

“Tall Ship” is 48th Shawano County Barn Quilt

Nicholas and Melody Sotiropoulos have sponsored Shawano County’s 48th barn quilt as part of the countywide project started a little over a year ago. The pattern they selected is called “Tall Ship,” and is now hanging on their barn at W9775 Riverbank Road between Shawano and Clintonville.

Melody chose the pattern with its striking pink and blue colors for several reasons. First of all, her great grandfather came to America from Pomerania, Germany in 1868, traveling by sailing vessel for two months. He landed in Canada, but came immediately to the Green Bay area. One hundred years later, Melody’s husband, Nicholas, traveled from Greece to America.

The barn on which the quilt is mounted was originally owned by Melody’s great uncle Reinhardt Buettner. It was built in the early 1900s and now is being renovated and restored. In the barn is a four-stall milking parlor, believed to be the first milking parlor in the area.

Melody was born in Texas, but when she was two, her family moved to California. She grew up there, but the family came back to northeast Wisconsin every summer to visit with their Buettner relatives. “It always seemed like our visit coincided with haying time,” Melody said. After college, Melody got married and moved overseas. In 2004, she and her husband came back to the Shawano area where they now reside. “There is so much family history here,” Melody said, “that we thought this was where we wanted to live.”

One of the distinctive things about their beautifully-landscaped home is a plum-colored silo, which matches one of the colors in their barn quilt. “I just love how the barn quilt turned out,” Melody said. “The whole project is one of the neatest ideas I have ever heard of to bring a community together,” she added. “We are very excited to be a part of it.”