



## “The Barn Door”

Newsletter of the National Barn Alliance

Fall 2007 Volume 1, Issue 1

### NBA 2007 ANNUAL CONFERENCE

#### Workshop & Tour, April 20-22, 2007, Albany, NY

The National Barn Alliance held a workshop and tour to highlight barn preservation and survey activities around the country and to map out a strategy for continued outreach supporting nationwide efforts to document, protect and preserve historic barns and other historic rural resources.

On Friday, April 20<sup>th</sup>, current and new members held our Annual Meeting. An overview of 2006 accomplishments included reports by individual state representatives, a discussion of goals for 2007 and the election of our new Board. Saturday, April 21<sup>st</sup> had a full agenda of nationally known speakers with a focus on the barns of upstate New York, barn survey work, adaptive reuse of barns, and the history of Dutch Barns in New York. Dinner speaker was Bob Sherman, of Illinois presenting the house-barns of the Midwest built by European settlers in the 1800's.

On Sunday, April 22<sup>nd</sup> the Dutch Barn Preservation Society hosted a bus tour of four important barns in the Albany area. The tour concluded with lunch and a presentation by barn restorer Randy Nash at the Mabee Farm Historic Site.



Albany School Workshop



Before our Annual Meeting in April, we took our barns to school. With the help of Cornell Extension Agent Tom Gallagher and 5<sup>th</sup> grade teacher Tammy Kaleta, we led eighty students through a full-day program of learning about barns. Before we arrived, the students were introduced to barn history and terminology through NBA curriculum modules that have been sent in advance, which include math, science, language arts and timber frame glossary. Then NBA members led eighty students in building two large-scale timber barn models. The models were on loan from barn preservation societies in Indiana and Ohio. More photos can be seen on our website.

This type of outreach is important because it is an opportunity to reach the urban community. By educating the youth of the community, we hope they will then communicate this experience to their parents and relatives, thereby expanding support for historic barn preservation. The National Barn Alliance believes that there is a deep well of support in our cities to save America's historic barns. There is no better place to start to build that support than with our youth. We believe this format should be replicated, with the NBA's assistance, in schools across the nation for use by organizations working on historic barn preservation. Please contact us to have a barn-raising in your school!  
Rod Scott, Iowa

Read the full extended version of “The Barn Door” at [www.barnalliance.org](http://www.barnalliance.org)

*On our American landscape, Barns mark the places where beauty and tranquility meet hard labor!*

**Our Mission:**

**The National Barn Alliance works to save and protect America's historic barns.**

- We encourage the documentation, through surveys and photography, of historic barns and other rural structures.**
- We encourage and support the creation of statewide and local barn preservation organizations and programs.**
- We facilitate the sharing of information on barns, their history and their maintenance.**

**BOARD OF DIRECTORS:****Officers:**

President Charles Leik, Michigan/Virginia

Vice President: Vera Wiltse, Michigan

Secretary: Ann Christy, Ohio

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Rod Scott, Iowa: Membership

Charles Law, Wisconsin: Immediate Past President

**Board Member Profile - Charles Leik**

Charles Leik was named President of the National Barn Alliance (NBA) at its April, 2007 at Albany, NY. He heads a nine-member Board of Directors that “meets” every 3-4 weeks via phone conferencing.

Charles was raised on a Michigan centennial farm and can accurately say that he “missed being born in a barn by only two hundred feet.” It was years later after graduation from Georgetown University in Washington and a career in international banking with the Export-Import Bank of the U.S. that he focused on the rapid loss of the ubiquitous structures that grace our rural landscape. Taking advantage of new technology Charles established the web-based [thebarnjournal.org](http://thebarnjournal.org) in 1996 to “increase the appreciation and preservation of the North American barn” and was an early participant in the Michigan Barn Preservation Network. His involvement in the NBA dates to the February 2003 meeting in Chicago.

Charles’ goal for the NBA is to “grow the organization” so that it can become an effective voice on the national level and have a role in coordinating the activities of the various state and local barn preservation groups.

After retirement in 2003 Charles has traveled extensively, spent summers restoring the 1858 Michigan farmhouse, been active in the Timber Framers Guild, engaged in reforestation and in civic projects of his Portland, MI hometown. He and his wife Willie reside in Great Falls, VA and have three grown children—and are expecting their first two grandchildren in December.





Geoffrey Gross

## Wortendyke Barn Museum Park Ridge, New Jersey

Resting like a jewel in the suburban town of Park Ridge, New Jersey, is the Wortendyke Barn, a County-owned Dutch Barn Farm Museum. This National Register county landmark, in addition to its attending red sandstone farmhouse across the street, is all that remains of the Wortendyke Farm which originally covered over 460 acres in northeastern Bergen County in the town of Pascack, now called Park Ridge.

The barn, like many other of the old Dutch barns, could be found throughout 18th and 19th century Bergen County, which included present day Hudson, Bergen, Passaic, and part of Essex County, in northern New Jersey.

The Wortendykes settled in the area in 1735 when Frederick Wortendyke, Sr. purchased the acreage from Hendrick Vanderlinda. The Wortendyke family maintained the land as a working farm from 1735 to 1851 when the farm was sold. It remained an ongoing farm owned by the Wortendykes for over 115 years - from before the French and Indian War until nine years before the start of the Civil War.

