



# Spreading the..... Farm Museum Newsletter

**ST. CLAIR COUNTY FARM MUSEUM**  
"PRESERVING A BIT OF YESTERDAY FOR TOMORROW"

## SPECIAL POINTS OF INTEREST

General Membership Meetings:

Please check the website for updates—  
<http://www.stclaircountyfarmmuseum.org>

## NEW LEADERSHIP

The November membership meeting ushered in new board members. Elected to the Board of Directors was Linda Taylor, Melissa Wilson and Keith Barnhart. Following the

meeting the Board met to elect officers. Newly elected as president is Fred Peasley, with Terry Dunn serving as vice president, Linda Taylor as secretary, and continuing as treasurer is Bill Schultz.

Joining the new officers on the Board of Directors are returning members Yvonne Markle, Wayne Coon, Kim Schultz, and Bill Zegelian. Thank you to all who serve.

## MEMBER SPOTLIGHT - FRED PEASLEY

Usually seen driving his Farmall 806 tractor around the Farm Museum, Fred is one of the guys that helps keep the farming operation running smoothly. Farming comes naturally to Fred who is no stranger to farm work. Growing up in central Michigan on a small farm with three brothers, the family milked cows and shipped canned milk. Two of his brothers continued to farm with their father and the operation continues today as a custom farming and haying operation. Fred occasionally takes a "leave of absence" from the Farm Museum to travel to the family farm to assist his brother at planting and harvest time.

Fred left the farm to drive truck for about twenty five years retiring in 1998. He then went to work for BTM Corporation in Marysville where he worked for the next 20 years. Since then his time

is spent volunteering at the farm museum as well as helping his brother. Fred attributes his mechanical and repairing knowledge to his experience repairing farm equipment and is always willing to offer help at the museum to keep the equipment in tip-top shape. It stands to reason that restoring old equipment is one of Fred's favorite hobbies as is surfing the internet, often in search of information pertaining to vintage equipment.

Fred has been a member for the past seven years and enjoys sharing his knowledge of older practices of farming with visitors and became a member to help with the farming and repairs of the museum equipment. One of his favorite projects at the Museum is the Pumpkin Fest of which he is a co-founder. Seeing the smiles on young peoples faces when they arrive at the patch is priceless. Harvest Days is another of the

events where Fred enjoys sharing his knowledge of the Museum artifacts.

The sharing of experiences seems to be the theme of the story of Fred, whether it be to youngsters who have little experience with the farming way of life or to stir up memories in some of us who are "not so young". Fred says "thank you all for allowing me to share my experiences with you all"! We should all be saying thank you to Fred for all of the hard work at the Museum and for sharing his experiences with us!



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## THANK YOU

**“It’s a dirty job, but someone needs to do it.”**

Tuesday, November 1st was the day when the youngest members of the steam team worked to prepare the steam engines for storage. Thanks to Steven & Mark Schwab and Micah, Tom & Caleb for getting dirty and taking care of this chore.



L-R: Steven, Tom, Caleb, Mark, Micah

Speaking of the three young men, Mark said “I think they had fun getting dirty, and Steven and I went home cleaner than we ever have.”



Tom vacuuming the Baker flues

### Winter Storage

Thanks to museum members Fred Peasley, Terry Dunn, Ray Theut, Dennis VanNuck, Dennis Derby & Scott Eisele for spending Saturday, November 5

moving equipment to the winter storage areas. The group was small but efficient in completing this annual task.

### Lumber Donation

The Farm Museum recently donated lumber to the Lexington Community Garden group which it used to construct a raised bed garden box. The bed will be planted by an elderly, mobility challenged individual so that he may continue to pursue his gardening passion for years to come.

Lexington garden raised bed



## UPCOMING & PAST EVENTS

### Membership Meetings

January 17, 2023  
February 21, 2023  
March 21, 2023

### Sleigh Day 2023



TBD in Jan. or Feb.

Please check the museum website, facebook, or call to confirm the events you are interested in attending

### Breakfast with the Easter Bunny

Join the Easter Bunny for a pancake breakfast with all the trimmings on Sunday April 2, 2023. Breakfast will be served up from 9 am until 1 pm at the Goodells County Park Community Center. Family fun with crafts, raffle baskets, good food, and an Easter Egg Hunt.



