

HOOSIER BARN

C H R O N I C L E

Preserving Indiana's Heritage, One Barn at a Time

A PUBLICATION OF



**INDIANA BARN
FOUNDATION**

**VOLUME 10, NO. 1
SPRING 2023**



*Whippoorwill Hill wedding
barn before restoration*

WHIPPOORWILL HILL
THEN & NOW

*Whippoorwill Hill
wedding barn today*



Whippoorwill HILL

Jeff Lucas and Anne Fields Lucas are Indiana natives. He was born and raised in Brownstown, and she grew up on the north side of Bloomington. They both grew up with a love of farming – Jeff of large-scale commercial farming and Anne at her parents' hobby farm chasing chickens and riding horses. The couple purchased the old Tate-Tatum Farm on Bloomington's south side in October of 2015 and got engaged shortly thereafter.

"We didn't know what gems we had on the property," Anne recalls in reference to the c.1822 Double Crib Log Barn and c.1822 log farmhouse, two buildings on the farm. "That's when we reached out to Duncan Campbell to learn more about these majestic structures." Duncan Campbell was familiar with the farmstead and provided insight into the history surrounding the farm. This was Jeff and Anne's first interaction with the Indiana Barn Foundation. The experience prompted the couple to begin following IBF on social media and sign up for

continued

Whippoorwill

H I L L

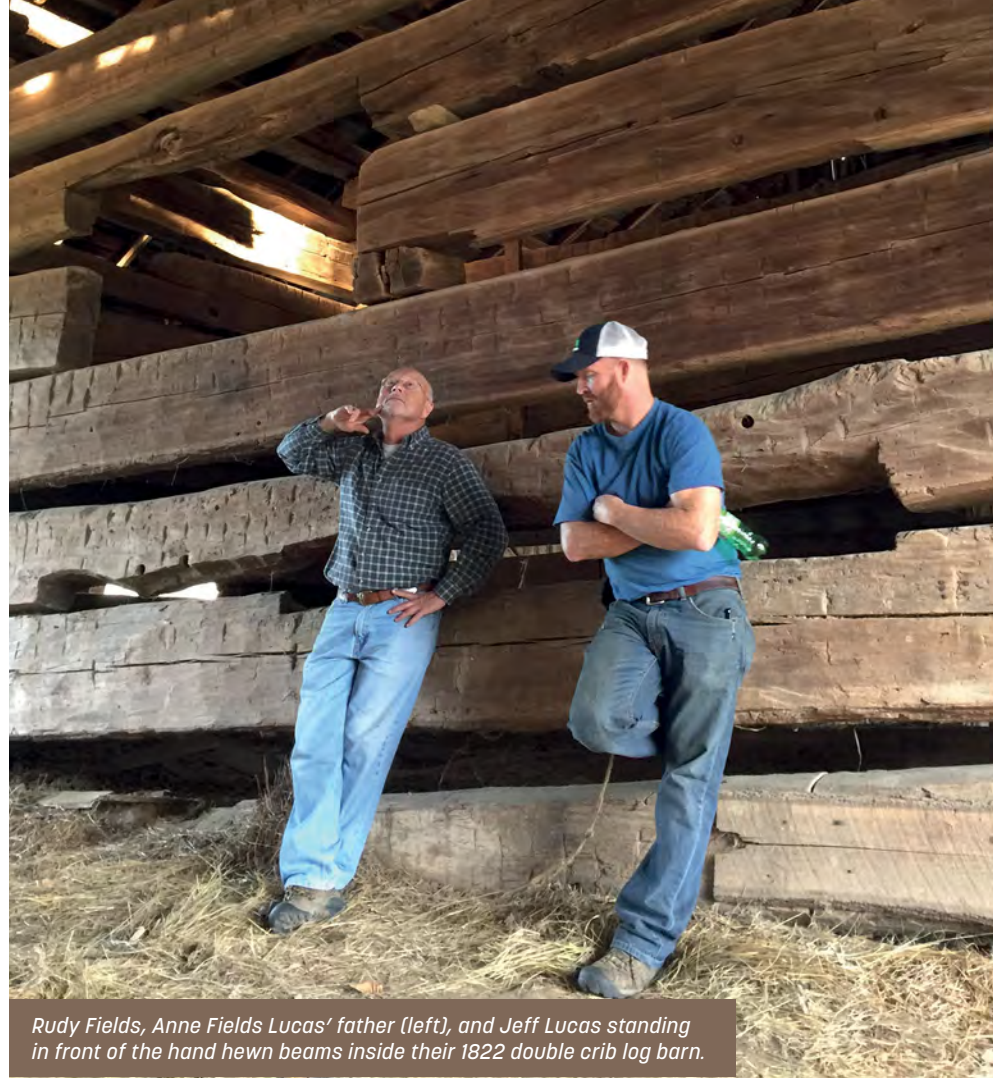
continued

the newsletters. And that helped them become aware of the work IBF does protecting and advocating for some of Indiana's most valuable architectural treasures.

Jeff proposed to Anne in November of 2015, and she went “one-hundred percent bridezilla,” Anne says with a smile. After touring venues for their big day, Jeff and Anne decided they didn't love any venue as much as they loved their farm. So, the couple began planning their 300-person wedding to be held on their farm. The initial plan was to have a big tent with porta-johns, until fate stepped in.

Anne's father's cousin, Steve, was dear friends with a family wanting to remove a c.1892 historic barn from their working farm in Manilla, Indiana. The Russell barn, as it is known by locals in Manilla, was not being used for the family's commercial farming operation and was slowly deteriorating. With expectations low, Jeff, Anne, and their family went to Manilla to see this barn in person. “It spoke to us,” Jeff said. “It was rough, and we knew it would take a lot of work to get it right, but it was breathtaking.” The couple was hooked — the one heritage barn on their property wasn't enough, they wanted this one too.

