

BARN QUILT HERITAGE TRAIL

McLean County



**Barn Quilt
Heritage Trail**
McLean County

WELCOME TO THE BARN QUILT HERITAGE TRAIL –

McLean County

The Barn Quilt Heritage Trail - McLean County is a celebration of our county's farming heritage and the talents of local quilters, artists and poets. In 2014, the project became under the sponsorship of University of Illinois Extension in Livingston, McLean and Woodford Counties.

Area barns and other buildings are being decorated with 8 x 8-foot quilt squares painted on plywood. Participating site owners work with the Barn Quilt Committee to select designs and colors for their barn quilts, and some have worked on the creation of their own barn quilt blocks.

The quilt squares will remain on the buildings at least five years, and a series of additional sites around McLean County will be added each year through 2016. The structures are visible from the road or on a site that is frequently visited. Owners contribute toward the cost of construction and promotional expenses for the project. Numerous volunteers of all ages and backgrounds, and many businesses and organizations also contribute to the effort to "stitch" many elements together for this commemorative project that promotes local tourism and highlights the arts and agriculture.

For more information about:

- How to apply for a barn quilt
- Volunteer opportunities
- Sponsorship opportunities

"visit our website at www.mcleancountybarnquilts.com. Look for McLean County Barn Quilts on Facebook."

"Pieced Together" Documentary Film

"Pieced Together" is the first documentary film about the quilt square movement and the woman behind it all, Donna Sue Groves. The world premier of the film was August 2016 at the National Quilt Trail Gathering in Greenville, Tennessee. Barn Quilts have changed the American landscape and created a cross-country community of friends and strangers, thanks to Donna Sue Groves.

Julianne Donofrio, director/producer, filmed the Barn Quilt Heritage Trail McLean County as part of the documentary which covers the first 15 years of Barn Quilt history in the United States. A distribution plan is under way, so we hope to have "Pieced Together" show locally at the Normal Theatre.

(Cover photo of the Jacob and Kellie Rustemeyer Quilt)

Thank You!



Thank you to our sponsors for their valuable guidance and contributions to this project!

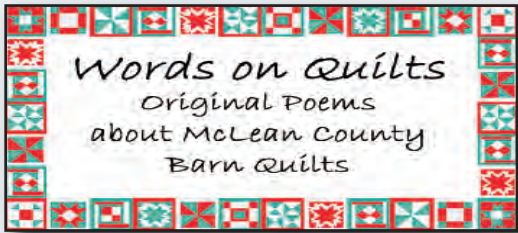
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**Livingston-McLean-Woodford Main Office: McLean County •
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Woodford County 109 E. Eureka Avenue, Eureka, IL 61530 (309) 467-3789
Unity Community Center 632 Orlando Avenue, Normal, IL 61761 (309) 862-4041



A Production of the Illinois Voices Theatre
A Member Unit of the Illinois Theatre Consortium

This program is partially funded by the Town of Normal's Harmon Arts Grant.

THE PROCESS

The poets have created poems for each barn by looking at images of the barn quilt squares and the original quilt patterns, visiting the barns, interviewing the barn owners, and/or studying historical information related to a particular barn or quilt pattern.

THE POEMS

"Words on Quilts" poems are presented in this guidebook and posted at: www.mcleancountybarnquilts.com.

The poems appear in this guidebook with the photos and site descriptions for the barn quilts.

THE POETS:

V. Joseph Boudreaux, a retired physician, moved to the Bloomington-Normal community with his wife, Judy, in 2008. Joe has become active in many areas of the community. He is a physician member of the Advocate BroMenn Delegate Executive Committee and participates in the activities of Illinois People's Action. He serves on the Steering Committee of his church, New Covenant Community. Joe is also a volunteer patient advocate. He actively supports Judy's writing career and writes poetry and non-fiction on his own.

Judith Boudreaux holds an MA in English and an MFA in Creative Writing from Wichita State University. She is currently completing a first book of poetry, a collection of short fiction, and has a comic novel under construction. She is also a playwright who has written a three-act '50s farce. Her work has been published in *JAMA*, *The Rambunctious Review* (first place in their fiction contest), and *Image*.

Kathleen Kirk is the author of six poetry chapbooks, including *ABCs of Women's Work* (Red Bird, 2015) *Interior Sculpture* (Dancing Girl Press, 2014), and *Nocturnes* (Hyacinth Girl Press, 2012). Her poems have been published in many print and online literary journals, including *The Museum of Americana*, *Nimrod*, *Poetry East*, *Spoon River Poetry Review*, and *Sweet*, and her work has been featured frequently on Poetry Radio, a past program on WGLT. Kathleen is a co-host of Poetry is Normal at the Normal Public Library, where she also ran a poetry workshop for many years for RHINO Magazine, and she is currently the poetry editor for *Escape Into Life*.

Peg Kirk is a retired English and speech teacher. She now enjoys volunteering for the McLean County Museum of History, both at the reception desk and as a tour guide at their annual Evergreen Cemetery Walk. Her love affair with poetry began in childhood and continues to this day. Matching the lilt of poetry with the beauty of barn quilts challenges her creative powers.

Bill Morgan, a retired Professor of English at ISU, has participated in several previous McLean County Barn Quilt celebrations, and his poem, "Looking Down" has introduced the last few poetry readings. He has published two print chapbooks of poems, *Trackings: The Body's Memory*, *The Heart's Fiction* (Boulder: Dead Metaphor Press, 1998) and *Sky With Six Geese* (Columbus: Pudding House Press, 2005), one e-chapbook, *Spare Parts and Whole Poems in Various Shapes and Sizes* (Seventh Dream Press, 2014), as well as numbers of individual poems in journals. This year he published his first full-length book of poems, *The Art of Salvage* (Normal: Downstate Legacies, 2016). For over 20 years he was co-producer of Poetry Radio for ISU's WGLT radio.

Ginny Nappi is a retired psychotherapist who joined a poetry workshop later in life. She has had poems published locally, in Heartland Community College's Muse and elsewhere. She enjoyed visiting and learning from her farm families and recalling the times she worked in tobacco and dairy barns as a teenager in Connecticut.

Ardis L. Stewart teaches English composition, Humanities, Literature and Classical Mythology at Heartland Community College. Her poetry has been published in *Seeding the Snow*, *RHINO*, *Word-River*, and *Where We Live: Illinois Poets*. You can also find her, often in historical costume, volunteering for the David Davis Mansion.

Irene Taylor is honored once again to be one of the poets contributing to Words on Quilts. She is currently completing her graduate work at ISU in creative writing. In November she will perform her original one-woman play, SUPPOS'D TO, as New Route Theatre's entry to the Illinois Theatre Association's Community Theatre competition in Streator, IL.



Illinois Flatscape #103
by Harold Gregor
(2008 59x66" acrylic/canvas)
(Used with permission of Harold Gregor)

DAVID DAVIS MANSION 1000 Monroe Drive, Bloomington, IL 61701



David Davis built the mansion in 1872, after he was appointed justice of the United States Supreme Court by Abraham Lincoln. The home is now a State Historic Site. The quilt block is exhibited on the Carriage Barn, the second oldest structure on the mansion property. Constructed in 1868 at a cost of \$400, it is a utilitarian building with detailing and materials influenced by the picturesque architecture movements of the mid-nineteenth century. The Carriage Barn is framed with a combination of post and beam joinery and light, wood-frame construction. The barn quilt pattern is inspired by the mansion's Baltimore Album quilt made by the Hands-All-Around Quilt Guild.

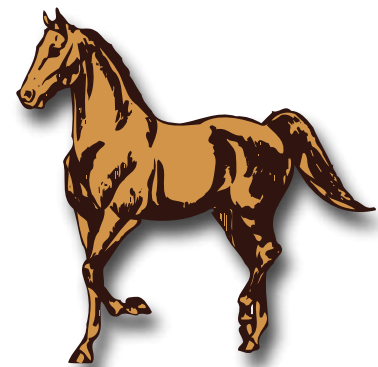
Stitched Roses: The Quilt of History Baltimore Rose Pattern on the Carriage Barn at Clover Lawn, David Davis Estate —Kathleen Kirk

Sarah's second garden grew in a circle at Clover Lawn near the barn yard full of chickens and pigs, cows and horses. There had to be a circle of beauty alongside the annual hog slaughter and something prettier to smell.

When David Davis needed a wagon shed he built one, with post and beam joinery and board and batten siding. Born near Baltimore, he'd gone west to Ohio to college and then to Bloomington to make his name: Judge Davis, Senator Davis, Mister Justice.

Now artistry and history entwine, a circle of flowers painted on a quilting square, Baltimore Rose, on the side of the Carriage Barn, with Sarah's gardens surviving in a starburst of heirloom blooms--tulips and honeysuckle, antique peonies, larkspur, and Harrison roses.

Delicate petals wither in a summer of drought, but All nature looks refreshed with the light shower of rain, wrote Sarah to her sister, and the roses will be more lovely than ever. Thus with pen and ink she stitched a moment in June into the quilt of history.





The Ropp family has been in McLean County since 1869, when Clarence Ropp's grandparents settled here. Clarence Ropp purchased this farm in 1929. Ray and Carol Ropp raised their two children here. 4-H has been a big part of their lives. Their son now farms with them. In November of 2006, the Ropps opened Ropp Jersey Cheese. The farm structure was built in 1998 to house heifers and hay. It is constructed of sheet metal and wood. The barn quilt features a churn dash pattern with the face of a Jersey cow in the center.

Jersey Lullaby
a churn dash villanelle
-- Kathleen Kirk

I'd like to sing you now a dairy yarn:
How lovely is the butterscotch Jersey cow!
Oh, do go gentle into that good barn.

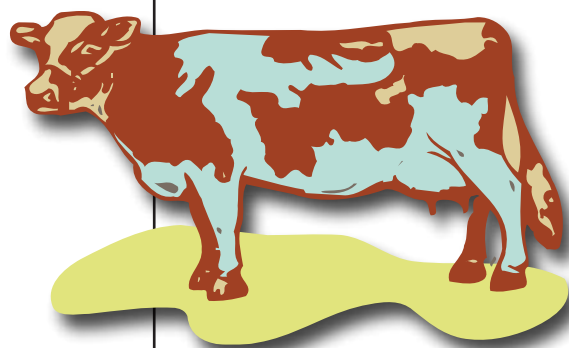
A farmer starts so early in the morn,
Up with the sun, or earlier, to plow,
But I'd like to sing you now a dairy yarn

Of weary bones from working on the farm,
Of churning butter, and I'll tell you how.
Oh, do go gentle into that good barn!

For butter, push the dasher up and down.
Save curds, and give away the whey (to a sow!)
I'd like to sing you now a dairy yarn,

But it's time to dash away from butter churn,
Time to tend the Jerseys, milking now...
Oh, do go gentle into that good barn!

