanchions for dairy cattle, as well as the large area for hay storage. (photograph from Joel K. Riley)





Another wonderful barn stands on the west side of Staeger Road, just north of Route 29, east of Celina. Linus Braun bought it January 21, 1972, from the heirs of Frank Staeger. This view of the west side shows the bank leading to the main doors; Linus had the barn resided with metal siding.

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The hand hewn log supporting beams can be seen beneath the main floor. The block which Linus Braun put to the side is visible. Note the inclined log support. The beams on the bottom floor are from ten to twenty inches wide and eight inches thick.

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This view of the east side of Linus Braun's bank barn on Staeger Road, shows the overhang, called a cantilevered forebay. (Some call this type barn a Sweitzer barn.) The sheltered side, with the protective overhang, "on the lee side of the winter" gave protection to the animals. When Linus Braun bought the barn, he raised the barn and put footers and laid block eight feet high under the main floor. The bottom floor on the inside, is still laid on stone. The back double doors used for threshing are visible on the main floor.

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A wooden door leads to a wooden stairway which leads to the main floor. Note the inclined log support, as well as the vertical and horizontal log supports, in Linus Braun's bank barn. The bottom floor had horse stalls and cow stalls.

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Linus Braun's bank barn on Staeger Road has all hand hewn timbers. The main floor still has a wooden threshing floor; threshing doors are to the front and back. The posts and beams on the main floor and mow are eight inches by eight inches. The framing of the barn is unique. Note, the vertical posts support the main cross beams, which is all one log. Right where the post joins the cross beam, an inclined purlin support goes diagonally to the purlin, which runs the length of the barn and supports the rafters. Not a lot of Mercer County barns have inclined purlin supports, and not many purlin supports are based immediately above the vertical posts. Linus takes pride in preserving this historic barn.



Just the kind of barn that artists love, a weathered barn standing alone in a field. This beautiful old barn stands on the east side of Dibble Road. The green round roof, sometimes called a gothic or rainbow roof, has a slight overjet, called a skijump. Red doors are to the right of center. An addition has been made to the back of this big barn, which belongs to Olan Stoner, 6681 Oregon Road, Celina.



Linus Braun, 7232 Staeger Road, Celina, (just north of the bank barn with the cantilevered forebay) bought this place in 1964. Gus Jackson built this barn in wartime in the forties. This barn must not have been struck by lightning because all five lightning rods have their glass globes intact. Trees in front of the house have been struck several times; one time a tree was struck and bark flew across the barnyard and Linus was on the tractor in the barnyard, and was not hit. This barn with its round roof, was built for cattle and hay. Gus Jackson had milk cattle. Linus Braun uses the barn for hay and storage.



Registered Black Angus are standing in front of the barn located on Dibble Road, at the corner of Oldtown. This barn was on the farm, when Don Harris' father bought it in 1948. The barn was built about 1900, by the Dibble Family. The barn has been used for general farming, and is owned by Don Harris, 7681 Harris Road, Celina.



Wilfred Albers' barn, 7332 Riley Road, is a dairy barn. It has a gambrel roof, to allow for more storage room in the mow. A small six paned window is in the peak of the end wall. Beneath it is a sliding door for entry to the mow. A series of sliding doors provide entry to the barn at the ground level. The autumn sunlight is casting shadows across the barnyard. (Photograph by Matt Kuhlhorst Boy Scout Team)



This old photograph shows the barn at 7431 Four Turkey Road, which Edson Miller built in 1897 and today is owned by Pauline M. Miesse. On the barn is written E.B. Miller, 1897. From left to right, is standing Edna Miller Figley; Susie Holdren Miller, an Aunt; Stanley; Paul; and Harold; Edson Miller to the right.



Edson B. Miller built this barn at 7431 Four Turkey Road, Celina in 1897. The barn has been used for stables for horses, other livestock, and hay and straw. Four lightning rods stand across the roof ridge. In the double doors to the front, there is a smaller door cut into the one door; this door within a door is known as a guichet. Today, the barn is used for storage of tools and equipment, and belongs to Pauline M. Miesse, 906 Windsor Circle, Celina.



On the back of this photograph is written: "Home farm, 1890, Uncle Zura and Aunt Elsie Riley, and Lena being held by Uncle Zura." The windmill is standing to the side of the barn. This barn stood on Riley Road, between Rte., 29 and Oldtown Road, which was the J.Z. Riley and Lena Riley Farm, that David Riley now owns.



This barn may have been the Riley Homestead on what is now State Route 703 and Riley Road intersection.

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C.E. Riley or J.Z. Riley built this barn at 7239 Riley Road, Celina, in the early 1900's. The main barn has the round roof, with two ventilators on top, and has an addition to the back, with a gable roof and triangular hay hood. This barn was used for dairy and hay storage. The smaller barn in back of it, has J Z RILEY in the slate of the gambrel roof. The windpump (windmill) can be seen standing next to the house. The home and the other out buildings complete the rural landscape. Today the place belongs to David Riley.

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### MERCER COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

Each Ohio County has three Commissioners who are elected by the voters of the county. One Commissioner is elected the same year as the Governor, and the other two Commissioners are elected the same year as the President.

On the second Monday of January of each year, the Board meets and selects one of its members to be the Chairman of the Board; a Vice Chairman is also selected at this time. The Board appoints a Clerk. A two thirds vote is required for the passage of all resolutions and in some cases a unanimous vote is needed. All official business is recorded by resolution in the Commissioners' Journal by the Clerk.

The Commissioners are responsible for appropriations, all county tax dollars; having the responsibility of establishing the budget in July and appropriating the necessary funds for the operation of the various departments of county government.

It is also the duty of the Commissioners to oversee public works projects and hold public hearings for the improvement of same. The Commissioners in cooperation with the Engineer decide on which bridges should be repaired or replaced, also which roads should be repaired and resurfaced. The Board supervises the operation and maintenance of all county buildings including the Court House, Jail, County Home, Fairground buildings, Highway Garage, 4-H Buildings, Administration Building, Sheriff's Office, Cheryl Ann School facilities, and Otis Building. The Board works with the various elected officials, Boards, Agency's and Authorities in the management of the facilities.

The Board of County Commissioners shall advertise and secure bids for all materials and equipment in excess of Ten Thousand Dollars. The Board also enters into all contracts for the County. The Board is governed in its action by the Ohio Revised Code of the State of Ohio. In matters which need legal interpretation the Board relies on the Prosecuting Attorney for opinions. The Board also is involved in the Planning and Zoning for the County, and cooperates with the Soil and Water Conservation group for the preservation of natural resources in the county.



**Herb Muhlenkamp**



**Ron Puthoff**



**Jerry Laffin**



#### AUDITOR

Roger A. Schwieterman is Mercer County Auditor.

Roger A. Schwieterman is a life long resident of Mercer County. He is currently serving in his fourth term as County Auditor. He graduated from St. John's High School in Maria Stein, Ohio, in 1947.

Roger's first wife, Dorothy, died in March of 1974. They had five children. In August of 1975, he married Delores Mescher Quinter; she had 2 children. Roger and Delores live in Maria Stein, Ohio. Their seven children and seventeen grandchildren all live within 15 miles of Maria Stein.

Roger was born September 7, 1929. He prepared himself well for political office. He has worked at New Idea Plant in Coldwater. He worked as a meat cutter in Coldwater, New Bremen, and Minster. In Minster, he managed the Cold Storage Plant for the Local Co-op. In 1960 he and his brother-in-law purchased the Korner Kafe Restaurant and Bar in Maria Stein, Ohio. In 1963 he purchased the business outright and continued to operate it until 1978. In 1979 he started his life in the Auditor's Office.

He is a member of the Coldwater Eagles Lodge, St. John the Baptist Church in Maria Stein, Maria Stein Knights of St. John, and the Celina Knights of Columbus. He is also a member of the Mercer County Township Trus-

tees Association. He presently serves on the State of Ohio Legislative Commission for the County Auditor's Association. He is Past Chairman of the Northwest District Auditor's Association of Ohio. He is also Past Chairman of the Mercer County Democratic Party and still serves on the Executive Board.

Roger has a staff of nine full-time employees and 1 part-time employee in the Auditor's Office. He became Auditor of Mercer County in 1981, filling out the term of Tom Timmerman who resigned for health reasons.

The valuation of Mercer County in 1981 was \$1,002,092,428. The 1993 valuation is \$1,237,092,428 or an increase of almost a quarter of a billion dollars.

In 1983 he started to computerize all of the functions of the Auditor's Office. Today most of all the offices in Mercer County are on the County Computer.

He is a member of the County Data Processing Board, Sealer of Weights and Measures, Budget Commission and the Board of Revision and Records Commission.

Roger has a firm belief that if you do something as an elected official, you should always ask the question; is this a benefit to the taxpayer? If you can answer this question with a positive answer, then continue the project.

He also believes that all citizens sometime in their life should serve the public as an elected official or employee of the government; then everyone would understand better how government functions.



#### PROSECUTING ATTORNEY

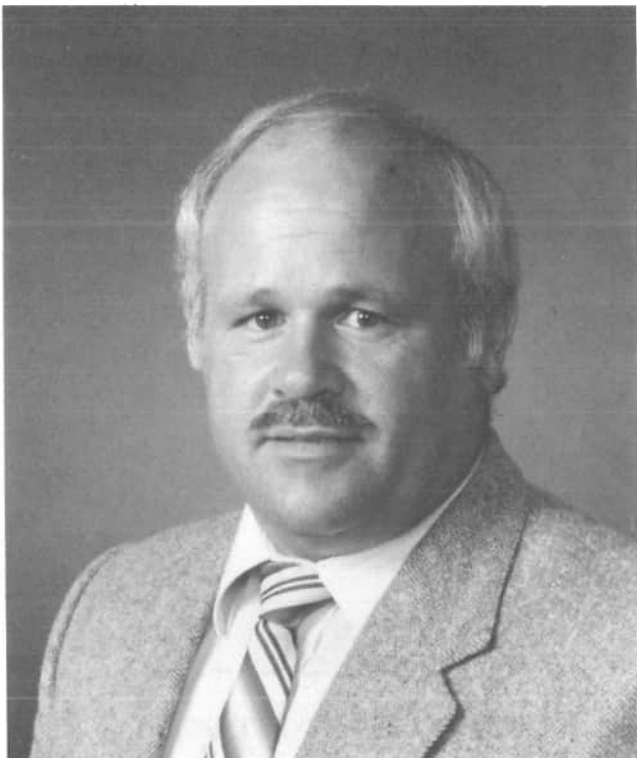
Paul E. Howell is Mercer County Prosecuting Attorney as of 1993, at Room 102 in the Mercer County Courthouse, Celina.

The powers and duties of the prosecuting attorney are listed in the Ohio Revised Code. Under Code 309.08, the prosecuting attorney

may inquire into the commission of crimes within the county. The prosecuting attorney shall prosecute, on behalf of the state, all complaints, suits, and controversies in which the state is a party, except for those required to be prosecuted by a special prosecutor. In every case of conviction, the prosecuting attorney forthwith shall cause execution to be issued for the fine and costs, and he shall urge the collection.

Under Ohio Revised Code 309.09, the prosecuting attorney shall be the legal adviser of the board of county commissioners, board of elections, and all other county officers, and boards, including all tax supported public libraries. Such prosecuting attorney shall be the legal adviser for all township officers, unless the township has adopted the limited self government form of township government.

Paul E. Howell began his law practice in 1985 when he established an office in St. Henry. In 1987, he established his own firm at 420 South First Street, in Coldwater where he engaged in private practice. He was elected to the office of Prosecuting Attorney in 1992 and began serving in this position in January 1993. He resides in Coldwater with his wife, Joyce, who is a teacher at St. Henry Middle School and their children Matt (6), Dean (5), and Paula (3).



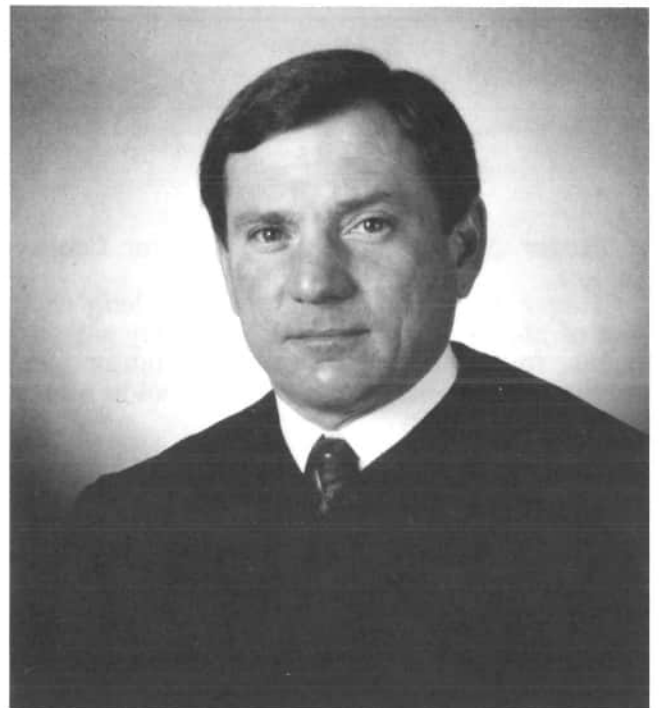
**TREASURER**

Robert C. King is Mercer County Treasurer. In county finance, responsibility for financial decision making is divided between the

auditor and the treasurer. The county treasurer is the cash manager for the county, functioning in a manner similar to a banker. As cash manager, the treasurer collects all cash received by the county. The treasurer is also the chief investment officer for the county, with a goal of maximizing returns using eligible investments that are required by law.

A primary duty of the county treasurer is the role of tax collector. In the cases where taxpayers have difficulty paying their taxes there are payment plans available for taxpayers having financial difficulty. In some counties, at the option of the treasurer, a pre-payment plan may be established.

The county treasurer also performs several miscellaneous duties. The bonds of several county officials must be filed with the county treasurer. The treasurer also sits on various boards including the County Budget Commission, the County Board of Revision, the Investment Advisory Board and the automatic Data Processing Board.



**COMMON PLEAS COURT**

The Common Pleas Court is a court of general jurisdiction, presiding over criminal felony cases which are serious crimes for which one may be sentenced to a state penal institution; domestic relations matters including divorces, dissolutions, and annulments, some of which cases involved the issues of custody, visitation, child support, division of property and debts, and spousal support; general civil cases, including contract disputes, personal injury and prop-

erty damage claims, professional malpractice actions, debt collection cases, real estate foreclosures, property line disputes, etc.; equity matters wherein one party seeks an injunction to restrain another from improper activities. The Court also hears appeals from administrative agencies such as the Bureaus of Workers' Compensation and Employment Services, and public bodies such as Boards of Education and Civil Service Commissions. The judge has ancillary duties which include making appointments to the Veterans Service Commission, the Board of Hospital Governors for the Joint Township District Hospital Board, County District Library Board, and Courthouse-Jail Committee, among other public bodies.

The following have served as judges of the Mercer County Common Pleas Court:

Henry A. Miller (1914-1938)

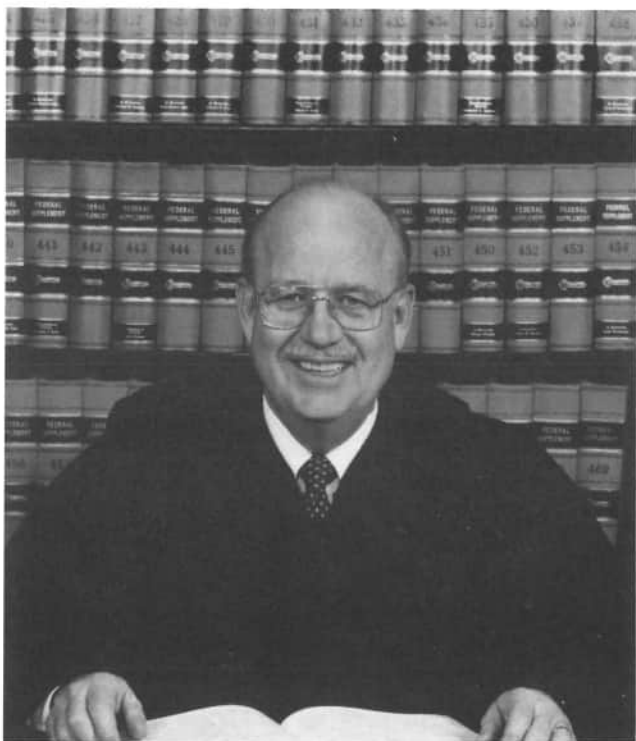
Raymond A. Younger (1939-1947)

Paul P. Dull (1947-1974)

Dean James (1975-1990)

Jeffrey R. Ingraham (1991-present)

The present staff includes: J. Michael Bernstein, Referee; Joyce C. Bowers, Official Court Reporter; Anita D. Huber, Secretary-Financial Administrator; Cecelia E. Knouff, Secretary-Assignment Commissioner; Bob L. Meihls, Bailiff-Chief Probation Officer, and Frederick G. Tyo, Assistant Bailiff-Adult Probation Officer.



### PROBATE JUVENILE COURT

As the name suggests the Probate-Juvenile Court has a broad dual role in the local judicial system.

The Probate Division is primarily concerned with the administration of estates. This process, which is the supervision of the transfer of probate assets, involves the appointment of an executor or administrator who collects the assets, has them appraised, pays any outstanding debts and taxes and then transfers or distributes the remaining assets to those entitled to receive them. In addition, the Court has many other duties which relate to trusts, guardianships and conservatorships, commitments of the mentally ill, adoptions, name changes, marriage licenses, legitimation and child support, and other miscellaneous responsibilities.

The purpose of the Juvenile Division is to provide for the care, protection and mental and physical development of children, and to remove the taint of criminality from delinquent children by substituting a program of supervision, care and rehabilitation. Thus, the Court has jurisdiction over any person under the age of eighteen years who commits a criminal act or is unruly or is a child who is abused, neglected or dependent. The Court also hears all cases involving juvenile traffic offenses and cases where adults are charged with contributing to the delinquency of a juvenile.

The present judge of the Probate-Juvenile Court is the Honorable Mark V. Klosterman. Judge Klosterman is a native of Celina and graduated with honors from the University of Detroit with a degree in Civil Engineering. Thereafter, he served as a naval officer during the Korean conflict serving with the Seabees in the Philippines and on the Staff of the Chief of Naval Air Training. After completing his service he received his Juris Doctor degree from the University of Michigan and was a practicing attorney in Celina for twenty-five years. He has been active in various civic, professional and youth organizations and served as an acting judge in the Celina Municipal Court. He was elected as Probate-Juvenile Judge in 1985 and is presently serving his second term. He and his wife Diane have four children and reside at Harbor Point Drive in Celina.



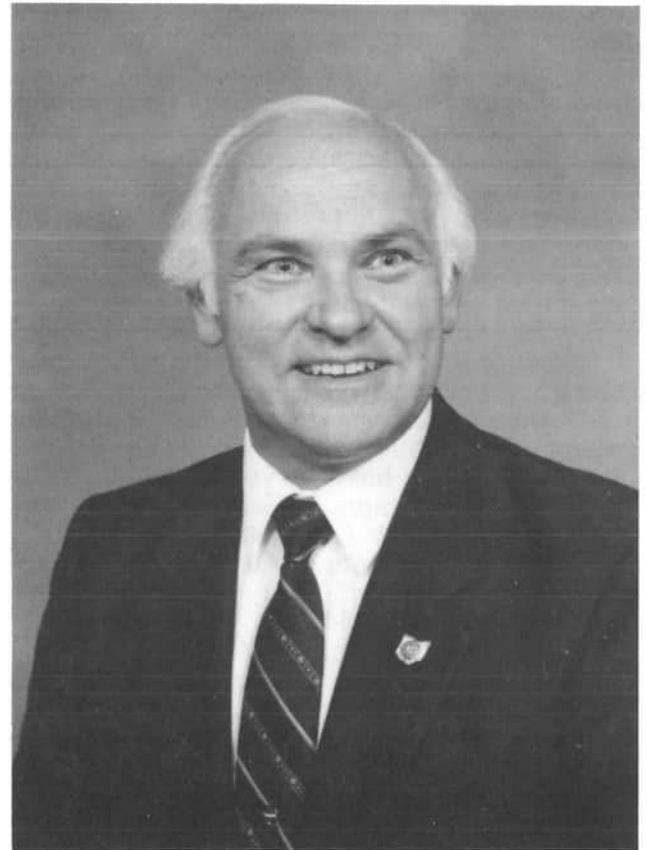


#### RECORDER

Patricia E. Grote, better known as Pat, was elected to the office of County Recorder in 1984 and took office in January 1985, and at the present time, is entering her third term.

She was married to William H. Grote until his death in 1971. They had one son Mark that is currently a professor at Loyola University in New Orleans. Mark and his wife have blessed Pat with two grandsons and one granddaughter. Pat is active in many social and civic organizations, but the one that gives the most pleasure is buying and distributing convalescence equipment for the Celina American Legion Auxiliary. Her hobbies consist of gardening, cooking and collecting cookbooks.

The Mercer County Recorder's Office is in charge of all real estate permanent records. One of the most important accomplishments has been transcribing hand written abstracts to typed loose leaf for legibility with the credit for the work completed going to the staff of the Recorder's Office. The Recorder's Office is in charge of microfilming for the county offices, including microfiche and security filming. The 1993 Staff includes Virginia A. Clott, Chief Deputy Recorder; Deborah J. Smalley, microfilm clerk; Diana M. Hellwarth, full time Deputy Recorder; Angela M. Prenger, Part time Deputy Recorder; and Marianne Boggs as a Part time Recorder.



#### CLERK OF COURTS

In November of 1976, Lieutenant Jim Highley was in his eighth year as a Mercer County Deputy Sheriff when he was elected as Mercer County Clerk of Courts.

In his first year as Clerk, Jim began keeping his Motor Vehicle Title Division open until 7:00 p.m. on Monday nights as a convenience for the public. This was well accepted, and still remains in effect to this day.

Over the years, he has improved the filing methods, as well as modernizing the equipment used by his staff. The office now has electronic calculators, electronic typewriters and just recently he computerized the Motor Vehicle Title Division. The Title Division moved from the first floor of the Court House to 318 Portland Street in Celina in May 1992.

The duties of the Clerk of Courts are scattered throughout hundreds of sections of the Ohio Revised Code, creating a constant demand to make certain that the requirements of the laws are met. As the laws have continually changed, the office of the Clerk of Courts has become much more complex.

Now in his fifth term of office, Jim is planning the computerization of his legal division on the third floor of the Court House.



Keith G. Earley, P.E., P.S.

**KEITH G. EARLEY**

**Mercer County Engineer**

(from 1983 to present February 1993)

Keith G. Earley, a graduate civil engineer from Ohio State University is a registered professional engineer and surveyor. Keith and his wife Ruby reside in Celina with their daughter, Rebecca (14), and son, Douglas (12). Their oldest son, Randall (23), now lives and works near Dayton. Keith is originally from Mt. Gilead, Ohio, where his father, Justin, was Morrow County Engineer from 1961 to 1989. Prior to moving to Celina, Keith was employed as a design engineer in Mt. Gilead, Ohio, then Marion, Ohio, and most recently, West Lake Village, California. Keith presently serves as second vice president of the County Engineers Association of Ohio and is chairman of the Technology Transfer Committee.

The Mercer County Engineer's staff currently consists of seven employees in the office and twenty-two at the garage. The department maintains 393 miles of county roads, 447 bridges, 587 large culverts, 103 miles of county maintained drainage ditches and performs maintenance on the 443 miles of township roads when requested by the Township Trustees. The entire 836 mile network, except for a few un-

used sections, has asphalt concrete or bituminous treated surfaces, most of which are 17 or 18 feet wide. A few of the major county roads are 20 or 22 feet wide.

Most of the roads were originally built in the nineteenth century. This must have been a monumental task, especially when considering the equipment that was used. The cooperation between the county and the townships, and the commitment of the employees over the years, has provided one of the better networks in the state. This network is quite important to a county such as Mercer, which is a leading agricultural producer. Meeting the needs of the twenty-first century will also be quite a challenge. Roads and bridges will need to be stronger and wider to handle today's large heavy vehicles. Good signing and striping, along with effective snow and ice control, are also necessary for safe travel at today's higher speeds. Wider pavements and shoulders would provide additional safety.

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The Palmer Road Bridge over the St. Marys River is a CamelBack Pratt Truss built in 1896 probably by the Oregonia Bridge Company of Oregonia, Ohio. The short half hip pratt truss on the south end was added later, circa 1912.

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The Wabash Road Bridge over the Wabash River is a full Pratt Truss built in 1886 by the Buckeye Bridge Company of Cleveland, Ohio. This style was prevalent during this period. Surviving bridges are still frequent.



The Celina Mendon Road Bridge over Twelve Mile Creek is a Sloping Top Chord Warren Truss built in 1955 by the Ohio Bridge Co. of Cambridge, Ohio. This early example of a modern style is still an occasional new bridge design at the local level.



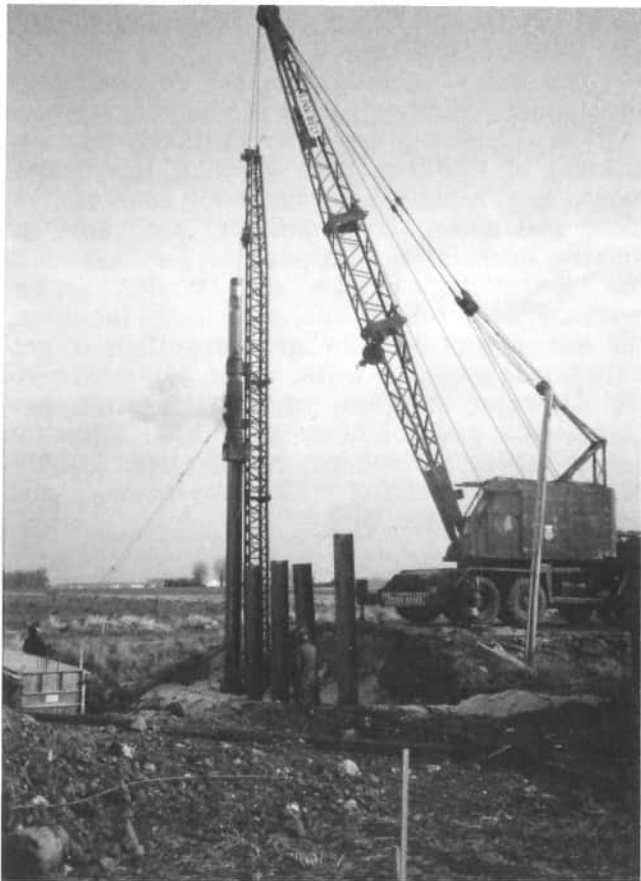
The Gallman Road Bridge over the St. Marys River is a Double Intersection Pratt (Whipple) Truss built in 1887 by the Columbia Bridge Works of Dayton, Ohio. This bridge was constructed of wrought iron and is 153 feet long. The decorative portal is meant to resemble spider webs. This bridge is currently a selected bridge on the Historical Register.



New Prestressed Concrete Bridge on Neptune-Mendon Road. One of 91 built in the past 9 years.



Mercer County Road Crew at work doing spot paving.



Mercer County Bridge Crew driving piling for abutments of a new bridge.

A Director and Deputy Director are chosen much in the same way. The law states that both political parties must be represented. The Secretary of State is the chief election official.

Anything pertaining to the election process must come through this office. All registrations are maintained in the Board office. All elected officials, for Mercer County, must file within this office, to be certified to run for public office.

Programs to create voter participation is a project we look forward to creating in our county.

The office is maintained by Director and Deputy Director who are Nell Franklin and Edgar Bollenbacher, at the time of this writing, in 1993. For presidential elections, extra people must be hired to keep the process running smoothly.

We must never lose our right to vote if we want to keep our freedom of speech.



#### VETERANS SERVICE OFFICE

County Veterans Service Offices, formerly called soldiers relief, are state-mandated, county-funded offices. Ohio law was enacted on May 19, 1886 to set aside county tax money for this purpose. The Mercer County Veterans Service Office Records date back to 1926.

In 1972, the office was established in room 200 of the courthouse. The primary function of the office is to provide assistance to veterans, widows of veterans, and veterans' dependents in obtaining any benefits available at a local, state or federal level.

The Mercer County Veterans Service Office employs a Service Officer, Administrative Assistant, and Driver/Clerk. Carol Heyne, Administrative Assistant, has been employed by the office 11 years. Gene Powell, Driver/Clerk, has been with the office three years. Tom Risch, Service Officer, has been employed five years.



#### BOARD OF ELECTION

The Office of the Board of Election is located in the Mercer County Court House. The office is opened the same hours as other county officers in the Court House, extra hours are observed before any election.

The Election Board consists of four members, two Democrats and two Republicans, which are chosen by their respective political parties to serve for terms of four years each.

Risch, a Vietnam veteran, has served as treasurer and vice president of the Ohio State Association of County Veterans Service Officers and has been nominated for President for 1993-94.

All of Ohio's 88 counties have veterans service offices ranging in size from two office staff to over 40, depending on veteran population. Ohio Law is currently being re-written in regards to operation of these offices, hopefully providing even more complete service for Ohio's Veterans.



MERCER COUNTY ADMINISTRATION BUILDING, 311 South Main, Celina, Ohio.

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#### MERCER COUNTY — CELINA CITY HEALTH DEPARTMENT

Early records indicate that the Mercer County Health Department was established in 1920. Board members included: L. D. Brumm, B.A. Myers, P. W. Fishbauch, Seth Spriggs, and William Slemmer. The first Health Commissioner was Dr. Frank Ayres. Dr. Ayres was also appointed sanitary inspector. The first Public Health Nurse hired was Edna Day Loree. Concerns of the Board of Health included rabies, sanitary conditions, disease, and registration of vital statistics. In the mid-1920's, the Health Department became involved with public health in the county schools.

In 1952, the Mercer County-Celina City Health District was formed. Today's staff includes a Registered Sanitarian for environmental programs, 2 Public Health Nurses, a Local Registrar, and a clerk. Current County Health Commissioner is Dr. Philip R. Masser of Celina. Board members representing the county include President Ted Bertke, Vice President H.

Steve Franke, Lu Ann Sigler, Diane Lefeld, and Dr. Edward Hosbach.

The following programs are conducted by the agency: administration of vaccines for contagious diseases, home visitations for the Bureau of Children with Medical Handicaps, school health screenings including scoliosis, vision, and audio; environmental programs involving licensing and inspections for food service operations, camps and trailer parks, marinas, swimming pools, solid waste facilities, the issuance of permits and inspections of private septic systems, water wells, bacterial testing of water samples, investigating nuisance complaints and follow-up of animal bites for rabies testing if required; registration of births and deaths occurring within the county; and public health education.



#### MERCER COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES

The Mercer County Department of Human Services, located at 311 South Main Street, Celina, is the public assistance and public Children's Services agency for Mercer County. Public assistance includes: Aid to Dependent Children (ADC), Food Stamps, Medicaid, General/Disability Assistance and General/Disability Assistance Medical Programs. These Programs, and the JOBS Program, are to assist low-income residents of Mercer County.

The JOBS (Job Opportunities and Basic Skills) program helps people receiving Public Assistance become self-sufficient through education, training and work experience. JOBS opens the doors to employment and job training by improving people's job-seeking skills, building self-confidence and providing on-the-job training. JOBS arranges for child care so that

people can learn new skills and accept employment. To ensure a successful transition from public assistance to work, recipients who qualify and who find employment may be eligible for one year of continued medical coverage and child care.

Children's Services includes: investigation of child abuse and neglect, referrals, providing foster care and adoption services. Children's Services are provided to all children and their families in Mercer County regardless of income. The Department also contracts with outside providers for homemaker services, substance abuse counseling, transportation and day care services for Mercer County residents.

Dale Borger is Director of the Department of Human Services.



**THE MERCER COUNTY  
OFFICE OF EDUCATION**

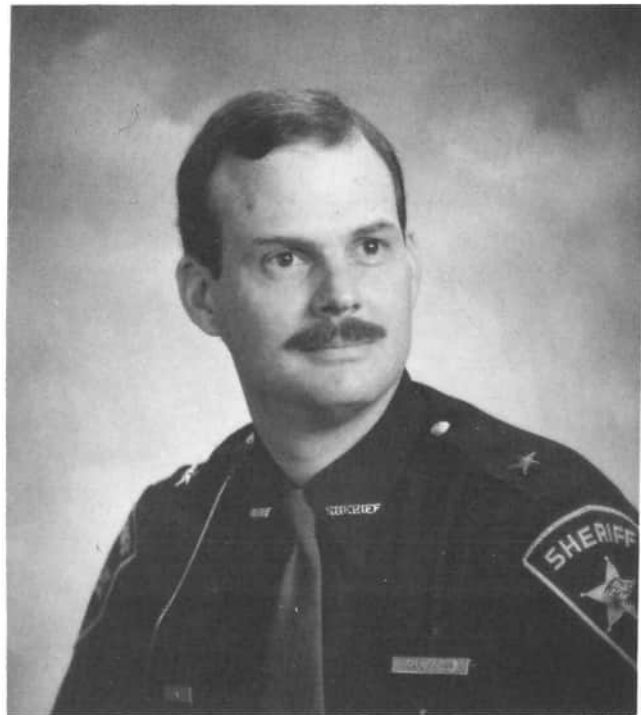
The responsibility of the Mercer County Office of Education is to ensure that the educational needs of the children in the county school system are being met. Leadership and services are provided to meet the individual and collective needs of the four local districts that comprise the County System. These services are as required by the Ohio Department of Education or the Local Boards of Education. Through cooperative or contract agreements the services provided to the local districts are also av-

ailable to area city, exempted village and MRDD Districts.

Within its role the County Office of Education is to provide services that are cost effective and responsive to the current and future social and economic trends. The County Office is dedicated to excellence in education through cooperation with its member schools. As such it assumes the necessary leadership and responsibility for monitoring the state standards for elementary and secondary education and assisting schools to continue to meet or exceed compliance levels.

Some of the activities of the County Office include: (1) providing a wide range of special education programs and services. (2) providing a variety of gifted education programs. (3) providing teacher inservice and staff development programs. (4) providing curriculum development and implementation. (5) coordinating grant applications and project implementations.

Kenneth E. Taylor is the Superintendent of Mercer County Schools.



**SHERIFF**

The Mercer County Sheriff's Office consists of men and women who have taken an oath to support the Constitution and Laws of the United States and the Constitution and Laws of the State of Ohio. We are a part of your community and need your support and confidence in fighting crime and preventing accidents.

Our Office consists of very distinct divisions working together to serve the public. The jail facility is capable of holding prisoners from any

law enforcement agency in Ohio, including Federal inmates.

Traffic crashes and criminal activity are investigated by the Patrol and Detective Division. Together with Central Dispatch, located in the jail facility, they are a vital link to your calls for service.

Our Civil Division is responsible for serving Civil and Criminal process generated from the Common Pleas Courts to the Governor's Office. This is an important duty unique to Sheriff's Offices across the State.

The two deputies in our D.A.R.E. Program service every school district in Mercer County and utilize their special skills educating our youth.

We have approximately 36 fulltime employees together with a dozen qualified Reserve officers who volunteer their time and efforts for a very special form of public service. The development of our Senior Volunteer Program has been an asset to both the deputies and the public.

An Advisory Counsel formed by Sheriff Eichar helps in developing public confidence and is a sounding board for community issues. Also being developed is a chaplaincy program to respond to the needs of our employees and citizens in special circumstances.

Through communication and education, your Sheriff's Office will make Mercer County an even better place to live.



county to acquire resources for different projects.

We are always looking to attract new businesses into the area, but a large commitment of our time goes to helping our existing businesses. Studies have shown that 80% of all new jobs come from within a community.

We have numerous programs which we utilize to assist our good businesses; either to start up or expand. One of our best tools is the County Revolving Loan Fund. With loans of over \$2,000,000 and approximately 400 new jobs created, it has been very successful. Any new or existing business can apply for a loan as long as they follow certain guidelines.

We encourage businesses and communities to take advantage of our services. If we can't help, we will find someone who can. Just call Mercer County Community Development at 586-4209. We feel very strongly about the future of the Best County in the State.



**CHERYL ANN SCHOOL**

#### Superintendent's Message

Over the years we have seen many changes in the programs of the Mercer County Board of Mental Retardation and Developmental Disabilities. Many view us merely as the Cheryl Ann School. But we are more than that. In fact, we have no students currently enrolled at Cheryl Ann between the ages of 6 and 15. The mainstreaming programs of the public school systems have enabled children of school age with mental retardation and developmental disabilities to attend school with other children their own age who do not have mental retardation or developmental disabilities.

Our services have shifted to provide for the needs of our Program participants. Our emphasis is on helping them adjust to life in the community rather than solely providing an educational service. Through our early intervention programs, our pre-school, school-age, and adult programs, we focus on meeting these needs on a daily basis.

#### COMMUNITY

#### DEVELOPMENT

DEPARTMENT OF MERCER COUNTY



"The Excitement Goes"

### COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT

Mercer County Community Development Department is totally committed to furthering the growth and prosperity of our proud County. We do this in many ways and with many different programs. We help any community in the

One significant change over the years has been in the expansion of our adult workshop, C.A. Industries. As our focus shifted, we directed our attention to providing meaningful work and preparing individuals for life in the community.

Over the years, state and national standards of excellence for services provided to persons with mental retardation and developmental disabilities have changed. And Cheryl Ann has changed as well. The Cheryl Ann School is part of the vast array of programs provided by the Mercer County Board of Mental Retardation and Developmental Disabilities. This report will introduce you to our programs. See for yourself why we say that, today . . . Cheryl Ann is More!



chased a thirty-four acre site including the old airport. The Lakefield Airport Authority was created by the Commissioners in 1962 to oversee airport operation and administration. Under Governor Rhodes' aids-to-airports legislation the airport acquired a 3800 feet x 75 feet paved lighted runway with instrument approaches. Additional land was purchased and continues to be purchased to accommodate future expansion and development.

Lakefield Airport is managed by Robert Violet. The airport is located on the southwest corner of Grand Lake and can handle most planes including heavy twins. Hangar space is available for thirty aircraft with maintenance, fuel, instruction, rental, and charter services available from Grand Lake Air, Inc. Pilot pick-up services are provided in conjunction with area restaurants, hotels, and other businesses.

The airport is an active drop zone with parachuting operations conducted by Grand Lake Skydiving. In addition to providing business and private use the airport is valuable for public events such as the Mercer County DARE Air Fair.



“VIEW OF THE MERCER COUNTY INFIRMARY, from the MERCER COUNTY ATLAS, 1900”



### LAKEFIELD AIRPORT

Lakefield Airport began in 1945 as a private turf runway 800 feet long in a twenty acre tract owned by Perry Noll. It evolved through the 1940's and 1950's, until a group of concerned citizens and area industrialists formed the Lakefield Founding Committee which pur-

### MERCER COUNTY HOME

“Over the hills to the Poor House is not a pleasing thought, yet the dread of having to live at the County Home is somewhat lessened when it is known that the Home in which all the modern improvements for the comfort of man or woman are to be found and under the charge of a kind-hearted superintendent.”

The above quote is a partial introduction taken from an “Atlas of Mercer County,” published in 1900. Since its conception in 1863, the Home has been under the care of just twelve different superintendents. Originally set up as a “poor house,” where people would work off their debts, the Home has evolved into a custodial care facility, taking care of the daily needs of those less fortunate.

The three residential buildings on the grounds were built in 1860, 1893 and the last in 1916. Over the years, these buildings have been continually upgraded to provide its 40 residents with the most modern services and facilities.



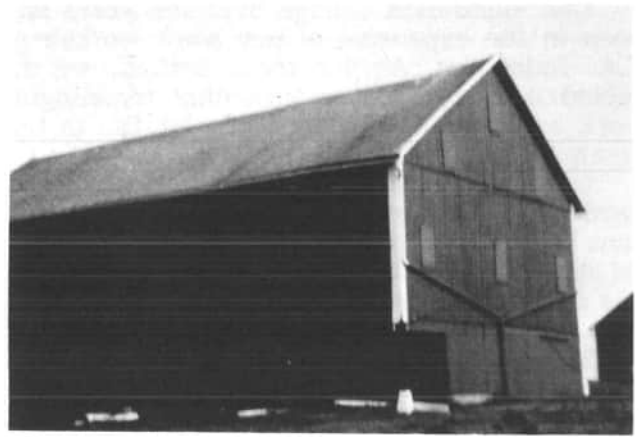
Staffed 24 hours a day and with few restrictions, the Home and its services are available to all Mercer County residents, some of whom would otherwise have no where to go.

The following is a list of Superintendents from the year 1863:

1863-1869 James Schunck  
1869-1878 C.B. Steinman  
1878-1886 Jacob Schunck  
1886-1888 E. Partner  
1888-1902 Michael Reusch  
1902-1903 Henry Nichouse  
1903-1908 Sylvester Weaver  
1908-1928 Andrew Schunck  
1928-1938 A.H. Beckstedt  
1938-1962 A.H. Moeder  
1962-1988 Joseph Moeder  
1988- Jerald Moeder

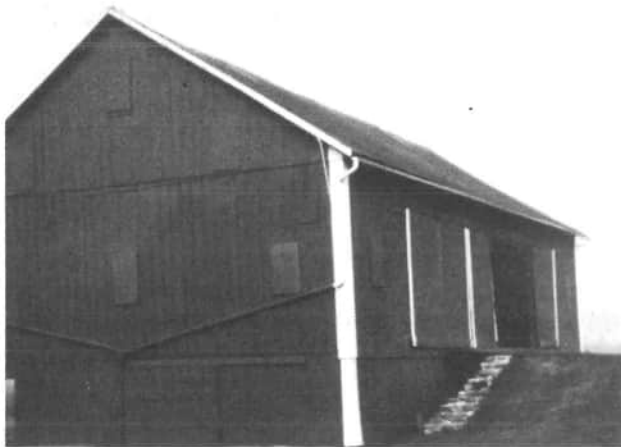
The Mercer County Home is located at 4871 State Route 29, Celina, Ohio.

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This is the back of the 1860 cattle barn. The overhang, or the forebay, can be seen. The cattle could stand under this overhang, for protection from the weather. Also, the double doors on the back of the threshing floor level, would also be opened in order to throw hay down to the cattle. Barns with the overhang, or forebay, are a rare sight in Mercer County today.

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The cattle barn, built around 1860, at the County Home, had two small silos at both ends of the barn. This view of the barn shows the bank leading up to the bridge, into the main threshing floor. This is the same barn, seen on the left side of the 1900 photograph. Note the six louvered windows in the 1900 photograph, are closed in the later view.

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This barn was constructed about 1890 at the County Home, east of the other big barn. This barn was used both as a horse and cattle barn. The top two thirds is used as a hay mow. A corn crib is on the north end of this barn.

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### MERCER COUNTY SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT

The Mercer County Soil and Water Conservation District is located at 717 West Logan Street, Celina.

On September 28, 1944, the Ohio Soil Conservation Committee legally established the Mercer County District. Five Supervisors were elected. The present board consists of Sam Hellwarth, Jr.; Jonny Dicke; Othmar Fullenkamp; Ed Evers and Leroy Johnsman. Mercer District is known as one of the top two producing counties in income from agricultural receipts in Ohio. The District has administered a manure nutrient program to its cooperators, and implemented a watershed treatment project involving a part of the Grand Lake St. Marys.

The District also is involved in another pilot project which also involves the Beaver Creek. Both projects have proven to be very effective in solving many problems such as gully erosion control, sheet erosion and animal waste.

The District maintains a No-Till Planter and encourages the use of No-Till and other conservation tillage practices. Surface drainage and erosion control are still the main agricultural problems.

On-going youth education programs, RC & D measures, forestry workshops, farm tours, and the installation of best management practices ensure a continuing program with local support.



### MERCER COUNTY OFFICE OF LITTER PREVENTION & RECYCLING Janet Gels, Program Administrator 301 Riley Street Celina, Ohio 45822

In 1980, the Ohio General Assembly made a commitment to the citizens of Ohio for a cleaner environment by establishing a Litter Prevention & Recycling Program within the Department of Natural Resources. The funds were generated from a corporate franchise tax, taxing corporations which manufacture and produce litter stream products.

Realizing that grant funds were available for litter collection as well as litter and recycling education/awareness, the County Commissioners applied for the funding in 1986.

The first Grant was awarded in 1987. Thus, the Mercer County Office of Litter Prevention & Recycling Program became a reality. The office is located at 301 Riley St. in Celina.

According to the Program Administrator, Janet Gels, "the purpose of the Program is to educate the public about the county's trash problems, to promote recycling efforts and to organize clean up efforts."

Specializing in classroom education, Janet, commonly referred to as the 'Litter Lady', conducts countless environmental programs for students in all grade levels. She also promotes various activities that offer the young people a

chance to express themselves, such as an Environmental Science Fair, Poster and Essay contest, and a Creative Art Contest.

Janet also conveys her message to church, civic and social organizations. Being the spokesperson for the recycling activities taking place throughout the county, she expresses the statement that we must Reduce, Reuse and Recycle. We are all caretakers of this land; therefore, we must be a part of the solution, not a part of the problem.

During the summer months, the Program conducts a 12 week litter collection, utilizing a crew consisting of student JTPA workers and juvenile court offenders.

The Mercer County Program is an affiliate of the Keep America Beautiful Program, a national, nonprofit, public education organization dedicated to improving waste handling practices in American communities.



#### **MERCER COUNTY EMERGENCY PLANNING COMMITTEE**

The Local Emergency Planning Committee (LEPC) was established in 1988, under SARA Title III, the Superfund Amended Reauthoriza-

tion Act. Title III is Community Right-to-Know program.

It is a mandate of Federal and State, and the positions on it are established by law to be members of the community from specific sectors.

A planning district as per the Ohio Revised Code shall be no smaller than the geographic borders of a county.

The Mercer County LEPC has County Board Status, and usually meets quarterly. It has required positions within its structure. A Chairman, Response Coordinator, Information Coordinator, and a Secretary. The committee is also required to maintain an Emergency Release number, 586-6455, at a 24 hour answering point.

The primary functions of the program are to provide an annual reporting process for chemicals in the community. The process includes developing a procedure for protecting and informing the community of such chemicals and hazards.

The committee is also required to submit a complete response plan annually to include a hazard analysis for the community and 13 requirements also defined in 3750.04 of the Ohio Revised Code. The local committee is required to develop a training program.

Funding for the LEPC and the local hazardous material program is supported through fees paid annually by industry. The cost of local hazardous material training is also partially supported by this fee process. Local industry has also donated funds to support a containment program within Mercer County.

The committee is required to conduct an annual exercise within the district. The plan and exercise are both evaluated for the State Emergency Response Commission in Columbus, Ohio.

The LEPC is currently working on an enforcement and compliance program to include a revised cost recovery program.

The committee, through meeting quarterly, functions through sub-committees such as Training, Exercise, Containment, and Finance. An executive committee is established with the committee. These committees are responsible for a large portion of the projects. A truck and trailer for Containment, safety, and decontamination were developed with the cooperation of the Emergency Management Agency, Celina Fire Department and the L.E.P.C. This program includes booms, pads and other equipment, such as personal protection. The L.E.P.C. also maintains a computer system which can generate a RIDS (Response Information Data Sheet). This information provides, in detail, factors relating to the chemical. This information is used in planning and response.

All information on reporting, planning, training and related information is maintained in the Mercer County Emergency Management

Agency in the Mercer County Courthouse. You may call 586-6468 for additional information, or stop in during the hours of 8:30 to 12:00 A.M., or 1:00 to 4:00 P.M., Monday thru Friday.

Jerry Laffin  
Commissioner  
LEPC Chairman

Karl Kaiser  
Information Coordinator  
Response Coordinator

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### MERCER COUNTY EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT AGENCY

This agency is a requirement of all political subdivisions in Ohio under 5915. of the Ohio Revised Code. Mercer County is structured under 5915.06, which establishes a County-Wide Agreement for Emergency Management of which all political subdivisions are members.

Emergency Management works in four basic phases:

Mitigation; looking at or identifying the problem, and possibly trying to remove it.

Planning; using an all hazard approach, to plan for the response and recovery in the event an incident occurs.

Response; includes the actual response to an incident, which also requires the coordination of resources and securing State and Federal dollars and physical assistance.

Recovery; Emergency Management has a goal to get the population back to a normal routine as soon as possible.

The Mercer County Emergency Management Agency is an active participant in most emergency planning in and for Mercer County. Under legislation, we are required an E.O.P., (Emergency Operations Plan), which has to be updated every four years. It includes a basic plan and response specific Annexes. These plans include a Resource Management Plan. Other plans and S.O.P.'s, (Standard Operating Procedures), are in place to support response to plans.

Emergency Management is also responsible for Public Awareness, Warning and Notification, Back Up Communications, and Public Information. An E.O.C., (Emergency Operations Center), is maintained in the Courthouse Basement. A back up communications system is also located in the Emergency Management Agency Office, also located in the Courthouse Basement.

The local agency has been very active in a weather information program for the public. The primary goal is to provide information on location, intensity, and time of arrival of the storm. This is incorporated into an Emergency Notification System, which includes a paging system in every school building, nursing home,

and some industry in Mercer County. The County also maintains a Radar Remote.

The Agency is supported by local volunteer groups, such as 2-Meter Radio, 4 x 4 Vehicles, and Snowmobile Groups. The Mercer County Disaster Services Volunteers play an active role in weather spotting and general agency and community support.

The agency is located in Room B-1 of the Mercer County Courthouse. The phone number is 586-6468. Visitors are welcome, and the agency is willing to work with all on community and/or individual preparedness.

Karl H. Kaiser,  
Director



E. Joseph Beiler



Harvey Stanfield

### MERCER COUNTY EXTENSION

Ohio State University Extension is the new name of the old Ohio Cooperative Extension Service as of January 1, 1993. Mercer County Extension is part of an outreach educational program from The Ohio State University. The local staff provides educational opportunities for the community through a wide variety of ways and to anyone who chooses to take part or become involved. Information presented is based on modern research and experiences obtained from others within individual areas of expertise.

As part of Ohio State University Extension, our mission is to help people improve their lives through an educational process using scientific knowledge focused on identified issues and needs. The local staff will be striving to address the issues and needs of this community with the support of federal, state, and local government.

The staff members responsible for Mercer County Extension are Ruth Anne Foote, Home Economics Agent; Barbara Phares, 4-H Agent; Norma "Skeet" Wolters, 4-H Program Assistant; Joe Beiler, Agriculture/Community Resource Development Agent; and Harvey R. Stanfield, Agriculture/Natural Resources

Agent. Three other very important individuals are the secretarial staff of Peg Wiehe, Jan Garwick, and Suzanne Evers. To know more about the opportunities the local office has to offer, call 419/586-2179. The Office is located at 321 Riley Street, Celina.



**Ruth Anne Foote**



**Barbara Phares**



#### **MERCER COUNTY FAIR**

The Mercer County Fair was first held in the 1850's and has been an annual event with the exception of the year of the polio epidemic. The early Fairs were held on the southeast part of Celina, in Mercelina Park, near Grand Lake. The present West Market Street location is owned by the county. The fair is governed by Ohio Department of Agriculture, and is managed by a board of directors, elected for a three year term, six being elected yearly. Three at-large, and one director from each township, meet monthly. Present directors & officers are: Jerry Heiby, President, Darrel Laffin, Vice-President, Barbara Thees, Secretary, Rex Pierce, Treasurer, Gary Deitsch, James Matthews, Robert Berry, Larry Bowers, Joe Bey, James Niekamp, Gerald Bollenbacher, Ronald Boroff, Fred Schulze, Stanley Nuding, Alan Post, Bonnie Vandemark, William Kill, Richard Berkenstock, Janice A. James.

Agriculture & Livestock Exhibits, Ag-Science, 4-H Projects ranging from small animals to radio controlled vehicles, as well as flowers, grain, handcraft are all displayed to be judged and premiums awarded at the Fair.

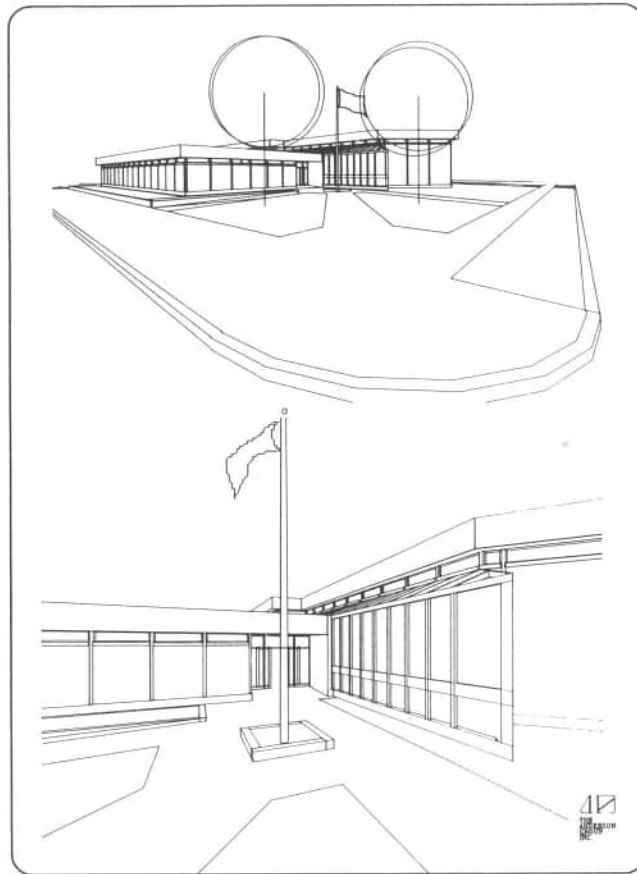


**Norma Wolters**



**A PIONEER HOME**  
**MERCER COUNTY FAIR GROUNDS**  
(Erected and owned by Mercer County Pioneer Association)

The Mercer County Pioneer Association held its first meeting at Moore's Grove at Mendon in 1882. They held their annual meetings there until they moved to Celina in 1894. In 1896, they met at the large tent on the Fairgrounds and decided to erect an old fashioned pioneer cabin on the Fairgrounds, and furnish it. This photograph of the pioneer cabin is from the 1907 HISTORY OF MERCER COUNTY BOOK.



**DWYER-MERCER COUNTY**  
**DISTRICT PUBLIC LIBRARY**

Librarian — Austin R. Schneider

The Dwyer-Mercer County District Library provides library service by operating library facilities in Celina, Mendon, St. Henry, and Chickasaw.

The Celina facility is currently undergoing an \$800,000.00 expansion to double the size of the current building from 9,000 square feet to 18,000 square feet. Plans call for the addition of a basement, extended collection space, as well as, an adult reading room and a genealogy room. Pictured is the architectural drawing of the new Celina addition scheduled to be completed early in 1994 which will house up to 150,000 volumes.

Funding was sourced from a federal grant, local fundraising, and existing funds on hand.



**MERCER COUNTY HISTORICAL MUSEUM**

The Mercer County Historical Museum, the Riley Home, 130 East Market, Celina, is owned by the Mercer County Commissioners, and administered by the Executive Board of Directors of the Mercer County Historical Society, Inc. Joyce L. Alig has served as Director of the Museum since January 1973. More information about the Mercer County Historical Museum, and the Historical Society may be found at the beginning of this book.



**Agricultural Building, Mercer County Fairgrounds, photograph taken summer of 1993.**

# Bair Pharmacy

Bair Pharmacy, 101 S. Main St., Celina is the oldest drug store in the County. Founded in 1866 by George Zay and listed in the 1888 Mercer County Atlas under "Books, Drugs, and Jewelry," the store has continuously been located at the corner of Main and Market Streets.

In 1893, Charles and Rochester "Ro" Wyckoff purchased the business from Mr. Zay, their brother-in-law, and changed the name to Wyckoff Brothers. One year later the "Great Fire" of 1894 leveled the entire block. The building was rebuilt to the present stairway on Market Street with the drugstore being the sole occupant.

Later Charles Wyckoff developed tuberculosis and moved to the West. Henry Puthoff purchased part of the business and the name became Wyckoff & Puthoff. This partnership lasted until 1907 when Ro Wyckoff purchased a dredge on the Mississippi River. The business was sold to Puthoff with the stipulation Wyckoff could buy it back if he ever wished. After a few years the dredge sank and Ro Wyckoff returned to Celina.

In 1922 a partnership was formed between Wyckoff and Robert Ross of Bowling Green. Ross had married Ro's niece, Mary Evelyn. They purchased the business from Puthoff and changed the name to Wyckoff & Ross. Ro died in November of 1941 and Ross continued the business under the same name. A partnership was formed in 1946 between Ross and Willis Bair. Bair had worked in the store during his high school days, attended Ohio Northern University and served as a pharmacist in the U.S. Navy during the World War II.

Ross sold his interest to Bair in 1948 and became Mercer County Probation Officer until health forced him to retire in 1963. The store became Bair Drug Store and Bair along with Gene Arnold, who had graduated from Ohio Northern College of Pharmacy, operated the store. Gene's brother Paul Arnold graduated from Ohio Northern in 1959 and having worked in the store since 1955 became the third pharmacist.

In October 1963 Gene Arnold bought Van Fleet's Drug Store in Rockford, Ohio and Paul remained as manager until August 24, 1973, when he purchased the business from Bair. Paul and his wife Odell operate the business retaining the name Bair Pharmacy with only a few changes such as enlarging the prescription department to keep up with the large increase in drug products as well as becoming the first computerized pharmacy in Mercer County.

Bair Pharmacy has always been involved in the training of young people going into the field. In 1974 they entered into an agreement with Ohio Northern University to be a part of their externship program to train 5th year students in the field in the roll of pharmacy instructors. This program is now a part of all pharmacy colleges in Ohio.

From the day the first telephone in Celina was installed in the store until the present when the computerization puts the store in contact with the insurance companies main frame, Bair Pharmacy has been a leader in the community in the profession and practice of pharmacy.



# Bank One

**BANK ONE**<sup>®</sup>  
*Whatever it takes.*<sup>SM</sup>



Celina Banking Center

The Celina Bank One office which is a branch of Bank One, Lima, N.A. is an affiliate owned by Banc One Corporation in Columbus, Ohio.

The roots of Banc One Corporation go back to 1868, with the formation of Sessions & Company (the forerunner of The City National Bank & Trust Company) which is now Bank One, Columbus, N.A. Banc One Corporation is a multi-state bank holding company currently with assets of over 76 billion and banking centers in eleven states, making it USA's seventh largest bank.

Banc One has accomplished something unusual for a bank. It has combined fast growth with high profitability. It also relies on sophisticated computer systems to create financial products and control costs. It has always been a leader when it comes to technology. In 1966, it was the first bank to initiate and introduce a Bank Americard service outside of California. This marked the beginning of our present day credit card programs. In 1970, Banc One was the first bank to offer computerized automatic teller machines. In 1977, it became the first banking organization to handle a

group of broker relationships for Visa cash management accounts, including Merrill Lynch, Dean Witter and others.

But in some ways, Banc One is old-fashioned. The same family has run the bank since 1935. At the helm now is John B. McCoy, the son of John G, and grandson of John H., former chairmen of the bank. The backdrop is heartland Ohio, whose farms and factories, cities and small towns form a microcosm of America. The saga of the McCoy's shows what America's banking came from and offers hints as to where it is going.

The Banc One Corporation owns over 80 affiliates in the United States, and Bank One, Lima is one of those affiliates. Bank One, Lima was formed with the acquisition of the Tower Bank in Lima, Ohio, in April of 1983. In 1990 Bank One, Lima acquired the Metropolitan Bank in Lima, Ohio. In October of 1992, Bank One completed the acquisition of Diamond Savings & Loan Company, which was the name of the local office prior to the merger.

The history of local Celina office of Bank One extends beyond Diamond Savings & Loan. Originally begun as The Mutual Savings & Loan Association in the 1930's, it was founded by Carroll Stubbs, Harold C. Bowman, E. J. Brookhart and Walter Mersman. Until his retirement, Carroll Stubbs was the manager of the local operation. Subsequently, it was operated by Jared Halderman, who served as President until 1975, at which time the association was sold.

Though the Celina office has grown through acquisitions and mergers from a small independently owned savings and loan to a member of one of the nation's largest and strongest banks, it still adheres to the philosophy of service and excellence for the customers and is dedicated to helping the people of Mercer County with their financial needs.



# Brandewie Weber Insurance Agency



Front Row: Dorothy and Lester Brandewie  
Back Row: Beth Brandewie Weber and Oneta C. Lyda

Brandewie Weber Insurance Agency began operations in March 1955 when Les Brandewie became licensed by the Farm Bureau Insurance Company of Columbus, Ohio. Les, after graduating from The Ohio State University College of Agriculture, had spent three years developing the Mercer County Farm Bureau membership and rural youth programs. He, with the help of his wife, Dorothy, and his father-in-law, Jacob Kramer, operated the agency in their home at 1102 Sunset Drive in Celina.

In 1961, the growing agency needed to expand and was relocated to 315 West Logan Street, Celina, where it is presently located. Throughout the following years, Les earned numerous company service awards for his level of insurance production, including twelve years in the Company's (now Nationwide Insurance Company) prestigious Presidents Club. During his career, Les continued his education and achieved the CLU (Chartered Life Underwriter) designation in 1976. The office was computerized in 1980.

Beth Brandewie Weber, daughter of Les and Dorothy, joined the agency in 1990 as a

fully-licensed agent. She is a graduate of Celina Senior High School, and the University of Dayton College of Arts and Sciences. Beth has completed all of the Nationwide Insurance schools, including Mutual Funds and Investment/Estate Planning. She is a participating member of the West Central Ohio Life Underwriters Association, and she has also completed the LUTC (Life Underwriter Training Council) classes. Beth feels one of the things she enjoys most is sharing Nationwide's Prom Promise message with the high school students in Mercer County. Each year she talks with different classes about different aspects of insurance, safe driving, developing financial goals, etc. She is available to speak at classes, as well as community meetings, so don't hesitate to call her.

Office operations are capably assisted by Oneta (Dicke) Lyda, a Franklin Township native, who is in her 208th year of employment at the agency.

Les's commitments to civic responsibility and community improvement includes four years as Mercer County Commissioner. He is a charter member and former Trustee of the West Central Ohio Life Underwriters Association, a charter member and former President of the Lima, Ohio chapter of Charter Life Underwriters, a past Grand Knight of the Knights of Columbus Council #1800, and a Fourth Degree member of Saint Gaspar del Buffalo assembly, Minster, Ohio. Les, an active member of Immaculate Conception Church, was elected to the first I.C. Parish Council and served as co-chairman of the fund-raising drive for the expansion of Immaculate Conception Elementary School.

Les, Dot and Beth are very appreciative of the support given to them by the people of Mercer County and their pledge is to be truly "In Service with People."



**NATIONWIDE  
INSURANCE**  
Nationwide is on your side

The firm's history of development and growth began years ago as a single proprietorship established by Ralph Fanning, PE, offering primarily, engineering services. In 1959 the name was changed to Ralph

Fanning & Associates to reflect the growth of additional staff. In 1963 the name change to Mitchell & Fanning was to improve the firm's position as an architectural and engineering firm. The year 1967 brought about a name change of Fanning & Howey, reflecting some of the firm's present ownership, as Ronald Fanning and Clair Howey began an ownership transition of the firm from Ron's father. In 1970 the firm was incorporated as Fanning & Howey, Inc.; and in 1976 the firm's name was changed to that of its present, Fanning/Howey Associates, Inc., to reflect a larger base of ownership and recognition for others participating in the firm's development and growth.



Ralph Fanning, Founder



Ronald Fanning, President



Clair Howey, Vice President

Serving the community for over 35 years, Fanning/Howey is established as a general corporation which provides architectural and engineering services. Headquartered in Celina, Ohio, the firm expanded with offices in Michigan City, Indiana (1978); Indianapolis, Indiana (1983); Columbus, Ohio (1986); West Palm Beach, Florida (1988); Williamston, Michigan (1991); and Lexington, Kentucky (1992).

*This is a representative listing of Mercer County projects.  
 F/H has completed over 500 projects in the last five years alone.*

- |   |                           |
|---|---------------------------|
| Mercer County Joint Township Community Hospital | Mercer County ODOT Garage |
| Fort Recovery Local Schools Needs Assessment    | Celina Junior High School |
| Marion Local School District Renovations        | Tri-Star Career Compact   |
| Citizen's Commercial Bank, Summit Street        | Richardson Bretz Building |
| The People's Bank Company, Coldwater            | Celina Medical Center     |
| Wright State University, Lake Campus            | Celina Fire Station       |
| Traditions, formerly Empire Restaurant          | Coldwater Fire Station    |
| Mercer County Courthouse Renovations            | Fanning/Howey Office      |
| Jarid Enterprises, Lakewood Village             | Welch's Restaurant        |
| Dwyer-Mercer County District Library            | Cheryl Ann School         |

540 East Market Street  
 Celina, Ohio 45822  
 (419) 586-7771



# Farm Credit Services

FCS was formed in April, 1989, from the merger of The Production Credit Association of the 4th District and Federal Land Bank of the 4th District. FCS can trace its roots back to the 1916 Farm Credit Act which allowed and encouraged Federal Land Banks to be established. Loans for as much as half the value of the land were made for up to 40 years.

PCA's were formed in 1934. Originally, each PCA was a county or two in size. The first PCA loan in the country was made to a farmer in southern Tennessee for \$100 to purchase seed oats, lespedeza seed, wire fencing, pay forty dollars of debt and other farm expenses. It was paid back on schedule.

The merger of PCA and FLB in April, 1989 formed a four state Association that provides both short and long term financing. Total loan volume for FCS is just over \$3.3 billion dollars. FCS is directed by a 18 member board of directors that are farmer members.

The funds that FCS lends out come from the New York Bond Market, where investors such as pension funds and private individuals buy bonds. Farm Credit Funding, a corporation that exists solely to sell Farm Credit bonds, sells the bonds and then passes the funds raised to the 11 Farm Credit Districts across the United States. The Farm Credit Bank of Louisville is the intermediary between Farm Credit Funding and Farm Credit Services. The Farm Credit Bank of Louisville also lends funds to other Agriculture Cooperatives.

FCS is a cooperative which is different from other types of business structures in that the people that do business with FCS also own Farm Credit.

Basic Features that distinguish Cooperatives from other types of businesses:

1. Ownership is held by member-users.
2. Control is on the basis of one vote per member.
3. Operations have an at-cost objective.
4. Dividends on member capital are limited.
5. Education is necessary for understanding and support.

Alvin Franck is the Regional Vice President of Lending for the Celina Region. John Riethman, Joyce Heitkamp, Carl Hess and Mary Mescher make up the balance of the staff at Celina. The Wapakoneta and Greenville offices are also in the Celina Region.

Over \$68 million in farm loans is serviced under Franck's supervision. FCS lends to nonfarmers that live in a rural area with the Rural Home Loan Program. Give John Riethman a call for a farm loan or Mary Mescher a call for a rural home loan. They are there to serve your financing needs.

In Mercer County, the Celina office is located at 123 West Summit Street.

# Lockwood Automotive Performance Shop



Lockwood Automotive Performance & Speed Shop is owned and operated by Bruce Lockwood, a life-long Celina resident. In the fall of 1990 Lockwood, who had been driving truck for his brother Terry, decided it was time to go into business for himself. His dream of owning and operating a garage became a reality.

Lockwood first opened business on South Sugar Street where the old South Side Body Shop was located. But he soon realized he needed more space. On November 26, 1991 Lockwood purchased and moved into the "old" Celina Manufacturing Building located at the corner of Market and Enterprise Streets.

Lockwood Performance is more than just an ordinary garage. Although it provides full automotive service, Lockwood realized the need, in this area, to provide specialized high performance service and parts. The "Speed Shop" located in the front of the building is stocked with name brand, high, performance parts such as: Hooker, Holley, and Acell.

The building Lockwood now occupies is one of the oldest existing structures in Celina. The land was first platted on January 9, 1889.

In December of 1888, Gideon LeBlond and his eldest son John P. LeBlond founded Celina Hardware Manufacturing Company. They erected a

two story building on the property. The company manufactured locks, metal pewter plates and water farm pumps. Gideon LeBlond moved to this area in 1847. Because of his honorable dealings and enterprising spirit, he was known as one of the most respected business leaders of this community.

Over the next several decades many businesses thrived at this location. From 1919 to 1930 the building was occupied by Celina Manufacturing Company. After moving to their new location, they continued to use the building as a warehouse until 1943. The company manufactured hog fountains and feeders, windmills and many sheet metal products which were mainly used for farming.

Celina resident, Russel Hattery, former president Celina Manufacturing remembers that in 1919 the road in front of the building was not yet paved. "It was all mud until the railway company came through and put down a cinder road," he said.

In 1943 fire destroyed the top floor of the two story building. For a short time, the building was owned by National Mutual Insurance Company. Baker's Electric owned and operated by Hugo Baker occupied the building from 1943 to 1974. Baker repaired electric motors. The building was purchased by Jack Steele in 1974. Steele like Lockwood operated an automotive business on the premises. Over the years the north side of the building has been rented out to businesses such as the West Ohio Gas Company.

Bruce Lockwood lives in Celina with his wife Melinda (Coats) and daughter Amber. He currently employs six people.

Lockwood Automotive Performance Shop has committed itself to providing high quality automotive performance parts and service to the people in our community. Just like Gideon LeBlond, Lockwood has that enterprising spirit that will help make his business successful. Besides, how could he go wrong with the rich heritage of successful businesses behind his building? (written by Cathy J. Schreima)





**MINOR'S.**

**1800 INDUSTRIAL DRIVE  
CELINA, OHIO 45822**

In 1951 Dr. and Mrs. L. J. Minor began a business making soup bases of higher quality, with more kitchen uses, than any product then available to cooks and chefs. The small family enterprise in Cleveland, Ohio, grew rapidly as foodservice operators bought the new Minor's bases and endorsed the company's remarkably high quality and personalized service.

Today, Minor's bases and prepared products are sold nationwide through hundreds of foodservice distributors, and we are the market leader of top quality meat, poultry and seafood bases. Our primary manufacturing facility is still located on the near West Side of Cleveland.

Dr. and Mrs. Minor retired in 1983, and late in 1986 the Minor Corporation became a member of the Nestle family of food-related companies. But the principles which Dr. and Mrs. Minor espoused continue to guide us and be the foundation of our growth.

Minor's, now a successful business segment of Nestle Brands Foodservice, acquired our facility in Ceina in the summer of 1987. The plant, which manufactured products for Empire Foods Family Restaurants, now processes frozen soups and gravies for the foodservice industry. Since the acquisition there have been several additions to our Celina facility, and we look forward to continued growth and expansion.

As a company, we are committed to strong family values and recognize that our business success depends on the talent, commitment and enthusiasm of our people. We believe in maintaining a workplace that is healthy, clean and safe for us and for the communities in which we work. And we support our local communities and encourage good citizenship among all our employees.

In addition to our base manufacturing facility in Cleveland, we have a recently expanded Distribution Center in Brecksville and our corporate headquarters is located in Solon.

**The L. J. Minor Corporation  
30003 Bainbridge Road Solon, Ohio 44139**

# Myers & Myers (1909-1993)

Myers & Myers, Attorneys at Law, has David M. Myers and his son Daniel Myers in the law firm. Their office is located at 90 N. Ash Street in Celina and is the oldest existing law firm in Mercer County under the same name.

Their law practice includes almost all phases of the practice of law. The law firm began in 1909 when B. A. Myers graduated from the University of Michigan and began his law practice in Celina. He was later joined by his brother, O. J. Myers. Thereafter, all three of B. A. Myers' sons joined the

firm: James W. in 1939; David M. in 1948; and Don L. in 1950. Daniel joined the firm in 1976 and besides being admitted to practice law in Ohio; he is admitted to practice law in Florida and Pennsylvania.

As such, the Myers name has been synonymous with practicing law in Mercer County for almost 85 years. Both David M. and Daniel strive to continue the professionalism that began with their father/grandfather.

## The Myers Family



Burl A. Myers

In the mid 1830's John Myers settled in Ohio, having come from the Dutch country of southeastern Pennsylvania and receiving a U.S. patent title to Mercer County real estate in Gibson Township, Sections 23 and 24 in 1837.

One of his sons, Jacob, and his wife, Rachel Brown, were the progenitors of the "Myers" family

herein being historically developed.

One of their sons, John W., was born in 1847 and married Christina B. Rantz in 1878, which marriage developed James Earl, Mayme Eleanor, Burl Abraham and Orel Jacob. "O.J.", as he was known, became an attorney in 1912, practiced law in Mercer County, and after serving in WWI practiced law as prosecutor in Darke County, Florida, and Dayton. He was married to Inez Zay and died in 1967. They were the parents of one daughter, Jeanette. Mayme never married and died in 1965. James Earl died by accident at 17.

Burl Abraham, or as he was better known, "B.A." graduated from the University of Michigan in 1909 and became an attorney the same year, setting up practice in Celina. In 1912 he was elected prosecuting attorney for Mercer County and continued through a second term. He was married to Catherine "Carrie" Dumbauld in 1912 and three sons were born. B.A. continued the practice of law until his death while on a fishing trip in 1947. Carrie died in 1971.

James Woodrow graduated from Notre Dame Law School in 1938, began the practice of law in 1939 and continued the practice until January 1, 1976, when he became Judge of the Celina Municipal Court. He had; during the interim peri-

od, been city solicitor for the City of Celina from January 1, 1962, through December 31, 1975. He married Charlotte Mae Schroyer in 1938 and two sons were born. James W., Jr., who is married to Charlotte Marie Shaffer. They have two children, James W., III, "Chipper" and Victoria Leigh. John is not married. James passed away 12-10-79.

David Marion graduated from Ohio Northern University in March of 1948 and joined his brother, James, in the practice of law in the firm originated by his father, B.A. and his uncle, O.J. He married Ruth Henderson and five children were born.

Patricia Ellen, who is married to Nicholas Kobe; they have two children, Nicholas and Christopher Patrick. David Leo is currently Vice President of Operations with Privatization of Prisons, Nashville, TN; he is married to Cynthia Robbins and they have four children: Sean David, Adam Troy, Benjamin Michael, and Daniel. Kerry Michael graduated from the University of Tennessee; he has two children; Kerry II and Jodi Elizabeth. Daniel graduated from Ohio Northern University College of Law and is married to Jill Snyder.

Don Lincoln graduated from Marquette University, BNS, in 1946 and from The Ohio State University College of Law in 1949, and began the practice of law in 1950 in Celina, Ohio, joining his brothers in the firm of Myers & Myers. He married Jeanette Davis and two children were born. Douglas Lincoln graduated from Capital University, Columbus, Ohio and received his CPA in 1977. He is married to Debra Vanderhorst and has three children; Toby Elizabeth, Lindsay Renee, and Ashley. Bradley Allen was graduated from Ohio State University in 1977, and the Ohio State University College of Law. Don passed away 10-5-85.



## Myers Pro Hardware

210 West Market St. Grand Lake St. Marys  
Celina, OH. 45822  
Phone: USA 419-586-3610  
International Fax: 419-586-6196

Owner: Edward R. Miller

Employees:

- (1) Mr. Richard S. Barr (Store Manager & Buyer)
- (2) Mrs. Kelly Johnsman (Assistant Store Manager & Buyer)
- (3) Mrs. Misty Kuck (Sales)
- (4) Mr. Cory Heitkamp (Sales)
- (5) Mr. Dennis Mallory (Sales & Rental)

### Products and Services:

Myers Pro Hardware offers products in various categories (17) ranging from rental products, welding, power tools, plumbing, cleaning, and lawn and garden needs. We also offer a very complete gift department with the largest "Precious Moments Collection" in the county.

### History:

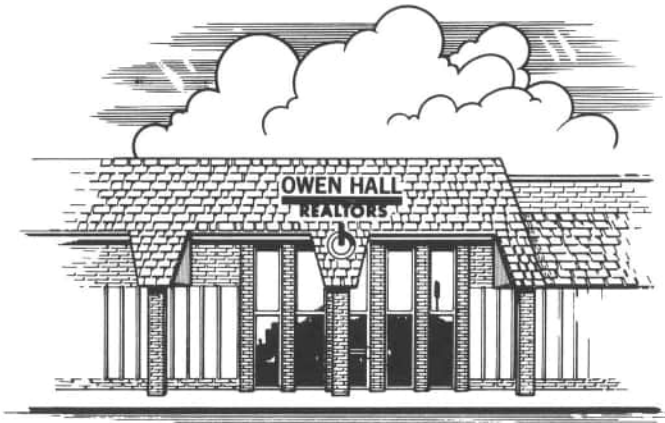
The hardware company was formed in 1922 by the Heckler Family. Business was conducted in the building now occupied by the Bell & Horn Company until approximately 1951 when the existing store was completed. The new building was used by electricians assigned the task of electrifying rural Mercer County. The company using the new structure at this time was called Heckler Electric. During this time the entire hardware store was eventually moved to the present location.

The building is unique in its construction and for a long time had one of the lowest fire insurance ratings in the state. The structure, over the years, has sustained two fires with no structural damage. The building is electrically heated and utility costs, for a building of this size, are lower than most all other buildings in the county to this day. The structure has a full basement with a concrete composite street level floor that is 12 inches thick. The roof is of the same design and further floors were intended. The stairwell, to the basement, was designed to accommodate the installation of an escalator system. Cost prohibited this innovation. In the early 1950's the present structure was designated as a nuclear bomb shelter and was one of two so designated in the county at the time.

The building is of flat roof design and has never had a serious leak in the roof design. To say the least, the building was well designed and constructed.



# Owen Hall Realty Group



Hundreds of Mercer, Auglaize, Darke, Van Wert, and Allen Countians know Owen V. Hall and his associates as the Realtors who got them started on the road to business, farm or home ownership. Thousands of sales goers see him and his associates as lightening-paced and compelling auctioneers. Others know Owen V. Hall as a man interested in community affairs and community growth and who gives generously of his time helping his professions on the local, state, national and international levels.

Owen V. Hall became an auctioneer at 18, a real estate salesman at 19, and he established Owen Hall and Associates, Inc., a real estate brokerage company, in 1947. In 1953, Hall and his father, along with Don Montgomery, founded the Western Ohio Livestock Exchange. The same year Hall, and then county extension agent Al Baxter, established the Mercer County Junior Fair . . . one of the highlights of the annual county fair. In 1954, in conjunction with his real estate company, he became sales manager for Kessler Builders and maintains that position. At the same time, he served as president of the Ohio Auctioneer's association of which he remains a board member and as a director and life member of the National Association of Auctioneers. He was appointed by two Ohio Governors as one of the three man Ohio Auctioneers Commission of the Department of Commerce. Hall was selected as Ohio Realtor of the Year in 1971.

In 1975, as president of the Farm and Land Institute of the National Association of Realtors, Hall attended the International Real Estate Federation convention in Europe which is made up of representatives from all free countries. During 1976 Hall served on the executive boards of four real estate organizations: The Auglaize-Mercer County Board of

Realtors, The Ohio Association of Realtors, The Farm and Land Institute of the National Association of Realtors (all of which he had served as president) and the National Association of Realtors, of which he is currently regional vice-president for Ohio and Michigan. In 1992, George Voinovich appointed Owen Hall as a Commissioner on the Ohio Real Estate Commission.

During Hall's service to his professions he has managed to be active in the Neptune, Ohio Church of God, be a long time member and past president of the Celina Lions Club and serve as a director on the Citizens Commercial Bank and Trust Company Board.

Over the years, Hall has acquired a number of pronounced ideas about the real estate brokerage business which are put into effect at the well designed offices at 109 E. Forest Street, Celina. In 1991, the firm incorporated to the name change and all offices are Owen Hall Realty Group with offices also at 129 East Spring Street, Saint Marys; 202 West Auglaize Street, Wapakoneta, and 500 Folkerth Street, Sidney. Hall maintains an interest in each of these affiliated offices and works with the sales counselors and staffs of 45 people. Fifteen are brokers and Hall insists that each be a well trained and fully qualified sales person. Nine have Graduate Realtors Institute (GRI) accreditation after completion of 180 classroom hours. The real estate brokerage business is changing so rapidly that each person is required to spend a minimum of one month's time each year in meetings, seminars or classes to upgrade their abilities.

The entire Hall family is real estate oriented. Mrs. Madonna Hall and sons, Jon and Jerold are all brokers with GRI designations and all work within the corporate structure. Daughter Janette is with International Communication Association as the planner, in Dallas, Texas.

Reflecting on the developments in real estate in the past 45 years, Hall termed the appreciation as "unbelievable." "It's wonderful that so many young Americans have been able to enjoy home ownership. Although some buyers have objected to increased interest rates, actually interest rates have not increased as rapidly as most other commodities over the years; loans are available. Throughout the entire 45 year period, home ownership has been a very, very good buy," Hall commented.



## Celina Wine Store



The Celina Wine Store Inc. opened as The Celina Wine & Beverage Store on May 26, 1946 at 132 W. Fayette St., by John and Charles Hierholzer.

On opening day, the only beer the store had to offer customers was five cases of London Bobby Ale. Customers were limited to four bottles of beer, and there was a sign posted, "No Bottles, No Beer" because of the post-war glass shortage. After the first ale was sold, John and Charles couldn't get any more beer for about six weeks, but stayed in business because they could buy a couple of cases of Coca-Cola a week, all the Dr. Pepper they could use, and just about all the wine they wanted.

After about six months the bottle shortage was over. In those days, Wooden Shoe Beer sold for 10 cents a bottle, gasoline was 18 cents a gallon, and the Celina Wine & Beverage Store delivered beer and pop to customers' homes.

In March of 1953, the Celina Wine & Beverage Store introduced pizza to this area, and eventually it became a big success. Pizza business helped to provide employment for John's and Charles' children. Eventually John bought Charles' half of the business, and in 1972 Charles retired because of poor health.

In the spring of 1972, the Celina Wine — Beverage Store, now known locally as the Celina Wine Store, built a drive-through carry-out at 716 W. Logan Street, and moved the business to that location. Celina Wine used an already tried and successful idea of people actually driving their cars through a building to purchase beer, pop, wine and snacks, without getting out of their cars. Celina Wine carried the idea one step further and added sandwiches, French fries, and eventually tacos to go along with their pizza menu. Customers could phone in an order, and then drive through and pick it up. Business was successful enough that in 1979 another drive-thru lane was added to provide faster service.

## Pullman Bay Restaurant



Pete, Joyce, Gabe, and Danny Hierholzer 1992.

On July 24, 1984, the family owned Celina Wine Store and its President, Pete Hierholzer, opened Pullman Bay Restaurant at 117 Lakeshore Drive in Celina. The location is perfect for a restaurant because of its beautiful view of Grand Lake. The owners strive to keep the atmosphere casual and relaxing and the staff prompt and friendly.

Pullman Bay restaurant is well known throughout the area for their large variety of home-made food and desserts. All of the soups and pies are made from scratch daily and the Hierholzer Family believes that everything needs to be made from the best ingredients available.

The restaurant opens at 6:00 A.M. daily. Since 1986, Pullman Bay has offered full menu lunch and dinner delivery service to homes and businesses in Celina.

John retired in 1977 and left the business to be managed by his sons, Mark and Pete. Mark left the business in 1979 and Pete Hierholzer has been the President and General Manager since then.

# Standard Printing Company



The Standard Printing Company, Inc. at 123 East Market, is owned by the Snyder family. The Company publishes one of the few remaining independent newspapers in the United States and is possibly the oldest continuously-owned family newspaper in the country.

Some confusion exists as to the early ownership of the Western Standard, the predecessor of the present Daily Standard. According to the S. S. Scranton Mercer County history of 1907, the paper was established August 4, 1848 by J. S. Miller, printer, and L. C. Smith, publisher. In 1850, however, the paper was sold by Hunter, publisher, and Barrington, printer, when Barrington went on the California gold rush via a walk across the Panama Isthmus. Hunter and Barrington sold to W. L. Blocker and S. S. Snyder, both of Bellefontaine. No account is available of the 1848 through 1850 ownership other than that two sets of partners are mentioned in different old histories.

Snyder's younger brother, A. P. J. Snyder, came to Celina March 17, 1851 on a horse and worked as a compositor until 1854 when he bought out Blocker's interest since Blocker then was a judge.

In 1865 the building currently housing Cozadd's, 110 South Main, was constructed, the second floor having been built to hold the printing plant which received waterborne freight from canal boats via a creek at the rear of the building. While in this location A. P. J. Snyder's only living son, Frank A., was apprenticed there in 1883 on a Washington hand press. Eventually the paper moved across the street and was located above the Commercial Bank, 115 S. Main, when the fire of 1894 destroyed the west half of the business section. The Standard built its own building at its present location following the fire.

F. A. Snyder took over management of the

paper and in 1904 heard in a barber shop that the "Democrat" (a paper largely controlled by the Democratic party organization) was opening a daily paper but had lost its shipment of paper in a rail car.

On two days notice, Frank A. Snyder began the Daily Standard as an in-town experiment with no typesetting facilities other than hand-set type. To Snyder's surprise some farmers bought the daily newspaper, and in 1909 Snyder bought the first Linotype for the paper. The weekly paper was discontinued in the mid 1930's.

A. P. J. Snyder's eldest daughter, Lizzie (McKim), was born in 1860. As early as grade school she started writing for the paper and did much of its editorial management until her death in the mid 1920's. Her two younger sisters, Cora and Carrie who were twins, set type and helped with business management as young girls. All three of the women devoted their entire lives to the paper, and none had children that lived.

During the 1920 period of Ku Klux Klan activity, the Standard's publisher and his family were threatened with death because they opposed the Klan.

Eventually the Standard re-acquired the half block on Market, from Ash Street west to the alley, which A. P. J. Snyder had bought in 1855.

Following the death of F. A. Snyder in 1944, management of the paper was taken over by his two children Joy A. and Parker R. Snyder. Miss Snyder, who handled most of the personal news for many years, died in 1970. Parker Snyder currently manages the paper. Three of his children, Frank Snyder, Lillian Risch, and Jake Snyder work at the plant.

The Standard is the oldest business in Mercer County and one of the oldest family-owned newspapers in the United States.

## Vic Steinke Builders



Vic Steinke

The origin of Steinke Builders actually started back in 1949 while I was working as an apprentice cabinet builder for Martz Cabinet Shop. After three years of cabinet building, my experience was broadened by building houses for eight years for Lawrence Fifer, a local contractor. During these eight years of house construction, the evenings were spent building cabinets and doing small remodeling jobs for friends and relatives. After Mr. Fifer retired in 1960, I decided to go into business for myself.

We maintain a work force of twelve men the year around and specialize in cabinets, custom building and everything connected to the building trade; such as: plumbing, heating, electrical, painting, etc. At the present our regular customers number nearly 600.

Some of the quality homes which we have constructed are the Dick & Son Funeral Home at 218 West Market St.; Roy Weber Residence, 117 N. Brandon; Lowell Gagle Resident, 701 Meadowview; Olen Amstutz Residence, 214 Magnolia St.; Kenneth Arps Residence, 309 Mooring Line Drive; Ben Brunswick Residence, 6740 Nancy Avenue, Celina.



Office. Vic Steinke Builders, Celina



Weber Home



Dick & Sons Funeral Home



October 6, 1992 Aerial view.  
1" = 800'

Purchased in 1988 by Stoneco, Inc., the Karch Road Quarry has a long history of mining activity. In existence prior to the turn of the century, the quarry was acquired in 1903 by John W. Karch. For the next 85 years the quarry was owned and operated by the Karch family.

Stoneco, Inc. is a wholly-owned subsidiary of the S.E. Johnson Companies, Inc. of Maumee, Ohio. Founded in 1929 as a road construction company, the S.E. Johnson Companies have diversified into construction material supply. This involves the manufacturing of limestone aggregate, sand, gravel, ready-mix concrete

## Stoneco, Inc. Karch Road Quarry

and asphalt. Currently the company has operations in Ohio, Indiana, and Michigan and is among the 75 largest limestone aggregate producers in the United States.

Since acquiring the Karch Road Quarry, Stoneco has committed itself to an on-going capital improvement program that incorporates the latest technology into the mining process.

Stoneco seeks to continue the proud heritage of the Karch family through production of quality products, excellent customer service, and involvement in community activities.



Quarry 1950's

# U.S. Post Office



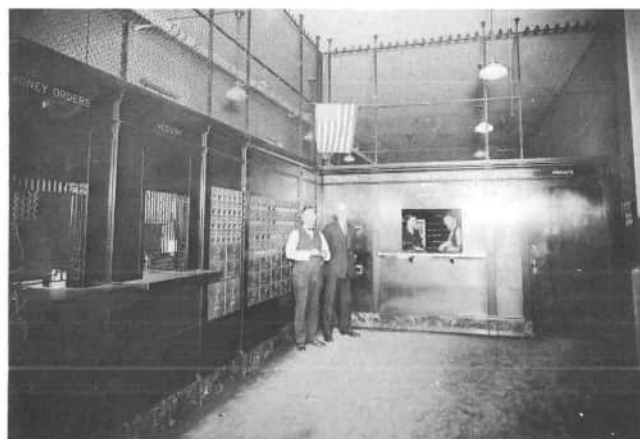
The United States Post Office in Celina, Ohio is located at the northwest corner of Main and Livingston, at 201 North Main. Since October 22, 1988, Ronald Simon has served as Postmaster. Jerry Ley is Manager of Customer Service. The Post Office also employs eleven City Carriers, six Clerks, twelve Rural Carriers, and one maintenance person.

Currently, the Celina office has six rural routes and eight city routes. There are presently 7531 residential deliveries and 559 business deliveries. This office delivers approximately 10,000,000 pieces of mail annually. The annual revenue is approximately \$1.8 million.

The first Postmaster of Celina, Ohio was Robert Linzee II, appointed February 29, 1840. Since then, there have been 29 additional Postmasters to the current date in 1993. The present Post Office was built in 1934, during Celina's Centennial Anniversary (1834 - 1934). Prior to 1934, the Post Office was located at 117 South Main, which was the building which stood between the old Citizens Bank and the Commercial Bank. November 16, 1908, at this old Post Office, local home delivery service in the city began. There is a note in the 1882 Mercer County History book, that the Post Office was located across from the St. Charles Hotel, at Warren and Main Streets; the St. Charles Hotel was located on the southwest corner of Warren and Main, in 1876 and before. A note states the Post Office was at this corner during P. Guffy's term as Postmaster, which was during 1871. The Post Office influenced the naming of Celina; when James Watson Riley, one of the original founders of Celina in 1834, went to New York to have a map of the town lithographed, he stopped at Salina, Onondaga County, New York, and was impressed by the similarity of location of that town being at the head of a lake, and our county seat. Riley changed the spelling from Salina to Celina, to avoid confusion of post offices, when he chose the name of our county seat. Also, Jame Watson Riley served as Celina Postmaster from April 25, 1851 until June 16, 1853.

## Postmasters Celina Post Office Mercer County, Ohio

Name	Date Appointed
Robert Linzee 2nd	02/29/1840
John J. Beach	11/03/1841
Samuel Ruckman	05/08/1843
Benjamin Linzee	11/11/1845
Levi Dibble	03/31/1846
Charles P. Ripley	08/01/1849
James W. Riley	04/25/1851
Byron B. Allen	06/16/1853
Jacob Broadwell	06/16/1854
Andrew J. Linzee	06/19/1860
William Dickman	06/08/1861
Jacob Hight	07/31/1866
Charles W. McKee	03/13/1869
Nelson P. Guffy	01/23/1871
William Dickman	03/04/1872
James E. Blizzard	03/10/1881
John W. Dickman	04/11/1881
Willie E. Touvelle	05/27/1885
Jacob Krensch	06/14/1888
John W. McKee	08/02/1889
Charles A. Wickoff	01/09/1894
Charles A. McKim	05/24/1898
J. M. McKee	07/30/1912
Lawrence Schunck	08/03/1916
Charles H. Murlin	02/09/1922
Charles Creeden	01/17/1935
James Ralph Murlin	08/02/1955
Grant J. Cook	04/04/1968
Paul E. Gross	07/18/1987
Ronald L. Simon	10/22/1988



Celina Post Office, 117 South Main.  
Charles Murlin was Postmaster 1922 to 1935.  
On the photograph, left to right: Ray Collins, Charles Murlin Postmaster, Francis Mowery, and Ken Headington.



Ambassador Travel Agency has two locations to serve you: 207 South Main Street, Celina, Ohio 45822; and 1637 Celina Road, Saint Marys, Ohio 45885. Pamela Buschur is the owner. The employees are Kate Fullenkamp, Tracy Mescher, Candi Reasnor, Dorothy Maxon, and Susan Leffel.

Ambassador Travel Agency is a full service travel agency. They can make all of your personal or business travel arrangements. They sell airline tickets, train tickets, cruises, tours, and make car and hotel reservations. There is no service charge to their valued customer.

## Braun's Garage, Inc.



Braun's Garage Inc. opened for business in February of 1987 in the former F & W Sales & Service building at 314 South Main Street, Celina.

The owner/operator Bill Braun moved his operation to Celina after operating a garage in Coldwater.

Braun's Garage offers complete engine and transmission service while specializing in driveability problems. Braun's Garage has earned the AAA stamp of approval for service.



## Since 1914 CELINA GROUP has protected Mercer County Farmers

CELINA GROUP is committed to serving the farm community. Our Farm Security package is second to none when it comes to protecting your farming operations.

You get complete protection for:

- Farm Buildings
- Machinery
- Liability
- Vehicles
- Home and Personal Property
- Livestock

"Let us tailor the plan to fit your specific needs—all in one package."

Call 800 552-5181, extension 8976 for more information.

CELINA GROUP—serving the farming community since 1914.  
We want to do more than just satisfy you.  
We want to **please** you.

**Celina**  
Group



## The Celina Music Store

The Celina Music Store first opened for business in April 1949. The business was the result of a partnership formed by Norbert Bany, operator of the Bany Music Store at 130 West Fayette Street, and Paul Miller. The Bany Music Store was established in 1947.

The first store room at 130 West Fayette Street was a 25 x 40 area. In July 1950 Paul Miller bought out his partner and moved the business to a 18 x 100 foot room at 128 West Fayette Street.

Elmer Schweizer, who had formerly been Band Director at Arcanum High School for two years, and Celina Senior High School for five years was employed at the store in June 1953. In January 1954, Mr. Schweizer bought the store from Mr. Miller and continued the business as the Celina Music Store.

In September 1960 the sales area of the store was expanded to 40 x 100 feet when the entire Kinnison Building at 126-128 West Fayette Street was remodeled into a single store room.

The second generation entered the firm in June 1977 when Dean Schweizer, a music education graduate of Miami University, became store manager.

The Celina Music Store offers a complete selection of band and orchestra instruments, pianos, organs, sheet music, and stereophonic equipment. A staff of six teachers are available for instruction on all musical instruments.

In 1983, full control was passed to Dean. Frederick C Loyer joined the firm in 1987. His duties include calling on area band directors to service their needs and to help with the instrument repair department. Mr. Loyer, a retired music teacher with 30



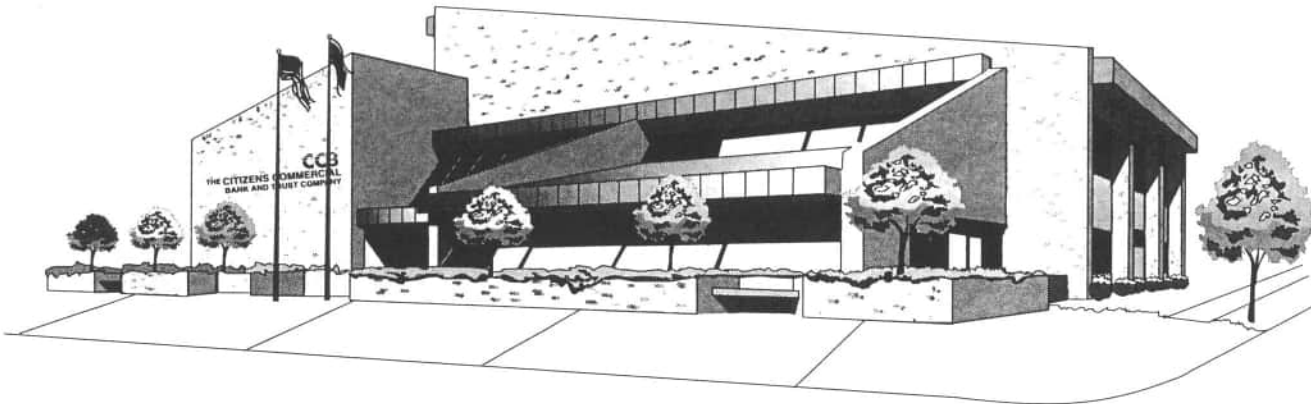
years experience, has enhanced the education ideology of the Celina Music Store.

Blanche Pulskamp retired at the close of 1989, taking with her an irreplaceable amount of experience and knowledge. Her presence can still be seen and missed on a daily basis.

The most recent addition to the staff is Tim A Richards. Having worked part time learning the piano tuning and repair trade, Tim started full time employment at the beginning of 1992. His attention has revitalized the piano department as well as the entire store appearance and added a feature long missing from the store assets.

As we move toward the close of the 20th century, the Celina Music Store and its employees will continue its task of providing for the musical needs of area residents.

# A Tradition of Service



Your friends at the bank.



## CELINA

<b>Main Office</b> 225 N. Main Street 586-5121	<b>Summit Street Office</b> 115 W. Summit Street 586-6401	<b>Fayette Street Office</b> 124 E. Fayette Street 586-5624
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## FORT RECOVERY

<b>Fort Recovery Office</b> 220 N. Wayne Street 375-4125
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## CHICKASAW

<b>Chickasaw Office</b> State Route 274 925-4514
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Member F.D.I.C.



## Celina Area Visiting Nurses

Celina Area Visiting Nurses is a private, non-profit, self-supporting Home Health Agency. As Celina Home Care, the organization was established as a branch office of Van Wert VNA in October of 1988 in response to requests by an area physician and various individuals seeking expanded Home Health Services. Begun as a small, mainly Private Duty Registry Service, Celina Area VNA is a growing high tech and full service, Medicare/Medicaid certified agency. In addition to skilled nursing, physical therapy, occupational therapy and speech thera-

py, home health aides, and medical social worker service, Celina Area VNA also has a certified HOSPICE program providing care to the terminally ill who want to die at home. Private Duty of Visiting Nurses offers Homemakers, Home Health Aides and Companion service on an hourly basis. This registry program also participates as a provider in Care Coordination, Passport, Aids Waiver and Waiver IV programs.

Celina area Visiting Nurses office is located at 218 C South Main Street, Celina. Their phone is 419-586-1999.



## Cole Motel



Robert Cole, Celina and Hazel Kettring, Montezuma, Ohio were married May 17, 1941 and began their married life in Lima, Ohio. Bob worked at the Ohio Steel Foundry and Hazel at Westinghouse Electric.

In Jan. 1946 they purchased the Pete Fischer Grocery at 629 East Livingston St. in Celina. At that time, they were especially busy if they did \$50.00 worth of business a day! In 1948 they built and ran the first Drive In restaurant in Celina which was located at 565 E. Market St. The grocery business did grow and in 1957 they built the new Coles I.G.A. Market adjacent to the Drive In. A motel had been built to the rear of the lot and also a mobile home court.

In 1992, they were still in the motel and trailer court business, but had retired from the Drive In and Grocery business.

## Doll Printing Division



Doll - Printing Division began operations on July 1, 1977 in Celina, Ohio. Robert and Phyllis Doll purchased the printing portion of the business from Bock Office Supplies which was owned by Charles Dues and Don Eyink. At that time the business was relocated from 118 West Fayette Street to 124 West Fayette Street. In November 1982 a larger building at 130 West Fayette Street was purchased and the printing plant was moved. In June of 1991, having built a bigger building in Celina's Industrial Park, the business was moved to 1901 Havemann Road.

The history of this printing shop has it that in 1915 the Ott Building was completed and that the Mercer County Observer Newspaper was housed in the eastern portion of it. The newspaper ceased operations in 1925 and The Gilbert Printing Company was then started. Two years later, in 1927, the printing plant was sold to George Lutz and Ralph Bock and went under the name of Lutz and Bock Printing. After a few years Ralph Bock bought out his partner's share and Bock Printing was now the new name. George and Bessie Kinder bought Bock Printing at some point in time and ran it for a number of years until it was sold to Charles Dues in 1970. In 1977 Robert and Phyllis Doll purchased the shop and renamed it Doll-Printing Division.

## Comfort Inn



Right across the road from Grand Lake Saint Marys stands the Comfort Inn, 1421 State Route 703 East, Celina. This new Inn opened June 8, 1990. The Inn has forty rooms, with King size and Queen size beds, and water beds. They provide a jacuzzi and complimentary continental breakfast for their guests' convenience. They also will make reservations with any choice motel, for their guests. One photograph shows the Comfort Inn with its lake facing rooms. The other photograph gives a view of one of their beautiful rooms. The person to see, at Comfort Inn, is N. B. Patel.



## W.H. Dick & Sons Funeral Home



The Celina operation of W.H. Dick & Sons Funeral Home was established on Market Street in Celina, Ohio in 1937, while also maintaining the original location in Mendon, Ohio. In the mid forties, the trend of viewing in the family home shifted to viewing in the funeral home, with the services also usually there or in the church. By now, Mr. Dick's two sons were associated with him in business; Charles and Hubert, both graduates of the Cleveland College of Mortuary Science.

In 1968, a spacious, all new, modern facility, encompassing nearly eleven-thousand square feet, was built at 218 West Market Street, Celina.

Thus, a business which had been established 80 years earlier in a small rural community was now serving a larger area in the tradition of solemn ritual and dedication to service that has always been its goal.

## Gospel Gift & Book Shop



Gospel Gift & Book Shop had its beginning about 45 years ago just west of Celina on Route 29. In 1948, the store was moved to 817 West Logan, into the front of the home of the founders of the store, Rufus and Clara Kneuss. In the fall of 1971 a new building was erected next door, made especially to be the new home of Gospel Gift & Book Shop. It was during this time the present owners Anthony and Louise Kneuss became partners and later owners as Mom and Dad retired. As the years went by, the store became more and more crowded with new merchandise. In 1990 the space at 108 South Main, Celina, became available, and the store made another move.

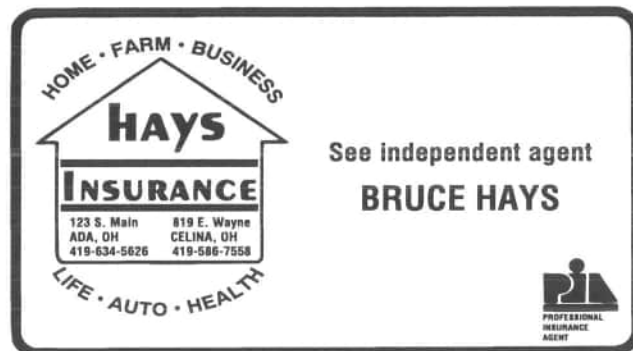
Today, we are here, uptown, to serve the community. We have gifts for all occasions, Bibles, books, C.D.'s and cassettes, Precious Moments Figurines and accessory pieces. We also have items for Baptisms, First Communion, Birthdays, Christmas, along with greeting cards for these and other special days.

We thank you for the opportunity to meet you and help you with your needs.

Anthony & Louise Kneuss

Gospel Gift & Book Shop

## Hays Insurance Agencies



The Hays Insurance Agencies were established in 1982 as full line independent insurance agencies, with offices located in both Celina and Ada, Ohio. The owners are Bruce E. Hays, who is located in Celina, and Bradley D. Hays, who is in the Ada office. Both agents have a broad farming background, which give them knowledge in the farming exposures and values.

Besides Farm Insurance, they have specialized in Home, Business, Auto, Life, and Health Insurance. The support staffs are also licensed agents and able to handle all of your insurance questions.

Service is the primary duty for our customers. This has worked over the years as is shown by our growth. We have built the business one policy at a time, and will continue to provide quality insurance which is reasonably priced. Let us analyze your insurance needs and recommend solutions.



## Ovisco Sportswear



New Business Location

OVISCO CORPORATION started as Sports Unlimited in March 1978 at 601 Harbor Point Dr., Celina, in a 10 x 20 foot den. In April 1979 they moved to 217 S. Cherry with the Music Store. They then moved uptown Main Street, until 1981, and then moved back to 217 S. Cherry, to 6400 square feet at the former Pulskamp Funeral Home. In November 1989 they moved to 800 Grand Lake Road to 8800 square feet.

OVISCO CORPORATION is a screenprint and embroidery company specializing in multicolor work. They also feature applique shirts and custom embroidery designs on sportswear according to the customer's order. Team uniforms are also a feature; including baseball, softball, soccer, basketball, etc. Golf sportswear is also available. They have a nautical print for Grand Lake Visitors. They feature area school apparel. Company or school logos are printed or embroidered on jackets, shirts, sweaters, sweatshirts, sweatpants, etc. They also make any size banner, with a custom design.

Kevin "Snuffy" Smith is President of OVISCO CORPORATION. Carol Smith is Secretary Treasurer. OVISCO CORPORATION is located at 800 Grand Lake Road, Celina, Ohio.



Old Business Location

## What Is JTPA

In 1982, the Federal Government created JTPA, the Job Training Partnership Act, a program to train and place unemployed persons into productive jobs. The program responds to the fact that many jobless Americans are unemployed not because they do not want to work, but because they lack the skills to find and keep jobs.

Since JTPA's creation, government has joined in equal partnership with business to provide training to the unemployed which is responsive to private business needs.

JTPA matches the resources of federal funding with potential private sector employment entry level workers. JTPA is a flexible and decentralized system of job training programs. Because JTPA is administered locally, it makes it possible to design and implement programs which suit local needs.

JTPA places authority for the administration of its programs equally with local elected officials LEO and the area private industry council PIC. PIC's are comprised primarily of business leaders, educational agencies, organized labor, economic development agencies, community based agencies and others. The PIC provides policy guidance and procedures for the development of the local programs and budgets to assure placement of JTPA trainees in private employment.

Working with JTPA is like having an additional company personnel office that is not on the company payroll. JTPA staff pre-screen every worker for suitability to a job or training opening, matching the worker's skills and interests to the positions available. JTPA provides companies with several candidates to the positions available. JTPA provides companies with several candidates from which to choose, allowing the employer adequate selection for hiring decisions.

JTPA workers and trainees are generally unemployed and are members of households whose earnings fall below an income level set by the Federal Government.

Neither business nor government alone can solve the problems of the chronically unemployed. The solution requires an effective partnership between business and government. JTPA enables such a partnership to exist.

The Job Training Statement of Purpose: To establish programs to prepare youth and unskilled adults for entry into the labor force and to afford job training to those economically disadvantaged.

Job Training Partnership Act is located at 441 1/2 East Market, Celina for Mercer County Commissioners in a cooperative effort with Allen, Auglaize and Hardin Commissioners, to oversee JTPA Grant Service Delivery Area No. 2.



## MERCER COUNTY FARM BUREAU, INC.

715 W. Logan Street • Celina, Ohio 45822  
Telephone: (419) 586-3033

In 1917, Congress passed a bill providing money to pay part of the cost of an agricultural agent for every county, provided an organization was formed to sponsor an agent and share the cost of employing him.

These county groups were called Farm Bureaus. In February, 1919, Mercer County farmers met at the Celina City Hall for the purpose of organizing the Mercer County Farm Bureau.

The Mercer County Farm Bureau has existed continuously since that day, remaining very active in many local and state projects. The CAUV tax system for rural landowners and the 1992 election defeat of State Issue 5 are considered two of our most important accomplishments during the past twenty years.

Present Mercer County Farm Bureau membership is 1250 members. We have always and will continue to work at solving the farmer's needs and problems. Our members provide the leadership necessary to carry out the goal of the Farm Bureau - "To improve farm income and the standard of living in rural America."

## Mercer Landmark, Inc.

Mercer Landmark Inc., started business on January 14, 1934, after purchasing the Staeger Feed Mill located on the corner of East Logan and Ash Streets. Later on this plant was sold to Henry Amstutz, and the Palmer and Miller Elevator on West Logan Street was purchased. During the following years a new branch office and store building, fertilizer warehouse and many improvements were made. On November 11, 1977, a misfortune occurred, fire razed the elevator and office building.

A Merger with the Celina Equity Exchange had been discussed with the Directors of both Associations for approximately two years. This became a reality on January 1, 1978 by approval of shareholders of both associations. The Celina Equity Exchange Company began operations in 1920 on West Market Street after purchasing The Buckland Milling Company. They also had a misfortune of a fire on June 28, 1975, destroying their Elevator. They rebuilt the elevator with a modern feed mill at that time. Since January 1, 1978, the date of the Merger, there has been added a new 1500 BPH grain dryer with a wet grain holding bin, two elevator legs and other equipment to modernize the grain operation.

This up to date, modern plant offers a complete feed, grain, fertilizer and general farm supplies and custom application of chemicals and fertilizer to the patrons in the surrounding area.

Mercer Landmark, Inc. has in addition to the Celina Branch location, three other full line branches, feed, agronomy, and grain at St. Henry, Chickasaw, and New Weston in Darke Co.

They have three agronomy and grain facilities at Rockford, Ohio City, and Elgin, and two agronomy plants at Coldwater and Chattanooga. Mercer Landmark, Inc. also operates four delivery trucks for fuel and home heating.

Mercer Landmark, Inc. is one of the owners of Countrymark Co-op, Inc. headquartered in Indianapolis, Indiana.

## Moorman, Harting & Company Certified Public Accountants



Moorman, Harting & Company, Certified Public Accountants opened its newly located office at 531 E. Market St., in Celina during May of 1992. Due to the firm's continued growth and expansion, they moved from their previous office on Fayette St. in Celina to the new location. The CPA firm hopes that this new office location will be more convenient and accessible to the Celina area individuals and businesses. In addition to operating out of its Celina office, Moorman, Harting & Company will continue to operate out of its Coldwater office located at 815 W. Main St. The firm originated in Coldwater in 1955.

Moorman, Harting & Company specializes in all areas of taxation including individual, business, agricultural and estate. They provide services in purchasing/selling a business or farm and organizing/financing a business or farm. Payroll preparation is also available from the firm. Recently, the CPA firm has been heavily involved in setting up computer accounting systems for businesses and farmers. In addition to these services, financial statement preparation, advisory services and a variety of other accounting service is performed by the firm.

Currently the firm's full time and part time staff of the Celina office, including partners, consists of: James W. Harting, CPA; Patrick H. Moorman, CPA; Kathy Brockman, Cynthia Goubeaux and Lynn Schmitt.



Pictured is part of the staff of the Celina office from left to right: Patrick H. Moorman, CPA; James W. Harting, CPA; Kathy Brockman, Lynn Schmitt

## Muhlenkamp & Associates



Muhlenkamp & Associates originated in August, 1973 when Neal J. Muhlenkamp, Certified Public Accountant, acquired the accounting practice from Lloyd Colburn. Prior to his public accounting business, Muhlenkamp graduated from the University of Dayton in 1969. He then began his accounting career by working for the international accounting firm of Alexander, Grant, & Co. in Dayton, Ohio.

After moving back to the Mercer County area, Muhlenkamp's practice as a CPA was located in the First National Bank Building (later known as Central Trust Bank). In September, 1981 the practice was moved to its present location at 215 North Main St., Celina. The relocation was a very fortunate and timely move since the bank building was completely destroyed by fire just four months later in January, 1982.

The present office building was built in 1952 by Dr. Robert Owens, O.D. for his optometric practice. In the fall of 1989 this building was completely remodeled and enlarged, which more than doubled the size of the original office.

Today, Muhlenkamp & Associates Inc. provide the following services for businesses and individuals: tax return preparation, financial statement preparation, bookkeeping and payroll services, estate and tax planning, accounting and computer system design, and general business and financial consulting. The firm employs three CPA's, two bookkeepers and a secretary to meet the needs of the public.

In the future, Muhlenkamp & Associates plans to open a new branch office in Ft. Recovery, Ohio.



## N C S



N C S was incorporated on April 9, 1974, and the plant was then built in 1975. It was built for Marcus Speicher and is in use as a machine shop where sophisticated equipment turns out precision parts for a number of local and not-so-local companies. The steel building houses a 60' x 100' shop and a 25' x 50' wing for offices and storage. It is located at the intersection of West Market Street and Meyer Road in Celina, Ohio. Paul Weaver is the general manager and it employs approximately six people.

N C S is a retirement project for Marcus Speicher. Except for remaining on as board member and consultant, he actively retired in 1974 from Speicher Brothers, Inc. in Celina, a company founded in 1959 by Mark Speicher and his brother, the late Carl Speicher.

The machine shop also serves as a garage and workshop for a “trademark” by which most Celinians know Speicher best — his “far out” cars. Here he can take his time and work at his hobby when the mood strikes.

## Hileman's Marathon Service Station



The time and places may have changed but Hileman's are the ones you can trust with your car. Dale Hileman started in 1946 at 126 North Main, Celina, as Hileman's Texaco. A new Texaco Station was built in 1960. Dale Hileman had this location for thirty-three years. Hileman's Marathon Service Station, 303 South Main, Celina, was started in 1979. Dale's son Jim has continued the quality service for which you have become familiar.



Authorized Dealer  
Pearson Memorial



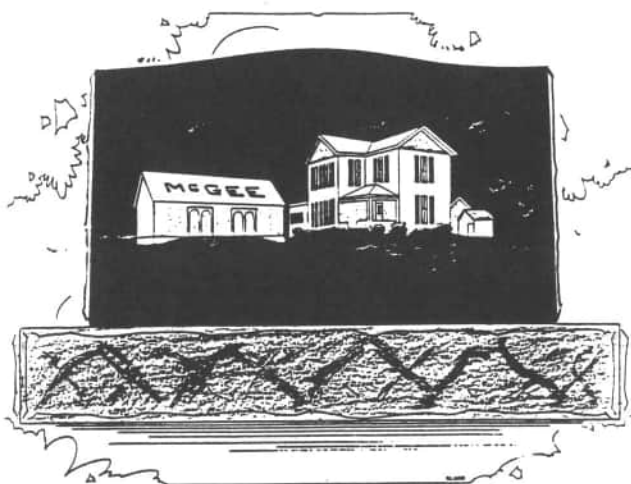
Mary Jo and Marion Pearson of Pearson Memorials, 5218 St. Rt. 29, just west of Celina, are the authorized area dealers for Birkmeier Monument Company of Delphos, Ohio.

With more than 25 years experience in helping area families choose their memorials, the Pearsons are pleased to offer their wide variety of granite, marble, and bronze memorials. While their indoor showroom includes a good selection of monuments in a variety of colors and sizes, they can match any color or design at prices that simply cannot be beat.

Specializing in traditional and custom designs that are unique and personal to the family, the company offers a free full color drawing with the purchase of any memorial.

When the need arises, the Pearsons hope area families will consider their services when choosing just the right memorial that will stand as a lasting tribute for generations to come.

Marion Pearson's father, Alvin J. Pearson, was the caretaker of Swamp College Cemetery from March 1952 until March 1965, when Marion replaced his father as caretaker. Marion was caretaker at Swamp College Cemetery until December 31, 1991. The family has worked with cemeteries and memorials for over forty years.



## Rankin's



Rankin's is located at 105 South Main Street, Celina, Ohio. On May 10, 1955, Bill and Anna May Rankin purchased the store. What had once been an appliance store, the Rankins changed the theme to include a wide variety of items; lead crystal, housewares, anniversary gifts, sporting goods and many unusual items. In addition, there are collectibles; such as, EKJ clowns, Jan Hagara, Precious Moments, Memories of Yesterday, Maruri, Norman Rockwell and assortment of Carousel Horses.

Rankin's has a multifariousness of items. Go in, take your time, leisurely browse and treat yourself to a pleasurable discovery of literally A to Z merchandise - Afghans, Baskets, Cards, Dartboards, Esther Price candies, Frames, Globes, Humorous gifts, Incense, Jigsaw puzzles, Krispy cans, Lace table covers, Quiltz, Record books (wedding, anniversary, dairy, baby, photo and scrap), German Steins, Tin boxes, Umbrellas, Volleyballs, Wind chimes, X-acto tools, Youth golf clubs and Zebras. These are just a few of the hundreds of items filling the shelves and walls. Also, there is a year 'round Holiday Loft.

Many have described this store as - "great", "undefinable", "exceptional", "unbelievable", "not another one like it for miles". Celina may be a small town but Rankin's has a huge selection of good quality merchandise. Seeing is believing - visit and surprise yourself.



## Reynolds & Reynolds



Reynolds and Reynolds, 1990

Reynolds & Reynolds is a lithographer and printer of accounting forms and business systems. The company was established in 1866 in Dayton, Ohio by the R.H. Grant family.

The Celina Grand Lake Plant was built in 1948. It started with approximately 40 employees. Today, they have approximately 600 employees. The two plant facility in Celina has 320,000 square feet under roof.

Originally, forms produced by Reynolds & Reynolds was 80% automotive. Today, more diversified forms covering automotive, hospital, medical, and insurance company forms are produced.

E.P. Wilmer Company was purchased by Reynolds & Reynolds and has grown to approximately 4000 distributors nationally. These distributors sell complete accounting systems through their independent stores across the United States. The Reynolds and Reynolds plant supplies complete forms for accounts receivable and accounts payable, as well as payroll.

The Celina Warehouse Facility has package goods items ready to service and sell any business, regardless of size. The Celina Plant is located at 824 Murlin Avenue.



Reynolds and Reynolds, 1948

## Ringle Plating Corporation



Ringle Plating is located at 441 Grand Lake Road, Celina. Frederick E. Ringle is the owner; Joseph Rohrbach is the Manager. Ringle Plating does contract plating of nickel chromium on customers' parts.

In 1949, Ringle Plating opened in Anna, Ohio, doing work for customers in Dayton, Sidney, Spencerville, Lima, Donnelsville, and Wapakoneta. In 1964, they started plating bicycle fenders for Huff. In 1967, they built the plant at Celina to accommodate Huff production. In 1972, they sold the Anna plant. In 1992, their customers are in Celina, Coldwater, Van Wert, Ohio; and Clarksville, Tennessee. Their primary customers are Huff Corporation for bicycle parts; Federal Mogul for truck wheel parts; and S & K for horse bits. Ringle Plating has over thirty employees.

## State Farm Mutual Insurance



State Farm Mutual Insurance Company was founded in 1922 by a retired Illinois farmer. Today, State Farm insures more cars, more homes, more boats, than any other insurance company. Today, State Farm is also one of the largest Life Insurance Companies. This phenomenal growth goes back to a corporate attitude of treating people "Like a Good Neighbor."

Bob Nuding and his three employees are located at 114 North Main Street, Celina. They have served the public's insurance needs for a combined experience of 38 years. Stop in and see why State Farm is Number One and why we say "Like a Good Neighbor, State Farm is there."