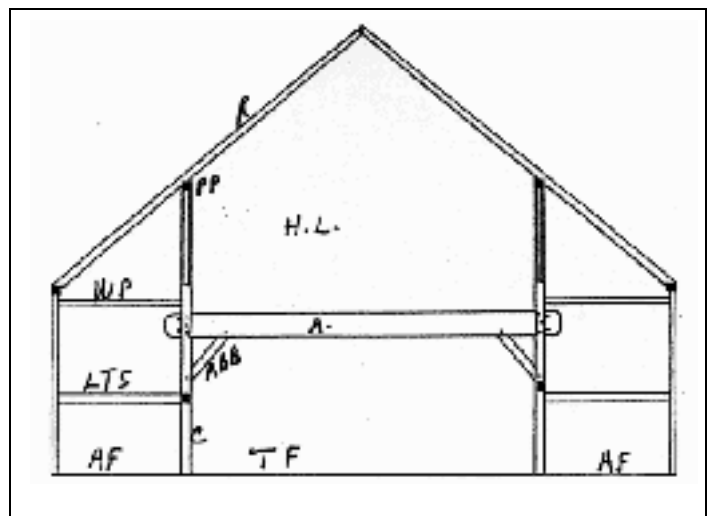
The Wortendyke Barn Museum's exhibits include handmade 18th and 19th century farm implements and tools, the history of the Wortendyke family farm, and exhibits showing the agricultural history of Bergen County from the first settlers until the present. The Revolutionary War and its impact on the Wortendyke family is touched upon.

The main feature of the museum is the barn building, an outstanding example of the vernacular architecture referred to as a "New World Dutch Barn." Wherever the Dutch settled along the Hackensack, Passaic, Raritan and Millstone Rivers and their tributaries, the heavy timber frames of these three-bayed, door-in-the-gable-end barns were raised. Other locations were along the Hudson and Mohawk Rivers, and Schoharie Creek in New York State.

In the United Provinces a section of the barn included living quarters for the farm family whereas in the New World the barn and dwelling were separate. Possibly this was to lessen the danger of losing the barn to fire from the household heating and cooking operations, and/or because firewood was plentiful and the warmth of the livestock wasn't needed to augment the fireplace.

Dutch Barns were constructed of local timber, down to the wooden fasteners called trunnels or pegs. Due to the ravages of time and the advancements in agriculture that have taken place over the last century and a half in this area, there are only a few examples of this type of barn extant. The accompanying illustration shows the barn's timber frame construction. The H-frame with the heavy horizontal summer beam provided great strength.

The Wortendyke Museum is open to the public from May through October on Wednesday and Sunday afternoons, and by appointment. You can find more information on the Museum at [www.artcom.com](http://www.artcom.com). Robert L. Cohen, holds a B.A. and advanced degrees from Rutgers University. He is the curator of the Wortendyke Dutch Barn Farm Museum and the Demarest House Museum at New Bridge Landing Historic Park, River Edge, NJ.







*Early 20<sup>th</sup> century Dairy and Hay Barn, Marion Co., Kentucky*

## Kentucky

Central Kentucky was one of two regions in the country chosen to participate in a pilot project, the Rural Heritage Development Initiative (RHDI).

The RHDI is a three-year project begun in 2006 to implement preservation-based economic development strategies in eight central Kentucky counties: Boyle, Green, LaRue, Marion, Mercer, Nelson, Taylor, and Washington. The RHDI is funded by the W. K. Kellogg Foundation with financial matches from private donors and the local counties: partners include Preservation Kentucky, the Kentucky Heritage Council, and the National Trust for Historic Preservation.

The RHDI includes a one-year survey project of the historic rural resources in Marion and Washington Counties. While not limited to barns and outbuildings, these are a special focus of the project. This will allow these buildings to be analyzed to a greater level than in earlier surveys, where barns tended to be included only in photographs attached to a form that concentrated on the main house at the site. This survey is important because it will assist with preserving rural places and rural farmland, critical goals of the RHDI. It will also be a great basis for local heritage tourism efforts, an important planning tool, and help lead to a better understanding of both counties' rich pasts.

This project is expected to record about 1400 sites, many with multiple buildings. The findings will be published and presented in the counties in a series of public meetings. For more info about RHDI and the Marion/Washington County Survey, contact Bill Macintire at the Kentucky Heritage Council, (502) 564-7005, ext. 124, [bill.macintire@ky.gov](mailto:bill.macintire@ky.gov).



*"Forest Grove Farm", Washington Co., GA, James Lockhart.*

## Georgia

The Georgia Centennial Farm Program (GCFP) honors farmers for their contributions to our state's agricultural heritage and encourages preservation of agricultural resources for future generations. Since 1993, GCFP has honored 327 farms from around the state.

Annual Awards and a Georgia Centennial Farm Certificate of Honor signed by the Governor are given to farmers in three distinguishing awards:

Centennial Heritage Farm- for farms owned by members of the same family for 100 years or more and listed on the National Register of Historic places.

Centennial Farm- for farms over 100 years old and listed on the National Register but not required to be continually family owned.

Centennial Family Farm- for farms owned by members of the same family for 100 years or more, but not listed in the National Register.

A bronze Georgia Centennial Farm plaque is also presented to farms listed on the National Register.

