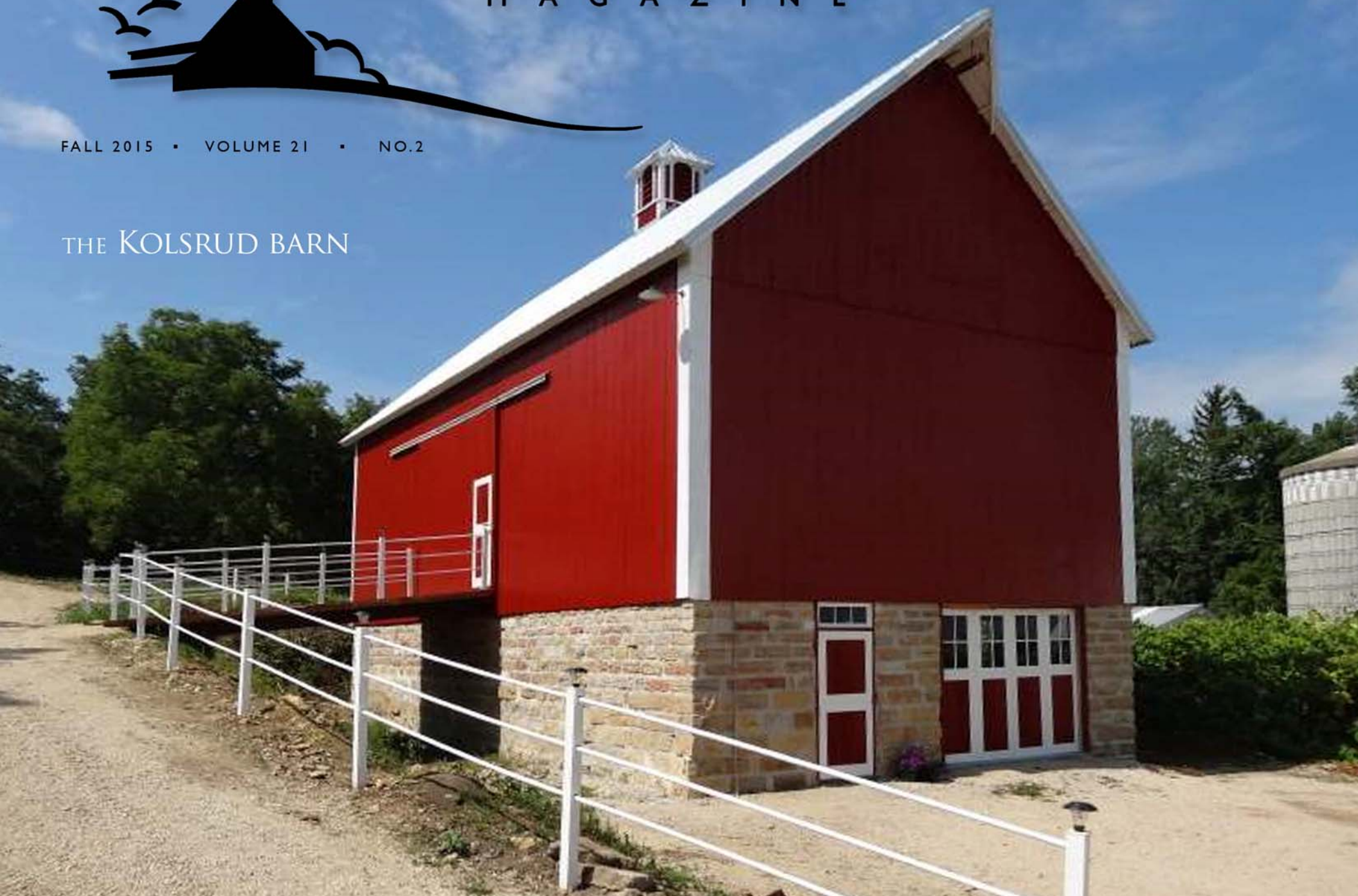


IOWA BARN FOUNDATION

M A G A Z I N E

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THE KOLSRUD BARN





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Sherry Gribble is the county representative coordinator. Contact her if you wish to help or if you have questions. She is at sherrydale.gribble@gmail.com

THE BARN - DECISIONS, DECISIONS

BY LOIE HAYWARD

Loie Hayward grew up on the family farm north of Dysart, attended Geneseo, a consolidated country school, and graduated from UNI before getting an MSW degree in social work at Washington University. She taught in Virginia and then moved to New York City where she worked at an Iranian foundation during the hostage crisis. She cooked at a spiritual community in the Catskills before eventually moving to San Francisco where she was a legal assistant at the State Bar of California. She also wrote and acted in San Francisco. She traveled much of the world, moved back to the farm in 2012 and took on the barn restoration project.



A few days after my father died in 2002, an earnest contingent of Dysart history buffs came to visit. They got right to the point: what, they wanted to know, was going to happen to the old round brick barn now that Searl was gone?

The Barn (even though there was another barn—conventional, wooden, white—on the farm, we always knew which one deserved the capital letters)—The Barn, built by my grandfather in 1917, was a local landmark. People gave directions citing its location. It had appeared in books and calendars. A picture of it made the front page of the Waterloo Courier after a tornado blew off the roof in 1960. It was sketched, painted, photographed by a singular array of high school art classes, confused tourists who'd made a wrong turn, and little old ladies trying to channel Grandma Moses. It was truly noteworthy, this Barn.

Really now, was I planning to tear it down? asked the people from Dysart. If so, maybe they could buy it instead, or rent it, or make some sort of arcane legal arrangement

(with 100 years in the title) which I didn't understand. Really, something needed to be done—it must be preserved.

Actually, at that point I hadn't given The Barn and its future much thought. I had grown up with it, it had always just been there—a solid, unchangeable haven for my childhood dreams and desires, a mysterious anchor of my adulthood. Even though I'd not lived on the farm for 40 years, I'd just assumed that The Barn, apparently through some magical process, would continue to be there. But now, suddenly, I owned the thing outright—and I had to make decisions about it, decisions, it seemed, of a rather permanent sort. Hmm, I thought. Then, Whoa there! Then without hesitation, "No, I have no intention of tearing it down," I said.

Later my sister said she thought the arcane legal arrangement was a good idea, that I should sell the patch of land The Barn rested on to the Dysart historians and let them worry about it. "Are you crazy!" I said, a bit too loudly—which indicated

to me that perhaps somewhere back in the foggy recesses of my being I'd given the matter more thought than I'd realized. At any rate, then and there my role as the Custodian (with a capital "C") of The Barn was cemented for all time (or at least until I croaked).

Still, I continued to live in California where my custodial duties were performed with a rather laissez-faire, "out-of-sight-out-of-mind" attitude. Except for the day a co-worker at the office came waltzing by my cubicle, chortling away, "Hey, I saw your barn on the internet! Heyo, neat!" My jaw dropped. What the—! I thought. How the hell did The Barn get on the internet? Yeah, I knew I should be joyfully riding the burgeoning technological wave into the 21st Century, but even so....

Then I retired. And began to return to the farm in the summer to take stock, roll up my sleeves, and well...you know...take charge. Needless to say, the learning curve was steep—especially when I finally realized I was long on vision and short on

know-how. But I blindly flung myself into the whole endeavor nonetheless. Starting cautiously, I took down a few trees here, uprooted some bushes there. I stood back and viewed my work. It was thrilling. “Wow, that actually looks good,” I said. Inspired, I took down a couple buildings—one, due to snow storm collapse, the other, massive dry rot and raccoon mayhem. I cleaned up tons (it seemed) of ancient junk strewn around the farm, often in places I didn’t even know existed. And to top it off, I merrily put in a garden big enough to feed half the known world—a mistake for someone who would come to embrace the “lazy” part of retirement with such gusto.