## Thees Machine & Tool Company



Thees Machine & Tool Company is located at 2007 State Route 703 East, Celina, Ohio 45822. John Thees is the owner; Tom Kincaid is the Foreman and Carol Ann Thees is the Secretary.

Thees Machine & Tool Company was established in January 1973. It was originally located in Ohio City. In 1978, the business was moved to its present location, 2007 State Route 703 East of Celina. Their services include: design and build special machines, tools & dies, gauges, custom machining, prototypes work and repair work of all kinds.



Telephone (419) 586-7503 P. O. Box 177 215 W. Logan St.

Total Electric Service, Inc. had its beginning on December 20, 1972, when John Brown and Roger Spohn opened the shop to provide the area with residential wiring, electric heat, air conditioning and insulation service. At that time a total of eight people were employed.

In 1975 Roger Spohn sold his interest to Thomas Robbins, and in 1990 Tom sold his interest to William Huff bringing us to date.

The business has expanded in the industrial and commercial area with the purchase of some hydrolic and power equipment to better serve the needs in this area.

Although we have made changes, we are still at the same location, 215 W. Logan Street.



William Huff on left.  
John Brown on right.



P. O. Box 334  
1201 Havemann Rd. Celina, Ohio 45822



In 1959 Kenneth C. Andrew and Herbert Aikman saw a need for a company in this area to repair and rebuild or furnish new undercarriage for crawler tractors and cranes.

They solicited help from Elmer Nofzinger, Carl Smith, James McClure, George Laws, and Joseph Suhr, who all became owner and directors and were all instrumental in developing the company named, Tractors Inc.

The primary business of the new company was and still is, repairing and rebuilding the undercarriage of crawler type dozers and cranes; however, the business has diversified to include whole machine repair, specialized welding and machining, hydraulic component repair and rebuilding, and making large hydraulic hoses.

The new company first started operations at 230 East Market St. in May of 1959. In 1971 a building at 215 West Fayette was purchased and the Company relocated there. Outgrowing the uptown location, in 1989 they purchased acreage at 1201 Havemann Rd, in the City's Industrial Park and built a building that would serve their present and future needs-moving in-in 1990.

The present officers and managers are: Paul D. Linton, Pres. & Gen'l Mgr; Dwayne G. Hoenie, VP & Service Mgr.; Joseph R. Smith (son of original director, Carl Smith), Secretary; Joseph T. Suhr, Treasurer; Dorothea M. Davis, Office Manager.

The present Stockholders are: Paul and Rita Linton; Joseph and Carolyn Smith; Sylvia Nofzinger; Dwayne and Ruth Hoenie; Joseph and Marleen Suhr; Reba Laws.



## Dr. Paul Wilken



Dr. Paul Wilken moved to Celina from Sandusky in January, 1979 and purchased the optometric practice of Dr. Roy Weber. Originally the practice was begun by Dr. Roy's father Dr. George Weber. After Dr. Roy retired the Optometric practice changed hands twice in 3 years before Dr. Wilken made the final purchase.

Dr. Wilken maintained the original location for 2 years and then moved to the "new" Community Medical Center at South US 127. Four years later Dr. Wilken remodeled his permanent office location on 119 West Summit Street. Dr. Wilken and his staff moved into the new office in July, 1986. The photo shows Dr. Wilken's Summit Street office as it appears in the Spring of 1993.

Dr. Wilken and his wife and family are active in the community by working with Philanthropic, School, and Church organizations to always better the community. The family resides in a historic 616 North Main Street home originally built for another Celina businessman of the Anthony Family in 1896.

## Wolff's Tire, Inc.



Wolff's Tire, Inc. (old building in photograph) 301 South Walnut, Celina was started in 1939 by J.J. Wolff, as a gasoline station. Carl and Leo Schockman purchased the business in 1953.



Wolff's Tire, Inc. (1978 photograph) was purchased by Mr. and Mrs. George (Ike) Coate and Paul Zurcher in September of 1981. Today, in 1992, their service includes retail and wholesale tire sales, "in the shop and on the farm" service, front end alignment, wheel balancing, battery service, brake work, oil changes, and shocks.

Wolff's Tire, Inc. is still located at 301 South Walnut, Celina.

# Otis Hospital, Inc.



Dr. L.M. Otis

Dr. Lloyd M. Otis came to Celina in August of 1914. He was a graduate of the U. of Michigan, an instructor in anatomy, and assistant to the chief of surgery at the U. of Michigan Hospital. He came to spend the summer, loved the village, the people and decided to make Celina his home. He purchased the John P. Schuyler home on 115 N. Walnut St., used his dining room as a surgery and immediately built an office connected to his home. His rock porch and rock garden behind his home were collected in fields, along side roads and all over the county when he made house calls in the country.

Dr. L. M. Otis conceived the idea of building a hospital, and being a man of action he purchased the Carlin Property at 441 E. Market St. in the early Spring of 1915, immediately remodeled it and was ready to receive his first patient in Sept. 1915. The hospital boasted two private rooms and one double room. Four patients and of course his surgery. The first hospital in this area and the next year it was enlarged to accommodate twelve patients. The first staff taught by Dr. L. M. was Clay Shaner, an orderly, Miss Mary Wooten, Miss Slusser, Maude Crawford and Ida Moore. These dedicated people along with Angeline Heyne were the nucleus of the hospital. These people worked twenty-four hours a day, six days a week. They stretched out on a cot beside the patient to get a little rest at night. During World War I Dr. L. M. was in the U. S. Cavalry. At this time he studied Roentgenology (radiology) became a member of the board of Roentgenologists and when he returned to Celina he installed the first x-ray in this area in Otis Hospital. In 1921 he enlarged the hospital making it a 25 bed hospital with six bassinets. At this time Celina had the most modern hospital in this area and this helped Celina to become one of the most progressive communities in the state. The architect who drew the plans for the 1921 renovation was Lyman Strong of Lima, Ohio. All the obstacles and prejudice that beset any progressive idea or change were overcome and Otis Hospital was here to stay.

Dr. James Otis joined his father in practice in their home office in the early 1940's. Finding their office too small they built a new office just south of their home office on 115 N. Walnut Street. Dr. James Otis continues

to practice in this office building today.

Open house was held in January 1956 for the public to see the improvements at the Hospital including extensive interior remodeling and a new addition. A new emergency room used primarily for emergency and accident cases but was equipped to handle major surgery if the main surgery was occupied. The front porch was enclosed to handle more office space and a more comfortable waiting room. The new east wing contained two three bed wards and two new baths for the patients. The original floor which was marble was covered with asphalt tile. The patients' rooms were all equipped with wider doors.

In the ensuing years a new sprinkling system was installed throughout the hospital. A new general electric x-ray was installed in the seventies, a new laboratory and a new kitchen were installed.

Within the last 15 years the state of Ohio and the federal government went from a lack of interest in its hospitals to an overinvolvement in every facet of hospital procedure. With these over-zealous demands the cost of hospital care rose to ridiculous proportions but Otis Hospital never received any tax dollars from the day it opened till the day it closed its doors. Dr. L. M. Otis cared about his fellow man and because of this he opened a hospital. He worked and he studied, listened and was interested in each of his patients. He dedicated his life in the service of others. His son Dr. Jim, followed his course of direction. Dr. Jim Otis has continued his office practice in the office they built together. Dr. Otis continued on with Otis Hospital as a non-profit hospital until he closed its doors in the winter of 1978. Three score and three years the Otis Hospital has served Celina and Mercer County, it will be sorely missed and it will be hard to match the quality of care given the patients who entered the doors of Otis Hospital over the years.

Dr. Lloyd M. Otis, a descendent of James Otis (Legislator during the Revolutionary War and one of the authors of The Declaration of Independence), was born Nov. 28, 1888, in Hicksville, Ohio, son of George Knox Otis and Minnie (Cutie) Cowick Otis. After graduating from Hicksville High School, he went to the University of Michigan, where as an undergraduate, he was the only cheerleader (yell master) at the football games during the



Otis Hospital, before remodeling the porch on the east

era of Fielding Yost. While he was in Medical School, he met Barbara Audritsh, a student in the School of Music and they were married in Green Springs, Ohio, following his graduation from the University of Mich. School of Medicine in 1912.

Their son James was born in Ann Arbor, Mich., where Dr. L. M. taught Anatomy and was assistant to the Chief of Surgery at the Univ. of Mich. Hospital. They moved to Celina in 1914, where there were 11 physicians. He loved the village, the people and decided to make it their home and started Otis Hospital in the spring of 1915. Their second child, Betty Ellen, was born in Otis Hospital Sept. 18, 1915.

Dr. Otis was a member of the Celina Board of Public Affairs in the early twenties. He was instrumental in the hiring of Roy Cook, a talented engineer, to refurbish the broken down powerplant and to revitalize electric service to the village. Celina's credit was so poor that no supplier would furnish the materials and the Celina Banks refused to advance money that they felt would only add to the communities bad debts. Despite general opinion that the plant was a dead horse, Cook realized its potential, and asked Dr. L. M. to join him in loaning personal money to the town to buy wire and Dr. L. M. agreed. The service to the community improved so a cordless engine was purchased and within a few years the plant went into the black and the men were reimbursed for their loans.

Dr. Otis was a member and officer of the Mercer County Medical Society, Ohio State Medical Assoc., American Medical Assoc. and the American College of Surgeons. He was a Mason, York Rite, Shriner of Antioch Temple and a member of The First Presbyterian Church. In 1938, he became a member of the American College of Surgeons, an honor bestowed on few men of family practice. He received Honors from Great Britain conferred upon him for research and success in the treatment of lobar pneumonia with the use of long wave diathermy, before the days of sulfa or antibiotics.

In 1938, Dr. L. M. married Elizabeth Dabbelt of Coldwater, Ohio. She received her degree in Nursing from St. Rita's Hospital, Lima, Ohio, and was employed at Otis Hospital from 1933 to 1938. Dr. L. M. and Elizabeth had two daughters, Gwendolyn and Nancy, both born at Otis Hospital.

To commemorate the GOLDEN ANNIVERSARY of the CLASS 1912, the Univ. of Michigan Medical School conducted a reunion and sent the eight surviving members old photographs and addresses. This inspired another graduate of 1912, Dr. H. Wiggins of Omaha, Neb., to write a letter to Dr. Otis. The letter was opened by his son, Dr. James Otis, since Dr. L. M. had been inactive after suffering a stroke in 1953. This was the contents of the letter:

Dear Dr. Otis:

Because of illness, I was unable to attend our Golden Anniversary of the Class of 1912. A picture of our class was sent to me and when I saw your picture, an incident came to mind which I know you have long since forgotten. We had assembled at the Medical Building on campus prior to our march to the auditorium where we were to receive our degrees. As the procession began to form, some of my classmates were a little squemish about walking with a Negro. You were behind me and you sensed the awkwardness of the situation and left your partner to step forward and walk with me. True, it was a small act, a friendly gesture, but the motivation bespoke a spirit that is so lacking in our world today. So when I saw your picture, I felt I should write and tell you I have still not forgotten. I sincerely hope that time has dealt kindly with you these last 50 years . . . Dr. Wiggins was one of two black Doctors in the Class of 1912.

During the years of his practice, Dr. L. M. delivered 3000 babies. He and his son Dr. Jim entered into a father-son practice and continued together until Dr. L. M. retired due to ill health. He was truly a pioneer in surgery and was all ready to help, always cheerful, gracious and competent. Dr. L. M. enjoyed bowling and golf and won numerous golf tournaments. He loved the practice of medicine, he loved people and he loved life. He revealed his love when he had the medical caduceus put on his crypt with these words "HE SERVES GOD WELL WHO SERVES HIS FELLOW MAN".



Otis Hospital, 1915 — First Staff: Mary Wooten, Miss Slusser (Mrs. Carl Gladfelter), Clay Shaner, Dr. L. M. Otis, Maude Crawford, Ida Moore.

Three Generations—Dr. L. M. Otis (1888 - 1964); Dr. James J. Otis, 1913; James Lloyd Otis, 1948.



## Betty Ellen Otis Code

Betty Ellen Otis Code was born in 1915 in Otis Hospital. She was the daughter of Dr. Lloyd M. and Barbara Otis and was the sister of Dr. James J. Otis. She graduated from Celina High School in 1933, and was valedictorian of her class. She attended Ward Belmont School for Girls in Nashville, Tenn., and the University of Michigan, majoring in the Languages. She was married to Harry Code and resided in Pittsburgh, Pa. They had no children. Betty was employed as executive secretary to the Vice President of the Paint Division of Pittsburgh Plate Glass Co. and held the position until she retired. After retirement, she moved to Tampa, Fla., where she died suddenly of a cerebral hemorrhage in Dec. of 1968 at the age of 53. She is buried in Northgrove Cemetery in Celina, O.

Dr. James J. Otis



## James John Otis, M.D.

James J. Otis was born in 1913 in Ann Arbor, Mich., to Dr. L. M. and Barbara Otis. In 1914, his family moved to Celina, Ohio, where he received his elementary and high school education. He graduated from Denison University and entered the University of Cincinnati School of Medicine, where he received his medical degree in 1940. After serving his internship at Crist Hospital in Cincinnati, he returned home and began a partnership with his father in the general practice of medicine. Their practice flourished and this father-son partnership con-

tinued until 1953, when ill health forced Dr. L. M. to retire. In 1955, Dr. Jim invited his friend and fellow classmate, Dr. Louis Finklemeier of Cincinnati, to share the responsibilities of his extensive practice. Their partnership continues today.

Dr. Otis is a Fellow of the American Academy of Family Physicians, a member of the American Medical Association, a Third District Delegate of the Ohio State Medical Association and past president of the Mercer County Medical Association. He is past Vice President of the Mercer County Heart Association and is Regional Director of the Red Cross Blood Program. He is also a member of the Sigma Chi Fraternity, Nu Sigma Nu Medical Fraternity, Masonic Blue Lodge, Scottish Rite, Anitoch Shrine and the Jesters. Dr. Otis is a member of the St. Paul's Methodist Church, Celina.

In 1944 Dr. Jim met and married Betty Hammel, a native of Fargo, North Dakota and a graduate of St. Vincent's Hospital School of Nursing in Toledo, Ohio. They have four children.

## Sharon Otis Grimaud

The oldest daughter, Sharon Otis Grimaud, was born at Otis Hospital, graduated from Celina High School, and attended Stephens College in Columbia, Missouri. She married James Grimaud from St. Louis, MO., and is the mother of five children; Debra Lynn, Daniel Lloyd, Diane Louise, Adam A., and Jane Fairfax. They reside in St. Louis, Missouri, where Sharon and Jim own and operate a national company, SELECT FASTENERS, INC.

## Victoria Lynn Otis

Vicki L. Otis was born at Otis Hospital in 1946. Vicki graduated from Celina High School in 1964 and the same year became the Grand Lake Festival Queen. She attended Loretto Heights College in Denver, Colorado, and Ohio State University. She is the Administrator of the Department of Gynecology and Obstetrics at the University of Kansas Medical Center, Kansas City, Kansas. Vicki is a Founding and Chartered Member of the Association of Managers of Gynecology and obstetrics (AMGO). Vicki is a member of the National Republicans, the National Friends of the Zoo, World Wide Preservation of Animals of Animals and Rain Forest, and various other civic and charitable organizations in Kansas City. Vicki resides in Overland Park, Kansas.

## Jeanie Ellen Otis Hamm

The youngest daughter of Dr. James and Betty Otis, Jeanie Ellen Otis Hamm, was born at Otis Hospital and graduated from Celina High School. She attended Ohio State University, where she graduated with a B.A. in Journalism, majoring in Public Relations, minoring in Communications, in 1974. She volunteered her services to the Foundation for the Deaf, where she designed flags adopted nationally for the use by deaf cyclists as a signal to motorists, and was appointed the first chairman of the committee established to implement their use, and con-

ducted a successful campaign to promote, produce and distribute the flags. She also worked for the Ohio Hospital Association, where she initiated and composed a booklet distributed throughout the state to explain medical terminology, and surgical procedures to patients and visitors. This booklet is still in use, accomplishing its purpose of alleviating anxiety of patients and visitors unfamiliar with medical procedures. Jeanie was employed as "Action Line" Editor until 1976 for the Fort Wayne Journal Gazette, Fort Wayne, IN., where she produced copy and cartoon illustration for a weekly column designed to report and propose solutions to community problems. She also reported, edited and photographed special assignments including sports, political and civic meetings and human interest stories.

Jeanie then became the manager for The Gynecologic Oncology Group, based in Philadelphia, PA, until 1977, where she managed all statistics, organized and calculated all data, comprising of detailed patient progress and results of surgical procedures, radiation and chemotherapy methods.

Jeanie served as the Associate Administrator for Fiscal Affairs for the University of Kansas Medical Center from 1977 to 1990, with emphasis on personnel

management, purchasing of medical and operating equipment, accounting of expenditures, managing the annual budget and administration of employee benefits. Her professional objective has been a management level position capitalizing upon practical experience in management, budgetary/fiscal affairs and hospital administration, with background and experience in journalism and public relations.

Presently, Jeanie is working with her father James J. Otis, M.D., in his solo medical family practice, concentrating with the computer operations of his medical practice in Celina, Ohio.

She has two children, Phillip James "P.J." Hamm, born 11-03-79, and Nicolette Jo "Nicole" Hamm, born 07-10-81, both natives of Kansas City.

Jeanie is a member of the Association of Managers of Gynecology and Obstetrics; American Association of University of Women; National Association for Female Executives; Phi Beta Psi Sorority and served as the Mercer County Chairman for the Bush-Quayle Campaign in 1992. Jeanie is also a Member of the Ohio State University Alumni Association, on the Board of Directors of the Ohio State University Alumni Association of Mercer County.



James Lloyd Otis

## James Lloyd Otis

James Lloyd Otis, only son of Dr. James and Betty Otis, was born at Otis Hospital in 1948. While attending Celina Senior High School, he became proficient on the Football field as a fullback. He broke all existing rushing records of the school and was named to the Ohio All State Team 1966. He continued his Football career at Ohio State University and was a member of its National Championship Team in 1968. In 1969, Ohio State was invited to the Rose Bowl in Pasadena, California. Jim distinguished himself by being the leading rusher of that game. The same year, he was selected as an All American and starred in the Coaches All American Game when he established a rushing record which still stands today, and he was selected as the Most Valuable Player. He also played in the Shrine East-West Game, the Lion's All American Game, and the Hula Bowl. After his gradua-

tion from the School of Business at Ohio State University in 1970, Jim began his professional football career with the Saint Louis Saints. He later joined the Kansas City Chiefs, where he played from 1971, until he was traded to the Saint Louis Cardinals in 1973. In 1975, as a Cardinal Back, he led the National Football Conference with 1,076 yards gained by rushing. This record qualified him for the induction into the Thousand Yard Club. He was the 31st football player ever to earn the honor in the history of the National Football League. In 1978, Jim became the All Time Leading Rusher for the St. Louis Cardinals, breaking this record with a Cardinal career total of 3,750 yards rushing. He retired from professional football in 1979, with a career total of more than 4,500 yards rushing and is honored in the National Football Hall of Fame for scoring a touchdown in the record longest game in professional, played during the playoffs on Christmas Day, 1971, Kansas City Chiefs vs. Miami Dolphins.

Jim married Janet Dwyer of Kansas City in 1973, and they have four children; Jodi Ellen, Christine Rene, James John, and Jeffrey David. The family's home is in Chesterfield, Missouri.

Jim is the partner of Otis and Clark Properties, a commercial real estate development and brokerage firm. Jim developed and started the organization Missouri Kids, designed to assist and contribute to the needs of injured and disabled children Kindergarten through 12th grade, whose injuries are a result of athletic accidents. He serves on the Missouri Kids Board of Trustees. Jim also serves on the Board of The Kilo Foundation. Jim started the National Football Foundation of Outstanding Football Players, St. Louis, MO. He also has been the President of the St. Louis Chapter of the National Football League Alumni Association. Jim is a member of



the Executive Board for the N.F.L. Alumni Association. He has been very active with the N.F.L. Alumni Association, making guest appearances and organizing fund raising activities for charities. He's also been instrumental in arranging to acquire a new professional football team, located again in St. Louis.

Jim is on the Selection Committee of the St. Louis Arena and also serves on the Board of the St. Louis Blues Professional Ice Hockey Organization.

In addition to his active participation in community service and charitable organizations, Jim has also served as chairman and member of committees for Leukemia Society, March of Dimes, M.S. Society, and the United Way. Jim continues to be instrumental in fund raising for many worthwhile national charities. He was selected by

President George Bush to serve on the President's National Steering Committee, which involved personal meetings with the President. He also serves on the Chesterfield Mayor's Task Force in St. Louis.

Jim has commentated televised N.F.L. football games for ESPN and broadcasted football games for KCMO radio station since his retirement of professional football. He also makes various speaking appearances for charity, civic, youth, and athletic functions locally and nationally.

Jim has been named in the Outstanding Young Men in America, Who's Who in America, lifetime member of the Ohio State University Alumni Association and a member of Sigma Chi Fraternity.

## Celina Glass Co.



Gene Rolfes and his family began Celina Glass in 1958, at 308 East Anthony. As the business grew, they moved to another location six year later. Their business continued expanding until they moved to the present location at 415 West Market Street. The construction part of the business gave them the chance to work in schools, hospitals, bank offices, and showrooms for many different retail and factory businesses. Celina Glass is known in a five county area. This business is a family business, administered by Gene Rolfes and children, Barry, Randy, Terry, and Kim (Rolfes) Swonger.

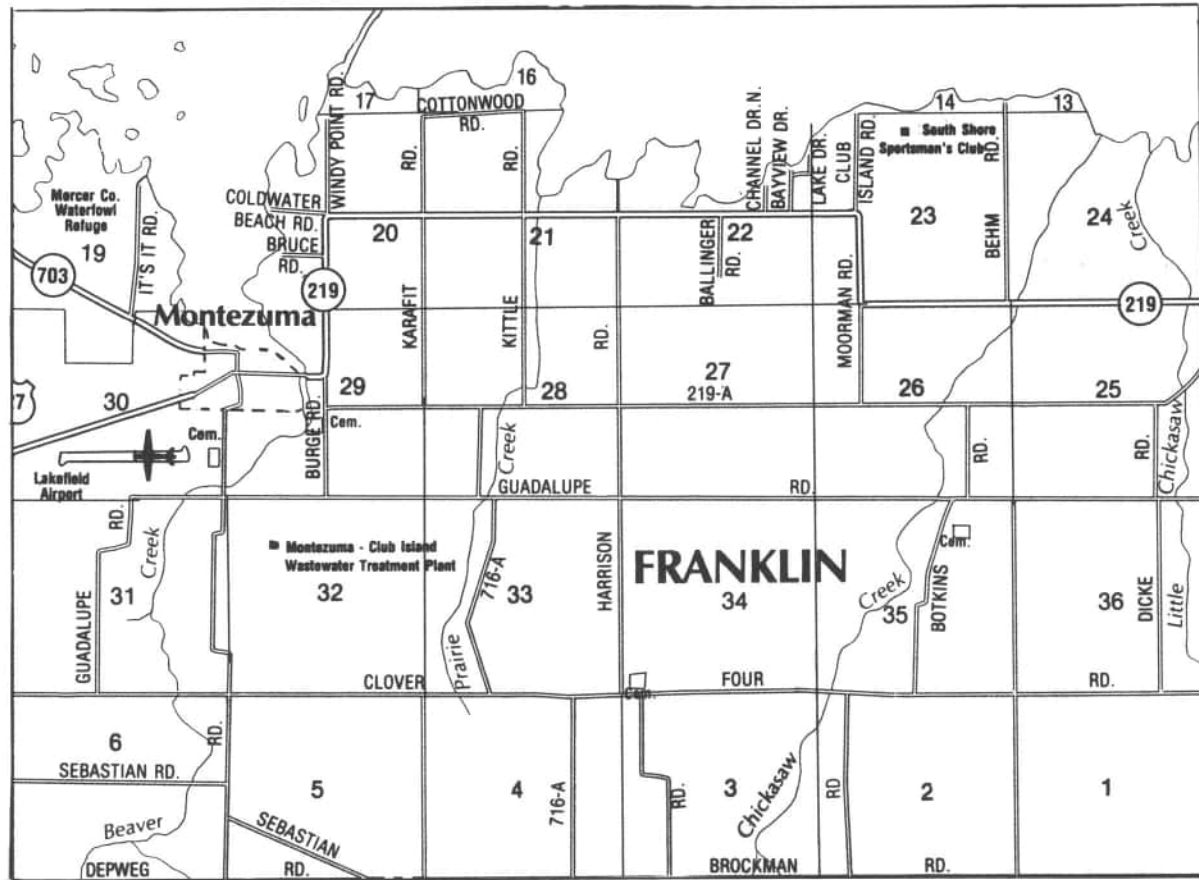
## Eichar De Curtins VFW



The EICHAR DE CURTINS VFW Post 5713 is located at 1120 West Logan Street, Rt. 29, Celina, Ohio 45822.

The 1993-1994 Post Commander is Don Howell.

# Franklin Township, Mercer County, Ohio



\* This page was sponsored by the Mercer County Historical Society for the convenience of those who wish to tour Franklin Township roads, to see the big barns and to appreciate our rural heritage.

\*\* This map was printed by permission of Spectrum Map Publishing, Inc., 909 Sycamore Street, Cincinnati, OH 45202.



Dale Schwieterman's barn at 3924 County Road 716 A was built in the late 1800's by John Bruns. Hay, straw and grain have been stored in the mow. Dairy cows and milking stalls were in the bottom. Today, they use the barn for steers. This barn has a unique entryway. Some barnologists would say that there is a covered-bridged driveway bay, at the top of the bank to the barn. Others might say that there is a porch with wagon doors which form a bridge between the head of the ramp and the barn. Some say this entryway at the top of the bank is called a "doghouse." In spite of the many names of this entryway to this barn, it is certain that there are few barns in Mercer County with this covered-bridged entryway. An almost rare opening or fenestration is the round window in the gable end of this entryway; very, very few barns have round windows. The triangular pattern of the three windows in the gable end of the barn is a pattern which is common to southern Mercer County.



Joseph Albert Frank, grandfather of Everett L. Frank, built this barn in 1898. This old barn has served the farm by holding livestock, hay, straw, and grain, and is still a working barn. This graceful old barn, with its proud stance, has the red paint, with the white arched double doors. The barn belongs to Everett and Carol Frank, 5010 Harrison Road, Celina.



John Albers owns this barn at 4362 Botkins Road, Celina. The gambrel-roofed barn was built in 1928 by Russel Botkins, and was used for dairying. Mr. and Mrs. John Albers bought this farm in 1935. Today the barn is used for storage. As in any history book, the book is almost out-of-date by the time it is printed. Just after this photograph was taken, the Albers put on a new barn roof.



This big farm barn has been used for cattle on the farm of Charlie and Deb Riethman, 3733 St. Johns Road, Celina. A strong structure, this barn was built about 1900.



Ivo Bruns, 7808 Clover Four Road, owns this barn, located at 3688 St. Johns Road, Celina. George Bruns built this barn in 1953, and the barn is used for dairy. Note the Gothic roofline, and the configuration of the windows and hay mow door at the end of the barn.



This is the old barn which stood at 3688 St. Johns Road, and was torn down in 1953, for George Bruns to build the new barn.

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(Editor's note: When I visited this Ronnebaum farm, John was using this wooden wheelbarrow. I asked him if I could photograph this wheelbarrow. He told me that his father Mathias Ronnebaum bought this wooden wheelbarrow in 1948 at a farm sale.)

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John Ronnebaum, 3881 Chickasaw Road, Celina, owns this barn. His Grandfather John B. Ronnebaum bought the farm from his great-grandfather Henry Ronnebaum on June 4, 1883. The main frame of the barn was ax-hewn logs, into 10 x 10 posts to needed length. The posts set on 6 to 8 inch thick and around 12 inch wide and 16 inch long limestone rock. It had a wood shingled roof and a wood siding. It also had a wooden floor except in the horse and cow stables. It also had a hay fork and track to pull and lift hay into the hay mow. The barn was built by neighbors and one was considered a straw boss, around 1890. The barn has since been remodeled with a new cement foundation and flooring, siding and a new roof in the 1970's.

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Luella C. Niekamp, 3680 Harrison Road, Celina, is the owner of this barn. The grandfather of her husband Thomas Niekamp, bought this farm in 1882. The barn was probably built about that time. Today, the barn is going into the fifth generation of this family. The barn has been used for dairy cows, milking, and storage for hay, straw, and grain.

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This big old barn belongs to Roger Will, 3823 Gottemoeller Road, Celina. The barn not only has the big double doors in the center, it also has an interesting pattern of sliding doors on the right side. Five lightning rods are on the ridge of the gable roof. Today, the barn is used for baled hay and straw and for housing cattle.



Mervin Niekamp, 832 E. Providencia Avenue, Burbank, CA 91501 sent this photograph of his mother's homeplace. Her grandfather William Gieseke built the barn sometime between 1880 and 1890. The farmstead is located on St. Johns Road, in Section 2, Franklin Township. If one looks carefully at the roof, one can see the Gieseke name. Three small windows are placed in the gable end. The double doors each have a window placed at the outside top corner.



Albert J. Dicke, 4306 Dicke Road, owns this big red barn, which was built in 1916. (The barn is located in Franklin Township, and has a New Bremen, OH 45869 mailing address.) The double doors are not only trimmed in white, with white triangles at the corners, but also trimmed with white diamond windows which are not often found in the barn doors. The white trim on the red barn is also highlighted at the end of the round or rainbow roof. In the past, the barn was used for housing for all kinds of animals: horses, cows and calves, and later some stalls were used for sheep and chickens. They also stored hay, straw, wheat and oats. The milking parlor was in this barn, also.



This gambrel-roofed barn is located at 8185 Road 219 A, Celina, and is owned by Dale R. Klosterman, 7850 County Road 219 A. The original barn was destroyed by fire. Neighbors erected this barn at the same site in 1943. In the past, the barn was used for general farming, with cows and steers. Today, the barn is used for a hog operation.



This barn is located at 8807 State Route 219, Celina, and is owned by Imogene McKee Badertscher. Don Badertscher is standing in front of this old barn. Imogene told about Berne, Switzerland, where the ancestor Urilinat came from; she told about the barn being located on a high hill, and above that, further on, a neighbor, who when coming to town, had to drive through this barn, to stay on the road and to get to the village below.

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Don Badertscher told about the back of the barn, where the double doors open; that the opened doors were used during threshing, to create the draft across the threshing floor. On the gable end, one can see the three closed windows in the top, and the doors in the wall.

The original home is still standing at this farm.

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This barn, owned by Eugene Homan, 6213 Sebastian Road, is one of a few barns in the county, with a two foot cross cut into the gable end. The barn probably was built about 1910, and was used for cattle and horses, and storage of grain, hay and straw, and is still used for this purpose today.

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This weathervane, topped with a holstein cow, stands in the barn lot of Eugene Homan's farm. (Editor's note: This is the only weather-vane like this, that I have seen in the county.)

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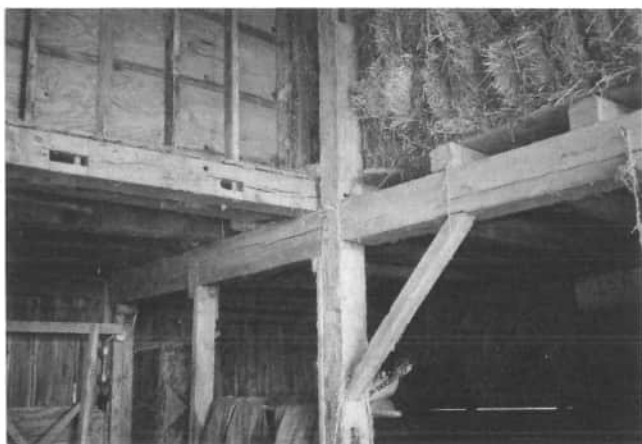
This gable-roofed barn, with the triangle of windows on the gable end, and the several doors topped with rectangular windows, was built in 1907, by Harry Carter and sons. The original slate roof was replaced in 1984. The barn is located at 8160 State Route 219, Celina, and was owned by Wilbur Strasburg; Wilbur passed away July 25, 1990. Today, the barn is owned by Mrs. Marie Strasburg, 8 Deer Drive, New Bremen, Ohio 45869. The stately barn is used for machinery, cattle, hay and straw.

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This interior view of Charles Niekamp's barn shows the framing techniques of the barn.

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This interior view of Charles Niekamp's barn shows the huge posts and beams supporting the barn and hay mow.

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Charles J. Niekamp, 8933 State Route 219, owns this barn, which was originally located on a farm near North Star. This barn was taken down and moved piece by piece to its present location. The red barn, is trimmed in white, with the white triangle in the gable end.

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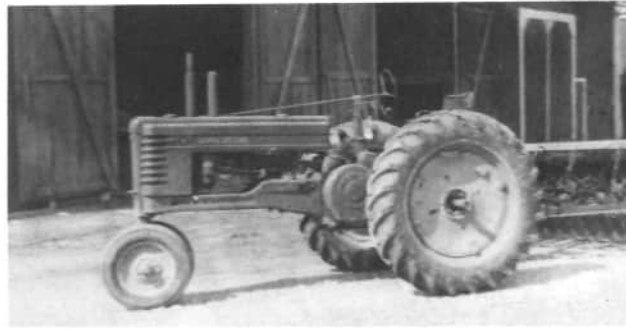


This is an old photograph of the back of Charles Niekamp's barn. The barn is used for livestock, and for storing grain, straw and hay.

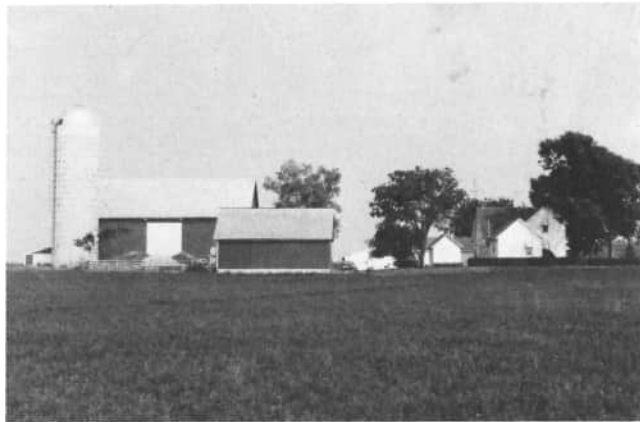
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Built in 1891 by Anna and Fred Ronnebaum, this barn belongs to Fred and Kay Hein, 8109 Clover Four Road, Celina. The date on the gable end, is centered in the triangle of three louvered windows, with the white triangle painted at the gable peak. The red barn is trimmed in white, with the big double doors framed in white with the white triangles at the corners. The barn was used for horses and cows, grain and hay storage, and had a milking parlor on the west end. Today the barn is used for dairy calves and storing hay.



This 1951 view of Fred Hein's barn, shows the bracing of the open barn doors, as well as the John Deere Tractor waiting to be put to work.



An interior view of the huge beams, also shows the basketball hoop for the kids. On February 6, 1868, Newton Temple sold this farm to John Henry Ronnebaum; 1911 the farm went to Anna Ronnebaum, wife of Fred. In 1944, Clara and Henry Hein became the owners; in 1979, Fred and Kathleen Hein became the owners.

Jerome and Doris Ann Will's barn stands at 7189 Brockman Road, Celina. This old bank barn has been used for cattle, horse stables, hay and grain storage. The 1978 MERCER COUNTY HISTORY BOOK, page 257 gives a history of this farm. The 42 x 72 bank barn was built in 1893-1894. Henry Will Jr. bought this farm from his father Henry Will Sr., in 1890. When they moved from the farm, Henry Will Jr.'s son Alfred Will took over the farm in 1928. They got their first tractor in 1936; they went from threshing machines to combines in 1944 and horses were no longer used for farming. In 1953 a milking parlor and milk house were built on the southwest corner of the barn, and a pipeline milking operation was begun, which ended many years of milking by hand. In the summer of 1978, an 18 x 60 foot silo was built, along with an addition of 24 x 72 foot to the north side of the barn. Mr. and Mrs. Alfred Will's son moved to the farm in 1976.





This big, old barn has the gable roof, and is painted white. The elevator has an entry in the gable end. In the past, the barn was used for steers and cows; today the barn is used for Holstein heifers. This is the Ken Schmitmeyer barn at 7915 Clover Four Road, Celina.

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Elmer and Paula Fledderjohann, 8570 County Road 219 A, Celina, own this barn, where Paula (Dammeyer) Fledderjohann was born and raised. Several years after they were married, Mr. and Mrs. Julius Dammeyer, Paula's parents, bought the farm. (Julius is the son of Mr. and Mrs. Henry Fred Dammeyer, whose barn was east of this place.) Paula remembers there may have been a date of 1885 on this barn. This white barn, with the gable roof, and three windows in the gable end, was used by Elmer for milking. Today, their son Melvin uses the barn for raising young cattle.

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This white barn with the rainbow or gothic roof-line belongs to Elmer and Sue Stachler, 7819 County Road 219 A, Celina. This neat barn was built before 1940, and was used for cattle in the past.

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Henry Fred Dammeyer built this barn in 1895. After Henry moved to New Bremen, his son William Dammeyer lived there. Next, Clarence and Luetta (Dammeyer) Roettger lived there. Then, the farm was sold outside the family. The barn burned down about 1934-35. On the old photograph, one can see the name H.F. Dammeyer and 1895, painted on the barn; one can also see members of Henry Fred Dammeyer's family on the 1907 photograph. Today, this barn was on the site of the farm owned by David Schwieterman, 8709 County Road 219 A, Celina.

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This red barn with the attractive white-arched doors, is owned by Alvin Saintignon, 8989 County Road 219 A, Celina. The barn was used to house horses.

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The Dammeyer family built this barn, after the barn fire of 1934-35. This white barn is trimmed in red, and has a gambrel roof. This barn, belonging to David Schwieterman, is used to house cattle, and store hay and straw, and is located at 8709 County Road 219 A, Celina.

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Charles and David Schwieterman built this barn in 1985; it is a free stall barn to hold cows. It is also white, with red trim, and has a gambrel roof, keeping the same lines as the previous barn. This barn is also at the site of 8709 County Road 219 A, David Schwieterman.

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Charles Schwieterman, 7239 Guadalupe Road, Celina, owns this barn, located at 7650 Guadalupe Road. This farm had been the Adrian Niekamp farm; it was sold to Charles Schwieterman in 1972. This bank barn, with the gable roof, was built a century ago, by Joe Falkie. The original shingles are still on the barn; this interesting pattern of shingles is one of a kind in Mercer County. This barn has always been used to house livestock.

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This red barn, with the unique double doors, trimmed with white quarter-rounds, was built in 1914 by Bill Axe. This was the Julius Wilker Homestead, who bought the farm, located on County Road 219 A, in 1941. The farm was sold to Charles Schwieterman in 1986. The big barn was used for housing livestock, and today is used for storage.

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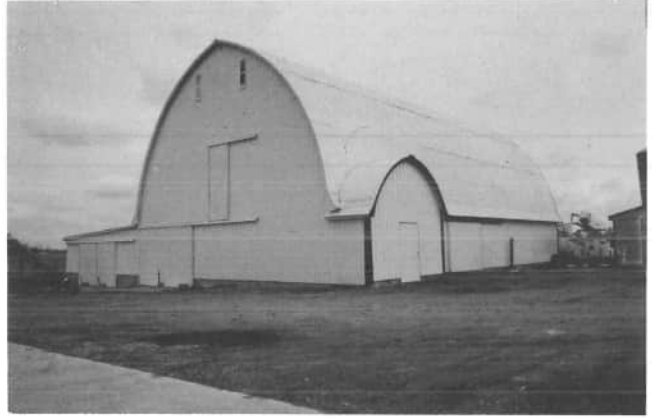
This bank barn belongs to Hilda F. Borgert, 4382 Guadalupe Road, Celina. The deeds were traced, with Abraham Miller, Jr., purchasing the farm from the State of Ohio in 1835; then to John McGee, 1852; then to Robert McGee, 1855; to Rebecca McGee, 1881; then to Hubert Dabbelt, 1891; to Barney Dabbelt, 1918; to Herman Schwieterman, 1919; to Constance Schwieterman, 1923; to Frank Dabbelt, 1927; to Ben Borgert, 1928; and finally to Ray and Hilda Borgert, November 22, 1941. It is believed that Barney Dabbelt built the barn in 1919.

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Mark and Rose Mary Schwieterman, 6265 Clover Four Road, Celina, own this bank barn, where Tim and Ann Schwieterman live at 7174 Clover Four Road. Mark's Uncle Joseph Schwieterman Jr. told that the barn was built in 1865; their family has the deed dating back to 1841. Joseph Schwieterman, Sr., his brothers, and his father Gerhard Schwieterman, built the barn. The first carpenter to work on the barn got \$1.25 a day. They had no experience building two story barns so when they got the bottom section done, they decided to get a second set of carpenters to finish it; they only took 75 cents a day. In the 1870's they built the house which is gone now. Joseph Sr. was married in 1876, and Joseph Jr. (1894-1963) was the third youngest of seven children.

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This gothic or rainbow arched roofline is echoed in the arch above the entry to this white barn, trimmed in red. Two windows permit light to the upper levels of the barn, while there are two levels of entry doors. Frank Heyne built this barn in 1952, after fire destroyed the other barn. Earl Heyne, 6651 Clover Four Road, Celina, owns this barn, which had been used for cattle and is now used for storage.

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This bank barn is owned by Dave Will, 6670 Clover Four Road, Celina. The red barn is trimmed in white. The bank is unique in that it is a broad bank and leads to two sets of double doors. The barn is used for hogs and calves.

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This big bank barn is located at 4010 State Route 127, and is owned by Earl Heyne, 6651 Clover Four Road, Celina. The barn was built by Clem Dahlinghaus, and was used for cattle and horses. Shrubby surrounds the bank entry to the second level of the barn. Rural art graces the gable end.

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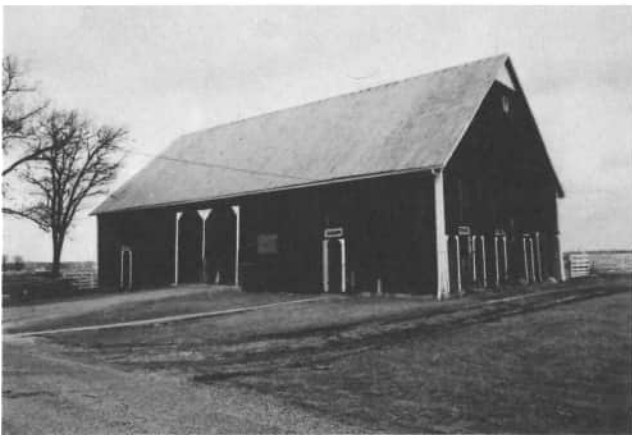
This bank barn is unique in that there is a short bridge between the bank and the barn entry doors. There is a short ladder to the side of the bridge, at this barn, owned by Earl Heyne.

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Sylvester Borgert, 4260 Cassella-Montezuma Road, Celina, owns this barn, built in the late 1880's. It was used for grain storage, dairy cattle, hay and straw.

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This red barn, with the gable roof, is trimmed with white triangles on the double doors, and the smaller doors; the white triangle also graces the gable end. The small rectangular windows above the smaller doors are unique. This barn, owned by Ivo and Therese Albers, 7937 County Road 219 A, Celina, has been used for livestock, grain, feed, and machine storage. The barn may have been used as late as 1950 for horses. Fred and Cawline Luedicke purchased the farm in 1892; John and Mary Luedicke in 1895; Alfred Albers in 1927; and Ivo and Therese Albers in 1976. The date on the barn is 1890.

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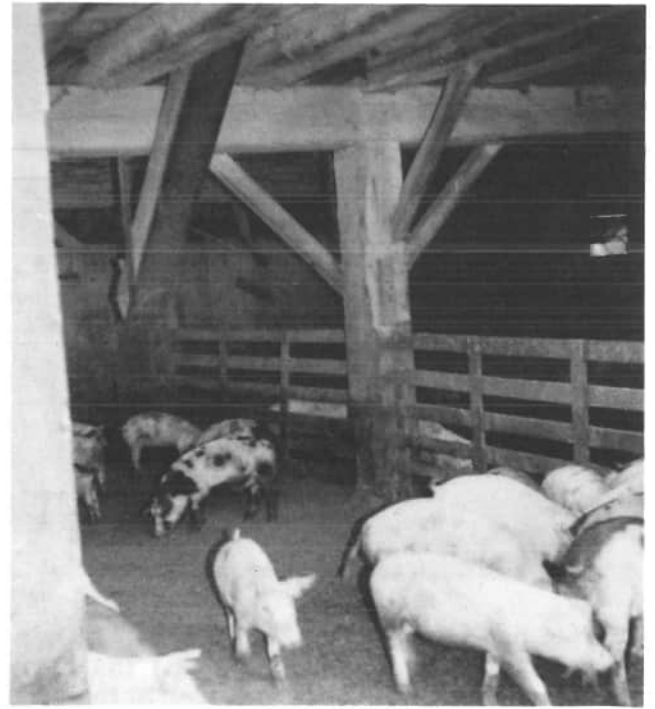
Mr. and Mrs. Albert Niekamp, 3683 Cassella-Montezuma Road, Celina, own this barn, which was built in 1918 by Bernard Borgert and the neighbors. In the past, the barn was used for general farming, for milk cows, and horses, hay and straw. Today, the barn is used for storage.

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Herbert Knapke's name is lettered across the front of this big old barn, painted white, with a green metal roof. In the past, the barn was used for dairy and milking, and storing grain, hay and straw. Today, Herbert Knapke, 7927 Brockman Road, Celina, uses the barn to store grain, hay and straw.

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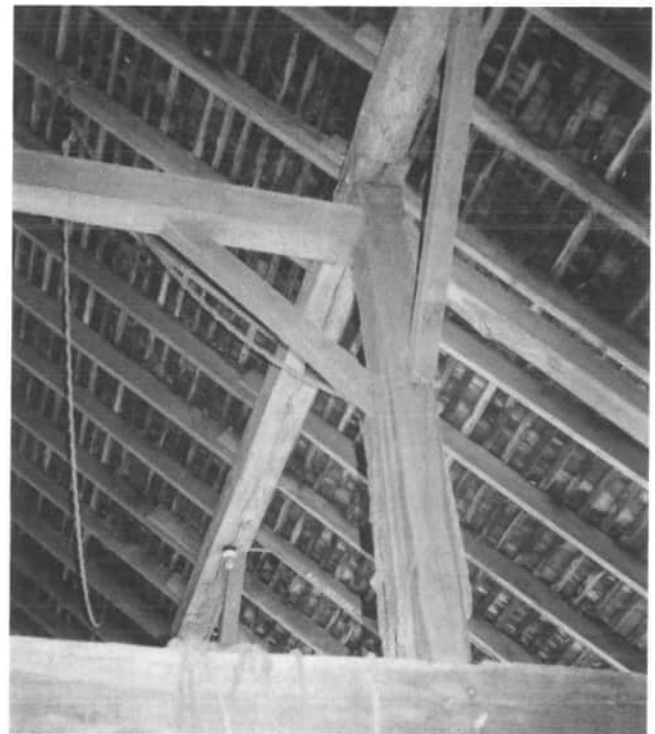
This interior view of Jerome Will's barn, shows the huge posts and beam, but also shows the grain chute, from the upper level.

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This big old white barn, with the green gabled roof, is over a century old, being built in the 1880's. The barn has been used for livestock and feed. The barn is owned by Earl Brockman, 8855 Brockman Road, New Bremen.

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This interior view of Jerome Will's barn gives a view of the wooden-pinned, hand hewn beam, which supports the post beneath the purlin plate supporting the roof.

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Jerome and Doris Ann Will, 7189 Brockman Road, own this bank barn, which is painted red, with white-trimmed doors, complemented with the white triangle in the gable end. The barn, built in 1893, was used for cattle, horse stables, hay and grain storage. Today, the barn is used for cattle, hogs, hay and straw.

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This interior view of Jerome Will's barn gives a view of the length of the barn, and the framing technique of the beams and posts, supporting the purlin plate and rafters of the roof.

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A gothic or rainbow arched roofline caps this barn, with the KRAMER family name on the front, above the date of building 1927. This red barn is highlighted with white trim on the doors, and the white triangle at the roof peak. This barn, which was built by Alfred Tontrup, was used for dairy and hay storage. Today, Darrell and Vicki Kramer, 8731 St. Rt. 219, Celina, own this barn, and the barn is used for beef cattle, hogs, and hay and straw.

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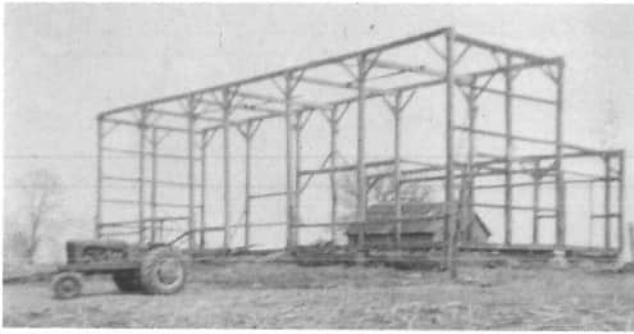
This big barn has center rafters cut with an axe. Ward Preston added on to the barn about 1925. The barn was used to raise beef and dairy cattle and today it is used to raise dairy heifers. Arthur Eyink, 6929 State Route 219, Celina, owns this red barn, trimmed in white, with the white triangle in the gable end.

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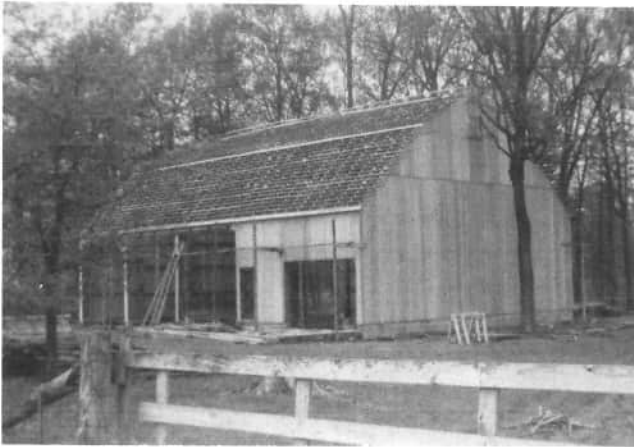
This barn, located at the corner of Clover Four Road and Botkins Road, belongs to Fred G. Hirschfeld, 8340 Clover Four Road, Celina. This barn was originally located on the north end of the farm. During 1953 and 1954, the barn was dismantled by Edwin E. Hirschfeld and the frame reconstructed on the south end of the farm along Clover Four Road. New siding and roofing was then added. The red barn is trimmed with white arches on the doors, and a white triangle at the peak of the end wall.

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Fred Hirschfeld's barn when it was being reconstructed at the corner of Clover Four Road and Botkins Road.

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Fred Hirschfeld's barn, as it was being reconstructed at the corner of Clover Four Road and Botkins Road. The barn has a new tin roof and some of the siding.

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This barn belongs to Fred G. Hirschfeld, 8340 Clover Four Road, Celina. In the past, the barn was used for livestock production and hay and grain storage; today the barn is used for storage. The red barn has the three windows placed at three corners of the triangle, with a white triangle painted at the gable peak. The double doors are not only trimmed with white arches, but also have the diamond windows.

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This large bank barn used to set on the Dale Dippold farm, 3804 Cassella/Montezuma Road, Celina. The Frank Heyne family owned the farm and they no longer had use for the barn; the barn also needed a lot of work done to it. So they decided to tear it down in the mid 1950's. On this photograph, the bank is on the other side of the barn. On this side, the two pairs of double doors at the level of the threshing floor can be seen. They could use these double doors to open and throw hay down to the cattle; they could also open these double doors at the time of threshing.

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This barn is 96 feet long, 50 feet wide, and 38 feet high, and is now setting on the Steve and Nancy Broering farm. The barn will soon be moved to the Dale and Bonnie Dippold farm. The plans for the barn are to raise steers and hogs in it; they will also use the barn for storage of machinery, hay, straw, and other needed storage.

Looking at the history of the barn, the barn was owned by a Brockman family, then the Frank Meyer Family, then the Frank Schwieterman Family owned it in 1922. Frank's son, Arthur and Mary Schwieterman owned it next; Arthur died in 1930 and Mary remarried in 1934 to Ted Jutte. They remodeled the barn in 1947. They put the cement floor and stanchions in for Grade A milk. At this time, the silo was taken down. In 1946, the concrete silo and milk house were put up. This farm was then purchased by Steve and Nancy Broering in the 1980's. They no longer have a use for the barn, and are selling it to Dale and Bonnie Dippold.

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This place is located at 3859 Cassella Montezuma Road, Celina, and was owned by John and Bertha Moeller as of the autumn of 1990. It is operated by their son Luke. In 1973, the farm was bought by John from his mother Anna Moeller; Anna and her husband Dan Moeller had purchased it from her parents Joseph and Elizabeth Severt in 1905.



This attractive red barn is trimmed in white, and has a gable roof. Gary Rose, 3586 County Road 716 A, Celina, owns this barn, which is used to house calves and younger heifers and dry cows. They also store hay and straw and some feed in the barn. Gary Rose purchased the farm in January 1992, from his father Oscar Rose, who in 1930 had purchased the farm from his father John Rose, who had purchased the farm from Jacob Heyne, who had inherited it from his father John Heyne. Some of the deeds are dated as far back as 1864.



Duane and Kelli Fagaly's bank barn is located at 4103 County Road 716 A., Celina. Harmon Henry Schwieterman purchased the farm in 1864 and married Anna Bertke in 1871. They lived in a small house for three years when the house (now standing in 1993) was built. The barn was probably built at that time or a little before. They had ten children; nine were born in the new house. The youngest child, Mary, was married to Julius Dabbelt January 18, 1916. They lived on the farm with Anna until her death in 1937, when they purchased the farm. Mary and Julius Dabbelt had six children, Norbert, Ruth, Bernice, Martin, Luke, and Thomas, all born on this farm. Thomas married Marjory Schulte June 12, 1951, and purchased the farm from his mother in 1959. Mary lived with Tom and Marjory for many years. Tom and Marjory had three daughters, Kathleen, Janice, and Diane, while living there. The farm was sold to Duane and Kelli Fagaly in 1987 and is owned by them at this time. They have three children, Laurel, Dixie, and Alec. The barn is banked; the milking parlor and cow stable is below and the hay and machinery storage above. The barn is currently used as a dairy.



This is an old photograph of the Moeller farm, 3859 Cassella Montezuma Road, Celina. The stone plaque on the front of the house, is dated 1880; often the big barns were built before the brick houses. Looking closely at the old photograph, one can see that a person could walk under the bridge between the bank and the barn. This barn has been used for housing horses and cattle and mules, as well as storing hay, straw, wheat and oats. Today, the barn is still used for cattle, and for storing hay, straw and grain.





This view shows the back side of the barn belonging to Duane and Kelli Fagaly, 4103 County Road 716 A.

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This barn is located on the Charles Schwieterman farm, located at 4339 Mercer County Road 716 A, Celina. This was the Henry Klosterman Sr. home farm; Ruben (Rub) Klosterman built the barn around 1885, out of hand hewn logs. The barn measures 46 feet wide, 84 feet long and 50 feet high. The timbers in the barn are hand hewn with pieces measuring 12" x 16" x 48' long. If one looks closely, one can see the cross beams extending through the wall, beneath the eaves. The barn has been used to house cattle, and store grain, hay and straw.

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This view of the Duane and Kelli Fagaly Farm, 4103 County Road 716 A, is in the 1900 MERCER COUNTY ATLAS, when the place belonged to H.H. Schwieterman. Note the windpump (windmill) and wooden fences.

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Henry Klosterman, Sr. purchased the land May 13, 1972. After his death in 1875, his widow resided here with their son Rudolph and his wife. She transferred the land to Rudolph, who built the barn; he owned the farm until 1934. This photograph shows the barn in the process of being demolished in 1989. This place is located at 4555 Mercer County Road 716 A and is owned by the Schwieterman family.

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John and Mary Schwieterman married in 1962 and moved to this farm, at 4654 Mercer County Road 716 A, Celina. This white barn with the gable roof, has a bank to the front double doors.

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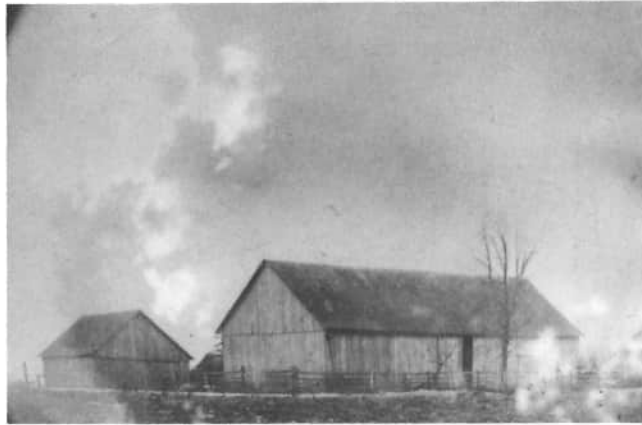
A thank you goes to Mr. and Mrs. Norbert Wilker, 7705 Mercer County Road 219 A, Celina, for helping Joyce Alig in Franklin Township, by returning some of the photographs and encouraging the farmers to put their barns in this book.

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Roger S. Niekamp's barn, 4318 Harrison Road, Celina, was built about the turn of the century, c. 1900. Five lightning rods stand across the ridge of the gable roof; note the low pitch of the gable roof. The red barn is trimmed in white, with a white triangle at the gable end. Four diamond windows with four panes each are centered at eye level on the barn doors. The basketball board is there for the kids, old and young alike. The barn has been used for cattle, threshing, hay and straw storage. Today, the barn is used for milking and cattle, hay and straw storage, the same as in the past, except for threshing.

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This is an old photograph of Roger S. Niekamp's barn, 4318 Harrison Road. The weathered buildings are unpainted and have the original roofs. A board fence encloses the barn yard. Note the width of this barn in comparison with the length, as well as the pitch of the roof.

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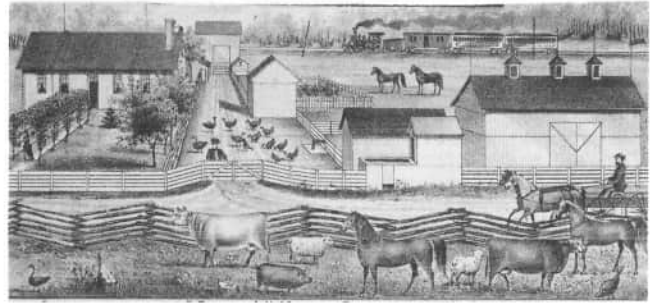


This barn stands at Harrison Road and is owned by Norbert and Bernice Wilker, 7705 County Road 219 A., Celina. The barn was built probably about 1875. This barn has been used for dairy, and storing hay, straw and machinery. From the deeds, the land is on the east half of the northeast quarter of section thirty three (33), town six (6), south, Range three (3) east, less twenty (20) acres off the north and thereof; and the northeast quarter of the southeast quarter of the same section, containing in all, one hundred (100) acres. The year 1835, the land went from the United States Government to Stephen Sprague, then to Joseph T. Wilkinson. The year 1873, Jos. T. Wilkerson to James M. Long, then to Hubert Dabbelt, then to wife of Hubert (Catherine) Dabbelt. February 25, 1875, the land to James M. Long and Amanda; on July 16, 1882 to John Wilker, then the land went to Mrs. Anna Wilker, wife of Ben Wilker, December 24, 1934. Then the land went from Anna Wilker to son Linus Wilker, June 29, 1945; then to Linus' brother Norbert Wilker, January 22, 1951, who is the present owner. The house has been renovated. The barn on this place is 100' x 50'. The land has always been used for farming.

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The Benanzer barn was built in 1918 by Wm. R. Fors, Contractor; the owners were John and Josephine Benanzer. John passed away December 31, 1926; the farm went to his wife Josephine. She passed away February 14, 1958 and the farm went to the oldest son Ben Benanzer. He passed away May 1, 1984 and the farm then was sold to Bill Benanzer, the present owner. The farm consists of 120 acres with no woods and no open ditches. The barn was used to raise Poll Short Horn Cattle. At the present time, the barn is used to store machinery. The ground is farmed by Mr. and Mrs. Everett Frank who live across the road. This red barn is trimmed in white, with white triangles at the top corners of the stable doors, and a white triangle at the peak of the end wall, beneath the gambrel roof. The small rectangular windows are trimmed in white. 1920 B. BENANZER is neatly lettered across this wall. This barn stands on the west side of Harrison Road, North of 219 A.



"The Reservoir Farm" residence of J.H. Monroe, was the name given to this farm in the 1882 HISTORY OF VAN WERT AND MERCER COUNTY, OHIO book. The barn has three cupolas, with pyramid roofs and louvered sides, across the roof ridge. In the back ground, one can see the old locomotive, in this drawing. In the foreground, one can see the rail fence separating the drive and the livestock and poultry.



1902 BUCKEYE FARM D S MONROE is written across the front of this barn, which stood on State Route 219, just across from the airport. The house on the photograph is still standing, but the barn is gone.

When David S. Monroe bought the farm, there was a bank barn to the north of this barn. This was done when David's son Ernest Monroe was in grade school; Ernest went to the old frame Burntwood school (located at NE corner of Green Rd. and Coldwater Creek Rd.,) before he went to Montezuma school. David built both the house and the barn. On the photograph, from left to right, Ray Monroe (David's son), Ernest Monroe, David Monroe. Standing in the barn door was Oran Monroe, David's son. This photograph belongs to Wilma Monroe, daughter of Ernest and granddaughter of David Monroe.



Joseph Petrie learned the blacksmith trade under Alexander Wyckoff at Celina, from 1875 to 1881. He worked for other blacksmiths and in 1890 opened a blacksmith and horseshoeing shop in Montezuma. In 1898, he commenced the manufacture of carriages and buggies. In 1899, he was so successful, he enlarged his building and added another structure. This photograph is from the 1900 MERCER COUNTY, OHIO ATLAS, page 81. Blacksmiths played an important role in the rural heritage of this county.

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Mrs. Steve Karafit's barn, 6800 State Route 219, Celina, was built about 1875-1880 by Allen Palmer. In the past, the barn has been used for horses, cattle, and hay storage. Today, the barn is used for a horse and cattle barn. The barn is built, so that the main double doors of the barn are at a higher level than the sliding doors to the west side. Barns which can be entered at ground level at different floors on the barn are called Grundscheier barns.

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This lovely old photograph shows the place of Bernice Reichert's Grandfather's farm. The main barn has a shed addition to the right. The home, as well as other out buildings, are also on the oval photograph.

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This interior view of Mrs. Steve Karafit's barn shows the hand hewn posts and beams. The grain bin is supported by logs.

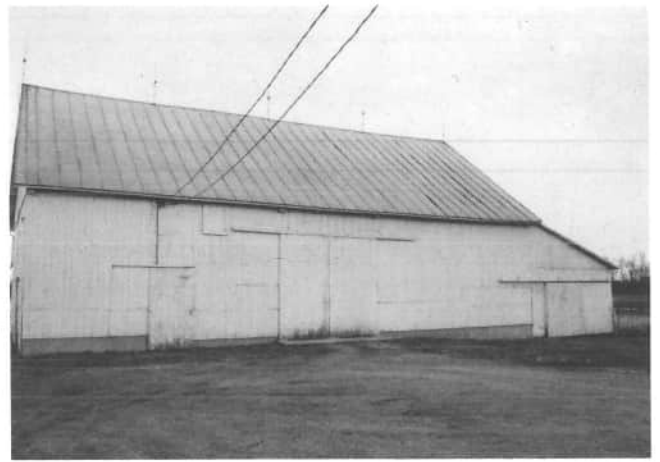
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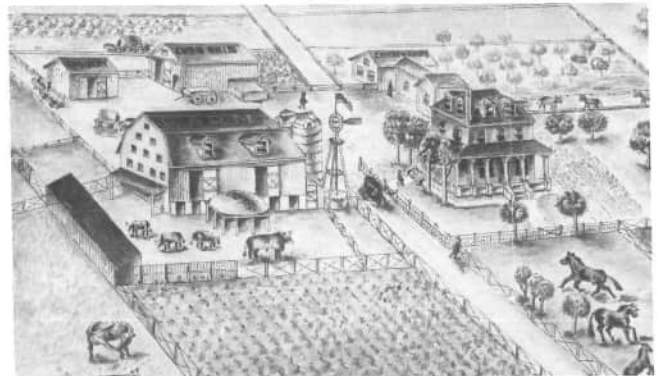
This old photograph of Mrs. Steve Karafit's home shows an 1895 view, with Allen Palmer, Arthur Palmer, Ernest Palmer, Grace Palmer Riley, Charles Palmer, Electa Brandon Palmer, and baby. When this brick home was built, they moved into the home in 1887.



This interesting old barn was built in 1875 and stands at 6887 State Route 219, and belongs to Mr. and Mrs. Richard M. Kittle, 101 West Main Street, Montezuma, OH 45866. The barn has been used to house livestock, feed and hay. The size of this barn is 35' x 70' with a 13' lean to on the west end. It is 12' to the eaves and 27 foot to the top of the gable. The earliest residents and/or owners were perhaps the "Elder" family from the early 1900's or before. The construction of the main 50' west end was of hand hewn timbers where 6" or larger timbers were needed. Rafters and braces were from rough sawn lumber. The 15' east end of the building has a concrete foundation constructed of sawn lumber. Four horse stables occupy this area. This shows signs of later or second phase construction. The barn siding is ship lap design and may have been the second time around. The area between the lean to and west end of the building, the siding is in a very much deteriorated condition. This planking is 1" x 12" to 16" which suggests it was very likely the original siding. (written by R.M. Kittle)



If one looks closely, one can see the cross beams of the barn are extending through the wall, beneath the eaves of this big old barn, which stands at 8419 St. Rt. 219, at the corner of Behm Road. This was the Speckman farm in the past; today it belongs to Robert and Joyce Turner, 7643 Walmac Street, Huber Heights, OH 45424. The old barn has the original standing seam tin roof. The hand hewn beams are wooden pegged. At one time there was a threshing floor, but it has been replaced with concrete. The barn had a feeding area for livestock, as well as the hay mow. The barn has an attached corn crib to the right end, plus an area for machinery storage. Today, the barn is used for hay storage, and feeding market cattle.



This beautiful old painting of the Joseph Back's farm belongs to Joan Gast, St. Henry. The gambrel roofed barn was built in the early 1900's by L.L. Sheeley. Two dormers are on the side of the roof. Ten windows are on the end wall of the barn. (There were pigeon holes at the top of the end wall, with boxes for the pigeon nests on the inside of the wall.) The straw stack stands to the side of the barn. The windpump (or windmill) stands next to the silo. The barn was originally a horse barn. Today, this barn stands a mile and a half east of Montezuma on Rt. 219 A, and belongs to Patrick Schmitmeyer.



The barn and the house on this photograph look much like they did on the painting of the place. This farm belongs to Patrick Schmitmeyer and stands a mile and a half east of Montezuma, on Rt. 219 A. The barn was originally a horse barn, then it was converted to a dairy barn; then to a hog operation.



This bank barn, with the green siding and gable roof, originally belonged to Charles and Emma Dorsten. Today, the barn is Ray Cummins' barn, and is located at 4231 Guadalupe Road, Celina. Mrs. Stanley Dues is the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Ray Cummins.



Norbert and Bernice Wilker, 7705 County Road 219 A, Celina own this barn which was probably built about 1886. The barn is situated in Franklin Township, the north half of the south-west quarter of section twenty seven (27), Town six (6), South, Range three (3) east, containing eighty (80) acres of land. February 25, 1886, Rose Crocket to Martha Selby (sec. 27) 80 acres; after her death, the farm to Isaac Selby. Same section went to Chas. Selby, and to James A. Morrow, (sec. 27) 1903. February 1923, the 80 acres, same (sec. 27) from James A. Morrow to Ben Wilker. Then November 9, 1945, the farm went from Ben and Anna Wilker to Norbert Wilker. This same land, less 1.22 acres went to Jane Wilker Kuhn and John Kuhn, from Norbert Wilker, August 28, 1974. A school stood there at one time. The barn was 75' x 50' at first; a lean was added later. The barn was moved from the center of the farm to its present location. The land has always been used for farming. This aerial photograph is dated June 2, 1953.



Mr. and Mrs. Patrick Schmitmeyer's barn, 4321 Guadalupe Road, Celina, was built in 1941 by the Hoge Lumber Company; the owner at that time was Henry Synck. On the back of this September 1941 photograph is written: "The new barn and two Portland silos; the barn is not yet quite completed, as it is still without spouting and doors. The milk room too is yet to be constructed on the south side. The barn, as all the farm buildings, are painted white with green roofs." In 1962 Mr. and Mrs. Ernest Schmitmeyer purchased the farm from Henry Synck; in 1979, Mr. and Mrs. Patrick Schmitmeyer bought the farm from Ernest Schmitmeyer. There have been few improvements to the barn, but it basically remains the same.



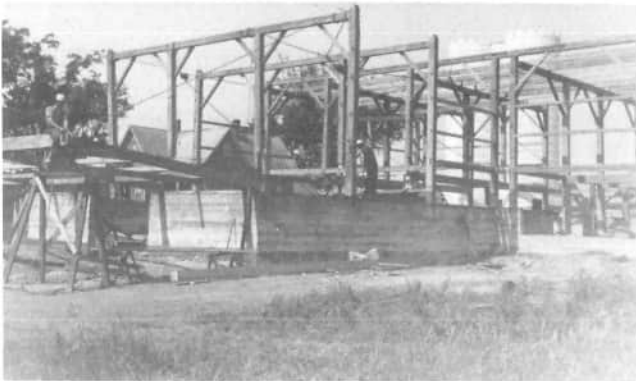
This old photograph of Patrick Schmitmeyer's barn, 4321 Guadalupe Road, shows the last span of the east wing being erected on a Saturday morning in June 1941.

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This barn is located at 7888 Guadalupe Road, Celina, and is owned by John and Mary Schwieterman since 1974. The barn was remodeled in 1982. Today the barn is used for dairy heifers. Prior to 1974 the barn was in the Otte family since 1904.

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This is another old photograph of Patrick Schmitmeyer's barn, 4321 Guadalupe Road, which shows the framing of the barn in 1941.

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This white barn with the gable roof is located at 7792 Guadalupe Road, Celina, and is owned by John and Mary Schwieterman since 1967. The barn was remodeled in 1975. Today the barn is used for dairy steers.

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Norman Selhorst's barn, 6633 Clover Four Road, Celina, was built before 1896. The red barn is trimmed in white. The present milking house, parlor, and utility room, used to be four horse stables and one bull pen. Others who lived here were: Jerome Selhorst (Norman's father), Gregor Wolters (Jerome's wife's uncle), Richard and Mathilda Wolters (Norman's grandparents), Gerhard and Frances (Niekamp) Wolters (Norman's great grandparents) and Frances (Niekamp) Wolters' parents, and Norman's great great grandparents. In the past, the barn was used for horses and grain. Today, the barn is for milking, storage of hay, straw and oats, housing heifers, and a maternity stable.



#### BROCK'S RV CENTER

Back in 1971, Ralph Brackman started an RV dealership in his garage. He offered quality products and friendly service. And, during the next 20 years his business grew as his family and employees supported and assisted him in various positions within the dealership. And now the dealership ownership has passed on to the second generation. His children, Connie, Ron, and Mike are dedicated to their customers' satisfaction as are Tony, Ralph, and Jeanette.

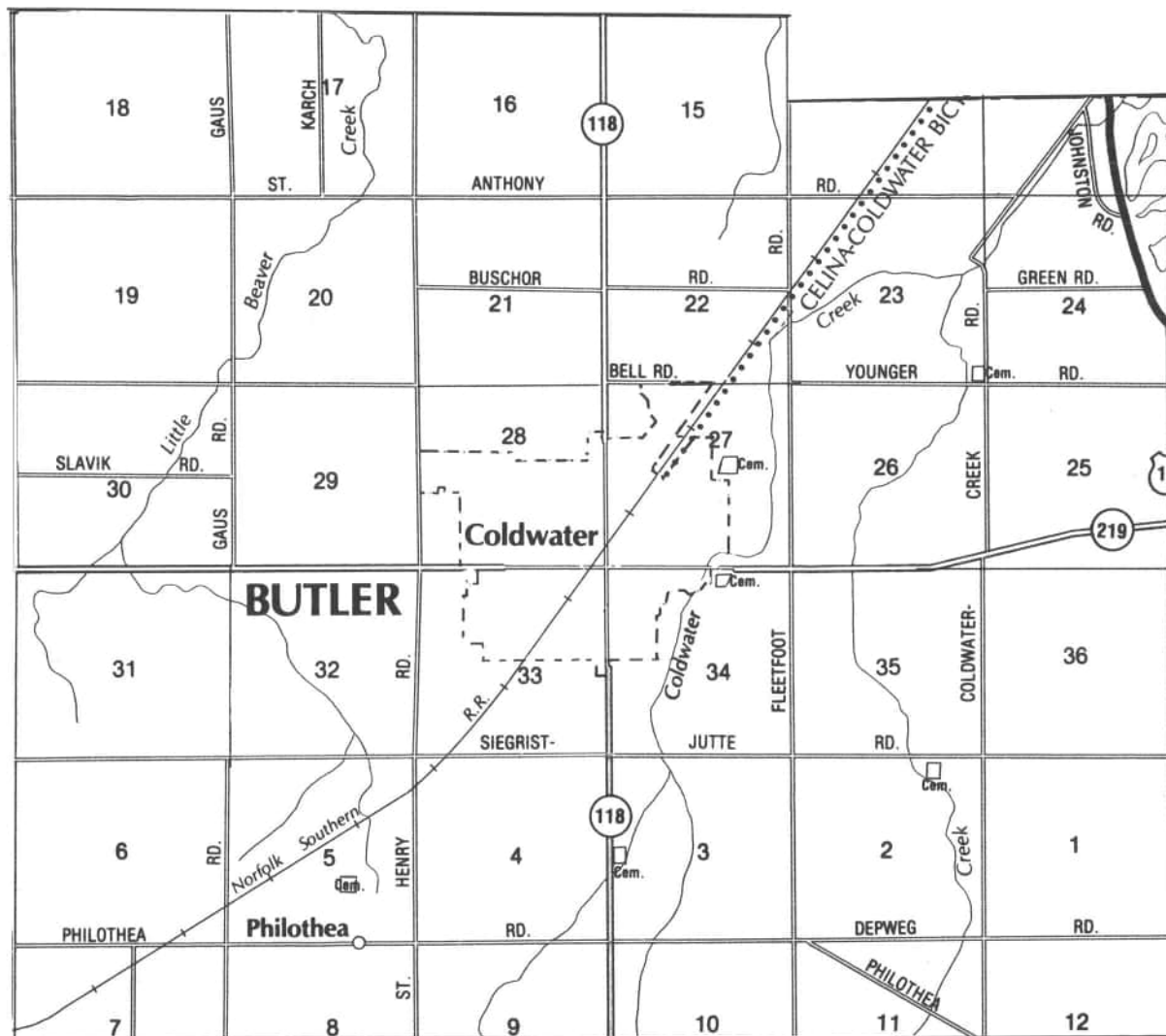
Brock's now proudly offers the full line of Shasta travel trailers, fifth wheels, truck campers and mini-motorhomes. The Amerigo line offers the amenities of a travel trailer with the light weight of a fold-down camper. Brock's sells high quality fiberglass truck caps at reasonable prices. Their service team has over 40 years experience repairing RV's. They also install hitches, truck and van accessories (running boards, bedliners, etc.), and do trailer wiring. The parts and accessories store is being remodeled and expanded and offers hundreds of RV items. Please, feel free to stop in sometime. Brock's is open 8:30 to 5:00 Monday through Friday and 9:00 to 1:00 on Saturday and evenings by appointment. Just call 268-2025. Brock's RV Center is located at 6101 St. Rt. 219, Celina.



Martin Schmitmeyer's barn stands at 7063 Brockman Road, Celina. The barn was built in the late 1890's; the timbers were axed out by Vent Shaup's foot axe. The white barn is trimmed in green as are the sliding doors. A pent roof to the end wall is used for protection from the elements. The top of the barn is used for hay and straw; the lower level is used for livestock.

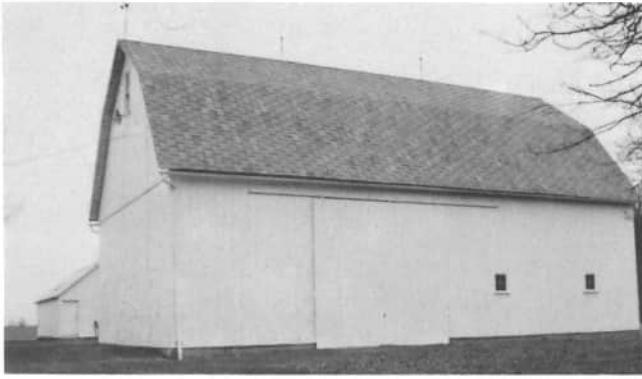


# Butler Township, Mercer County, Ohio

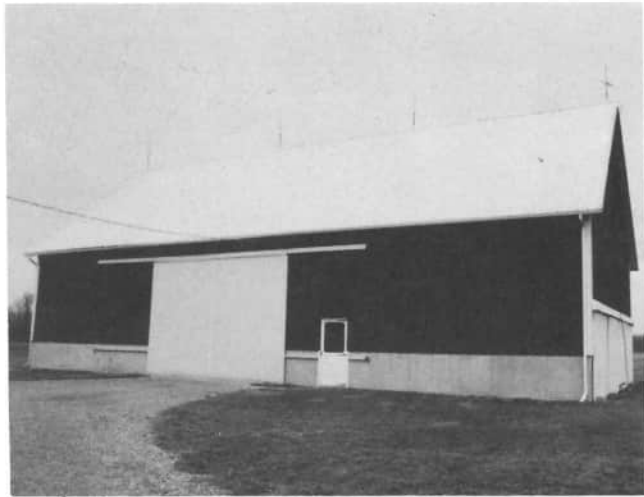


\* This page was sponsored by the Mercer County Historical Society for the convenience of those who wish to tour Butler Township roads, to see the big barns and to appreciate our rural heritage.

\*\* This map was printed by permission of Spectrum Map Publishing, Inc., 909 Sycamore Street, Cincinnati, OH 45202.



Al H. Buschur built this barn in 1916, at 4914 Gause Road, Coldwater. This barn was used to house cattle and horses, and to store hay and straw. The barn is used to store farm implements and miscellaneous, by the current owner Irene M. (Buschur) Gaerke. Irene wrote the following: "This barn and all the other buildings on the farm were built of timber grown on the farm. I can remember stacks of lumber drying on the barn lot. It was almost destroyed in 1936 by fire. We were threshing grain and the straw was piled in a stack behind the barn. We were almost finished and were capping the straw pile with a nice peak when someone yelled, 'fire!' The fire started at the peak and burned the entire stack. It was the heroic efforts of the threshing crew and the Coldwater Fire Department that saved the barn. The siding was charred and the paint peeled off."



In the past, this barn was used to store hay, straw, small grain, and to house various farm animals; cows, horses, etc. Today, the barn belongs to Daniel D. Kemper, 3881 Wessel Road, Coldwater. They remodeled this barn from top to bottom in 1977. This remodeling included the removal of the old threshing floor and grain bins, to make room for machinery storage. This red barn, with the white trim, has four lightning rods standing on the ridge of the white roof. The Kemper family use the barn for farm machinery, and to store hay and straw.



This barn was standing before the Civil War, when John Grear, the owner, built this barn in 1860. John Grear's son, Ralph Grear, removed the gable roof and replaced it with a hip roof about 1910. (Some people call this a gambrel roof.) The bottom part of this old barn is made of hand-hewn logs. Very few barns in this county date back to 1860. This barn has always been used for livestock and hay storage. The present owner is Ralph Kahlig, 5065 Gause Road (formerly 3336 Menchhofer Road).



John Smith Hickman Burch is standing by his barns and windmill on his home place, located on Karch Road. Mr. Burch is the grandfather of Virginia Cordier. Today, this property belongs to T.L. Jutte. On the photograph, notice how the wooden fence is made, and that there is also a wire fence.



Theodore Penno has this barn at 4100 Burkettsville St. Henry Road, Coldwater. The old barn was built almost a century ago, in 1897, probably by Theodore's Great Grandfather Ted Penno, or else his Grandfather Frank Penno. In the past, the barn was used for horses and cows, hay and straw. Today, the barn is used for hogs. Note the main crossbeam that is extended the width of the barn and is exposed beneath the eaves, just above the north side of the double doors.

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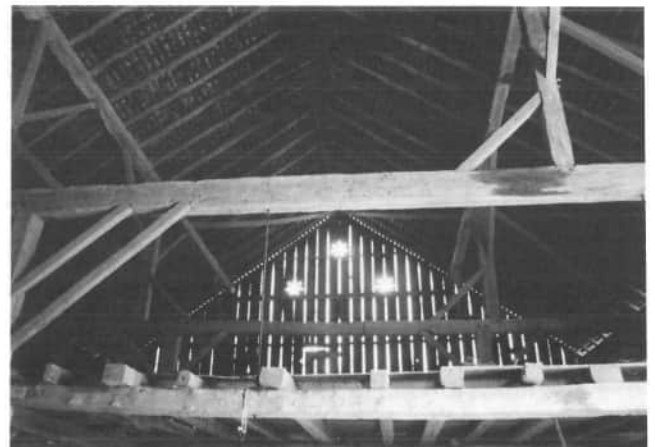
This interior view of James and Cindy Bernard's barn, not only shows the three stars cut out of the gable end wall, it shows that that vertical siding was placed just far enough apart to permit ventilation. This also shows the hand hewn cross beam, which not only is supported by vertical posts beneath it, but also supports purloin support posts. See the next photograph.

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James and Cindy Bernard's barn, 4151 Burkettsville St. Henry Road, Coldwater, is located at the historic site of the Stukenborg Cane Mill. The Stukenborg family may have built this barn or it may have been there before the Cane Mill was started in 1892. This barn is unique in that it appears to be the only barn in Mercer County that has three stars or snowflakes cut out of the gable end wall; if one looks closely one may see that the stars each have seven points. The carpenter was surely illustrating his mathematical and/or geometrical talents when he designed and cut three stars with seven points each.

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This interior view of James and Cindy Bernard's barn also shows the three stars cut in the end wall, as well as the smaller door to enter the mow. Note that the cross beam is supported by vertical posts which have two diagonal supports. The mow is supported by beams resting on the cross beams.

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Urban Bernard is checking the cane, which would soon be pressed into molasses, at the cane mill, in this October 1978 photograph. The Stukenborg Cane Mill was established in 1892 by John Stukenborg. John's son, Ben Stukenborg, operated this mill from 1917, until his death in 1961. Ben's daughter Lillian Stukenborg married Urban Bernard. After Ben's death, Urban Bernard continued operating the mill until 1981, when he rented the mill to Nick Kahlig, who operated the mill until it closed in the autumn of 1985. Urban (Katie) Bernard then sold the mill to Aaron Schwartz, who with his family operates the mill in Spencerville, Indiana. Urban Bernard has retired and lives at 2352 Collins Drive, Sidney, Ohio 45361. Over the years, others of the Stukenborg family helped with the mill and they employed nearly all the neighbors to help, at one time or another. The Stukenborg Cane Mill was located at 4151 Burkettsville St. Henry Road, Coldwater, where James and Cindy Bernard live today. (James is a nephew of Urban Bernard.)



Urban "Katie" Bernard is checking a jar of molasses, in this October 1978 photograph. This is the end product of a season of growing cane. The process began with the farmers planting the seed in mid May. The growing season consisted of a five month period in which the sugar cane grew to maturity. In September, the cane was cut, stripped and taken to the Cane Mill, at 4151 Burkettsville St. Henry Road. The cane was tied in bundles. Each owner was given a specific number and pile to keep the cane separate from the other bundles waiting to be processed. The juice of the sugar cane was extracted with a heavy press and pumped to a receiving tank in the building. Slowly the juice was piped to numerous cooking vats in which the impurities were taken out. The syrup like material was cooked at 230 degrees for nearly 90 minutes before the end product was achieved. It took about eight gallons of juice to make a gallon of molasses. During a busy season, they made 2500 to 4000 gallons. During World War II in the 1940's, sugar was rationed and people came to the cane mill for molasses to use as a sweetener. When Ben Stukenborg was running the mill in the 1940's, he ran two shifts, day and night, and had a few hundred customers. For example, in 1944, they pressed cane and made molasses for 315 customers. In 1946, they pressed cane and made molasses for 537 customers; for an example, on September 6, 1946, they did ten jobs of pressing cane and completing it, with a total of 203 gallons that day.



This 1978 photograph shows the cane mill building at the Stukenborg Cane Mill, located at 4151 Burkettsville St. Henry Road, Coldwater. Left to Right, Nick Kahlig, Urban Bernard, Delores Kahlig (Ed's wife), Carol Kahlig (Nick's wife), and two guests on the September 1978 Mercer County Farm Tour, touring the cane mill. Nick and Urban were explaining the cane mill process to guests that weekend.

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Charles Siefring's barn at 4938 Burkettsville-St. Henry Road, Coldwater, was built in 1908, by Ben Selhorst. The barn was used for dairy and beef. Daryl, age four, is playing in the yard.

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Just a light covering of snow whitens the barnlot in front of this white barn, with the black gable roof, which belongs to Bernadette Holdheide, 4293 Burkettsville-St. Henry Road, Coldwater. Bernadette tells that the oldest deed she has to this farm is dated 1906; she suggests the barn was probably built in 1906 and remodeled by Henry Holdheide. In the past, the barn was used for dairy cattle and hay.

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This is how Charles Siefring's barn looks today. Comparing the two photographs, one can see the exterior changes from the remodeling of the barn.

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When the editor stopped by Charles Siefring's place in April 1992, this Easter scene caught her eye.



Ray Stachler and Bernard Siefring, Sr., with the help of the Siefring Brothers, built this barn, using lumber from their farms in 1954. The barn was built quickly because of the nice weather. In the past, the barn was used for milking and hay and straw storage. The barn is being used for storage and hogs by today's owner, Bernard Siefring, 5130 Burkettsville St. Henry Road, Coldwater. The barn stands on the east side of the road. The dinnerbell in the foreground has called many farmers to the dinner table.



William C. Granger built this barn in 1912. The barn was used for hay storage and shelter for horses, cows and sheep. This long-sloped roof makes for an unusual entrance with its gabled roof. Herbert Siefring, 5058 Burkettsville-St. Henry Road, Coldwater, owns this barn, which is located on Karch Road. Today, this unique barn is used for storage for straw.



This barn was built in 1907, with hewn logs and wooden pegs, by Jacob Huwer. Horses were located on the east side of the barn; the horse stable doors can still be seen on the end wall. Milk cows were housed on the west side of the barn. Straw and hay were stored in the barn. This place was in the Huwer family until it was bought by Bernard and Mary M. Siefring on June 15, 1970. The barn will possibly be torn down in the near future, because of its poor condition. At present, the barn is used for hogs and for storing straw. The barn stands on the west side of the road, and belongs to Bernard Siefring, 5130 Burkettsville-St. Henry Road.



Jerome T. Knapke is standing with his family in front of their barn at 5450 Burkettsville-St. Henry Road, Coldwater. This white barn, with the green gambrel roof, was built in 1935 by Hen Pohl. A shed roofed extension has been built to the back of the barn. Another building echoes the same colors and roofline as the barn. In the past, the barn has been used as a dairy farm and a hog farm. Today, the Knapke family uses the barn to raise hogs.

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This barn goes back at least seventy years ago, and belongs to L.C. (Peanuts) Werling. The barn has been used for sheep. The octagonal window is unique in the gable end wall. With new siding and a night light on the wall, the barn looks new. Today, the Rob and Sharon Oesterle family live at this place, 5996 Burkettsville-St. Henry Road.

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This barn was built in the early 1900's, and stands at 3344 St. Anthony Road. The barn has been used to raise steers, cows, heifers, and a pony. Today, the owner, Jerome Knapke, 5450 Burkettsville-St. Henry Road, uses the barn to raise sows.

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Holly and Aric Oesterle are standing in front of the barn at 5996 Burkettsville-St. Henry Road. This view of the barn shows the extension to the east.

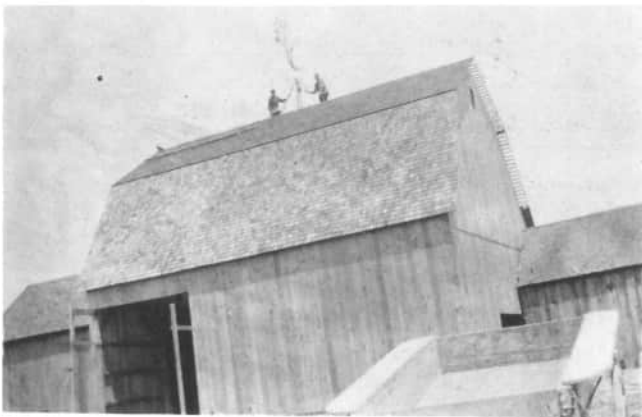
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Bill and Alice Benanzer purchased this farm in 1956 from Harold Peters. (Before Harold Peters, this was the Joe Depweg farm.) In 1990, the Benanzers sold the place to their daughter and son-in-law, Fred and Nancy Riethman. This barn is an old barn; the beams are pinned with wooden pins. Today, the barn has new white siding, with green trim. Wm. J. Benanzer's name can be seen lettered across the front of the barn. In the past, the barn was used for general farming and Grade A milking by Bill Benanzer. At the present, the barn is used for the Benanzer Nursery Inc., 3366 State Route 118, two miles south of Coldwater.



Arthur Bettinger on his Case VAC 1948 tractor, with a New Idea Spreader, are in front of the barn. Today, this is Carl Bettinger's place, 3792 St. Rt. 118.



Arthur Bettinger built this barn, with lumber off the farm. Arthur and Pete Kluding are putting lightning rods on the building, in 1929. The other two buildings are older. Today, this is Carl Bettinger's place, 3792 St. Rt. 118, Coldwater.



William Pohl purchased this farm, at 4043 State Route 118, July 29, 1905, from Phillip and Anna Kirach for \$6500. William's relatives and friends thought he would surely lose the farm because of the five percent interest rate at that time. (The Kirach family originally bought it from Phillip Young on June 14, 1876 for \$6000.) During those earlier years, in the barn, individual stables stood on the east side for milking cows. On the other side of the barn, they kept their horses, usually numbering from eight to ten. Marvin Moeller owns the barn today.





A lot of the original beams are still in this barn at 4043 State Route 118. However, Marvin Moeller, the present owner, gradually replaced the beams when he noticed cracks in them. Marvin has remodeled quite a lot of the interior so he could raise feeder pigs today. Comparing these two photographs, taken from different directions, one can see the original barn still standing, in addition to the other buildings on this farm.



William Forsthoefel, in 1933, built this barn at 610 South Second Street, Coldwater. He started in the milking business after the depression; milking, bottling, and selling door to door for five cents a quart. They had thirteen stanchions on each side, and they could milk twenty-six cows at a time, with a DeLavel Milking Machine. Under the triangular hay hood, one can see the hay door, which falls forward to open. A rope and pulley would be used to close the door. The hay track down the center of the barn is still there. The Portland silo is made of 100 pound pre-poured slab cement, with re-inforcing rods holding it together. The circular slabs are twelve feet in diameter and fit together with tongue and groove. The top slab is not notched for decoration, it is merely made this way, for the next slab to fit it. The silo is fifty-four feet high, and was built in 1942. This is a 1943 photograph.



Jerome Homan's barn, 4210 State Route 118, Coldwater, is typical of the gable-roofed barns being built in the early 1900's. The milk house was added later. Jerome Homan still uses the barn for a dairy operation, even though, at one time, the barn housed both cows and horses. The basketball net on the front of the barn shows the children play, as well as work, on the farm.



William Forsthoefel continued this business at 610 South Second Street, Coldwater, until the mid-fifties when labor was short and times changed. Raw whole dairy products milking ceased in the mid-sixties. Selling processed milk products was continued through current times by the youngest son James Forsthoefel. Times also have changed in the styles of dairy transportation, as can be seen by comparing the two dairy vehicles in the two photographs. The photograph is dated January 1991.



This farm, at 4934 State Route 118, Coldwater, was bought by August Sanning, February 14, 1900 from J.A. Heckler. In 1913, the original barn burned down. In 1914, August Sanning built this barn. In October 13, 1944, Julius Sanning bought the farm from the Estate. Julius Sanning passed away, so now the farm is in Alfrieda Sanning's name. This barn has been used to store hay, grain, and for cattle and machinery.

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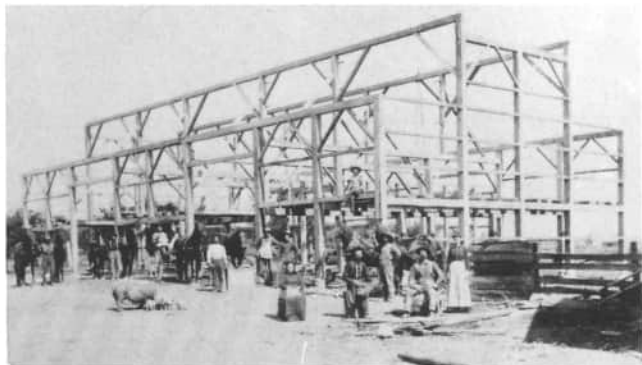
This view of the Linus Pohl barn shows the view of the bank to the barn, with the connecting bridge. The bridge was put there to allow room for the horse stable doors to open.

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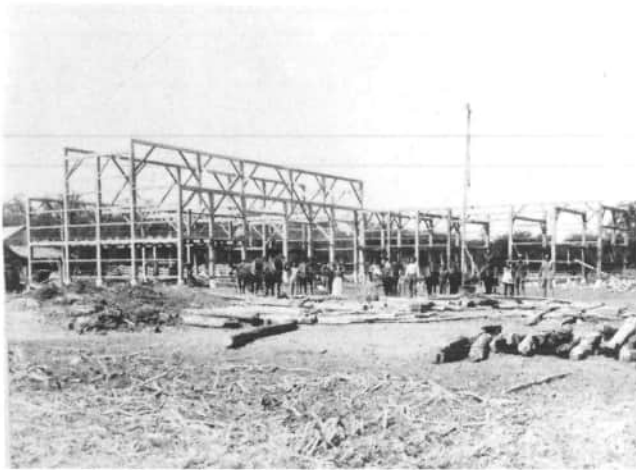
The Linus Pohl family have this barn at 5290 State Route 118, Coldwater. Frank and Mary Birkmeyer built all the buildings in the late 1890's. This barn was built of sawed lumber that was framed with wooden pegs. No nails were used until the rafters, roof and siding were put on. The timbers that support the top story was made of trees, 15 to 18 inches in diameter and sawed on two sides, and laid across the lower frame; a few of them still have the bark on them. The floor on the second story has a double floor, throughout the entire upper story; this was called a threshing floor, and had to support the heavy threshing machines. The slate roof on the barn, to the best of their knowledge, is the original roof. The foundation was replaced in the 1950's; the original was brick. Ninety percent of the siding is made of hard yellow pine. This brown glazed silo was built in the early 1900's. Looking closely, one can see where the second addition was made to this silo. (This silo is one of the few in the entire county, which has been made of glazed tile, which the editor has seen.)

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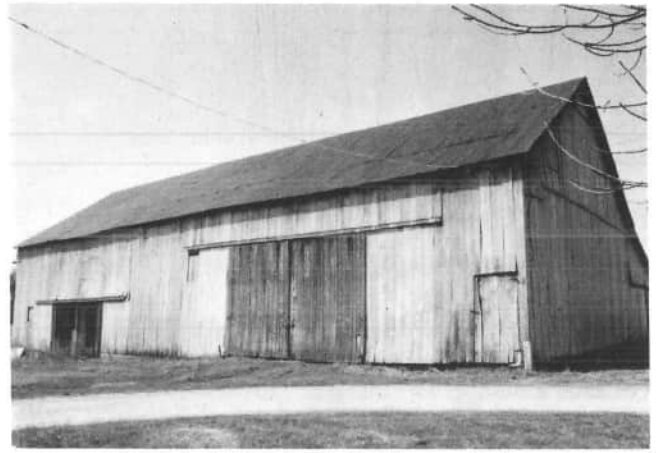


Lela Mae Baker, Coldwater, wrote the following story about this barn in Butler Township. "My grandfather Jacob Baker was one of the first settlers in Butler Township in 1836, according to the 1978 Mercer County History Book, page 83. Coldwater was the center of vast and dense area of the finest virgin timber, huge trees of hickory, ash, oak, elm, walnut, etc. My father Benjamin Baker was owner of present farm and he built the barn in the early 1900's. The barn was built of native timber from his own woods. A sawmill, which was powered by a wood/coal steam engine, was moved onto the premises. What is now Buschor Road, was a mud road, and logs were brought by horses hitched to bob sleds. Horses were used for power for barn raising."

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Another view of the Baker barn. The gin pole can be seen still standing.



This 40 foot by 60 foot old post and brace barn, was built about 1875 by Lou Gray. Originally the barn was used for storage of grain in the sheaf, to be threshed. Later the barn housed horses, cows, hay, and farm machinery. This barn is located at 5847 State Route 118, Celina. The owner, Platt DeCamp, sawed the wood out of the woods on the farm, and built the addition on the south. Platt also added the 22 foot shed on the west side. The barn is now 88 foot long, and is used for storage of odds and ends.



This view of the completed Baker barn, shows the window above the double doors; which are trimmed in white, with the white triangles at the top corners of the doors. This barn was 104 feet long on the west side. One year, five little colts were raised and later broke and used for farming. "Our treasured trees," 47 acres, were donated in 1991 to the Ohio Department of Natural Resources, to be known in the future as the "Baker Woods Preserve."



George and Jeanette Fisher house Appaloosa horses in their barn at 5977 State Route 118. This barn is unique with its diamond windows above and centered on the double doors, as well as to each side. Not too many barn doors have the double crossed bracing, as this one does. The pent roof on the north side shelters the horse stable doors. The inner support structure of the barn is made of the hand-hewn beams; some with the outer bark still on them. In the past, the barn was used as a Bull Farm.



Leonard Homan's Barn, 4761 Fleetfoot Road, Coldwater, was built in 1946, after World War II, by William Wellman Sr., and Sons, well known local barn builders. The bank leading to the barn has a bridge just before the double doors, one of which has a smaller door cut into it, known as a "guichet." Three ventilators stand on the ridge of the gambrel roof. This barn has always been used for dairy cows, calves, hay, straw, and feed.

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Darrell and Linda McGee's barn, 5935 Fleetfoot Road, Celina, was built by the Gray Brothers in 1914. This barn has been used for livestock and feed. The barn was struck by lightning in the year of 1925; this killed a horse and knocked out three men. All three men survived and the barn wasn't damaged. Today, this barn is used for storage of hay, straw, and machinery. The red barn has the doors trimmed with the white arches.

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Walt and Luella Poor's barn at 5460 Fleetfoot, was built in 1938 by Walt's cousin, Ira Bennet. Bennet was originally from Montezuma, but lived in Dayton at the time when he came to build this barn. This red barn, with white trim, has several doors across the front. The three small rectangular windows are seldom found on Mercer County barns. The gambrel roof has a steep pitch to the roofline. The barn has always been used for livestock, hay and grain storage. Walt's grandparents, Levi and Rebecca Poor were both born in Germany. They came to America and had a farm in Center Township. Levi owned a sawmill in Celina before the turn of the century. Walt is the only living grandson.

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Josephine Dues' barn, 3551 Coldwater Creek Road, Coldwater, was built in 1900 by John K. Heyne. Unrast was the carpenter. As typical with big old barns, this barn was used for horses and cattle, as well as for storing grain, and hay. This white winter scene reminds a person of a quiet and peaceful winter day on the farm.

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Richard Selhorst's barn, 3640 Coldwater Creek Road, Coldwater, was built in 1904. In the past, the barn was used for storing hay, straw and cattle. Today, the barn is still used for storing hay and straw, but is used for hogs. The white barn blends right in with the winter show.

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This dairy barn was built in 1948. The round roof, sometimes called a gothic or rainbow roof, was large to hold the hay in the mow. The end wall has a louvered window at the peak, with two six-paned windows on either side; with entries to the mow. The double doors are at the end of the barn; these double doors are graced with diamond windows. On the side wall, a pair of doors and four windows provide entry and light to the interior. This barn is no longer used for dairy; it belongs to Robert Gerlach, 3789 Coldwater Creek Road, Coldwater.

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Wilfred Klenke's barn, 3683 Coldwater Creek Road, Coldwater, was built in the 1800's, and has been used for raising horses and cattle, and hogs, as well as storing hay and grain. Today, the barn is used for raising hogs. Of course, the day the editor visited this barn, she was greeted by a new litter of pups in the barn.

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This February 1991 photograph of Mr. and Mrs. Victor Evers' barn, 4098 Coldwater Creek Road, Coldwater, was built around 1900 by Pohl Construction. In the past the barn was used for dairy and livestock; today it is used for livestock. This big barn has several entries on the side, with a row of windows to the end wall.

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Charles Selhorst built this barn in 1920, at 4181 Coldwater Creek Road, Coldwater. This white barn, with the gable roof, has doors trimmed with arches, and a triangle in the gable peak; this design is echoed in the adjacent building. The barn has been used for farm animals, horses, cows and calves. Today, the owner Herb Selhorst uses the barn for milking cows and raising calves.

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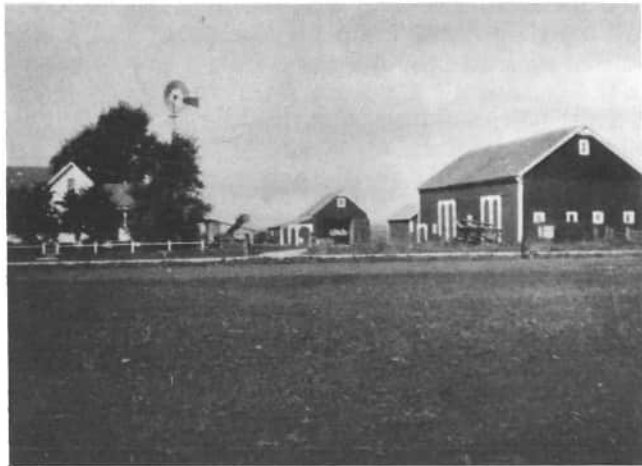
The Walterbusch barn at 4287 Coldwater Creek Road, Coldwater, has a new appearance in this March 1992 photograph. The barn has new siding. Modifications have been made in the doors. A boxed entry has been made to the hay mow. Two ventilators are still on the roof of the barn. The barn is still used for dairy and belongs to Louis Walterbusch.

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This barn at 4287 Coldwater Creek Road, Coldwater, where Arnold Walterbusch lives, was built in 1917. Two pairs of double doors on the front, have smaller doors on either side. The old stable doors can be seen on the end of the barn. Two ventilators are on the roof ridge. This barn has been used for dairy and belongs to Louis Walterbusch, 5812 State Route 219, Celina. This February 1991 photograph shows the barn as it used to look.

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Walter Schockman bought the farm from Jacob Panning in 1937. It was sold in 1942 to Ed Geier. In 1958, the farm was sold to Ralph Lange. Today, it is owned by Betty Lange, 4569 Coldwater Creek Road, Coldwater. The barn has two pairs of double doors on the front, both graced by white arches, and a smaller door to the left, trimmed the same. Four windows are across the end wall of the barn, with another window just below the white triangle in the gable peak. A nearby building also has the doors with white arches, and a window beneath the white triangle in the gable peak. The photograph shows the windpump (windmill) next to the house. New siding was put on this barn in 1981.

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**BURNTWOOD FARMS, FARM NO. 3,** Raymond A. Younger, was the name of this farm, where the Joe Tobin family lives today, at 4700 Coldwater Creek Road. The farm belonged to Lucille Younger until she passed away in January 1993; then the farm went to her son Robert Younger. On this April 1992 photograph, Joe Tobin is standing in front of this barn. Concerning this farm, the Editor received the following letter in January 1993; from Janeva N. Draper, Swiss Village, Inc., 1350 W. Main, Berne, IN 46711: "We owned the farm two miles east of Coldwater and a quarter of a mile north, on the east side of the road. My father's name was John P. Humbarger; he bought the farm in 1893 or 4; the south end of the barn was there and he built the north end in about 1908 or 1910. We had lightning rods on the barn. I am the fourth girl and the only one left; I am 90 years old. My oldest sister was born in 1892 in a log house just north of the buildings which are there now. There were six children; my dad died in 1916 and my mother in 1926."



**BURNTWOOD FARMS, FARM NO. 2,** Raymond A. Younger, was the name of this farm, which stood on the south side of the road, just east of Coldwater Creek Road. At the turn of the century, this was the George Bailey Farm. The farm belonged to Lucille Younger until she passed away in January 1993; then the farm went to her son Robert Younger. Their name is on a board across the front of the barn, just above the double doors. A pair of diamond windows are centered on the double doors.



**BURNTWOOD FARMS, FARM NO. 1,** Raymond Younger, was the name of this farm. At the turn of the century, this was the Chris Behm farm. This farm stands on the south side of Younger Road, just east of Coldwater Creek Road. The farm belonged to Lucille Younger until she passed away in January 1993; then the farm went to her son, Robert Younger.



Jean and Jane Zahn's barn, 4749 Coldwater Creek Road, Celina, was built around 1900 or before. The barn has log beams which are hand hewn, and wooden pinned. A new roof and vinyl siding were put on the barn around 1976 by the Amish people from Geneva, Indiana; one man's name was Mr. Graber. In the past, the barn has been used for steers, cows, and hogs. At present, Bob and Rick Zahn use the barn for a 4-H steer; the rest of the barn is for storage. This land was sold originally by the government in 1836 to David Beams, then to Mary Humbarger, to George Bailey, to Flordia Johnston, to George and Margaret Gray, to Edward and Pauline Geier and in October 1976 to Jean and Jane Zahn.



This bank barn was built in 1850, by Johannes Yaney (1829-1910); his father Johann George Yaney came from Baden, Germany to this farm. Many of the timbers used in the barn, measure 12 x 14 inches, all nicely hand-hewn. The barn is 40 foot by 60 foot so it was necessary to splice some of the beams. The flooring was fastened with square nails. The lower part of the barn was used for livestock, horses, and cows. The upper part was used for hay, straw, grain, implements, garden and fruit produce. Joyce Yaney and Thelma Bigham both told the editor about this barn, which belongs to Fred Waesch, 5099 Coldwater Creek Road, Celina. (photographs by Thelma Bigham)



This is the west and south side of Fred Waesch's barn.



The ornamental deer almost appear to be real in this winter scene at Ralph A. Siegrist barn, 3279 U.S. Rt. 127, Celina. Pete Hein built this barn about 1900. The horse stable doors can still be seen on the gable end wall. Two main crossbeams extend under the eaves, just above the double doors. The barn has been used for livestock, cattle and horses, and for storage of grain and hay. Today, the barn is used for storing machinery.



This old barn, which dates back to 1870, belongs to James D. Chesser, 3279 St. Anthony Road, Celina. Not a lot of additions have been added to this barn, but it has new siding and a new foundation. In the past, the barn was used for dairy, as well as horses, and hay storage. Today, the barn is used for dairy heifer calves. The basketball hoop shows that the kids may have worked in the barn, but they also had fun.





The hay hood, at the left end of the barn, is almost hidden behind the branches, at this barn belonging to Patricia J. Jutte, 3449 St. Anthony Road, Celina. Often, when farmers put new roofs on their barn, they no longer keep the hay hood, so it is neat to see this triangular hay hood still on the barn. In the past, the barn was used for milk cows. Today the barn is used for raising and housing steers.

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Down the long north and east lane at 3781 Menchhofer Road, Coldwater, is the barn belonging to Dale Westgerdes. The basic part of the farm barn is much older than one hundred years. The barn has had several owners, with the earliest one possibly being Frank Buschur, father-in-law of its next owner Joseph Spoltman. Anthony (Andy) Buschur, Frank's son, bought the farm and barn from Joe Spoltman in approximately 1920. Succeeding owners were Jacob Huwer, Jacob's son Paul, and the present owner, Dale Westgerdes. Seventy years ago, when Andy Buschur owned the barn, he threshed wheat out of the barn. He kept his two work horses, Coly and Now, and one buggy horse, Babe, in the barn, and also, his five milk cows. Andy's only surviving son, Alph Buschur of St. Henry, says, "I milked many a cow in that barn." Les Huwer, son of Jacob, recalls, "We kids played hide-go-seek in the barn." When Paul Huwer owned the barn, he changed its appearance by covering its worn siding with gray asbestos shingles, and he put several windows in it for his chicken-raising operation. (written by Mrs. Jim (Thelma Buschur) Homan, Coldwater.)

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The original Charles Stukenborg Family barn that stands in the northwest corner of the Burkettsville-Saint Henry Road/Menchhofer Road intersection was built in 1900. Wooden pegs, instead of steel nails were used, and the barn has a wooden floor, and an asbestos roof. One especially long, hand-hewn log extends across the west interior wall. There is a cow stable to the east where the Stukenborgs kept their seven cows. Wheat and oat straw were stored in the mow, but one year there was so much straw, some had to be stored in a neighbor's barn. Charles' son, Tony, who has lived on the farm all of his seventy-two years, keeps the barn wood siding painted red, with white trim. Tony says he has fond memories of threshing in the barn. This barn is one of the few which still has the pine tree standing out in front, which brings back memories of how farms looked in the past. Tony Stukenborg's barn stands at 3987 Menchhofer Road, Coldwater.

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S & J RANCH is neatly lettered across the end wall of this white barn, which Charles Elder built of cypress wood in the year 1914. The barn was used for a cow barn; from 1967-1975, it was used for renting stalls for boarding. Today, the barn is used for a hog operation and for farring horses. Charles Elder's son Wilfred Elder owned the farm from 1940 until 1962. Now the barn is owned by Mr. Joseph H. Langenkamp, at 5713 Younger Road, Celina.

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Coldwater's barn builder William Wellman built this barn in 1939, where Edna Ebbing lives, at 3340 State Route 219, west of Coldwater. The original structure measures 36 feet by 60 feet by 45 feet high. One can enter the main floor of the barn, via the bank built up to the double doors, or one can enter the lower level on the west side. An addition was added to this barn in the spring of 1968. In the past, the barn has been used for dairy and hogs; now the barn is used for dairy. This barn is owned by Don Ebbing, 3540 Siegrist-Jutte Road, Coldwater.



John F. Schmitmeyer's barn stands at 3460 State Route 219, west of Coldwater. This big barn was built about 1910. The previous barn had burned. The threshing floor was all two inch tongue and groove. In 1980, the threshing floor was raised to hay mow height and the entire top of the barn is used for hay storage. Free stalls for one hundred cows were installed in the entire barn. The lean-to, to the east, was added about 1955. In the past, the barn was used for horses and milk cows, as well as hay and straw storage. Today, the barn has a milking parlor, freestalls for cows, and the mow for hay storage.



January 27, 1967 on a frosty morning, someone could not resist this beautiful winter scene, and stepped out the back door and snapped this view of the Ebbing barn at 3340 State Route 219.



Today, this place belongs to John F. Schmitmeyer, 3460 State Route 219. Irene Gaerke, 4914 Gause Road, Coldwater had this old photograph; she wrote, "This was a very large barn with a down to the floor hay mow. In the spring when the hay was all used, a barn dance was held for all the neighbors. The mow floor was very smooth and well kept. I can still hear my grandfather playing, 'Over the Waves,' on his violin." Across the top of this photograph, is written, "Nora and Kate Wenning". The dog on the back seat is balancing himself across the watermelon. Irene wrote that this barn was built by Herman Wenning, about the turn of the century.



Ed and Velma Ebbing's barn on State Route 219, west of Coldwater, was built around 1910 by Herman Wenning. (Herman Wenning also built the barn on the John Schmitmeyer place.) In the past, this barn was used for horses, cows, hay and grain. Today, the barn is used for cattle and feed storage. The barn to the left has a gable roof to the front, with a saltbox slope to the back; it is 38' x 36' and was built in the late 1800's. It is attached to the adjacent barn, which is 40' x 80'. The gambrel roof is extended over the end wall, in a triangular hay hood. The barn is painted a soft yellow. It looks like a quiet, peaceful place on this winter afternoon, with the southern sun making long shadows in January 1991.



This barn is one of the older barns in the county and one of the few having the privilege of being written about in the 1900 Mercer County Atlas. John Haubert was thirteen when his family left Sien, Amt., Grumbach, Prussia Germany to come to America in 1863. John finally settled on this farm, which today belongs to Dennis C. Wenning, 3809 State Route 219, Coldwater. In 1879 John Haubert built this frame barn, 48 x 100. In the past, the barn has been used to house cattle, hay, bedding, grain, and some machinery. Today the barn is used to house cattle, hay, and bedding.



In 1879 Bernard Ebbing purchased this land, and he planned and built this barn in late 1800. Later in the 1900's, Clem Ebbing purchased the farm. In 1942 Eb Ebbing purchased the land. Now, the fourth generation, Stanley Ebbing, owns the land, at 3613 State Route 219, west of Coldwater. In the past, the barn was used for general farming, including cows and horses and feed. Today, the barn is used for dairy. Windows placed at eye level, around the barn, give light to the interior.



A view of the south and east side of Dennis Wenning's barn, also shows the brown, glazed tile silo, one of a few which the editor saw in the entire county. In the background can be seen the brick home built by John Haubert in 1896.



John Knapke built this barn in 1908, at 3991 State Route 219. The barn was used for cattle, hay, straw, and grain. Today, the barn is used for hogs, hay and straw. Albert Knapke bought this place in 1954 from his father John Knapke.

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Mrs. Elizabeth Bruggeman's barn stands at 4110 State Route 219, just at the west edge of Coldwater. This aerial view shows the barn stands at a right angle to the road. The red barn is trimmed in white. When one drives by this barn, one can still see the individual stable doors in the gable end of this old barn.

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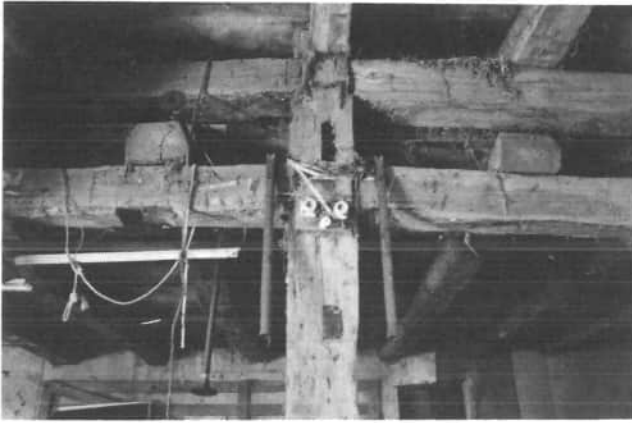
Henry Kabes built this barn in 1866, just after the Civil War; not many barns in Mercer County are this old. After Henry Kabes died, his son John Kabes bought it. Leo Knapke bought the farm in 1948. Leo Knapke was Albert Knapke's brother. This barn stands across the road from Albert Knapke's place, at 3991 State Route 219. After Leo Knapke died, Mrs. Albert (Dorothy) Knapke bought the farm in 1972. The house is no longer standing, but the barn and another building stand straight in the winter afternoon's sunlight.

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Sharon and Louis W. Zizelman, Jr. own this barn in Coldwater at 321 West Walnut. The barn was built in 1882. In the past, the barn was used to house miniature horses; today the barn is used for storage and parking the car. The interior of this barn is interesting.

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This interior view of the Louis Zizelman barn shows the hand hewn beams, as well as the careful notching for the posts and beams. The log stringers, which support the mow, still have their bark.

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Bernard Rose built this barn in 1895. The triangular hay hood can still be seen at the gable end of the barn, which has been used for dairy, horses, and hogs. Today, Don Wellman uses this barn for a workshop and for storage, at 4861 State Route 219, Coldwater. Don is standing in front of his barn, with his grandson Brian, son of Mr. and Mrs. Tom Wellman.

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This interior view of the Louis Zizelman barn shows the corner notching, as well as the wooden pegs which pinned the posts and beams. The outside of this barn makes it appear to be just another small building; but inside, the framing is a historical treasure.

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The hayloft beams still have their bark on the sides, in Don Wellman's barn.

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This interior view of Don Wellman's barn shows the roof bracing, and the hay floor. All the joints are mortised, tenon, and wooden pinned.

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Jerry Linn's barn, 5004 State Route 219, Coldwater, is used for cows. The gambrel roof, with the steep pitch, allows for more room in the hay mow. In the past, the barn has been used for cows and hogs. Nave Baucher and Jake Hauss built this barn in 1929.

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The William Wellman Construction Company built this barn in 1930 for Henry and Rose Schroer. The super-structure was raised by a group of neighborhood men and their horses — a real old-fashioned barn raising! In the past, the barn was used for housing two horses and three cows. The barn had two granaries and a hay loft; the barn also provided storage for farm machinery. Today, the barn belongs to Henry and Emerita Schroer Schulte, 4974 State Route 219, Coldwater. The barn is used for hay and farm machine storage.

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This white barn stands on Siegrist Jutte Road, just west of Burkettsville St. Henry Road. The barn was built in 1890, and is a Centennial Barn. In the past, the barn was used for cattle housing and hay and straw storage, and is still used that way today. The main double doors are centered on the front. Above the double doors, two cross beams are extending from across the width of the barn, and out under the eaves. Quite a few barns in southern Mercer County have this set of cross beams extending under the eaves both in front and in back of the barn. This barn belongs to Mrs. Joe Nieberding, 304 Mill Street, Coldwater.

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Gerald Siefiring's barn, 3051 Siegrist-Jutte Road, Coldwater, was built in the early 1900's. As typical of these big old barns of Mercer County farmers, this barn was used for cattle and horses, and for hay storage. Today, this barn is being used for a milking parlor and storage for hay.

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After the previous barn burned, this barn was built in 1968, by Ray Stachler, another well-known local barn builder. The round roof, sometimes called a gothic or rainbow roof, allowed for more storage room in the mow. This barn is used for sheep housing and storage, at the W.J. Westgerdes Farm, 3345 Siegrist-Jutte Road, Coldwater.

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This barn burned down on September 5, 1968. It was used for a small dairy herd and beef cattle, at the W.J. Westgerdes farm, 3345 Siegrist-Jutte Road, Coldwater.

