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## Message from the Chairman

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### Holiday Greetings!

The pandemic has certainly had an impact on all of our lives. It has been a difficult year! As you know, we have had to put a hold on our programming this year. There is now light at the end of the tunnel with a vaccine!

At this time, the 2021 schedule is still unknown. Now that the vaccines are here, we will wait to see how the guidelines change and can restart and create our programming when more details are known.

I am happy to welcome 8 new members this past year! Our normal programs have not been in full-swing for these members so I feel bad that they have not been able to participate in the normal FoMB activities.

The glue that helps hold FoMB together at this time is *The Barn Door* newsletter, which Clare Hoelderle does a terrific job editing each issue. Now is the time more than ever that articles are needed! We will continue to publish a quarterly newsletter and would like to invite members, especially newer members, to write an article for *The Barn Door* newsletter about your interest in old barns.

The board would always welcome suggestions on what you would like to

see for programs and what motivated you to join our organization. We are always looking for new board members. If you have an interest, please let me or any of our board members know and we can set up an interview.

As you may have read in some local newspapers and on the news recently, there is ongoing controversy about the fire suppression systems that some communities are requiring for barns used as event centers. As with most issues, there are valid points on both sides. Event barns have become a fast growing industry. A sprinkler system is a huge expense! I don't know how this will be resolved, but I hope it can be worked out to the satisfaction of all parties!

**Merry Christmas and Happy Holidays!**  
Bill Bruentrup  
Chairman



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# History of the Mail Pouch Tobacco Barn

By: Greg Chaffins (3/21/18)

When you travel the roads and highways of the Appalachian Mountains, you will find a cornucopia of pleasing sights to take in. But tucked in among the forests and hills you will find a curious collection of painted barns, you will see the same message, and many of them were the work of a single person. Let's look at how these unique works of advertising art known as the Mail Pouch Tobacco Barn came into being.



## History of the Bloch Brothers Tobacco Company

Our story begins in 1879 when grocery owner Samuel Bloch, along with his brothers help, launched the Bloch Brothers Tobacco Company. The goal was to produce cigars to sell in Samuels store as a side means of income.

The tobacco business was a hit, and soon it outgrew the grocery store. The tobacco company expanded its line, and in a short time it had created Mail Pouch Chewing Tobacco.

While the Bloch Brothers Tobacco Company was enjoying a robust success, the brothers were finding expansion beyond that market a hard challenge. Somewhere along the way, the brothers struck upon the idea of advertising their products, and they hatched a creative plan in 1891.

## The Mail Pouch Tobacco Barn is Born

The plan the brothers came up with was a simple one. The idea was to paint advertising on barns that were scattered throughout the area, thus spreading the word of their tobacco products. They came up with a general design, and it seemed to work. The wording was direct and to the point. It usually read, centered on the barn side in varying font sizes:

**Chew**

**Mail Pouch**

**Tobacco**

**Treat Yourself to the Best**

The background of the design featured a black or red solid color, and the lettering used a bold white or yellow color, with black shadowing for the "Mail Pouch Tobacco" section. The distinct approach creating an advertisement that was easily visible from the roads of the area while still being pleasing to the eye.

A variation of the design sometimes had a vertical blue border on either side of the building, but for the most part, the work stayed true to this simple formula.



## Good Deal for the Farmers

You may wonder why the farmers were okay with letting a tobacco company paint its advertising design on their barns. As it turns out, it was a good deal for the farmers.

The tobacco company paid the farmers for the use of their barns. They received, in today's dollars, around \$40 a year. While farmers tend to be practical and welcomed free money, there was a more important benefit to be found.

## Mail Pouch Tobacco Barn, *continued*

A Mail Pouch Tobacco Barn had a good coat of protective paint. This allowed the barn to last much longer, and the farmer was able to keep it in active use for many years.

This increased life span served the needs of both the farmer and the tobacco company and was no doubt instrumental in the plan's success. During its peak in the 1960s, you could find over 20,000 Mail Pouch Tobacco Barn advertisements scattered across 22 states.



Since the advertisements only covered one or two sides of the barn (depending on the view from the road) the farmer could pick out the colors for the others. Farmers tended to pick black or red, but there are exceptions. The tobacco company would even repaint the barns every few years, keeping the lettering sharp and the barn well protected.