As time went on, though, The Barn (or The Damned Barn, as I began to think of it) seemed to follow me all over the farm, lodging in the corner of my eye like a mote the size of a boulder. It was definitely just always there, as it had been, but in my mind’s eye it was growing increasingly weighty. I began to notice things. Like the things that were falling off: a board here, some shingles there, the strange what-chamacallit way up top. Every window in the place was broken or missing. The doors were falling apart, with their steel frames so contorted and rusting away they looked like a failed art project by Jackson Pollock. Birds were building fashionable little condominiums in the holes in the bricks. The roof had taken on a wavy, rolling aspect which made me dizzy. One day I was standing inside The Barn during a rain storm and had to unfurl my fancy-dancy Monet at Giverny umbrella to divert the deluge.

A few weeks later, my cousin’s grandson David arrived to help with the Great Excavation—clearing out years and years’ worth of “stuff” that had filled The Barn to the rafters after (and sometimes before) my father and uncle quit farming in 1979. Amid the usual piles of moldy lumber, feed sacks, empty bottles of hog wormer, mysteriously compelling machine parts, were some discoveries. “Hey, look at this,” David would yell. Huh, a medicine cabinet I remembered from the bathroom 55 years ago. And this. My grandmother’s side saddle, surely turn-of-the-century (last century, that is). Then, “What could this be?” he asked, scratching his head. Well, what else could it be, a float for the Dysart 4th of

July Parade. After all, what are barns for?

This continued for a couple days until the burn pile outside had reached towering inferno proportions, and we’d dug down to the floor where crumbling mounds of petrified raccoon poop lay mouldering (probably dating back to the Jurassic Period). But the real astounding discovery awaited us upstairs in the haymow, classic scene of childhood shenanigans, both naughty and uproarious. Oh my! Surprise, surprise, of the “my-god-what-were-they-thinking” variety. Apparently, when the 1960 tornado blew off the roof, whatever debris that had fallen in—in fact, a good part of the old roof—was just left there (for all posterity, I guess), and the new lower roof was built over it. The massive piles of rubble were impressive. But even more impressive was the mountain of ground corn cobs, probably once used for bedding, now sitting there all warm and damp and mildewy, just waiting. Spontaneous combustion immediately came to mind. Yes, spontaneous to the umpteenth degree. So why hadn’t it yet exploded? But—

But, I still lived most of the year in California, apparently deaf to the siren call of creative agriculture. That is, until the day in 2012 when I surveyed the economic Armageddon that is San Francisco, saw the writing (graffiti) on the wall, and made the biggest decision of all—bailout. Of course, some of my friends decided I’d really slipped a cog this time, and maybe I had, but not because I was moving back to the farm after almost 50 years. When the black and white moving van (“Mooving,” as they called it) pulled into the yard, I noted the picture of a peppy cow (Holstein, I think) emblazoned on the side. Could this be a sign?

So here I was, cast adrift in the Heartland, feeling at sea among 135 boxes, surrounded by the echoes of a life I once thought I’d left behind. Well, okay, what’s next, I wondered.

And there it was, straight out the window, as it had always been—The Barn, even more ragged and run-down and weather-beaten than it had been the year before. “It would be a project, all right,” a neighbor would say whenever I’d see him. “Yeah, fixing up that barn would be one helluva project. It really, really would.”

And so it was.

Restoration completed—2014.

Grant Application for Small Barns

The Iowa Barn has a program to encourage the preservation of small barns in Iowa.

Owners with barns that qualify will be encouraged to take advantage of Diamond Vogel’s 40 per cent off retail price for paint bought by members of the Iowa Barn Foundation.

Owners will be eligible for a \$500 grant to go toward paying for preparation needed before painting.



Sharon Center barn

GRANT GUIDELINES

The Iowa Barn Foundation is dedicated to preserving Iowa barns through raising money and giving matching grants to private, thus making the entire country aware of barn preservation and Iowa’s dear rural heritage.

Grants are given to private property owners with priority to those working in agriculture. The barn must have an agriculture-related use.

Questions to ask: Is the barn 50 years or older? Is it large? Was it built with stonewalls? Is it of unusual shape? Is the barn important to the landscape? Is it visible from public roads?

The barn must be restored using the same material as when the barn was originally built or at the time of the last major remodeling—except for roofs. Metal roofs will be considered. Metal, plastic, masonry, and other materials cannot be used for siding, windows, trim, or other purpose unless such material was originally used. Grants are not made for interior restoration of the barn unless it supports the exterior.

A perpetual easement must be signed. To receive a grant form, please send \$5 and a \$25 membership to the Iowa Barn Foundation if you are not a current member. Send to Sue Robinson, 454 145th Street, Mechanicsville, Iowa 52306 7541.

STORY COUNTY TREASURE: MULCAHY PIONEER BARN

BY TONY BIANCHINI

When Texas native Tony Bianchini was recently transferred to Des Moines by the Federal Aviation Administration to be compliance manager for safety and environment in Iowa and Nebraska. Tony decided he wanted to live in the country. He saw an ad for an acreage with an old house and large barn within driving distance from Des Moines where he would headquarter. Tony bought the farm and has worked on it diligently in his spare time. The barn will be on the All-State Barn Tour September 25 and 26. Here Tony shares his story with us.

The Mulcahy Pioneer Barn, as it is known on the National Historic Register, is now my barn. It is a basement barn of pegged construction built in 1885. With the various challenges of age, the structure should have disappeared from the landscape decades ago. Yet, it stands as a proud citadel of the same tough grit the pioneers were made of when it was raised centuries ago.

The barn was built by Mulcahys from Ireland, who purchased the land from the federal government in 1872. Mulcahys owned the farm until 1999 when it was purchased by a young couple from New York City who wanted to raise their family on a farm. They poured a new foundation and put on a wood shingle roof. They hired four teams of frame straighteners to square the barn. Tensioning wires were also installed. Had it not been for these efforts, the barn would have collapsed. The family also renovated and updated everything from the foundation to electrical system in the 1893 house.

When the family's children were grown, they put the acreage on the market. Since I grew up in Texas, where few barns remain, I rarely saw a barn. But, I always fanta-

sized about owning an old farmstead with a picturesque barn. Sadly, few farmsteads were for sale in Iowa when I was looking. Either they were missing the barn, or the old barn was in such disarray it was on the verge of collapsing. I had almost given up hope of finding my dream place when I came across the ad for this place. It had just come on the market. I called the realtor and requested photographs of the place. I wrote the offer. I bought the place sight unseen!

I recall driving up from Texas for the home inspection thinking: "What have I done?"

Of course when I first saw the place close up, I knew it was my home. A clos-

ing date was set. I remember the day I moved in – the excitement and anxiety of moving some 800 miles by myself set in. I remember thinking, "How am I going to keep this place up?"

Well, I bought a John Deere tractor and got to work!

My on-line research on barns led me to the "Iowa Barn Foundation." The Mulcahy Barn was in need of help, having been a decade plus since it was renovated. Boards were missing, windows were blown out, and the paint had vanished. But, I was determined to restore the barn. I applied for and received a matching grant from the Iowa Barn Foundation to help pay for expenses.

I had a difficult time locating an outfit that would tackle such a project. Either there wasn't enough money in it for them, or "we just don't work on anything like that." I finally located Pat Sherlock, painter and contractor, who tackled the work.