For program info contact Gretchen Brock, Chair, Georgia Centennial Farm Committee, Historic Preservation Div., Georgia Dept. of Natural Resources, 34 Peachtree Street, Suite 1600, Atlanta, GA 30303, (404) 656-2840, email [gretchen\\_brock@dnr.state.ga.us](mailto:gretchen_brock@dnr.state.ga.us). Application is available on our website at [www.gashpo.org](http://www.gashpo.org)

"Tilling the Earth: Georgia's Historic Agricultural Heritage" examines our agrarian history, identifies historic structures, archaeological remains, and landscapes and provides recommendations on the assessment of agrarian resources for nomination to the National Register of Historic Places. It is available on HPD's website.



## Colorado

Historic Routt County! (HRC!) works with property owners to document and preserve their historic ranches and rural properties through cultural resource surveys, architectural drawings and site plans. HRC! provides information about preservation treatment incentives, nomination assistance, and technical support for projects.

HRC partners with the University of Colorado at Denver Graduate School of Architecture to document and survey historic Routt County ranches. Over 80 ranches have been recorded to date. Copies of surveys are given to the property owner, the State of Colorado Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation, the University of Colorado-Denver and are on file at Historic Routt County.

In 1999 the U.S. Forest Service and Historic Routt County! partnered to preserve the Mad Creek Barn, built in 1906 by early forest ranger Harry Ratliff. The building was added to the Routt County Register of Historic Places in 2000. The Colorado Historical Society's State Historical Fund provided funding for the stabilization of the barn. A series of preservation projects were initiated using a local contractor and HRC! volunteers. Work on the barn was largely completed in late 2001 and two interpretive signs were placed on the trail leading to the site.

**Kansas-** Our new state affiliate member, the Kansas Barn Alliance (KBA), has been very active this year. The Kansas State Historical Society and State Historic Preservation Office have commissioned a survey of 300 Kansas Barns, about three per county. Consultants will write a multiple property nomination and prepare applications for listing some of the barns on the national and/or state register. This will build a framework for surveying and understanding Kansas farmsteads and help barn owners prepare nominations for listing. Listing on the National or Kansas Register is one of the qualifying requirements for Federal Historic Rehabilitation Tax Credits, Kansas Preservation Tax Credits and Kansas Heritage Trust Fund Grants. These programs are a substantial boost to owners rehabilitating their barns. Surveying only three barns per county is just a beginning. This creates tremendous opportunities for KBA to advocate and encourage locally organized grassroots surveys. There have been over 500 applications received so far for this state funded survey program. This gives KBA a list of 200 barn owners interested in an architectural survey. This response is tied directly to the Kansas Electric Cooperative's publication of the survey in their "Country Living" magazine. Great preservation partnership story! Visit KBA at [www.kansasbarnalliance.org](http://www.kansasbarnalliance.org).

**Maryland-** Preservation Maryland joined with Maryland Historical Trust (SHPO), local Heritage Areas, and the governments of five southern counties to find a future for the state's rapidly disappearing tobacco barns. The barns are threatened by suburban development in the Washington, Baltimore, and Annapolis metropolitan areas and by the 2001 Maryland Tobacco Buyout program, which rendered the vast majority of the structures obsolete.

In 2005, Rep. Steny Hoyer secured a Save America's Treasures Grant for the restoration of tobacco barns. This grant, along with a funding commitment from the Maryland Historical Trust and administration by Preservation Maryland, has created the Tobacco Barn Restoration Fund. The Fund has committed matching funds for the preservation of 27 barns across the region. Funding can only address a small percentage of the endangered barns. Efforts are underway to develop a thematic context for Maryland tobacco barns, and future plans include comprehensive survey, outreach and education, and public policy initiatives. Joshua Phillips, Dir. Preservation Services, Preservation Maryland



**Minnesota-** The Friends of Minnesota Barns (FoMNB) are excited about the National Preservation Conference coming to St. Paul this October. The conference will feature field trips Thursday and Friday. Thanks to the National Barn Alliance for helping us put together the tour itinerary. We will have a booth in the exhibition hall and hope to be next to the NBA booth.

We are working on two barn projects this summer. The first is Shepard's Way Farm, where we are helping move a barn from a state park to the farm. This barn will replace one lost to fire last year. The other project is moving a round barn 40 miles from St. Michael to Kingston. See you in St. Paul this fall. **Christina Harrison, Pres. FoMNB**





*Ev Rau borrows his neighbor's draft horses to pull new sills into place*

**New York-** Ev Rau is building a new barn on his family farm established in 1799, in Altamont, NY. It will replace the one that fell down in 1929, when he was ten years old. He always wanted to build a replacement so he decided to do it now while he's still young enough; Ev is 88 this year. Working with his son Ken and grandson Tim, they are building a traditional timber-framed 24x42 foot German-style barn. Most of the timbers are coming from the farm's own woodlot. Ev is a long-time member of the Dutch Barn Preservation Society and is giving timber frame workshops to benefit the Society. The Barn Raising is scheduled for October 15-21 and will be part of the tour of the NYS Barn Coalition Annual Conference. Watch the progress at <http://pleasantviewfarm1799.spaces.live.com/> and info at [www.dutchbarns.org](http://www.dutchbarns.org) [www.pleasantviewfarm.com](http://www.pleasantviewfarm.com)

**Michigan-** Coming event: Michigan Barn Preservation Network Annual Barn Tour & Conference, March 7 & 8, 2008. Location: Michigan State University's Kellogg Center. Go to [www.mibarn.net](http://www.mibarn.net) for more information.