### **The Man With the Brush**

A handful of talented painters of the era painted the barns. Painters included Mark Tuley and Don Shires among others. The artists usually signed their works in either the blue border (if it had one) or at a spot near the roof. It can be fun to spot the signature when you see a Mail Pouch Barn.

While there were other painters in the employ of the tobacco company, there was one artist that was the most prolific by far. This man, Harley Warrick, is on record as having painted an incredible 20,000 barns in his lifetime.

If we do a little math, that works out to about one barn a day for over 54 years. Warrick has stated that it took him about 6 hours to complete a barn. So it was feasible that he could finish a barn and be ready to do it again the next day. It is interesting to note that Warrick would always start a barn with the letter "E" found in the word "Chew" after the background color of black or red was applied. Given the volume of characters on the typical barn, Warrick was undoubtedly an efficient and talented painter.

### **The Mail Pouch Tobacco Barn Becomes an Official Historical Landmark**

When Lyndon B. Johnson passed the Highway Beautification Act in 1965, this ended a lot of highway advertising. The practice continued, but in 1974 the act was amended. The amendment allowed landmark signs painted on barns that were of historical significance. The amendment made the Mail Pouch Tobacco Barn an officially recognized historic landmark.

### **The End of an Era**

The Swisher International group, who now owns Mail Pouch Tobacco, officially stopped the barn advertisements in 1992 when Warrick retired. It had a long and successful run during its hundred years of activity. Other companies had similar advertising programs using painted barns, You could find Beech-Nut tobacco barns scattered throughout the area that followed a similar pattern. Often feed and grain stores would use the same painted barn method for advertising their goods and services. However, none had the volume that Mail Pouch enjoyed during its century-long barn advertising program.

Sadly, many of these Mail Pouch Tobacco Barns have fallen on hard times. These barns can be found in various states of decay throughout the country, with many others already demolished. Some groups are actively seeking to protect the barns that are left.

A few websites offer detailed information about the barns so you can discover them yourself. Mail Pouch Tobacco Barn road trip anyone?

The next time you see a Mail Pouch Tobacco Barn, take the time to appreciate this piece of American history. While tobacco products don't enjoy the popularity today as they did in the past, there is little doubt of the economic importance of tobacco crops in many parts of the country, including the Appalachians. Besides, who doesn't appreciate a friendly sign popping up when touring the countryside. Its almost like seeing an old friend.



## 2021 Photo Calendar Contest

FRIENDS OF



**MINNESOTA BARNS**

# Annual Barn Photography Contest

- Contest categories: Adult Open and Youth/Student Open. Photographs must include an identifiable part of a barn (inside or out). **Barns must be located in Minnesota.**
- Photos may be taken with any type of camera, phone, tablet, etc. Filters and other camera accessories may be used. **Photos need to be high resolution AND horizontal format.**
- Photographs can be enhanced using computer software.
- By entering the contest, you allow the Friends of Minnesota Barns (FoMB) to use your photograph in the barn calendar as well as in other promotions, advertisements, products, websites, social media sites, and any other way the group sees fit. The photographer will be credited if the photograph is used.
- A photographer may enter three (3) unique photographs into the Adult Open category. Youth/students may enter one (1) unique photograph into Youth/student category. Youth/students may submit photos to the “Adult” category. The same photograph may not be entered into multiple categories.
- A total of 12 winners will be selected and will receive a 2022 calendar.
- Winners will be announced in spring 2021 at the FoMB Annual Meeting.
- Judges will have the final decision on if a photograph meets the criteria.

**Updates about the contest will be posted to our website and Facebook page.**

## Barn Photography Contest

### 2021 Contest Categories

1. Adult Open (up to 3 entries per person)
2. Youth/Student Open (16 years old and under. One entry per person)

**Entry Deadline:** Monday, February 15, 2021

**Entry Fee:** FREE for youth/students and members of FoMB **or** \$25 yearly membership for adults. Yearly membership includes a quarterly newsletter, discounts on tours and barn coffee chat gatherings, great group of people to get to know and so much more!

