

# THE CHIRRUUP

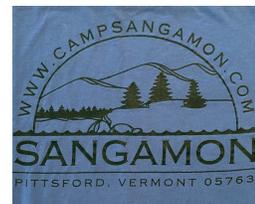
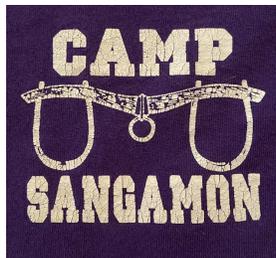
January 2022 \* 100 Years of the Pioneer Spirit \* edited by Darcey Wijsenbeek

## Director's Notebook

Birds are amazing. Within 24 hours of when we started stocking the backyard feeders, we had all six species of our regular customers feeding. I don't know if they were the same birds as last year, but they surely included some offspring. HOW did they get the word out to everyone?

Birds are a lot smarter than we used to think—not really “bird brains” at all. Their brains are small, of course, but they're also effective. Like us, they have two sides to their brains and each processes different things. They communicate in all kinds of ways. They learn intricate and meaningful songs and pass them along through generations. Migrating birds navigate huge distances, and they understand aerodynamics, taking turns leading the flock as it travels. Some collect and store thousands of seeds for the winter and manage to remember where they put each cache. Some even understand spoilage and eat the most perishable foods first.

I learned all this and a lot more from a wonderful book titled *The Genius of Bird* by Jennifer Ackerman. Anybody interested in the natural world, and obviously birds in particular, should put this New York Times bestselling book on their list! —Mike



*Hey, Everybody! Guess What?  
We Have a Birthday!*

And it is quite possibly the most important birthday of them all....

*This year marks 100 years  
of Camp Sangamon!*

Stay tuned for special announcements celebrating this incredible moment in our history!

**05763**  
Pittsford

**If you Can't  
Go Over or  
Under...**

**In The Inspiration  
Of The Stars...**

**A PROMISE MADE  
IS A DEBT UNPAID...**

**YOU CAN ALWAYS GET TO  
THE PLACE YOU'RE GOING,  
IF YOU'LL SET YOUR SAILS  
AS THE WIND IS BLOWING...**

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## Updates on the Barn Project

By Jed Byrom

Hello everyone, and Happy New Year! It's been a much busier off season than most years up here at Sangamon- busier than any in my lifetime, actually!

The main barn at camp has been the woodshop for many years, enough that not many camp people these days remember it as anything else. A few alumni remember it as the Pottery, or Mudd Shop, and others remember the machine shop that was located off the back of the main structure for many years. But even those of us with those memories are truly familiar with the full history of the barn. Very few of us knew much about its creation or life prior to camp. In the process of working through this project, I learned a great deal about the property and the barn from both my cousin Robb Spensley as well as the lovely folks at the Pittsford Historical Society. It would be remiss not to thank them heartily here!

It turns out that the barn was likely built between 1830-1850 and not in the later 1800 as we originally thought. The project leader, Luke Larson, has hypothesized the earlier timeline based on construction methods and materials. An Irish immigrant named Doolin or Dooling, using materials taken from the property itself, likely built the barn. He was a farmer on the property for many years. (As an aside, it was interesting to see how many different spellings the historical record holds for many folks in Pittsford at that time!) Among the architectural rarities present in the barn are a five-sided ridgepole and a system of birds' mouth and rafter connection that is unique in Luke's considerable experience. We're going to have to do more research to try and discover whether it was a building style in its own right or a combination of a common 1830s style married with a later style of construction. The later style replaced the earlier one in many barns, but in our barn, the two styles are combined in a way that offered great strength but very little efficiency. It may, however, have helped the barn make it through some serious windstorms over the years!

The renovation of the bar was made possible, in a roundabout way, by supply chain issues. When we began assessing potential barn solutions five years ago it was much cheaper to replace the barn, but with prices of new materials skyrocketing, it became feasible to restore and preserve, which is much more in line with the philosophy and nature here at Sangamon. Our barn was a three-bay barn, with the bays each differing slightly in size. When it is repaired and returned to Camp, it will be a rectangle 36 feet long by 26 feet wide. We are choosing to spin the barn 180 degrees when we bring it back. It will occupy the same footprint, but the biggest bay, which had been closest to the main house, will now be furthest from the main house. The loft inside will be in that bay, maximizing space and airiness in the barn, and allowing for a new entrance facing the main house. The timbers will be repaired if necessary and then reused, and the siding will be put up and sheathed over on the outside so that it will appear from the inside to be the same as it was, and from the outside will be restored to grandeur. The floor will likely be cement this year while we fundraise to add an appropriately wonderful wooden floor. Our hope is that we can complete that work in 2022.

It's a different sort of winter for me working on the property. I never really planned to be at camp on a 14-degree day in December, but it's been worth the cold because the project has been exciting. And we did have a close to 60-degree day just a few days before that allowed us to work in shirtsleeves. I'm grateful for the devotion of Gabe McGuigan to this project, and Luke Larson and his crew, and to my family for their support.

