

# Shawano's 111<sup>th</sup> Barn Quilt Honors Grandmother's Quilt

Kathi Polzin has sponsored Shawano County's 111<sup>th</sup> barn quilt on her Century Farm at W15405 Fair-Morr Road just north of Tigerton. The pattern she selected for her quilt, called Grandmother's Garden, was copied from a handmade quilt made with flour sacks by her deceased husband Tom's grandmother Julia Sorensen. As for the colors in the quilt, the cobalt blue is Kathi's favorite color, yellow was Tom's favorite color, green is for life and love that is ever green, and the sky blue represents the beyond and Tom's passion for space and aviation.

Kathi's ancestors, the Holm family, began ownership of the original farm in 1890 when Charles purchased 160 acres. He and his wife, Olga, raised five sons and a daughter. Charles passed the farm on to his son, Harold. Kathi purchased the farm in 1987.

The original farm enterprise included a herd of Registered Guernsey dairy cattle, some of which were purchased and imported from the Isle of Guernsey, where the breed originated. The Holms exhibited their Guernseys at several county fairs, including Shawano. They also raised some hogs and Percheron horses, which were for farm use and sale.

Charles and his brother, Martin, developed and patented the "Holm Automatic Sharpener" that sharpened silo filler knives while the silo filler ran. They exhibited and sold the product in the local area.

The farm still has the original house and barn, both of which have been restored, as has an old fieldstone silo. About 10 acres are in a wetland reclamation project and nearly 20 acres have been planted with prairie grasses and flowers, including the rare Blue Lupine as a habitat for the endangered Karner Blue butterfly. The farm also includes Christmas trees and a managed woodland tree farm.

Kathi, a longtime English and journalism teacher, retired in 2000 and now lives on the farm full time. Her family includes Rebecca and Nick Martin and their children Julia and Madeline and Jessica and Tom Moe and their children Kathryn and Thomas. Rebecca and Jessica are Kathi's daughters.

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