# IQWA BARN FOUNDATION SPRING 2013 . VOLUME 19 . NO.1 IN THIS ISSUE: **IOWA'S HISTORIC** SHETLAND PONY FARM THE SPRING BARN TOUR CHUCKIE CARTER FASHION CLUB PONY FARM LEON " IOWA



Iowa Barn Foundation Magazine Spring 2013, Vol. 19, No. 1 Copyright Iowa Barn Foundation, 2013

The Iowa Barn Foundation is grateful to Michael Lanning, graphic artist living in Ames, who has generously donated his time and talents to making us proud of these magazines since our beginning. The magazine, as well as the foundation, is an all-state, all-volunteer effort founded in 1997.

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The representatives promote the preservation of barns in their area and encourage membership in the Iowa Barn Foundation. Working with members of the board they will also help to oversee tours and other activities. We welcome volunteers for other counties.

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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 World OF Van-Tine Barns

Attractive Barn at Hubbard, Iowa built by Aug. Saaksmeier

Our barn plan No. 228 built was by August Saaksmeier. When it was purchased, he insisted that he must have the highest quality materials. We were pleased to receive a letter from him, after the barn was completed, in which he tells his feelings on the matter. Gordon Van Tine barns never fail to attract attention, and whenever erected, are considered the best in that locality. A barn which always attracts the eyes of the traveler as he passes along the Jefferson Highway. (Gordon Van-Tine ad)

Hubbard, Iowa, May I, 1918 Gordon-Van Tine Company, Davenport, Iowa

Gentlemen: I have my barn now painted and completed, and it satisfied me very well. The lumber is good and there was plenty of it to finish the barn.

My neighbors came to look at it and think it is the best barn in the locality."

The Saaksmeier barn, which came to be known as the Jefferson Highway barn, still stands north of Hubbard, Iowa. It's visible from Highway 65, but is actually situated a few feet away on gravel —the remains of the Jefferson Highway, the first north-south transcontinental highway highway, which wound its way from New Orleans to Winnipeg from 1915 until 1928 when numbered highways replaced it. The words Jefferson Highway are still visible on the barn although they have been "restored" through the years.

The building was a mail order barn from the Gordon-Van Tine Company which was incorporated in 1907 and located in Davenport. The company sold building materials, but it remains well-known for the readycut barns and houses it sold throughout the United States through catalogues. The company offered barns from about 1915 until the late 1930s. The prices quoted in the catalog were for exteriors. Interiors were customized to the buyer's needs.

Lumber for each barn or house was pre-cut to length, ready to nail, and labeled for easy assembly. Materials and the barn are visible. One wonders how the carpenters worked at those heights. The barn has a central silo.

An unknown number of Van Tine barns and houses remain in Iowa. Below are those that were listed in their catalogs. We believe many of these barns no longer exist. But, we also believe, others not listed



the pattern were then sent to owners. The Dobbin round barn, west of State Center just off of Highway 30, is one of the most dramatic examples of a Van Tine kit barn. The landmark National Register barn has a twelve-foot central silo,

The must-see barn, 65 feet around with white vertical siding and a two-pitch roof, received an award of distinction from the Iowa Barn Foundation and is on the all-state tour every fall. Visitors can stand in the vast and awesome barn, look upward, and see and admire the thousands of pieces of the barn's puzzle that were shipped by rail from Davenport to State Center to create the barn. The numbers used to assemble

in the catalog, such as the Dobbin barn, do exist. If you own a Van Tine barn or know or any, please send us at note: Iowa Barn Foundation, PO 111, New Providence, Iowa 50206.

- J. Schneider barn, Wheatland. (60x84) ("An ideal cattle feeding barn costing complete \$2400 and which will earn good interest on double that sum by making easier the care of feeding cattle.")
- A.M. Butler barn, Alexander. ("A well-built barn throughout. Practical and a good investment. Designed for the

### ON THE COVER . . .

The Shetland Pony barn in Decatur County is part of the Historic Barn Tour this Spring. See page 6 for the story of this historic barn. The sales catalog from the farm is from the 1950s.



average size farm, strongly made, neat in appearance. The best of material was furnished for this barn and it was built at a total cost of \$1000, an extremely low figure for such a building, as every farmer knows."