The old world air around the Mulcahy farm doesn't stop with the barn. The barn is surrounded by other nineteenth century structures that have also survived intact: two corn cribs, two chicken houses, a hog house, and a coal building. I happily live in the 1893 farmhouse that has proudly weathered the years. I appreciate what it stands for.

I did not restore the barn to perfection; I believe one loses the historical essence of something when you replace all the parts with new. To that end, I've kept the original siding on the barn, warts and all. The barn has a sound foundation, roof, good doors and windows, plus nice red paint with white trim work. It looks like a structure that has survived the test of time and will for many years to come.

I know that without the grant, the Mulcahy Pioneer Barn would still be slowly deteriorating. It once again shines as an Iowa jewel in the midst of the fields. I look forward to sharing it on the Iowa Barn tour.



THE RIMATHE BARN STORY

BY JAQUELINE ANDRE SCHMEAL



Every barn has stories - some happy, some frightening, some tragic - or almost tragic.

Wayne Rimathe knows stories hidden in his barn, which was built for his uncle, Ed, outside of Slater in 1929. One story stands out.

As a teen-ager, Wayne liked to trap pigeons. He piled bales of hay high inside the barn so the pigeons couldn't fly out the hole above the hay mow door. One day his uncle, Ed, lowered the hay door, and the bales rolled out on him.

"Dumb stupid thing I did," said Wayne. "My uncle was mad."

The handsome barn is in what Wayne calls "Norwegian Country". The builders were local carpenters Sanford Lande and Genz Mehl. The barn, which has a gambrel roof with trusses on a two-foot center, still has a working Loudon hay track.

Through the years, the barn was used to house beef and farrowed hogs.

Ed and Ray's farms were two miles apart, and the two brothers helped each other with farming. Ed had a dairy operation until he retired from farming in 1957. Wayne, who had not been farming, bought his farm. "I always wanted a farm even though I was a mechanic for International Harvester. I always thought the barn was really neat."

After he bought the farm, Wayne carried on mechanic duties in the winter and farm work in the summer. That changed a bit after they saw a llama show at the Iowa State Fair about 20 years ago. The animals fascinated Wayne so he started raising them for interest. He invited school children out to the farm, showed them the llamas, and explained how llamas are used. He even has a scale and grooming chute.

Wayne is proud of the farm. He's proud that's where his children were raised. He emphasized, "The barn was the life blood of the whole operation through the years. Everything happened in the barn."

The barn has new wood windows. There are turnbuckle latches on the door, and the



siding is special. "They don't make tongue and groove siding anymore. We needed that to restore the barn.," recalled Wayne.

He bought plain 1x6 inch boards and used a router to make a tongue and groove in each board.

Wayne was given a matching grant by the Iowa Barn Foundation. for the restoration work. The barn will be on the all-state barn tour at the end of September. The barn is one mile east of Slater on Highway 210--1349 Highway 210. (jas)



TAX INCENTIVES FOR RESTORING YOUR BARN

The Iowa Barn Foundation is now providing incentives for barn owners to take advantage of tax credits that are available from the federal government and the state of Iowa.

Submitting a nomination to put your barn on the National Register of Historic Places or applying for State Tax Credits can be challenging for many of us, but the financial benefits are significant. Your barn qualifies for a tax credit of 20% of a renovation project if it is on the National Register. The State of Iowa offers a 25% tax credit for barns built before 1937. Please visit the State Historical Society of Iowa's website, www.iowahistory.org/historicpreservation for qualifying details.

For barn owners to get some help in applying for these programs, the Iowa Barn Foundation is offering a cost share program so you can hire consultants to help you work through the process.

The Iowa Barn Foundation will cost share 50 per cent of the cost of the consultant up to \$2500. Interested parties must submit an application to the Iowa Barn Foundation before hiring a consultant. This application can be obtained from the Iowa Barn Foundation website. www.iowabarnfoundation.org

Applicants must hire consultants who have been approved by the Association of Iowa Archaeologists or Preservation Iowa. Cost share payments will be made after completed National Register Nominations and/or State Tax Credit applications are submitted to the State Historic Preservation Office. The Iowa Barn Foundation will allocate a given amount of funds to be used for this incentive program. Once these funds are utilized, any unfunded cost share applications will be considered after the next funding cycle.

The cost for barn renovations can be high. To counteract this, the Iowa Barn Foundation encourages you to apply for a matching grant to restore your barn, but also strongly consider taking advantage of the tax credits. If we put all these preservation advantages together, many more of our Iowa barns will remain proud.

If you have questions about this new program from the IBF, please contact Craig Pfantz at cmpfantz@partnercom.net or 641750-0187.

BARN ALL-STATE TOUR

Historic restored barns, throughout Iowa, will be opened to the public during the Iowa Barn Foundation's free, self-guided, 2015 All-State Barn Tour on Saturday, September 26 and Sunday, September 27 (9:30am-5:30pm each day).

Most barns on tour have been restored with matching grants from the Iowa Barn Foundation. Other property owners received awards of distinction from the foundation for restorations they undertook themselves Award of Distinction icon.

The purpose of the tour is to encourage barn preservation in the state, to teach young people about Iowa's rich agricultural heritage, and to renew pride in this unique heritage. Owners will discuss the barns and their histories at many stops. Visitors are expected from around the country. The effort has encouraged barn preservation throughout Iowa and beyond.

The tour is free although donations to support the foundation's work are appreciated.

NORTHWEST IOWA BARNs

Johnson barn, 6610 460th Street, Sutherland (O'Brien County) From Sutherland, travel one mile north on County Road M 12. The barn is on the northeast corner of the intersection of M12 and B 53. Barn was built about 1920 for John Adams, a dairy farmer. It has a footprint of over 2000 square feet. Twin cupolas and horse weathervanes are original. Arched rafters had to be hoisted in place with pulleys and horse power. This allowed for access to the loft without support poles.

Lorch Mennonite barn, (A-34 (220th Street) and M-18 (White Avenue), Ocheyedan. This magnificent Mennonite barn was built in 1889 and has a distinctive overhanging side.

Ackerman barn. 6357 Highway 9, Ocheyedan (One-half mile north of



Johnson barn



Lorch Mennonite barn



Ackerman barn



Belfrage barn



Conover barn

Ocheyedan on corner of L-58 and Highway 9.) On the Todd and Susan Ackerman farm are barn and smaller "matching" hog house built between 1915 and 1918. The barn is 84x36-feet; the hog house is 56x24-feet. At one time two Russian carpenters lived in the haymow of the hog house. (One-half mile north of Ocheyedan on corner of L-58 and Highway 9.)

Belfrage barn, 2410 Port Neal Road, Sergeant Bluff (Woodbury County)-Take Port Neal exit off I -29 and go west two miles to first intersection. Turn right and go two miles north. Owner's great-grandfather, John Belfrage, served in the Civil War, and bought the land on which this barn stands in 1875. A carpenter named Aaron Gunderson built the barn on the land in 1910.

Conover barn, 5315 190th Street, Holstein (Ida County)-From Holstein travel 1.5 miles west on US 20. Turn south on L67 and go three miles. Turn left on 190th. It is the first place on north side of road. Barn was built around 1900 and used by C.B. Conover and his son, C.B., Jr., for their outstanding Belgian draft horses. Harry Linn, Iowa's secretary of agriculture, gave draft horse demonstrations here. (Award of Distinction)

Hansen barn, 4015 340 Av. Ruthven (Take N 18 four miles south of Ruthven) 51358 One-of-a-kind landmark corncrib, built in 1940a, holds 7000 bushels of ear corn and 4000 bushels of small grain. In middle of crib is a bucket system that transports ear corn to the top of the corncrib and releases it into multiple outlets. Grandfather of owner died when owner's father was 18 and he had to take over farm.