Anne checked IBF's webpage to see if there was a contractor that would be able to help move the historic barn and as luck would have it, they found one. All that was left was for Jeff and Anne to make an agreement with the owners of the barn, the Foltz family, to remove the barn from their ground and bring it to Monroe County. The Foltzes



Rudy Fields, Anne Fields Lucas' father (left), and Jeff Lucas standing in front of the hand hewn beams inside their 1822 double crib log barn.

were as committed to seeing this barn saved as Jeff and Anne were. “They were incredible partners in saving this historic barn,” Jeff said. “We are forever grateful to their generosity in helping us make this dream a reality.”

Now, the Russell barn stands tall in Bloomington on the historic Tate-Tatum Farm directly adjacent to the c.1822 double crib barn and serves as one of Bloomington's most notable wedding and event venues, Whippoorwill Hill. In the six years it's been open, the barn has seen many celebrations — weddings, graduations, sorority formals, birthday parties, and celebrations of life. Whippoorwill Hill is listed on the National Register of Historic Places and has received a Conservation Award, an Outstanding Preservation Award, and a myriad of wedding venue awards.

Jeff and Anne have worked hard to build their business and Whippoorwill Hill's brand. One look at their Google reviews illustrates the reputation they have in the community for taking care of their clients, vendors, and business partners. They consider IBF to be one of those business partners. Anne asserts, “As our business has grown, it seems as though our needs for support in our business have grown as well. The Indiana Barn Foundation has been there for us during each phase of Whippoorwill Hill's

“We didn't know what gems we had on the property.”

— ANNE FIELDS LUCAS



The interior of the barn is decorated for a wedding reception.

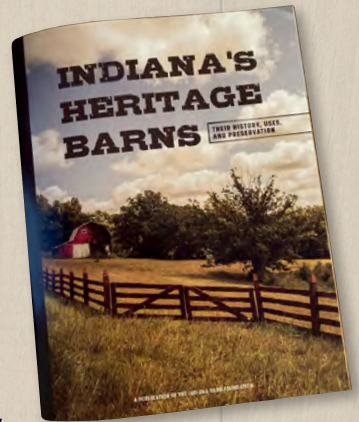
growth. From helping us understand the historic importance of our farm, to literally helping us erect our venue, to networking with likeminded individuals, to showcasing our space in the 2017 annual barn tour, to acting as a source of referrals, to this very article, the Indiana Barn Foundation has been the best kind of partner. We are forever members of IBF and remain grateful for all they have done for us, our kids, and for the future stewards of our farm.”