■ F.W. Wilson barn, Alta. ("Barn and hog house built by Mr. F.W. Wilson. They were purchased from Gordon-Van-Tine several years ago and lack some of the later improvements, but they are roomy, well-built structures in which the owner finds, much comfort and satisfaction....We are proud of these buildings as they show results

of our honest efforts to build the bet for the lowest prices."

- Oxley barn, Charter Oak ("Mr. Oxley considers this the best built and best looking barn in his county, and the illustration well bears out his statement.")
- Leslie Hobbs farm, Moville, had Van Tine chicken house, barn, and corn crib.
- R.T. Youngman, barn, Toledo, Iowa. ("The pictures hardly do justice to these buildings. Mr. Youngman is a

- progressive farmer who believes in putting buildings up right.") (Barn burned)
- Ferd Dietz, Lake Park. ("Ferd Dietz, , owner, and Harry Rodenberg, tenant, are modern farmers who realize the value of good farm buildings and who know how to get them.")
- C.A. Rownd barn, Cedar Falls. "This is the second round barn built by Mr. Rownd with Gordon-Van-Tine plans and materials. It is a model to pattern after for those who desire this design. Special plans were made for this barn and material was of the usual high Gordon-Van Tine quality. The round barn is without doubt the most conveniently arranged barn built-not a foot of space is wasted. It is practically proof against all winds less than a tornado because of its construction. It is also considered by many as the neatest appearing type possible to build, though tastes differ, of course."

Robert Kisken, photographer living in South Dakota, retired as a teacher in Michigan. He has photographed many barns in the Midwest and is interested in kit barns by Van Tine and Sears, Roebuck, and Company. He was very helpful in contributing to this article.

Iowa Barn Foundation is interested in knowing about Van Tine and Sears barns that still stand in Iowa.

### 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.

### WANTED!

Volunteers to help with the Iowa Barn Foundation booth at the Iowa State Fair. If you have time to tell people about Iowa's barn heritage and the Iowa Barn Foundation's work, please call Ron McBroom and Ginnie Hargis, coordinators of our booth, 515 834 2026. Ginnie&Ron@cabot1hughes.net



Visit us on the web: www.iowabarnfoundation.org

### TWO TENOLD BARNS

Vivien Aasland Hansen, a native of Joice in northern Iowa, wrote this article for us. She is a member of the Humboldt Historic Preservation Commission and is dedicated to saving Iowa's past for future generations.

I grew up in Joice, that "biggest little town in Iowa". It was promoted as such in the 1950s and 1960s. Previous to learning about the fall all-state barn tour and the barn in Tenold, I was traveling the by-ways trying to get off I-35 at an opportune time. I wanted to find Tenold.

Yes, there IS such a place; more of a "ghost town" now but once a bustling little burg just 3.5 miles northeast of my hometown, Joice. I had been to Tenold in my youth and knew its history.

I got off at the Welcome Center and headed south at the stop lights. Tenold is situated between present day Northwood and Joice, as the crow flies, in Brookfield Township. There new paving winds through the countryside.

Tenold is still "hanging" in there in the woods. As I approached, I slowed looking for the blue metal signs that had been posted by

the Worth County Sesquicentennial Commission in 1996. I drove slowly, found the signs, and parked. I was in "Downtown Tenold".

I ventured into the woods on the west side of the road. The brush covered figures of a large, two-story house; a barn shown through the late-day sun. Faint wisps and phantom figures were standing guard against the spectral imagines in the shadows, the wind-blown branches scraping against long-ago dead weathered sides of the old house, swallows diving in and and out of the barn, the rabbit, no longer alive, that I almost stepped on.

Tenold came to be when Norwegian pioneer, Ole Tenold, came west from Ridgeway in eastern Iowa, with his young family. It was May, 28, 1881 that an official U.S. Post Office was started in the little log cabin home of the Tenolds. Elk Creek runs close by to the north. Abundant trees and rolling pastures paint a beautiful picture of what the family must have gloried over. The beauty is still there. A few years after the village got its start, RFD began to service the area, and the post office was discontinued.