Ascherl barn, 4680 McKinley, Granville (O'Brien/Sioux Counties) - From Granville, go one mile east on Highway 10 and a half mile south on gravel. Barn is on east side of road. This landmark barn was built in 1914 by Mr. Diers from Germantown.



Battaglioli barn

Battaglioli barn, 4819 480th Street, Granville (O'Brien County) - From Granville, take Highway 10 east two miles. Turn south on Monroe and drive two miles to 480th Street. Then travel east a quarter of a mile. This distinguished barn highlights an area.

Ferguson barn, 40415 130th Avenue, Laurens (Pocahontas County)-Barn is 3 ¾ miles straight north of Laurens. Barn and landmark, unique "conehead" crib were built in 1912. Elevator still works.



Ferguson barn



Clancy barn

Clancy Barn, 1866 Marengo (Highway 4 and 7), Pomeroy (Calhoun County)-Barn was built in 1948 by the Clancy family who were important in the Iowa Charolais Association formed in 1961. For 25 years Leo Clancy served as superintendent of Charolais at the Iowa State Fair. He raised the cattle on the farm.

Dreyer barn, 102 310th Street, Fenton (Kossuth County) - From the south side of Fenton, turn west on County Road B 19. Go ¾ miles west to second place of south



Dreyer barn

side of road. Barn was built in 1903 and used as dairy barn until 1944. There is a 1000-gallon wooden water storage tank in hayloft. Manure unloading system is intact.

NORTH CENTRAL IOWA BARNs

Tenold Barn, 4356 Wheelerwood Road (frontage road), Northwood. Barn is 3.5 miles south of Highway 105. Family farm and barn, built at the turn of the century, is across from what was the town of Tenold which was on the Iowa map until 1960.

Chizek Barn, 1665 250th Street, Garner (Hancock County) Go west out of Garner on Highway 18 to US 69. Turn north for one mile on 69 and take a left on 250th St. Barn built by Albert Chizek, owner's grandfather, in 1942. It has open loft area.

Horace Hendrickson Barn, 2035 490th Street, Northwood (Worth County) Go east from Northwood on Highway 105 for five miles. Turn left on S56 to 490th Street. Turn east. Barn was built in 1894. Farm was purchased by owner's great-grandfather after arriving from Norway. This was one of five farms he bought—one for each son.

Haugen barn, 18446 420th Street, Leland (Winnebago County) - Go north out of Leland on US 69 to 420th Street (three miles). Turn right on 420th (gravel). It is the first



Haugen barn



Yezek barn

place on the north side. Barn was built in 1915. In 1924 Peter Haugen enlarged it using a handsaw to split the barn in two. He added to the middle.

Harvey barn, 4516 190th Street, Estherville (Emmet County)-Take Highway 9 through Gruver. Turn south on N40. Go two miles. Turn east ¾ mile. Farm was homesteaded in 1899. Dan Harvey's great grandparents built the barn in 1927.

Yezek barn, 22881 Vine Avenue, Plymouth (Cerro Gordo County) - From Rock Falls, go one mile north on the county blacktop. Barn is on the east side of the road. This 32 x 52-foot barn with metal cupola was built in 1930 and is one of the only barns standing in the area. The barn was in vulnerable condition when the Yezeks started the restoration project.

Bennett barn, 1664 Eagle Avenue, Latimer (Franklin County) - Take I-35 to State Highway 3. Turn west on 3 and go one mile to Eagle Avenue. Turn north and go 2.5 miles. This handsome clay tile barn, with round laminated rafter roof, was built in 1950 by Henning Construction Company, Latimer, for a dairy herd. The cow stanchions had drinking cups; there is a chain lift manure carrier.



Bennett barn



Dodd barn



Yunker barn



Welter barn



Michels barn

Dodd barn, 1854 40th Street, Ackley (Franklin County) - Travel four miles west of Ackley on Highway 57. Turn north on S55 for two miles to 40th Street. Go ½ mile west. Barn was built by Ernest Aldinger, one of three Aldinger brothers who built farms within a mile of each other.

Yunker Family Heritage Farm barn, 25734 Highway 57, east of Parkersburg, (Butler County).-Take Highway 14 north of US 20 to Highway 57 and turn east 2 ¾ miles. This large (112x30) barn has been in the same family since the barn was built in the late 1800s. Inside the barn is a 16x24-foot silo that was manufactured by the Indiana Silo Company and built around 1909. The landmark barn was recently lovingly restored by Eleanor Tostlebe Peterson and family. (Award of Distinction.)

Welter barn, 13725 X, Avenue, Cedar Falls (Black Hawk County)-Original blueprints developed by Agricultural Engineering Department, Iowa State. It was built in 1947. Working farm was purchased in 1867 by Ole Johnson and has been in the same family since.

James Michels barn, 1278 Mason Avenue, Stanley (Buchanan County)-From Hazelton, go east on C 57 for three miles to Mason Avenue. Turn south and go ¾ miles. Barn is on the east. Redwood tongue and groove 40'x 80' barn was built in 1947 when the family started raising Angus cattle.

EASTERN IOWA BARNES

Ridden-Hahn Barn, Vine Road, Dyersville. Barn is on the property of the ethanol plant owned by Big River Resources. To view the barn, turn off US 20 at 332nd Avenue. Turn north to four-way intersection. Continue north. At the next intersection is Vine Road. Take a left. The barn is located beyond the plant. The Ridden-Hahn barn dates back to the English settlement around Dyersville in the 1850s. It was built by William Ridden. During the 20th century it was owned by the Hahn family. We should all be grateful to Big River Resources for allowing us to view this barn and for giving it respect and care. It's one of the oldest barns in Iowa.



Ridden-Hahn barn



Lea-Oakley barn



Palmer barn

NORTHEAST IOWA BARNES

Scholtes Barn, 2207 Gunder Ridge Road, Lansing. Take Highway 9 out of Waukon toward Lansing. Two miles west of Lansing turn west on Gunder Ridge Road. Go 2.5 miles. 1920s barn on beautiful site dedicated to family's sheep operations.

Lea-Oakley Barn, 2279 County Road W 42, Decorah. Native limestone Norwegian barn was built by John Johnson in 1862. Original materials are intact. Barn has a gambrel roof with wooden shingles that was probably added at a later date. Original roof would have been a gable roof.

Palmer barn, 1206 150th Street, Castalia (Winnebago County)-From Decorah intersection of Highways 9 and 52, go east on Highway 9 for 5.8 miles to Centennial Road. Turn right on Centennial and go



Chimney Rock Ranch barn

8.4 miles (Centennial becomes W 46). Turn left on 150th Street. Go 1.7 miles to Palmer barn. Rock is from nearby quarry using teams and wagons. Framing of barn was oak harvested from own woodlands. Portable sawmill was brought to saw logs. Some 200-300 men came for a one day barn raising; each man given a new hammer.

Hinsbrock barn, 1477 Norske Road, Decorah (Winnebago County) - From Decorah, take Highway 9 six miles east to the second entrance to Oilville Road. Turn left and go one-half mile to the first gravel road, Norske Road. Turn right and go one-half mile to farm. Pegged barn (36x70) was built into a hill in 1878 by Peder Bakke, an original Norwegian settler in the county. Barn retains original wooden hay drop for loose hay and has unusual double support rafters. There are hand-hewn timbers, and pegs are in the same condition as when they were made.

