

Spring 2020



Case-Barlow Farm

CBF Easter Egg Hunt, Saturday, April 11



Children of all ages are invited to Case-Barlow Farm for the annual Easter Egg Hunt on Saturday, April 11 at 10 am. The hunt includes unfilled plastic Easter eggs which children scamper around to collect, then turn in for a special treat bag! Everyone's a winner at Case-Barlow Farm's hunt as there are numerous eggs for the children to find. Each child should bring their own basket to fill with eggs, and should wear weather-appropriate clothing to the event. As it is outdoors on the farm's field, boots or rain shoes are encouraged.

The annual Easter Egg Hunt is an opportunity for area families to come down to the farm to enjoy the beauty and history of Case-Barlow Farm. It is also a chance for parents and adults to see all the work that is being done on the farm's "Big Red" barn restoration.

Although the Easter Egg Hunt is a free event, donations are always accepted. For more information about Case-Barlow Farm's Easter Egg Hunt, visit www.casebarlow.com.

Why Easter Bunny and Colored Eggs?

Easter is the Christian celebration of the resurrection of Jesus, but the seasonal chocolate egg or decorated eggs and the bunny who delivers them are nowhere to be found in scripture.

The exact origins of the Easter bunny are clouded in mystery. One theory is that the symbol of the rabbit stems from pagan tradition, specifically the festival of Eostre—the goddess of fertility, whose animal symbol was a bunny. Rabbits, known for their energetic breeding, have traditionally symbolized fertility.

Eggs are also representative of new life, and it is believed that decorating eggs for Easter dates back to the 13th century. Hundreds of years ago, churches had their congregations abstain from eggs during Lent, allowing them to be consumed again on Easter. According to History.com, in the 19th century Russian high society started exchanging ornately decorated eggs—even jewel encrusted eggs.

But how did the Easter Bunny begin delivering eggs on American shores? According to History.com, the theory with the most evidence is that the floppy-eared bearer of candy came over with the German immigrants. Bunnies are not the animals traditionally associated with Easter in every country. Some identify the holiday with foxes or cuckoo birds.

The custom of the Easter egg hunt also comes from Germany. Some suggest that its origin dates back to the late 16th century, when the Protestant reformer Martin Luther organized egg hunts for his congregation. The men would hide the eggs for the women and children to find.

The first official White House Egg Roll occurred in 1878, when Rutherford B. Hayes was president.



Coming Soon!



2nd Sunday Open Houses at the Farm:

Sunday, June 14, 1-4 pm.

Sunday, July 12, 1-4 pm.

Sunday, August 9, 1-4 pm.

Watch for complete details on www.casebarlow.com, in the Hudson Hub and on posters around town.

Annual Fall Harvest Fest, Sunday, September 20, 12-5 pm.

CBF Plants Historically Significant Trees



“Good fences make good neighbors,” wrote poet Robert Frost. But what, exactly, makes a good fence? “A fence that builds itself” is the best answer, and since you’re fantasizing, you might add, and “takes care of itself, too.”

Well, believe it or not, there is such a fence, and you have probably seen many in the Hudson area. Settlers and farmers throughout Hudson and much of the Midwest planted their fences.

Mostly likely the tree they planted was the Osage Orange tree, sometimes also called prairie hedge, hedge apple, horse apple, bow-wood or yellow-wood. Most people today though know it only for its distinctly ugly looking fruit, which is an inedible orb the size of a grapefruit or large orange, with a warty, furrowed surface sparsely covered with long, coarse hairs. When you break the globe open, it exudes a bitter, milky, sticky sap that eventually turns black and gives some

people an irritating rash.