### Submission Information to Include:

1. Name
2. Email Address
3. Home Address
4. Phone Number
5. Category Entering

**Email:** .jpg digital image (high resolution) and horizontal format to: [redbenchvintage@hotmail.com](mailto:redbenchvintage@hotmail.com)

**Mail:** 8 x 10 printed photograph to: Clare Hoelderle, 19685 Oak Grove Avenue, Prior Lake, MN 55372. Must be postmarked by entry deadline.

## Merry Christmas and Happy Holidays!!

It's the night before Christmas and I'm out in the barn,  
Blanketing my horses to keep them all warm.  
They're eating their dinners, tucked cozy in stalls,  
Not aware that it's Christmas, or any day special at  
all.

They dream of spring pastures from their pine-  
scented beds.  
No visions of sugarplums dance in their heads.  
But we people are thinking of merry parties and such,  
Quickly doing our tasks so we don't miss too much.

This season is special, but the horses don't know.  
They munch on their hay safe out of the snow  
I finish my chores and head on inside  
To get ready for dinner and my family's yuletide

It's nearly midnight, the carols are sung.  
I remember a story told when I was young,  
How at midnight on each Christmas Eve  
The barnyard creatures can speak to us with ease  
I am called to the barn. I slosh through the snow.  
I can't really explain; I know I must go.  
I slide open the door, and stand there and smile  
Then slowly walk down the dimly lit aisle.

A nicker from Idaho, a soft snort from Minnesota,  
Sweet, gentle Secret gives me a wink  
Skeeter rustles his bedding, Doc comes into sight  
Even Honey gives a greeting as I walk through the  
night.

I thought about parties bright lit and warm,  
The ones we don't go to cause we have the barn,  
And vacations and holidays that we usually don't get,  
Cause we have the animals and chores to be met.

Walking all the way to the end of the aisle,  
I stop to stroke Idaho, and linger awhile  
She snuffles my face, hot breath on my skin  
And I look around at the others, my horses, my  
friends.

I could be at parties with laughter and mirth  
But where I am right now is the best place on Earth.

*From Our Barn to Yours, enjoy the season!*  
(Reprinted from Stolen Horse International)



# Barn Raising: A Minneapolis Family's Vacation Home on Lake Superior

By: Greg Breining, Midwest Home Magazine (November 16, 2010)



Tom and Nicole Wolfe's new vacation home, rising from a bluff on Lake Superior's southern shore, looks a lot like a barn.

As it should: The 4,250-square-foot, six-bedroom home is a barn. Actually, it is composed of lumber from six barns, and many other odd structures as well, including a pioneer-era log house, and a Wyoming snow fence.

This unique project was born when the Wolfes decided they wanted a place for their large family (five children with busy schedules of their own) to gather together and relax. They also wanted a big chunk of wild land within a reasonable drive of the Twin Cities. This site—300 acres sandwiched between tracts of Brule River State Forest just 30 minutes east of Duluth, outside

Maple, Wisconsin—fit their needs perfectly. Plus, it included a sandy beach on Lake Superior.

Soon after the Wolfes purchased the land in 2007, their vision of a vacation home took on the outlines of a barn. "My grandpa had a farm down in Iowa," says Tom. "We've always been infatuated with driving back to Iowa and seeing the old barns." Adds Nicole, "I think we're city folk who wished we lived someplace else. But we can't commit to that, so we have to pretend we live on a farm."

For Jared and Amanda Groebner, there's no pretending. The couple owns TimeWorn, a design-build firm that specializes in giving new life to century-old lumber and timber, and new uses to the aging log structures and barns that dot the rural landscape. The couple—he's an architectural designer and contractor; she's an interior designer—works out of Amanda's childhood farmstead near Atwater.



At any given moment, hundreds of thousands of board feet of materials from several barns or log homes are being cut and stacked in the 13-acre yard. TimeWorn finds the timber and lumber for most of its projects—from homes to furniture—in central Minnesota. "You can look at a map from 1860, and that's where I'm going to find the hand-hewn log cabins," says Jared. "You can see where the population increased in 1900, and that's where I'm going to find the Doug fir or red pine barns." Many barns were built from kits, ordered from Sears, Roebuck and Co. for under \$1,000.



Much of the wood came from a 100-year-old barn once sitting on a field in New Ulm, Minnesota.

