



The Old BARN POST

A publication of Friends of Ohio Barns • February, 2020 • Vol. XXIV, Issue 1

Preble County Barn Tour: *NO PHOTOS ALLOWED*

Friends of Ohio Barns is pleased to announce yet another fabulous barn tour as part of our Ohio Barn Conference XXI. One of the largest doorways for early settlers into the fertile lands of Ohio was through Cincinnati, which was settled in autumn 1788 and chartered as a town in 1802. By 1850 it had become America's sixth largest city. We can safely surmise that most of the barns on our tour, not too far north of that river town, were built by the first few generations of those pioneers. We would like to do property title searches, family history research at the Preble County Historical Society and Ancestry.com profiles of our barn owners but that probably won't happen before it is time to board the buses. But we will at least have the great opportunity to stand inside of these great barns and if we listen closely we just might hear the stories they have to tell us.

Our first two stops will be at the McQuiston Family Farm where one early swing beam barn sits back the lane from a gorgeous brick home. We were all very tired by the end of our second day of scouting dozens of barns in pursuit of a "few great barns" and "cold called" these folks when someone in our group declared, "Look at that! We have to go see that barn! I can tell it's very old!" Never wanting to get shot, we donned our FOB barn hats on our heads and with FOB brochures in hand we smiled broadly and knocked on the door. The lady sent us across the road to a house where no one answered. But hearing farm machinery in the distance we drove in that direction and found ourselves amidst trucks busy bringing in the corn harvest and we were promptly greeted by friendly owners. Excited by the prospect of learning the history of their barns they escorted us to the old barn behind the old brick house. What a lovely swing beam barn presented itself to us. We all pointed out unique features of the barn to the McQuistons who seemed pleased with the admiration she was receiving and agreed to let us put her on our tour. They even directed us to visit their other old barn just down the road a piece excusing themselves as the

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Images: All images provided by Dan Troth
Dan Troth giving a campaign speech for reelection as Vice President of FOB to two cats, one mouse, and a dead pigeon while perched on the hay hole ladder in the Snyder barn. Note that the ladder appears to be hand riven.

CALEB'S CORNER

My favorite time of year has come — winter! I know many people dread the various complexities that winter adds to our daily lives, but without the perspective of winter it becomes hard to truly appreciate the beauty that the rest of the seasons bestow upon us here in Ohio. There are so many things about the winter months that I look forward to - playing in the snow, indoor fires, the sight of snow covered trees that canopy over township roads, wrestling season, hunting, and not being soaked in sweat after a solid day's work. These are just a few of the many pleasures I derive during the winter season, but one of my favorites is the time spent teaching high school students timber framing.

Our local high school has a Building Trades program which is offered as an elective to juniors and seniors. Over the course of two years they build a house start to finish, and then hold a public auction to sell the house which ultimately funds the program for the next two years. For the last few years we've had the pleasure of devoting a few days during the winter to teach the kids about timber framing and traditional joinery. This year we've raised the stakes and are hoping to complete an 8'x16' timber framed cabin that the kids can finish out, and then auction it off later this year. The frame was designed by a graduate of this program who is now an engineering student at the University of Akron. For the past three years he has spent his summer months as a crew member for us at JCM Timberworks.

While I sit here in reflection of Day 1 of this year's class, indulge me while I stand on my soapbox and shout — DO NOT discount the young generation!! Many people justifiably gripe about the lack of work ethic and skills of America's youth, and there's great merit to these grumblings. However, my experiences with putting traditional woodworking tools in the hands of young people with just enough knowledge/guidance for them to begin using them, has proven great hope regarding their capabilities. Every time we provide the opportunity for youth to learn some of the skills we possess, they exceed our expectations with leaps and bounds. Maybe the perceived deficiencies of our younger generation are actually deficiencies in us as their elders and parents, for not challenging them in most primal and kinetic ways possible.

By: Caleb Miller, President FOB

Upcoming Events

**Ohio Barn Conference
and Barn Tour XXI — Preble County**
April 23, 24 and 25, 2020

Barn Tour Restrictions

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

You must be:

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

Board Member Elections

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

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

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

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Silent Auction Donations Needed

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

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

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

Check your Address on the Front of this Issue!