The Osage-Orange is an ancient tree and is native to North America. It thrives in our area and as far north as Ontario. The tree is fairly small, rarely reaching more than 50 feet when allowed to grow without cutting back. Pruning and trimming increase its tangled, thickening behavior. The ability to grow it and keep it trimmed in hedges that were “horse high, bull strong, and hog tight,” was an advantage in the years prior to the invention of barbed wire in 1875. Nineteenth-century farmers prized the wood because it is so good for making tool handles and fence posts. It is a valuable wood during long cold winters, the wood burns hot and long, almost like charcoal, even requiring a coal grate. Wood from the Osage Orange were used to make Native American bows.

To bring back the pioneer spirit of our heritage, the Hudson High School Class of 1975 has undertaken the project to plant a hedge row of these wonderful Osage Orange trees on the west side of Case-Barlow Farm Property. Charlie Robinson, of Robinson Lawn and Garden Center, also a member of the Class of ‘75, will be overseeing the project. Thank you to the class of 1975!

Some of the mature rows of Osage Orange trees are still standing proudly in Hudson today. These trees can be found on:

Two rows along Aurora Street west of North Hayden, originally the Evamere Estate; Aurora Street, both north and south sides east of North Hayden before turnpike; Markillie Cemetery on the exit driveway near Main Street; Middleton Road (west side); Main Street and High Street; between Manor Drive and Parmelee Drive and also between Pinewood and Fox Trace. There are probably more around Hudson, it might be fun trying to discover their locations!

Fun Down on the Farm!



More than 200 people attended the annual Santa in the Barn event on Saturday, December 14, with children getting special, individual time with Santa to relay their Christmas wishes. In addition to the Santa visit and photo opportunity inside the barn, many children enjoyed a chance to pet a live reindeer, create a toy in the wagon barn, mail a letter to Santa, and visit the Case-Barlow House where they made a gingerbread cookie and a special Christmas craft. All in all, parents and children alike enjoyed this free event “down on the farm”!

With the blessing of Mother Nature, CBF held its annual Toboggan Run on Saturday, February 15 on the bank of the historic barn.



More than 50 guests enjoyed the wintry weather as they slid down the farm’s snow covered hill. With temperatures in the teens, the free hot chocolate awaiting them in the Big Red Barn was a welcome toasty treat for riders of all ages.

These two free events are some of the various family events held throughout the year to encourage families to enjoy Case-Barlow Farm.



"Big Red" is looking Good!

"Big Red" is undergoing another phase of its restoration. Loved and watched by everyone who passes on Barlow Road, CBF's driveway and parking lot is full of trucks and contractors. As you might remember, last fall the major electrical was installed to light up Big Red. Safety lighting was installed, lamps and chandeliers were added and necessary electric lines run in conduit.

Soon there will be no need to use the traditional outhouse any longer: CBF barn has joined the 21st century. Keeping the integrity of the historical structure, modern restrooms, including an ADA restroom, are being installed. A catering/bar space will be completed with large utility sinks, a spacious beverage cooler and room to serve the guests.

Porcelain floors will be laid soon in these areas. The long tiles appear as distressed old wood, but they will withstand the freezing cold and the summer heat, perfect for the barn. Not wanting to lose the wonderful details of the barn and its history, the solid horse-hair plaster over the wood lathe walls will be protected with clear plexiglass.

Everyone is working hard to preserve the feeling of the historical barn and setting, yet meet the needs of today.

The CBF Board of Trustees offers a huge thank you to all who have given generously to the restoration and future of "Big Red". It could not have been accomplished without each of you. You are so appreciated.

CBF is now accepting reservations for parties, receptions, weddings, high school and college reunions. You can dream of your event here. The barn can accommodate up to 200 guests. Call or email for details and see if your date is still available.



