

# 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 Centerville/Cleveland Wisconsin area.



## Notes from Chris, President's Comments & Restoration News

We again have been featured in a PBS Wisconsin video just released November 10th! "Wisconsin Life" talks of the Lutze Housebarn and Centreville settlement in their Season 9 Episode 6. The [full episode is here](#), and the [CSI section is here](#). Watch it on your smart phone, tablet, or TV! Search on 'PBS' and 'Lutze Housebarn' to find it, or click one of those links now! It will air on broadcast television around Wisconsin on Nov 14th, 15th and 19th. Milwaukee market will be broadcasting Dec 2nd and 5th.



Looking 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!

We are looking for ideas for 2023 season activities, what ideas might you have? Beyond our 'work adventure days' of hands-on restoration and interpretation as mentioned above, 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?

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## NEWS OF CENTREVILLE SETTLEMENT, INC.

**Holiday Event for CSI Members and Board:** Please join in an evening of fellowship starting with a cash bar at **5:30pm** followed by dinner off the menu (Dutch treat) at the Roadside Pub & Grill on Hwy 57 in Plymouth on **Thursday evening December 8**. The accomplishments for the year will be highlighted and a short strategy discussion will follow. Please text or call Kathy Pearce at 920.946.1036 or email [kpear2002@yahoo.com](mailto:kpear2002@yahoo.com) by Wed Nov 30th to reserve your place at the table. Please leave a voice mail if calling.

The **CSI Brat Fry 2022** was held Sunday May 7th with grilling being manned by Richard Lutze assisted by Matt Lutze and Chris Kuehnel. Sarah Lutze and daughter-in-law Amber sold delicious grilled sandwiches and delectable home baked goods.



Ryan Kautzer struck up the band with authentic German polka music on his accordion and was accompanied by John Losiniecki on fiddle and Kathy Pearce on upright double bass.

Please mark your calendar for the next fun(d) raiser on Sunday May 1 2023 at the Piggly Wiggly in Plymouth, WI. A few quick videos of the great music and dance enjoyed there can be found [here](#), [here](#), and [here](#).

### Work 'Adventure' Days Begin March 2023

The **first work day of 2023** will be the 4th Saturday of March 25 (weather permitting!). Other work days will follow on the second and fourth Saturdays from April to November 11, 2023. Our preliminary schedule has us adventuring 10:00 am through 2:30 pm. Likely changing slightly from week to week based on projects and weather. Watch for each week's adventure details, and all our events on the [CSI Calendar here](#).

Wear old clothes (new ones are OK but you might get dirty or torn :-)), work boots (at least not open toe), and bring a sack lunch.

First timer? The Lutze Housebarn is located at 13630 South Union Road, Newton, WI 53063. We're actually not that close to Newton... to get there, take 1-43 to Cleveland exit 137, go west 1/2 mile to South Union Road and turn right (north). Go to the driveway after the third farm on the left just before the Centreville Settlement sign.



## Pomeranian German Tour by Greg Zahn, CSI member

My 3<sup>rd</sup> great grandfather immigrated from Pomerania in 1851 and settled in Manitowoc County not far from Maribel. Many Pomeranians also settled in the areas around Reedsville, in Marathon and Door Counties, as well as Friestadt in Ozaukee County.

This summer my partner Nelson and I traveled to Pomerania with the Pommerscher Verein Freistadt (The Pomeranian Society of Freidstadt WI). Pomerania was first an independent state similar to Saxony, then after 1815 a province of Prussia and finally part of unified Germany after 1871. Today's Pomerania lies along the Baltic Sea half in former East Germany and half in Western Poland. >>

Highlights of the 10 day tour for me were:



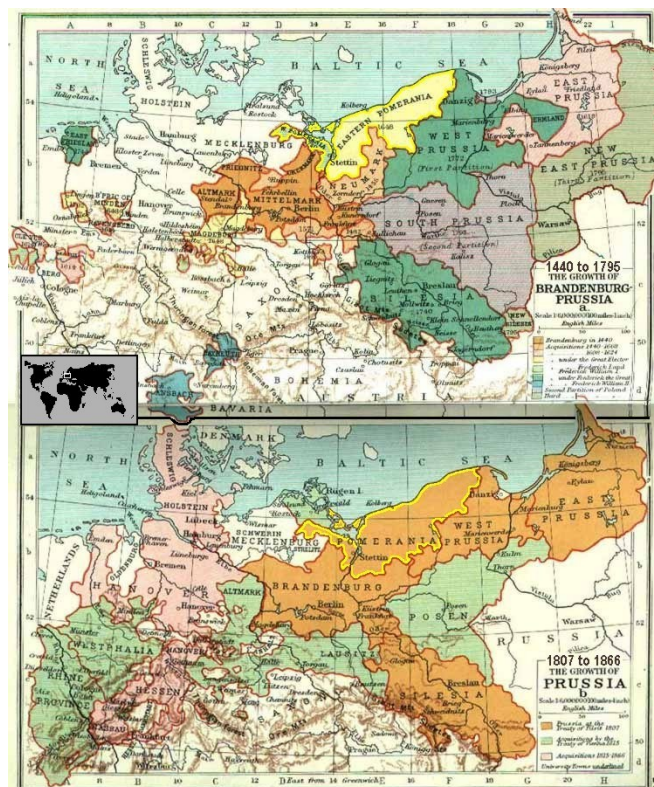
Greifswald: in former East Germany. We toured the university founded in 1456 and had lunch at the daily farmers market in the beautiful town square. The dominant historical architecture of Pomerania is a late gothic style of brick with dark green or black glazed brick striping. <<

Greifswald is also home of a large Pomeranian Cultural Museum. Some of the folk art contained here is unmistakably similar to that of "The Birdman of Door County" Albert Zahn who is almost certainly a relative. The new Kohler Art Preserve has an exhibit of Albert Zahn's work. >>

Gdansk Poland (Danzig in German) The Largest city in former Pomerania it is best known for the Royal Way built up mostly between the 14<sup>th</sup> and 16<sup>th</sup> century under the Kingdom of Poland after the Pomeranian influence diminished. The mile long street is lined with outstanding palaces and public buildings almost completely restored since 1991 when the Solidarity movement forced communist influence out of Poland.



