

CSI: Cleveland

By Centreville Settlement, Inc.

News of the Old, the New, the Weird, and the Not-So

Fourth Quarter 2010 Volume 22, Num 1-4?

For a fair lot of us, our work fields involve a great deal of volume: An accountant files vast amounts of numbers each day, the farmer's modern tractors almost drive themselves over wide swaths of land to meet our needs, and even the service folk see hundreds of customers in a week. In my own field of manufacturing, thousands of parts pass through my hands alone weekly -- millions if one considers shifts worth of weeks. After being used to that level of production, its sometimes hard to imagine how the original settler families made their individual houses (and housebarns!) by hand from standing trees. Modern building

techniques utilize many pre-made materials to create a dwelling and in a deceptively short time. In 1849 when the Lutze Housebarn was being built, all the pieces were cut from the local trees and axe-hewn to their specific needs for the specific places that they would be used, as time was available between starting a farm and basic survival needs (interim shelter, food, water, etc... for the family and the animals). Many of the structures of the time were relatively simple affairs for just such reasons. While we do not have to worry

about the logistics, it's still difficult to imagine the work without experiencing it first hand.

At the Lutze Housebarn project site, just such an experience is available. All the timbers are



Lee sharpens his scythe and his skills

hand finished by our volunteers with axes, adz and chisels. The foundation is repaired with fieldstone and mortar like the builders would have in the early days. The experience is remarkable, be it the timber work at our own project site or the recent chance to try one's own hand hammering hot iron at the blacksmith workshop in the historic Pinecrest Village.

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It gives a deeper appreciation of what our collective ancestors could accomplish and what we ourselves are still capable of doing if we so choose. - Lee Koeppen

Join the Fun at Old Fashioned Christmas Dinner, December 6th

Celebrate Christmas as your grandparents did. All members and their friends are invited to join Centreville Settlement's annual Old Fashioned Christmas Dinner.

This year it will be Monday, December 6 at Hickory House in downtown Cleveland.

Festivities begin with social hour at 5:30 PM. Dinner will be served at 6:30 PM.

All board members and regular members are requested to attend. A brief business meeting will seek future ideas for Centreville Settlement and commence

highlighting the years accomplishments.

The evening includes singing German and English Christmas carols, entertainment, and memories of Christmas's past—a holiday celebration to be remembered.

The cost of \$16 per person includes a full old-

fashioned family-style dinner starting with turkey carved at the table through old-family-recipe dessert.

Make your reservations by calling and sending a check to Kathy Sixel at 920-693-8525 by November 29th.

Centreville Settlement Grows

Since 2008 an historic garden is growing at the Lutze Housebarn. Heirloom seeds are being planted from the 1850's. Kathy Sixel secured the seeds from Seed Savers <http://www.seedsavers.org/>

This year three 'Sheboygan Tomato' plants produced about ½ bushel of thick walled tomatoes off of three plants. Summer squash,

Brussels sprouts and a cauliflower were also featured. The produce is used for the farm style lunches served on work days at the Lutze Housebarn.

In 2009, John Lozsinecki of Milwaukee planted his donation of four Concord grape vines which are now thriving. The purpose of the historic garden is to showcase what settlers would have grown in



the area in the 1850s through the 1900s. The historic garden is part of the long-range educational plans and complements the fruit trees which were planted in the 1990s on the Housebarn property to perpetuate the landscape. - Kathy Pearce

CSI Booth at Sheboygan County Historical Expo

Several of us attended the Expo this spring. Our display consisted of several different kinds of breads that had been baked the previous day in the outdoor bake oven. Besides



showing loaves of bread tumbling out of a wicker wash basket, various bulletin boards highlighted the history

of the Lutze Housebarn and a variety of bread making artifacts.

There were over 25 Historical Societies with display booths. This event gave us an idea of the themes and locations of these various Historical Societies.

It was amazing to see the great diversity of the groups and their displays. There were approximately 300 people in attendance.