## Vacation Home on Lake Superior, continued

When Tom and Nicole, visions of a barn home dancing in their heads, discovered the Groebners, the two couples immediately hit it off.

The Wolfes began with the idea of a small living apartment inside a spacious barn to accommodate family and guests. Then, the barn began to fill with bedrooms, bathrooms, and a laundry. The Groebners nurtured the Wolfes' excitement while reining in less practical ideas—like a fire pole from a third-story loft to the ground floor. Says Nicole, “They would fix our idea to make sure it would work.”

With a size and basic features in mind, the Groebners set out to find a suitable barn. At any time, they have contracts on a hundred different barns, but, as Amanda says, “They’re not all qualified to be a house.”

Then, outside New Ulm, they found a barn in perfect condition. “It was one of the nicest barns I’ve ever seen,” says Jared. As important as its condition was its configuration. Says Amanda, “This one worked out really well for the great room and kitchen size.” A TimeWorn crew was dispatched to the site to dismantle the barn board by board.



The Groebners designed the home's rooms to nestle within the original spacing of the posts and beams. The major shortcoming was the roof. The barn's original was a simple peak, and Tom and Nicole wanted something that really said barn. So Jared reconfigured the lines to an iconic gambrel, made from the rare 1930s standing-seam steel of the original that was still nearly perfect after a century.

Construction on the home site began in late 2008 and continued through the winter. The redesigned roof was installed when it was 20 degrees below zero.

The finished house is stunning, both for its sweeping view of Superior and for the surprising incongruence of a barn in the Wisconsin north woods. The centerpiece of the house is the great room, a space of barn-like dimensions, with a stone fireplace in one corner and a sprawling kitchen with spectacular site lines toward the lake. “It was really this view that dictated where rooms ended up,” says Amanda.



## Vacation Home on Lake Superior, continued

The lower level, where cows originally stood in stanchions, is now an enormous game room. “This is where we send our animals, too,” laughs Nicole. “All the kids stay down here.” With walls of lumber cut from massive beams and wainscoting of recycled roof boards, the room is close to indestructible. This is where the kids play games, roughhouse, and watch DVDs on the big screen hidden behind a barnwood door.

Materials salvaged from other buildings contribute to the walls, ceilings, floors, and furniture in the home—red elm, white elm, white ash, black ash, hard maple, red oak, white oak, hemlock, southern white pine, heart pine, tamarack, more than 20 species of wood in all. Ax-scarred logs from an old cabin were ripped lengthwise to harvest the heartwood that became the stairs. The rugged exteriors were put to good use, too, shipped off to a TimeWorn client in Big Bear, California, for siding on a new house. Redwood siding from one old barn was re-cut to tongue-and-groove for flooring in Tom and Nicole’s bedroom. Slabs cut from the scarred surface of logs hand-hewn by a broadax more than a century ago form one wall of their bedroom. In another bedroom, weathered Wyoming snow fence serves as both distinctive walls and flooring. Built-ins made from a variety of woods provide storage and display space throughout the house—from the floor-to-ceiling lockers in the entryway to buffet in the dining room to the red elm dresser in the owners’ bedroom.

Repurposing old structures holds a different appeal for each of the Groebners. Amanda enjoys the history: “I like hearing stories about barns that have been in families for generations.” Jared revels in the surprises contained in the wood itself, usually much older than trees cut for lumber today. “Every time I cut a piece of wood I never know what I’m going to see,” he says. “You’ll come across one piece of wood that is like no other piece of wood you’ve ever seen before. You don’t get that with new wood.”





## Marine on St. Croix Mystery Barn

By: Bill Bruentrup



In September, Calvin Mulumba and I had the opportunity to visit a very interesting barn that was recently purchased by FoMB members Emmy Ford and Nick Earl. As we all know, barns come in all shapes and sizes. This one is unusual (it is actually in Copas). Emmy and Nick haven't able to find out much about the history of their barn at this point so there is a lot of speculation. The barn is located on a separate piece of property than the house they purchased nearby.

