

Wendlers Sponsor County's 297th Barn Quilt

Nestled in the hills on state highway 153 between Tigerton and Wittenberg, Wendler Acres is home to Shawano County's 297th barn quilt. The pattern for the quilt is called Wendler Memories and features a tractor and a Hereford beef head in the pattern. The quilt is being sponsored by Clarence Jr. and Pat Wendler in memory of Chuck and Shirley's son, Ryan, and all past family members.

The farm is owned by Charles (Chuck) and Shirley Wendler at W18028 State Highway 153, Wittenberg. The farm was designated a Shawano County Century Farm in 1993. The barn on which the quilt is displayed was built in 1904.

On April 19, 1885, August and Augusta Wendler and their five children arrived in Hunting, Wisconsin, having traveled from Germany across the Atlantic Ocean for 40 days. Six years later, he took his family a few miles up the road to Whitcomb, where he homesteaded 40 acres, eventually purchasing the farm on August 5, 1893.

Clarence (August and Augusta's son) and his wife, Claricy, took over the farm in 1925. Their son, Clarence Jr. and Pat were the next Wendlers to own the farm, purchasing it in 1959. In 1992, Chuck and Shirley took over. Clarence retired in 1992 and enjoyed raising championship poultry, trout fishing and photography. His wife, Pat, loves to embroider, crochet and make quilts.

The tractor in the quilt pattern is a John Deere 1931 Model "GP" Standard tractor, which was purchased new and was the first tractor used by Chuck's grandparents on the farm. The Hereford in the pattern represents the Hereford cow/calf operation on the farm which was started in 1970 after the dairy cows were sold. Chuck and Shirley have two children, Alisha and Zachary. Their older son, Ryan, died in a car accident in 2008.

The Wendler 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.

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