

MARBOLD QUARTERLY

January, February, March 2019 Vol. 7 Issue 1



Historic Marbold
Farmstead Association



Arts & Crafts Festival 2018: Another Successful Farmstead Event



See more Festival
photos on the insert

Mother Nature provided a pleasant day on the prairie for the 2nd Annual Arts & Crafts Festival, held September 29. Twenty-four vendors displayed and sold pottery, jewelry, paintings, candles, fabric creations, wood crafts, honey, and more. They filled the house and lined both sides of the front walk.

Musical entertainment was provided by Peaches & Bacon, Menard County Singers, and Emily Hough, a contestant on Season 15 of *The Voice*. Both children and adults enjoyed being transformed by face artist Diana Hancock of Bloomington's Zoo Crew.

The summer kitchen became an art gallery, where over 100 works by students from Greenview and Illini Central schools were on display. Ribbons were given for 1st, 2nd, 3rd place and honorable mention in several grade categories, and Dairy Queen of Petersburg provided gift cards.

Reminder!

The HMFA annual dinner meeting will be held on Monday, January 14, at the First Baptist Church on Rt. 29 in Greenview at 6 p.m. Please RSVP to Louise Browne at 968-5620 or gamab@mchsi.com. Cost of the meal is \$16.

From the President's Desk

A very happy 2019 to all! Each new year holds the promise of positive changes (have you made a resolution?), possible new adventures, and navigating through everyday life. We appreciate your support this past year and look forward to working together again toward our common goal of creating a living history farm.

January will see three longtime board members stepping down for a year, as called for in our by-laws. Thanks to Louise Browne, Ruth Dowell, and Susan Wilson, who have each served for nine years, and who have give so much of their time, energy, and talents! We hope that they will stay involved through their valuable input and participation as general members.

We will soon begin our public capital campaign, details to be presented at our annual dinner meeting. The new roof is now completed, and work is scheduled for installing outbuilding gutters, as well as window repairs, trim work and masonry work on the main house as weather and funds allow. It is imperative that the house and outbuildings be sealed and weatherproofed before mechanical systems are installed. These are big jobs that must be funded, and we encourage our members and anyone else who is passionate about historic preservation to help accomplish this!

Our emphasis on education will continue. Farm Day in May gives local school children a chance to experience farm life in a hands-on way. Our Antique Show & Farm Fest will again be held in June, featuring craftspeople who will demonstrate their skills, antique farm equipment, and historic portrayals. Tours will be held on the first and third Sundays of each month, June through September, providing the public a chance to learn about the farmstead and its history. The student art exhibit will be a separate event in September. In addition, we are available upon request to speak at meetings about the farm-

(continued on page 3)

Farmstead Featured on “Illinois Stories”

The farmstead was the first stop on an October 25 bus tour hosted by Mark McDonald (*shown in photo below*) of PBS’s “Illinois Stories” TV series. This was the show’s third time featuring the site since 2012. Each time, there have been improvements to see and new chapters in the story to tell. Past president Charlotte Wohler was interviewed on camera.

Only one of the 50 visitors on the tour had been at the farmstead previously, and she was pleasantly surprised at the differences she noted. HMFA members Charlotte Wohler, Susan Wilson, and Diane Masters divided the group and gave tours.



There were numerous questions about the buildings, the Marbold family, and future plans. A display in the kitchen featured old pictures of the

Marbolds and the property, photo books about the annual Farm Day with local students, and renderings of the farmstead by various artists.

The group continued on to a weather station in Lincoln and to Decatur, where they visited a Frank Lloyd Wright-designed home and the Oglesby Mansion, home to three-time Illinois governor Richard Oglesby. The show was aired on several dates in November.

Mason City Group Makes Donation

Mason City Area and Family History Society presented HMFA with a generous donation in September. The gift was in memory of two members: Donna Mayer and Marjorie Brown. The group no longer meets regularly, so it was decided to use their funds for this contribution, which will be used toward rebuilding the glass conservatory on the front of the main house at the farmstead. Melanie Gordon, treasurer of MCAFHS, and Diane Masters are shown holding an historic picture of the home on the site of the conservatory. HMFA is grateful for the society’s generosity and will be honored to add the names of Donna and Marjorie to the dedication plaque when the project is completed.



