A recent joint session of the boards for Case Barlow Farm and the Institute for Creative Leadership resulted in the establishment of a $1 million dollar, two year capital campaign to complete the process of making the barn ready for public use and the restoration of the granary for use as a Learning Center for Hudson and surrounding communities. This project will enable CBF to restore and preserve these valuable historic assets for not only Hudson, but all of Northeast Ohio. At the same time we will continue to work towards our mission statement of adaptable reuse of these facilities for public use.

The two boards along with ICL Executive Director, Marcia Mauter, and consultants Georgia Reash and Edith Hirsch discussed and reviewed the proposals and the budgets that will be used to tell our joint story and raise the necessary funds to complete this project.

Today’s economic environment has created a need for organizations to look for ways to partner at various levels. By doing so, the organizations can fulfill their mission statements, reach a broader and more diverse audience, and provide the best possible value for each dollar donated and raised. We want each donor, whether an individual, foundation, other non-profit, government agency, or attendee of a fundraising event to feel that they couldn’t have spent their philanthropic dollar any more efficiently or used it to reach a broader audience than by donating it to CBF/ICL.

Whether you represent our children or senior citizens of Hudson, the Montessori School, special needs children and adults, other local non-profits, or you represent organizations and businesses from other communities in Northeast Ohio, or you are visiting from a foreign country attending leadership training with ICL or our sister city in Germany, there is a welcome sign hanging out for you at Case Barlow Farm.

There will be more updates and progress reports later. We look forward to seeing you soon!

How Important Was a Root Cellar? By Connie Price

What would our ancestors have been eating during the cold winter days in the late eighteenth and early nineteenth centuries?

They would have to rely almost entirely on the root cellar where they stored vegetables and cured meats for winters use. Drying and brines were another option for preserving their precious food supply. Wheat flour and corn meal were probably ground and used daily for each meal. Dried beans and herbs were also an important staple for pioneer tables. Below is a recipe taken from “A New System of Domestic Cookery” dated 1807.

Beef Collared

Choose the thin end of the flank of fine mellow beef, but not too fat. Lay it in a dish with salt, and saltpetre. Turn and rub it every day for a week, and keep it cool. Then take out every bone and gristle; remove the skin of the inside part and cover it thick with the following seasonings cut small: A large handful of parsley, the same of sage, some thyme, marjorum, pennyroyal, pepper, salt and pimento. Roll the meat up as tight as possible, and bind it; then boil it gently for seven or eight hours. A cloth must be put around before the tape. Put the beef under a good weight while hot, without undoing it: the shape will then be oval. Part of a breast of veal, rolled in with the beef, looks and eats very well.
The day was a little cool, but the families were enjoying every moment. Songs were in the air with Crazy Rhythm on the guitar and fiddle.

This year brought many new additions to the fest. Abe Lincoln visited with everyone young and old, had his portrait painted by Shannon Casey and also enjoyed dancing. The “Birds in Flight-Raptor Center” brought in a variety of wild birds that have been rehabilitated from the wild. The Happy Trails Farm Animal Rescue and the Portage 4-H group delighted the children with their petting farm animals. Thanks to various Case-Barlow Farm supporters, an antique quilt display held numerous old quilts of various designs. A Broom Squire, from Hale Farm, demonstrated the art of making brooms while a Black Smith/Farrier brought along his forge and hammered out horse shoes. The “Western Whirlers” square danced and invited guests to join in. Emory Prior’s rare antique music player instruments and boxes provided beautiful sounds in the Case-Barlow Farm house, while members of the Hudson Questers toured guests through the home, sharing history of the original families and highlighting the finished rooms. Chair seat weaving was demonstrated on the side porch. In the house, the visitors enjoyed rug hooking, stenciling and hand spinning. Under a tent in the yard, handmade Windsor chairs were created by Richard Grell.

Thanks to Jack Grace, the hay rides were enjoyed throughout the entire day. The Portage County 4-H group, “Crazy Critter” spent the day thrilling children with horse rides around our coral.

Johnny Appleseed not only talked of his adventures but also brought along an antique apple press for the young and old to make juice. This year our guests picked grapes from the vines, pressed them in the old press and tasted “real grape juice”.

New also this year was noodle making, wood carving, and corn grinding. As in the past years, the young and old were able to churn butter, weave a rug, cut a huge log with a 2-man saw, milk our wooden cows plus wash and dry laundry just like our grandparents did in the “olde days”. The cookie walk and “olde fashion” games were once again a big hit.

Shiny 1900 Model-A Fords with rumble seats and great sounding horns graced our fields.

Crafts including candle dipping and creating grape vine wreaths kept everyone busy. Of course, our famous hot dogs cooked on the grill along with home made goodies satisfied everyone’s appetite.

We had a wonderful crowd this year--thank you for coming and helping to make this a wonderful annual event at the Farm. Without you this event would never happen.

See you next October, for more smiles, sunshine & surprises!

The Case-Barlow Creative Writing Club began their 4th year of meetings at our farmhouse. The girls, between 10 and 14 years of age, come from Hudson, Tallmadge, Twinsburg, Stow and Cuyahoga Falls.

