The 2017 Historic Barn and Farm Foundation of PA annual barn tour will be held in Union County. Partnering with the Union County Historical Society and author Chris MacNeal, the HBFF/UCHS conference committee has selected eight barns that include stone, log and timber frames of differing ages, types and configurations. A single barn on Friday will be our classroom where you can learn about framing systems, terminology, problems and repair solutions. Half of our barns this year are still being used for their original purposes as part of working farms.

On Friday June 16, check-in begins at 11:30 at our main conference venue the Carriage Corner Restaurant, 257 E. Chestnut Street, Mifflinburg, a short 15 minutes south of Lewisburg. Please bring your items for the silent auction when you check in. After check in, you may proceed in your own vehicle to a barn where Doug Reed will talk about its history and general repairs that help owners maintain their barns in good condition. You can then return a very short distance back to the Mifflinburg Buggy Museum on Green Street. Show your registration ID for the HBFF tour and enjoy a reduced entrance fee which you will pay for at the door. After 3 PM you may also want to drive to Lewisburg and check into your hotel. The conference room at the Carriage Corner Restaurant will be open at 4 PM for you to relax and chat with old friends and make new friends. Visit the silent auction and, of course, bid high. Dinner begins at 5:30 PM. We will enjoy a nice buffet meal with three main course selections in a large room well equipped for our comfort and business meeting.

The results of the silent auction will be announced after we eat. Following a brief business meeting, we will hear from two featured speakers. Our first speaker will be the President of the Union County Historical Society, Lois Huffines. Lois will give us a short introductory history of Union County. Chris MacNeal will talk about Buffalo Valley and Union County featuring the barns of the very area we will explore on Saturday. His new book about the Barns of Buffalo Valley will be available for purchase.

On Saturday, June 17, we will park our cars in the rear lot of the restaurant and board the buses for the tour which will end where we started. I cannot stress enough what you will miss if you do not attend this central Pennsylvania HBFF tour. The region is absolutely beautiful. The Mennonite horse and buggy culture is very much alive and thriving. The vistas of the farms, forest remains and distant mountains are wide open and uncluttered by sprawl. The agricultural overlay of the farms on the valley remains much as it looked in the 19th century.

Join us, you will not be disappointed. Refer to pages 6-7 of this newsletter for pre-registration and lodging information. Space is limited to two comfortable coach buses with bathrooms. Don’t wait, act now and preregister. Send in your registration form! I look forward to seeing all of our barn friends and to making new ones.
Mister Forebay Barn Turns Ninety Years Old
By Greg Huber

Born in Mifflin County in January 1927, Robert Ensminger soon moved with his family to East Greenville in Montgomery County, where, as a young person, he lived for 17 years. Bob went on to teach geography courses in high school and college for years – 35 of them to be exact, retiring in 1983. But during his college training at Rutgers University as a graduate student in the late 1950s, he took a settlement geography course. One topic was the origin of the Pennsylvania fore-bay barn. This was Ensminger’s initiation into the idea that barns were more than mere structures to gaze at.

Of course, he had seen, as had countless native Pennsylvanians and many visitors to the state, an untold number of Pennsylvania barns during the first few decades of his life. Later, in 1975, Bob found himself scouring the hills and valleys of the eastern cantons of Switzerland, and to his delight, he saw many log bank barns with fore-bays. To his enlivened eyes, these far away structures reminded him of many of the barns in his native Pennsylvania.

This new-found knowledge had not really appeared in any treatise or book that he was aware of. His mind agitated, he later traveled the back roads of southeast Pennsylvania gaining much knowledge and experience of the basic structure and variability of construction features of the barns that closely resembled the ones he saw in Switzerland. He returned to Switzerland in 1978 and the many new areas and new barns he then saw convinced him that the log barns with fore-bays in Pratigau, especially, most likely provided the prototype for the construction of the earliest banked fore-bay barns in southeast Pennsylvania, what is known as the Schweitzer barn.

Armed with extensive knowledge, in 1981 he published an article in Pennsylvania Folklife on – “A Search for the Origin of the Pennsylvania Barn.” He laid out before us, all the whys and wherefores of how log barn building traditions in eastern Switzerland came to America and became firmly established in southeast Pennsylvania. Later down the road, it was John Fraser Hart, a geography professor at the University of Minneapolis, who suggested to Ensminger that he write a book on all his adventures with fore-bay barns. He did, and out came, at that time in late 1992, the most scholarly book on any barn type or style ever to have been published in North America.