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

BARN TOUR, Continued from Page 1

sun was setting and they had to get back to work bringing in the crops. The second McQuiston barn was just as beautiful, much larger and of a different style. Hard to say which was built first until I have the chance to hug their posts. Needless to say, our group of tired barnstormers felt happy and blessed to have discovered these two barns and wholeheartedly agreed to include them in our tour.

Our third stop will be at the Kuhn farm to take a look at a large late 1800's gambrel barn. "Hold on there, cowboy! She's not what you think." This is a much earlier hewn barn that evolved as farming practices evolved around that time. The original roof with its pole rafters was removed and replaced with a much taller gambrel roof to allow for more hay storage. Quipped its owner, "It'll hold more straw than you wanna bale."

The fourth stop is for lunch and two cups of coffee.

Stop five is where we see the five sided ridge beam. We don't have the opportunity to see many hewn pentagonal ridge beams and this one is certainly a treat. Seven bents with a major-minor rafter system in her 40'x90' frame. Could be as old as 1817? Would someone please come forward and offer to pay for dendrochronology?

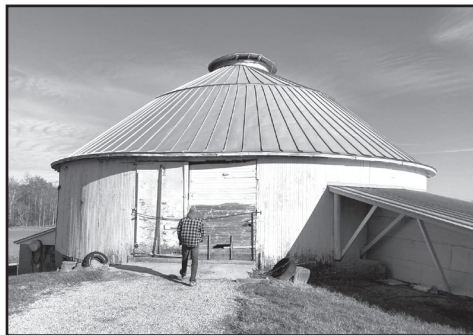
Number six is Larry Snyder's 40'x70' hewn barn which exhibits raising holes in its wall posts. (We will explain what those are.) We learned that the original farmer bought the land because there was a limestone quarry on site which explains its beautiful stone wall at its bank. It also has a 20' tall hand-riven hay hole through which rafter-high hay was tossed down to



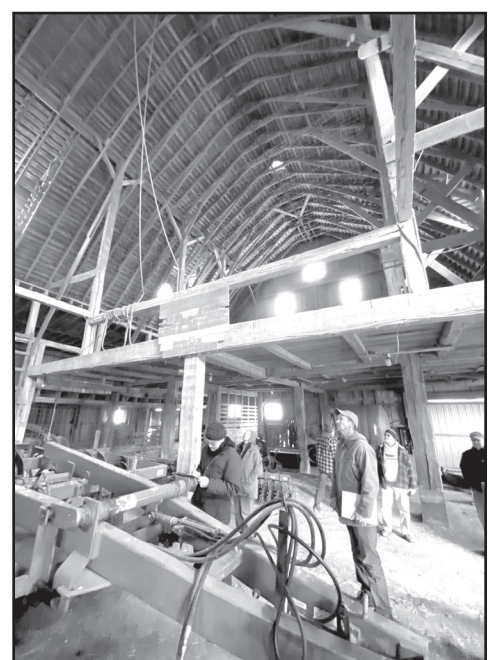
One of the two McQuiston Family barns. Note the major minor rafters.



One of the unusual features in the Seibel barn is its pentagonal ridge beam.



Above: The Krickenbarger Farm's 60 foot diameter round barn ends our day.



Right: The original gabled Kuhn barn had its roof raised for more hay storage.

the animals in the barn's basement.

Our final stop of the day is at the Krickenbarger Farm where we'll have the chance to see one of Ohio's round barns. This one is 60' in diameter and 32' to its peak. Built in 1908 it's a fine example of farmers and barn builders working together to create barns capable of maximizing the efficiency and function of the modern agricultural practices of that day, just 112 years ago.

We know you'll all enjoy this year's tour.

Pay attention to the weather forecast and bundle up. Be sure to wear boots because you all know what you'll be stepping in. Get a good night's sleep and for Heaven's sake, take lots of photos!