Each month the group meets to learn about writing, to write and to share their work. In January, the Hudson Historical Society Archivist, Gwen Mayer, spoke to the young writers about the importance of journal writing. The February meeting will be held at the Record Publishing Company to hear April Helms speak about writing as a profession.

New girls are always welcome to join. For more information, please call the Farm.
A Very Special Thank You!!

As the snow keeps falling and the snow piles become deeper, Case-Barlow Farm is in good hands. Charlie & Susie Robinson, of Robinson Lawn & Garden Center of Hudson, have donated their services to keep our driveway cleared. Please keep them in mind for your snow plowing and garden needs.

All the friends of Case-Barlow Farm
Thank You!!

Hand Screws, sometimes called face screens or face fans were useful and decorative items kept in pairs on the mantle of many fine 19th century homes. They were handy for a twosome sitting by the fire. As the women of the day used wax-based make up to cover the scars of small pox or other ills, the screens were used to protect their face and keep the wax from melting from the heat.

The screens at Case-Barlow Farm were purchased by the Questers. They are authentic designs painted by Lois Chase Milne who has a Bachelor of Fine Arts from Ohio Wesleyan University and is a member of the Historian Society of Early American Decorator. Our fans sit on the front parlor fireplace mantel, stop by to see them.

Letters between Lora Case & John Brown Before the His Death

Hudson, Ohio, Nov. 28, 1859

Dear Sir:

My long acquaintance with you and with your life has made such an impression on my mind that I feel that there is an attachment formed which Death alone can separate; and now, as it seems the end draws near that you must die, I would say that my prayer is, that you may come off conqueror through Him that hath loved us, and find a resting-place in heaven, where I hope to meet with all the friends of humanity. I want something from your hand to look upon and show to the friends of humanity. Your name on a card directed to me, with a date at the place where you are, I would like with some short sentiment of your choosing.

L.C.

P.S. I hear you have several daughters, which may be dependent on the charity of friends to get along in the world. I would like to take the youngest, and educate her in my family as one of them, if you and your friends are willing. I have a daughter sixteen years old, and it would be her delight to help educate one of Capt. John Brown’s daughters…. Farewell! May God Almighty strengthen you as you are about to be offered up.

Charlestown, Jefferson Co Va, 2d, Dec. 1859

Lora Case Esqr

My dear Sir

Your most kind & cheering letter of the 28th Nov is received. Such an outburst of warm hearted sympathy not only for myself; but also for those who “have no helper” compells me to steal a moment from those allowe me: in which to prepare for my last great change to send you a few words. Such a feeling as you manifest makes you to “shine (in my estimation) in the midst of this wicked; & perverse generation as a light in the world”. May you ever prove yourself equal to the high estimate I have placed on you. Pure & undefiled religion befor God & the Father is” as I understand it: an active (not a dormant) principle. I do not undertake to direct any more about my children. I leave that now entirely to their excellent mother from whom I have just parted. I send you my “salutation with my own hand.” Remember me to all yours, & my dear friends.

Your Friend

John Brown

These letters are copied exactly from “Hudson of Long Ago, Reminiscences” by Lora Case.

John Brown moved to Hudson with his parents, 3 brothers & 1 sister in 1805 from Connecticut. He was hung on Dec. 2, 1859.

CBF was built by Chauncey & Cleopatra Case. Their son, Lora Case, became an important Underground Railroad conductor in this area. The abolitionist John Brown was a frequent guest at the farm. Family legend tells that slaves were hidden in the tree lot at the back of the property.
By Marcia Mauter, Director of ICL

Braving commuter traffic and a parking lot like an ice rink, 15 board members representing Institute for Creative Leadership and Case-Barlow Farm met on January 19, 2010 and rolled up their shirtsleeves to launch a joint $1 million capital campaign. This two year campaign (2010-2011) will create and preserve the Center for Sustainable Leadership, ensuring regional leadership training at Case-Barlow Farm.

The session opened with two ribbons representing Case-Barlow Farm and the Institute for Creative Leadership, two nonprofit organizations partnering to create a regional Center for Sustainable Leadership. Each board was tasked with identifying words that represented the qualities or value that the other group’s organization brought to this dynamic partnership. Self-sustaining, regional, people-focused (ICL) and synergistic, collaborative and historically rooted (CBF) were examples of words that surfaced.

Serious discussions then ensued that addressed the role of both boards in realizing the dream of creating a leadership center. The case statement document, Reinvigorating Regional Leadership, was reviewed. The preliminary budget was discussed in detail. Joint committees were identified to both “plan the work and work the plan” so that the goal of the first phase of the campaign, raising $100,000, can be realized by August 1, 2010.

A third ribbon was filled with words to reflect the joint commitment of two nonprofit organizations coming together to achieve the dream of creating a Center for Sustainable Leadership, and included strength, sustainable, and gift to the region. With a snip of the ribbon, and excitement for the challenge ahead, the campaign was launched!