**Ohio-** Friends of Ohio Barns- Our Mission Statement -To support and promote through education the awareness and understanding of the significance of Ohio's historic barns within their agricultural and architectural context, and their maintenance requirements. To encourage programs that provide resources for their stewardship and conservation as a lasting icon of our cultural heritage. <http://ohiobarns.osu.edu/index.html>

The Timber Framers Guild and volunteers helped the Clark County Park District restore, reassemble, and raise a historic barn at the George Rogers Clark Historic Park, in Springfield, Ohio. There was a Barn Repair and Reassembly Workshop July 7-21, capped off with an old-fashioned barn raising Saturday, July 21. Please check out the Timber Framer's Guild web [www.tfguild.org](http://www.tfguild.org) for project photos and documentation.

## Letter from Ohio-

My husband and I are the great-grandchildren of the CHAMBERLIN FAMILY in Miamisburg who donated the mid 1800's 40 x 60' bank barn to the G.R. Clark Park's Hertzler House project in Springfield, Ohio. When I knew the farm would be for sale, I started looking for ways to save our much-loved barn that the family always kept in excellent condition! Charles Whitney, and Ohio barn expert, agreed that we MUST preserve the barn. I tried to find restaurants, stores, parks, party centers, etc. who would be interested, but with no luck. I contacted Friends of Ohio Barns, timber framers, and then Rudy Christian, a timber framer, gave us the link to Jim Campbell at the G.R. Clark Park in Springfield. We donated the barn last fall, and a grand barn raising will occur July 2007. I am so proud that my efforts have resulted in the saving of a much-loved grand old barn. If someone reads this they may also try to save an Ohio barn for future generations.  
Lynn Chamberlin Miller

## BRING THE NATIONAL BARN ALLIANCE TO YOUR STATE—

Please become an individual or organizational member of the NBA.

The National Barn Alliance (NBA) started as an informal network of Cooperative Extension educators, historic preservationists and concerned citizens interested in barn preservation programming. Initially, the land grant universities of Illinois, Indiana, Michigan, Ohio and Wisconsin were involved. The organization has since grown to include other states, State Historic Preservation Offices, statewide barn preservation organizations and national organizations such as the National Trust for Historic Preservation. By sharing information on initiatives and strategies being used throughout the country, the NBA expects to strengthen the efforts of all our rural partners.

### Historic Barn Programs Today

As age, obsolescence and sprawl take their toll, barns are disappearing from the American landscape at a tremendous rate. Even rural counties often have only one quarter of the barns they had just 50 years ago. Rural historic resources throughout the country are in a fight for survival. There are now barn documentation and preservation programs at either the local or state level in nearly all fifty states. Survey, landmark designation, conservation easements, grant programs and tax incentives are just some of the tools being used to protect our vanishing rural heritage.

On our website you will find information and "how tos" for many of the tools described above. If you are interested in joining us in our nationwide effort to save barns and other historic resources of the American countryside, [please become a Member](#) of the National Barn Alliance today. Thank You!

## USDA Census of Agriculture-

The US Dept. of Agriculture (USDA)/National Agricultural Statistical Service (NASS) has designated the National Barn Alliance (NBA) as a partner for the promotion of the 2007 Census of Agriculture. The census has been taken every five years since 1790. For the first time, they will count historic barns, which is those older than 50 years, in this census. The national county-by-county data will be available by early 2009. We hope the next census will list date ranges for barn construction.

The NBA and the USDA/NASS will share a booth at the National Preservation Conference in St. Paul, MN October 2-6, 2007, coordinated by the National Trust for Historic Preservation.

The NBA will sponsor the BARN AGAIN luncheon on Wednesday and there is a good full day field trip, run back-to-back Thursday and Friday titled "Farms on the Fringe" that the NBA assisted the Friends of Minnesota barns and the Preservation Alliance of Minnesota to produce. We hope you can join us in St. Paul!



Iowa Historic Preservation Alliance shared a booth with USDA/NASS at the 20th Anniversary Conference for the Iowa State University-Leopold Center for Sustainable Agriculture.

### Iowa- Growing Up on an Iowa Farm

*As a child, I was privileged to grow up on a small farm in North Central Iowa. Once my older brother started kindergarten I was forced to become more resourceful in finding playmates.*

*I had the usual "invisible friend" named Suzy, but one of my favorite memories was playing with the many barn cats on our farm. The mother kitten would attempt to find the most unusual places she could to give birth to her litter, but somehow I managed to find the new kittens wherever they might be in the barn. Once their eyes opened, I was allowed to play with them and they became my playmates. I would give each of them a name and dress the poor things in doll clothes. "Poor Pitiful Pearl" was aptly named because she was the runt of the litter and looked quite pitiful in a doll's dress and bonnet. From Maggie Scott*



## 'The Building of the Barn'

by Charles Leik, from the Michigan History Magazine

The first talk I remember of building a barn was in the summer of 1910 when I was five years old. Dad and Mother discussed the barn plans for years and finally one Sunday in 1915 Dad had Julius Keusch, a carpenter from Portland come to the farm and give his advice.

Our existing barn was 80 feet long and 30 feet wide and had been made by joining two old 30 x 40 barns, dating from before the Civil War, together end to end. A lean-to was built onto one end to serve as a horse barn and the cow stable was on the opposite end. Dad's idea was to again separate the two barns and move the two sections together side by side to form a 40 x 60 barn with a basement underneath and put a new gambrel roof over the combined building. A new gambrel roof would allow more room for hay storage in the mow than the existing shed roof.