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Bill Boeckman's barn stands at 3757 Siegrist-Jutte Road, Coldwater. This big barn, with its gable roof, has five lightning rods. The south end of the barn has a pent roof for protection from the weather. The milk house was added later.

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This aerial photograph of Virgil Dues farm, 4212 Siegrist-Jutte Road, Coldwater, was taken the summer of 1969. The main barn can be seen in its context with the other farm buildings. This barn was built between 1850 and 1870, before the railroads; the builder being Joe Plieman. The framework of this barn is unique; the main cross beams support inclined purlin posts. Such a framed structure provided ample open space for loading hay. This type frame sometimes suggests the builder was familiar with the structures built to support the hull of a ship under construction. Barn books have shown examples of this type structure in Pennsylvania barns and Ontario, Canada barns; barnologists can probably find them across America.

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This February 1991 view of Virgil Dues' barn, 4212 Siegrist-Jutte Road, shows the milking parlor which was added. Originally, the horse stable was on the east side, while the livestock were in the barn, as well as other storage. Today, the barn is used for storage and livestock.

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Henry Hamberg built this bank barn with hand hewn beams and wooden-pinned, in 1879, the year that the Lake Erie and Western Railroad was being constructed across Mercer County. The railroad provided quicker and cheaper access to the market, than did the Miami and Erie Canal; the agricultural economy improved with the coming of the railroad. Thus, many Mercer County barns were built in the 1880's and 1890's; these barns still stand today. The Hamberg barn was used for horses, dairy cows, and hay storage. Today, this barn belongs to John Hamberg, 4609 Siegrist-Jutte Road, Coldwater. The barn is used for heifers and hay storage. Attention may be brought to the ridge of this gable roof, where four lightning rods have their glass globes all intact; two are blue, the other two white. Some farmers have told the editor that if the glass globe is not broken, that the barn has not been struck by lightning. The editor asks if this is true?

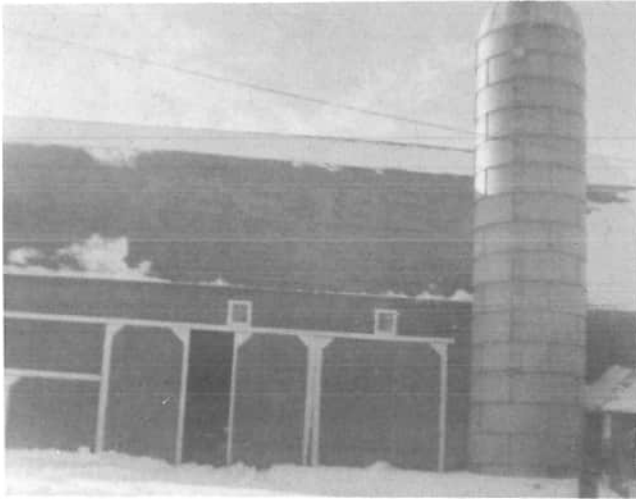
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Paul F. Muhlenkamp, 704 Fairview Drive, Coldwater, owns this barn at 4636 Siegrist-Jutte Road, Coldwater, where Kenneth J. Muhlenkamp lives and rents the farm. This barn was built prior to 1925, and was used to house work horses and cows, as well as to store hay and straw. Today, the barn houses dairy cows, and stores hay and straw. The double doors have a rare feature, with the smaller door, within the larger door; this smaller door being known as "le petit guichet."

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Luke B. Schmitmeyer's barn, at 5087 State Route 118, has quite a history. The first barn was setting left in a field, of where the barn stands today. The first barn was owned and built by Steve Birkmeyer; that barn burned down. The new barn was built by November 26, 1924 by William Wellman of Coldwater. The barn has beams pinned with wooden pins. Two windows are located above the pair of double doors, which are decorated with white triangles at the top corners. The barn had a slate roof, with a date Nov. 26, 1924. The silo was built in 1954. The barn was used for raising dairy cattle, milking 40+, and for calves.



Ben Selhorst of Coldwater, in the 1930's, bought this farm at 5087 State Route 118; he owned it until 1982, when Luke B. Schmitmeyer bought it. Leroy and Catherine (Kahlig) Bruggeman lived on this place since 1954. In 1982, the Bruggeman's sold out and still rent the house. They farmed the land on shares for 28 years, with Ben Selhorst. (This barn, being built in 1924, was built by Catherine's great uncle, William Wellman.) Today, the barn is used to feed out heifers.



Luke Schmitmeyer's barn, 5193 Siegrist-Jutte Road, Coldwater, was built in the mid 1800's; the barn is put together with wooden pegs and square nails. In the past, the barn was used for sheep and horses. Around 1948, a tornado twisted the barn; the 8 x 8's supporting the barn are leaning vertically, but not enough to cause a problem. Today, the barn is used for all dairy.

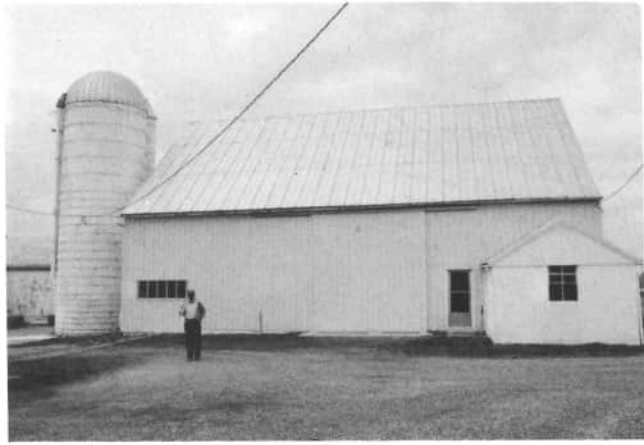


This aerial view of Luke Schmitmeyer's barn, 5193 Siegrist-Jutte Road, shows the changes made on the farm. The buildings have been painted white; some are new; some are gone.



Lavern Wolters' barn stands at 5405 Siegrist-Jutte Road, Coldwater. This red barn, with the gable roof, has the white trim, with arches on the smaller doors on the end wall, capped with a white triangle at the gable peak. Note the entry to the mow; not many barns have this protected entryway. The barn was built between 1890 and 1895 by Ed Goecke. Work horses and dairy cows lived in this barn, with the grain and hay stored in the barn. Today, the barn is used for dairy cows and hay storage.

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Edwin P. Homan is standing in front of his barn at 3242 Philothea Road, Coldwater. His barn was built by Theodore Homan, his relation and friends, in 1910. The barn has been used for horses, cows, beef, hogs, rabbits, hay, straw, fodder, and sheaves of oats and wheat. Today, the barn is used for storage, rental and private.

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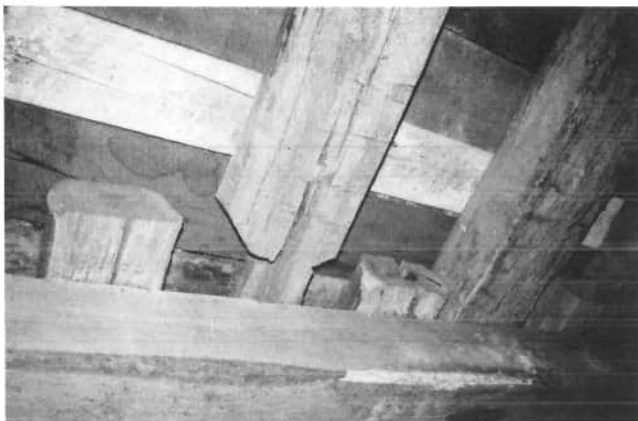
Richard Wolters, the former owner of the Lavern Wolters' barn, is standing with his horse and colt in 1945, in front of the barn with the weathered siding.

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This interior view shows the framing of Edwin P. Homan's barn.

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This view not only shows the hand hewn beams supporting the loft, but also shows that one beam was taken from another previous building (note the notching), on Edwin P. Homan's barn.

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Victor J. Homan's barn, 3411 Philothea Road, was built of hand hewn beams, mostly of beechwood, in 1888. The barn has been used for livestock shelter and hay storage.

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The barn is in the background, with the original paint and trim, for Mr. and Mrs. Edwin P. Homan, November 11, 1942.

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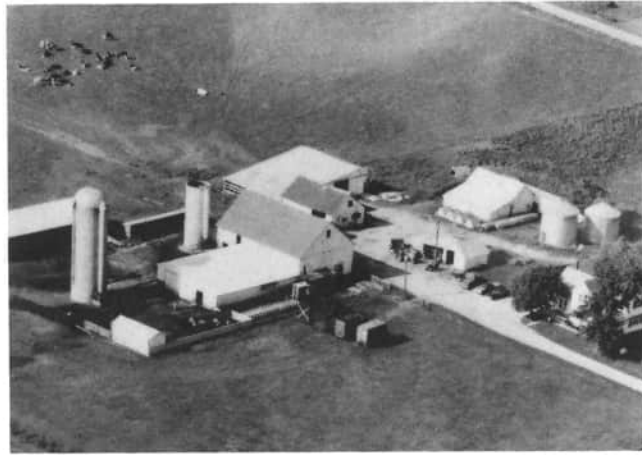
An interior view of Victor J. Homan's barn shows the framing and the hand hewn beams, as well as the vast space of the mow, at 3411 Philothea Road.

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Henry Pohl built this barn in 1929, replacing a barn which had been destroyed by fire, at 3281 Post Road, where Mark F. Homan lives today. The barn has been used as a livestock shelter and for hay storage, and belongs to Victor J. Homan, 3411 Philothea Road.

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This aerial view not only shows the barn, but the other buildings in context with the barn, at Sylvester Dues, 3540 Philothea Road, Coldwater. Lawrence Woeste, father of Vincent Woeste of Coldwater, built this barn in 1904. The local carpenters were Herman Kremer and Dewey Wappelhorst. The main barn is 38 x 66 feet, and has been remodeled quite a bit, with the price added to it. In the past, the barn has been used for horses and cattle, and for hay and grain. Today, the barn is used for hay storage, heifers, and a milking parlor.

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Don Broering's barn, 3509 Philothea Road, Coldwater, was built in 1920. The barn was used to house dairy cows; it did contain a milk house. Today, the barn is used for raising steers.

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Carl Fortkamp's barn, 3818 Philothea Road, was built by Aug. Heckman before 1895. The bank leads up to the double doors with diamond windows. Three ventilators cap the ridge of the gable roof. A diamond window is also centered on the sliding door on the bottom floor. In former years, the barn has been used to house horses, cattle and hogs; today the barn is used to house reg. guernsey herd. This photograph is dated April 1992, the spring of the year in downtown Philothea.

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This barn has been in the Spoltman family for three generations, and was built over 150 years ago. Formerly, it was used to house cattle; now they keep young heifers in it. Today, Ronald Spoltman owns this barn, at 3959 Philothea Road, Coldwater. The barn has had some remodeling: the loafing shed and new milking parlor were added in 1966; the entire inside was cemented in 1970; and the new siding was put on in 1980.

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This photograph of the David and Eileen Siefring Farm, 4147 Philothea Road, Coldwater, is dated 1961. The barn was built by Barney Dues, hired help, and the help of the neighbors, in the 1850's. Six foot diameter trees were cut and then hewed flat on one side. The bark was not removed. Each log was jointed and notched at the butt end. Each rafter is fastened to its mate by joints and wooden pins. The wooden pin or peg is made of hickory and is called a tree nail. The lumber came off the farm to build the barn. In the past, the barn was used for dairy cows, heifers, and calves. Today, the barn is used for hogs, and feeder pigs. The barn is still standing and very solid. The front of the barn has the original tin roof.

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David (Doc) Siefring is standing with three 400-Case Tractors; this photograph is dated 1962. David is the grandson of Barney and Elizabeth Dues of Philothea, Ohio. This is the Home Place of Barney and Elizabeth Dues. One daughter is still living, Pauline (Dues) Siefring; she will be 95 years old June 12, 1993; she is the last living survivor of the Barney and Elizabeth Dues Family of Philothea, Ohio.

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This photograph was taken at 4147 Philothea Road, the site of the David and Eileen Siefring farm today. Gus and George Dues, sons of Barney Dues of Philothea, are in the photograph.

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This old photograph was taken at 4147 Philothea Road, the place of David and Eileen Siefring today. Seated on the driver's seat of the steam engine is Gust Fischer. Standing are Herman Kremer, Barney Dues, Frank Kremer, Gus Fortkamp and a small helper. This helper was one of Barney Dues six sons (the six sons were George, Ben, Herman, Joseph, August, and Conrad Dues).

This is a Baker Thresher Tractor with a grain blower. Grandfather Barney Dues was a thresherman and for years operated a thriving sawmill, which was called the Philothea Station. Threshing is the operation or process by which the seed is separated from the stalk or plant. The tractor operated on steam from coal. Wheat, oats, and barley were processed each year. Threshing days were hard work and everyone got together to help. Much water was needed, and workers had their job to do. The farm had five cisterns for water, for the barnyard and the house. They had many customers and were very well known in the Philothea area. Fischer sold the threshing operation to Norman, Norb, and Lawrence Dues in the area of 1938. Then in 1942 Lawrence went to service and sold his share to Norman and Norb Dues. This threshing business continued until about 1947.

At threshing time, the wives cooked and made large meals in the summer kitchen. Everyone was always hungry, young and old. A typical dinner was fried chicken or sugar cured ham, mashed potatoes, baked apples or sauce, homemade bread with fresh butter and jam, fresh red tomatoes, buttered green beans or peas from the garden, and best of all, always a piece of pie. That would be a choice of apple, cherry, or a cream pie.

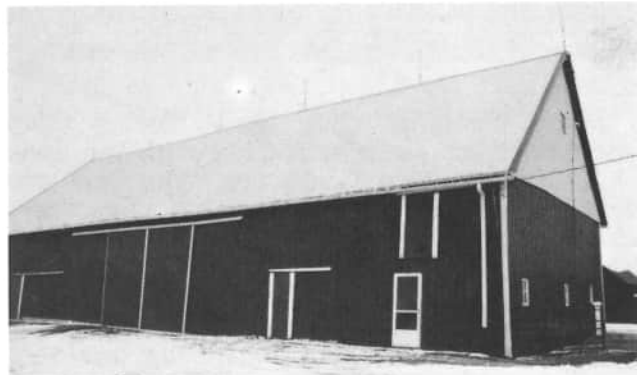
Before threshing day, the youngsters always had to pick cherries, raspberries, strawberries, etc. for the family, and for Mom to bake pies. Brewed black coffee with lots of fresh cream ended the meal. Before and after meals, the families prayed together; thankful for the bountiful harvest.

After all the work and feeding was finished, the men played a game of horse shoe, or cards. Children played many games. Wives made lunch in the evening; usually cookies and lemonade was served. The men drank some beer and ate popcorn on the porch or under the big maple tree that shaded the whole barnyard.

Lawrence Dues is the last living thresherman of this operation. He says it was hard work and also much fun; he loves to talk about the old days.



Marvin Evers' barn, 5069 Philothea Road, Saint Henry, has an interesting background. In the winter of 1949, the old depot building in Celina on Rt. 29 West, was owned by the Celina Equity Eq. Carl Winner tore down this depot, for a purchase price of \$200.00. All the rafters and siding were hauled to 5069 Philothea Road, to build this barn. All the rafters from the depot were 2 x 12 hemlock timber; they were sawed in half to make 2 x 6, to build the barn. Bill Wellman framed the barn, and Carl Winner then completed the barn. The barn was used for cattle and hogs and hay storage. Today the barn is used for small calves and hay storage.



Urban Nerderman's barn, 5631 Depweg Road, Celina, was built in 1904 by Herman Nerderman. Six lightning rods cap the ridge of the gable roof of this red barn, trimmed in white. In the past, the barn was used for milk cows; today, it is used for steers.



Clem Dahlinghaus built this barn at 5799 Depweg Road, Celina, in 1901. The barn has always been used for dairy and hay storage. Don Dahlinghaus, today's owner, tells that the barn has metal siding with the original wood siding under the metal. The diamond windows are retained in the double doors. The barn has its fourth roof. Typical of many family farms, the basketball board is mounted on the barn.

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Ray Wenning wrote the following story about the barn where he and his wife Mary live, at 706 North Second, Coldwater. "This barn was built about 1900. Ray and Mary have lived here since 1956. The last owner was Wm. Reier; he had it about twenty years, and Wm. Losche had it for about twenty years before that. The barn has most of the timbers hewn with an ax; then the barn was boxed and pinned together with wood pins. The rafters were wood pinned to the beams. When Wennings bought the farm, the roof was a standing seam roof; this could have been on the barn for over fifty years.

About 1960, the Wennings had Ray Staugler and his crew come out and replace the south bank on this barn; the timbers were rotting. Ray made all the pieces to replace the bad timbers. He had a boring machine that would drill

the holes through the timbers, and these would be about two inches by eight inches. Then he would take a chisel that would cut the corners square. Then two holes would be drilled through this, so two wood pins could be driven through and keep this joint tight. Ray drilled several of these holes with this machine and it is quite a task to do. This work put the south side of the barn in very good shape for many more years.

About six years ago, a light tornado came through while Ray was in another building. He saw this tornado or strong wind pick up three fourths of the roof; the roof would go up about twelve to eighteen inches and then come down. This kept up for maybe five times before the wind left. They then had to replace the entire roof. About four years ago, they installed metal siding on the entire barn.

This barn has been a dairy operation for maybe the past thirty years. They have had as many as fifty milk cows in this operation. All of their children worked in this dairy. The children have all grown up and left; also, when they left, so did their cows. It has been a source of income for a large family, and a learning experience for their children. This old barn has done its job and is still going strong.

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The winter sun is casting long shadows across the barn and silos and other buildings, at Ernie Uhlenhake's place, 3723 Burkettsville St. Henry Road, Coldwater. This barn has always been a dairy operation.

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## THE BARN BUILDERS THE WELLMAN FAMILY

The Wellman name in Mercer County is known for working on churches, and in the past, for the barns they built. Originally Bill Wellman Sr. was the barn builder. Then his two sons, Bill Jr. and Bernard, joined him. Today, Bill Jr.'s son Roger and Bernard's son Dan have joined the business, which is known as Wellman Brothers, located at Coldwater. Bill Wellman Sr. built the old theatre in Coldwater (Eagle's Hall, Coldwater City Hall (site of Library), and St. Marys Church at Philothea. After World War II, when Bill Jr. and Bernard got out of the service they joined their fathers. They worked on building maintenance. Most of their work is on churches, but they also work on roofing and masonry. They do sheet metal work, especially copper.

Among the many barns built by the Wellmans, some of these barns have been put in the book, *THOSE MAGNIFICENT BARNS IN MERCER COUNTY OF WESTERN OHIO*. Bill Wellman Sr. built the barn for Mrs. Henry Pohlman, where Mr. and Mrs. Albert Pohlman live, 1809 State Route 716, Maria Stein. Mr. and Mrs. Walter Sudhoff, 4842 State Route 49, Fort Recovery, had their barn built by the Wellman Brothers in 1920. Bill Wellman built the barn at 5087 State Route 118, where Leroy Bruggeman lives, and owned by Luke Schmitmeyer, in 1924. Fred Steinlage's barn, St. Henry, was built by the Wellman Brothers. Roger Evers' barn, 1377 Goettemoeller Road, was built in 1947 by Bill Wellman and sons. The Wellmans built Fred and Alberta (Wellman) Schmitmeyer's barn, Sextro Road, Minster in 1941. Bill Wellman Jr., in 1917, built the barn at 1990 Siegrist Jutte Road, Fort Recovery, now owned by Dennis and Deb Schoenlein; the previous original barn had burned having been hit by lightning.

Mrs. Schmitmeyer said that William Wellman built the barn for Fred (now Carl) Steineman, just West of Minster.

Bill Wellman and the neighbors built Frank Prenger's barn (now Don), 832 Kremer Road, Maria Stein, in November 1938 after the previous barn burned. The Wellman Brothers built Cletus and Marcella Heitkamp's barn, 7666 Schemmel Road, Maria Stein, in May 1942.



### KOHN'S HOME FOR THE ELDERLY

Carl and Mary Kohn purchased the former Albert Sutter property, on State Route 118, at the north end of Coldwater, 507 North Second Street, in the spring of 1983. In June of 1983, a home was designed and built by Mary's cousin Virgil Puthoff's Construction with the elderly in mind, for those who need a minimal amount of supervision or assistance with their daily living. The Home also offers companionship and 'not that alone feeling' with someone on the premises around the clock.

The Home consists of eight bedrooms, nine baths, living room, dining room, kitchen, family room, and two laundry rooms. In November 1983, the residents started moving into the Kohn Home, each having his or her own private room and half bath, and maintaining as much independence as possible. The Kohns have enjoyed the rewarding feeling of caring and sharing for the elderly in their home over the years.



### COLDWATER PUBLIC LIBRARY

The Coldwater Public Library has been in existence since 1936, when a group of interested citizens, under the leadership of Mayor Arnold Schoch, decided that a library would be a vital



part of the educational and recreational reading of the residents of Coldwater. Mr. Goode, editor of the Coldwater Chronicle, met with Mr. Schoch and his council, Norbert (Dick) Smith, Howard Colby, Roman Gast, Forest Ensign, Ralph Hess, and Mark King, and with City Solicitor Walter Bernard, to discuss ways and means by which Coldwater could secure a library.

Council met with the state librarian several times, and it was decided that Coldwater would establish a municipal library. The mayor appointed the first library board and the following members were chosen to serve: Mrs. R. J. Dreffer, Forest Ensign, Mrs. Carl Hess, Joseph McDevitt, Mrs. Oscar Moore and Cyril Schindler. The first meeting was held in the council room of the city hall, and the name "Coldwater Public Library" was chosen. The Library began very modestly in one upstairs room of the present city hall building. Mr. Goode used the Chronicle to aid the Board in obtaining gifts of books, and the fire department helped collect the books. The entire book collection of the Buckeye Overall Company, Schindler's Rental Book Library, and a large donation of books from William Foss, helped to swell the collection. Mrs. Moore made several trips to Lima to Johnston's Gift Shop to buy books from the rental collection, and eventually there were approximately 500 books to be placed on the new shelves. Miss Rita Schmit was hired as the first librarian. The doors of the library were opened on June 17, 1936, and nineteen books were checked out that first day. At the end of the first year, there were 1050 books in the library, and they had been circulated a total of 2100 times.

After a short period, the old quarters were outgrown, and the Township Trustees donated to the library a room in the old town hall, now the site of Werling's garage. In 1938 the library was again overcrowded, and two additional rooms in the town hall were given to the library. It remained at that location for the next twenty years. In the 1950's the library was again overcrowded, and as a bond issue for a new building was defeated, it was then decided to remodel the gymnasium at City Hall into a library. This time a bond issue for \$15,000 was passed, but it fell far short of paying for all the furnishings, so a drive was made for donations and the necessary capital was raised to complete the work.

In April, 1962, the library was moved to the present location at 305 West Main Street. It is still growing, with approximately 2000 new books added each year. There are now more than 66,000 books in the library, and the circulation has increased from the original 2100 per year to more than 100,000 per year.

In addition to books, the library has available records, large-print books, art slides, a speed-reading machine, projector and screen, cassettes and cassette players, magazines,

newspapers, summer story hour, tours, reference service including inter-library loan service, talking-book machines for the handicapped, encyclopedias, atlases, photocopy machine, microfilm reader-printer with the Mercer County census and the Mercer County Chronicle on microfilm, video cassettes and VCR's, Polaroid cameras, laminator, overhead projector, opaque projector and a computer for use by the public.

In 1961 all of the organizations in town banded together to hold a Community Picnic, the proceeds of which were to benefit the library and the park. The Coldwater Public Library has been fortunate in being able to share in the profits of the annual picnic, which has purchased many items for the library, and today is one of the best-equipped small libraries in the state.

The Current Board Members are Jack Knapschaefer, President; John Moeder, Vice President; Linda Stelzer, Secretary; Marilyn Darr; Mary Lee Thomas; and Larry Wolf. The Current Employees are Pat DeBrosse, Librarian; Genevieve Vogt, Linda Haskett, Carol Forsthoefel, Carol Evers, Mary Knapke, and Bill Hess.

No history of the Coldwater Public Library would be complete without credit being given to Mildred Sutter, who was appointed librarian in 1939, and served as librarian for thirty years, until her death in 1969. Under her guidance a good foundation was established, enabling the present library to exist.



## Buckeye Apparel, Inc.

Buckeye Apparel, Inc., one of the area's oldest industries, was established in 1898 in Versailles, Ohio. The founders were Mr. and Mrs. L. J. Grilliot; the company was called the "Buckeye Overall Company". As business increased, the Grilliots purchased the "Versailles Overall Co." in 1899. The business was incorporated in 1917 as "The Buckeye Overall Company".

In 1916, with demand increasing for Buckeye-Made working garments, it became necessary to expand the business. A group of Coldwater businessmen, headed by J. F. Hoying, Jacob Wilhoff, and Joe Droesch, contacted Mr. Grilliot concerning the possibility of starting a sewing operation in Coldwater. Their endeavors were successful. In August, 1916 a group of fifteen young women volunteered to commute weekly to Versailles for a six-weeks training period to learn production methods. This group included Elizabeth Mescher, Kathryn Mescher, Laura Theis, Erma Hoening, Selina Miehls, Alvina Walters, Helen Bettinger, Leona Birkmeyer, Edna Wagner, Clara Gengler, Burnadette Gengler, Auralia Hendrichs, Anna Kessen, Carherine Moorman and Flora Roessner. Transportation each Monday morning and Saturday evening was furnished by merchants of Coldwater.

Over the same time period, machines and equipment were installed on the second floor of the old city building on the corner of First and Walnut Streets. On November 4, 1916 the branch operation started.

By the Spring of 1919, quarters on the second floor became too crowded, so the company purchased the Hierholzer building on East Main Street. In 1938, a new building was constructed adjacent to the old building, and it still houses the local operation.

The Coldwater operation was managed by Mr. Charles Fischer until his retirement in 1952, and then by his son, Wayne C. Fischer, until his retirement in 1974.

The company manufactured men's and boy's shirts and pants during these early years, supplying many of the national chain stores. They also manufactured under their own brand, Master Buck, which included playsuits for children.

During the depression years of 1930's, Buckeye played an important role in maintaining the economy of the village.

As the years and fashions changed, the company found itself making more style garments. In 1970, a major re-organization of the company took place. The name was changed to Buckeye Apparel, Inc., to more adequately describe the wide range of leisure wear now manufactured.

The Coldwater facility currently manufactures a wide range of mens and womens active sportswear, swimwear and casual clothing. These products include casual pants, surfer style swimwear, walkshorts and volleyball shorts. These garments are manufactured under the house brand Sundek, as well as private label brands such as L.L. Bean, Lands' End, Walt Disney, Orvis and many others. Our export markets have expanded to include major customers in Italy, western Europe and Japan.

The company has enjoyed a steady growth in recent years. This has been accomplished by the development of a product line appealing to the more leisure minded American buying public. Using the latest technology in machinery and equipment along with the invaluable skill and dedication of our employees, Buckeye Apparel, Inc., produces a quality, style garment that has been successfully merchandised in a market increasingly threatened by imports.

Our current work force includes the following: Connie Adams, Margaret Alig, Barbara Arling, Holly Bell, Philip Boyer, Beverly Brown, Ann Burk, Fernando Haahr, Dorothy Harrod, Kimberly Helman, Lynn Klingshirn, Karon Koesters, Polly Reed, Judy Roessner, Victoria

Schmitz, Dennis Steinbrunner, Patricia Uhlenhake, Dale Wendel, Mary Lou Baker, Marissa Baldwin, Jill Beougher, Betty Black, Tina Black, Theresa Boeckman, Jennifer Bollenbacher, Betty Borger, Janet Braun, Mary Lou Broerman, Melissa Bruggeman, Janie Burklo, Tawnnie Burklo, Stacie Chaplinski, Ruth Christian, Joann Cochran, Beth Cornrtt, Delores Didier, Stacy Douglas, Elizabeth Eischen, Nancy Felver, Jill Fischer, Sharon Franzer, Rita Gehle, Lisa Gillis, Cheryl Goins, Sandra Grace, Wendy Hance, Elizabeth Heckler, Esther Heitkamp, Tracy Hellwarth, Tracy Helman, Rita Hemmelgarn, Belinda High, Pamela Hilleary, Jacqueline Huffman, Heather James, Cynthia Kincaid, Devona Koesters, Pamela Lange, Mary Ann Lechleiter, Christina Lindemeyer, Catherine Luken, Lucille Luttmer, Susan Luttmer, Barbara McDowell, Carol Miller, Peggy Minton, Kathleen Moeller, Shelby Mullins, Kim Obringer, Donna Petty, Melissa Pickrell, Darlene Pohlman, Rebecca Rammel, Rose Rammel, Shelley Robb, Danielle Roessner, Darlene Roessner, Madonna Rose, Margaret Schoch, Lucille Schott, Sandra Schott, Velma Spangler, Crystal Steen, Kimberly Stienecker, Judith Strobel, Cathrine Timmerman, Bessie Weaver, Judith Wendel, Kathleen Wendel, Marilyn Wendel, Amy Wenning, Rose Wilson, Sharon Winhoven, Jodi Wurster, Connie Wynn.

These skilled sewers and support personnel are "Crafting With Pride" quality garments for an ever expanding U.S. and world market.

Present officers and directors are:

Roger M. James, Jr., Chairman and Treasurer

Roger M. James, III, President - CEO

Gregory A. James, Executive Vice-President and Secretary

Roberta M. James, Vice President

Sharon A. James, Director

Many of our past and present employees have been drawn from the rural families of Mercer County. We are proud to

have been a part of the fabric of rural life in this area since 1916.



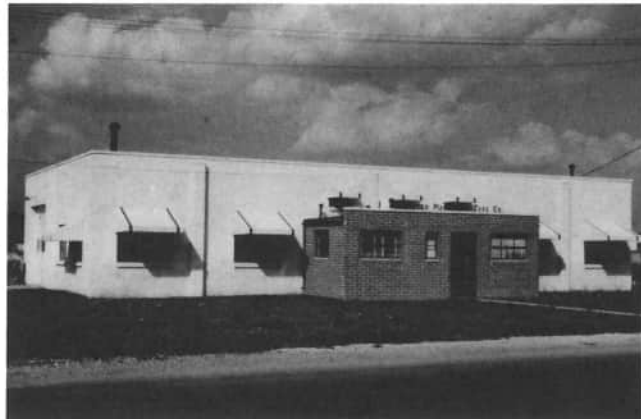
The Coldwater Machine Company located at 104 East Vine St., was formed in 1956 as The Coldwater Machine and Tool Company. The Company founders were Zeno Schoenlein, Leo Rosenbeck, and Donald Wellman as a tool and die shop. In 1976, the assets of the original company were purchased by Jerome F. Meyer and Robert E. Moorman, C.P.A.

The Companies present location started with a 2,800 sq. ft. building and has grown to its present size of 40,000 sq. ft. The plant is fully air conditioned and sets on a 3 acre lot.

Although most of the Companies customer base is within a 100 mile radius, many pieces of equipment have been shipped to various parts of the Continental United States. The Company produces tools, dies, fixturing, gaging, and special machines. The Company also offers specialized services in computer aided design, industrial electrical panels, cylindrical grinding, surface grinding, horizontal and vertical boring mills, turning, precision jig boring, computer aided inspection, fabrication, and C.N.C. machining. The Shop is well equipped and maintains a creditable quality assurance program.

The location and diverse customer base allows the Company to service many different markets, such as transportation, recreational, automotive aftermarket, agricultural, health care, textile, appliance, packaging, aerospace, beverage, furniture, rubber, and heavy machinery industries.

The Staff includes management, sales, purchasing, design, accounting, machinist, tool makers, technical support, and others. The Company and its Staff have built and maintain an excellent reputation over the years with its customers and a high degree of respect from competitors.



## Knap's Carry Out



Knap's Carry Out is located at 220 East Main Street in Coldwater, Ohio. It was the first drive-thru carry-out in Coldwater and is one of the finest beverage and pizza carry-out stores in Mercer County.

The carry-out was originally built in 1971 by Ivo and Helen Kremer, both natives of Coldwater. They had originally owned the successful Kremer's Restaurant in Coldwater and decided that a drive-thru carry-out would prosper in the growing town. The New store was opened in July of 1971 and was called Ivo's Carry Out. They carried beer, wine, soft drinks, ice, party and picnic supplies. They also carried hard liquor products at that time.

The relatively new business was only about one year old and going well when an unfortunate automobile accident claimed the life of Ivo Kremer. After his death, his wife Helen continued to run the store until 1973 when she sold the business to James and Jessie Gibson of St. Marys, Ohio.

Jim and Jessie had originally owned a carry-out store in St. Marys, so they were experienced in this type of business. Along with other changes, the name was changed to Gibson's Carry Out. Hard liquor beverages were no longer sold in the store, but a kitchen was added in the back section of the store for food preparation. This was the beginning of the pizza's, submarines, and sandwiches. The business did very well and continued to grow as the drive-thru convenience began to attract people from Coldwater and the surrounding community.

Jim Gibson kept the carry-out until March of 1975 when he sold the business to Mike Knapschaefer of Coldwater.

Having experience in retail sales working for Brodbeck's Supermarket in Coldwater and Mercer Beverage in St. Henry, Mike had a good idea of managing the business. The name of the business was changed to Knap's Carry Out, a shortened version of Knapschaefer.

Many improvements were made at the existing store under the new management. A wider selection of products of all kinds were added to the existing inventory. With the help and hard work of family and many good employees, the business continued to grow rapidly.

It soon became apparent that the existing building was no longer large enough to serve the needs of the customer. In 1978 an addition was added which nearly doubled the size of Knap's. The addition included a completely remodeled kitchen, a walk-in ice freezer, a large walk-in cooler for beverages, and a storage room in the rear of the store.

The carry-out which started as a small business venture for Ivo Kremer has grown to become a thriving business for Mike and Rita Knapschaefer, thanks to all the good people of Coldwater and the surrounding communities.

Today, as in the past, Knap's continues to provide fast, courteous, and convenient service and the highest quality fast food in the area.

# Lefeld Implement Inc.



Paul Lefeld, Sr. original owner

Lefeld Implement, Inc. is an agricultural and consumer product dealership for John Deere Company. Paul Lefeld started his farm equipment business in August 1947 as the only employee. In the spring of 1948 he built a cement block building located in Coldwater on North Second Street just south of Coldwater High School. Also at that time he added an employee, Carl Jackson, an ex-marine buddy, to help with the servicing of the equipment. Today, Carl Jackson owns and operates Jackson Garage in Celina, Ohio.

After twenty years of successful business selling and servicing Case farm equipment, Paul Lefeld decided to relocate his business because they had outgrown the old facilities. In the summer of 1967, on the fourth of July, Lefeld Implement Company celebrated the grand opening of their new building located at 5228 State Route 118, 1 mile north of Coldwater, Ohio.

In December of 1971, Case decided to discontinue manufacturing combines and all harvesting equipment. Combines and harvesting equipment consisted of over half of Lefeld Implement Company's sales. In January of 1972, Paul signed a contract to sell and service equipment for John Deere Company. Paul's main reasons for signing with the John Deere Company were leadership in the farm equipment industry, sound dealer organization, complete line of



Lefeld Implement Inc., 5228 St. Rt. 118, Coldwater, Ohio

high quality equipment, and no aggressive John Deere dealership in the area. Today, as in 1972, John Deere Company and Lefeld Implement Inc. mutually agree this contract has been good for Deere, Lefeld Implement, and the customers they serve.

Lefeld Implement was a sole proprietorship since it began in 1947 by Paul Lefeld until 1975 when it changed into a corporation. Today's corporation consists of seven stockholders who are: Steve, Paul Jr., Mike, Ken, and Dan Lefeld, Judy (Lefeld) Marbaugh, and Carol (Lefeld) Feltz. As Lefeld Implement progressed in the selling and servicing of John Deere farm equipment, their store in Coldwater became overloaded with work. To keep up with the demand of the farmers, the stockholders decided to build a Service Center at Willshire, Ohio, about 25 miles northwest of Coldwater. The new building was built in September of 1975.

Paul Lefeld started the business by himself in 1947, and progressed up to more than thirty employees. Paul is now seeing fourth generation of future farmer lads in the store with their dads who are grandsons of some of Lefeld Implement's first customers. Over the past 45 years Lefeld Implement Inc. has received many sales and service awards, and still maintains a conservative but progressive outlook for the future.



Lefeld Implement Co., First Building, North Second St., Coldwater



Service Center, 10991 St. Rt. 49, Willshire, Ohio

## Werling Motors

In 1951 Peanuts Werling, owner of Werling Motors, started buying cars and reselling them as a sideline while working at the Pet Milk Co. He also sold used cars part time for Rudy's Auto Sales in Celina. Eventually he started a used car lot called Midway Auto Sales located on State Route 118 between Coldwater and St. Henry. A year later his father, Carl J. Werling, joined Peanuts as a partner in the used car business. Dusty Bomholt, an implement dealer from Celina, financed and held an interest in the business until 1953 when Peanuts and Carl purchased his interest.

In July, 1954, the Werlings took over the Ford franchise known as Willett Motors in Coldwater and the Ford Garage building was sold to and is presently occupied by Dayton Power and Light Company. The Werlings then leased the former City Garage owned by Ed Stukenborg and remodeled it to become the new Ford Dealership. In 1956 the father and son team purchased the St. Marys, Ohio, Ford-Mercury dealership and Carl Werling managed that establishment. The St. Marys dealership was sold in 1957 and Peanuts purchased his father's interest in Coldwater in 1959. When Peanuts was franchised as the Ford dealership in 1954, he was the youngest dealer in the Detroit District at 28 years of age. In 1960 Peanuts purchased the building from Ed Stukenborg and in 1963 he purchased the old City Hall, immediately South. That

building was torn down and the present dealership built in its place, with the Stukenborg building to be used entirely as a Service Department. The new parts department and Showroom is the largest in the area holding 26 cars under roof, which attracts buyers during bad weather who are interested in purchasing a new car that hasn't been weatherbeaten.

The garage that was purchased from Ed Stukenborg was once the town's largest livery stable. The old City Hall was also used as a jail and fire department; the upstairs was once used as the Buckeye Overall Company, skating rink, dance hall, Nazarene Church Services, and meeting hall. The last years the building was used as the Coldwater Public library.

Peanuts has purchased the old Tile Company office and lot as well as the Sinclair Service Station on South Second Street which is now used as the Werling Motors Body Shop and used car operations.

Werling Motors has one single owner - the establishment is not incorporated with several owners. Peanuts Werling's son Bill Werling has been named as successor by the Ford Motor Company and will eventually take over as sole owner.

Bill Werling assumed the responsibilities as General Manager in 1985.

1993 marks the 39th year for Werling Motors. Ford dealership.



# White-New Idea History Story

Innovation has always been important in the farm equipment industry. Innovation and the changes that goes with it has led us to better and safer machinery, faster methods to farm and increased crop production for the whole world. It's that striving for improvement and innovation that started White-New Idea.

The history of New Idea began in the year 1899 in a small country school near Maria Stein, Ohio. The schoolmaster, Joseph Oppenheim, was concerned because the boys continually missed class to stay home to work on the farm, usually loading and unloading manure. Not only was it a back-breaking job, but it also deprived them of their education. Oppenheim approached the problem at its source.

He devised a means to help the boys perform the chore faster and easier with the invention of a mechanical manure spreader. His idea had such promise, he resigned his teaching position and formed his own company, the New Idea Spreader Works. In late October of 1899, the first New Idea manure spreader rolled off the assembly line of the small factory. Only two were sold during that first year.

But by the second year, the spreaders, nicknamed "the wide spread", had caught on and sales increased dramatically with 14 spreaders sold.

The new entrepreneur enjoyed little of his success. In 1901, Joseph Oppenheim died after a bout with typhoid. But his widow, Annie, was determined not to let his "New Idea" die. Using his insurance money, she continued the family business with the help of their son.

The factory outside Maria Stein grew steadily to meet the increased demand for the spreaders. By 1910, the company had grown so much it moved to Coldwater, Ohio to improve distribution by rail. Not only was New Idea the first to build a successful manure spreader, but it was the pioneer in the development of other farm equipment as well.

There was the first 2-row pull-type corn picker, and later, a tractor-drawn model with power take-off. Other new products followed, such as the trailing mower, Columbian rake, elevator, the transplanter, and hay loader.

New Idea challenged the entire farm equipment industry to think progressively and adapted to the changing needs of farmers. As product lines changed and improved through the years, company ownership was also changed. In 1945, the family-owned business was sold to AVCO Corporation and became AVCO New Idea.

During that same year, production of hay tools increased with the development of the first tractor-type

mower equipment with a mechanical lift. Mower conditioners and balers were added to the line later. Today's hay tool line supports two disc mower conditioners and sickle bar mower conditioner models to assure clean cutting and harvesting under any field conditions.

Three models of round balers offer versatility and handling ease and gives producers a choice of round bale size. Four models of disc mowers, two types of sickle bar mowers and rakes also offer farmers flexibility and design innovation. A dual rake hitch plus hay handling equipment also gives farmers more choices in their hay harvesting and handling methods.

New Idea added another new product to its line in 1963 - the UNI system, with the acquisition of self-propelled, interchangeable harvesting machines from Minneapolis Moline. New Idea advanced the system with harvesting attachments to fit various operations. Today the C-series power units can be equipped with forage harvesters, huskers, ear corn harvesters and various gathering heads to make the harvesting easier and affordable.

The first manure spreader has evolved from a horse-drawn spreader to the 3600 series. These new spreaders, ranging in capacity from 90 - 390 bushels, are the result of what farmers have asked for - improved features with a choice of options to fit their particular operation.

In July of 1984, New Idea was purchased by Allied Products Corporation. Other Allied Ag divisions included: Kewanee Farm Equipment and Bush Hog Implements. In May 1987, New Idea merged with another Allied Division, White Farm Equipment - a member of the Allied Group since late 1985.

The White-New Idea merger, while retaining separate product brands and dealership identities, allowed greater manufacturing and administration efficiencies.

The products now marketed under the White brand include the industry leading planter and tillage equipment. The White planter is known as the most accurate planter available today. The White tillage products include machines for today's farmers, such as conservation chisel plows.

Agriculture has changed a great deal since Joseph Oppenheim first broke ground for the New Idea Spreader Works, but the company he founded, White-New Idea, has continued to fulfill his dream to produce a quality product at a competitive price that would help farmers do their work faster and easier.



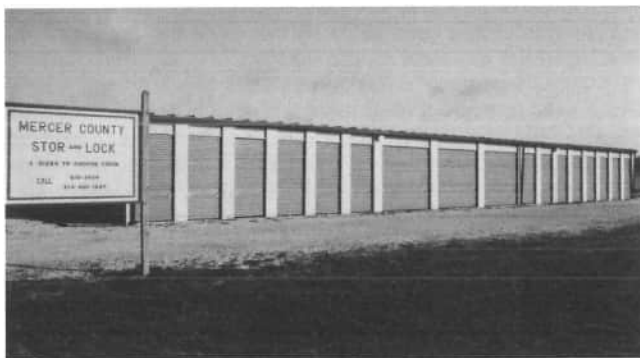
New Idea Spreader Works



Current Plant



## Mercer County Stor & Lock



Mercer County Stor & Lock is located at 751 Weis St. in the Coldwater Industrial Park. The business was started in December of 1988 by Duane and Kelly Sanning. Duane felt there was a need for personal and or business storage in Coldwater. Duane purchased the property with the help of his father, Richard Sanning. Mercer County Stor & Lock is the first self-storage building to be built in the Coldwater area. It provides needed storage for those people or businesses that do not have available storage space. One can rent by the month or by the year. There are twenty seven units available with five different sizes to choose from.

Dave Selhorst of Coldwater has been managing the business since it started. He has been a great help to us. We are better able to serve our present and new customers with his help.

Duane and Kelly reside in Greenville. Duane works full time as a Paramedic and part time at Sanning's Service Station in Coldwater. Kelly works at Wayne Hospital in Greenville.

"At the present, we are adding new exterior lights. We have tripled the size of the parking lot. We hope to add boat and camper storage to our service. Enough property was purchased to build three additional buildings if the need arises. At this time we have a couple of units available to rent. As soon as those are filled, phase two will begin and the second building will be constructed.

We are thankful we chose Coldwater as the site of our new venture. We hope we can be of great service to you."



## Sanning Service Station



1987

Located at 401 South Second Street in Coldwater is Sanning's Service Station. Richard and Susanna Sanning have owned the station since October 1957. Gas sold then for \$.32 a gallon and candy bars were a nickel.

The original land had a building which housed supplies for the village of Coldwater. At that time the land was owned by John and Nettie Schroeder. In July of 1939 Lawrence and Alma Schlater purchased the property and erected a service station with the help of Clem Hemmelgarn. One of Lawrence's first employee's was Louis Schoen. In the 1950's it was a common gathering place for the "Korean War" age fellows to socialize.

Albert Sanning worked with his son (Dick) until his death in 1964. The late Ray Speck worked with the Sanning's until his retirement in 1974. In 1972, Dick's eldest son, Duane, started working with his father learning to be a mechanic. Charles, another son, started working part-time in the business, following in his brother footsteps in 1974. In the fall of 1975, after Duane's high school graduation, Dick left the business in Duane's hands. After Charles's graduation from Lincoln Tech, Indianapolis, Indiana, May 1978, he joined his brother full time. Duane furthered his education through evening courses at Ft. Wayne, Indiana. Their third son, Kevin started working part-time at 1984. After graduation, June 1988, from Northwestern Business College, Lima, Ohio; Kevin returned full time to the family business. Taking care of the clerical and bookkeeping chores for the last 35 years has been Susanna Sanning.

With the change in the automotive industry, they out-grew the original structure. In the mid 70's remodeling was in order; a third bay added, aluminum siding graced the outside, another hoist, an electronic wheel alignment and rack, plus custom exhaust pipe bending equipment were added. July 1988 it was enlarged, doubling the original size to accommodate trucks and school buses. With stricter EPA regulations on service stations, on Dec. 12, 1989 gas was discontinued.

Their mechanical services feature: electronic wheel alignment and balancing, air conditioning, transmission and engine overhaul, brake service, radiator repair, complete custom exhaust system, and complete automotive repair.

Sanning service is happy to be a service to Coldwater and surrounding communities for 35 years.



Left to right: Duane, Kevin, and Chuck Sanning

## American Budget Company



American Budget Company was incorporated under the laws of Ohio on October 8, 1928. Its Executive Offices are located at 16 South Washington Street, New Bremen, Ohio. Operating loan offices are located in **Lima, Sidney, St. Marys, Versailles, Coldwater, Wapakoneta** and **New Bremen**.

Mrs. Patricia Muhlenkamp is Assistant Secretary and Manager of the Coldwater office at 208 West Main Street, where the branch has been located since 1964.

The Company owns and controls 100% of American Budget Mortgage Company which makes loans in amounts greater than the \$5,000. small loan limit, securing same by a first or second mortgage on real estate and/or other collateral.

The Company also owns and controls 100% of New Bremen Life Insurance Company, an Arizona based insurance affiliate which functions as a reinsurer of credit life and accident and health insurance related to loan and retail accounts.

As a licensed lender in the state of Ohio, the Company makes installment loans to credit-worthy borrowers on signature only, chattel property and real estate collateral. These loans are made for consolidating outstanding bills, home improvements, college tuition, medical expenses and many other worthwhile purposes.

American Budget Company also purchases retail installment contracts from selected dealers and merchants selling services, automobiles, household goods, appliances and other items on a time payment basis, thus permitting the consumer to acquire chattel goods when needed and to pay for their purchases in monthly installments from future income.

## Benanzer Nursery, Inc.



Benanzer Nursery, Inc. is located at 3366 St. Rt. 118. Bill Benanzer's first experience with the landscaping occurred in April of 1946. He was employed at New Idea when the work force went on strike. To pay the bills, he began working for Bill Foss, owner and operator of Foss Nursery. After the strike ended, he returned to New Idea, but continued to work at the Foss Nursery in the evenings and during weekends.

Three years later, he took several correspondence courses in landscaping. With that knowledge, he began designing the landscape for both residential and commercial places.

After working part-time for Foss Nursery for thirteen years, he started his own business. As the business grew, he purchased a used pick-up truck and hired some part-time help. He remembers completing twenty-three jobs that first year. Four years later, he completed one hundred and six jobs in one year, and he began bidding on commercial jobs.

The business continued where three to five men would work during the day and fifteen to eighteen would work on Saturday.

As the business continued to expand, he began spraying and treating trees, evergreens and turf. Shortly thereafter, the Environmental Protection Agency required the Department of Agriculture to License and certify this activity. Currently there are three licensed operators and applicators.

Several years later, Benanzer expanded into the Maugey Feeding Process. This allows the applicator to treat small to very large trees by injecting insecticides, fungicides, or stimulants directly into the trees. This procedure required additional schooling and training for the applicators.

In 1986, the business was incorporated. Even though it has expanded greatly since 1946, it still remains a family business. In 1990, the business was purchased by their daughter and son-in-law, Fred and Nancy Riethman. Nancy, growing up with the business and Fred helping Bill since 1975, it still remains a family oriented business. In those years since 1975, Fred has attended many different schools pertaining to the landscaping and horticulture field. He has also obtained his spraying license and has learned the art of Maugey. Fred and Nancy offer the same service as in the past and plan to expand the business as time goes on. (Fred & Nancy's children, Joshua and Jodi do many little tasks for the business, which helps everyone out.)

## Bettie's Restaurant

The familiar landmark on the corner of Main and Second Streets in downtown Coldwater known for many years as "Bettie's Corner" and famous for its pan-fried chicken, rabbit, and shrimp, was originally established in the late eighteen hundreds. The original proprietor was J. A. Giere, who called it "Corner Oak Saloon - Giere's Place." In the early nineteen hundred's, Alex and Edward Giere joined their father in the business.

In approximately 1935, Gus Bettinger bought the business and renamed it "Bettie's Restaurant". Through the years, Gus became noted for his extra little seasonings on his entrees. Cot and Linie Schoen worked for Gus for many years and in 1966 bought the restaurant. Cot died in 1967 and thereafter Linie and his wife Pauline managed the business. Linie died in 1971 and Pauline ran the business alone until it was sold to Mel and Agnes Bertke in April, 1972, - the present owners.

Through the years many businesses have come and gone but the familiar landmark across from the Catholic Church remains - Bettie's Restaurant.



## Briarwood Manor



Briarwood Manor, 830 West Main Street, Coldwater, Ohio - Phone (419) 678-2311.

Briarwood Manor is a 100 bed dually certified (Medicare/Medicaid) comprehensive care facility located on the western entrance of Coldwater, Ohio. The Manor is adjacent to the Joint Township Community Hospital for convenience of the residents and their families. The Manor will complete in 1993 a total renovation and is justifiably proud of this state-of-the-art facility for greater Mercer County. The residential touches are seen everywhere from the beautiful dining room, the lounges, the many outdoor patios and especially the private and semi-private resident rooms.

### Secure Care System

If you have a loved one who is prone to wander, our homes are now equipped with the Secure Care System. Secure Care provides for a higher level of safety and a new found freedom for our wandering residents.

## Central Soft Water Service, Inc.



In 1959 the Central Plumbing and Heating Company changed its name and business to Central Soft Water. The soft water portion of the company grew rapidly. In 1961 a similar operation was purchased in Delphos, Ohio, which doubled the size of the operation. In 1962 another purchase was made in Van Wert, Ohio.

With these purchases, the company broadened its service area to seven Ohio counties and three counties in Indiana. The business expanded service to include not only softening and water conditioning equipment, but also special filters for iron, sulphur, taste and odor problems. At this time automatic treatment equipment was added to the line of portable exchange tanks. The principle supplies of automatic equipment was the Water King Company.

The owners of the corporation were William King and Seranus Seitz. In 1973 Robert King and Richard Wuebker joined the company. William King purchased Mr. Seitz's interest in the corporation. In 1978 a branch office was established in Greenville to better service customers in Darke and surrounding counties. This office is located at 142 W. Water Street and is managed by Ms. Mary Jefferies.

In 1984 another branch office was established at 446 S. Main Street in Lima, Ohio to service customers in the Northern counties. The manager of this office is Bob Beebe.

In October of 1975 Central Soft Water Inc. was appointed the exclusive dealer for Kinetico, Inc. in West Central Ohio and Eastern Indiana. Kinetico manufactures the most revolutionary water conditioning equipment in the industry. This line of equipment, which is non-electric, operates on demand and uses less salt, helped establish Central Soft Water as the leading water treatment company in the area.

The present officers of the company are: Bill King, President; Bob King, Vice-President; Dick Wuebker, Sec-Treas.; Les Quinter, who has been with the company since 1966, is General Manager. Marlene Frilling is the Office Manager. Other present employees are: Steve Weitzel, Sue Ahrens, Doug Koesters, Tony Rammel, Paul Hart and Mike Kaup.

## COBA From Humble Beginnings . . .

The Western Ohio Breeders' Association was organized in 1942 near George Fisher's barn on State Route 118 between Coldwater and Celina, OH. In the beginning it served Mercer, Allen and Auglaize counties. At the time of the merger with the Northeastern Ohio Breeding Association to form the Central Ohio Breeding Association, twelve counties were being serviced on the western side of the state.

In August of 1945, negotiations about the consolidation began. At this time, A.K. VanDemark of Lima was serving as President of the Western Ohio Breeders' Association, and John A. Davis of Hamilton as Secretary. Directors for the association were: Lawrence Schroeder, St. Marys; Ralph Dicke, New Bremen; James Tingley, Rockford; V. Lyle Kiser, Wapakoneta; Frank Moore, New Paris; Forest Marshall, Ansonia; Charles Wolfe, Minster; Ralph Warner, Union; Walter B. Moeller, Dayton; W.H. Christman, Eaton; and Lee McBride, Convoy. These men were also to be the first from the Western Ohio Breeders' Association to serve on the Board of Directors for the Central Ohio Breeding Association. On a 113 acre farm in Franklin county, the two organizations were brought together. Especially significant about the organization and the growth of artificial breeding is that operations were started only after dairymen desired and requested the service.

After several years of working together and some months of negotiations, COBA, KABA (Kentucky Artificial Breeding Association), NIBCO (Northern Illinois Breeding Cooperative), and SIBA (Southern Illinois Breeding Association) formed a new organization to be owned by these four and called Select Sires. Today, COBA/SELECT SIRES, INC. serves the needs of our beef and dairy customers in an eight state area which includes, Ohio, Western Pennsylvania, Western West Virginia, Eastern Indiana, Texas, Oklahoma, New Mexico and Arizona. Our goal has always been to provide the highest quality service humanly possible for herd and breed improvement. The Select Sires family, of which COBA is an integral member, has expanded to twelve member cooperatives serving the entire United States and several foreign countries. The total organization has annual sales amounting to more than five million units of semen.

Many thanks to those who shared their Magnificent Barn with us.



**COBA/SELECT SIRES, INC.**  
1224 Altus-Darby Road • Columbus, Ohio 43228-9705 • Phone (614) 878-5333  
13974 State Highway 64W • Tyler, Texas 75704-8203 • Phone (903) 595-3781

Incorporated and Approved By  
**BSE**  
Certified Sires Service

# The Coldwater Implement Company

The Coldwater Implement Company was incorporated on March 7, 1935, to buy out the John Long Implement Company, which had been in business in Coldwater since about 1920. The original stockholders of the Coldwater Implement Company were Henry Synck, Theodore H. Oppenheim, Harold Colby, and Frank Mestemaker. On February 10, 1936, Joseph and Frank Mestemaker bought the entire stock from the other stockholders. Tom and Jack Mestemaker became co-owners in 1959. Tom retired in 1975 after 36 years of service. Jack Mestemaker and his son Mark, along with Bill Fox and Dick Sanning are the present stockholders.

The dealership became an Allis-Chalmers and New Idea dealer the first year. In 1951 they added the Sperry New Holland line to the selection of farm equipment available to their customers. To this day, they still sell the same lines of equipment except with name changes - Deutz-Allis, White New Idea, and Ford New Holland.

The old dealership, located in the heart of Coldwater, served the area farmers until 1976. But with improvements came changes and a 4 acre site located north of Coldwater on Route 118 was purchased and a new 70 by 130 ft building was erected.

The new store features a display area for lawn and garden equipment, several offices, parts department, and a large shop area.



COLDWATER YOUNG FARMERS ASS'N  
310 N. SECOND ST. PHONE 419-678-4821  
COLDWATER, OHIO 45828



Aerial View of auction at F & J Farm Service.

The Coldwater Young Farmers Association was chartered in 1977 and is a unit of the Ohio Young Farmers Association. The purpose of the organization is to provide a means for which young farmers and agribusiness individuals can improve themselves and their operations through educational and leadership activities. Educational sessions are held throughout the winter months. The organization also conducts various community service and recreational activities. A major community service activity of the organization is the annual consignment auction held the second Saturday of February. This auction is held in cooperation with F & J Farm Service and the Coldwater Auction Service. Each year the auction averages over 800 items consigned and \$80,000 in gross receipts. The organization provides substantial support to the Mercer County Junior Fair through financial incentives to FFA exhibitors and award sponsorship. College scholarships are awarded each year to Mercer County students entering college with a major in Agriculture.



At the auction, Ernie Uhlenhake in center, Ernie Kuess to his left, and behind him, Jerry Wenning, helping clerk.

## Cron's Nationwide Ins.



Cron's

In 1958 Nationwide Insurance Companies signed Maurice Cron as a part time insurance agent. In September of 1960 Maurice went full time with the company and moved to Coldwater, Ohio. He maintained his office in his home at 107 N. Cedar Street. In June of 1973 he moved his office to 217 South Second Street. This gave him the much needed office space to service his policyholders.

The agency continues to grow in policyholders with the casualty line making up the greatest portion of business. He is licensed to sell all lines of insurance including mutual funds. Over the years, he was awarded the President Club Award in Service, member of the President Club and the Challenger Club, company awards given to agents who meet the company's high standards.

Major changes seen in the operations of daily business went from all transactions done manually in triplicate to a computer automation system. With the computer, all paper work is suppressed.

Nationwide implemented a drive-up claims service which has proved to be very efficient in handling claims. One of the drive-up claims stations is serviced out of Maurice's office.

He has served the Company not only as an agent, but also on their advisory boards which help to keep their motto "In-Service-With-People" a reality.

The insurance field is a constantly changing one and requires continuing educational programs. Maurice has successfully completed many courses and has the LUTC and CLU designations. He is an active member in both organizations.

## Custom Body Shop



The Custom Body Shop was established by Tom Hoyng on March 1, 1961, on Butler Street; before there was a Butler Street. At that time it was a narrow one way road running just that far West.

Tom Hoyng had become an auto body repairman in January 1955, when he returned from military service. After working for several area dealers, he started working for himself in rented space in 1958. In 1960 he bought a used wrecker and has been pulling autos in off the road since then. Then in 1961 came the big move to the new building to Butler Street.

Since then the business has prospered and expanded. In December 1986 the present building was purchased. The 1961 building is and will continue to be used for refinishing. Besides auto collision repair, they have expanded their business to include industrial refinishing, and his son Dan refinishes home interior and exterior doors. Actually, they can refinish just about anything. Besides Tom, there are two full time employees; Tom's son Dan with 17 years experience, and Matt Wolters with 3 years experience.

Custom Body Shop is located at 105 West Butler Street, Coldwater.



## F & J Farm Service, Inc.

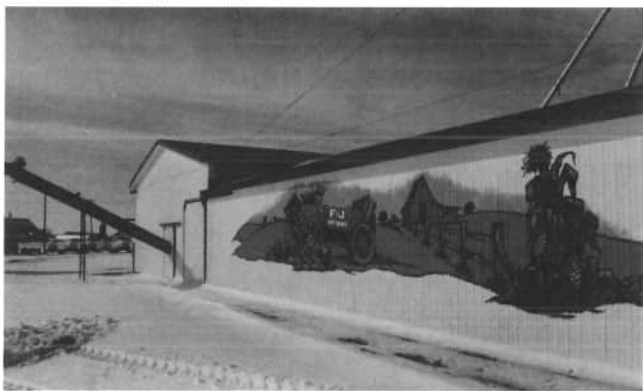


F & J Farm Service Inc. is a full service fertilizer, seed, and farm chemical dealer specializing in customer service. The business was started in 1972 by Floyd Winner, Joe Dues, Fred Kremer and Judy Dalk, all of whom participated in the actual construction of the original buildings.

F & J's primary business still remains in selling and applying of fertilizer seed and chemicals and the service that goes with them, but they have since expanded into the lawn and garden areas as well. Technology has changed through the years and F&J has changed with it. Total; Soil Management (TSM) has become a large part of the business, assisting local farmers in getting the best results for every dollar spent on crops and soils. Today services include farm crop planning, soil and tissue testing, test plot comparison, and management to comply with current government programs. This way customers can try various products or cultural practices under their own field conditions, with evaluations assistance from F&J.

F&J Farm Service currently has six full time employees including Floyd Winner, Linda Leugers, Steve Knapke, Mark Hess, Annie Kunk and Dave Robbins.

F&J Farm Service Inc. is located at 3971 Burkettsville St. Henry Road, Coldwater, OH 45828.



## Hardin Creek Machine & Tool Company



Hardin Creek Machine & Tool Co., located at 200 E. Hardin St. in Coldwater, Ohio, was founded in February of 1984 by Jerry Turner. The business designs and builds a variety of tools and dies for local and area companies. These companies manufacture bicycles, residential lighting, rubber products, farm machinery, medical and hospital equipment. Machined parts for hog and poultry production are also made.

In 1988 a 3500 square foot addition was added for additional machine, storage and assembly space. In 1989 the company purchased two C.N.C. milling machines. Computer Aided Drafting was added in 1992 to further help in design capabilities.

The company presently employs eleven people.

## Hogenkamp Funeral Home

715 East Main Street  
Coldwater, Ohio



The Funeral Home in Coldwater was founded in 1900 by Joseph R. Desch. In 1934 he sold his business to his son G.P. Desch, who operated it for 31 years. On January 10, 1965, the business on West Walnut Street was sold N.J. Hogenkamp Sons, Inc. The Hogenkamp business was established in 1874 in Minster, OH by Joseph Knostman & Bernard Jay Hogenkamp. In the early 1900's the business was taken over by Nicholas J. Hogenkamp and in 1938 the business was bought by Nicholas P. Hogenkamp. After the death of Nicholas P. in 1967 the business was purchased by his sons Nicholas A. and B. Jay. The firm is now going into its fifth generation as Nicholas C. son of Nicholas A. and Brian J. son of B. Jay and are currently working with the firm. On March 30, 1975 the funeral home was moved to its current location. The funeral home has been managed since 1965 by B. Jay Hogenkamp, with his son Brian J. Hogenkamp beginning to work with him in 1993.

## Homan Real Estate



Tom Homan started in the real estate business in the year 1959 when he received his real estate sales license. Tom worked real estate sales part time and also worked a full time job at the local New Idea plant.

In the Fall of 1962, Tom received his Brokers license and started in full time real estate sales from his office located in his home at 609 West Vine Street.

As Coldwater and Tom's business grew, he purchased the old Methodist Church property from the Church of God in 1971 and built a new home with more office space at 516 West Main Street.

In the year 1974 Tom's oldest son, Dave received his real estate license. Dave worked real estate sales part time and was also employed by Huffy in Celina. After Dave received his Brokers license in 1977, Dave and Tom formed a partnership that is today known as Homan Real Estate.

In 1978 Homan Real Estate purchased the Sunderhaus residence and former barber shop located at 120 and 124 West Main Street. After clearing the lot, their new office facility was completed in 1980.

In February 1993, Tom Homan transferred his one half ownership in Homan Real Estate to his youngest son, Tom Homan Jr. Tom Sr. announced he was going into semi-retirement after 34 years in the business. Tom Jr. joined his brother Dave as co-owner of Homan Real Estate.

Tom Jr. was a graduate of the University of Cincinnati where he majored in Business Administration. He received his sales license in April of 1992. He previously served as a mortgage loan underwriter for Society National Bank, Dayton.

Homan Real Estate is actively involved in residential, commercial, farm sales and also rental property management.



## Judy A. Koesters Attorney At Law



Judy A. Koesters is a 1986 graduate of the University of Dayton School of Law and has been licensed as an attorney since November 1986. She initially began her legal career with Turner and Ramer Co., L.P.A. in Piqua, Ohio. In April 1988, she returned to her native Coldwater to associate as a partner with Paul Howell. The pair practiced under the firm name of Howell and Koesters Co., L.P.A. located at 420 S. First Street, Coldwater, Ohio. Mrs. Koesters and Mr. Howell maintained their partnership until January 1993 when Mr. Howell became the Mercer County Prosecuting Attorney. Mrs. Koesters has continued as a sole practitioner at the same location. One of only four female attorneys in Mercer County, Mrs. Koesters' law practice consists primarily of estates and estate planning, wills, domestic relations and real estate. In addition to her legal practice, Mrs. Koesters is active in the community and is the mother of two daughters, Lindsey (age 3) and Kari (age 2). She is married to Levarn Koesters, formerly of Carthagena, Ohio.

Mrs. Koesters' law practice is located in the former New Idea Administration Building at the corner of West Sycamore and South First Streets in Coldwater. The law office occupies the first floor of the building and the second floor has been converted to living quarters. The building is a landmark in New Idea history. Constructed in the early 1920s, it is a stately stone edifice with a large entrance stairway and pronounced roof overhangs. It is characterized by large meeting rooms and small offices formerly occupied by New Idea's secretaries, accountants, sales managers and president. In the late 1930s, New Idea initiated plans to add additional floors to the existing two story building. A one level wooden structure was attached to the rear of the main structure and was intended to temporarily house employees until new construction could be completed. However, the start of World War II thwarted new construction and the wooden structure became permanent.

The building stood vacant for several years until 1986 when it was purchased by Paul Howell. Over the years, numerous aesthetic and structural changes have been made to the building, including remodeling and redecorating of both floors and tearing down the wooden structure attached to the rear of the main building. In addition, the exterior of the building was given a new look when it was painted tan with green trim, thereby ending the era of the well-known "white house".

## Home Service Station



In the early 1900's, the corner of First and Main streets housed a movie theatre owned by Al Pontius. During the next decade the building was converted to a Standard Oil gas station. In the 1940's and 1950's, owner John Schroeder operating under the name "Home Service Station" was kept busy with a car washing business and servicing the Pet Milk Co.'s fleet of milk trucks. The thriving company had approximately 60 flat bed trucks which picked up the milk cans from area farmers.

After the death of John Schroeder in 1955, the business was sold to Wilbert Bruns and Eugene "Jim" Ontrop. The partners continued to sell Standard Oil products and also expanded the facility to accommodate the rapidly changing automobile industry. During this period services included gasoline sales, car washes, and automobile maintenance. About 15 years later the business converted from Standard Oil to Texaco products.

In 1978 the untimely death of "Jim" Ontrop left carrying on the business to Wilbert and his two employees, Larry Hausfeld and Dan Brackman.

Texaco Oil discontinued their services in Ohio in 1980 and Home Service, Inc., converted to Marathon Oil. The business was sold to Larry and Dan in 1986 who continue to offer full service for auto repair and gasoline sales. Today's world has meant keeping up with the innovative computerized automotive systems.

# Moorman, Harting & Company

Certified Public Accountants



In May of 1955, Anthony F. Moorman started in business as Moorman's Accounting and Tax Service. Robert and Samuel purchased the business from their father in 1971. They continued to use their father's office until the fall of 1975, when they moved into a new building located at 815 W. Main St., Coldwater, Ohio. At this time the name of the business was changed to Moorman & Moorman.

In 1984, two CPAs who were employees of the firm were admitted as partners to the firm. They were Patrick Moorman, a brother to Robert and Samuel Moorman and James Harting. It was at this time when the name of the firm was changed to its present name, Moorman, Harting & Company. In April of 1992, the firm opened a full time office in Celina in addition to the Coldwater office. The Celina office is located at 531 E. Market St.

The Certified Public Accounting firm now offers a wide variety of services for business, agriculture and individuals. Some of the services include income tax preparation, financial statement preparation, estate planning and advisory, payroll check preparation, along with a variety of other accounting services.

Currently the firm's full time and part time staff of the Coldwater office, including the partners, consists of: James W. Harting, CPA, Patrick H. Moorman, CPA, Samuel J. Moorman, CPA, Robert E. Moorman, CPA Cynthia Goubeaux, Phyllis Moorman, Janet Bills, Rose Lochtefeld, Carla Post, Karen Rindler, Jane Cheek, Sandy Rindler, Judy Otte, and Rhonda Moeller.



Pictured are some of the staff of Moorman, Harting & Company.

From left to right: Sandy Rindler, Karen Rindler, Patrick H. Moorman, Samuel J. Moorman, James W. Harting, Jane Cheek, Carla Post, Rhonda Moeller.

# Ray's Refrigeration, Inc.



Ray's Refrigeration, Inc. is located at the North edge of Coldwater. The founder, Ray Wenning, started in refrigeration during 1946 after coming out of the military service. In 1949 Ray started his own family business, which now consists of the following employees: Ron, Mike, Dan, Paul, Mary, Cindy Wenning, Jean Braun and Ron Kunk.

Ray's Refrigeration sells and services residential and commercial equipment, appliances such as air-conditioners, refrigerators, freezers, dishwashers, ice makers, microwave ovens, stoves, furnaces, cooling units, walk-in freezers, water coolers, ice machines and some other store equipment. Some of the brands they carry include for heating and air-conditioning equipment: Lennox "Pulse", "Bryant", Geothermal "Water Furnace", for commercial coolers: Nor-Lake; for household appliances: Amana, Frigidaire, Gibson, Jenn-Air and KitchenAid. Other specialty items are also sold that relate to the above products.

## Schwieterman's Pharmacy



Left to Right: Karen Hutson, Dale Bertke, Mary Geier, Linie Zumberge, Kay Overman, Chris Muhlenkamp

Schwieterman's Pharmacy in Coldwater is one of five retail store's currently owned and operated by Schwieterman's Drug Stores, Inc. The corporation is headquartered in New Bremen and was founded in 1916 by Urban Schwieterman and was passed on to a son, David Schwieterman, who owned the operation until December of 1992. The business has developed into a fairly diverse health care operation offering prescription service at retail, durable medical equipment, nursing home services including prescriptions and consulting, colostomy supplies, and general health and beauty aids. The operation was computerized in 1983, allowing for quicker, more accurate, and complete service. Insurance billing is much more effective with this technology, and the data storage and printing functions allow for sophisticated forms generation for the nursing homes that are on contract.

Schwieterman's Drug Store Inc. has a long and steady history of growth in Mercer and Auglaize county areas. From humble beginnings in New Bremen, the store in Coldwater got its start in 1974 at the current site of Mercer County Awards on Main Street. From there, the business moved to its new location on Hillcrest near the mall in 1982. All nursing home functions are conducted from this location. Store manager Linie Zumberge would like to take this opportunity to thank the friends and neighbors that have made this operation a success, and thanks to the store staff who have made the business a proud member of the Mercer County community.

The owners are Mark Dominik of St. Marys and Linie Zumberge of rural Celina. In addition to stores in New Bremen and Coldwater, the corporation has a store in Fort Loramie, St. Marys, and Minster.

## Robert Winner Sons Inc.



On April 17, 1957, Robert Winner Sons Inc. of Osgood, Ohio bought 1-1/2 acres of ground from Leo Osterholt of Philothea, Ohio, 1-1/4 miles west of Philothea to build a new stockyard. Construction was started within two weeks with Leo Pohl from Burkettsville doing the construction work. The building was completed August 15, 1957 and the business opened for the purchase of livestock. An addition was built onto the building in 1963.

Robert Winner started the buying with Ivo B. Heitkamp hired as the permanent manager. Robert Winner worked with Ivo for about a month as a training program and he was later assisted by Leo Wenning and Frank Kramer until they retired. Ronald Spoltman was Ivo's assistant from 1962 through 1988. Then as Ivo was nearing retirement, Neal Klosterman was hired on August 1, 1990 and Ivo remains with Neal on a part time arrangement.

The stockyard buy hogs from area farmers, then grades and sorts these hogs to be shipped to packers in Ohio, Indiana, Michigan, Tennessee, North Carolina and Iowa. The stockyard also buys and sells feeder pigs and cattle. Customers can also leave hogs at the yard for custom butchering and further processing which is done at the Osgood Plant.

Robert Winner started the business in Osgood in 1930 with a meat market and grocery store with a small slaughter house west of town. The first stockyard was built in 1940 east of Osgood, the locker plant was added in 1944 with the present location of the packing plant added in 1946. The five sons of Robert Winner operated the business from 1951 until 1986. Since then, four brothers retired (all remain on a part time schedule and as advisors). Ken, along with eight of the sons continue to operate the business. With a stockyard, packing plant and livestock feeding operation in Greenville, Oh and buying yards in Williamsburg, Ind. and Ashland, Oh there is plenty of work.



## Complete Auto Repair Service, Inc.



From a chicken coup to a modern Auto and Truck repair center. The complete history of the business ran at 120 S. Third St. in Coldwater, Ohio.

In the early 1900's the building, which now houses the office and parts department for (C.A.R.S.) Inc. Complete Auto Repair Service. It began its business history as a chicken coup, owned by The John Giere family. They kept the chickens warm in the winter by Mrs. Giere making home-made soap in a cast iron kettle.

The family then remodeled the coup into an office and added on a larger building. In this new building they manufactured 300 lb. blocks of ice. This ice, they sold to area homes and businesses. With the demise of using block ice for refrigeration needs. They closed down the operation.

Next came Coldwater Implement Co. They bought the building and used it for assembling and storing farm equipment until they relocated to north end of Coldwater.

In 1978 Ralph (Bud) Griesdorn and his family purchased the building, to expand their Service Station Business. This allowed them to better serve their customers Auto and Truck repair needs in the area. In June of 1993 "Bud" after 43 years as a mechanic and 20 years as a business owner retired. He sold his share of the business to his nephew Jim Gross.

Complete Auto Repair Service Inc. (C.A.R.S.) formally Coldwater Auto Repair Service, now is owned by Randy Griesdorn and Jim Gross. We offer complete auto and truck repairs. We do both major and minor repairs on both foreign and domestic vehicles. We are open six days a week, and we will pick up and deliver your vehicle for your convenience. Call us at 419-678-4949 and help us continue the long business history at 120 S. Third St. Coldwater, Ohio.

## Corner Dry Cleaning And Laundry Service



Staff: Gayle Beckman, Jeannette Sutter, Stacy Moeller and Tammy Muhlenkamp, and owners Rita and Mark Bensman. (Vic Billerman does maintenance.)

Corner Dry Cleaning and Laundry Service is located at 502 West Walnut, Coldwater, Ohio. Corner Dry Cleaning and Laundry Service began on May 12, 1986, when Mark and Rita Bensman bought out Coldwater Laundry Village from Bob Ballinger. They continued the coin operated laundromat, but changed it from a dry cleaning drop off point to a dry cleaning business.

On January 1, 1987, Mark and Rita bought out Doug Rinderle. The day cleaning business increased rapidly so more room was needed. In November 1987, construction was started on the north end of the building. More dry cleaning equipment was also needed, so in August 1988, Mark and Rita bought out One Hour Cleaners in St. Marys, from Pat and June Winans.

In May of 1990, commercial laundry work for Buckeye Apparel, Inc. began. This commercial work included stone washing, pigment dye rinsing, and acid washing. Soon after, A to Z clothing, out of Greenville, contacted Mark to do some various pressing jobs for The Limited Express, Lands End, Structure, and Lane Bryant. As the commercial work grew, the coin operation laundromat closed and industrial laundry equipment was brought in. This satisfied the need of Buckeye Apparel, Inc. of Coldwater and A to Z Clothing of Greenville, Ohio.

# Washington Township, Mercer County, Ohio



\* This page was sponsored in memory of the Alig, Homan, and Muhlenkamp Families, for the convenience of those who wish to tour Washington Township roads, to see the big barns and to appreciate our rural heritage.

\*\* This map was printed by permission of Spectrum Map Publishing, Inc., 909 Sycamore Street, Cincinnati, OH 45202.



Joseph W. Schoenherr, 4181 Burrville Road, Coldwater, has this barn. In the past, the barn was always used for cows that they milked, and storage of hay and straw. Today, they still have the straw and hay, and raise calves in the barn. He tells a story about the barn that many people tell, that he does not know when the barn was built, because all of the older people who would know, are gone, and the younger ones do not know.

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In 1967, Glen and June Florence purchased forty acres of land from Gard Brandon Family, just north of the intersection of St. Anthony and Burrville Roads. At that time, the barn set east and west. The Florences renovated the peg barn, by taking off the machine shed and corn crib, turning the barn to set north and south, cutting the height from three to four feet shorter, and residing two of the sides, with two sides still having the old original siding. Apparently, the previous owners used the barn for horses and cows because the Florences tore out several stalls. Through the years, the Florences have fed sheep and hogs in this barn. The barn is easy to find because it is the only green barn trimmed with orange and yellow doors in Washington Township!

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Donald Schoenlein, 4299 Burrville Road, Coldwater, has this barn, which was built about 1900. This gable roofed barn has five lightning rods standing on the roof ridge. The barn has always been used for livestock, and hay and straw storage. On the front barn door is the basketball rim. Farm youth are a good help on the farm, and they also have a good time on the farm. Many barns have basketball rims, either outside, or inside; some have the rim set up in the mow.

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A view of the Florence barn in 1967; their daughter Leisa is standing in front of the barn.

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In 1850 John and Catharine Pflughaupt Menchhofer of Strassburg, Alsace, France came to America and homesteaded at 5160 Burrville Road, Coldwater, Ohio.

The family's first log cabin home was built shortly after their arrival and, since John had a special interest in purebred short-horn cattle, it is believed the large 26 x 80 ft. log barn and its south lean-to shed were, also, built sometime in the 1850's.

Today the barn consists of its original pole rafters, north and south mows, and an east half-mow. Its south dirt floor stable with wood-fastened stalls and feed mangers, also, remain. Altogether, the barn consists of six separate areas for milking, animal shelter, and storage.

Having been passed down from one Menchhofer generation to another, the barn was owned by John and Catharine's great-grandson, Martin Menchhofer and his wife, Marge, from 1948 to 1963. They replaced the northwest hardwood corner walls of the unpainted barn with cement blocks for a milking parlor. Either Martin's grandfather or father had replaced the barn's shingled roof with a standing-seam metal roof.

In 1963 Jim and Thelma Buschur Homan of Celina, Ohio purchased the Menchhofer homestead. A year later, Jim, with the help of his brother-in-law, Marvin Buschur, removed the barn's lean-to shed and hauled the weathered lumber back to the east woods after which Jim sledge-hammered each piece of wood siding from the main structure.

Ferd Muhlenkamp, his brother Leander and sons Ed and Terry Muhlenkamp jacked up the barn, and a cement foundation was poured beneath. They restored some of the interior, aged, wooden pillars and resided the barn's exterior that was later painted white.

Abe Lincoln of Celina kept horses in the barn which, also, has been rented out to area farmers for the storage of cattle and machinery. The five Homan children associate the barn with fun times while they grew up. Meeting with disapproval from their parents, though, was one particular, risky incident when they tied a rope around the waist of their

youngest brother and lowered him outside from one of the mows to the ground. The barn is one of the few remaining homestead barns in Washington Township.



An interior view of the east half-mow and south haymow, of Jim Homan's barn.



The tornado of May 14, 1886 destroyed the original barn, along with the house, at 6655 Burrville Road, Celina. W.H. Bryan salvaged some of the hand hewn beams for use when he built the barn that stands today. W.H. Bryan's grandson, James Bryan, added the west addition and a cement hog floor to the barn in 1965. The third generation, James and Evelyn Bryan, presently own the farm.



Three barns were built by Henry Wellman on the west side of Erastus-Durbin Road; the last being built for the Buckloh family in 1897. The barn is now covered with steel siding, but still has the original siding and shingles underneath. Some of the interior structure is unique, to reduce supports; a cantilevered type construction was used to open up the barn for loose hay. The beams for this barn were sawn on the spot of native timber. Katie Clouse, daughter of Jon and Betty Clouse, is the fifth generation to use this barn, which stands at 5069 Erastus-Durbin Road, Coldwater.

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Henry Wellman built this barn in 1896, at 5373 Erastus-Durbin Road, where Robert Rose lives today. The barn has been used for shelter for horses and cows, and storage for hay, straw and machinery. The barn is used for storage of straw and machinery today, and is owned by Joseph Rose, 3729 Menchhofer Road, Coldwater.

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This rainbow roof increased storage space in the barn built by the Amish families of Henry Schwartz, two brothers, and two brothers-in-law, in 1950. Henry's labor charge was \$1.50 per hour; the others were \$1.15 per hour. The six week labor cost was \$1,434.73. A number of the neighbors helped free of charge whenever they could. The barn has the mortise and tenon joints and pinned together. The barn has been used for dairy and beef cattle, hay and straw, and storage. Today, the barn is used for beef and storage. This unique barn belongs to Harold Buckloh, 5160 Erastus Durbin Road, Coldwater.

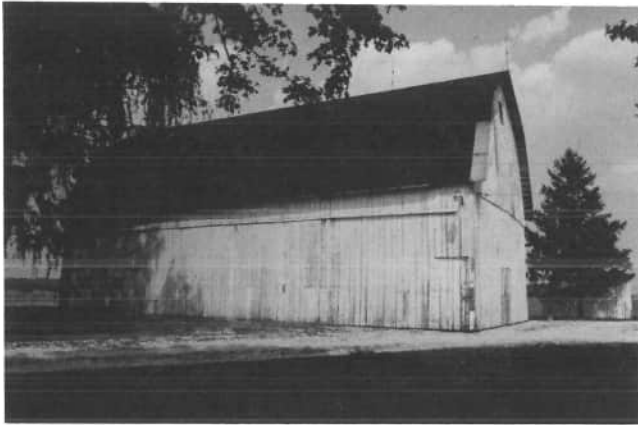
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In the quiet countryside, this barn was built in 1936. It has housed livestock and chickens, and stored hay and straw. Today, a few hogs are raised there. This gambrel-roofed barn belongs to Mary Ann and Murrel Kittle, 5817 Erastus-Durbin Road, Celina.

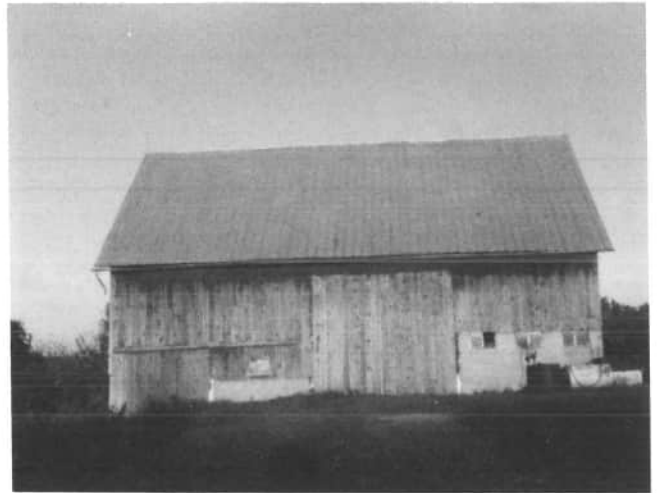
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In 1906 or 1908, Mr. Squire, who built the barn, was the father of Iva Adams, the original owner of the farm. The design of the barn can be attributed to Mr. Squire. Joe and Iva Adams lived on the farm until 1970. Their granddaughter is Ann Morrison. Roy and Ann Morrison purchased the farm in 1973; they have now sold the farm to Steve and Karla Kessler, at 6028 Erastus Durbin Road, Celina. Roy and Ann have moved to 186 Lake Damon Drive, Avon Park, Florida 33825.

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The farm was purchased by Thomas McMillan in 1868. The barn was originally built on stone pillars by John McMillan around 1890, at 4820 St. Peter Road, Coldwater. The barn has two levels as it was erected on the side of a hill. This type barn is named a Grundscheier Barn, meaning that one can enter the barn at any level from the ground level and not need a bank to enter the higher level. In the 1940's, the barn was remodeled, with the addition of a cement block foundation and cement floors. The barn was used for milking in the 1940's and 1950's; then used for beef cattle through the 1980's. The McMillan Farm was designated a "Centennial Homestead Farm" by the Ohio Historical Society. Lela McMillan Eken, 5806 Red Fox Drive, Winter Haven, Florida 33884, owns this barn; her son Tom McMillan lives at this farm at 4820 St. Peter Road.

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The hay rack is hanging gracefully from the center track in the hay mow in the Kessler barn at 6028 Erastus Durbin Road.

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An interior view shows the hugh beams and their bracing structure in the hay mow of this McMillan barn at 4820 St. Peter Road.

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Louis A. Knapke, 4114 Wabash Road, Fort Recovery owns this barn and uses it for a beef operation. John Harting built the barn in 1917. First, the barn was used for horses and milk cows; then it was remodeled to a Grade A dairy barn.



Jim Jeffers built this barn in 1913. The hourly wage was between forty-five and sixty cents, for labor. The total cost of building this barn was \$375. The barn has two entry-ways to the hay mow, for the elevator. This is one of the few barns, which has a gable-roofed entry way through the shed-side of the barn. This is the Gary Knapke farm, 4549 Wabash Road, Coldwater.



Mr. and Mrs. Cletus Knoth's barn, 5210 Wabash Road, Coldwater, was built in the late 1800's by Charles Rabe Sr. The barn was used for dairy and storing hay and straw. Today, the barn is used for steers, hay, and straw.



This big old barn appears as if it is enjoying a peaceful retirement on a beautiful summer day. The barn, located at 5740 Wabash Road, Coldwater, was used to house hogs, and store hay, straw, and machinery. The barn is owned by Lowell L. Schroeder, 1198 Schroeder Road, Celina.



One can stand with this weathered barn, away from the noise of trucks and cars, and just listen to the birds and the wind in the country. The barn was built in the early 1900's, and was used for farm use. Today, the barn is used for a workshop and storage, by the owners Bill and DeeDee Cox, 6371 Wabash Road, Celina.



"Valley View, Carl L. Schroyer" is written across the front of this barn at 6538 Wabash Road, Celina. This is a working barn, as the wagon sits patiently out front waiting to be unloaded, at Carl Schroyer's farm.



The barn belongs to Bernard Loshe, 1237 Pine Road, Coldwater; the barn is located at 1221 Menchhofer Road, Coldwater and Ron Dues lives there. The barn was built around the early 1870's, with an addition in 1888, a shed in 1910, and another added to the south in the late 1930's. Around 1980, the barn was jacked up and a cement foundation completely surrounded its sides. The cement floor replaced a plank floor in its entirety. All mows were overhead with new support beams and truss rods. This work was done by the Don Schwartz crew. The Charles Gray crew did the addition in the "dirty thirties." Currently, the barn is used for steers. At its beginning the barn was used to house various types of cattle, horses and sheep. Hay was pitched onto wagons by hand and unloaded the same way. With the coming of the hay loader, came the hay fork and track. Wheat and oats sheaves were pitched off by hand. Along came the hay baler and a few years later the bale elevator. This was followed by balers with "throwers," mow conveyors and the large round bales. What is next? Grainaries built of wood and not mouse proof had their fling, as did a large floor mow used for dances in summer and shredded corn fodder in the fall. Corn fodder was cut when ears reached maturity and used for feed, whereas today stalks are shredded and baled after the stalk has been dead for some time and used for bedding.



Werner Loshe's barn stands on the west side of Wabash Road, just north of Leininger Road. The barn was built around 1890. The fifty-four by thirty foot barn has a steep pitch roof, making it around thirty feet to the roof's comb. The wood shingle roof has been replaced with asbestos and metal. An addition was put on

around 1908 by William Azbell, who was also a tenant on the farm. This has since been removed and metal siding was installed by the Amish. The barn was set on rock pillars, and had ship-lap siding. Most of the barn has wood plank floor. At one time, it had three grain bins which created problems with rats. In the "dirty thirties" up to 106 rats were killed in one night with clubs. All posts had metal bands nailed to them to prevent escape routes above. Over the years the barn housed many prize winning heifers, including Jr. Champions and State Fair Winners. The barn was very well built with lots of eight by eights. In the early days, hay was put in with two prong hay forks running on an end to end metal track. Later, a bale elevator was used.



Bernard Loshe's barn stands on the east side of Wabash Road, between Leininger and Pine Roads. It was formerly owned by Charlie McCain and before that, the Fennig Family. The barn is forty by eighty, with standing seam roofing. It is built on River Rock pillars. The large beams are hand hewn or sawed, and the barn was probably erected sometime after the Civil War or the 1860's. The hay fork track is made out of wood, but not used since the early 1950's. The siding is ten to twelve inch boards without grooves and so provides natural ventilation. The original large doors at the double "thresh" floors were hung on long strap hinges. These were replaced in the 1960's by roller hangars on new doors. The barn housed milk cows on the north end and horses at the south end, during the thirties and forties. The purline posts are set on the plate at an angle to be perpendicular to the purline plates and thus rafters have a matching flat surface to rest upon for mid-support. It has standing seam metal roofing over wood shingle.

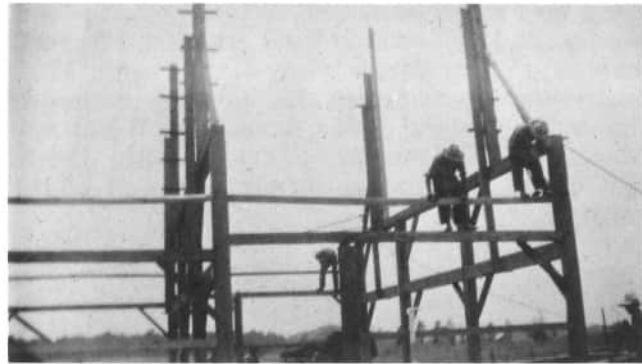


I was built in 1937 by Peter L. Schwartz and his working crew: John Schwartz, Simon Schwartz, John Hilty, Jonas Nuenschwander and Zeno Diller. I have extra rafters over the threshing floor to support unloading with large slings. Many of my mow stringers and supports in one bend are hand hewn logs from my predecessor. I have a metal track and carrier under my gable. I was home for three horses and twelve cows plus calves. A milking machine was installed in 1944. I became home to the top polled Ayrshire herd West of the Alleghenies and the World's Record Polled Ayrshire Sire from Greenrange Farms in Vermont. I had a lean-to, eighteen by seventy-four, plus milk house added in 1946 by the Loshe Brothers and Lee Shively. This made me eligible for Grade A milk for over the next forty-two years at a cost of \$1,498.00. I was home to the Strawberry cow that made records over 18,000 pounds of milk with ease, on hay mornings and evenings, and corn fodder at noon. One of the best cows we ever owned! As I was home to the top Polled Ayrshire herd and the birthplace of many young herd sires with as many as thirteen being ordered in one year. These were used in Ohio and all states bordering Ohio. After winning many ribbons at the shows, the herd was dispersed and replaced by Holsteins. In the 1960's, the first registered animal being the Ava Cow as a senior yearling bred heifer for \$210. Soon she was classified VG and was joined by Pam at VG-87. Ava's son brought visitors from the A.I. studs and as a few more generations came along three were used in A.I. As the herd won national and state recognition with five #1 Ohio's and was dispersed in March 1988 to a twenty-year-old girl from Ohio. It was the second highest scored in the nation. It was fed on hay, pasture, and limited homegrown grain. In the early 1960's, I changed my tenants to Black and White Holsteins. They developed into Ohio's first 20,000 lb. herd; high herd in Ohio four years; second high two years and third high two years; high herd milked in Mercer County for fifteen years; first place Ohio State Fair; excellent 91 Milly; second high homebred herd U.S.A.; eighth place All American Show; seven generations of the Ava family that averaged 85 Very Good; five generations of the Milly family that averaged over Very Good 85; Milly herself on the elite proven dams list and VG 88 at thirteen years. The cattle sold to as far west as California and south as far as Costa

Rica. On three classifications the lowest scored cows were "Good Plus" or higher with the best reaching "Excellent 91."



Werner Loshe barn, with H. Loshe 1937 on end, with straw stack out back.



Erecting the Werner Loshe barn in 1937.



The Werner Loshe barn today, at 1237 Pine Road, Coldwater.



David and Mary (Powell) Schroyer were the first owners of this farm, at 1309 Schroeder Road, Celina. This barn was built in 1888, by Milton Schroyer and family and neighbors. No names are written on the back of this old photograph, except the "David Schroyer Ranch." The cupola served for ventilation (it is gone today). The photograph is faded and one can hardly distinguish what the circle on the gable end wall was. The people in the photograph must be the David Schroyer family, with their horses, and chickens in the barnyard. The next owners of the farm were Daniel and Alice (Schroyer) Menchhofer. The present owners of the buildings and three acres are Willis and Marcella (Menchhofer) Yarian, with James and Cheri Menchhofer owning the rest of the farm.

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In 1937, Mr. and Mrs. Orval Bricker moved to this farm at 49 Schroeder Road, Fort Recovery. The barn was standing here then; a Wagner family had lived here before that. The beams are hand hewn and pinned in the barn. Orval added the tramp shed to the east side in 1954. He also added the cement floor and foundation. He kept the siding and roof in repair. He has used the barn for raising hogs and steers. Today, the barn is used for storage.

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An aerial view of the Yarian buildings and Menchhofer farm at 1309 Schroeder Road, Celina. After a century, the barn still stands straight, but the cupola is no longer on the roof.

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Florence and Vaughn LaRue bought this property at 1056 Schroeder Road, Celina, in 1946. The barn was built before 1900, and was used for livestock. Today, this big barn is used for storage.

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This is a 1952 view of the Lowell Schroeder farm at 1198 Schroeder Road, Celina. The building to the left of the large barn was the original log house of Charles and Elizabeth Schroeder. This was converted into a log house and used until 1975 when it was torn down. Around 1936 Charles' son, Augustus William took over the farm. Then in 1976, Augustus' son Lowell Schroeder took over the farm. Lowell and Reta (Fahncke) Schroeder's three daughters are Mrs. David (Kimberly) Langenkamp, Mrs. Steve (Karla) Kessler, and Miss Bill (Karen) Miller.

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This big barn, with the round roof, also known as a rainbow or gothic roof, has a small flair to the roof edge, which some people call a "ski-jump." Mervin Smith's name is painted on front of the barn; his heirs own the barn today. Bob Severt lives at this farm, located at 2180 Pine Road, Celina.

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This is a 1986 view of the Lowell Schroeder farm at 1198 Schroeder Road, Celina. Around 1949, the milk house was added onto the large barn. This was used until 1959. In 1972 the farrowing house was built. In 1976 the farm house was remodeled and a fireplace was put in, using one of the logs from the original log house for the mantle. The other wood items made from the walnut wood of the log house were a bench, grandmother clock, and a small mantle clock, and a table. The addition of a two car garage, enlargement of kitchen, utility room, and family room was completed in 1981. The original wood work was saved and used. At this time, vinyl siding was also put on the house.

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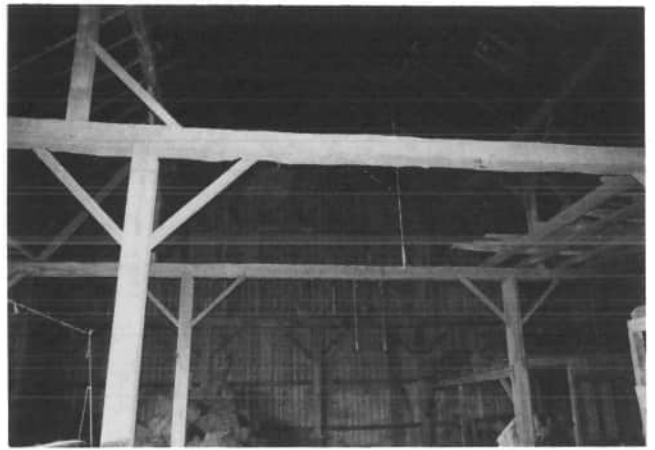
This huge barn with its gambrel roof was built about 1900, and stands at 5082 State Route 49, Fort Recovery. The barn has been used for livestock, and hay and grain storage; today it is used for machinery storage. This is Andrew Homan's barn.

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Andrew Homan's children Regina and Mark are playing in front of their barn at 5082 State Route 49. The weathered barn siding shows the barn as it once looked. But it looks as if Mark is getting the worst of the weather, with a shower from the hose, sprayed by Regina. There is nothing like fun in a water shower on a hot summer's day on the farm.

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This interior view of Albert Homan's barn, shows the hand hewn beams. This barn is 80' x 44' and the purlin plate has one piece about 60' long which overlaps with a 20' piece to make the 80' length of the barn.

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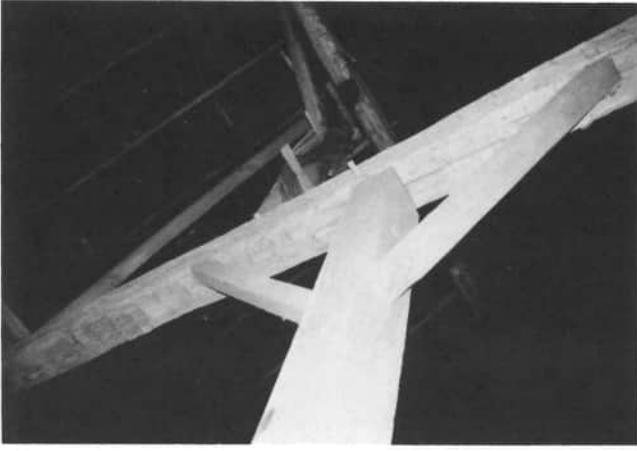
Albert Homan is standing by the double doors of his barn at 5189 State Route 49, Fort Recovery. This barn was here when Henry Homan, Albert's Grandfather, bought the farm in 1909. Henry's son Sebastian bought the farm in 1913 and Albert bought the farm about 1960-61. Albert has the deeds back to 1840, when the land was bought from the government; the deed was signed by President Martin Van Buren.

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A view of the opposite end of Albert Homan's barn; one can still see the wooden threshing floor. Albert remembers threshing in the barn, when they used the old steam power engine.

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The marks of the adze can still be seen in the hand hewn beams of Albert Homan's barn. One can also see the projecting pins, where the vertical posts and horizontal beams are pinned. This braced king post takes the load of the cross beam in supporting the barn.

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This red barn, with its white framed doors and gambrel roof, was purchased by the Leonard H. Gaerke family September 9, 1961 from the Melinda L. Schroyer estate. The barn had been used for storage of hay, straw and grain, and stalls for animals. In 1969 the milk house was added and the barn was used for dairy until 1983. A new roof was put on in 1975. Presently the barn is used for storage in the grain operation of the farm. Lillian Gaerke Homan, 5963 State Route 49, Fort Recovery.

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Terry Muhlenkamp's barn, 5924 State Route 49, Fort Recovery, was built in the late 1800's. In the past, the barn was used for dairy, livestock and machinery, hay and straw storage. Today, this gable-roofed barn is used for hay, straw and machinery storage.

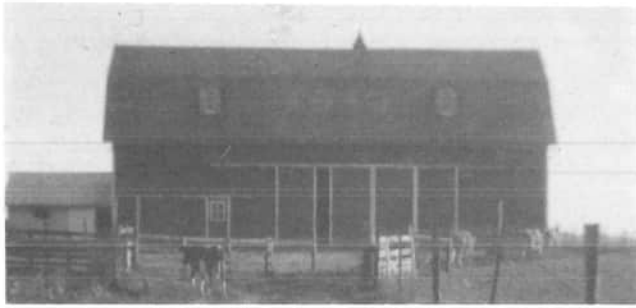
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Robert Schaefer's farm on State Route 49 in Washington Township originally belonged to the Schroyer family. A land grant was signed by U.S. Grant for 160 acres to the Schroyer family. This 1981 photograph shows the barn, with 1913 on its roof; the outbuildings, in this photograph, were put together without nails. They were wooden pinned.

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The Schroyer barn burned down and this barn was built in 1913. The gambrel roof has two gabled dormers, one on both sides of the date 1913 in the roof. This photograph is dated 1955.

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In 1940, George Schroyer sold 80 acres to Lawrence Kremer. Ivo Kremer and family lived there. The barn was used for grain, hay, straw, cows and horses. In 1951, the 80 acres were sold to Isidor Muhlenkamp. The barn was used for grain, hay, straw, cows; machinery was stored in the west end. This 1958 photograph shows the ventilator on top of the barn, as well as the gabled dormer beneath the date 1913. The photographs came from Henrietta Muhlenkamp, 3810 Lost Tree Rd., Rio Rancho, New Mexico 87124.

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In 1974, Isidor Muhlenkamp sold the farm to Robert J. Schaefer; his family lives there today. The barn is used for grain, hay, straw, and beef.

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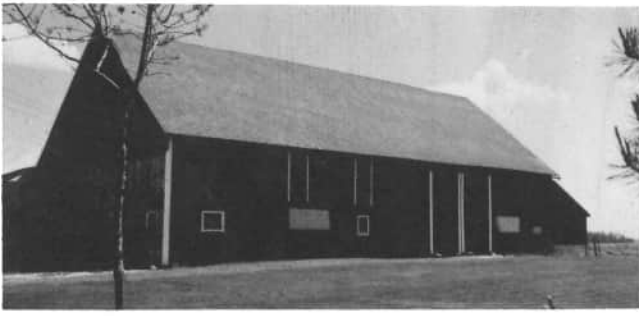
William J. Dues family barn stands at 6130 State Route 49, Fort Recovery. The barn has the gabled dormers on the roof, with the side elevator entry to the mow. William Dues uses this barn to raise steers and small head of sheep. Helen Schurman, the previous owner, told the story of this barn. Helen's father, Theodore Schurman had his father-in-law Nick Laux, build this barn in 1884. The barn was 80 x 44, wooden pinned, with eighteen posts, each eight by eight inches square. The posts, siding, rafters, and one by two inch lath came from the hardwood trees on the 125 acre farm. A sawmill was set up in the woods to saw and plane the wood. The entire labor bill was \$60. Later, they put a straw shed, made of hard pine, on the east side. They had horses on the north end and cows on the south. In 1940, they went into dairy. In 1984, Helen Schurman sold to the William Dues family.

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This unpainted barn, with the weathered metal, gambrel roof stands in the spring field of green grass, quietly resting in its senior years. The barn was used for milking cows and storing hay and straw. Today the barn is used for storing machinery and tools, and belongs to Anna Laux, 6216 State Line Road, Fort Recovery.

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This barn has been in the Sudhoff family since it was built in 1889 by Louis Sudhoff, who immigrated to the United States from Germany in 1868. The barn was built in 1889 to replace a log barn that was damaged by a tornado. The farm was handed down from Louis Sudhoff (also known as Ludwig) to his son William Sudhoff, then to William's son, Ralph Sudhoff, and to Ralph's son Patrick Sudhoff. Today, Patrick and Bernice Sudhoff, 6314 St. Rt. 49, Fort Recovery, live there and use the barn to finish hogs.



Neighbors are providing the manpower to raise the posts and beam, known as a bent, for the barn.



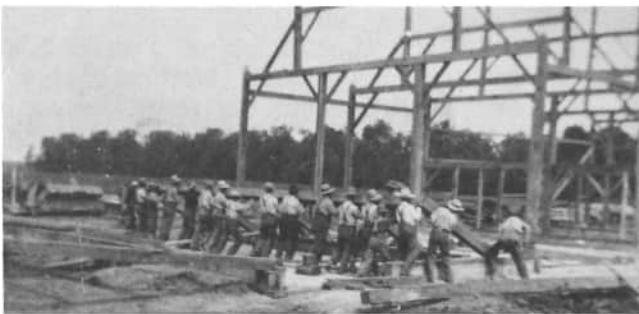
Today, the barn still stands strong, with its gambrel roof, at 6381 St. Rt. 49. The R & S Farm belongs to Ralph Rabe, 403 W. North St., St. Marys; Merle Rabe, 5098 Rauh Rd., Fort Recovery; Mary Montague, 311 Deer Run Blvd., Prudenville, MI 48651; and Jeanne Boroff, 307 Hines Dr., St. Marys, OH 45885. This farm has been in the family for over one hundred years.



The sawmill is set up to cut the lumber for the barn located at 6381 St. Rt. 49, Fort Recovery, known as the R & S Farm, Rabe-Schroyer.



"Our barn is as old as Ed," says Nettie Siegrist; Ed adds, "And, it has its original siding." The Siegrist's father, Alex, built the barn 85 years ago, in 1906, at 6931 St. Rt. 49, Celina. Later when they did lots of milking, a milking parlor and another shed were added. The two smaller dormers and windows at the ends of the barn were light conveniences for the Siegrists working in the barn, especially before electricity. White paint has preserved the siding, and the Siegrists comment, "Today we use the barn for our cats and for storage."



The neighbors are helping Langenhorst erect the frame of the barn in 1910, which is the R & S Farm today.



This the north or back side of the Ed Siegrist barn at 6931 St. Rt. 49, Fort Recovery.



Clarence and Rosemary Post are standing in front of their barn, with their Grandson David Roche, at 732 Menchhofer Road, Fort Recovery. This farm is Rosemary's birthplace, and her father John Schroer built the original barn in 1896-1897. Both the barn and house were built of native timbers. However, in August 1953, the entire barn and its contents were destroyed by a lightning fire. The same year, the present barn was built for them by Ben Uhlenhake. In the past, the barn was used for dairy and hogs and storage; today, the barn is used for hay and straw and grain.



Joe Muhlenkamp owns the barn, on its original site, at 218 Elm Road, Fort Recovery. He bought the farm from his father, Ott Muhlenkamp, in December 1988. The barn is built in a T shape, with a pent roof on the side for protection over the four doors for horses.



Ray and Margie Sudhoff purchased this farm at 4634 State Route 49, Fort Recovery, from Ray's Uncle and Aunt, Bernard and Mary Sudhoff, in 1963. This aerial view was taken August 24, 1952. Apparently, the original barn was given an addition to make the present barn because the South end of the barn has hand hewn beams and at one time had a shingle roof, while the north end of the barn has sawn beams, and had a standing seam roof. The red barn was highlighted with the white arches. The aerial view shows the barn's position in relation to the house, and other farm buildings.



Clarence Rabe is standing in front of his barn at 855 Menchhofer Road, Fort Recovery. In 1888, with lumber from the farm, Samuel Rabe built this barn. His mother Rachel Rabe had the farm before him. The farm then went to Samuel's children Clarence and Bertha. The wood silo was built from cypress, about 1916-1917. Today, Clarence and Ruth Rabe have the farm; they raise horses in the barn, and store the hay, straw and grain there. They raise Standard Bred Race Horses. Among their winning horses are R. Chief Elvesto (1:59), Fort Recovery Star (2:02), Starlet Babe (2:01), Fort Recovery Fame, and C.R. Lady Airliner.



Clarence Rabe is standing next to the stock water tank, made of cypress. (This was the only stock water tank made of cypress that the Editor saw during the entire time working on this book.)



C. Rabe is painted on the gable end of the barn. Clarence is working on the sickle bar of the grass mower.



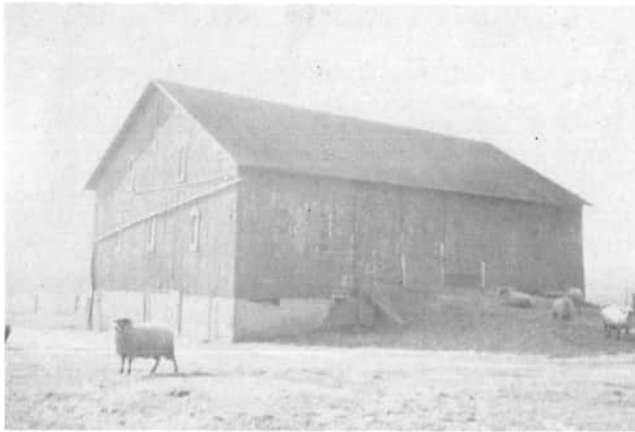
Clarence Rabe is standing with the two Belgians, Jane and the colt in the 1940's. The Cypress silo stands next to the barn, at the time when the barn was painted red, and the doors trimmed with white arches. The pent roof is on the south wall of the barn.



George and Elsie Shoup's barn stands at 949 Menchhofer Road, Fort Recovery. The original barn was built about 1910 by Elsie's father William Moorman, from timbers from the farm. About 1917, the silo and the first addition to the barn was built. In 1922 the second addition was built to make more space for dairy cattle and hogs. About 1940 the interior of the barn was remodeled for the feeding of beef cattle, and the glazed tile was added because some of the siding needed replacement. In the past the barn was used for livestock — horses, cattle, sheep, hogs, and for storage of hay and straw. Today, the barn is used to feed beef cattle, and for storage of hay and straw. (Editor's note: This is one of the very few brown, glazed silos in Mercer County.)



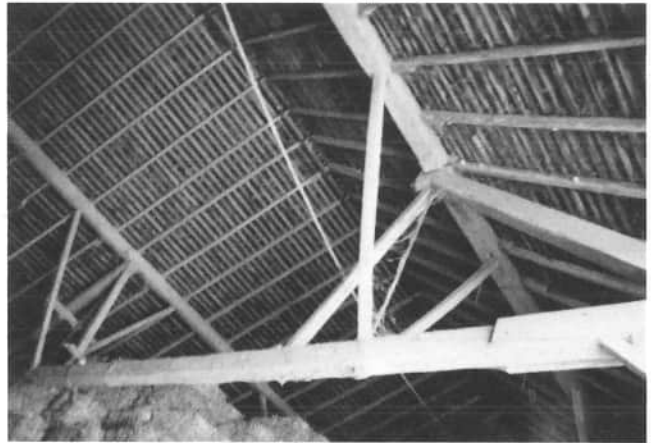
Paul J. Brown, and his Grandson Shawn Freewalt, and their dog Smokey, stand in front of their barn at 2829 Saint Anthony Road, Celina. The barn has to be well over a hundred years, with its hand hewn beams; J.W. Adams was the builder. In the past, the barn has been used for feeding beef, and dairy animals, and for hay, straw and grain. In 1918, the big barn was converted to the round roof, and has been filled to capacity. Today, the barn is used for storage of hay, straw, grain, steers, and machinery.



John Adams, purchased the farm at 2700 Saint Anthony Road, Celina, from Tom Brookings in 1903. The barn was built by Tom Brookings' sons. John Adams, grandfather of Lisle, Grace and Carl Adams raised the barn foundation, and added the bank, by hauling the dirt with horses and mules. In 1936, John died and his son Whitridge got the farm. In 1948, Lisle drove horses and mules to farm. Whit bought the first tractor in the late 1930's; this tractor was a one cylinder MOGUL. Whitridge Adams lived here from 1919 until 1973. In 1975, the deed went to Lisle Adams and Grace Adams Fair.



Today, Lisle Adams is standing in front of the bank barn. Lisle tells the barn was built in 1881, and this date is painted on the back of the big doors.



An interior view of the structure support of the roof, of the Adams' barn at 2700 Saint Anthony Road, Celina.



Edward Adams, older brother of Whitridge Adams, and their two mules. The boys are sons of Clarence Adams, a doctor in Galion, Ohio. Note the rail fence in back, at this farm, 2700 Saint Anthony Road. Lisle Adams, as a boy, helped haul rails up to repair this fence. Later, the rails were used in his mother Carrie's wood cook stove.



This log barn stood on the old Menchhofer farm, which is today located at 1824 Menchhofer Road. This is the family of Johanne Menchhofer. Seated is John Menchhofer, 2nd, and George Menchhofer. Standing: Menchhofer who married Anthony Koch;

Menchhofer who married Peter Linn; Katie Menchhofer who married Leason Adams; Mary Menchhofer Houser; and Salome Menchhofer who married John Adams. John and Salome Adams had six children; one son Whitridge Adams married Carrie Andrews and they had three children: Carl, Grace, and Lisle.

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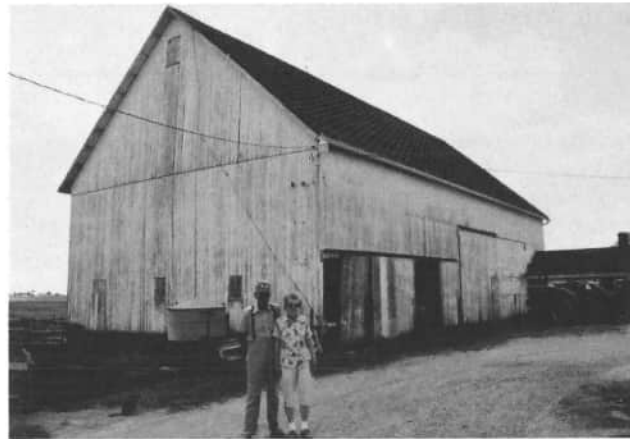
A. Wayne and Jane B. Adams are standing in front of their barn at 2102 Saint Anthony Road, Coldwater, on a summer day. This big barn was probably built around 1900, and used for sheep and cattle, and grain and hay storage. Today, the barn is used for dairy cattle housing and hay storage.

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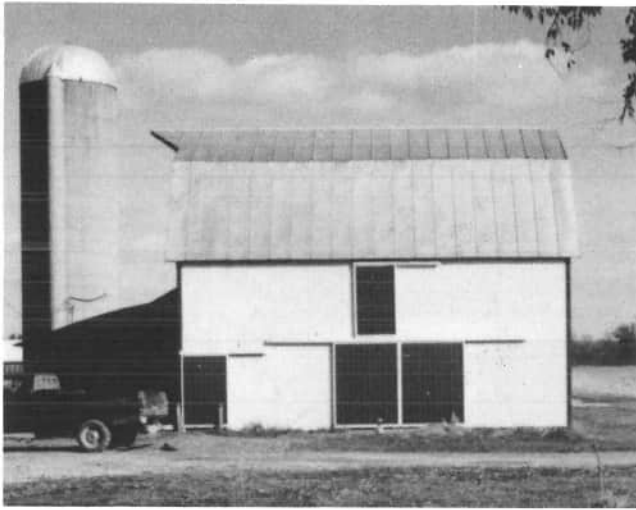
Anthony W. Adams, Jr., better known as Tony, is standing with his son Todd, in front of their barn at 2150 Saint Anthony Road, Coldwater. In the past, the barn had two horse stalls, and set up for milking four cows by hand, with hay and straw in the mow. Today, the barn is used for hay storage.

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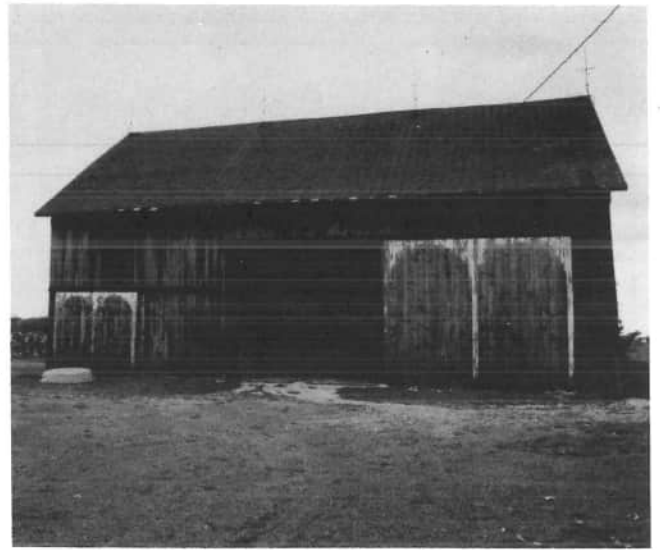
Floyd and Beulah Fennig are standing in front of their barn at 1456 Saint Anthony Road, Coldwater. They tell this big barn was built in 1896, and used for livestock and hay and straw storage. Today, they use the barn for feeding hogs, and storage of hay and straw. Floyd tells that when this barn was built, there were no ready mix concrete trucks. He was told that the cement for the foundation for this barn, which is forty feet by seventy feet, was mixed in a big box, by using a garden hoe to rake it back and forth, with water being added with a bucket as needed. The mixture was shoveled into a wheelbarrow and dumped into the form.

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Greg Alig owns this barn at 780 Schroeder Road, Celina. The barn is white, with brown doors, which complement the autumn colors on this October 1991 photograph. The gambrel roof has a triangular hay hood on the north end; few barns have this triangular hay hood extending over the end wall. Evin Schmit bought this farm from Herman Muhlenkamp in 1957. Apparently, the barn was built in 1936 by a man named Lieninger because the name and date are written on the door. The barn originally stood at the John Harrod farm west of this farm. About 1965-66, the barn was moved from the Harrod farm to the Schmit farm. Greg Alig bought the farm from Evin Schmit.

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Herb Rasawehr bought this farm at 2604 St. Rt. 29, Celina, in 1952. The red barn is trimmed with white arches on the doors. Four lightning rods rise from the black gable roof. There have not been additions to this barn, as has happened to so many barns; this barn stands much as it did when it was built.

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Esther Karch owns this barn at 2664 St. Rt. 29, Celina. The barn was built in 1915 by Joe Burris. It was used for horses and cattle, and to store hay and straw. Today, the barn is used to store machinery. This beautiful red barn, is trimmed in white, with white arches on the double doors. Three windows can be seen on the ground floor at the west end, with one window at the peak of the gable.

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Deb and Alex Gehle are standing in front of their barn at 2189 St. Rt. 29, Celina. This red barn, with the white trim, and the white triangle in the gable end, may look new on the outside, but is an old barn on the inside.

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Greg and Deb Gehle's barn is an old barn, as this interior view shows the wooden pins, holding the frame of posts and beams. If one looks closely, one can see the pins projecting from the posts. The log stringers are supporting the mow floor.



The Christian Homan farm is located at 421 St. Rt. 29 West, Celina, in section 6 of Washington Township. The family has deeds which go back to 1844, at the Lima Land Office. Joseph Homan purchased the farm in 1917 from Emanuel Doner. Joseph sold the land to Christian and Elizabeth Homan. The original barn was built after 1887. The beams are hand hewn and wooden pinned. Joseph Homan added on to the barn. Today, the farm remains in the Christian Homan family name, the third generation. The farm is owned by Anna Marie and Luella J. Homan.



This is a view of the other side of the Greg Gehle barn, which shows the wooden pinned framework. Log stringers also support the mow floor on this side. Alex, Greg and Deb Gehle's son, enjoyed playing in this barn, at 2189 St. Rt. 29. Alex's dad's workshop would be a fun place for a little boy to play.



What could be more fun than having a big old barn to play in? Look at the double doors, and see Johnathon, Andy, and Todd Miller standing there. They are the sons of the B.K. Miller family at 6878 Erastus-Durbin Road, Celina. On the opposite side of this barn, on the north side, is a bank, going up to the second floor double doors. The boys ran up the bank, and across the wooden threshing floor, to stand at this side, to have their photographs taken.





A closer view of the log house at 5411 Township Line Road.