As John Fitchen had done with his book on the Holland-Dutch barn in America, Bob Ensminger started a mini revolution with his treatise – The Pennsylvania Barn – Its Origin, Evolution and Distribution in North America. Robert Bucher, the long time German-American cultural scholar, once said that the work of Robert Ensminger provided one of the greatest contributions to in-depth knowledge of Swiss-German cultural influences and manners in North America. Because of this, Ensminger has influenced more than a generation of barn observers and cultural historians. When you hear the name of – Ensminger – you know you will hear some worthwhile tail or tidbit of the great fore-bay barn that resides in so much of Pennsylvania. For years, this has been Robert Ensminger’s endowment to us and will continue to be so.
Decisions, Decisions – A Remarkable Hybrid Barn Emerges

By Greg Huber

Many observers in the past have viewed particular barns in the northeast and have applied the word hybrid in cases where aspects of two different cultural barn styles or types are combined into one structure. The barns may unite features, for example, suggestive of both German and English customs in southeast Pennsylvania. This is true for a rare combination Schweitzer – English Lake District (ELD) barn recently found in Upper Saucon Township in Lehigh County.
At the Mory homestead in Upper Saucon, a barn of three bays with a two-bay Schweitzer section and a one-bay ELD section was recently visited. Total proof could not then be established that the two barn sections were built at the same time. It seems that both sections, either built together or at separate times, were most probably built in the period 1800 to 1825.

Lehigh Valley and Saucon Creek Valley Barn Environment

Schweitzers are plentiful in Lancaster County and surrounding areas but farther eastward, fewer are encountered. ELD barns are common in English settled counties in the southern halves of both Bucks and Montgomery Counties and in much of Chester County. In the immediate Saucon Creek area these barns (as separate structures) are rare and areas to the west. Thus Upper Saucon was a poor breeding ground for both construction types to be built either as an original combination structure or two separate buildings later combined at one homestead.

The Mory Family Schweitzer-English Lake District Barn

The Mory family barn (both barn style sections) has a total length of 66 ½ feet and a width of 30 ½ feet (without forebay or ELD pent roof that is each six feet wide).

Exterior Aspects

Schweitzer Barn Section

The Schweitzer section, of one wagon bay and an end bay or mow combines for a total length of 39 feet. The one end wall is stone to the eaves level with two rows of splayed loop-holes. This wall at basement level has two windows, and like many Schweitzers, have no door entries. The rear wall in line with the end bay also has two rows of splayed loopholes.

English Lake District Barn Section

The front wall is fully stone constructed – ground to eaves level. This full barn section pent roof only retains its original six-foot long pent roof arms. The far end likely originally had a drive-in wagon area but is now filled with stones. The far end wall and rear wall have loopholes.
Interior Aspects

Roof Structure

The roof format for the entire barn is an English based Principal Rafter System. It consists of five Principal Rafter pairs that alternate among common (same sized) rafters.

Schweitzer Barn Section

The Schweitzer section is of two bays – a 15-foot wide wagon bay and a 21 ½ foot wide end bay or mow. The wagon bay is flanked by substantial sized oak bent timbers. Much of each mow-stead wall retains its original early type oak boards. The wagon bay has most of its original floor planks.

English Lake District Barn Section

The English section end bay is one large area, where the bottom 7 ½ feet of each of the three stone walls, about 10 feet out from the end wall, is plastered. Above is un-plastered bare stone of a mow area. It seems most likely that the plastered area was a granary, albeit a quite large one.

Basement

The basement has been dramatically altered. The summer beam of the full basement area was replaced by a steel I beam but most of the original ceiling joists remain. All staked mangers and manger troughs were removed long ago.

Summary

The reader is invited to entertain the ideas in the following list of aspects of the two barn sections. They all relate to either the likelihood or possible non-likelihood of the two-section barn complex as an original combination structure.

- The ELD section has an apparent granary area as seen by the plastered areas on the lower halves of the three stone walls – front wall, end wall and rear wall. The area may be something other than a granary. A close examination of the fore-bay in the Schweitzer revealed no presence ever of a granary. Know that most Saucon Creek area fore-bay barns have granaries. This condition suggests that the two sections were built at the same time.

- Both barn sections have Principal Rafter structures but is not proof enough that they were built at the same time.