The Lucas family — Jeff, Anne, and their two sons — recently built their home on the farm. While Whippoorwill Hill is private property, if you’d like to tour the farm, check out the calendar on their webpage and attend one of the monthly open houses to see the property for yourself. To learn more about Jeff, Anne and the family farm and wedding venue they operate in Bloomington, visit them at www.whippoorwill-hill.com



Bank(ed) Barns on the Indiana Landscape

The bank barn and the basement or foundation barn are distinguished from other barn types by one important feature: They each have two principal levels dedicated to barn activity — a lower level, usually of masonry construction, for animals, and an upper level for crop storage, machinery storage, and assorted farm uses. There is also an important distinction between the bank barn and the basement barn: the former has exterior access to both the upper and lower levels, but the latter only has exterior access to the lower level. These barn types were developed as a versatile improvement to the one-level barn, and in many instances, they replaced the earlier settlement era structures.



Building a bank barn was a bit more of a challenge to the barn builders than the one-level or ground barn. If a small hill or gentle slope of the land was available, then the builders took advantage of the natural features of the land and built the barn into the hill. Other building sites may have required a bit of excavation to develop the “banked” area that led to the wagon doors of the upper level. Excavation may have also been required to fully develop the varied entries into the lower stable level of the barn. The basement barn, on the other hand, only required a flat location where a masonry structure could be constructed as a full story foundation for the timber barn that would be placed above.

A popular type of bank barn in Indiana is the Pennsylvania barn. It is a two-level barn and falls within the bank barn category. Another common form adapted either as a bank or basement barn was the English barn, also common in Indiana.

The above text is excerpted from the newly published, *Indiana's Heritage Barns: Their History, Uses, and Preservation*. Visit www.indianabarns.org for a PDF version or a list of locations with hard copies available.

DID YOU KNOW?

Heritage barns are

TAX EXEMPT

in the state of Indiana.

Visit indianabarns.org.

At the bottom of our home page is a link to the tax incentive form. Print, complete and bring to your county assessor's office.



HOW TO SUPPORT IBF FINANCIALLY

IBF DONATIONS

- Accepted on our website at www.indianabarns.org/donate, or
- Send a check to:
Indiana Barn Foundation
1201 Central Avenue
Indianapolis, IN 46202

MAURI WILLIAMSON LEGACY ENDOWMENT

- www.indianabarns.org/endowment, or
- Send a check to:
CICF, Attn: Operations
615 Alabama St., Suite 300
Indianapolis, IN 46204-1498

Please note IBF#4558 in check memo

CONNECT WITH US

- Indiana Barn Foundation
- Indiana Barn Foundation
- @indianabarnfoundation
- @IndianaBarnFND
- info@indianabarns.org
- www.indianabarns.org

Representing the Indiana Barn Foundation

★ AROUND THE STATE ★

The Indiana Barn Foundation is committed to communicating our mission of "Preserving Indiana's Heritage, One Barn at a Time" throughout the state of Indiana. Here's a list of recent public engagements we have participated in so others can learn about our foundation and mission.

INDIANA FARM BUREAU CONVENTION

This provided an opportunity to distribute Indiana's Heritage Barns booklets and talk to more than a hundred people about Indiana barns and the Indiana Barn Foundation.

MARION COUNTY FARM BUREAU BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Kent Yeager, President of the Indiana Barn Foundation, met with the Marion County Farm Bureau Board of Directors. He talked about the Indiana Barn Foundation and specifically about the many barns that are in the city of Indianapolis, many largely unnoticed.

DANVILLE ROTARY

Kent met with the Danville Rotary. The presentation included discussion of "Hendricks" barns.

CENTRAL INDIANA DOCENT SYMPOSIUM

Indiana Landmarks and Conner Prairie hosted the Central Indiana Docent Symposium at the Indiana Landmarks Center. Kent participated in the event, had an opportunity to talk with many of participants and distribute the Indiana's Heritage Barns booklet.

PURDUE AG ALUMNI FISH FRY

Represented the Indiana Barn Foundation at the Purdue Ag Alumni Fish Fry. IBF board members Christi Perry, Randy Miles and Kent Yeager provided booklets and other IBF information to attendees.

DUBOIS COUNTY SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION ANNUAL MEETING

Kent was the speaker at the Dubois County Soil and Water Conservation Annual Meeting. His presentation included unique features of historic barns and explain why they are important today.

NATIONAL BARN ALLIANCE ANNUAL MEETING

Duncan Campbell, founding board member of the Indiana Barn Foundation, was the featured guest speaker at the National Barn Alliance's Annual meeting.



