



# MARBOLD QUARTERLY

July, August, September 2018 Vol. 6 Issue 3



Historic Marbold  
Farmstead Association

## Farm Day Demonstrates 1800s Farm Life to Students



On the morning of May 11, the farmstead came alive with the arrival of 55 Greenview Elementary students, classroom teachers, and chaperones. Mrs. Tippitt's fifth grade class arrived early to put their newly-learned surveying skills to use. Prior to their visit, the history and process of surveying were taught during two classroom visits by Robert Churchill and

Susan Wilson. Students learned about instruments used by Abraham Lincoln. Replicas of these tools were used by the students to apply their skills at the site.

In the afternoon, 25 home-schooled students from several areas came for the program. They had the chance to learn about farm life and to interact with other home-schooled children.

Farm Day was a day for students to experience what farm life was like in the late 1800s. They learned about the care of horses, explained by Angela Dowell and Laura Flessner. The students were delighted to see a miniature horse and see how to brush, curry and tend an equine. Ed and Jared Whitcomb brought three sheep to demonstrate sheep shearing. They also provided an antique hand crank shearing tool; students took turns assisting with the 'old-fashioned' shearing process.

The summer kitchen was the center for carding, spinning, and weaving. Students could card wool, use a drop spindle, observe a spinning wheel in motion and use two tabletop looms to weave, with help from Laurie Bruce, Anita Cleary, Beth Montgomery, and Beth D'Orazio. The young people were amazed at the tedious process of creating items that were used in the home or worn as clothing and/or for warmth.

The kitchen displayed a variety of items that could have been used in the Marbold home. An old hand-crank corn grinder was turned by students to show the process of making corn meal, followed by a piece of delicious corn bread.

Thank you to the above-mentioned individuals who gave their time, effort and experience to make a successful learning

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## From the President's Desk

*There's so much going on at the farmstead that sometimes it feels like we're part of a juggling act! We've scraped and painted the exterior wood of the first floor of the main house to protect it and to freshen up the appearance. (The upper floors will be done by outside painters experienced with heights.) Our roofers are working diligently against weather and other commitments to finish the new roof. We've had broken window panes replaced, the water pump repaired, flowers planted, butterfly garden enclosed, and have worked every first Saturday to clean the house and maintain the grounds. Nathan Wood, who owns a local lawn care service, kindly provides mowing of the main part of the yard at no charge. It's the job of the board and volunteers to mow smaller areas, clear weeds, keep flowers and saplings watered, and clear endless fallen limbs. I'm grateful to everyone who comes out to help accomplish these tasks! One Saturday, some local parents saw that the gate was open, so they drove in with their children to see if they could help. We happily put them to work!*

*We held a successful April event at our local brewery and provided 80 children with hands-on experiences on Farm Day. We are giving Sunday tours to the public all summer, are involved in ongoing fundraising and membership recruitment, and have been planning our Antique Show and Farm Fest.*

*Meanwhile, we've had an historic site study done, as recommended by Landmarks Illinois, and are awaiting the report. This will give us direction as far as long-term priorities for restoration. We are awaiting bids from contractors to begin interior renovations. We've applied for various grants and were awarded \$500 from the Menard County Tourism Council and \$4,000 from Menard Electric Co-op!*

*Our biggest reward is hearing visitors say that they are impressed with our improvements and are so glad that the buildings are being restored. Many people remember the buildings as they looked in the 1990s, when they were in a terrible state of disrepair. We've come a long way, and with your support and encouragement, we will continue to make progress toward our goal of creating a living history farm.*

*Diane Masters, President*



L. to R.: Evelyn Brandt Thomas, Nicole Denby, Karl Barnhart

## New Marbold Logo and Design Guidelines Donated by Brandt Consolidated, Inc.

HMFA is pleased to announce that a newsletter transformation has been made possible through the generosity of Brandt Consolidated, Inc. and graphic designer Nicole Denby. Chief Marketing Officer, Karl Barnhart stated, “This is 100% your work to use as you see fit. BRANDT is donating this to you. The company has donated Nicole’s time and she’s donated her talent.” This in-kind donation, graciously approved by Evelyn Brandt Thomas, helps set us apart from others as we honor our past and historic agriculture and farm life.

The brand and logo guidelines provide specific color palette, typography, secondary graphics, and examples for usage. No detail was omitted, allowing Sharon Porter, Marbold newsletter formatter, to easily create each quarterly. Sharon’s comment regarding the branding was, “I have just looked at the suggestions that Nicole has made. I am so excited—it all looks wonderful.” We know you will agree.

Having the support from a 65-year-old company, which began in a small rural community and grew into a global leader, validates our efforts in creating a site where one can step back in time and learn about the past and the changes over time. HMFA accepts this design and branding gift from an outstanding agri-business with great pride and appreciation.



## University Women’s Club Meets at the Farmstead

On a cold March evening, the University Women of Menard County met for their monthly meeting in the kitchen of the farmstead’s main house. After a tour of the home, the ladies settled at decorated tables, warmed by their coats, blankets that one member had in her car, and two small heaters. The group of eight enjoyed hearing the history of the farmstead and Marbold family. Jan Johnson, president, presented Diane Masters of HMFA with a generous donation toward restoration.

