

County's 127th Barn Quilt Honors Historic Barn

Shawano County's 127th barn quilt, sponsored by Walter and Consuelo Smith, honors their farm's historic 83 year old barn. The 120-acre farm, located at W15463 E. Woodlawn Road near Birnamwood, has been in the Smith family since Walter's parents, Walter Sr. and Mary, purchased it from Daniel Lightbody on March 11, 1929. The farm's original owner was Gust Kiesow, who sold the farm to Lightbody in 1920.

In addition to milking a small 20-25 cow dairy herd, the Smiths also had a 40-acre grove of maple trees they used for maple sugaring. Walter Smith Sr. was a teacher in the Shawano area until he retired in 1965.

Walter and Consuelo took over the farm in 1976. After retirement, they moved back to the home farm from the city to enjoy the peace and quiet of the farm. It's also a place where they can enjoy hunting and fishing and is a place for Consuelo to enjoy her love for gardening and her flowers.

Walter and Consuelo decided to get a quilt for their historic old barn after seeing several quilts around Shawano County. "The old barns need a lift," Walter said, "and I think putting barn quilts on them is a way to make them stand out." Walter's mother, Mary, made a lot of quilts. "She was always busy quilting," Walter said, "especially in the winter time."

"With all the barn quilts in Shawano County, it's nice to just take a ride and see them," Consuelo said.

The historic barn on the Smith farm is depicted on their barn quilt, which was designed and painted by the Shawano County barn quilt committee. The pattern has been named "The Smith Barn."

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