

County's 237th Barn Quilt Dedicated to Grandmother

Shawano County's 237th barn quilt is now on display at N4622 Townline Road, Eland, Wis. The quilt, called Victoria's Flower Quilt, is dedicated to Anton and Victoria Buss by their grandchildren, and to Anthony Jr. and Christine Buss for their years of hard work and dedication to keeping the family's Polish heritage.

"We just love the barn quilt project," Paula Rew, granddaughter of Anton and Victoria, said, "and think it is a wonderful way to add beauty to our area." The quilt was named after Victoria, who enjoyed making quilts for her grandchildren. The quilt pattern resembles a sunflower and the colors used in the barn quilt resemble the Buss family's Polish heritage. "The colors are actually the same as are on a Polish plate from our Aunt Mary Jane's collection," Paula said. "The cross in the center signifies our family's faith in God, and the deer is for our grandpa's and our family's love of hunting." Anton and Vicky's children, grandchildren and great grandchildren continue to hunt on the homestead's land.

The barn on which the quilt is displayed is 99 years old, built in May 1914. The walls and foundation of the barn were built with stones that came from the Buss family's land and are made from stone and mortar. At the time, many walls were made from stone and sand with just a little mortar so this one was really well built in comparison. The barn was built by Peter Buss along with his brothers and neighbors. He had three other brothers who also had farms very close by in the Eland area.

Peter and Veronica Buss homesteaded the farm and later passed it to their son, Anthony (Anton) and his wife, Victoria Buss. In 1949, Anton and Vicky built a new house on the farm where they raised five children, Mary Jane, Robert, James, Anthony Jr., and Michael. All but Michael were born in the house which still exists today. Upon retirement, they passed it on to their son Anthony, Jr. and his wife Christine, who still live on the farm. The barn was always an operating dairy farm until Anthony and Christine stopped renting it out several years ago.

The barn quilt was painted by the Shawano County barn quilt committee and was put on display by LeRoy Raddant and Bruce Teetzen of Raddant Electric in Shawano.

Anyone who would like to participate in Shawano County's barn quilt project can contact project coordinator Jim Leuenberger at 715-524-5685 or via email at jamesmleuenberger@yahoo.com. You can also contact Patti Peterson, tourism manager at the Shawano Country Chamber of Commerce at 715-524-2139 or tourism@shawano.com. A link on the Shawano Chamber Web site includes photos and information on every barn quilt on display in Shawano County. Just go to www.shawanocountry.com and click on the barn quilt icon.

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