MARK YOUR CALENDAR

STAY TUNED FOR DETAILS!

2023 IBF FORUM & ANNUAL MEETING

JULY

15

2 0 2 3

The Rustic Barn
at Hopewell
Urbana, IN

2023 IBF BARN TOUR

DATE

TBD

FALL 2023

Miami County, headquartered
at International Circus
Hall of Fame • Peru, IN

TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE PROGRAM

Technical Assistance

IBF's technical assistance advisors consulted with over eighty Indiana heritage barn owners in 2022. Ninety percent of the consultations consisted of on-site visits where our advisors met with the owners and conducted thorough investigations and evaluations of the barn's physical condition. Conversations with the owners typically cover a wide range of "barn" talk that includes information about the barn's style, its cultural origins and agricultural purposes, alterations over the barn's life, and potential strategies for repair and preservation.

WHAT TO EXPECT

A typical site visit includes a discussion about the particular barn's method of construction, relative age and style, and specific areas of concern—a leaky roof, rotted structural posts, missing components, ability to resist weathering, materials degradation, drainage and foundation issues. The evaluation includes discussing the barn's history, and the owner's intended uses, if any. Advisors then try to prioritize a repair strategy based on which conditions most threaten to the barn's longevity and require immediate attention. Recommendations look to the simplest, least technically demanding, and most affordable solutions as a first step.

The technical advisors' goals align with the goals of the Indiana Barn Foundation, to save and protect Indiana's heritage barns, and the primary purpose of the in-person visit is to assist the owner in doing just that. IBF understands that no two barns are exactly alike, and that conditions may vary widely, so each consultation is a unique response to the particular needs of the barn, and the capacity of the owners to address repairs.

REQUEST A VISIT

The site visit process begins when inquiries are made through our website, www.indianabarns.org. On the Home page, select Contact, and make the appropriate menu selection to request a site visit or access other information under the Resources selection. Once we receive an inquiry we respond within a day or two with a personal note and a letter that reviews our services and provides instructions for making a grant application, requesting a site visit, or submitting photographs of your barn so we can make an assessment. The letter also includes a list of contractors who work on barns in Indiana. The personal note responds to particular questions asked, and considers the appropriateness of a site visit. At that time we will request your address if you have not included it in your original query so that we may estimate the mileage charges to your site. There is no fee for the on-site evaluation; we only request mileage reimbursement. Once we have the address of the barn, we work with the owner to schedule a visit.

Requests are routed to Duncan Campbell, chair of the Technical Assistance committee, whose personal response puts the barn owner in contact with the technical advisor located in the appropriate region of the state. IBF currently has three advisors, one in the northern, one in the central, and one in the southern region. In order to reduce mileage costs, we often work to combine requests from adjacent locations so that we can make several visits per outing and share mileage costs among the owners.

EVERYONE BENEFITS

The site visit program has grown in recent years as IBF has increased its membership and its resources, and trained additional technical advisors. Site visits more than doubled in 2022 as a result. In addition to assisting barn owners with conditions evaluations, site visits provided both IBF volunteers and



DUNCAN CAMPBELL
FOUNDING BOARD MEMBER OF
INDIANA BARN FOUNDATION

heritage barn owners the opportunity to share their family and farm histories, as well as their own experience, purpose, and hope. This personal outreach has expanded understanding, built membership, and created opportunities for the organization to better understand its constituency. But more importantly, it provided a tangible service to barn owners and assisted them in developing strategies to protect their barns.



**REQUEST TECHNICAL
ASSISTANCE**

Email

info@indianabarns.org

or submit request on our website
www.indianabarns.org/contact



INDIANA BARN FOUNDATION

INDIANA BARN FOUNDATION

1201 Central Avenue
Indianapolis, IN 46202

EMAIL: info@indianabarns.org

WEB: www.indianabarns.org

PROUD AFFILIATE OF



INDIANA LANDMARKS

INTRODUCING THE INDIANA BARN FOUNDATION'S **ONLINE STORE**

Indiana Barn Foundation Online Store offers:

Customized T-shirts ★ Sweatshirts ★ Carhartt hooded zip-front sweatshirt
Carhartt jackets ★ Hats ★ Tumblers ★ And more!

www.indianabarns.org/store