Unlike other towns whose existence depended on the post office for vitality, Tenold prospered. At one time there was a blacksmith shop, a general store, a meat market, and a creamery. Henry Tenold, son of Ole, was proprietor of the store for over 40 years. When he died in 1949, the cohesive factor died with him. The creamery and the store continued for a few more years, but, by the 1950s, her 70 years of history had been written.

It was written in the 1918 "History of Mitchell and Worth County": "It once was a very bustling and thriving center of activity in the county, and who of us can say with certainty, that definite, innate spirit of man, very much alive in America then, did not die with the age of which Tenold, Iowa, was so much a part."

When you visit the Tenold barn on the Iowa Barn Foundation's all-state tour, you can observe that it is just up the road and across the creek from the barn that still "hangs in the woods" in the long-ago hamlet, the "Ghost Town Tenold". You are close to seeing two Tenold barns.

### An Iowa Farm: Not so Long Ago ...

Jane Jessen, Exira, recalled some interesting memories growing up on the family farm. Her great-great grandfather built the family barn shortly after moving to Exira in 1881. A story handed down says that some of the wood used in building the barn came from the World's Fair in Kansas City.

"I remember many winter mornings warming our feet on the open over door while we toasted bread on top of the stove on an oven rack. Many mornings Mom fried mush for breakfast or supper. This was a favorite.

School was a one-room building with an enclosed porch for hanging our coats and lining up our overshoes. Sometimes Dad gave us a ride to school in the wagon pulled with his team of draft horses. We lived only a short way from school, but some cold winter mornings it was darn cold for a little kindergarten child to walk. Sometimes my brother pulled me on the sled."

Dad used his team for feeding silage along the feed bunks every night. It was up to the kids to crawl up into the silo and throw the silage down the shute with a pitchfork. Wow. That silage had a strong smell.

With the eggs, cream, and milk available, we made ice cream during the winter. We had to wait until the stock tank froze. We couldn't go to town to buy ice. We had to crank the freezer by hand. We churned our own better. Mom made cottage cheese. We grew almost everything. Groceries were mostly the staples.

Thrashing was a fun time. At dinnertime all the neighborhood men set up the table while the neighbor ladies served the meal. Often the tables were set up outdoors under a shade tree. A bucket with water and a wash pan were set on a small table for men to wash up before dinner.

During the summer the old "cook stove"

made the house hot. But, it could not be removed from the house because it was needed for heat during the winter. Eventually Mom got an electric stove. It was hooked up on the back porch for summer use only.

It took years for her to get it moved into the kitchen. Oh, how she cussed it when it came time to make her cottage cheese. On the "cook stove", she knew exactly when to push the pan back a little so the cheese was never scorched. The electric stove didn't work the same way, and a few batches of cheese got thrown out.

I miss the smell of the barn full of hay and animals after bedding them all down for the night. The straw had a good clean small and a good feeling to end the day. You knew the animals were taken care of and would be for work the next day. Now it was time for us to go to the house, eat supper, and relax before bedtime. It would be morning soon and another day. Life was good—so are memories.

### IOWA'S HISTORIC SHETLAND PONY FARM

September 30, 1954

In the new mail order catalogue recently distributed by Spiegel, are Shetland ponies for sale. These ponies, which are purebred and pedigreed, are raised at the Fashion Club Pony Farms, east of Leon. Fashion Club Farms are owned by Gene Harris of Chicago, formerly of Leon.

The large historic barn on what was Fashion Club Pony Farm will be among the historic highlights on the June Iowa

Barn Foundation tour of Madison, Clarke, and Decatur Counties.

The pegged barn, on what was originally known as the Fesler Springs Stock Farm, was built between 1900 and 1918 by Bud Sims, who married Elisa Fesler. Redwood used for the barn's foundation beams, posts, and frames was precut and shipped from the Northwest. The loft barn held 146 tons of loose hay. The original barn had a cupola which was ripped off by a tornado.

Apparently, from the beginning, ponies were

important on this farm. Doyle Butcher, who lived on the farm just east of the pony farm, remembered that Sims liked ponies—that the barn had stalls with steel rods running down from the frame to the manager so "nothing could jump over and get out."