The log house located on Penny Berkenstock's property was built approximately 150 years ago or approximately 1840. The log house was located on 40 acres. John and Estella Plummer owned the farm until the early 1930's. Kitty Grier purchased the farm and log house early in the 1930's to satisfy a debt. In 1936, she passed away and left the farm in her will to Ruth Grier, Penny's grandmother.

Ruth Grier married Homer Boley in 1939 and the young couple moved into the log house. About 1930 Ruth Grier's father, Ralph Grier who was a carpenter, added a kitchen and put the white siding on the house and covered up the logs. Homer Boley passed away in 1955 and the family moved to the family homestead, but Ruth retained ownership. In 1966 Ruth Boley returned to the log house.

In 1991, Penny Berkenstock bought her Grandmother's log house to preserve it. Penny decided to remodel the house as well as add an addition to the log house. Upon removal of the siding and wall covering upstairs, several architecture rarities were found. The foundation is concrete and the log floor joist lay in concrete. The log notch is steeple cut notch and allows one to use different size logs, also upstairs the roof rafters are trees that the bark was never removed. It has rough sawn timbers for flooring.

Penny is planning on leaving the logs exposed on the front of the house. This will allow people to view the unique notches in the logs and the chinking which is unique in that it has Shale shingles and cement used as fill and uses the logs as foundation.

This place is located at 5411 Township Line Road, Coldwater.



A closer view of the steeple notching of the corners.



A closer view of the chinking between the logs.

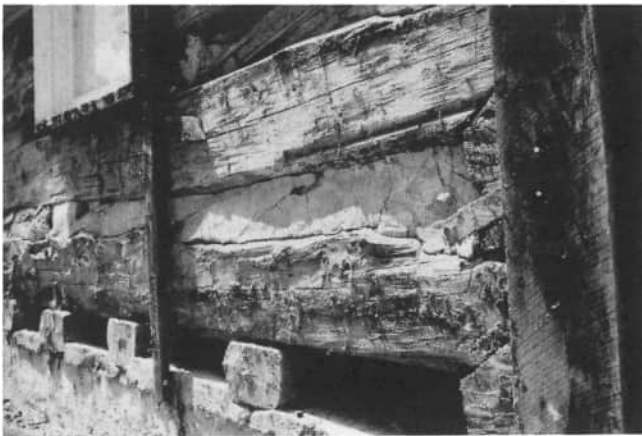
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This wind pump was purchased from a farm at the corner of Gause Road and St. Anthony Road about 1940 and moved to its present location on the Boley-Berkenstock homestead.

The wind mill is approximately 50 feet tall. It is a 3 legged wind mill while most have four legs. It was built by Aeromotor with about a 12 foot wheel. It was in active use until 1960 to pump water for livestock. About 1975 it was laid down and painted. Art Wenning Welding shop rebuilt the motor and re-bearinged it. It was put back up and has been used as an active decoration since that time. Penny Berkenstock lives at this place, at 5411 Township Line Road, Coldwater.

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A closer view of the foundation.

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This old barn stands at 5411 Township Line Road, Coldwater, and is owned by Richard Berkenstock, of 5489 Township Line Road, Coldwater. Penny Berkenstock lives at the log home at this place. The barn was originally closer to the road, and was probably bigger. The old barn was torn down, and the current location was chosen. The old barn timbers were used to build the 1920 barn. About 1927, the barn was lifted and a new foundation was poured under it. In 1979, the barn was metal-sided to protect it from the elements. It is used daily and is a very serviceable barn. It looks new on the outside, but has the old timbers, which are wooden-pegged, on the inside. In the past, they raised sheep, and had dairy cows, and stored hay and straw in the loft. Today, they raise sheep and hogs, and have hay and straw storage.



John and Linda Boeckman have this barn at 4924 Burrville Road, Coldwater. This barn was built in 1905. It was used for horses and milk cows. Today, the barn is used to feed out cattle and hogs. In 1970, this barn was jacked up; a new foundation was put under the whole barn. Then they remodeled the barn, with a new roof, new siding, and a lean-to toward the back, and a cement cow yard to fatten out cattle.



This barn stands at 4230 St. Peter Road, Fort Recovery, and belongs to Rob and Jack Gaerke, 1184 Philothea Road, Fort Recovery. In the past, the barn was used for raising steers. Today, the barn is used for heifers and hogs. Notice that this barn stands on a slight hill, that one can enter the main floor from the front double doors, without going up a bank. One can also enter the lower level from the back of the barn, without going down any steps. This type barn, that one can enter the barn at any level, without the use of a bank or steps, is known as a GRUNDSCHIEIER BARN. A few of Mercer County's barns are Grundscheier barns, but not too many!



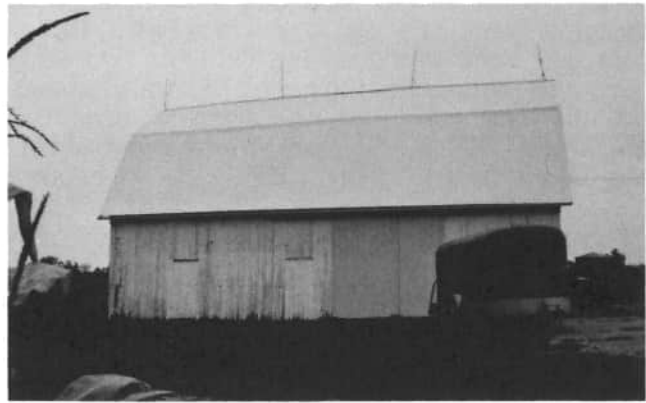
William and Pauline Braun and family live at 4475 St. Peter Road, Fort Recovery, their barn burned down in 1979. In 1981, they tore down this barn, which had been built on the Bunge farm, on St. Rt. 29, about 1900, where the Bunge Park now stands. William and Pauline and their sons took down this barn and moved it to their place on St. Peter Road. The original barn was mortised and pinned. When the Brauns rebuilt the barn, they cut it down to suit their needs and used plates and bolts to reassemble it, using the old materials, except for the wood shingle roof. The original barn on the Bunge farm was used to house animals and store hay. Today, they use the barn to stable horses and for storage. Note the white arches on the doors and the white arches at the peak of the roof.



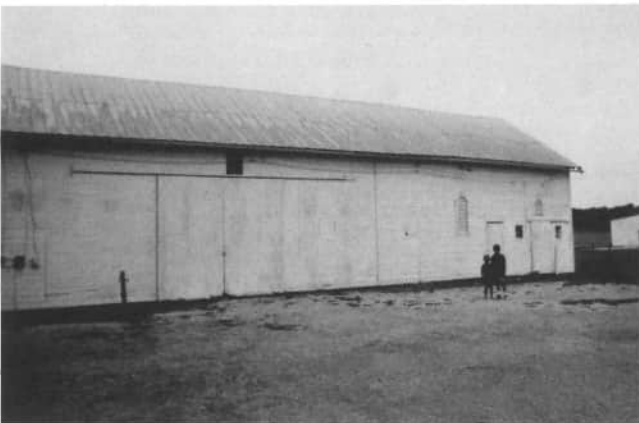
The Dennis Shirk family own this barn at 6654 Wabash Road, Celina. This barn was built in the 1890's by a Spriggs. In the past the barn was used for hogs, horses, and cattle. The original barn was 36 feet by 20 feet. In 1986, they added a 36 foot by 20 foot addition to the back of the barn. Prior to their family moving there in 1980, the barn had not been used for 30 years. They now use the barn for feeder cattle and 4-H steers and heifers for their son and daughter. In this picture, their fourteen year old son, Will, is holding his heifer, Mistique. She won Junior Champion at the Mercer County Fair in 4-H. Their daughter, Mandy's heifers (in the barn) won first and second in their classes. Her dog, Noble, pictured, was purchased by her at Mercer County's Babyland Fair Tent in 1990.



Mark Leininger, 6737 Wabash Road, Celina, owns this barn. Mark's sons, Bart and Andy, are standing in front of this barn.



This barn belongs to Mark Leininger, 6737 Wabash Road, Celina. This September 1991 photograph shows the barn, with the four lightning rods at the top of the gambrel roof. A horse trailer stands in front of the barn.



Noel Leininger, 6750 Wabash Road, Celina, owns this barn. His grandsons, Bart, age 3, and Andy, age 6, are standing in front of the barn. The window pattern in the north section is unique.

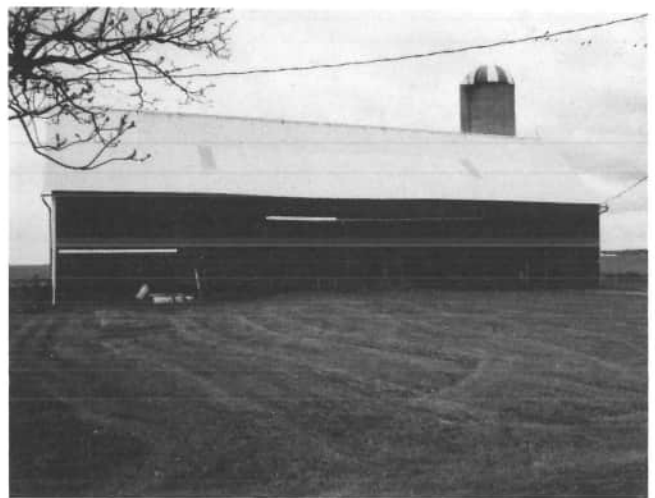


David Porterfield was born in Scotland in 1822 and came to America, settling in Washington Township in 1856. (1882 drawing)



Merle Rabe's barn stands on Menchhofer Road, at the Northeast corner of Rauh Road, west of Wabash Road. This barn was originally owned by John Rabe, when the barn was erected from lumber that had been in another previous barn. The logs were hand-hewn. In the past, the barn was used for Belgians and Stallions and hay. Later, they used the barn for cattle and sheep. Today, the barn is used for machinery. The RABE name can be seen above the double doors.

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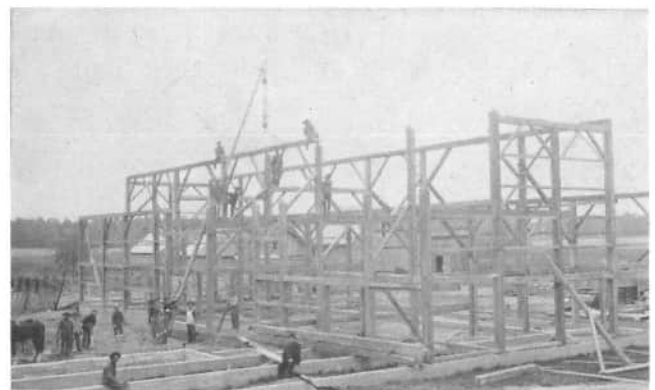
This barn stands at 160 Pine Road, Fort Recovery, and is owned by Henry Rauh, 5440 Rauh Road. This huge barn was used for cattle, hay storage, and machinery. It was built by the Schurman Brothers between 1906 and 1916; see the next photograph. Today, the barn is used for young cattle, hay and straw, and machinery storage.

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Edward and Nancy Behm's barn, at 1947 Pine Road, Celina, was built in the early 1900's. They purchased the place from Adam and Ida Kettering in 1969. In the past, the barn was used for housing horses and cattle; and hay and straw were stored in the mow, beneath the gambrel roof. The Behm's have raised hogs and now have feeder cattle which they raise until the cattle are big enough to go to market. They raise a few chickens to have their own eggs. Ed has done a lot of work keeping the barn in shape. He put cement blocks and a foundation and has added on to the original part of the barn. He has siding on most of it, but still has some to complete.

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This is a photograph of the Henry Rauh barn at 160 Pine Road, when it was under construction. At that time, the barn was owned by the Schurman Brothers. Luella J. and Anna Marie Homan had this photograph, and they thought the barn was built between 1906 and 1916.

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Five lightning rods stand tall across the ridge of the green gable roof of the Eugene and Dorothy Schoenlein barn at 1699 Siegrist-Jutte Road, Fort Recovery. This September 1991 photograph shows the barn, standing with the silo to the back, against a sky of cumulus clouds. The Schoenleins purchased this land from Jacob Brown in 1951. In the past, the barn was used as a horse stable and a hay/straw mow. Today, they use the barn to raise steers and to store hay and straw.



This big barn belongs to Jerome Obringer, 1401 St. Rt. 219, Fort Recovery. The barn was built around 1900 by George Hassen, the father of Albert Hassen. Apparently, the barn was built from the frame of another barn, because there are cutouts in the beams, and holes for pins, which are not used. Jim Boggs and Charlie Denney said they did not know when the barn was built, and they are around 78 years old. Jerome Obringer put the new foundation under the barn, and painted it in 1979 or 1980. The snow on the roof shows the seams of the metal, gambrel roof.



This barn is located north of the residence of Tom and Linda Boeckman, 1567 State Route 219, Coldwater. It is owned by the farm partnership of Boeckman Bros. since 1989.

The barn was said to have been built for Jake Loshe by Jeff Jeffries for \$25.00 about 1900. It had a stone foundation and was used for cows and horses along with storage for hay and straw.

The barn was remodeled in 1969. It was put on a cement foundation; cement floor added, and the east side of the barn was built on. The work was done by the owner, Art Boeckman, with the help of carpenters, Paul and Ed Wendel. The silo was added in 1970. The barn has since been used for raising steers with storage of hay and straw.



This big barn belongs to Alvin Sudhoff, 651 St. Rt. 219, Fort Recovery. The barn was built in the mid to late 1800's, by Bernard Sudhoff. In the past, the barn was used for housing horses, dairy cattle, and steers. There were granaries for storing wheat and oats. Today, the barn is used for dry cows, heifers, and hay and straw storage.



This farm at 117 St. Rt. 219, Fort Recovery, has been in the Muhlenkamp family for three generations. Theodore Muhlenkamp had the farm in 1920, and built this barn within the following two years. Theodore sold the farm to his son Hilbert in 1937, and Hilbert sold it to his son Cletus Muhlenkamp in 1968. In the past, the barn was used for milking and for hay. Today the barn is used for housing cows and calves. Cletus and his son Steve are in dairy farming.

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The old barn at the Muhlenkamp farm at 24 State Route 219, was beyond repair and obsolete, after over 140 years of service. The new barn replaced it, in 1984. The rafters of the roof were made from young narrow trees and hewed on one side. The frame of the barn, including beams, etc., was hewed by hand with hand tools. All the beams and posts were chipped and shaped with an adze.

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Dave Muhlenkamp's parents Edmund and Rosella Muhlenkamp bought the farm, at 24 State Route 219, in 1930, from Henry and Theresa Fortman, who had purchased it from Henry Willman in 1927. (The barn was built by 1850 or before.)

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David Muhlenkamp tore out the old barn. In 1985 he built the bank barn because it fit into the landscape better. The animals are below, and the hay and straw and feed storage are on the main floor. The farm is owned by David and Marcia Muhlenkamp, 24 State Route 219, Fort Recovery.

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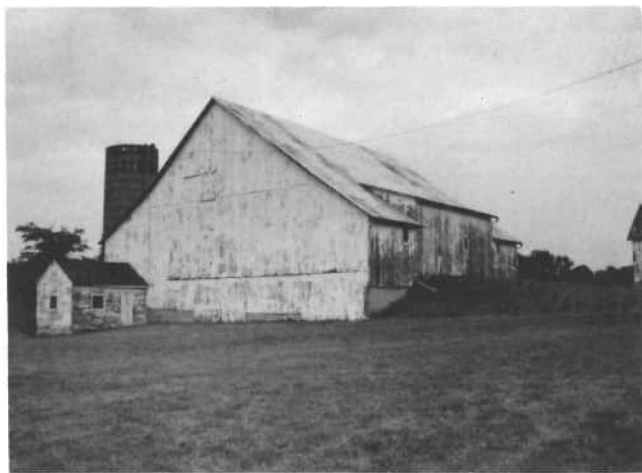
An interior view of David Muhlenkamp's barn, shows that the roof has rafters, which are actually bridge rafters. The gauge of the steel is one quarter of an inch. They are in turn supported by ten inch I beams. The floor is actually old wood beams from old barn, which cost one tenth of the cost if it were purchased new, plus two by twelve planks for flooring. With the bank barn, there is better ventilation; warmer in the winter and cooler in the summer.



Kenneth and Ann Knoth purchased this farm at 1176 Menchhofer Road, Coldwater, in 1977. They resided the front, back, and south side in 1991. In the past, the building was used for grain storage, machine storage and live-stock. Today, the overhead granary in this barn is no longer used. They use this barn for hog finishing, and machine storage. Ken is standing in front of this building with his children Carla, Ashleigh, Sarah, John, Cathy, and their dog Burt.



This barn, belonging to Kenneth and Ann Knoth, at their farm at 1176 Menchhofer Road, was converted, from the old milking area, into a farrowing and nursery. The back of the barn is used for housing gestating sows. They painted this barn in 1989. Standing in front of the barn, on this August 1991 photograph, are Ken and his wife Ann, and their children, Carla, age 10; Sarah, age 6; Cathy, age 10; John, age 3; Ashleigh, age 8; and their dog Burt.



This barn stands on the south side of Menchhofer Road, just west of the Wabash River. The barn has a bank to the west side entrance. On the north side of the bank, the barn is extended under the shed roof; this extension might have been a root cellar at one time. The silo stands quietly behind the huge barn. At one time, the barn was used for milking cows. The barn must be over a century old. This huge barn belongs to Cletus Jr. and Imogene Menchhofer, 1151 Saint Anthony Road, Coldwater. They purchased the farm from Ted Homan in 1974; they use it for storing hay and straw.





Cletus Jr. and Imogene Menchhofer bought this farm at 1151 St. Anthony Road, Coldwater in March 1954. This photograph was how the barn looked at that time.

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Another view in May 1955 shows the Amish crew helping to put the barn on a cement foundation and to reside the barn, at the Menchhofer farm at 1151 St. Anthony Road.

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A front view of the Menchhofer barn at 1151 St. Anthony Road in May 1955. One can see the original standing seam roof, which is still being used in 1991.

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A view of the Menchhofer farm, at 1151 St. Anthony Road, after the barn had new siding and a new foundation.

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An August 1991 photograph shows the Menchhofer barn after it has been painted.

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John Menchhofer, Grandfather of Cletus Menchhofer Jr., bought this barn in 1911, from a man by the name of Kettering. The Menchhofers owned this farm until 1963, when it was sold to Jim Fennig. Cletus Jr. and Imogene Menchhofer bought this farm, at 1433 St. Anthony Road, Coldwater, from Jim Fennig, in June 1990. Their son, Richard Menchhofer lives there on his great-grandfather's farm. This barn was red, and had white trim on the doors for many years; it also had a gable roof. The barn was used for milking cows. Sometime in the 1940's, a gambrel roof was put on the barn. Today, the barn is used for storage of hay and straw.

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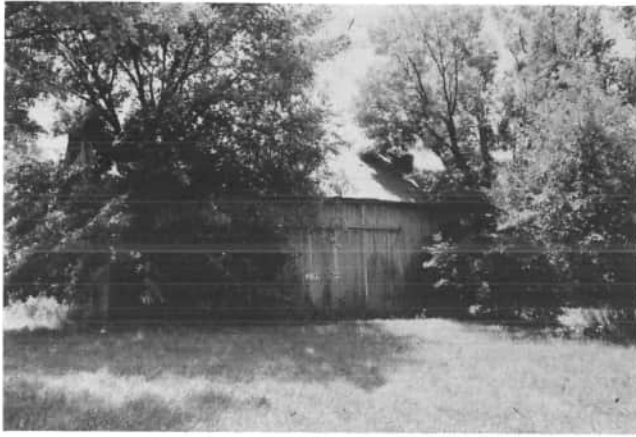
An interior view of the Cletus Jr. and Imogene Menchhofer barn, shows the hand-hewn posts and beams, and the wooden pins used to secure the big old barn. Today, the barn is used for Registered herd of Simmental beef cattle.

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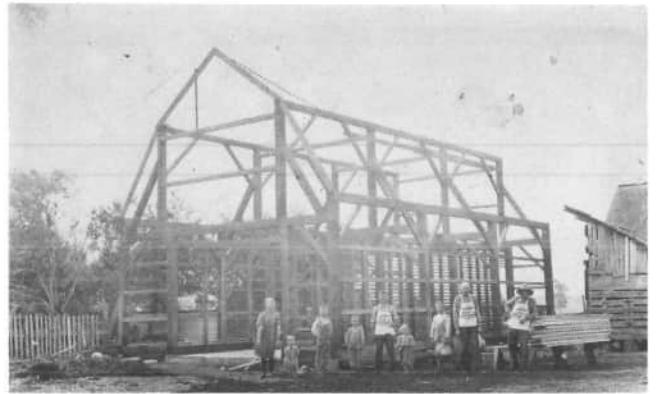


This is an aerial view of Jerry Laffin's barn and other buildings, at 1674 Saint Anthony Road, Coldwater. This is a big, old barn, with a milking parlor added to the front, and a silo put up to the side.

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This barn, standing quietly in the country, can be found just west of Erastus, on the south side of Saint Anthony Road. The barn belongs to Elsie Ashcraft Walters. In the past, the barn had a few horses in stalls, and a few milk cows. The hay was put on a canvas on the east side, and a rope was hooked from the canvas to a pulley in the gable end. A horse was on the west side of the barn, to pull the rope across the track in the roof ridge. This barn has straight, unadorned lines, with the unpainted sides weathered. On this August 1991 photograph, the barn appears to be sunning itself and enjoying its retirement.



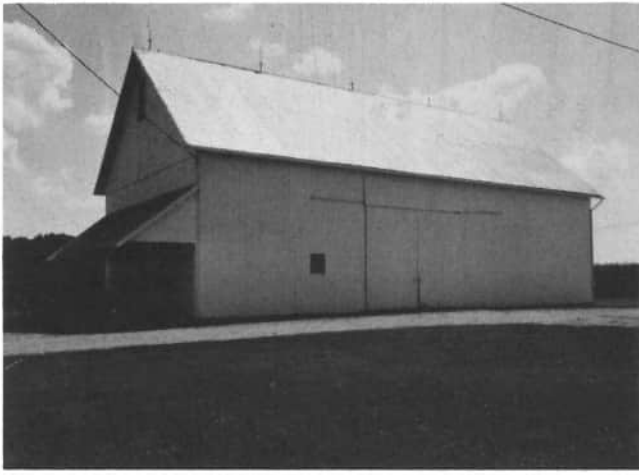
Hope Nevergall, 8450 Denny Road, Celina, lived on this farm, 2940 Pine Road, as a child. She was the daughter of Henry Suhr, who came from Germany about age four or five, with his parents Joachin and Maria Suhr. This photograph of the framing of the granary was taken about 1915-1916, when Henry Suhr had the granary built. Left to right: Anna (Suhr) Coats, Lee Suhr, Ernest, Robert, Henry Suhr, Mae, Edward Suhr, and Henry Gertz, the carpenter, and the other carpenter. The photograph belongs to Bernard Loshe.



This barn belongs to Carl W. Rose, 2940 Pine Road, Celina. They purchased the farm from C.W. Powell Estate in 1958. See the next two photographs for the history of this building. The Rose family uses this building for ear corn and wagon storage.



The finished granary at 2940 Pine Road, shows Henry Suhr, holding baby Lee, Maria Suhr, Mae, Emma, Anna (Suhr) Coats. Edward on the horse, Robert Suhr and William Azbell, the carpenter, in the buggy, and Ernest beside the buggy. (William Azbell is the father of Cora Bickel, 411 East Butler, Fort Recovery. Cora, age 90 in 1991, said her mother worked for Joe and Charlie Loshe.) William Enyart, the photographer, and his family were friends of the Suhr family. Members of the Enyart family also live in Mercer County. The photograph belongs to Bernard Loshe.



Carl W. Rose owns this farm at 2940 Road, Celina; they purchased the farm in 1958 from the C.W. Powell Estate. The barn was built in the early 1900's by Henry Suhr. In the past, the barn was used for livestock, and to store hay and straw. Today, the barn is used for machinery storage, and for hay and straw. This barn has a pent roof to the east side.



This red barn stands on the north side of Pine Road, one mile west of Township Line Road, and belongs to Martha Enyart, 2776 Pine Road, Celina. This farm was owned by the Kelly heirs, Jerusha McQueen, Robert McQueen, Wessley Cummins, Eli A. Kelley, and Melissa Wolff. The barn was built out of native timbers from the woods on the farm. It was used for horses; today it is used for storage. The barn stands alone, with its metal roof reflecting the sun on the hot summer day.

## JAMES JEFFRIES BARN BUILDER

James Jeffries lived at Macedon and later lived near Fort Recovery, Ohio, near the Ohio Indiana State Line. All three of James' sons, Clyde, Ernest, and Arthur, worked with James, building barns. Ernest's son Ed shared James' ledger, with his bookkeeping about his building costs, etc. This is the source of the following information about the Jeffries family and their barn building times.

January through May, 1904, James Jeffries was the contractor and builder of a house for John McAfee.

January through June, 1904, James Jeffries was contractor and builder of a barn for John Menchhofer, 40' x 72'.

March 1908, Jeffries charged \$23.00 for moving Bobie Scott's house. August through October, Jeffries built a barn, 36' x 66' for John McAfee.

April 1908, he put on a roof for Wm. Wiley.

In 1909, Jeffries built Washington Township High School for the Board of Education. He also built a stable for the School Board. In April and May of 1910, Jeffries built a barn, 34' x 60' for Wm. Kesler; contract price was \$120.00. In 1910, he built a house for Wm. Moorman. In 1912-1913, he built a house for Z.T. Hasting. In 1911, he built a garage 12' x 18' x 8' and a chicken house, 16' x 32' x 10' for Wm. Rabe.

In 1911, he built a barn for Dan Menchhofer.

In 1911, he built a barn for Chas. McAfee.

In 1913, James Jeffries built Frank Post's barn, which is Norb Post's place, on Wabash Road, the first place north of Rt. 219, on the west side. Labor for the many persons helping with the buildings, was from \$.75 per day to \$1.50 per day. Buildings appeared to cost between one and two hundred dollars to build.

In 1914, James Jeffries built a barn for Hugh Jamison, 36' x 60' x 18'.

In 1914, James Jeffries built an addition to John Konrath's barn.

In 1913, he built a hog pen for Joseph Braun.

In 1915, he built a house for A. Anderson.

In 1906, he built a house for Samuel Rabe.

On the last page of the book, James Jeffries listed "jobs of work in 1904" as follows: Wm. Curry roofing and other carpenter work; John McAfee painting; John Menchhofer repairing barn; Norma Anderson, repairing roof; Jacob Shornline, raising barn; Mrs. Smith, moving house; James Granger, repairing barn; Isaac Gallihue, moving house; James Granger, foundation and roofing; John Menchhofer, repairing roof; Washington Township School, cleaning well; John McAfee, repairing roof; John Rabe, harvesting; C.S. Reef, hauling wheat; Geo. Hassen, moving building; Garrett Tangeman, labor; A.J. Burkett, building house; J.F. Miller, moving; Chas. McAfee, moving, John McAfee, chimneys; and Noah Denney, labor.

Throughout this ledger, James Jeffries lists every expense for materials, and every expense for labor, beside the laborers's name. On one page, he listed the 1910 household expenditures for coffee, thread, crackers, flour, lard, sugar, linseed oil, bologna, beans, sugar molasses, tobacco, fish, filing saw, lard cakes, matches, and groceries. He lists all the days' labor and receipts for his sons' labors. In 1915, he lists the earnings of the cider press, and the names of those who purchased his cider; some purchased 50 gallons and others purchased up to 150 gallons.

The Jeffries Family Members were barn builders in Mercer County!

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Frank Wenker constructed the barn about 1870. This barn is on the old Charlie Wenker farm, on Menchhofer Road, just west of Erastus Durbin Road, in the center of the section. The main barn is still standing. In 1954, Herbert Seeger bought the place; the barn to the right, he called the new barn. He sold land to Melvin Baucher, and gave him the new barn. He sold land to Melvin Baucher, and gave him this barn, which he moved. The wind pump has a wooden frame and the wheel is wooden. This photograph belongs to Robert Seeger, 2424 Menchhofer Road, Coldwater; he is the son of Herbert Seeger. The place belongs Anna Seeger, 319 N. Brandon Avenue, Celina, today.

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Robert Seeger's barn, 2424 Menchhofer Road, Coldwater, was built in the summer of 1943, by Charles Gray contractor, with the help of the neighbors. This barn was constructed during World War II, when lumber was hard to get. The barn was constructed with hardwood from the area woods and the siding and roofing was purchased from the West Side Lumber company in Dayton, Ohio. This white barn, with red trim, was resided in 1983. The barn has been used for housing a small dairy herd and some hogs. Today, the barn houses a few steers and storage.

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This is the old Wenker barn, after the roof blew off in a windstorm in March 1991. The hand hewn posts and beams are exposed to the weather.

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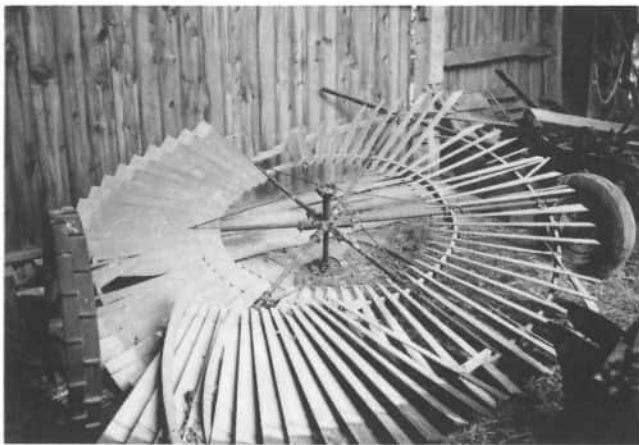
This photograph of the Wenker barn shows its frame, as being one of the few barns, with incline support posts for the purlin, beneath the roof.

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The old hay track and car, patented January 1886, from the top of the barn, was blown to the floor in the March 1991 windstorm, of the Wenker barn, on Menchhofer Road.

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The wooden windmill wheel from the windpump from the old photograph of the Wenker farm, is now in the floor of the old barn, on Menchhofer Road.

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This fine barn, weathered to a fine patina, stands at 5056 McMillan Road. The barn was built for John and Margaret Boley at the turn of the century; the barn is 60 feet by 40 feet; the cross beams are sawed and are forty feet long. Almost a century old, the barn still stands straight and tall. Four lightning rods stand across the ridge of the gable roof. John and Margaret Boley's Granddaughter Connie (Boley) Johnson now owns the place.

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This aero motor three legged windmill is still operable; it was erected at the turn of the century for John and Margaret Boley, at 5056 McMillan Road. The only other three legged windmill or windpump, that the Editor saw, is the one located at the Boley-Berkenstock homestead, at 5411 Township Line Road.

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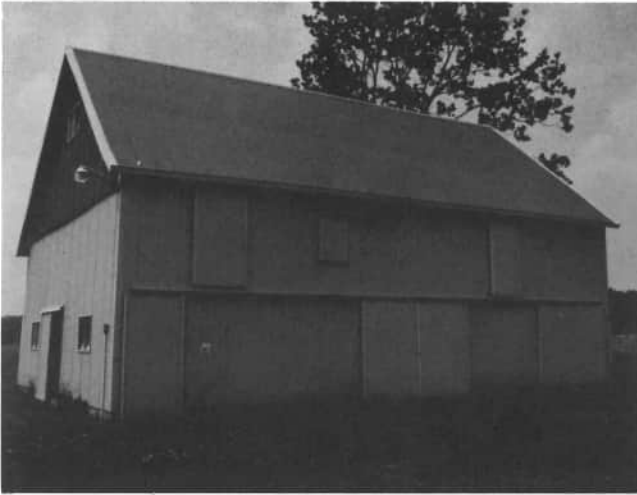
John McMillan bought the land where this barn stands, from his father Thomas McMillan. John McMillan with his two sons Ralph and Warren are showing two of the horses, whose stalls were in the barn; the time of this photograph was 1904. The barn was built 1885/1886, and stands on St. Peter Road, the last barn on the east side, before St. Peter Road exits into Menchhofer Road, in the Wabash River Valley. After more than a century, the McMillan family still find uses for the barn. This photograph was submitted by Mrs. Everett (Mary Ellen) Maffett, 301 West Main Street, Eaton, Ohio 45320.

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This barn was dismantled in Fort Wayne, Indiana, and moved to the site at the northwest corner of St. Anthony and Burrville Roads, in Section 15. The barn was then rebuilt in the 1930's or 1940's. Today, the owner is Ermal Florence, 2969 State Route 219, Coldwater. The barn has a good gambrel roof and a few windows, in this quiet, peaceful country scene.

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John and Martha (Greer) McAfee lived on Route 219, and had four children: Eldon, Charles, Bessie, and Chester; this was Martha's home farm and her parents were Nathan and Anna (Ransbottom) Greer. Chester married Naomi Adams in 1935 and they were given 40 acres with some buildings at that time. The barn may have been there at that time; there was a story that the barn had been moved to this place from a place near Burkettsville. They later acquired forty more acres when John died. Chester and Naomi had two children, M. Kraig and Karen who inherited the farm at Chester's death in 1991. The barn, located at 4617 Erastus Durbin Road, is currently used for machinery and hay storage by Duane and Kelli Fagaly. Kelli (McAfee) Fagaly is Chester's Granddaughter and they rent the farm at this time. Kraig McAfee and Karen (McAfee) Liss live at Woodbridge, VA and Cleveland, OH. This story was submitted by Kelli Fagaly, 4103 County Road 716 A., Celina, OH 45822.



This photograph was taken in front of the Buckloh barn, 1811 Schroeder Road. James Bryan Jr., drove this car, with the buck rake mounted on the back, for a dollar per hour. James Bryan, a cousin of Dorothy (Bryan) Buckloh, bucked acres of hay for farmers; this photograph was taken about 1942. On the barn, is lettered, CHARLES A. BRYAN.



This is an aerial view of the Cloyd and Dorothy Buckloh place, 1811 Schroeder Road, Celina. Charles Bryan built this barn in 1905, with the help of the neighbors. The barn has been used for livestock, hay and grain. (The photograph was taken about 1978.)



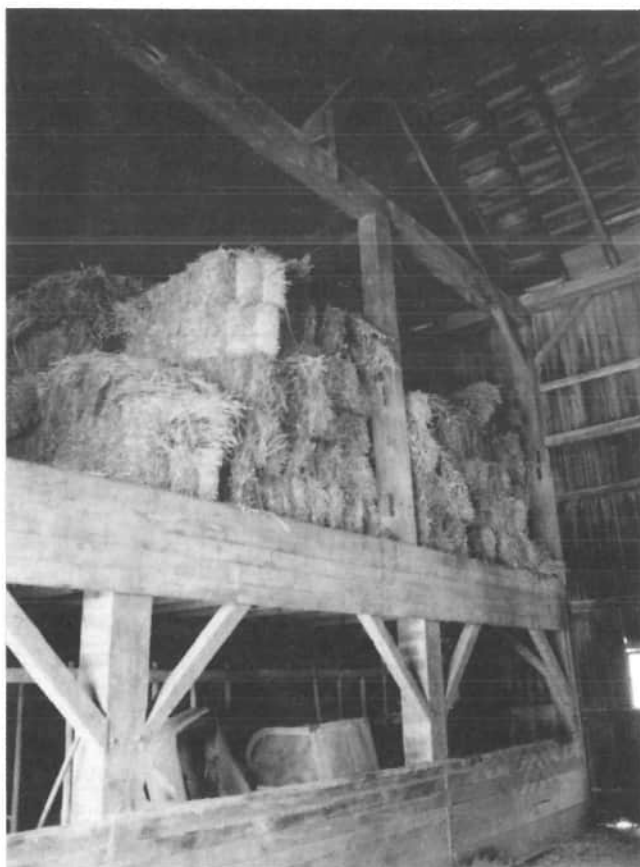
This is a photograph of the barn and crowd, on the day of the farm sale at Charles Bryan's place, February 10, 1937.





Orville Highley, a neighbor, is driving the sorrels Maud and Rock on the day of the farm sale, February 10, 1937, at Charles Bryan's place, 1811 Schroeder Road, Celina.

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This is an interior view of the Walnut Grove Stock Farm barn. Note the vertical posts and hand hewn cross beams. At the top of the vertical post, incline purlin posts are supported by the cross beam, and the purlin posts support the purlin plate which runs the length of the barn and supports the rafters. The barn has a wood hay track.

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This barn is located a quarter of a mile north of Erastus on the east side of the road. James C. Snyder purchased the land in 1880 and they called it the Walnut Grove Stock Farm. They had 40 head of Race Horses and there was a half mile track on the farm. There were accommodations for 50 head of horses. The most race horses and young stock on hand at one time was 84 head. There is a barn attached to the main barn, which was used for young race stock. It had mangers along each side which were used for feeding and tying young stock. In this photograph, a 1975 Chevy truck is in front of the barn. From 1945 to the present, Cloyd Buckloh has farmed the place.

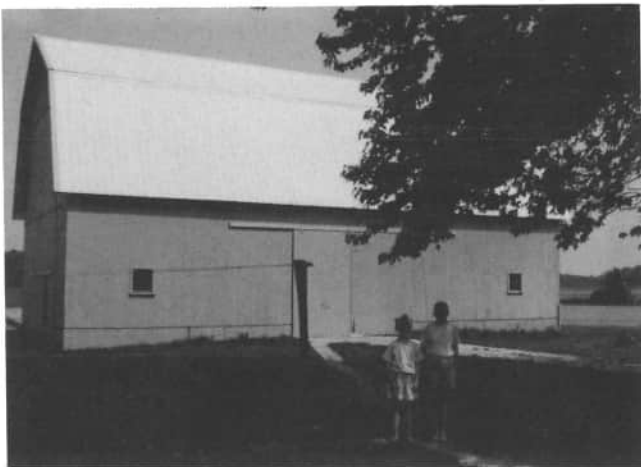
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Another interior view of the Walnut Grove Stock Farm barn shows the double doors to the back of the barn; the doors both have a square window. The barn had a tack room for storage of harnesses, equipment, etc. The small building outside the barn was used as the office; there was a Clerk on duty at all times. The farm and barn are now owned by James C. Snyder's Great Granddaughter, Mrs. Waneta (Ashcraft) Westbay.



Timothy and Mary Heinrich's barn, 6412 Erastus Durbin Road, was built in 1928 or 1929 by William Runkel. They used the barn for cattle, hay and sheep. It is planned to use the barn for a horse barn. William Runkel's daughter Dorothy said that the barn was struck by lightning three times; her father was in the barn one of the times and he was knocked against the wall. Five lightning rods stand across the ridge of the gambrel roof, of this fine barn. What is the model and year of the car?



Renee and Laura Heinrichs are standing in front of the barn owned by Timothy A. and Mary A. Heinrichs, at 6412 Erastus Durbin Road, Celina. See the next photograph for an old view of the place.



Mark and Deborah Rauh own this barn at 790 Menchhofer Road, Fort Recovery. Note the length of this big old barn, in contrast with its width. See the next old photograph of this place.



Reverend Ferdinand VonderHaar celebrated his Ordination June 9, 1926 and this photograph of the people at this celebration was taken in front of the barn at 790 Menchhofer Road. This photograph belongs to Bob VonderHaar, VonderHaar's Market, Wayne Street, Fort Recovery, Ohio. This land came into the possession of the VonderHaar Family June 7, 1898. Since 1960 Robert Sudhoff owns the land, and the Rauh's own three acres containing the buildings.



"CHEW MAIL POUCH TOBACCO: TREAT YOURSELF TO THE BEST" is painted on this barn at the southeast corner of Routes 29 and 49. The barn belongs to Keith Houts, 3215 Carmel Church Road, Celina. Bloch Tobacco Company began painting these signs on barns around the turn of the century to advertise their products. Over 20,000 barns had this "Mail Pouch" sign painting across the United States. During President Lyndon Johnson's term of office, Lady Bird Johnson encouraged the "Highway Beautification Act," and the United States Congress declared these wonderful barns, "National Landmarks." Very few "Mail Pouch Barns" still exist in Mercer County.



Lucina Rauh owned this barn at 5369 Rauh Road, Fort Recovery, in 1992. Originally this place was the Joe Rauh homestead. Joe's son Ted, married Lucina Diller. The barn was built before the 1880's; the barn has hand hewn beams and wooden pins and has slanting braces. Note the way the two buildings are attached at a right angle. See the hay hood at the end of the gable roof, just above the big hay mow entry doors.



This barn was built by Gerhard Homan from Herbern, Germany, in the 1850's or 1860's, before his son John Homan Sr., was born in 1872. Today, this barn belongs to his descendant, John Homan, Jr., 97 Elm Road, Fort Recovery.



This interior view of John Homan's barn, 97 Elm Road, not only shows the big cross beams, but also the grain bin.

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The Krieg barn is located on the Gary Krieg farm, 5618 Indiana Ohio Stateline Road, Fort Recovery, Ohio, and was built by Gary's Grandfather John Krieg, around 1912. (See the next photograph for the barn raising.) This view was taken from the north (front view); the dimensions are 72 feet by 115 feet. The lean-to on the southeast side was added in 1952; the lean-to on the north side (shown) was built in 1980.

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Another interior view of John Homan's barn, 97 Elm Road, shows the symmetry of the frame. The end wall's vertical boards are spaced enough to permit ventilation in the barn. The cross beams are all one piece; not spliced. Tall vertical posts support the purlin plates which run the length of the barn and support the rafters of the roof.

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The Gin Pole is still standing, with its ropes and pulleys, after being used for leverage, in the barn raising at the John Krieg place. This photograph was taken from the East (rear) side of the building. The owner John Krieg is standing in the back row, next to the horses. The original dimensions of the barn were 36 feet by 90 feet.

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This large barn stands at 4472 State Route 49, and is owned by Ronald L. Stammen. He uses the barn for hog farming. Notice, there is a large addition to the back of the barn. Several paned windows give good light to the interior of the barn; the double doors even have a small window at their top. Several lightning rods are across the ridge of the barn and to the back addition.

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This barn is the August Jutte barn, on the north side of Siegrist-Jutte Road, west of Burrville Road and east of Erastus-Durbin Road. Just after the Civil War, in 1865, this barn was built by a Jutte, Carmack, Knoth, and Post. The barn is 66 feet long, and forty feet wide, with a gambrel roof. The main frame is all hand-hewn; all the lumber came from the farm. In 1961, the barn was moved by Dallas West to its present location, just east of the house. On the barn, the five lightning rods are standing at the roof ridge. The double barn doors which opened to the threshing floor, are visible. On this old photograph, one can see the house and the windpump.

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This view of the August Jutte barn, shows that the big double doors to the threshing floor were closed. The sheep in the foreground, were fenced in by the wooden fence. The barn has been used for livestock, cows, horses, sheep, hogs, and hay and straw.

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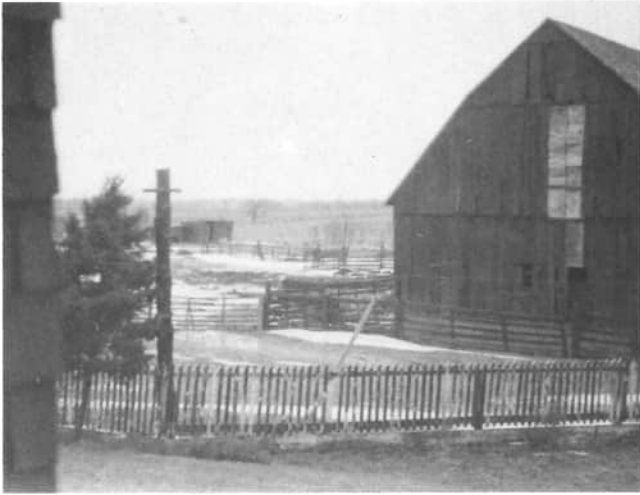
Mr. and Mrs. Walter Sudhoff, 4842 St. Rt. 49, Fort Recovery, own this attractive barn. This red barn is trimmed in white, with a green gambrel roof, topped with five lightning rods. The barn was built in 1920 by the Wellman Brothers, who have built several barns in the area. The barn has sheltered animals and grain storage.

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This old photograph shows one end of the barn, with the horse stable doors standing open for the horses to come and go. In the foreground the chickens are feeding.

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This photograph shows the barn still standing in the original position on the north west side of the house. The picket fence is in the foreground while the wooden fence is in the background. The weathered barn siding was quite common on Mercer County barns in the past history. Today, the barn is standing on the east side of the house, and has red barn paint, and has a metal roof, at the August Jutte farm..

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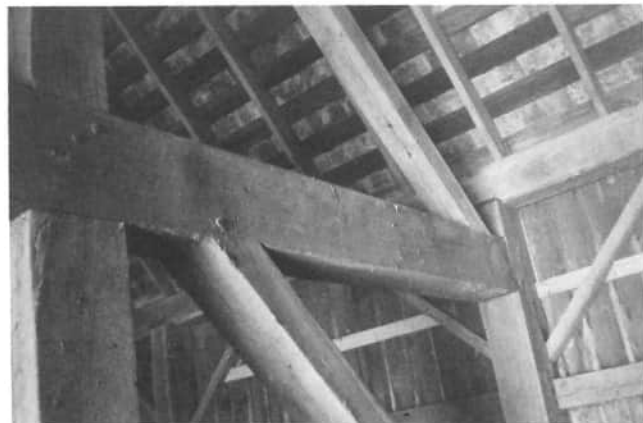
This interior view of the Jerome J. Jutte, Jr. barn, shows the vast area of space allowed by the gambrel roof. One can also see the frame-work of the vertical posts and horizontal beams, strengthened with braces and pinned with wooden pins. One can see the ladder steps up one of the posts to the haymow. Climbing those steps to reach the bales at the top of the mow, to pitch to the floor, to feed the cattle, was a daily venture. No fear of heights was needed as the climber reached for bales near the purlin plate!

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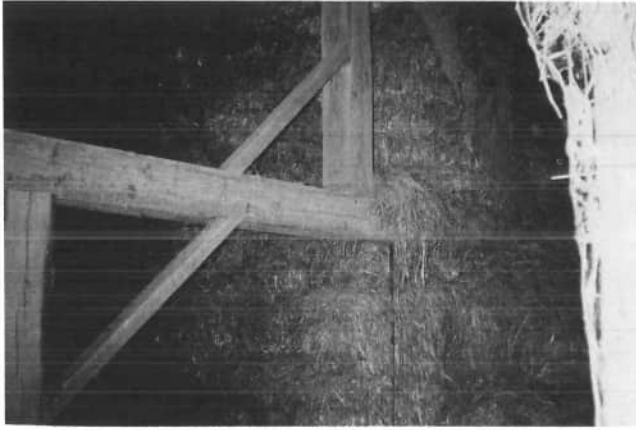
Jerome J. Jutte, Jr. had just finished residing his barn with vinyl siding, when this photograph was taken in October 1991. This barn was originally built in 1918, when Ben Jutte owned the farm; Herman Meyers was the German carpenter. The next owner was Joe Jutte, then Charles Jutte, then Marie Jutte. Today, Jerome and Marie Jutte's son, Jerome J. Jutte, Jr. owns the farm. The farm has been in the Jutte family for over a century. Originally, the barn was used for horses and cows; today, it is a cattle barn and has hay and straw storage.

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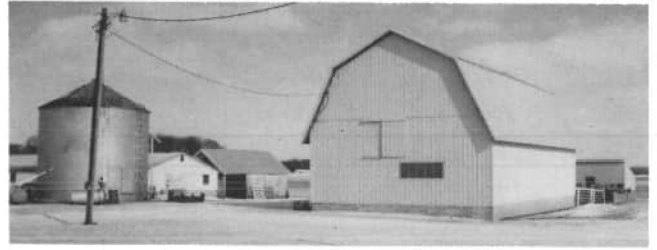
The wooden pinned posts and beams support twenty-two tons of slate on the roof.

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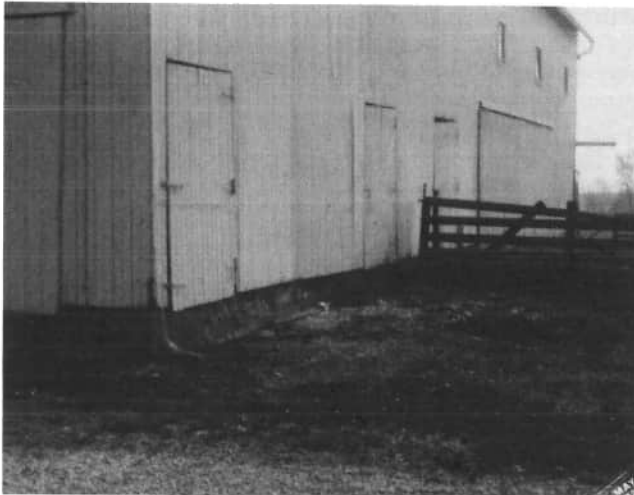
An interior view of the barn shows the original wood pinned posts and beams; with a horizontal beam supporting a vertical post (a post on top of no post). The main barn is 36 by 60 feet, and 39 feet, nine inches to the peak of the roof. The original barn was raised by gin poles; they used a block and tackle and one horse. They had to have a good steady horse to raise the barn. On the east side of the barn, there is a straw mow, 36 by 42 feet.

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This winter scene of January 1991 shows the Mark and Fran Siefring barn, with the snow in the foreground, and the white cumulus clouds against a blue sky on the winter day. The barn, which stands at 2789 St. Rt. 219, Coldwater, was built in 1923 by Ted Kantzer. In the past, the barn was used to keep horses and cows; today the barn is used for dairy replacements.

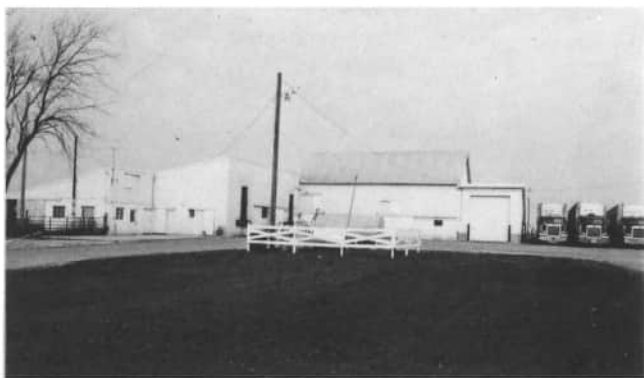
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This view of Jerome J. Jutte's barn shows the original siding, before Jacob I. Schwartz, from Berne, Indiana, put the vinyl siding on the barn in 1989. This view shows the doors for the horses at the side of the barn, as well as the three windows, before the vinyl siding was added. The original barn was built from wood sawed out of the woods on the farm; it was cut and sawed by Hartings Saw Mill.

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## Florence Livestock, Inc.



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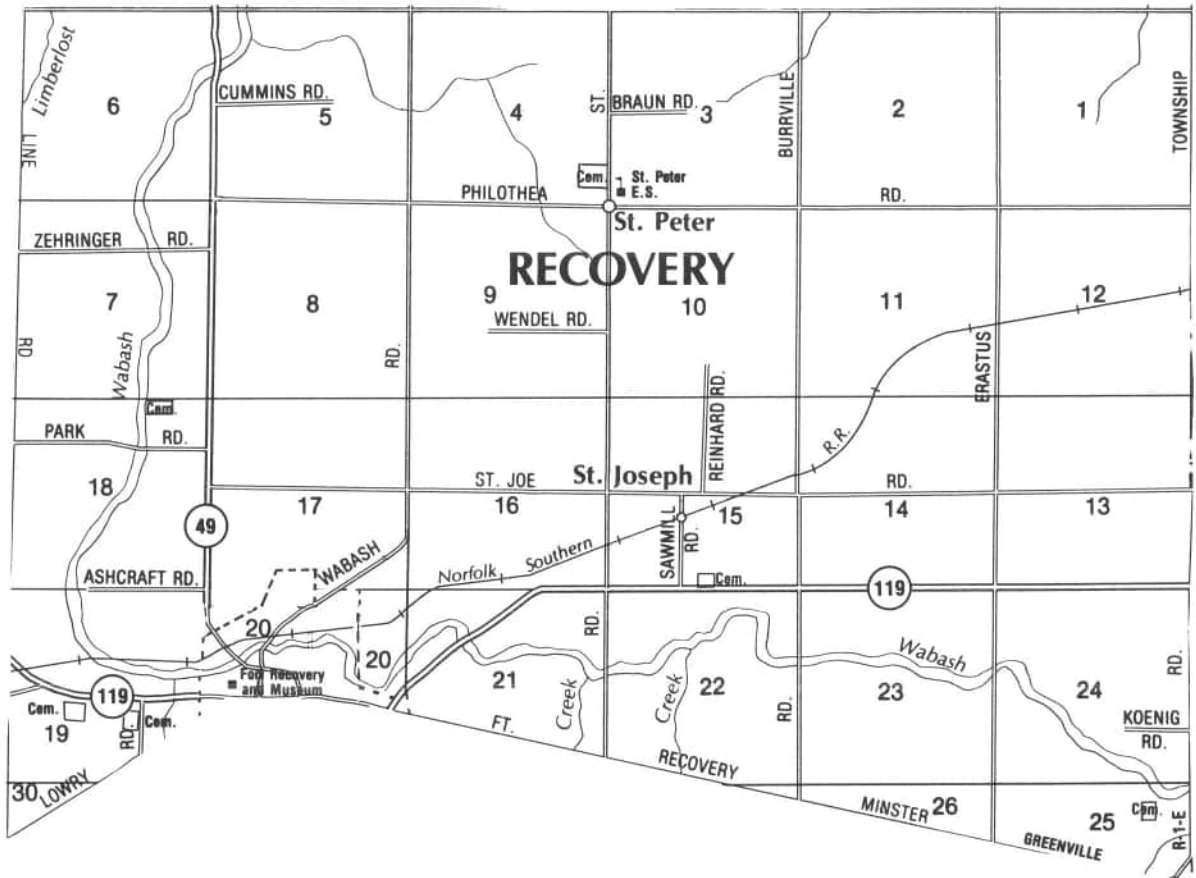
Aerial View

## Wabash Mutual Telephone Co.

The Wabash Mutual Telephone Company has come a long way since its inception in 1905 when subscribers had to string their own wire along telephone poles, which they had cut from local woods. On December 5, 1911, the Wabash Mutual Telephone Company was incorporated under the laws of the state of Ohio. This was Wabash's tie to the big city of Celina, and a phone call to there was considered long distance and cost 10 cents. The monthly assessment per subscriber was 40 cents. On March 19, 1912, the Wabash Telephone Company purchased the property known as the Bobenmoeyer property, which is where the office is located today. The Wabash Mutual Telephone Company expanded its service on March 5, 1924, by offering long distance service to Coldwater, Ft. Recovery, Celina, Bryant, and New Corydon, Indiana. On December 29, of the same year, the board purchased a new Kellogg switch board for \$483.78 to handle the new subscribers. A meeting with the Celina Telephone Company was held on December 17, 1927 concerning the purchase of the Wabash Telephone Company. On December 5, 1928, the Wabash Telephone Company subscribers took a vote on whether to sell the company to Celina. The subscribers opposed the sale 112 to 8. Due to an increase in the number of subscribers over the years, an operator and lineman were employed in 1933 to maintain the lines and provide 24 hour service, with the period from 9:00 p.m. to 6:00 a.m. designated for emergency calls only. From 1934 to 1946, there were no records available for information to be published. In January 1951, a special meeting of the Wabash Telephone Company subscribers was held to discuss the rebuilding of lines that were deteriorating. A fee of \$13.00 was charged to each subscriber to help pay for the reconstruction. In March of 1960, the Wabash Telephone Company purchased a dial station so that subscribers could have the more modern rotary phones installed. These phones took the place of the outdated crank phones, which had been in use since the company's inception. By 1967, Wabash Telephone cable was installed half way to Celina to meet GTE's cable. This allowed Wabash Telephone to offer toll free service to Celina. On April 6, 1974, Wabash Telephone Company offered extended area service, which allowed Wabash subscribers to call Ft. Recovery and Coldwater without being charged a toll. From 1980 to 1985, underground cable was installed to provide one party service to the subscribers. In 1986, 32.5 miles of underground cable was installed by a contractor to complete the 81 square mile area served by the Wabash Mutual Telephone Company. In November of 1986, a new digital switching system was completed and put into service for 590 customers in western Mercer county and eastern Jay county in Indiana. Today, Wabash Mutual Telephone Company is able to compete with the larger companies because of the newly installed state of the art equipment, and under the company plans to keep up with all the technological advances in the telephone industry.



# Recovery Township, Mercer County, Ohio



\* This page was sponsored in memory of the Brumm and Jetter Families, for the convenience of those who wish to tour Recovery Township roads, to see the big barns and to appreciate our rural heritage.

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This photograph was taken in 1976, of Ben Schwieterman's place at 138 Siegrist Jutte Road, Fort Recovery. The barn must be over one hundred years old. One can see the barn, in its relationship to the other buildings on the farm. The barn is used for hogs and sheep.



Carl Pleiman's place at 796 Siegrist Jutte Road, Fort Recovery, has quite a history. Their barn stands on the property that was given to McDowell, by the government for his service in the U.S. Army. (The McDowell family is one of the original settlers in the Fort Recovery area. Samuel McDowell served in both the St. Clair and Wayne campaigns during the Indian wars; he is buried in the Pioneer Cemetery at Fort Recovery.)

Carl Pleiman's barn was built in the 1800's, possibly by De Hayes, in 1850. The barn was built onto many times. The last lean-to was built in the 1970's; this was built to the back side of the barn for free-stalls. An extension was built to the front, to make room for a bigger bulk tank for the dairy, in the 1980's. Carl Pleiman's home also has the original hand-hewn beams in its structure.



This 1968 photograph shows how the buildings looked over twenty years ago. The barn was originally used for cows and milking. On this photograph, the original home is still standing.



January 2, 1971, the winter day of the new year, the barn burned down at the Ivo Siegrist place, 1334 Siegrist Jutte Road, Fort Recovery.



Ray Staugler and the neighbors held a barn raising at Ivo Siegrist's place in 1971. In the 1970's a crane is used to raise the end wall into place. (In the 1870's, this power would have been provided by man and horses.)



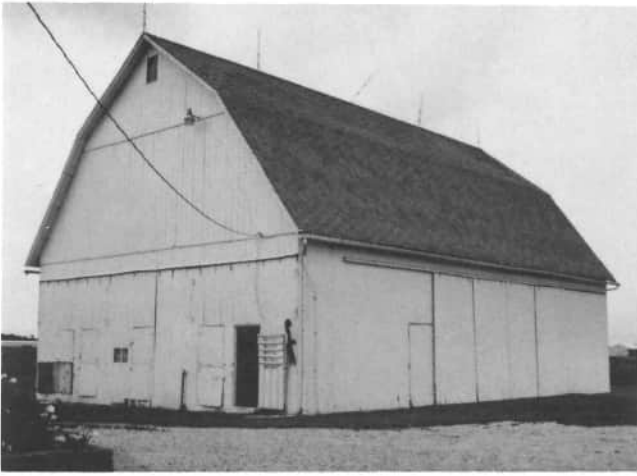
The roof on Ivo Siegrist's barn is receiving its finishing touches; many hands made the work go quicker. The two shed roofed dormers are beginning to take shape on this photograph.



Ivo Siegrist had his barn built on the same site as the old barn, but he put in a new foundation, and, instead of a gable roof, he put on a round, or gothic roof, in order to have more room in the mow. Family and neighbors are helping, but who volunteered to sit on the ridge pole to work?



Twenty years later, the barn is still serving the family. Ivo Siegrist, Ray Staugler, and the neighbors who helped build this barn have to look at their handiwork with pride. Many Mercer County Barns have been built by barn raisings.



Luke and Edna Rose have this barn at 1320 Philothea Road, Fort Recovery. William and Gertrude Wendel were the first owners over a hundred years ago; they built the barn and house. The barn has the old wooden pens. Their daughter, Leo and Elizabeth (Wendel) Rammel were the second owners. Their son Julian and Edna Rammel were the third owners. The stable doors on the end of the barn, look as if the horses will be back any time now. The flowers in the foreground are a touch of springtime.

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Simon Jacobs built this barn, which is wooden pinned. Later, the Jacobs family moved west to the state of Washington, and homesteaded there. Their daughter Philamena Jacobs stayed here; she married Peter M. Braun and they raised their family here. Their daughter, Alvira Vogel is the third generation to live here, at 1416 Philothea Road.

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This Brackman barn stands at 1679 Philothea Road, Fort Recovery. For this barn's heritage, Bill Fullenkamp owned the barn, and then Joe and Mary (Braun) Link of Cassella, Ohio, bought it. Mary's sister, Kate and her husband August Homan and family and August's parents, Ben and Mary (Diller) Homan lived on the farm and used the barn for their horses and cows from 1932 to 1946. At that time, the entire south end of the barn was horse stables with individual doors. Sawed lumber was used in the north two-thirds of the barn but the south end was built with hewn logs. Bill Lenartz bought the farm, and then Art Wehrkamp owned it. On the fourth of January, 1950, Ivo Brackman bought the farm from Wehrkamp, and in 1954 the old siding was replaced with new wood siding. Other repairs and additions to the barn took place with Leo Link and Urban H. Buschur of Celina doing some of the carpentry. In 1990, Amish carpenters put the red steel siding on the barn. Today, Ivo's son Jerry Brackman and family live on the farm today, and Jerry uses the barn for his dairy herd.

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Vernon and Edith Link's barn at 2314 Philothea Road, Fort Recovery, was built about 1911. Originally, the barn was used as a milking set-up. Today, the barn is used as a farrow to finish for hogs. This barn has a pair of double hung windows with six panes over six panes, in the gable end. The entrance to the mow has a hood, at the gable peak. This barn is in the third generation of the Link family.

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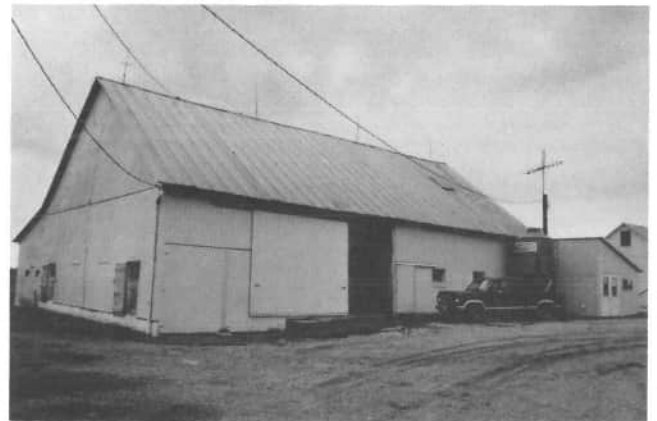
Cletus Dues' barn stands at 2441 Philothea Road, Fort Recovery. This farm was purchased by Cletus Dues from John and Hazel Kaup in April 1967. John Kaup lived here most of his life; he having purchased it from his father Henry Kaup. The barn was built in the early 1900's. The barn was first a horse and cattle barn, and later a dairy barn, 1930-1950. Now, the barn is used for young cattle. For the hay storage in the mow, two doors were put into the roof for bales of hay to drop through into the upper haymow. Clete Dues added a fourteen foot lean-to on the whole length of the east side of the barn in 1967. This old barn still has the original hay loft, and the old dairy stanchions are still in place. The little building was a milk house; now the milk cooler room is used to store vegetables.



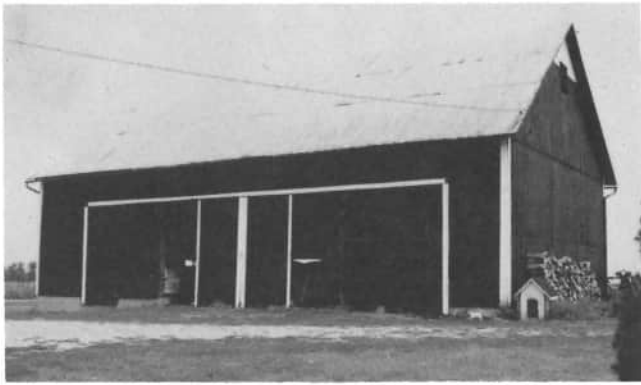
Anthony Guggenbiller, 2698 Philothea Road, Fort Recovery owns this barn which was built in late 1952 by Herman Vagedes. Originally this barn was used for hay and straw in the top, and stables for the milk cows and milk parlor. Today, the barn is used for dairy heifers. This barn is unique, in that it has the bank leading into the double doors into the side of the rainbow-roofed barn. Not many barns, with the rainbow roofs have this side entry, with a bank leading to it.



Mr. and Mrs. Richard H. Braun have this barn at 2569 Philothea Road, Fort Recovery. Their barn was built in 1925 and was used for milking their herd of seventy holstein dairy cows. Today, the barn is used for heifers and dry cows. The trucks in the drive-way will date this picture for future generations.



This gable-roofed barn, belonging to Charles Gaerke, was built in the 1880's and set on rocks with no foundation until 1958. At that time, the Wendel Brothers, Ed and Paul, and Charles Gaerke raised the barn, and added concrete floors and concrete foundation. This old barn has hewn eight by eight beams, and has sawed rafters. The stable doors and gates are still a part of the barn. Today, the barn is used for dairy calves, milking parlor, and hay and straw storage. Rob and Alice Gaerke live at this place at 1184 Philothea Road, Fort Recovery.



This barn sets on forty acres deeded on September 4, 1838 to Durant L. Hunt by President Martin Van Buren. The original deed is now the property of Charles and Betty Gaerke, of 2936 Philothea Road, Fort Recovery. The deed was signed at the Lima Land Office by President Martin Van Buren. Since 1838 the farm deed changed hands thirteen times when Charles and Betty Gaerke bought the farm from Esther Abels, widow of Les Abels on June 12, 1981. Charles and Betty Gaerke are the present owners.

The barn was believed built by Joe and Catherine Abels in the early 1900's. At that time the barn was used as a dairy barn and hay and grain storage. In 1991 Charles and Betty Gaerke hired an Amish crew to raise up the barn and put it on a foundation. They took out the wood floor and granaries and put in complete floors of concrete. The barn was used for finishing 500 hogs a year. At the present time, the barn is used by Gaerke Brothers, Bill and Rob, to finish around 50 to 60 Holstein steers a year.



The Linus Huelskamp barn stands at 1837 St. Joe Road, Fort Recovery. This photograph was taken about 1950. In the early 1830's, a group of German settlers came from Perry County, Ohio and settled in what is now St. Joe. The most prominent of these pioneers were the Dolls. Joseph Doll, the patriarch of the family, settled on the farm which is now the home of Linus and Juletta Huelskamp. Henry Huelskamp purchased the farm from the Doll family in 1919; this would be in section 15 of Recovery Township.



A fire took the original barn at the Henry Huelskamp farm on May 2, 1928. This shows the rubble after the fire.



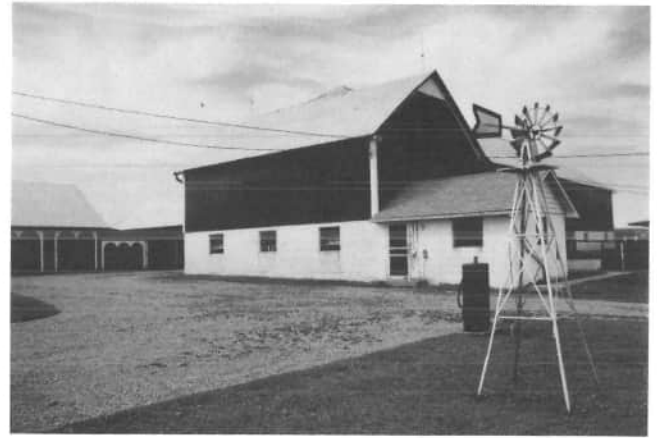
Another view of the rubble after the 1928 fire at Henry Huelskamp place.



After the 1928 fire at the Henry Huelskamp farm, a small barn was moved in and a lean-to, used as a machine shed, was added. This barn was used until 1939. The team of horses are working pulling the wagon.



In 1939, the Winhoven farm, just north of Coldwater was added to the village of Coldwater. The barn on this farm was purchased by Henry Huelskamp, taken apart, and rebuilt on the site where the barn had been destroyed. After the roof had been removed, a heavy rainstorm dumped a lot of water into the barn. The wooden pins fastening the frame together, swelled and had to be drilled out. New wooden pins were made to hold the frame together. (Coldwater High School was built on the site where this barn had stood.) This 1948 photograph shows the barn, the sheds used for granaries, the tool sheds, the smoke house, and the wood shed, and the windpump that was still standing at that time.



Mr. and Mrs. Zeno Brackman own this place at 1643 St. Joe Road, Fort Recovery. The barn as built between 1870 and 1876 by John Kleinhenz. The barn was used for livestock, hay and straw. Today, the barn is used for dairy, hay, straw, and dairy feed. The red barn is trimmed in white with the white triangle at the gable peak, just beneath the lightning rod. The other buildings are painted red, and trimmed with white arches on their barn doors. The windmill stands in the foreground, which reminds us of the days gone by.



Gerald Schlarman has this barn at 1918 St. Joe Road, Fort Recovery. This bank barn was built in the 1890's.



Magadeline Sanderell had this barn built in 1908, at 1078 St. Rt. 119. A. SANDERELL is lettered across the gable end of the barn. The 1941 Plymouth is parked outside the barn. The barn was used to house horses, cows and hay in the past.



Today, this place belongs to Thomas Sanderell, 1078 State Route 119, Fort Recovery. TOM SANDERELL is lettered across the gable end, beneath the window. Lightning rods are standing across the ridge of the roof. The red buildings are trimmed in white. Today, they still use the barn for cows and hay, but no longer have the horses.

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Paul Backs' barn is now white. The dairy barn, with Grade A milking, set up in 1951, remains in use today. A free stall barn was added in 1987, and a hay barn in 1987, at this farm on 2572 St. Rt. 119.

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John Fullenkamp built this barn in 1903 or 1904. Henry Fullenkamp purchased the farm in July of 1920 from his father John Fullenkamp. Aloys and Elizabeth Backs purchased the farm in July of 1934. Paul and Ruth Backs purchased the farm in December of 1972. The barn was used for dairy cattle and sheep. In this aerial view of the farm of Paul and Ruth Backs' farm at 2572 St. Rt. 119, St. Henry, the barn and out-buildings are painted red and trimmed in white.

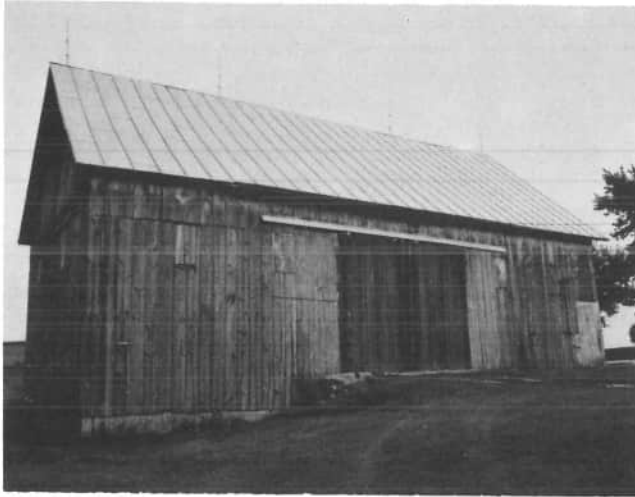
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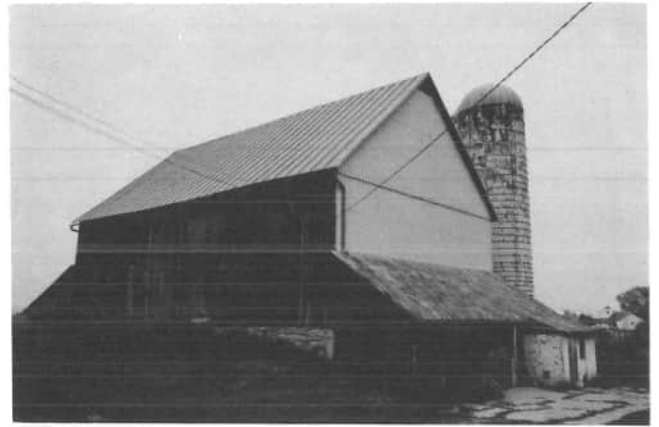
Harold Gettinger owns this barn at 48 Gravel Pit Road, R.R. #2, Fort Recovery. The barn was built in the 1870's by Harry Miller. The barn has been used for steers and hogs; today it is used for storage. This land used to be owned by Nickel Plate Railroad.

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Ronald E. Jones owns this barn at 1775 Fort Recovery-Minster Road, Fort Recovery. This barn has served as a working barn for a long time. The barn is built on a slight rise and the level from the west to the double entry doors, makes a slight bank in the land. Some people have called this type barn a grundscheier barn, meaning ground level. Four lightning rods grace the roof ridge. Some people tell of lightning rods having purple globes on them; when the globe was broken the farmer knew that lightning had struck his barn.



Clarence Schlarman, 2941 Fort Recovery-Minster Road, Fort Recovery, owns this barn, which was built in 1915. The bank leads up to the double entry doors.



In 1863 George and Sarah Hedrick sold acreage at 2157 Fort Recovery-Minster Road, Fort Recovery to John Diebold (now Dippold), my maternal great-grandfather. In 1869, after John's death, Leopold Eckstein bought the property. Leopold's grandchildren believe Leopold built the regular frame barn which had stanchions along its interior east side and horse stalls on the south side. The main frame of the barn is the original, and Aloys Schuh, owner after Eckstein, set the barn up for milking. In 1971 Robert Hart bought the farm. (by Mrs. Jim (Thelma) Homan, 5160 Burrville Road, Coldwater.)



This barn at 3157 Township Line Road, St. Henry, was built in 1919. In the past, the barn was used for loose hay, cattle and horses. August W. Dues owned the farm from 1933 to 1985. Now, the place belongs to his youngest daughter, Lou Ann Timmerman. (Andrew Pax photograph)



An interior view of the haymow, shows the huge cross support beams, which support the roof. The ladder is resting while the mow is standing almost empty. The old hay rack is still attached to the pulley, which hangs from the ridge pole of the roof. The gambrel roof gives more space in the mow, at the barn of Lou Ann Timmerman, 3157 Township Line Road, St. Henry. (Andrew Pax photograph)



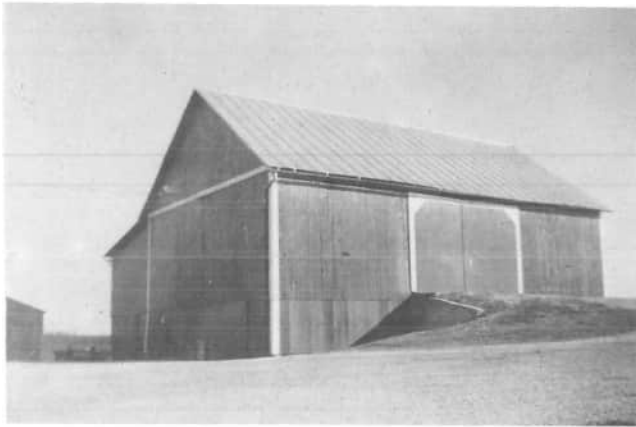
After Leo Noggler's barn fire, he had John Knapke build this dairy barn in 1962. Today, this is Leo's son Eugene Noggler's place. The barn is used as a sheep barn today, at 2168 Erastus Durbin Road, Fort Recovery.



Leo J. Noggler's barn burned down August 1962. Today, his son, Eugene F. Noggler Sr., lives there at 2168 Erastus Durbin Road, Fort Recovery.

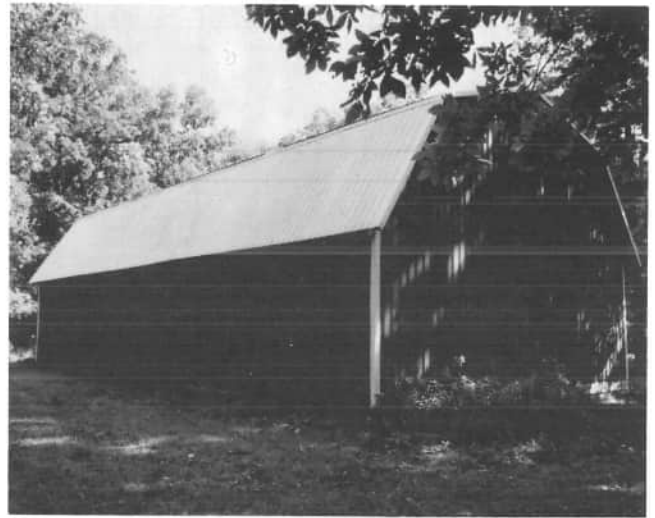


Christopher Kunkler's barn stood 2168 Erastus-Drubin Road, in Recovery Township. This photograph was taken in the 1920's, with the barn and horses standing in the background. Sisters Leona and Caroline Kunkler stand in front of their barn; they married brothers Henry and Aloys Guggenbiller. This photograph belongs to Eugene Guggenbiller, a son of Henry.



Pauline Timmerman's barn stands at 3180 Erastus Durbin Road, Fort Recovery. They bought this farm with the big bank barn in the spring of 1949. At that time it was owned by the William Timmerman family, who bought it from the St. Henry Bank. During the depression it was lost to bankruptcy by another family.

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Omer Jutte built this gambrel-roofed barn in 1979, at 3752 Erastus-Durbin Road, Fort Recovery. He used the barn for livestock and machinery storage; today he still uses the barn for machinery storage.

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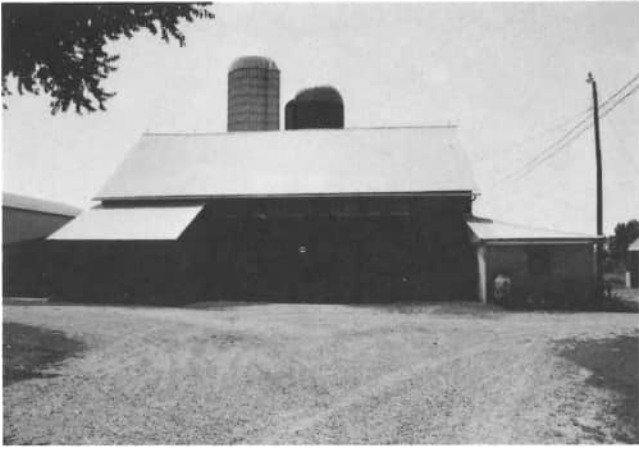
Pauline Timmerman's barn as it looks today, at 3180 Erastus Durbin Road. After they bought the farm in 1949, they added the milking parlor and the milk house. About two years later, they added the 14 foot by 50 foot silo, and two years later put up the 20 foot by 55 foot, both equipped with unloaders and feed bank for a hundred head of dairy operation. The large silo was built by Pauline's husband, with the help of ropes and scaffolding and friends. Her husband laid all the blocks by hand. About ten years ago, they covered the barn with white steel siding. They also built the free stall barn or loafing barn for the dairy cows.

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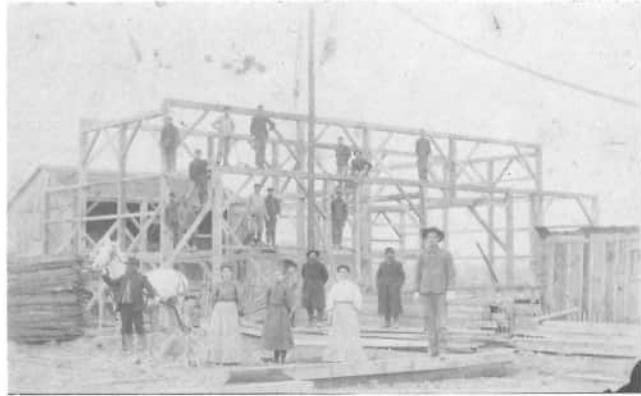
Roger Lochtefeld's barn stands at his place at 2289 Burrville Road, Fort Recovery. He uses the barn for dairy. This photograph tells a story, with the original big barn, the additions, and the two silos, all of which illustrate the development of the farm this century.

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Lavern Steinbrunner's barn stands at his place at 2380 Burrville Road, Fort Recovery. The original owner of this farm was Robert Steinbrunner; the next owner was his son, Aloys Steinbrunner; the next owner was his son Albert; today Albert's son Lavern has the farm.

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Lavern Steinbrunner's barn, at 2380 Burrville Road, was built in 1901 by John Kleinhenz, the carpenter. The friends and relatives are all helping with the barn raising. The young child standing next to the collie might be Aloys Steinbrunner, Lavern's grandfather.

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An interior view of the posts and beams in Lavern Steinbrunner's barn. Note the central post in the center of the long crossbeam, and the technique of supports to the roof. Each farmer had his own individual method of designing the frame of his barn.

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This barn was built for Frank Steinbrunner in 1905; it stands at 3048 Burrville Road, Fort Recovery. It has been used for storage of grain and feed. Today, the place is owned by a brother and sister, Celestine and Olga Obringer.

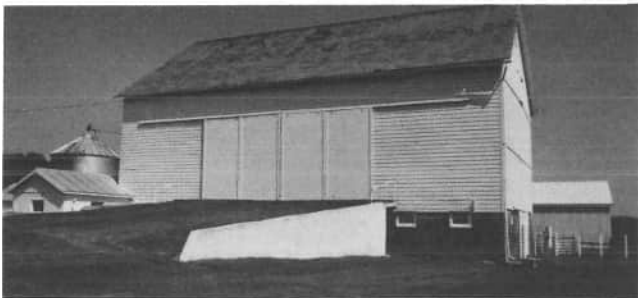
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Eileen Kaiser Schmitz has this barn at 2269 St. Peter Road, Fort Recovery. The original deed is dated March 1806, to Anthony King, Sr. There was another barn here, preceding this barn. This barn is one of the very few in the county, which have a bridge between the bank, and the double doors; one can walk beneath this bridge. The lower part of this barn was for horses, and milking cows. The upper part of the barn was for threshing, and storing grain and hay. Today, it is for storing equipment.



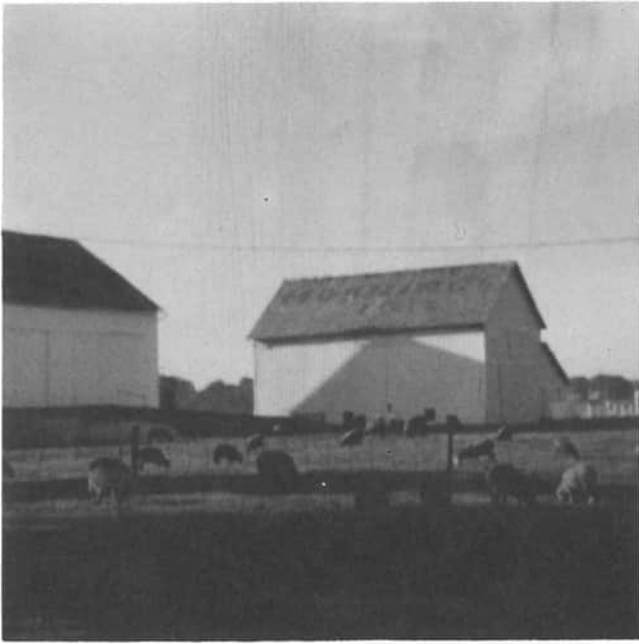
Love Jamieson, Harold's father, outside the barn, before it was resided.



In December 1852, Jacob and Katherine Morningstar took title to the N.W. ¼ Section 22, Recovery Township, 160 acres, at 2470 St. Peter Road, at the corner of St. Rt. 119. They proceeded to clear the land and erect a residence and other buildings, dig a well, and relocate his blacksmith shop (from Fort Recovery). The family was a closely knit unit, devoting their attention to clearing and farming the land, and the breeding of Morgan Horses and Duroc Hogs. Their son David M. Morningstar and his wife Mary Miller were the next owners. Their daughter Emma M. married Love Jamieson and were the next owners. Their son Harold married Gertrude Nagel, who were the next owners. Harold is deceased, October 12, 1980. Today, Gertrude (Jamieson) Green and her husband Paul Green live there.

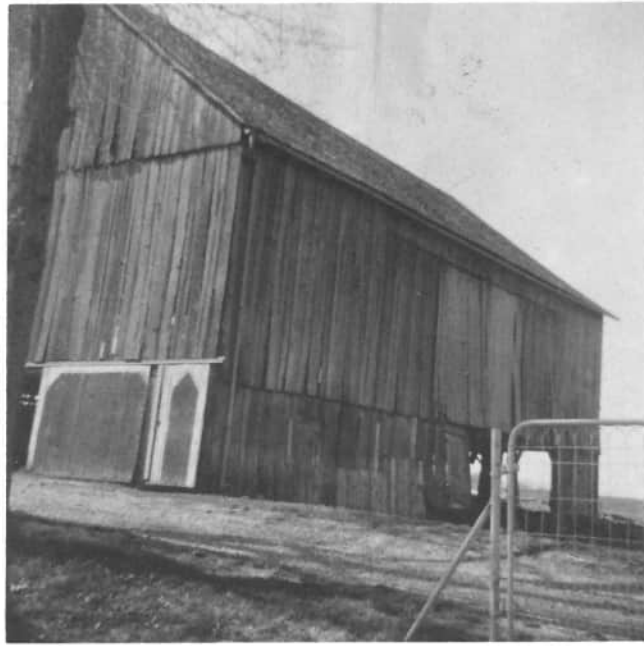


SINCE 1851, MORNINGSTAR —  
JAMIESON FARMS



The MORNINGSTAR name is not only on the main bank barn roof, (JACOB MORNINGSTAR 1894), but also on the second building, on both sides of the roof, of the farm at 2470 St. Peter Road.

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The original barn was a bank barn; it set on rocks for a foundation. In 1965 they moved this barn to its present site at Lester Huelskamp's, 2763 St. Peter Road.

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Lester Huelskamp's barn, at 2763 St. Peter Road, Fort Recovery, has quite a history. It was built in 1864 by Tony Kahlig. It was used for a hog and steer barn, and for milking cows. Today, it is a finishing hog barn. This barn was moved here in June 1965.

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The old barn before it got moved on June 1, 1965, at Lester Huelskamp's. Kenny was four years old.

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Moving the old barn; note the old hand hewn beams on the ground, next to Kenny and Sharon Huelskamp.

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The Wendel Brothers are working on the barn for Lester Huelskamp. The St. Joe church was torn down in 1964; the logs from that church were put in this barn. That log church was built about 1840; so the logs in this barn were cut in 1840.

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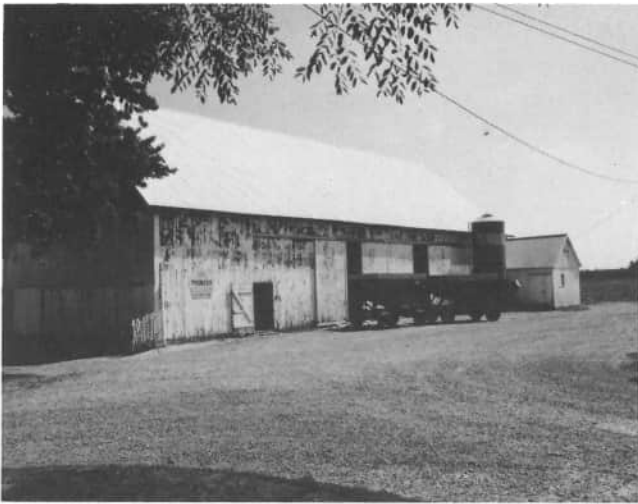
The moving of the barn was begun on June 1, and completed June 7; they worked on it about four days.

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This barn was built in 1901, with a barn raising with the Lennartz family and neighborhood. The barn was used for horses, hay and straw, milk cows, steers and hogs. The barn had a threshing floor. Today, the barn is used for finishing hogs. The barn is a part of the Lennartz Farms, where Duane Lennartz lives at 3143 St. Peter Road, Fort Recovery.

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This barn was built by the Lennartz family and the neighborhood, in 1921. It was used for horses and milk cows, steers, grain storage, hay and straw. The barn had a threshing floor. Today, the barn is used as a sow gestation barn. This barn used to have a wooden grain leg with steel chain buckets that carried grain to the second story storage bin. It also has a cement threshing floor, which was grooved for the horses. This barn is a part of the Lennartz Farms, where Tom Lennartz lives at 3178 St. Peter Road, Fort Recovery.

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In 1870, five Heiby brothers came from Crawford County, Ohio and settled on farms northeast of Fort Recovery. One of the brothers, Phillip Heiby, owned the farm that now belongs to Jerry and Norma Borgerding Grieshop, at 2459 Wabash Road, Fort Recovery. When either Phillip or his son Fred owned the farm, the original barn was struck by lightning. Eighty or more years ago, another barn was built to replace the first one. Built with a dirt floor, the new barn was called a storm barn because it was made with rafters that could sway in a wind. Other than keeping cows and horses in the barn, the Grieshops gutted the barn in 1970 and raised turkeys in it. For light, they put windows in the roof. Now the barn is used for storage only but the Grieshop children remember the fun they had shooting birds in the barn and building tunnels in the haymow.

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Jennifer Gaerke has this attractive barn at 3735 St. Peter Road, Fort Recovery. In the past, this barn was used as a milking set-up for cows, and to house cattle. Today, the barn is used to store hay. The white board fence sets off the barn.

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This old barn stands at 2650 Wabash Road, Fort Recovery, and belongs to Novella Lauber. Novella said the barn was there when they moved there in 1922. The barn was used to house work horses and milk cows. Today, they use the barn to raise feed steers.

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John and Mary Overman have this barn at 2795 St. Rt. 49, Fort Recovery. The barn, being built in 1915, appears to be an English barn; that is to say, that it appears to have three separate bays, with the threshing bay in the center, with double doors in the front and back, to provide the air or wind to blow through the barn on threshing days. Not all barns have a window above the double doors as this one does. The barn is used for cattle.



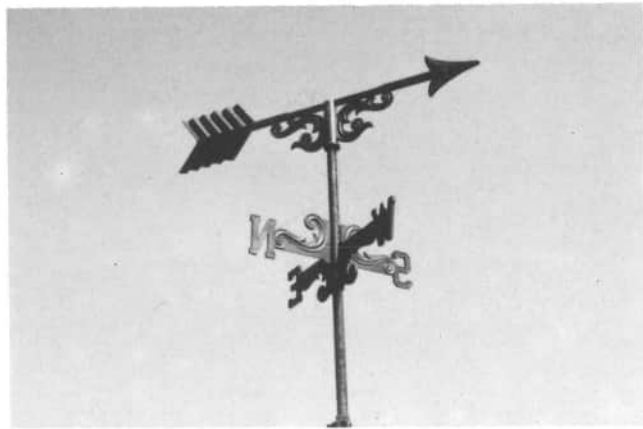
One of the very few "boxed hay hoods" on the hay mow doors in Mercer County, can be found on this barn belonging to Maurice and Jeanette Grieshop, 441 Park Road, Fort Recovery. This barn houses beef cattle, and storage for hay and equipment. Clementine (Teeters) Gagle, R.R. 3, Box 226, Portland, Indiana 47371, lived on this farm as a child. Clementine wrote the following letter about this barn, November 30, 1991: "I have talked to both of my brothers and they said the barn on Dad's farm at 441 Park Road, was there before 1928. Mom and Dad moved there in 1928 and it was there then. We don't know who built it. I was born in 1922. I do remember "making hay." At first, we used to put the hay on loose on a wagon, and then take it to the barn. We used a hay fork with pulleys and a rope; I would ride the old work horse and pull it up into the barn. Later on, Dad baled the hay and I would drive the Farmall "B" Tractor. Dad would load the hay on the wagon. When we got to the barn, I would drive the tractor, to pull the baled hay up into the barn. Many times, the rope would break, and all the hay would fall down (barely missing Dad sometimes) and we would start over. I remember exactly how the barn was made on the inside. When you walked in the door, there was an aisle straight ahead. On the right, was hay from the floor to the roof. On the left hand side, there were three stalls for horses. The first stall was for Maude, then Mert, and Lady. After they either died or were sold, we had work horses named Tom, Mike, and Bob. Next was where we kept cows. There was a manger to feed hay, in front of the horses and cows. There was a floor above the east side for more hay. Dad did build on to the west of the original barn and made it into a machine shed; I think it was done in the 1950's."



The Amish carpenters built this barn in the mid 1960's for Harold Willmann, 3690 St. Rt. 49, Fort Recovery. In the past, the barn has been used for storage of hay for beef cattle, and the lower level for feeding out hogs. Today, the barn is used for storage of hay, straw and beef cattle. The barn has the rainbow or gothic roof, which provides more room for storage. Three shed-roofed dormers are on the side of the roof. It was a beautiful day in September, with the clouds in the sky, and the wind blowing the flag, when this photograph was taken.



Roscoe and Elsie Timmerman's barn stands at 209 Park Road, Fort Recovery. Frank Wallischeck built this barn about 1910. The barn housed horses, cows and some pigs. The barn originally had large stone boulders under each corner, for the foundation. The Timmermans put in the cement foundation about 1980. Elsie tells that her Step Mother Mary Rose (O'Conner) Bergman lived there as a child. The gable roofed barn has siding which has weathered to a silver patina, and looks much as it did when it was built. The country barn has not had a lot of additions. Today, they use the barn for storage.



This weather vane belongs to Mary Huelskamp, 1682 Philothea Road, Fort Recovery. What is unique about this weather vane is that it is pointing to a most magnificent treasure in Mercer County's heritage. It is pointing to the treasure within the barn.



The rooster crowing atop the weather vane is a part of our Mercer County heritage. Before radio and television, with the instant weather reports, farmers had to rely on their own knowledge and information to make any type of weather prediction. Weather vanes on top of barns, were common sites. Today, many people have weather vanes for decoration. This attractive weather vane belongs to Laura Wendel, 1835 Philothea Road, Fort Recovery. As this book Editor drove across Mercer County, she saw weather vanes decorated with cows on dairy farms, weather vanes decorated with hogs on hog farms, and weather vanes decorated with horses on horse farms. Mercer Countians are proud of their heritage and their way of life. Whether they put their names in the slate on the barn roof, or their way of life in their weather vane theme, or in a lawn ornament or lawn decoration, they take pride in what they do.



This is an aerial view of Mary Huelskamp's place at 1682 Philothea Road. The old homestead is on this photograph. Note the big barn; note its height, length and width. This big old barn was built between 1840 and 1850, one or two decades before the Civil War. This is one of the biggest and oldest barns in Mercer County, and one of the finest, considering the log treasure it holds within.



This 1992 photograph of Mary Huelskamp's barn, gives one an idea of the size and shape of the barn. Now, look closely at the next three photographs of the interior of this barn.

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This is a closer view of the same wall of the log barn. Look under the bottom log and see the foundation corner stone. See the marks of the ax and note how well the corners fit. One would wonder about the size of the trees used for these logs. (Andrew Pax photograph)

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This is one side of the double pen log barn in Mary Huelskamp's barn at 1682 Philothea Road, Fort Recovery. This barn was built between 1840 and 1850, by some of this area's earliest settlers, a decade or two, before the Civil War. This magnificent big log barn has been protected because a barn was built up and over the log barn. Look closely at the corner notching of the logs, which are all hand hewn. Think of the labor, and the craftsmanship which went into this log barn. (photograph by Andrew Pax)

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This is a closer view of the other end of the same wall of the log barn in Mary Huelskamp's barn at 1682 Philothea Road. At the left of the photograph is the door leading to grain bins. Next to the step is the stone boulder used for the foundation corner stone. On the wall to the right stands an old wagon wheel, missing a spoke or two. What stories these logs would tell; what stories this wagon wheel would tell; but their secrets are silent. The presence of this log building tells a story which is a greater story than any historical fiction book could write. Mercer County owes Mary Huelskamp a debt of gratitude for preserving this great example of our rural heritage. (Andrew Pax photograph)

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The old dinner bell, which called so many farmers to their meals, still stands at the Arthur and Lorena Vagedes home at 2560 Philothea Road, Fort Recovery. The barn was probably built around the turn of the century, and has housed cattle, horses, and stored hay and grain. Today, the barn is used for cattle. This gable-roofed barn, with its red paint and white trim, has the three windows in the gable end wall, with the white triangle at the gable peak.



Bill Wellman, Jr., one of Mercer County's fine barn builders, built this barn in 1917, after the original barn burned by being struck by lightning. In the past, the barn was used for dairy and feed storage. Now the barn is used for dairy. There is a stanchion floor milking parlor built inside. Dennis and Deb Schoenlein, 1990 Siegrist Jutte Road, Fort Recovery, own this barn; they bought the farm from Dennis' Mother, Eleanor Schoenlein, in 1987.



Nick Harlett, from Bavaria, Germany, and his wife Catherine and family moved to Mercer County. They built this L shaped log house at the time of the Civil War. The big barn was built a couple of years after the house; they kept their cows and horses in this barn. To the west of the house, stood the machine shed, the corn crib, the straw stack and the big barn. Clara Koverman, Nick's Granddaughter, remembers that her father John Harlett saw to it that the straw stack was built just right. The wind pump stood west of the house; it provided water for the family and for the livestock. This log house stands at 2091 St. Joe Road, Fort Recovery.



Today, 1993, Clara Koverman is holding the photograph of her homeplace, the log home at 2091 St. Joe Road, Fort Recovery. She resides at 507 N. 2nd, Coldwater, OH 45828. She was kind enough to tell the story of this log home and farm for this book. Their history is also in the 1978 MERCER COUNTY HISTORY BOOK, page 335.



This barn was built, 97' x 36', in the early 1800's. The barn once had two threshing floors; there were two hay lofts and two granaries. Each granary could hold 300 to 400 bushels of grain. The barn had four horse stalls with split stable doors; these doors can be seen on the photograph. The barn also had a large area for cows. The round straw stack stands next to the barn. Four generations of Eiferts' (Michael, Jacob, Joseph, and Ferd), all housed their animals and grain in this barn. It is presently owned by Ken and Janice Lamm, 2317 St. Joe Road, Fort Recovery. The barn is used for storage of farm equipment and a workshop.

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This aerial view is of Mr. and Mrs. Melvin Bergman's farm, 2466 State Route 119, Fort Recovery, OH. The John Fullenkamp family built this barn. Prior to 1961 the barn was used for dairy. For fifteen years, the barn was used for a starter barn for turkeys. Today, the barn is used for livestock. Note the low pitch of the roof, and the length of the barn compared with the width.

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Another barn that "used to be." This weathered old barn served as a working barn in its day. The small door at the end almost looks as if it is waiting for the horse to return. However, the barn was recently torn down. It stood for over a century at the present site of Jutte Excavating, Inc., on State Route 119, near St. Joe, (just west of Erastus Durbin Road). The barn was previously owned by Ken Lamm, 2317 St. Joe Road, Fort Recovery.

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This interior view of the framing of Melvin Bergman's barn not only shows the hand hewn timber, but also the wooden pins. Some of these hand hewn timbers may have been used in an earlier building, because there are mortises cut out, where the tenon of another beam would fit into it; these can be seen on this photograph.

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Sylvester and Hilda Rosenbeck, State Route 118, St. Henry, own this barn, at 2517 Fort Recovery Minster Road, Fort Recovery. The barn was built in 1890 and was owned by Heitkamps for many years. It has been used for hay and machinery storage. Today it is used for hay and for a sheep barn.

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This is the east side of Fred Dues' barn in 1950.

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Ken, Joe and Sue Dues are enjoying playing in the snow after the big snow storm in 1950. This farm on 3691 Township Line Road, Fort Recovery, has been in the Dues family for over 100 years. The big barn has been there all those years; it was probably built when Fred's great-grandfather Henry Dues lived there. Henry passed the farm to his son George. In 1946 Rita, (Cletus' sister) had her wedding dance in this barn. In 1947, Cletus bought the farm from his father George; the barn was used for work horses and dairy cows. In 1980, Fred Dues purchased the farm from his father Cletus.

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This interior view of Fred Dues barn on 3691 Township Line Road, shows the hugh cross beam, and the vertical posts which support the roof.

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**OUR BARN** by Martha Dues  
2441 Philothea Road, Ft. Recovery

The dairy cows are munching hay  
in the big barn painted red;  
Their soft, brown eyes just seem to say,  
"Turn out the lights and go to bed."

Our barn is such a comfy place  
Of peaceful solitude and calm —  
A whispered wind blows through the eaves;  
It sounds much like a well loved Psalm.

The soft "moo" of a cow is heard —  
Her nose is nudging a command;  
A new born calf on wobbly legs  
Is being taught to try and stand.

The little calf is beautiful  
With shining coat as smooth as silk;  
It nuzzles close beside the cow  
And gets its supper, "Grade A Milk."

What is a barn without the sound  
of noisy sparrows on high beams?  
Our cat caught some, the rest came back —  
There's sparrows everywhere, it seems.

My hideaway's up in the big hay mow  
When too many cares, at me seem to peer;  
I chase the world by, till I'm rested again —  
What peaceful repose; in this calm atmosphere.

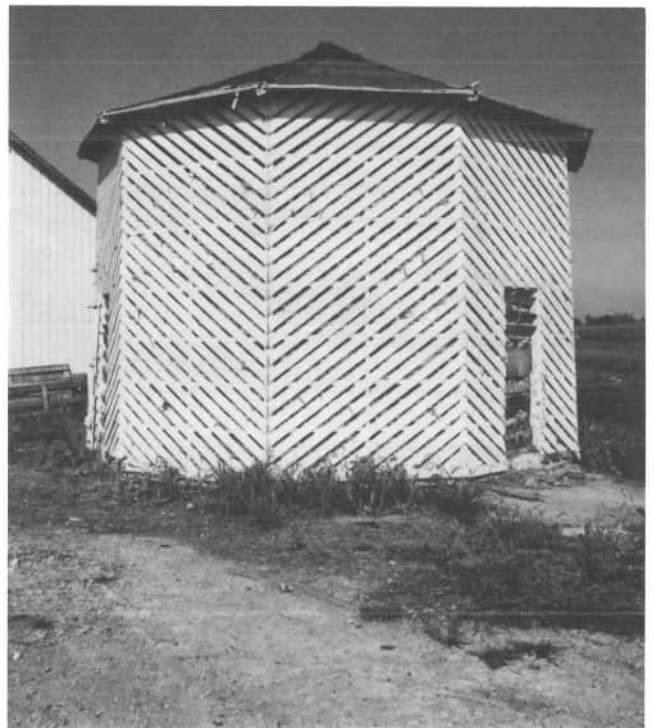
Note: This was written in the big barn on 3691  
Township Line Road, when all the children (8)  
were growing up. I needed the "big red barn escape"  
once in a while!



A 1950 view of the hog building, at Fred and Marge Dues, 3691 Township Line Road, Fort Recovery. Note, the entry is in the gable end wall.



An interior view of Fred Dues' hog building, which shows the hand hewn beams. In Lower Saxony, Germany, the barns were built, with the entry at the gable end. On the interior posts, the beams would extend through the vertical posts, a few inches, but would not go to the outside wall. In this barn, the horizontal beam only reaches the post, but does not extend through it.



An octagonal corn crib stands full, next to Fred Dues' hog building.



Clarence and Catherine Steinbrunner, and Joshua Wenning, are standing in front of their big old bank barn, at 3178 Burrville Road, Fort Recovery. This barn was built in the late 1870's by Clemens Steinbrunner. Joseph Steinbrunner, born 1869, and son of Clemens Steinbrunner, was about ten years old, when this barn was built. Joseph remembers helping build the barn. When they built this barn, they needed a bank barn, and they also built this barn closer to the house, than the old barn. The old barn was then torn down; some of the lumber was used to build a hog barn and a corn crib. This building is across from the house, on the south side. In the past, the barn was used for storing grain, hay, straw, machinery, and for animals. Today, the barn is used to house heifers and to store hay and straw.



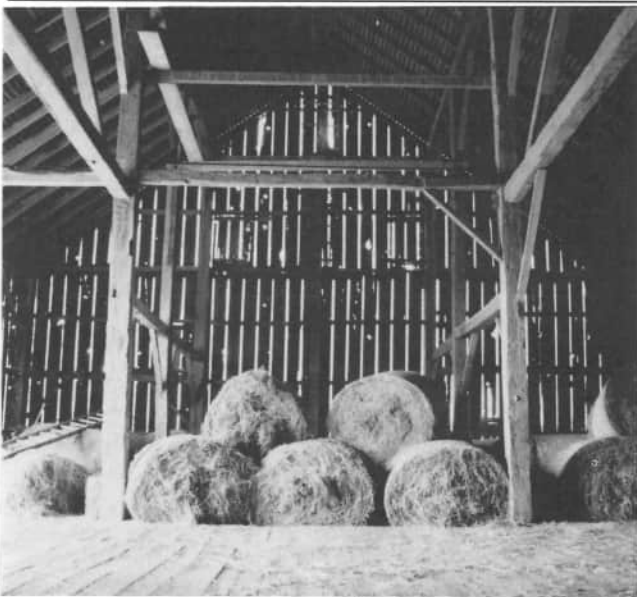
This is a 1940 view of the Clarence Steinbrunner place.



This fine old barn was built in 1880 by Frederick Heiby, (1843-1920). He also built the Lutheran Church in Fort Recovery in 1871; he was also County Commissioner 1909 to 1913. The timbers are over 16 feet long, and many are 32 feet in length; a few are 48 feet long. The size of the barn is 32 by 48. The barn was built to use for horses, granary, and space for a shop and storage of carpenter tools. The sliding doors has a smaller door, known as "le petit guichet." There is no hay track; they used a single rope and pulleys and sword hay fork for horses to pull the hay from the wagon unto the mow. This barn has not changed from the time it was built. Some boards in the granary and the horse part, are 18" wide or more. The barn still stands on its large stones at the corners.

The barn in the back has been reworked several times. The barn was lowered and put on a concrete foundation. The mow floors were raised and 16 feet were added to the length. The braces were cut out so a hay track could be used in the barn. It is the older of the two barns because all of the timbers used in the framing are hand hewn.

These barns are located at 2600 Wabash Road, Fort Recovery, and belong to Elizabeth Kandel, 15300 County Home Road, Marysville, Ohio 43040. This information was provided by David Heiby, R. 3, Box 188, Portland, IN 47371.



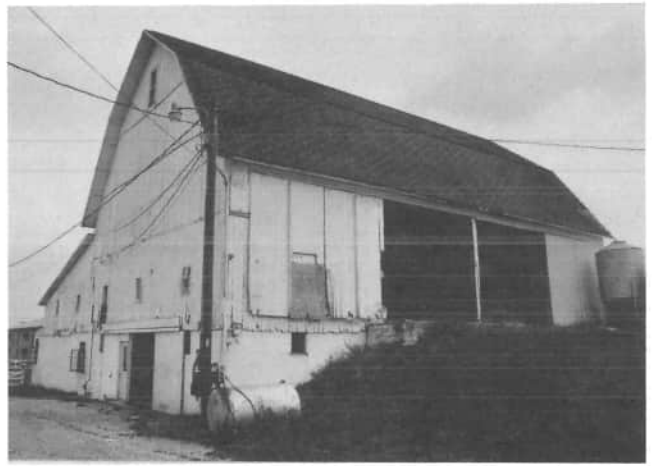
This interior view of Clarence Steinbrunner's barn shows the symmetry of the framing. It would be nice if this book were in color, and show the sunlight casting a golden glow on the posts and beams, and bales on the threshing floor.





Bob Roessner's barn stands at 3797 Wabash Road, Fort Recovery. This big old barn was built in the late 1800's. The barn has been re-sided. The doors have been changed to adapt to the needs of the farm. The barn has been used for livestock confinement and hay storage.

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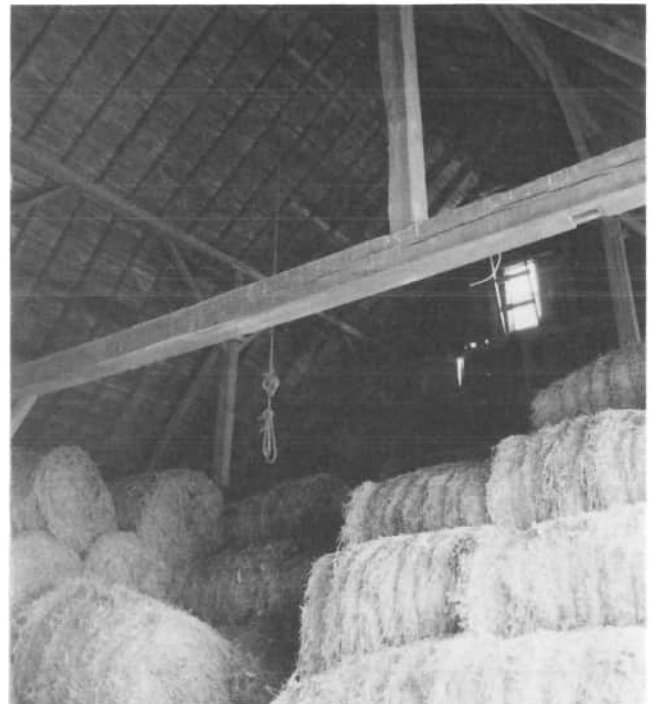
What a grand barn this was, in its day. The horses and buggies could drive through the doors through the length of the barn at the end wall on the bottom floor. The main floor has two pairs of double doors leading to the threshing floor. The bank is broad, leading up to these double doors. The gambrel roof allowed for a lot of space in the mow. This wonderful big old barn belongs to Dorothy Gaerke, 2369 State Route 49, Fort Recovery.

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Mike Roessner owns this gable-roofed barn at 3910 Wabash Road, Fort Recovery. Five lightning rods stand across the ridge of the roof. Many of Mercer County's barns have the three openings in the gable end wall, but not many have square windows in the double doors, as this barn does. In the past, the barn was used for milking cows, and for the hay storage. Today, the barn is used for steers and horses.

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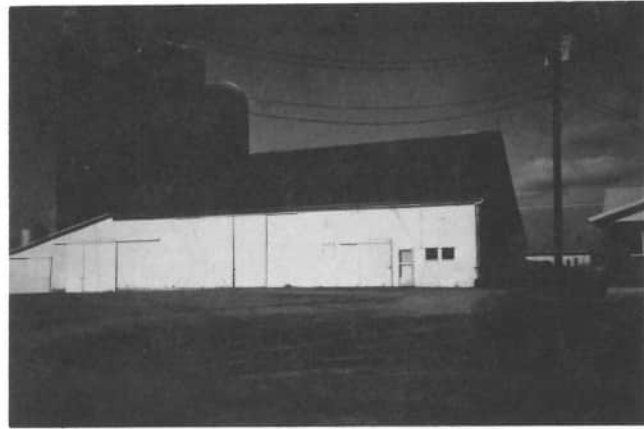
The gambrel roof of Dorothy Gaerke's barn is supported by these great hand hewn posts and beams. The rope is still hanging from the hay track at the top of the barn. With the change in times and the change in size of bales, these big round bales now are stored across the barn floor. This barn was built to last for many generations; it is still serving its purpose.

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This barn was probably built in the late 1800's, for it is pinned with wooden pins. In the past, the barn was used for livestock and hay storage. Today, the barn is used for storage. The barn has been sided with a golden colored siding. The barn stands at 3460 State Route 49, Fort Recovery, and belongs to Ralph Jutte Farms, Inc. The Jutte Farms are known for their melons and fruit, as the sign on the truck indicates. Oscar W. Jutte responded with information about this barn.

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Bernard Overman's barn stands at 1215 Philothea Road, Fort Recovery. The Braun Family built this barn around 1916 and the barn was used for hay and straw storage, cow stables, and for milking cows. Now, the barn is still used for hay and straw storage, as well as heifer and maternity housing.

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This barn stands at 592 Cummins Road, off of State Route 49, north of Fort Recovery. This barn was built in the late 1800's and is pinned with wooden pins. It was used for livestock and storage. This old barn stands straight and tall. An addition was added to the left end of the barn. The barn belongs to Ralph Jutte Farms Inc., 3460 State Route 49, Fort Recovery.

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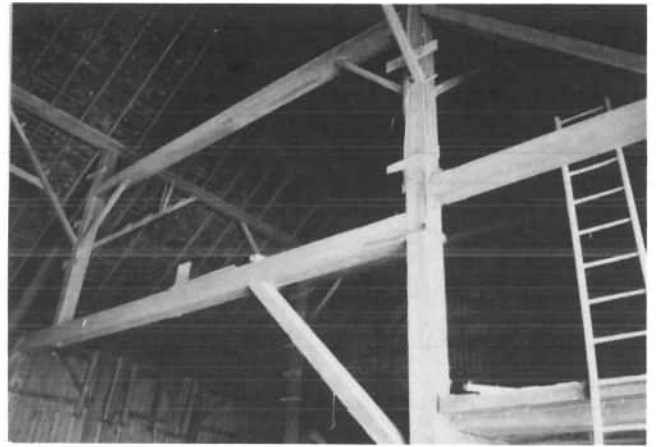


The Overman Brothers own this barn on Philothea Road, Fort Recovery. This was formerly the Henry Grieshop farm. Originally, this barn was used for hay and straw storage, and for milk cows and horses. Now, the barn is used for straw storage, and for fattening hogs on the bottom.

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Dale and Marilyn Bruns' barn stands at 3367 Wabash Road, Fort Recovery. Marilyn Bruns wrote the following story about this barn: "This barn was built in 1913 at the time Joe Fullenkamp owned the farm. One of the neighbor boys, Henry Grieshop, who lived with his parents across the road, helped Joe build the barn; he was Joe's hired hand. It was considered one of the biggest barns in the area. It is 100 feet by 48 feet wide and approximately 45 feet high. It is a well-constructed barn. In 1941, Mr. and Mrs. Joe Westgerdes, who rented the farm, celebrated their 25th wedding anniversary. Many of his family, friends, and neighbors remembered the barn dance and the good time they had. Norb Roessner, a neighbor boy in his youth, and Norb Westgerdes, Joe's son, and his date Mildred, now his wife, can still reminisce that day. Years ago, the barn had large granaries upstairs that stored wheat and oats. It held a lot of loose hay. The horses were housed in stables in the south end. In the 1960's, Dale Bruns who owns the farm, put flooring over the thresh floor and raised turkeys on the two floors for St. Clair Mills. Since then, the second floor is back to its original. Now the barn houses dairy calves, hogs, a few pieces of machinery, and some large round bales on the bottom floor." (photograph from Ruth Ann Brunswick)



The large beams in Dale Bruns' barn are 12 x 12 pine. The sunlight casts a golden glow on these big old beams.



This is a 1991 view of Dale Bruns' barn, 3367 Wabash Road. In 1990, a 24 feet leanto was added to the west side of the barn, to house more machinery and large bales.



ANTHONY'S BP, 302 East Butler, Fort Recovery, Ohio 45846.

# Brockman Furniture Brockman Appliances Brockman & Boeckman Funeral Home

W.H. May started in the funeral and furniture business around 1890, then located on the W. Butler Street between Meinerdings Restaurant and the former L.H. Wagner Agency.

May built the present brick building (now Brockman Furniture), 107 S. Wayne Street in 1895. It was called May's Undertaking and Furniture Dealer. This building housed both the funeral and furniture business.

Donald E. Riffle became a partner of W.H. May in 1937 and bought out May around 1947. The present funeral home at 308 S. Wayne Street was Riffle's residence and was enlarged in 1954 since visitations at the funeral home were becoming more common.

Cy Brockman began working for Riffle in 1946 and bought the business in 1963. Since then a large furniture display room was added to the Furniture Store in 1973 and the Funeral home was remodeled during the 1980's. Cy purchased the "Opera

House" building, 100 N. Wayne St. in 1978, remodeled the building, and established Brockman Appliances. In 1991 Ron Boeckman became associated with the ownership of the funeral home and the name was changed to Brockman & Boeckman Funeral Home.



Brockman Furniture



Brockman & Boeckman Funeral Home



Brockman Appliances

## Cooper Farms

Downtown Fort Recovery was the location of the original mill building built before the turn of the century. The exact date of construction is unknown. In 1936 Werner "Dick" Staugler began working for Harry Imel, owner of the mill. At that time the number of turkeys being fed was about 1,000. Four years later in 1940, Dick Staugler and Ralph Heil became the owners of the business which was then called St. Clair Mills.

An extensive remodeling of the mill building was done in 1952. When other business interest took Ralph Heil from this area, Dick Staugler became the owner of the operation along with the Quaker Oats Co.

On June 25, 1960 the mill was completely destroyed by fire and was then reconstructed at its present location, at the north end of Fort Recovery next to the railroad tracks on State Route 49. The new facility was capable of producing over 200 tons daily.

In 1969 Quaker Oats Co. decided to discontinue their Agricultural Division, selling all their feed operations to Allied Mills, Inc. During the Allied Mills ownership, the company name was changed to Wayne Poultry Co.

In January 1976 the Fort Recovery feed mill was purchased from Allied Mills, Inc. by Cooper Hatchery, Inc. of Oakwood, Ohio; Werner J. Staugler, Ralph P. Staugler, and Lester M. Staugler all of Fort Recovery. With the new ownership, the former name of St. Clair Mills, Inc. was put back into use. At this point in time, annually 1,500,000 turkeys were fed along with 3,000,000 broilers, as well as some layers and pullets. The poultry was all raised by local farmers on a contract basis within a 30 mile radius of Fort Recovery. While producing feed for the contract operation, the feed mill continued to make customized feed for area farmers, providing the community with a complete line of feed for hogs, dairy, and poultry

farming.

With thoughts of retirement, Dick Staugler along with his brothers, Ralph and Lester, sold their interest in St. Clair Mills to Cooper Hatchery in November of 1984. Ralph and Lester continued to work for Cooper Feeds through December 1988 at which time, they too decided to retire. During this period of 1985 through 1988 the name of St. Clair Mills, Inc. was changed to Cooper Farms. With the help of local contract growers as well as the dedicated and loyal employees, Cooper Farms has been able to grow and be successful in the Fort Recovery community. The feed mill continues to produce all lines of poultry feed as well as hog and dairy feed for its customers' needs. In addition to turkeys, area farmers also contract grow annually 400,000 layers and 1,500,000 broilers.

Construction was completed in May, 1992, on a new feed mill, two miles north of Fort Recovery on State Rout 49. This state-of-the-art mill is capable of mixing 120 tons of pelleted feed per hour.

Thanks to the commitment of its 100 full and part time employees, Cooper Farms can proudly say it has been a part of the Fort Recovery business community for over 50 years and hopes to be here for many more.