It's cheese we need, flavored, mild, or sharp!
Oh, dainty Jersey, oh, docile yellow cow,
I'd like to sing you now a dairy yarn.
Oh, do go gentle into that good barn!





The Linda and Lynn Rader Family Farm structure was built in 1978 as a grain and machinery storage. It now houses supplies for the pumpkin farm. It stands on the site of the former Plain View Guernsey Dairy. The barn quilt features a pumpkin, surrounded by a border of squares.



Just on the Edge of Normal
-- Ginny Nappi

An invitation to city folks
and their country neighbors
hangs on a steel storage shed
just on the edge of Normal.
See it—the wooden quilt
with a pumpkin at its center?
The Rader Family welcomes us
to a fall festival to celebrate
the bounty of McLean County.

Don't miss the challenge
of mazes cut from summer's
crops of soybeans and corn.
Hop onto a tractorpulled tram
to acres of U-Pic-Pumpkins.
Will you search for the perfect round
or a lopsided one
for your jack-o-lantern?

Watch children:
climb a castle of straw bales
glide down a slippery slide
play with diggers in the sandbox
pedal go carts
dress scarecrows
pet barnyard animals.
On weekends
enjoy music, hayrides
and Fright Night too.
Head inside to the Pumpkin
Blossom Café and Gift Shop.
Slurp cider slushes and floats
or sip pumpkin-spiced coffee
with bakery treats or a meal.

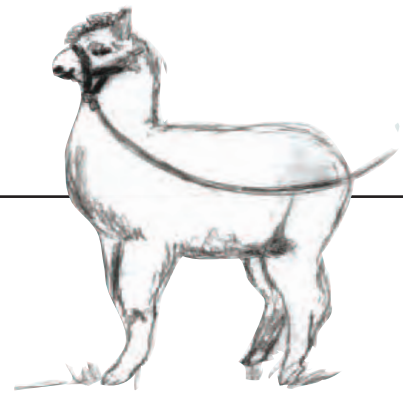
Before you leave for home,
pose for a picture
in a '51 Chevy
pickup truck
and remember—
pack up the memories
you've harvested
at the Rader Family Farms.

BOB AND LIZ NICHOLS

10623 E. 1700 North Road, Bloomington, Illinois 61705



The Bob and Liz Nichols farm has been in the family for 15 years. The barn, which is wooden, was built in the late 1890s to hold cattle and to store hay and straw. For the past 10 years, the farm has been home to Stars & Stripes Alpacas. The barn quilt pattern is My Country 'Tis of Thee with a portrait of the alpaca herdsire Michelangelo's Pacino.



Look Back, See Ahead

— Peg Kirk

The twin towers fell
but the barn still stands offering
peace to all who would preserve
the true, the old,
the retreat from fear.

Step inside.
See the alpacas.
These calm creatures
tread softly where they go. The
barn shelters them.
They give us fiber to knit,
to crochet, to mend, to restore,
to create a pattern for living
lest we forget
that our past can show us
the direction we must go.

Step outside.
See the square quilt.
See the stars and stripes,
the red, white, and blue.
See the champion herdsire
in the center. The land
welcomes him. The land
welcomes you. Do not forget.



The Mohr farm has been in the family since Judy's grandfather, Fred Basting, bought it in 1929. The barn was built in the early 1900s. It was constructed of wood with concrete floors. Concrete block has been added to the sides of the barn. Originally, there were stanchions for milking a few cows, plus horse stalls and pens for livestock. It has changed over the years to raise hogs and some feeder cattle. Today the barn is used as the Mohr family's rabbitry. The quilt block is the Variable Star with a portrait of a Blue Satin Rabbit in the center.

NOTE: *The original Mohr barn was destroyed during a storm. The Barn Quilt was saved and is still on the new metal building.*



The Phases of the Barn

-- Peg Kirk

When your home is in the country
and you like the smell of hay,
and the barn has stood for ages
just a cattle call away,

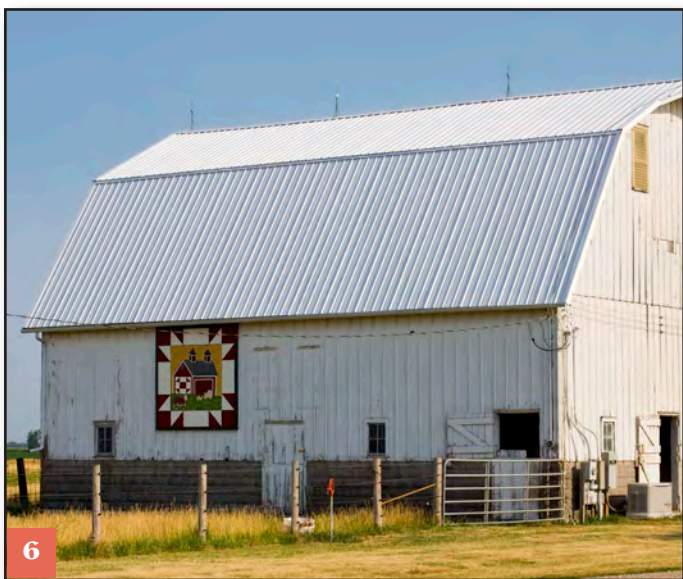
then you know the barn has mem'ries
of the milking stanchions there,
of the time they brought the hogs in,
then showed them at the fair.

After Dad put up the basket,
the have-nots played the haves
till the hoopster built an add-on
to raise some feeder calves.

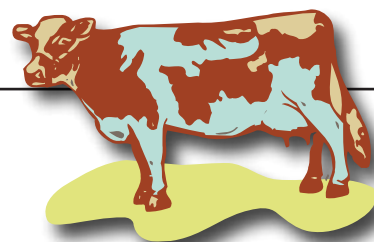
A family has blessed this barn
with a careful loving touch.
As generations came and left,
the barn has sheltered much.

Today it's Satin rabbits
in varieties Black and Blue
with a donkey standing guard
to "protect" this fertile crew.

When folks come by to see the barn,
they'll find what else love built:
a rabbit in the center
of a plain and graceful quilt.



The Yoder barn was built by Robert's grandmother around 1925, after the original barn burned. It was first a dairy and horse barn. Now it is for beef cattle and hay and straw storage. It is a framed barn. It was designed as a horse barn. It had 3 ½ horse stalls on the north side, a calving stall, and a bull stall on the south side. There were 8 stanchions for dairy cows on the west end and a bin for ear corn, one for oats, and a bin for ground feed for the milk cows. The barn quilt pattern features a red barn with a barn quilt, two sheep and a cow.



Remnants from the Past
-- Ginny Nappi

A folk art barn is featured on Bob and Patty Yoder's heritage quilt in Danvers. It pays tribute to Bob's grandfather and father who raised cattle and crops here and to their grandson who showed sheep in this summer's 4-H Fair.

The couple opens the barn's front door. Wafts of sweet hay find our noses. Bob points to the only evidence of work horses that once shouldered the farm's labor—a series of teeth marks on an empty stall. Were they bored? he ponders.

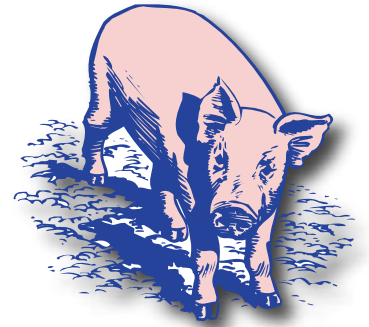
Patty walks to a wooden ladder leading to the hayloft. Looking up, she recalls sweeping the loft, carrying up tables and food, and hosting a square dance some thirty years ago. They promenaded, do-si-doed and honored their partners.

At the far end of the barn, nine stanchions hang empty where once dairy cattle were secured for milking. But this morning's sunlight frames several beef cattle, peering in on us.

Cats in patterns of yellow, brown and white reside here too. Some, like gymnasts on their apparatus, hang over rafters. Others hide behind rakes, curl into the contours of shovels or crawl into toppled buckets or pails. They number eleven—enough for each Yoder grandchild to have his own for play—with one cat left without a playmate.



The Darrel and Darvin Miller farmhouse was built in 1901, and presumably the barn was built the same year. Formerly used for sow breeding and gestation as well as straw storage in the mow, the barn was used in 2006 and '07 to feed out feeder pigs. The barn has been covered with red steel siding. The barn quilt pattern is a variation of the LeMoyne Star known as the Virginia Star.



Looking West: The Miller Farm's LeMoyne Star

-Bill Morgan

The steel siding makes a generous sashing around the square—a LeMoyne Star in red, blue, green, and white. It's a dizzying 32 parallelograms forming an 8-point prism into whose soft center the eye drifts and returns. If instead the eye passes through, backward in time to the barn's early days in 1901, the scene is alive—horses first, then cows in a milking parlor, then farrowing crates for decades of breeding sows. More than a century of frugal nurturance and utility; now it's also a sunlit, open-air gallery that honors the quilter's art.

RONALD AND BETTY ZOOK 18961 N. 500 East Road, Danvers, IL 61732



The Zook Farm has been in the family for 62 years. Lester Yoder, Betty's father, purchased it in 1950. The barn, which hosts the quilt block "Belted Star," was built in 1898. Ronald and Betty raised cattle and sheep in the structure. Their two sons showed cattle, sheep and hogs during their 4-H years at the McLean County Fair. Now the barn is used for storage and a wood shop.

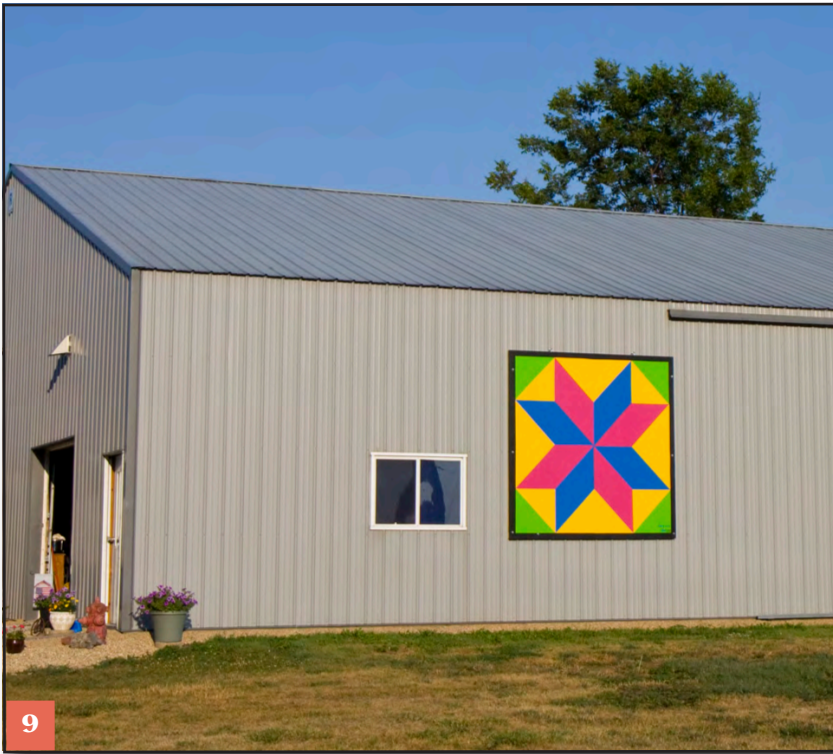
Looking East: The Zook Farm's Belted Star

— **Bill Morgan**

Imagine: It's nighttime, winter 1898, and the barn's brand new. He's out there, steadying a wet and wobbly calf. She's in by the kitchen fire, cutting his worn yellow broadcloth shirt into trapezoids and squares. She'll put them away with others until she can make up the 30 blocks she needs for the quilt—a star design in red, yellow, and blue. He shuts out the cold and stamps: *calf'll make it alright now*. She smiles: *When are you going to give up those trousers?* Decades on, the barn is old. The Belted Star on its west-facing-wall is the sturdy newborn.



