

CENTREVILLE SETTLEMENT, INC. NEWS

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Editor: Janet Lutze

Spring 2021

Rick's Ramblings...

Hello CSI friends and family.

Every morning I look out at the Lutze Housebarn as I prepare my breakfast. Today, February 14, 2021, -10°; I think of the Valentine's Days of my ancestors.

I'm sure that someone was charged with keeping the woodstove going during the middle of the night. Having to leave their feather beds to fill the stove, would not have been a job that I would volunteer for.

The cattle in the barn may have been making extra noise, due to the cold. The beams would have been creaking and moaning with the wind and the changes of temperature. The stove pipes would be clanging with the expansion and contraction, during the heating and cooling of the central heating system of the housebarn.

The highlight of going to work in the morning: never having to leave the building.

Valentine's Day may have meant an exchange of an oral statement: even though written valentines were already being exchanged in the early 1400's and mass produced valentines were being exchanged in the 1840's.

Looking forward to warmer weather and being able to get some more work done on the siding/windows of the Housebarn this summer.

Hope you will come and help. Second and fourth Saturday of May, June, July, August, September, October.
Respectfully: Richard Lutze President CSI

Covid-19 Precautions

For the safety of our volunteers and visitors, CSI is practicing Covid-19 precautions for those attending Lutze Housebarn workdays. Masks must be worn inside the building. Six feet social distancing is expected and a bring your own lunch instead of our usual potluck lunch. A hand washing station is available for frequent hand washing.

All other CSI special events have been canceled until further notice.

Letters to the Editor

When the Centreville Settlement newsletter comes in the mail it is always a priority-read. I love being whisked away from my current home in Florida to my heart's home in Sheboygan. My grandparents, Oscar and Emma (Wagner) Lutze are buried in the Saxon Cemetery so I read that article with interest. Since I know that maintaining the archives is so important to your cause, I just wanted to offer that the flag pole, erected in 2003 was what the cemetery board decided to do with the monetary gift from my mother, Myrtle LUTZE Fischer (also note the spelling of Fischer.) Christian Gottlieb Lutze and Friedericka Christine Rost Lutze were my mother's great grandparents. *Charmaine (Fischer) Ponkratz*



State of the Times Outhouse

This outhouse was donated by Gilbert Arends from his family farm.

The inside has oak seats donated by Bemis Mfg., potpourri, catalogues for wiping, and a calendar.



HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE FEBRUARY 20, 2021 BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING

- ♦ The Cleveland State Bank has donated \$1000 to CS.
- ♦ Other grants being worked on are for the Jeffris foundation, State Historic Society, West Foundation, Kohler Foundation.
- ♦ A comprehensive business plan is being completed which is necessary for grant writing and organization direction.
- ♦ A program is being planned for fall 2022 on German POWs in Wisconsin.
- ♦ We are adding CentrevilleSettlement.org as our most public website, centrevillesettlment.com will become more focused as an 'internal organization tool' for our digital collections and business activities
- ♦ A program is being discussed that would have an enactor portray and read Vern Wernecke's war time diaries.
- ♦ All the poster boards, scrap boards and photos are being inventoried and documented where stored.
- ♦ Richard continues to update CS Facebook page. Be sure to go to it and "like" it.
- ♦ *A Brat Fry is planned for May 2, 2021 at the Piggly Wiggly in Plymouth. Please support CS by attending.*
- ♦ *The CS annual Old Fashioned Christmas Dinner will be at Meats in St. Nazianz on December 5, a Sunday. It will start at 2:30 pm and include a short program on the German POW's in Wisconsin. Dinner at 5pm.*



HIGHLIGHTS FROM BOB FAY ARCHEOLOGICAL REPORT

- ✦ Bob began the digs in 1994 with a small area just outside the main door. He did more in 1995 and in 2001, 2002, and in 2003 the Manitowoc Public Schools did a archeological dig as a summer project. The students gained experience and CS benefited. Bob returned in 2004 for additional work on the north side of the building.
 - ✦ 7052 artifacts were recovered. All the significant artifacts will be photographed, described with where found, the estimated age and ideas of likely use.
- Some items recovered:
- a. 1917 Liberty coin.
 - b. 1977 nickel.
 - c. plaster from the kitchen area that shows blue with darker blue rag prints covered over a dark red coat.
 - d. clay pipe with disposable bowl and the figure of a bearded man on the end.
 - e. iron ax head.
 - f. lots of fishing pieces, 2 lead sinkers.
 - g. the cobblestone walk way in from of the barn door, and how far it extended.
- ♦ Idea for future: put several items in shadow boxes or under glass in table top display or curio cabinet. Bob would help select pieces.
 - ♦ Bob's report is expected to be completed and delivered this sprint, it will be about 200 pages long. Print copies will go to CS, the State Historic Society, Manitowoc, Historic Society, and Manitowoc Library. We are working on policies and tech details for sharing our digital collections; including this great project.
 - ♦ Information on animals and husbandry tools will add to the story of the Housebarn.
 - ♦ An archeological program is being planned for 2022-2023.

