

# News of Centreville Settlement, Inc.

A non-profit, tax exempt organization dedicated to the preservation of the architectural and cultural heritage of the German-American farming community in the Centreville/Cleveland Wisconsin area.

**Janet Lutze's energy and inspirations were the source of motivation for many of us in Centreville Settlement. She received national recognition for the importance and relevance of the Lutze Housebarn before most of us as neighbors even knew it was there. She went on to form Centreville Settlement into an official 501(c)3 organization, worked with the family to donate the property, and pursued our first and to this day most major funding for restoration and programming.**

Living in Milwaukee, she travelled to join in workdays and planning meetings for many years, long before 'remote meetings' were possible. She kept us all (fairly:-)) organized as she networked with historical and cultural experts from across the state, and helped start the Greater Centreville Historians which would also become a model for parallel groups throughout the Midwest.

**Janet passed away in August with her wishes to have her Memorial Service at the Lutze Housebarn. We welcomed her home on a beautiful October day.**

2024 is only months away, and it will mark the 175th birthday of the Lutze Housebarn!! We are thinking of a day of outdoor and woodstove cookery, games and fun, and another sleepover! Let us know your ideas and how you might help!

We are looking for other ideas for 2024 season activities. Beyond our 'work adventure days' of hands-on restoration and interpretation, we are thinking of following a few or many work day shifts with recreation such as horseshoes, outdoor cooking, croquet, scavenger hunts, interpreted trail walks, even beer making! What things would you find interesting to participate in or lead?

Looking more forward.... did you know 2026 is in three years? You probably did... but did you know 2026 will be our country's "SemiQuinCentennial" ?? Well I certainly didn't know that. That means it will be 250 years from the famous year of 1776. As a new member of the [American Association for State and Local History](#), we've received our first "Field Guide" for ideas of activities in recognition of that revolution. [Download it from here](#). I've been impressed with the visions we have seen from them so far, with themes suggested ranging from: "Unfinished Revolutions" working to identify transitional moments of our local history; to the "Power of Place" and the cultural transitions of place in 250 years; to "We the People" and identifying who that relates to and how ideas of 'belonging' have changed through our national and local histories. Watch for more ideas and details; our Board will be considering these things and more as we look at programs and interpretation Centreville Settlement might use to make history most relevant through 2026!

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## NEWS OF CENTREVILLE SETTLEMENT, INC.

**Our January '24 CSI Annual Meeting isn't far away, date and place yet to be determined. Members in good standing with email addresses on file will receive the details via emailed invitations, those with snail mail will receive snail invitations. Meeting will be in person with remote option.**

Beyond acting as Treasurer of Centreville Settlement for several years, our member and good friend Richard Wiegand has published several 'near fiction' books about the Cleveland and Centerville area (check out the QRcode>>); and has researched large volumes of detail about the people and life of hundreds of his extended family and their friends. We bring you here a quick tidbit of the Wiegand-Janing History and connection with Newton.



From *"The Wiegands of Town Centerville"*

Author Richard Otto Wiegand

**Fred Janing was the son of Johann and Johanne? Maria Biemann Janing. He was born in Mecklenburg in Germany. An unsubstantiated story was that Fred may have been one of the few survivors of the Pestigo, Wisconsin fire in October 1871. He was a well-known blacksmith in Newton, as was his son John. John Janing's tools were donated to the Pinecrest Historical Village in Manitowoc. The blacksmith shop and the Janing house in Newton no longer exist. The Village of Newton was once called Timothy.**

**A Wiegand – Janing relative, Lillie Emelie Suckern (Oct. 26, 1904 – May 22, 1980, age 75) was the valedictorian of the Manitowoc High School class of 1924 (from cousin, Lois Marti). She attended the University of Wisconsin in Madison, obtaining a bachelor's degree in 1927. Lillie married a Chilean Spanish professor, Alvaro Eduardo Neale-Silva (Dec. 10, 1905 – June 15, 1989, age 83) in 1930. In 1925, Neale Silva joined the Department of Romance Languages at UW-Madison where he worked for 51 years (Wikipedia). He wrote several textbooks and established a scholarship program for Chilean students to study at Wisconsin. Neale-Silva was buried in Madison (Roselawn Memorial Park Crypt #2, Sky Level, Bay 106, Wing: Devotion-GDNS Peace). Donations in his honor are still made to the Classical Music Station (WERN) of Wisconsin Public Radio. Because he had no children, some of his possessions were donated to Edgewood College in Madison, some returned to Chile, and some of his certificates and other office materials from the University were given to Lois Marti.**