The farm was eventually bought by Gene Harris, Leon-raised Chicago night club owner known as "Cowpuncher", and Dr. Wayne Munn, who was president of the American Shetland Pony Club, as well as chairman of the Herd Registration Committee of the American Guernsey Association. Harris had been owner of Fashion Club Stables, the largest sales stable of

American Saddle Horses in America. They hired Wayne Stover to run the farm.

Under their ownership and management, the farm thrived during the 1950s. The original pony farm consisted of some 465 acres of grazing land. The farm had two purposes: breeding the finest registered Shetland Ponies and training them for sale. The owners touted they had more ponies for sale than any other establishment in the world. The ponies were sold to mining companies, circuses, carnivals, and families. They were sold through Spiegel catalog and possibly through the Sears

sold by Fashion Club Pony Farm, there is an absolute guarantee that it is as represented, and a veterinary certificate of its age, soundness and health accompanies the pony. You are at all times under the protection of our more than sixty years combined Fair Dealing in the horse business..... Pictured are about 100 ponies representing a wide choice of pony flesh. Pick out the one that seems to strike your youngster's fancy. Use the special self-addressed form for instruction in ordering...."

A typical ad with photo of a pony: "You may choose my name. I am a male pony

> (gelding) 40 inches tall. I am black in color and 5 years old. I'm very gentle and affectionate very much of a pet. I am suitable for a child 4 to 12 years of age. I am in good health. \$250 is my price--\$50 to be sent with the order and \$200 C.O.D when I

arrive.

There was a flood along Brush Creek in 1959. Butcher recalled ponies being washed away. Whether or not the flood influenced the decision to sell the

pony farm, it closed in 1960.

The barn, now owned by Bill and Okalena Hill, has since been used in general farming operations since its pony farm days.

(Also of note is the 40-foot square barn on the Butcher-Allison farm directly east of the pony farm (21822 Pony Farm Road). This barn was built about the same time as the pony farm barn. It had stalls for six horses.)

The information in this article was compiled with the help of Jack Van Laar, Judy Partridge, Doyle Butcher, and the Decatur County Historic Society.



catalog which sold Shetlands. Children from the area were welcome to ride free, under supervision, at anytime.

Doyle Butcher, who grew up and still lives in the house on the farm directly east of the Pony Farm, used to help the management at the pony farm sort the animals for vaccinations. He recalled sometimes seeing about 100 ponies pastured on the farm. He saw Harris occasionally and remembers him as "a pretty good fellow."

"The ponies were quite high (expensive) too expensive for kids-- and sold to wealthy people," he recalled. "For common people they would be too expensive" Information on the farm said, "with every Shetland pony

### HISTORIC SPRING BARN TOUR

BARNS OF MADISON, CLARKE, & DECATUR COUNTIES

Unusual, rarely seen, and historic barns in Madison, Clarke, and Decatur Counties, will be featured on the annual June "area tour" sponsored by the Iowa Barn Foundation from 8:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. on Saturday, June 22, and Sunday, June 23.

The Iowa Barn Foundation focuses on barns close-up on these annual tours in different areas of Iowa. This year's coordinators are Ron McBroom, Ginnie Hargis, Bill Krause, Jack Van Laar, Judy Partridge, and Dianne Oswald.

A picnic will be held Sunday noon at the historic Ron McBroom-Ginnie Hargis Barn, 1218 Highway 169, Winterset (Madison County) - Barn is five miles south of I-80 (Adel, De Soto, Winterset exit). (For reservations, mail check for \$9 to Ron McBroom and Ginnie Hargis, 1218 Highway 169, Winterset, 50273. If you have questions, please call Ron McBroom and Ginnie Hargis, (515) 834-2026.



### **MADISON COUNTY**

Miller Barn (Madison County) 2107 120th St, Winterset. Take the Highway 169 exit off of I-80. Go five miles south to 120th Street. Turn right (west) and drive 0.75 miles. Barn on right.

Gabled barn was built in teens or twenties. Has center hay storage from ground to roof.

