

Barn Quilt 400

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Shawano County Reaches Historic Barn Quilt Milestone

Shawano County's barn quilt project recently reached another historic milestone with the addition of the 400th 8' x 8' barn quilt. The quilt is on a barn owned by Steven Krueger and Mark Hebert at N5701 Lakeview Road, Bonduel. More than 100 people witnessed the unveiling of the milestone quilt, which was put on display by LeRoy and Keenan Raddant, who work for Raddant Electric in Shawano.

The design for the quilt was patterned after a quilt Steven's grandmother, Isabell Krueger, had sewn for him many years ago, so the quilt has been named Isabell's Quilt in her honor.

The quilt was sponsored by Charlie and Debbie Harvey and their family, owners of Charlie's County Market in Shawano. "It's an honor to support this wonderful barn quilt project by sponsoring this beautiful quilt," Charlie and Debbie's daughter Kelly said. "Dad has supported the Shawano community in many ways for many years and has appreciated the support the area has given to our family. He is always looking for ways to support the community." The 400th barn quilt is the third one the Harvey family has sponsored for the project.

Steven and Mark purchased their six-acre farm in 2014 and since then have made major improvements to both the barn and the house. A new steel roof and new steel doors were put on the barn and the barn loft has been transformed into space where gatherings can be held. From 2015 to 2018, the interior of the more than 100-year-old farmhouse was completely redone as well. The original hardwood flooring was removed by hand, piece by piece, to repurpose the beautiful wood for new use. The dining room table and master bedroom vanity feature the reclaimed wood. "We plan to build additional furnishings/accessories with this wood to continue to preserve the history of this beautiful home," Steven said.

"While there is what feels like an endless amount of work to be done, it has been an incredible journey," Steven said. "Over the past eight years, countless neighbors and folks unknown to us have stopped by simply to say they love and appreciate the work they've seen transpire since then. This has instilled a deep sense of pride in the work we have done and reminds us that our farm is viewed and appreciated by many more people than ourselves."

"Mark and I think the barn quilt is gorgeous," Steven said. "We are so happy to be part of Shawano County's amazing barn quilt project and thank the Harvey family for sponsoring it for us."

Farm History

The original property was first deeded from the State of Wisconsin to George Gibbs in 1871. It came under the first generation of Berg ownership in 1880 with the sale of 145 acres to Martin and Helena Berg for \$645. In 1884, they sold some of the land to the St. Paul Eastern and Grand Truck Railroad Company, which is now highway 22. In 1905, the house was added on to which doubled its size.

Later, the farm was sold to their sons, Robert and John. Some years later, Robert and his wife Mayme took over the farm, which was bordered on the north by Shawano Lake. They took sand from their farm

to develop lots along the lake, which were sold to support the farm. The farm was then owned by their son Martin (nicknamed Beeler), who sold it to a non-family member in 1976. Along with Martin, Robert and Mayme's other two sons, Raymond and Norbert, grew up on the farm.

Raymond was in the Army during World War II and was at Pearl Harbor when it was bombed. His brother, Norbert, was in the Air Force during the war, and later attended the University of Wisconsin. After college, he became a Vice President at Wausau Papers. Meanwhile, Martin, who was described as a "big guy," drew interest from the Green Bay Packers, but his dad said he needed to help on the farm.

The farm was a dairy farm during the 96 years it was owned by the Berg family. Many local people recall going to the farm to buy milk and Raymond's two daughters recall being at the farm while growing up. Chris, who lives in Elkhorn, said her grandma, Mayme, always had a big garden and canned everything except potatoes, which were put in the sand floor cellar. Her grandpa, Robert, was a founding member of Morning Glory Dairy in Shawano. Kathy, Raymond's other daughter, said they always had a good time jumping on the hay bales and helping milk the cows. Both girls also recalled all the other buildings on the farm, like the corn crib, outdoor toilet, and shed where, on special occasions, the men would play cards and drink beer while the women cooked.

After 1978, ownership transferred from Larry and Janalee Wetzel, R. David Petty, Teresa Doherty and John Doherty and finally to Steven in 2014.

Shawano County's barn quilt trail of 8' x 8' barn quilts is the largest trail in the nation. The goals of the project are to encourage the preservation of the historic dairy barns in the county and to promote tourism to the area.

For more information, contact the Shawano Country Chamber of Commerce at 715-524-2139 or go to the Chamber website at www.shawanocountry.com and click on the barn quilt link.

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Photo Caption (Photos by Jim Leuenberger)

Photo 1

More than 100 people attended the celebration and unveiling of Shawano County's 400th 8' x 8' barn quilt on a farm owned by Steven Krueger and Mark Hebert at N5701 Lakeview Road, Bonduel.

Photo 2

Mark Hebert, left, and Steven Krueger, right, are shown with Shawano County's 400th barn quilt on their farm at N5701 Lakeview Road, Bonduel.

Photo 3

Shawano County's 400th barn quilt...Isabell's Quilt.