I hope many of you are able to attend in 2011.

Along with the many displays, there was a delicious meal included. If you attend, you will find yourself having a most memorable day! - Kathy Sixel

***Did you know
Centreville Settlement is
now on Facebook??
Become a fan or friend
today! Lots of photos,
from bread making to
the building trades,
come check us out.***

Position Available:

Part-time consultant position, fee based on experience and qualifications. Looking for person committed to the history of the Centreville area and the community. Good oral, writing, presentation, electronic, and communication skills required. Grant writing skill a plus. Position expandable dependent on performance and results. Contact 414-828-4942 or janetlutze@ameritech.net

Looking for Treasurer and Membership Director for CSI:

Are you an organizer, like talking and working with people, responsible with money, detail oriented, and know the basics of computers? If so, and you are a CSI member, would you consider being the Centreville Settlement Treasurer or Membership Director? Both tasks involve perhaps 2 hours per month and 5 to 10 hours one month per year. Treasurer receives invoices, obtains approval to pay and writes checks. Accountant Vicki Dargis does our actual accounting and IRS filings. Membership Director receives members' contact information and payments, maintains the membership list, sends annual mailings and follow-ups for renewals. Please consider yourself for one of these areas. If you are interested, please contact Kathy Sixel or Lee Koeppen.

TRIBUTE—TRIBUTE—TRIBUTE—TRIBUTE

Centreville Settlement volunteers and members want to pay tribute to four valued members for their years of service over the past 20 plus years.

Edith Lutze, due to ill health, is not able to continue to prepare food and set up the kitchen for 5 Star meals. Edith is leaving Cleveland and moving to Manitowoc. For more than 20 years Edith has faithfully decked the dining table with beautiful tablecloths, graced the table with fresh flowers, prepared numerous delicious main dishes, side dishes, and baked many, many goodies. Edith received the award for a 5 Star kitchen from volunteers. All the volunteers and members miss Edith and her cooking. Edith also was the Centreville Settlement historian and kept the scrapbooks in A-1 condition. She documented all the volunteer hours. Edith volunteered for many jobs from cleaning to whatever was necessary.

We thank Edith and her family for their foresight to see the value in saving the Housebarn, the only housebarn of this caliber remaining in the United States. Edith received a preservation award from the Manitowoc County Historical Society in 2010. Thank you for all your hard work and financial support Edith!

We will miss you and hope you enjoy your new home. Come and visit us often.

Florence Kracht was our faithful volunteer who helped prepare and serve meals on workdays at the Housebarn. Among other things, she was known for her delicious honey butter. Not only did she make it for workdays but also for our Bake Oven events. The general public loved the honey butter as much as we did. We will miss Florence's gentle happy manner. One time Florence was helping with the noon meal at the house barn. She was serving chocolate pudding. She claimed this was a dessert from yester years. We sometimes forget about the goodies we once ate. Florence, we also appreciated the many times you brought your grandson Andrew to the Christmas Parties and instilled in him the love of history. Florence is missed by all.

Janet Lutze, has stepped down as CSI president but will continue to hold the office of secretary. Janet gave 110% of her time, talents, and knowledge. We thank you Janet, for your expertise and leadership the past 20 plus years.

Due to living some distance from the Housebarn, the task was not always easy. We can count on one hand the times you missed a workday or function. You were a wonderful promoter in all areas. Your organizational skills were outstanding and the leadership

ability you possessed helped Centreville Settlement grow as a grassroots organization. The volunteers and members will miss the scrumptious fresh salad and warm bread you provided for the potluck meals. In 2008, the Manitowoc County Historical Society and the State of Wisconsin recognized Janet for historical preservation efforts.

We hope your health will soon allow you to join us again. Janet, thank you for the years of dedication you gave to the Centreville Settlement!

Irene Dhein has been our treasurer for the past several years as well as being a great help with membership duties. She has decided to retire at the end of this year.