Malbork Castle is the largest castle in Europe and home of the Teutonic Knights since the 12<sup>th</sup> Century. Built over hundreds of years the castle is truly impressive. In one of the dining rooms there is a coat of arms from the Zahn family. (Photo) I can make no claims to this coat of arms or the castle itself. My research shows Zahn relatives coming from in and around what is now Dorowo Poland about 30 miles east of the present German Border. I have found written that up until 1820 all residents of Dorowo were Zahns. A founder's stone in Dorowo lists the names of soldiers who died in WWII including at least one Zahn. Some relatives show that they were born in nearby Regenwald Castle. More likely a manor house than a castle and they were most likely sharecroppers or help. I was able to visit these villages, still very small. Little remains dating back to the 1850s, but the stone roads lined with large trees makes it easy to imagine what life was like in 1850. <<







### German materials knowledge vs modern science?

The Lutze Housebarn is now about 175 years old. When we've exposed some of the interior white oak sill beams under the east floor, well sealed intentionally in red clay, they are in virtually the same condition as when the Housebarn was built. The builders knew the clay if kept dry would keep the wood at a moisture level that would preserve it from insects and rot causing fungus. The same with our clay infill walls- the clay would wick away moisture from precipitation as well as from humans and animals on the interior- and the 'factwerke' timbers could last 400-500 years if the clay and exterior lime layer covering it was properly maintained.

In contrast to that, modern construction materials offer chemically treated lumber designed for rot resistance with ground contact. We used that treated material when we built the south access ramp around 12 years ago, hoping for a 20 or 30 year life. Sadly, we found this spring that the treated material had rotted away and we had to dig it up and replace the 2x8's. So the Lutze Housebarn has (so far) outlived modern treated lumber by a factor of 15 fold!



### Twenty people toured the Housebarn on a very hot August 25th

The barn tour group was part of the Trinity Freistadt Historical Society with Pommerscher Verein Freistadt hosting the trip. Christopher Kuehnel and Kathy Pearce greeted them and gave a tour of the outside as well as viewing many of the artifacts and hearing the restoration and reconstruction process. Sarah Lutze performed the tour of the two upper floors with family stories and facts presented whilst the history buffs learned about life on the rural 1849 homestead.

## 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 2023.

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.

### Looking back on 2022:

- A big thank you to John and Lindy Kastendiek for September donation of a John Deere ride-on mower!
- We re-organized displays in a number of rooms
- Updated and added more interpretive signs throughout the Housebarn, allowing options for start of more self-guided tours.
- We kept up the pioneers ideas for farming as food production: starting with rhubarb, then a beautiful crop of pears, some cider apples, huge crop of hops, and lots of grapes. Tomatoes, summer squash, and potatoes all came through!

### Ideas and Plans for Lutze Housebarn in 2023 are now taking shape:

- Finish replacement joist in west addition
- Addition south 'hay mow' door repair
- Exterior window trim in preparation for siding
- Lifting and supporting interior sill beams
- Review and plan west addition vertical siding and west door maintenance or ??
- Removal of center 'chicken coop' window, replace timber(s) there, back to 1890 original
- Moving our famous outhouse 50' to north side of west corner of the Housebarn

### Looking ahead to 2023: 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:**

**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.

**heirloom gardener:** assist with appropriate plant selection, garden layout, weeding and care, harvesting

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

**experienced finish carpenter** volunteer (or paid?) to assist with window restoration and exterior window and doorway trim





## 2022 OFFICERS AND BOARD

### Officers:



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

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

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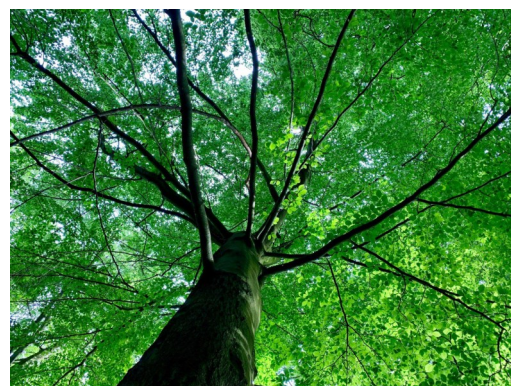


### Who We Are

Centreville Settlement, Inc. is a non-profit, 501 (c ) (3) organization dedicated to the cultural and architectural preservation of the farming heritage of Centreville Township. The focus is a capsule of German immigrant heritage of which many residents are descendants from Saxony, Germany. They continue to farm the land their ancestors settled and the architectural and cultural heritage remains.

### 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 tree for Kathy Sixel and for Ed Heckman in the spring of 2023. 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 the Old World arts and crafts, restoration of historical heritage, as well as 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.
- - Demonstration to future generation, the wise use of farm land, and preserve the quality of life and environment that brought the original settlers.

## 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 & over) \_\_\_\_\_

Benefactor (\$5000 & over) \_\_\_\_\_

Donation \_\_\_\_\_

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, those received after Nov 1 will be applied to the following year.**

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