### Help wanted-

We are looking for an organized and detail oriented person or people to assist with digitizing our expanding collection of photos, slides, historical documents, along with loading audio and video recordings to 'the cloud' and assisting with indexing. Volunteers would be great, but would entertain this as a paid short term position for the right person. If you're interested or know someone who might be and would like to learn more, please contact Chris Kuehnel.

Kathy Sixel and Janet Lutze have both left large photo/slide collections of the Centerville, Newton, and Cleveland area. People, places, buildings. If you're an 'old-timer' and would like to review those items and help with descriptions and identification, please let us know. This work could be done by computer at home on your schedule using your or our equipment and training, or someone can come to you with equipment and work thru them with you, entering the details for you.

## What's Been Happening and Going to Happen??

**The Lutze Housebarn** is put to rest for the winter...by the time you read this, the Housebarn will be closed up and winterized until spring of 2024.

Over the winter customized **Centreville Settlement program talks are available to groups**, let us know what subject you would find of interest. Contact Chris for information at 920.918.2405.

**Work days schedules are yet to be set, spring Brat Fry will be happening May 5th Plymouth Piggly Wiggly as one of our kick-off events, hope to see you there!!**

**Ideas and Plans for the Lutze Housebarn in 2024 are now taking shape, we look forward to your help:**

**Finish replacement joist in west addition>>>**



**Siding, siding, siding >>>**



**1890's addition south 'hay mow' door repair>>>**



**Installation of vertical & cross timbers where 1930's window has been removed in the 'chicken coop' area ^^^**

**Lifting and supporting interior sill beams and posts, starting at east end of main livestock area and then moving slowly east, need to lift 3" to 7" , perhaps 1" per month over the winter >>>**



**Moving our famous outhouse 50' to north side of west corner of the Housebarn**





So.... we really don't know what this is or was..... Made with modern materials of plywood and some 2x4's we have been storing it in the Lutze Housebarn for likely 20years... perhaps it is a jig or frame that we used for a specific project, but now it has become "historical" and we'd like to figure out if it has a remaining purpose for us, or if we should clear it out and make room for other more vintage artifacts, let us know if you can figure out or remember what it's all about!?

Remember these visitors? Coming from afar they brought an angle of Germanic history we hadn't run into before! If you remember 2017 and could write a brief article for an upcoming newsletter, it would be fun to explain and share!



Looking for help in 2024 with our Heritage Garden. Growing heirloom varieties of vegetables in a style that would have been used in the late 1800's is a fun adventure of learning and working outdoors. We have hops, grapes, and rhubarb that keep returning, and look to plant, maintain, and harvest potatoes, tomatoes and all the vegies that gardens of the day provided to the farm family.

#### Looking ahead to 2024: Help Wanted

**Work days:** all interests and all levels of experience for lots of on-site tasks. Other days of the week possible, let us know!

**Especially looking for 'behind the scenes' or 'work from home' help:**

**records conversion artist:** assist with and/or manage scanning and cataloging hundreds of documents and thousands of slides and photos, to the cloud

**with grant writing:** CSI is looking for help and would welcome you to be on the committee for grant writing, fund raising, and our historic building report required for any major grants. Please contact Kathy Pearce with your interest!

**with grounds and lawn care:** We are looking for a volunteer (or paid?) that could run our ride-on mower to cut grass once a week in May/June and perhaps every 2 weeks in July-Sept, age 16 and up.

## NEWS OF CENTREVILLE SETTLEMENT, INC.

Article by Robert Fay written for Manitowoc Herald Times Reporter and Manitowoc County Historical Society, as part of their "Preserving the Past" series. Reprinted here with permission, thanks Bob!