Martens Barns (Madison County) 2091 120th Street, Winterset, Next door (west) to Miller barns. Barns were built in the 1870s possibly by A.M. Peters who settled the property in 1868. Fred Martens' grandfather purchased the farm in 1915. Ron McBroom, a tour coordinator, generously donated time and hard work toward the restoration of this barn, after learning that it was vulnerable, because he thought it should be preserved. The north barn was the cattle barn and crib; the south barn was used for horses. A manure bucket system runs on an S-curve track around the basement of this barn. At some time, an old



Miller barn



Martens barn

homesteader's claim shack was moved between the two barns for additional storage. (Martensdale is named for the family.)

Wilson Barn (Madison County), 1217 Highway 169, Winterset. Travel five miles south of I-80 on Highway 169. Barn is on right side of highway next to big white house.

Pegged horse barn was built around 1883. Barn is full-floored with limestone foundation.

**Draman Barn** (Madison County), 1939 Highway 169, Winterset. Travel about 13 miles south from I-80 on Highway 169. On west side of the highway (about one mile north of Winterset/Highway 92).

This small stone barn, probably built in the mid-to late 1870, is a jewel in the center of Iowa. The barn has a gabled roof and was a cow barn. It is on the National Historic Register.



Draman barn

Smith Barn (Madison County), 2797 Pioneer Avenue, Peru. Travel through downtown Winterset and keep heading south on Clark Tower Road (also called Old Highway 169 and P71) for six miles. Turn left on Peru Road and drive 3.3 miles to Pioneer Avenue. Turn left (north) and go to the corner of Peru Road and Pioneer Avenue.

Pegged barn was built around 1920. Bark still remains on some of the interior lumber.



Draman barn



Smith barn



Smith barn, interior



Blake barn



Blake barn, interior



West barn

### **CLARKE COUNTY**

Blake Barn (Clarke County), 2155 Benson Street, Weldon. Take Exit 29 off I-35 (south of Osceola). Go east for 1.5 miles to Highway 69. Turn right (south) onto Highway 69 and go 4 miles to Benson St (County Road H50), and turn right (west) for 1.5 miles.

This 33x39-foot barn actually sits on Benson Street, which crosses over I-35. Interestingly, the barn is highly visible from I-35. The barn was built in 1902, has a gambrel roof, and a stairway to the loft.

West Barn (Clarke County), 2239 Clarke-Decatur Street, Weldon. Take Exit 29 off I-35 (south of Osceola). Go east for 1.5 miles to Highway 69, turn right (south) on Highway 69 and drive for about five miles to Clarke-Decatur Street (Weldon corner). Turn right and drive for 1.5 miles. Or from the Blake barn, go back to Highway 69, turn a right (south) and travel one more mile. Take another right onto Clarke-Decatur St (County Road J12) and drive for 1.5 miles.

In a nostalgic hidden corner of Clarke County is this 30x 60-foot pegged barn. Barn is unusual in that it has a large hay mow door on each end of the barn.

### **DECATUR COUNTY**

**Goodman-Vaughn Octagonal Barn** (Decatur County). Starting in Leon, at the west edge at the four-way stop (the intersection



Goodman-Vaughn barn, interior

of US 69 (NW Church Street) and Iowa Highway 2), proceed three miles north. The house is on the east side of the highway with the barn behind it.

Unusual and important barn was built in 1905 by Aaron Goodman to house farm horses. Half pie slice-shaped stalls lined the perimeter of the barn. Paul and Terri Vaughn purchased the farm in 1990 from Aaron Goodman's children. The barn is featured in the Lowell Soike book, "Without Right Angles".



Shetland Pony barn

**Shetland Pony Farm** (Decatur County) 21588 Pony Farm Road, Leon. From Leon, go 3.5 miles east on Iowa Highway 2. Turn south on Pony Farm Road (County Road R58) and travel 1.5 miles.

The barn, built after the turn of the century, was created with redwood from the Northwest. During the 1950s, the barn, built in the 1930s, became the center of activity for a renowned Shetland pony operation. Ponies were sold to various catalogs including Spiegel and possibly Sears. The owner was a Leon native from Chicago who had the name Cowpuncher.

Ross Farm (Decatur County) 24977 327th Avenue, Lineville (Woodland). From four-way stop in Leon, travel east on Iowa Highway 2 for eight miles to Woodland Road (County Road R69). Turn south on Woodland Road and travel five miles to Woodland Church. Turn east for a half mile to the Ross farm.

