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PRESS RELEASE

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Plight of the Disappearing Barns

North Liberty, IA November 20, 2006 – Deb M. Schense brings to the forefront the plight of the disappearing barns from the American landscape with the publication of *Eastern Iowa's Historic Barns and Other Farm Structures: Including the Amana Colonies* with Lulu.com, the world's fastest growing provider of print-on-demand books.

Originally there were approximately 200,000 barns built in Iowa. It is estimated that only 60,000 barns remain, with another 1,000 or more barns disappearing from Iowa's landscape each year. Deb wrote *Eastern Iowa's Historic Barns and Other Farm Structures: Including the Amana Colonies* to bring attention to the fact that these historic barns are vanishing at an alarming rate and to inform people about the options that are available to help them restore their barns. Since the beginning of this writing project in 2005, at least one of the barns is no longer standing.

Former president Herbert Hoover lived as a youth about five miles from one of the featured unique octagonal barns when it was built in 1883. This barn is so awe-inspiring that people from other countries come to visit this barn each year to see the unusual bell shaped roof, a suspended staircase, a railway car, and laminated ribs on the interior. It's thought to be one of the largest and oldest barns of its kind in the United States. This book preserves in print many of Eastern Iowa's historic barns built from 1839 to 1955 with over 250 photographs covering twenty rural cities and eight different counties including the first-ever Amana Colonies barn tour.

Her book is currently available for purchase at: www.lulu.com/content/430330 and will be available at other fine quality book stores and web sites early next year. A condensed color version of over 175 color photographs is also available at: www.lulu.com/content/452385 entitled, *Eastern Iowa's Historic Barns and Other Farm Structures: Including the Amana Colonies Color Version*.

Link to Publications: <http://www.lulu.com/content/430330>
<http://www.lulu.com/content/452385>

ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Deb M. Schense grew up on a farm (with a late 1800's barn) northeast of Waverly, IA. After high school she acquired an Associate of Applied Science degree in computer programming from Kirkwood Community College in Cedar Rapids, IA and in 1997 earned a Bachelor of Business Administration in Management Information Systems degree from the University of Iowa in Iowa City, IA.

Since graduating, Deb has worked in corporate America, the federal government, computer consulting, and self-employment undertaking computer service, writing, and photography.

Material for ***Eastern Iowa's Historic Barns and Other Farm Structures: Including the Amana Colonies*** came from two bus tours, one self-guided barn tour, and her own research. This is her first and second publications. The third manuscript, a family comedy, entitled ***Extended Vacation*** will be released in 2007 on Lulu.com. Deb currently lives in North Liberty, IA. She enjoys writing and spending time with her family, friends, and pets. For further information, contact Deb Schense at dschense@netins.net (include barns in the subject), www.thecorridormall.com or www.thecorridormall.com/deb.

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