Cooper Farms

# The Fort Recovery Banking Company

Ft. Recovery's first bank, the Porterfield-McDaniel Bank, was established in 1881 and occupied the building south of the Forget-Me-Not Flower Shop. When John Porterfield withdrew, it became the George R. McDaniel Bank. (see photo #1)

About 1902 the bank was relocated in a building on Wayne Street between what is now Brockman's Appliance and the Hawaiian Buckeye Restaurant. It was at this location that disaster struck. On October 17, 1906, the bank building was badly damaged in an explosion that occurred when Charles Wagner was testing a rifle in a hardware store that was just north of the bank. He shot into some dynamic that was stored there. Eight people were killed. Shortly after the disaster some of the fixtures were carried out onto the sidewalk and business was conducted on the street in front of the bank (see photo #2)

In December 1906 the bank was incorporated as The Fort Recover Banking Company. Incorporators were

George McDaniel, Ernest McDaniel, Marshall McDaniel, Minnie McDaniel and William H. Anthony. In September of 1922, the bank was moved to its present location at 117-119 N. Wayne Street, built on land purchased from Harriet Krenning. (See photo #3)

The Fort Recovery Banking Company and Second National Bank of Greenville, Ohio merged in April 1980, and the bank became The Fort Recovery Banking Center, Second National Bank.

In September of 1912, a published statement of condition indicated total resources of \$416,827.31 and loans outstanding of \$342,167.94. Total deposits amounted to \$360,256.33. At year end 1992 total resources were \$228,470,106.00 and loans outstanding of \$129,000,000.00. Total deposits are \$198,512,309.00. The growth in deposits and loans is an indication of the excellent financial progress of Darke and Mercer communities. (See photo #4)

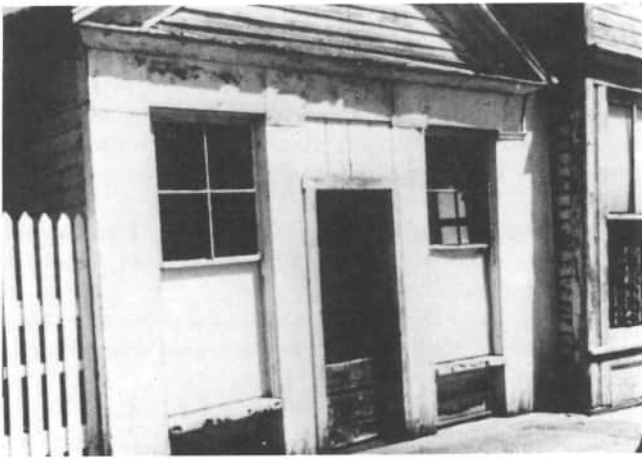


Photo #1



Photo #2



Photo #3



Photo #4

# The Fort Recovery Equity Exchange

On May 10, 1919, the Fort Recovery Equity Exchange Company became a chartered organization with paid-in capital amounting to \$23,600.00. This was made possible by 118 farmers and landowners, who were interested enough to invest \$200.00 in this Company. Two shares each to the farmers, with a par value of \$100.00 per share, were the beginning of the Fort Recovery Equity Exchange.

The first official act of the new Company was to purchase the Jay Grain Company for \$10,000.00 and the new business was opened on July 1, 1919. Its location was on the north end of town along the railroad tracks.

In the early years the Equity handled all kinds of grain and seed used in farming, plus coal, hay and oil, along with all different kinds of flour. Sales of flour were almost as much as feed sales.

During 1926 electricity replaced the gasoline engine as a source of power in the elevator and a new hammermill was installed. In 1927 the Farmer's Feed and Sales Barn was purchased for \$8,000.00. It was located along side of the Fort Site Park, the former location of the main office.

During 1928 the Company changed its by-laws to conform with the provisions of the Copper-Volstead Act. Patronage dividends were then credited to nonmembers toward a share of stock.

In 1932 the Adams Coal Yard was purchased for \$200.00 along with the scales.

A piece of land was donated by the Equity in 1932 which is now Fort Site Park. At the time the Ohio Geological and Historical Society was in charge.

In 1941 an addition was made to the elevator and a new seed cleaner installed, but it was not until 1948 that a seed treater was added.

In March 1943 a shed, scale and coal yard operated by Bob Stein, was purchased from Louis Moeller for \$800.00. Following a train wreck in November 1943 which burned the coal yard office, a new office was built. In 1945 the Feed Store (uptown) was remodeled.

The first contract of beans before harvest was done in 1949. The price being \$2.50 per bushel.

In 1952 feed sales of one million dollars were realized. Feed sales were starting to take hold with farmers mixing concentrates with their grain for production of meat, milk and eggs.

In 1956 a new grain elevator was built, consisting of five Marietta silos and two grain dumps, giving the Equity storage for 72,000 bushels (formerly they could only store 12,000 bushels). The cost of construction was \$110,000.

In 1961 both the feed store and the elevator were remodeled so that the Equity could offer bulk feed deliveries.

In 1967 another new 36x65 silo was added, allowing for an additional 53,000 bushels of grain storage. In 1974 the old Jay Grain was torn down and a new modern feed mill along with three 36x90 new silos with holding capacity of 225 thousand bushels of grain and a new grain dump was built.

In 1970 bulk fertilizer arrived and a new bulk fertilizer warehouse was built.

A new grain cleaner was added in 1976 in the west



wing of the uptown plant. In 1977 a new Farm Fan 1,500 grain dryer was installed at the dryers and in 1979 the three Marietta silos built in 1956 were torn down and replaced with three cement silos on the same site. Also a new 60-foot truck scale was completed to replace the old scale.

In 1981 the land between Wabash Rd, First Street and the Railroad tracks was purchased from Ft. Recovery Oil Association.

In 1984 a dry fertilizer blend plant was constructed.

In 1985 a liquid fertilizer containment systems was constructed.

In 1988 a bliss hammermill and additional bins added to the mill.

In 1991 a 40,000 sq ft bag warehouse was built as well as a chemical warehouse.

Also in 1991 the St. Anthony Feed Mill was purchased, located 7 miles north of Ft. Recovery. It is now operated as a branch with the 21 employees.

In 1992, 9-35 ton feed loadout bins were added.

Other 1992 current information-Sales over 40 million-Assets over 18 million handling over 5 million bushels of corn, while employing 57 fulltime employees with 2062 stockholders.

Managers of the mill have included:

S.M. Pearson, the first manager, resigning after eight months of service.

Harley E. Brumm, served on year until March 1, 1921.

D.E. Mott, served from March 1, 1921 until 1924 when he died.

Clarence Whitesell, served from 1924 until March 1, 1927.

Floyd A Freemyer, served from March 1, 1927 until March 1, 19851.

Norbert J. Vogel, served from March 1, 1951 until March of 1971.

Virgil Krieg, served as manager from March 1971 until 1983 and Linus Hart was named co-manager at this same time.

Vic Post served as manager from 1983 to present 1993.

## Fort Recovery Industries

In 1895 Edward Koch began making stirrups in Fort Recovery. Fort Recovery Stirrup Company became the world's largest manufacturer of bent wood stirrups. Large numbers of them were produced for the U.S. Cavalry in World War I. Following a fire which destroyed his original factory, Mr. Koch moved the business to a former flour mill on Broadway Street.

The Stirrup Company was purchased by George Jetter of Cincinnati when Ed Koch retired in 1946. Mr. Jetter moved to Fort Recovery and continued manufacturing stirrups. He soon began making saddle trees, also. These are the wood frames upon which the saddle is built. The trees required an aluminum horn to be used in securing the rope when ranging cattle. The present metal casting operation was begun when George began to cast these horns in the back yard of his home on Boundary Street by piping gas from the kitchen and using combustion air from his wife's vacuum cleaner.

In 1948, an abandoned church was purchased and turned into a foundry. The company, which by now had changed its name to Fort Recovery Industries, Inc., began making brass cast, plumbing products. A shed was later added to the building when zinc die casting was begun. In 1951, the die cast machines were moved to the former Reuter Saw Mill which was located at the site of Ambassador Park.

A concrete block factory was built on State Route 49 north of the Wabash River in 1954. The company offices and all manufacturing operations, except for the making of stirrups, were moved to the new location. These operations included the production of die cast components for the plumbing, saddlery, and RV industries. The brass foundry continued for some time but was later phased out.

Plastic products were added in the late 1960's when a division of Borg Warner Corporation that made containers for chemicals was purchased. Additional products, and the blow molding machines to manufacture them, were added over the years. In 1989, a new 40,000 square foot plant was built in Portland, Indiana to house the blow molding operations.

The Stirrup Factory was sold in 1972. It continued operating for a few years in Fort

Recovery and was then moved to Alabama.

Additions to the site on State Route 49 increased the size of the plant and offices to approximately 95,000 square feet located on 23 acres of land. The site is now occupied by the Hardware Plant and Corporate Headquarters.

Total employment stands at approximately 310 employees. With two modern plants and strong positions in a number of key processes and markets, Fort Recovery Industries stands poised for continued future growth.



Ft. Recovery Stirrup Co.



Ft. Recovery Industries, Inc. Hardware Plant



Ft. Recovery Industries, Inc. Portland Plastics Plant



# The History Of The Fort Recovery Lumber Company

The Fort Recovery Lumber Co., Inc. was organized on Broadway Street in Fort Recovery, Ohio and the franchise was incorporated in June, 1915. Louis Moeller, who moved to Fort Recovery from Minster, Ohio, was President and Manager. He had previously managed the Minster Lumber Co. for eight years.

Peter VandenBosch joined the Company as Vice President several years later and was part owner until 1951. Mr. VandenBosch was a Brother-in-law to Mr. Moeller. Louis Moeller remained President and Manager of the Company until his death in June, 1954.

Mr. Moeller's sons-in-law, Albert Bulp and William Knapke, were employed in the early 1930's. After the death of Louis Moeller, the Presidency was voted to William Knapke and Albert Bulp was made Secretary/Treasurer. Mr. Bulp died in 1968.

James Bulp and David Bulp, sons of Albert Bulp, joined the Company in the 1960's. Richard Knapke, son of William Knapke, joined the Company also. William and Richard are both deceased. James and David Bulp are the current office holders in the Company.

A fire of unknown origin destroyed the Broadway Street building on January 12, 1949. Only the safe, composed of 24" concrete walls, and the contents were saved. Reconstruction was started shortly after, and business resumed.

Because of a need for expansion, the company moved to its present location at 2550 Wabash Road in 1978. At this site are seven storage buildings, a shop, office, and large showroom.

The Fort Recovery Lumber Co. serves a

large agricultural community. Mr. Moeller started several farmers in the poultry business in the 1930's. Since that time, the poultry business has grown and this area is one of the largest poultry producers in the country.

Due to our changing climate, the need for environmentally controlled buildings arose. Instead of small brooder houses which held only 500 turkeys, today's buildings hold from 6,000 to 18,000 birds. Chicken buildings, which once held 1,000 to 2,000 birds, now hold 125,000 to 175,000 birds or more. Recently, the Company has expanded to include duck buildings. These buildings hold 4,000 to 5,000 birds.

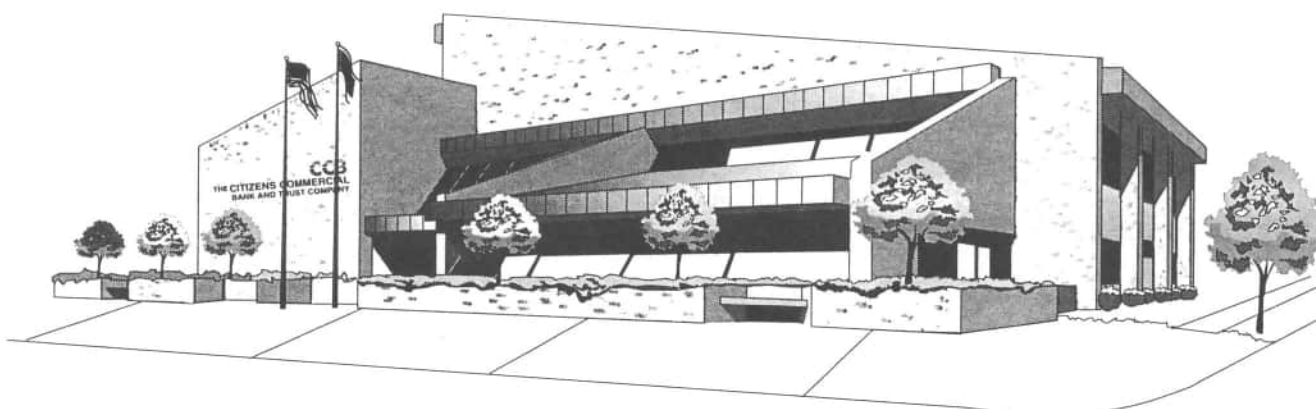
The Company also specializes in pole buildings. These utilitarian structures include storage buildings of all types and machine sheds commonly located on many farms.

Confinement housing has also expanded into dairy and hogs. Hogs are now raised from farrowing to finish in confinement buildings. Dairy has gone from loafing sheds to free-stall buildings. Some buildings must pass government inspection and require special materials and designs. The Company continually researches new product information to benefit its customers.

An increased housing market has caused the Company to expand the showroom and to offer individual customer service. The computer design center customizes new and remodeled homes to meet the needs of home-owners. The staff is qualified to give expert advice and service.

The Fort Recovery Lumber Company is proud to be a fourth generation family-owned business.

# A Tradition of Service



Your friends at the bank.



## CELINA

<b>Main Office</b> 225 N. Main Street 586-5121	<b>Summit Street Office</b> 115 W. Summit Street 586-6401	<b>Fayette Street Office</b> 124 E. Fayette Street 586-5624
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## FORT RECOVERY

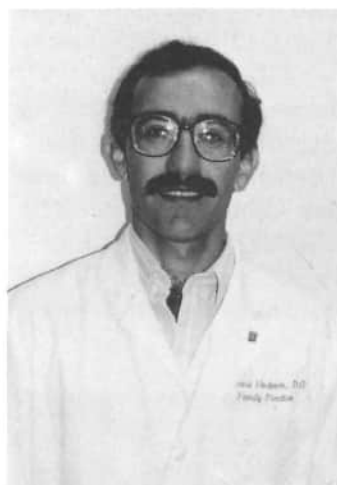
<b>Fort Recovery Office</b> 220 N. Wayne Street 375-4125
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## CHICKASAW

<b>Chickasaw Office</b> State Route 274 925-4514
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Member F.D.I.C.

## Edward Hosbach II, D.O.



Edward Hosbach II

Hello, my name is Edward Hosbach II, D.O. I have a family practice in Ft. Recovery. My wife, Therese (Kanney) is a Coldwater native. We met while I was obtaining a Bachelor's Degree in Electrical Engineering at Ohio State University. Marriage came while attending the Ohio State University College of Osteopathic Medicine; earning my D.O. degree in 1987. I did my internship and residency in a family practice at Grandview Hospital; Dayton, Ohio. Our first daughter Bethany was born just prior to finishing residency and mov-

ing to Coldwater. Two years later, my second daughter, Angela, was born.

As a fully licensed board certified osteopathic physician, I care for the newborn as well as the elderly patient. A D.O. puts emphasis on the musculoskeletal system, disease, prevention, and treatment.

Osteopathic medicine was founded by Andrew Taylor Still in the post civil war era. He was a student of chemistry, anatomy and physiology. He felt the body should be treated as a whole unit. Hence, Dr. Still developed a fine art of manipulative therapy. The first formed classes in the teaching of osteopathic medicine in Kirksville, Missouri in 1892. Although criticized by his peers, Dr. Still persevered. The profession grew forming its own colleges and hospitals. In February of 1973, Mississippi became the last state to amend as licensing laws to grant osteopathic physicians equal rights compared to the M.D.'s.

In addition to prescribing medicines and performing surgery, I use manipulation to prevent and heal illness. This helps me treat sports injuries as I am a team physician for both St. Henry and Ft. Recovery teams. Our clinic has lab, x-ray, and physical therapy available.

Thank you for letting me share the history of my profession.

## Hemmelgarn's Shoes



The Hemmelgarn Building, November 1992

HEMMELGARN'S SHOES is presently located at 116 North Wayne Street, Fort Recovery. HEMMELGARN'S SHOES is a family shoe store, carrying Naturalizer, Red Wing, Sebago, Dexter, Buster Brown, Florsheim, Oshkosh, Pony and LaCrosse brands of shoes for every member of the family.

Delores, "Dolly" Hemmelgarn is the owner of Hemmelgarn's Shoes; the store has been in business since July 1, 1986. Colleen Fortkamp is an employee.

In 1989, HEMMELGARN'S SHOES was the 1989 winner in the Sebago Shoes Annual "Window of the World" contest. They received a \$1,500 cash award for their window display, using the Sebago Shoes in a nautical setting.



Mr. and Mrs. Thomas N. Hemmelgarn

## Hull Bros. Inc.



Hull Bros. Inc. is located at 520 East Boundary, Fort Recovery, Ohio 45846. Their telephone numbers are 419-375-2827 and 419-375-4162. Fourth generation relatives are now operating Hull Bros. Inc. The business was first started by John Hull in 1896, selling Osborn Farm Equipment.

In 1906, John Hull and a partner put in a total of \$750 capital. In 1909, the brick building now occupied by Hoyoing Cleaners and Antique Shop on North Wayne Street, was built.

Today, Richard Hull, his sons-in-law, Paul Evans and Roger Hartzell, and Norman Hull, Jr. (Buzz) and his sons Bob and Tom Hull operate the business, located at 520 East Boundary Street, Fort Recovery.

Hull Bros. received recognition as being one of the oldest International Harvester dealers in the country and they have been dealers for the Maytag Appliance Company since the 1920's, making them one of the oldest dealers.

Hull Bros. sells and services farm equipment, lawn and garden equipment, chain saws and related items.



## J & M Manufacturing Co., Inc.



J & M

J & M started business in July of 1960. The owners were and still are Jerry and Maurice Grieshop. The first year in business there were a total of six employees and the gross sales amounted to approximately \$100,000.00.

In 1960, the only product made was a 125 bushel gravity flow box. In 1961, J & M added a 6 ton farm wagon and a farm elevator. By 1964, sales had grown to approximately \$500,000.00 and employees numbered seventeen.

July 1, 1965, J & M incorporated as J & M Mfg. Co. Inc., with Jerry and Maurice Grieshop as President and Vice President, respectively, of the corporation.

In 1967, a fertilizer auger was added to the J & M line and in 1968 a 7 ton farm wagon was added. In 1969 J & M came out with a new gravity box that was 7' wide x 10' long and a 10 ton farm wagon. These two items are still among the best selling items. By 1970 sales had grown to \$1,250,000 and employees to 24.

J & M's newest product is a grain cart. The carts have several load capacities: 525 Bu., 750 Bu., and 875 Bu. These carts feature a built in front folding auger that allows the farmer to empty the grain quickly into a semi truck for transportation to the local grain markets.

The front folding auger was developed by Maurice Grieshop and he procured two U.S. patents for his inventions. J & M is currently working on two more patents that make J & M products unique. The Carts & Wagons are sold to farmers all over Continental North America. J & M products can also be found in Germany, France, Saudi Arabia, and South America. The business continues to grow. J & M currently provides employment for 50 men and in 1992 the gross sales totaled \$7,000,000.

## Kleinhenz Bros. Livestock Inc.



This photograph is dated prior to 1933

KLEINHENZ BROS. LIVESTOCK INC. is owned by Paul J. Kleinhenz, Ted A. Kleinhenz, and James T. Kleinhenz. Their staff includes Paul J. Kleinhenz, Ted A. Kleinhenz, James T. Kleinhenz, their father Paul V. Kleinhenz, and Max Woebeking. Their services include marketing of livestock throughout Western Ohio and Eastern Indiana.

KLEINHENZ STOCKYARDS was established in Fort Recovery in November of 1930. It has been operated at the same location for over sixty years. Early managers of the stockyards during the 1930's and 1940's included Harry Lowry, Beams Gottas, and Walter Gagle; through the 1950's and 1960's included Harold Staugler, Norb Grube, and Bob Kleinhenz. In 1966 Paul Kleinhenz, father of the current owners, along with his brother Harold Kleinhenz, purchased the business and operated it until 1984. On January 1, 1985, the current owners assumed ownership. KLEINHENZ STOCKYARDS is located on Main Street, south of Butler Street, Fort Recovery.

## Mays TV



MAYS TV  
Ft. Recovery

In 1957, Mays TV started as a part time business in the family garage on Third Street, Fort Recovery. After the closing of the Kreiders Department Store in 1973, the business moved into the downtown location, 112 North Wayne, and still occupies this building today.

The store offers sales and service in Zenith and RCA Products and complete installation of antenna systems. Commercial Radios became an addition for their own business dispatch and sales to the general public. Gift items, consisting of Wall and Table Decor and Stuffed Animals, are also available in the store.

Mays TV now deals in sound equipment. Stop in and ask Buck about sales, systems to rent or contract jobs.

Buck and Pat Mays want to thank their loyal customers for the past 35 years and hope to continue to serve you for many more.

## Mercer County Electric, Inc.



Mercer County Electric, Inc. located at 123 Railroad Street, P.O. Box 549, Ft. Recovery, Ohio is celebrating the 20th year of business.

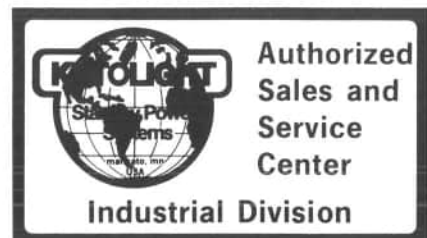
Started in 1973 under the name of Kaup's Electric, the business was family owned and operated by Dale and Floyd Kaup. In 1978, they incorporated and changed the name to Mercer County Electric, Inc. and 2 employees bought into the business, Dan Hein and Randy Geier.

Since the incorporation, the business has grown into many different fields. Their service fields are mainly agricultural, but they also do commercial, residential and industrial wiring. Some of the ag buildings they wire are poultry, both chicken starters and layers; turkey, both starters and finishing; veal buildings, all sizes; swine nurseries; breeding and gestation, farrowing and finishing buildings. MCE is also this area's only authorized Katolight distributor and service station. Katolight is the maker of standby power systems. Standby generators are needed to supply electric during any kind of power outage. They also employ a service mechanic to work on the engines of these units.

They service and sell phone dialer alarm systems. These alarms will call and report an alarm condition to the customer when emergencies arise, such as power outage, heat build up, low temperature, low water pressure, etc.

They have service men on call 24 hours a day, and have radio equipped trucks.

They have done work in Ohio, Indiana, Michigan, Illinois, Arkansas, and California.



# Gibson Township, Mercer County, Ohio



\* This page was sponsored by the Gibson Township Trustees, for the convenience of those who wish to tour Gibson Township roads, to see the big barns and to appreciate our rural heritage.

\*\* This map was printed by permission of Spectrum Map Publishing, Inc., 909 Sycamore Street, Cincinnati, OH 45202.



Gibson Township, Butler Street, Fort Recovery, Ohio



Left to Right: Joe Keller, Trustee; Art Hemmelgarn, Trustee; Bob Meiring, Clerk; and Lavern Bergman, Trustee.



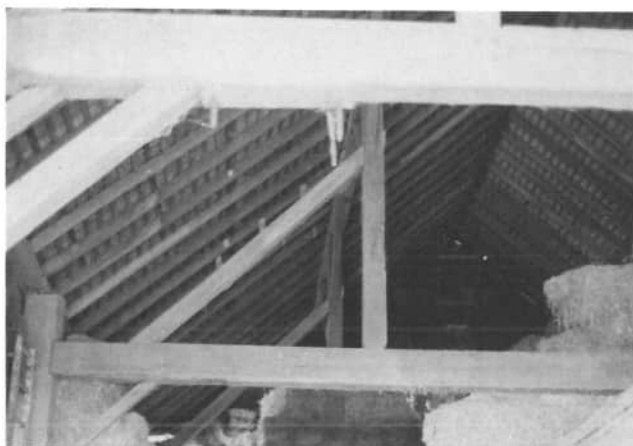
Gregor Stachler's barn, 2928 Fort Recovery-Minster Road, Fort Recovery, stands on the south side of Fort Recovery-Minster Road, the first place west of Township Line Road. In the past, the barn was used for livestock (dairy).

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John Griesinger's barn, 23 Fox Road, Fort Recovery, was built in the eighteenth hundreds. In the past, the barn has been used as a dairy barn; today, the barn is used for sheep, and hay and straw storage. (Andrew Pax photograph)

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An interior view of Gregor Stachler's barn, shows the rafters of the gable roof, as well as the framing of the cross beams, with the vertical post supporting the purlin beam beneath the rafters. (Gregor Stachler photographs)

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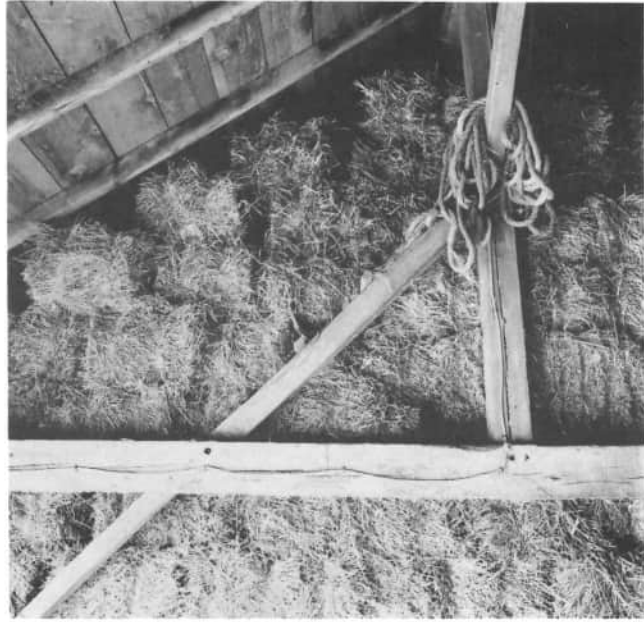


Tom Olding's barn, 411 Fox Road, Fort Recovery, was built by O.E. Denney, around 1900. The barn is a gable-roofed, frame, rectangular structure with several additions, and a milk house from 1950. The Denney family owned the barn until 1923, when Dr. Charles Watkins bought the farm. After the Fort Recovery Lumber Company, with Louie Moeller, got the farm in 1927, Peter Olding bought it in 1934. Joe Olding bought it in 1942 and Tom Olding bought it in 1966. The barn was used for milking cows, 1945-1952, and raising turkeys, 1950-1980. Today, the barn is used for equipment and car storage. (Andrew Pax photograph)

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An interior view of Tom Olding's barn, shows the cross beam, with inclined purlin posts beneath the rafters. The sunlight accents the vertical siding. (Andrew Pax photograph)



An interior view of Robert Guggenbiller's barn shows the main cross beam, with the vertical purlin post. Note the width of the boards, which the rafters are supporting beneath the roof. The mow is stacked full for the winter. (Andrew Pax photograph)



Robert Guggenbiller's barn, 2577 Fox Road, Fort Recovery, was probably built before the Civil War, sometime in the 1850's or 1860's. The barn is 65 by 43 foot. Today, the barn has free stalls with hay and straw overhead. (Andrew Pax photograph)



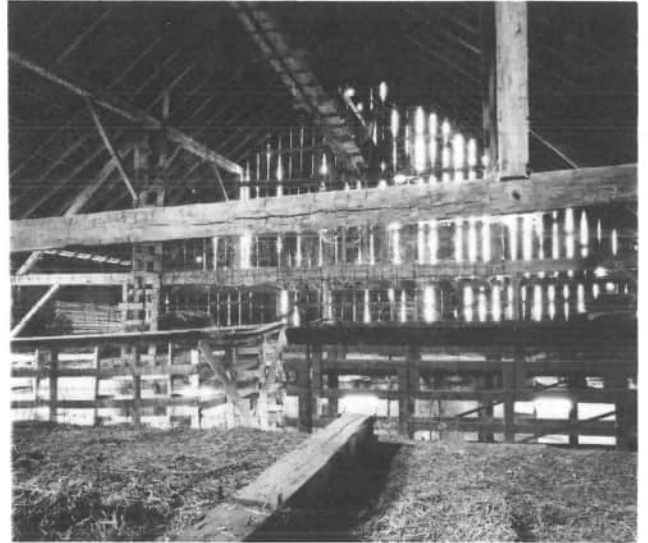
This 1950 photograph shows Robert Guggenbiller's barn before the white siding was added, and the doors and windows were covered. Note the three windows in the gable end, as well as the three braced stable doors, and the two sliding doors trimmed with white arches, at 2577 Fox Road. In the past, the barn has been used for a loafing barn, and horse stalls, with a threshing floor. Corn fodder was on top. The milkhouse and parlor were added in 1960.





Walter Kramer's barn, 866 Watkins Road, Fort Recovery, was built in 1929. Note the steep pitch of the gambrel roof, which allows for more space in the mow. Additions have been made to this red barn. Dairy cows were in the barn, 1945-1954; then chickens, (layers), and now the barn is used for storage. The original barn at this location was destroyed by lightning in 1924. A Fordson tractor was lost in the fire. Lawrence Painter was living at this place at that time.

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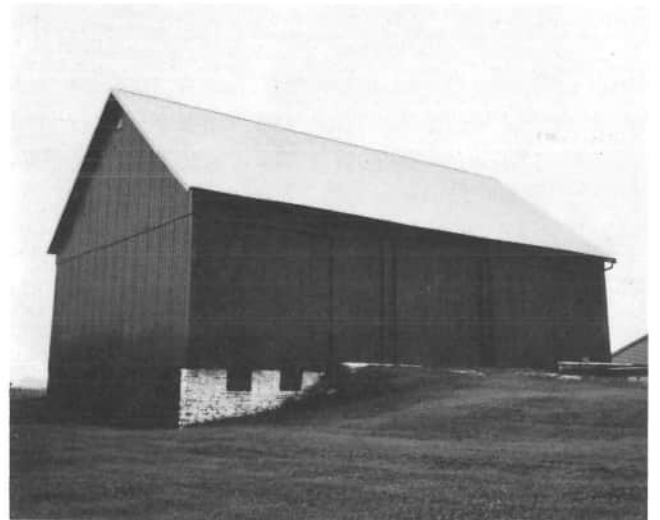
The huge hand hewn beams and posts are evident in this photograph of the interior of Anna Marie Diller's barn. The center track to carry the pulley, hay fork, and sling can still be seen. The sunlight frames the vertical exterior siding of the barn. (Andrew Pax photograph)

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Anna Marie Diller's barn, 811 Mercer-Darke County Line Road, Fort Recovery, has been used for dairy, milking, cattle, hay and straw storage. (Andrew Pax photograph)

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Clarence Weitzel's barn, 2687 Mercer-Darke County Road, Fort Recovery, was built almost a century ago, in 1896. This bank barn has been resided; however, the stone foundation with windows intact, can still be seen. Over the years, the barn has been used for milk cows, calves, hay and straw, and farm machinery. Today, this big, old barn is being used to store hay and straw, as well as farm machinery. (Andrew Pax photograph)

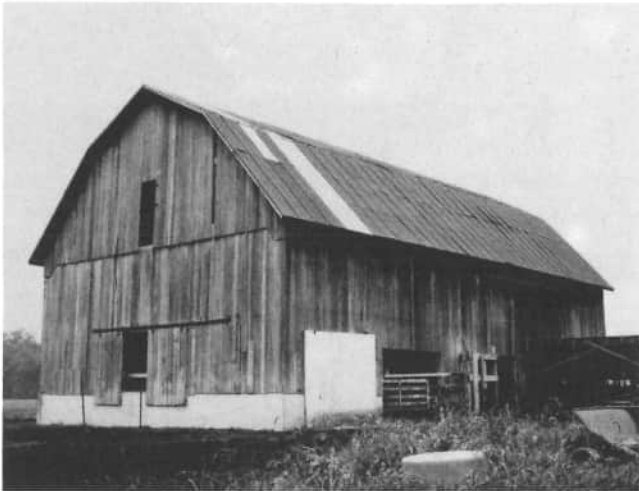
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Dave Alig purchased this place from Don and Linda Lennartz in 1992, at 104 Ohio-Indiana Line Road, Fort Recovery. Lennartz had put on the addition to the barn in 1983. In the past, Oldings raised broilers in the upper part of the barn; the lower part was used for equipment storage, and shop for repair. (Andrew Pax photograph)



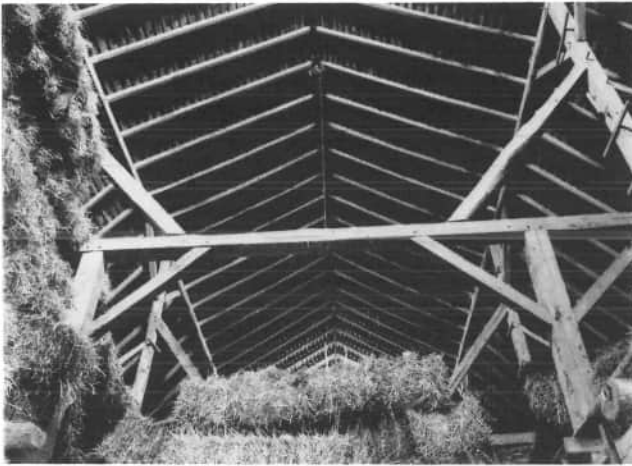
Walter and Kathryn Bergman's barn is located at 1155 Benner Road, Fort Recovery. Walter wrote the following story about this barn: "I began to build the barn in the spring of 1962. I had an old barn, and I moved it onto the new foundation. I then laid new block on the foundation. After all of the new block was laid, I bolted the old barn onto the new block. I worked on it every night because I drove a milk truck during the day. I would use flood lights at night. Then one night when I was done working I unplugged all of the flood lights. But I left one of the hot flood lights too close to the straw and started the old barn on fire and burnt it off the new block. Most of the block being good, I ordered new round rafters from Fort Recovery Lumber Yard which came out of Fort Wayne, Indiana. I then hired Marion Shauver to put the round roof on the block. He worked during the day and I worked during the night, putting the new roof on the barn. Then I worked putting on the new hay loft. I finished the barn during the winter. I put the horses in the barn so they could get out of the bad weather. At one time the barn held 27 horses. In this barn history was made. I was the first one in the State of Ohio, who ever had a mare bred artificially using frozen semen. The mare had a filly colt. These are words of an honest horse trader." (Andrew Pax photograph)



Gary and Don Post's barn, 288 Lowry Road, Fort Recovery, was built about fifty years ago, at the Jack and Carol Good residence, about a half mile east of its present location. It was moved to this location by Merkle Movers on November 2, 1988. Today, the barn is used for dry cow and heifer barn. (Andrew Pax photograph)



Ralph Wuebker's barn, 188 Union City Road, Fort Recovery, was built in 1912 by Perry Potter. The barn was used for cows, hogs, hay, straw, and grain. (Andrew Pax photograph)



This interior view of Ralph Wuebker's barn, shows the posts and cross beam, as well as the vertical posts which support the purlin. Diagonal supports are mortised into the posts, and wooden pinned, for additional support. The gambrel roof allows for increased mow space. One can see the ladder steps added to the purlin post, for the farmer to reach the top of the mow. (Andrew Pax photograph)

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This barn stood at the south edge of Fort Recovery, at the Luther and Marie Brumm place, 302 East Wiggs Street. The barn was a typical English, three bay barn. Three milk cows were housed on the north side; a double stable door provided entry. A drive way was in the center of the barn. The right side was used for storage, or animals. The mow was across the entire barn. This barn was built in the 1890's, when a Mr. Landis owned the property. [Marilyn (Brumm) Acheson Photograph]

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Two support logs, one partially sawed to make a flat side, are on the floor of Ralph Wuebker's barn. The logs may have been used as support beneath the mow floor; some call such logs 'stringers.' (Andrew Pax photograph)

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The red barn at the Brumm property, 302 East Wiggs Street, Fort Recovery, was torn down in 1965. The framework shows the structure of the barn. The old basketball board was still hanging on the wall. [Marilyn (Brumm) Acheson Photograph]

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The old well pump is still standing at the Luther and Marie Brumm property, 302 East Wiggs, Fort Recovery. [Lorna (Alig) Teeter Photograph]



This is Luther Brumm's Great Great Grandfather's home, originally belonging to Peter and Salome Brumm, who came to America with eleven of thirteen children about 1847. Their son Frederick settled in Jay Co., Indiana, as did his son William, as did his son Harley, the father of Luther Brumm. Louise Brumm remained at the homeplace where her descendent Erna Leyendecker lives today at 25 Rue Principale, Petersbach, France 67290. This

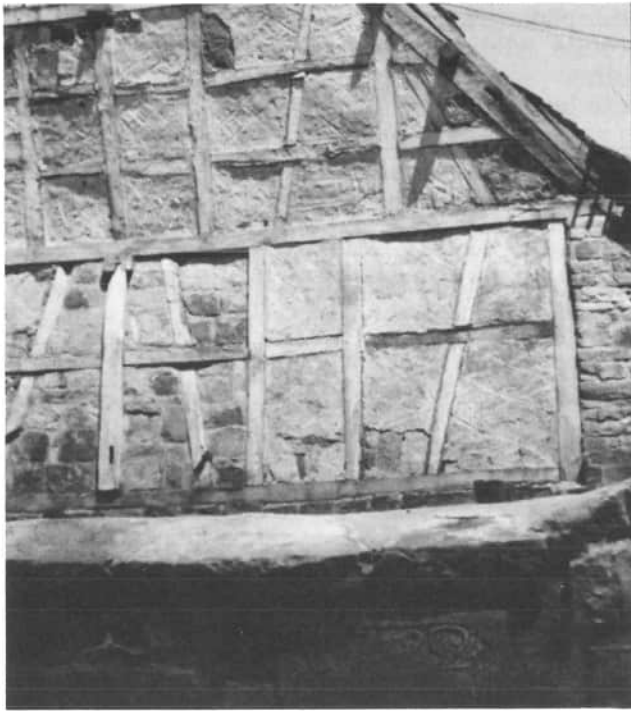
1989 photograph of the French home, shows Brenda Alig standing in the doorway; she is Luther and Marie Brumm's granddaughter. Note how the house and the barn are connected, as were many barns of our European ancestors. The barn's siding is weathered, the house and barn have a red tile roof. Many people try to tell the similarities and/or differences of European barns with Mercer County barns, but the separation of the two buildings is the most obvious change in America.

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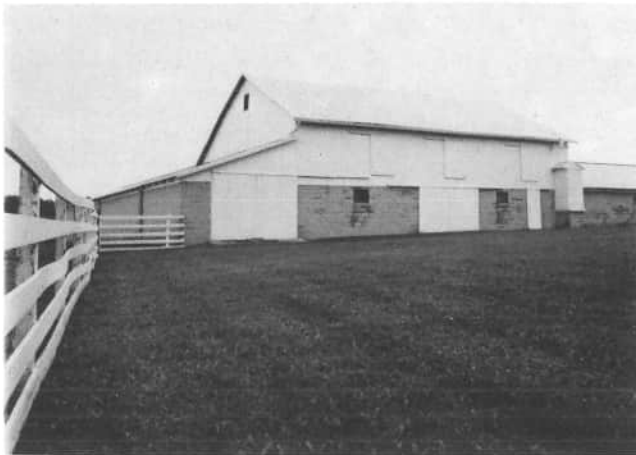
At Petersbach, France, Erna Leyendecker's daughter Christine lives at her great grandmother's homeplace; this barn is dated 1722. See the next photograph for a closer view.

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This is a closer view of Christine Leyendecker's barn; a blacksmith has the date 1722 on the door. The upper story shows the half timbering with wood and stone. This type of architecture is not found in Mercer County, Ohio barns. (Some Mercer County homes imitate this half timbering, with exposed timbers and stucco, but they certainly do not use the stones between the timbers, as does this barn in France.)

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Vernon Eichenauer's barn, 231 State Route 49, was built about a century ago, possibly by a man named Lowery. The barn was probably used as a typical barn, cattle, hay, etc. Today, they use the barn to fatten beef cattle. (Andrew Pax photograph)

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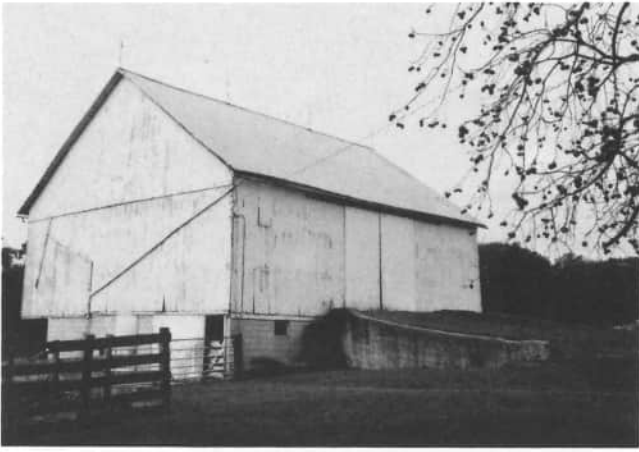
A closer look at Vernon Eichenauer's barn shows the marks where the post and beam were hand hewn, with the diagonal supports being mortised into the post and beam and then wooden pinned. The log stringers, being flat on top and bottom, still with bark on the sides, support the floor above it. (Andrew Pax photograph)

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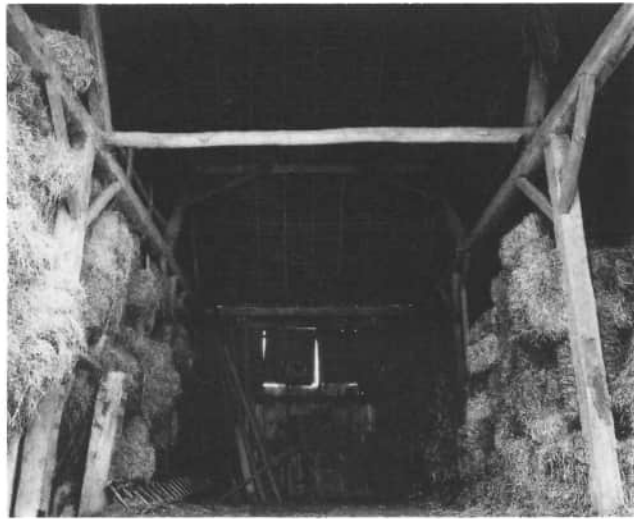
An exterior loading dock stands to the wall of the barn, under the night light, of Vernon Eichenauer's barn. (Andrew Pax photograph)

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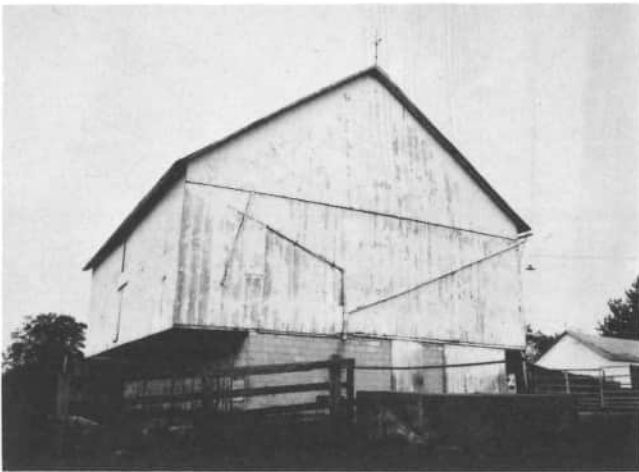
Mark Vogel's barn, 831 State Route 49, Fort Recovery, is one of the last barns in Mercer County, which still has the forebay, or overhang, in the back of the barn. This barn is used for dairy, (young heifers). (Andrew Pax photograph)

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An interior view of Mark Vogel's barn is taken across the width of the barn. This barn is also unique in its framing because of the size and inclination of the purlin supporting posts. The posts, beams, and their supports are mortise and tenon. This place formerly was the Mott farm. (Andrew Pax photograph)

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A rear view of Mark Vogel's barn shows the forebay still open; the doors from the threshing floor open directly over the feed lot. This forebay also protects the animals in inclement weather. This type bank barn with the forebay has been called a German bank barn, a Pennsylvania Dutch barn, and/or a Schweizer barn. An unsupported forebay is a truly rare barn to find in Mercer County today. (Andrew Pax photograph)

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John Guggenbiller's barn, 1111 Township Line Road, Saint Henry, was built in 1900. The barn was used for milking cows in the stable, grain storage, straw and hay storage, and farrowing sows. Today, the barn is used as a holding pen for cows, feeding baby calves, and for straw storage.

John Guggenbiller's barn is one of three in the county which the editor saw, which has a boxed hay hood. The purpose of this overhead is for a hay fork which was used to pull hay and straw into the back of the barn; it was used as late as approximately 1965. (Andrew Pax photograph)

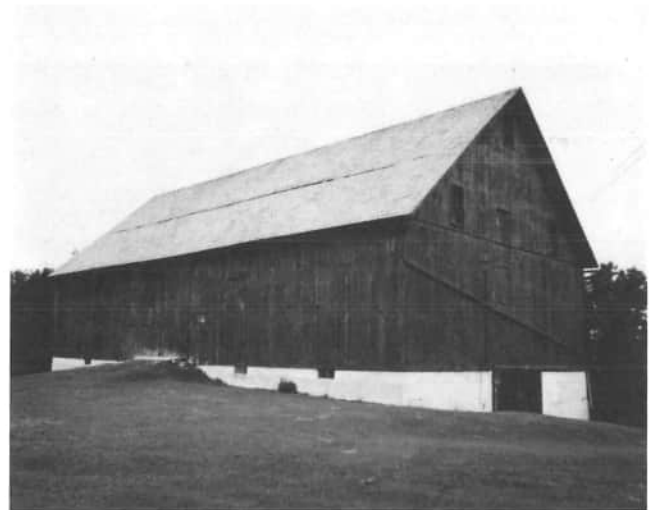
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Abraham Mott, Sr., bought this farm in 1835. Abraham Mott built a big square log barn on this farm; the log barn had the corners all notched out. The next barn was built by Abraham Mott, Jr., in the 1870's; this is the present bank barn, 831 State Route 49. This barn was a strong barn, and had big stones at the corners to support the barn. The barn had to be strong because it had four bins enclosed, each bin holding 200 bushels. Marvin remembers when they would put the wheat in the barn and later in the season they used a separator to thresh and blow the straw out the back door to a straw stack. Marvin said they then sacked the grain and dumped the grain in the bins. They later joined a threshing ring. The original bank barn had a bridge between the bank and the barn; Delphos E. Mott, Abraham Jr.'s son, filled in the space between the bank and the barn. The original roof was made of wood shingles. Marvin remembers he was very young when they put on the standing seam metal roof, over the wood shingle roof. There had been a cupola on top of the barn, for air circulation, but they removed it when they put on the metal roof. One can still see underneath the roof, where the cupola was located. The overhang (forebay) in the back of the barn made a nice place for the cattle in the winter. They could be under this overhang and be protected from the wind, and would receive the warmth of the southern sun. One of the big rocks which had been removed to the woods, when the new foundation was put under the barn, is now placed in front of Marvin Mott's place in Fort Recovery. Marvin put a plaque on this big rock, showing the date 1835, (when the Mott family bought the farm) and 1990 (when the Mott family sold the farm to Mark Vogel). When asked whatever happened to the old log barn, Marvin told how he and his brother Vernon tore down the old log barn and used it for fire wood. Mark Vogel owns this beautiful barn today; Mr. and Mrs. Marvin Mott moved to 303 North Elm, Fort Recovery.



Marvin Mott and his daughter Linda, in 1939, at the homeplace at 831 State Route 49, which is Mark Vogel's place today. The straw stack can be seen in back of the forebay of the barn; the door to the threshing floor is standing open.



In 1991, this was the Mildred M. Stachler barn, 1333 Sharpsburg Road, Fort Recovery. This barn is built on a slight rise, which makes a slight bank up to the double doors. The barn, being built in 1898, still has the original slate roof; the foundation was rebuilt in 1977 and 1979. The barn has been used for cow and horses, and hogs in the bottom part; the ground level stored grain and hay and machinery. (Andrew Pax photograph)



An interior view of the Stachler barn at 1333 Sharpsburg Road, shows the height of the posts supporting the purlin plate beneath the rafters of the barn. The sunlight outlines the vertical siding on the end of the barn. This symmetrical photograph was accomplished by professional photographer Andrew Pax.



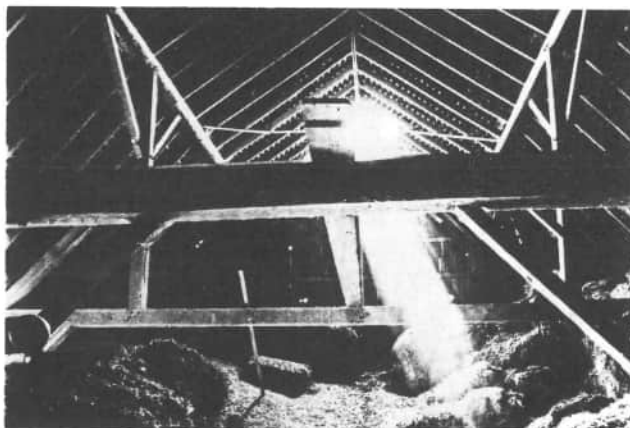
This barn was on the farm of John H. Stachler, who owned it from 1904-1960; then it was under the ownership of Lawrence Stachler until 1982, when it was sold to Thomas Tobe. The barn burned down in 1988. The house was built of brick and was bulldozed down. It is all farmland now.



David Breymaier's barn, 1394 Sharpsburg Road, Fort Recovery, was built in 1935 by Norbert Schmitz and his father. Over the years, the barn was used as a stock barn (cattle, sheep, hogs, horses, chickens) and to store hay, straw, and farm tools. Today, the barn is used for cattle, hay, straw, and farm tools. (Andrew Pax photograph)



The old hay rope and pulley still hang in the Stachler barn. (Andrew Pax photograph)

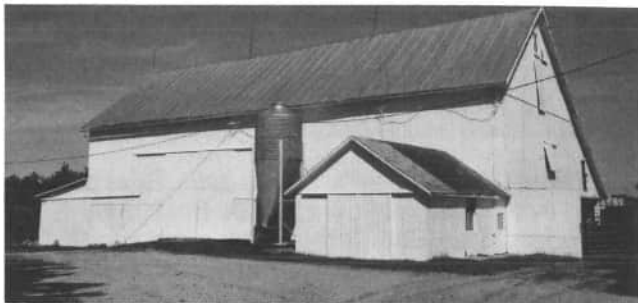


An interior view of the David Breymaier's barn, 1394 Sharpsburg Road, shows the interior framing. Note how the horizontal cross beam supports the vertical posts, to support the purlin plate which supports the rafters of the roof. The sunbeam highlights the bales in the mow. (Andrew Pax Photograph)





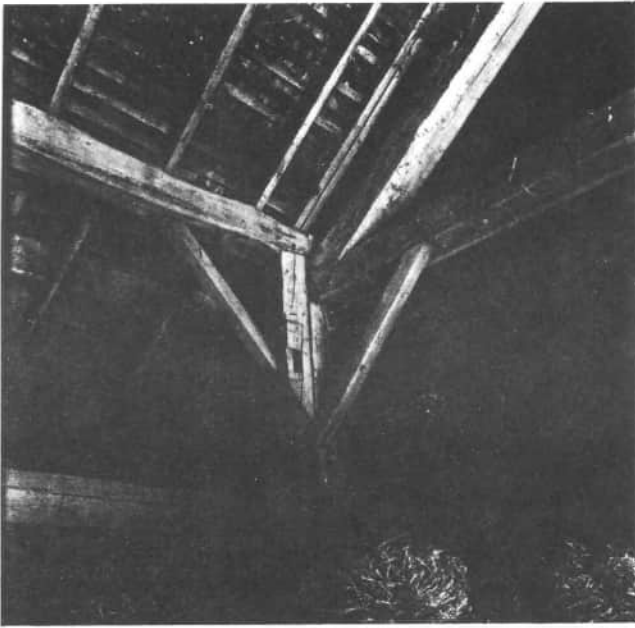
This aerial view of Norma Stammen's farm, 2038 Sharpsburg Road, Fort Recovery, not only shows the barn, which was built in 1918, but also the other buildings on the farm. White arches trim the sliding doors on the barn, and hog barn. A lone window is at the peak of the gambrel roof, just beneath a white triangle trim. In the past, the barn has been used for dairy; today it is used for steers.



On the exterior, Steve and Dorothy (Brunswick) Knapke's barn, 2355 Sharpsburg Road, Fort Recovery, looks like most other barns in the area. But this barn has a heritage like few other barns. For twenty years, 1868-1888, the original part of this barn was used as the St. Paul church at Sharpsburg. In 1868, the St. Paul Parish members cut the trees for this church, and hauled them by oxen to Saint Henry, to be sawed into boards for the sides of the church. The members split their own shingles for the roof. This church faced Meiring Road, and was located near the site of the present (1991) rectory. The church measured thirty feet in length by forty feet in width and twenty feet in height. In 1888 St. Paul Parish built a new church; in 1890 Father Russ applied for permission to tear down the old frame church, but it was sold to Bernard Brunswick, to be used as a residence a number of years before being moved to its present location as a barn on the farm of Mark Brunswick. (This information can be found in the History of St. Paul Church.) Today, this barn is owned by Mark Brunswick's daughter and her husband, Steve and Dorothy (Brunswick) Knapke. (Andrew Pax Photograph)



An interior view of the Steve Knapke barn immediately identifies this barn as a one-of-a-kind barn in Mercer County. The horizontal hand hewn cross beams is like cross beams in other barns. The pair of vertical posts is more to the center than other barns; these vertical posts of the bent support the purlin plate beams, which are also closer to the ridge of the roof, than the purlins of other barns. The diagonal supports between the outside edge of the cross beam to the almost top of the vertical post, is hand hewn, almost with the same dimensions as the post and beam; the editor has not seen another barn in the county, with this size of diagonal support beam, coming from under the eaves to almost the top of the vertical post in the bent. Dorothy (Brunswick) Knapke's sister, Marilyn (Brunswick) Bulp remembers the circular stairway, that was later taken out of the barn. Dorothy tells that the barn swallows nest only in the part of the barn which was the church. Thus, this frame would be one of the few remaining examples of early church architecture in Mercer County. For the serious student of barns, a barnologist, this architecture will remind the student of the tithe barns that dominated the ecclesiastical community in England prior to the dissolution of the monasteries under Henry VIII. This barn will also remind the student of the other European barns, especially Germany, for the strength and size of the framing of the structure. The early German settlers of Sharpsburg took pride in their church and built it strong, to last. (Andrew Pax Photograph)



A corner view of the bent in the Steve Knapke barn. (Andrew Pax Photograph).

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Fire not only destroyed the old barn (struck by lightning) in 1920 or 1921, but fire also destroyed the farm house in 1916. Vincent Heuker built a new barn in 1920 or 1921, after the old one burned down, on the place owned today by Rick Homan, 1815 Burrville Road, Fort Recovery. In the past, the barn housed horses and cows, a grainery, and hay and straw. In the 1950's and 1960's, the barn was used as a dairy and milking parlor. Today, this barn is used as a hay barn, and for dairy heifers. (Andrew Pax photograph)

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John Weitzel and his father built this barn about 1910, which barn belongs to Joseph P. Weitzel, 2810 Sharpsburg Road, Fort Recovery, today. In the past, the barn was used for horses, cows, and hay. Today, the barn is used for bales of straw and hay. This gable roofed barn, has the double doors to the center, with one small sliding door to the side, with a shed roofed addition to the end of the barn. (Andrew Pax Photograph)

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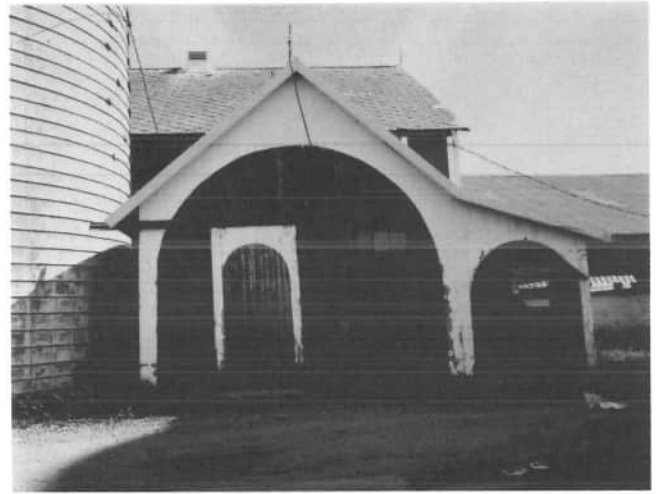
Anna Garke's barn, 1480 Wourms Road, Fort Recovery, was built in the late 1800's by Charles Coughlin. In the past, the barn was used for dairy cows and horses. Four lightning rods stand on the ridge of the metal roof. New siding has been added to the barn. Today, the barn is used for storage. (Craig Alig Photograph)

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Charles Post's barn, 255 Meiring Road, Fort Recovery, was built over a hundred years ago, in 1880, by Joseph Timmerman. The broad bank leads to the large double sliding doors. A smaller door is cut into the larger door; this smaller door within a door is sometimes called 'le petit guichet,' or the 'eye of a needle.' There is also a bridge between the bank and barn, which is not often found on many Mercer County barns. In the past, the barn was used for livestock; today, it is used for dairy heifers.

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Andrew Pax, photographer, caught this interesting view on one entry to the barn, with a larger arch outlining the building, with a smaller arch on the sliding door, next to the ribbon of three windows. A smaller arch to the side beneath the shed-roofed addition, has another entry for the barn.

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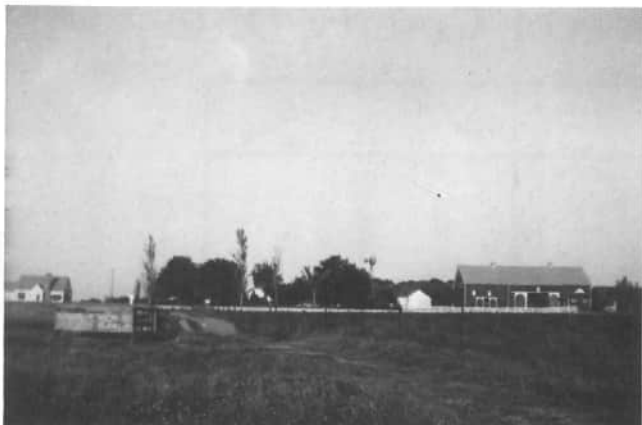
Tom Meiring's barn, 402 Meiring Road, Fort Recovery, shows the additions made, for shelter for cattle. The two silos are in contrast with the old photographs of this place. (Andrew Pax photograph)

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The oldest photograph, dated 1890, shows Tom Meiring's farm, 402 Meiring Road. Three ventilators top the barn. A silo stands next to the old barn. The windpump, or windmill, can be seen between the brick home and the barn. Notice the rail fence in the foreground at the snow line.

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The photograph dated 1950 shows the old barn, with two ventilators, and white arches painted on the doors. The windpump or windmill is still standing in 1950 at Tom Meiring's place, 402 Meiring Road. This barn was built in 1870 by Wilhelm Meiring. The roof was rebuilt in 1945. The barn has been used for livestock, grain and fodder; today, it is used for cattle feeding.

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Les Kaiser's barn, with a symmetrical view by Photographer Andrew Pax, shows the cross beams and posts. At the opposite end of the barn, the cross beams are lower than many of the area barns; the cross beam, instead of being placed at the eaves, it is placed much lower, about a third of the way down on the outside post. The vertical posts supporting the purlin plate are set to the right or left of the posts supporting the cross beams. The end frame is also like this. This framing is unique to the area.

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Les Kaiser's barn, 720 Meiring Road, was used for dairy cows in the past. Today, this barn, with the weather vane at the gable peak is used for steers. (Andrew Pax photograph)

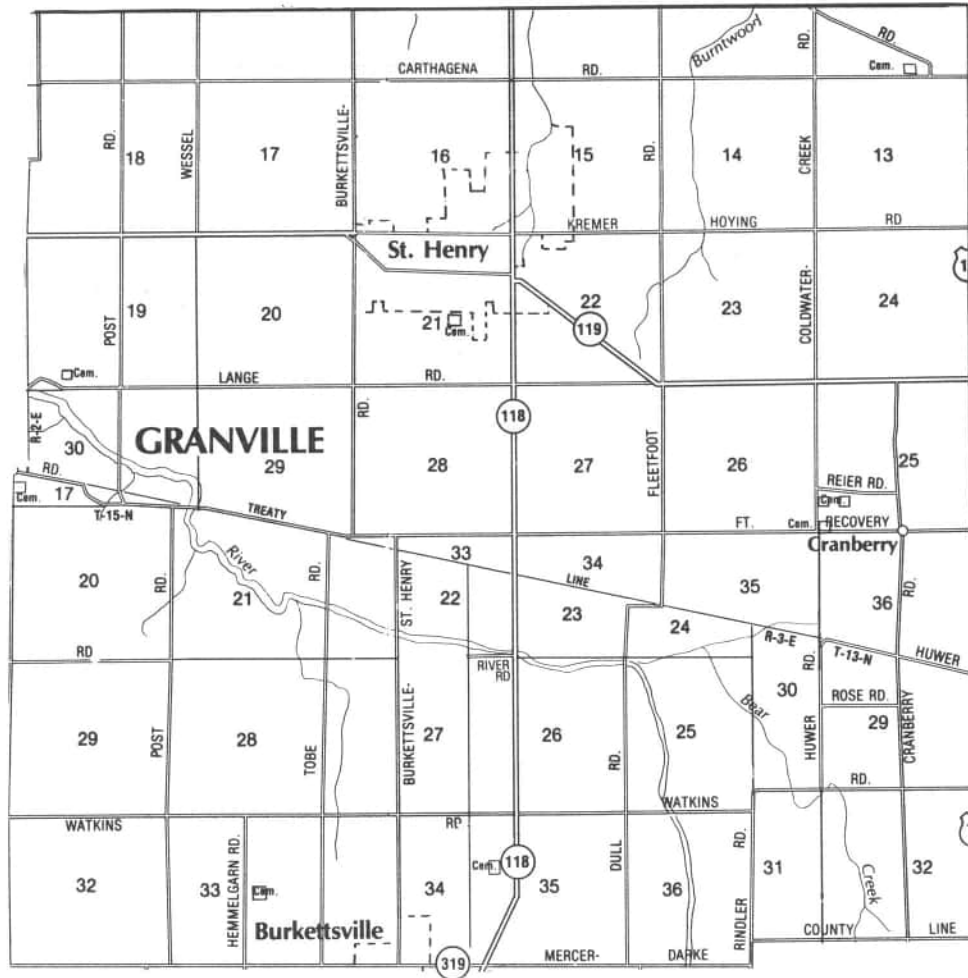
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James Sutter's barn, 241 Township Line Road, Fort Recovery, was built in 1904. This red barn is trimmed in white. The double doors are trimmed in white, and have triangles painted in the top corners; one of the double doors also has a smaller door trimmed in white, known as a guichet, or a door within a door. A white triangle trims the gable end, and surrounds the small window in the gable peak. Three small openings are cut across the gable end; are these for pigeons? In the past, this barn has been used for livestock (dairy cows), and hay and straw storage. Today, the barn is only used for hay and straw storage.

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# Granville Township, Mercer County, Ohio



\* This page was sponsored by the Granville Township Trustees, for the convenience of those who wish to tour Granville Township roads, to see the big barns and to appreciate our rural heritage.

\*\* This map was printed by permission of Spectrum Map Publishing, Inc., 909 Sycamore Street, Cincinnati, OH 45202.



Granville Township House, 141 South Walnut, St. Henry, Ohio



Granville Township Trustee Donald Hummel; Trustee Mark Kremer; Clerk John Dippold; Trustee Dennis Schwieterman. In the background stand the International Truck and the Ford Truck, both with snowplows.



Henry A. Langenkamp's barn, 829 St. Rt. 118, St. Henry, was built around 1904. The barn has been used for grain-livestock operation. Following the ownership of this land, Bernard Romer Jr., bought the place December 30, 1905; Frank Romer, January 30, 1914; Julius Rose, April 12, 1927; Henry Langenkamp, February 7, 1944; Richard Langenkamp, January 24, 1949; and Henry A. Langenkamp, November 4, 1991.

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Victor Moeder's barn, 2811 Burkettsville-Saint Henry Road, Saint Henry, was built in 1919. In the past, the barn was used for horse stables on the east part, and cows on the west part, with wheat and oats storage. Today, the barn is used for beef cattle, and hay and straw.

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Werner and Joann Holdheide's barn, 4150 Carthagena Road, Saint Henry, was built between 1910 and 1930. In the past, the barn was used to raise cows and to milk cows. In 1990, the barn was remodeled, and the stanchions and mangers were taken out. This was done so that they could raise more hogs in the barn.

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Ray and Betty Brunswick bought this farm, 2566 Burkettsville-Saint Henry Road, Saint Henry, in 1941 from Henry Osterholt. The barn was built, probably around 1915, when Ed Goecke family lived here. Ray Brunswick did mostly grain farming and had a few cows. He also worked at various factories, and retired from New Idea in 1971. The red barn has its doors trimmed with white arches. Lightning rods stand across the ridge of the roof.

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This barn was built about 1915, on the Frank Bruns farm, on Kremer Hoying Road, in the Corporation of St. Henry. In former years, the grain was cut by a binder and hauled into the barn and then threshed. The straw was blown into the mow for winter storage. Mr. Bruns passed away about forty five years ago. The barn is presently owned by Frank Bruns' daughter, Marie Bruns.

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This interior view of the Frank Bruns barn shows the stables are still in the barn. The barn contained horse stables, cow stables, and had a large hay mow, and a place for straw for bedding. On the exterior view of Frank Bruns barn, the outside stable doors are visible; the three windows in the gable end, above the stable doors, give light to the interior.

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This view of the Frank Bruns barn shows the double doors open. The double doors on both sides of the barn would have been open during threshing, because they wanted the wind blowing through the barn.

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An interior view of the Frank Bruns barn shows the grain bins, as well as the hugh posts and beams which support the mow, as well as the barn. The barn's several grain bins stored wheat and oats for feeding and seeding. (Bruns barn photographs by Donald Hummel.)

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This barn at 3949 State Route 119, Saint Henry, belonged to the late Bernard and Marie Hummel; today, the barn belongs to their son Don's son, Pat Hummel. The barn was built by Henry Stahl in the early nineteen hundreds; later, he built a house and the other buildings. This is a strong, well-built barn. Some people call the roof a hip-roofed barn, and others call the roof a gambrel roof; either way, the purpose of this style roof is to allow for more storage of hay and straw. The barn contained four horse stables and stable room for fifteen or twenty cattle. A grain bin was also built in. This barn is unusual because it contains a cistern, to use when water was needed for the animals kept in the barn; this was especially nice in the winter months, to water the horses and cattle. (Editor's note: This barn and Nora Moeder's barn to the west of this place, both have these cisterns in the barn.)

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Paul and Nancy Broering's barn, 3920 St. Rt. 119, St. Henry, was built in 1956, when Al and Bernie Homan owned the farm. Raymond Stachler and Sons Construction were hired to build the barn. Much of the lumber came from the woods which were part of the farm. It was designed by Hoge Lumber Company.

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A view of the barn from the east side of the Hummel barn, shows the double doors, with a small window on either side. An addition was made on the north side of the barn. (Donald Hummel photographs.)

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This view of the Paul Broering barn shows the round roof lines; some people call this roof a gothic roof and others call it a rainbow roof. This type roof allows for more space in the mow. Some use the term 'ski-jump' for the way the bottom of the roof flairs out. One shed-roofed dormer is on the north side.

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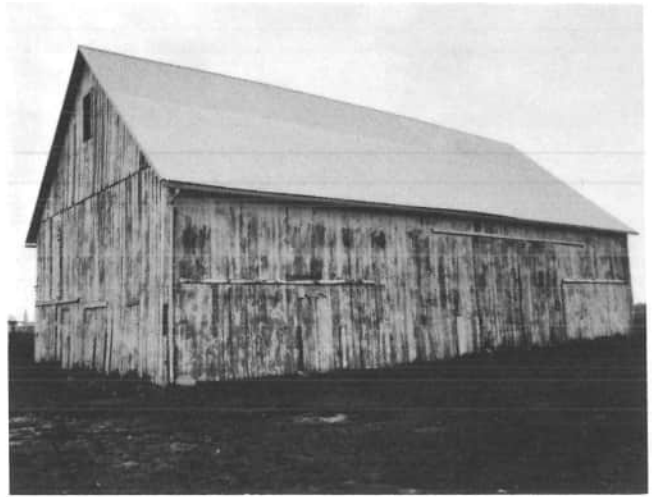




This view of the Broering barn, not only shows the structure of the roof as the barn was being built in 1956, but also shows the old barn in the background.



This is the old log barn, which stood on the Broering farm, when Al and Bernie Homan owned the farm. This original barn was a log barn and was built in the late eighteen hundreds when Wesley Meinerding owned the farm. Roger Schmit, a young man from Saint Henry, was hired to tear down the old barn, after the new one was finished.



This gable-roofed barn belongs to Ray Puthoff, 3856 State Route 119, Saint Henry. Ray purchased this place in 1960.



Eleanora Moeder's barn, 3799 St. Rt. 119, St. Henry, was built sometime after Eleanora was born in 1893, and before their house was built in 1909. The entire barn had a wooden floor, which included the threshing floor. The mow was packed full of straw, over the cow stable, when they were threshing. There was a cistern under the floor, near the horses. It was easy to water the young calves when the weather was bad. (Editor's note: Bernard Hummel's barn, to the east of this place, also had a cistern inside the barn.) This barn was built for Joseph and Adelheit Moeder, by a carpenter named Losekamp. In the carriage are Emma (Uhlenhake) Moeder (John's wife), and Adelheit (Haubert) Moeder, (Eleanora's Mom). Standing are John Moeder (Eleanora's brother), Joseph Moeder (Eleanora's Pop), Eleanora Moeder, Mary Moeder (her sister), Albert Moeder (her cousin and Priscilla's brother), Aloys Moeder (her brother) and Matilda Moeder (Tillie-her sister). The horses are Harry, Fan, Brauny, Dick, Nell, Sam, Bill, Mabel, Birt, Prince, and Jim. At this writing, Eleanora was 98 years old and still living on her own, in April 1991.



An end view of Eleanora Moeder's barn, which shows the five stable doors. Three windows are placed in the triangular configuration in the gable end, for light to the interior. The corners and roofline are outlined in white. (Auggie Jutte's photograph, which states "Grandpa Joseph Moeder's barn" on the back of the photograph.)

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When the editor was out taking photographs of barns in October, 1991, she saw this rural harvest scene, at the Martin Lefeld home. The cat was softly swishing his tail, and waiting for Halloween.

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This aerial view of Martin Lefeld's farm, 3651 State Route 119, Saint Henry, shows the barn as well as the other buildings. The barn was built in the early 1900's by the Wessel family. The frame of this barn has solid hickory beams, which were made with a broad ax. The frame is wooden pinned together. The barn has always been used to house livestock, and to store hay and grain.

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Charles Moeder's barn, 3579 State Route 119, Saint Henry, was built in 1925. In the past, the barn was used for dairy cows, hogs, hay, straw, wheat, and oats. Today, the barn is used for hay and straw and feeder cattle. This red barn, with the gable roof, has three windows in the triangular configuration in the gable end. The red barn is trimmed in white. This winter scene shows the January sun casting a shadow across the corn crib. This barn replaced the one that burned down, as relatives and neighbors were threshing wheat. The threshing machine was powered by a steam engine which threw sparks into or on the barn, setting it afire.

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This big barn stands at 3564 State Route 119 and belongs to Donald B. Unrast, 4827 State Route 119, Saint Henry. The barn has been used for dairy and hogs. The October sun is casting a shadow on the two boys; see the next photograph for a close-up.

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Donald B. Unrast's barn stands at 4827 State Route 119, Saint Henry. The barn is used for dairy.

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Jerry and Kathy Unrast's two boys, Steven and Jason, are seated on the top of half of an old high wheel wagon frame, next to the barn. The boys look like they are having a good time.

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Ben Uhlenhake and carpenters built this barn at Donald Unrast's farm, in the early 1900's. The barn was used for livestock. This photograph shows the barn before anything was done to it. Notice the configuration of the three small windows in the gable end.

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This view of Donald Unrast's barn shows the Stachlers, of Ray Stachler Construction, working on the barn.

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Tom and Barb Schlarman, 3164 State Route 119, Saint Henry, have this big bank barn. The barn is used to house cows and to store straw and hay. One can enter the bottom floor through the door on the side, while the tractor can still drive the big equipment up the bank to the main floor.

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This red barn, with white trim, belongs to Eugene Lange, 3356 State Route 119, Saint Henry. The barn was built in 1916 by Henry Lange. In the past, the barn was used for a dairy herd. Today, the barn is used as a dairy heifer barn. The three small rectangular windows, two in the wall, and one in the small door, are unique. In the foreground, the golden pears are among the autumn leaves. In the background, one can see quite a distance, which indicates that this farm is on high ground.

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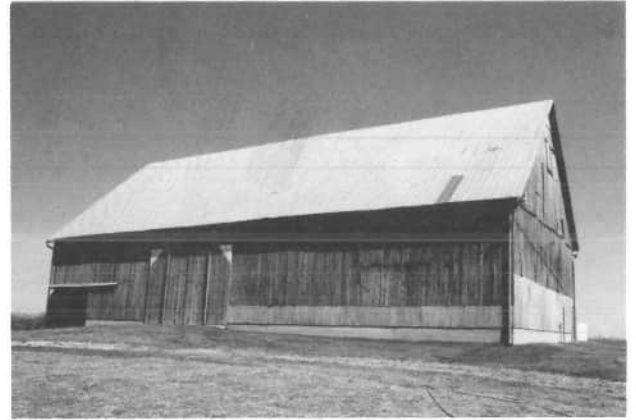
Wilbert Reier's barn, 3155 State Route 119, Saint Henry, was built in 1890. The barn was used for hay and livestock in the past and is used for storage today. This neat barn is painted white, with the black gable roof. All is quiet on this autumn day; even the boat is resting next to the barn.

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Ralph Schmitt's barn, 3055 State Route 119, Saint Henry, was built in the year of 1875 by Frank Schmitt. The barn was used for five horses and ten cows, as well as hay storage and corn and grain. Now the barn is used for hay and ten steers. The red barn has its double doors outlined in white. Three windows in the gable end permit light to the interior. Four lightning rods stand on the ridge of the roof. The American flag in the foreground is blowing in the wind on this beautiful fall day.

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This old barn was built in 1890, and stands at 5341 State Route 119, Saint Henry. The barn was used for grain storage, threshed wheat, livestock and horses. Today, the barn is used for hay storage and straw, and cattle loafing. The barn is owned by Jim Leistenschneider, 5341 State Route 119, Saint Henry. The red barn has the white triangle trim at the top corner of the double doors, and has the three windows in triangular configuration in the gable end wall.

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Marvin C. Homan's barn stands at 5175 State Route 119, Saint Henry. The gable-roofed barn was built in the early 1900's, and was used for horses, grain, hay, and machinery storage. Today, the barn has a dairy parlor, calves, and hay storage.

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Luke Broering's barn, 5570 State Route 119, Saint Henry, was built in the late 1800's. The barn had horses, cows, and calves. The threshing floor was in the center. Today, the barn is used for free stalls for cows and the hay mow. (November 1967 photograph)

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This June 1966 photograph shows work in progress at the Luke Broering barn.

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This 1956 aerial view of Ivo J. Goettemoeller's farm, 3821 Lange Road, Saint Henry, shows how the barn looked in the past. The bank goes up to the main floor of the barn. The barn was probably built in the early 1900's. The barn housed dairy head, stored feed and bedding, and stored the wagon, etc., in the center.

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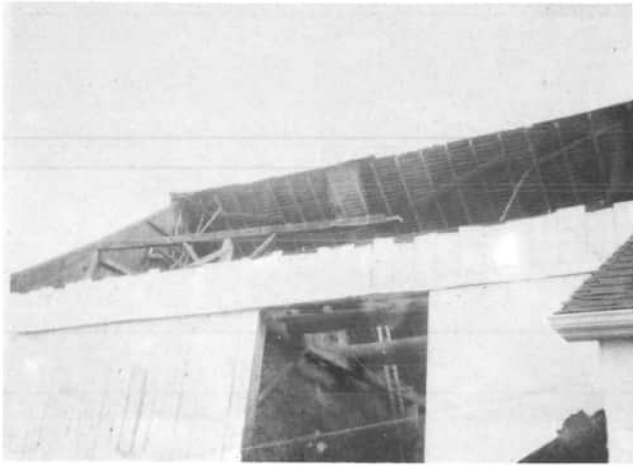
This is an old photograph of the Luke Broering barn. The barn was reroofed three times. The original roof had wooden shingles; then, it was reroofed with asphalt shingles. Then, they stripped it and put metal on the roof.

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Ivo Goettemoeller's barn was hit by a tornado in 1960. The roof was twisted off and strewn about the barnyard. The top part was rebuilt.

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A closer view of the Ivo Goettemoeller barn after it was hit by the tornado in 1960. Note, the roof is gone, but the beam called the purlin extends to where it was overlapped with the rest of the purlin plate which is gone. The bent at the double door still has the beams and posts in place, with the bales sitting untouched by the tornado.

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This barn and eighty acres were purchased by Joseph J. Nieport in 1991, from St. Henry Church, who had inherited it from Rose Lange. Rose Lange's father was Frank Lange, Sr., who was the owner approximately fifty years ago. Joe Nieport has farmed this place as a tenant for fifty-five years. In the past, the barn was used to raise sheep, and storage of hay and straw. Today, the barn is used for machinery storage. This gable roofed barn has a square window in each of the double doors. The barn stands on the north side of Lange Road, east of Post Road and West of Burkettsville-St. Henry Road.

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Ivo Goettemoeller's barn suffered another disaster, when fire damaged the top part of the barn in 1963. The barn was rebuilt as it was in 1960. (May 1983 photograph) Today, the barn is used for calves, and stores feed and bedding, and is a return of cows to the lot.

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Bert Tobe's barn, 3555 Watkins Road, Fort Recovery, was built in 1903. The barn has been used for livestock and horses, and hay and straw storage.

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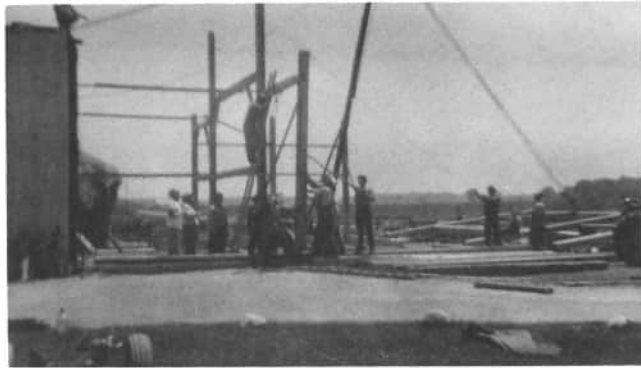
Henry and Francis Lange built this barn in 1898; they used the barn for threshing, milk cows, horses, and storage of hay, straw, wheat, and oats. Today, the barn is used for beef cattle, hay, straw, and grain storage. The aerial view of the farm, not only shows the big, old barn, but also the arrangement of the outbuildings behind the house. The barn is located at 3694 Lange Road, St. Henry. The fourth generation Langes are now using the barn, which was built by Henry and Frances (Drahman) Lange. Henry O. Lange (1894-1981) remembered the barn being built when he was too young to help. It had a wooden threshing floor and housed horses and a milk cow herd. The top floor had a hay fork and track going the full length of the barn. Loose hay, straw, wheat, and oats were stored in the barn. At that time, it was painted red. In the 1970's, after a stroke, Alfred Lange remodeled the barn. It was jacked up on blocks; the old stone foundation removed in several sections, and a concrete foundation and floor were put in. Tan steel siding was added. Steel beams for extra strength in the mows were added, for baled hay and straw. Shelled corn and oats are stored in the granary. Calves and steers are raised in the barn now. Alfred and Betty Lange have owned the farm from 1964 to the present; Nick and Beth Lange are the operators.



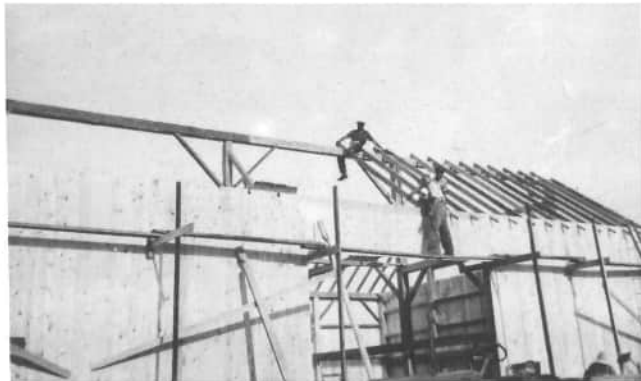
This aerial view of Gene Guggenbiller's farm, 3041 Fox Road, Saint Henry, was taken in June 1973.



The Guggenbiller farm, 3041 Fox Road, shows Henry Guggenbiller driving the horses; they are shredding corn. Eugene's father, Henry Guggenbiller had this farm, his father John Guggenbiller built the barn. A tornado took the barn May 1, 1949.

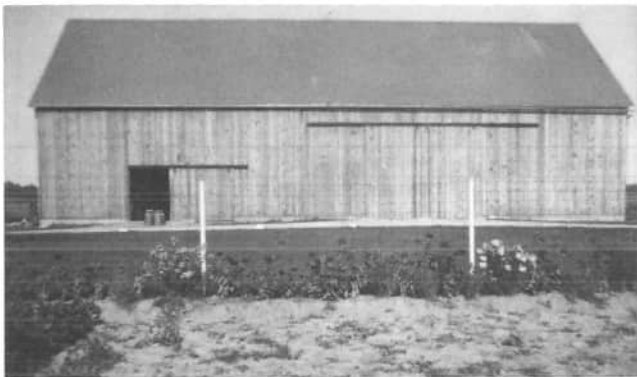


Henry Guggenbiller rebuilt the barn in the summer of 1949. This view shows them raising the purlin plate.



They are putting the rafters on Henry Guggenbiller's barn.





The barn was completed from the time of the tornado May 1, until they put hay in the barn the 26th of June, 1949.

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An aerial view, about 1952-53, when Henry quit farming this farm and Eugene took over.

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Friends, neighbors, and relatives were taking a break, from building Henry Guggenbiller's barn.

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Gene Guggenbiller's barn, 3041 Fox Road, Saint Henry, in October 1991.

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Henry Guggenbiller's uncle had a threshing machine.

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This aerial view of Roger Brunswick's farm, 3318 Fox Road, St. Henry, was taken in 1954. The barn was built in 1896 by Henry Brunswick and was used for raising horses, cows, hogs and chickens. Today, the barn is used for dairy cows. The barn has been in the Brunswick family for three generations. The first owner Henry Brunswick sold to his son Joseph Brunswick, who sold it to his son Roger Brunswick.

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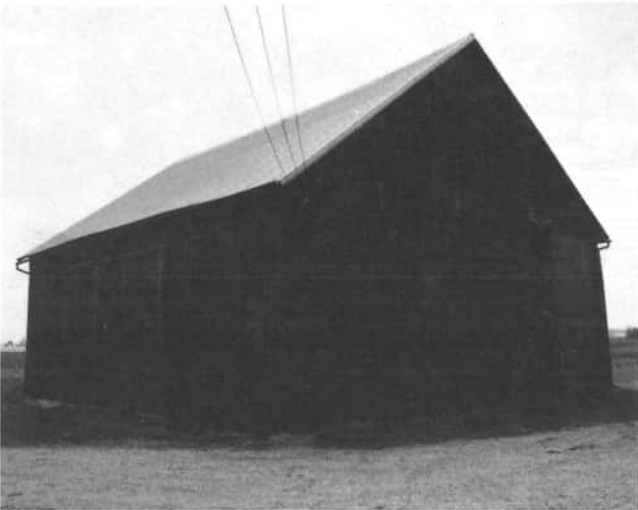
This photograph of Roger Brunswick's barn, was taken in 1948-49. The date 1896 can be seen on the gable end wall. White arches grace the doors. Joseph Brunswick's three children, Leon, Kenny, and Annie, are playing in the snow.

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Henry F. Kunkler, Jr. 4443 Watkins Road, Fort Recovery, owns this barn, which was built in 1911 by Frank Lochtefeld. The barn was used for mules and cows, as well as to store hay and straw, wheat and oats.

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Viola M. Walters' barn, 4162 Watkins Road, Burkettsville, Ohio 45846, was built in 1897, by her father J.T. Wildenhaus. The barn was used for cattle, work horses, hay and a granary. Today, the barn is used for storage of farm equipment. The red barn stands today, without additions, as many barns have had. One can still see the stable doors in the end wall.

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This photograph of the barn which was built by Frank Lochtefeld, shows the barn in March 1965. Today, the barn belongs to Henry Kunkler.

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This barn was built by Casimure Kunkler in 1905. The barn was used for horses, cows, hay, straw, wheat, oats, and ear corn. Today, the barn is used for fattening hogs. The barn was struck by lightning about 1915. The fire was put out by buckets of water being passed from one man to the next. The barn still has some charred rafters and beams. The barn was remodeled in 1961. The barn belongs to Henry F. Kunkler, 4443 Watkins Road, Fort Recovery.

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Another view of the Andrew Herman barn on Watkins Road, after the 1918 tornado. One can see the barn had double doors on both sides of the barn, for threshing time. The stable doors on the other side are evident. The rail fence is still in place, in spite of the tornado's having just turned the barn completely around on its foundation. The bound grain still stands in place in the foreground. The haystack is evident in both photographs.

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This barn was built by Andrew Herman in 1897 or 1898, on Watkins Road, in Granville Township. About 1918, a tornado came through Granville Township in Southern Mercer County. This barn was turned around 180 degrees without the barn being completely destroyed. The photograph shows how the barn looked after being set back almost on the original foundation. It was pried and jacked back on the foundation and the corner which was pulled apart by the storm, was repaired. The east side of the barn faced to the west, until it was finally torn down in 1943. The barn had never been painted. Paul Herman, 220 West Anthony, Celina, provided these photographs.

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Paul Rammel's Barn, 3321 Mercer-Darke County Line Road, Fort Recovery, was built in 1867 by his Grandfather Joseph Rammel. The barn was half of this barn, and built back three-quarters of a mile in the land, as the roads were not built at this time, and the county line was supposed to be built back there. Later, when the road was put in, Paul's father Peter moved the house and barn to its present location in 1906. The buildings were set on rollers with a winch, and moved by horses. The horses went around the winch, in a circle to move the building. Peter's wife Maggie said that she and the children stayed in the house, as it was being moved, and not even one dish was broken. After the barn was set in place, the front half was added on. There was a hay fork attached to the roof of the barn. Although the fork is still in place, it is no longer in working condition.

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Louis Rammel, a Braun boy, Clete Rammel and Charles Rammel, sitting in the trailer, outside the barn. The horse is peering out of the stable door. The 1939 Chevy is also there.

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Peter Rammel, William Kemper, and Adolph Rammel are standing outside the barn. Notice the hugh straw stack in the background.

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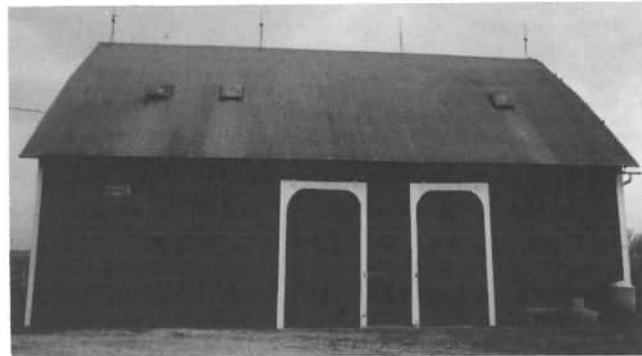
Outside the barn, with the colts, are \_\_\_\_\_ Buehler, Paul Rammel, and Paul's father Peter Rammel.

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Peter Rammel is standing with the horses, outside the barn, at 3321 Mercer-Darke County Line Road.

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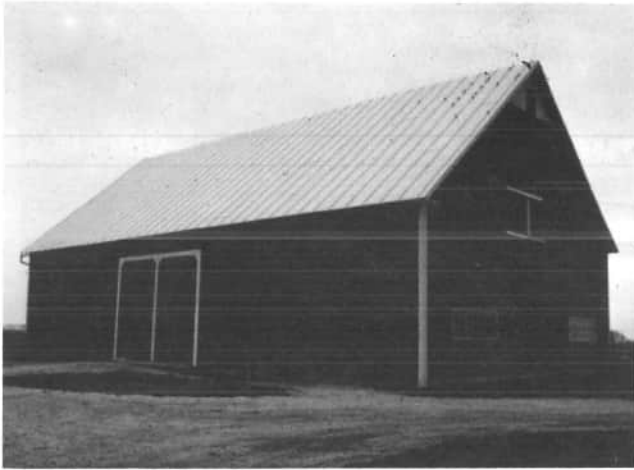
J.F. Rindler's barn, 5483 Mercer-Darke County Line Road, Saint Henry, was built in 1922, by Tony Baymyer (?). In the past, the barn was used for hogs, from farrow to finish on the bottom. Corn, wheat, and oats were stored on top (granary). Today, the hogs are on the bottom and the grain is on top. The barn has the original siding on the west and east side. In the late sixties, they put on a new roof, and resided the north and south sides. In the early eighties, they put metal siding on the south side. They repainted the barn in 1991.

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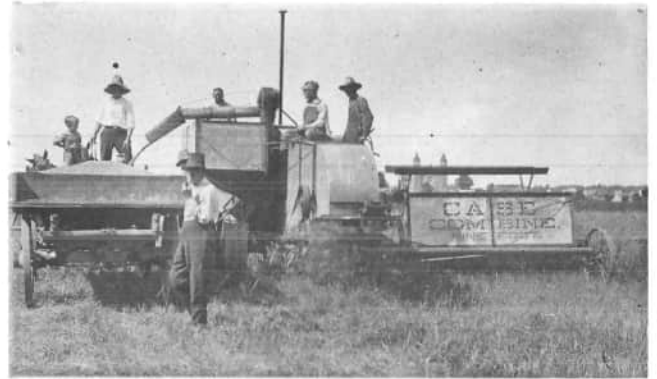


Paul and Adolph Rammel are working at threshing wheat outside the barn.

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Jerome F. Rindler's barn, 5483 Mercer-Darke County Line Road, Saint Henry, was built in the late 1800's. They had cattle on one end and horses on the other end. Tools were in the driveway. Hay and corn fodder was in the mow. Today, the barn houses cattle, hay, straw mow, and tools. A new roof was put on in the 1940's. The barn was resided and a new foundation put around the barn in the 1950's. Metal siding and a new foundation on the south side was added in 1986; a new roof was added on the west side in 1987. The barn was repainted in 1991.



CASE COMBINE, NINE FOOT is lettered across the front of the new combine, which Jacob Pax and Henry Nordenbrock bought together. In the background of this photograph, the St. Bernard Church at Burkettsville, can be seen. On the back of this old photograph is a note, "first combine in the area." Mercer County's agricultural heritage includes the evolution of farming with horses to the modern equipment of today. People who read this book in the 21st century will not think of this book in the 1990's as modern. What will the 21st century hold for agriculture and agribusiness in Mercer County? What will the 22nd century hold for Mercer County agribusiness?



Lavern Rindler's barn, 5325 Watkins Road, St. Henry, was built around 1920. The barn was used for cows, hogs, chickens, hay and straw storage. Today, the barn is used for storage for machinery, and the cats and dog sleep in it and are fed in it. Rindlers live on a jog in the road; sometimes people miss the turn. Their milk house was run into once, and their barn was hit once in forty-three years.



This was the Joseph Winhoven barn, a mile north and two miles west of Burkettsville. The boy in the white shirt could be Edward, son of Joseph Winhoven. This photograph was taken after the barn was "raked" by a tornado, June the 27th, 1914, at 4:00 P.M. Mrs. Leon Siefring owns the farm now, but this barn is gone. This photograph was provided by Vi Stammen, 805 Butler Street, Coldwater.



William Hess sold this farm at 5750 Carthage Road to Henry and Barbara Hess in 1871; then it went to the third generation to Caspar and Rosa Hess in 1914. The farm went to their daughter Irma and her husband Urban Muhlenkamp in 1948. They sold the farm to their son Jerry and his wife Kathy in 1984. Donald Kunkler bought this farm at 5750 Carthage Road from Jerry Muhlenkamp in 1990. The barn was built in 1894; it had one hay mow, and a granary and an all wood floor. There were stables along the south side for cows and stables along the east side for horses. Now, it has a complete overhead, and all stable room.



William L. Evers, 4831 Carthage Road, St. Henry, owns this barn today. Some of the past owners were as follows: Clemens Morthorst, in 1918, sold to his son Frank Morthorst; then about 1920 to Herman Severt; in 1924 to Frank and Catherine Evers, who sold to their son Roman and Mildred Evers in 1945. In 1980 after the death of Roman Evers, Mildred sold to her son William L. Evers. The barn was built in the middle to late 1800's, and has always been used for dairy cattle.

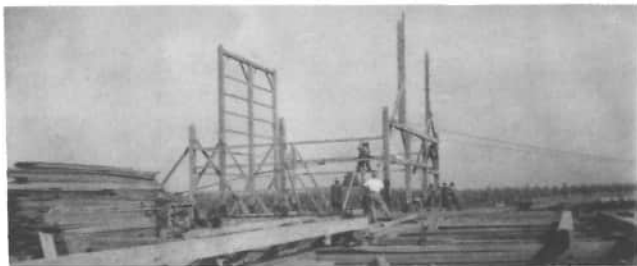
## A BARN RAISING IN GRANVILLE TOWNSHIP — 1946

Spontaneous combustion caused the fire that destroyed Fred Steinlage's barn, 5095 Kremer-Hoying Road, Saint Henry, on a summer afternoon, August 5, 1946. The fire caused total destruction to the barn, and the barn had to be rebuilt from scratch. Today, James Steinlage owns this farm, and the rebuilt barn.

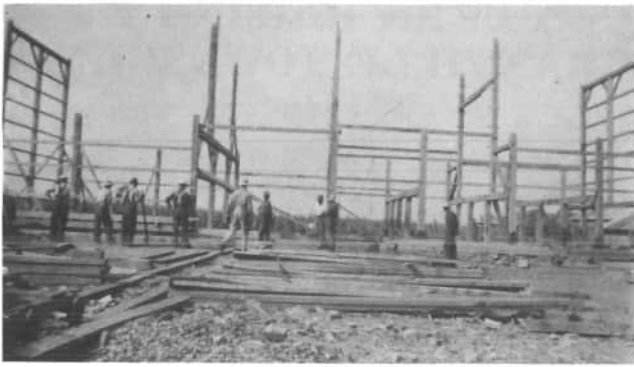
First, planning the new barn was a most important step. August and September were spent in preparing for the barn raising. Fred Steinlage engaged the Wellman Brothers, Coldwater, to build the barn. Constructing the frame sections, called bents, called for skill and precision because the vertical posts, horizontal beams, and their braces, had to be measured accurately, in order to be pinned in place. Trees from the Steinlage woods were taken to Hartings Sawmill in Saint Henry. A cement foundation was installed for this forty by ninety foot barn, which would be forty foot in height.



This first stage of the barn raising shows the lumber laid out, and the gin pole being raised by ropes and pulleys. The gin pole would then be used as a lever to hoist the heavy frame sections, called bents.

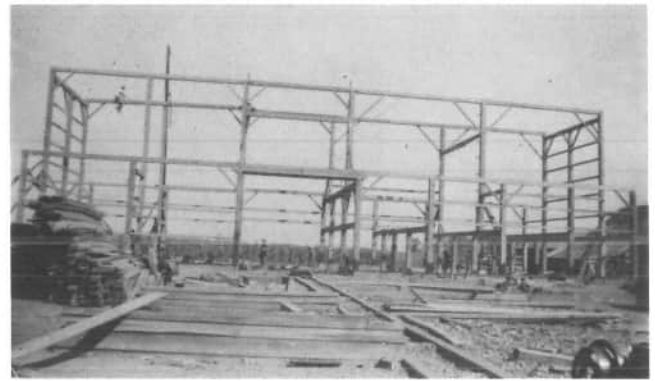


This photograph shows two of the bents after being raised. The bent was a complete unit of framework, the height being from the foundation to the purlin plate where the roof was attached, and the width being as wide as the barn. The bents had been constructed on the ground, prior to being raised into position.



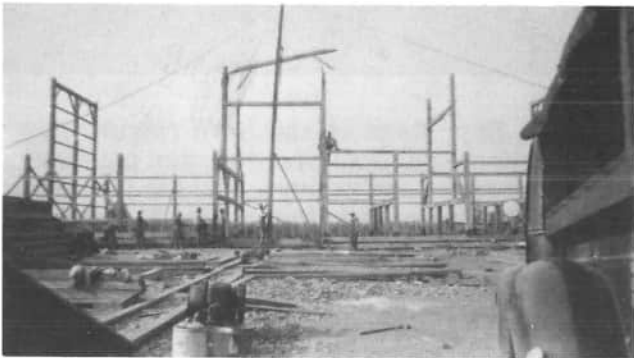
This view shows five of the six bents in place, with some of the lower beams pinned in place.

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The gin pole is standing behind the last bent to be raised. The carpenter is sitting on the principal purlin plate, or beam, waiting to pin the brace. The purlin plate or beam runs the entire length of the barn and unites all the bents. (In many barns, the purlin plate is cut from one tree. Some barns have two beams, for the purlin plate, and over-lap the beams above one of the bent posts.) At each intersection of the horizontal purlin plate beam, and the vertical bent post, braces are added to ensure stability. The six bents separate the five bays of this forty by ninety foot barn.

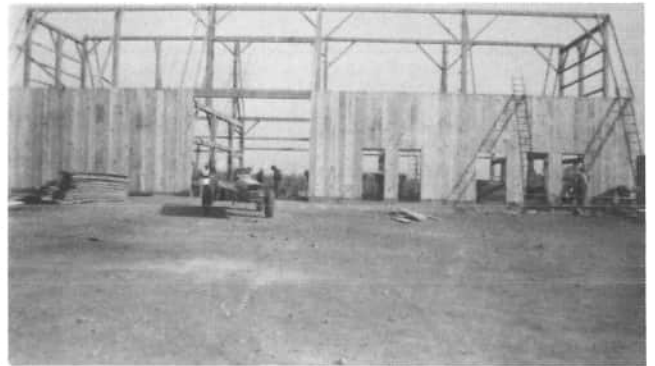
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The gin pole, braced at a lower level, and balanced with ropes, has the cross beam and two braces hanging loose, waiting to be pinned. Note the "steps" on the post, for the carpenter to climb and place the wooden pins. (This was no place for acrophobia, a fear of heights.)

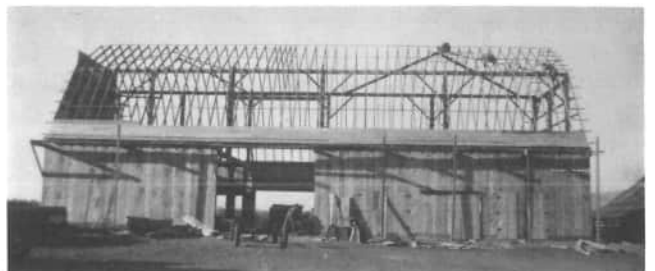
The horizontal beams also had to have been accurately measured. The ends of each beam had to have been carved into a projection called a tenon. The vertical posts had holes or mortises, chiseled out of them, to receive the tenons. After fitting the tenon into the mortise, wooden pins would be driven through the aligned holes to lock the posts and beams together. This method was much stronger and less costly than using iron spikes or nails.

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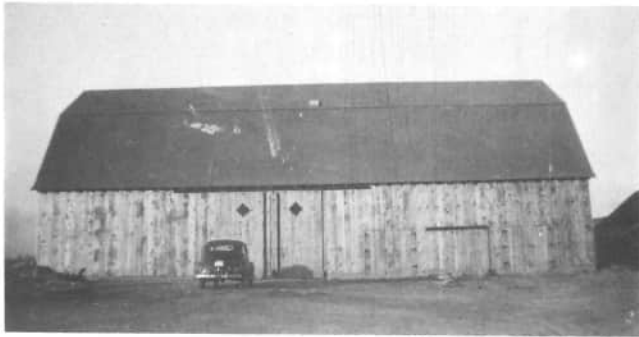
Before the roof was in place, carpenters began nailing the vertical boards in place for the exterior walls.

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The rafters of the roof have been set into the purlin plates, and joined at the roof's peak, the ridge pole or ridge board.

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The finished barn shows the gambrel roof-line. Diamond windows highlight the double doors. Is that a 1948 Plymouth in front?



The barn in 1990 shows little change. A second roof was applied in 1954, and a third roof in 1977. Only one horse stable is left, with the other horse stable walls being torn out to make one large stable for cattle, and so the manure could be hauled out by a manure loader. The barn is still used for livestock, and storage of hay, straw, and machinery.



In addition to the Wellman Brothers, the neighbors helped Fred Steinlage raise the barn. Left to Right: Small child is one of Fred Steinlage's grandsons, Joseph Steinlage, Othmar Rammel, Albert Steinlage, Joe Keller, Bill Wellman Jr., Henry Hein, Bill Wellman Sr., Ed Homan, Fred Steinlage, Wilfred Steinlage, Louis Homan, Bernard Wellman, Florian Keller, Louis Uhlenhake, Herman Hoying, Theodore Kunkler, and Raymond Uhlenhake.



This red barn, trimmed in white, was bought by the Stachlers in 1977 from Othmar Rammel; the farm was also known as the old Gehle farm. Stachler Farms sold the farm, including the buildings to Cooper Feed in 1987. Cooper does business on part of the land, with the other part being rented for general farming by the Stachler Farms. The barn was built about one hundred and twenty-five years ago, and has been used for animals and hay storage. The barn is located on Kremer Hoying Road, just east of State Route 118. Richard Stachler provided the history.



Mr. and Mrs. Walter Dues, 4774 East Kremer Hoying Road, St. Henry, bought this farm in 1950 from Elizabeth Huelsman. The barn has been here at least fifty years; therefore, the barn was built before 1940. Since the braces are all fastened with wooden pegs in the entire barn, the barn is probably much older. The barn was used for horses, cows, grain and hay, in the past; today, the barn is used for storage.





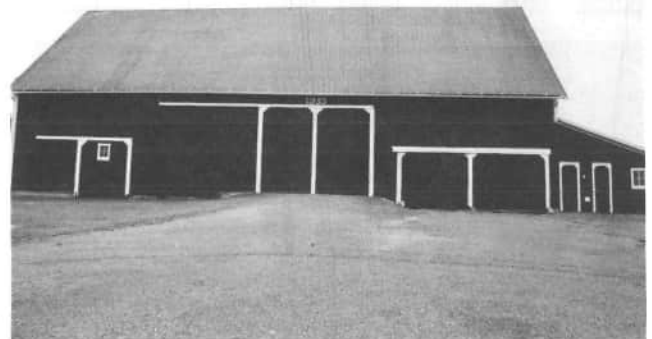
Albert and Jerry Steinlage's barn was built by Bob Borger's grandfather, about the time of the Civil War; the house was built in 1863. At one time, this barn had a cross cut into both gable ends; these crosses had diamonds cut in four points of the cross. (The editor has found only one other barn in the county with a cross with four diamond points. This barn is one of six, with crosses cut in the gable end.) An earthquake took place in the 1970's, one June day; the following fourth of July, the overhead hayloft dropped eighteen feet, with 463 bushel of ear corn, and the stringers, on top of an Allis-Chalmers tractor, a manure spreader, and a wagonload of wheat. One liability insurance company did not cover this, saying it was an 'act of God.' Another insurance company covered this, under a 'falling objects' clause. The Albert Steinlage barn stands at 4766 Kremer Hoying Road, St. Henry.



This barn was built at least seventy-five years ago, by the Placke Brothers. The barn was used for cows and hay; today it is used for machinery and hay. This farm at 5056 Kremer Hoying Road is in the fourth generation of the Uhlenhake family: first, John Uhlenhake, Sr.; next, John Uhlenhake, Jr.; next, Ray Uhlenhake; and today, Ray's children: Harold Uhlenhake and all.



Vic Wimmer's father, Ben Wimmers, bought this farm from the Goecke family and the barn was here then. (Ben was 83 years old when he died in 1960.) Today, Vic's wife, Dolores Wimmers, lives at the farm, at 5281 Kremer Hoying Road, St. Henry. In the past, there were horses, cows, hogs, hay and grain in this barn. Today, there are no animals, the barn is used for grain farming.



The date 1935 is painted in white, right above the white trimmed barn doors, on this red barn belonging to Mr. and Mrs. Joseph R. Steinlage, 5188 Kremer-Hoying Road, St. Henry. Joseph Uhlenhake built this barn in 1935. The old barn that was standing there before 1935, was old and no longer safe, so it had to be torn down. The present barn was used for livestock, storage of grain, and machinery; it is still being used for storage of machinery and for young cattle. Joseph's Steinlage's barn still has the wood threshing floor.



Mark Kremer, 5845 Kremer-Hoying Road, St. Henry, owns this barn, built about 1880. Mark recalled that the barn was owned by Philip Frey, a livestock dealer, before Mark's father had the farm. At that time, wedding dances were held in the barn, when the children were married. The barn has a thousand gallon storage tank used to store water for livestock; the water was pumped on breezy days, as a supply source. Mark recalled that when he was small, there were ten stables for horses. The barn was also used for livestock, milking equipment, hay and straw. Today, there is a milking parlor and livestock. Note the exterior elevator to the mow.



In the past, the Hoying barn was used for cattle, horses, and to store grain and hay. In 1947, it was changed to a Grade A milking set-up, with the milkhouse built at that time. Herman is standing in front of the milkhouse. The red barn is trimmed in white around the barn doors, and the white triangle is painted in the gable end. The row of windows on the east end let in the light for milking. Note the small rectangular window over the double wagon doors; this type window over the double doors is becoming a rare sight in the county.



Herman Hoying, Sr., purchased this farm from M. Staugler in 1900. Herman Hoying Jr., purchased the farm in 1941, at the time of World War II. Today, Daniel M. Hoying, 5710 Kremer-Hoying Road, St. Henry, is the present owner, purchasing the farm in 1981. Herman Hoying Jr. is standing on the north side of the barn, with Dan's dog Misty.



This is an old photograph of Herman Hoying's home place, where Dan Hoying lives today, at 5710 Kremer Hoying Road, St. Henry. The barn takes its place behind the house. The white triangle can be seen in the gable end wall; beneath it is the family name. The stable doors can be seen. The windmill (windpump) and other outbuildings can also be seen. Photographs like this tell a story which is the family heritage, and a family keepsake.



Frank Evers built this barn in 1900, at 5035 Carthagena Road; the complete cost of the original barn was \$1,014.00. The barn is used for cattle, and hay storage; in the past, horses were also in the barn. Today, the barn owners are Ludwig and Dolores Wuebker, 5129 Carthagena Road, St. Henry.

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John Balster built this barn in 1934, after the old barn was struck by lightning. In the past, the barn was used for horses, cattle and feed storage; today the barn is used for feed storage and machinery. The barn is located at 5124 Carthagena Road, and belongs to Ludwig and Dolores Wuebker, 5129 Carthagena Road.

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Frank Evers built this barn for cattle and hogs in 1901, for the cost of \$274.30, at 5035 Carthagena Road. Today, the barn is used for hogs and is owned by Ludwig and Dolores Wuebker, 5129 Carthagena Road.

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The first owner of this barn, located at 5185 Carthagena Road, was Bernard Wuebker. The barn was built in 1914, to house dairy cattle, horses, and to store grain, hay and straw, and is still used for dairy cattle and hay and straw. Today, the barn is owned by David J. and Donna J. Wuebker.

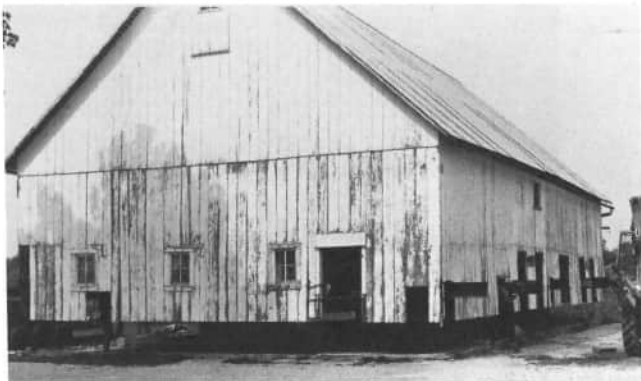
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In 1875, this barn was built and has always been used for livestock, hay and grain storage. The barn is owned by Dan Hemmelgarn, 4688 Carthagena Road, St. Henry.



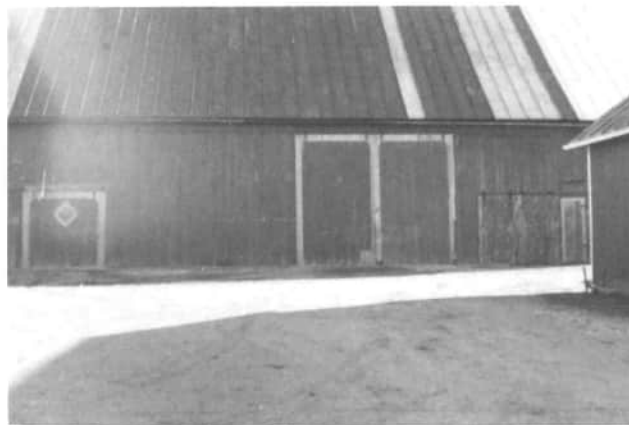
Ted and Hilda Koester own this barn at 5919 Carthagena Road, St. Henry. The barn has a long easy slope to its bank leading to the double wagon doors. The barn is used for hay and tool storage. The night light in front of the barn almost seems out of place and time, for the stately old barn. It would seem that a horse-drawn wagon should be expected at any time.



In June 1991, this barn, owned by Andy Hemmelgarn, 422 North Eastern Avenue, State Route 118, St. Henry, was moved about a mile northeast to the farm of his nephew, Dan Hemmelgarn, 4688 Carthagena Road. The 34 x 60 foot barn is about 70 years old. (Chris Brush Photograph, Daily Standard, June 18, 1991).



Employees of Merkle Heavy Moving, Ohio City, lifted the Hemmelgarn barn from its foundation and moved it to the highway on Monday. On Tuesday, the building was moved north on State Route 118, east on Cooper Drive, through a soybean field, and over to its new location at 4688 Carthagena Road, at Dan Hemmelgarn's place. It took them 45 minutes to move the barn. They had to pour the pillars (for the hay loft) before they took the shoring out, and lowered it onto its new foundation. The entire operation was complete by noon Wednesday. (Chris Brush Photograph, Daily Standard, June 18, 1991).



This barn was built about 1900-1905, by a carpenter named Placke. This is one of the first barns, in the area, which was built on a concrete foundation. (Earlier they were built on pillar stones.) When first built, the inside of the barn was finished out with individual box stalls, which had to be cleaned by hand. The barn was used to house horses, store hay, house cattle, store wheat and oats before and after it was threshed. This is Bernard J. Franzer's barn at 5316 Carthagena Road, St. Henry. (Note the diamond windows on the door.)



Bernard J. Franzer, standing outside his barn, at 5316 Carthagena Road, in January 1991. Today, the barn houses cattle, and stores hay and straw; there are large stables which can be cleaned mechanically.

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John Wimmers, Great Grandpa to Thelma Wimmers Fortkamp, built this barn, located at the Tom Moorman Farm, 4780 Lange Road, in the early 1900's. This photograph was taken about 1946, when Tom Moorman, age twelve, is holding a mule in front of the barn. The barn was used for cows, and it had four horse stables, with loose hay in the mow. Today, the barn is used for sows; the mow is used for baled straw and hay.

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This gable-roofed barn was built in the early 1900's and the neighbors all helped. The barn, which stands on Carthagena Road, was used for livestock and storage. Today, the barn is used for storage, and belongs to Elmer C. Link, 5558 Philothea Road, St. Henry.

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A cold, quiet winter day, Virgil Franck's barn is surrounded by snow, at 1311 State Route 118, St. Henry. This barn was built in 1909 by Lawrence Franck and Sons, and the barn is still in the Franck family.

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An interior view of Virgil Franck's barn shows the huge post and braced beam, making up one of the bents which support the roof. Note the wooden pins in the post.

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An interior view of Virgil Franck's barn shows the post supporting the purlin, which supports the rafters, of the gambrel roof.

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A close-up of the post, whereby the mortise was cut to receive the tenon of the beam, and was securely fastened by wooden pins, in the Franck barn.

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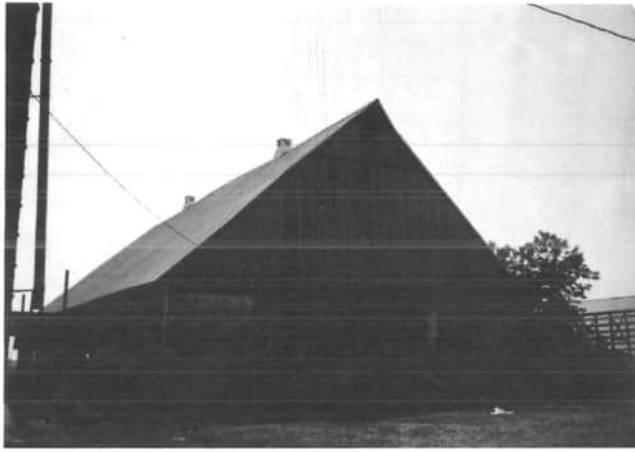
The weeping willow with an early morning coat of ice stands sentinel in front of Lester and Dolores Hartings' barn, 2180 State Route 118, St. Henry. This barn was built in 1896 by Bernard L. Rose and has been used for livestock and feed storage. The red barn is trimmed in white. A unique feature of this barn, is that it is on two levels, being built on a hill the length of the barn; this type barn has been called a Grundscheuer or Grundscheier Barn, or ground-level barn.

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This gambrel-roofed barn has the protective pent roof on the east end of the barn. The pent roof of many Mercer County barns often is added to the east end. This barn was built in the early 1900's, and is used for livestock; today the barn belongs to Linus J. Clune, 2841 State Route 118, St. Henry.

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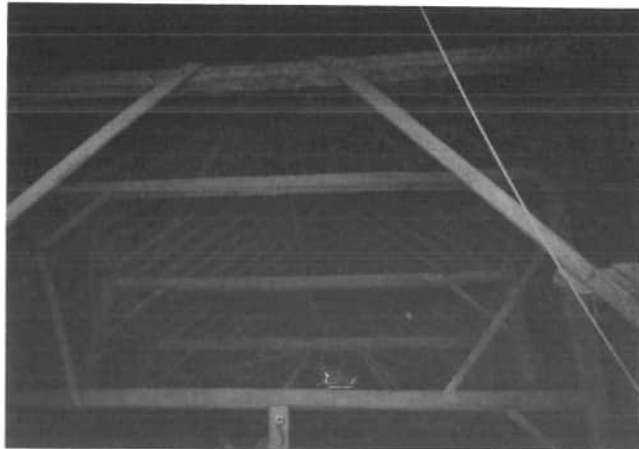
Clem Evers, 3226 Fort Recovery-Minster Road, Saint Henry, has a unique barn. It has the double barn doors on the gable side, and the side walls are one story high, making the roof-line extend farther. In 1947, the tornado took off the roof and part of the siding.

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Henry Feldhake and hands built this barn, in 1902. The barn was used to house their work horses, a few cows, and loose hay and grain. Today, the barn is owned by Clarence and Shirley Heuing, 3389 Fort Recovery-Minster Road, Saint Henry. The barn is used for dairy cows, and baled hay and straw. In the photographs, the elevator is placed to send the bales up to the mow, through the door, which slides on the tract to the left. Six lightning rods grace the ridgeboard of the gable roof.

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This interior view of Clem Evers' barn, shows the interior framing, after the repair from 1947. Some barn enthusiasts might suggest that this barn has a "Dutch" influence, while others might suggest the influence is from Lower Saxony, Germany. With this thought, the barn does have the double doors at the gable side, and the central aisle is parallel with the ridgeboard of the roof. The horizontal beams are not extended to the outside wall.

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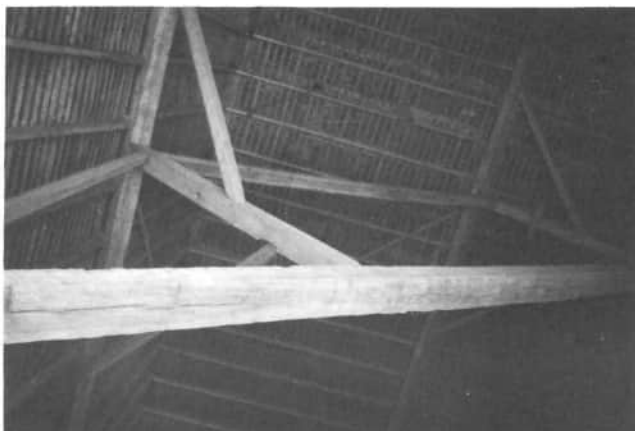
This big barn is owned by Charles Rose, 3740 Fort Recovery-Minster Road, Saint Henry. The barn may have been built by Jacob Sief-ring. It was used for dairy cows in the past; today, the barn is used for steers.

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Sylvan Jutte stands before his barn, at 3831 Fort Recovery-Minster Road, Saint Henry. Fred Tobe may have built this barn about 1890. The barn housed four horses, plus ten to twelve milking cows, and had granaries for oats and wheat to store the grain while threshing. The barn was remodeled and a foundation put in, around the early 1950's, when tractors and combines started to hit the area. Silos were also becoming popular at that time. Today, the barn is used for steer confinement at the bottom, with overhead bale storage.

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This interior view gives an insight to the size of this barn, with the hand-hewn single beam crossing the width of the barn, which supports the vertical posts which support the purlin plates under the rafters of the roof, of the Jutte barn.

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This interior view shows the hand-hewn beam, which has wooden pins pinning the vertical posts, of the Jutte barn.

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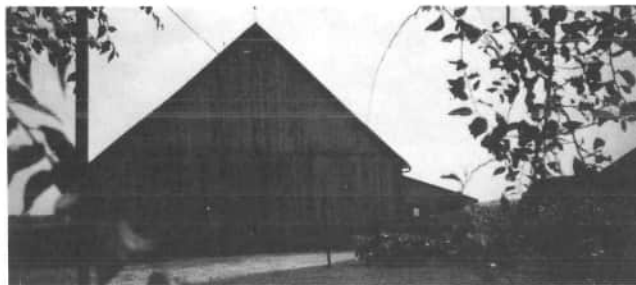
John Hoying's barn, at 4204 Fort Recovery-Minster Road, Saint Henry, is ninety feet by forty feet. When George Hoying bought this farm, the barn had horse stables on one end and granaries on the bottom floor. The grain was carried to the granary in sacks. The barn has since been remodeled for dairy cows, and putting in overhead for hay and straw covering most of the barn.