By: Dan Troth, FOBVP

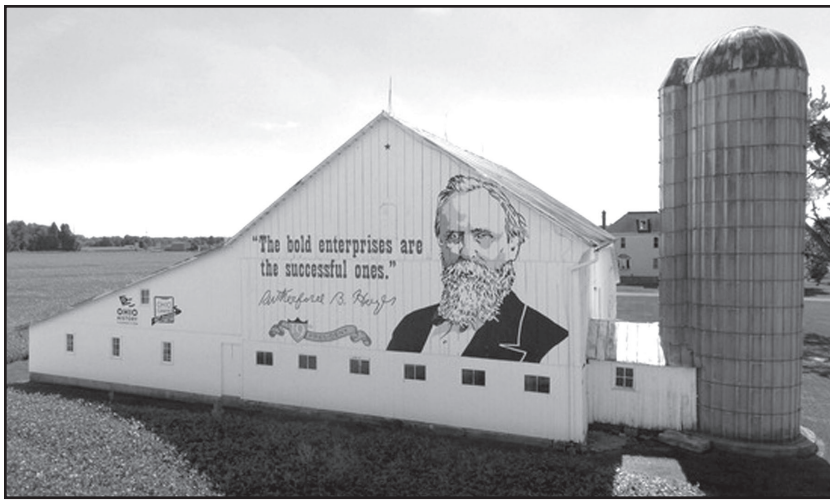


Image from: <https://www.13abc.com/home>

Likely a modified New England three bay barn with a star-shaped owl hole at the gable, in Sandusky County with a quote and likeness of Civil War General, three time Ohio Governor, and President of the United States, Rutherford B. Hayes.

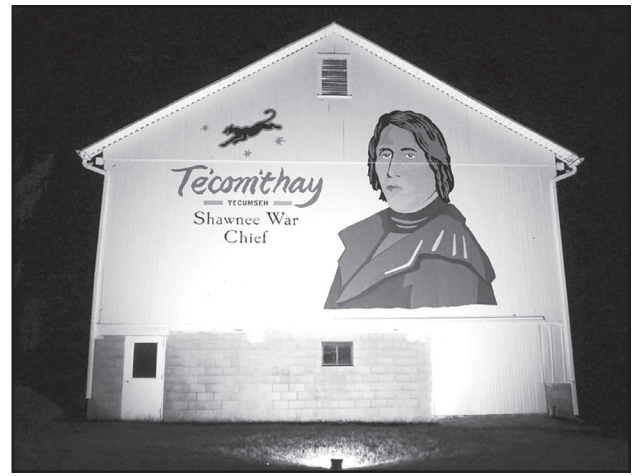


Image from: Barnartist.com (Scott Hagan)

New England three Bay barn with a basement and a ramp to the threshing floor in Ottawa County with illustration of Commander Oliver Hazard Perry, who led the victory over the British fleet in the Battle of Lake Erie in September 1813.

A Little History to Go With Your Barn

A historic Ohio barn along the Ohio Turnpike in Sandusky County has, in recent years, become an Ohio history barn as well. Muralist, Scott Hagan, has painted a mural and quote of President Rutherford B. Hayes on the side of the barn. Hagan is doing this work in cooperation with local historical societies and the Ohio History Connection. Hagan was responsible for painting the Bicentennial Barns in 88 counties in commemoration of the 200th anniversary, in 2003, of Ohio becoming a state. Hagan is working with the Ohio History Connection and local historical societies to tell Ohio stories around the state on the sides of barns. Scott Hagan was raised and still works in Jerusalem, Ohio in Monroe County in Ohio's unglaciated plateau region. Hagan has painted barns in 20 states and Canada but does most of his work in Ohio, Pennsylvania, and West Virginia.

President Rutherford B. Hayes, from Delaware, Ohio, retired at Spiegel Grove in Fremont where his presidential library and museum are located in Sandusky County. Hayes, a lawyer and staunch abolitionist, defended refugees from slavery in court proceedings in the antebellum years. Hayes left his fledgling political career to join the army when the Civil War broke out. Wounded five times, he earned a reputation for bravery in combat and was promoted to the rank of brevet major general. After the war he served in the Congress from 1865 to 1867 as a Republican.

Hayes left Congress to run for governor of Ohio and was elected to two consecutive terms, from 1868 to 1872. Later he served a third two-year term, from 1876 to 1877. In 1876 the Electoral College made Hayes president of the United States in the course of one of the most contentious elections in national history.