My oldest brother Jerry was 16 years old in 1915 and was excited about a new barn. Uncle Jim Moriarty was over one Sunday and strongly advised Dad to take the old barn down and build a completely new one. After this there was no more talk of using the old structure and plans progressed rapidly towards completing a barn by haying time in 1916.

One Sunday Dad and Mother drove five miles to Sebewa Corners to engage Omer Baker. Omer was a heavy set man of about 55 years who had come originally from Ohio. He had built many barns in the area over the years and they were noted for their well-designed proportions, particularly the gambrel roofs. Some builders got the relationship between the two pitches wrong and the result was an unattractive barn. A barn in a rural community was more than a building; it was a personal statement by the farmer about himself and his position in the community.

It was arranged that Jerry would take care of the endless round of winter chores so that Dad could spend his time in the woods felling the timber and hauling the logs to the sawmill site. Winter chores included: milking by hand morning and night, hauling water and chopping ice out of the water tank, mucking out the stables and feeding all the cattle, horses, hogs and sheep their various diets.

The first work in the woods started during winter school vacation, probably the week before Christmas. I was 10 years old and Henry 12. Jerry was helping Grant and Sherman Keefer to husk corn on the neighboring Knox farm. My other brother Henry and I went to see the steam powered husker work and while walking up the road heard the first tree fall with a deafening crash in the woods half a mile distant.

It was a large beech in the extreme northeast corner of the woods. I can still identify the heavy floor timbers in the barn that were sawn from it. They are the 10" x 12" joists 16' long just as you enter the south basement door of the barn. Now 75 years later you can still detect the beech bark where the timber didn't square up.

Dad and Ben Esch did all the felling with crosscut saws and used axes and saws to limb the trees. Our woodlot had to be stripped of all trees of reasonable size to furnish the timbers for the new barn. After the trees were felled my eldest sister Helen called Mr. Baker to tell him to come and mark the sizes he wanted them cut into. That call to Sebewa Corners five miles distant was the first long distance call our family ever made. It was a big event and we were all quiet as mice while Helen rang the operator and told her with an air of importance that it was to be "long distance" and gave Mr. Baker's name and town. Soon the operator rang back advising the connection was made.

Baker came in a few days and marked on the end of each log how it was to be sawn. The next job was to "skid" the logs. That is the process of hauling the logs into a pile near where the mill was to be located. The front end of the log was placed on two runners held together by a strong cross timber. It was called a tote. Our horses Rob and Doll strained to drag the logs over the uneven terrain and around the trees and stumps of the woods. There was one huge elm log that was moved only with great difficulty. Its size and weight can be imagined when you learn it was sawed into 55 2" x 5" rafters, each 14' long.

After the timber was sawn, the gravel hauling started. A great deal of gravel was required for the barn's foundation. Dad drove Rob and Doll the two miles to town and dug gravel from the face of a 50' sheer cliff near the Grand River. There was danger in undercutting the cliff since the frozen gravel above the excavation didn't slide down, and he worried that the frozen mass above could suddenly fall. He was relieved when after a thawing February day the face collapsed and the danger was temporarily past.



The winter of 1915-16 was a hard winter with deep snow and Dad was able to use the bobsled for gravel hauling. It carried an estimated 1 1/4 yards that weighed 3750 pounds. The sled was easily pulled on level ground, but hills were hard on the team. The toughest part was going up Dilly Hill from the river to the bluffs above with a load. The horses were only shod on the front as Dad believed rear shod horses were too dangerous if the powerful Belgians kicked. Shod only in front the team really had to strain to pull the load up that hill. Mother would see him returning in late morning and prepare hot soup. Dad would hand the team off to Jerry who by this time had finished morning chores, and go directly to thaw out in the house. Jerry could dump the load by pulling out the removable floorboards and letting the gravel fall to the ground. In this cold weather the load had to be dumped immediately before it froze. This trip was repeated daily and the pile slowly grew.

One stormy winter day Ben Esch drove his two-cylinder Buffalo-Pitts steam engine through the drifts to the woods. A large flat belt from the flywheel would turn the circular saw on the portable sawmill just as it powered a threshing machine during harvest. The boiler had to be drained every night after a day of work so as to avoid damage from freezing. Ben would then walk several miles across the snow-covered fields to town.

Dad dug a hole near where the engine was to sit and mistakenly thought enough water would seep and drain into it to supply the engine. It proved to be inadequate so the water had to be hauled with a tank wagon that had a pump mounted on top. The man assigned to this job was called the water monkey. We used Ben Esch's water tank. Jerry had to fill the ten-barrel tank full with a hand pump every day and draw the load to the woods.

Nick Hoppes brought his portable sawmill from his farm in Clinton County in several sled loads. The dismantled mill was heavy and this was hard work. Nick and his son Ralph were the sawyers and their pay for the entire operation that lasted through February and March was only \$100. The sawyers went home every night, a distance of at least 8 miles in a buggy or cutter depending on the weather.

As the days lengthened and winter changed to early spring, the daily process was for Ben to arrive early and start a fire in the Buffalo-Pitts so that steam was up when the sawyers arrived. Even though the waste wood was green it could be used as fuel after the steam engine's fire was started with dry materials.