Connecting with the Farmstead’s History

By Charlotte Wohler

Several years ago, the Marbold Quarterly featured an article and photo about the Marbold Farmstead in Lechterke, Germany, when Harry and Sharon Schirding visited the estate. I could never have imagined I would someday be standing in front of that same huge distinctive barn/house! In August of 2018, I had the privilege of traveling to Germany with my sister-in-law, Rachele Wohler, and friend, Ken Biggs. We were on a genealogy search hoping to find the ancestral home of the Wohler family. Since the Marbold farm was in the vicinity of our search, we arranged to visit the area and do some research for HMFA. Sharon had provided the name of Juergen Schwietert, who might be able to help us with our research and visit to the original Marbold farm.

Shortly after arriving in Germany, we met Juergen in Quackenbruck, where he presented me with a book he had made of the ancestral lineage of the Marbold family. What a special gift for HMFA! Soon after, we drove to the Marbold Farmstead, where Gerhard Marbold, the last Marbold to live in the original home, met us.

See photos of this Germany trip on the insert.

Gerhard warmly greeted us, and we set off to walk onto the property through the grand entrance and into the courtyard. The stately barn was surrounded by buildings that once held pigs, wagons, and equipment. We walked on the original cobblestones where the horses and livestock once trod. Gerhard explained many details pertaining to the farm and the family. The lintels above the barnyard doors feature inscriptions of a poem called Herr Jesus. We learned the first mention of “Marbold” was in 1240 and by 1490 the farm was fully established and remained in the family until 2016. Upon entering the house, we saw the large main hall, with a fireplace that still has its original Delft tile and the very large crane, which would have held the pots for cooking. He showed us how he and his wife Doris worked so diligently to keep the gardens maintained when they lived there. Following the tour, we had the pleasure of being entertained at their home, where Gerhard shared more relevant information, and Doris provided delicious refreshments.

Juergen also arranged for us to visit the Niedersachsen Archive in Osnabruck, where he introduced us to Anna Schoepper, a young archivist who had a variety of documents pertinent to the Marbold story. We were amazed by the preparation done before our arrival. Among the documents was an original document from 1847, in which John H. Marbold applied for permission to leave Germany and come to America. A portion of this document is shown on the insert.

One had to ask permission to leave the country because this individual would no longer be paying taxes to the German government. It was mandatory to have the name of someone in America or an address where they would be traveling. John H. Marbold’s brother was in America, allowing

(continued on page 3)

President's Desk

(continued from page 1)

stead and our mission. Feel free to contact one of our officers if your group is interested.

As usual, we will be doing the physical work necessary to keep up the grounds the first Saturday of every month at 9 a.m. as soon as weather allows. We enjoy seeing the fruits of our labor and always welcome volunteers!

All the best to you and yours for a healthy prosperous, joyous new year!

Diane Masters, President

Arts & Crafts Festival

(continued from page 1)

Thanks go to art teachers DeShea Swaar and Diane Zobac for their work in gathering and labeling the pieces that their talented students worked so hard to create.

Greg McKenney was emcee for the day, announcing events, calling door prizes, and employing his trademark wry humor to make visitors feel welcome and to enjoy the event.

Dressed in period attire, board member Susan Wilson gave tours of the house and grounds. State Representative Tim Butler made an appearance and talked to constituents. Food was provided by The Pizza Guy, Los Rancheros Mexican Restaurant, and Kin Folks Kettle Corn.

Thanks to Jefferies Orchard and Brown Family Farms for donating pumpkins, which our visiting children enjoyed painting. Also, a shout-out to Illinois Brick Co. for providing lots of quality smooth stones for painting. Our appreciation goes to our great business sponsors and all volunteers who helped set up, work at the festival, and tear down. Many hours go into planning and executing an event, and each and every participant is appreciated!