The barn is about 20' X 48' and has a gambrel roof. There is a sign on the front of the barn with the date of 1909, which would appear to be the

build date. It has four tie stalls for horses in the middle of the barn. Part of the mystery is whether the barn was used for workhorses or riding and driving horses. On the west end of the barn, there were sliding doors that have been changed to hinged doors which could have been for either horse drawn implements or a carriage and sleigh. On the east end, there is space that could have been for one or two cows and a small chicken coup. Typically chicken coups have a lot of south facing windows. There may have been some smaller animals kept there as well. It has a cement floor now, but many of these barns were built with dirt floors and cement was added at a later date.

The loft has a dormer near the middle of the roof with the letters OXYOKE, which is part of the mystery! Below these letters is a door that would have been used to pitch loose hay into the loft. There is no evidence that there was ever a hay carrier, which makes sense in a small barn. There is also a gravity feed system with a wood hopper in the loft area. Access to the loft is by a conventional stairway rather than a ladder, which makes it easier to carry feed sacks to the feed hopper.

Part of the mystery is that it is on top of the bluff above the St. Croix River and the road going down to the houses on the river is extremely steep and would be difficult for horses to navigate in the winter months. They may have stabled them on top for that factor plus the pasture area is there. The other possibility is that it was for workhorses on a small acreage.

Nick is a potter and plans to straighten and fix up the barn for his retail shop plus put an addition on the back for a kiln. It is kind of ironic that I met Nick, very briefly, when I visited the site where the old field stone silo in Marine on St. Croix is located. The silo was being reinforced with Jetcrete (article from the last Barn Door) and Nick's current studio is there. For more information visit his website at: [www.nickearlpottery.com](http://www.nickearlpottery.com)



## Minnesota Owners of Restored Barns Torn Over Sprinkler Requirement

By: Bob Shaw, Pioneer Press (September 8, 2020)

A quarrel over sprinklers is breaking out among restored barn owners in Minnesota. Owners of the state's 83 restored barns, used as wedding venues, are arguing over a mandate to install \$300,000 sprinkler systems.

Many of those who have already done this say the law should be enforced equally statewide. But most barn-owners say installing sprinklers would put them out of business - for little public benefit.

Senator Karin Housley, R-St. Mary's Point, is siding with the un-sprinklered barns. Housley is sponsoring legislation that would ease fire codes for smaller rural venues. "They are being bullied," said Housley. "You have one or two wedding barns going after everyone else."

### Facilities With, Without Sprinklers

There has never been a fatal fire a Minnesota barn venue, she said, which makes the sprinkler mandate an example of government overreach. "It's a solution in search of a problem," she said.

The pro-sprinkler movement is driven, in part, by Wayne Butt, owner of the Historic Furber Farm in Cottage Grove, and a former city councilman.

He installed a \$350,000 sprinkler system in his barn. That is what the state fire code calls for, he said.

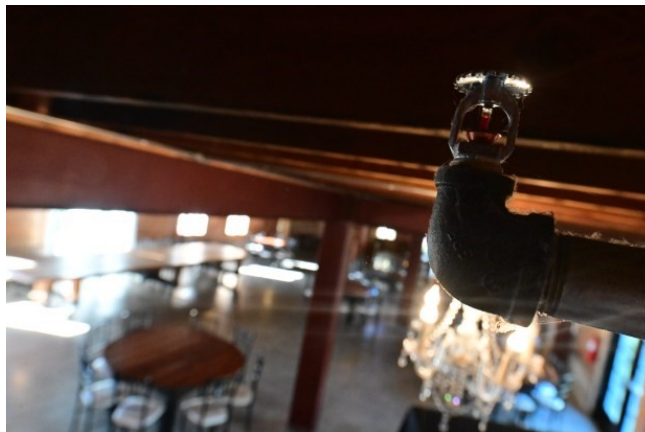
But the industry has grown recently, with wedding websites listing between 83 and 124 venues. Butt says he is now competing with venues that refuse to install sprinklers - and he is working hard to get them to comply. "This is a passion for me," said Butt. "I do not want shut places down, but my goal is the safety of the venue. The law is there- just follow it."

Randy Schmitz agrees. He owns a smaller venue near st. Cloud, and recently spent \$100,000 on a sprinkler system.

"We did not want the liability. We wanted to sleep at night. We wanted to keep our guests safe," said Schmitz, owner of Rolling Ridge Wedding and Event Center, with a 130-year-old barn.

Rural venues are inherently dangerous, he said, because they are farther from hospitals and ambulances. "It's a much riskier environment," said Schmitz.

