



## Welcome to Historic Amesville

Amesville has been the home to many people. Slaves escaping the South walked through Amesville as part of the Underground Railroad. Its landmarks -- such as the Masonic Hall on Franklin Street -- are important to families living there, as well as visitors to the village. Other landmarks, such as the old Clover Farm Stores building, have been abandoned or torn down, but new landmarks and memories are taking their place.

Amesville is perhaps best known [for the Coonskin Library](#). At an 1803 town meeting -- held to discuss roads -- settlers talked about their desire for books and their lack of money to pay for them. Most of the business was done by barter, so little money was in circulation. However, the surrounding forest had pelts that could be sold in the East to buy books. In the spring of 1804, Samuel B. Brown was given the pelts and, accompanied by Ephraim Cutler, went east to bring back books for the town. Fifty-one books -- mostly on religion, travel, biography and history -- were purchased for \$73.50. These books were passed from home to home until Ephraim Cutler was elected librarian in 1804.

The original books can be found at the Ohio Historical Society, as well as Ohio University's Alden Library. A commemorative marker, placed by the Nabby Lee Ames D.A.R. Chapter of Athens in 1925, is located near the Community Bank on State Street. The Coonskin Library Museum opened in May of 1994 in the former cafeteria of the Amesville Grade School.

## HISTORIC LANDMARKS OF AMESVILLE



## Things to see...

**Gifford State Forest:** The Ohio Department of Natural Resources, Division of Forestry welcomes you to the heart of Ohio's hill country. Gifford State Forest is the smallest of Ohio's state forests, at 320 acres, but offers some very pleasant hunting and hiking opportunities in the scenic northern edge of Athens County. This state forest was donated to the state in 1959 by William Gifford Selby under conditions that it be used for experimentation and research. It was named for his mother Virginia Gifford and her family. *Enjoy hiking, picnics or plant identification. 4 miles North of Amesville on State Route 550.*

**Quilt Barn Tours:** There's no better way to tour the hills of Athens County than the Quilt Barn Tour. Your mission: to see over twenty historic quilt barns. Your reward: spectacular views of the Appalachian hill country. While on the lookout for the next historic Quilt Barn, you'll discover winding creeks, fields of wildflowers, spectacular overlooks, and covered bridges. Pack a picnic and don't forget your camera. Choose between the 45-mile Appliqué Loop, the 45-mile Stitch Loop, or the 55-mile Quilter's Loop. *Details at <http://www.athensohio.com/whattodo/historic-sites-attractions/quilt-barn-tour>*

**Mudsock** was an early pioneer village in Ames Township, Athens County, Ohio, that preceded Amesville, the current seat of the township. Amesville was established in 1839. Mudsock is one of the oldest, later abandoned, villages settled by the Ohio Company in the Northwest Territory. It originated from the lower settlement of Ames Township, one of the two earliest Ames 'communities'. It was probably later referred to as "Ames Town" or "Amestown" in early accounts. *The current location of the Mudsock Village is the Amesville Cemetery about 1 mile south of Amesville on State Route 550.*

## Things to do...

**Village Productions:** Village Productions (VP) is a private, non-profit community-based organization serving rural, mostly Appalachian, area around Amesville, Ohio. VP holds classes 7 days a week in yoga, dance, music, pilates, drumming and many other activities. Drop ins are welcomed. For more information go to [www.village-productions.org](http://www.village-productions.org) or contact: 448-7480

**Amesville Firemen's Festival:** AFF happens the third weekend of every July. Carnival games for kids, live music, bingo, tractor pull, dancing performances as well as rides in the Crosley 1954 miniature Fire Engine. See [www.amesvilleohio.org](http://www.amesvilleohio.org) for more details.

## Businesses

**Airclaws, Inc.** is always high quality and complete customer satisfaction. We strive to make sure that what you expect from a team of professionals is what you get. Airclaws, Inc. offers equipment service, installation, and preventative maintenance. With over 50 years of experience with both residential and commercial projects, we are standing by ready to provide helpful advice, troubleshooting assistance, HVAC equipment service, installation, and preventative maintenance. We are proud to be your Athens area Bryant Factory Authorized dealer. We can offer to you special Bryant promotions and new equipment. 740-448-7277 or 740-448-7278 Toll-free 1-866-293-6315 Fax 740-448-4200 [airclaws@airclaws.com](mailto:airclaws@airclaws.com)

**Connecting Spirits, LLC:** Animal Training using Positive Methods including Clicker Training,  
<http://www.debbieandjoanna.com/Pages/default.aspx>


**Halcyon Hypnosis:** Find the alternative solutions to issues you are facing with services from Halcyon Hypnosis based in Amesville, OH. We specialize in providing you with a unique approach to helping you reach your specific goals. Hypnosis is a very real way to make POSITIVE CHANGES in your life! Curious, but afraid to try Hypnosis? Relax, Hypnosis is simply a concentrated state of relaxation, during which suggestions are given to bring about the desired change. No, you will not be unconscious, or "under the spell" of the Hypnotist. No, you will not tell secrets or disclose anything that you choose not to. You will not act silly or do anything that would embarrass you, that is only in the movies and for "stage" hypnosis.  
<http://www.halcyonhypnosis.com/>

## Businesses

**At Matrix J Technologies,** we understand how frustrating it is when a computer crashes and you're stuck not knowing what to do about it. We want to help! Matrix J repairs any and every computer issue you can think of. If it's something we aren't sure how to fix we do the research to find out on our own dime, because expanding our knowledge only benefits us and any future clients. More specifics about what we do can be found on our Repair page. Browse our website, call us, or stop in and talk to our friendly staff to find out how Matrix J Technologies can provide you with *Tailored Technology Solutions!* <http://www.matrixj.com/>


**The Community Bank:** 25 State St. (740) 448-2212 Lobby Hours: 8:30 a.m.-3 p.m. Mon.-Wed. 8:30 a.m.-noon Thurs & Sat. 8:30 a.m.-5 p.m. Fri. Drive-Through Hours: 8:30 a.m.-3 p.m. Mon.-Wed. 8:30 a.m.-noon Thurs & Sat. 8:30 a.m.-5 p.m. Fri.