JIM AND LILA HETZLER 301 S. West Street, Danvers, IL 61732



The original 80-acre farm was purchased from the United States of America by Israel W. Hall in 1837. By 1920, the farm consisted of the current 30 acres, including the original house and outbuildings. In 1969, Jim and Lila Hetzler purchased the farm from Joseph and Catherine Metzger. They still live in the original house, which has been upgraded with siding and interior remodeling. The original barn was built in 1920. Over time, it was damaged by weather and time and was torn down in 2001. A metal shed was built in 1999 behind the original barn, and is currently used to store machinery and is also a garage and a workshop. The barn quilt pattern is LeMoyne Star.

Looking East: The Hetzler Farm's Northern Star

— Bill Morgan

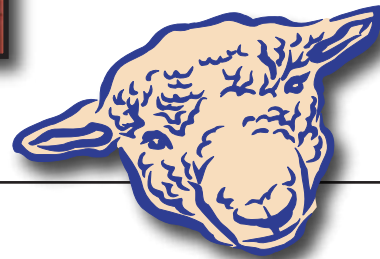
The barn's a ghost, a shadow, a memory here. In 1920 it was new, with rough-hewn chestnut beams and siding, and noisy with animal life; by 2001 it was gone: insurance agents had warned about fire risk—too close to the new metal shed behind. So the barn came down, and this shed took over, sheltering machinery, an antique car, a workshop, and a half-dozen old chestnut planks. This year an 8-pointed, 4-colored panel rose up on its western wall. The barn is silent now, but the life it held speaks again in the shed's new Northern Star.



WALLACE AND BETTY ANN YODER
9290 Old Peoria Road, Bloomington, IL 61705



Wallace and Betty Ann Yoder's farm has been in the family for 47 years. They bought it from Bert Craig in 1965. The barn was built in 2001 to store vehicles and house animals. It is made of steel and concrete. Sheep and Border collie dogs have been raised in this structure. The quilt pattern featured on their barn is "American Star."



The American Star
– M. Irene Taylor

A Quilt is a bed cover
It has a woven cloth top, a layer of batting
and a woven back

It is Unique
Unlike any blanket
it is formed from Pieces of cloth

The American Star is
...a Kaleidoscope
with diamond-shaped Colors

that BURST from the center
white and red on the blue
they Travel to the outer tips

These Native American quilters,
Dakota and Lakota,
carry on the tradition

the Children are given the quilts
in honor of passages
Birthday Graduation Naming Marriage

The caskets are covered by the Star,
and One year after death,
the Star is given to those who Eased the grief.

The Star honors...
Past
Present
Future



The Dale Sutter farm has been in the family since 1934. The corncrib was built in 1944 for Merle Sutter storage. The barn quilt pattern is an Ohio Star with the original Reggie Redbird (used with permission from Illinois State University) in the middle.



I Am Not a Barn
-- M. Irene Taylor

I am not a barn.

I am a corn crib built in 1944.

A granary is a storehouse
for threshed grain or animal feed.

A corn crib is a granary (of sorts)
used to dry and store corn.

I recently had a quilt pattern
painted on one of my sides.

It is called the Ohio Star.

The pattern was named for Ohio
when it joined the union
as a new state.

(This is not Ohio. This is Illinois
but I am using its star.)

The Ohio Star has been used since the 1800s
but it surged in popularity in the 1930s.

My quilt has Reggie Redbird in its center.
(Reggie is the mascot for Illinois State University.)

Reggie is present at all ISU football games,
women's volleyball, men's basketball,
women's basketball, and other athletic events.

Dale M. Sutter, son of Merle and Blanche,
who purchased the farm on which I sit,
agreed to have my side painted with the Ohio Star.

Dale graduated from Illinois State University in 1961.
That may be why my star has Reggie in the center.
(I can't say. I wasn't in the decision-making process.)

I hope you enjoy looking at me
(even though I am not a barn).

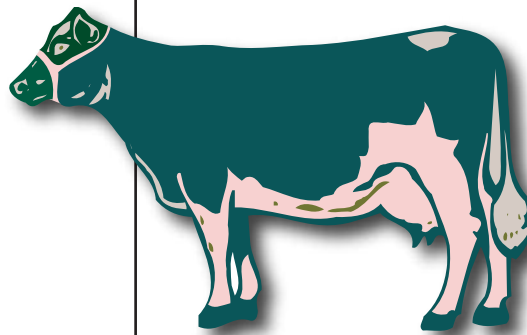


Westminster Village purchased the property from the Garling family in 1975 when Second Presbyterian Church launched the continuing care retirement community. The large white dairy barn remains on the property and is now used for storage. The 8-point star quilt block with the distinctive “WV” logo was designed by Westminster resident Donna Rae Alsene, and painted with assistance from other residents. This barn quilt was the first installation for 2013.

**Claiming History:
Westminster Village's
8-pointed Star with
WV Badge**

-- Bill Morgan

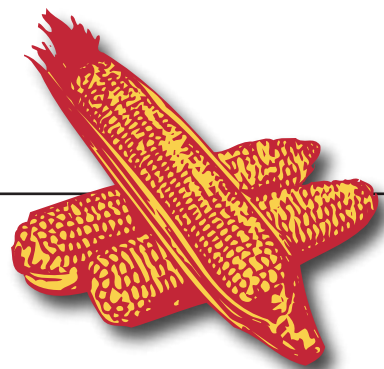
When they bought the 40 acres, the founders bought history too: an old dairy barn. Their modern retirement village grew up as the barn watched. Lately, it has stood patiently while lawnmowers, patio furniture, and all the other paraphernalia of summer moved in and out of it according to the season. This year the residents affirmed it with fresh paint and a monogrammed purple, green, and white 8-pointed star. Nine Villagers, as if at a quilting bee, hand-painted the 8-foot square, and all Westminster stood and drank a hearty toast.



SUSAN BRUNSWICK 4601 Ireland Grove Road, Bloomington, 61705



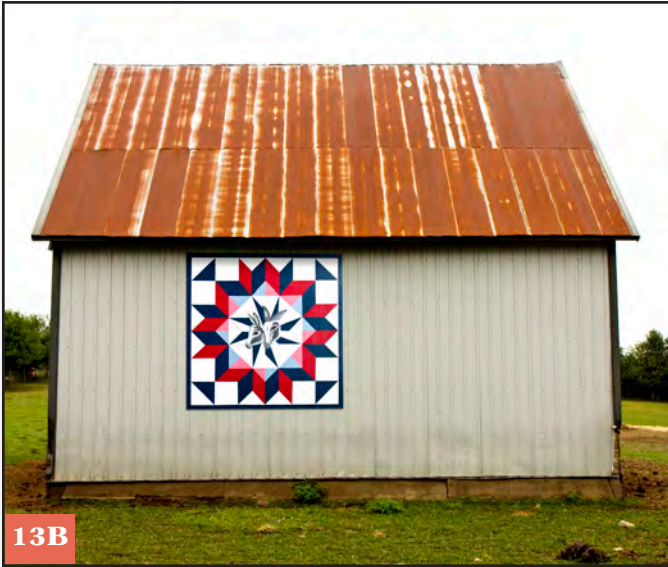
Susan's dad, Dean Eddy, bought the property in 1963 so Susan would have a place for her pony. The corn crib which displays the quilt block is over 100 years old. It is now used for hay storage and as shelter for a variety of livestock. The Brunswicks own Brunswick Animal Hospital on Kays Drive in Normal. The quilt block pattern is a variation of the LeMoynes Star, and features a belted Galloway bull painted by artist Clint Arlis.



***Of Centers and Edges: The
Brunswick Farm's Lone Star
with Galloway Bull***

-- Bill Morgan

This bull's eye is not in the center. That would fall somewhere along the rib cage of the *Belted Galloway* gentleman imaged here. His shapely bull-bulk is nestled amid the eight points and sixty-four triangles of a sensuous Lone Star pattern in white, black, blues, greys, and rose. Bull and star are centered on the peaked front of a 100-year-old corn crib, part of a 20-acre livestock farm. The farm itself is a heartwood reminder of the past—a first-growth center among later tree-rings of corn, roads, power pylons, and tall wind turbines.



A second quilt block was added to the Brunswick corn crib in 2014. This design features the Carpenter's Wheel quilt pattern in honor of Susan's father and his longtime business, West Construction Company. Her dad got Susan started raising sheep in 1963, so the quilt block also highlights the donkeys that have served as shepherds of the flock, keeping out coyotes and stray dogs. Artists Taylor Arlis and Charlotte Lehman, along with students from Central Catholic High School painted the barn quilt.



Carpenter's Wheel

– Judith and Joseph Boudreaux

--July 4, 2014

--French Creek

--McLean County, Illinois

There's magic in the Carpenter's Wheel,
the quilt painted like a radiant dynamo
on the Brunswick barn.

Susan chose the wheel pattern,
a symbol of her father's trade,
and picked colors of cranberry, black, and gray.
Her perfect tones sing in harmony.
The refrain vibrates on unseen quilted lines.

Like triangular and diamond shards
tumbling in a kaleidoscope's chamber,
the pattern is replicated into spectacular
ever-changing wonders.
And, yes, it's all done with mirrors--as much magic is.

One woman saw a black widow in the wheel,
an eight-legged spider providing for her young
by weaving a subtle web in the white octagonal window.
A little girl saw a pinwheel to run with, her hair flying free.
A sixth-grade boy saw a runaway Ferris Wheel tumbling
as the rowdy wind tweaked the laws of gravity.