- Presence in the Schweitzer section of nails or nail holes indicative of original end wall siding on the side faces of the Principal Rafter pair adjacent to the ELD section would imply that the Schweitzer section was a stand-alone structure. Lack of nails or nail holes imply both sections were built at the same time. As it was, the high up rafters could not be examined.

- The basement level summer beam was removed at one time. If the summer were present and proved original in one section and the length extended into the other section, then both sections were built at the same time.

- Recall that both barn sections have rather short splayed vertical loop-holes – at both their end walls and rear walls.

On balance, it would seem that a considerably better chance exists than not that both barn sections were built at the same time. I think the apparent granary in the ELD is the best indication of this. If the barn were built in two building campaigns, this would not diminish its high level of vernacular architectural significance. The Mory barn survives and is continuing proof that the known diversity of barn types in the state of Pennsylvania continues to expand as time marches on. We can not predict what else we will find around the next corner.
Historic Barn & Farm Foundation’s 2017 Annual Meeting & Tour Registration Information

“The Barns of Union County”
June 16 & 17, 2017 – Mifflinburg, PA

Conference Headquarters for registration, dinner and meeting:
Carriage Corner Restaurant
257 E. Chestnut Street
Mifflinburg, PA 17844

Allow time for a 20 minute drive one way between Lewisburg lodging and Mifflinburg conference

SCHEDULE OF EVENTS FOR FRIDAY JUNE 16
Registration and dinner meeting at Carriage Corner Restaurant

11:30am -12:30pm: ..........................................................Check-in table opens, Carriage Corner Restaurant, Mifflinburg.
12:30-4pm: ..............................................................Self drive to Classroom Barn & Mifflinburg Buggy Museum (fee $8 at door)
3:00pm: .................................................................All Lewisburg motels ready for 3 pm check-ins
4:00pm: ......................................................................For those who wish to socialize, the conference room will be open at 4 pm.
4-5:30pm: ............................................................................................................................Silent auction bidding time
5:30pm: ..........................................................................................................................Dinner, buffet, three main courses, chicken, beef and pasta/veggie
6:30pm: ..........................................................................................................................Annual meeting and auction results
7:00pm: ..........................................................................................................................Speaker-Lois Huffines, President, Union County Historical Society (UCHS), An Historical Overview of Union County
7:40pm: ....................................................................................................................Speaker Chris MacNeal, The Barns of Union County

SCHEDULE OF EVENTS FOR SATURDAY JUNE 17
Pre-registered attendees who have not checked in by Saturday must be at bus at 7:30. Buses leave from the Carriage Corner Restaurant, Mifflinburg at 8:00 AM sharp. We will be visiting seven barns representing a wide variety of styles and ages. A box lunch with drink will be served at the 4th barn on the tour where we will eat in the splendor and hospitality of the Tom Rippon Estate.

Space is limited. Pre-registrations are processed in order of receipt and must be received by May 1. Cancellations after May 1, 2017 will be permitted, however; if your seat remains unfilled you will not receive a refund. No one may follow the bus in their car.

To join the tour, you must be a paid member of HBFF or UCHS. You may join or renew your membership in HBFF on the registration form. Every person in attendance at the tour must sign the liability waiver.

Mail completed registration form with check to:
HBFF of PA c/o Laura Walker, 173 Mullberry Hill Rd, Washington, PA 15301. Registration Questions: 724-228-1831
For More Information: Call Doug Reed - 301-730-2699 or email: doug@preservationassociatesinc.com

Lodging reservations are the responsibility of attendees. For your convenience, we have reserved two blocks of rooms at two different hotels in Lewisburg.

Reserved Lodging:
1. Best Western Country Cupboard Inn, $129+tx up to 4 people/ rm. 579-527-5500
2. Hampton Inn, $109+tx, 570-522-8500
In order to secure reduced rates reference HBFF Tour when making reservations. Special pricing is only good until 30 prior to the tour.

Other Lodging Options:
There are several other motel chains in Lewisburg. The following names and numbers are provided for your convenience, but HBFF and its Board make no recommendations for any of the above or below mentioned hotel, motels.

All Suites Inn ............ 570-522-9213
Rodeway Inn............. 570-523-1106
Comfort Suites........... 570-524-8000
Days Inn..................... 570-523-1171
Breakfast Option:
While some of the motels will have Continental breakfasts they may not open until 7 AM. The Carriage Corner Restaurant where we board the buses opens at 7 AM and features a breakfast buffet. There will be enough time for folks to eat the breakfast buffet, but not order from the menu. Breakfast is on your own.