FLASHES FROM THE PAST

CS & Housebarn Hibernate for the Winter ...Not!

So you think the Lutze Housebarn project and CS volunteers rest during the winter. Wrong! Chris visits the Housebarn regularly to check on it, and to study and plan for summer projects. He also spends the winter learning and networking with preservation people.

Chris attended the National Timber Framers Guild conference in New England in Nov. and used their expertise to try to solve the 2nd floor rotten timber problem on the east end of the building. In January, he went to Germany to study half timber buildings and to contact resource people in all areas of preservation including nogging. As he travels for work, he is always stopping at museums and preservation sites to learn more.

Kathy will be attending the ALFHAM (Association for Living History, Farm and Agricultural Museums) national conference and is studying heritage landscaping and plants. Janet plans to attend the Barns conference and is working on summer marketing.

Janet and Kathy are also on the ad-hoc advisory committee to Barns NOW.

Meanwhile, back at home, the Board is planning the summer schedule, contacting consultants and instructors for the summer, and organizing volunteer efforts. The Sec.-Treas, Louise, and CS Accountant, Vicky, are preparing the budget (which is no small task). **From March 2003**

Chris Has an Two “Aha” Moments

CS Project Director attended the Stone Masonry Workshop at the recent Barns conference in Polk County. He especially wanted to attend to “learn from the experts” to improve our own stone masonry workshop.

The first “Aha” moment was when he realized stone masonry differs so significantly in different regions.

Southwestern Wisconsin is an unglaciated area meaning they don’t know what a round field stone is. Their stone is flat, yellow tan sand/lime stone. Techniques are very different. Another conference attendee was from Marquette, MI and they have granite rocks which presents many different concerns as well.

The second “Aha” moment was when he realized **he** was the “expert” on field stone, that he could present a professional workshop but in a different technique. (We have been telling him for years he is an expert.)

Kathy P. also has expert knowledge on stone masonry and will be joint teaching the stone masonry workshop in June. CS is extremely lucky to have Chris and Kathy. **From May 2003 [Ed: did you like the ‘joint teaching’ pun?]**

“Preserve It or Lose It”

That’s the title of an article in *Hobby Farms magazine*, April/May 2003, written by Maureen Blaney Flietner. Maureen visited the Lutze Housebarn last summer in preparation for the article. The article is about whether one should preserve the old barn or not and resources available to help if one decides to preserve it. Chris Kuehnel is quoted in the article and our summer internships and workshops are listed.

Janet and Chris have copies of the magazine if you want to read more.

We thank Maureen for the nice publicity.

Other articles in the magazine include “Saving the Farm”, “Stepping Back in Time”, “Cheese Making 101”.



HOBBY FARMS

Nogging

When one searches the web for “nogging”, Centreville Settlement website comes up. It is one of the few places one can find out about nogging. There are several pages of this newsletter to highlight a workshop CS did in 2005.



Completed nogged clay packed wall.

Nogging workshop participants were students in the Masters in Education program along with Sarah Lutze.



Centreville Settlement Hosted Nogging Workshop June 23-25 & August 25-28, 2005

The Lutze Housebarn, an 1849 half-timber structure, on the National Registry of Historic Buildings of national significance, is being restored by Centreville Settlement, Inc., a not for profit rural preservation organization dedicated to the preservation of the architectural and cultural farming heritage in the Centerville, Wisconsin area.

The Lutze Housebarn is of "fachwerk" construction. The literal translation from German is "frame work". However, it carries a dual meaning to include the compartments formed by the frames of a building that are "in-filled" and made waterproof and then left exposed to the exterior. The resulting color and texture pattern is an integral part of "fachwerk" construction. Fachwerk was the primary method of home and barn sized building construction from 1550 to 1900's in Germany.

In the US, immigrants found log buildings to be very fast to construct but were considered temporary until time and money could be found to build more permanent structures. The ready availability of high quality timber combined with skilled carpenters emigrating from Europe, caused timber buildings to become the standard from 1680 - 1890 in the northern US.

Clay or low fired bricks were cheap and did not require any particular talent or equipment to make, install or maintain. It also reduced fire hazard and added tremendous strength to the buildings as well as being almost rodent proof. As clay is exposed to air and protected from rain, it dries to a very low 5% moisture. This low level, wicks moisture from adjacent wood thus eliminating insects and fungus. It has an indefinite life span. Clay and straw infill would be packed around oak or ash hand hewn roughly square or triangular cross-sections or in a "waddle and daub" technique.



Waddle and daub is an age old skill of infilling around woven wood panels, typically a more rigid vertical stave and thinner flexible horizontal members between the verticals. Thin bent staves arched across a ceiling and in-filled with a high straw mixture was/is common in Europe. The lower level of the Lutze Housebarn and in the large room on the second floor barn has good examples of

this technique.

This summer the south wall of the Lutze Housebarn will be nogged. The first workshop will include information on sand, straw, and clay selection and drying. Project Director, Chris Kuehnel, and volunteers will have already completed these steps. Workshop participants will then assist in the first application of clay.