Nick and Ralph would roll the heavy green logs onto the traveling saw carriage and secure them with dogs. Then the sawyer standing on the carriage would pass in front of the whirling 60' circular saw and cut off a 2" plank. The engine would huff and the saw scream and wet sawdust fly everywhere in the moments the saw engaged the log. Then the sawyer would advance the log 2" more into the saw and repeat the process. Each night there would be a pile of wet planks dripping sap, a heap of slab wood and a pile of sawdust.

Dad and Jerry did the excavating for the foundation as soon as the frost was out of the ground at the end of March. Then everything was ready for the actual construction to begin. Omer Baker and his crew of four carpenters arrived about April 1. The first job was to build forms and hand mix all the concrete with long handled hoes in a mortar box. The west basement wall was 22" thick at the base and the practice was to throw as many field stones as possible into the form with the concrete. This reduced the mortar mixing, saved concrete and eliminated the piles of stones we had collected from the fields. The foundation work took about a month and only then could the carpenters start to install the post and beams that would carry the first floor. While the green concrete was drying, most of the old barn was dismantled for roof boards and the subfloor of the new barn. One shed though was left standing for the horses and another lean-to as temporary shelter for the cows.

....Continued in our Online Newsletter

Read the full articles in ***"The Barn Door"*** at [www.barnalliance.org](http://www.barnalliance.org)



Dear Rudy and Laura Christian:


I wanted to take a moment and thank you so much for the lovely experience that you shared with my students in April. I could hardly believe how enthusiastic they were! We spent several days after your visit discussing the barn raising. Their eyes were opened to so many ideas. They have a better understanding of life before the industrial revolution and the onset of prefabrication materials. They understood that items had more value because it took so much more time to make. They brought their experiences into our unit on immigration and the different groups that came over to farm. They poured over the booklets that were left to see which groups made which style of barn. We discussed the need to preserve old buildings and it made sense. "Of, course we should save old buildings. Do you have any idea how long and how many people it took to build that?" Several children decided to write persuasive letters about preservation in writing class.

The raising of the barns also made them see themselves differently. They realized that adults aren't just talking when they say they should work together. Several times I have heard students remind others that when they work together they can even build a barn! A few students who have not always been well received by their classmates have new respect from their peers. Maybe they couldn't write the best essay, but did you see how they put the roof on that barn?

I thought that this would just be a fun activity for the children to experience; a way for history to come alive. Little did I know what gift you were giving my students.

Enclosed is some of the writing that the children did describing their experience. I hope you enjoy them!

Thank you,

  
 Tammy Kaleta  
 Intermediate Teacher  
 Albany School of Humanities



### Let the NBA be Your Resource

If you don't already know, your students will tell you, "Barns are Cool!"

The NBA and our organizational members around the country have the resources and materials to help you bring an appreciation of our agricultural heritage to your students in any manner you can dream of: through history, math, geometry, crafts, computers, shop, design, lectures, videos, and the awesome hands-on fun of building a large-scale model barn!

### *Tear-off Lessons from the National Barn Alliance, Fall 2007*

#### *Computer Lesson #1 (from our Iowa members)*

**Subject:** Social Studies: Agriculture

**Grade Level:** 7-8

**McRel Standards:** US History Era 6: The development of the Industrial United States (1870-1900)

**Benchmark:** Understands how the rise of corporations, heavy industry, and mechanized farming transformed American society.

**Iowa Model Core Literacy:** Writing: Uses writing as a tool for learning

**Curriculum:** Uses an effective writing process

**Anticipatory Set:** How are designs of farm buildings (barns) today different from those of late 1800's, and early 1900's?

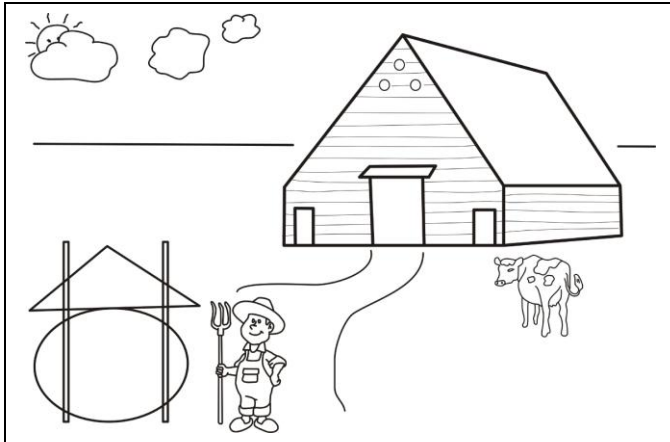
**Objective:** The students will be able to reproduce the barn designs of gambrel, gable, and gothic using different drawing tools on the computer. Drawings are done in the landscape layout. Students are encouraged to add as much detail as possible: doors, windows, cupola, weather vane, lightening rods, alignment of barn boards (horizontal or vertical), etc.

Students should complete the drawings in black and white. Students are encourage to attempt a drawing in 3D if possible. Students should be encouraged to experiment with the different tools on the tool panel (not just the rectangle and oval). Polygon tools are ideal for drawing the roof. Freehand tools would help with different landscape features.

