“Echoes of the Past”

The first barn located on Spahr Road is an old one, now owned by Tina Smith. Ms. Smith allowed me to paint it and she let me use some of the barn’s old wood to frame the paintings. Inside, there’s one section that has hand-hewn timbers, dating it to the mid-1800s, and another section that has sawmill-cut lumber, dating to the late 1890s or early 1900s. Either way, it’s old.

And, being located on Spahr Road, the barn goes back to John Spahr, the great-great grandfather of Jim, whose wife Mary guided me through Greene County and its barns. John’s roots trace back to 1749, the year that Hans Ulrich Spahr, his ancestor, left Switzerland with his wife and 12 children.

John built this barn around 1860 and he also built another one further down the road. His great-great grandson Jim owns a third barn, a little further down Spahr Road, though it was built by someone else. Tina Smith acquired this barn when her parents died.

At some point years ago, the barn owner must have had an urge to display his good fortune and, using discretionary dollars, added a decorative trim over the windows, putting a touch of class into this simple barn. But now, with part of the roof missing, its days are numbered, though it served its purpose in helping the early Ohio farmers earn a living a century ago. I’m glad I got to it while it still stands. I enjoyed painting it, framed with the trees and the warm, freshly-harvested farm field in the foreground.