Marbold Supporters Enjoyed Two Fall Events

Enthusiastic participants from throughout the area enjoyed the Trivia Night held on October 18 at the Petersburg Fire Station. This fundraising event was a fun evening with attendees bidding on a variety of silent auction items, enjoying good food, and attempting to answer 100 challenging questions written by a professional emcee. Several door prizes were awarded, and a 50/50 drawing was held. Both the winners of the 50/50 drawing (Team Nikles) and the first-place table (Team Lewis) generously donated their winnings back to HMFA. We thank them! Firefighters sold food and beverages to the hungry players as a fundraiser for their own cause. We want to thank the following businesses for their generous donations of merchandise or gift certificates for the silent auction: Branson House B&B, Los Rancheros Restaurant, O’Reilly Auto Parts, and Styles and More.

An enjoyable evening of dinner and entertainment was experienced by 52 supporters at the third “A Landmark Evening” fundraiser at the Oaks Bed & Breakfast in Petersburg on November 8. Attendees were from Petersburg, Greenview, Athens, Pekin, Manito, and Springfield. This fundraising event will help to continue the process of restoring and repairing the Marbold Farmstead.

Read about plans for continuing the restoration on page 3.
DON’T LET THIS BE YOUR LAST MARBOLD QUARTERLY!

It is always great to hear members and others comment on how they enjoy receiving the Marbold Quarterly. The Association gives a big “Thank you” to Sharon Porter who skillfully places all the articles written into a format that is beautifully presented to the readers. Visually the newsletter is a “standout.” We appreciate Sharon’s expertise and dedication in assisting this way!

Currently we print about 200 copies of the Quarterly and send approximately 50 via email. The Quarterly has been made available to the public when they have attended our events and they could then sign up to receive issues either by post or by email. Unfortunately, due to the high cost of mailing, the Board has made the decision that this first quarter issue of the Marbold Quarterly (January-March) will be the last one mailed to non-members.

Consider placing your membership with HMFA. You will support and encourage our efforts, and in turn you will continue to receive your copy of the Marbold Quarterly, where you will get information and details regarding upcoming events, pictures and reviews of past events, and future plans as we move our project forward. Non-members may receive the newsletter by email only. Please send your email address to Sharon Porter at porter71@sbcglobal.net. By doing so, you will help us save money and you will continue to keep in touch with the farmstead’s progress and events. We thank you for understanding this and hope that you will choose to become a member.

Membership dues are as follows:

- Couple/Family: $35
- Individual: $25
- Student (18-24 yrs): $15
- Senior (60+ yrs): $20
- Senior couple (60+ yrs): $30

Send your check to HMFA, PO Box 438, Greenview, Illinois 62642, by March 30, 2015.

NOTE: The following is the third in a series of articles about agriculture in the U.S. during the period of 1860-1920, the glory days of the Marbold Farmstead.

PROBLEMS AND SOLUTIONS

The changes noted in the last newsletter segment—increased acreage, movement westward, and the commercialization of farming—led to tremendous increase in output, but also to problems, some of which were quite severe.

The most serious problem was low prices. Simply put, the supply of farm goods was growing more rapidly than demand, which meant that farmers had to accept lower prices for their products. Because many farmers were debtors, many lost part or all of their farms, leading to a rise in tenants and sharecroppers, or even to some farmers moving out of agriculture altogether.

Another problem was America’s high tariffs on imported goods. They limited the degree of competition that farm machinery manufacturers had to face, which meant they could charge farmers higher prices.

Farmers became increasingly dependent on railroad transportation and on grain elevators for storage. They believed that these “middlemen” were exploiting them by charging excessive prices. To fight back, farmers began for the first time to band together into organizations such as the Grangers and the Farmers’ Alliance. These groups disbanded once farm prices began to rise in 1897, suggesting that farmers were not total enemies of capitalism in agriculture!

Farmers then entered into what some refer to as the “golden age” of American agriculture—the period between 1897 and the end of WWI. Farmers got a much needed respite from hard times.

In the next Marbold Quarterly: Illinois Agriculture: the Land and the People

LOOKING BACK ON 2014...