This farm is referred to as "the old Bedford Ross place." Bedford Ross bred, raised and exhibited American Saddlebreds, Percherons, and a Belgian, all of which he had stallions he stood at stud. He also had a Hackney-Shetland pony stud. He kept horses and worked them on the farm until seven or eight years before he died



Goodman-Vaughn barn



Old Iowa State barn

in 1998. The barn was built in the 1930s. Farm is owned by Gabe Adair, who is from an "old" area family.

**Old Iowa State Farm** (Hullinger Farm) (Decatur County) 30107 County Road J66. Go east on Iowa Highway 2 from Leon two miles to Lineville Road (County Road R52) and turn south. Go approximately 16 miles to Highway J66. Turn right (west) on J66 and go 3.5 miles to barn.

This barn, built about 1940, is on a historic farm. The farm was part of the Southern Iowa Pasture Farms orchestrated by the Iowa Agricultural Experiment Station and the Iowa Agricultural Extension Service in the winter of 1935 to establish a pas-

ture improvement demonstration project through the U.S. Forest Service. This was during the Depression, and that same year the Land Policy Section of the Agricultural Adjustment Administration was transferred to the Land Utilization Division of the Resettlement Administration where emphasis was on developing jobs for men who were certified on relief. After World War II, the farm became a USDA research site. Much of the research at the farm at that time was directed by Dr. L.N. Hazel, distinguished Iowa State University animal science professor. In 1955, the farm's title was transferred to the Iowa State University Agriculture Experiment Station. The farm was sold by the Board of Regents in 1969.

## Martens Barns

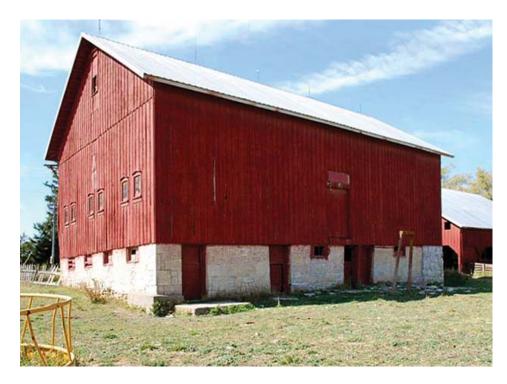
The Fred & Helen Martens barns in rural Madison County are quite impressive. They were built in 1876; possibly by A.M. Peters who settled on that property in 1868. One other family owned the land when Fred's grandfather purchased the large farm in 1915. They came from Warren County where they had settled and the Town of Martensdale (named after the family) was built.

There are two barns here. The north barn was the cattle barn and crib and the south barn was mainly used for the horses. A manure bucket system runs on an s-curve track around the basement of the south barn. At some point in time, they moved the old homesteaders claimshack in to sit between the two barns for additional storage/work space.

We saw the barns soon after moving into the neighborhood in 2001. Two beautiful barns that we certainly hoped the owners would save so they would be around for many more years.

A few years later, after talking with Fred about the barns, he mentioned that part of the limestone basement walls on the south barn was bowing in and had a large crack and needed work. After looking at it, I said I would like to see it fixed but it was probably to big a job for me and I did not have the equipment that might be needed to do the job. I discussed it with a nephew who was a stonemason, he looked at the wall and was willing to donate his time to help if I decided to tackle the job; but he would have to wait until his schedule cleared up. I kept thinking about what a huge job it would be for me, an "older" retired man and the several other projects that I also had in the works. So the barn took a back seat for a while.

In June of 2007, after a very wet, rainy spring, the homesteaders shack between the two barns collapsed and had to be removed. That left openings where there



was no siding on the big barns. I volunteered to put on barn siding to close up the gaps so the weather would not do any more damage.

Then it happened! In the Fall of 2011, about 20 feet of the north wall to the corner and 7 feet of the east wall collapsed. Fred and I surveyed the damage and discussed how to fix the wall. It was decided the best option would be to hire a contractor to dig and pour footings, then pour a wall to support the barn. Later the concrete wall could be covered with limestone.

My wife Ginnie and I took over house jacks and 4x4 posts, got them positioned on the corner and along the north and east walls and jacked up the barn. Then the contractor came in with a back hoe, cleared out the large blocks of limestone and rubble, dug a trench and poured the footings. A day or two later, they poured an 8 foot high wall.