The War of 1812 is recalled on a historic Greene County barn with the depiction of a ca. 1820 likeness by William Clark of the Shawnee leader, Tecumseh. The Shawnee leader is best known for organizing a confederation of Native American Tribes to resist continued settlement of the Ohio Country by Easterners and Europeans after the American Revolution. Tecumseh, known as a strong and eloquent orator was among the most celebrated Native American leaders in history. Tecumseh and his confederacy continued to fight in alliance with Great Britain in the War of 1812. After battles in Ohio and the Detroit area the British and their Native American allies eventually retreated into Canada. American forces engaged them at the Battle of the Thames on October 5, 1813, where Tecumseh was killed. The illustration on the barn includes an image of a panther with stars. The meaning of the name Tecumseh is said to be "panther across the sky" or "shooting star."

A three bay New England bank barn in Ottawa County portrays yet another story from the War of 1812. Naval Commander Oliver Hazard Perry fought piracy and the

slave trade in the Caribbean but is best known for his role in the 1813 Battle of Lake Erie. Perry supervised the building of a fleet at Presque Isle, near Erie, Pennsylvania. On September 10 his fleet engaged the British squadron off the shores of Put-In-Bay. Perry's flagship, the USS Lawrence, was severely disabled. His battle flag, with the famous words of his friend James Lawrence, "Don't Give Up the Ship" in hand, he had some crew members row him a half-mile through heavy gunfire to the USS Niagara where he assumed command and in a very short time prevailed over the Royal fleet. At the age of 28, Perry's message to General William Henry Harrison was famously to the point: "We have met the enemy and they are ours; two ships, two brigs, one schooner and one sloop," Perry died in the Caribbean on his 34th birthday in 1819.

A Pennsylvania German barn with a foreshortened overhanging forebay in Hardin County near Kenton features a portrait of Civil War Congressional Medal of Honor winner Jacob Parrot. Born in Fairfield County, Parrot was one of 26 Ohioans who participated in the clandestine Andrews Raid in 1862. These Ohioans shed their uniforms and made their way to Marietta, Georgia, stole a train called The General, and attempted to sever two east west railroads by burning the bridges on a north and south connector between Marietta and Chattanooga. They were unsuccessful. All were captured and

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all escaped and were recaptured. Some were executed, some escaped a second time, and others were liberated in subsequent prisoner exchanges. The participants in this adventure were awarded the first Congressional Medals of Honor in American history. The civilian participants of the raid were not eligible for this military honor.

Famous sharpshooter, Annie Oakley, aims her gun from the side of a three bay English ground barn with a gambrel roof in Darke County, not far from Greenville. Born Phoebe Ann Mosey, she developed her well known marksmanship while trapping and shooting by age eight to food on the table for her many siblings and widowed mother. Attention was drawn to her talent at age 15 when she won a shooting match against traveling-show marksman Frank Butler, whom she later married. The couple joined Buffalo Bill's Wild West show a few years later. Oakley became a renowned international star, performing before royalty and heads of state. The famous Native American warrior of the Sioux nation, Sitting Bull traveled with her and gave her the nickname "Little Sure Shot."

The Packard automobile graces a small barn near Warren in Trumbull County. Packard was founded by James Ward Packard, his brother William and their partner, George Lewis Weiss, in the city of Warren, Ohio, where 400 Packard automobiles were built from 1899 to 1903. It's a little tough to determine from a photo but above the gable end entry of a gambrel roofed barn sports an image of a Packard luxury car. The gable end entry may indicate a Southern or Virginian barn up in Trumbull County.

Other barns in Sandusky County have leant their broadsides to recall Ohio history but were not painted by Hagan. Another War of 1812 story in Ohio is called to mind with the illustration of Fort Stephenson and "Old Betsy," the single cannon that helped keep 1500-2000 British soldiers and Native American warriors from overcoming a group of 160 men in the fort. Fort Stephenson was located where Fremont, Ohio is today. After the war the cannon was returned to Fremont in 1851 where it remains today. The old cannon was last fired at a rally celebrating Abraham Lincoln's election to the presidency.

Other Sandusky County barns include a county bicentennial mural 1820-2020, a 9/11 Public Safety Service Memorial



Image from: Barnartist.com (Scott Hagan)

Three bay New England Barn with a basement in Greene County with a depiction of Shawnee War Chief and native Ohioan, Tecumseh who died at the Battle of the Thames in the War of 1812.



Image from: <https://www.ocj.com/2016/09/painting-a-little-piece-of-history/>

Sharpshooter, Annie Oakley graces the side of an apparent three bay New England ground barn in Darke County near Greenville.