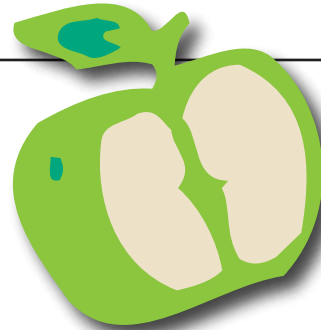
It follows a certain magic of the heart
that, in the center of the quilt, we see a donkey's head.

On this farm, the magic of what should be is law.
The sheep are herded by the donkeys.
They patrol the perimeter of the corral.

When night is darkest, and the coyote's scent is strong,
the donkeys put themselves between predator and prey.
In this sanctuary, if a life's required, the donkeys kill.



The Hoeniges family is using their barn quilt to highlight awareness of autism in recognition of their nephew, who is a person with autism. Their original Jigsaw Puzzle design features multiple pieces with different patterns, emphasizing that autism is a spectrum disorder that affects each person differently. The puzzle piece patterns include tapestry, paisley, polar bears, their nephew's fingerprint, and other patterns. The Hoeniges family encourages those seeking information about autism to visit www.autism-society.org.



What We Can See

— M. Irene Taylor

We see totalities

but details not so much

We see pictures

(our minds can be search engines for images)

We think in pictures

and smells

and sounds.

Your language

it covers up the gift of seeing

There's the well its water was sweet with just a taste of iron

There's the barn with one half horses, one half cows

There's the loft with hay and straw.

You are told this

but do you see it?

We can see it

and smell it

and hear it.

Language doesn't stop us.

the pictures

the patterns

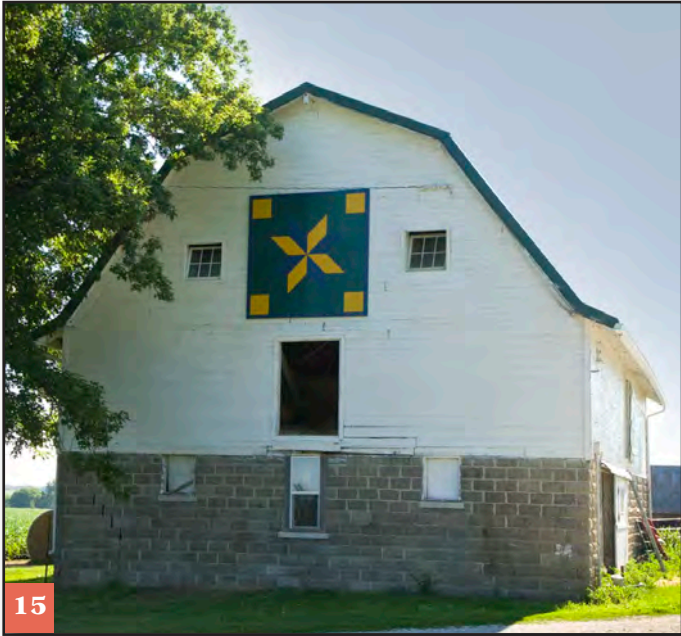
they take us in and hold us in their arms.

Can you let them take you in? Can you see them?

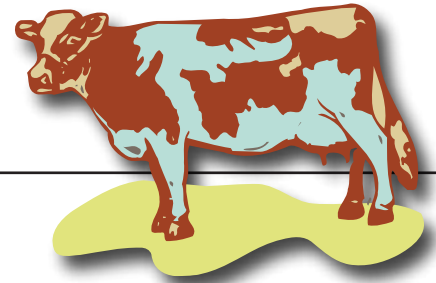
That's all right.

We can see them for you.

CHRIS AND LINDA WITTE
8094 N. 1200 East Road, Shirley, IL 61772



Chris and Linda have owned the farm since 1997. The barn was built in 1913 and was used for milking dairy cattle. Today it is occupied by a few chickens, and hay and straw are stored inside. The Wittes selected the Grandpa's Delight quilt pattern in honor of the birth of their first grandchild last year. They also like the way the colors complement the green roof of the barn and other buildings.



The Right Choice
— ***Peg Kirk***

The time came to choose a pattern. *Grandpa's Quilt* captured their hearts. After all, the first grandchild was there in the room with his mother. The design seemed to fit the setting. Come July, its cool blue and green would reflect the shadows and leaves of the great tree just outside the barn door. The golden squares and parallelograms would match the color of the corn in the fields once harvest season arrived. Yes!

But wait a minute.

Son number two. Would he want to spoil his fresh white paint job by tacking on a multi-colored quilt? What does he care of barn heritage? He came along long after the days when barn art peppered the countryside with designs like *Snail Trail*, *Bear Claw*, *Mariner's Compass*, *Drunkard's Path*. He knows nothing of the later trend - barn-side promotions for *Red Man Chewing Tobacco* and *Cerasota Flour*.

Surely he'll tumble to what his folks find true --- the world shines brighter with a splash of color.

TERESA WITTE 7247 N. 1375 East Road, Shirley, IL 61772



The farm has been in the family since Harold Witte purchased it in 1981. The barn was built in 1954 for livestock, and has sheltered cattle, pigs and horses. It is now used to store straw, hay and equipment. The barn is painted red with a green roof, and the quilt pattern is a star and pinwheels pattern in vivid red, blue, green and white.

Close to Heaven

– Peg Kirk

A sanctuary for the animal kingdom.
A storehouse for precious commodities.
A playground for growing children.

Imagine standing in the loft
with the whole countryside
in your view. You are up there

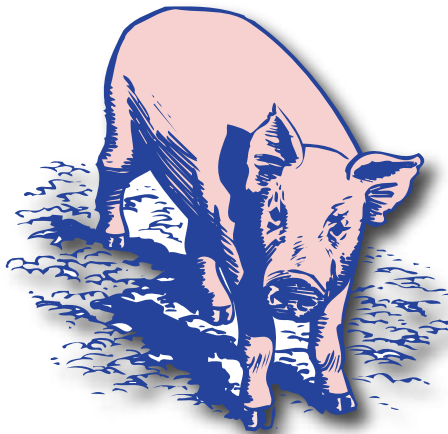
with the birds and the tree tops
feeling the breeze in your hair
seeing your mom below

filling the clothesline with sheets
and pillowcases that will smell
sweet on your bed tonight.

In the distance a pickup truck
comes down the road
carrying today's mail.

Maybe the Sears catalog.
Maybe a letter from Uncle Harold.
Maybe news of the county fair.

You are a lucky kid, all right. Here
you are, empress of the barn, as close to
heaven as this good earth allows.



LARRY AND LOUISE REESER 16838 E. 775 North Road, Heyworth, IL 61745



Larry and Louise purchased their farm in 1972 from Stella Rykert. Stella's father, Frank Peeke, built the barn in 1913. Larry's father, Jake Reeser, farmed the Peeke property. Suffolk sheep and Angus cattle have been raised here, and more recently, feeder calves. The barn quilt features a bird surrounded by the "Hands All Around" pattern because it takes the hands of Larry, Louise and their three sons to work the land. The orange and blue colors honor the University of Illinois. The Reesers coordinate the quilt auction at the annual Mennonite Relief Sale.

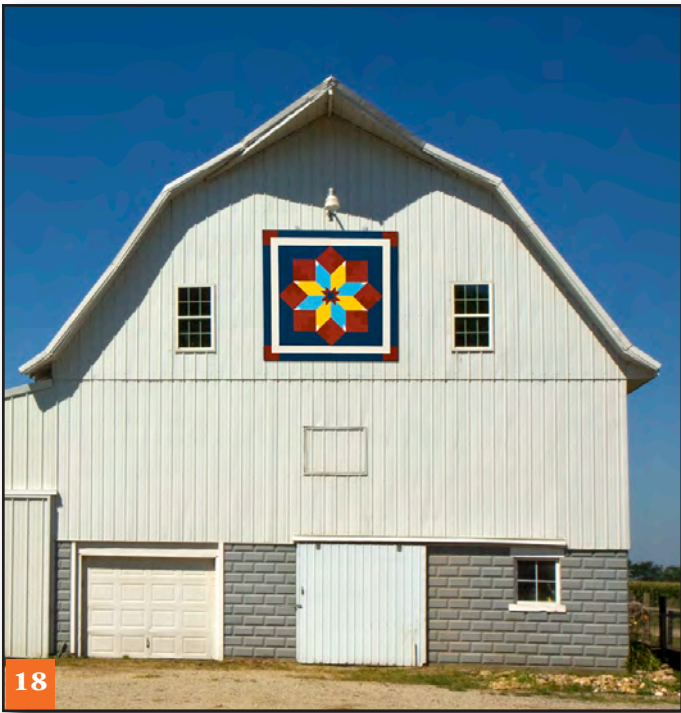


Hands All Around
— ***Ardis L. Stewart***

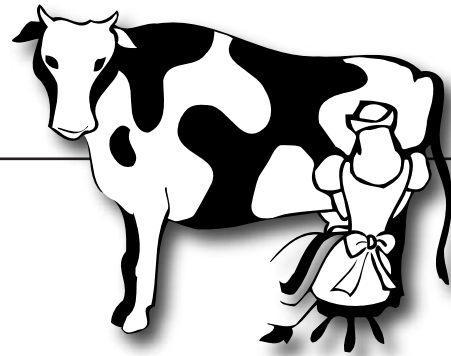
A white dove
ancient symbol of peace
points wings heavenward
over outstretched hands.
Pioneers needed more
than one pair of hands
to build church,
break the prairie,
and survive.

Another way of showing
"Love thy neighbor
as thyself" is
lend your hands.

Strong hands guide the plow,
calloused hands raise barns,
tanned hands bring in the sheaves,
dirty hands gather potatoes and carrots
from under the earth,
nimble hands thread needles
and piece cloth scraps
in rainbow geometric patterns
to protect against midwestern winters,
patient hands pick gooseberries, cherries, apples,
flute crusts, bake into patchwork of pies,
measuring hands knead dough, stir,
season serve harvest meals,
steady hands polish orange tractors,
gentle hands bottle nurse
the motherless,
tender hands wipe tears, clap for joy, embrace all,
grateful hands fold in prayer.



Charles and June Fitzgerald, and June's parents, Lawrence and Edna Dubbelde, purchased the farm in 1972. Jay and Gloria Fitzgerald reside there now. The barn was built in the 1920s as a dairy barn, and now houses beef cattle. The farm was the site of the Kickapoo Creek Rock Festival in 1970, and people slept in the barn during that Memorial Day weekend event. Visitors still return to the farm to relive memories. June and Gloria chose the Amish Rubic's Center quilt pattern to highlight the "Flower Power" theme from the 1970s. Numerous Fitzgerald family members helped paint the barn quilt.



Flower Power
— Ardis L. Stewart

It was the Age of Aquarius after all.
between the rain
and Kickapoo Creek,
there was plenty of water
for the flower children to flourish,
skinny-dipping rich McLean County soil
from naked bodies.
The barn was a hotel then,
with hippies hanging
out of the hayloft.
Make mud, not war.