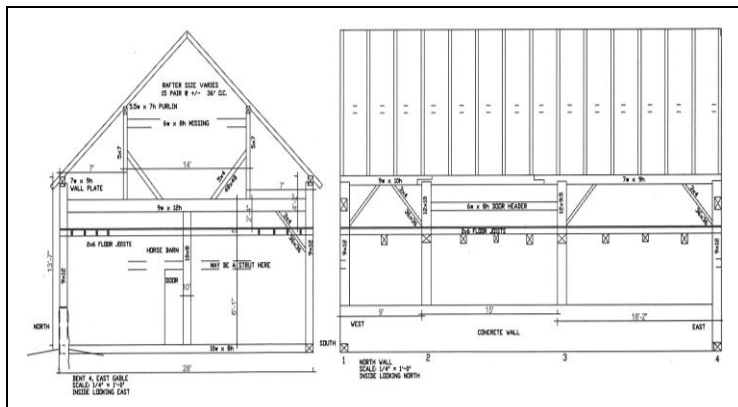
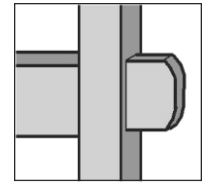
After the students have replicated the gambrel, gable, and gothic styles of barns, they are to create their own barn modern barn design using the draw tool on the computer.

**Assessment:** The student will complete three drawings (one each of gambrel, gable, and gothic) as well as one of their own design. In a short paragraph they will compare and contrast each roof design. In another paragraph they will explain the design that they created and how it will better meet the needs of today's farmer.

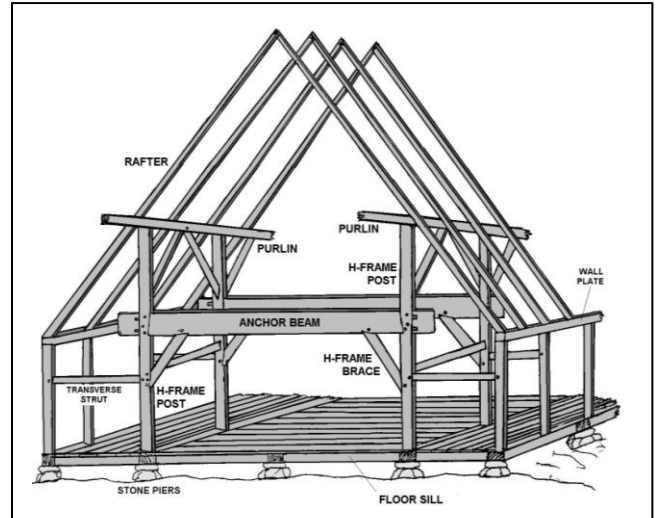
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COLORING BOOKS



DRAFTING & CAD DESIGN



TECHNICAL DIAGRAMS- DUTCH BARN FRAME

RECIPES

**What would it have been like to eat at a barn raising meal?**

Curious about what the food tasted like at the barn raising meal? Here are some simple recipes that you can make in class that will give you a flavor of what food was eaten at a barn raising. Remember, early barn raisers used dairy products, fruits, vegetables, and meat from what they raised on their own farms. Very little was purchased from the general store in town. How is that different today?

Try these recipes and share with your classmates what you think about the taste, convenience, and way that it is prepared.

**Homemade Vanilla Ice Cream**

During a barn raising, the men would take a break in the afternoon for a cold drink and dessert. One treat that they really enjoyed was a scoop of homemade ice cream after working on the barn all afternoon. The women and children would churn the ice cream after lunch for all to enjoy. Using the cream and milk from the dairy cows and eggs from their chickens, the families once again used the foodstuffs they had to feed their families.

**Ice Cream In A Bag**

- Ingredients:
- 1/2 cup milk
  - 1 tablespoon sugar
  - 1/4 tsp. vanilla
  - 6 tablespoons of salt

- Supplies:
- 1-quart size zip-lock freezer bag
  - 1-gallon size zip-lock freezer bag
  - Lots of ice

Mix milk, vanilla, and sugar together in quart bag. Seal tightly, allowing as little air to remain in the bag as possible. Fill the gallon freezer bag half full of ice. Add the salt. Seal the bag. Place the quart bag inside the gallon bag and seal carefully. Again let all the air escape. Wrap the bag in a towel. Gently shake the bag for 5-6 minutes. Ice cream should form. Wipe off the small bag before opening. Enjoy your ice cream!





## ‘The Layout System’

by Richard Lazarus

A layout system is the method that a builder uses to mark timbers for cutting so that the intent of the building’s design can be realized when it is erected.

During the period most of our historic timberframed barns were built there were three layout systems used: scribe rule, square rule, and mill rule. Repairs should be made in whatever layout system was used by the original builder, and that joinery should match the original. Using traditional layout and joinery makes sense economically as well as historically.

The barns with the magnificent heavy timbered frames were built using the scribe rule, square rule, and mill rule layout systems. These layout systems are similar. The very oldest barns in NY were built to the scribe rule. Scribe rule barns are most readily identified by marriage marks on the layout faces of mated timbers. Marriage marks are usually scratched-in roman numerals with other identifying marks. The scribe rule died out in use pretty much before around 1820 and was replaced by the square rule layout system, which was very much in use by 1810. However, we have found and identified a few frames with marriage marks that are positively square rule. We are calling them “transition frames”. The mill rule is an adaptation of the square rule made possible and recognizable by the use of accurately sawn timbers

Understand the layout system and all the mysteries of timberframed barns disappear. Illiterate carpenters with only a pencil or scratch awl, a framing square and the ability to remember 10 principle dimensions of a barn could lay out all the cutting of a frame without plans. Education of modern carpenters is important in acquainting them with old time layout systems. Why ruin an old frame because of modern ignorance?