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This interior view of the Hoying barn shows the hand-hewn posts and beam, which have been pinned with wooden pins.



This old barn belongs to Edwin Knapke, 4292 Fort Recovery-Minster Road, Saint Henry. The barn is used for cows and feeder cattle. Edwin Knapke thought Joseph Nieport's grandfather may have built the barn. When asked about this, Joseph Nieport wrote the nicest letter to the Mercer County Historical Society, as follows: "Regarding your letter of February 21, asking information about my Grandfather building the barn on the Edwin Knapke farm, I cannot verify if he built it. My parents did not talk about it that I can remember.

"But, I do have many memories of the barn, since I lived on that farm for sixteen years. I sweat many a drop, putting hay in the mow; also the wheat and oats crops, which were cut with a horse drawn grain binder, then packed in the barn loft, almost to the roof."

"I remember the big swing my father made with the hay fork rope, which let me swing across the threshing floor with my brother and sisters."

"Then, different times we kids fell out of the hay mow. We also would climb on the tallest eight by eight beams to catch pigeons, unbeknown to our parents."

"There always was a litter of kittens and sometimes a family of skunks which lived under the feeding mangers."

"My Dad and I sometimes took a noon nap, in the oats granary on a hot summer day. This old barn looks different inside today, as it is a loafing area without the stalls and threshing floor. This old barn may stand many years as it has a good metal roof on it."

"Some of the barns in the neighborhood were used to bootleg whiskey."

Sincerely,  
Joseph Nieport



Henry J. Hart's barn stands at 1488 State Route 118, at the intersection of the Fort Recovery-Minster Road, Saint Henry. this well-kept barn has white siding.



This interior view of H.J. Hart's barn shows the hand hewn log stringers used to support the mow.



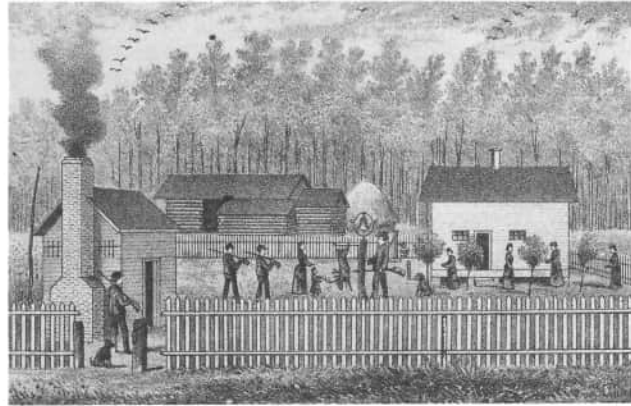
This barn belongs to Henry J. and Imogene Hart, also, and is located just east of Harts, on the Fort Recovery-Minster Road. They called it the old Quinter barn.



This interior view of the Thieman barn shows the huge beams supporting the rafters. The mow is full, almost to the rafters.



This interior view of Hart's barn, shows the old hand hewn beams, with the interlocking mortise and tenon, held together by wooden pins. These posts and beams support the purlin plate which supports the roof rafters.



So many stories have been told about "Wild Bill" Simison of Cranberry Prairie, but no one has ever written about William Simison's barn, near the Fort Recovery-Minster Road, near Cranberry Prairie. Mr. Simison gave his homestead the name "Walkatemoke," which is yet to be translated. (Perhaps, a reader of this book will call the Mercer County Historical Museum, and give the translation.) This drawing is taken from the 1882 Van Wert and Mercer County History Book, edited by Sutton. The picket fence encloses the farmstead, with the home and smokehouse; the hunters have just returned home with their kill, hung next to the dinner bell. Behind the picket fence stands a double crib log barn, with two smaller attached sheds. This is one of the few remaining drawings of double crib log barns in Mercer County. The two log crib barns are built, with an equal distance between them, leaving space for the drive-through wagonway; with a common roof covering the two cribs and drive-through. Some people call this drive-through a "dog trot," while others reserve the name "dog trot," for the passage between log houses built on this floor plan.



This barn was built by Stephen Thieman (Dan's Grandfather) in 1903. It took on its present look in 1956, by Ted and Dan Thieman, along with the help of their father Joseph J. Thieman. Prior to this, it was all red. The barn is forty-four feet by one hundred and ten feet. The barn still has its original stables, hay and straw mows, grain bins, and siding. The roof was replaced in 1989. The barn was used for dairy until 1980. Today the barn is used for beef cattle. This is the Dan Thieman barn, 4784 Fort Recovery-Minster Road, Saint Henry.



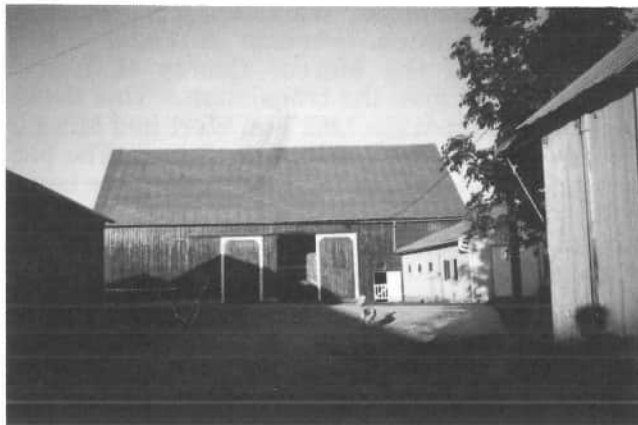
This barn, located at 5062 Fort Recovery-Minster Road, belongs to Robert Broering, 1069 Cranberry Road, Saint Henry. Tumbusch carpenters built this barn in 1926; Caspar Reier had this barn built after his barn burned down in 1926. In 1940 Bill and Johanna Keller bought it; Broerings bought it from Kellers in 1974. The barn was used for milking and raising heifers in the past. Today, Broerings use the barn for their heifers, baby calves, hay and straw. This barn has a gambrel roof; the red siding is trimmed in white, with the white triangle at the end wall. The elevator is placed to take the bales to the mow. A small bank leads to a small side door on the west wall. The summer sun is casting deep shadows across the front of the barn, at the end of the work day.

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The Bruggeman barn is one of the few barns in Mercer County, with the original small windows above the double doors.

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This barn was built in 1880, and belongs to Andrew Bruggeman, 5207 Fort Recovery-Minster Road, Saint Henry. The barn is used for hay storage and livestock sleeping areas in the bank part of the barn.

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This interior view shows the hand hewn wooden beams, with the tenon and mortise locked with wooden pins. The mow of the Bruggeman barn is full to the rafters.

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This is an interior view of the threshing floor of the Bruggeman barn.

(Editor's note: Of the hundreds of barns I have visited, this barn's threshing floor has the richest patina of any I have seen. The well-maintained floor reflects the fine care it has received for the past century.)



An interior view of the Huwer barn shows the supporting posts of the rafters of the gambrel roof, and how there is more room in the mow.



This gambrel-roofed barn was built in August 1932, after the fire destroyed the previous barn. This barn is owned by Charles L. Huwer, 1211 Cranberry Road, Saint Henry, and is used for storing straw, hay bales, and housing cattle (and cats). Following the fire that destroyed the old barn, relatives and neighbors helped build a new one. John Schindler, a hired man on the farm, supervised the construction. All timber used was removed from the woods located on the farm. Since it was the depression, help was available at one dollar per day. The old barn was thirty feet by one hundred and twenty-four feet, with an extension of sixty-five by ninety-four feet. The new barn is thirty by ninety feet, with an extension of thirty-two by eighty-six feet.



This is the scene of the Huwer barn fire, after the rubble was cleaned up.



This is a late August 1932 view of the Huwer barn, as the tenons of the beams are being fit into the mortises of the posts of the main frame bents.

## BARN FIRE NEWS ARTICLE

**BARN, CONTENTS ARE DESTROYED IN \$5,000 EARLY MORNING BLAZE. Grain, Farm Machinery Go In Mysterious Fire Early Wednesday.**

"A big barn with hundreds of bushels of oats and valuable farm machinery was destroyed by fire of undetermined origin that started about 7 a.m. Wednesday on the farm of John Huwer Jr., a half-mile south of Cranberry Prairie. The loss was estimated by the owner at \$5,000, partly covered by insurance.

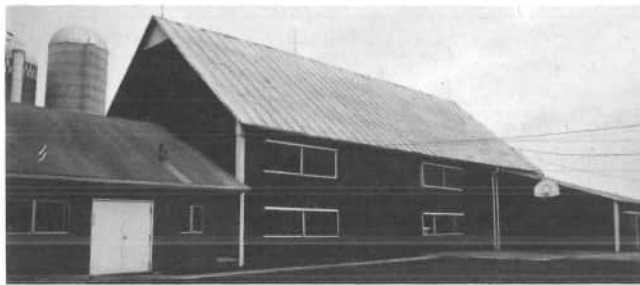
"Mr. Huwer and Miss Adeline Quinter, maid at the Huwer home, having just finished milking, were driving cows down a lane to pasture, and on looking around one of them discovered the big building in flames. Fifteen minutes before they had been working in the barn. "Fearing destruction of the home and outbuildings along with the barn, the Huwer family started walking the half-mile to the village to summon aid. Neighbors were already hurrying to the scene, however, and the Chickasaw Community Fire Co. truck was summoned. The firemen made the nine-mile run in twenty minutes.

"Only the frantic efforts of neighbors and the fire company prevented outbuildings, which were afire several times, and the residence, from destruction, Mr. Huwer said today.

"The barn, L-shaped, 30 by 124 feet with the extension of 65 by 94 feet, was one of the biggest in the locality, of sound construction. Destroyed with the barn was this season's entire hay crop, along with part of that of last season, 1,400 bushels of oats, a corn binder, corn shredder, corn planter, two farm wagons, grain binder, harness, milking equipment, and many less valuable articles.

"Sylvester Homan, driver for the Burkettsville Grain Co., had just arrived at the farm with his truck at the outset of the blaze. He assisted Huwer in removing an automobile and a tractor from an adjoining building.

"The farm, of 160 acres, is known as the John Huwer Sr. farm, although Mr. Huwer Sr. has been dead for a year. Living there at present are Mrs. Huwer Sr., Mr. and Mrs. John Huwer Jr. and their four children."



Harold Huwer's barn, 681 Huwer Road, St. Henry, was built in 1900. This farm was settled by Harold's Great Grandfather Jacob Huwer. It was then sold to his son William Huwer, who sold it to his son Aloys Huwer, who sold it to his son Harold Huwer.



This 1952 photograph of the Harold Huwer farm, has the shadow of the airplane on the barn. The barn was built in 1900 by William Huwer. The barn was used for horse stables, cow stables, hay and straw storage. Today, the barn is used for dairy cows, a calf barn, and hay and straw storage. The red barn is trimmed in white, which not only outlines the corners and the doors, but also highlights the white triangle in the gable peak. Of course, Huwer Road took its name from the Huwer family.



This barn stands on Mercer-Darke County Line Road, in Granville Township, and was built about 1910, by John and Edward Rindler. This barn was used for livestock and hay storage. Today, the barn is used for hay and machinery storage. Note the pent roof, at the end of the barn. A small rectangular window is above the double doors on the side. The barn belongs to Harold Huwer, 681 Huwer Road, St. Henry.



This barn, located at 3067 Carthagena Road, is believed to have been built about 1875. This old photograph of the barn, was taken about 1951, with one of the former owners, Thresia Borger. This barn was axed, hewed, and measured 96 feet x 44 feet. According to former owners, it was struck by lightning twice, once while it was being constructed, knocking out one end. In later years, about 1900, lightning struck again, following the lightning rod down the southwest corner doing little damage to the barn but killing a large work horse in the southwest stable, owned by the Hemmelgarns who owned the farm until 1937. At that time it was purchased by Urban and Thresia Borger who owned it until 1974. It was then purchased by the present owners Carl and Ethel Borger.

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John L. Geier family came from Fort Loramie in 1899 to live on the farm at 4231 Carthagena Road, St. Henry. They built the barn in 1902; the barn had the date 1902 painted on the gable end wall. They used the barn for cattle and grain. After John's death in 1928, his son Leo Geier took over the farm until his death in 1970. This photograph belongs to John Geier's daughter, Betty Brunswick, 2566 Burkettsville St. Henry Road, St. Henry. Ken Dues bought this farm from the Geier family, in 1970.

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This photograph of Carl and Ethel Borger's barn, 3067 Carthagena Road, St. Henry, was taken in 1992, after several additions were made.

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Ken Dues bought this place at 4231 Carthagena Road, St. Henry, from the Geier Family, in 1970. In the past, the barn had been used for horses and cattle. Today, the barn is used for cattle. The barn was remodeled in May 1986, and has new red siding with white trim. This barn is over 90 years old, and still stands straight and true.

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After many years of hard work and dedication to farming and raising a family, it was time to move on — retirement was calling. In January of 1983, Urban & Irma moved off the farm to 451 Park St. in St. Henry.

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Another old view of the Keller farm at 4881 Kremer Hoying Road shows the addition of the silo. What is the model and year of the pick up truck?

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This barn was built in the late 1800's by John Huelsman and used for general farming, at 4881 Kremer Hoying Road. This barn was later owned by Joseph G. Keller in 1935. The barn was in very bad condition when he bought it; the barn even had a wooden floor. Joseph Keller repaired the barn in the 1930's. After his death, his wife Marcella owned the place in 1973. She again repaired the barn, and put new siding on the outside, and added a new roof. In the photograph, the white triangle can be seen in the gable peak; an eight paned window is beneath the peak. White board fences and white picket fences can be seen on the photograph. Their son Marvin and his wife Alice Keller now own the place. Marvin has done some remodeling.

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This is a view of the Marvin and Alice Keller barn at 4881 Kremer Hoying Road, today. The barn is used for general farming.

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Ernest and Mary Ann Hemmelgarn own this place at 3056 State Route 119, St. Henry. This big old barn was built in the early 1900's. A basketball rim is mounted on the double doors for the young and young at heart. An addition has been made to the right of the barn. The barn has been used for livestock, and feed storage for the cattle. Note the silo in the background.



Frantz Joseph Speck built this barn; he came from Germany in 1840. His son John Speck, Sr., said the house was built in 1869, when he was twelve years old. The barn was probably already there as the big barns were usually built after an original log barn and house had been used and they were ready for a new barn; then the house replacing the log house was built after the new big barn was built. This particular barn was a bank barn, with three cupolas on top. This barn had hand hewn beams and was wooden pinned. In this photograph, a windpump or windmill stands between the house and barn; an older barn stands to the east of the bank barn. John's son William Speck and his wife Catherine raised their family there. This barn stands on the north side of State Route 119, west of St. Henry, just west of Wessel Road and east of Post Road. When the William Speck family moved to town about 1963, they sold the place. Today, the place is owned by Paul and Nancy Broering, St. Henry.

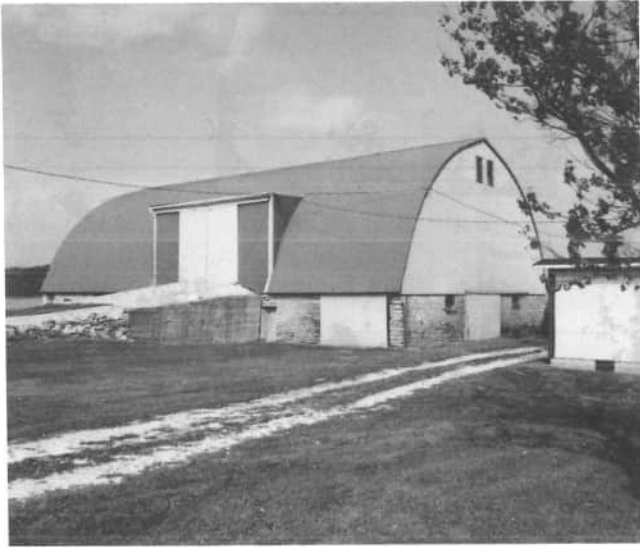


Robert and Phyllis Reier's farm at 3197 State Route 119, Saint Henry, has a unique history. The place was originally owned by a Mr. Himmelgarn. In 1852, Father Brunner, purchased the farm, and founded a convent, which he named Himmelgarten (heaven garden). On March 29, 1854, the convent, the chapel, the barn, and other buildings were destroyed by fire. By 1855, they had rebuilt a brick convent, chapel, and barn. This convent continued until it closed. In January 1901, Mr. Fred Bimmel, of Portland, Indiana, purchased the property and buildings for \$13,746.28. The Sisters of the Most Precious Blood continued to live at the convent until April, when they took leave. Also, July 3, 1960, at 5:30 p.m. an electrical storm passed through this part of the state. This storm did damage to the property which was once the Himmelgarten Convent; at that time, 1960, the property was owned by a Mr. Keller. Much of what remained of the original 1855 barn, showed signs of destruction by the storm. On this 1960 photograph, one can see a wagon standing in the double doorway, which was to become the site of the bank leading to the upper level in the Robert Reier barn of the 1990's.



This is a close view of the foundation and the barn belonging to Robert Reier, 3197 State Route 119, Saint Henry. One can compare this photograph of the foundation with the previous photograph, taken in 1960 after the storm, and see that it is the same foundation, that has been used since 1855 when it was part of the set of buildings for the Himmelgarten Convent Complex. Also on this photograph, one can see the size of the stones used in the bank.





This view shows the Robert and Phyllis Reier barn at 3197 State Route 119. A new round roof, sometimes called gothic or rainbow roof, was placed on the 1855 foundation, after the barn was destroyed in the July 3, 1960 storm. The double sliding doors are set into the round roof. The end wall is painted yellow, while the roof is a light colored brown.

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This interior view of the bottom floor shows the rough, hand hewn posts and beams, which support the logs under the wooden floor from 1855. Robert Reier's barn must have been a grand barn, from 1855 when it was built by the C.P.P.S. Convent, until the storm of 1960. With the new barn, the Reier barn is still a grand barn, with its new barn and historic foundation.

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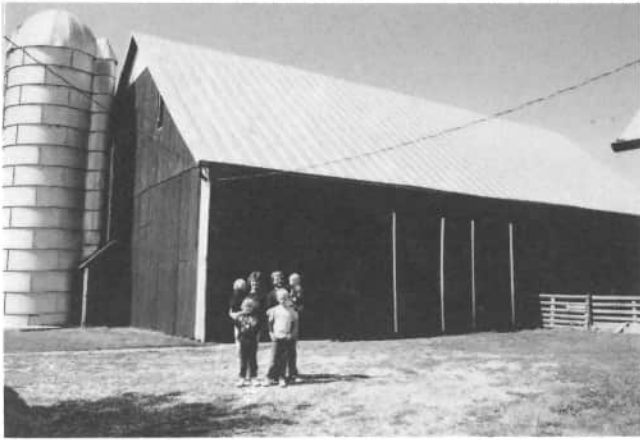
This interior view of the Robert Reier barn, shows the wooden threshing floor is still there. At the left of the door, one can see the opening in the floor for the steps leading to the bottom floor.

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Dennis and Pat Pottkotter's barn, 5158 State Route 119, St. Henry, was built in the late 1800's. This barn has been used for farm use, mostly dairy. The five horse stable doors are outlined in white on the north side. The red barn is trimmed in white. The basketboard on the wall is there for the children's enjoyment. Today, the barn is used for hogs. It is neat to see a barn which still has the old stable doors; so many barns have enclosed the stable doors and covered them with siding. These doors remind us of our rural heritage.

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Philip Weitzel is holding Ryan, while his wife Marge is holding Lauren. The other two children Erin and Adam are standing in front of them. They are standing in front of their barn at 5677 State Route 119, St. Henry. This big barn was built in 1915; it was moved from Coldwater Creek Road to this site on Route 119. They moved the barn across the field, a total of about a fourth of a mile. In the past, the barn was used for dairy and steers; today the barn is used for dairy or young calves. This red barn is trimmed in white; the white triangle can be seen in the gable peak.



Vincent W. Rengers, 14417 Promenade, Detroit, MI 48213, wrote the following story about the Rengers' barn. "My Grandfather Henry Rengers, bought this farm in 1903 and moved with his family from their farm on Fleetfoot Road where his father homesteaded in 1851. The main barn was used for horses, equipment, and hay. The milk barn was for his herd of fifty Holstein cows. He brought the first Holstein cattle to Mercer County in about 1880 and was a well known breeder of Holsteins. In 1907, when this photograph was taken, he was also proprietor of Clover Blossom Dairy. The main barn, which has been rebuilt, is still on the northeast corner of 118 and 119. The milk barn was sold and moved away when the county took some of the property along 119 to widen the road. Frank

Rengers, the youngest son of Henry, sold the farm to Donald Unrast who is the present owner." On the photograph, note the hay hood door. Note that CLOVER BLOSSOM FARM, H. RENGERS is written across the end wall of the barn. J.B. Romer built this barn.



"A barn that used to be" is this barn that was located at 461 E. Washington Street, St. Henry. from 1946 to 1967, this barn was owned by Clarence Rinderle; it was used to house a cow, steers, and pigs, furnishing the family with food and milk. It was bought by Daniel Rinderle, Clarence's son, in 1967; he used it for storage, and later for a woodworking shop on the east side of the barn. In 1985, it was bought by Daniel's son, Douglas; he added the garage on the west side. It was torn down in the Spring of 1992, to make room for Douglas' new home. This barn was historical, in that it was built in the late 1800's and had hand hewn beams.



Fred and Irene Rose's barn stands at 4179 Fort Recovery-Minster Road, St. Henry. This big old barn was built before 1882; the barn was standing there when Christian Leistenschneider purchased the place in 1882. Christian was Fred's Great Grandfather. In the past the barn was used for dairy and horse stables. Today, the barn is used for a nursery for pigs and has a loft for the straw. In 1957, a cement foundation was put under the barn, and it was resided.



The Gelhaus Bros. barn is located at 4293 Fort Recovery-Minster Road, St. Henry. The barn was built in 1913 by Uhlenhake and Boehmer. In the past, the barn housed dairy cattle and horses, and hay storage. Today, the barn is used for a milking parlor, with free stalls and hay storage.

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David Brunswick's barn is located at 1064 Post Road, St. Henry. The barn is over a 100 years old. It was used for livestock, horses, cows, hay, straw, and oats. Today, this barn has new brown siding, trimmed in white. The barn is used for storage and for recreation.

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The Heuing Farm barn is located at 1807 Post Road, St. Henry. The owner is Clarence Heuing, 3389 Fort Recovery Minster Road, St. Henry. This gable roofed barn has had an addition made to the right end of the barn. Since the double doors are to the right of center, there may have been an addition to the left end wall of the barn. There is also an addition to the left end wall of the barn. The barn appears to have the original wood siding on the front, with new siding applied to the end wall. The barn is used for raising heifers.

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This barn stands on Watkins Road, just east of Township Line Road. Four lightning rods stand across the ridge of the gable roof. The stable doors can still be seen on the end wall of this white frame barn. In 1992, this barn belonged to Ray Post.

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This barn stands at 1158 Post Road, where Ray Post lives in 1992. The barn was built in 1887 by Ray's father Ben T. Post. The house was built in 1887, and the other buildings followed. In 1992 the owner of the place is Ray's son, Ernest E. Post, the third generation. The barn has been used for livestock, grain and hay.

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An aerial view of the Post barn at 1158 Post Road. This is an earlier aerial view than the previous photograph.

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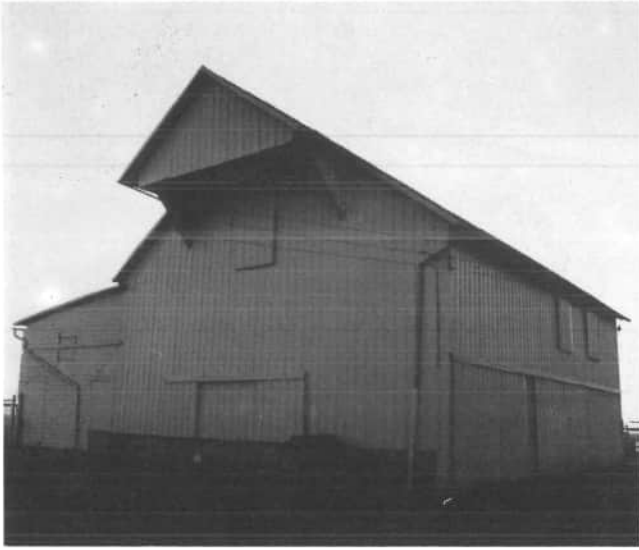
An aerial view of the Post barn at 1158 Post Road. Compare this with the earlier aerial view.

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Rick Werling lives here at 152 Post Road, Fort Recovery. This barn is unique because it is one of a few which have the boxed hay hood over the hay mow door. The barn was probably built in the early 1900's. Werling & Sons, Inc., 100 S. Plum St., Burkettsville, OH 45310 own this barn. They resided the barn in 1988.

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This is another view of the box hay hood over the hay mow door on the Werling Barn at 152 Post Road. This barn has been used for feeding cattle.

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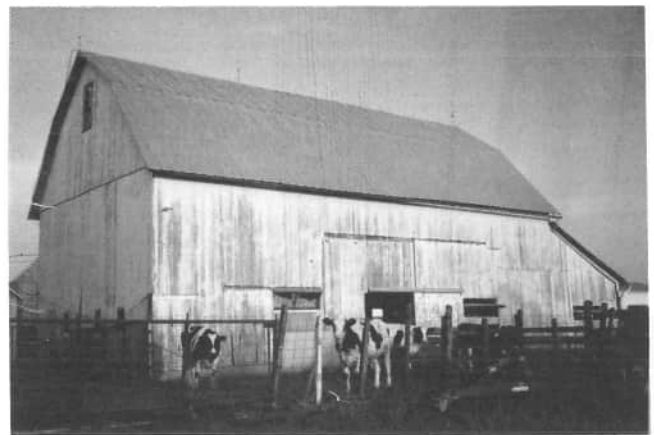
Ron and Tom Schwieterman's barn, 3690 Watkins Road, Fort Recovery, was built in the 1870's. This gable roofed barn is white and has an addition to both ends. They remember taking horse stalls out of this barn in the 1950's. This barn has been used for livestock and storage for hay and straw. Look at this photograph and see the second barn behind this barn. This second barn is in the next photograph.

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Roman J. Hemmelgarn, 128 Hemmelgarn Road, Fort Recovery, tells that his barn was built in 1876. The year 1876 was the year that our Nation was celebrating its Centennial. This big barn was built to last. Note the pitch of the roof, and the width of the barn, in comparison to the length. The barn has been used as a livestock barn. Having the same name as the road, indicates that the Hemmelgarn family settled here before the road was named.

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This barn stands behind the other barn, at the Ron and Tom Schwieterman place, at 3690 Watkins Road. This barn was moved by their father Arnold Schwieterman in 1948 from a half mile away, from Walter Franck's farm. This barn was also built in the 1870's, and has been used for livestock and storage for hay and straw. This barn has a gambrel roof, with a low pitch.

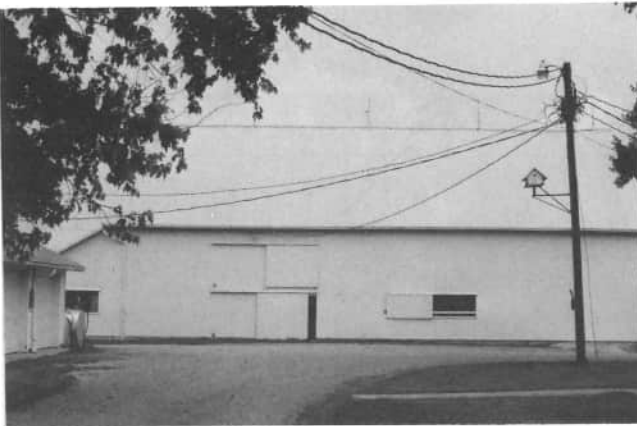
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Fred and Lori Boeke's barn stands at 3677 Mercer Darke County Line Road, Fort Recovery. This barn was built in 1917-1918, just after World War I. The lumber to build the barn came from the woods on the farm. The barn has sawed lumber and is not hand hewn. The reason for building the barn was so that the owner and builder of the barn, Bill Hemmelgarn, could do his threshing inside instead of outside. Bill Hemmelgarn had the place from 1918 to 1932; then Joseph and Mary Boeke bought it in 1932 and owned it until 1947 when Victor and Luella Boeke bought it. They owned it until 1988 when Fred and Lori Boeke bought it. This silo is unique in the county; few Mercer County silos are built of brown glazed tile. This silo was built in September of 1955 and was contracted through Bob Ables.



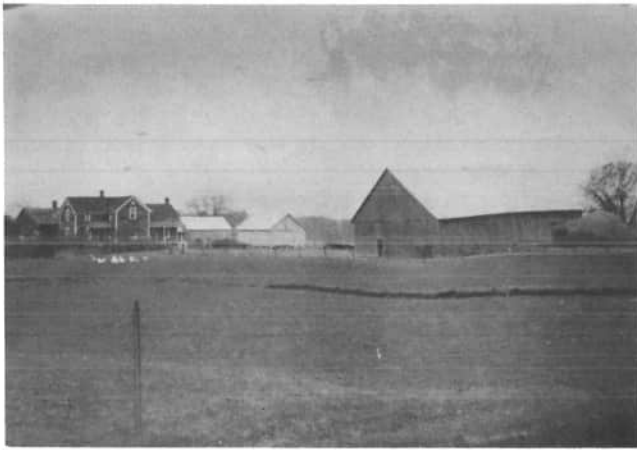
This is an interior view of Gregor B. Evers' barn on Township Line road. Look at the main cross beam, which is in one piece at forty feet in length; note how it extends through the siding, beneath the eaves. Note the post above the cross beam; it supports the purlin plate, the beam which runs the length of the barn and supports the rafters of the roof. The purlin is lapped just above this post. (photo by Gregor Evers)



Gregor B. Evers' barn is located on Township Line Road, St. Henry, on the east side of the road, just the first place south of Fort Recovery Minster Road. This white barn with the gable roof, has five lightning rods across the roof ridge. This barn has been used for livestock (dairy) and for hay storage. See the interior view of the framing. (photo by Gregor Evers)



This red barn is located the first place south of Fox Road, on the west side of Township Line Road. It belongs to Gregor B. Evers, 1450 Township Line Road. This barn has been resided; the entry doors have been changed. A pent roof is to the left side of the barn, for protection from the elements. Note the hay hood to the hay mow entry. This barn is located on the Gibson Township side of the road. (photo by Gregor Evers)



The Wessel Family built this barn in 1908; John Losekamp was the carpenter. All native lumber was sawed right in the woods from their farm, at 3119 Wessel Road. (The Wessel Family must have preceded the naming of the road, since it carries their name.) This 1924 photograph has the old log house in back of the house, on the west side. They built a new home in front of the old house. This barn has been used for horses, steers, cows, and feed for animals. The unpainted barn was in its natural weathered siding.

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This is another view of the Seraphim Lefeld place at 3119 Wessel Road, St. Henry.

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This April 1992 photograph shows the same Wessel family barn, at 3119 Wessel Road, St. Henry, as it is owned by Seraphim Lefeld today. Today, the barn is used for a milk set-up and feed for cows. Today, the barn is painted white, with several windows added for interior light.

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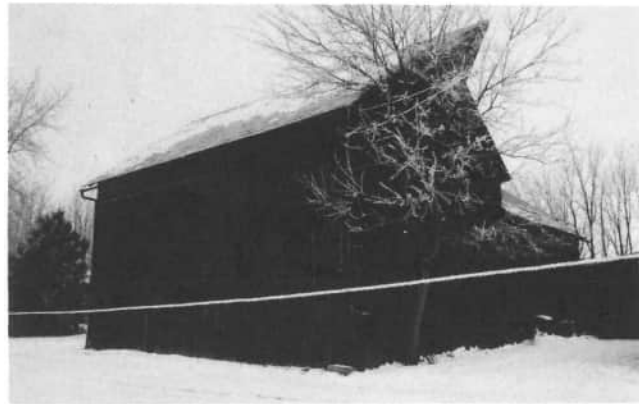
Another view of the Leander Heckman place, 1777 Burkettsville-St. Henry Road, after the 1947 tornado. The complete home is on the road. (Wilbur Meinerding photograph) The barn was originally a bank barn; the storm shoved the barn east. Leander Heckman moved the barn west and a little south, about a couple hundred feet of where it stood.

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This is Jim Brackman's barn, 1777 Burkettsville St. Henry Road, St. Henry. This was the barn which had been moved off its foundation in the 1947 tornado, when Leander Heckman owned it. Mr. and Mrs. Leander Heckman moved in November 1991 to Philothea. Today, this attractive barn is painted red, with white trim. Few would guess that it survived a tornado and was once a bank barn located a couple hundred feet from where it is today.

Leander Heckman, his wife and two children lived there. Leander's brother Richard, and his friend Imelda Schoenherr, (later to be his wife), and Leander's mother Mrs. Matilda Falke, were sitting on the east side of the house. There was a cloud in the west and one in the southwest; they came together. It was very quiet; then the wind came up. They went into the house and just after they got into the house, the storm hit. The wind raised the house and turned it around. Mrs. Falke fell through the floor and died of injuries. Leander went up with the floor, and the same floor fell on top of the whole pile. Limbs, boards, etc. were blowing across the field and Leander got hit in the back and he was knocked out for awhile. After the storm Donald lost his eye because something very small punched his pupil in his eye. The others survived the storm. The house was a nice house, which set on a glazed tile foundation; a nine room, two story house; everything was destroyed. It took all day the next day to clean up the road, and they built a fire right next to the road to take care of it. (Wilbur Meinerding photograph)



Gard Yaney's barn stands at 2667 State Route 118, Saint Henry. Anthony Bernard was the real estate agent for this barn when Gard Yaney bought the barn and moved it to its present location in 1936. Mr. Yaney does not know who the barn owner really was. The nearest date that they can locate is that the barn is over 85 years old. No one knows who built it. In the past, the barn was used for cows and chickens; today it is used for storage of farm implements. This red barn has a gable roof, with an attractive triangular hay hood. Not many barns have triangular hay hoods because when farmers put on a new roof, they do away with the hay hoods since they are no longer needed. In the past, the farmers had pulleys and ropes attached to the hay hoods, to lift the hay to the mow; today farmers use elevators. Today, Gard Yaney's address is 562 North Eastern Avenue, Saint Henry, Ohio.



On Labor Day, 1947, a tornado streaked across Southern Mercer County. In Marion Township, many barns and homes were destroyed. In Granville Township, one of the places that was hit by this tornado, was the Leander Heckman family home, 1777 Burkettsville-St. Henry Road, St. Henry. The barn was there when the Leander Heckman family moved there about 1940. (A Mader family lived there before that. Maders probably put up the house and barn. Ed Kemper may have built the barn, about 1915. Another family lived there a couple of years after the Maders left and before Heckmans moved there.) The day the storm hit,





This neat bank barn belongs to Herbert Evers, 1929 Fleetfoot Road, Saint Henry. Originally this barn had a very narrow drive way, with a large cistern next to the barn, under the driveway. It was pumped full periodically. It furnished water for all of the outbuildings. In the past, the barn was used for dairy. Today, the barn is used for feeding dry cows and heifers.

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Henry Lochtefeld's barn, 2578 Fleetfoot Road, was built in 1900. Originally the barn was used as half for loose hay and straw and the other half for horses, and a few cows. From 1950 to 1965 the barn was used as a dairy barn. Today the barn is used as housing for steers. Henry and Freda Lochtefeld tell that under the threshing floor, they found a dug well, all brick lined. The first level is 16 feet in diameter and 8 feet deep; the second level is 6 feet in diameter, for a total of 23 feet in depth. In the past, there was a wooden pipe, with a wooden pitcher pump. At some time, before Hank's Dad bought the place, this barn was added on to, and a threshing floor was put in over this well.

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Henry Uhlenhake built this barn in 1905, at 2132 Fleetfoot Road, St. Henry. The barn has been used for livestock and feed storage. Today, this gable roofed barn is owned by Carl, Martina, and Jerome Uhlenhake.

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Imelda Keller's barn is located at 2662 Coldwater Creek Road, St. Henry. This barn has been used for milk cows and for storing hay and straw. Today, the barn is for feeding hogs to sell. This red barn is trimmed in white; the double doors each have a diamond window centered in the door.

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Roger Wuebker's barn stands at 2901 Cold-water Creek Road, St. Henry. Note the length and width of this white barn with the gable roof. Do the cross beams extend beneath the eaves, just above the double doors? The barn has been used for horses and cows. Today, the barn is completely used for cows. The modern pick up truck and tractor in this photograph will be viewed as 'antiques' by the next generation.

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Cy and Merdella Schwieterman's barn is located at 5711 Reier Road, St. Henry, Ohio. Cy wrote the following story about this place. "Frank Hemmelgarn, 2nd oldest member of St. Francis Parish told me that he remembered about 1920, a Mr. William Kaiser operated a large saw mill approximately a half mile north of St. Francis Church on the East Side of what is now called Cranberry Road. It was very close to the road that ran from east side of Cranberry Road to Route 127, at the intersection of Stelzer Road. Mr. Kaiser used the barn for a shop in which he repaired the equipment that he used in his saw mill. Mr. Kaiser sold his saw mill and land in the early 1930's at which time Clarence P. Stachler purchased the 31 acres. Mr. Stachler then used the barn in conjunction with his farming operations. Mr. Stachler sold the 31 acres and building in 1950 to Merdella Schwieterman. Then Cy Schwieterman used the barn for storage and to repair the equipment in his farm drainage operations. Now the barn is again used as storage since the building of the new shop in 1975. Looking inside this big old barn, one can still see that the barn is wooden pinned."

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Betty L. Dull's barn stands at 939 Dull Road, St. Henry. The Dull family must have preceded the naming of the road, since they have the same name. This attractive red barn has two pair of double doors on the side. The end wall has a white triangle, with the name DULL lettered across the wall. A gambrel roof has a low pitch. An addition is to the back of the barn. This barn has been used for livestock, hay and straw, and farm machinery; today it is used for storage.

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Dale Huelskamp's barn stands at 5620 Reier Road, St. Henry. This old barn was built in 1890. It was moved from another location to this site about twenty years ago; about three or four feet was cut off the bottom, and the barn was set on a new foundation. In the past, the barn has been used for general farming and for raising hogs. Today, the barn is used for raising cattle. The sliding doors of this barn have been replaced with an overhead door.

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Virgil Hartings' barn stands at 345 Cranberry Road, St. Henry. This barn was built sometime between 1865 and 1910. Anthony Heiser owned the farm during that time; upon his death an affidavit was signed by three neighbors, stating that he cleared the land, put up the buildings, and worked and planted the land for crops. This barn has been used for dairy, horses, storage of grains, hay and straw for feed, and for storing machinery. Today, the barn is used for raising hogs, and hay and straw storage.

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Robert H. Broering's barn stands at 1069 Cranberry Road, St. Henry. In 1945 Lawrence Broering bought this place. Robert Broering bought it from him, in 1969. In the past, the barn has been used for cows and to store machinery, hay and straw. Today, the barn is used for heifers and dry cows, and to store hay and straw. The gable roofed barn is painted red, with white trim; the doors have white triangles painted on the top corners. Note the hay hood over the hay mow entry in the gable end wall.

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The hand hewn posts and beams are evident on this photograph of the interior of Virgil Hartings' barn, 345 Cranberry Road. In the back wall, the light outlines the vertical siding.

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This Hemmelgarn barn stands at 1551 Cranberry Road, St. Henry. This barn was built in the spring of 1939, to replace the big old barn that burned in August 1938. This barn belongs to David J. Hemmelgarn.

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Frank B. Hemmelgarn identifies some of the men who built the barn at 1551 Cranberry Road, in the spring of 1939. From left to right, contractor Frank Seger, a neighbor, the next two are the Zahn Brothers, and standing above is the assistant contractor Tony Rethman.

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This is a view of the framing of the Hemmelgarn barn, 1551 Cranberry Road, St. Henry. On the end wall, note the vertical posts on the bottom floor supporting the cross beam, which supports more vertical posts which support the purlin plate (the beam which runs the length of the barn supporting the rafters). Note how the carpenters nailed cross boards to the vertical posts, for easier climbing to the rafters of the gambrel roof. No fear of heights was needed for the barn builders. Frank Hemmelgarn's son David Hemmelgarn, 5395 Fort Recovery Minster Road, owns the place today.

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Donald and Beverly Rose's barn stands at 5745 Rose Road, St. Henry. Before Donald, his father Edwin Rose owned the place. In 1918, a tornado went through the area, but no damage was done to this barn. About the only changes that have been made to this barn, was to add the silo, and general up keep. It is thought the barn was built in the late 1800's; the barn is in an L shape. The gable roofed barn is painted red, with white trimmed windows, and a white triangle in the gable end wall. A ribbon of four-paned windows are located across the front wall. In the past the barn was used for horses and cattle; today the barn is used for cattle housing.

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Walter Broering's barn is located at 981 Huwer Road, St. Henry. The red barn is trimmed in white. Beneath the white triangle in the gable end wall, note the hay hood over the mow entry. In the past, the barn was used for housing and milking cows, for storing hay and straw. Today, the barn is used for housing dry cows, smaller calves, and hay and straw.

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Roger Rose's barn stands at 5810 Huwer Road, St. Henry. The ownership is now in the third generation, from Edwin Rose to Donald Rose to Roger Rose. This big barn was built in the late 1800's and was used for general farming. In 1970, a leanto was added to the back of the barn, and free stalls were put in for cattle housing. Note the sliding doors, as well as the hay hood over the mow entry. Today, the barn is used for dairy housing.

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St. Henry Branch Library  
200 E. Main Street  
St. Henry, Ohio 45883

Librarian — Pat Kunk

The St. Henry-Granville Township Branch Library was constructed in 1983. The entire building is superinsulated and covers 3000 square feet. The library contains a collection of 8000 volumes and supports a variety of services. Building costs were sourced from a combination of local fund raising and funds previously on hand.

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OSTERHOLT BP, Mark Osterholt, is located at 681 East Main Street, at the corner of State Route 119 and State Route 118, in St. Henry, Ohio.

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The corn crib is full and the wood is cut for the winter, in this winter scene in Granville Township.

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# Kiwanis



Kiwanis is a world wide service organization appealing to men and women who have the desire to become personally involved in making their communities better places in which to live. As a group, these men and women achieve what individuals cannot do alone. Working together, Kiwanians voluntarily share the challenge to community improvement and leadership, assuming personal responsibility for humanitarian and civic projects that public authorities are not prepared to or able to perform. They include such activities as assistance to youth and the aging, conservation of natural resources, development of community facilities and creation of international understanding and goodwill. Whatever their goals may be, Kiwanians are motivated by a common desire to serve and to achieve an appreciation of good fellowship. Kiwanis is a service organization, not a social club. Kiwanis is often a public forum. Kiwanis makes its activities known. Kiwanis fosters principles of good citizenship and human values. Kiwanis actions are guided by the needs of its own locality.

The first meeting of the St. Henry Council Board of Directors of the Kiwanis Club of St. Henry was held immediately following the Organizational Meeting on May 7, 1985. The newly organized club was sponsored by the Kiwanis Club of Coldwater, Ohio, represented by Dean Schaller. There were 28 charter members.

Today, the St. Henry Kiwanis Club has grown to over forty members. They meet weekly at FISHMO'S RESTAURANT, St. Henry. The 1989 committee structure is as

follows: President Al Homan; Vice President Marvin Wourms; Secretary Louis Huelsman; Treasurer Linus Bergman; Board of Directors Paul Niekamp, Ray Post, Art Bernard, Joyce Alig, Jack Romer and Clarence Stahl. Intraclub Relations & Fellowship Committee members are Clarence Stahl. Herman Hoying, Vince Ontrop, Dan Anderson, and Norm Lammers. Finance & Budget Committee Members are Jack Romer, Frank Woeste, Linus Bergman, Al Romer and Ralph Tumbusch. Program Chairpersons are Frank Woeste and Joyce Alig. Publicity Committee persons are Marvin Wourms and Dave Wolters. Major Emphasis Members are Marilyn Huelsman, Tom Lightle, Frank Albers and Cy Schwieterman. Fund Raising Members are Mark Stammen, Mike Link, Mike Niekamp and Dave Stammen. Community Service Members are Jim Gast, Jim Dippold, Al Homan, and Tom Slusser. Membership & Growth Members are Gerald Bruns, Tom Wuebker, Dick Franck and Karl Kaiser. Youth Service Members are Glen Miller, Randy Evers, Larry Wenning and Karl Kaiser. Spiritual Aims Members are Urban Muhlenkamp, Father Joe Pax, Henry Lefeld and Jane Arnot. Singing Committee Members are Paul Niekamp and Ralph Huelsman. St. Henry Kiwanis activities have included planting flowers and trees around the community, having flower garden contests, poinsettia sales at Christmas time, Kiwanis Mass and Breakfast, Chicken Dinner sales, Basketball activities for the youth, Hugh O'Brien Youth Foundation sponsorship, visiting the sick, and visiting other Kiwanis Clubs.

# Rural Fire Protection Association, St. Henry Fire District

The Rural Fire Protection Ass'n. was formed because law did not permit having a tax assessment for two departments in one township. Half of Burkettsville is in Granville Township. June 20, 1960, the St. Henry Fire Department contacted a group of fifteen rural residents, with the purpose of forming a rural fire protection committee. The Saint Henry Fire Department was the only fire department in Mercer County, which did not have a tanker. The one truck was a 1937 model, and was a hose model; it was obsolete. The other truck was eleven years old. There was not adequate fire protection for the rural citizens around St. Henry.

That evening, June 20, the rural committee established the Rural Fire Protection Association. They elected Florence Evers, Chairman; Cyril Schwieterman, Vice-Chairman; Alfred Homan, Secretary-Treasurer; Ray Post, and Ed Elking. The committee investigated the problem of rural fire protection. They also drew up a set of By-Laws for the organization. They put an assessment of ten dollars annually for every rural residence or business.

In August, 1960, the committee mailed notices to rural residences about this Rural Fire Protection Association and invited them to the first annual Meeting, October 5, 1960.

Apparently, the committee continued this collection of ten dollars annually. The 1972 Financial Report, included an income of three hundred dollars for the Rural Fire Protection Association.

The October 5, 1977 annual meeting stated the dues were still ten dollars per set of buildings, with Don Evers, Chairman; Don Kunkler, Vice-Chairman; Fred Rose, Secretary-Treasurer; and Jerry May and Charles Will serving on the Board. At that time, they had 271 paid members; Mrs. Alfred Homan was serving as Bookkeeper. At that time, they had saved \$8,800 in Savings Certificates. By the October 1978 meeting, they had 280 members; dues were raised to fifteen dollars per set of buildings. They had saved \$11,700 in Savings Certificates. By September 4, 1979 meeting, they had 284 paid members and over \$15,000 in Savings Certificates, to report to the October annual meeting. By the October 1980 meeting, there were 285 paid members, \$10,000 in a Savings Certificate and \$12,800 in a Money market Certificate, with Andy Hemmelgarn, Chairman; Ivo Goettemoeller, Vice-Chairman, Ed Dues, Secretary-Treasurer; and Al Hart and Bill Stachler; Mrs. Alfred Homan was still Bookkeeper. In January 1981, the Association recognized that some accounts were not up to date and gave notice to members, because the St. Henry Fire Department would charge a \$200 fee plus retroactive dues for fighting a fire for anyone who does not pay dues to any fire protection organization. By February 15, 1981, 280 members paid dues; all except five members had paid. April 29, 1981, the

Association had accumulated \$30,000 and put that into Money Market Certificates and Savings. October 1981, the board voted to raise dues to \$20.00.

At the October 1982 meeting, there were 279 paid members, and the organization held almost \$45,000 in the bank. The St. Henry Fire Department was working closely with the Rural Fire Protection Association in the interest of purchasing a tanker, and the information about the one mill levy. Pagers were being bought for the firemen. All calls for the fire department would go to Central Dispatch, and the Fire number at Romer-Knueve Drug Store would be eliminated. St. Charles Seminary purchased the old Tanker for \$3500.00. After serving all this time as bookkeeper, Mrs. Alfred Homan resigned the position. Ralph Huelsman followed in this position Oct. 1983. The organization borrowed seventeen thousand dollars from the bank, to make a total of balance of \$73,916.81. The dues were set at 1983-1984 residential \$15 and others \$30. At that Oct. 1983 meeting, it was also decided that there was no need for a tax levy to be imposed upon the rural area. They set the 1984-1985 dues at \$20 for residential and \$40 for rural. The 1983 financial statement showed an expenditure of \$63,687 for new fire equipment, and \$792 for fire equipment repair and service. Other expenditures included such items as telephone, fuel oil, office supplies, fire school, salary, convention expense, and bank charges. The September 1986 financial statement indicated another ten thousand dollars was transferred to the St. Henry Fire Department. The following year, another \$9,600 was transferred to the Fire Department.

In 1988, the Rural Fire Protection Association transferred another \$9,850 to the St. Henry Fire Department. At the October 4, 1989 annual meeting, Ralph Huelsman tendered his resignation for December of that year. At the next year's meeting, another \$9,150 was transferred to the St. Henry Fire Department. For 1990, Diane Broering and Les Hartings accepted the responsibilities of the bookkeeper.

At the October 10, 1990 meeting, the St. Henry Fire Department Committee explained a proposed 2.75 millage for Granville Township, which would be on the November ballot, for the Fire Department. The November ballot did pass. At the October 30, 1991 meeting, the Association discussed disbanding, since the Association was no longer needed. Florence Evers, the first Chairman in 1960, made the motion to dissolve the Association; it was seconded and passed. Fire Chief Ron Ontrop was present and gave a report on the new Fire Department Building in St. Henry. The closing balance of the Treasury of the Rural Fire Protection Association was donated to the St. Henry Fire Department.

# U.S. Post Office Saint Henry, Ohio 45883

Saint Henry's U.S. Post Office is located at 301 East Main Street, at the Walnut Street intersection; this building was built in 1968. One of the earliest sites of the Post Office was in the Henry Beckman home on lot no. 46. The Office was moved to the west side of 341 East Main, then to lot no. 58, then to 131 West Main, where it remained until 1968.



**SAINT HENRY POST OFFICE**  
**MERCER COUNTY, OHIO**  
 (Originally established as SAINT HENRY'S)

<u>NAME</u>	<u>TITLE</u>	<u>DATE APPOINTED</u>
Fread Seewalde	Postmaster	07/24/1850
Henry Beckman	Postmaster	02/06/1866
Bernard Panning	Postmaster	09/18/1868
Jacob Kreusch	Postmaster	09/05/1870
John G. Beckman	Postmaster	06/23/1871
Joseph Bruns	Postmaster	05/19/1890
Changed to SAINT HENRY on December 9, 1893		
Joseph B. Drahrman	Postmaster	12/09/1893
John G. Beckman	Postmaster	04/11/1895
Henry Romer	Postmaster	12/02/1896
Peter H. Rhynard	Postmaster	10/11/1897
Frank Miller	Postmaster	03/21/1900
Henry Steinlage	Postmaster	10/21/1901
Henry A. Beckman	Postmaster	10/19/1906
Julius R. Bruns	Postmaster	06/03/1922
Albert J. Beckman	Acting Postmaster	08/01/1934
Albert J. Beckman	Postmaster	01/17/1935
Eugene V. Grevenkamp	Acting Postmaster	08/16/1946
Eugene V. Grevenkamp	Postmaster	03/25/1949
Clarence Bernard Stahl	Acting Postmaster	06/07/1951
Clarence Bernard Stahl	Postmaster	07/12/1956
Andrew W. Hemmelgarn	Officer-In-Charge	01/10/1969
Andrew W. Hemmelgarn	Postmaster	12/19/1970
Nancy Evans	Officer-In-Charge	02/28/1989
Victoria Goubeaux	Officer-In-Charge	04/07/1989
Michael A. Ringer	Postmaster	05/20/1989

*Research Administrator / Historian*  
*Office of the Postmaster General*  
*United States Postal Service*  
 December 20, 1991



# Daughters Of Isabella

The Daughters of Isabella, Circle 417, of St. Henry, was chartered in 1927. There were 50 names on the original charter and at the present time there are approximately 150 members. The D. of I. members have been very active with church functions as well as civic projects during the past. They have helped fund various projects locally as well as nationally. Some of the organizations that have benefited from them are the Inter-Parish Youth Group, the summer Baseball Program, Right to Life, St. Peter Neurological Center and the St. Henry Santa House. They are also very strong supporters of the local schools. Their biggest money maker is the annual Fourth of July Community Picnic at which they have been in charge of the cake stand for many years. They also contribute their time to the daffodil Cancer Fund Drive. The members also get involved in non-profit community projects such as the Breakfast with Santa for the area youngsters as well as the sale of colored Easter eggs.

The Daughters of Isabella, Ave Maria Circle 417, was chartered into the National Organization in 1927, with the following names appearing on the charter: Pauline Bergman, Caroline Dierkers, Cleopha Dillhoff, Norma Dillhoff, Mary Dues, Martha Eyink, Leona Gast, Juliana Huelsman, Marcella Huelsman, Catherine Knapke, Philomena Lange, Philomena A. Lange, Anna Lefeld, Clara Moeder, Dolores Romer, Marie A. Romer, Loretta Spoltman, Clara Stein, Elizabeth S. Uhlenhake, Elizabeth Uhlenhake, Nora Vondrell, Henrietta Weaver, Kathryn Winkeljohn, Cora Wourms, Priscilla Moeder, Regina Eyink, Leona Hartings, Lucille Nordenbrock, Helen Gelhaus, Irene Moorman, Thelma Davis, Rose E. Fiely, Loretta Stein, Ann Dierkers, Teresa Gels, Emma Hartings, Leona Panning, Ludwina Lange, Elizabeth A. Romer, Armella King, Gertrude Macke, Bernadine Davis, Rose Fiely, Agnes Dierkers, Lucille Lauber, Elizabeth Schmitz, Marie Albers, Mary A. Beckman, Lorene Beckman and Bernadette Moeder.

The 1990/1991 Officers were Regent Margaret Schmit, Past Regent, Lou Ann May, Vice Regent Bernadetta Lochtefeld, Recording Secretary Carol Cramer, Treasurer Joan Holdheide, Financial Secretary Roberta Will, and Scribe Dorothy Rammel. The 1992/1993 Officers are Regent Bernadetta Lochtefeld, Past Regent Margaret Schmit, Vice Regent Eileen Bruns, Recording Secretary Judy Stachler, Treasurer Elaine Reichert, Financial Secretary Virginia

Schwieterman, and Scribe Dorothy Rammel. The Chaplain is Rev. Joseph Pax.

The Daughters of Isabella motto, "Unity, Friendship, Charity and Sanctity" clearly defines the Christian values uniting all Catholic women. Total membership is 145.



Charter Members: standing Dolores Willhoff and Agnes Dierkers; seated Ann Janning, Clara Moeder and Loretta Rinderle



# The Beckman And Gast Co.

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Cut Green Beans • French Style Green Beans • Tomatoes • Stewed Tomatoes • Tomato Juice

Plants: St. Henry, Ohio • Osgood, Ohio

(419) 678-4195

General Office: 282 Kremer Hoying Rd. • St. Henry, Ohio 45883

A canning factory has been in operation at the site of The Beckman and Gast Company since 1907. Originally the name had been The Pioneer Canning and Manufacturing Company. A variety of items have been canned including red beets, carrots, pumpkin, dry beans, bean sprouts, turtle soup, and Friday chili—chili made with turtle soup. Pioneer Canning changed hands several times and was finally purchased by Lewis H. Gast and Luke F. Beckman in 1928 and was incorporated as The Beckman and Gast Company in 1930. In 1950 The Beckman and Gast Company was sold to Lewis H. Gast and Sons while Minster Canning Co. which had been held by Beckman and Gast went to Luke Beckman. Currently the plant packs whole tomatoes, stewed tomatoes, tomato juice, cut green beans, french style green beans, and wax beans. These vegetables are grown on company operated farms and by local growers.

Past presidents of the company include Luke Beckman, Lewis Gast, James Gast, and William Gast. Robert Gast who served as the companies sales manager from the 1950's to 1981 was also instrumental in building the company to its position. Present officers include Charles Bergman, president; William J. Gast, vice president of agriculture; Nick Gast, vice president of production, St. Henry; Gary Broering, vice president of production, Osgood branch; and Patricia L. Albers, secretary-treasurer.

Most sales are arranged through brokers who make the direct contact with

buyers for the large grocery store chains such as Aldi's, Kroger's, and Marsh Stores. Merchandise is labeled to customers' specifications and shipped year round throughout the mid west, east coast and many southern states.

Full time employment is at about 20 with seasonal expansion bringing it up to 100. Starting in 1985, all tomatoes were harvested with machines. Beans are picked by a huge 4 row Pixall bean harvester.

The plant is clean and employs all of the most modern methods for packing a product which enjoys an excellent reputation with its customers.



Horses and wagons provided the transportation at The Pioneer Canning and Manufacturing Co., which was later incorporated in 1930 as Beckman & Gast Co. by Lewis Gast and Luke Beckman.

# Cooper Foods



In January 1987, Tom Lightle was appointed by Jim and Gary Cooper to find a location for their proposed turkey processing plant. After considering several locations in the Indiana and Ohio areas, they decided to locate in St. Henry. During the decision process Tom worked closely with Mike Niekamp, St. Henry Village Administrator, the Economic Development Committee from Celina and various state agencies.

Coopers decided on the St. Henry area due to the strong work ethic and the relatively low cost of utilities. St. Henry was also centrally located amongst more than 150 turkey buildings owned by local farmers who raise turkeys for Cooper under contract.

The Coopers purchased 100 acres of farm land from the Richard Stachler family and the village of St. Henry annexed this land so they would be able to provide water and sewage for the new facility. This also would make it possible for St. Henry to build a new water plant to supply the village in the future.

Construction started in October 1987 and was completed in April 1988 only one week over schedule. In April 1988, Cooper Foods' work force consisted of 90 people and currently they employ around 400 people. The facility currently processes more than 3 million turkeys per year and provides more than 60 million pounds of deboned raw turkey meat for their further processing plant in Van Wert and for other customers throughout the United States.

The Cooper family also owns a feed mill in Ft. Recovery, a grain facility in Paulding, and a turkey hatchery and turkey breeder farms in Oakwood, Ohio.

# Randy Evers Real Estate And Auction Company

Randy Evers Real Estate And Auction Company is located at 343 E. Main St., St. Henry, Ohio. This company is also associated with Frank E. Arling and Frank (Wills) Arling, both of Osgood, Ohio, and they operate as Arling and Evers Auctioneers.

We sell real estate by private sale or by auction, whether it be farm, residential, or commercial real estate. We conduct farm machinery, livestock, antique, and household auctions, as well as appraisals for estates, family, and divorce.

Our auction service offers a mobile office, wagons to store your merchandise, covers for inclement weather, PA system, and whatever else is needed to conduct a successful auction for you.

If you're thinking of buying or selling real estate or personal property, call the company that can handle it all!



Randy Evers  
Real Estate Broker & Auctioneer



Frank E. Arling  
Realtor & Auctioneer



Frank J. (Wills) Arling  
Auctioneer

# The Saint Henry Bank

231 East Main



The St. Henry Bank was established in 1904 as a private banking institution. We have been serving the customers of Southern Mercer County at the same location since 1906. Our branch office located in Maria Stein, OH was established in 1975 to serve our customers in that area.

Currently the Bank has assets of 82 million. The St. Henry Bank has always been on the cutting edge of its industry by offering a wide variety of modern banking services. These services range from our own ATM (Automatic Teller Machine) located at both the main and branch offices. VISA and MasterCard, discount brokerage, IRA's and any loan to suit your financial needs. As a leading Ag lender in the community we are very much in tune to our customers' needs.

The Directors of the Bank are Don Evers, Albert Romer, Betty Romer, John Romer and Frank Woeste. Officers are John Romer - President, Donald Evers - Cashier, Frank Woeste - Senior Loan Officer, and Carl Hess - Maria Stein Branch Manager.

Other Employees include Karla Clune, Kathy Fullenkamp, Diane Goettemoeller, Bonnie Heckman, Donna Hess, Deb Homan, Esther Homan, Nancee Homan, Marlene Klose, Ginny Kremer, Thomas Kunk, Teresa Poling, Elaine Siefring, Diane Siegrist, Linda Stout, Elaine Uhlenhake, Anita Wendel.

# The History Of St. Henry Tile Co., Inc.

Al Homan, Robert Boeckman, and Ray Kremer started the St. Henry Tile Company on April 1, 1960.

This business was started because the need of farm drain tile in this area. The three worked at Pet Milk Company and decided to go into business. Al and Bob quit the company while Ray Kremer remained employed at Pet Milk. Ray had the talents of bookkeeping and office practice, so he spent his evenings during the week and Saturdays keeping up on book work. They started out by making concrete tile from 4" to 15" diameter. They also sold bagged cement, gravel, and coal. By 1965 they sold as many as 35 train car loads of coal and they also unloaded coal for St. Charles Seminary.

In 1966 they expanded into the ready-mixed concrete business. They started with three used trucks and by 1992 they have eleven trucks at St. Henry and nine trucks at Berne, Indiana. At this time they expanded the number of shareholders.

They were always busy making tile or hauling coal during this time. In 1969, they expanded into the brick sales. At that time there were five brick dealers in Mercer County and by 1992 they are the only dealer in the County.

In 1974, they purchased Berne Ready-Mix. This company was similar to St. Henry Tile by selling ready-mixed concrete and making concrete tile, and also selling brick and block, etc.

In 1972, Robert Boeckman, one of the original owners sold out to Louis Stahl, who has been with the company since that time in sales and management.

In 1981, they purchased a sand and gravel pit which supplies them with their concrete sand and a small amount of stone for their ready-mix operation. This is located just east of Geneva, Indiana, and is called Limberlost Sand & Gravel.

In 1985 they opened a store in Celina, Ohio due to increased sales in that area. They named this store, Grand Lake Builders Supply. As the business expanded in the Celina area, they also set up a satellite ready-mix plant at the Stoneco Quarry on Karch Road and hauled the ready-mix out of that plant for Celina and the surrounding area.

In July, 1991 they purchased a block plant at Greenville, Ohio known as Greenville Concrete Products. They gave it a new name as Wayne Builders Supply. Mike Homan is manager of this operation and they now manufacture their own concrete block. Before this time, they bought their block from Lima, Ohio. At Greenville, they sell brick, block, and many other products related to the concrete industry.

In 1993, Al Homan is Chairman of the Board and now being semi-retired, he can generally be found at the St. Henry Plant. Robert Homan is President for the Company and manages the St. Henry Plant. Louis Stahl is Secretary-Treasurer and serves in sales and Management at St. Henry. Gene Subler is Vice President and manages Berne Ready Mix. Mike Homan is also Vice President and manages Wayne Builders Supply. Charles Lefeld is foreman at the Limberlost Sand & Gravel. Dan Uhlenhake is in charge of sales at Grand Lake Builders Supply. Dave Westgerdes is in charge of the batch plant at Stoneco during the summer months.



## Burkettsville Community Fire Department



Burkettsville Community Fire Department was organized October 26, 1909 with about twenty members, with Stephen Olinger as chief. The Department first had a hand pumper. They had monthly meetings, and examined the fire equipment. Other members on the Fire Department were Nick Cordonnier, Wm. Leugers, George Spillers, Ora Walls, J.A. Flayler, John Leugers, George Sanderell, John Byrne, Peter Sanderell, Herbert Wimmers, John Werling, Lawrence Cordonnier, Hosea Birt, James Birt, Frank Birt, C.C. Corwin, Gerhart Kaup, Edward Jones, Mart Sanders, Frank Flayler, Aloys Kothman, Wm. Blakeley, Cary Birt, and Roy Blakeley.

The Fire Department had a 1952 truck. The 1936 truck was converted to a tank wagon. The 1952 truck was replaced in 1968.

The number of fires varies from year to year. Some years there were as many as twenty fires or more a year. Other times there were as few as a half a dozen. The biggest fire the department ever had was the Burkettsville Novitiate on State Route 118, which burned January 1, 1971.

Today, the department serves an area of over 400 certificate holders, (farmers), in addition to the residents of New Weston and Burkettsville. Today, the Department has three trucks: a 1976 Grass truck; a 1974 pumper, and a 1984 tank truck. The Department is all volunteer and has monthly meetings. Every Monday, a group from the Department checks the equipment, cleans the equipment and makes necessary repairs. Funds which come to the Department are from assessments from the townships, the towns, and the farmers.

Jerry Siefring is Chief; Roger Siefring is Assistant Chief; Neil Romer is Assistant Chief. Kevin Thobe and Mike Garke are Captains. Lester Tobe and David Mestemaker are Lieutenants. Fire men are Edward Werling, Douglas Siefring, Jon Fields, Larry Dahlinghaus, Chris Heitkamp, Dave Petitjean, Alan Siefring, Ryan Foster, Joe Siefring, and Keith Kunk. Helpers are Ivo Schwieterman, Dennis Hemmelgarn, James Garke, Ralph Dahlinghaus and Gary Delzeith. This list is as of the spring of 1993.

## Cy Schwieterman, Inc.



Cy Schwieterman Inc.

In August 1946, Ed, Louis and Cy Schwieterman began a service of installing farm drainage material. Cy took over the operations in October 1946, and in 1947 purchased a new 301 Buckeye Ditcher. May 14, 1948, Cy married Merdella Borger and moved to a small farm in Cranberry Prairie. In 1953 another Buckeye was added, and in 1954 Cy purchased a new Speicher Ditcher, manufactured in Celina. New Speichers were added in both 1955 and 1956 along with a used 1959 Speicher. A Buckeye 318 was purchased which digs seven foot deep and 42" wide. They began taking aerial photographs in 1958 of completed jobs. In 1964, clay tile from Hancor, Findlay, Ohio were being palletized and concrete tile were being shipped to the job site on individual wagons. Auger backfillers were being used to close the open ditch after tile were installed. In the late 1960's, corrugated plastic tubing from Hancor of Findlay, Ohio and the laser beam light were new in the drainage market. These two inventions helped to make installation much easier and faster. In 1974, an 8000 square foot maintenance building with office was built to repair the machinery and fabricate the many items needed for their operations. Drainage was slow in the 1980's due to drought and too much rain. In 1983, a drainage plow was purchased with the second plow in 1987. The two machines installed much drainage tubing (enclosed is a photograph) through the use of horsepower and the laserplane control system. In 1989, a PC 200 backhoe was purchased to do excavation and in 1990 a Caterpillar D6H dozer was purchased. Mike Schwieterman purchased land at 4240 St. Rt. 49, Arcanum and built a shop at Abbottsville (Darke Co.) He does drainage work in Darke, Randolph, Jay and Preble Counties. Dave Schwieterman purchased land at 10097 Kohler Road and built a shop at New Knoxville. He does drainage work in Auglaize, Allen, Shelby and Logan Counties. Jerry Schwieterman manages the St. Henry operation at 1663 Cranberry Road, while Joyce Schwieterman Gerlach is the Office Manager and Bookkeeper.

## Carriage Werkes



Carriage Werkes

CARRIAGE WERKES, located at 511 East Main, St. Henry, has been in business since 1988, operating on the philosophy of total commitment to customer satisfaction.

Specializing in collision repair of both foreign and domestic vehicles, CARRIAGE WERKES believes top quality jobs can only be achieved by staying on top of the latest equipment and supplies available to them today. With the complexity of today's vehicles, every repair is completed thoroughly and individually, keeping pace with the high standards of today's automotive industry.

Owner Joe Bruggeman purchased the entire operation from Al Luttmmer, in the spring of 1988 when Luttmmer chose to semi-retire.

## Fish-Mo's

312 West Main Street  
Saint Henry, Ohio 45883



Fish-Mo's is owned by Dave and Deb Stammen. They bought the business from Carl Dues in September 1981. The earliest proprietor of the restaurant probably was Henry Langenkamp in the 1890's, followed by Louis Kothman between 1901 and 1908 or later. John Vondrell followed in the 1920's, then Ray Fullenkamp, Ted Nordenbrock and Henry "Buck" Thieman. Mr. and Mrs. Carl Dues took over from 1961 until 1981; they called the business "Kite and Katy's Restaurant." (In earlier years, barbers, Herman Lefeld and Lawrence Sonderman, were in this building.) At present, John Laux and Alice Eyink are employees. At the Bar and Restaurant, they serve all different varieties of beverages. They serve noon lunches Monday thru Friday. They also have all kinds of sandwiches and soups, pizzas and subs. FISH-MO'S have a banquet room for parties and/or meetings. The Kiwanis Club, Commercial Club, and Community Clubs meet regularly at FISH-MO'S.



## Gel's I.G.A. Market

685 East Main Street  
Saint Henry, Ohio 45883



Jerry Gels and Ben Romer built the I.G.A. Supermarket in 1950. In 1950, R & G Market was a Clover Farm Store. In 1952, it was serviced by the White-Villa people and finally in 1957, the I.G.A. name was attached with their operation. Jerry Gels and Ben Romer remained partners between 1950 and 1958; Romer left in 1958 to go into the hardware business at 241 East Main. Gels continued in this supermarket business. In 1972, Charlie Gels, Jerry's son, took over the family operation of the store. Outside remodeling has changed the looks, but courteous service still continues. Fresh meats, produce, in-store deli-made pizza and sandwiches, party trays, relish trays, and fruit baskets are key features of the store. Gels provides the service of the Ohio State Lottery Sales. They have a state liquor agency in an expanded carry-out department.



Gels Market - 1971



Transportation to the marketplace was necessary. One market was the I.G.A. Supermarket, built by Jerry Gels and Ben Romer in 1950. In 1972, Charlie Gels, Jerry's son, took over the family operation of the store.

## Hogenkamp Funeral Home

221 East Main Street  
Saint Henry, Ohio 45883



The Early History of the funeral home in St. Henry dates back to Fred Goettmoeller, who operated his business until sold to Henry Schmidt, who sold it a short while after that to Harry & Harold Romer. The Romers moved the funeral home to above the current St. Henry Hardware and Furniture Store. In 1921 Stanley Romer became a partner in the business with Harry Romer. Eventually Stanley Romer became sole owner and operator and moved the funeral business to its present location on Main St.

N.J. Hogenkamp Sons, Inc. purchased the funeral home from Stanley Romer on July 11, 1960. N.P. Hogenkamp ran the funeral home from 1960-1963, his son B. Jay Hogenkamp managed it from 1963-1965 with Ed Garmann running it for 1965 & 1966, Larry Heitkamp began managing the funeral home in 1966 and is currently still there.

## The Home Place



The Home Place in Saint Henry opened for business on June 1, 1987, as a sole proprietorship owned and operated by Judy Heitkamp. It was located at 131 West Main Street in a building owned by Otto Rammel. This building also housed the old post office in earlier years. After only two years this building became too small for the rapidly growing business that The Home Place had become. As a result, it was then moved to 652 East Main Street, in St. Henry in August 1989, when Uhlenhake Refrigeration closed its business, and no longer needed this space. The Home Place then rented this building, as it still does, from Howard and Betty Osterholt. This move proved to be very beneficial and The Home Place prospered even more since that time.

As in the beginning, The Home Place has always featured quality products and service in the line of interior decorating. A complete line of floor covering, wall covering, and window treatments is the basis of the business along with an expert decorating consultant service.

At this time, The Home Place employs a drapery installer, Bill Delzeith, three full time floor installers, and three office personnel who are Betty Homan, and Sharon Post who have been with the store since the beginning, and Theresa Delzeith who joined the force in 1991. Judy and Betty do most of the interior decorating and have received numerous awards in area home shows and hope to continue the good work in the future.



L to R: Theresa Delzeith, Judy Heitkamp, Sharon Post, and Betty Homan

## J & B Drive-Thru

### Carryout

521 East Main



J & B Drive-Thru Carryout is located at 521 East Main Street. The Carryout was built in 1977 and opened for business on October 14, 1977. Jim and Diane Griewe owned and operated the carryout, under the name "Jim's Drive-Thru Carryout," until November 1983. At that time, it was bought by Bob and Janet Borgert, who currently own and operate the business. Other employees include Mike Hoying and Deb Hemmelgarn. Beer, wine, pop and party supplies, along with pizzas, subs, tacos and an assortment of sandwiches are available at J & B Drive-Thru Carryout.

## Jacobs & Sons Logging

132 North Sycamore

Kenneth and Marjorie Jacobs began Jacobs & Sons Logging August 1972. Before Ken started his own business, he was employed at Rutschilling Sawmill since December 5, 1957.

Jacobs & Sons Logging cuts, skids and hauls logs to various sawmills. The area covered for logging has expanded from Mercer County to a hundred mile radius.

In 1986, in addition to Ken, they employ their three sons (Tim, Mark and Jerry).

The equipment used to process the logs are two John Deere grapple skidders, a W14 Case loader and a 120 Prentice Knuckleboom loader. The logs are hauled in on two Semi Tractor Trailers.



Jacobs & Sons Logging  
Truck & Logs



Jacobs & Sons Logging  
Truck & Loader

## Lefeld Plumbing and Heating Inc.

132 West Main  
Saint Henry, Ohio 45883

Henry Lefeld began his business in the summer of 1955 at 162 North Sycamore Street. This building was at one time the Henry Wimmers Upholstery Shop. As the business grew, the building was replaced by a new shop at the same location. In 1965 it was moved to the present location at 132 West Main Street. The business was incorporated in 1986. August 1st, 1989, Henry's sons Mark and George and daughter Beck took the business over. Others employed are Ken Rammel and Kevin Luttmr. Henry works part time for the company. Mary Lefeld and Elaine (Lefeld) Pax both work in the office part time.

Lefeld Plumbing and Heating Inc. is a plumbing, heating, and air conditioning contractor. They sell, service and install this equipment. The products that they sell are Bard Heating and Air Equipment; Goulds Pumps; Kohler Plumbing Fixtures; Delta Faucets; Aquaglass Fiberglass Tubs, Showers and Whirlpools; Aquatek Softners and Water Conditioning Equipment.



Lefeld Plumbing & Heating

## Mercer Beverage Company

Mercer Beverage 221 N. Walnut St., P.O. Box 346, St. Henry, Ohio 45883 was founded as the Fullenkamp Distributors in 1930 by John Fullenkamp. Ice and soft drinks were sold prior to the end of prohibition. John's sons, Ray, Louis, Marinus "Tiny", and Alfred "Red", plus three other men worked at the business. In 1933, John moved the distributorship to the present location. New additions were added as new beers were taken on.

Wooden Shoe was the first beer sold when prohibition was over in 1933.

In 1938, Wiedemann, Hudepohl, Anhuesser Busch, and Carling were added. Beer was \$1.25 per case. In 1946, John made it possible for his four sons to take over the business. John died in 1969. Later they added Stroh. In 1971, the four sons sold the business to Tina and Nick Litchin. Ralph Selby was appointed President and General Sales Manager.

In 1973, Nick purchased Van Wert Distributors from Wyant Weaver. This was located in Van Wert and it added Blatz, Drewerys, and Genesee to their distributorship. Also, in 1973, he purchased Ace Wholesale in Sidney from Harold and Rich Frierott. Miller, Colt 45, Old Dutch, and Meister Brau were added.

In 1988, Mercer Beverage was sold to Metropolitan Distributors of Toledo. Norm Lammers was put in charge of this company. Other employees include: Mike Link, Sales Manager; Neal Heitkamp and Bob Wourms, Sales Supervisors; Mary Kay Prenger and Theresa Jutte, office; and Eugene Droesch, Dale Miller, Frank Neitfeld, Gary Wourms, Frank Puthoff, William Stout, Gary Pottkotter, John Rammel, Daniel Eyink, Ralph Uhlenhake, and Thomas Prenger.



Mercer Beverage Company

## Ron's Service 301 West Main Street

Ron and Jane Moeller bought the service station business from Nip Wehrkamp in April 1970. At that time Mobil Oil Company owned the building and also occupied the back part of the building for its office for the bulk plant. The building was purchased by the Moellers for Mobil Oil Company in September 1975. This enabled the business to be expanded through the years from a two bay service station to a five bay garage operation. The gas pumps were removed in September 1989, enabling the mechanics to give their full attention to the repair work on automobiles. All major and minor work is done at the business—anything from normal service work, tire and battery replacement, to transmission and engine overhaul. Currently employed as full time mechanics are Bill Dysert, Jr. and Bruce Dysert.

Charles "Tubbie" Schrage had the station from 1937 to 1957; Oscar Borgerding and Alvin "Squeak" Uhlenhake were his employees; Schrage sold out to Wehrkamp in 1957. This building was not always a garage. Mrs. Jacob Bany built this building in 1910. On the south side of the building, there were three places of business. Wallpaper was sold on the west side; pianos were sold in the center; an ice cream parlor was managed on the east side. Harry Romer had a dry goods business in this building in the 1920's. Other businesses, e.g. a grocery store, were also housed in this building. Dances and programs were held on the second floor of the building.



Ron's Service

## Rutschilling Inc.

311 Western Ave.

St. Henry, Ohio

The Bimel Wheel and Spoke Factory, later known as the Bimel Handle Factory, began operations in 1899. The Bimel Company purchased the Moeder Brothers sawmill in 1903. The Moeder Brothers were operating their sawmill as early as 1884. J. H. Hartings was the manager of the Bimel Co. in 1907 and in 1910 Hartings purchased the sawmill. Hartings had the mill until his sons Aloys and Urban took over the mill operations in 1925.

Rutschilling Sawmill was founded in 1952 when Lawrence Rutschilling bought the sawmill from Aloys and Urban Hartings. In 1961 Leroy and Wilbert took over the sawmill when their father retired. They then purchased the old Fox and Hess Mill building which had been standing empty for a number of years. The summer of 1962 they erected the present block and brick office building on the site. This contained the lawnmower and chainsaw business they operated for a number of years.

In 1966 the sawmill was completely destroyed by fire and was rebuilt and enlarged. The logs are bought from the landowners in a radius of 50 miles from the mill. The mill produces grade lumber, pallets, structural timbers, dimensional lumber and lumber for general use by area farmers and landowners. The sawdust is used by the farmers for bedding. In 1974 a chipper was installed and all slabs and waste are chipped and trucked to Mead for paper products. A larger chipper was installed in 1979 and more of the mill was automated.

In 1973 they purchased the Lammers property east of the railroad. This is used for storage of logs and lumber. In 1975 Leroy purchased his brothers share of the business and 1978 formed Rutschilling Inc. That same year another large addition was added to the mill and more automation.

In 1987 a debarker was installed and all logs are debarked before going into the mill. The ground up Hardwood Bark is used as landscaping mulch by local home owners.

In 1989 a Vacuum Kiln was installed and all types of lumber is dried for manufacturers and hobbyists

Today Rutschilling Inc. employees 16 people which includes the sawmill and office personnel. Deliveries are made by a company truck in a 35 mile radius. Contract orders for shipping to all parts of the United States and Canada are picked up at the mill.



## St. Henry True Value Hardware/Furniture

279 East Main



St. Henry True Value Hardware/Furniture

Larry and Pat Balster own and operate St. Henry Hardware and Furniture. The west building was built by J.H. Romer in 1889; then in 1903, sold to J.J. Romer, who had a general store. In 1906, the east side was erected and occupied by the St. Henry Bank until 1924. After J.J. Romer's death, Harry, Harold and Stanley Romer sold this business to Beckman and Gast about 1923. In 1927 Harry Romer bought out Beckman and Gast. Harry ran the store until his sons, Harry, Jr. bought the dry goods side on the west and Lowell Romer bought the grocery side on the east. Jake Buschor bought the dry goods side from Harry Jr., a few years later. In 1975 J.J. Romer bought the dry goods business from Jake Buschor and in 1982 moved the dry goods business to 341 East Main. Lowell sold the grocery side to Wm. Lichtle who then closed the business around 1962. Carl Kohn opened a grocery for a year or so. In 1965 Ben Romer moved the St. Henry Hardware to the east side, and in 1973, he sold the hardware business to Larry and Pat Balster. In 1981 Ken Coffield, 341 East Main, sold the St. Henry Furniture to Larry and Pat Balster, who, in 1982, moved the St. Henry Furniture to the west side of the building at 279 East Main. St. Henry True Value Hardware/Furniture is presently operated as one business at 279 East Main.



Larry and Pat Balster's building at 341 East Main now houses Randy Evers' Real Estate; Rod Boring Accounting Services; Home Stretch Sportswear, and a residential apartment on the east side.

## St. Henry Pharmacy

314 E. Main St.  
St. Henry, Ohio 45883



St. Henry Pharmacy is owned and operated by Chuck and Peg Knueve. We have been in business since May of 1979. For eight of these years we were located at 255 E. Main St. in St. Henry as Romer-Knueve Pharmacy.

Our many services include a full-line prescription service (our specialty), purchase and rental of crutches, walkers, wheelchairs, canes, etc., health and beauty aids, cosmetics, film, photo finishing, school supplies, religious and inspirational articles, jewelry, greeting cards, L'eggs, watches, sunglasses, Esther Price candies, Precious Moments figurines and a gift catalog.

We are open for business on Monday thru Friday from 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. and Saturday from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. We are closed on holidays and Sunday.

At our pharmacy, service is very important. It may be answering questions about medicines, recommending a cough syrup, fitting crutches, special ordering a hard to find item and much more. We feel our personal service is your need. Make it your goal to visit us.



## Stammen Insurance Agency

310 East Main Street  
Saint Henry, Ohio 45883

115 South Main Street  
Celina, Ohio 45822

518 Jackson Street  
Saint Marys, Ohio 45885

The Stammen Insurance Agency was started by Orville "Pete" Stammen on April 1, 1953. The first phase of the business was three months of study to pass a state test for selling auto and fire insurance. August 1, 1954, Pete also started selling life insurance for Columbus Mutual Life Insurance Company and is still selling for this same company. During the first five years of the insurance business, Pete was also working as purchasing agent for Mersman Bros. Furniture in Celina, Ohio. On February 1, 1958, Pete and his wife Lou Ann had to make the very important decision to go into the insurance business full time. This was a serious financial decision because at that time they had six of their nine children.

On June 10, 1974, a son Chuck, entered the business with Pete and is selling all the same companies. The agency office was in Pete and Lou Ann's residence at 412 East Kremer-Hoying Road for 23 years and then moved to 253 Main Street above Loretta Romer's Store for nine and one half years. Another son Mark joined the business September 1, 1982, at St. Henry. The agency is now located in a newly constructed office at 310 East Main Street since October 6, 1985. On April 1, 1982, the Stammen's purchased another agency in Celina at 209 South Main Street. In December of 1988 they started a branch office at 518 Jackson Street in St. Marys. In 1993, they moved their Celina Office to 115 South Main Street, Celina.

Stammen Insurance Agency is an independent agency representing many different companies. With their three convenient locations, they are able to service all of the insurance needs, whether auto, home, farm, business, life, health, or disability.



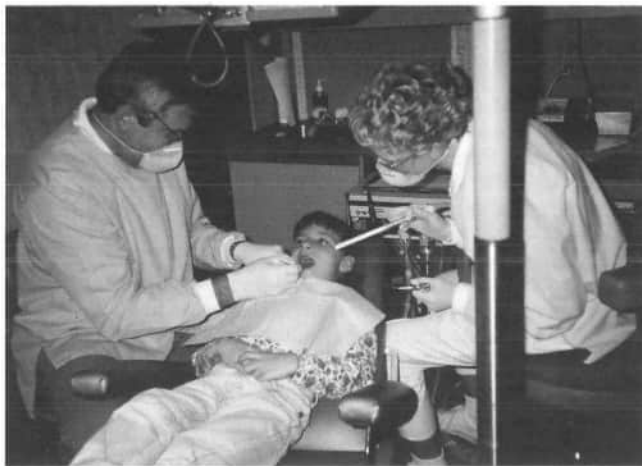
Tom, Chuck, and Mark Stammen standing behind Pete Stammen.

## Dr. Ted J. Willmann DDS

Dr. Ted J. Willmann DDS has his office located at 570 D Kremer-Hoying Road, St. Henry. The employees are Pat Moorman, Juli Kahlig, Tina Swain, Ann Reier, Sharon Buening, Diana Sprague, and Sandi Pleiman.

Dr. Ted Willmann moved to his St. Henry Office at 161 South Walnut in March of 1981. Dr. Willmann is originally from Fort Recovery. He attended the University of Dayton, where he was graduated with honors in 1977. He then attended Ohio State University Dental School.

In his new office at 570 D. Kremer-Hoying Road, St. Henry, Dr. Willmann and his staff have the most modern dental equipment available and are always willing to help. New patients are always welcome. Dr. Willmann especially likes working with children. He has been practicing in St. Henry for over ten years.



## Oakhill Place

570 Kremer Hoying Road  
St. Henry, OH 45883

This commercial facility was built in 1989 by Karl & Pat Kaiser with the help of their children. It is currently operated by Kaiser Rentals.

The building is approximately 5,000 sq. ft. and is occupied by:

Tri County Spouting  
Dr Ted Willmann, DDS  
Floral Reflections  
Kids Time Preschool  
Suntan II Tanning Salon

Tri County Spouting, operated by Steve Koesters, is a full service seamless spouting contractor. He is also an authorized dealer in Vinyl siding and replacement windows.

Dr. Ted Willmann offers complete dental services for the entire family.

Floral Reflections, operated by Karen Dues, is a complete flower shop offering silk and live arrangements, meeting all your needs. Complete wedding assistance is also provided.

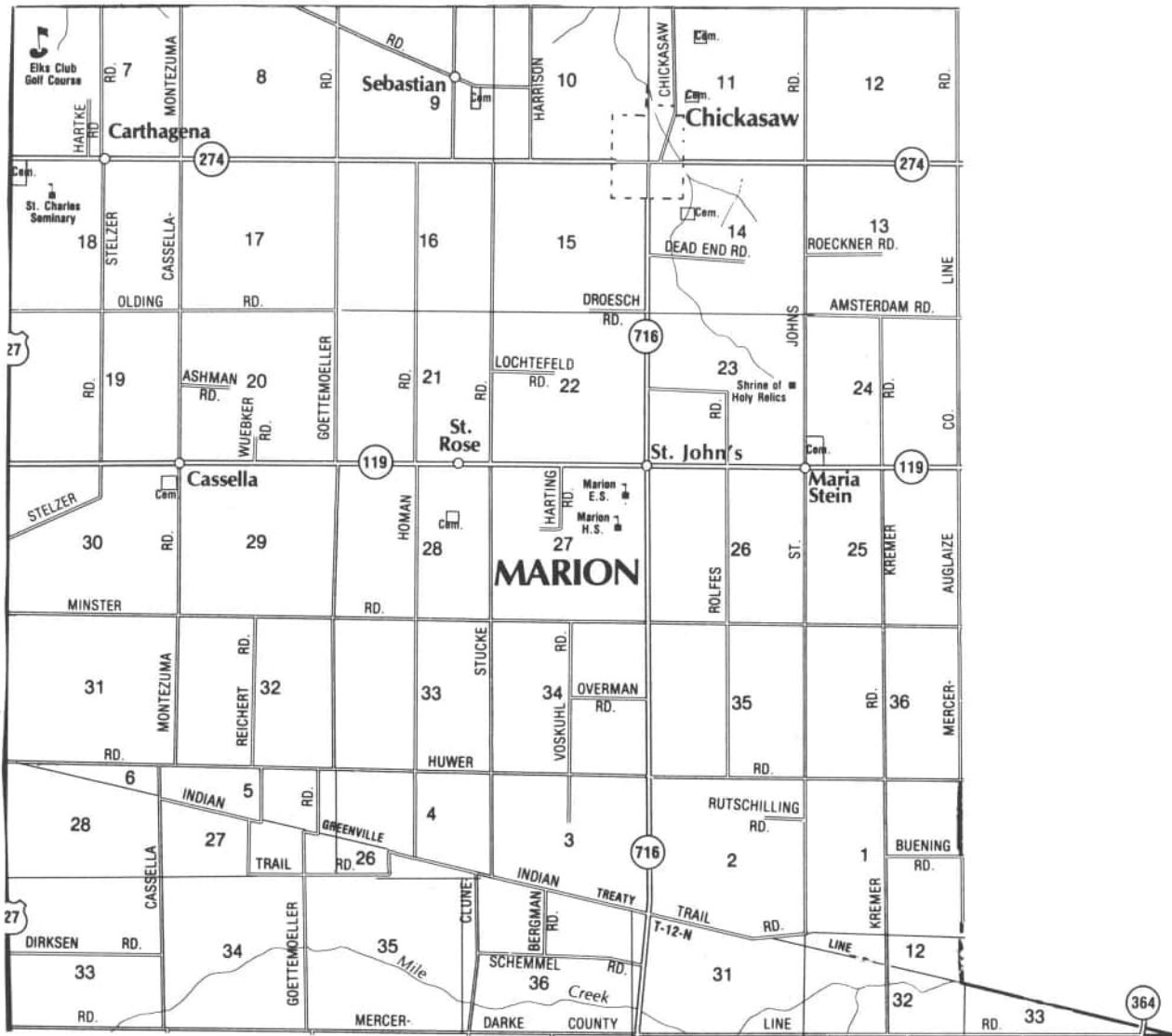
Kids Time Preschool is operated by Kathy Davis and staff, as is Sun Tan II, a complete Tanning Facility.



Oakhill Place, St. Henry



# Marion Township, Mercer County, Ohio



The Marion Township Trustees, in 1992, are Robert E. Unrast, Lowell Homan, and John E. Bruns. Stanley Homan is the Clerk.

\* This page was sponsored by the Marion Township Trustees for the convenience of those who wish to tour Marion Township roads, to see the big barns and to appreciate our rural heritage.

\*\* This map was printed by permission of Spectrum Map Publishing, Inc., 909 Sycamore Street, Cincinnati, OH 45202.



Marion Township House





Zahn-Marion Branch Library  
5 E. Franklin Street  
Chickasaw, Ohio 45826

Librarian — Janet Schmackers

The Zahn-Marion Township Branch Library located in Chickasaw consists of 2000 square feet on ground level, plus a finished basement of 2000 square feet. The library, which has a book collection of 7000 volumes, offers a variety of services to the public. The superinsulated building was built in 1985 using a combination of local fundraising resources and funds on hand.



#### “A Barn-Raising”

This barn was built to a scale of  $\frac{3}{4}$ " = 1' or  $\frac{1}{16}$ " = 1". It is 43" long, 31" wide, and 26" high. Full size barn would be about 57 feet long, 41 feet wide, and 34 feet high. The posts and beams are  $\frac{3}{4}$  inch square, the nail ties and braces are  $\frac{1}{4}$  inch square. The rafters and ridge

pole are  $\frac{3}{16}$  inch by 5 inch. The pins are #4 finishing nails cut to  $\frac{7}{8}$  inch long. (I may want to take it apart to make it easier to store.)

I, Raymond J. Feltz, built this barn in the summer of 1990 to show how these old barns were constructed. They don't build them like this anymore. Now days they build pole barns or steel sheds; they do not need these big barns to store their hay and straw like they did in the past. Now the hay is mowed, crimped and baled; it takes less space to store it. The grain crops are combined in the field and the straw is baled; sometimes it is stacked in the field or barnyard. These big barns aren't needed anymore. Now they need cow stables and milking parlors.

Back in the early days of the 1900 years, when the need of a barn would come up, they would bring in a portable sawmill (ponymill). They would set it up between the woodlot and the building site. Then when the weather was fit, they would drag the logs that had been cut earlier to the saw and cut out the parts needed for the barn, such as upright posts, cross beams, purloin plates, rafters, nail ties, and braces. These parts would be set in piles with strips between each tier so that the air could pass around through between each piece so they could dry out.

Now the time comes to start the general lay-out and construction. The head carpenter measures and marks each saw cut every tenon and mortise. These measurements must be exact so that all corners are at ninety degrees. The tenons and mortise must be a snug fit; the holes for the pins must all be at the exact spot that when the parts are assembled they make a solid joint. The pins are usually made of hickory. The nail ties and the braces have a tenon at each end.

Now, the building of the frames begins. They usually start with an end frame (sometimes called benches). They lay the necessary parts in the approximate position and start the assembling by putting the tenons into the mortise holes. This includes the corner, and the inner posts, the cross beams and the braces. These parts are all drawn together to make a solid unit. The pins are then driven into the pre-bored holes. Next, the sill is placed to the bottom of the posts. Now this assembly is ready to be raised to an upright position.

Before raising the frame the foundation must be put in place. Back in those days they used flagstones, shale or limestone slabs. They are all split to make a level base for the building.

Now, it takes a lot of manpower to place the frame in the place for raising. After the frame is in place they set upright poles at the bottom of the frame; then they pass ropes over these poles and to the top of the frames. They then hook block and tackle to the ropes and to an anchor some distance from the bottom of the

frame. Now it takes a lot of power to raise the frame to an upright position.

Sometimes, they used horses to help with the pulling on the ropes. They also used poles to help push up on the lower side. After the frame is up, it is braced and guy ropes used to keep it in an upright position as this frame will be used to raise the next frame.

As the next frame is raised, all the braces, nail ties, and necessary beams are put in place. They may even put a short section of a purloin plate on top of some posts. The purloin plates run the full length of the barn and some are spliced (overlapped) at the posts.

After all the frames are in place, all purloin plates and braces are put in place and pins driven, the frame work is ready for the rafters.

The rafters are in two parts; the lower part reaches from the lower purloin plate to the upper purloin plate; the upper part goes from the upper purloin plate to the ridge or peak of the roof. It mates up with the rafter from the opposite side. (Sometimes they are joined together before raising in place.) The ridge pole is also put in place as you proceed with the rafters. Next the shingle laths, the siding, and other outside work are added to the building. The roof is also put on. In olden times wooden shingles were used.

The inside work is put in, to suit the farmer's idea. Everybody has his own system. There is no general system to follow for the inside arrangement of stables and mangers or bins. (Written by Raymond Feltz, State Route 119, Cassella, Ohio.)



Herman Schwieterman bought this farm in the late 19th Century. Herman's brothers, Henry and Frank also bought farms next to this farm. Herman's son, Clem Schwieterman, was the next one to own this farm. Clem's sons, Erwin and Earl Schwieterman, are the present owners. Herman Schwieterman built this barn in the 1890's. The barn was used for cows, horses, grain, hay and straw. Today, this barn is used for hogs, machinery and straw. Note the cross beams, which extend the width of the barn and through the wall, under the eaves, above the double doors. This method of framing the barn gives strength to the barn. This big barn stands at 6600 State Route 274, Celina, Ohio 45822.





Regina Schwieterman's barn, 6735 State Route 274, Celina, was built in 1921 by Henry Schwieterman, after their barn had burnt in 1920. The barn was then purchased by Ernest Schwieterman. The barn was built by a Lima, Ohio contractor. A portable sawmill was brought in and placed in the woods on their property. The neighbors helped with the building of the barn. A railroad load of slate, which was around 40 ton, was used for the roof. The floor consists of double layers of one inch 2 x 12's which are nailed and bolted together. They think this was purchased from a lumber yard. The barn measures 50 feet in height, 40 feet wide, and 80 feet long. When it is empty, one can drive in a circle in it. The barn was used for grain storage, which one could unload on the top floor and store it on the bottom floor. There was a dairy set-up on the bottom floor, but it is not in use now. Today, the top floor is used for hay and straw storage. The bottom floor is used for livestock shelter. The barn had wood siding until 1991, when it was sided with steel siding. Two pairs of double doors meet the top of the bank.



An interior view shows the mow at Regina Schwieterman's barn. The framing of the gambrel roof allows for so much space in the mow. The two gable-roofed dormers' louvered doors, and the window at the end wall allow the sunlight to cast a golden hue across the mow, as well as provide ventilation.



Charles Henry Schwieterman I, built this barn in 1894. This barn was used for storage for hay, straw and grain, as well as for cattle and horses. This barn, at 6926 State Route 274, Celina, is used for hay, straw, and cattle. The barn is owned by Ron and Brad Schwieterman. Note the barn builder's initials on roof: C.H.S.



Note the two cross beams, which extend the width of the barn, through the walls, under the eaves, above the double doors, of Ron and Brad Schwieterman's barn.



The date of the building of the barn, 1894, is in the slate roof, on the back of Ron and Brad Schwieterman's barn, 6926 State Route 274.



The huge cross beams can be seen in this photograph. The hand-hewn beams support the entire roof; each beam was cut from one tree. White-New Idea Farm Equipment used the Homan barn for their calendar, and had their all-purpose tractors setting on the wood threshing floor.



Frank Homan, Sr., built this barn in 1900, at 7486 State Route 274, Celina. The barn has been used for livestock, hay, straw, grain, and machinery storage. Today, the barn is owned by Steven Homan.

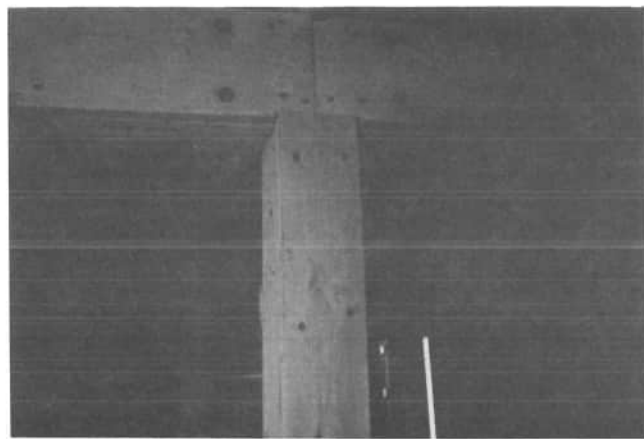


Editor's note: When the Mercer County Historical Society was working on this book, and taking photographs of barns, the Steven Homan home was going to be torn down, to make way for a new home. So, the Historical Society took a photograph of this old brick home, and included it here. This brick home is typical of many of the brick homes built in Marion Township.



An interior view of frame of Steve Homan's barn. The two main cross beams extend through the wall, under the eaves, above the double doors.

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This interior view shows the strong support post and cross beam on the bottom floor of the Leo Homan, Jr. barn.

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Mr. and Mrs. Leo C. Homan Jr. have this barn at 7766 State Route 274, Chickasaw. This barn was built in 1918 by Buck Stover (Stouffer?) from Neptune. Leo's father purchased the farm in 1922 from Joseph Mestemaker. In the past, the barn was used for housing horses, dairy cows, calves, hogs, storage for loose hay, and straw, and grain storage. Today, the barn is used for housing cattle, hay, and straw storage. The round roof, sometimes called a rainbow or gothic roof, allows for more space in the mow. At the roofline, there is a slight angle, which some people call a ski-jump.

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Casper Clune owned this farm, just on the west side of Chickasaw, on the north side of State Route 274. Everything burned in a fire in 1920; the barn, the house, and the buildings. Then, Casper Clune built this barn. Mr. and Mrs. Alphonse Clune bought the farm, from his mother, Mrs. Casper Clune. The Alphonse Clune family raised their ten children on this farm. The sons Ed and Randy bought this place next. Mrs. Alphonse Clune and son Randy live at this place; Ed lives on the farm behind this farm. The barn is used for dairy, and storing hay and straw.

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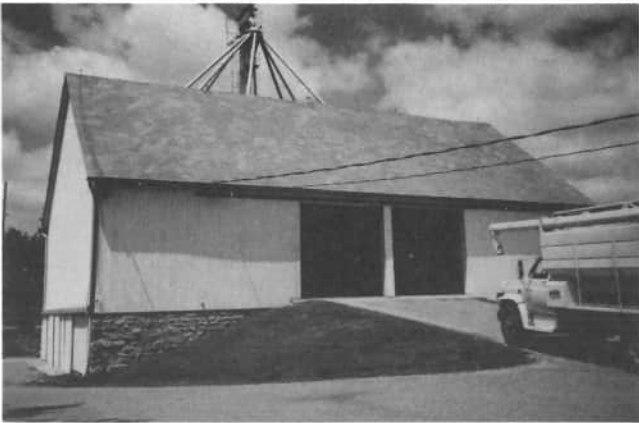
This is a view of Casper Clune's place before the 1920 fire, where Mrs. Alphonse Clune and Randy live today, just west of Chickasaw. Notice the low slope of the barn roof, and the width of the barn.

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Interior view of Rentz Brothers' barn at 8139 St. Rt. 274, Chickasaw.

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The Rentz Brothers own this barn at 8139 St. Rt. 274, Chickasaw. Bernard Borgert built this barn in 1911 and the barn was used for draft horses and milk cows. Today, the barn is used for storage and the feed mixing mill. Note the barn still has the original slate roof and siding. The foundation is raised enough, that the bank is built leading up to the main barn floor. At the double doors, one can see the supporting posts are slanted at an angle, to give more space in the interior. (Most barns have vertical posts for their supporting frame.) This type framing on the main barn floor is unique to this area.

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Greg Lochtefeld, 8339 St. Rt. 274, Celina, owns this barn. This barn was built for Lawrence Lochtefeld, in 1920, by Henry Menker, Maria Stein; the barn is 84 feet by 44 feet. The barn was used for loose hay in mows, wheat, oats in the granary, milk cows, heifers, horses, sheep in the winter, and a straw stack on the barn yard. Today the barn has hay and straw bales, and oats, and steers. Lawrence Lochtefeld had to build a new barn in 1920 because a tornado destroyed the original barn. (see the next photograph).

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Lawrence Lochtefeld's place, at 8339 St. Rt. 274, as it looked on Monday morning after the tornado. There was nothing left of the house but the foundation; only the south part of the barn was left. The tornado was on Palm Sunday, March 28, 1920.

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Donald and Edna Kremer, 8549 St. Rt. 274, New Bremen, own this barn in Marion Township. This red barn, with the white trim on the doors, corners and gable end, was built in 1909 by a man named Menker. Both the large and small sliding doors have windows for interior lighting. The barn was originally used to house milk cows, hogs, and to store hay, straw and grain. Today, the barn is used for cattle, hogs, and to store hay, straw and grain.

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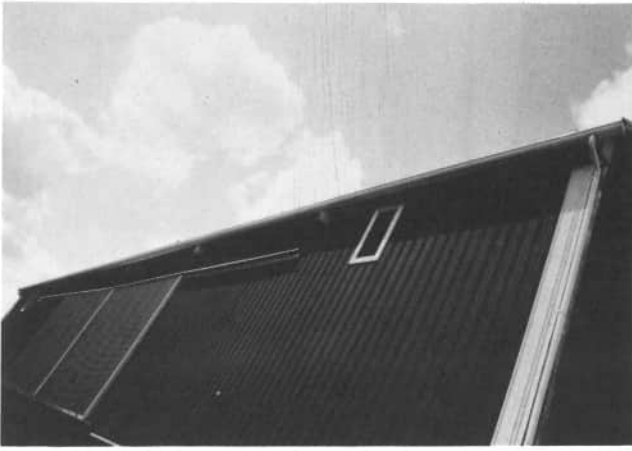
An interior view of Greg Lochtefeld's barn, 8339 St. Rt. 274.

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Mrs. Werner Kemper, 8739 St. Rt. 274, New Bremen, Ohio 45869, owns this barn in Marion Township. The barn was built about 110 years ago. The barn was used for hay and straw storage, and cows. Today, the barn is used for steers, hay and straw. This red barn, with white trim on the double doors, corners, and windows, has a large bank leading up to two pairs of double doors. Three windows in triangular configuration are placed beneath the white triangle in the gable end wall.

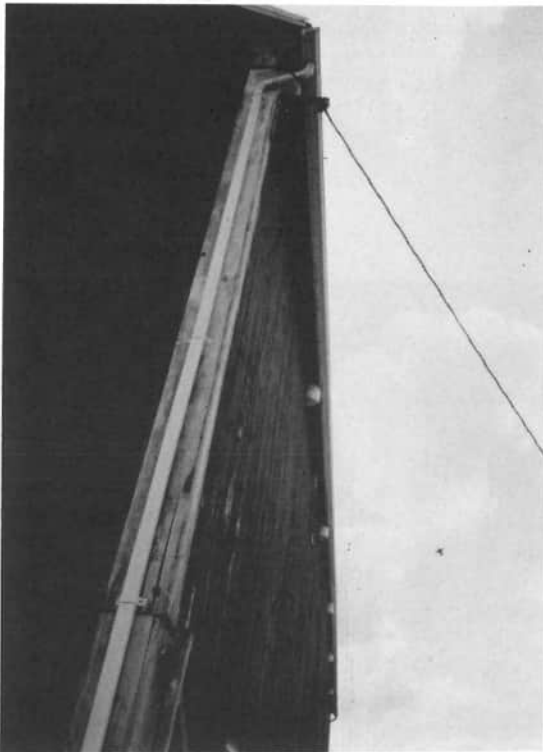
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Mrs. Werner Kemper's barn may be one of a kind in Mercer County, in that it has seven cross beams, which extend the width of the barn, through the walls on both sides, and can easily be seen under the eaves. This is the front view; note the double doors have been replaced since the first photograph was taken in 1990. (A few barns are built like this in Auglaize county, just across the county line.)



This centennial barn, being built in the 1890's, belongs to Robert Unrast, 8758 St. Rt. 119. The extension in the foreground was added in the late 1960's, to house an updated milking system. Prior to that, cows were milked on the floor of the barn. The barn has always provided hay storage space, but no longer houses the dairy set-up. Today, the barn is used for steers, and hay storage.



This view of the back of Mrs. Werner Kemper's barn, 8739 State Route 274, shows the cross beams extending the width of the barn, through the back wall, beneath the eaves. This type framing makes for a very strong barn, especially against the wind.

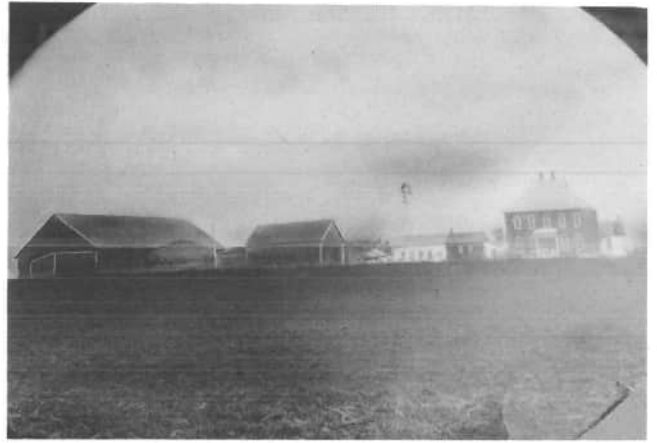


This big old barn stands on the north side of State Route 274 just before the Auglaize County line, at 8779 State Route 274, and belongs to Robert Fleck and sons. In the past, the barn was used for cows, hay storage, and equipment. Today, the top is used for storage, and hogs are raised in the bottom. This barn is unique in that it is one of the few barns, that not only has a bank wide enough to lead to two doors, it also has a short covered bridge, between the bank and the barn. The large stones can be seen between the bank and the barn foundation. This barn was built around 1885, and has siding which is familiar to many of the southern Mercer County barns.





Michael Niekamp owns this barn at 6133 Olding Road, St. Henry. The gambrel roof is designed to give more interior space in the mow. The double slope to the gambrel roof has a lift at the bottom of the roof slope; sometimes people call this a "ski-jump."



An old view of Dennis Homan's barn, 6915 Olding Road, Maria Stein, shows the layout of the buildings. One can see the straw stack near the big barn, with the smaller outbuildings between the barn and house. The windpump or windmill can also be seen on this old photograph. The big barn was built in 1873. Dennis Homan wrote in 1991, that the farm was bought 103 years ago, in 1888, by his Grandpa Theodore Homan. Then his Dad John R. Homan had the farm. Dennis Homan got the farm as of 1971. In the past, the big barn was used for dairy cattle; today the barn is used for cattle.



Alfred Boeckman's barn, 6763 Olding Road, Maria Stein, was built in 1903. This barn was built with the gable roof, and has a long slope to the roof, which gives more width to the barn. A pent roof on the south end wall gives protection from the elements to those working there. Even though the barn is not being used at present, at one time the barn was quite active, being used for milking, and storing of hay and feed for the cattle.



An aerial view of Dennis Homan's barn, 6915 Olding Road, shows that the big barn still occupies the prominent place on the farm, in addition to the many changes which have taken place in the farm layout of buildings. The original brick home can be seen in both photographs.



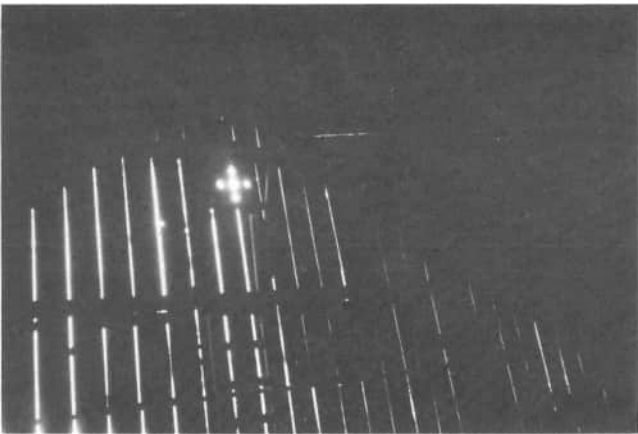
A cross cut in the gable end wall identifies this barn as one of the very few barns in southern Mercer County with this unique characteristic. This red barn, with the gable roof, and the two pairs of double doors at the top of the bank, stands much as it did when it was built. The old threshing floor still is strong, in this barn which belongs to Gary and Juanita Buening, 6207 St. Rt. 119, Maria Stein. The big old barn was built in 1875 and has been used for sheltering livestock including the old horse stalls still standing, as well as the storage of hay, straw and grain.

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Lawrence and Armella Ungruhn's barn was built in 1879. This old photograph shows the barn behind the fence, as well as the wind pump (wind mill), and the clothes line in the foreground. This barn at 7039 State Route 119, Maria Stein, was used for cattle, horses, straw and hay.

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Summer sunshine is showing the frame of the end wall in the Gary Buening barn. The carpenter cut the cross in the gable end. This cross has four equal arms, known as the Greek cross, or crux quadrata; there are four diamonds, cut at the end of each arm of the cross. Less than a dozen barns can be found in Mercer County with a cross cut in the gable end wall; this is the only barn with the Greek cross having the diamonds at each arm.

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A later view of Lawrence and Armella Ungruhn's barn at 7039 State Route 119, shows the length of this big barn, with its doors trimmed in white. Today, this barn is used for cattle, hay and straw.

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The terrible 1920 tornado took down the first barn at 7176 State Route 119, where Ivo Post family lives today. Anthony Schoenlein rebuilt this barn in 1920 and used the barn for dairy. Today, the barn is still used for dairy, and is owned by Rita Schoenlein, 7166 State Route 119, Maria Stein. Notice the width of the barn, and the low slope, or pitch, of the roof.

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Donald J. Evers' barn, 7318 State Route 119, was built in 1883, as one can see the date 1883 painted on the wall just under the gable peak. This barn was used for horse stables and a dairy barn. Today, the barn is used for a dairy barn, and free stalls. The barn was sided with painted steel in 1983, on the one-hundredth anniversary of the barn.

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Donald J. Evers' farm, 7318 State Route 119, Maria Stein, has been in the Evers family since 1911, when Bernard Evers married and moved on this farm. Don's father Othmar Evers married in 1949 and resided on this farm until 1977. Don, Jane, and their three sons now reside on the farm. On the old barn, notice the three square cupolas on the ridge of the gable roof; the larger cupola and the two lesser cupolas each have quadra-gabled roofs. Notice the length of the barn, in comparison with the width of the barn, and notice the low slope of the roof.

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This is the only barn that the editor Joyce Alig visited in Mercer County, that has the date cut through the wood in the gable end. The date 1879 is cut into the gable end and identifies how old this barn is. The barn belongs to Bob and Harold Homan, 7447 State Route 119, Maria Stein. In the past, the barn was used for a stock-yard and a dairy barn. Today, it is used to raise dairy heifers. Note the slope of the gable roof, and the width of the barn, which is typical of many of the barns built at that time in Marion Township.

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This barn was built for Mr. and Mrs. Anthony Homan, 7516 State Route 119, Maria Stein, in June of 1950. Bill, Ralph, and Willie Tumbusch and Roman Broering were the carpenters. The four Homan Brothers cut the rough lumber, about 100 logs in number, out of the Joseph Homan woods. Joseph was Anthony's Dad. The logs were cut into lumber by the Julius Griesdorn sawmill. The frame was drilled and chiseled out by hand tools. The frame was raised by hand power, furnished by neighbors and relations. The barn was used to house feed and dairy cows. The old barn was moved about a hundred feet south and used for feed storage and to house dry cows and heifers. In 1979, this new barn was sold to Harold and Robert Homan, sons of Anthony Homan. They remodeled the barn into a complete new dairy setup and a new feeding setup. This was the last boxed out frame barn that the late Tumbusch built.



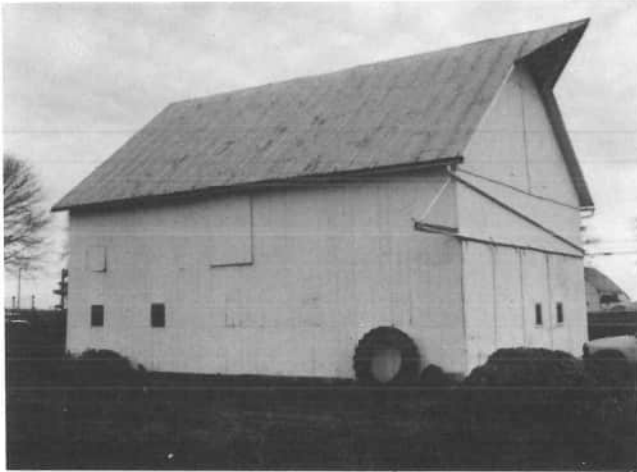
Among the biggest and oldest barns in Mercer County must be this barn, belonging to Vernon Homan, 7571 St. Rt. 119, Maria Stein. This red barn, with the white trim on the doors, and white end wall, was built in 1869. Joseph Homan, Sr. came from Germany and was the first of the Homan family to own this farm. The farm then went to his son, Joseph Jr.; then the farm went to Andrew Homan, who lives at this place. Today, the farm is owned by Andrew's son Vernon.



Walter Pohlmann's barn on State Route 119, was built in 1903. The red barn is trimmed in white. The two main cross beams can be seen as they extend beneath the eaves above the double doors. The barn has always been used for livestock, and is owned by Walter Pohlmann, 1753 St. John Road, Maria Stein.



Bernard Wehrman and Ursula Rutschilling, were married October 25, 1916, at St. John Church in Maria Stein. This photograph shows the wedding party and their guests, ready for the all day celebration at the barn dance. The orchestra is seated in the front row. Their daughter, Viola Wehrman, married Raymond Bruns April 24, 1940, and they had their celebration in the same barn. This photograph belongs to Viola Bruns, 510 East Vine Street, Coldwater, Ohio 45828.



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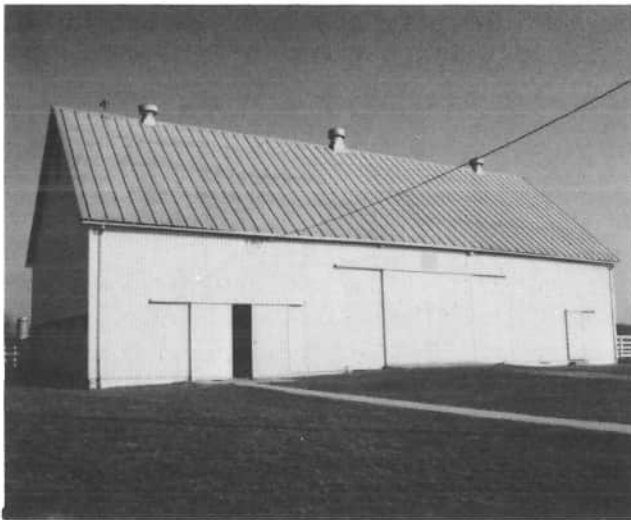
Lee Eifert's barn, 8647 State Route 119, Maria Stein, was built in 1905, by the local barn builder, Henry Menker, for Charles Eifert. Lee Eifert's father used the barn for hay upstairs and for five horses for hauling cream. Then, Lee Eifert used the barn from 1928 to 1949 for a truck for hauling milk. Notice the triangular hay hood at the gable end. This barn is owned by Lee Eifert and is being used for storage.

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Louis Bertke's barn at 6332 Fort Recovery-Minster Road, Maria Stein, is used for dairy, storing hay, straw, and machinery. The barn has been resided with red siding, trimmed in white.

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A fine weathervane and three ventilators stand on the ridge of the roof of this barn built in 1895 by Henry Tangeman. The barn was used for stored grain, hay, straw, cows and horses. The barn was later bought by Nick Fullenkamp, then farmed by his son-in-law Henry Streacker, and then his son Leo Streacker. Three years ago, 1989, it was bought by Mike and Nancy Homan. Today the barn stores hay and straw for dairy heifers, at 8310 St. Rt. 119, Maria Stein.

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Another view of Louis Bertke's barn before it was resided. The Bertke barn was built in 1920 by Bill Tumbusch and neighbors. It was used for dairy, horses, and storing grains, hay, straw, and machinery. Note the windows on the end wall, and the rectangular windows in the double doors. This photograph is dated September 1990. Note width of barn and the slope of the roof.

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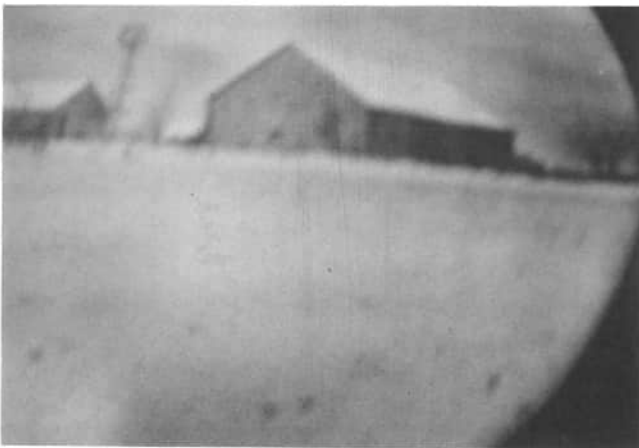
This interior view of Louis Bertke's barn shows the framing of this big barn.

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Carl Koesters' barn, 6440 Fort Recovery-Minster Road, is one of less than a dozen barns in Mercer County, which has a cross cut into the gable end wall. This cross is a Latin Cross, *Crux Immissa*, whose base stem is longer than the other three arms; note how the outside edges of the arms and stem are somewhat flattened. This barn with its original weathered siding was built in 1880, and has been used for storing grain and hay, and cattle and machinery. The horses are no longer in the barn, even though their stable doors can still be seen in their outlines on the north gable wall. Three fourths of this barn was rebuilt in 1920, after a tornado struck it. The front of the barn is original.

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This is the earlier barn, which stood at Louis Bertke's farm, 6332 Fort Recovery-Minster Road. This barn was destroyed by a tornado in March of 1920. This is from an old photograph, which also shows the windmill to the left of the barn.