As The Byrds sang, "To everything
There is a season.
Turn, turn, turn."

Now, corn and soybeans
perform on the stage;
the only youth cavorting
in pastures, sometimes muddy,
is the grandson's 4-H heifer.
The barnyard is patrolled,

not by Grim Reapers on Harleys,
but by farm cats
keen on mellow lazing
in sun or shade, depending on the day or mood.
Neon daisies on VW vans have moved on;
swirls of brightly tie-dyed T shirts
and tents have been uprooted,
replaced in the longevity
of homestead lilacs and peonies,
laced with spirea
against the soft translucent flutter
of hollyhocks in the breeze.

Above this barnyard grows a new patchwork flower
of two-toned reds, blues, and yellow—
an Amish Rubic Center—
the garden planting of mother, daughter, children.
The past becomes present;
the present becomes future.

Turn.

SIMPKINS MILITARY HISTORY MUSEUM

605 E. Cole Street, Heyworth, IL 61745



Gary and Carol added the wooden building next to their home in 1988 to house the Simpkins Military History Museum. Carol grew up on a farm that had a big red barn, and the barn quilt now displayed on the museum brings fond memories of playing in the hay mow with her sisters and cousin. The quilt design is based on the Soldiers Ladies Aid Society pattern in tribute to the couple's commitment to living history. In 1864, members of the Soldiers Ladies Aid Society of Michigan made bandages, caps, sewing kits, shirts, and bed ticks for soldiers quartered in their city. The patriotic ladies also sewed the Regimental colors (flag), using the colors of this quilt block and made to Army regulations, which they presented to the Third Michigan Infantry.



¹ A cloth to protect the back of the neck, usually attached to a military hat

² Sewing kits

Honor the Warriors

— Ardis L. Stewart

"Brave soldier thou will ever be remembered."

--inscription on a community-made quilt from
Yates, New York, 1860s

The Soldiers Ladies' Aid Society was busy.

A letter dated June 7, 1861, details their handiwork: hospital shirts, havelocks¹, housewives², and one bright blue silk banner trimmed in gold fringe for the 3rd Regiment, reproduced in eight-point stars.

They were not the only ones.

A widow's appliqued "gunboat" quilt sold at auction three times to fund a warship; others embroidered encouragements on government-endorsed bedrolls that doubled as shrouds; one family bundled their field of red fabric flowers underground to protect it from pillage; slave sisters' homespun became owners' heirloom; factory seamstresses and prisoners of war interwove wool uniform scraps, new and worn, to protect against winter winds—statements by the silent; diaries in fiber.

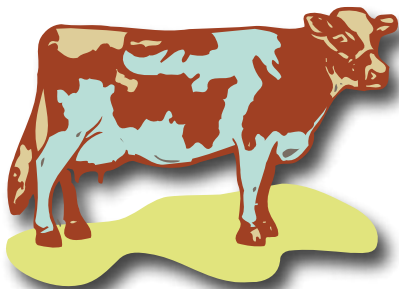
War is more than battles;
it is a counterpane of humanity
torn or cut into small pieces
and joined in patterns that place
Yank next to Reb, German next to Jew,
soldiers on the front
next to strangers at home,
the dead next to survivors.
Wholeness is determined
by the fragments of lives,
past and present patches of many colors
united in woven thread.

MIKE AND DEBBY FUNK, FUNKS GROVE PURE MAPLE SIRUP

5257 Old Route 66, Shirley, IL 61772



Funks Grove Pure Maple Sirup has been produced and sold by the Funk family since 1891. The barn was built by either Hazel Funk Holmes or her father, Absalom Funk, in the early 1900s. The Funks originally kept cows in the barn, and today, it serves as storage for lumber and miscellaneous items. The barn quilt pays tribute to the sirup business with a star, maple leaves, and a sugar house, and is based on the Autumn in the Courthouse quilt pattern.



A Quilt Can Tell a Story

— Kathleen Kirk

A quilt can tell a story in its patterns and its squares,
Pieced together briefly, like verses of a song.
Debbi Funk and Sue (Funk) Kirby both told me theirs!
A quilt can tell a story in its patterns and its squares:
Families are quilted—the stories, theirs,
Pieced together sweetly, like verses of a song.
A quilt can tell a story in its patterns and its squares:
For the Funk Maple Sirup story, come on along!

An Iroquois chief left his hatchet in a tree:
Next day, maple sap flowed pure and sweet,
Engendering a legend and a family legacy.
An Iroquois chief left his hatchet in a tree,
And Isaac Funk established the Funk family.
Isaac made sirup for the family to eat,
And an Iroquois legend of a hatchet in a tree
Led to a pure, sweet family legacy...

Hazel from the East in the summers came West—
She spelled "sirup" with an "i" not a "y"—
Built a new sugarhouse, put it to the test.
Hazel from the East in the summers came West,
Protected Funk's Grove in her will with a trust,
Preserving what's sweet in the sweet by-and-by.
Hazel from the East in the summers came West.
"Sirup" with an "i" is the purest and the best!

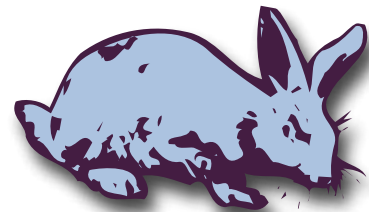
Sap gets its sweetest in the February snows.
(Freezes and warming are the scientific reason.)
Into buckets and tubes, the maple sap flows.
Sap gets its sweetest in the February snows.
How the weather will cooperate, no one ever knows,
But Mike and Debby Funk keep it going every season.
Sap gets its sweetest in the February snows,
And the smell of maple sirup is a pleasure of the nose.

Pure maple sirup is fine and dandy.
Glaida Funk sold it any time of day or night.
Having the kitchen close at hand...was handy!
Pure maple sirup is fine and dandy.

Lisa and Emma offer chocolate-dipped candy.
Their Route 66 shop's a popular site.
Pure maple sirup is fine and dandy,
And Katie makes the maple sugar candy!



In 1992, Funks Grove Cemetery Association purchased the land and buildings now known as Sugar Grove Nature Center. After completion of habitat restoration and renovation of a machine shed, the Nature Center facility opened in 2004. This quilt block features the Variable Star pattern in green and red with a ruby-throated hummingbird, and hangs on the corn crib built in 1960 by John Zoeller. It was the last corn crib constructed in McLean County, and now serves as an outdoor classroom and prairie viewing room. Visitors can look out over the native prairie—and watch hummingbirds busy at the feeders. The crib includes some rough-cut lumber from Funks Grove timber.



Heart of the Prairie
-- Kathleen Kirk

A hummingbird hovers over the door
of the old corn crib set in the heart
of the prairie beside the maple grove.

Enter. Walk down the center aisle
on soft layers of straw between benches
arranged like pews in a sort of Church of the Barn
Swallows.

Look up! There they spiral, shaping the invisible
air into a visible heart with their beating wings.
And when they fly away, see the suddenly visible

cones of their nests high in the rafters. Turn,
then, in the deepened stillness. Return
on the straw spun-into-gold, but don't go away,

not yet. Pause a while in a rocking chair,
gazing out the open windows onto the blazing
prairie, its wild sunflowers and sturdy grasses.

Ponder the wilderness before we came, the human
effort it took to build barn and crib,
to till the land, and, then, to bring back

the blooming prairie, laid before you in peace.
Remember, we put our hearts in it, all of it.
And here it all stands. Love it, tend it.



The Mother's Quilt displayed on the large red corn crib honors Donna's mother, Edna, who lived on this family farm for over 65 years. She married Lawrence Dubbelde in 1938 and they raised five children. Edna could butcher, drive tractors, fix cars, skin chickens, garden, and fix wonderful meals. She was involved in her church, as well as her children's activities, including 4-H clubs, FFA, FHA, music, sports, and detasseling. Edna passed in 2007, and Lawrence died in 2009. They are buried in nearby Funks Grove Cemetery. The corn crib was built in the 1930s and is now used for storage.



They
-- *M. Irene Taylor*

They are the first to hold us
they are our first protectors
they are the first to tell us how beautiful we are
and the first to tell us that's not what's important.

They teach us by their actions more than by their words
they teach us right from wrong
the rightness of being kind and the wrongness of being cruel
and that to be gentle we must be strong.

They meet with patience our petulance
with resolve our stubbornness
with steadfastness our rebellion
and with unwavering love our failures.

They taught us by their actions
many more times than by their words
so that when the time came
when we grew to be what they knew we could be,

we would hold them
we would protect them
we would tell them how beautiful they were
and that their beauty was indeed of great importance.

We met their petulance with patience
their stubbornness and their rebellion
with steadfast resolve
and their failures with unwavering love.

We learned to do this through their actions
for to be gentle is to be strong
and the cruelty of their leaving us
is tempered only by the comfort of knowing

their suffering is over and they are now at peace
having done their best to have a life well-lived
to have passed on their lessons
by their actions as well as their words.

STAN AND JANETTA BAUER 24073 E. 1400 North Road, Ellsworth, Illinois 61737



Stan and Janetta have lived on their small farm on Route 9 in Dawson Township for 22 years. The barn quilt is displayed on a post and metal building erected in 1990 as a sheep barn. It now houses the alpacas they raise. Stan and Janetta make clothing and jewelry with the beautiful alpaca wool. This quilt block was started by members of the Home Spun 4-H Club when documentary filmmaker Julianne D'Onofrio visited McLean County in 2013. The Bauers lived in Texas at one time, and they chose the Texas Star pattern for their barn quilt.

Star Quest

—Joseph and Judith Boudreaux

--July 2014

--McLean County, Illinois

An unusually cool and bright Fourth of July finds us seeking a brilliant complex star standing out against the green of the countryside. We drive east out of Bloomington on Route 9.



After crossing North 2400 East Rd, we spy the Texas star--
the barn door quilt gleaming in Independence Day colors.
From the golden lone star center, eight invisible lines burst outward
drawing star points of blue bounding white chevrons.
The intricate shapes throb against the rich red background.

Four corner squares step forward.
The Bauers call the tune.
Other figures join the dance.
They sashay to and fro.

They know their trade – from birthing alpacas to making the finest scarves and shawls.

Janetta spins while Stan mans the shuttle.



Kelley Grain Farm on Towanda Barnes Road is a perfect spot for a barn quilt. The farm was purchased by Ed's father, George R. Kelley, in the mid-1960s. Ed and Cindy and their son E.J. now run the operation, raising corn and soybeans. After looking at many different quilt patterns, the Kelley's chose the patriotic red-white-and-blue Stars and Stripes design. The quilt block is displayed on a metal pole barn that was built in 2010 and is used as the farm shop.



Proud to Be
-- M. Irene Taylor

We are the men and the women
the mothers and the fathers
the children and the elders.