They are even more dangerous if they don't have sprinklers, he said. "It is going to take a catastrophe to take this seriously," said Schmitz.



## Barn Sprinklers, continued

### Bankrupting Expense

Only four miles from Butt's barn is Hope Glen Farm, owned by Michael and Paula Buschilla. The sprinkler issues has strained the couples' previous friendship.

"We used to go on double-dates together," she said. "I was surprised by how he turned on us. He unfriended us on Facebook."

The Buschillas don't have sprinklers in their barn.

They follow every other rule in the fire code, involving multiple exits, capacity limits, panic-door openings, fire extinguishers and smoke alarms.

But they have not installed a sprinkler system. Michael Buschilla said it would cost him \$300,000 - an expense that would bankrupt him and about half of the other barn-based venues in the state.

### Open Spaces

A new fire sprinkler system has been installed at the Historic Furber Farm in Cottage Grove. (John Autey / Pioneer Press)

The trade group Minnesota Rural Event Venue Association wants to give the barns a break.

Board member Adam Wallis said barns have open interiors - so if a fire breaks out, everyone sees it.

Smoke alarms save lives by giving an early warning to flee. Only later do sprinklers deploy, in order to save the building.

They pop off when the temperature climbs to 160 degrees - and everyone would be gone before then, said Wallis.

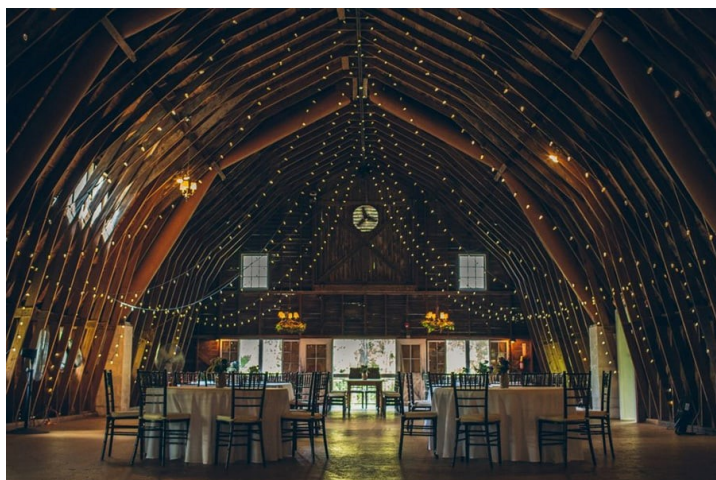
Sen. Housley said rural barns are subject to all other state rules, and also local fire codes. But they don't have access to the city water systems that sprinklers require. The wedding-barn industry has been a boon for rural economies, she said. "You get wedding planners, photographers, caterers popping up," said Housley

### Safety Concerns

Julie Gacek, co-owner of Redeemed Farm in Scandia, said she followed the rules set by local fire inspectors. Her barn has been examined several times, and no one ever said she needed sprinklers - which is what she said happened in 120 other venues.

"Did 120 inspectors get it wrong?" said Gacek. Pro-sprinkler barn owner Butt denied that he was motivated by limiting his competition, or that he slighted anyone because of the issue of sprinklers. His only goal, he said, is guarantee the safety of wedding visitors.

Barn owner Schmitz said his new competitors should pay the cost of having a safe venue. "They say they are rural and should not have to comply." he said. "It's a dirty game."



# Virtual Workshop

By: Mark Johnson

Several years ago, I organized a workshop at a barn near Lonsdale that the owners wanted to restore. It needed a variety of work done to it so I asked them if they'd be willing to host a restoration workshop for FoMB, to which they agreed.



Last year the owner contacted me again to see if we were interested in coming back to do the roof and some other work and I agreed as long as we could do another workshop. They kindly agreed but since our schedule was full, we had to postpone it to this year. You all know why that didn't happen in 2020, so I'm writing this article to tell you all what you missed out on...now a virtual workshop!!