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The Latin Cross in the gable end of Carl Koesters' barn can easily be seen in this interior photograph.

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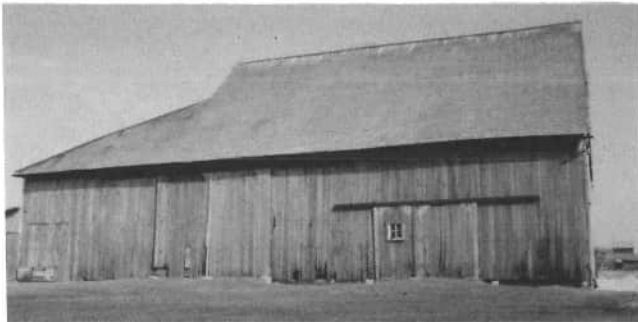
This interior view of Carl Koesters' barn, 6440 Fort Recovery-Minster Road, shows the framing of the barn, with the vertical posts, and the lower cross beam extending from wall to wall, and the upper cross beams extending only to the vertical posts supporting purlin plate beneath the rafters.

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After the Labor Day tornado in 1947, Ray Feltz and his brother flew across southern Mercer county; Ray held his Brownie Box Camera out the window and took photographs of the farms below. This is Ray's photograph of Anthony Evers' farm, 6697 Fort Recovery-Minster Road. Note the north end of the barn is gone and the south end of the barn is still standing.

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The 1947 tornado that streaked across southern Mercer County, took down the north end of this barn. This barn was built in the late 1800's and was a strong barn. Therefore, the roof was repaired, and that is why the roofline is as it is today. Frank and Anna Evers bought the farm from Joe Kramer in 1917. In 1950, the farm was transferred to Anthony and Marie Evers, 1929 Cassella-Montezuma Road, Maria Stein. The barn stands at 6697 Fort Recovery Minster Road, and is used to house cattle and for the storage of hay and straw. At one time, the barn also stored grain, and also housed horses.

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This big barn, owned Rick and Brenda Evers, 6795 Fort Recovery-Minster Road, Maria Stein, was built approximately 1916 by Bernard Tumbusch and Ben Ruschau. June 11, 1881, the farm was purchased by Clemens Evers from the Hierholzer Family. In the early 1900's, it was transferred to Frank and Anna Evers; in the 1950's it was transferred to Anthony and Marie Evers, and in 1991, the farm was transferred to Rick and Brenda Evers.

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The old wooden threshing floor is still intact in the Evers barn, 6795 Fort Recovery-Minster Road.

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Another view of the interior of the Evers barn shows the vertical posts which support the purlin plates beneath the rafters of the roof. Anthony and Marie Evers, the former owners, now live at 1929 Cassella Montezuma Road.

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This interior view of the Evers barn shows the granary, as well as the mow for storing hay and straw for the cattle below. One can also see the framing of the barn; note the mortise in the cross beam which holds the tenon of the vertical post above it.

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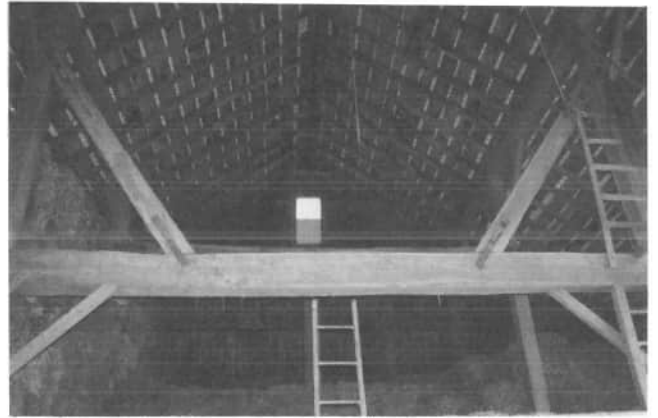
Ben and John Luttmer's barn, 7450 Minster-Fort Recovery Road, Maria Stein, was built in 1886 by Joseph Beckman and his brother. In the past, the barn also housed horses, but now houses cattle, oats, hay and straw. In the Labor Day 1947 tornado, the doors were blown off the barn, and the roof was partially torn off.

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The main cross beams in the Ben and John Luttmer barn, measure ten inches by fourteen inches. Few barns have cross beams of these dimensions. Note how the main cross beam extends to the vertical post, and then is mortised into this vertical post. On the outside or other side of the vertical post, a beam of small dimensions, extends from the post to the outside wall.



This view of the interior of Ben and John Luttmer barn shows the symmetry of the framing, as well as the size of the mow. The marks can be seen on the hand hewn cross beam.



This interior photograph shows another view of the Ben and John Luttmer barn, of a main cross beam. Note the dimensions of the inclined support of the vertical post.



Ed Giere Sr., 8568 Fort Recovery-Minster Road, Maria Stein, owns this barn, which was built around 1890. This photograph shows the barn as it stands today. In 1965 the addition to the far end of the barn was built. In 1960 the first milkhouse was added to the front of the barn. In 1979 it was remodeled to the way it looks today. Unlike so many old barns that stand empty today, their barn is still being used to house small calves and steers. The mows are filled to the peak with hay each year for the dairy herd. This farm has been in the Giere family since 1835; they are the fourth generation to live on the farm.



This is an old photograph of Ed Giere's barn. H. B. GIERS 1909, can be seen written on the gable end wall. With the horses are Henry Giere, uncle of present owner Ed Giere, in the center; on the left is Robert Reichert and on the right is George Reichert, nephews of Henry Giere. Note, that the white triangle is painted at the peak of the gable end wall, as well as on the top corners of the double doors. A window is at eye-level in each of the double doors. The stable doors are open for the horses.



Note the quarter-rounds of white trim on the red barn doors, and the white triangle at the gable end of Mrs. Albert Hemmelgarn's barn, 6164 Huwer Road, Maria Stein. This barn was built in 1904 or 1905. They put hay and straw which was bailed, in the barn. They also milked cows there. Today, they put bailed hay and straw in the barn, and some machinery. The other outbuildings also are painted red, and have this white trim.



In 1904, Adam Zahn owned this farm. The barn was most probably built in the 1880's. Adam Zahn's son, John Zahn, Sr., bought the farm around 1932 or 1933. John Zahn's son, Hugo Zahn, got the farm in 1949. (Hugo Zahn passed away in 1988.) John Zahn Jr. bought some of the land and the big barn. The rest of the land, and the house, belong to Hugo's wife, Olivia Zahn. This gable-roofed barn was used for horses, cattle, and for storage of hay, straw, and grain, wheat and oats. Today, the barn has been remodeled and is used for storage. This Zahn barn stands at 6041 Huwer Road, Maria Stein.



Ralph Reichert's bank barn stands at 6494 Huwer Road, Maria Stein. The farm has been in the Reichert family for 102 years, as of 1991. In the past, the barn was used for cows and heifers, and to store hay, straw, and oats. Today the barn is used to house heifers, calves and dry cows, and to store hay and straw.



Ed Reichert and John, Ralph's father and oldest brother, are standing in front of the barn.

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Clara (Langenkamp) Reichert, Ralph's mother, is outside.

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Ed Reichert is standing outside the barn.

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Sylvester Reichert, with Ed Reichert in the background, at the Reichert farm, 6494 Huwer Rd.

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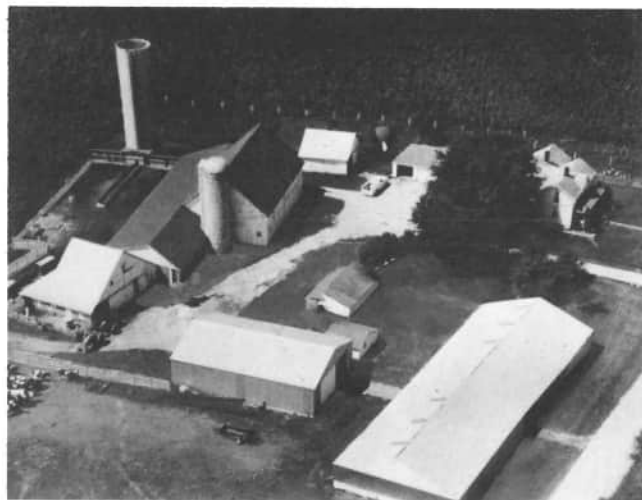
Michael Meier, Roman Meier's grandfather, built this barn in 1883, just as one can read the date on the gable end of the barn. A Cross, is cut into the gable end above this date. This is one of less than a dozen barns in the county which have a cross cut in the gable end of the barn. In the past Roman Meier's barn, at 7804 Huwer Road, Maria Stein, was used for cows, horses, sheep, hay, straw, and corn fodder. Today, the barn is used for chickens and hay. On the photograph, left to right: Bernard Meier, Bernard's sons Aloys and Roman Meier, and Frank Meier.



Fred Bohman I bought the farm, 8152 Indian Trail Road, and moved the house to the present location and added four rooms. He built the main part of the barn about 1909, and three smaller buildings.



This barn is 100 feet by 48 feet, and still has the original siding, roof, and foundation. The barn is wooden pin framed, with hand hewn logs. This barn was moved from a quarter of a mile west, before the marriage of Bernard Fullenkamp and Rosa Streacker. The horse stables, (on the left side in the photograph) were modified for milking in the 1950's. A new milking setup was built in the late 1960's, (on the right side of the photograph). In the photograph, is Dan Fullenkamp, on the left, who is the grandson of Bernard Fullenkamp, and present occupant of this farm at 8310 Huwer Road. On the right, is Othmar Fullenkamp, the owner, who lives at 8340 Rutschilling Road. Their dog Spot is eighteen years old.



Maurice Bohman, son of Fred Bohman I, was the next owner. He built additions to three sides of the main barn, to make it the present size. He also built a garage, milk house, milking parlor, tool shed, large calf and heifer barn, two silos, three grain bins, and remodeled the house.



Fred Bohman II, son of Maurice Bohman, is the present owner. He built the free stall building and put in a lagoon, two silos and a computer milking system. One can see the changes in the farm at 8152 Indian Trail Road, by these aerial photographs.

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Louis and Pauline Schemmel, 7878 Schemmel Road, Maria Stein, have this barn today. The photograph shows Louis' father, John Schemmel, as a teenager, holding the horses Pauli and Kate. John's father, Henry Schemmel, is holding horses Bert and Nora. The barn still has the original slate roof. The original hay tracks, ropes, hay slings, are still in the barn although not in use. Two of the main supports were hand hewn. The barn measures 115 feet long, 55 feet wide, and 50 feet to the highest point. On the photograph, the east end of the barn is shown. The horses stables were on the east end. The southeast corner was the bull stable; the area is now the milking parlor.

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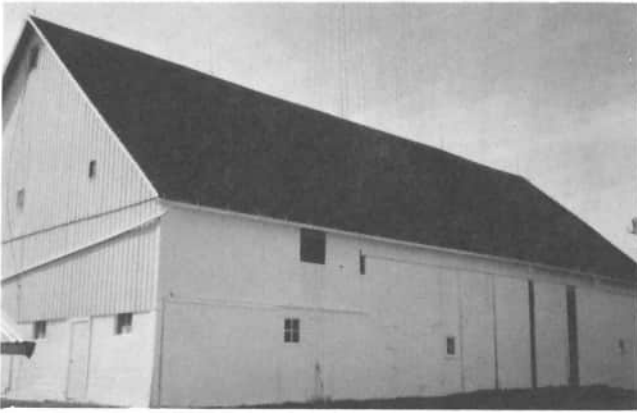
Gabriel Dirksen owns this barn at 6143 Dirksen Road, Maria Stein. The red barn is trimmed with the white triangle at the gable end, and the white arches on the barn doors. The barn was built in 1903, and has always been used for dairy.

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Louis Schemmel's barn as it looks today. This barn is a third generation farm. The barn was built between 1900 and 1910.

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The north east side of Louis Schemmel's barn, with the big double doors, and the barn having the gable roof with five lightning rods. Above the double doors, the hand hewn cross beams can be seen extending under the eaves.

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Cletus and Marcella Heitkamp own this barn at 7666 Schemmel Road, Maria Stein. Their barn was built in May of 1942 by the Wellman Brothers. In the past, the barn was used for dairy cows and calves, as well as hay and grain. Today, this red barn, with the white trim, and white triangle in the gable end, is used for storage. The dog house is a miniature barn, with its gable roof, red paint with white trim.

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The interior view of Louis Schemmel's barn shows the granary, the mow, and the posts and beams used for the frame of the barn.

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Anthony and Linda Broering's barn, at 768 Voskuhl Road, Maria Stein, was built in 1978. Many farms have separate buildings for calf raising and milking. This is a multi-use building and is used for dairy milking and calf raising.

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Aloys Unrast, 6015 Mercer-Darke County Line Road, New Weston, Ohio 45348, was working outside, the February 1992 day that this photograph was taken. His barn was built in 1950 by Edward Subler and has been used for livestock. Today the barn is used for dairy. Like other barns built in the 1950's, the barn roof has a gambrel roof, to allow for more storage space in the mow area.

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Rick Bruns' barn, 3231 Chickasaw Road, Celina, was built in 1900 by a Mr. Solmon. The barn was used for livestock and for grain and hay. Then, in 1966, the barn was torn down and rebuilt. It still has the same standing seam roof as it did when the structure was built in 1900. Today, the barn is still used for livestock and hay.

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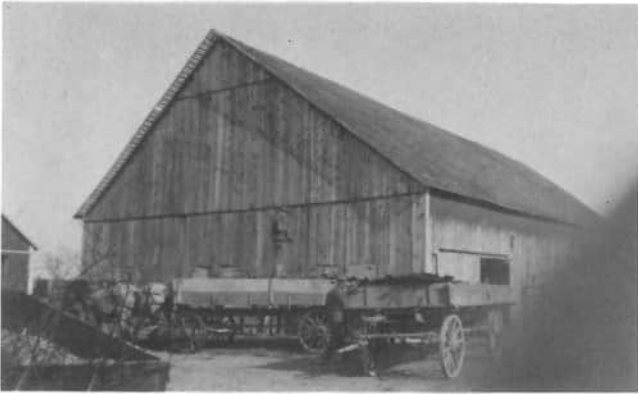
The early morning sun is casting shadows across Paul and Margie Dirksen's barn, 6791 Mercer-Darke County Line Road, Maria Stein. The original barn burned down when they were threshing wheat in the summer time. The barn today was built in 1934 by Bill and Ado Tumbusch. They worked for a dollar a day, plus their meals. Dirksens use their barn as a dairy barn. The gambrel roof allows for more space in the mow.

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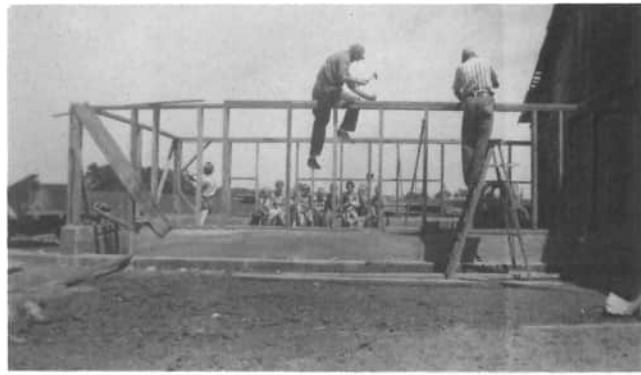
This farm and barn have been owned by nine different owners, but they have been basically used for general farming. In 1947, a tornado came through this area and moved the barn partly off of its flagstone foundation and pushed the top eighteen inches out of square. With jacks, and other miscellaneous equipment, it was almost straightened out. It is still about four inches out of square. The barn was built in the late 1800's by Frank Kunk. Today the barn is used for swine production. The barn belongs to Edward and Robert Pohlman, 1194 State Route 716, Maria Stein.

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Mrs. Henry Pohlman, 1809 St. Rt. 716, had this barn. Henry's father Herman Pohlman built the barn.

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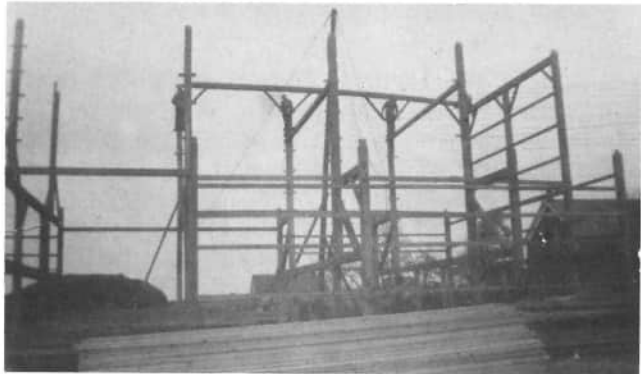
The men are putting the lower purlin in place.

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In the spring of 1940, Mrs. Henry Pohlman's barn was torn down to be replaced by a new one.

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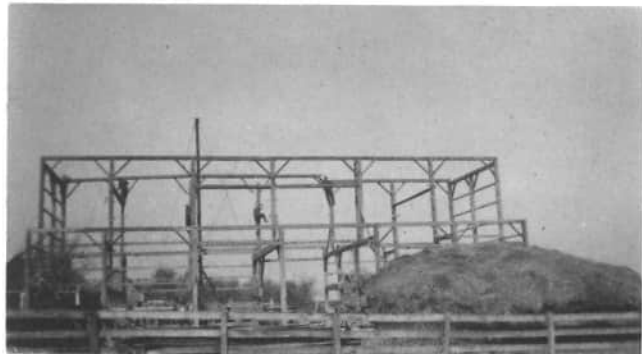
The men are working on the upper purlin. Otto Mescher, Henry Albers, and Leo Hausfeld are putting the purlin in place.

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Mrs. Henry Pohlman had this barn built the summer of 1940. Bill Wellman, Sr., Father of Bill & Bernard Wellman, built this barn. The men are hooking up a bent, getting it ready to raise.

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The frame is completed. The gin pole is standing up above the framework. The straw stack is standing next to the frame.

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Albert and Louis Pohlman are painting the barn; the white triangle is a decoration. The stable doors are open; the horse is looking out the east side of the south end. The kick-door with the Z bracing kept the horses in. The porch roof, or pent roof, protects the stable doors. The 1936 plymouth coupe belonged to Louis Pohlman.



The Cyril Everman family is the fourth generation of the Everman family to live at this place, 2251 State Route 716, Maria Stein. The barn has all hand hewn beams, and was most likely built by the Everman family. The barn has been used to house livestock and for feed storage. Notice the width of the barn in contrast to the length, and notice the low slope of the roof, which is quite similar to barns built over a century ago in Marion Township.



The finished barn is 44 feet wide, 84 feet long, and is 40 feet from the foundation to the peak of the barn. Four lightning rods and three ventilators are on top of the barn. Mr. and Mrs. Albert Pohlman, (son of Mr. and Mrs. Henry Pohlman) got the farm in 1942, at 1809 St. Rt. 716, Maria Stein. This farm has been in the Pohlman family since 1837; they have the sheepskin deed, signed by President Martin Van Buren.



This aerial view of Lawrence Bruns' farm, 7902 Indian Trail, Maria Stein, was taken in October 1982. It shows more of the modern buildings; the 16 x 52 silo was built in 1961 and the 20 x 68 silo was built in 1982. The storage shed was constructed in 1978; the free stall cattle building in 1981.



This aerial view of Lawrence Bruns' farm, 7902 Indian Trail, was taken in 1958. The small building southwest of the barn was built in 1892; the present home was also built approximately in 1891-1892. The barn was built a few years later. In the past, the barn was used for dairy and horses, as well as grain, hay, and straw storage. On the front of the barn, above the double doors, is written FRED BRUNS. The doors and windows are all trimmed in white, as is the white triangle in the gable end. The windpump can be seen to the right of the barn. Perhaps, it was a Monday, because the clothes can be seen drying on the clothes line.



Today, Anthony Bruns' barn, 575 State Route 716, is used for feed storage; a renter raised feeder calves in the barn. In 1932, the shingled roof was replaced with galvanized tin roof. All the barn siding and doors are the original except for the south side; the horse stable doors were removed and the entire side was replaced with siding. The south side is the only side which has been changed on the barn.



Anthony Bruns' barn, 575 State Route 716, Maria Stein, was constructed by a Mr. Borgert in 1894. The barn was 48 feet wide and 92 feet long, with a 12 foot extension. They used eight 50 foot long beams, hand hewn, to support the barn (across the width of the barn);  $2\frac{1}{2}$  feet were needed for a splice on each of these beams. The short beams were sawed; wooden pegs were used throughout the barn. The interior of the barn is about the same as when it was built. On this photograph of John Bruns family in 1914: first the hay rake, then Fred Bruns, John Bruns (father of Fred), Anthony (born in 1903 and the present owner), Mary (Clune) Bruns (wife of John), Francis (Bruns) Bergman, Cecilia (Bruns) Heitkamp. The horse stable doors are open. The five louvered vents let the air in for ventilation.



The barn was moved off its foundation in the Labor Day tornado, 1947. The cars are parked by the house, for all the people who came to help the day after the tornado. This is Alvina Riethman's home place; today the owners are Mark and John Riethman, 1440 Rolfes Road, Maria Stein.



When the Riethman barn was rebuilt at 1440 Rolfes Road, they lowered the roof two feet. The front, or west, side, has the bank leading to the double doors. The original glass windows in the double wagon doors have been replaced with plastic. On the foundation, there are openings with bars to let in air for ventilation, yet keep animals out.

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The wooden threshing floor of the Riethman barn has a square trapdoor where the hay and straw was thrown down from the mow. A granary is in the corner. In the back is a wagon box, where they used to put grain.

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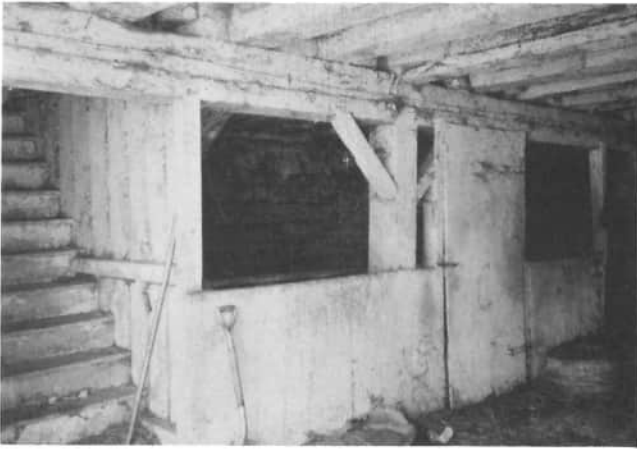
The east side of the Riethman barn has the double doors they can open. In the past, they threshed in the barn, and the grain was put in the barn in the granary. The straw was blown out the doors onto the strawstack in the cow yard.

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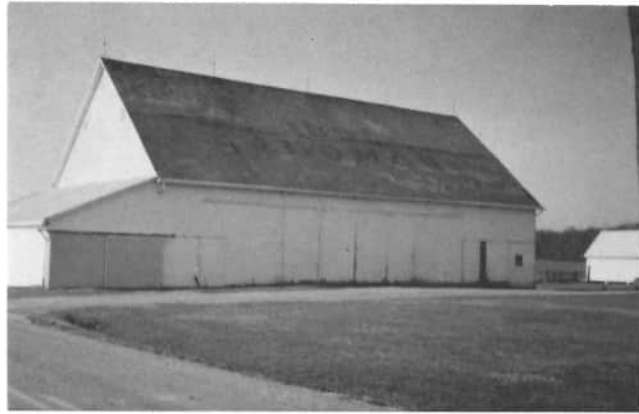
The interior framing of the Riethman barn not only shows the framing, but also the basketball net for the kids.

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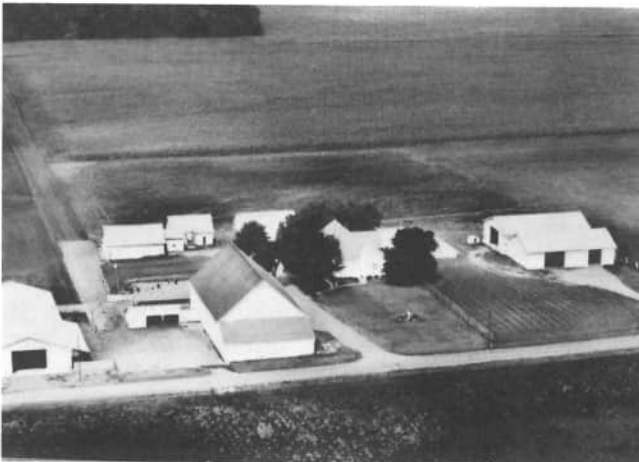
The old horse stables, built next to the stone foundation, stand empty now. The stairs lead up to the main threshing floor. Notice the size of the beams and posts which support this. Riethman barn, 1440 Rolfes Road.

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On the roof, J. Homan, 1895, tells the owner (John Homan), as well as the year, 1895. The barn was built by Henry Menker, known for his barn building. The barn is 52 by 96, with 18 foot sides. Comparing the width to the length and looking at the slope of the roof, one recognizes that this barn is built similar to other barns of the 1890's in Marion Township. When John Homan built this barn and put his name on it, he meant for this barn to last; it has almost reached the century mark and looks like it will last another century.

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Othmar Homan, 1731 Rolfes Road, Maria Stein, has owned this farm since 1976. Lawrence Homan owned it from 1947 to 1976. John Homan owned the farm from 1890 to 1947. One can see the big barn in its relationship to the other buildings on the farm.

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Urban and Mildred Knapke's barn, 2165 Rolfes Road, Maria Stein, was built in 1894 by Henry Menker, who was known for barn building. One can see the stone foundation, next to the bank leading to the double doors. It appears as if the main cross beams are extending beneath the eaves, above the double doors. This barn has been used for cattle, and hay storage.

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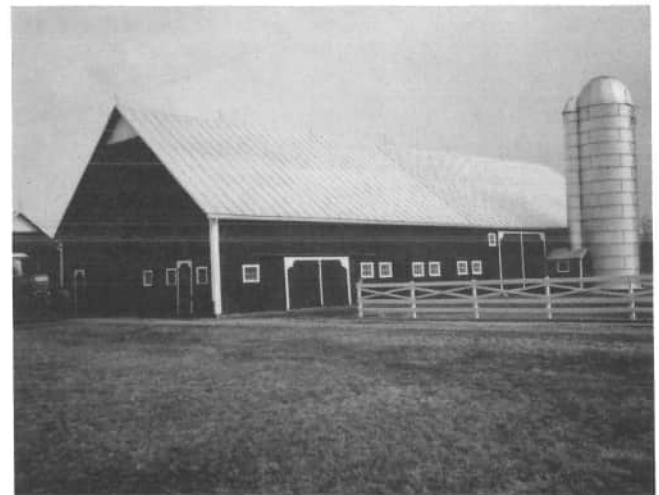
This barn was built before 1893, when Henry Budde bought it. The size of this barn is 73 x 47. The frame is all made of 10 x 10 hewn logs, put together with wooden pegs. The farm was originally bought from the United States government by Frederick Elking; the deed was signed by President Martin Van Buren on March 15, 1837. On October 17, 1893, Henry Elking sold the farm to Henry Budde who later passed it on to his son, Julius Budde. The farm is still in the Budde name, Mrs. Julius Budde, 2284 Rolfes Road, Maria Stein. The barn has been used for livestock — horses, cows, and calves — and for storing grain, hay, and straw, feed for the animals. The gable end wall has siding on it. The two stable doors are two pairs of dutch doors whereby the upper and lower parts swing independently of each other. They have an added X brace for support and to prevent the horse from kicking through the door. The upper portions of the doors can be opened for the horses to not only enjoy the fresh air, but also see what is going on because they are social animals; while the lower portion is closed, keeping them in the stable.

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Bernd Mescher bought the farm from the Government in 1837. Mary Mescher married Diedrick Puthoff and had the farm next. Then, their son Anthony Puthoff had the farm, followed by Anthony's son Merinus who now has the farm. Merinus Puthoff, 719 Saint Johns Road, Maria Stein, has the original deed; the land grant on parchment. Diedrick Puthoff, Merinus' grandfather, built this barn. The barn was used for general purpose; livestock, grain, hay, and machinery. This beautiful, big barn was destroyed by fire, June 24, 1971.

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Joe Kemper bought this farm at 1200 St. Johns Road, Maria Stein, about 1930. Joe's son, Wilbert and Joseph Jr. Kemper took over the farm about 1987. (This place was homesteaded by Henry Arnold Bergman in 1844.) H. Arnold Bergman built this barn about 1885. The barn is 116 feet by 55 feet and has hand hewn beams and is wooden pinned. This barn is one of the longest barns in the area. The red barn is trimmed in white. Note that this barn has seven lightning rods along the roof ridge. The barn has been used for dairy and hogs; today it is used for dairy.

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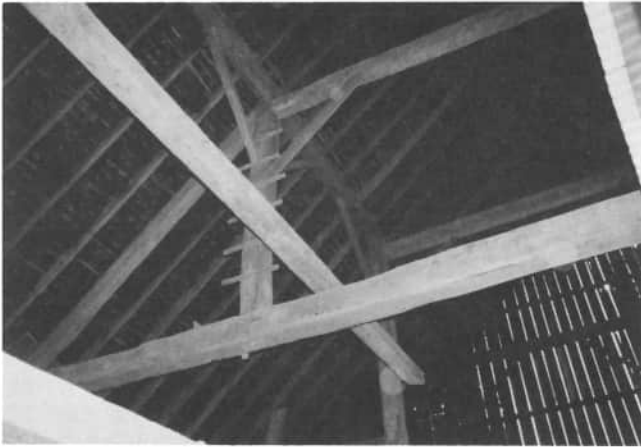
Othmar F. Bergman's barn, 1367 St. Johns Road, Maria Stein, was built in 1896, and is one of the grand old barns built by the well known barn builder Henry Menker. If one looks closely, one can see the matched pair of main cross beams extending through the wall, under the eaves, just above the two pairs of double doors. This barn has served as a working farm barn for almost a century; today the barn is used for livestock (goats) and storage.

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An interior view of the Othmar Bergman barn shows the other main cross beam which extends from wall to wall. Note the vertical posts and their role in the framing of the barn.

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This is a close-up interior view of the Othmar Bergman barn whereby one can see one of the two main cross beams which not only extend from wall to wall, but also support the frame of the barn. Note there is no post beneath this cross beam; however, a vertical post is mortised and pegged into the cross beam, and which vertical post goes up to support to purlin plate.

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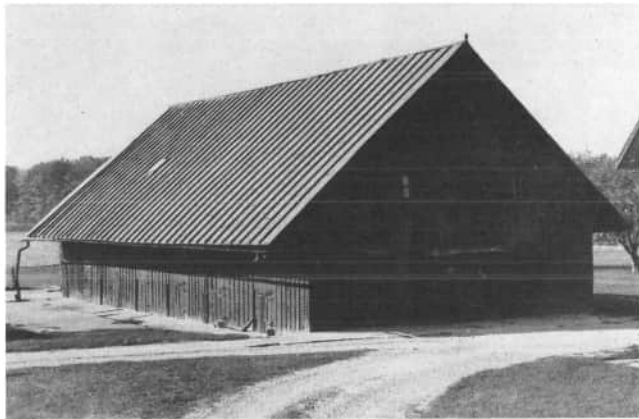


This interior view of the Othmar Bergman barn illustrates the framing of the barn, past the two main cross beams. Grain was stored in the granary. The mow afforded plenty of space for hay storage for the livestock. The main floor of the barn afforded space for farm machinery, as well as space for the livestock, at 1367 St. Johns Road.

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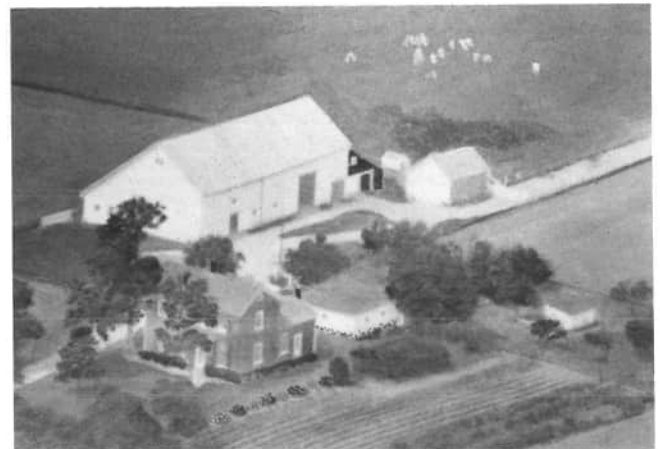


Mr. and Mrs. Charles Wendeln's barn, 1960 St. Johns Road, Maria Stein, was built in 1910 by Frank Woeste. The barn was used for milking cows, and cow housing, as well as grain storage, hay and straw storage. The roof on the barn is the original roof. The barn was covered with white metal siding about twenty years ago. Today the barn is used for dry cow housing, and hay and straw storage.



This barn is one of the most unique barns in Mercer County. It is located at the Maria Stein Center, Sisters of the Precious Blood, 2291 St. Johns Road, Maria Stein. The barn was built about 1846 or 1848, by the Brothers of the Precious Blood, and was used as the main barn, until other outbuildings were built. Then the barn was used as a pig barn. Today, the barn is used for storage. Barnologists, people who like to study barns, will acknowledge this barn for its Dutch framing. The barn is wider than most barns in the area, and has a low roof slope, or pitch. The double doors, protected by a slight overhang, are in the gable end wall, instead of the side wall. Inside this barn, the cross beams do not extend from wall to wall. The cross beams are extended from one vertical post to the other, in the H frame called a bent; the cross beams are then cut, so the tenon of the

cross beams can extend through the cut or mortise in the vertical post. The cross beam tenon only extends through the vertical post mortise, for a few inches and then is rounded off. These cross beams are much larger in dimension than most of the cross beams in local barns. In most local barns, the walls are higher, and the cross beams extend from wall to wall; some in southern Mercer County actually extend through the wall, and are rounded off under the eaves. In this photograph, one can see the small doors along the wall, which were probably stable doors. Three windows in triangular configuration can be seen in the gable end wall. Obviously, this is not the original roof; one wonders if the original roof had shingles. With consideration for its European roots in design, one would almost expect to see a thatched roof.

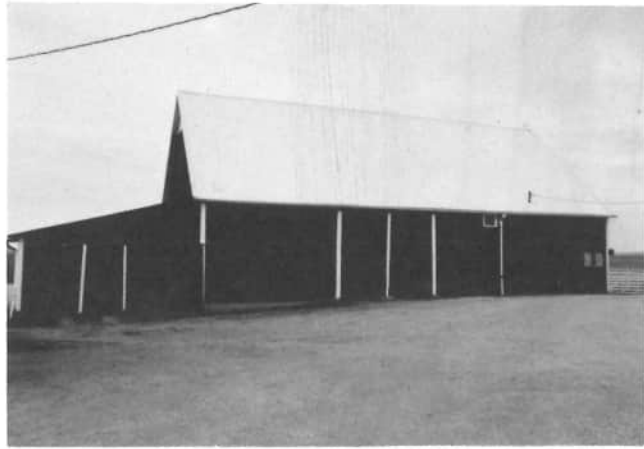


This history of this farm, 2563 Saint Johns Road, Maria Stein, dates back to 1835. Ferdinand Deshe purchased this 80 acres for one hundred dollars from Joseph Young, receiver of Miami Canal Lands granted by the State of Ohio and signed by Robert Lucas, Governor of the State of Ohio on the 20th day of May 1835. By Ferdinand Deshe's will, the land was transferred to Ferdinand Desch, Jr., on August 12, 1886; the spelling was probably changed in the change from German to English. Ferdinand's wife Anna Desch purchased the farm from Ferdinand's heirs on February 13, 1925 and contracted to sell to Henry Bertke on the same date. The deed was transferred to Henry Bertke September 25, 1925. Henry Bertke sold to his son Alvin Bertke on May 18, 1934; Alvin sold to his son Thomas Bertke January 29, 1968. Thomas Bertke then sold to Edmund Giere Sr. on March 5, 1973. (Photo dated 1953)



Edmund L. Giere Sr., 8568 Fort Recovery-Minster Road, Maria Stein, has the barn as it looks today, as it stands at 2563 St. Johns Road. John Dash built the barn. It had been used for housing horses, cattle, and hogs, and storage of hay, grain and machinery. Today, the barn is used for housing replacement heifers and storing of machinery.

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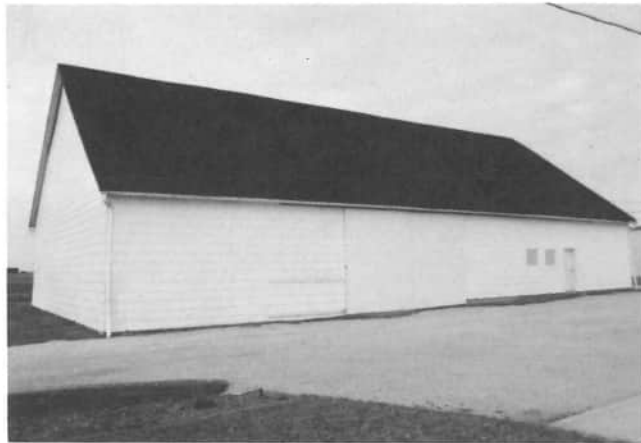
Gerald Knapke's barn, 2649 St. Johns Road, Maria Stein, was built in 1904, by Henry Menker, a local barn builder. This place has been in the Knapke name; the first owner was Bernard Knapke, then Joseph Knapke, then his son Leander Knapke, then his son Gerald Knapke. The barn has been used for horses and cows and hogs, as well as hay and straw and grain. The red barn is trimmed in white, with a white triangle at the gable end. Three small windows are in the side wall.

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This aerial view of Paul and Mary Ann Kremer's farm, 2570 St. John's Road, Maria Stein, shows the big barn, in relation to the other buildings on the farm, including the beautiful, old brick home. The barn was built around 1890, and the beams are all wooden-pinned. In the past, the barn was used to house horses and cattle, as well as store hay and grain. Today, the barn is used to feed and raise calves and steers, and to store hay and straw.

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Gerald & Mary O. Roeckner's farm, 2772 Saint Johns Road, Maria Stein, has been in the Roeckner name since 1846; it has been passed down four generations. The barn is 90 feet by 50 feet, and stands 30 feet high. It was built with hand-hewn beams and is pegged together with wooden pegs. The outside was resided with shingles and a cement foundation was added in 1947. This barn is probably well over one hundred years old; it is also built similar to other barns in Marion Township, with observing the width and the length of the barn, and the low slope or pitch of the roof. The barn was used for cattle, and grain and hay storage; now the barn is used for storage.

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This barn was built in 1928, and was used mainly for livestock. Today, the barn is used for feed and grain storage, by the owner, Robert Poeppelman, 119 Kremer Road, Yorkshire, Ohio 45388. This gable-roofed barn has one pair of double doors on the side, with two smaller service doors on the gable end wall. A nightlight is placed above the window at the peak of the gable end.

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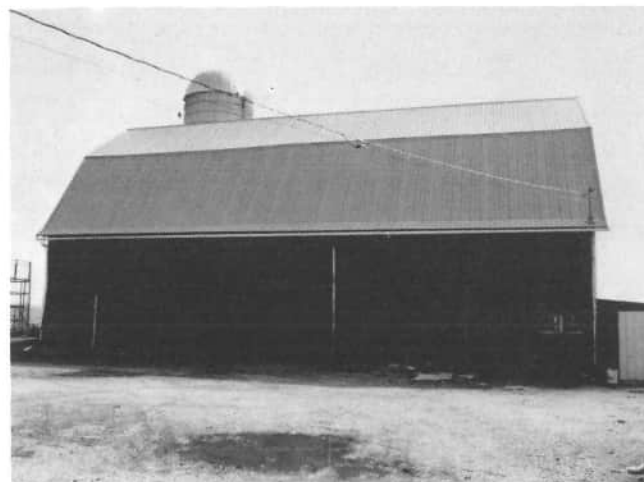
This view of the Walterbusch barn shows that the double doors have a pair of windows at the top. There is a pent roof over the end of the barn, which provided shelter from the elements. A white triangle can also be seen in the gable end. This barn has always been used as a dairy barn.

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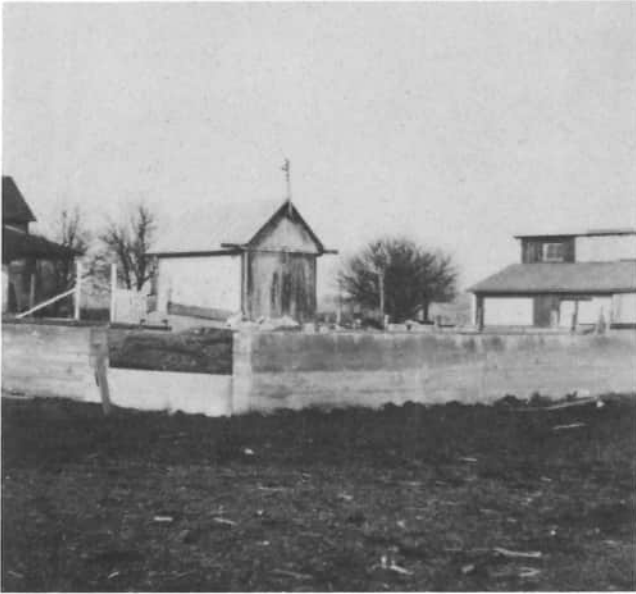
This farm on Kremer Road is now in the fourth generation of the Walterbusch family, with William as the first owner, Leo as the second owner, then Ivo Walterbusch, who lives at 410 Kremer Road, and now Ron Walterbusch, 450 Kremer Road. The barn is nearly a century old. This photograph of the buildings was taken in the 1940's, and one can see the importance of the barn in relation to the other buildings. The windmill can be seen in the center of the yard; some people call this a windpump.

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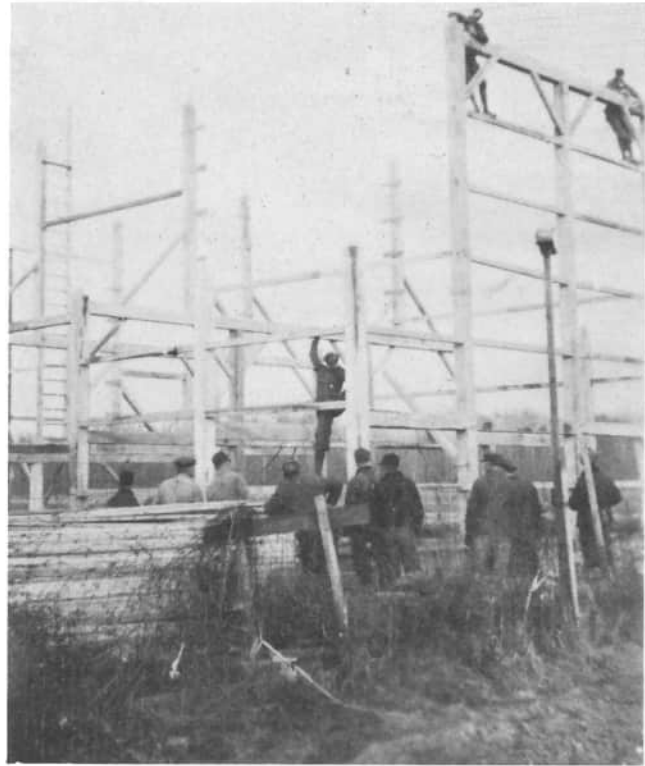
Frank Prenger owned the barn, and built this barn, with the help of the barn builder, Bill Wellman, and the neighbors, in November 1938, after the former barn burned. Today, the barn is owned by Don Prenger, 832 Kremer Road, Maria Stein.

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This view shows the wood shed and chicken house blackened by the barn fire at Frank Prenger's farm.

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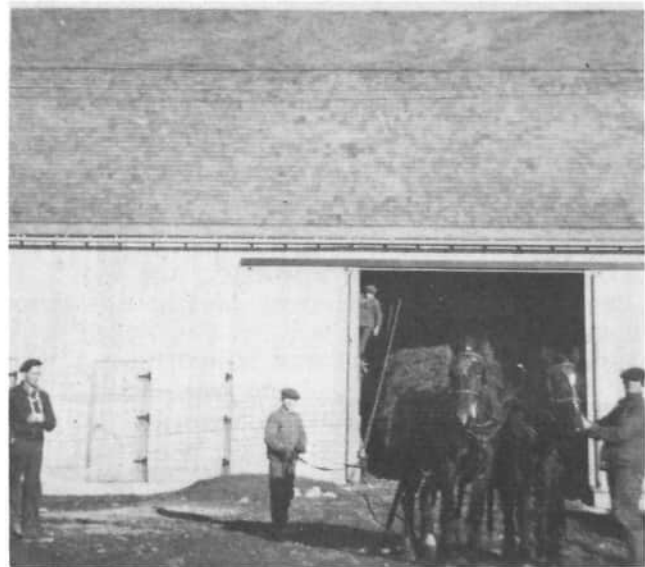
Neighbors are working on the Frank Prenger barn. The men on top of the bent are putting in the wooden pegs. On this side of the bent, one can see the vertical pole, with the short piece of wood on the end; this was probably used as a pike, to help push the bent into a vertical position.

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The main bents of the barn are being raised into place by Greg Prenger, Frank Prenger, and their neighbors.

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Greg, Lee, Alvin, and Frank Prenger are refilling the barn with hay. Their team of horses stand in front of the double doors. This barn has been used for dairy cows, as well as storage of grain and hay.

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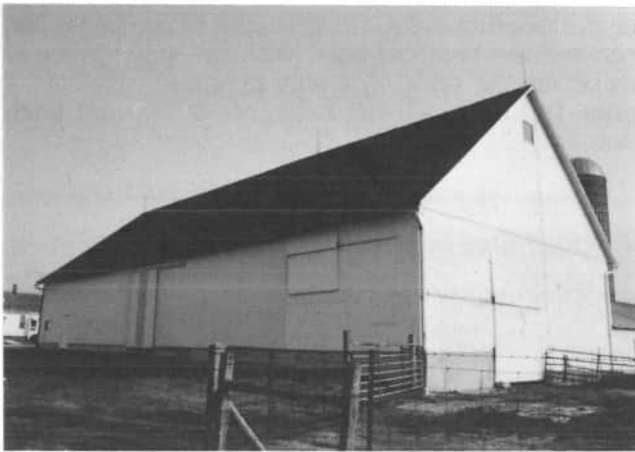
Robert "Bud" Mescher owns this barn at 1189 Kremer Road, Maria Stein. Ben Bergman built the barn in 1886 and the barn was used for livestock, grain, hay and straw. Today the barn is used for hay and straw. Mr. Mescher is on his tractor in front of the barn. Notice the main cross beams, extending beneath the eaves, above the double doors. Two small square windows are in the upper part of the double doors.

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This building on Walter Rethman's place, 1456 Kremer Road, was built about 1918 by John Kremer. Not many buildings are built like this three story building. On the bottom floor, they housed hogs, and there was a furnace to provide the heat. They stored small grain and had a corn crib on the main floor. This main floor had a bank on the gable end; this bank had a big cistern under it. On the third floor, they put straw. On this third floor, they had two ducts, whereby they could throw straw down to bed hogs on the bottom floor.

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A. Hinders owned the farm, and sold it to John Kremer. John Kremer bought this place about 1890-1891, and the barn and house were here then. (The house was built within a year after the barn.) The barn has hand hewn beams. The two main cross beams go from wall to wall, and extend out under the eaves. The original horse stalls were torn out by John Kremer. Anthony Schoenlein bought the farm from the estate of John Kremer in 1955. Anthony's daughter Esther and her husband Walter Rethman moved here in 1956. Walter Rethman tore out the old threshing floor. He uses the barn for dairy cattle. The old grain bins are still on the top floor. The Walter Rethman family live at this farm, 1456 Kremer Road, Maria Stein, Ohio 45860.

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Wilbert and Joseph J. Kemper bought the farm at 1741 Kremer Road, in 1967. The barn is 46 feet high and 42 feet wide, and 84 feet long. It has a twenty-foot attached tool shed in back, and a milking parlor and milk house on the south side. Note the diamond windows in the double doors and the two smaller sliding doors. The rounded roof, sometimes called a rainbow or gothic roof, has a slight slope, just over the walls; this slope is sometimes called a skijump. The barn was built in 1920 by Roman Kremer. Kremer Road must have been named for the Kremer family. The barn was used for dairy; now it is used for beef cattle. Wilbert and Joseph J. Kemper live at 1200 St. Johns Road.

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Linus Bruns, 2160 Kremer Road, Maria Stein, owns this barn. This is another barn built by the local barn builder, Henry Menker; this barn was built in 1910. Note the windows in the double doors, as well as the other doors; one window, with nine panes over six panes, is in the gable end wall. The stable doors can be seen at the end wall. An addition was made to the opposite end wall. In the past the barn was used to feed livestock; today the barn is used for machinery storage.



Mr. and Mrs. Stanley H. Bertke, 2413 Kremer Road, Maria Stein, own this barn. This barn was built during our nation's Centennial celebration in 1876. This barn has always been used as a dairy barn. Notice the width of the barn in comparison with the length of the barn, and the low slope of the roof.



This farm has been in the Bruns family for several generations, and now belongs to Ronald Bruns, 2308 Kremer Road, Maria Stein. When the first Bruns family came from Germany, they built a log house and log buildings. Ronald's grandfather John Bruns, had a frame house built, and the Menkers built the barn in the early 1900's. Ronald built a new house, and had the old house demolished this past year. His father, Clarence Bruns, now lives in Chapel Hill, Maria Stein. In the past, this bank barn was used for milking, as well as storage of hay, cornfodder, oats and wheat granary. Today, the barn is used for raising steers and heifers. If one looks closely, one can see that there is a bridge between the bank and the barn.



Mrs. Clem Schulte's barn stands at 2869 Mercer-Auglaize County Line Road, New Bremen, Ohio 45869. The barn has been used for dairy, and storing hay and straw. The red barn is trimmed in white; notice the direction of the shadows cast by the barn in the spring sunlight.



This is a winter scene of Mrs. Clem Schulte's barn. Notice one corn crib full and one empty. Also, notice the direction of the shadows cast in the winter sunlight.

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This view of Jerry Will Jr. farm shows the progress being made on remodeling the barn. In the past, the barn was used for dairy production; now the barn is used for swine production.

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This is the appearance of the barn at 3277 Goettemoeller Road, Celina, when Jerry Will Jr. purchased his farm from Gregory Schaefer in September of 1986. The barn had its original shingle roof and siding. Since Jerry bought the farm, he has been slowly remodeling the barn by replacing the roof, siding, and removing the old milking parlor, and remodeling the interior for swine production.

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Nick Meier's barn, 1125 Homan Road, Maria Stein, was built in the 1860's, and is certainly one of the older barns in the county. The painting of the cow on the gable end certainly identifies this barn as being a dairy barn. The original builders built this barn to last; it has withstood the test of time, having survived over 130 years.

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Looking closely at this barn, one can see the cross beams extending under the eaves of this gable-roofed barn. This barn was built in 1916, on the same site of the barn, that burned down in 1916. This barn stands at 7208 Huwer Road, and belongs to Nick Meier, 1125 Homan Road, Maria Stein.

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Albert Schoenlein's barn was built at 2253 Homan Road, in 1880, by Bernard Albers. Notice the low slope of the gable roof of this old barn. The three windows give light to the mow, as well as the door providing entryway. This barn has always been used mostly for livestock.

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LeRoy Piekenbrock's barn was built in 1911, at 1729 Homan Road, Maria Stein. This old photograph shows the barn, the old home, and the windmill (windpump). In the past, the barn was used for storing hay and straw; cows and horses were housed on the bottom. Today, the barn is used for storing hay and straw, and for cattle.

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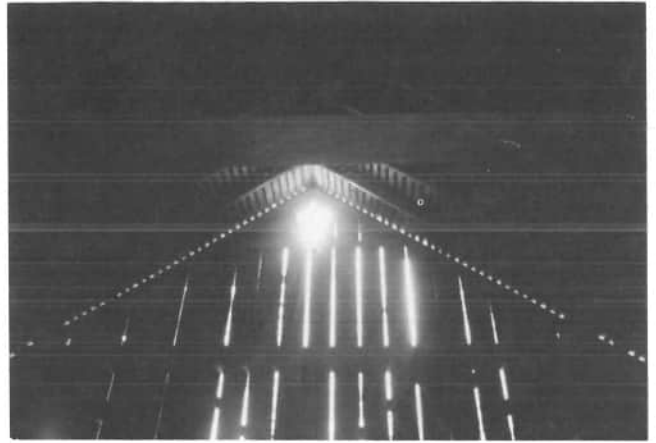
This big old barn was approximately 120 years old in 1992, and is 52 feet by 102½ feet. This barn has a hand hewn beam, across the width in the center, which is 52 feet long, and 14½ inches by 12½ inches. Look very closely at the double doors, under the eaves, and see the cross beams extending through the wall under the eaves. This barn belongs to Viola L. Homan, 2992 Homan Road, and the farm has been in the Homan name since 1857.

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Robert Kelch bought this farm from Annie Griesdorn, during World War II, in the 1940's. Part of the barn is hand hewn; part is sawed posts and beams. They used to milk in the barn. Robert remembers that this barn was here when he was a kid walking to Dwenger School; he is 81 years, February 14, 1992; therefore the barn was standing here at the time of World War I. This gable-roofed white barn is located at 344 Clune-Stucke Road, Maria Stein.

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An interior view of the cross, cut into the gable end of the Jim and Pam Stucke barn.

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Of fewer than a dozen barns in Mercer County, this barn has a cross cut in the wall of both gable ends of the barn, which was built in 1886, and belongs to Jim and Pam Stucke, 501 Clune-Stucke Road, Maria Stein. This particular cross is a Latin Cross, *crux immissa*, whose base stem is longer than the other three arms. Notice the slope of the gable roof, in comparison with the width of the barn, and the length of the barn. In the past, the barn housed horses, dairy cattle, hogs, and stored grain, hay, straw, and corn fodder. Today, equipment and supplies are stored.

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An interior view of the mow of Jim and Pam Stucke's barn. Notice the top cross beam of each bent, extends through the mortise, and is cut off. This type framing shows a Dutch influence in the building design. Not many barns in Mercer County are built with this type framing. The cross can be seen in the end wall.

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A close-up view of the tenon extending through the mortise, being pinned with the wooden pin. The vertical post supports the purlin, in the Stucke barn, 501-Clune-Stucke Road. The cross can be seen in the end wall.



This 1930 view shows the place when Clarence and Ida Clune were married. Note that this photograph was torn in half during the 1947 tornado. The 1947 newspaper report of the tornado stated, "The brick house; the violent wind tore off the top of the house and walls on the north, west and south sides. The frame building attached to the house was used as a kitchen. In the alleyway between the two buildings, 13 people crouched when the storm hit, and they escaped injury." Jerry Clune was five years old; he said he would never forget the day. Even though the storm ripped off the top section of the barn, the big, red-oak beams held fast; the barn was shifted six inches off the foundation, but it did not collapse. Ida Clune said that even though the walls were taken from the house, a dresser was standing in the corner, next to the wall, and was not touched.



This Clune barn stood at 1414 Clune-Stucke Road, Maria Stein. The owners were Maxmilian and Maria Clune, then Herman and Christine Clune, then Clarence and Ida Clune, and today, Jerome and Patricia Clune. The family on the photograph is most likely Herman's family. The barn is 90 feet long, 48 feet wide, and 50 feet high. A previous log barn on the property was torn down and they used the logs for flooring joists for this barn; they are hand-hewn, 18 inches to two feet wide. The main beams the length of the barn have only one splice in 90 feet, with a two-foot overlap; that means 47-foot trees hewn by hand. (The three cupolas are no longer on the barn today.)



This photograph was taken of the Jerry Clune farm, 1414 Clune-Stucke Road, in 1949.

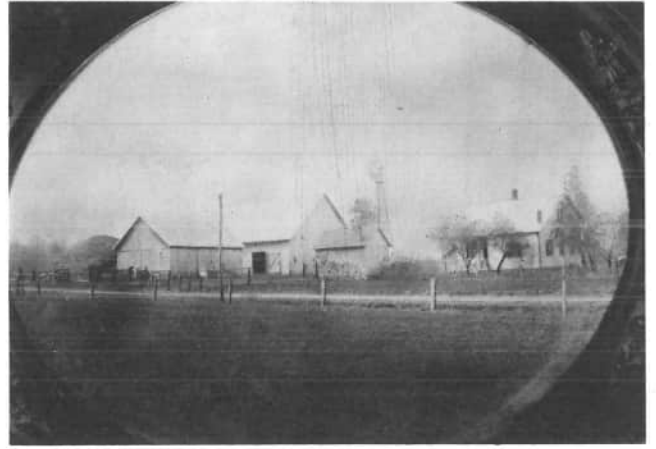




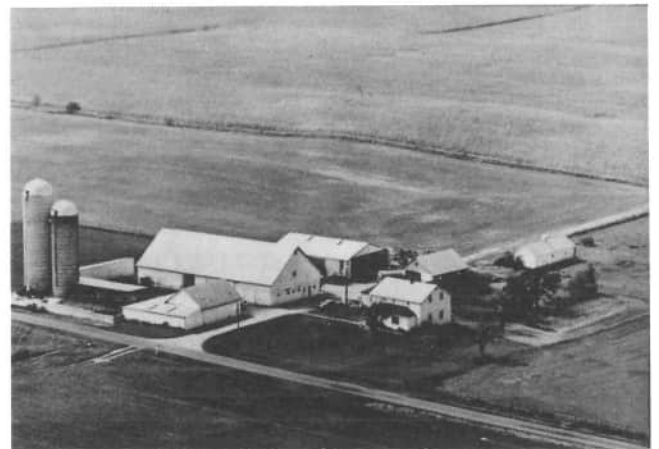
This photograph was taken of the Jerry Clune farm in 1974. Note the bank leading up to the double doors; a covered-bridge connects the bank to the barn. One of the double doors has a small door in it; this small door within the larger door is called a Guichet.



This interior view of the Jerry Clune barn, shows the cross beams as they extend through the mortises of the vertical posts, just inside the double doors. The tenons extending through the mortises and then being rounded off, is a rare sight in Mercer County barns. Barnologists (those who study barns) compare this type framing with Dutch framing of barns. Of course, another barnologist will state that this is a German bank barn!



At 1818 Clune-Stucke Road, John Schlarman built this barn in the early 1850's, possibly 1852. This barn measures 102 x 52 feet, and has beams that measure 10 by 12 inches, and as long as 26 feet. This farm has been in the Schlarman's family name since 1837, when Martin Van Buren was President and signed the deed to this farm. Note the old home, the other buildings, the straw stack and windmill or (windpump).



An aerial view of Andrew Schlarman's barn, at 1818 Clune-Stucke Road, Maria Stein, shows the original barn built by John Schlarman, as well as the home, and the later buildings. The main barn has been used as a horse barn, with the other livestock. Today it is used as a dairy barn.



Andrew Schlarman, 1919 Clune-Stucke Road, stands outside his barn, at 1818 Clune-Stucke Road, where his son Larry lives. This barn has served the purposes of agriculture for the five generations of farmers that have used it; namely, John, who built the barn; Henry; Lawrence; Andrew; and now his son Larry Schlarman.

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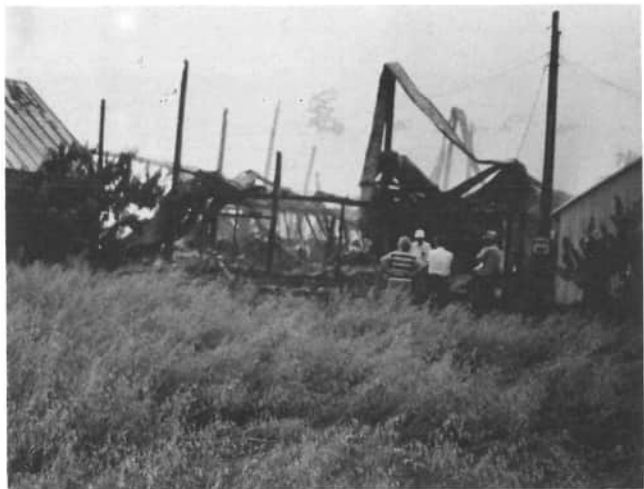
This old photograph, taken about 1955, before new siding was put on, shows the barn and the log house, on Victor Bergman's barn on Clune-Stucke Road.

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Victor Bergman, 325 North Walnut, Celina, owns this barn which is located on Clune-Stucke Road, St. Rosa. The barn was built in 1890 by an Ording. The barn was used for livestock; now it is used for storing machinery. Note the slope of the roof, in contrast with the width and length of the barn. Note that the dark wood on the barn is the original wood, that has never been painted; only the East, North, and upper part of the South sides are the original wood, without paint.

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July 23, 1992, Victor Bergman's barn on Clune-Stucke Road, at the corner of Fort Recovery Minster Road, burned down; lightning struck the barn. Louis and Pauline Schemmel and Norbert and Doris Schemmel had hay and wagons in the barn that burned.

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This August 1985 photograph shows the John T. Bergman farm, now owned by Clarence Bergman. George Bergman built this barn about 1916; the barn was used for dairy and hogs and now is used for storing machinery. This farm is the birthplace of Victor Bergman in 1919, on Clune-Stucke Road.

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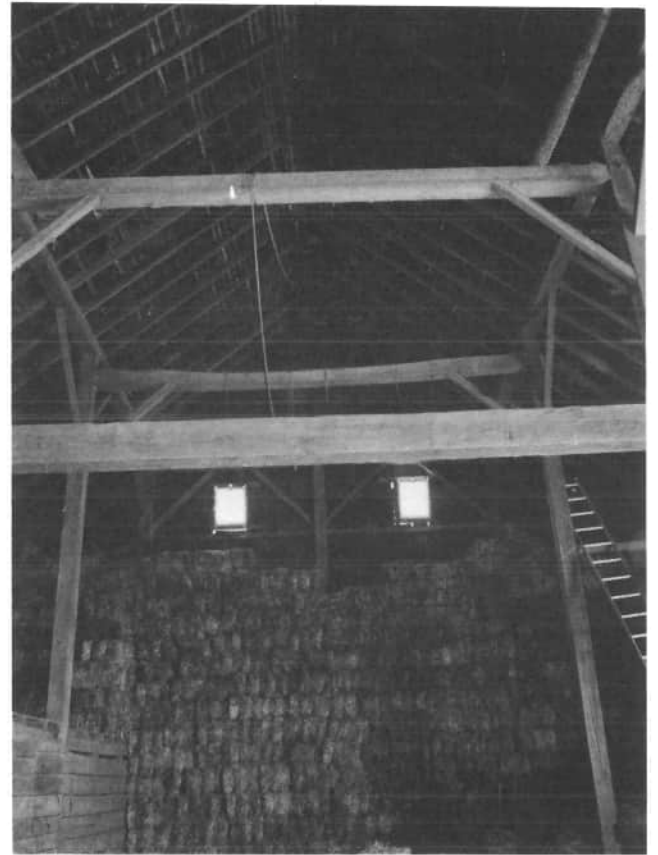
Looking closely, one can see the cross beams extending through the wall, beneath the eaves, of John Fleck's barn, 3381 Harrison Road, Celina. The bank is a broad bank, leading to the double doors.

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This interior view of John Fleck's barn shows the major cross beam has no support beneath it in the center, but it supports the posts which support the purlin. Note the vertical post is cut to extend through the cross beam, and pinned with wooden pins.

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This interior view of John Fleck's barn gives one an idea of the height and space of the interior of this barn. The hay carrier and the rope and pulley are still attached to the track beneath the ridge of the barn. How many bales could this barn hold? The barn is not only used for storing hay and straw, but also for livestock.

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An aerial view of John Fleck's barn, 3381 Harrison Road, shows the barn in relation to the other buildings, including the old brick home, and the new home. The old house is marked in the 1900 MERCER COUNTY ATLAS, but not in the 1888 ATLAS; therefore, the house was built between 1888 and 1900 and the barn was probably built before the house.



Lloyd Schwieterman's barn, 6804 Depweg Road, after the July 19, 1952 storm.



Lloyd Schwieterman's barn is unique in that few barns can tell the same story that this barn can tell. The top part of this barn was built in 1952, by Ray Stachler and the neighbors. (Ray Stachler is well known locally for his barn building.) The bank leads up to the main double doors, which fit into the roof like a large, shed roofed dormer, or looking at the slight flare at the edge of the roof, the similar flare above the doors might be called a ski-jump. This round roof, sometimes called a gothic or rainbow roof, allows more space in the mow. The bottom part of this barn was built in the 1900's. A storm, July 19, 1952, blew the top of this barn down. Lloyd Schwieterman's barn stands at 6804 Depweg Road, Celina.



Another view of Lloyd Schwieterman's place after the July 19, 1952 storm. Note the number of stable doors across the back of this barn. Note the damage to the blades of the windmill, or otherwise called the windpump. Note the other buildings.



Ed Clune's barn, 7868 Brockman Road, Celina, is one of the few barns in the county, to have a covered bridge entryway from the bank to the double doors. (Some people call this type of extension a dog house for the threshing section; others call it a bridged threshing bay.) Another unique feature of the Clune barn is the small service door in the larger double door at the bank; this door within a door is known as a guichet. Five louvered windows in the gable end allow for ventilation. Many local barns have three windows in the gable end; those barns with five louvered windows tend to be in the southwestern portion of Mercer County. Ted. W. Homan's barn, 8346 Brockman Road, also has the five louvered windows. (Since the barns are neighbors, perhaps they had the same carpenters?)



Ted. W. Homan's barn, 8346 Brockman Road, Celina, is a beautiful barn, and was built in 1890's. Two pairs of double doors in the side of the barn give one an idea of the size of this barn. Five louvered windows in the gable end of the barn are unique. Ed Clune's barn, 7868 Brockman Road, also has five louvered windows; perhaps, these neighboring barns had the same carpenter? This red barn is trimmed in white, as are the square windows at the end. In the past thirty years, the barn has been used for livestock, and to store hay, straw, and grain. Today, the barn is used to house beef cattle and to store hay and straw.



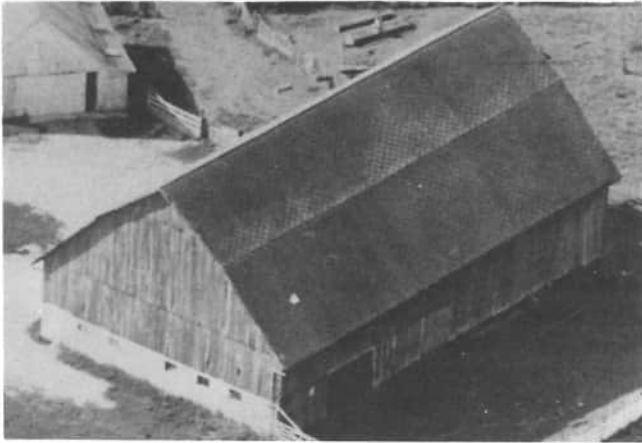
James and Phyllis Rose's barn, 08970 Brockman Road, New Bremen, Ohio 45869, was built in 1916 by Gustin Wittenbrink. The original house and barn that were on the farm, were destroyed by a large windstorm; that is the reason the new house and barn were built in 1916. This round roof, known also as a gothic or rainbow roof, has a slight slope at the edge, known as a ski jump. The red barn is trimmed in white; the sliding doors both are trimmed with white arches. Matching diamond windows are centered in the pair of double doors. All features add up to make a most attractive barn.



A rare sight not only in Mercer County, but also in Northwestern Ohio, is this water holding tank. This cement building was used as a holding tank for water; the water was used on days when there was not enough wind to make the windpump go, on the Rose farm, 08970 Brockman Road. This holding tank is an architectural gem in the rural landscape of Ohio.



Dennis and Sharon Kremer are the sixth generation to live on this farm of the Kremers, at 8650 Roeckner Road, Maria Stein. This big old barn was built in 1880, with hand hewn beams. Being built in a similar style as its colleagues in the 1880's, this barn is wide as well as long, and has the low slope to its roof, like the other barns built at that time. The barn was used for horses and cattle in the past; today, the barn is used for dairy. Note the place of the barn, and the size of the barn, in comparison with the other buildings on the farm, in this aerial view.



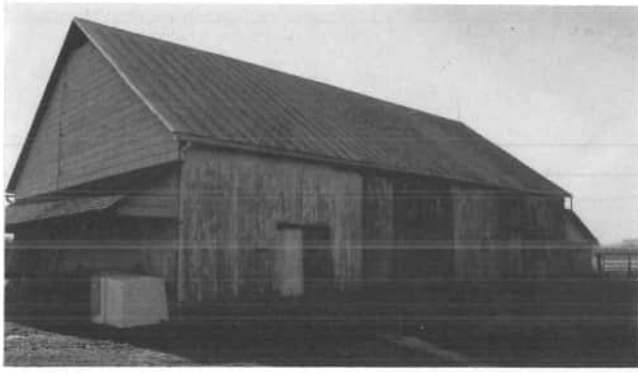
Donald and Rosann Droesch's barn, 7931 Droesch Road, Maria Stein, was built in 1864 by August Droesch. Originally, the barn was built with an a type, "A" roof, and a square could be laid on the top to fit perfectly. On March 28, 1920, a tornado came along and took off the peak of the barn. In order to save money and materials, the rafters that were salvaged were cut shorter and the hip roof was put on. Originally, the barn was 50 feet tall; now it is 45 feet. The barn is 50 x 90 feet; the framing is hand hewn timbers. The slate roof is 60 years old. At first, the barn was used for general livestock (cattle and horses). Later farrowing pens were put in the center of the barn because it was the warmest place. When horses were no longer needed for farm work, the horse stables and farrowing pens were replaced with a grade A milking setup and free stalls were added several years later.



A 1992 view shows Donald and Rosann Droesch's barn. They quit milking cows in 1978. In 1986, the free stalls were removed and cement floors and walls were added so that the barn can now be used to raise market hogs. Part of the barn is also used to store machinery. Note the slope of this roof; some people call it a hip roof and others call it a gambrel roof. However, gambrel roofs, with their double slope, usually have a much sharper angle to the second slope. Not a lot of barns have this angle to the double slope. A barn with a similar roofline, is on Stelzer Road and belongs to Ray and Rita Flaute.



A tornado destroyed the original barn at this site, on Palm Sunday night, 1920. This present barn was built by the John Lochtefeld Family, that owned the farm, and they employed a Mr. Sherman of Burkettsville as head carpenter. This farm, at 7658 Lochtefeld Road, was given to the Society of the Precious Blood by Herman and Adelaide Lochtefeld, August 20, 1975, with the income from the farm to be used for the education of foreign seminarians for the priesthood, of which that has been done since that time by the Society. The barn was used for livestock in the past; the barn has always been used for hay and straw storage and equipment.



Henry Rutschilling owned this farm when the barn was built, definitely before 1915, at 8340 Rutschilling Road. Since the barn has hand hewn logs, and is wooden-pin framed, it may very well have been built before 1900, and earlier. The wooden threshing floor is open in the center. There is a hay mow on each end, with a wooden stairway. This barn is 80 feet by 45 feet; it is a wide barn, in comparison with its length. This is the way that most of the barns were built in southeastern Mercer County prior to 1900. In the past, the barn was used for dairy animals and feed and grain storage. The milking was done on the right end. The siding was replaced in the 1940's. Today, the barn is used to house young dairy animals and for feed storage. A pent roof is at the end of the barn, to serve as a protection from the elements. Today, Othmar J. Fullenkamp owns this place at 8340 Rutschilling Road, and lives there.



Fire destroyed the old barn at John Otte's place, 220 U.S. Rte. 127, Maria Stein, on April 30, 1984. In June, that same year, Jim Pohlman and Mike Grieshop built this big barn, with the gambrel roof. Note the slope of the gambrel roof, in comparison with other barns with the gambrel roof. At the peak of the roof, on the end wall, one door slides vertically, between the two small windows. On the same wall, another door slides horizontally. This barn is used for housing dairy cattle, and for hay and straw storage.



This white frame barn belongs to Andrew Dahlinghaus, 1466 U.S. 127, Maria Stein. A broad bank, which has a cement support on either side, leads to the main double doors. An addition has been built to the right side of the gable-roofed barn. The barn is used for live-stock and feed storage.



Part of the barn on the farm at 1773 Stelzer Road, Maria Stein, (Cassella) Ohio has always belonged to the John Dippold, Jr. Family.

John Dippold, Jr. (1866-1943) married Mary Huelsman Dippold (1875-1963) in the late 1990's, and they owned the Stelzer Road farm. John, being a carpenter, built a 36 ft. long barn to suit his needs at that time. Later a west neighbor across St. Rt. 127 asked John to build a similar barn for him, and John did.

Eventually, there was some sort of part-of-this-land-for-that-land-trade between John and the neighbor. At this time John became owner of the acreage on which his neighbor's barn stood. John moved the barn to his own barnyard and spliced it to his barn. The splicing can be noted inside and atop the barn.

After John died, his son, Cyril, farmed the land and used the barn until Cyril passed away in 1985 and his son, Gary, took over. Since John, Jr.'s death, a straw shed was added to the rear of the barn, and, more recently, the shed has been turned into a free-stall area. Gary and his mother, Flora (Hemmelgarn) Dippold continue to use the barn for storage and a dairy herd. By: Mrs. Jim (Thelma) Homan



Ed and Linda Pleiman's barn, 1802 Stelzer Road, Maria Stein, was built in the fall of 1947. This barn with its rounded or rainbow roof, has been used for a dairy barn and feeder pigs. Looking at this peaceful scene, one would not guess that the previous barn was destroyed, along with other Southern Mercer County barns, in the devastating tornado that struck Monday evening, Labor Day, 1947. The Pleiman family had only lived in this home for two weeks before the tornado hit. With the help from old and new neighbors, the new barn was built and in operation by winter.

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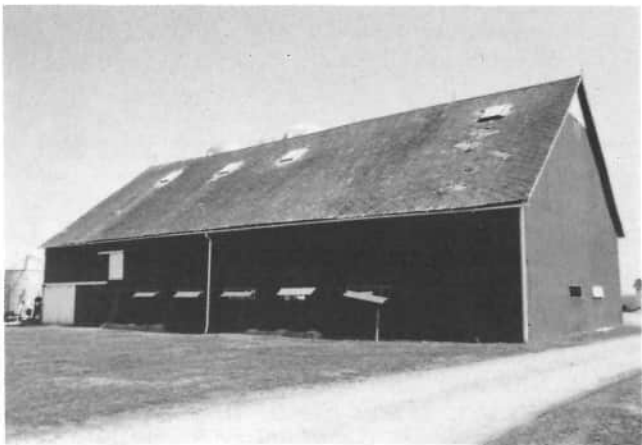
All that is left of the big barn is the foundation, in this photograph of Ed Pleiman's farm, after the Labor Day tornado in 1947. Ray Feltz and his brother flew across Southern Mercer County that week and Ray held his Brownie Box Camera out the window to take photographs. The newspaper told about the "wreckage of Ed Pleiman's barn, and hay being left on the floor after the walls and roof had been destroyed. Neighbors helped clear the area, as well as pull away the wrecked windmill." The newspaper continued, "At the Pleiman home, ten people were sitting in the kitchen of the brick residence and escaped injury while other rooms of the house were collapsing."

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James and Carolyn Kohlrieser, 3334 Stelzer Road, Celina, own this barn. The cream-color siding, with the rust-colored window shutters and roof, make for a peaceful rural scene beside the silo. In the past the barn has been used for milk cows, and for feeding hogs and cattle. Today, the barn is used for feeding cattle.

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This big barn was built in 1878, at 2598 Cassella-Montezuma Road, Maria Stein. In the past, the barn was used for dairy, and steers, and hay and straw storage, and machinery. Today, the barn is used for beef cattle and feed storage. The red barn, with white trim, belongs to Dennis Homan, 6915 Olding Road, Maria Stein.

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The barn that was located here earlier was struck by lightning around 1910, on Stelzer Road. This barn was built around 1920. The roofline on this barn has an interesting double slope; it is not as steep as a gable roof, neither does it have a sharp angle to the double slope, like a gambrel roof would have in this area. Another barn, with this slight double slope to the roofline, is the Donald and Rosann Droesch barn, 7931 Droesch Road. The barn is wide, in comparison with its length. In the past, the barn had the general use of horses, cows, hay, and straw. Today, the barn is used to store hay and straw. This barn belongs to Ray and Rita Flaute, 2171 Cassella-Montezuma Road, Maria Stein.



When the 1887 barn burned in 1938, at the farm of Ray and Rita Flaute, the owner in 1938, Peter Ranly, built a new barn, with the help of carpenter Ben Ruschau and the neighbors. The gambrel roof has a hay hood at both ends of the barn. Not a lot of barns have the triangular hay hood, but this is the only barn in Mercer County, which the editor saw, that had a hay hood at both ends. A shed-roofed dormer is on the side of the roof. This new barn, as well as the building behind it, has the doors trimmed in white, with slight arches at the top. This barn was used for almost everything at the farm, including cows, horses, hay, and grain. Notice the straw stack at the side of the barn.



Three barns have served the farm belonging to Ray and Rita Flaute, 2171 Cassella-Montezuma Road, Maria Stein. When the original barn burned down, Christopher Ranly built this barn in 1887. Both barns were used for cows, horses, hay and grain. This 1887 barn had the gable roof, with three louvered windows in the gable end, with the horse stable doors topped with windows in the end. The side of the barn had the double doors trimmed in white, and two windows to the side. This barn burned in 1938. Notice the windmill (or windpump) standing in front of the barn, with the other building.



In the summer of 1991, Ray and Rita Flaute painted the barn at the home place, 2171 Cassella Montezuma Road. All their children were home for the event. This photograph belongs to Joan Prenger.



This is a view of a very historic barn, at 1780 Cassella-Montezuma Road, which was taken in October 1976, when the Mike Broering family began to build their home. This place was the Gruenewald Convent. Ernest W. Ranly, C.P.P.S., wrote a history of Gruenewald Convent, which held two hundred and forty acres by 1852. Between 1855 and 1858, the main convent building, the kitchen, refectory, and chapel, and smaller buildings, e.g. smokehouse, icehouse with fruit cellar below, a woodshed, and another underground cellar, were built. (The horse barn was across the road.) The cow-barn stood far back from the road, near the cemetery, and was easily accessible to the sisters. The high board wall led all the way back to the cow barn; it was the sisters who cared for the cows and did the milking. Therefore, this big old barn was built between 1855 and 1858. (The convent at Gruenewald was closed in 1923.)



The remodeling on Mike Broering's barn was nearing completion.



After the remodeling, the Broerings held a barn dance for friends and family. The huge posts and beams which support this barn, can be seen in this interior view.



Mike Broering began remodeling the barn to fit their dairy operation in the spring of 1982.



This is a 1987 view of Mike Broering's family with the big old barn in the background. That barn is almost 140 years old!



Gruenenwald Convent, across the road, used this barn as a horse barn, in 1858. (The entire history of all the buildings and the story of the Sisters of the Precious Blood, can be found in the history of Gruenenwald, in NUNTIUS AULAE.) This barn at 1773 Cassella-Montezuma Road belongs to James Pleiman. The barn has been converted for hogs. This barn with its new siding gives little hint that it is one of the older barns in the county, with a rich history of times past.



Seven horse stable doors, with windows on top of them, still are visible in this barn belonging to Ronald Siegrist, 1737 Cassella-Montezuma Road, Maria Stein. Three louvered windows are in the gable end of this barn. Two pairs of double doors are on the side of this long barn; single windows are in the double doors to the right. Anthony Hierholzer built this barn, measuring 55 feet by 100 feet, in 1872; the barn was a general purpose barn and used to house livestock and horses with a large threshing floor and granary. Today, this big old barn is used for dairy calves, hay, and straw storage, and farm implement storage. Note the slope of the roof, and the width of the barn, in proportion to the length. The Siegrist's family collie can be seen running past the barn.



Fewer than a dozen barns in southern Mercer County, have a cross cut in the gable end of the barn. This barn belonging to Stanley G. Goettemoeller, 1225 Cassella-Montezuma Road, Maria Stein, has a cross cut in the gable end of the barn. This particular cross is a Latin Cross, *crux immissa*, whose base stem is longer than the other three arms; notice the flattened end of each arm of this cross. The barn was built before 1900. In the past, the barn was used for dairy and horse barn, hay, straw, and grain. Except for the absence of horses, the barn is still being used for this original purpose. The front slant roof, or pent roof, was put on in the spring of 1984. In 1989, the old wooden threshing floor was replaced with a cement floor. This entire barn has hand-hewn beams and is wooden pinned. Note the width of the barn in comparison with the length, and the low slope of the roof.



This gable-roofed barn stands at Othmar Reichert, 1226 Reichert Road, Maria Stein, and is owned by John Reichert, 1227 Reichert Road. The barn was built about 1878; the barn is 94 feet long and 46 feet wide; the main frame post is 24 feet long and the purlin is 48 feet. Past owners of the barn were Othmar Reichert, Joseph Reichert, Henry Wildenhaus, a Pulskamp, and a Boeke. Note the width of the barn, in comparison with its length, and the low slope of the roof. The barn no longer houses horses, but does house dairy heifers, hay, straw, and machinery.



Looking closely at the barn, one can see the cross beams as they extend through the top of the side wall, under the eaves of the barn, which was built in 1886, and belongs to John Reichert. Past owners were John's father Othmar Reichert, John's grandfather Joseph Reichert, and John's great-grandfather John Reichert. Notice the width of the barn, in contrast with the length of the barn; the barn being 80 feet long and 46 feet wide. The hand hewn cross beams are 12 inches by 14 inches, and 48 feet long. In 1947, an addition of 16 feet by 46 feet was added for a milking parlor. In 1971, an addition of 56 feet by 96 feet was added for free stalls. The present size of this barn is 96 feet by 106 feet. Hay and straw and grain are stored in the barn. In the past the barn housed horses and cattle; today the barn houses dry cows and calves; note the broad slope of the bank leading to the double doors. Note also the five louvered windows in the gable end, of John Reichert's barn at 1227 Reichert Road.



An interior view of John Reichert's barn, which shows another major cross beam (and the basketball hoop).



Note the framing of the barn, with the hand hewn cross beams (12" x 14" by 48') and the vertical posts beneath the cross beam and the vertical posts above the cross beams to the purlin, and their support. This barn, being well over a hundred years old, is John Reichert's place, 1227 Reichert Road.



Lloyd and Sylvia Kramer's barn, 1455 Reichert Road, Maria Stein, was built in September 1947; after the original barn was destroyed in the Labor Day Weekend Tornado. William Tumbusch built this barn. In the past, this barn was used for dairy cattle and raising small dairy calves. Today, the barn is used for raising beef cattle.



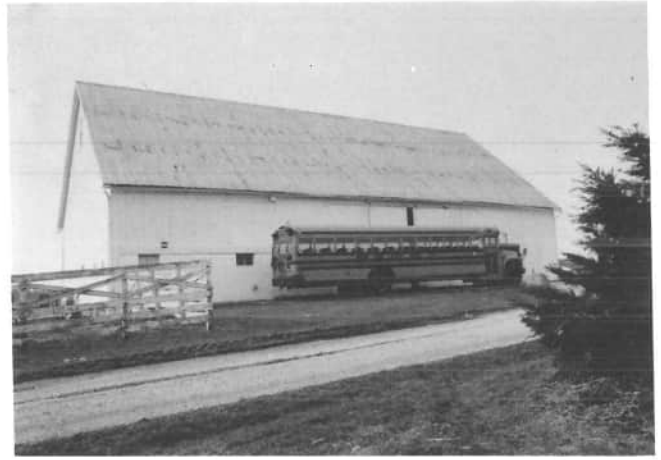
After the 1947 Labor Day tornado, Ray Feltz and his brother flew across southern Mercer County. Ray held his Brownie Box camera out the window and took photographs. In this photograph, the entire barn is gone; just the foundation is left, at the Kramer farm on Reichert Road.

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Raymond Hasselman, 140 Goettemoeller Road, Maria Stein owns this barn. In 1992, this barn has been in the Hasselman family for 94 years. The first barn burned down in 1915; it was a bigger and better built barn. The current barn was built in 1916, by the Placke Insurance Company. Note the pent roof to the end of the barn. An Amish carpenter crew are working on the roof of this barn in February, 1992. The wagonload of lumber is next to the barn. In the past, the barn was used for grain, hay and straw, livestock and some tools. Today, a neighbor stores hay and straw in the barn.

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This barn was owned by Anton Selhorst and was built by Ben Tumbusch of Cassella in 1911. When the barn was built, there were five construction men and ten neighbors who came to help. Anton's wife had to cook for all these men, everyday they worked. The barn is 86 feet by 48 feet. The barn was used for livestock, horses and cattle. Today, the barn is used for livestock, hogs and calves. If one looks carefully, under the eaves, one can see the cross beam projecting through the barn wall. In 1952, the barn was remodeled by Joe and Irene Selhorst to handle Grade A Milk. In 1976, Gene and Sharon Evers purchased the farm at 1105 Goettemoeller Road, from Joe Selhorst.

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Cyril Evers, 1160 Goettemoeller Road, Maria Stein, owns this barn which was built in the late 1800's, about a century ago. Originally this barn was used to house dairy cows and work horses, store hay and straw, and small grain to feed the livestock. Today, the barn is used to house young cattle, store hay, straw and grain. This red barn has the white triangle in the gable end, with the doors trimmed in white. Diamond windows are at the top of the main double doors. The horse stable doors can be seen in the end. Not many barns have the four windows placed across the end wall, in this way. Note the slope of the roof, and the width of the barn, in comparison with the length of the barn.

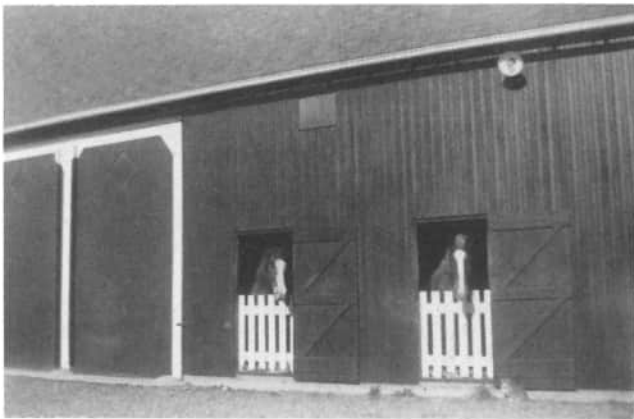
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This is an aerial view of Roger Evers' farm, 1377 Goettemoeller Road, Maria Stein. This barn was built in October/November 1947, after the Labor Day Weekend Tornado that autumn, for Henry and Greg Evers. Bill Wellman and Sons, Coldwater, were the barn builders. The barn has always been used for dairy, hay and grain. Frantz Evers first purchased land from the government in 1836. Concerning Roger Evers' farm, Frantz Evers bought this eighty acres from Joe Grant in 1851. This farm next went to Theodore Evers, October 15, 1874. Then, the next owner was Henry Evers, as of January 29, 1896. The farm next went to Gregor Evers, as of April 9, 1954. From Gregor, the farm went to Roger Evers, as of February 5, 1982. Five generations of Evers family have lived here; today, the farm is 160 acres.



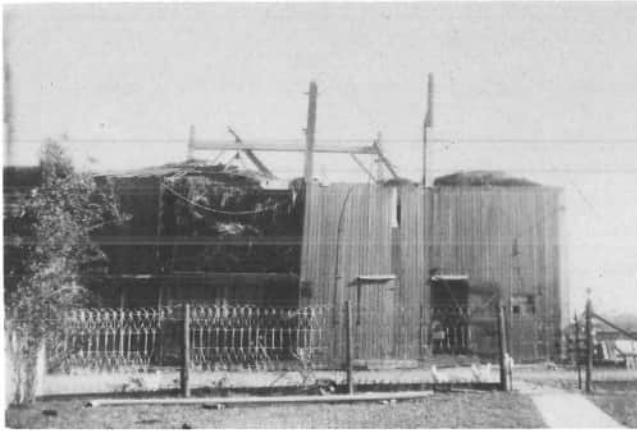
This barn was built in 1903, as the date is on the gable end wall, by Henry Evers; Ben Tumbusch of Cassella was the carpenter. Note the windmill (windpump) standing next to the barn. This farm is the Roger Evers' farm, 1377 Goettemoeller Road, which was hit by the 1947 Labor Day tornado.



A closer look at the barn of Roger Evers, shows the pair of matching horses, the pair of matching stable doors, and the pair of matching double doors with the diamond windows and white trim. Who could resist a pair of horses like this?



After the tornado, this is a view of the Evers' barn from the northeast side.



Another view of the Evers' barn after the 1947 tornado. On the back of the photo, reads, "The tornado went through on September 1, (Labor Day) 1947, about quarter of eight, EST, in the evening."

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An aerial view of Dale Goettemoeller's farm, 2287 Goettemoeller Road, Maria Stein, not only shows the big barn and silos, but also the old brick home as well as the new home. Bernard Goettemoeller built this barn in 1870; with the main part of the barn being fifty-eight feet wide and ninety-six feet long. This has to be one of the bigger, and older barns of the county. This barn was added on to, in the 1890's; the flat part was added in 1950. The total length of the barn today is 130 feet! Most of the beams are hewn with an ax, and as hard as ever! Originally, the barn housed horses and cattle on the bottom, and hay, straw, wheat and oats, and feed on top. Today, the bottom is used for cattle and feed, with the top being used for hay, straw, and feed. Notice the lower slope of the roof, and the width of the barn, in comparison with the length of the barn.

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Ray Feltz and his brother flew across Southern Mercer county after the tornado, taking pictures. This is one of Ray's pictures he took of the Evers' place. About 300 feet west of the barn, the tornado cut a groove in the ground, about two feet deep and three feet wide, for about fifty feet in length.

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This 1978 farm view shows the big old barn, as well as the other buildings, and the brick home, at the Alvin H. Bills' farm, 2795 Goettemoeller Road, Maria Stein. This farm has always been in the Bills name; Henry Bills until July 1872; Bernard until August 1935; Clem Bills until 1972, and now Alvin Bills.

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This photograph gives a closer view of the Alvin Bills' barn.

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The north end of the barn shows the mow is stacked high on the right, with the grain bin standing on the left, in the Alvin Bills' barn. Note the top crossbeam is mortised into the vertical post, not at the intersection of the purlin, but just a little lower on the post. The purlin is the horizontal beam, running the length of the barn, and supporting the rafters.

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The sun shines through the window at the peak of the gable in the south end of the barn. The three horizontal, hand-hewn beams are mortised into the post which supports the purlin. The hay and straw bales are stored above in the mow, while the steers are below. The basketball board shows the younger ones play as well as work in the Bills' barn.

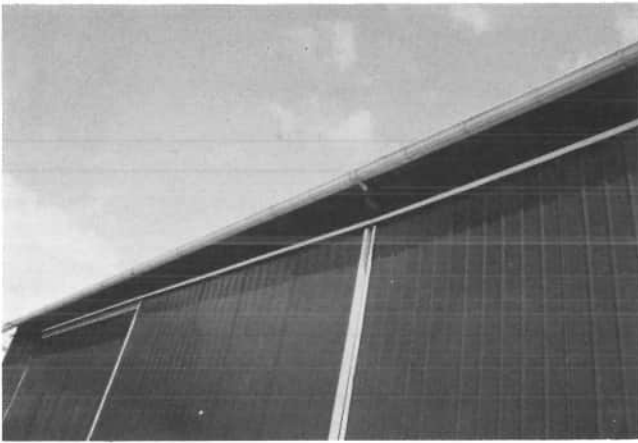
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Frank H. Schwieterman built this barn in 1893. His son Leander and Agnes Schwieterman, were the next owners of the farm. Today, the farm is in Agnes Schwieterman's name. Agnes' daughter Joan, and her husband, [Mr. and Mrs. Gerald (Schwieterman) Huber], and their family live with Agnes in the homeplace. This 1893 barn is a Centennial Barn in 1993. The barn is located at 6803 State Route 274, Celina, OH 45822.

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This is a close view of the Agnes Schwieterman barn at 6803 State Route 274. The barn has been resided. Beneath the eaves, one can see the two major crossbeams, extending the width of the barn and out beneath the eaves. Many of southeastern Mercer County barns have this architectural feature.

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John Henry Ashman, his wife and children, and six other families homesteaded this farm upon their arrival from Germany in 1837. The barn was built shortly thereafter. The barn was first owned by John Henry Ashman and then by his son Henry John Ashman. In 1916, while adding on a fourteen foot extension to the south side of the barn, Henry John was killed in an unfortunate accident. Apparently, axes were used to trim the beams for the barn. As they were trimming, the head of the axe came off its handle and struck Henry John in the abdomen. The barn was then completed by his sons Henry and Joseph Ashman. The addition made the barn fifty feet wide and one hundred and eight feet long. Henry Ashman became the owner.

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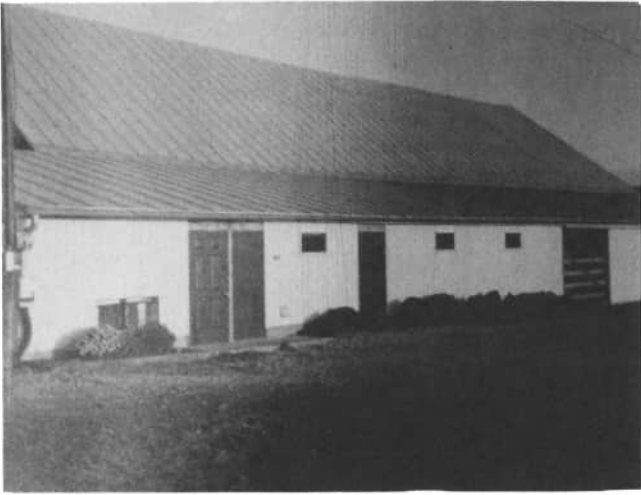
This is a view taken from east of Agnes Schwieterman's barn at 6803 State Route 274. In the slate on the roof, is lettered: F.H.S., 1893. This red barn is trimmed in white, with the white triangle in the gable end. Their brick home can be seen in the background.

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Henry and his wife Henrietta Ashman never had any children of their own. Therefore they eventually sold their farm to their nephew Hugo F. Meyer in 1962. Also, in 1962, a son of Hugo F. and Thelma M. Meyer was born. This son, Joseph Anthony Meyer along with his wife Carol are now the owners of the Ashman farm. Joseph and Carol are the fifth generation to own this farm. On this photograph, Joseph A. Meyer is standing in front of the barn; his 1978 Ford T Bird is standing nearby.

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Joseph Meyer's barn, 6569 Ashman Road, Maria Stein, was remodeled once again in 1985-1987. A cement foundation was poured under the entire barn; a full hayloft was built, and a 20 feet by 120 feet lean-to was added to the west side of the barn to house a milking facility. Currently, 100 head of dairy cattle are raised on the farm.



This ninety acre farm at the southeast corner of the intersection of Cassella Montezuma and Olding Roads in Marion Township was purchased in 1837 from the United States Government by Bernard Grevenkamp. It was in the Grevenkamp name for approximately 150 years. Henry and Mary Grevenkamp purchased this farm in the early 1900's. A house was built; a log barn, where hay was unloaded by hand and forked into the barn, was built. In the 1920's, the log barn was torn down, and the present barn was built by Ben Tumbusch of Cassella. Timber for the barn was cut from a twenty acre woods, which was part of the farm. At that time, there was no electricity and all the work, log cutting and barn raising, were done by hand and horses. This 40' x 80' barn was considered a modern facility at that time, with

horse stalls on one side and a milking area on the other side, and a permanent hay track across the length of the top of the barn. In the 1930's, Midwest Electric came into the area and electricity was made available to rural Marion Township farmers. This farm provided a comfortable living for the Henry and Mary Grevenkamp family with their seven children. Henry passed away in 1955 and Mary continued to stay on the farm until her death in 1980. Their children are Herbert and Alvina who are deceased, Alma Stelzer and Urban of Celina, Adele Hess of St. Henry, Gregory of Cassella and Linus of California.



This is a better view of the Henry and Mary Grevenkamp barn.



This view of the Henry and Mary Grevenkamp barn, shows the four stable doors on the end wall; five lightning rods on the ridge of the gambrel roof, and the small door, known as Le petit guichet, cut into the larger front sliding door.



Roman Huelskamp's place, 8900 State Route 119, has been in the family since May 11, 1869. Deiderick Huelskamp was the owner when the barn was built in 1869; the carpenter is unknown. The barn was a wooden pinned barn, set on boulders at the corners and the post. Then Bernard Huelskamp bought the farm from his dad on Feb. 2, 1895. He remodeled it by putting a peak on the roof to give them a haymow in 1898; the roof had been a flat roof. He then sold the farm to his son John on March 20, 1926. In 1941 he remodeled by raising the barn, removing the boulders, and replacing them by a cement foundation. He also added new wood siding; Ed Arhens and Clem Segar were the carpenters. John then sold the farm to his son Roman on July 25, 1975. John remodeled the barn in 1989 by putting on metal siding; Bob Schmitz was the carpenter.



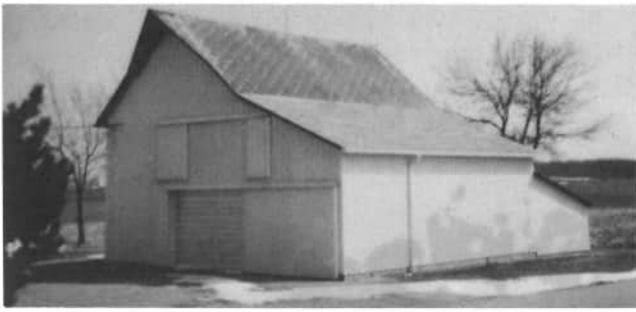
This is an aerial view of the Roman Huelskamp place, 8900 State Route 119, Maria Stein. Note the light colored barn with the darker triangle in the gable end wall. One can also see the other outbuildings in relation to their place between the house and barn. In the past, the barn has been used for horses, cows, calves, and storing hay; today, the barn is used for hogs.



This barn stands at 8230 St. Rt. 119, Maria Stein, where Walt Imwalle lives. The date this white, gable roofed barn was built is unknown. It appears to have the cross beam extending the width of the barn, and out beneath the eaves, just to the left of above the double doors. Carl Everman, 1295 U.S. 127, Maria Stein, owns this barn; the barn was there before Rick and Mary moved there. The barn has been used for raising hogs, and storage of hay and straw. Today, the barn is used for hay storage, feed, and tractor storage.



The Ben Schmitmeyer barn, located at 3154 Goettemoeller Road, was built in 1874. The barn has hand hewn beams; the entire barn was put together on the ground, and then raised to fit the parts together. The barn is used for dairy, and hay and straw storage. Note the length of the barn, in comparison with the width, and the low pitch of the gable roof. A pent roof on the end is used for protection from the elements. The white barn is trimmed in green; note the green trim is painted to represent pillars on the sliding doors. Martin Schmitmeyer provided the history of this barn.



This barn is located at State Route 119 and Homan Road. The main structure was built in 1920. The timbers and siding came from a very old, larger barn on the site destroyed in the 1920 tornado. John Hartings of Chickasaw did the construction. The lean-to on the west side was added in 1928 by Tumbusch Construction of Cassella. The existing asbestos slate roof was added then, also. Clete Woeste, who has lived his entire life on the property site, recalls coming home from school in 1928 when he was twelve years old, when the lean to was being built. He remembers saying in German to Adolph Tumbusch, who was using a hand boring bar to drill 2½ inch holes in the timbers, "How do you get all the easy jobs?" Adolph then let him try to bore the same, but he was unable to even turn the bar. Clete also remembers later shooting the legs off a copper horse on the weathervane on the barn roof; he used a .22 caliber rifle. Part of the lean-to on the south was moved from a different location by hand, using pipes as rollers. Clete's father, Frank Woeste, added various concrete flooring and electricity in the barn, in stages, starting in 1928. Over the years the structure housed chickens, sheep, and cows. Clete removed the hay fork in 1980, when he put metal siding on the barn, with Tom Goettemoeller. He has since added an indoor, insulated work shop, in the barn.

and rafters. Note the length and width of this barn; the red barn is trimmed in white, with the white triangle in the gable end. When these children are grown, they will enjoy remembering this winter day in the country.



This is another view of the Ted and Janet Heitkamp barn, 2430 St. John's Road, Maria Stein. An addition has been made to this end of the barn. The snow and the icicles remind the reader that this photograph was taken on a cold, crisp winter day.



Garry Fairchild's barn is located at 1229 State Route 716, Maria Stein. This big barn was probably built around 1900; it has been used for a milking operation. Today the barn is used for storage. Note the smaller door, within the larger double door; this 'door within a door' is called 'le petit guichet.' There is a bridge connecting the bank and the barn. Note beneath the eaves of the barn, one can see at least four cross beams extending the width of the barn and out beneath the eaves. Four lightning rods stand across the ridge of the roof; their glass globes have not been broken. I asked the owner about lightning striking the barn; he said that lightning has struck the windpump, which stands nearby. It is possible, noting the construction of the barn with four major cross-beams extending beneath the eaves, that this barn was built in the 1880's or 1890's. This barn has many architectural features, unique to southeastern Mercer County, Ohio.



Ted, Dustin, Lee, and Leonard Heitkamp are standing in front of Ted and Janet Heitkamp's barn, 2430 St. John's Road, Maria Stein. This barn was built, using hand hewn beams



This barn belonged to Julius Griesdorn; today this is the home of Jeff Griesdorn's family, 7110 State Route 119, Maria Stein. Directly in front of the barn is the Keck Gonerman Threshing Machine, made in Mount Vernon, Indiana. Next to the tree, is an Aultman Taylor Tractor. Julius Griesdorn went from farm to farm threshing wheat and oats. He also had a clover hauler. When they were threshing, and they got a thousand bushel of wheat, which was a very good crop, they would get a keg of beer to drink that evening.

The Griesdorn family moved their portable sawmill to wherever William Wellman was raising a barn.



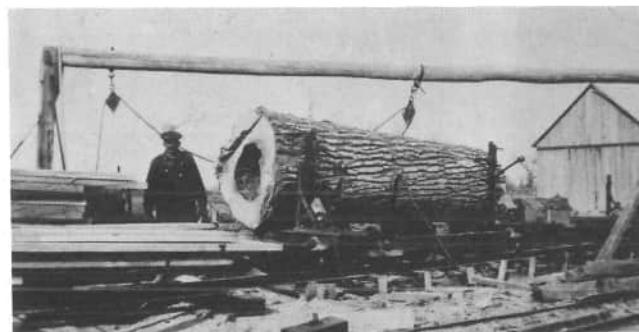
The farmers brought in logs to the sawmill, wherever Julius Griesdorn and his father John Griesdorn had set up their portable sawmill. They moved the sawmill to wherever William Wellman was raising a barn.



They put gas in a stationary engine which pulled the sawmill, after it was set up in the woods.



Julius Griesdorn is threshing. The other two men could be Al Weitzel and Johnny Reichert. Johnny tended the blower and made the straw stacks. The straw stack was often as high as the barn, and sometimes higher. Julius Griesdorn was also known for taking his portable sawmill to farms, which had the logs cut, and he sawed the boards for the barns which William Wellman raised.



It took three quarters of the day to cut this log. Julius Griesdorn is on this photograph. It used to be John Griesdorn's farm, where Bob Kelch lives today, at 344 Clune Stucke Road.



Joseph "Brown" Bomholt is standing on the top of the slab pile. Either Clete or Luke Griesdorn is sitting on it, at 344 Clune Stucke Road. This is the slab pile, which was used for firewood in the cookstove, after the boards had been cut from the logs.

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Julius Griesdorn and Al Weitzel are turning the log; the sawblade is ready to cut the slab.

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This is at Mestemaker's woods, north of Sebastian, on the south east corner of Rt. 716 A and Brockman Road. Ernie Fiely is leaning on the log, and Julius Griesdorn is standing beside the log. They are ready to saw the log.

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This log has one slab cut off. On top, left to right, are seated Thelma Jean (Griesdorn) Barber, Ernest Fiely, Julius Griesdorn, Mark Griesdorn, "Brownie" Bomholt, and Clete Griesdorn.

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After the slabs are cut at the sawmill, they then make boards and finish them off by the dimensions the farmers ordered, for example, 1" x 4" or 1" x 8" or 2" x 4" or 2" x 6". This was written on the end of the log with red chalk or black. Julius Griesdorn and Frank Rammel are working.



Julius Griesdorn is standing on top of the log; the log was too large for the saw blade to cut. So Julius took an ax to it, and put a wedge in it, to split it. Then they would turn the log and do this again until they got the log small enough to use the saw on it.

Julius Griesdorn's sons are Clete Griesdorn, 7475 State Route 119, Maria Stein; Luke Griesdorn, 7313 State Route 119; Ralph "Bud" Griesdorn, in Coldwater; Mark Griesdorn, 6697 Fort Recovery Minster Road, Maria Stein, and a daughter Thelma Barber, 3301 State Route 118, St. Henry.

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### BEN TUMBUSCH BARN BUILDER

Among the well known barn builders in Mercer County was Ben Tumbusch. William (Bill) and Ado were Ben Tumbusch's sons.

Paul and Margie Dirksen's barn, 6791 Mercer-Darke County Line Road, Maria Stein, was built by Bill and Ado Tumbusch, in 1934. Gene A. Evers' barn, 1105 Goettemoeller Road, Maria Stein, was built in 1911 by Ben Tumbusch from Cassella, when that barn was owned by Anton Selhorst. In 1903, the carpenter Ben Tumbusch, built the Henry Evers' barn, (Roger now) at 1377 Goettemoeller Road, Maria Stein. (In 1947 the tornado tore down this same barn, and Bill Wellman, another well known Mercer County Barn Builder, built the next barn at this site.) Ben Tumbusch and neighbors built Louis Bertke's barn, 6332 Fort Recovery-Minster Road, Maria Stein. Bernard Tumbusch and Ben Ruschau, about 1916, built Anthony and Marie Evers' barn, 1929 Cassella-Montezuma Road. Lloyd and Sylvia Kramer's barn, 1455 Reichert Road, Maria Stein, was built by William Tumbusch, son of Ben Tumbusch; William's son Ralph Tumbusch helped with this barn. Ralph said he also helped with the barn at the southwest corner of State Route 119 and Clune-Stucke Road. Ralph Tumbusch told how after World War II, they did more remodeling of barns and working on those which went into Grade A and B milk. After the tornado, they put new rafters and rebuilt Clarence Clune's barn in St. Rose in 1947. Ralph later went on his own and did more house building. He said he built nearly 120 homes, and maybe 40 apartment units. Today, Ralph's son Randy has the business.

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### HENRY MENKER BARN BUILDER

Henry Menker was a well known barn builder from Marion Township. He was born November 16, 1849 in Wullen, near Munster, Germany; he came to America at age 22, in 1871. Henry Menker was a carpenter by trade, building approximately 82 barns, sheds, hog houses, garages, and carpenter shops in and near Mercer County. Photographs of barns he built are in the book, *THOSE MAGNIFICENT BIG BARNs IN MERCER COUNTY OF WEST-*

ERN OHIO. Henry Menker built Urban Knapke's barn, 2165 Rolfes Road, in 1894. He also built Othmar J. Homan's barn, 1731 Rolfes Road, in 1895. He built Othmar Bergman's barn, 1367 St. John's Road in 1896; the two main cross beams extend the width of the barn and through the outside wall beneath the eaves. He built Gerald Knapke's barn, 2649 St. Johns Road, in 1904. He built Lee Eifert's barn (for Charles Eifert) in 1905, at the corner of St. Johns Road and State Route 119. Don Kremer's barn, 8549 St. Rt. 274, was built by Menker in 1909. Linus Bruns, 2160 Kremer Road, said his barn was built in 1910 by Henry Menker. Ron Bruns' barn, 2308 Kremer Road, was built in the early 1900's by Menker. Greg Lochtefeld's barn, 8339 State Route 274, was built in 1920 by Henry Menker, after the 1920 tornado had done so much damage.

Charles Heintl added to the information about Henry Menker the barn builder. Menker built Linus Bruns' barn (father Joe Bruns) for \$140, and meals and room and board from Monday through Saturday noon. Menker built Walter Albers' barn (Great Grandfather August Albers) in 1906-1908, at the corner of Fort Recovery Minster Road and Rolfes Road. Clarence Riethman's barn (now used by his sons), 1440 Rolfes Road, had to be rebuilt because of tornado damage; the bottom part is still the original; this barn was built for Clarence's father-in-law Joe Brandewie, in the late 1890's. Menker built the Joe Puthoff barn, on Kremer Road; it was originally built for Frank Puthoff. Menker also built Dave Osterloh's barn; Dave bought the farm from Otto Mescher, son of Ben Mescher; barn is on Kremer Road. Menker built the barn of John Mescher (father was William Mescher) on Indian Trail Road, approximately 1920. Menker built the John Brackman barn, on Rt. 716; the owner is Maurice Bohman of Osgood. Menker built the Charlie Wendeln barn about 1910-1912, on St. Johns Road; Charlie's father was Fred Wendeln. Henry Menker built a barn for Rich Pohlmann's Grandfather Herman Pohlmann in 1872 or 1874; this barn was located on the east side of Rt. 716, and burned down about fifteen years ago. In addition to these barns, Henry Menker built barns in Auglaize County; for example, Ben Thieman's barn near Minster, and Joe Enneking's barn, which now belongs to Urban Seger.

Henry Menker's three sons, Urban, Alvin, and Clarence, worked with him, building these barns. The crew of Henry Menker in the later years were Henry Menker, Joseph Puthoff, Tony Weber, Aloys Bruggeman.



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As you look at and read about "Those Magnificent Barns of Mercer County," one thing is very clear. The technologies in agriculture have changed tremendously from then to now, except for one segment. The marketing of farm products has changed very little, as farmers still take their production to market and say "what is the price today?" The National Farmers Organization is getting farmers in a position to price their own production through joint marketing. The NFO has proven this concept of marketing to be very successful many times over the past 25 years.

Just as you have improved all other segments of your operation, it is time to take a look at your marketing system. The National Farmers Organization's concept of Farmer Helping Farmer through Collective Bargaining can put more profit in your operation.



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Henry Menker was born Nov. 16, 1849 in Wullen, Germany. His father, a farmer near the village of Ahaus, died when Henry was very young, leaving him and a brother, Herman. Herman stated in 1934 that there was a fishing pond near their home and the boys would trade fish for cheese. Henry came to Maria Stein in 1871 at the age of 22. Mrs. Schmidt, a friend, had sent for him. Some of his former friends in Germany had settled in Maria Stein. Henry traveled by train from Baltimore, Md. to Celina, Ohio and was met there with a wagon. Herman came later at age 19. Henry Menker, a carpenter by trade, built approximately 82 barns, many sheds, hog houses, garages, and carpenter shops in and around Mercer County. Henry and Anna Menker led a quiet, hard working, honest life with close attention to duty.

#### HENRY MENKER

Born: Nov. 16, 1849  
Wullen, Germany  
Died: 12-30-1931  
Maria Stein, Ohio

1st Marriage: 1872  
To Mary Katherine Thaman

Children: Joe  
Lawrence  
Harry  
Frank  
Marie (Kremer)  
Mary (Fink)  
Anna

2nd Marriage: 1895  
To: Anna Will Borgert

Children: Urban  
Alvin  
Irma (Graffam)  
Bertha (Puthoff)  
Clarence  
Laurine (Dorsten)  
Twins - Hilda & Hilma  
(died at birth)

Anna's first husband was killed accidentally doing carpenter work. Anna and Mr. Borgert had 4 children John, Kathryn, Alice (Klosterman) and Bernard (Ben).

#### Our European Ancestors: The Living Menker Families of Ahaus - Wullen 1990

1. Heinz Menker - Josep Str. 21, Ahaus, W. Germany
2. Gertrud Menker - Hessenweg 59, Ahaus, W. Germany
3. Franzeska Menker - Liebnitz 3, Ahaus, W. Germany
4. Josep Menker - Kusenhook 65, Ahaus, W. Germany
5. Theodore Menker Barle 17, Wullen, W. Germany

#### First U.S. Generations:

The Henry & Anna (Will) Menker Family  
The Herman & Elizabeth Menker Family  
Henry & Anna Menker Homestead As in 1980



Corner of St. Rt. 119 & Kramer Rd.  
Maria Stein, Ohio

## ST. CHARLES SEMINARY, CARTHAGENA, OHIO



Drawing by Father Paulinus Trost in 1906  
laundry, convent and chapel, *Old Seminary*, Brothers' House, *Old Abbey*, barns  
(The present main building is to the right of the chapel and the *Old Seminary*)

The Society of the Precious Blood purchased the buildings of the Emlen Institute in 1861. These buildings were built in 1835 for a trade school. The only building that we have record of is the residence. We know there had to be other buildings such as stables and the other buildings needed, such as out houses, wood sheds, laundry facilities, etc. What type of farm operation existed is not known.

The entrance to the property was from the north — from Carthagen, or from the east — Stelzer Road. The barns were south and west of the original building which came to be known as the "Old Abbey." This served as the main residence until a new building was built in 1876 south and east of the "Old Abbey."

By 1915 it had been decided to build a new seminary building, since the 1876 building was no longer sufficient for the number of students

and the size of the faculty. Since this new building was to face the west, it was decided to relocate the barns to the east side of the property. By July of 1915 the horse barn was transferred and the horses escorted to their new barns with a special parade, including a band. On the reverse side of the picture we read: "With the band playing "Through the Rapids" and all marching along, we certainly gave the horses a classic introduction to their new barn." The post mark on this card was August 3, 1915.

Once the new, large seminary building was completed in 1922, the "Old Abbey" was torn down and the 1876 building was then known as the *Old Seminary*. This building remained until 1955, when it too was torn down to make room for a new dining hall, kitchen, convent and auditorium. Later on an infirmary and Messenger Press building were added.



Picture showing barns at Carthagen, in old location. Photograph of cemetery and barns, taken about 1910 from the northeast corner of the small "upper" lake.

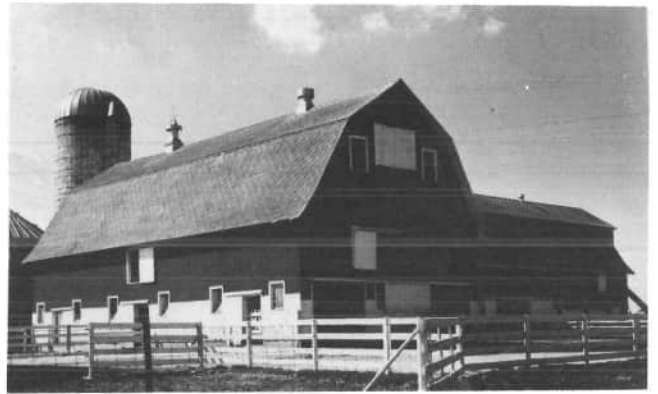


1915 Parade escorting the horses to the new barn.



The heifer barn today, looking towards the southeast.

(Photograph by Ralph Baumheckel)



The heifer barn today, looking toward the northwest.

(Photograph by Ralph Baumheckel)

Not only were the barns relocated but the purpose of each building also changed. In 1947 the horse barn was remodeled into the dairy barn with a milking parlor; the old dairy barn was remodeled to house the heifers and dry cows. The chicken coop became the calf barn; the pig sty became a storage area for the spreaders, etc. About the only building that continues its initial purpose is the machine shed, but that too has undergone adaptations.

The changes reflect the viewpoint of those in charge of the farm operation down through the years, and the new methods and machinery needed to maintain production. Another constant in the whold operation, at least since 1898 is the herd of the Brown Swiss breed of cattle.

The grain farming of 1,100 acres (at St. Charles, St. Rose and Burkettsville) is done by Brothers Donald Fisher, Nicholas Renner and Adrian Barga; the dairy farming is done by Brother Paul Chase and Mr. William Koesters.



Aerial View, 1985



Putting hay into the dairy barn, about 1920.



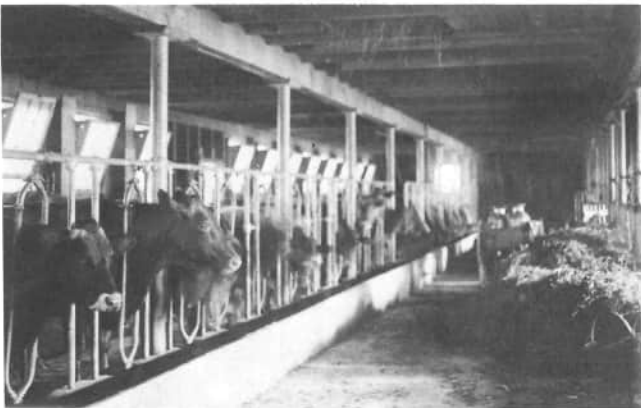
The chicken coop, about 1940.



The barns, about 1920.



The barns, 1961.



Inside the dairy barn, 1920.



Inside heifer barn, 1991  
(Photograph by Don Hummel)



Dairy and horse barns, 1920 (looking west).



Dairy barn, chicken coop 1920 (looking north-west).

ST. MARY'S NOVITIATE, BURKETTSTVILLE

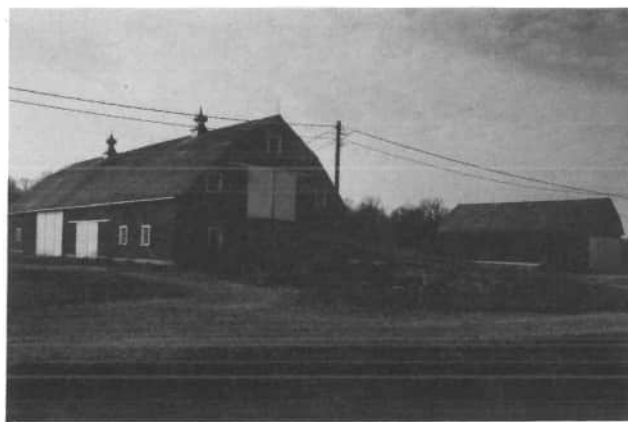


The Society of the Precious Blood purchased land for the Brothers' Novitiate in Burkettsville in 1883. The main building was built in 1894. (It was destroyed by fire January 1, 1972.) It became a minor seminary in the 1920's and continued until Brunnerdale Seminary was constructed in 1930.

After the closing of the Novitiate in 1969, the farming was done by the Brothers from St. Charles, Carthagena. The dairy operation continued until fire destroyed the dairy barn in September 1977; the herd was taken to St. Charles. The Brothers from St. Charles continue the grain farming today.



Novitiate of the Fathers of the Most Precious Blood, Burkettsville



SETTLEMENT AND BARNs IN OHIO  
WITH SPECIAL EMPHASIS ON THE  
GERMAN SETTLEMENT IN  
WEST CENTRAL OHIO.