We nurture our young
and care for our old.
They are our future and our past.

We are the students
the laborers
the caregivers.

We are the citizens.
We are Americans.
We are proud.

We tend to our fields.
Some say we are at the mercy of the weather.
We simply say it is a fickle creature.

Sometimes it supports us
Sometimes not.
Sometimes it says no.

It gives us too much rain when we need dry ground
or too much sun when we need the nourishment
the water brings to our fields.

In good times
we reap benefits
that keep us here another year.

In bad times, the food we put on your tables
brings you a greater cost
and brings us a smaller return than in the good times.

But we continue.
We are steadfast.
We are strong.

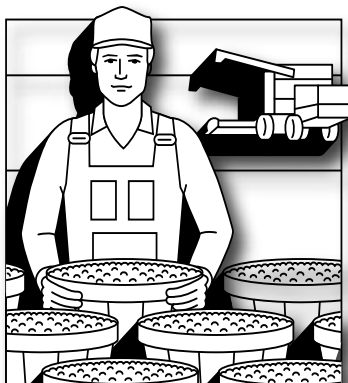
We are farmers.
And we are proud.

ED AND CHRIS KRAFT *(the Raymond A. and Josephine M. Kraft Family)*

4252 E. Raab Road, Normal, Illinois 61761



The Kraft family barn quilt featuring an Old Red Schoolhouse commemorates one-room rural schools in McLean County. Josephine Sweeney taught at Burfield School on Towanda Barnes Road before she and Raymond Kraft married in 1927 and began farming on Raab Road. In 1938, they purchased this 80-acre farm. A new brick Burfield School was on that parcel. Three of their four children attended the old Grove and the new Burfield schools, and several descendants were career educators. In 1948, McLean County closed all one-room schools and created Unit District 5. The building with the barn quilt was built by Ed Kraft in 2002 for storage and woodworking



Schooldays

-- Peg Kirk

That old red schoolhouse with the bell on top
is printed in my memory as firmly
as if I had attended there as a child.
But no, my first school had three floors,
many teachers and a fearsome principal.

Little remains today to remind us of those
Schooldays, schooldays, good old golden rule days.
Hickory sticks and carved initials
on well-worn desks are long gone,
replaced by smart boards, laptops,

and digitally-savvy teachers.

Today's kids have streamlined sources
for readin' and 'ritin' and 'rithmetic.
Their smart phones have programmed them
to play dumb since the rule of thumb

provides handy apps that can spin them
from the *ark of the covenant*
to the square of the *hypotenuse*.
Perhaps, if they choose the right angle,
they will uncover a world of wonder--

a past-- leading them directly to a red
schoolhouse--one room only, one teacher only,
students of every age and stature crammed
together in harmony, playing by the rules,
and proud to aspire.

When the bell rings, they come to attention,
salute the flag, and say good morning,
knowing somehow that time is fleeting
and if they don't learn today,
tomorrow may find them wanting.

Cheers for the one-room schoolhouse.
Cheers for the Barn Quilt that honors it!

Bloomington & Southeast

- 1 **Baltimore Album Quilt**
David Davis Mansion
1000 Monroe Dr., Bloomington
- 12 **8-Point Star with WV Badge**
Westminster Village
2025 E. Lincoln Street, Bloomington
- 13 **LeMoyne Star with Belted Galloway Bull
Carpenter's Wheel**
4601 Ireland Grove Road, Bloomington
- 17 **Hands All Around with Bird**
16838 E. 775 North Road, Heyworth
- 34 **International Harvester**
1189 N. 1900 East Rd., Heyworth
- 35 **Eight-pointed Star**
8284 N. + 2075 East Rd., Downs
- 36 **Stars in Flight**
32275 E. 500 North Rd., Arrowsmith
- 38 **Pinwheel Variety**
1050 North Rd at 2850 East Road, Ellsworth
- 43 **Deer in Cornfield**
16205 E 800 North Road, Heyworth
- 44 **Mexican Star**
16750 E 325 North Road, Heyworth
- 45 **Patriotic Pinwheel**
16770 E 550 North Road, Heyworth

Normal, Northwest

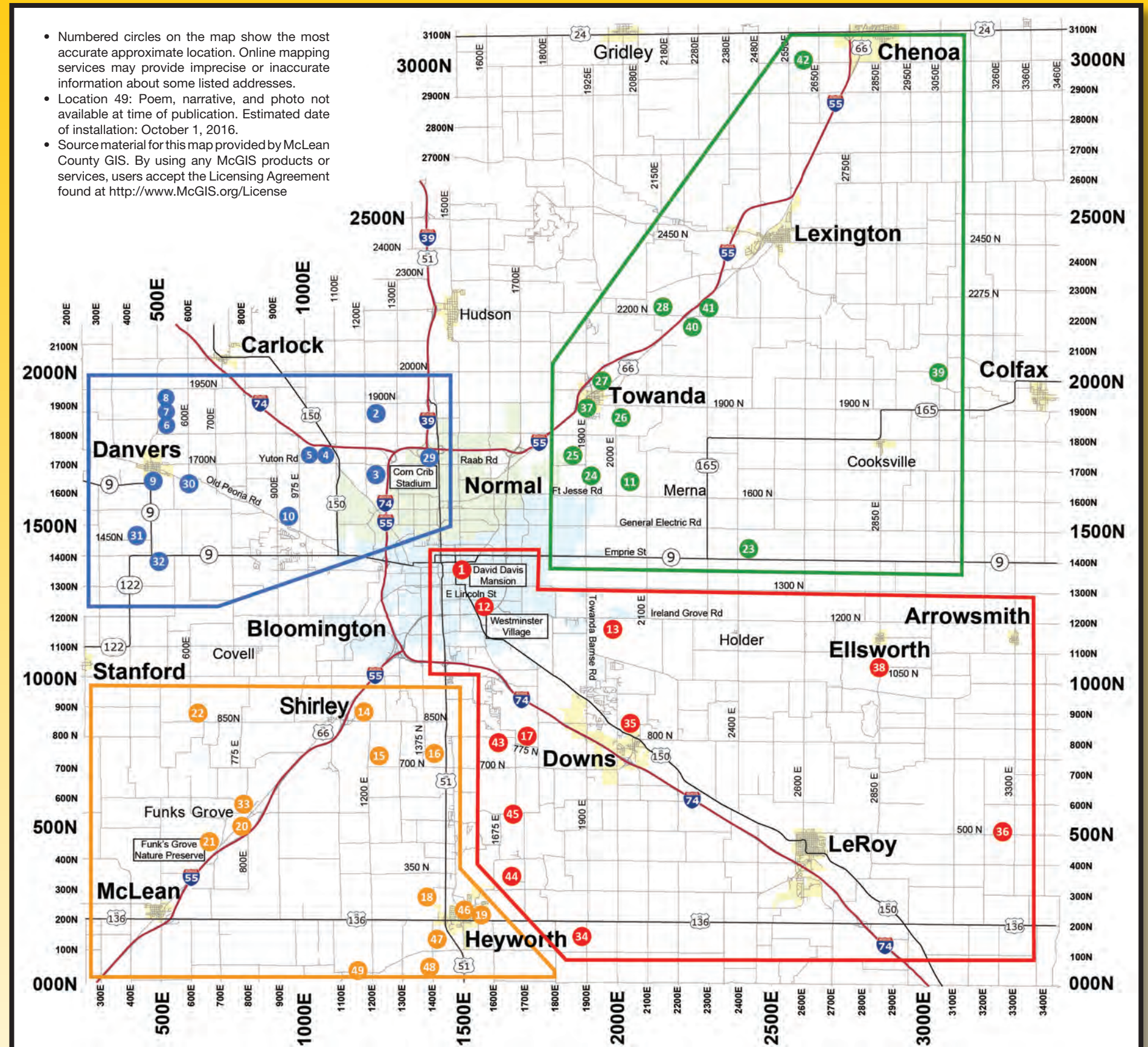
- 2 **Churn Dash with Jersey Cow**
Ropp Jersey Cheese
2676 Ropp Road, Normal
- 3 **Pumpkin in Border**
Rader Family Farms
1238 Ropp Rd., Normal
- 4 **My Country 'tis of Thee**
10623 E. 1700 North Road, Bloomington
- 5 **Variable Star Block**
10233 E. 1700 North Road, Bloomington
- 6 **Scenic Barn Design**
4802 E. 1800 North Road, Danvers
- 7 **Virginia Star Pattern**
18636 N. 500 East Road, Danvers
- 8 **Belted Star Block**
18961 N. 500 East Road, Danvers
- 9 **LeMoyne Star Block**
301 S. West St., Danvers
- 10 **American Star**
9290 Old Peoria Road, Bloomington
- 29 **MC Strong #19**
Corn Crib Stadium
1000 W. Raab Road, Normal
- 30 **Red, White and Blue Patriot**
12973 N. 600 East Rd., Danvers
- 31 **Sunflower East
Sunflower West**
3353 E. 1450 North Rd., Danvers
- 32 **Log Cabin Block
Flower Block**
4861 E. 1400 North Rd., Danvers

Northeast, Normal

- 11 **Ohio Star Pattern with Reggie Redbird**
20510 E. Fort Jesse Road, Normal
- 23 **Texas Star**
24073 E. 1400 North Road, Ellsworth
- 24 **Stars and Stripes**
622 Towanda Barnes Road, Normal
- 25 **Old Red Schoolhouse**
4252 E. Raab Road, Normal
- 26 **Old-fashioned Love**
18808 N. 2000 East Road, Towanda
- 27 **Crossed Canoes**
101 West Jackson St., Towanda
- 28 **Irish Flag**
21328 E. 2200 North Road, Towanda
- 37 **George's Star**
407 S Quincy, Towanda
- 39 **Starburst**
30272 Mackinaw River Road, Colfax
- 40 **Celtic Knot**
22593 E 2200 North Road, Lexington
- 41 **Like a Good Neighbor**
22199 N 2275 East Road, Lexington
- 42 **Metro Warbirds**
25899 E 3000 N Road, Chenoa

Heyworth and Southwest

- 14 **Jigsaw Puzzle**
11840 E. 850 North Road, Shirley
- 15 **Grandpa's Delight**
8049 N. 1200 East Road, Shirley
- 16 **Star and Pinwheels**
7247 N. 1375 East Road, Shirley
- 18 **Amish Rubic's Center**
14000 E. 300 North Road, Heyworth
- 19 **Soldiers Ladies Aid Society**
Simpkins Military History Museum
605 E. Cole St., Heyworth
- 20 **Maple Leaves, Star, Sugar House**
Funks Grove Pure Maple Sirup
5257 Old Route 66, Shirley
- 21 **Variable Star with Hummingbird**
Sugar Grove Nature Center
4532 N. 725 East Road, McLean
- 22 **Mother's Quilt**
6161 East 850 North Road, Stanford
- 33 **Celtic Trinity Weave**
5702 N. 800 East Road, McLean
- 46 **Railroad Crossing Block**
119 E Main Street, Heyworth
- 47 **4-H Clover with Geometric Pattern**
1209 N 1400 East Road, Heyworth
- 48 **Windmill in Fall Colors**
200 N 1400 East Road, Heyworth
- 49 **Horses & Heelers Times Remembered**
11797 E 025 North Road, Heyworth



The content of this book, including historical commentary and poems composed for each installation, is available on our website: www.mcleancountybarnquilts.com or web.extension.illinois.edu/lmw/barnquilts/





Jo Morrison designed this special barn quilt she calls "Old-fashioned Love" in memory of her late mother and a beloved farm dog, Sammy, who passed away in 2013. The quilt block is based on the Star pattern, and includes colors related to the schools her mother attended and where she taught, and a beautiful peony blooms in the center in tribute to her mother's fondness for this old-fashioned flower. Jo says her mom was almost a "pet whisperer," as well. Sammy lived at the farm from the time she was a pup, and Jo was thrilled to keep her when she purchased the farm in 2010. Sammy attended many barn quilt installations, and her paw prints on the kitchen floor are depicted on the quilt block.