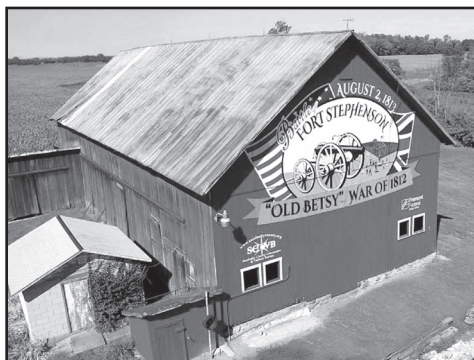


Image from: <https://www.sanduskycounty.org/visit/attractions/barns>

A three bay New England ground barn in Sandusky County hints at a story of the War of 1812 with the depiction of the cannon, "Old Betsy" and Fort Stephenson which it defended.

with the twin towers of the World Trade Center, and a barn welcoming visitors to Woodville, Ohio, the home of Tom Henricks a former NASA astronaut, born in



Image from: Barnartist.com (Scott Hagan)

A Pennsylvania German barn with a slight forebay outside of Kenton in Hardin County with a portrayal of Jacob Parrot, one of 22 volunteer Union soldiers from three Ohio regiments, who joined the Andrews Raiders. Parrot and the others received the first Congressional Medals of Honor in American history.



Image from: Barnartist.com

Possible a gable end entry Southern barn with an image of a luxury Packard automobile painted by barn artist Scott Hagan of Monroe County.



Image from: <https://www.sanduskycounty.org/visit/attractions/barns>

Former astronaut, Tom Henricks, welcomes you to Woodville, Ohio in Sandusky County from the side of a three bay New England ground barn with a gambrel roof.

Williams County, who served on four Space Shuttle missions.

Turning barn-sides into canvases to remind us of our history may help bring more attention to our historic barns while educating us about Ohio's exceptional legacy.

By: Tom O'Grady

Ohio Barn Conference XXI in Preble Co.

Once again we head southwest in the state of Ohio for the annual Ohio Barn Conference but this time we are heading to Preble County. Our host hotel is Hueston Woods but the Saturday conference will be held at The Star Theatre at Eagle's Point in Eaton. We are delighted to have Steve Gordon, the Museum Administrator for the William Holmes McGuffey Museum, and Doug Reed, our well known log crib historical preservationist guru as speakers this year. Both are extremely knowledgeable, enthusiastic and are sure to deliver interesting presentations with their typical flair. We are also happy to have Karen Oberst speak to our membership. Karen was one of the women awarded the Ohio Agricultural Women of the Year in 2012. Karen and her husband raise beef cattle and farm grasses while being earth and fossil fuel friendly in their work on their farm. Bill Reynolds, a historian with the Campus Martius Museum in Marietta, is an expert on the ways of Pioneers in Marietta and will enlighten us

with stories of the old Pioneer ways. And we also are delighted to have Misti Spillman speak to us on gravestone restoration. Misti is the Executive Director of the Preble County Historical Society and has hours of experience dealing with historic gravestones including those from the Civil War era.

Our Conference would not be complete without the Barn Detectives, Rudy Christian and Dan Troth, who will do a stand-up show and tell of their finds from the barn tour the day before that no one else saw (except for Laura who will take the pictures!). And, of course, there will be the Annual Member Meeting, Awards and Silent Auction as well.

This year we have a Thursday Event and the highly anticipated Barn Tour. Please look for articles in this newsletter regarding these events. We, the Board of Directors of Friends of Ohio Barns, look forward to seeing all our barn friends at the conference in Preble County this April!

By: Sarah Woodall

Donor Thank You

Here we are starting a new year and wrapping up all the details for our annual conference and, it's time once again to thank our donors:

Carolyn Addair, Akron Model T Club, Charles Bauer, Christian and Son, Rudy Christian, Tim & Lynn Cook, Paul Farley, Fidelity Charitable, Pamela Gray, Mike Halderman, Deb Hatherill, Denny & Judy Hendershot, Jim & Sue Howard, Chris Klingemier, William Lawhorn, Charles Leik, Mark Nemecek, Laura Saeger, Carol Schmidt, Keith Sommer, David Spahr,

Nancy Thomas, Jerry Volgelhuber and David Wilhelm. Including the small cash donations from Auction roundups and merchandise, the member donated amount for January 2019, through Jan 2020 was \$1,822.00. That covered one and one-half quarters of our set quarterly contributions! Whether it is thru membership dues, conference attendance or additional contributions, it all really helps Friends of Ohio Barns to thrive. Thanks to all of You for your continued support!

