



Rudy R. Christian is a founding member and past president of the Timber Framers Guild, founding member and past president of Friends of Ohio Barns, founding member and past Executive Director of the Preservation Trades Network and is a founding member of the Traditional Timberframe Research and Advisory Group and the International Trades Education Initiative. His experience includes national and international speaking engagements and instructing educational workshops as well as publication of various articles about historic conservation. An article entitled "Conservation of Historic Building Trades; A Timber Framers View" was published in the *APT Bulletin*, vol. XXXIII, No1 and his collaborative work with author Allen Noble entitled *The Barn; A Symbol of Ohio* has been published on the internet. In November 2000 the Preservation Trades Network awarded Rudy the Askins Achievement Award, for excellence in the field of historic preservation.

Rudy's educational background includes the study of structural engineering at both General Motor's Institute in Flint Michigan and Akron University in Ohio. He and his son Carson have also studied historic compound roof layout and computer modeling at the Gewerbe Akademie in Rotweil, Germany. He and his wife Laura Saeger Christian were adjunct professors at Palomar College in San Marcos, California and are approved workshop instructors for the Timber Framers Guild. Rudy's focus on the business of timber framing began in 1982.

Rudy's professional experience as President of Christian & Son, Inc. includes reconstruction of the historic "Big Barn" at Malabar Farm State Park near Mansfield, Ohio and relocation of the 19th century Crawford Horse Barn in Newark, Ohio. These projects featured "hand raisings" which were open to the public and attracted a total of 130,000 interested spectators. He also led a crew of timber framers at the Smithsonian Folk Life Festival, Masters of the Building Arts program in the recreation and raising of an 18th century carriage house frame on the Mall in Washington DC. Roy Underhill's "Woodright's Shop" filmed the event for PBS and Roy participated in the raising. Christian & Son's work includes working with a team of specialists to relocate Thomas Edison's #11 laboratory building from the Henry Ford Museum to West Orange New Jersey where it was originally built, and the restoration of the Mansfield Blockhouse a hewn log structure built by the U.S. military in 1812. During the summer of 2006 Rudy, his son Carson and his wife Laura were the lead instructors and conservation specialists for the Field School at Mt. Lebanon Shaker Village during which the 1838 timber frame granary was restored. Since May 2015 Rudy & Laura have been working as consultants to the World Monuments Fund in the restoration of the Golden Palace Monastery in Mandalay, Myanmar. In the summer of 2017 they reconstructed the historic timber frame belfry at Glendale Cemetery in Akron, Ohio in collaboration with Stan Hywet Hall, and recently completed restoration of the timber frame roof system of the 1721 Jean Hasbrouck House on Historic Huguenot Street in New Paltz, New York. Currently Christian & Son, Inc. just completely restoring the 1861 Detroit Farmers Market which has been reconstructed in Greenfield Village at the Henry Ford Museum.

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