## Lutze Housebarn Preserves Early Saxon German Farmstead in Town of Centerville

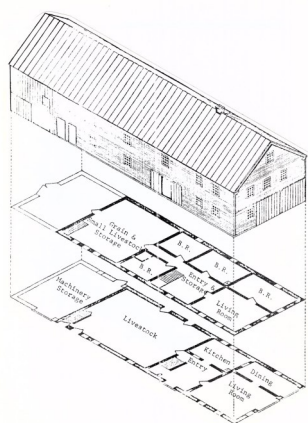
Gottlieb and Friedericke Lutze with their children Edward, August and Clara arrived in America in 1849. Learning of other German Lutherans from the Province of Saxony that had settled in rural Manitowoc County, they purchased 80 acres for \$105 in Section 19, T17N, R23E, Town of Centerville. They began clearing the land and during the next two years built a housebarn for both people and livestock under one roof.



The rectangular structure, 72'-9" (east-west) × 28'-5" (north-south), was constructed with a hand-hewn, post and beam timber frame with clay "nogging" filling the space between timbers in the tradition of half-timber (*fachwerk*) buildings in Germany. Clapboard siding was added later.

The first floor featured living quarters on the east end and a large stable area for livestock on the west end. The residence contained a living room, dining area and a yellow-brick-floored kitchen with a cooking stove. The entry had stairways leading both to the second floor and to an arched brick food-storage cellar, 8' × 20', under the living quarters at the southeast corner of the building.

The second floor of the living quarters had four bedrooms (several with blue-sponged plaster walls), a living room and a storage area at the top the stairway. A large room at the other end was used for storage and sheltering poultry and other small livestock. An unfinished attic space was used for storage.



Doors on first and second floors provided access from the living quarters to the livestock and storage areas without going outside. The building layout design was both simple and practical, particularly on rainy days and during the harsh cold Wisconsin winter.

By 1862, six additional Lutze children (Pauline, Amelia, Theodore, Agnes, Robert and Gustave) were born. In 1872, Gottlieb Lutze bought another 100 acres. In 1874, he sold the farm to his second son August, who extended the barn with an 18'-5" long storage addition on the west end. August built a new two-story yellow brick house a short distance away in 1896 – the last year anyone lived in the housebarn. In 1886, a large dairy barn (no longer present) was built. A summer kitchen and other outbuildings were also once located on the property.

In 1994, Richard and Sarah Lutze (who lived in the yellow brick house and are fifth generation members of the Lutze family) donated the housebarn to the newly formed nonprofit Centerville Settlement, Inc., which began restoration work that summer. News about the housebarn and its restoration has appeared in numerous newspapers in Wisconsin.

The rural "dwelling-stable" or *Wohnstallhaus*, is one of the best surviving examples of a traditional European folk structure in the country. In 1984, the Lutze Housebarn was listed on the National Register of Historic Places for its national significance in architecture and agriculture.

Public tours of the housebarn, workdays and demonstrations of "old-time" crafts and restoration trades are held periodically and by special arrangement. Nature trails are available to hike on the 5-acre property.

CSI welcomes volunteers of all ages for a variety of tasks, hands-on learning and the fellowship of working together in a rural community.

Information on the Lutze Housebarn, which is undergoing restoration, and efforts to preserve the rural farming heritage in the Centerville area of southern Manitowoc County is available online at <http://centervillesettlement.com>. The Lutze Housebarn, 13630 South Union Road, is two miles northwest of the Village of Cleveland.



## 2023 OFFICERS AND BOARD MEMBERS



President: Chris Kuehnel (920-693-3141) [chris.k@centrevillesettlement.com](mailto:chris.k@centrevillesettlement.com)

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Secretary: Kathy Pearce (920-946-1036) [kpear2002@yahoo.com](mailto:kpear2002@yahoo.com)

Treasurer: Richard Otto Wiegand (715-416-0513) [rowiegand@wisc.edu](mailto:rowiegand@wisc.edu)

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**With Janet Lutze being on our Board for over 30 years, it was hard to take her name off the list.... So many great memories-**



Janet was honored on October 22 at the Lutze Housebarn with a memorial service remembering her life. A time of fellowship followed at the Highland Lodge. She graced the earth from February 25, 1943 to August 9, 2023.

Janet was the oldest of three children and grew up on the farm where the Housebarn is located. She attended Pleasant Hill school, a one room schoolhouse, which was a mile down the then gravel road from the Lutze farm. Sharon, Shirley and Richard Lutze are her siblings.