Hotvedt barn, 1996 County Road A 14, west of Hesper on the state line- (Winnebago County). John McMullens bought farm from government in 1852 for \$1.25 and acre. Nearby Mable, Minnesota's steam engine days started on the farm.

Chimney Rock Ranch, 1245 Chimney Rock Road, Waterville, (Allamakee County) From stop light in Waukon, travel east on Elon Road (A 52) about 6.8 miles to



Hotvedt barn

Chimney Rock Road-T intersection.. Turn right onto Chimney Rock Road and travel south. Large building is corn crib, granary, hog barn, and machine shed and was built in two parts in 1907-08. The corncrib/granary has a basement for hogs. The second part was added to the north end of the original building later that year or the next year. (Award of Distinction)

Kolsrud Barn, 1243 Gjeffe Drive, Waukon. From intersection of Highways 9 and 76, one mile south of Waukon, travel 4.7 miles east on Highway 76 toward Rossville. About 1.7 miles west of Rossville turn left on Cardinal Road (gravel). Travel 1.1 mile curving to the north. Turn right onto Gjeffe Drive (gravel) and follow it east and northeast for half a mile to the barn. Known as Jacob Johnson/Clark barn, the Kolsrud barn was built in 1870. Jacob Johnson came from Norway and purchased the barn with 80 acres in 1862. He paid

\$500 for the farm. Timber used in barn came from his farm. Rock was quarried a 100 yards from barn location. He used oxen in building the barn. See page 19.

Kruger barn, 310 Northline Drive, Waukon (Allamakee County) - From Decorah, go east on Highway 9 to a "T" intersection with Highway 51. Take a right on Apple Road (gravel) and go one mile north to Northline Drive. Take a right. Farm is first on the left. Large dairy barn was built in 1915 and has been in family for 50 years.

Dighton barn, 3344 120th Avenue, Coggon (Delaware County) - Take paved road going west out of town for one mile to Quality Ridge Road. Turn north for 1.5 mile. Round barn on National Register was built in 1914 by Rob Kirkpatrick, grandfather of owner. It is intricate. (Adopt-a-Barn Award)



Dighton barn

Buckley barn, 12178 200th St, Elma (Howard County). From Elma take 272 east to US 63 and turn south for one mile. Turn west and go two miles to 200th Street. Barn was built in 1915 on land given to family by President Buchanan.

WEST CENTRAL IOWA BARNES

Ellis barn, 2370 Fletcher Avenue, Lytton (Calhoun County)-The barn is three miles east and 2.5 miles north of Lytton. Landmark red barn, used to raise Red Rock Arabians, is called the "big red barn" by locals. It was built in 1918 and is 40 feet high to the eaves. It has 3x12-inch timbers.

Owens Family Farm, 3747 Jennings Avenue, Lake City (between Glidden and Lake City).. The large barn was built in 1958 by William Owens for his angus cattle, corn, and soybeans. Once, after a storm,

he increased the size a bit. The windows are original.

Renze barn, 22695 Highway 71, Carroll (Carroll County) –Three miles west of Carroll. Farm was known as “Old Mattes Place.” Interesting landmark barn.

Wooster barn, 2435 2100th Street, Manning (Shelby County) - From Irwin, take the highway east five miles, turn north on gravel for one mile, and turn east for $\frac{3}{4}$ miles. From Manning, go seven miles on M66 Turn west for 1.75 miles. Mr. Wooster’s grandfather built this barn in 1896. It has always been used in the family farming operation and still is.

Sextro Crib, 12708 280th St., Manning (Carroll County)-From Carroll, eight miles west on Highway 30; nine miles south on M68, one-fourth miles west. Landmark crib was built in early 1900s. It is one of the oldest cribs in the area. Mr. Sextro loved that barn. It was on the cover of the program at his funeral a few years ago.

Heflin barn, 837 Orange Road, Harlan (Shelby County) - From the intersection of US 59 and State 44, go four miles east on 44 to Orange road. Then go one and a fourth mile south. Farm is on the east side of the road. Once there were several of these unique barns in the area, but this is the only one remaining. The barn, built in 1901, is 40x36 feet. It has been used by four generations of Heflins.

Hinderaker barn, 2698 Jaguar Trail, Guthrie Center (Guthrie County) - From Guthrie Center, go west on Highway 44 for three miles. Turn left on Jaguar and go 4.5 miles south. The original barn was built at the turn of the century. It burned down in 1931, and the present barn was built.

Redman barn, 2034 205th Avenue, Osceola (Clarke County) - From I-35, take US 34 west 2.5 miles. Barn was built in 1916 and has been owned by two different families.

CENTRAL IOWA BARNs

Hamann barn, 21461 240th Street, Grundy Center (Grundy County)-On Highway 175 just west of Highway 14. This distinguished landmark barn was built in 1907



Ellis barn



Renze barn



Hindraker barn



Sexto crib



Wooster barn



Heflin barn



Hamann barn

and served for years as the Worthwhile Frost Dairy Farm. It has dowel or wooden pin type construction on the upper beams and cross members. It has post and beam construction. The silo was constructed after the top window and roofed structure were completed.

Hayward round barn, 1520 V 37 Dysart (Tama County) 3.5 miles north of Dysart on V 37. Owner's great-grandfather, Charles Hayward, purchased farm in 1881. Barn, built in 1916, is 66 feet in diameter. It may have been constructed by Johnston Brothers Clay Works, Ft. Dodge because of size of clay bricks used. **See page 2.**

Rimathe Barn, 51349 Highway 210, Slater (Story County) This 30x50 foot barn has been used and beloved by the family since it was built in 1929 by the owner's uncle. The barn was in tough shape after a tornado, but owner, Wayne Rimathe, at great effort, recently restored it. **See page 6.**

Apland/Freeland Barn, 57304 Highway 210, Cambridge (Story County)-Get off I 35 at Highway 210 and go east. Glorious pegged barn was built by Jens Russell for Norwegian immigrant, Ole Aplan. Original carving arguably written by Ole Aplan in Norwegian marks the date construction was completed. Barn sits in historic Norwegian settlement and remains with some of the original family.

Mulcahy Barn, 5623 710th Avenue, Colo. (Story County). Take new US 30 to US 65. Travel east to 710th Street. Turn south for a long block. Barn was built in 1885 for horses. Barn is on National Register. Barn was built in 1885 for horses. Barn is on National Register. Take new US 30 to US65. Go east to 710th Street. Turn south for a long block. Barn is on the west side of the road. **See page 5 for story.**

Klousia barn, 1766 165th St., Hampton (Franklin County) - At the intersection of Highways 65 and 3 in Hampton, turn east for two miles. Then travel north for two miles and finally west a fourth mile to the barn. The barn of peg construction is on a hill on a gorgeous farmstead. The owner copied a Wisconsin dairy barn when he built it in 1888. The barn was proudly placed on the most prominent position on the farm.



Mulcahy barn



Klousia barn

Oakdale Farm/Grave of Farceur, 787 210th Street, (Boone County)- Take old Highway 30 to Ogden and turn north on P70 for one mile to 210th Street. Turn right to 787. The barn is on the left side of the road. The barn, where Farceur, the world-famous Belgian was buried in 1921, is one of Iowa's hidden treasures. C.G. Good, bought 12-year-old Farceur, the San Francisco World's Fair champion, for \$47,000 in 1915. The horse was a service stud, and,



Oakdale barn



Thurmond-Adams barn



Handsaker barn



Twedt barn



Buck barn



Dobbins round barn



Sparks barn

to this day, Farceur's name is on pedigrees of Belgians. Following a European custom, Good buried the horse in the stall of the stud barn-standing up.

