

## Steps to the Stars Barn Quilt is Number 161

Shawano County's 161<sup>st</sup> barn quilt at W8874 Oak Avenue, Shawano (on the east edge of Thornton), is on a farm owned by John and Ruby Schmidt. The quilt pattern, called "Steps to the Stars," is painted in colors that represent some of the colors in Ruby's flower gardens. The quilt was painted by the Shawano County barn quilt committee with the help of the Schmidts' grandson Noah. It was sponsored by their son David.

The first owner of the farm was James Packard, starting October 1, 1855. In 1905, Packard sold part of the farm for a right-of-way for the Soo Line and Northwest Railroad. It is estimated the barn was built in the early 1900s. Years ago there was a dance hall on the property as well.

Over the years, there were several owners of the farm, until John and Ruby purchased it from Henry and Audrey Kralovetz on November 21, 1967. That was the year their son David was born. They used the farm as a hobby farm and rented out the land. "We had all kinds of animals," Ruby said, "including horses, pigs, lambs, turkeys, geese, chickens, rabbits, dogs and cats." All five of the Schmidts' children, Amy, Patti, Mike, David and J.J., were raised on the farm and all still live in the Shawano area.

"The barn quilts are really something special for Shawano County," David Schmidt said. "It's fun to see them as we drive around."

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