Bus Tour Pick-up Location:
Bus Tour pick up will be at the Carriage Corner Restaurant behind the restaurant. Cars may be left in the back lot of the restaurant or at the Middle School next door. Buses will return to the back lot at the end of the tour. Please do not park on the sides or in front of the restaurant.

Handicap Accessibility:
There is no handicap accessibility for any of the barns. These are historic barns, all in private ownership and none have been converted for ADA compliance. Walking surfaces from bus parking locations to the barns are gravel and/or earth.

Come Appropriately Dressed and Prepared:
Three of seven the barns are still working dairy barns. Mud and manure are part of the normal working environment of actively used barns. At the very least the barns are dusty. If it rains on the tour date or the day before, there will be mud and soft earth. Please come appropriately prepared for an “earthy” experience in the country.

2017 HBFF Conference and Barn Tour Registration Form
Friday registration includes one barn, silent auction, two speakers, dinner, and one 2017 tour booklet. Saturday registration includes seven barn bus tour, lunch, and one 2017 tour booklet if you did not attend Friday.

Name(s) ________________________________________________________________________________________________
Address ________________________________________________________________________________________________
Email ________________________________________________________________________________________________
Phone ___________________________ Tour Day Contact (cell) ___________________________

I am current member of [ ] HBFF or [ ] UCHS

Renew or Add 2017 HBFF Membership (individual OR family) $25_____

FRIDAY:
HBFF/UCHS member $60 ______  Member and spouse $100 _______

SATURDAY:
HBFF/UCHS member $60 ______  Member and spouse $100 _______

[ ] Additional copies of tour booklet $10 ea ______

TOTAL ENCLOSED (payable to HBFF of PA) _______________________

If more than two people are registering on this form, please make copies. Each registrant must sign the waiver. One person cannot sign for two people. Only those who have signed waivers will be permitted on the buses. For questions call 724-228-1831.

For and in consideration of being allowed to participate in the HBFF barn field trip in Union County to take place on June 16 & 17, 2017; I, (Name(s), printed)___________________________________________________________________________________________, in full recognition and appreciation of the dangers and hazards involved in such activity, do hereby agree to assume all risks and responsibilities surrounding my participation in this event and do hereby release and hold harmless the HBFF, its Officers, Directors, Barn Owners, and participants from and against any and all liabilities to the undersigned, his/her dependents, assigns, personal representatives, heirs and next of kin for any and all damages, expenses (including attorney fees) claims, judgments, actions or causes of action as a result of any loss or injury to the person or property, including death, which may be sustained or suffered during or arising out of activities of the above described event and during transportation to and from such event whether caused by negligence of the HBFF, of persons acting on its behalf or otherwise.

I understand that the HBFF does not, in any manner, serve as principal, agent, or partner of any commercial carrier which may provide services or accommodations to the participants. I have read and understand this release and voluntarily sign this document and participate in this trip.

Signature: ___________________________ Date: ______________

Signature: ___________________________ Date: ______________

[ ] I will donate_____________________ for the silent auction. Please drop off donation items early on Friday when you check-in.

[ ] I want to sponsor this event, please call me at #__________________________ (Deadline for sponsorships April 30th)
### MEMBERSHIP YEAR 2017 IS JANUARY 1-DECEMBER 31

Choose one of the Following:

- ☐ New Member
- ☐ Renewal

#### Annual Membership Dues:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Amount</th>
<th>Description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>$250</td>
<td>$100 for Corporate Affiliates</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>$250</td>
<td>$75 for Non-Profit Organizations</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>$150</td>
<td>$25 for Individual or Family</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Sponsorship:**

- ☐ $150 for Individual or Family
- ☐ $250 for Non-Profit Organizations
- ☐ $500 for Corporate Affiliates

Make check payable to HBFF of PA and return to Laura Walker, Treasurer, 173 Mulberry Hill Road, Washington, PA 15301. If your mailing label includes the code 2017, you have already paid your dues for this year. If you want to keep your newsletter intact, make a photocopy of this form and return with dues payment. Sponsorships of the annual meeting start at $150 - membership is included with the sponsorships as well as many other benefits. If you are interested in becoming a sponsor, please contact Laura Walker for further details. Advertising in the Forebay Post is $25 per business card, per insertion. HBFF of PA is now a 501(c)3 organization; contributions may be deducted on federal tax forms.

Please send in your HBFF of PA membership dues to keep receiving THE FOREBAY POST.