Thurmond-Adams barn, South edge of Williams (Hamilton County) - From D 25 (Old 30) south of Williams, turn north on R 75. Turn right on 4th, right on Spruce, and right on Evergreen. Owner inherited old tongue and groove barn (36 x 63 feet), with two-inch vertical siding, and two acres from his uncle. He has made the once the sad-looking structure a Williams landmark. (Award of Distinction)

Sparks barn, 15737 E. Avenue, Alden (Hardin County) - Take Alden/Buckeye exit off US 20. Go north to D25. Go west to Avenue. "E. G. Herman, 1923", Dubuque, is painted on west inside wall of this very large barn..

Handsaker barn, 65627 200th, Fernald (Story County) - Barn is immediately southeast of Fernald which is off E 29 west of U.S. 65, north of Colo. Large, unique 1875 square barn is on farm purchased by Handsakers in 1853. Family gave land for Fernald.

Twedt barn, 63645 160th Street, Nevada (Story County) From junction of E14 (Old Highway 30) and S14 in Nevada,

turn north and go six miles to 160th Street. Turn east for 1.5 miles. This barn has 40 two-ply laminate rafters to support its rounded roof so the hayloft is free of posts and beams. Farm was once owned by Hoyt Sherman, brother of the Civil War general. This is an example of how a small barn can highlight a farm.

Ellingson barn, 19987 Timber Avenue, Cresco, (Howard County) - Barn can be seen from Dr. Borlaug's farm, half a mile away. The family farm has been beautifully restored.)

Buck Barn, 1271 285th Street, State Center (Marshall County) From State Center, go west one mile to Cooper Avenue. Go 4.5 miles south to 285th Street. Turn left on gravel. Barn is at first place on left. Barn is an example of how a potential tear-down can be turned into a jewel. It has a wonderful cupola.

Dobbins round barn, 2551 Brown Avenue, State Center (Marshall County) - From State Center, go west one mile to Cooper Avenue. Turn south. 1917 barn was a pre-cut structure designed and made to order by Gordon Van Tine, Davenport, for \$6000. Carpenters like Ike Ingersol and Amos Thompson assembled the numbered pieces into the 65-foot diameter barn with silo in the middle. (Award of Distinction)



Kenan barn

Boriskey Barn 2115 230th Street, Marshalltown (Marshall County). Barn known as “long horse barn on Old 30. Has laminated curved rafters. Native lumber in horse stalls..

Purviance barn 21501 H Avenue, Minburn. (Dallas County) - Take P58 (from Perry, go south at Hy-Vee corner or from Highway 44, go north) to F 31. Turn west for two miles. Turn south on H Avenue (gravel) and go ½ mile to first farm on west side of road. Local craftsmen built this historic family farm in 1913 for Robert Purviance, prominent Dallas County farmer. The house and two barns are original.

Kenan Barn, 2260 270th Street, Rippey (Greene County)-Go two miles north of Rippey on T 46. Then go one-fourth mile west on 270th Street. This brick barn, built in the late 1800s, has a matching corn crib. Barn has the original rope pulley and forks.

Gillespie Barn, 1257 Highway 92, Winterset 50273- Barn was built in 1874 by W.W. George. The property has been in the same family since 1870. It is located on Old Bluff Road which carried early settlers to Council Bluffs.

Hanson barn, 11590 N. 87th Av. W., Mingo (Jasper County) - At the junctions of Highways 65, 330, and 117, continue northeast on 330. Go one mile to F 17 and turn east for 0.4



Purviance barn



Gillespie barn



Strabala barn

of a mile to W. 122nd St. N., and turn right. Go 0.4 of a mile to 87th Av. W and turn left. The barn is a little over 0.7 of a mile on the left side of the road. Barn was built in 1907 with wood from older barn demolished by a tornado. Pegged barn was built by Elmer Haley and the Hansons.

Gary Richardson barn, 624 E. 150th St. N., Grinnell (Poweshiek County)-From Grinnell, go south three miles on #146; then go west on 410th three miles. Barn on southside. Barn was built in the mid-1940s. Much of the wood used in the interior was from wood used in clearing the land.



Richardson barn

EAST CENTRAL IOWA BARNs

Strabala barn, 1830 290th Street, Washington (Washington County)-From Washington, go south on Highway 1 for 5.5 miles. Turn west on 290th and go one-half mile. The barn is on the right. This large barn was built in the 1920s.

Steines barn, 36746 Bellevue-Cascade Road, Bellevue (Go ½ mile west of Bellevue on Highway 62. Turn right on Bellevue-Cascade Road and go 1.5 miles to barn.) This simple, primitive barn was built in the early 1900s,

Delaney barn, 23477 Bellevue-Cascade Road, LeMotte (Jackson County) - This lovely farm is known as the Sprank farm. The large barn was built around 1900, and the smaller one in 1940. The large barn has wooden peg construction.



Delaney barn

The DeFries Barn on the Doris and Jack Dyas Farm, 17929 232nd Avenue, Maquoketa (Jackson County) - Go north out of Andrew on Highway 62, then left on Y61- 250th Avenue (two miles) and left again on 180th St. Go ½ miles to first farm on left at 232nd Av. The 47 x 84-foot barn was built in 1885 by A.B. DeFries whose family settled in the area in the 1850s. It has post and beam pegged construction.



Gehlen barn



Defries barn

Clasen barn, 25219 200th Street, Bellevue (Jackson County) - Wider-than-usual barn has bark on support timbers

Trenkamp Barn, 893 450th Ave. Preston (Jackson County) - Take 64 east out of Preston, turn south on to 450th Ave.. Pass cemetery. Barn was built by Justin Berg in 1926. Bernard and Correna Trenkamp purchased the farm in 1945 and used it for dairy and horses. When they retired in 1974, Steve and Doris purchased the farm. Steve has been restoring the barn using native lumber when possible. (Award of Distinction)

Stromeyer barn, 37647 Iron Bridge Road, Spragueville (Jackson County). Take Highway 62 north out of Maquoketa to Iron Bridge Road turnoff south of Andrew. Travel nine miles on Iron Bridge Road. The barn on the historic farm was restored by the family. A pioneer cemetery can be seen from the barn. (Award of Distinction)



Stromeyer barn



Ulch barn



Gehlen Barn, Main Street, St. Donatus (Jackson County) - This magnificent three-story limestone barn, one of the oldest (arguably built in 1839) in Iowa, sits in the middle of this historic Luxembourgish village. (Award of Distinction)

Ulch barn, 4672 Sutliff Road, Solon (Johnson County) - On the north edge of Solon is a blacktop, Sutliff Road. Take it east one mile. This barn, built around 1905, is unique in that it is very primitive. The barn is used in farming.

Schneckloth crib, 23553 200th Avenue, Davenport (Scott County) - Exit US 61 at Exit 127. Go east on LeClaire Road three miles. Then go south on 200th a half mile. Herbert Schneckloth, prominent Iowa farmer, whose family emigrated from Germany in 1854, built the landmark round crib in 1926. Work on the 50-feet in diameter structure was done with hand tools. The foundation was dug and poured by hand using a shovel and one-third of a bag of home mix at a time. Handmade forms were used to pour the concrete. The ventilation block tile and matching solid tile were brought from Adel by train and horse-drawn wagons.