As Long As We Remember

-- M. Irene Taylor

As long as we remember
the lessons we learned
by simply watching and listening.

As long as we remember
the love of home . . .
its house
its barn
its sheds.

The care given to
the animals
the crops
the land.

The stories told of childhood . . .
the schools where they learned
the friends they made
the people they came to love.

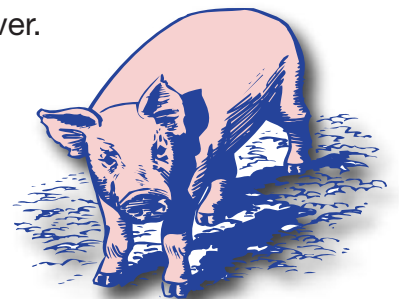
As long as we remember
what they passed on to us
they will stay with us.

This barn holds the pattern that
shows the colors of the schools attended
the flowers tended
the beloved dog who protected and
comforted.

I remember the past with a bittersweet fondness
for what made me feel safe and loved.

I remember what was
for that led to what is
and to who I would come to be.

As long as we remember
This all will stay
with us forever.



RICHARD SEEHUUS AND CAROLYN MOON

101 West Jackson Street (Route 66 and Highway 29), Towanda, Illinois 61776



The corn crib facing old Route 66, just north of Towanda, stands on land that was owned by the Galbreath family for 100 years. The wood post-and-beam structure was built about 85 years ago. Richard and Carolyn purchased the property six years ago. The weathered white corn crib now sports a bright blue and white barn quilt featuring crossed canoes, which provides a vibrant contrast against the rural landscape. Richard and Carolyn love to canoe, and enjoyed painting their own barn quilt, too.

Crossed Canoes

-- Ardis L. Stewart

A child's growth chart,
carved in hand hewn wood,
hangs repurposed, upside down,
in the barn by the crossroads
while two girls from across the ocean
now paddle and glide on backyard waters,
splash each other, as sisters will, laugh,
and navigate back to the dock
only when tired, or hungry, or both.
Their crossed canoes,
skimming water
dragonfly wings
of lake (house) blue and moon white,
form a compass
to unite and direct them
not due north,
but in the direction of life.





Al and Carol Killian live in Money Creek Township on the farm that has been in their family for 85 years. Mrs. P.J. Killian purchased this farm in 1929. Carol and Al have extensive gardens on their property, and the produce is used for wonderful meals that Carol is famous for preparing. In celebration of the family's Irish heritage, the barn quilt depicting the Irish flag is prominently displayed on the shed where they store small machinery.

The Flag of Ireland Quilt

-- Peg Kirk

Quilting is an art, my friends,
that many hands have tried,
but one must have a special gift
to stitch true love inside.

A crazy quilt, a flower quilt,
a quilt of birds in flight --
all these are lovely in their place,
and can, at times, delight.

But there's a quilt that wasn't built
to throw upon a bed.
It hangs instead upon the barn
of an Irishman, born and bred.

The couple married late in life
and built a lovely home
in country setting, lush and green,
the sky above, their dome.

At Christmastime the woman thought
her loving gift should say,
"I honor you and your Irish clan
in a fundamental way."

And what was the gift she chose that day?
The answer came hard and fast.
She chose to display his Irish roots
with a symbol that would last.

So that is why, if you drive by,
the Orange, the White, the Green
will greet you--with a shamrock-- too,
a welcoming Irish scene.

Quilting is an art, we know.
The quilt becomes a lure.
If one is hanging on a barn,
There's a story there, for sure.



MC STRONG #19 - IN MEMORY OF MICHAEL COLLINS

Corn Crib Stadium, 1000 W. Raab Road, Normal, Illinois 61761



The barn quilt on the north side of the Corn Crib stadium in Normal is one of many, many tributes in memory of 22-year-old Michael Collins of Normal, Ill., who passed away April 2, 2014 as a result of injuries sustained in a car accident. Michael was a senior at Illinois State University, and a graduate of University High School and Heartland Community College. Michael's family and friends established the Michael Collins Foundation and through the MC Strong movement, people from all over the U.S. and several other countries have begun to "pay it forward" with charitable contributions and acts of kindness toward others. Community volunteers, friends and family members teamed up to design and paint a barn quilt that reflects Michael's faith, his loyalty to the schools he attended, his recognition as an organ donor, and his winning attitude - both on the baseball field and in every aspect of his life. For more information about the Michael Collins Foundation, visit www.mcstrong.org.



MC Strong
-- Ardis L. Stewart

A hawk circles over cornfields
riding the swoosh
from the nearby wind turbine
as it joins the sky blue breeze.

Take me out to the ball game

The all American guy smiles
And pitches baseballs to the neighbor kid,
who catches and returns.

Buy me some peanuts and Cracker Jack

A stranger hands a bouquet
to a woman, waiting in the parking lot,
in a wheel chair.

I don't care if I never get back

Red roses left on lichened graves
of boys who died
too young in war.

So it's root, root, root for the home team

Green and gold, blue and gray,
red and white uniforms;
#19 retired.

If they don't win it's a shame

Losses: one.
Saves: over 200.

A hawk circles over cornfields
riding the swoosh
from the nearby wind turbine
as it joins the sky blue breeze.

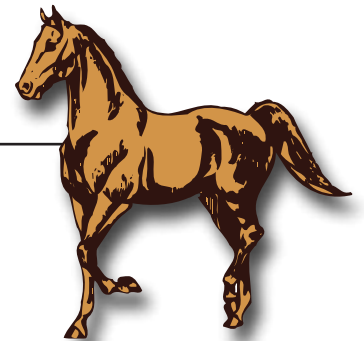
CHARLES AND HARRIET IRWIN FARM

12973 N. 600 East Rd., Danvers, IL 61732



This farm was bought on auction in 1946 by Charles and Harriet Irwin. A fire destroyed the barn and house on this farm in 1940, but the former owner Charles Johnson rebuilt both. The barn housed dairy cows and horses originally, but it is now for hay and equipment storage.

The patriotic red, white and blue quilt pattern is in memory of Lyman Irwin.



In Honor

-- *Bill Morgan*

On the south gable of an old barn near Danvers, an 8-foot replica of a quilting square—an abstract combination of blue fields, white stars, and red and white stripes—hangs proudly. Behind that flag, inside the barn, dust motes float among the stalls and settle in the mangers. Somebody who has known the barn over the years might be able to hear the horses and cows who sheltered there shaking their tack, chewing grain, shifting their weight, breathing comfortably. Maybe also the young voices of brothers playing in the loft. Inside and out, all around that barn and the farm it's located on—Grandmother Irwin's Farm, some call it—an Illinois farm boy lived and grew up. Years later, when he had become a man, he married and moved just 4 ½ miles to the Northwest, to what is now called the The Lyman and Marge Irwin Farm. But first, Lyman Charles Irwin served 5 years in the Army Air Corps, 1941-46. Staff Sergeant Irwin told Marge he didn't want to get married until his time in service was almost over, since what he could offer her as an Army bride

was no life for a young wife. They married in 1945 in a chapel at the Kearns Army Air Field, near Salt lake City, Utah, and shortly thereafter began their post-war life at the farm that now bears their names. The war was won. Real life began again. They worked. They farmed. They raised three sons. They supported church and school. Lyman wore his uniform to the funerals of his fellow veterans. He became Commander of the local American Legion post. They did whatever was the right thing to do. Lyman is buried in the Danvers cemetery. Now Marge and their three sons—Charles, John, and Wade—have followed his example and are doing the right thing again: they have chosen and dedicated this image, a reminder of the American flag, to their husband and father to honor his childhood home and his lifelong devotion to family, neighbor, and country. Pause. Remember.

LYMAN AND MARGE IRWIN FARM

3353 E. 1450 North Rd., Danvers, IL 61732



The Irwins have farmed this land since the 1890's. They rented the land for many years, but in 2009 Marge Irwin purchased the farm. The machine shed on which the barn quilt is hung was built in 2011. It is used for machine storage. The Sunflower pattern quilt was chosen by Marge and reflects her passion for flower gardening.

31

The Mellow of Yellow

— Peg Kirk

The yellow rose of Texas turned to song.
The dandelions of April sprang like rain.
The daffodils of Wordsworth brought him joy.
Now seek with me the yellow down a lane

where family homes are few and far between.
Then, suddenly, a house, two stories high,
appears beside outbuildings made to last.
Affixed to one, a giant bloom, there by

a threshing machine and shiny pickup truck.
A sunflower, more yellow than the sun
itself, is greeting us, and seems to say
“Welcome my friends, I’m glad to see you’ve come

to know at last what many never find—
a lovely square of quilting soothes the mind.”



LYMAN AND MARGE IRWIN FARM

3353 E. 1450 North Rd., Danvers, IL 61732



The Irwins have farmed this land since the 1890's. They rented the land for many years, but in 2009 Marge Irwin purchased the farm. Last year, Marge had a Sunflower quilt put on one end of the machine shed. This year she wanted another Sunflower quilt on the other end of the machine shed so that a quilt can be seen from either direction!

Where Have They Gone?

-- Peg Kirk

Suppose you want to capture sunflowers in a poem.
Where would you begin? Gaze at a field of them
and hope for inspiration? These days it's hard to find
a huge patch. Corn and beans have taken over.
Where have all the sunflowers gone?
Ask Pete Seeger. Long time passing.

Beauty has a habit of slipping away
if you fail to notice it. It chides you in *absentia*.
True, a print of Van Gogh's *Sunflowers* in a frame
can be yours for less than a hundred bucks.
But duplication on a small scale somehow
falls short of its intent. Time to accept the truth.