1872 Rules for Hudson's Teachers

1. Teachers each day will fill lamps, clean chimneys.
2. Each teacher will bring a bucket of water and a scuttle of coal for the day's session.
3. Mark your pens carefully. You may whittle nibs to the individual taste of the pupils.
4. Men teachers many take one evening each week for courting purposes, or two evenings a week if they go to church regularly.
5. After ten hours in school, the teachers may spend the remaining time reading the Bible or other good books.
6. Women teachers who marry or engage in unseemly conduct will be dismissed.
7. Every teacher should lay aside from each pay a goodly sum of his earnings for his benefit during his declining years so that he will not become a burden on society.
8. Any teacher who smokes, uses liquor in any form, frequents pool or public halls, or gets shaved in a barber shop will give good reason to suspect his worth, intention and honesty.
9. The teacher who performs his labor faithfully and without fault for five years will be given an increase of twenty-five cents per week in his pay, providing the Board of Education approves.

1915 Rules for Hudson's Teachers

1. You will not marry during the term of your contract.
2. You are not to keep company with men.
3. You must be home between the hours of 8 p.m. and 6 a.m. unless attending a school function.
4. You may not loiter downtown in ice cream stores.
5. You may not travel beyond the city limits unless you have the permission of the chairman of the board.
6. You may not ride in a carriage or automobile with any male unless he is your father or brother.
7. You may not smoke cigarettes.
8. You may not dress in bright colors.
9. You may under no circumstances dye your hair.
10. You must wear at least two petticoats.
11. Your dresses must not be any shorter than two inches above the ankle.
12. To keep the school room neat and clean, you must: sweep the floor at least once daily, scrub the floor at least once a week with hot, soapy water, clean the blackboards at least once a day, and start the fire at 7 a.m. so the room will be warm by 8 a.m.

The above rules are quoted from the book, "Tales Out of School", Hudson Ohio Volume III, edited by Joan May Maher, written in 1985 by eighth graders in the REACH program for gifted students in the Hudson Schools.

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Case-Barlow Bicentennial Farm

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A Fifth Generation Farmer—Don Barlow

“Don Barlow remembers, with a smile on his face, being enrolled in a one-room school house and dipping the pigtail of the girl in front of him into his inkwell.

“Being not only mischievous, but hard-working as well, Don recalls the long hours it took milking the cows by hand, taking care of the chickens and feeding the hens when he was younger. The job he dreaded most was cleaning out the chicken house, but Don comments, “It is one of those things that had to be done.”

“Don’s father, Henry C. (Case) Barlow, former mayor of Hudson from 1946 to 1957, not only raised cows and chickens but beef cattle, also. Don remembers the day the inspectors from the state were checking for tuberculosis among the cattle. In the end, the disease was found in about half of the herd. Henry decided it would be best if all the cattle were sold or slaughtered. His decision to get rid of all the cattle turned out to be wise since tuberculosis was later found in the other half.

“Crop rotation played an important role in farming on the Barlow farm. The three main crops the Barlows raised were corn, oats and wheat. Don explains that farmers had a unique system for remembering the order of rotation of these crops. The first letters spell out C-O-W. Rotating your crops is just good farming practice because each crop uses different nutrients from the ground.

Not only was farm life physically tough for Don growing up, but mentally tough, too. Don was among the many boys given the title, “Farm Boys.” These boys, in turn, gave the boys who lived in town the generic name, “Town Boys.” The farm boys rarely could join the football or basketball teams because of the workloads at home. The “Town Boys.” on the other hand, often made up most of the sports’ teams. Difficult as it was, Don managed to make the football team, while one of his other brothers played on the basketball team for a few years.

“With all of the hardships and problems that came with farm life, it really was not all bad. Actually, it helped bring the family closer and keep it that way. Don points out, “We had to work together as a family to keep the farm going. We each knew what we had to do, and if we did not do our part, Dad would “tell us.”

“Besides dealing with the heavy workloads at home and the “Town Boys” every day, Don had to contend with school. Having his father as president of the school board for a few years was tolerable, but not great, either. Every time Don said or did something wrong, such as dipping the hair of the girl in front of him into his inkwell, his father would eventually find out.”

Farewell to Farms is a collection of oral histories of long-time Hudson residents, written by eighth grade writers in the REACH program in Hudson Schools. Student Joe Schuch interviewed and wrote the above article in 1987.