Once that was done, we laid up and mortared a row of cement block on top of the wall to bring it up to the original height. When it had cured out, we lowered the barn down to rest on the wall. It was once again level and stable. The rest of the stone work had to wait until spring.

With the wall closed in, I volunteered to close up some of the other openings to keep the weather out; such as broken glass, repairing window frames, and some missing siding. With that done, it was pretty well closed in for the winter.

In the spring, Ginnie and I went back, dug through the large pile of limestone blocks and rubble and found stone that was the right depth to cover the concrete. With lots of mortar, elbow grease, scaffolding and a skid loader, we mortared up the chunks of limestone and covered that wall so that no concrete shows.

It doesn't look quite the same, but we used the original limestone from the barn, there is no ugly concrete showing and it's a good solid wall to support the barn, hopefully for many more years.

## BARN TOUR

The nostalgic annual Iowa Barn Foundation all-state barn tour will be held Saturday, September 28, and Sunday, September 29.

The tour, which attracts visitors from throughout the country and beyond, is free and opened to the public. Most barns on tour have been restored with Iowa Barn Foundation matching grants. Some, restored by the owners without grants, have been given awards of distinction. The barns are located throughout the state.

The barns must be 50 years or older. They have been restored historically.

## Colin Kennedy

Fourteen years ago Colin Kennedy, a Texan with an interest in photography and art, mentioned that he was going to drive through Iowa en route to Massachusetts. Barns came into the conversation. He was interested in learning about and photographing Iowa barns along the way.

After his trip, he mentioned that he had enjoyed Iowa and had taken many photographs of barns. He also shook his head and mentioned many were in serious disrepair. Time went by; Colin suffered through a long, terminal illness. The photographs were forgotten.











In January, Colin's wife, Bettie Cartwright, found a brown envelope dated, May 1998. Inside were perhaps 100 photos of barns and rural scenes he had taken on his trip. Here are some of the Iowa scenes he chose to photograph.

Jacqueline Schmeal





### JACQUELINE ANDRE SCHMEAL

### BARN BURNING

Barns are our historic treasures, but they are, in their own way, exceedingly fragile. In minutes one can ignite and burn to the ground taking with it a livelihood, decades of memories, and a paragraph of Iowa's history.

That happened in southwest Iowa on July 23, 2012—one of the hottest days in a hot year. The outside temperature was 103 degrees.

Ron White was at his home in Lenox when a neighbor, who lived 2.5 southeast of his farm near Kent, called to tell him his barn was on fire. "They were checking creeks for water for cows when they looked up, saw smoke, and thought it might be the White place," recalled White. "They went and discovered the hog house was on fire. They immediately called me. I called 911 and drove to the farm."

White hoped he could save bales of hay stored in the barn. "I couldn't get close to the barn," he said. "I didn't have time. The heat was so intense, and there was a wind out of the southwest. When the fire trucks arrived there were three buildings on fire. It took 25 minutes from when I got the call until it was all over."

Burned to the ground were two barns, corn crib, fat cattle self-feeder, equipment and hog house. The house and machine shed survived.

Fire departments from Creston, Afton, Orient, Greenfield, Clearfield, and Lenox worked in the torrid heat attempting to put out the fire.

"My wife said I was in a state of shock," said White. "I had no desire to take photos. I walked in shock. It was dangerous. I was glad no one got hurt. I went home at 1:30 in the morning."

Pain revives itself when he thinks about the loss—a loss for the family and a loss for Iowa. "It's hard to describe," said White, who has vivid memories of working in the barns and crib through the years. "It was part of your life—a lot of passing memories. "And, he noted, "We're going into a different era."

When Ron's father, Forrest, bought the farm in 1960, he heard that the 90x160 foot barn was built at the turn of the century by a man "from the West." It was a pegged barn with unusual 9.5-inch ship lap siding. Rafters that supported the roof were 3x8 inches.

White believes the legend about the barn having been built by someone from Wyoming or Montana was probably correct. "The ideas were big," he remarked. "There are few barns that size in this area,."