Connecting with History *(continued from page 2)*

him the opportunity to leave. This and several other documents will go into HMFA's records of the history of the family.

Juergen arranged for us to drive to several other farms that pertained to the Marbolds. We visited the Hackmann farm in Uefflen. H.H. Marbold married Margaret Hackmann and this was her family's farm site. We also visited farms whose names are familiar to Menard County: Ottmann, Luedeling, Rantze, and Devermann. The farms in this area, known as the Artland, are sturdily built of timbers and bricks. We left this region and began our genealogy search for the Wohler family homestead. Unfortunately, we were unable to find a definite location, but we will go back and try again, knowing that we have new friends in Germany!

Another outstanding memory of this trip is a visit with Mr. and Mrs. Herbert Schuckmann in Badbergen. Mr. Schuckmann wrote a book with the translated title, "Artland, America, Asia, Travel Report from the 19th Century." We were directed to him by the Badbergen Church pastor. We were told he might be able to help us with our genealogy search of the Amerkamp and Wohler families, who were related. We didn't make a connection to our family, but we learned of German immigrants who came to America from Badbergen to Greenview! Mr. Schuckmann wrote a book on immigration, and the immigrants were the Johann Hermann Wernsing family, relatives of John Wernsing Marbold. Their home still stands in Greenview, but is no longer owned by the family.

Our trip provided all three of us with wonderful experiences and memories of special people, places, and a connection between our two countries.

Farewell to a Special Friend

Supporters of the farmstead were saddened by the death of Ken Bradbury of Arenzville, who died on November 15 after a courageous battle with cancer. He wrote the play "One Grand Old Lady," based on a letter from Margaret Marbold Enenga to her grandson Jonathan Small, detailing her life on the Marbold Farmstead. It has been performed three times over the past few years. Ken was a teacher at Triopia Jr.-Sr. High for over three decades and was an adjunct professor at Lincoln Land Community College until last year. He penned over 300 plays and seven books, as well as writing a column that appeared in 14 newspapers. He performed regularly as a musician on the Spirit of Peoria riverboat tours.



Director and friend Phil Funkenbusch said of Ken, "I think he was so popular because he wrote real human beings into his plays. Underneath it all, there was a heart and a real empathy and kind of a nobility." The theater world is a bit darker without Ken, but lives are brighter for having been entertained by his humorous, folksy, heart-felt productions. He has left a wonderful legacy that will endure for years to come.

Commemorative Brick Campaign



Did you know you can order a brick with your name, in memory of, in honor of, or to recognize an organization or graduating class? To date, 88 bricks have been placed on the south walkway. The money received is used solely for restoration, rebuilding, and repairs. Bricks are ordered in late April so they can be placed by the June Antique Show & Farm Fest. Won't you consider purchasing a brick? A 4 x 8 brick is \$100 or three for \$250, and an 8 x 8 brick is \$200. Forms and information are available on our website www.historic-marbold-farmstead.org.

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:

- *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*

Special Thanks!

- Volunteers
- Greg McKenney, Webmaster
- Donors
- Sharon Porter, Newsletter
- Sponsors

Diane Masters
President
217-632-3144

Susan Wilson
Vice President
217-415-1239

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217-787-6867

Emily Schirding
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217-652-1231

Louise Browne
Corresponding Secretary
217-968-5620



historic-marbold-farmstead.org

Historic Marbold Farmstead Association

Upcoming Events

Jan 3 HMFA Board of Directors Meeting 7 p.m.
Athens Public Library

Jan 4 Deverman Farm Sale 11 a.m.
Sanert's Auction House, Greenview
HMFA will do food concession

Jan 14 Annual dinner meeting and campaign launch 6 p.m.
1st Baptist Church, Greenview

Feb 7 HMFA Board of Directors Meeting 7 p.m.
Athens Public Library

Mar 7 HMFA Board of Directors Meeting 7 p.m.
Athens Public Library



Starting in January, HMFA board meetings will be held at the Athens Public Library, directly across from the high school.



Historic Marbold
Farmstead Association

Moving forward to honor our past since 1850

HMFA
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