-Laura Saeger, Treasurer

Membership Renewal Time is here!

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

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

Barn Detective program, the Barn Conservation Grant program and, most importantly, all the educational and awareness programs that arm enthusiasts with information and aid in their preservation efforts.

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

A Cavern There Is, in Preble County

An 1896 article, written in the Eaton Register but originally pulled from the Hamilton Republican, told about a cavern in Preble County that had been recently discovered and entered by some enthusiastic cave adventurers. This large cavern lies directly under the Anthony Wayne Trail and near to one of the barns on our upcoming tour. One of the openings, in a farmer's field, had been marked by beech trees and an array of stones. Other openings, found later, had been filled in by farmers trying to rid themselves of rocks, fence rails, and other obstacles to farming. John Wright, a township constable at the time, was the first to enter the mouth of the cavern followed by a group of interested young men. The article states "There is a descent of perhaps 15 feet in the first 30 feet from the entrance, after which, for a distance of about 50 feet, the floor is comparatively level. Overhead, scarcely high enough to allow a man to stand erect, huge rocks glistened in the smoky glare of the torch and cold dirty water dropped into the upturned faces of the explorers. At the end of this squatty room there are two exits, only one of which is of any consequence. Through this small opening one emerges into a large chamber probably 75 feet in length and 50 feet in width. In the center of this apartment are 12 huge smooth stones arranged in a circle and placed about 4 feet apart. They have every appearance of having been placed in this position by human hands, but by whom can only be conjectured."

It is estimated that the overall size of this cavern is three quarters of a mile by a mile and was assumed to be a place to rendezvous for Native Americans who were numerous in the Miami Valley. There are a few Native American earthworks that still survive in Preble County. Just take a look around and give some thought to the history of the area and see if you can conjure up an idea as to the reason for the existence of this cavern with the 12 thoughtfully placed stones.

By: Sarah Woodall

Tobacco Barns Without Tobacco

For the better part of a century barnsides were used to promote tobacco products — mostly chewing tobacco as it was unwise to promote smoking of cigarettes or pipes in barns. A tremendous amount of dust is suspended in the air in a barn as one can easily see when the sunlight is piercing its way into the loft through the slits between the boards of the barn siding. The dust and the hay and the wooden barn are all highly combustible. Many a barn once held hay but does so no longer thanks — to a brief smoke break.

The last half century has seen an increase in anti-tobacco sentiment while at the same time we have seen a significant decline in the number of Ohio and American barns in the landscape. A few of the familiar tobacco products included Mail Pouch, WOW, and Red Man chewing tobacco; Kentucky Club Pipe tobacco, and Melo-Crown Stogies.



Image by: Tom O'Grady

Mail Pouch on a three bay New England bank barn with a shed addition in Holmes County. Mail Pouch Tobacco - Treat Yourself to the Best.



Image by: Tom O'Grady

Double-die Mail Pouch, once standing in Athens County. Like a twice struck coin from the mint, this three bay English ground barn has an old Mail Pouch sign bleeding through a more recent coating.



Image by: Tom O'Grady

Three bay English ground barn with a gambrel roof with an old Mail Pouch sign bleeding through behind a Kentucky Club ad. Smoke Kentucky Club - Pipe Tobacco - It Never Tires the Taste.



Relax and Enjoy It - Mild and Sweet - WOW - Sweet Chewing Tobacco on a small farm building in Noble County



Image: <https://www.pinterest.ch/pin/464574517802481659/> Marie Dolphin

Chew Red Man Tobacco – America's Best Chew on a gambrel roofed barn.



Smoke and Enjoy Melo-Crown Stogies - Mild and Satisfying has been repainted in recent years on the side of this Washington County barn.



This three-bay New England barn in Tuscarawas County near Zoar, Ohio — a community founded in 1817 by German religious dissenters as a utopian community which survived until 1853 — was painted by barn artist Scott Hagan from Monroe County in conjunction with the local historical society and the Ohio History Connection.

Photo by: Tom O'Grady

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FRIENDS OF OHIO BARNS
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