The majority of the new work was centered around the roof and the water damage that was caused by it leaking over a long period of time as well as a few other items that needed repair. We discussed all the options that were available including cedar and asphalt shingles as well as steel panels. The first one was ruled out due to cost and the second one was not chosen because it would require putting plywood on because of the large spaces between the roof boards. In addition to these considerations, the roof had a lot of humps and dips in it which made it so uneven that it would be hard to make it look good once it was done. Steel roofing was finally chosen because it allowed us to leave the old roofing in place by installing 2x4 nailers over the old roof that allowed us to shim up the low areas and rebuild the overhangs as well.

Before any roofing could be done, half of the 6x8 sill beam on the east side, along with several log floor joists, a few rafters and the 2x10 plate, needed to be replaced. Once the work began, it was discovered that there was more damage than what was thought and a change order was needed to address some foundation repair as well as replacing the plate on the rest of the wall.

I should mention that change orders are common when doing restoration work but how they are handled often determine the success or failure of the entire job. There is often no way for a person to foresee all the damage that has been done unless one has psychic powers, which is rarely the case. A well written agreement together with realistic expectations and good communication were critical here, especially when the owner was in Colorado and not planning to visit the site until the job was completed.

To accomplish all the framing repair work, the roof not only needed to be lifted 5 inches in order to get it back on the wall but it also needed to be pulled inward as much as four inches in most places in order to set it back in place and make it straight on the bowed foundation wall. This was accomplished using several long screw jacks to do the heavy lifting with cable winches to pull the wall straight. The framing repair was done with a combination of reclaimed lumber to hide the repairs and some cottonwood that I had cut the year before on our sawmill to keep the cost down and prevent another change order cost overrun. In case some of you haven't been to the lumber yard lately, the cost of lumber has gone up almost 50% this year. When the pandemic hit, the mills were shut down while contractors were considered essential services and they used up all the surplus. The law of supply and demand worked to drive up prices.



## Virtual Workshop, continued



The roof nailers that the roof steel would be fastened to were a challenge to install because many needed to be shimmed up in the low parts of the roof and shimmed down in the high spots. This reverse shimming is a joke in the trade and is not normally possible. By removing some of the old shingles, it was doable in this case. The next challenge for us came with the first snow storm before we completed the upper part of the roof. We had to scrape off the snow and put salt on it in order complete that area.

The roof steel was custom ordered and cut at the factory to my very own measurements. With the lower overhang missing and since I measured it late one day just after sundown, I made a small mistake. To fix the problem we cut the short pieces for the overhang in half and used them to finish one side of the roof and reordered more steel to replace the lowest portion on the west side. This solution enabled us to complete the upper part of the roof and install the cupola before the next snow. The cupola was left unpainted in its original condition other than some caulking to help seal the many bullet holes.



The last major item to be addressed was the removal of a five foot piece of the stone wall in the SW corner of the barn that had developed a huge crack due to settlement in that corner. During the planning stage, we discussed rebuilding the two foot thick wall. Due to the cost and the fact that some of the south was already removed and replaced with a wood wall, we decided to do the same thing for this adjacent wall. After jacking up the roof and fastening the sills together with angle iron, the wall was cut on both sides with a concrete saw and removed with a forklift. This work was completed by doing some masonry work to create a level surface for the new wall and the jacks were removed.



The last item was to free the hay trolley so the owner's son could use it for a swing inside the barn on rainy days. Since the trolley was last used to close the hay door we needed to seal the door shut so we could safely disconnect it to be used for its new job as a rope swing.

If you have any questions about this project or some of the details I may have skipped over, you can reach me at (507) 469-0474 or drop me a line at [jdm@hickorytech.net](mailto:jdm@hickorytech.net). If you have a barn with some of these problems and want to see the videos I posted on Youtube, let me know...as long as you don't ask if will do another barn roof!

## Found on Facebook - “Friends of Minnesota Barns”



Photo by Jeff Wallager  
Barn in MN

Each newsletter we will feature  
some barns posted on our  
Facebook page that caught  
our attention!