We want to thank Irene for a job well done. With her background in bookkeeping, she was a terrific choice for the treasurer position. We certainly did enjoy working with you and were always confident the books would be in balance. Are you sure you don't want to change your mind?

We applaud all of you for your excellent work!

Pizza & Bread Baking Day Enjoyed by Many

This spring we had a Pizza and Bread Baking day. The bread and pizza were baked in a brick bake oven located on the Margaret Klessig farm. The bake oven had its own separate little building that was called a summer kitchen. Board member Erik Klessig was the official fire starter. He was up early in the morning to start a roaring fire. The fire needed this early start so that the bricks could heat to a temperature of 450 to 500 degrees by midmorning.

For the bread dough itself, a different approach was tried this year. Whomever had a favorite bread recipe brought the mixed dough, let it proof, and then baked it. About 25 loaves were baked.

Chris Kuehnelt mixed a large amount of dough in a big mixer he has, and also brought along his modern bread making machine. While everyone's dough was raising in our proofing racks in the



room heated by the warm oven, we used the machine to make small batches of pizza dough in just a few minutes as guests arrived. We enjoyed a variety of breads, pizzas, "pigs in a blanket", and many delicious homemade toppings on warm buttered bread. It was a "wunderbar" day!

Next year's date has yet to be determined. When the date is announced, mark your calendar and join us for another "wunderbar" day of fresh baked warm bread oozing with butter and jam. Oh ya, we had some refreshments provided by Robert Klessig, "sehr gut" (translated "very good!").

After many great years of sampling Florence Kracht's Honey Butter at many CSI events, we offer to you with her family's permission, her timeless recipe:

Florence Kracht's Honey-Butter Recipe

1 1/2 #s soft butter

1# honey

Whip butter and gradually add the honey. Continue to whip until well mixed. Enjoy!!

Greater Centerville Historians

The GCH will meet Monday Nov. 8th at 6:30 PM in the Wells Fargo Room at Lakeshore Technical College. Will Belitz will continue his presentation on the Belitz Family. Everyone is welcome.

GCH is an affiliate of Centerville Settlement that focuses on recording oral histories of the Centerville area in a group setting.

Meeting monthly most of the year, topics are announced in advance allowing participants to bring materials for discussion and video recording.

Next meeting will be scheduled for spring 2011, dates and topic to be announced. Please contact Kathy Sixel 693-8525 for more info.

*We would enjoy getting
your email address so
we can email you our
newsletter, saving
postage and reducing
our carbon footprint for
mailings!*

CSI's Own Brick Bake Oven?

One of the on-going and "sideline" projects pursued by CSI has been documentation of a few of our remaining brick bake ovens and summer kitchens.

Thanks to the efforts primarily of Jerry O'Neal and Charlie Bauer the past few years, we have assembled video footage, drawings, and measurements of several. Charlie has built a beautiful model of the oven and summer kitchen at the Hetzel Farm that used to stand on the grounds of the Lakeshore Technical College. Bauer has also assembled a great collection of both old and new material describing

different kinds of oven construction and the details needed for building them.

This fall, discussions have started on the idea of building our own on the grounds of the Lutze Housebarn, or even a trailer carried oven that could travel for special events. If you are interested in being on the team to decide the details and/or build the oven, or are interested in baking or learning more about vintage ovens and baking, please contact Chris Kuehnelt at 920.693.3141 or cqnel@centrevillesettlement.com.



Inside shot of our favorite bake oven at Ed and Margaret Klessig's.

For your recipe collection: Christmas "Ditch" or "Dunk".

This, more than any other, was a traditional family dish and was served always and only for Christmas morning breakfast. In Germany it was served throughout the Holiday week, or whenever friends or neighbors dropped in. In America it is served all during the month of December.

Using a hard molasses cookie (ginger snaps serve very well) crumble into family sized bowl. Pour brandy over the crumbs until they are well covered. (Brandy may be sweetened with honey or rock candy or both, and diluted slightly with water.) Place bowl in center of table.