**Postal Service** (740) 448-4591 7:30-11:30 a.m., 12:30-4:30 p.m. Mon.-Fri.; 7:30-11:30 a.m.



## Places to stay...

Try one of the many B&B's available from Lance Rentals. **THE GRAINARY COTTAGE:** This quaint, all electric country cottage was the summer kitchen/grainary for an old farmstead that used to stand on this land. It was completely renovated in early 2009. It features one bedroom, a galley kitchen, bathroom with laundry, and a family room. It sits on a hillside on Route 690 in Ames Township. Other units available at <http://www.lancerentals.com/>




## Places to eat...

**Kasler's Contry Kitchen**, 10 State Route 550 serving down home fare, homemade pies and sandwiches. Breakfast and lunch Tuesday through Sunday and dinner Friday nights. 448-7800

**Coonskin Crossing**, 8 State Route 550 serving pizza, nightly specials and fast food. Also stocks snacks, beer and wine and other convenience items.

**Mason's Pancake Breakfast** happens every second Saturday starting at 7:30 am till 10:00. \$4.00 gets you all you can eat pancakes, sausage, potatoes and other breakfast fare. Masonic Lodge 7 South Franklin Street.



**ACRE (Amesville Community Resources for Entrepreneurs):** ACRE primary purpose is to offer affordable space to artists, businesses and organization so they can grow their capacity to offer services. The available rooms are in the old Amesville Elementary School (29 North Franklin Street) and measure 23 feet by 34 feet (782 square feet). Each south facing room has 384 square feet of windows that offers solar gain and natural light that is exceptional. The north facing rooms also have 384 square feet of windows that offers less solar gain but cooler summer temperatures. [www.amesvilleacre.weebly.com](http://www.amesvilleacre.weebly.com)

**Coonskin Library Association:** The Coonskin Library Association was formed in the mid-1980s under the leadership of Robert Avery, then Principal of the Amesville Elementary School. In 1994 the Amesville Elementary School gave the Association the small building near its playground. It was formerly a one-room school that had been moved to its current site in 1949. It served first as a high school machine shop and later in the 1950s as the school's cafeteria. The museum became a reality through the combined efforts of many local individuals. The museum is currently most used by school children who visit while on school trips. Individuals and groups may arrange for tours and visits by contacting Robert Avery, Association President. The museum is not easily found. It is located behind the Amesville Elementary School off SR 329 north of SR 550. It is not served by a major street and does not have an adjacent parking area. <http://www.ohio.edu/people/deanr/coonskin.html>

## Local Organizations

**AMESVILLE GRANGE 798:** is part of the National Grange of the Order of Patrons of Husbandry, also simply styled **the Grange**, is a fraternal organization for American farmers that encourages farm families to band together for their common economic and political well-being. Founded in 1867 after the Civil War, it is the oldest surviving agricultural organization in America, though now much diminished from the over one million members it had in its peak in the 1890s through the 1950s. In addition to serving as a center for many farming communities, the Grange was an effective special interest group for farmers and their agendas, including fighting railroad monopolies and advocating rural mail deliveries. Indeed, the word "grange" itself comes from a Latin word for grain, and is related to a "granary" or generically, a farm. Contact: Frank Hare: 448-4941

**Amesville Masonic Lodge:** Masonry is the world's first and largest fraternal organization, and is based on the belief that each man has a responsibility to help make the world a better place. Through our culture of philanthropy, we make a profound difference for our brothers, our families, our communities, and our future. The first Grand Lodge of Free and Accepted Masons was established in 1717 in London. In 1718, English Freemasonry spread to France and Spain, and after 1729, to India, Italy, Poland, and Sweden. Freemasonry spread to other parts of Europe and eventually made its way to the American colonies. In 1733, the first American lodge was established in Boston, under the authority of the Grand Lodge of England. The United States now has grand lodges in all 50 states and the District of Columbia. Contact: Dick Brown 448-2260

## Village Contacts

Village of Amesville P. O. Box 190 Amesville, Ohio 45711  
(740) 448-2411

Emergency Numbers

Fire: 911 Police: 911 SEOEMS:

1-800-282-7777

Poison: 1-800-882-7625

Sheriff: 593-6633

Highway Patrol: 593-6611

Get Help/Give Help: 211

Food Pantry: 1-800-338-4484

**PARK SHELTER and MEETING ROOM RESERVATIONS:** If you would like to reserve the Park Shelter House or the Village Meeting Room for a specific day and time, please call the Village Office at 448-2411 and leave a message. We are now required by insurance to have a form filled out for reservations.

**DEPARTMENTS/SERVICES:** Fire Department Gary Green, Chief 448-3904 Skip Noble, President 662-0067  
Police Department Ralph Wirkner, Marshal 448-0022

**VILLAGE MAINTENANCE:** Lee Ann Spencer, Water Works  
Rich Kasler, Sup't 448-7271 Tom McGuire, Billing 448-2411 Water  
Billing 448-2411 Lee Van Dyke, Sewer Operator 448-  
7239 Recycling Athens County Recycling 797-4208







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