Janet attended Kiel High School where she was active in band and also an accomplished accordion player. After high school graduation, she went to nursing school and immediately began working in surgery, maternity, and cardiac intensive care in Sheboygan in Manitowoc counties. After moving to Milwaukee, she continued her nursing career and earned her bachelor's degree from UW Milwaukee.

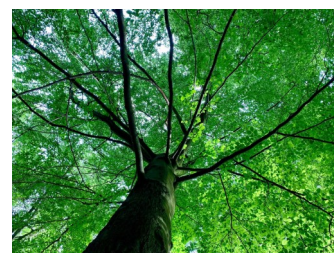
The main focus of Janet's volunteerism was the Lutze Housebarn. As a founding member of the group in 1982 she help get the Lutze Housebarn listed on the national register of historic places. Every other Saturday for decades, Janet would come to workdays, relishing the camaraderie and fascinating stories shared over potluck lunch by diverse members of the organization. She was long time editor of the Centreville Settlement newsletter.

Family members have many great memories of travels and adventures with Janet. She will long be remembered for her leadership, curiosity, laughter, and ability to inspire and motivate others.

Memorial contributions can be made for Janet's legacy to Centreville Settlement (see membership page) or to the Sheboygan County Historical Museum. Thank you to those who have already contributed.

### CSI Arbor Day Honors Former Members

To acknowledge, recognize, and honor former members who have passed, we are continuing to plant trees as arbor memorials. The mighty oak planted for Vernon Wernecke in 2006 is now 30 feet tall. Sugar maple planted for Edith Lutze in at 15 feet. We are planning to plant a trees for Kathy Sixel, Ed Heckman, and Janet Lutze in the spring of 2024. The Arbor committee is researching permanent style signage for each as part of our Memorial Tree Policy.





ON THE WEB:  
CENTREVILLESETTLEMENT.COM

### Mission

Centreville Settlement, Inc. is a non-profit, 501(c)3 organization dedicated to the preservation of the architectural and cultural heritage of the German American farming community in the Centerville area.

In the 1840's and 50's, immigrants fled Germany to escape war and the economic hard times. Many Saxon Germans settled in Centerville Township. Their fifth and sixth generation children still remain on the original farms using original buildings for their original purposes. Centerville Township is a unique time capsule of architecture, culture, and traditions of the early settlers.

### Organizational Goals

Centreville Settlement, Inc. will meet its mission by:

- Providing educational programs and classes in Old World arts and crafts, restoration of historical heritage, as well as teaching pioneer and self sufficiency skills.
- Promotion and organization of local cultural and preservation groups.
- Providing a detailed cultural and architectural survey of the local German-American ethnic community.
- Demonstrate to future generations the wise use of farm land, and preserving the quality of life and The environment that brought the original settlers.
- Restoration of the Lutze Housebarn and other historic German-American buildings in the area.

## TIME TO RENEW OR START YOUR ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP FOR CENTREVILLE SETTLEMENT, INC.

Help support our historic mission; a key part of our budget comes from memberships, and yours is appreciated!

Please print:

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Email \_\_\_\_\_

Do you text at phone # above? \_\_\_\_\_

Street Address \_\_\_\_\_

City, State, Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Newsletters will be sent to the email address unless otherwise indicated:

\_\_\_\_\_ I do not have an email address and/or prefer postal mailing for the additional fee of \$5.

Individual (\$35) \_\_\_\_\_ Family (\$45) \_\_\_\_\_ Contributing (\$125) \_\_\_\_\_ Supporting (\$1000) \_\_\_\_\_

Deductible Donation beyond Membership \_\_\_\_\_

Renewals can also be made at our website [centrevillesettlement.com](http://centrevillesettlement.com) via PayPal or credit card.

Please consider Legacy giving - 401K distribution for 501(c)3 (discuss with your financial planner)

Donation in honor of Janet Lutze (for Housebarn restoration and CSI projects) \_\_\_\_\_

Please complete and mail with check to wintertime bookkeeping: Centreville Settlement, Inc.

Attn: Greg Zahn

9 NE 19th Court #216C

Wilton Manors, FL 33305



Membership expires December 31 of each year, those received after Nov 1 will be applied to the following year.