He remembered the large number of horse

stanchions. "Few barns would house that many working horses." And, he noted that the corn crib could hold 5000 bushels of corn and grain. "It would hold quite a bit of ear corn on the sides."

The house, which the family lived in until 1994 when Forrest moved off the farm, survived. It was occupied by a relative at the time of the fire.

Memories of the barn, center of a family's livelihood, survive.

The family always raised hay to feed cattle. It was a family affair with Ron, two brothers, and his father involved. Every year they filled the barn high with hay for finishing cattle. Ron recalled that it was a significant moment every year when the barn was totally filled with hay.

The barn was large enough that the family fed sheep in a corner. Thus, the barn allowed them to fatten cattle, raise sheep, and store hay.

The exact cause of the fire remain among the chards. "It started so quickly and went so fast, if you weren't paying attention, it was gone like that," said White.

This barn, with its excellent craftsmanship, was enjoyed by those who went on the Southwest Iowa barn tour.

### IOWA BARN FOUNDATION MEMBERS' CUMULATIVE CONTRIBUTIONS

#### \$650,000

THE FRED MAYTAG FAMILY FOUNDATION, NEWTON

#### \$140,000

THE BROWN FOUNDATION, INC., HOUSTON, TX.

#### \$50,000-\$100,000

IOWA WEST FOUNDATION, COUNCIL BLUFFS

#### \$25,000-\$50,000

MARY DUNEA, OSAGE
ROY AND ROBERTA REIMAN AND THE REIMAN FOUNDATION, INC., MILWAUKEE, WI
JACQUELINE ANDRE AND RICHARD
SCHMEAL, HOUSTON, TX.

### \$10,000-\$25,000

EDNA HOSTETTLER ESTATE, DES MOINES LANNAN FOUNDATION, SANTA FE LINDA AND KEN LAY, HOUSTON, TX. PAUL RAMSEY, NEWPORT BEACH, CA. MARTHA-ELLEN TYE FOUNDATION, MAR-SHALLTOWN

#### \$5,000-10,000

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PAUL AND GEORGIA CROCKETT, MINNEAPOLIS, MN.
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W.A. KRAUSE, WEST DES MOINES
LAND O'LAKES FOUNDATION,
MINNEAPOLIS, MN.
JOE AND NORMA LYON, TOLEDO, IOWA
ROXANNE MEHLISCH, ZEARING
PIONEER HI-BRED, DES MOINES

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### \$1500-\$2500

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KRETZ FUND, LOS ANGELES, CA.
PAT CHRISTENSEN, WATERLOO
CHS
MICHAEL & BRENDA DOERING, HUBBARD
STEPHEN FOX, HOUSTON, TX.
THURMAN AND GERRY GASKILL, CORWITH
GRINNELL COLLEGE, GRINNELL
NEIL AND DARLENE HARL, AMES

JO ELLA HELMERS, GREENVILLE, S.C. ROGER AND JOEL ANNE HELMRICHS, DUNDEE IOWA FARM BUREAU FEDERATION IOWA SAVINGS BANK CHARITABLE FOUNDATION, CARROLL DONNA JOHNSON, BOONE JAMES AND PAT JORDAN, BOONE KEN SMITH LANDSCAPE ARCHITECT, NEW YORK, NY DON KNIFFEN, LENNOX, S.D. CLARK KOLSRUD, WAUKON GEORGE AND MARLYS LADD, AMES AMBASSADOR CHARLES MANATT, WASHINGTON, D.C. DR. RACHEL J. MASON, MARSHALLTOWN GLADYS MCBURNEY, HUMBOLDT JOYCE LUND MEARS, LE CLAIRE DUANE REMPE, PELLA KATHRYN RUSSI, JOHNSTON RUTH SCHMALENBERGER, FORT DODGE CHELON STANZEL, AMES J.P. AND TAMARA STEIN, MUSCATINE BILL AND FRAN STONE, MARSHALLTOWN SWISS VALLEY FARMS COMPANY, DAVENPORT TERRY TERRILL, POCHANTAS WAL-MART FOUNDATION, BENTONVILLE, AK. ROYCE WINGE, AMES JUDY WINKEL, IRVING, TX. CARL AND NORMA ZURBORG, DAVENPORT

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#### \$750-\$1000

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