



2017 TFG
Conference

A Photographic History of Barn Raisings

Daniel Troth

GreenTech Construction

Delaware, OH

As the family farm's most important structure, the raising of the barn was the most seminal moment in its history. As the pioneers settled new lands, communities formed and gathered together to help raise barns at "raising bees." When the barn frame was successfully erected, men, women, and children of all ages gathered to celebrate the occasion and remember it with a photo. We will explore photos of raised barns as well as photos of barns in the process of being raised.

We often stand in old barns admiring their heavy timbers and marvel at the fact that they were raised by hand. We've seen some photos of some raising bees, and know how some barns were raised, but are often left with questions like "how did they do that?" Hopefully, this pictorial history, along with a lively discussion will leave us all with more answers, a greater understanding, and a greater appreciation of what farm communities accomplished.

About the Speakers

Daniel Troth

Dan Troth, owner of GreenTech Construction, currently builds custom homes in central Ohio and incorporates antique timber frames into these homes whenever possible. He joined the Timber Framers Guild after attending the 2nd annual conference at Marlboro College (VT) in 1986. He attended Tedd Benson's workshop in Alstead, NH, where he learned enough of the craft to singlehandedly build Joel McCarty's and Susan Norlander's house in one week. In 1991, Mr. Troth joined two Akron architects to form ReBarn in an effort to convert barns into homes in Ohio. Even though Steven Spielberg lived in one on Long Island, they were not appreciated in Ohio. He attended the first Ohio Barn Conference in 2000 and shortly thereafter became a founding member of Friends of Ohio Barns, a non-profit organization dedicated to preserving the remaining, but quickly disappearing, iconic historic barns in the state. The Ohio Barn Conference XVIII was held recently in Millersburg, Ohio. Mr. Troth has been collecting antique photographs of barn raisings for over 25 years and plans to write a book on the subject.