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### INTRODUCTION

Americans, in general, have a strong attachment to and love for the countryside. In fact, one might go so far and say that we are all farmers at heart, as Thomas Jefferson envisioned it. Of course, such an inclination runs counter to present day realities with nearly 80% of our population living in cities or urban areas. But that does not keep us from trying to come close to that longed-for rural, bucolic ideal. One only needs to look around America's suburbs to find miniature farm landscapes including John Deere tractors, red, gambrel roofed tool sheds, mail boxes positioned on discarded plows, driveways flanked by old wagon wheels, and the entire assemblage most likely located on Prairie Lane.

Among the strongest and pervasive symbols of this pro-country bias is the barn. It stands for all that is right about country life: independence, work, success, status, and permanence. In fact, many an artist staked his fortunes on immortalizing America's barns on canvas. And the annually new garden store and bank calendars often feature a red, gambrel-roofed barn among the other nostalgic views of America's landscape.

The large red or white barn, forming the center of the farmstead, is not only a most noticeable landscape element, but it is also a uniquely American building form because of the size of farm properties, their isolated and, therefore, self sufficient locations, and the very early move toward specialization in agriculture. It is in this country that one can readily differentiate dairy barns from grain barns, tobacco barns, corn cribs, etc. The evolution of the barn or, in fact, its actual presence on a farmstead, has much to do with the economic character of the farm. Not until the change from subsistence to commercial agriculture were barns really needed. That is to say, those large, impressive rural castles with which we can all identify. Prior to commercial agriculture, farmers made do with smaller and simpler structures, maybe a couple of log corn cribs or sheds. The few animals were usually allowed to fend for themselves and were rarely stabled.

### Ohio's Barns: A Regional Pattern

Ohio with its diverse physical and cultural background serves as an ideal area to illustrate the variety of barn forms and functions. It also offers the opportunity to focus on a very specific settlement area where cultural traditions and agricultural progress have combined to create a distinctive barn region. In Ohio, commercial agriculture arrived with transportation, especially the canals and, shortly thereafter, the railroads. These events occurred during the eighteen thirties and forties. So, one can say that by the middle of the nineteenth century Ohio's agriculture was turning commercial. Along with it arrived the need for greater storage space because of increased crop production and more shelter for animals, especially horses which became the draft animals of choice for the Midwest. These developments naturally triggered tremendous barn building activity. Crews of carpenters were active throughout Ohio hewing timbers and raising barns. Often they left their identifying marks in the form of small, decorative holes — stars, crosses, diamonds, half moons — near the tops of barn gables (Wilhelm, 1988).

The barns which were built during the early agricultural development period were copies of traditional forms brought into Ohio from the Northeast, East, and South. The map of American settlers in Ohio (Fig. 3) serves as an excellent blueprint for barn types, especially in the eastern and southern parts of the state (Wilhelm, 1989). Because the northwestern counties of Ohio were settled much later than the rest of the state, barns in that area were built from contemporary plans rather than tradition.

New Englanders who settled primarily in northern Ohio came from a tradition of livestock farming, especially dairying, with relatively little crop agriculture. They brought with them the small English or three bay barn. Usually around 60 feet by 20 feet in size, this barn consisted of a central threshing floor flanked by a hay or straw mow on one side and livestock stalls on the other. The loft area under the ubiquitous gabled roof was used to store hay or straw. These small barns were often banked and livestock was stabled in the banked portion. In time, this English barn was increased in size and raised to form a two level structure.

Settlers who came into Ohio from the East were largely from Pennsylvania and many were of Pennsylvania-Dutch background. These were crop and livestock farmers with wheat as their major money crop. These settlers also introduced into Ohio one of the country's most distinctive rural structures, the German bank, Sweitzer, or forebay barn. Four features of this barn stand out: its size, built into the slope, two levels or stories, and the forebay, overhang, or overshoot. The latter feature, or the projecting by several feet of the second level over the

banked lower level is, perhaps, the most characteristic feature of this barn. In Ohio, the term "overshoot" or "overhang" is frequently used to describe the cantilevered portion. This Pennsylvania barn, whose origins lie in eastern Switzerland (Ensminger, 1980/81), had very wide distribution throughout central Ohio and westward and in all likelihood influenced the development of later, two level barns either banked or with a ramp accessing the second level threshing floor.

Southerners came into Ohio principally from Virginia, including its Appalachian Upland and Piedmont regions. They were corn, cattle, hog, and tobacco farmers, who relied heavily on log construction, and built gable entry barns. This Southern-type barn differs both in function and form from the English and Pennsylvania barns. Its development probably relates to European log construction and the storage of corn rather than the traditional European small grains. Consequently, it lacks the typical threshing floor of the European barns. Its central aisle which lies parallel to the roof ridge is lined by corn cribs and stalls. A huge hay loft which is often accessed from an outside door topped by a hayhood gives this barn its prominent roof area. There may be side sheds for cattle and horses along either side of the barn. The distribution of that barn in Ohio coincides very well with the Virginians' settlement area (Fig. 3), but is most conspicuous in the Virginia Military District of the state. This area which is located between the Little Miami and Scioto rivers was set aside as military bounty land for Virginian veterans of the Revolutionary War.

The three barns, briefly discussed above, were modified in time to suit changes in land use and technology. However, the majority of Ohio's older barns reflect in their form these ancestral types. Of special importance in the state is the two level or raised barn often banked or with a ramp. The relationship of this barn type to earlier New England or Pennsylvania barns seems obvious. Similarly, the Southern barn with its modern adaptations became popular throughout the Midwest where it is often referred to as a Midwestern Horse Barn. Principal form changes of traditional barns were in large measure confined to roof shapes. Thus, the traditional European gabled roof eventually gave way to the gambrel roof which, in turn, led to the round roof. The functional benefits of these later roof types, considering the storage of loose hay and straw, are quite apparent.

#### West Central Ohio and Its Barns.

One of Ohio's unique settlement areas lies in the far western part of the state directly adjoining Indiana. The core of this area is in Auglaize and Mercer counties which are part of Ohio's glacial or till plain. This terrain region

includes much of the western half of the state and is characterized by varying depths of glacial sediment or till. With the exception of riverine areas, this region has a flat to gently rolling surface. One of its persistent problems is poor drainage, especially on the level expanses of land. Conversely, the glacial deposits of this region, which are rich in calcium, have weathered into some of the best soils in Ohio.

A part of that region, centered on Auglaize and Mercer counties, was selected during the 1830s by a group of German immigrants for settlement. These settlers had come from Lower Saxony (Niedersachsen) in northwestern Germany, an area not unlike the terrain they were to occupy in western Ohio. Besides similarity in terrain, the decision by the German settlers to purchase land here was probably also influenced by the prospect of having one of the state's principal canals, the Miami and Erie, pass through their settlement. Both New Bremen and Minster, the two major towns in this German settlement area, derived considerable benefit because of their location on the canal route.

Among the material and economic traditions of the German settlers were a regionally distinctive housebarn type (Fig. 1), and the preoccupation with dairying. Of these two traits, the latter survived and remains a characteristic element in the agriculture of west-central Ohio. The Lower Saxon housebarn, a one story structure combining human, animal, and storage space under a common roof, did not make the trans-Atlantic crossing. Instead, the settlers followed the established English norm of separate buildings for different functions. They did, however, integrate in both town and farm structures traditional methods and materials of construction. For example, a large number of houses and other buildings remain which were built in half-timber, consisting of a heavy post and beam frame and a filler or nogging of brick. In fact, pure brick construction quickly replaced half-timbering and is a diagnostic architectural feature of the area. It is especially well revealed in the towering catholic churches of parts of the settlement region (Wilhelm, 1981).

Although the Lower Saxon housebarn was not reestablished in western Ohio, there is one barn at the Cloister Maria Stein in Mercer County which resembles the traditional structure in some ways (Fig. 4). It has, for example, the characteristic gable side entrance of the Lower Saxon housebarn and a central aisle that is parallel with the roof ridge. Similarly, the roof is large and because of its high pitch appears to rest on low side walls. This feature is typical of other early barns in the settlement region, but these barns do not have gable side entrances. Perhaps most revealing is the framing of this barn which includes bent construction that is unquestionably northwest European.

Among the notable features of this frame is the "Dutch tenon" (Fitchen, 1968; Noble, 1984). It consists of a narrow shaped and rounded tenon that is passed through a similarly narrow mortise clear to the opposite side of the beam where it is anchored with wooden pegs. (Fig. 5) This writer has noticed similar framing details in other barns of the area, indicating the direct diffusion of a specific construction technique from Germany to Ohio. Another form element of the Maria Stein barn and one that is repeated on other early barns of the area and which may be a carry-over from the Lower Saxon housebarn is three small windows in the gable area (Fig. 6). They may represent residual forms of ancient openings on the Lower Saxon structure which emitted smoke passed across the barn loft from the open hearth kitchen at the opposite end of the housebarn. This particular form relationship is purely speculative and probably impossible to prove. The three windows on the Mercer County barns may be simply light sources for an otherwise dark loft. On the other hand? Well, we'll never know.

Finally there are the "owl holes," small, decorative openings near the peak of the barn gable. They are not present on the Maria Stein barn, but do occur, now and then, on other old barns in the settlement area. They were quite common on the Lower Saxon housebarns and may, in fact, represent the survival of a traditional form element in western Ohio. Conversely, the presence of these "owl holes," which were briefly mentioned in another part of this article, may be related to the work of crews of carpenters who left these holes as marks of their building activity.

The majority of the earlier barns in the Auglaize — Mercer county area were side entry barns either three or five bays in length. They resemble German ground level barns or *Grundscheuer*. The central threshing floor is slightly elevated above the adjacent animal stalls. The width or depth of these structures is greater than usual which accounts for the enormous roof resting on what appears to be relatively low side walls. The resulting "look" of the barn is somehow reminiscent of the Lower Saxon housebarns. Other trait elements that would link these barns with the ancestral ones in Lower Saxony include framing methods using the "Dutch tenon, three gable side windows possibly related to the ancient smoke holes, and small, decorative openings or so-called "owl holes."

Because the Lower Saxon settlement in western Ohio is part of a greater agricultural region known for its productivity and excellence in farming, barns were often modified or totally replaced to accommodate changes in land use and technology. Certainly, the desire to keep up with popular developments in barn design must have been an influential factor accounting for changing barn forms. This would be especially

true for an area whose residents pride themselves in the appearance of their farmsteads and fields. In fact, the cultural landscape of west-central Ohio reflects the ancient German dictum that "orderliness and cleanliness are next to godliness."

Especially noticeable among the later barns in the settlement region are raised ones often with a ramp providing access to the second level. Frequently, these barns will have gambrel or, in some cases, round roofs. This type of barn became the one of choice which, of course, is not surprising for an area of dairy farming. The lower level includes all necessary service areas for milk production, while the upper level offered the space for bulk storage. Although technological changes, especially with regard to fodder storage, have made these large-sized barns superfluous, many continue to function as before. Their persistence gives the settlement landscape that singular element needed to stamp it as agricultural.

German settlement in west-central Ohio during the first half of the nineteenth century established a distinctive agricultural landscape. House and barn types, and construction techniques and materials, reflect the diffusion and local survival of northwest European material traits. The knowledgeable observer would be able to identify a Lower Saxon settlement complex which, in addition to the material elements of the landscape, includes the traditional dependence on dairying.

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Figure 1. Lower Saxon housebarn. Note the half-timber construction and small residual smoke holes.



Figure 4. Gable entry barn at Maria Stein, Mercer County, Ohio



Figure 2. Half-timber construction in an abandoned house in Western Ohio

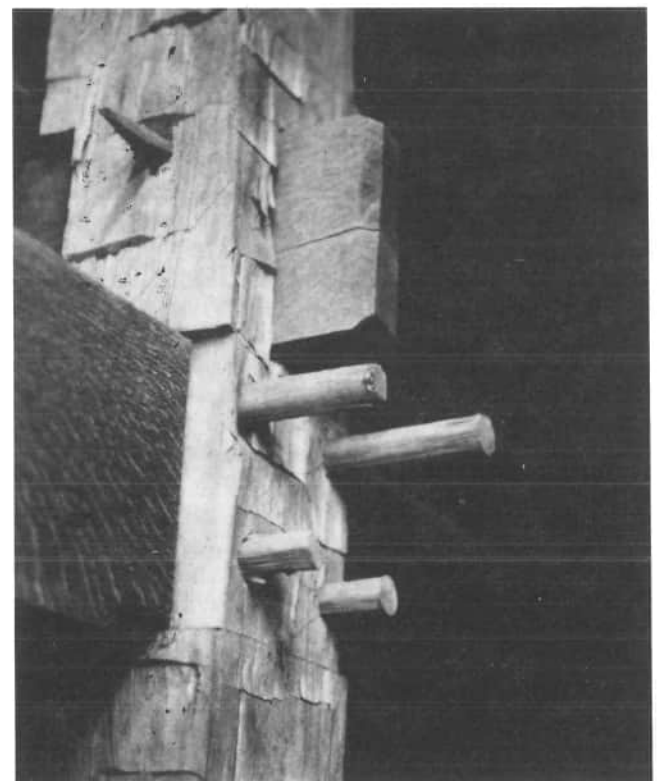


Figure 5. Framing detail of Maria Stein barn showing "Dutch tenon."

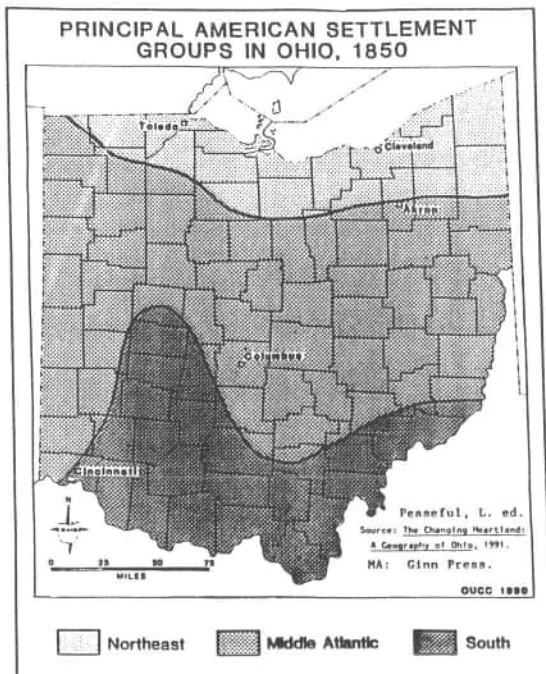


Figure 3. Map of Ohio

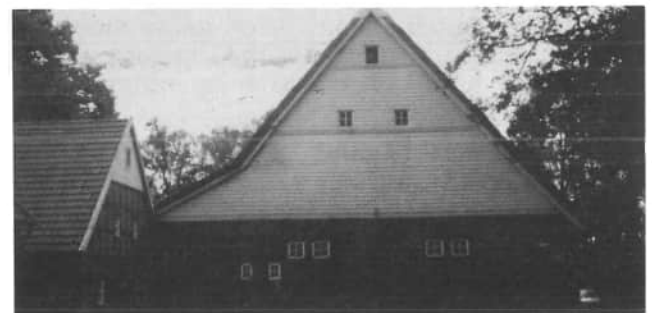


Figure 6. Lower Saxon housebarn, with three windows representing residual smoke holes.

## LIWWÄT BÖKE

1835 Pioneer — Southern Mercer County

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Liwwät Böke, pioneer, had only a little to say about barns. But she had much to contribute about the *spirit* which led to the building of those magnificent barns of southern Mercer County. In 1842 she wrote, "*At best a farm here in the wilderness is an inefficient food producer, but it will be a thorough producer of good men.*"

Liwwät Böke (Elisabeth Boeke) came with her husband, Bernard (Natz) Boeke, to this newly opened virgin wilderness in Mercer County. (The last remaining Indians of this area had been removed in late 1832.) They recorded their deed to an eighty acre farm on August 19, 1835. This farm was in the forest just west of the settlement of St. John in Marion Township. They immediately began the work of clearing their land.

Considering her peasant status, Liwwät Böke was exceptionally well educated for those times. Instruction in drawing was part of this education, and she drew and wrote throughout the rest of her life. Many of her drawings show events and scenes from her experiences as an immigrant and pioneer, and sometimes she used these to illustrate parts of her writings. So her writings and drawings help to give some additional and valuable understanding of early local history from an educated woman's point of view. They help us obtain a better grasp of the experiences, attitudes and feelings of the people who settled this wilderness.

She was very conscious of the *importance of history*. Seven of the articles she had written before her emigration from northern Germany, and which she carried to the new world relate to history. In one place she writes, "*History gives us perspective. History is the prince of mankind's studies.*" In another place she states, "*As Cicero said, 'If one does not know the events that happened before the time of his birth, he remains a child.'*" She remained a student of the world all her life and in her last years she wrote a lengthy, perceptive and thought-provoking article which details the wide-ranging understanding of history she had achieved in a lifetime.

There is no doubt of her *purpose in recording* her thoughts and experiences for, when justifying her writing and drawing, she says, "*Perhaps in twenty, thirty or ninety years my children's children will come to read my writings and to look at my various drawings and they will better understand who they are, and will know that Natz and I were really living persons.*"

How fortunate we are that Liwwät took the time and expended the effort to record so much information! Her writings give an excellent picture of the first settlers of southern Mercer

County. These people were almost all from a very restricted area in north Germany — a part of the Grand Duchy of Oldenburg and the adjacent Kingdom of Hanover. They all had similar peasant backgrounds, were Low German speaking, and had faced the same hardships at home, and again on their journey to America and over the mountains to Ohio. They had to overcome the same difficulties and conflicts in their new world wilderness home. All of this Liwwät described so sensitively, so astutely, that we are left with a graphic awareness of their lives in the earliest days.

Was Liwwät typical of these Low German pioneers? Apart from the obvious difference of her superior education she was. These people were industrious, thrifty, determined, upright. They all faced a staggering dawn-to-dusk, cradle-to-grave workload simply to survive. They had to cope with a strange land, a new language, a different culture, a different government, isolation, new values and freedoms. And *they were successful* in their gradual adjustment, their needed attitude changes. They managed to overcome their problems and accomplish their goals. Their descendants and the farms they left attest to this.

Quotes from Liwwät's writings — in her own direct, insightful writing style will serve best to examine some of the difficulties facing the new settlers in southern Mercer County in the first years.

About 1830 conditions became desperate for these German peasants. Their homeland could not support the growing population, so these peasants had relied on extra income from migrant work in Holland and on the local cottage industry of hand-weaving linen. About 1830 their linen could no longer compete with machine-woven line and cotton from England. At this same time Holland no longer required large numbers of migrant workers. As Liwwät said, "*We were starving.*" Furthermore, under the feudal system which still persisted in north Germany, children were locked in the class into which they had been born. The consciousness of their virtual slavery under this system with no hope, no future, no chance to own land, coupled with the news from America of the new availability of land north of the Greene Ville Treaty Line — at \$1.25 per acre — inspired large numbers to leave. Once the agonizing decision to leave home, family and friends was made, they sold their possessions and set out on the fear-some journey.

Liwwät vividly recounts her *day-by-day travel experience*, a total of more than 100 endless, exhausting days to reach the Ohio River at Steubenville. Her account of Day Twelve of the ocean portion of the trip states, "*We had a still wind the whole day. The close association is getting us all now. Every day is detestable, with no satisfactions, and the feeling is contagious. I notice no decent conversations between passen-*

gers, and it takes a strong effort to start one with the other women. We think about our new fatherland, and discover in our minds a counterstream of thoughts about our abandoned homeland. The trip is costly, not merely in money, but also in these contrary feelings.<sup>76</sup> And they were to be aboard their sailing ship for yet another forty-seven days!

Liwwat's dramatic descriptions of the virgin wilderness help us to grasp to a small extent the settlers' feelings. She says, "Of the forest, my first impression was: I am imprisoned, swallowed deep in its gloomy throat. In these wooded depths there is no dimension or direction, so dreadfully quiet, so damp, dark, cool. Behind, below, above, in front are the brush, the weeds, and two million unbending trees. Their branches, their boughs clutch at me at each step, and there is no path except by the old branchless trees; a topsy-turvy paradox, cool three-fourths of the day and a cookpot all afternoon."<sup>77</sup>

She adds, "Houses lie far apart from each other here in the forest. Right up to our doorsill and to those of our neighbors reaches the huge, somber and vaulted forest. There are no openings to break up the overhang, nothing but endless miles upon miles of the shadowy wolf-haunted woodland. The great trees tower heavenward until their individual crowns are lost among the many branches at the top, and the lower branches disappear under the wild growth that chokes the open places between the trunks. . . . The sunlight cannot get through the arches of the murmuring leaves. Through the grayish shadow and down the pathways in the forest men walk, continually in a kind of mid-day gloom. We people from Bieste in this thick forest feel as if our heads are hooded. All the countryside is monotonous in a tree-strewn land. Everything in it lies hidden. And farther on? No one can say, not even the bravest hunters know how far to the west this forest extends; they have not yet gone through to the other end."<sup>78</sup>

Remembering her first days, she writes, "We immigrants in wet hunting clothes, many a husband with a wife on one arm and a hunting gun in the other, are impatient with our urge to clear the forest! God is here too, by the way!!! Gradually we come to know the secretive savage forest and later on (it seems an instant) are the forest and we familiar with one another. We know it! The animals, the weather, sometimes it all seems right! My introduction was entirely frustrating, unexpected. It shocked me. Now, looking back, Natz and I have become nothing if not jacks-of-all-trades. We now make light of our luck in surmounting the wearying hardships."<sup>79</sup>

She continues, "It is impossible to describe how dense, dull and clumsy, how pitifully bewildered we and our neighbors were . . . how impudent nature was! The margin between preserving the life and health of our bodies and minds

. . . was often precarious. Saying goodbye to the forest, not uncommon, was not possible. Get out? We could not! Our complaints went away in time. It was worth our wailing and screaming. God is indeed with us!"<sup>80</sup>

Also, "The forest is a vast, attractive, wonderful sight to see and enjoy, but that one cannot eat or wear. Natz and I are thankful about our decision to emigrate to America. It is the best situation to live in the forest, also much better married to a nice fine man whom I love. . . . One matures in this battle to take over the woods, but we did achieve it up to our expectations."<sup>81</sup>

Adjustment from a life in a developed, civilized land to life in a raw new land was trying in many ways. She relates, "Way of life here in the American forest between husband and wife. It is so different here. To begin with the forest is really better for the Indians, but Natz and I are white Europeans and also peasants. We are not Yankee, Protestants, English, but no one is better than another, for the forest levels all men in it to a raw lifestyle in work, food, clothes, buildings, plants, moving around. We had to adjust to new government regulations and to freedom. God's goodness provides here many prospects and much space."<sup>82</sup> "For anyone anywhere in the forest conditions are similar . . . land is plentiful and all else is scarce; therefore, only courage, frugality and industry will bring assured returns."<sup>83</sup>

Her great concern for the community prompts Liwwat to report, "The wives worry themselves half to death with complaints. Many are without hope. Always and all the time they are in the dismal forest. Their husbands are usually outside in the woods, sawing and chopping down trees and gathering and burning the underbrush."<sup>84</sup> "The daily, weekly, monthly confinement in the little cabin makes the children and mother restless, especially in the winter-time; my husband is mostly outside in the light."<sup>85</sup>

Life was especially difficult for the women and she explains, "Self-concern is more common each succeeding summer and is now almost epidemic. The people, men and women, are locked in the solitude of their own hearts and minds. The men want to chop down the forest in a short time, and it is not possible. The men fall short in their undertakings and, in their dissatisfaction, they are silent and sulky, sullen and pouty. Such behavior smothers the women's spirits, and they feel themselves alone, apart from the community, without friends and female companions. . . . The women are not often praised, so they feel themselves abandoned in the world, facing their inner troubles. . . . The community is in great difficulty."<sup>86</sup>

As to what can be done to improve conditions, Liwwat suggests, "Now finally we must especially push aside our Saxon cautiousness,

sensitiveness and mysticism, and let ourselves go with laughter and singing and fun. Afterwards we will better be able to clean, to build, and to try to fit in a new concept, namely, that the real need here in St. John or in our houses is the building of a new mental attitude. There is more in life than gear for keeping warm and clean, for eating, drinking, . . . working and praying. There are also visiting, looking in on others with troubles. Everyone can contribute something."<sup>17</sup>

The climate in this new land also was an unexpected problem in several ways. She describes the difficulties. "The farmers did not have the right grasp of the how, where and what for taking over this forest, for dealing with the forest or plants. All of the routine was new and went contrary to our previous ideas and skills. . . . Countless discussions in the forest or cornfields . . . the land seemed crazy. It was a crying shame how much time and help, how many hours were wasted. In Europe we understood the land, its use; here we dared not speculate. We learned by degrees how or where and what to plant first and such things. There was always a stalling, a delay."<sup>18</sup>

She also commented, "This land is so different compared to Germany, and there are new sicknesses. The European body has not yet learned what it must watch out for and cannot resist. In the damp hot summer we must be careful about eating, and about clean food. In America it is hotter in summer and colder in winter. Springtime is wetter. The next generation will adjust itself better to the weather, the water and cleanliness. They will also know the woods better, the dangers and so forth. What and how it will be like I wonder sometimes."<sup>19</sup>

The crushing work load was devastating. "On each acre there stand sixty-five to a hundred huge, thick trees. With all the thistles and thorns, and stones under the brush, this means that three acres is all Natz and I can clear with luck in one summer if I am not with child. And it is so necessary to fence cleared land immediately for otherwise all the animals are running around it. The soil is fertile. We had to think over and talk over our situation each season from the beginning. Circumstances differed so, for example the weather. With our lack of knowledge of this land and the world here, there were always new emergencies. This is also true with all our neighbors and friends in the community and the area, including the English Yankees. We go along one way, and suddenly we must adjust."<sup>19</sup>

It must have felt hopeless at times. She said, "Our daily requirement and problem: how to divide our time between house-building and other construction, handwork on furniture and gear, and clearing up and chopping down the forest . . . everything by hand. That is all tedious. Time was needed for planting corn, fencing, protecting our stock and grain and garden

from marauding wild animals and birds. The crows were not afraid of our scarecrows. We had to chase them off with clubs, guns, and noise, day and night."<sup>21</sup>

More work demands! "The people here, all of them, were in need, needing cattle, pigs, etc., all at the same time. But we didn't have the time or the food for handfeeding the stock. Consequently many let their stock run loose through the woods, far and wide. Rail fences were lacking. It was impossible to do everything . . . clearing, fencing, building the barn, house, stalls, lean-tos, cribs; needing to drain the land, build bridges, haul off stones - on and on until eternity — it was not possible. It was not! In time all this was overcome, everything accomplished."<sup>22</sup> "By 1845-1848 we all had to build bigger barns; we had more fields sown in hay, and hay is bulky to store!"<sup>23</sup>

And still more to do! "The boundaries around our fields are all open. The best and only protection is the rail fence . . . we have plenty of wood. Fence-making takes so much time . . . chopping a fallen tree to pieces. In one day a strong axeman can split about eighty to eighty-four flat rails. Today we still cannot protect what acres are in use. A bitter and souring blotch, the source of an unending discontent, an annoying burden here in the forest is ever the barbarous practice which lets sick cattle and pigs run loose and wild. The necessity for building fences around plowed land starts more arguments here than any other thing except the drinking of whiskey. Hedge fences do not hold the pigs inside. A rail-splitting axeman can cost \$20 per month with board and room. In time we will get it done, yes, all by ourselves."<sup>24</sup>

Another unexpected problem was having to adjust to a different culture and to values which seemed foreign to them. Liwwat had much to say in this regard. "America is entirely different than we had imagined formerly. Overdrawn, exaggerated expectations created innocent, ignorant, idealistic immigrants; and the American culture puts emphasis on things, acquisitions, possessions and status." "In our childhood in the Old World, we Low Germans were styled, cut, formed and finished with an entirely different outlook, customs and principles suited to living in Europe." "In America, personal freedom, knowing one's own worth, and self-determination have great value. You are answerable to yourself alone. Here in America the Yankee culture places high value on being left alone, and one must not interfere with another or come between others."<sup>25</sup>

This struggle to understand and adapt is further suggested when she writes, "Here in America, the culture places so much emphasis on possessions, getting things, and the correct place upon the rung of the ladder, or one's position in society. The lifestyle of the people here allows little time or energy to form and maintain relationships. Over-emphasized and exag-

gerated expectations are created by an idealized version of luck: the self-made men . . . without God or families. Simultaneously, with increasing freedom and mobility, the bonds to spouse, family, church and community unravel quickly."<sup>26</sup>

The very clannish Low German settlers, bonded by their common language and religion, were also confronted with a different language and an unfamiliar people — the other early settlers who came to this area from Kentucky and Virginia. Liwwat writes about these fellow citizens whom she calls Yankees. "The Yankees here were born in America. Their outlook and expectations are naturally more realistic; they can accept the reality of our forest. Their attitude is most positive, the highest. They read English newspapers. I can understand them well since I am studying English in order to speak and write it. (This is something for all Germans here to learn immediately.) There are many differences between the Protestant Yankees and us Low German Catholics. That is understandable since their families have been in America now for two or three generations. Today's Yankees started here, and, from culture and tradition, understand quicker and better the American situation, its expectations, possibilities and limits."<sup>27</sup>

In another place Liwwat states, "the Yankee is a proper Englishman, and we can learn a great deal from his culture, ideas and lifestyle. He is no fool, not stupid. He is a good neighbor to have, to get to know and to work with. They are not exactly like us, but they are just as good . . . often better."<sup>28</sup>

Though she wrote about many topics, her writings inevitably and inescapably become the story of Liwwat herself, her singular personality. She was organized, wrote expressively — at times almost poetically, was concerned for the community and equal rights, was very religious. Overall, in spite of difficulties, her attitude seems to have been positive, tolerant, optimistic and surely determined. She frequently exhibits a sly, delightful sense of humor. She was outspoken and possibly controversial in her convictions. She was capable in many things, even brilliant in some.

An astounding thing is the remarkable accuracy with which she predicted events in essays set down late in her life. She wrote, "People of every color and belief and loyalty will begin to move about, and so also will their ideas. Books will be abundant, cheaper. One will be able to get newspapers and pamphlets. The new telephone and telegraph will be so improved that information and knowledge will move around the one world. Localities, once called exotic — which means 'outside' — will likewise be inside, demanding our best ideas. Sometimes they will accept our help; and others will attempt revenge because of earlier injustices."<sup>29</sup>

Another example, "The government sticks its nose in, and makes out it is the last resort. In time our government will get its finger in the water jug, and a water commission will let us have water of two kinds: A) for drinking, B) for washing! It will oversee poorhouses, all gifts, charity to the poor, orphans, widows, and will get the upper hand over churches, schools and communities. That will come fast . . . the devil is on their side. More and more the state feels its strength, politics takes over. In our morality, there is the vacuum of a self-centered world. This troubles many. The custom where we assisted our neighbors, the community, the village, gradually will pass into other hands."<sup>30</sup>

Further, "A time of mediocrity has now begun here in America, and mediocrity freezes the mind. . . . Equality gives rise to uniformity, and evil is helped out by sacrificing all that is excellent, noteworthy and extraordinary. . . . Everything becomes less crude and at the same time more vulgar, cheaper! An epoch of great men is passing away, the epoch of the anthill is upon us."<sup>31</sup>

In the article entitled "Some Fruits in My Old Age", which was written just three years before she died, there appear numerous, noteworthy insights which reflect her seasoned maturity. For example, "The whole secret of remaining young is to keep a burning enthusiasm within by help of harmony in the soul. . . . When everything is rightly ordered within us, then we may rest in harmony with the works of God. A certain profound zest for eternal beauty and order, a glowing mind and straightforward good will, these are perhaps the foundation of wisdom. . . . Wisdom encompasses all the treasures of moral happenings and is the ripest fruit of a well spent life. . . . Only the wise man tastes all the flavors of all life and of every age, because only he can recognize their beauty, dignity and worth."<sup>32</sup>

These serene observations reveal a beautifully fulfilled life.

#### NOTES

1. Luke B. Knapke, ed., *Liwwat Böke 1807-1882; Pioneer* (Minster, OH: The Minster Historical Society, 1987)

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|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| 2. <i>ibid.</i> , p. 9    | 18. <i>ibid.</i> , p. 101 |
| 3. <i>ibid.</i> , p. 9    | 19. <i>ibid.</i> , p. 74  |
| 4. <i>ibid.</i> , p. 85   | 20. <i>ibid.</i> , p. 117 |
| 5. <i>ibid.</i> , p. 7    | 21. <i>ibid.</i> , p. 100 |
| 6. <i>ibid.</i> , p. 40   | 22. <i>ibid.</i> , p. 107 |
| 7. <i>ibid.</i> , p. 99   | 23. <i>ibid.</i> , p. 111 |
| 8. <i>ibid.</i> , p. 68   | 24. <i>ibid.</i> , p. 105 |
| 9. <i>ibid.</i> , p. 99   | 25. <i>ibid.</i> , p. 118 |
| 10. <i>ibid.</i> , p. 99  | 26. <i>ibid.</i> , p. 129 |
| 11. <i>ibid.</i> , p. 63  | 27. <i>ibid.</i> , p. 118 |
| 12. <i>ibid.</i> , p. 67  | 28. <i>ibid.</i> , p. 121 |
| 13. <i>ibid.</i> , p. 68  | 29. <i>ibid.</i> , p. 161 |
| 14. <i>ibid.</i> , p. 67  | 30. <i>ibid.</i> , p. 151 |
| 15. <i>ibid.</i> , p. 68  | 31. <i>ibid.</i> , p. 150 |
| 16. <i>ibid.</i> , p. 117 | 32. <i>ibid.</i> , p. 152 |
| 17. <i>ibid.</i> , p. 74  |                           |

# The Messenger Press

Originally located on the grounds of St. Joseph's College in Rensselaer, Indiana, The Messenger Press was relocated to the south wing of St. Charles Seminary (Carthagen, OH) in 1922. At that time The Press was operated by the priests and brothers of The Society of the Precious Blood. Their primary goal being to supply the needed printed materials to The Society. In 1961 a separate building was constructed to house The Press on the Seminary's grounds.

Over time, commercial printing work from area companies became a more frequent source of business. And more positions within The Press were filled by area residents as the number of priests and brothers began to dwindle.

In July of 1992 longtime manager Walter Braun, along with representatives of The Society of the Precious Blood, handed the keys over to Heitkamp and Kremer Printing, Inc. New owners Randy Heitkamp and Allan Kremer have continued to do business as The Messenger Press and remain in the same location. However, The Messenger Press of the past year has certainly seen some changes.

Changes geared toward modernization and increased efficiency. This will not only make meeting the printing needs of customers more practical and economical, but also increase the likelihood of future employment prospects for area residents.

Currently, The Messenger Press meets the demands of its customers from the surrounding communities and across the country with a complete line of business and computer forms, stationery, business cards, wedding accessories, presentation folders, brochures, booklets, books and much more. The Messenger Press is proud to be listed as one of the oldest print establishments in Mercer County.



# Gagel Hardware Co.

Michael Henry Gagel Jr., who would go on to found a successful business that still bears his name, came to Mercer County from his native Germany in 1892. He was eighteen years of age, and the only member of his family to immigrate. The son of Michael and Veronica Gagel of Nusloch (near Heidelberg), he was born August 24, 1874. Descendants of his brother Martin still live in Nusloch. He became a citizen on July 27, 1897, and his first jobs were with a local lumber company and the Maria Stein Spreader Works.

Michael Gagel married Catherine Synck (1880-1937), on May 17, 1899 at Maria Stein. She was the daughter of John and Catherine (Witte) Synck, who had come to Maria Stein from Westphalen, Germany. Michael and Catherine made their home in Maria Stein, near the intersection of State Route 119 and St. John Rd. The house still stands, and is owned by grandson Tom.

In 1917, at the age of 43, Michael Gagel founded the business that would become a popular and respected member of the Mercer County business community. The Gagel Hardware Company began as a small store, selling tools, auto tires, household implements, and even those "miracle" appliances of the day, motorized washing machines. An important service to the area farmers in the 1920's and '30's was the installation and repair of hay track, windmills, and pumps.

Michael lived long enough to see the business launched. He died in 1923, at the age of 49. He is buried at St. John's cemetery in Maria Stein. The task of keeping the business going fell to his wife and sons. Upon Catherine's death, the business was purchased from the estate by Ollie, the eldest son. Bill & Jim, the younger brothers, worked for the company. Then, as now, the teen-age and younger family members, spent after school and summer hours helping at the store.

After the depression of the early '30s some measure of prosperity was returning and with the advent of the Rural Electrification Act, the business expanded to include electrical, plumbing and heating services, floor coverings, appliances, and a full range of hardware and housewares. It became necessary to hire additional help and through the years, notable among these are Lee Knapke, who retired in 1977 after 40 years. Richard Overman was hired in the late '40's and Paul Niekamp was hired in the mid '50's. Both retired in the late '80's. Also in 1937, Ollie married Marguerite Hickey of Versailles and over the ensuing years she assisted in the business.

In 1950, a new, larger, modern building was built. In 1955, the old building was razed, and replaced with an addition to the new building. Later, the company bought the old Knights of St. John Hall for use as a warehouse. Gagel Hardware Company is an independent, family-owned business. In 1962 it joined the True Value Hardware organization, and has remained a member since.

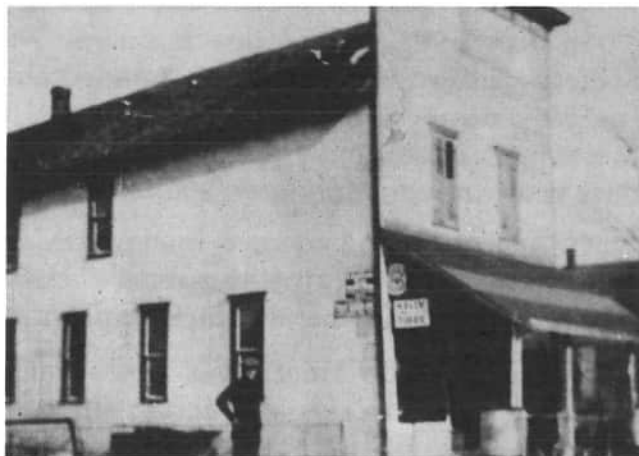
Ollie Gagel died in 1964 and ownership passed to his wife, Marguerite. For the next seven years, the store was managed by Ollie's brother, Jim, and Tom, who, in 1963, graduated from the University of Dayton with a Degree in Business Administration. In 1970 Paul also graduated from the University of Dayton and in 1971 the business was passed on to the next generation as Tom and Paul purchased the business from their mother, Marguerite.

Today, Paul manages the hardware portion of the business, while also attending to the bookkeeping functions. Tom manages the plumbing, heating and air condi-

tioning sales and service and is responsible for quotes and estimates. Current employees include Jeff Heitkamp, Nancy Bomholt, Tom's sons, Brian and Todd. Jim, although semi-retired, still helps out with merchandising one and a half days a week.

Thus the business founded by Michael Gagel 75 years ago remains in the family, and enjoys a well-earned reputation for good service, a friendly smile, and quality merchandise.

Three photographs illustrate changes in the buildings over the last seventy years; the photographs are dated 1920, 1952, and 1992.



1920



1952



1992

# Huelsman Automotive, Inc.



store. In 1982, a 25' addition was added to the west end of the building, and two more hoists were added. It is used as an addition to the Service Department.

Today, the business employs 17 people. They have a warehouse between Cassella and Montezuma.

In 1993, Robert's sons, Thomas and John, are owners of the business. This is the third generation of HUELSMAN AUTOMOTIVE.



The beginning of Huelsman's Garage as it is known today; January 1947.

On October 19, 1927, Charles H. Huelsman from Cranberry Prairie, St. Henry, Ohio, purchased from Louis George Jr. from North Star, Ohio, the garage equipment and parts for \$612.00. The equipment was housed in the west lean to of the Joseph Dorsten Blacksmith Shop which Charles rented for \$15.00 a month. The Blacksmith Shop was later sold to Ed. H. Zahn, the local blacksmith. Charles continued business in this section of the building as a general garage at that time, repairing mostly Model T Fords and Fordson Tractors.

On November 1, 1933, Mr. Ed. J. Rindler bought half interest in the business and it was operated as Chickasaw Garage until May 1934, when the business was moved to the present location of Chickasaw Garage on Franklin Street. On January 1, 1947, Ed Rindler bought the half interest that Charles Huelsman owned and Ed Rindler continued to operate his business as Chickasaw Garage.



Past owner, Robert Huelsman, left, and brother Fred Huelsman.

In January 1947, Charles Huelsman then bought the lot on the corner of State Route 716. Huelsman also bought a two car garage from A.J. Lechlitter. This building was then moved from the present Harold Rentz property to the corner lot on State Route 716. An extra stall and office were added to the two car garage. The building was opened for business June 1, 1947, as Huelsman's Garage. In 1952, the first twin post hoist was installed. In 1959, two extra stalls were added on the southeast corner of the building and another two post hoist was installed. In 1967, a sixty foot addition was added to the west of the building including three more hoists and a hot water heating system.



Huelsman's Automotive

In 1965, Charles bought the building formerly owned by the Village Booster Club. This building was used to warehouse tires, oil, and exhaust system parts until 1973 when it was sold to the Citizens Commercial Bank for their new bank building. On January 1, 1969, Charles Huelsman sold the business to his son Robert V. Huelsman and he then changed the name to Huelsman Automotive. It was not incorporated until 1978. In 1973, the lot south of the business was bought from the Rentz Brothers. On this lot there stood the old church barn. The parishioners would unhitch their horses and tie them in the barn during church services. The building was torn down and in 1974 a 50' x 80' steel building was erected. This building is operated as a wholesale and retail parts



# The Saint Henry Bank

8111 State Route 119, Maria Stein



The St. Henry Bank was established in 1904 as a private banking institution. We have been serving the customers of Southern Mercer County at the same location since 1906. Our branch office located in Maria Stein, OH was established in 1975 to serve our customers in that area.

Currently the Bank has assets of 82 million. The St. Henry Bank has always been on the cutting edge of its industry by offering a wide variety of modern banking services. These services range from our own ATM (Automatic Teller Machine located at both the main and branch offices). VISA and MasterCard, discount brokerage, IRA's and any loan to suit your financial needs. As a leading Ag lender in the community we are very much in tune to our customers' needs.

The Directors of the Bank are Don Evers, Albert Romer, Betty Romer, John Romer and Frank Woeste. Officers are John Romer - President, Donald Evers - Cashier, Frank Woeste - Senior Loan Officer, and Carl Hess - Maria Stein Branch Manager.

Other employees include Karla Clune, Kathy Fullenkamp, Diane Goettemoeller, Bonnie Heckman, Donna Hess, Deb Homan, Esther Homan, Nancee Homan, Marlene Klose, Ginny Kremer, Thomas Kunk, Teresa Poling, Elaine Siefring, Diane Siegrist, Linda Stout, Elaine Uhlenhake, Anita Wendel.

## Chickasaw Garage Inc.



On November 1, 1933 Mr. Ed J. Rindler bought half interest in a general garage business with Charles Huelsman. The business was located in a section of the Blacksmith Shop and was operated as Chickasaw Garage. In May of 1934 the business was moved to its present location on Franklin St. in Chickasaw. On January 1, 1947, Ed Rindler bought the half interest that Charles Huelsman owned and Ed Rindler continued to operate his business as Chickasaw Garage.

Ed Rindler sold the business to his son Don in 1968, and in August of 1973 Don Rindler sold the garage to Arnold Homan.

The building was in need of repair. The east half of the building belonged to Bill Spoltman and was used for storage. It had once been used as the hardware store by its former owner Joe Meinerding. The west half was used for the garage business. At the back of the building was located an old house attached by the porch to the northwest corner of the garage building. This house was once the home of Edward and Elizabeth Rindler and their four children. At this time, the house was used for storage.

In October, 1974, the Spoltman Hardware was offered for sale. Mr. Homan purchased it from Gary Spoltman and Rentz Brothers. He was then able to remodel and enlarge the facilities because he now owned both halves of the building. The entire top story of the double building was taken down and a complete new second story was added. It was made into two large apartments.

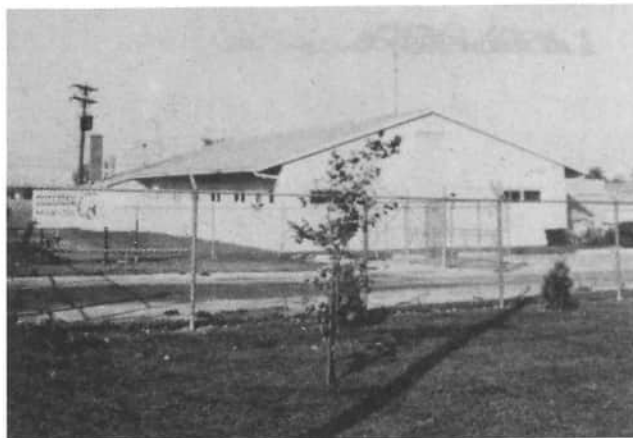
The old house behind the garage was taken down and a new 30 x 50 feet addition was added to the north end which allowed for more working area, and office and restrooms. The entire building is now the Chickasaw Garage.

On November 28, 1989 the entire inside of the Garage was gutted by fire. The inside of the garage was completely remodeled.

On December 5th, 1990 Arnold Homan passed away. The business was then taken over by his wife Lillian Homan.

On July 31, 1991 the gas pumps in front of the building were removed. On January 1, 1992 Chickasaw Garage became Incorporated. On January 1, 1993 Bob and Marian Heitbrink bought into the Business.

## Chickasaw Machine & Tool, Inc.



Chickasaw Machine & Tool was started by Urban Zahn and Ralph Schwaberow. Urban Zahn grew up in the village of Chickasaw and worked in machine shops in St. Marys, Dayton, etc. His goal in life was to have his own machine shop.

After returning from service in 1945, he began working at Goodyear, St. Marys, Ohio as a machinist. In the late 1950's Urban went to work for a new plant in New Bremen, known as Excello Corp., and there he became a foreman. While working at Excello, Urban met Ralph Schwaberow, a fellow employee, who also wanted to start a machine shop. In late 1959, Excello moved out of New Bremen. At this time Urban and Ralph bought a small machine shop in Piqua, Ohio. They moved all the machines to Chickasaw and set up business in a small metal building on the corner of Rt. 274 and Chickasaw Road. Here Urban was doing work in the evenings and in his spare time.

Urban and Ralph started officially doing business in April 1961, as Zahn Machine & Engineering Co. In a very short time more room was needed. Extra room was added by using part of Ed Zahn's Blacksmith Shop on Rt. 274, north of Huelsman Automotive.

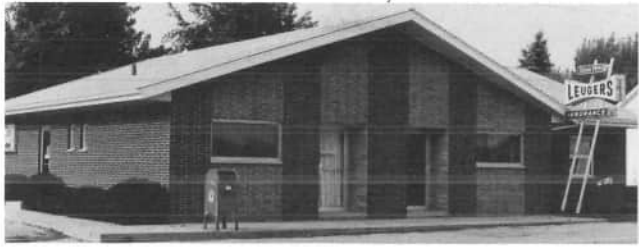
In 1962, the name was changed to Chickasaw Machine & Tool Inc. The operation grew out of the small metal building and the Blacksmith Shop and moved to the new building on Chickasaw Road at the same time the name was changed. The site was the old Charles and Anna Huber property. After several years in the new building they outgrew it and needed more space again. In July 1969, the second building was added (50' x 100') to the operation.

In 1975, Ralph Schwaberow sold his interest to Urban Zahn and he semi-retired.

Chickasaw Machine & Tool Inc. makes all kinds of machine parts, special gear; they specialize in gear work. The employment is steady at about 15 or 16 employees.

Urban Zahn sold his interest to the present owners, LaVern Heitkamp, Dan Bruns, and Norb Tangeman in August 1987, for his retirement.

## Leugers Insurance



Present Insurance Office, 1978

In 1914, a young teacher named Herman Leugers living in Maria Stein decided that he needed more money to raise his family. With his horse and buggy, he drove to Celina and asked the late E. J. Brookhart if he could sell auto insurance for The National Mutual which had just been organized. He came home and for the first year and a half drove around with his horse and buggy insuring automobiles for fire and wind at a cost of \$2.10 for one year or if it included theft it was \$2.60 a year. Over the next several years life insurance was added as well as several other companies.

Herman Leugers continued teaching and in 1935 went into the insurance business full-time.

After WW II, Henry Leugers joined his father in the insurance business. Up to this time, the insurance was being sold out of the home of Herman Leugers.

In 1948, the first insurance office was built next to the community hall and close to the Leugers residence. Over the years, the community hall was moved out and converted into the American Legion Hall. The Harting's blacksmith shop was torn down as was the George Adams' tin shop which had been the Maria Stein hotel. This is now all a part of the Leugers Insurance Agency and their parking lot.

In 1959, Herman Leugers died and the business continued under Henry Leugers. In 1970, the agency was incorporated with Henry Leugers being the sole owner. Also, in 1970 the office was doubled in size to accommodate the life insurance agency which had been formed in the Columbus Mutual Life Insurance Company. In 1977, the building was enlarged for the third time — with the addition of three more private offices.

In 1976, Kenneth Kremer, a long-time employee, Ted Bertke and Robert Leugers, son of Henry, bought into the Agency. The business continued as an incorporated agency.

The Columbus Life Insurance Co. General Agency was formed in 1956 with Henry J. Leugers as General Agent and was housed in the same building. The Life Agency operates over a 7-8 county area. In 1982 when Henry Leugers retired Virgil Moorman became General Agent until his death in 1991. Robert Leugers who had qualified for was appointed General Agent with Ted Bertke becoming the Associate General Agent.

In 1982 when Henry Leugers retired - Leugers Insurance Agency Inc. continued as a three man partnership, namely Kenneth Kremer, Ted Bertke and Robert Leugers as owners. During the last few years two agencies in St. Marys were bought, namely the Mackenbach and Ike Stout Agencies, and continue in St. Marys as The Leugers Agency.

Presently the employees in Maria Stein are: 9 and the employees in St. Marys are: 3.



Herman Leugers at his Insurance Desk in his home, about 1935.

## Maria Stein Animal Clinic



The Maria Stein Animal Clinic was founded by Philothea native Dr. George Wenning and opened for business on February 1, 1969. The large and small animal facility is located on State Route 119, across from the American Legion Hall in Maria Stein. This site was purchased from local farmers Henry and Leo Streaker. Henry Streaker purchased this farm, known as the Wildenhaus place, on June 14, 1924. The original homestead was where the clinic now stands. Dr. Wenning's practice prospered and employed several associate Veterinarians including Drs. Schmiesing, Coe, Topp, Markely, Cubera, and Hunter. Three of these Doctors left the practice to start their own practices within short distances of the Maria Stein Animal Clinic. Dr. Wenning was practicing by himself when a series of health problems forced his retirement in the fall of 1987 and spring of 1988. Dr. Wenning is still quite active serving on the State Veterinary Board, the Community Hospital Board, the Marion Community Development Committee, as a Lay Pastoral Minister, and enjoying his grandchildren with his wife Helen (Dirksen).

The practice was purchased by the husband-wife team of Drs. Hardesty and Michalak on July 1, 1988. Dr. Michelle Michalak is a Toledo native and had practiced in Shelby, Arcanum, and Ada before coming to Maria Stein. Dr. Mark Hardesty is from an Auglaize county dairy farm. He farmed, sold feed, and completed a Master's degree in Dairy Management and Nutrition before becoming a Veterinarian. Dr. Michalak serves as managing partner and coordinates the swine and small animal portions of the practice. Dr. Hardesty works primarily as a dairy Veterinarian. Dr. Betsy Desch joined the practice in 1991. She coordinates the equine portion of the practice. Her work is divided between small animal and large animal individual care. Dr. William Decker joined the practice in 1993. He works as a general practitioner with emphasis on large animals.

The practice serves the four counties of Mercer, Darke, Shelby, and Auglaize. A satellite office was

opened in Versailles in 1991 to serve clients in that area. Small animal appointments are seen in that office and it also functions as a large animal dispensary. Complete Veterinary service is offered by the Maria Stein Animal Clinic. Services added in recent years include pet grooming, swine management and housing consultation, and Dairy Production Medicine.



# MARIA STEIN GRAIN COMPANY

Maria Stein Grain Co. is the oldest elevator in Mercer County. The main part of the mill was built in 1890 by Henry Menker, and was powered by a steam engine. The grinder was powered by a six Horse Power gas engine.

The grain was shipped by railroad cars to Cincinnati until the tracks were pulled up in 1923. A plaque in the foundation states it's the highest elevation level in the county.

1st owners: Henry & John Kramer

2nd owners: Myers & Patty

3rd owners: Henry Landman

4th owners: John D. Kremer, Frank Klosterman

5th owners: Irene Klosterman

6th owners: Maurice Collins, Mark Grassbaugh, John Sites, Tom Pohlman

Present Owners: Harold Broering, Roman Schaefer, Lowell Homan, Lillian Homan, Ken Broering, Charles Kremer, Bill Doenges, Jack Wenning

Some former employees were: Vitus Siegrist, Louie Hausfeld, Vic Harting, Gus Droesch, Art Fiely, Art Everman, Henry Budde, Albin Kramer, Ott Kremer, Bert Knapke, Norb Prenger, Leo Streaker, Urban Hausfeld, Rich Kuess, Cy Overman, Andy Schlarman, Rich Brackman, Jerry Hausfeld, Walt Pohlmann, Jim Keller, Joe Pohlman, Bob Unrast, Jim Bruns, Dave Wolters, Rick Bruns, Louis Niekamp, Ken Hartings.

In 1947 an addition was added to the mill, with another addition in 1971. A new overhead structure was put up in 1984. In 1986 a new office and warehouse was constructed, and in 1989 computers were installed for the Accounting Dept.

The present employees are Mike Homan, Teresa Winner, Mary Albers, with Charles Kremer as the Manager and Ken Homan is the Feed Nutritionalist. Maria Stein Grain Co. is a multi-feeds and service dealer for the needs of the big or small customers.



## Marion Mutual Insurance Association



Marion Mutual Insurance Association is located at 6420 State Route 119, P.O. Box 98, Maria Stein, Ohio 45860. Dave Wolters is General Manager.

The Marion Mutual Insurance Association was chartered as a fire insurance company in St. Rosa on February 18, 1881. Signatures of the original articles of incorporation include the following: Bernard Wilke, Joseph Wietz, John Kramer, Joseph Hagedorn, Jon Ronnebaum, Fr. Bomholt, Henry Brackman, Peter Hartings, Henry Lochtefeld, Jr., John Cron, Haver Rentz, Mathew Hartings, Berd Piekenbrack, John Hagedorn, Max Clune, Herman Bruening, Henry Lochtefeld, Sr., and Louis Feltz. The original office was located on State Route 119, in St. Rosa. In June, 1973, Marion Mutual Insurance moved to their present site located at State Route 119 in Cassella, Ohio. Through its affiliation with Ohio Mutual Insurance Association, and the United Ohio Insurance Company, Bucyrus, Marion Mutual offers packaged insurance protection insurance for your farm, home, and auto. Marion Mutual Insurance is unique in that it maintains a property insurance company and an independent agency force at one location. Members of the Executive Committee, Board of Directors, Agents, and Administrative staff in



1993 include; Dave Wolters, Cyril Broering, Tom Lamm, Diane Pohlman, Carolyn Homan, Don Dahlinghaus, Orville Dues, Alan Diller, Urban Mescher, Nick Meier, John Schwieterman, Dale Goettmoeller, Pat Buschur, and Henry Drees.

**BARN ARCHITECTURE**  
**FROM**  
**A THOUSAND**  
**MERCER COUNTY, OHIO BARNs**

**By: Joyce L. Alig, Director**  
**Mercer County Historical Museum**

**Illustrated By: Bradley Charles Bulp, Architect**  
**Fanning/Howey Assoc., Inc.**

**Copyright By: Joyce L. Alig and Bradley C. Bulp,**  
**Mercer County Historical Society, Inc.**  
**130 East Market, Celina, OH 45822**



Joyce L. Alig, visited nearly 1500 Mercer County barns as she was writing the book, **THOSE MAGNIFICENT BIG BARNs IN MERCER COUNTY OF WESTERN OHIO**. She also visited barns with different styles of architecture across the United States, as well as read books about barn architecture in the United States, Canada and Europe. She has learned that terminology for barn architectural names is not standardized; not everyone uses the same term for the same architectural feature. She coined the word **BARNOLOGIST**, to identify one who studies barns. She drew examples of the main architectural features of barns in Mercer County and wrote about these styles and features of barns. Bradley Charles Bulp was most kind and did the final drawing of the architectural features for the article. Bradley is not only an architect for Fanning/Howey Assoc. Inc., but also Director for Project Recovery, for the preservation of Fort Recovery's downtown.

It is hoped that readers will look to barns with a new appreciation of not only the builders and architects, but also the rural heritage of Mercer County. Perhaps, the reader will continue this quest for information and find unique architectural features in barns.

\*Be it noted that there are no round barns, no octagonal or polygonal-sided barns, no fieldstone barns or prairie barns, no brick barns, or cobble stone barns in Mercer County, nor is there evidence that there ever were any of said barns in Mercer County, Ohio.

# Log Buildings In Mercer County



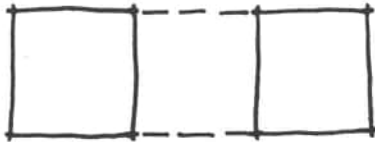
SINGLE CRIB

Fig. 1

Log buildings may be square or rectangular in Mercer County. The log homes have been one or two story.

A square or rectangular log barn would be called a "single crib" log barn. Two "single crib" log barns on Mount Carmel Road, in Jefferson Township have been placed in this book.

The "single crib" log barns may have been used as a stable or as a granary.



DOUBLE CRIB

Fig. 2

A "double crib" log barn consists of two "single crib" log barns built a width apart, and sharing a common roof. There is an aisle between them.

One "double crib" log barn on St. Peter Road, in Recovery Township has been placed in this book. The logs in this particular "double crib" log barn are like the size of no other log building in Ohio.

Some of the old farm drawings in the old Mercer County History books show single or double crib log barns; a few of these drawings have been placed in the Townships where they were located.

For information about log buildings, read Donald Hutslar's books, *THE LOG ARCHITECTURE OF OHIO*, Columbus, Ohio, Ohio Historical Society, 1972, 1977; *THE ARCHITECTURE OF MIGRATION*, "Log construction in the Ohio Country, 1750 1850," Athens, Ohio, 1986. These books are also available at the Mercer County Historical Museum Archives for public convenience in Mercer County.

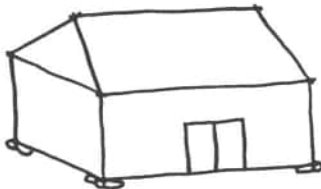


Fig. 3

Fig. 3 is the old hand hewn log building, known as a double crib or a double pen log building; the walkway in the center is called a "dog trot." Originally, this building was used as a barn, then a house, and then stood empty in Jackson County, Indiana. Some hunters found it, fell in love with it, and the log building was moved to Brown County, Indiana. First it was a public building; now it is used as a Museum and administered by the Brown County Historical Society and owned by the Brown County Commissioners.

## Barns Built On Level Ground with the main floor at ground level

\*NOTE: A barn's rooflines may vary according to the needs of the farmer. See the section on rooflines.



ENGLISH BARN

### ENGLISH BARN

The foundation rests on stone boulders or stone piers. The English barn has three bays, each sixteen feet wide, the amount of room needed to stable a team of draft horses.

The English barn has four post and beam bents; a bent is an upright pair of posts and a cross beam across the width of the barn. An English barn has a bent at each end, and the other two separate the length of the barn into thirds. The threshing floor is the center third bay, running from the front door to the back door; the double threshing doors are always on the sides, not the ends. The English barns might vary in length, with using 16 feet or 8 feet as the basic unit, to a total of 24 feet (16+8); 40 feet (16+16+8) or 48 feet (16x3).

The one side might be used for unthreshed grain, whereas in the winter months the farmer might use a flail to thresh the grain and open the double doors to create a draft and use the wind to help the winnowing of the wheat from chaff. The threshed grain would be placed in bins and the straw was stored on the other side of the threshing floor (the other bay).

The roof was usually shingles on Mercer County's English barns. There might not have been cattle or livestock in the English barn. However, farmers adapted barns to their needs, and added horse stalls or room for cattle, etc. as time went by in Mercer County.

This timber framed barn had vertical boards for siding, which was nailed with small space between the boards to allow for ventilation, to prevent spontaneous combustion potential in the hay mow.

## VARIATIONS OF THE ENGLISH BARN

The Mercer County farmer saw his needs grow in farming. He needed a larger barn for horses, cattle, sheep, hogs, poultry, equipment storage, grain, hay and straw storage. He made the barn longer and wider. He changed the roof structure. He made additions to the original structure and foundation. He kept the basic design, with the double doors to the front and back, and retained the threshing floor. He may have changed the shingled roof to slate or a standing seam tin roof. Barn architecture evolves and continues to evolve in the nineties.

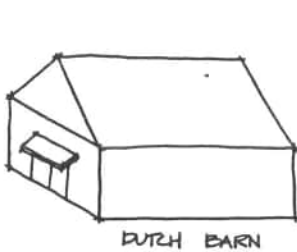


Fig. 5

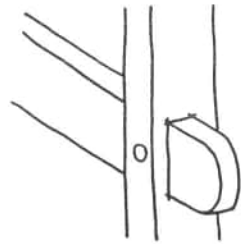


Fig. 6

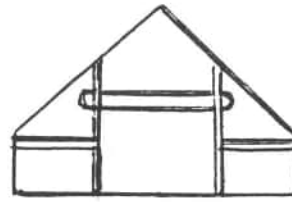


Fig. 7

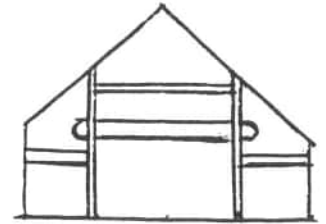


Fig. 8

### DUTCH BARN

In Europe, the Dutch barn is similar to churches or cathedrals in that the entry is at the end of the building, and the plan is similar to the nave and aisles, which in the barn serve as threshing floor and cattle stalls.

The barn is similar to barns found in Netherland and Saxon barns, and in New York State area barns.

The entry is at the end wall; the double doors have a pent roof.

The interior framing is that two vertical posts extend to the purlin plate. One main horizontal cross beam extends not only the width of the vertical posts, but also is mortised (cut) through the vertical posts and the tenon of the cross beam extends through the posts, six or eight inches.

The roof has a lower pitch, thus making the barn wider than some English barns.

A lower horizontal beam, much smaller than the main cross beam, extends from the post to the outer wall.

See Marion Township for an example of this Dutch barn at the Sisters of the Precious Blood, Maria Stein Center.

## Adaption Of The Dutch Barn Structure Frame And The English Barns In Mercer County, Ohio



Fig. 9

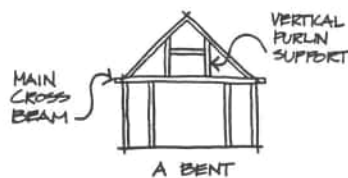


Fig. 10



Fig. 11

In Southeastern Mercer County, the farmers adapted barns to their needs. They used the wider barn, with the lower pitched roof. They used the double doors on both sides of the barn, with the threshing floor extending the width of the barn, as the English barn pattern.

They took the main cross beam of the Dutch barn, lowered it and made it "square" or rectangular, and extended it the entire width of the barn, to extend from wall to wall and even through the wall, out under the eaves of the roof. These main cross beams are seen extending through the wall, especially as a pair just above the double doors, in Marion, Granville and Butler Townships. One barn in Butler Township, just has one of these cross beams extending above the double doors. One magnificent big barn on State Route 274, just west of the Auglaize/Mercer County line, has seven of these cross beams extending through the wall, beneath the eaves on the front and back of the barn. Its neighboring barn also has several beams extending through the walls, beneath the eaves; as does the neighboring barn on State Route 274, just across the Auglaize County line. Either they were relatives, good friends or had the same barn builder to have this unique feature, within a half mile of each other. (Several Auglaize Co. barns have this feature.) Above the cross beam, they had vertical posts extending to the purlin plate, and some barns had inclined purlin support posts extending up to the purlin plate. (The purlin plate is the beam which extends the length of the barn, midway between the ridge of the roof, and the eaves; the purlin plate supports the common rafters.)

The farmers built their barns to the length and width which they chose to have; they built their barns to the height they chose. They built the bents and the frame to their own choosing. One will notice similarities in barns which have the same barn builder, or similarities of barns within the same "neighborhood."

There are subtle differences in each barn, which are unique to that barn.

There are differences in the barns in southern Mercer County as in contrast with northern Mercer County. The barns in northern Mercer County tend to be barns for grain farmers; their barns tend to be smaller, but not always. The barns in southern Mercer County tend to be larger; many of them have been adapted to dairy, hog, or poultry. Similarities exist in placement of doors and in colors chosen for their barns, and in structures and rooflines. Even so, barns in Mercer County are more like each other, than they are like other barns across the United States.

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## Barns With A Bank, Built On Level Ground with the main floor at the second story level

(Note: Their roof lines may differ; see roof lines)  
Remember each farmer adapts his barns to his needs, and these drawings represent samples from a thousand Mercer County barns.)

Remember there are threshing doors to the front and to the back of these barns on the main floor.  
The basement may be entered at the end wall, and the center path be the length of the barn, with animal stalls on the front and back walls.



Fig. 12

Raised barn or a basement barn.  
The bank may go directly to the wall of the basement, or may be extended from the wall to form a bridge from the barn to the bank.



Fig. 13

Very few Mercer County barns have enclosures over their banks; sometimes called dog houses.  
See Franklin Twp. Dale Schwieterman's barn, 3924 County Road 716 A.

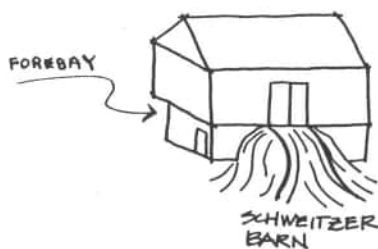


Fig. 14

German bank barn also called Schweitzer barn 2½ story building with Cantilevered forebay or overhang (bank can extend to barn doors or form a bridge from barn to bank).

See Vogel or Mott barn in Gibson Twp. and Braun barn in Jefferson Twp. (Probably many farmers have enclosed their barn forebays by now.)

\*These barns may be built into the hillside, and thus not needing a bank to the front doors. The forebay or overhang faces the southeast, or the lea side of the barn, to protect animals in the winter from northwest winds. The threshing doors to the back also permit feeding the cattle from second story.



# Barns Built Into A Hill

with the main floor at the  
second story level

Note: Their roof lines may differ; see roof lines.

Remember each farmer adapts his barns to his needs, and these drawings represent samples from a thousand Mercer County barns.



Fig. 15

A 2½ story barn may fit into a hill, with the front doors at ground level, eliminating the need for a bank, while the basement is open to the back.

Fig. 16

This barn may fit into a hill, from right to left, or left to right. There may be three levels to this barn, that the threshing floor is at one level, and the higher level be used for grain or hay, while the lower level is for animals.

This barn has been called a half bank barn, a transverse barn, a three or tri-level barn or a grundscheier barn (a person may enter at any level at ground level). See Tobens barn in Center Twp.



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## Additions To Barns

Farmers put additions to barns, according to their needs, from year to year, or from generation to generation.

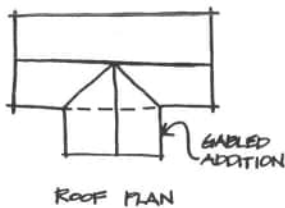


Fig. 17

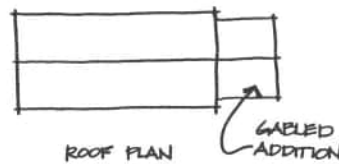


Fig. 18

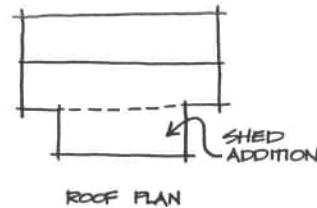


Fig. 19

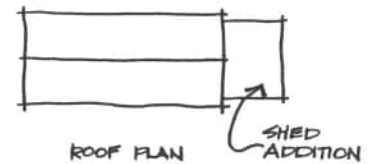


Fig. 20

### ADDITION OF A BARN TO A BARN.

If a hand hewn beam barn is placed next to a barn with sawed beams, one knows the hand hewn barn is older. However, the mystery appears when one starts to determine which barn was at a farm first.

Farmers move barns. In Granville Township, a barn was moved in 1992. In Franklin Township, a barn had planned to have been moved in 1992, across the section, but the land was too wet. (If a barn is moved across a section, the farmer does not have to worry about the power lines along the roads. Moving a barn across a highway, is not only a labor of skill, but also a labor of understanding the laws. One would also think that moving a barn is a labor of love.)

For the old hand hewn beamed barns, sometimes, the barns were entirely dismantled, and then moved, and then rebuilt on the site. When log buildings were moved, logs were marked with Arabic numerals on two walls, and Roman numerals on the other two walls; this made for easier rebuilding the structure.

However, the editor has heard many stories of hand hewn beam barns being moved, by using logs as rollers, and horses for power. One story on the Mercer Darke County Line told of the Grandmother sitting in her rocking chair in the kitchen, while the house was moved from the center of the farm, up to the road; the house was being pulled by horses, while the house was on log rollers!

A story of a barn moving in Jefferson Township, told that the barn had to be lifted high enough to be moved across all of the big tree stumps in the fields.

# Foundations

## STONE PIERS OR BOULDERS

The early farmers already knew from building log buildings, that the bottom log should be set on a stone boulder, to prevent the bottom log from rotting.

Thus, the farmers placed the bottom plank on stone boulders or stone piers. The Editor was surprised to see how many barns still have their original foundation.

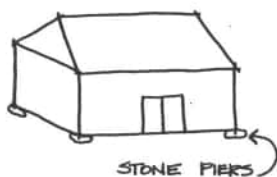


Fig. 21

## ROUGH STONE

Many farmers used stone, uncut and cut, to build foundations for their barns. Ashlar is the name given to hewn or squared stone; often in large blocks and laid in courses. When the sizes of the blocks varied, the name given was random ashlar.

One farmer told the Editor that it took his grandfather two years to haul enough stone to build up the bank to the two pairs of double doors in his barn.

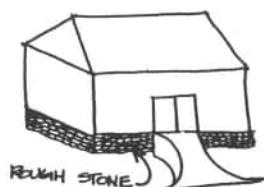


Fig. 22

## CONCRETE BLOCK OR GLAZED TILE

Farmers often use concrete block for barn foundations. Sometimes, a farmer took his barn and put in a new foundation. One farmer in Jefferson Township use glazed yellow tile for two barn foundations. A barn in Washington Township also has glazed yellow tile.

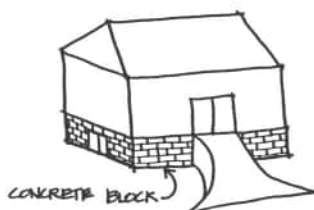


Fig. 23

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# Rooflines Will Be The Farmer's Choice

Some barns have additions, with a different roofline than the main barn. The pitch, or the angle of the roofline will vary with the barn.

## GABLE ROOFLINES



Fig. 24

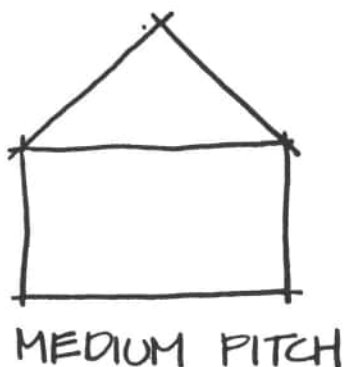


Fig. 25



Fig. 26

### GABLE ROOF

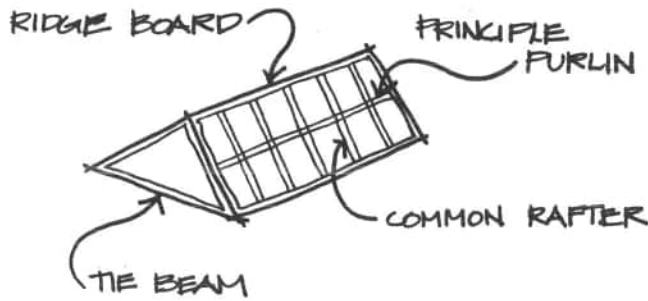


Fig. 27

### ROOF PITCHES

The term "pitch" as applied to slanting roofs means the value found by dividing the height of the ridge or highest point of the roof above the side walls by the distance between the side walls. For instance, if the height of the ridge above the top plate is 6 feet and the distance between the top plates is 24 feet, then the pitch is  $\frac{1}{4}$ .

Table 1 shows the angles made by the sloping rafters with the horizontal, expressed in degrees for different pitches of roof.

TABLE I.  
Angle Between Rafter and Horizontal for Various Roof Pitches

Pitch of Roof	Angle Corresponding	Pitch of Roof	Angle Corresponding	Pitch of Roof	Angle Corresponding
1-24	4° 46'	3-8	36° 53'	17-24	54° 47'
1-12	9° 28'	5-12	39° 48'	3-4	56° 19'
1-8	14° 2'	11-24	42° 31'	19-24	57° 44'
1-6	18° 26'	1-2	45° 0'	5-6	59° 2'
5-24	22° 37'	13-24	47° 18'	7-8	60° 17'
1-4	26° 34'	7-12	49° 24'	11-12	61° 23'
7-24	30° 15'	5-8	51° 21'	23-24	62° 27'
1-3	33° 41'	2-3	53° 8'	1	63° 26'

### Rule for Proportions of Gambrel Roof

As a guide to use in determining the lengths of rafters in gambrel roof construction, the following diagram will be of service:

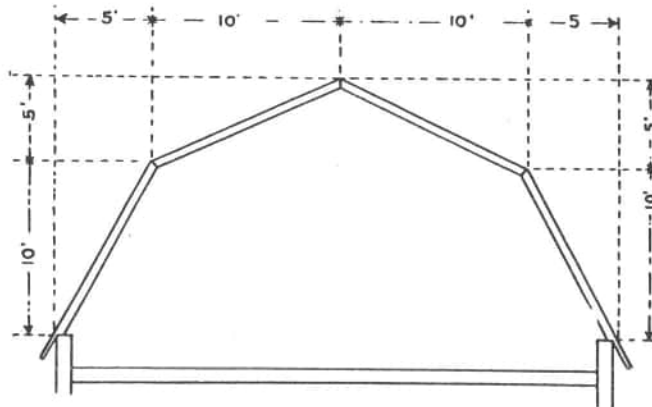


Fig. 1.—Proportions of Gambrel Roof

The rule followed in Fig. 1 is to take  $\frac{1}{2}$  of width of span for the base and  $\frac{1}{2}$  of same for the rise; this is the first or lower pitch. Reversing these parts, will give the upper pitch. For instance, in the roof shown, which is 30 feet wide, the proportions would be 5 and 10, and 10 and 5 respectively.

Fig. 28

### GAMBREL ROOF

A Gambrel roofline is a dual pitched roof. (Many Mercer Countians call these rooflines, a hipped roof. Barn books refer to the hipped roof as a roof with four slopes.)

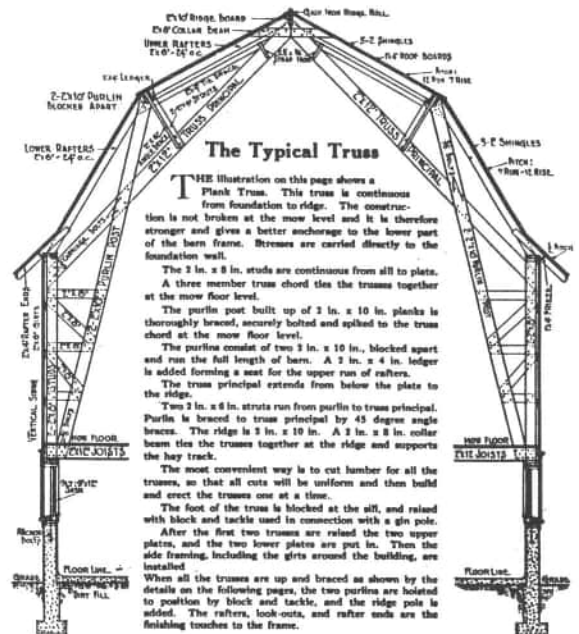


Fig. 29

### GAMBREL ROOF: INTERIOR VIEW

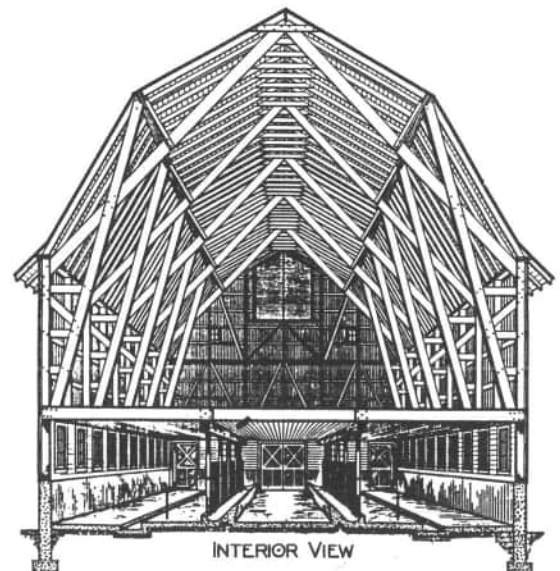


Fig. 30

**ROUND ROOFLINES**



Fig. 31  
Ship's Hull  
-Higher Pitch

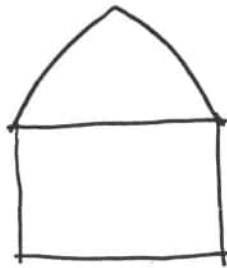


Fig. 32  
Rainbow Or Gothic  
-Medium Pitch

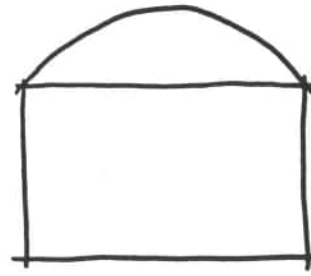


Fig. 33  
Round Roof Or Quonset Hut Roof  
-Lower Pitch

**HIPPED ROOFLINES**

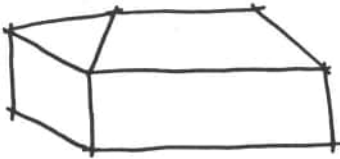


Fig. 34

A hipped roof has a slope on all four sides. The slope of the roof can be steeper or lower; the pitch of the roof will be the angle determined by the farmer and carpenter for the best use of the barn by the farmer.

HIPPED ROOF

**PENT ROOFLINES, or shed rooflines**



Fig. 35

A pent roof at the end of the barn protected the stable doors and wagons parked beneath it. It is often at the southeast side of the barn for protection from the northwest winds.

Fig. 36

It is rare to see a pent roof on half of a side of a barn; see Dublin Township.

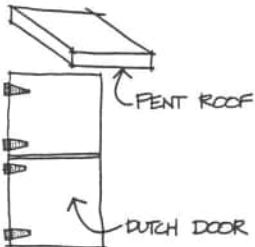
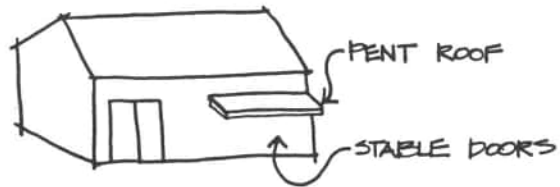
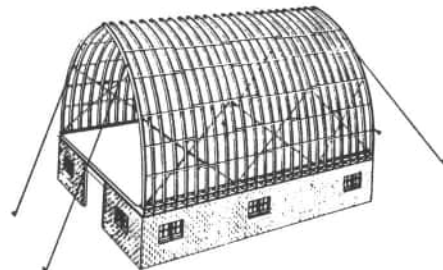


Fig. 37

It is rare to see a shed roof over a door; see Blackcreek Township.

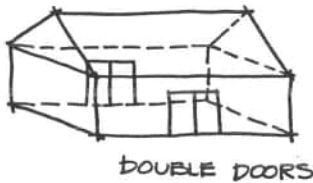
Fig. 38



# Doors

## DOUBLE DOORS

Fig. 39



Many big old Mercer County barns have the double wagon doors to the front as well as to the back. The central wood floor, which was often two or three thicknesses of planks, was used for the threshing floor. The early farmers used the grain flail to thresh the wheat in the winter. (In the English barn, the unthreshed grain was often stored on one side bay in the fall, and after being threshed, the threshed grain and straw were separated and put on the other side bay; the grain was stored in bins.) When both the front and back double doors were opened, a natural draft was created which helped with winnowing of the grain.

The front and back doors also permitted the horses and wagons to drive into the barn, and then the horses could walk on through the opposite doors.

The central wood floor was made of two or three thicknesses of planks; one layer was laid in one direction, the next layer in the opposite direction. Many old barns still have their threshing floors. Some farmers told the Editor stories of driving their tractor into the barn, on this threshing floor, and the floor giving way and the tractor going through the floor. Mercer Countians enjoy telling their stories of their mishaps to each other, but do not appreciate having their mishaps printed in the paper; therefore, this Editor will honor this code and not tell who told her those stories.

**THE FAR SIDE** By GARY LARSON



"Fool . . . Give me those controls! . . . You're just dang lucky both barn doors were open!"

The **The Far Side** cartoon by Gary Larson is reprinted by permission of Chronicle Features, San Francisco, CA

Be it noted that Gary Larson might not have created this cartoon, if he had not known that some barns have these double doors to the front of the barn, and to the back of the barn.

## DOUBLE DOORS OR WAGON DOORS also called "the big doors"

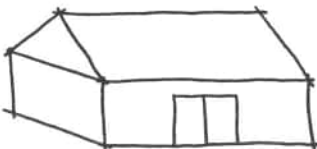


Fig. 40

On almost all barns in Mercer County the double wagon doors are on the side wall, facing the "front" of the barn.

Most of these barns have double wagon doors on the back wall, also, directly across from the front double doors. The old barns may still have their central threshing floors between these two doors.

Sometimes, there are two pair of double wagon doors on the side wall; often these double doors are at the top of the bank, leading up to the double doors.



Fig. 41

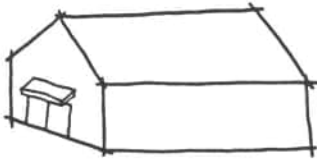


Fig. 42

On the Dutch barns, the double wagon doors are placed at the end wall, which makes that wall the "front of the barn." The Dutch barns have pent roofs over their double doors on the end wall.

There are many barns, which are not Dutch barns, but just "regular Mercer County barns," which have the double doors in the end wall. Some of them are even reached by driving "up the bank at the end wall."

Pole barns are replacing many Mercer County barns. These barns often have their double wagon doors in the end wall. The pole barns do not often have a bank running up to these double doors.



Fig. 43

## DOORS

Double doors, or sliding doors, or wagon doors have been illustrated on the previous drawings. Haymow entry doors have been also illustrated.

### DUTCH DOORS

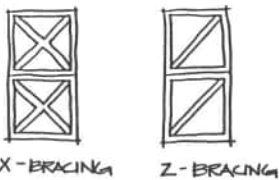


Fig. 44

## DUTCH DOORS

Sometimes called double Dutch doors

The Dutch door in Fig. 44 has an "X" bracing. The Dutch door in Fig. 44 has a "Z" bracing. Many stable doors were Dutch doors so that the top door could be opened and the horse could enjoy the fresh air, as well as be a sociable animal.

## HORSE STABLE DOORS

Many stable doors were single doors. The row of stable doors in Fig. 45 have transom lights above them. The row of stable doors in Fig. 46, are single doors. These could be placed on the end wall or the back wall.

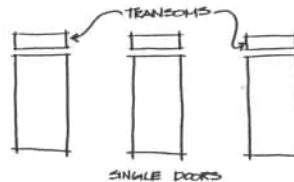


Fig. 45

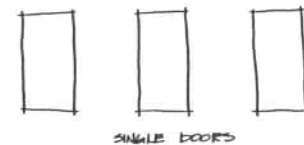


Fig. 46

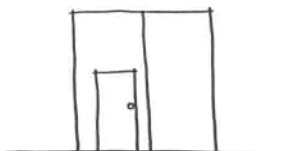


Fig. 47

"LE PETIT GUICHET" is the name given to the small door cut into the larger double door; this entry often saved the farmer from opening the big sliding door. These doors are found throughout Mercer County. [The French Petite or Petit means small. The French Guichet means ticket window.] Many people recognize "le petit guichet" as a door within a door.

Many farmers are putting metal siding on their barns. Instead of windows, they are putting small sliding doors, which can be opened for ventilation and/or light. These small sliding doors vary in size and placement on the barn walls, according to the farmer's needs.



Fig. 48

# Hay Hoods or Rain Hoods

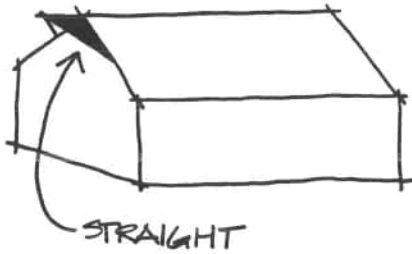


Fig. 49

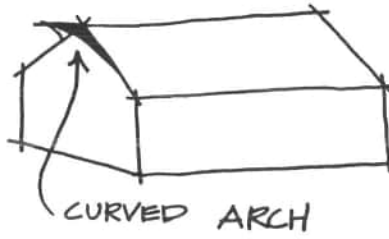


Fig. 50

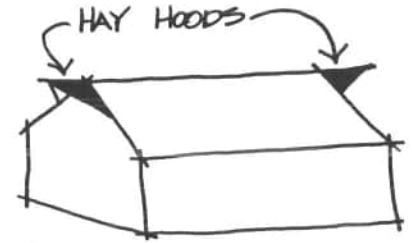
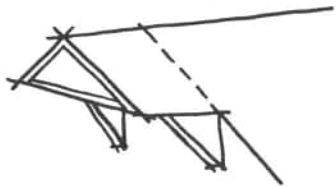


Fig. 51



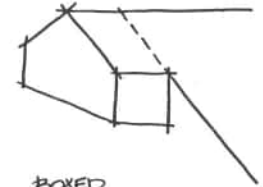
GABLE ROOFED  
HAY HOOD

Fig. 52



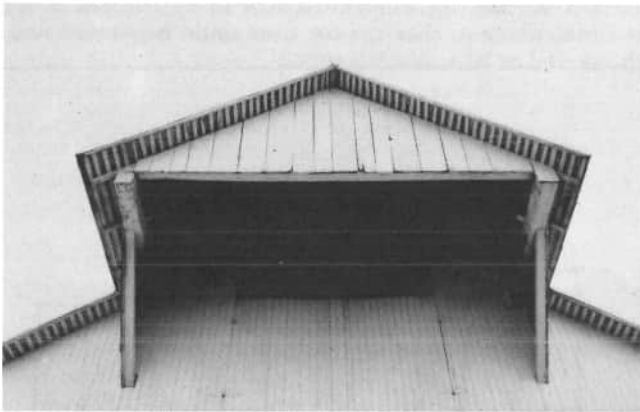
GABLE ROOFED  
HAY HOOD

Fig. 53



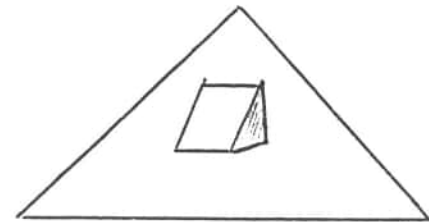
BOXED  
HAY  
HOOD

Fig. 54



Boxed hay hood, from John Guggenbiller's barn in Gibson Township. (Andrew Pax photograph)

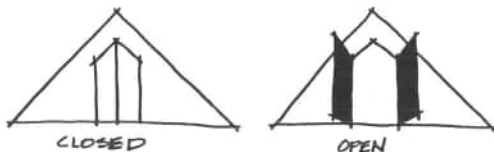
Fig. 55



METAL ENCLOSED  
HAY HOOD

Fig. 56

# Hay Mow Entries/Doors



CLOSED



OPEN

Fig. 57



CLOSED



OPEN



OPEN

Fig. 58

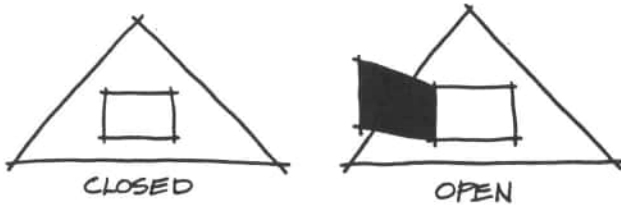


Fig. 59

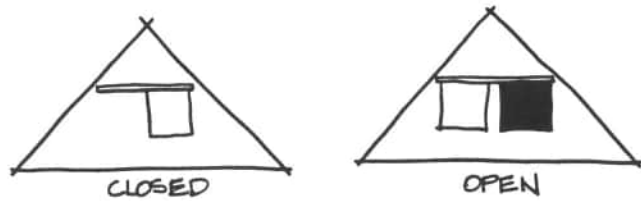


Fig. 60

## Roof Features

### DORMERS

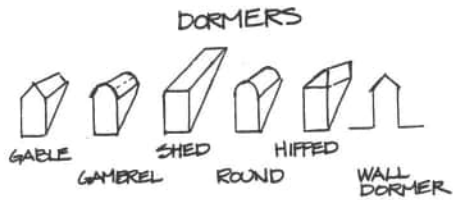
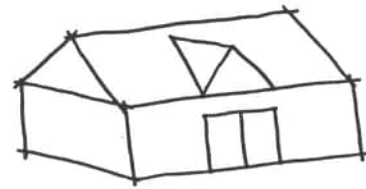


Fig. 61 to Fig. 66

### SIDE GABLE



SIDE GABLE

Fig. 67

See Route 33 area in Blackcreek & Dublin Townships.  
See Van Wert County

## ROOF MATERIALS

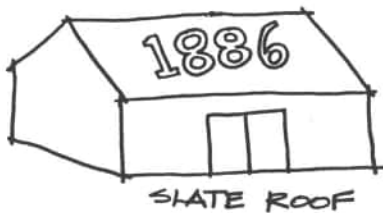


Fig. 68

A name and/or date identifies owner and date barn was built.

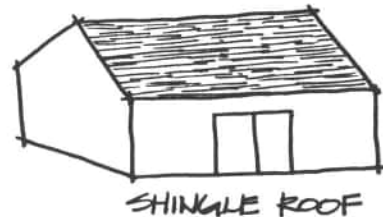


Fig. 69



Fig. 69-A

A tile roofed barn is located in Dublin Township; a tile roofed farm building is located in Marion Township. Several homes have tile roofs.



Fig. 70



## ROOF TOP CUPOLAS

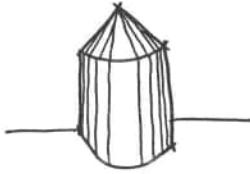


Fig. 71  
Round Cupolas, see Dublin Township -Hays Barn

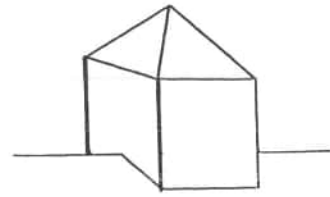
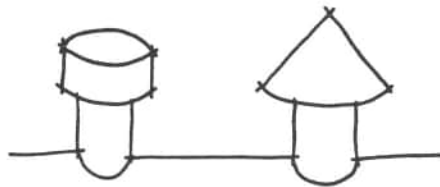


Fig. 72  
Square cupolas louvered for ventilation. See Blackcreek & Jefferson Townships, and others.

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## ROOF TOP VENTILATORS

Fig. 73



Roof top ventilators come in many designs and sizes.

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## WEATHERVANES

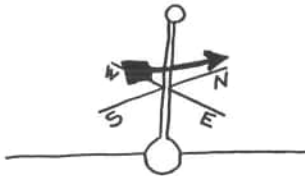


Fig. 74

Weather vanes are often placed on the roof ridge, whether centered or placed on one end. Weather vanes in Mercer County are topped with such metal silhouettes as horses, cows, hogs, roosters, etc. Sometimes, weather vanes are placed on poles in the barnyards, and on other buildings, other than the big barn.

## LIGHTNING RODS

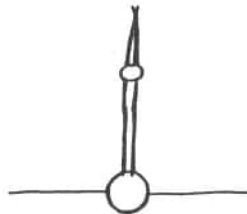


Fig. 75

Almost every big barn has lightning rods across the roof ridge. Often there are color glass globes (e.g. amber, white, purple) on these rods. Salesmen would tell the farmer that a broken glass globe meant lightning had struck the barn; of course, the lightning rod had saved the barn from fire. This is most likely another country myth. (How many glass globes were broken or weather vanes spun in circles, by the resident youngster with a beebee gun?)

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## Windows = Fenestration

Several kinds of windows grace the barn walls and doors; windows and/or louvered vents often were placed in a pattern.

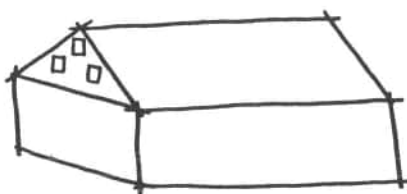


Fig. 76

The gable end wall of a barn often has three or five, or even seven louvered vents, or windows, placed in the arrangement of a triangle. Dr. Hubert Wilhelm of Ohio University suggests that three windows in the gable end wall may suggest smoke holes in the barns of Lower Saxony, Germany, for barns in southeastern Mercer County.

Farmers of many European ethnic heritages have barns across Mercer County, of which barns have three windows in this pattern.

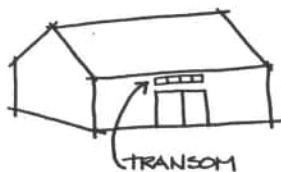


Fig. 77

### TRANSOM LIGHTS

Some barns have transom lights just above the double doors. Some barns have the original glass which is a soft green color. Andrew Bruggeman's barn in Granville Township has transom lights above the double doors.

### DIAMOND WINDOWS

Several double doors sparkle with diamond windows set in the upper part of the doors.



DIAMOND WINDOWS

Fig. 78



TIPPED WINDOWS

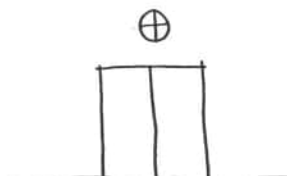
Fig. 79

### TIPPED WINDOWS

Tipped windows are sometimes found in Mercer County barns. Sometimes a farmer used an old window from another building, and put it in the gable end. (Farm families are wise and practical and do not waste things.) Tipped windows are occasionally found in the double doors, but not often. A tipped window is exactly what it says it is; a window tipped at an angle.

### BULLSEYE WINDOWS

A bullseye window is sometimes found placed above the double doors, or a pair of bullseye windows is sometimes seen across the front wall of the barn. See Franklin Township.



BULLSEYE WINDOW

Fig. 80



FOUR PANED WINDOWS

Fig. 81

### FOUR PANED WINDOWS; or double windows

Farmers have added single pane windows, double, four paned windows, and six or eight paned windows for interior light. This was often done when barns were remodeled for dairy or poultry. The arrangement of these added windows vary according to each individual farmer.

## Barn Decorations

### ROOF AND WALL DECORATIONS

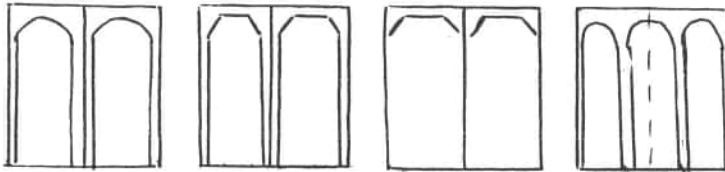


Fig. 82

Decorations in the slate roofs are quickly found in Mercer County. Decorations may include the builder's name, the builder's initials, the date the barn was built, and/or a geometric pattern or floral pattern, or a border in the slate colors. Colors may vary in shades of gray, blue, black, green, or red.

On the front wall of the barn, just above the double doors, may be lettered the name of the farmer, the name of the farm, and/or the date the barn was built, or the date the current family purchased the farm.

## WAGON DOOR, OR DOUBLE SLIDING DOOR DECORATIONS



DOOR DECORATIONS

Figures 83 to 86

These doors may be decorated with white arches, or arches of a contrasting color; with clipped corners or triangles painted at the corners. One pair of double doors has a triple set of arches painted to make the two doors appear to be three.

## End Wall Decorations

### CHEW MAIL POUCH DECORATION



Fig. 87

CHEW MAIL POUCH, TREAT YOURSELF TO THE BEST may have been originated with the Bloch Tobacco Company around the turn of the century. In 1966, United States Congress declared these barns National Landmarks!

In Mercer County, one "Chew Mail Pouch" barn stands in Washington Township, at Routes 49 and 29, and another smaller one was moved from Celina to Center Township. One stands in Jefferson Township.

### GABLE END DECORATIONS

Triangles decorate some gable ends. Some say this is for decoration; others say the triangle represents the Holy Trinity. This triangle may be painted white on a red barn, or another contrasting color. These barns with triangles on the end wall are usually found in southern Mercer County.

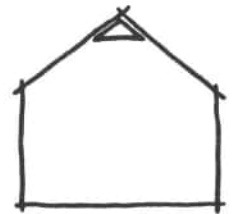


Fig. 88



Fig. 89

Two partial circles, or reversed arches are to be found on many northern Mercer County barns. When asked the reason for this design, everyone responded that it is for decoration. The partial circles may be white on a red barn, or painted a contrasting color to the barn.

One partial circle is also found on some barns in northern Mercer County. Again, it appears the design is for decoration.

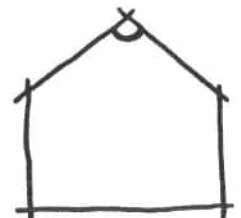


Fig. 90

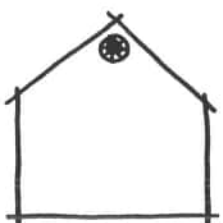


Fig. 91

HEX SIGNS OR GEOMETRIC DESIGNS do exist on some Mercer County barns, on the end walls or on the side walls to the front of the barn. However, when asked, the owner always laughs and says the design is just for decoration. Some are in black and white; others are in bright colors, e.g. reds and yellows, highlighted in black designs.

## GABLE END WALL DECORATIONS



Fig. 92

The Editor of this book saw less than a dozen barns with a cross, cut into the gable end wall. Most of these crosses are the Latin Cross, *Crux Immissa*, whereby the base stem is longer than the three other arms.

The Latin Cross is in the barns of the following: Jim Stucke family, 501 Clune Stucke Road; Stanley Goettemoeller, 1225 Cassella Montezuma Road; Eugene Homan family, 6213 Sebastian Road; Carl Koesters family, 6440 Ft. Recovery Minster Road; and Roman Meier family, 7804 Huwer Road. (See Marion and Franklin Townships.)

The Greek Cross, *Crux Quadrata*, has four equal arms. The Gary Buening Family barn has a Greek Cross, with four equal arms, with a diamond cut into the end of each arm, cut into the gable end walls. (See Marion Township.)

The Editor was told there is a house outside of Sharpsburg which has three gables, and a cross cut into each gable.

How many gable end walls, have crosses cut into them, but have been covered by new siding?



Fig. 93



Fig. 94

The Editor saw one barn, on Route 33, in Center Township, which had a five pointed star cut into the gable end walls. This may be for decoration. Another story is the star is a symbol for those using the Underground Railroad before the Civil War. That would mean the barn should probably have hand hewn beams and wooden pins and have been built prior to the 1860's.

The Editor saw one barn, the old Stukenborg Cane Mill, in Butler Township, with three, seven-pointed stars cut into the gable end wall. Were these marks of the carpenter who built the barn, or were they decorations requested by the barn builder? No one knows.

The geometry student who drew the seven pointed stars was displaying his mathematical talents.

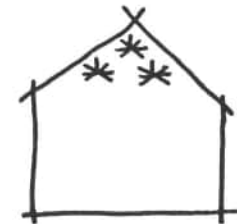


Fig. 95

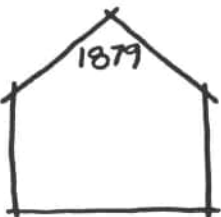


Fig. 96

Some barns have the date of the barn building cut into the gable end wall. The date 1879 is cut into the gable wall of Bob and Harold Homan's barn, 7447 St. Rt. 119 in Marion Township. Some farmers told the Editor that their barn had the date cut into the gable end wall, but it was covered when they put on new siding.

Some barns have the name of the farmer and/or the name of the farm lettered on the gable end wall. S & J RANCH is lettered on the gable end wall of the barn at Joseph Langenkamp, 5713 Younger Road, Celina, in Butler Township.



Fig. 97



Fig. 98

An unusual mark is cut into John Tobens' barn gable end wall at Neptune, in Center Township. Three openings are cut into the wall, at the three points of a triangle; the top opening is a triangle with rounded corners; the other two bottom openings are two flattened circles placed next to each other.

Is this the mark of the carpenter who built this barn or does this mark have some meaning?

How many marks are cut into the end walls of barns, which are now covered by siding? How many marks are cut into the gable end walls which the Editor could not see? Even though this book is printed, it would be interesting for Mercer Countians to give this information to the Mercer County Historical Museum Director Joyce Alig, and this information could be printed in the future.

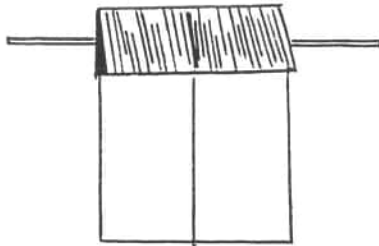


Fig. 99

#### DOUBLE DOORS' TRACK PROTECTION

The double doors' track, for the sliding doors, is protected by a series of short vertical boards making an overhang just over the track and above the doors. This overhang protected the track and doors from the weather.

This type of track protection is almost always found in the northern part of Mercer County and almost never in southern Mercer County.

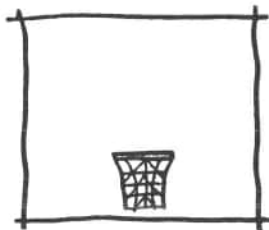


Fig. 100

#### BASKETBALL RIMS & BACKBOARDS

Most basketball rims were without the net on the barns. The backboards were mounted on the front walls and/or end walls of the outside of the barns. Night lights made night games possible.

The basketball backboards were also found in the hay mows. Many farmers told how they would play basketball on the mow floor after the work was done in the winter; they laughed that they played fast to keep warm.

## Agricultural Economy Of The 1980's

The most common lament of farmers to the Editor was that they wanted to have their barn painted, or have new siding put on the barn, but that repair of these big old barns is just cost prohibitive. The price of corn at just over two dollars a bushel and beans at just under six dollars a bushel is not providing farmers a reasonable margin of profit to repair a big old barn that would take a lot of cash to remodel it to fit today's needs.

Farmer after farmer hesitated to let his barn photograph be put in this book because the barn needed painting. Farmers are very proud of their farms, and they are good businessmen. They have to invest their profits where it will be cost effective. The farmers who have had their families live on the same land for several generations just hate to tear down the big old barn, even though it has outgrown its use today. The big old barn is the symbol of the home place. Anyone who has ever grown up on a farm has a lot of personal memories of times spent working and playing in the barn.

When barns were really falling down, it was often on a place where a new owner had bought the farm, and this "new owner" lived elsewhere, whether a few miles from this place, or in an entirely different state. Those farmers are grain farmers or rent the land to a grain farmer and use the land for an investment. They have no personal ties to the barn and recognize that it is not a good business investment just to repair a barn when it is not in use.

"When a barn stands empty and not used, it will soon fall down!" This statement was made to the Editor time after time.

These beautiful big old barns are strong; with general maintenance they will last another century. Will some young person, or senior citizen, be creative enough to come up with a practical idea to use these big old barns in a cost effective manner which is suitable to the farmer? Or will the barns just keep losing out?

Yes, the barn needs painting.

### MARK TRAIL



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## Preservation Or Maintenance Of These Big Old Mercer County Barns

- I. **FOUNDATION**  
Many farmers have replaced the foundations on their barns. Some took a barn setting at ground level on stone piers and raised it to put a basement under it, and put a bank up to the double doors on the main floor.
- II. **ROOF**  
Many farmers have replaced the original roofs. They may have replaced a slate roof with a standing seam tin roof. They may have replaced a shingle roof. Several farmers still repair their beautiful slate roofs.
- III. **SIDING**  
Painting all the out buildings and board fence is a job for any farm family. Painting the barn is a major project, in addition to the expense. Many farmers are putting steel siding on their barns.
- IV. **OTHER**  
Doors have been repaired, and/or covered with steel siding. Some stable doors have just been closed and covered with siding. The threshing floors have often been replaced with cement floors across the entire barn floor. Windows are repaired or covered over. The spouting has to be maintained or replaced.
- V. **TOTAL REMODELING OF INTERIOR FOR TODAY'S NEEDS**  
With barns having the big crossbeams, it is impossible for the farmer to drive a big combine or tractor into the barn. Therefore, some barns have had their center crossbeams, removed or raised, while still maintaining the strength of the structure. Barns have been remodeled for dairy, for hogs, for poultry, and for storage of implements.
- VI. **OTHER INTERIOR NEEDS**  
Most of the old barns have had their horse stalls removed; it is a delight to see some still in existence on the main floor or in the basement level. Many barns have restructured their milking setup for modern dairy needs. The old grain bins on the main floor have often been removed. Often grain bins in the loft or hay mow are still there. The vertical posts often have new block foundations beneath them, whether there is a dirt or cement floor under them.
- VII. **COMPUTERS IN THE BARN**  
Yes, many, many farmers have computers in their offices, whether that office is in the barn or in the house. The computer may be used for records, or for physical monitoring of the agribusiness operation in the barn.
- VIII. **BARNs FOR NEW PURPOSES**  
Barns are being adapted for uses as businesses, boat storage, other storage, and warehouses. The Editor's favorite adaptation of a barn is to see it being used for a wonderful post and beam frame for a house. Old Germany had barns, with houses as a part of them. Perhaps, history has made the full circle.

## Barns With Architectural Features Not Found In Mercer County, Ohio

Editor Joyce Alig, in her travels with her family, sought out different architectural styles of barns across the United States. The barns included here have architectural features not found in Mercer County, Ohio barns.

### A New York Barn



The Grand Barn is located at The Farmers' Museum, Cooperstown, New York. This stone barn, and The Farmers' Museum are the products of a succession of Cooperstown's gentleman farmers beginning with the James Fenimore Cooper in 1813. Cooper imported some of the first Merino sheep to the area and was a founding Member of the Otsego County Agricultural Society. The farm changed owners, e.g. Judge Samuel Nelson (later a justice on the U.S. Supreme Court), Edward Clark (president of Singer Sewing Machine Company) and his heirs. Clark's grandson Edward Severin Clark expanded the operation in 1916, by building the large stone barn, creamery and herdsman's house, which now make up The Farmers' Museum. (Frank P. Whiting of New York City was the architect; he was an associate of Ernest Flagg, a New York City architect and graduate of the Ecole des Beaux Arts in Paris.) Inside the elaborate stone walls was a modern functional dairy farm. The complex included stanchions for 80 head of cattle, two silos, hay and grain storage, and a covered walkway leading to the creamery, where the milk could be processed. The barn was so fine, that it was referred to locally as Clark's "Cow Palace." The barn has always been a landmark at Cooperstown. (This information was found in the spring 1993 issue of Heritage Magazine, the magazine of the New York State Historical Association, for The Farmers' Museum and its Golden Anniversary, 1943 to 1993.)



No 12-sided barns can be found in Mercer County, Ohio. This barn is from the Mid-West. The roof has a double slope, with the lower slope being dominant. The small cupola is surrounded with low windows. Six paned windows are in each section of the wall, except for the double doors; note the track for the sliding doors. This barn has been maintained in fine condition, a tribute to its owner, and its heritage.

### A Cobblestone Barn



This octagonal, cobblestone barn stands in Wayne County, New York. Note the windows on the upper story have twelve panes over eight panes. This barn was used as a blacksmith shop by Charles Brumm in the nineteenth century.

### An Iowa Barn



Delno and Marjorie Stineman, 14419 145th Street, Columbus Junction, Iowa 52738-9246, own this beautiful barn. This Iowa barn was built in 1924 by Marjorie's father, from timber from their farm; horses pulled up the frame. Note the triangular hay hood above the hay mow door. Note also the width of the barn, and the long slow slope of the gable roofline.

## An Iowa Round Barn



This exquisite round barn belongs to Mr. John Penne, 9478 145th Street, Davenport, Iowa 52804, in Scott County, Blue Grass Township. The lower half of the round wall is made of clay tile and the upper half, board and batten painted barn red. Nine-paned windows are placed in the bottom wall. The double sliding door has a smaller door, known as "le petit guichet" or the smaller door within a larger door. The gray wood shingled roof is a doubled sloped gambrel roof. A round cupola is at the top; the cupola has a cone roof. This book is featured in Lowell J. Soike's book *WITHOUT RIGHT ANGLES, THE ROUND BARN OF IOWA*. He tells that the barn's diameter is 56 feet, and that Benton Steele built this barn in 1914, when Charles W. Nebergall owned it. Benton Steele, an architect and contractor from Halstead, Kansas, erected many round barns in the Midwest.

## A Darke County, Ohio Round Barn

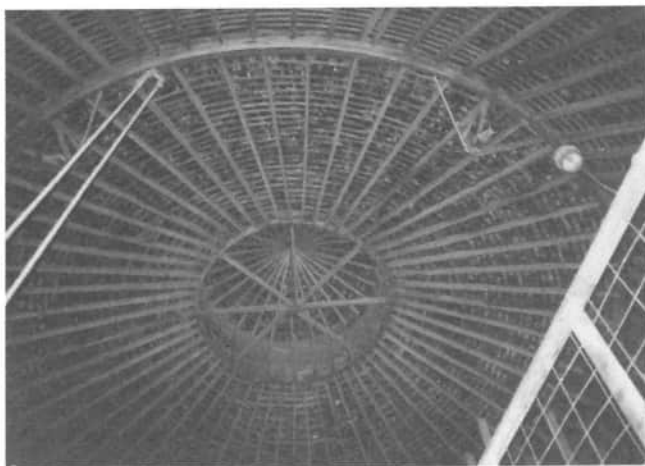


John and Kathy Hupman's barn, 5678 Route 36 East, Greenville, Ohio 45331 was probably built around 1875. At one time there was a silo through the center of the barn, topped with a cupola at the point of the roof. Horse stalls were in the lower level; they were able to feed horses from above through the silo. The horses were those used to work the farm. The lower level is all cement floor and the main level is wood. They currently use this barn for storing hay and straw. To the west side of the barn, there is a bank going up to the double doors, with a short bridge connecting them. This is one of the few remaining round barns in the area; the family recognizes its historical value and maintains the red barn.

## A Jay County, Indiana Barn



The Jay County Commissioners granted permission to use a photograph of their octagonal barn in this book. The barn's diameter is about 110 feet, with each of the eight walls being between 32 feet 8 inches to 33 feet 9 inches in length. This barn, opened in 1891, originally had a double pitched or gambrel roof, with a four-sided cupola which is no longer there. Known as the "Round House," this barn is used during the Jay County Fair and the Tri State Antique Engine Show. This grand barn has been written about in Michael McGeedy's "The Round House, Jay County Fair Grounds, Portland, Indiana," and in John Hanou's book, "A Round Indiana, Round Barns in the Hoosier State."



This is an interior view of the framing of the roof of John Penne's barn, near Davenport, Iowa. The framing of the upper level of gambrel roof is evident; the framing of the cupola is evident. The old rope is still attached to the pulley hanging from the top track.



## An Ohio Barn



A bank barn, with a forebay, and with a fieldstone foundation is a rare sight. This well preserved barn has a fieldstone foundation. The bank leads to three pair of double doors; one of which has a small service door, known as a "guichet." I.E. BAKER 1936 is written across the side of this barn; he purchased the farm at that time. The fieldstone foundation and the wooden pinned frame indicate this barn was built in the 1800's. This barn is located at 398 State Route 49, Laura, Ohio 45337 in Darke County, Ohio. (Misti Snider lives there today.) The barn is currently owned by I.E. Baker's great grandchildren, Rachel and Jeff Baker, and farmed by the Oda Brothers. The latest maintenance work on this barn was done by David Shoemaker who has a great love for old barns. Note the deep red colored louvered vents on three sides of the barn. The rectangular cupola also has the louvered vents, and is topped by a mansard roof.



This side of the Baker barn shows not only the fieldstone foundation, but also the forebay. Doors in the bottom level permit the livestock to enter and leave; sliding doors on the upper level permit for hay to be thrown from the threshing floor down to the cattle. The owners of this fine barn are Rachel and Jeff Baker. This information was provided by Mr. and Mrs. R. Alan Baker, 3003 Winding Way, Kettering, Ohio 45419-1243.

## An Ohio Barn



This bank barn found in Darke County, Ohio has a two stage fieldstone foundation. The center of the basement wall has a different kind of dressed stone for the foundation, than the outer sides of the wall do. Are the larger fieldstones part of the older foundation? An explanation for the different kinds of foundation materials will be left to Darke County barnologists (those who study barns). Today, this barn belongs to Mr. and Mrs. Fred McMaken, 5361 Requarth Road, Greenville, Ohio 45331. They purchased the place in 1992 from the Miller family.



This 1903 photograph shows the place at 5361 Requarth Road, Greenville. Dan Zimmerman had this place prior to 1871. Christian Miller bought the place in 1871. (Either Zimmerman or Miller could have built this barn.) The barn can just be seen the down the lane, in this old 1903 photograph. The place stayed in the Miller family until it was purchased by Mr. and Mrs. Fred McMaken in 1992.

## Auglaize County, Ohio Barn



Maurice Homan's barn is located on 00099 State Route 274, New Bremen, Ohio, in Auglaize County, Ohio. Maurice bought the place in 1958 from his father Leo Homan, who bought the place in 1942. They are not certain as to when this barn was built. The house was built in 1875; it has a date 1875 written on the front of the house. It is quite possible that this barn was built before then.

What is special about this barn is that it has eight cross beams extending the width of the barn, and then extending through the top of the wall, out beneath the eaves. Many barns in Mercer and Auglaize Counties have barns with one or two cross beams extending the width of the barn and out beneath the eaves. But few have eight cross beams extending beneath the eaves. Just west of Maurice Homan's place on St. Rt. 274, on the Mercer County side, two barns have several cross beams extending beneath the eaves. Also, in Auglaize County, going east on St. Rt. 274, before the Rt. 29 intersection, there is an old barn with several cross beams extending beneath the eaves. In Mercer County, this feature can be found in Marion and Franklin Townships. Granville, Butler, and a few other townships have several barns with one or two crossbeams extending beneath the eaves. No complete study of Auglaize County barns has been made concerning this architectural feature, but it will be interesting to find out how many other barns were built like this barn with eight cross beams extending beneath the eaves.



This barn with the board and batten siding belongs to Richard Peckover, 2654 Four Mile Road, Grand Rapids, Michigan 49501. In addition to this, the barn is a bank barn on the fieldstone foundation. This barn is a beautiful old barn in the country.



An interior view of the Richard Peckover barn, shows the other side of the fieldstone foundation in the basement wall. This photograph was taken from the basement steps, leading from the wooden threshing floor. One might consider the labor put into building this foundation.

## A Michigan Barn



This is a closer view of the fieldstone foundation on the Richard Peckover barn.



This grindstone or millstone was used in the foundation of another outbuilding, next to Richard Peckover's barn in Michigan. A date of 18\_\_ can just be made out, on this millstone. The presence of this millstone in the foundation illustrates how practical the builder was; the millstone was no longer used at a mill, but it fit the need in this foundation. These photographs of the Peckover barn were taken at the July 1993

Brumm Family Reunion being held at this place.

## One Beautiful Brick Barn



Carl C. and Thelma Karns, 3645 Mulberry Road, Dayton, Ohio 45414, own this beautiful brick barn. (There was a brick home here and their son Larry and his wife Linda used the brick from the old home to build their house.) This barn was written about in the old 1875 Montgomery County Atlas, which stated that it was the residence of William C. Randall, in Section 21 of Butler Township, Montgomery County, Ohio. The most eye catching element of this brick barn are the brick cut outs; most of them resemble a sheaf of grain. In the gable end, two of the cut outs resemble diamonds; the cutout in the peak may resemble a basket, A Christmas tree, a crib, or something else. Eric Sloane in his book, *AN AGE OF BARNS* (Ballantine Books, New York, 1974) stated that both cut outs and brick windows are European devices, reminiscent of the days of castles when the window was a "wind eye" or "wind o," an opening for both the wind and the eye. (The windows or openings were used to ventilate, admit light, and for seeing the countryside.) Note the bank leading to the double doors has a fieldstone foundation. The one double door has a smaller door within the larger door; this service door is called "Le Petit Guichet."



A back view of the Carl Karns' barn shows the cut outs, the threshing door, the lower stable doors of the back wall, as well as the cut outs and entry doors at the end wall.

## A Darke County Brick Barn



A Darke County brick barn is built into the hillside; one can enter the barn at the second or main floor at the front at ground level, and enter the lower level from the back at ground level. The windows have louvered vents. The main threshing door can still be seen. An interesting architectural element is the arched doors supporting the forebay; these bricks are a lighter color and one might think that they were added later. This barn belongs to Harris Development, Inc., of which Everett Hart is an officer. At one time the barn belonged to the Buchy family and Jim Buchy helped the Editor seek out the owners. The barn is located at 5954 Sebring Warner Road, Greenville, Ohio.



This is a close view of the barn arches across the back of the brick barn located at 5954 Sebring Warner Road, Greenville. Note the fieldstone wall supporting the floor of the brick barn.

## Suggested Reading: A Bibliography

- \* Interested in Barnology (the study of barns)?
- \* Interested in Mercer County's Heritage?
- \* Interested in agriculture and rural heritage?
- \* Interested in rural heritage and architecture?
- \* Interested in cultural heritage and genealogy?
- \* Interested in becoming an amateur barnologist?

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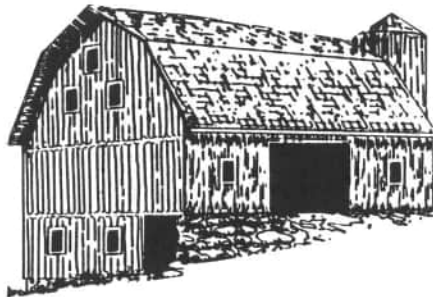
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## **Distinguished Award**

**in Recognition of  
Mercer County Register  
of  
Historical Barns**

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(name)



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*Joyce L. Alig*

President