Zelle barn, 1503 Holland Street, Le Claire (Scott County) - Take #306 exit off I-80. Turn left at lights (north) and go through Le Claire. Turn left on Holland Street. Continue up hill for 1.5 miles until blacktop ends. Drive is 100 feet on right. This is a 19th century family farm with one of the few barns left in Scott County.

SOUTHWEST IOWA BARNs

Peters Barn, 19077 H Avenue, Perry- (Dallas County) From the intersection of P58 and Highway 141, Perry, go south on P 58 to 190th Street and turn right. Henry and Florence Spintig purchased farm about 1903. The main buildings on the home site were present at that time. The barn has been used for farming by the same family since 1934. The barn is interesting because it has cut out squares incorporated into the beams.

◀ *Peters barn*



Schneckloth barn



Zelle barn



Beeler barn



Blake barn



Oswald barn

SOUTH CENTRAL IOWA BARNs

Beeler barn, 2569 140th Street, Van Meter (Madison County) - From DeSoto, go south on Highway 169. Turn east on 130th Street to stop sign. Then go south on Prairie View Avenue and finally east on



McBroom-Hargis barn

140th Street. Barn is in what was a strong German settlement. Barn was built by the Burger brothers including one who became the first county agent in Iowa.

Blake Barn, 2155 Benson Street, Weldon (Madison County) -Take exit 29 off I-35. Go east to Highway 69. Turn south about four miles to Benson Avenue. Turn right. The barn is just above the freeway, but there is not an entrance there. Thousands of travelers going up I- 35 have probably noticed this highly visible barn but not the story. It is a wooden manufactured "kit" barn probably built in the early 1900s. The exceptionally tall (48 feet high) 32x38 feet barn sits on four footings keeping it off the ground. The barn was built with wood rafters so even the ends are identical to the middle. New red paint highlights the barn.

McBroom-Hargis barn, 1218 Highway 169, Winterset (Madison County) - Barn is five miles south of I-80 (Adel, De Soto, Winterset exit). Article in Madison County paper (1884) discussed this barn, "It would be the largest barn in this part of the county." It has a wooden track, post and beam, pegs and was designed by I.F. Carter of De Soto.

Oswald barn, 1071 Harken Hills Drive, Osceola (Clarke County)-Take Highway 34 through Osceola; go another half mile to Harken Hills Drive on the south side of the road. Beef barn was designed in the

1930s and can be converted into a show pavilion to seat over 700. Pure-bred Angus were developed there by Dr. C.R. Harken, Osceola physician. Farm was operated with view of helping small producer market his animals. J.C. Penney often visited the farm.

SOUTHEAST IOWA BARNs

Schroeder barn, 2738 130th Street, Wilton (Muscatine County)-Take exit 271 off I-80 and go south five miles on Highway 38 to 130th Street. Turn left for ¼ mile. Barn (48x50) was built in 1900 and has roof rafter haymow with haymow door and track in tact. The foundation is river rock.



Schroeder barn

Bartelt barn, 16296 Highway 61, Mediapolis (Des Moines County) - The barn is seven miles south of Mediapolis. The owners saw this landmark barn falling into disrepair and subsequently bought and restored it. It is peg and post basement barn with a limestone foundation. (Award of Distinction)



Partridge barn

Murphy barn, 7606 Stony Hollow Road, Burlington (Des Moines County)-Stony Hollow Road goes off Highway 99. Primitive historic barn has horse stalls, milking area, hog house, corn crib, cattle feeding area, and hay loft. Barn is still used for agriculture. (Award of Distinction).

Riessen barn, 1190 York Avenue, Stockton. From Old Highway 6 (F 58), one mile west of Y 40 (west of Wolcott), go south on York Avenue 1 ¾ miles. Second place on the right. Barn is 40x 80 and has space for 10 teams of horses on the east side of barn and 26 milk cows on the west side. Silo and silo shed were built in 1917. West addition was put on in 1961.

SOUTHERN IOWA BARN

Partridge barn, 32086 252nd Street, Linleville (Decatur County) From I-35, go east on Highway 2 to Leon and continue another eight miles east of Leon to the intersection of County Road R 69 (Woodland Road) and Highway 2. Turn right on Woodland Road and go 5.5 miles to 252nd Street or the first road left (east) about a mile south of the old Woodland Town site and Woodland Community Church. The barn is 1/4 mile down the road on the north side. Barn (56x32) built in 1930 by William Massey



Riessen barn



Kosman barn

who wanted the largest and fanciest barn in the area. It was built prior to the Depression, and he lost the farm. Blocks delivered by train from Lineville. From there it was 10 miles by horse and wagon. Barn is in beautiful area.

Kosman barn, 10611 240th Avenue, Weldon (Decatur County) - From Osceola, take US 69 south 10 miles to Clarke-Decatur Street. Turn east and go one mile to first



Vandewater barn

gravel road. Turn south. Barn is second house on the west side. Barn, built in 1907, was the scene of large barn dances. Barn has always been used for horses and cows.

Vandewater barn, (Meadow Brook Farm), 3100 270th Street, Orient, (Adair County)-Between Greenfield and Winterset, take Vinton Avenue south of Highway 92 to 270th Street. Go one mile west of Hebron Methodist Church. Barn was built by Henry Vandewater in 1911 and has been in the family since. It has notched beams, pegs, mortise and tendon joints and a memorable wooden cupola.



Ramsey barn

Ramsey barn, east of Mount Ayr on Highway 2 at Lesanville Road (Ringgold County) - From I-Kellerton.) Turn north on Lesanville Road and travel one-fourth mile. Solomon Lesan, one of the first settlers in the county, obtained the farm from the government in 1855. The village of Lesanville, site of the barn, has recently been restored.

Visit us on the web:



www.iowabarnfoundation.org

RESTORATION DONE WITH CARE

This historic Norwegian barn, meticulously restored, will be on the all-state barn tour.

It took thirty gallons of red paint, a new foundation, three years of work, and significant expense, but Clark Kolsrud, was dedicated to restoring the family's fifth generation Norwegian barn, on a picturesque winding gravel road near Waukon.

"I wouldn't have thought I would have spent this much money, but I don't regret it, he said. "But it was worth fixing up since my great- great grandfather built it. It had sentimental values."

The barn at 30x 50 feet may not be large, but it served generations of John Jacobson's family after he bought the land in 1862 and spent five years building the barn. John was Clark's great-great grandfather.

There was a time a few years ago when the family was making decisions about what to do with the old barn that had been the heart



of the farm for generations. There was even a discussion about bulldozing it.

About that time Clark attended a meeting where Marlene Fenstermann, county Iowa Barn Foundation representative, talked about the importance of preserving barns. He walked Marlene to her car and heard more about barn preservation. With that he made up his mind to restore the barn.

"It had sentimental values. If it were not in our family, I'm not sure I would have had the passion I had."

Clark drives a truck for Walmart. He drives 190 miles from Waukon to Beaver Dam, Wisconsin, at 4:30 a.m. once a week to get his load. The route is within a 300 mile radius that features great old barns in Iowa and in Wisconsin. Clark looks at barns while driving. Sometimes he stops and talks



to people about barns. "Once you get into it (barn preservation), you start looking at other barns. I don't understand when they're in good shape and "they" want to get rid of them or put up a machine shed or free up more land for corn. Over the years I see barns missing. Too many folks put metal on them"

Clark, with advice from his mother and father, was careful in the restoration project.

The original foundation had been built with beautiful rock from their quarry. It has been brought back to original.