## Farm Day

*(continued from page 1)*

experience. Thanks to Mrs. McKenney, Ms. Jeckel, and Mrs. Tippitt for allowing us to bring items to their classrooms and to prepare students for Farm Day. The association appreciates the support and cooperation of Supt. Ryan Heavner and Principal Tim Turner for allowing Greenview students to learn about historic farming and farm life at the Marbold Farmstead. Our appreciation to Kathleen Dikmans for coordinating the visit of the homeschoolers.

## A Toast to the Marbold Farmstead

Petersburg’s Hand of Fate Brewery was the setting for the April 30 “A Toast to Marbold Farmstead.” Thirty community leaders from the county were guest hosts for the event. One hundred people enjoyed appetizers, drinks, Dan Williams’ video about the farmstead, door prizes, and Appalachian mountain music by Peaches and Bacon. We are grateful to Mike and Brie Allison for opening their brewery, to the Dr. Ugs staff for providing delicious appetizers, to our guest hosts, and to Al Grosboll for his work in setting up the event.



## Sign Board Installed

A 4’ x 8’ double-sided sign board is now located behind the house near Route 29. Commercial signs being very expensive, a carpenter was hired to build one at 1/5 the cost. The letters are 8” high and clearly visible to passers-by. Sturdy doors made of lexan will keep the board safe from the elements. Now events, tours, and fundraising information can be announced for all to see! Thanks to Paul White and Dave Joiner (shown above) for their hard work!

Soon after, member Kate Kanaley-Miller donated two historic quilts to HMFA: 1880 pattern “Birds in the Air” and 1890 pattern “Thirty Block Velvet Quilt”, both appraised by certified quilt specialist Hallye Bone of St. Louis. Kate originally was going to donate them to the Illinois State Museum, but after being at the Marbold Farmstead, she felt that they belonged there because of the home’s time period. We thank her for these lovely historic pieces of handwork! *(photos appear on insert)*



Charlie Nance with daughters, Kelly and Kim.



Charlie Nance in the room where he was born.

## Charlie Nance Last Child Born at the Farmstead

On June 6, 1939, Charlie Nance came into the world in the west bedroom of the house at Marbold Farmstead. He was the last baby to be born there, his family being tenant farmers of the property. They lived there until 1953, when they moved into Greenview. On the May Saturday work day, Charlie, now a resident of Athens, and his two daughters visited the farmstead.

Charlie brought with him some valuable information for research and restoration: flash drives with family photos, detailed hand-drawn maps of the property, and layouts of the home, down to the location of each radiator. Outside he pointed out where a large garden once grew, where hogs were slaughtered on boards atop sawhorses, and where a picket fence—long gone—in the back yard was located. Some members and volunteers accompanied Charlie, taking notes and asking important questions related to restoration. His input was valuable in learning details that pictures in our possession do not show. Being away for 65 years did not dim Charlie’s memory of everyday life on the farmstead!

## Butterfly Garden Developed



Shown are Dean Campbell, HMFA board member, and Tim and Melody Bredberg. Dean worked for the Illinois Dept. of Conservation for many years, and he brought his expertise with

him when he joined HMFA. He is responsible for the creation of a butterfly garden, building numerous bird houses, engaging heavy equipment operators to donate time on grounds projects, as well as the planting of many native trees. His love of history prompted him to research many aspects of the farmstead and the Victorian era, including architecture, clothing, standardization of time, and lighting of Marbold. Previous to HMFA, he worked at Clayville Historical Site. Dean will be moving to Skokie in July to live near his son. We appreciate his service and know that he will find an historic site in his new area that will welcome his participation!

Tim, also a board member, and his wife Melody got involved with the farmstead for the sake of their grandsons, who are Marbolds. They have spent countless hours working on the grounds and are responsible for building the new enclosure for the butterfly garden. Melody has arranged for a children’s “butterfly release” at the September Arts & Crafts Festival, with each child who participates being able to release a newly-developed butterfly into nature.

## Our Mission

The not-for-profit Historic Marbold Farmstead Association is dedicated to the creation of a living history farm at the Marbold Farmstead south of Greenview, Illinois, by:

- *Acquiring the property purchased by John H. Marbold in 1851*
- *Educating the public about the historical significance along with the cultural and agricultural heritage through hand-on learning opportunities for children through adults*
- *Preserving, restoring and rebuilding the farm, including the house and remaining outbuildings, and preserving the site in general as an interpretive agricultural and historical attraction circa 1890-1910*

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## Upcoming Events

July 1	House & Grounds Tours	2 and 3 p.m.
July 7	Work Day at the Farmstead	9-11 a.m.
July 9	Volunteer Appreciation Dinner CIA Building	6:30 p.m.
July 10	HMFA Board of Directors Meeting	7 p.m.
July 15	House & Grounds Tours	2 and 3 p.m.
Aug 4	Work Day at the Farmstead	9-11 a.m.
Aug 5	House & Grounds Tours	2 and 3 p.m.
Aug 14	HMFA Board of Directors Meeting	7 p.m.
Aug 19	House & Grounds Tours	2 and 3 p.m.
Sept 1	Work Day at the Farmstead	9-11 a.m.
Sept 2	House & Grounds Tours	2 and 3 p.m.
Sept 16	House & Grounds Tours	2 and 3 p.m.
Sept 29	Arts & Crafts Festival at the Farmstead	10-4 p.m.

[historic-marbold-farmstead.org](http://historic-marbold-farmstead.org)



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*Moving forward to honor our past since 1850*

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