Barns timber-framed in the square rule should be repaired with replacement members cut in the square rule. Barns timber-framed in the scribe rule should be repaired with replacement members cut in the scribe rule, of course mill rule building repairs should be cut in the mill rule.

Richard Lazarus is a Timberframer & Barn Restorer, and contact to the NYS Barn Coalition for the Traditional Timberframers Research and Advisory Group (TTRAG). This is an excerpt from ‘Recommendations for Appropriate Repairs to Historic Barns’ . Another excerpt will be in our next newsletter and can the entire article is on our website.



### National Barn Alliance – Book of Barn Records

We are creating a new book of records so that you can claim some bragging rights in our World of Barns. Send your record-holder to us. It may be the biggest, the oldest, the first, the last, whatever record breaking barn fact you can document, we want to know! Send digital photo, location, etc. to [info@dutchbarns.org](mailto:info@dutchbarns.org)

Here’s our record, can you beat it?

Widest Wall boards.  
Current Record Holder- 28 inch wide, Frederick Barn, Guilderland, NY

*RECYCLED BARNs* by JOE PECK

It was billed as a tour of studios, galleries and farms. It sounded innocent enough. It would be an opportunity to see how a once thriving agricultural area was changing as more farmers retired and more ‘outsiders’ moved into the former farms. The tour was an opportunity to show off new uses for once proud dairy barns.

The first stop was a dairy barn turned into a high-class carpentry/cabinetmaker shop. The tie stalls were gone, replaced by plywood floors on which stood a plethora of precise woodworking machines, many of which I had never seen before. We walked past a long beautiful table soon to grace a corporate boardroom. Similar exquisite custom-made cabinets stood in various stages of completion. This barn and this craftsman were turning out many beautiful pieces where a fine herd of registered ayshire cattle once stood. I didn’t know whether to laugh or cry. I knew the dairyman who owned those cows. I hope he understood that the new caretaker cared for his craft as much as the farmer did for his.

Our next visit was to another former dairy barn, now a beautifully decorated marketplace for floral designs, specialty foods and handicrafts. The hayloft is now full of racks for drying flowers and herbs and the milking parlor is now a workshop for wreath making and craft classes. It is a successful business without a cow anywhere. I was sad to see the empty stanchions but happy to see a new use for such a well built structure.

We sped on to an old hay barn converted to an art gallery for several local artists. Again, I was glad to see a new use for a proud old English-style center drive-through barn. The art was tastefully displayed on the hand hewn beams and rough sawed boards, but missing was the smell and dust of over ripe timothy hay that this barn had stored for over one hundred years. As I looked at those huge beams and carefully fitted joints, I wished that those early carpenters could see this new use for their old barn.

It wasn’t until our last stop that we saw a real farm with a large herd of dairy cows milked in a circular parlor. It even had a raised platform so that the entire milking operation could be viewed through a picture window, protecting the viewers from the odors and splash of a usual parlor visit.

I felt right at home. To me that was the best art of all.

Joe Peck is a Saratoga County, NY, dairy farmer, storyteller, humorous speaker, author of "A Tractor In the House & Other Smashing Farm Stories" and "A Cow in the Pool & Udder Humorous Farm Stories". See more at [www.joepeckonline.com](http://www.joepeckonline.com)



Ruth & Warren Taylor



NEW YORK STATE BARN COALITION  
ANNUAL CONFERENCE  
OCTOBER 19, 20, 21, 2007  
'Surveying and Recording Barns in New York State'

Mabee Farm Historic Site, Rotterdam Junction  
Home of Dutch Barn Preservation Society  
Tours of Historic Buildings and the 'Onrust', Replica  
1614 Shipbuilding Project.

Saturday, Oct. 20. 8:30-5:00 Programs and presentations by Barn historians and researchers. Presentation by the National Barn Alliance on the establishment of a nation-wide barn preservation advocacy organization. Fee: \$20 includes lunch.

Saturday Night Dinner and Keynote Speaker Lauren Stiles, *"Windsor, New York: Shakers Building Barns Away from Home"*, at historic restaurant in the Stockade. Fee: \$30.

Friday, Oct. 19. 4-6 Opening Reception at the Schenectady County Historical Society. Light refreshments, tour of museum, guided Walking Tour of the Historic Stockade Neighborhood. Fee: Free with Conference registration.

Sunday, Oct. 21, 10am-2pm. Barn Tour, bus trip through Schenectady County. Fee: \$15.

Information & Registration: [info@dutchbarns.org](mailto:info@dutchbarns.org)

Co-sponsors: Schenectady County Historical Society, and the National Barn Alliance  
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Windsor, NY



Funding for this conference made possible in part by a grant from the Schenectady County Legislature through its County Initiative Program.



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**Join the National Barn Alliance today! Our mission:**

- Encourage the documentation, through surveys and photography, of historic barns and other rural structures throughout America.
- Encourage and support the creation of statewide and local barn preservation organizations and programs.
- Facilitate the sharing of information on barns, their history and their maintenance.

Your membership will help us in our efforts to document and protect our vanishing rural heritage. For more information visit our website at [www.barnalliance.org](http://www.barnalliance.org)

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Send your check (payable to NBA) and membership form to:  
 National Barn Alliance, Inc., c/o Rod Scott, 704 Fremont St., Iowa Falls, IA 50126



***“The Barn Door”***  
 Newsletter of the National Barn Alliance  
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