Enjoying the Easter Breakfast 2022

### Santa Breakfast

The Farm Museum would like to thank two members of the former Avoca Boy Scout Troop 141. Justin Morrison and Evan Frankowiak assisted patrons by helping clear the tables after their meal. These two Scouts always lend a helping hand by providing community service at Museum events. The former Troop 141 is on the verge of dissolving due to the lack of young men interested in becoming scouts. If you know of any young men between the ages of 10 and 17 that are interested in becoming Scouts, they should contact Scott at: [rustyforgeblacksmith@gmail.com](mailto:rustyforgeblacksmith@gmail.com)



## THANK YOU CONTINUED

### Pumpkin Fest

Pumpkin Fest was a huge success this year thanks to the efforts of Fred and Dianne Peasley, Bob Sullivan, Terry Dunn and countless other members and volunteers. Many people helped to make this a fun event for the three weekends in October. Thank you to all who helped.



### Field Corn Harvest

Approximately 30 bushels of corn have been harvested thanks to the efforts spearheaded by member Terry Dunn. The corn will be used to demonstrate various corn shelling and grinding operations at Fall Harvest Days and other events. The corn was harvested with a vintage Oliver, model 5, one row corn picker which was carefully put back into service after many hours of repair work by Terry, Fred Peasley and Mark Taylor.



The Oliver Model 5 corn picker

### Seed & Soul Donations

The Farm Museum continues it's support to the community through donations to other organizations. Excess pumpkins were donated to The Seed and Soul Society for distribution to those in need.



Pumpkins on display by Seed and Soul

### Sperry's Santa Parade



Terry on the 10 - 20 pulling the people mover in the Sperry's parade

The Farm Museum was represented in the Sperry's Santa Parade thanks to the work of Terry Dunn. Terry decorated the Museum's 1935 McCormick-Deering 10-20 and a people mover for an entry in the November 25th Port Huron parade.

### Breakfast with Santa

We can't say thank you enough to all of the members and volunteers who helped to decorate, prepare and serve breakfast, prepare and sell raffle baskets and tickets, host the kids activities, and in general make the Breakfast with Santa event a huge success. And we can't leave out jolly old St. Nicholas who greeted the youngsters, checked his list and recorded all their wishes.

We also thank all of the patrons and families who enjoyed breakfast and supported the Museum.

The Museum couldn't continue to exist without the support of members, volunteers and the people who attend our events. Hope to see you all next year.



The kitchen crew stirring up the goodies



Santa's North Pole workshop and reindeer stable

## REMEMBERING THE PAST

## ANN ARBOR AGRICULTURAL COMPANY

The second industrial revolution in the latter quarter of the 19th and beginning of the 20th centuries brought about many developments in industries throughout the United States. Building on the inventions of the first industrial revolution, this age of invention and machinery brought about rapid improvements in agricultural implements. The news article in the *Ann Arbor Argus* of December 15, 1893 describes the rise of one such company and its effects on the Ann Arbor community and people residing there.

In 1866, some accounts say 1865, Lewis Moore and Son began the manufacture of farming implements on a small scale. Over the years, the company ownership changed and in turn had a variety of name changes. Research indicates conflicting dates and names starting with L. Moore and Son from 1866 to 1870. Adding investors to the company brought about a change in the company name, according to one source, to Finnegan, Howard and Moore in 1878 however another source indicates that the name at this time was Ann Arbor Agricultural Company and in 1888, the company was incorporated under this name. Production under this name

continued until a company reorganization in 1903 changed the name to Ann Arbor Machine Company lasting until 1920. That year, the name was briefly changed to Ann Arbor Baler Company. Later that same year, the company was sold with the name changed back to Ann Arbor Machine Company. In 1923 the company was moved to Shelbyville, Illinois where it remained until 1943 when it was purchased by Oliver Farm Equipment Co. The balers produced after 1943 by the company were named "Oliver Ann Arbor" baler with the Ann Arbor name being dropped in 1949.



[https://mycompanies.fandom.com/wiki/Ann\\_Arbor\\_Machine\\_Company?file=Annarbor.JPG](https://mycompanies.fandom.com/wiki/Ann_Arbor_Machine_Company?file=Annarbor.JPG)

In 1893, it was reported that the company employed 100 men at "good wages" and was still growing. The brick and frame factory covered over 2 acres and was located on the north bank of the Huron River and East of Broadway street in Ann Arbor, Michigan. Situated along the river, the

factory was able to harness the water power of the river to power the machinery and later used a combination of water and steam power. This location was close to two major railroads, the Michigan Central running between Ontario and Chicago, and the Toledo, Ann Arbor & North Michigan railroad between Toledo and Frankfort among other towns in Northern Michigan. These rail lines allowed the Ann Arbor Agricultural Co. to both import raw materials and export finished implements.