Clark's mother, Eunice, now a young 80, is beyond proud watching the old barn brought back to glory. She's often the "hostess" when the barn is shown. "Mom wasn't interested in first," said Clark. "But she started seeing interest in pursuing the project."

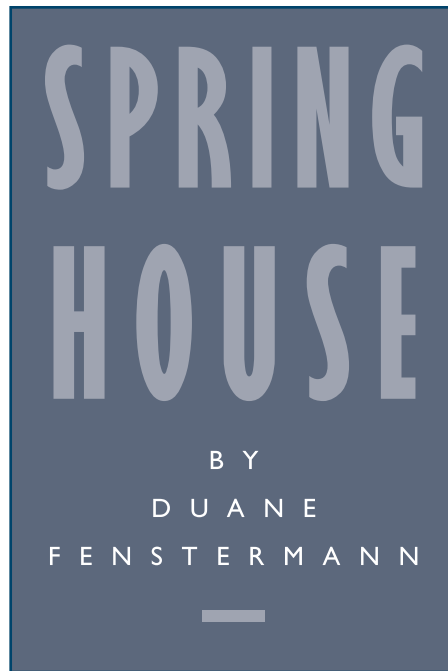
Early eastern Iowa settlers looked for land with several features. They wanted productive land that would grow their crops. They wanted woodland for lumber to build their buildings. But most important was a supply of water. A flowing stream that would turn water wheels for their lumber and grist mills was desirable, but not every farmer had the proper stream or the capital for these operations. Mills developed as the focus of a community by enterprising individuals.

The individual farmer looked for a year long flowing small stream that would provide water for his livestock. But as more farmers came to the area and used the same stream to water their livestock the cleanliness of the water declined. The other source of water sought by the farmer was a reliable flowing spring with water filtered through the layers of soil, rock, and gravel in the water shed above the spring. He needed this clean water for his own family's cooking and drinking and farmyard animals.

Of course, many farmers dug a shaft into the ground, allowing the water table to seep into the bottom of the well. Sanitation, with the open top dug well was always a constant problem. In the rolling hills and limestone cliffs of eastern Iowa having a spring that produced sufficient clean water was often the first priority. Many farmsteads were originally located near a spring.

The arrival of livestock, to drink of the same spring's flowing water, introduced spring maintenance problems. If the soil was soft around the spring the hoofs either turned the area into mud or compacted the soil, sometimes closing off the outflow of water. If the livestock gathered on the land above the spring then manure runoff could contaminate the spring. One solution for this problem was to fence off the area and insert a pipe into the spring that would direct the water to a livestock tank some distance further down the hill.

The construction of a rock spring house over the spring or just down the hill from the spring was the next water control development added to the farmyard. A pipe



was inserted into the spring that would send the water to a holding tank inside the spring house. This holding tank, often made of concrete, created a place with cold or cool running water in which cans of milk could be stored. It also became the "refrigerator" for the housewife of other things she wanted to keep cool. The holding tank would have an overflow exit pipe that would send water to the livestock tank located elsewhere in the yard or in the barn. The family would get their drinking water from a pipe ahead of the holding tank. The roof over the spring house kept the water supply reasonably clean from birds, blowing dirt in the air, and small animals. The walls were 12 to 24 inches thick made of rock boulders or limestone, creating a cool year-long stable environment inside.

A later development was the milk house. Not to be confused with the spring house, the Pennsylvania Historical & Museum Commission webpage discusses the difference between a spring house and a milk house.

"A milk house is a small structure used expressly for the purpose of isolating fresh milk from the smells, dust, and microbes of the barn environment. While the earlier

springhouse housed and cooled fresh milk and provided a space for letting cream rise and for churning, the milk house is a twentieth century phenomenon. A springhouse would be located over a stream or spring, but a milk house would normally abut, adjoin, or sit near the barn. A milk house would also be sited conveniently near the roadside for easy pickup of goods. The milk house was a small (typically ten or twelve feet on a side) structure with a square or rectangular footprint. Construction materials were often masonry, including concrete block or rock face concrete, but sometimes frame. Most milk houses have gabled roofs, but some have a shed roof or pyramid roof."¹

Iowa farmers later utilized windmills to produce water for small stone buildings that were now called "milk houses" instead of spring houses. Often the milk house was placed near the windmill, but as milk production increased the need to have the milk house closer to the barn became a priority.

As farm milk production shifted from serving just the local family to a marketable product in the emerging creamery movement, the spring house lost importance with the rise of milk houses receiving water from a nearby windmill. Then emerged the milk house built near or attached to the barn. To meet the demands of sanitary milking methods and pasteurization of the saleable product public health became a major concern in the production of milk.²

Today many farmers are refurbishing their barns, often with the assistance of the Iowa Barn Foundation, and researching the history of their farmyards. Some are discovering the role and beauty of long deteriorated spring and milk houses. Some are rebuilding and restoring their spring house for the story it tells about the farm or just to protect the original flowing spring. Some are adapting the former milk house to modern day opportunities such as a summer kitchen for family picnics, a cool sales room for the sale of local jams and honey, or a place to display cherished antique farm tools and farm photographs.

¹ http://www.portal.state.pa.us/portal/server.pt/community/outbuilding_types/21198/milk_house/1272671.

² Milk house construction and principles of operation has been explained in the Grade "A" Pasteurized Milk Ordinance, 2009 Revision, pp. 36-41, by the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Public Health Service, and the Food and Drug Administration. The first edition of the milk ordinance was issued in 1924.



Spring House (restored), Richard Kolsrud Farm, Allamakee County, Iowa.
Photographed by Marlene Fenstermann, April 22, 2010.



Milk House (restored), David & Jean Wise Farm, Winneshiek County, Iowa.
Photographed by Marlene Fenstermann, October 26, 2014.



Milk House (restored), Vickie Hinsbrock Farm, Winneshiek County, Iowa.
Photographed by Marlene Fenstermann, June 24, 2010.
 NOTE: After mortar restoration.



Milk House, Vickie Hinsbrock Farm, Winneshiek County, Iowa.
Photographed by Marlene Fenstermann, April 19, 2008.
 NOTE: Before mortar restoration.



Milk House, Roger & Janet Kruger Farm, Allamakee County, Iowa.
Photographed by Marlene Fenstermann, August 21, 2010.



Milk House (restored), Jeremy Marlow Farm, Allamakee County, Iowa.
Photographed by Marlene Fenstermann, August 21, 2010.



Spring House, Robert & Eunice Kolsrud Farm, Allamakee County, Iowa.
Photographed by Marlene Fenstermann, April 22, 2010.



Spring House, Robert & Eunice Kolsrud Farm, Allamakee County, Iowa.
Photographed by Marlene Fenstermann, February 4, 2011.



Milk House (restored), James Boeding Ansten Farm, Winneshiek County, Iowa.
Photographed by Marlene Fenstermann, July 18, 2013.



Milk House (restored), James Boeding Quiet Creek Farm, Winneshiek County, Iowa.
Photographed by Marlene Fenstermann, July 16, 2011.



Milk House Water Tank in Milk House, James Boeding Ansten Farm, Winneshiek County, Iowa. *Photographed by Marlene Fenstermann, April 22, 2010.*



Mark & Cheryl Mellenthin Farm, Allamakee County, Iowa.
Photographed by Marlene Fenstermann, August 21, 2010.
 Unique milk cooling arrangement: The "milk house" was basement space under the cement front porch of the house. It received water either from a spring or windmill further up the hill. Overflow went to the barn, located down hill from the house.

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