

THE VILLAGE CRIER

THE CORUNNA HISTORICAL VILLAGE OF SHIAWASSEE COUNTY

VILLAGE HISTORY

In early 1991 the Corunna Historical Commission and the Shiawassee County Historical Society formed a committee to see to the formation of a county historical village. 7.9 acres just west of McCurdy Park were purchased from the Shiawassee County Fair Board for \$24,000. A State grant for \$18,000 was obtained with the remaining money coming from the city of Corunna. That first year 4 buildings were moved into the village.

- (1) June 1991 saw the Spencer-Gould-Storrer home, circa 1840's, moved in. This Greek architectural house came from Owosso where the present day McDonalds now sits. Through the efforts of Jim and Faye Storrer the building was donated by McDonalds.
- (2) The second structure to be moved was the Grand Trunk Railroad caboose, circa 1894. This caboose was donated by Mr. and Mrs. Don Price of Corunna and was brought to the village in July of 1991.
- (3) In August of 1991 the Lemon School, circa 1870, was moved from the corner of Scribner and Garrison Roads. The school was donated to the village by the Shiawassee County Historical Society to be used as a school museum. The society did most of the restoration of the building and still operates it today.
- (4) The last building to be moved that year, November 1991, came from outside Shiawassee County. This was the Christ Evangelical German Lutheran Church, circa 1888, which came from the corner of Hemlock Road and M-57. The church was moved to McCurdy Park and sat there through the winter. It was moved to its present location the following June. The first wedding in the village church took place in November of 1992. There have been over 500 weddings since then.
- (5) In 1992 the Glen Williams family donated the carriage barn which sits behind the Spencer-Gould-Storrer house. The family dismantled the barn, which is of a post and beam construction, and rebuilt it at its present site in 1994.
- (6) In 1995 the Pine Tree Cemetery building, circa 1865, was moved to the village. It was restored by the Orville Seward family in memory of Mr. Seward, a WWII veteran.
- (7) The spring of 1997 saw the Hopson-Hornak log home, circa 1862, moved from the corner of Juddville and Geeck roads to the village. This home was donated by the Martin Hornak Jr. family. They were unaware that the home was of a log construction until they were preparing to demolish it.
- (8) The following spring 1998 the Webster Davis-Kribs home (1904), which was donated by Mr. and Mrs. Sam Smith, was moved to the village. Because of the attached log home (1905) the building was moved in two parts. This was the most expensive of our moves at a cost of about \$40,000 including the cost of a new foundation.
- (9) In the spring of 2002 a corn crib, donated by Mr. and Mrs. Cecil Aldrich of Oakley was moved next to the Hopson-Hornak cabin.
- (10) In November 2002, the New Haven Township Hall, circa 1880's was moved. It came from the corner of Henderson and State Roads and was donated by Mr. and Mrs. LaVerne Luft of Owosso. Including the foundation, this move cost \$28,000 most of which were utility costs for moving lines. Charter Communications was the only utility company that donated their services.

- (11) We also have five outhouses in the village. Two are behind the Lemon School, one behind the Spencer-Gould Storrer home, one is behind the New Haven Township Hall. It came from behind the old Antrim Township Hall and was donated to the village the spring of 2003. The last outhouse, donated by Duane Veale, was moved to the village the summer of 2010 and sits in the area of the Hopson-Hornak log home.
- (12) In June of 2003 we moved in the first 'replica' building. It is a Tinsmith Shop built and donated by Mr. Don Darling of Perry. He designed it to look like a late 1800's shop. It comes complete with authentic vintage tinsmithing tools of the late 19th and early 20th century.
- (13) Also in June of 2003 we brought in the church yard archway which was donated by Owosso Floral. This is not a historic structure but does add to the setting for wedding pictures.
- (14) In the summer of 2007 the windmill donated by William and Charlene VanEeckhoutte of New Lothrop was erected in the farm area of the Hopson-Hornak log house.
- (15) Also in 2007, the Octagon School Belfry, donated by Douglas and Pauline Reynolds, was moved to the north side of the church. It was renovated using money donated by former Octagon School students.
- (16) In the summer of 2011, the construction of an old blacksmith shop began using reclaimed barn beams and barn wood.

FUTURE PLANS AND LONG RANGE GOALS

- (1) Completing the blacksmith shop.
- (2) Building or moving a bicycle shop.
- (3) Building or moving in a barber shop.
- (4) Building or moving in a general store.
- (5) Finding small outbuildings to be used for storage and to display old farm tools and equipment.
- (6) Getting water and sewer lines into the village.

WEDDINGS

The Christ Evangelical Lutheran Church is available for weddings at a cost of \$225. You may contact Glenda Ade (989-277-6856) for more information.

Vg's RECEIPTS

We do collect Vg's receipts as a means of funding some of our projects. You may contact either Judy Horton (989-743-4995) or Margaret Waters (989-723-1204) and they will make arrangements to have them picked up.

Become a member of the Friends of the Corunna Historical Village of Shiawassee County. Envelopes are available in the village or by calling 723-1204.