The Ann Arbor Agricultural Co. under its various names became the leading manufacturer of hay presses and stationary balers. Other products manufactured included plows, mowers, hay-tedders, hay presses, feed cutters, etc. and were advertised under the names of advance iron mower, advance hay tedder, improved cummings cutter, advance chilled plow, ideal balance dump rake and new advance steam hay press.

After sixty three years of farm machinery manufacturing, it would seem that there would be an abundance of farm equipment manufactured by the Ann Arbor company but there seems to be a lack of this equipment in collections. Where did it all go?



# A VISIT TO THE WOODS COUNTY POOR FARM MUSEUM IN OHIO

By David Bennis

While traveling south on I-75 recently I stopped at the Woods County Poor Farm Museum just South of Toledo. I didn't realize that it was near closing time but the director and assistant director kindly kept things open to give me a guided tour.



Woods County Poor Farm resembles the original St. Clair County Poor Farm

The Woods County Poor Farm looks similar to the dormitory that was erected in what is now the parking area near the Splash Pad in our Goodells County Park in 1875. As you may know, that structure burned down in 1914 and was replaced with a masonry structure which served as the Poor Farm dormitory until the Poor Farm ceased operations in 1957. As many remember, it was repurposed as the St Clair County Infirmary in 1964. It was later renamed as the SCC Medical Center until those operations ceased and the building was demolished in 1993.

Anyway, back to Woods County. The director's vision was to represent all of Ohio's 48 Poor Farms that once existed in the State. As such, a volunteer agreed to visit all 48 sites

and take pictures of what might be left of them. A room is set aside for a compilation of pictures of those Poor Farms sites.



Museum directors seek to represent all 48 of the original Ohio Poor Farms and have photographs and information on each.

The director was able to obtain various original documents of inmate forms and registrations. And, yes, residents at our SCC Poor Farm were referred to as "inmates" as well. Many of these interesting documents are neatly framed and hung throughout.

The museum is in the process of setting up several rooms to represent interior locations of that period including an examination area, residential dorm room and hospital ward area.



The Woods County Poor Farm Museum's re-creation of an Infirmary ward room

Numerous attractive and well researched informational display panels are dispersed



The Museum is developing a bath and examination room from its days as an Infirmary

throughout the museum that explain the evolution of social welfare and the history of the Poor Farm system. The Woods County Poor

Farm transitioned to an "Infirmary" as did our SCC Poor Farm.

A quick walk around the grounds indicates that they have an operating stationery steam engine and a few remaining original small barns.



A stationery steam engine, several original out buildings and nice grounds to see.

My excellent hostesses agreed to assist me any way they can with regard to developing exhibits regarding our SCC Poor Farm and infirmary. They do have a wonderful advantage in that their original dormitory still stands, is beautifully re-stored with a complete kitchen for hosting large events and a nice little gift shop.

A very interesting side trip - right off of I-75 just south of Toledo for the next time you're in the area.

WE'RE ON THE WEB  
STCLAIRCOUNTYFARMMUSEUM.ORG



Find us on Facebook



## ST. CLAIR COUNTY FARM MUSEUM

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Goodells, MI 48027

810-325-1737  
sccfarmmuseum@gmail.com

### Museum Board

Fred Peasley, President  
Terry Dunn, V. President  
Linda Taylor, Secretary  
Bill Schultz, Treasurer  
Keith Barnhart

Wayne Coon  
Yvonne Markel  
Kim Schultz  
Melissa Wilson  
Bill Zegelian

The mission of the St. Clair County Farm Museum is to provide an understanding of our heritage, add to our areas cultural base and enhance regional tourism. This is achieved by acquiring, preserving and presenting agricultural and domestic equipment and related artifacts in structures and settings which will portray the origin and evolution of farming and rural living from when the area was first settled until about 1960.

The museum is a 501c3 charitable non profit organization which is operated entirely by volunteers. The museum always welcomes new volunteers to join us in achieving our mission. An agricultural background is not a requirement to become a member. Please join us at our meetings on the third Tuesday of each month at 7 pm in the Community Building at Goodells County Park.

St. Clair County Farm Museum  
P.O. Box 202  
Goodells, MI 48027

PLACE  
STAMP  
HERE