Serve Christmas stollen, each member cutting stollen into pieces, and then with a fork dunk into bowl and eat. Serve with plenty of hot coffee. -

Kathy Sixel

Our Board of Directors

President: Kathy Sixel 693-8525 kdsixel@tds.net
 Lee Koeppen 207-2070 leekoeppen@sbcglobal.net
 Vice President: Richard Wiegand 715-416-0513
rowiegand@compuserve.com
 Secretary: Janet Lutze 414-828-4942 janetlutze@ameritech.net
 Treasurer: Irene Dhein 693-8760

Board (A)

Gerald Heimerl, 693-8300 saxoncreamery@tds.net
 Girrard Jost, 726-4474, 693-8311 (wk), gjost@hotmail.com
 Brian Kraemer, 693-8935 bck76@tds.net
 Sarah Lutze, 693-3454 lutze@tds.net

Board (B)

Reick Beiersdorf, 693-8000
 Edward Heckman, 693-8632
 Erik Klessig, 693-3849
 Cindy Kraemer, 693-8935 bck76@tds.net
 Christopher Kuehnelt, 693-3141 cqnel@centrevillesettlement.com
 Kathy Pearce, 920-946-1036 kpear2002@yahoo.com
 Richard Lutze, 693-3454 lutze@tds.net

(A) Board of Directors terms expires in January of the even numbered years.

(B) Board members terms expire in January of the odd numbered years.

Term expires January meeting. All phones are area 920 unless listed differently.

Christmas Ideas.....

What should you hang by the chimney with care?? Well a stocking of course, but how about putting some great socks in that stocking for all your loved ones?? Centreville Settlement offers our wool blend Christmas gray heavy socks with a nice decorative raffia tie, ready for you to give as a treasured present. Whether being worn as a winter slipper around the house to keep those toes warm, or inside a steel toed boot volunteering at the Housebarn, these make a great gift and are available now from CSI for \$10 per pair.

*So..... Which will it be,
socks, soap, or both??*

Maybe it's time to help a friend clean up their act?? Handmade soap is always an appreciated gift.... This year CSI offers a very unique item, not only is it made with a two hundred year old family recipe by hand in Marie Pfeifer's kitchen, it was made in the 1950s, making the soap itself an antique! This is the same soap we use at the Housebarn for hand washing and that occasional clothes washing. It is in use in many members' homes for those stubborn laundry stains, and

even for general use in place of those modern detergents that often just don't clean as well as this proven product. Hand cut, they come in small blocks typically 2x3x3 inches, available in a light cardboard box, or you can package. \$2 per piece is a wise investment in clean living!

Both items are available with a phone call, and will be available at our Old Fashioned Christmas Dinner December 6th, which is by the way, a great time and place to start your holiday. Hope to see you there!

Centreville Settlement Membership Application

Membership and your membership in particular are key components of our funding, won't you please renew today?

- ☐ Individual \$25
- ☐ Family \$40
- ☐ Contributing \$125
- ☐ Supporting \$1000
- ☐ Benefactor \$5000

Name

Address

City, State, Zip

Email Address

Phone

Please make checks payable to:
Centreville Settlement, Inc.
P.O. Box 247
Cleveland, WI 53015

For 2011, please consider becoming a volunteer for:

- Special Events Committee
- Artifact inventory and recording
- Timber and carpentry
- Interior restoration and decorating
- Stone masonry

SPECIAL OFFER!

Just to show top management how many people attentively read their CSI: Cleveland newsletter; for any memberships received by Dec 20th, 2010, per the above article, your newsletter editor will provide you with a free pair of Christmas socks, or a free Handmade Soap, just by your writing the word 'socks' or 'soap' anywhere on this membership response letter. Thanks!!!



Housebarn Walking Trail Takes Shape

This year we have started forging a walking trail!