A clay slurry will be applied around the staves & timbers before the infill is applied. It allows for a better bonding of clay to wood. The next step is applying infill. This is a heavy labor activity. Two workers, one on each side of the wall, pack from the bottom to the top. If the weight of the clay gets too much in any section and starts to sag, the process stops until some drying occurs to give strength to it. Care must be taken to get the clay mixture into every space. The infill is composed of rye or barley straw, sand and clay. Some noggers will purposely add seed to the mixture. As the clay is drying, the seeds sprout out through the clay.

When the wall is fully packed or "in-filled", *surfacing* is done. Using a flat stick or modern plaster tool, the clay is smoothed out leaving 1/2 from the outer edge. The surface should be slightly rough to allow better adhesion for the next coat.

After several days of drying, a second coat is applied with a trowel and thoroughly wetting the existing surface before application. A very thin third coat is applied after the wall is completely dry. It will take 6-8 weeks to dry and should not be allowed to freeze. That means it should be done before Labor Day in Wisconsin. If allowed to dry completely, the green sprouts in the clay will wither and die. The August workshop completed the final applications.



Nogging Stations

Station 1 was the “mud yard”, where the clay was piled after thoroughly being dried for several weeks and then smashed into fine pieces. The clay was loaded into wheelbarrows and pushed to the next station. Some of the clay will be fine sifted to form a slurry for painting the staves.



Station 2 was “the bath tub”. A discarded fiberglass bathtub shaped hot tub donated to CS was used to reconstitute the clay. Water was added to the dry clay. Now, “Why?”, you ask, “did we dry it only to make it wet again?” The clay particles all must be equally dry and then moistened to have a mud mixture that will dry in the walls evenly. If not, it will crack and fall out.

Station 3 is a “chopping block” Bales of barley straw, an original chopping block and a broad ax (just like great, great grandpa used) were used to chop the long barley straw into short pieces. Some straw was left as is, right from the bale and some was chopped. A short and long straw mix is needed.



Station 4 was the “sand pile and water barrel”. Sand and water are added to the mixture. Sand was shoveled into buckets and taken to the mixer.

Station 5 was the mortar mixer (which is different from a cement mixer in the placement of the mixing blades inside the mixer tub). One part clay,

1 part short cut straw,

2 ½ parts sand,

½ part long cut straw and

water to consistency were loaded into the mixer. The final nogging mix was carried in buckets to the wall.



Station 6 was the “Slurry Painters”. Fine clay was mixed with water to a paint-like liquid and painted on the staves and inside of timbers so the nogging would stick better. Those who “painted” found it to be a rather hard job to get the slurry into all of the crevices of the wood.

Station 7 was “the wall”. Two people worked as a pair, one inside and one outside of the wall, each taking a ball of the clay mixture and firmly pressing it around and between the staves in the wall. There couldn’t be any air pockets in any of the packing or the nogging would dry unevenly, crack and fall out. Packing started on the bottom and worked up. At a certain point the clay would become too heavy to support itself in the wall and you stopped working in that section. As the clay dried, you could go back and continue to pack in clay. Thursday was hot and windy and the clay dried well as we went along so a complete section could be filled at one time.

Station 8 was the “washing station”. It was a large water filled tub to wash yourself off.



I Remember...

I remember dad and our hired man making lead fishing sinkers in the basement. They would heat the lead in the furnace and pour it into a mold. After it was cooled, they would take them out with their hands, be sure the holes were open for the fishing line and they were ready to go fishing.

Dad would take us out of school to go fishing. The teacher said there was more to education than from books. Those outings were always fun.



What does the future hold?

Please mark your calendars for the upcoming events:

March 27, 2021	First workday of the season at the Lutze Housebarn
April 10 & 24	Work days at the Lutze Housebarn. Start 9:30 am
May 2, 2021	Brat Fry Fundraiser at the Piggly Wiggly in Plymouth
May 8 & 22, 2021	Workday at the Lutze Housebarn. Start at 9:30 am
June 12 & 26, 2021	Workday at the Lutze Housebarn. Start at 9:30 am
July 10 & 24, 2021	Workday at the Lutze Housebarn. Start at 9:30 am
July 24, 2021	Board of Directors meeting. Members invited. TBA Virtual
August 10 & 24, 2021	Workday at the Lutze Housebarn. Start at 9:30 am
Sept. 11 & 25, 2021	Workday at the Lutze Housebarn. Start at 9:30 am

MATCHING DONATIONS

Many employers offer matching donations to 501(c) (3) organizations. Please check with your employer to find out if they offer matching charitable donations. Centreville Settlement, Inc. is a 501 (c) (3) nonprofit organization which is operated for community educational purposes. 26 U.S.C. Section 170 provides for a deduction for federal income tax purposes to donors making charitable contributions. Regulations specify which such deductions must be verifiable to be allowed. (receipts for donations of \$250 or more). To make a donation, please fill out a membership form which is included in each newsletter from Centreville Settlement or on our website.

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:

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

**Attn: Greg Zahn
9304 S Lake Drive
Manitowoc WI 54220.**

Membership expires December 31 of each year.