- A presentation on endangered historical sites followed a dinner at the annual meeting in January.
- A classroom and on-site unit on surveying was completed by Greenview 5th graders.
- Meals were served at a farm sale, machinery auction, and Mason City IGA.
- Historic programs were presented at three summer “Second Sundays.”
- The third annual Marbold Farmstead Antique Show was a great success.
- “One Grand Old Lady,” an original reader’s theater work, was presented.
- A project manager and an architect were hired to help plan and supervise renovation/restoration projects.
- The first trivia night fundraiser was held in October.
- The third “Landmark Evening” took place in November at the Oaks B&B.
- The grounds were improved and cleaned up through work done by volunteers on several Saturday work days.
- Members staffed an HMFA table at the Greenview Labor Day celebration.
- Four newsletters were sent out to members and supporters.
- The mortgage on the property was paid off three years early!
I am encouraged because the Association has fundraising efforts in place. We continue to work diligently to raise money. We begin the year with the annual Sanert Farm Machinery Sale. We appreciate the chance to serve food to the hundreds who attend the sale and increase our treasury. The Mason City IGA food sale, the antique show, and other efforts are also on our calendar.

I am encouraged that we continually hear, “You (meaning the Board) are doing such a great job.”...The farmstead looks beautiful.”...“We are glad you are saving this great landmark.” Comments like these give us confidence and optimism for the future. Thank you.

I am encouraged because we have local and area support. This support is an indication of the interest in preserving the history of the farmstead, the agricultural and immigration heritage, and the learning opportunities this site can provide. The Marbold Farmstead is matchless in what it has to offer. H.H. Marbold, in particular, was an innovative thinker and brought to this farm advancements of the time that were not present anywhere else. There truly is no place like the Marbold Farmstead.

I look forward to seeing you at our summer events in June, July, and August. Please visit the website (www.historic-marbold-farmstead.org) to keep updated on the activities as we make plans.

Charlotte Wohler, President

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Architectural Drawings Will Aid Restoration Efforts

HMFA is pleased to announce that Wesley Corgan has completed a set of architectural drawings of the house and outbuildings. These professional depictions will enable us to plan and prioritize restoration efforts, as well as show interested supporters the layout of a once magnificent site. Mr. Corgan is well known in the Springfield area through his work with the Lincoln Historical Sites. We appreciate his time and effort. The architectural illustrations will be on display at the annual meeting in January.

Photos below illustrate some of the much-needed repairs that are considered critical in the

Top left: Second floor rooms without walls
Top right: The pump house needing a door, window, paint, and overall cleanup
Bottom left: The wash house in critical need of many repairs
(Photos by Dan Williams)

Thank You, Founders and Donors!

Thank you for the financial support of the Historic Marbold Farmstead Association. All funds received will be used for the restoration and repair of the farmstead. Interestingly and something to think about, we have a founder who, rather than send a large, one-time donation, has stated he will commit to sending a monthly sum. How we appreciate that!! And a couple sending a gift says in their message: “Our donation is made in the memory of a farm girl who was raised in Menard County. We appreciate and salute the HMFA for their efforts in preserving important aspects of our country’s history.” (Message altered for anonymity)

Every dollar makes a difference in preserving this piece of agricultural and cultural history! Thank you so much!!
MISSION STATEMENT

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 hands-on learning opportunities for children through adults
- Preserving, restoring and rebuilding the farm, including the house and remaining outbuildings, & preserving the site in general as an interpretive agricultural & historical attraction circa 1890-1910

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Visit our website

HTTP://HISTORIC-MARBOLD-FARMSTEAD.ORG

“Like us” on Facebook (Historic Marbold Farmstead Organization)

Email any newsletter corrections to historicmarbold@yahoo.com

CALENDAR OF UPCOMING EVENTS

Jan 13  Board Meeting
Greenview CIA, 7 p.m.

Jan 15  Annual Meeting
First Baptist Church, Greenview
6:15 p.m.

Feb 10  Board Meeting
Greenview CIA, 7 p.m.

Mar 10  Board Meeting
Greenview CIA, 7 p.m.

June 14  2nd Sunday at the Farmstead
June 27  3rd Annual Marbold Farmstead
Antique Show

July 12  2nd Sunday at the Farmstead
Aug 9    2nd Sunday at the Farmstead

HMFA
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