Starting from our front sign at the Lutze Housebarn, it will follow the low ridge around the far side of the lower pond and up past a large patch of raspberries along the western edge of the property, then meander up the steep hill to a perimeter loop on the upper flat area at the north end.

It provides excellent over-views to the property, potential views of the local wildlife (bird watching for example), and additional activity space on the north end.

The view from the north looking south to the Housebarn gives a new vision on what it may have felt like for the early settlers arriving from Germany.

This year's goal is to get the trail rough-cut with continuous improvements in coming years. We'll be looking for trail-making help in the spring of 2011. Interested?

We hope the end result will be an enjoyable addition to both the organization and the community.—*Lee Koeppen*



Charlie and Chris test fit our stump puller casting.

posts, timber framer Charlie Simonds would hand cut tenons and mortises.

Once the sill is in place, we'll shore it up for the winter on top of the remaining fairly stable foundation. In the spring we will excavate under the sill down to original solid foundation.

We got the stump puller timbers fitted up, and look to raise it in spring of 2011. Where do you think we should put it? We will also have a tricky repair of the cross tie plate that goes across the east end of the building about 8' up. It has significantly rotted due to the water trapped by the 1930s sliding door hardware. Finishing that will wrap up the heavy structural repairs and restoration of the perimeter of the main building!

From there we need to decide if we proceed on to lifting the four interior sills into place, (they have collapsed 4 to 6 inches which is why many of the interior doors won't close properly) or should we work on the 1890s addition on the west end which also needs new sills? During the summer of 2011 we also plan to get a crew trained on siding, so we can install siding on the north and south sides.

If you'd like to come and be a part of restoring a national treasure building for an hour, a day, or a season, contact Chris Kuehnelt for more details!

Lutze Housebarn Happenings.....

Timberwork. This summer's restoration has been mostly oriented around timber and getting the east wall done. This is our last sill timber replacement on the 1849 building. The east wall has numerous vertical timbers and cross braces missing which we are re-creating from scratch out of ash. The originals were removed in the 1930s or 40s in order to install sliding doors. While that may seem destructive, it luckily allowed the continued life and use of the Housebarn as a repair shop of sorts for 50 years longer than the building may have lasted without those changes!

To make the new 28'-long, 12"x11" replacement timber, this spring we milled a rough one out of the white oak trees



we bought several years ago, then used a broadax to give us a hewn timber just like the original.



East end sill preparations

In September we laid out the joinery with the very unique end joints along with mortises for each post. October saw most of those joints made with mallet and chisel, and this weekend we should finish the joinery and be ready to start putting it all in place!

During the summer, as we would finish hewing each of the 8 or so 7"x8" vertical



Centreville Settlement, Inc.

P.O. Box 247

Cleveland, WI 53015 USA

General Phone: 920-693-8525

www.centrevillesettlement.com

Newsletter email: cqnel@centrevillesettlement.com

Editor: Chris Kuehnel

*A not for profit, tax exempt
organization dedicated to
the preservation of the
architectural and cultural
heritage of the farming
community in the
Centerville area.*

**Find us on the web at:
centrevillesettlement.com**

Lots of news inside!!!

What is Centreville Settlement All About??

Centerville Township, along with the Village of Cleveland and the surrounding area are a unique capsule of American German immigrant heritage. Many of the residents are descendants of Saxon Germany. They continue to farm the land their ancestors settled, and the architectural and cultural heritage remains.

Within this unique environment, the goals of Centreville Settlement, Inc. include:

- To conserve, preserve and restore the architecture of the area
- To provide educational programs and classes in the traditional arts, crafts and trades, to encourage recognition and restoration of our historical heritage as well as native and pioneer self-sufficiency
- We strive to reach out to all levels of academia
- To collaborate, promote, and organize other local cultural and preservation groups
- Detailing a cultural and architectural survey of the local historic and pre-historic community
- Promote an appreciation of sustainable land use and natural resources in the Centerville area.