Photo by Andrene Myrum  
Barn in St. Louis County



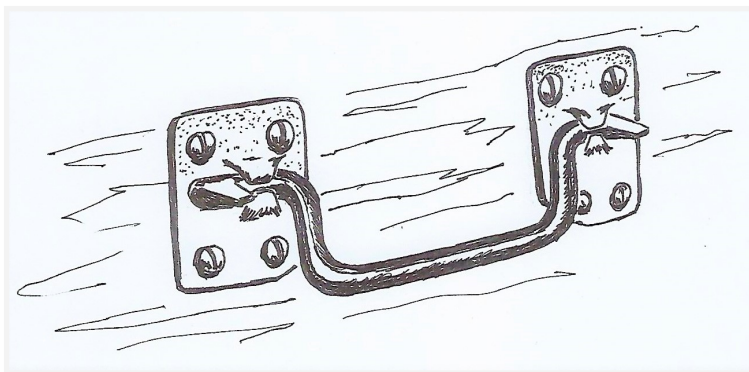
Photo by Kathy Cummings McCann  
Barn in Carver County



Photo by Rick Haugland  
Barn west of Isanti



Photo by Jeff Wallager  
Barn in Sherburne County



Drawing and description  
by: LeRoy Kuta

This drawing is of a handle on a box my friend owns—of course there are handles on both sides of the box! The handle, as you may notice, has a stop so it will only go 90 degrees to the side of the box to prevent your knuckles from getting busted when you lift the box.

The box is very sturdy, made of thick oak-like wood. The joints are dovetailed and the corners are reinforced with steel. The box has a clasp so it can be locked and tabs to securely seal.

The box is not waterproof, My guess is that something heavy and valuable was transported in it in the late 1800s. The best idea that comes to mind is gold coin!

# Annual Membership



## Annual Membership

**FoMB membership levels and rates will not change but there are other changes and clarifications reflected here to make our membership tracking more accurate:**

- Memberships are due by March 30<sup>th</sup> of each year. Those joining after December 31st of each year will have benefits start immediately and run through March 30<sup>th</sup> of the *following* year (will cover 15 months).
- Payments not received by April 15<sup>th</sup> will be considered past due.
- If your payment is not received by April 15, the 2nd qtr issue of the *Barn Door* newsletter will be your last copy.

## Benefits of Membership

- Subscription to the quarterly *Barn Door* newsletter with interesting articles, barn photos, and news of upcoming events. Delivered by email, unless a request is made to send it by regular mail.
- Discounted rates on events, workshops, Fall Barn Tour and other events. These discounts will be determined on a per event basis.
- Free “Coffee Chats” that offer networking gatherings at a particular property. These gatherings provide opportunities to learn more the property history, current use, construction ideas and how others have solved similar barn problems. FoMB furnishes light refreshments.

## Membership Levels

- **Individual Membership: \$25** (discounts for the member only)
- **Household Membership: \$35** (discounts for the member and immediate family)
- **Corporate / Organizational Membership: \$50** (Includes a listing and business description on the “Resources” page of FoMB website as well as discounts for member and immediate family)
- **Gift Membership: \$35**
- **In Honor of Membership: \$35**

## **Friends of Minnesota Barns**

10605 Joliet Avenue North  
Stillwater, MN 55082

Telephone:  
612-338-BARN (2276)

E-mail:  
friendsofmnbarns@gmail.com

Website:  
www.mnbarns.org

Our mission is to educate the public and raise awareness to the importance of historic barns and farmsteads in Minnesota, and to help advocate for barn preservation. We offer educational workshops and assist others in finding resources for preservation and/or restoration of historic barns and farmsteads.



**Merry Christmas and Happy Holidays  
from all of us at Friends of Minnesota Barns**

## **General Announcements**

**\* We have had questions about whether people are allowed to photograph private barns. The general rule is, as long as you are on public property, you can photograph what you like, at least as far as barns go. If you wish to enter the property for photography, you must get permission from the owner. You do not need a release to publish photographs, even with people in them. There are exceptions to these rules, but most wouldn't apply to barn photography.**

**Public places are for the public. We pay for them with our taxes, so they are a shared and common ground. As long as your feet are on public property, you are within your rights to photograph what you wish. That is why roads and sidewalks are built in the "right of way."**

**\* Please note that our mailing address has changed to:  
10605 Joliet Avenue North, Stillwater, MN 55082**

**\* We are always looking for barn articles, pictures, renovation projects, personal stories and interesting facts to be used in upcoming newsletters. If you would like to contribute, please contact newsletter editor and board member, Clare Hoelderle at [redbenchvintage@hotmail.com](mailto:redbenchvintage@hotmail.com).**