Those of you who follow us on Instagram or Facebook have likely seen many photos of the barn project, and there are more pictures to come. Follow us on Facebook (@CampSangamonForBoys) or on Instagram (@campsangamon) to stay up to date on this project and other news we share throughout this winter.

I hope that this finds you well, and happy, and looking forward to a summer at camp in 2022!

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## Summer in the Barn

By Mike Byrom

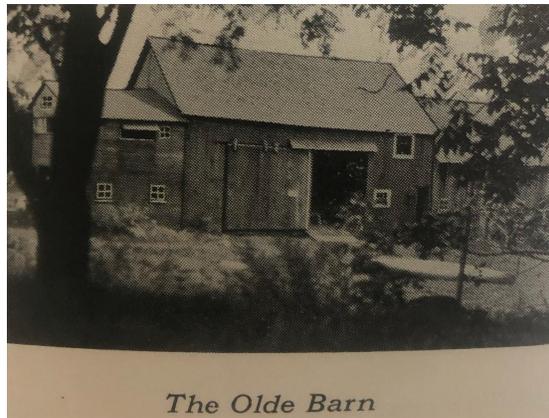
I had the good fortune to work in the Woodshop all summer. Despite my many years at camp, I had only spent a few hours each year there and that was mostly fixing things. Knowing about the big renovation planned for this year, I spent time exploring and discovering. For a hundred years, when somebody didn't know where to put something, they were told to "put it in the barn", so lots to discover!

There were lots of tools to be found: six working Sawzalls, and at least that many 3- and 4-foot levels (wishful thinking?). There was a 15-pound box full of hammerheads waiting for new handles. Of a lot more use were the old tools which still worked with a little WD 40. I found lots of old planes waiting to have their blades sharpened. I found four screwdriver/drills called a Brace and Bit- with two fancy bends and polished handles. I uncovered several hand drills which looked like old-fashioned eggbeaters. I found at least a dozen log-splitting wedges destined for Old Vermont Day use. There's a pile of dull handsaws that either ought to be sharpened or join an old-timey band (yes, you can play tunes on a saw). My absolute favorite was something called a Yankee Drill which drills holes or turns screws by just pushing down on the handle. (Picture a long screwdriver with a fancy shaft).

Fortunately, I also found a dozen books 50-75-year-old books that explained how to use these tools from back before everything was electric. And in the spirit of wishful thinking, there were also dozens of 50-year-old copies of a magazine called Fine Woodworking with unbelievably beautiful and challenging projects - some with drawings and measurements. In keeping with the tradition, I saved the best of all this stuff to put back somewhere in the newly rebuilt barn for another 100 years.

The barn comes down while the list of campers for 2022 goes up!

Looking forward to having both finalized this spring!



*The Olde Barn*



- Max A (1&2), Milo B (1)
- Oliver B (3), Liam B
- William B (1-3), Alex C (1)
- Adam C (1), Enzo C (2)
- Harlan C, Simon C (1)
- Emmet D, Lex D (1)
- Noah D (2), Quentin D (3)
- Wyatt D (1), True D (1)
- Fausto E (2), Jack E (1&2)
- Nat E (3), Tristan E (3)
- Brayden F (1), Parker F
- Theo F (1), Charlie G (2)
- Ollie G, Tintin H (1)
- Liam J (3), Wyatt J
- Alistair L (3)
- Cedric L (2&3)
- Max L (2&3)
- Max L (1-3), Cam M (1&2)
- Larkin M (1&2)
- Milo M (1&2)
- Oaklee M-Mc (2)
- Malek Mc (1-3)
- Owen Mc (1), Kalil N (3)
- Andy O (1), David O (1)
- Leo O (1), Leo O (3)
- George O (1), Elliot P (3)
- Jackson P, Frankie R
- Rowan R (1)
- Yankee R (1&2)
- Arlo S (1&2), Asher S (3)
- Benji S (3), Conor S (2&3)
- Hunter S (3), Leo S (2&3)
- Jude S (3)
- Zephyr S (3B)





Sangamon!

382 Camp Lane Pittsford, VT 05763

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The list in this issue is just the beginning!

Camp filled quickly last summer and we expect it will again this year.

Even if you haven't completely nailed down your summer plans, get in touch and let us know that you are planning to return.

Call us at (802) 665-7505 or email: [darcey@campsangamon.com](mailto:darcey@campsangamon.com)

**Leadership Program Information!**

**2022 CIT candidates:** Your applications are due on *January 15th*. If you need an application or an extension, please reach out to Darcey. You can email her: [darcey@campsangamon.com](mailto:darcey@campsangamon.com) or give her a call at (802) 665-7505.

**2022 Apprentice candidates:** Information and an application for this year's program will be emailed in early January, so keep an eye on your inbox!