Poetry cannot contain this work of nature.
Sunflowers need space—like on the side of a barn,
on quilt-size squares painted in rich colors,
larger than life, calling out to all who pass—
“Here is where we belong, over the fields of green,
glorious bursts of sunshine designed to delight.”



The Johnson farm has been in the family for 22 years. To honor their respective mothers, they have designed and painted two quilts for their machine shed that houses their farm machinery. The one to honor Deb's mother is a flower pattern. The Log Cabin quilt honors Bud's mother. Deb designed and painted the two quilts.

Mothers I

-- M. Irene Taylor

It's really quite perplexing, is it not
how we assume there's always time
when really there's not.

How we ponder what could have been
had we only seen
that she was someone simply planting the seed.

Whose words were not those of judgment but guidance
even in those moments of sheer defiance.

How we thought
she didn't understand
when really
she knew it was all part of the plan.

For us to grow
and to grieve
to make mistakes
and to succeed.

It's really quite amazing, is it not
now that she's gone
she's really not.

She stays with me
I hear her voice
I feel her here.

There are so many things
I want her to know,
but instead I hear her say
it's all right to let her go.



The Johnson farm has been in the family for 22 years. To honor their respective mothers, they have designed and painted two quilts for their machine shed that houses their farm machinery. The one to honor Deb's mother is a flower pattern. The Log Cabin quilt honors Bud's mother. Deb designed and painted the two quilts.

Mothers 2

-- M. Irene Taylor

It's really quite extraordinary, is it not
how mothers gain such wisdom after we grow up.

How all I wanted was to leave
to start my life
because I believed
there was a life out there just for me.

She let me go without a tear
at least not one that I could see,
and I walked away with no fear
at least not any that she could see.

She came to me in her hour of need,
but I was the one who received
much more than I ever would have believed.

Here was the teacher I knew as mother
the woman who shared her wisdom
with all those around her.

The woman who said to me,
"You loved and are loved."

Let go of the hurt and have no regrets.
Now hold my hand and stay with me
until it's time for me to leave."



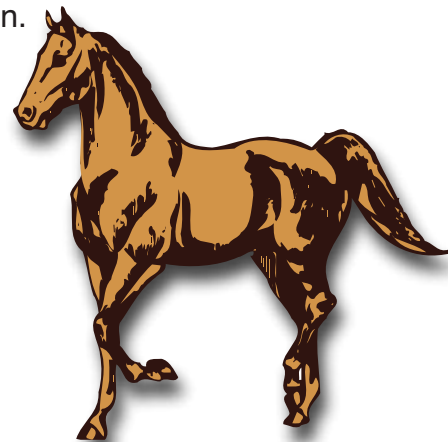
The newest structure to have a barn quilt on it is that of Eric and Mysty Vaughn. They built the storage shed in 2015 to resemble a barn more than a metal shed. They increased the pitch of the roof line and used equestrian doors. They tried to match the color of their home that they built in 2005. The quilt pattern includes the Celtic Trinity Weave. The symbol was adopted by their family after a trip to Scotland many years ago. The Trinity Knot, also known as the Triquetra, means “Faith, Hope and Love.” The Vaughns have several decorative pieces in their home that include the Trinity Knot.

Celtic Trinity

-- Ardis L. Stewart

Lovers, linked fingers,
amble along cobblestones
of a fairytale city
shadowed by the castle on the hill;
the fog of cannon fire and floodlights
mingles with the musical mist
from cèilidh fiddles
and heartbeat drums
drifting out of pubs.
Silver, mystical metal
triquetra,
honeymoon gift,
an eternally entwined schottische
of love, faith, hope—
kisses in the gloaming.

Back across the sea
this symbol shifts shades
from sterling to variant greens and hues
of Highland ben, loch, and moor
dappled with lowing long-haired beasties
and bright purple thistles,
protectors of the kingdom,
and oversees the clip-clop
of a horse-drawn carriage
whisking another bride and her father
to the old church in the glen.





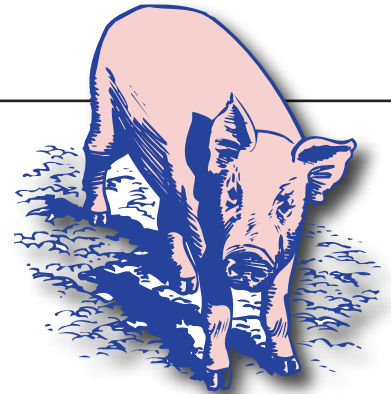
Steve and Pam live on a farm that has been in their family for 78 years. Steve's Great Grandma Deems bought the farm in 1936. Steve and Pam moved to the farm in 1973. The site where the current machine shed sits used to be the site of a barn that housed dairy cows, hogs, chickens and horses. After many years of painting and repairing the old barn, they made the decision to tear it down since they no longer had livestock. The quilt on their machine shed shows their long-time family preference for International Harvester machinery.

Red, White and Black

-- Ardis L. Stewart

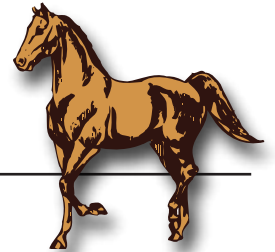
Gentlemen, start your engines,
for winter is past
and you are in a race
against the elements.
Shift those gears
and let your red metal steeds,
smelling of fuel,
snorting dust of past idleness
through their air stacks,
kick up clods of spring-scented soil
with their black treads
as the land is plowed.
It is time to shed
winter whites
for harvest's eventual mahogany
face, neck, and hands
(but not foreheads, well capped).
Until seedlings appear,
this world is red, black, and white;
the only green and yellow
is in the corn and soybeans.

When the day's race is done
and the machines are quiet
under their barn quilt,
look closely at the pattern--
framing tractor and farmer
in squares and triangles
are the red eyes and black
noses
of white rabbits
and Duroc russet ears
from 4-H fairs gone by—
all silent for now,
lulled by the flapping
of the American flag





Tom and Shirley bought this 5-acre mini farm in 1988. The structure on which the barn quilt is hanging was built in 1989 as a horse barn for their children and grandchildren. Their grandsons joined 4-H and showed horses that were housed in the barn. It was equipped with stalls on one side and hay storage and tack racks on the other. It is now used for storage. Shirley is a quilter and chose the 8-pointed star pattern to decorate their building. Shirley has gone back to her roots with their acreage. She grew up on a farm.



Handshake

-- Bill Morgan

We looked for years for an old farm house with a few acres to buy. Finally in 1988 we found the property that we now live on and built our new home and later the barn, using old lumber and barn siding purchased from a local farmer. Shortly after, we acquired a horse. After the horse came a couple of Angus calves. Now we have no animals or pets, and the barn is home only to a few mice, an occasional snake, and a stray cat. . . . I'm a long-time quilter, and every time I saw a barn quilt, I said to myself that I needed one for our barn. I told my husband this would be a perfect Christmas present for me, and he agreed. My quilt block is a Lemoyne or 8-pointed star in dark blue, burgundy, and bright yellow—I like those colors and values, and I think they're perfect on the neutral grey-brown of our barn. . . . I come from a long line of farmers—at least five generations. My sister and brother and I spent many hours playing in our hay loft as children. . . . My quilt square pleases me, especially in the winter when the leaves are off the trees. The squirrels and I have planted many trees in the years I have lived here. They favor oak and walnut; I prefer less common, more decorative trees. --Shirley Boward

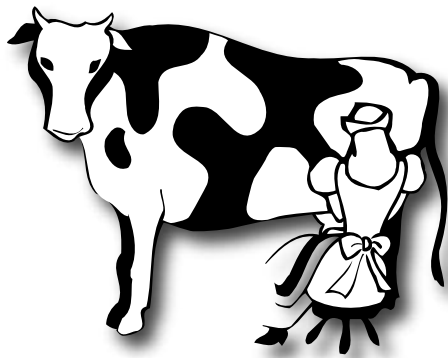
If you bring the past into the present, unbuffered, it doesn't always fit: try driving your model-T around Veterans Parkway in afternoon traffic, for instance. Or try to keep your grandfather's watch running for daily use—your uncle's push-mower, your mother's mixer, your cousin's old motorbike, and so on. You understand. But when you're a quilter and part of a long line of farmers, you're in a good position to bring What Was and What Is together in one place and introduce them to one another. Here's what you do: you find a small piece of old farm ground, build a new house and a barn sided with old wood, get yourself a horse and maybe a couple of calves, then hang an elegant 7-foot Lemoyne star in blue, burgundy, and yellow on the east gable of the barn, so you can watch Then and Now shaking hands like old friends every morning outside your window.

BORNGASSER LLC, C/O CARL BORNGASSER

32275 East 500 North Rd., Arrowsmith, IL 61722



The Borngasser farm has been in the family for over 80 years. Lloyd Borngasser, Bob's grandfather, purchased the farm in 1932. The Gable or A Frame barn on which the quilt is hung was likely built in the late 1800's and was used for dairy cattle on the west side and beef cattle on the east. The barn was rebuilt in 1934 using pine siding from the 1934 World's Fair which was brought in by rail. This grand old barn has weathered two wind storms in the 1990's that required the owners to lift the barn and put in a new foundation. Metal siding and large overhead doors were added in 2011. Currently it houses vehicles and stores seed for spring planting. The quilt pattern is called Stars in Flight and is the first quilt on the trail to be hung on point. It was painted by the Borngassers.



Stars in Flight in Arrowsmith

-- Kathleen Kirk

Straight line winds blew this barn
off its foundation—twice!
Yet there it stands, rebuilt,
resilient, faithful as the polestar,

the tip of the Little Dipper,
earth twirling underneath.
Its white-washed boards for Grade A milk
came raw by rail from the 1934 World's Fair—

the shooting stars on its barn quilt square
in retrospect an endless celebration!
Linda loves the old quilt patterns but now
prefers the bright colors of modern fabrics,

here on the barn seen as red arrows pointing
at a red and yellow target in a blue and white
field, all in yellow sunlight. Robert painted
these Stars in Flight himself, by hand,

the way he lovingly restored a '55 Buick
for his parents' fifty-fifth wedding anniversary,
the car they had in '55, the year they married.
Think of it, a barn blown twice off its feet

like someone born again by falling in love
with the unexpected, a meteor shower
witnessed by chance. So stands this barn
at night, under constellations fixed and quiet

or under a quilt of shooting stars, wishes
falling to the ground to be granted,
or planted by wind on the prairie, perennials,
or by hand, steadfast in a farmer's garden.

THE PAUL AND DAVID KEISER FAMILIES

407 S. Quincy, Towanda , IL 61776



Guide Book for Tourists

— Peg Kirk

All those colors reaching out from the plain white shed will surely draw drivers straining for their kicks on old Route 66.

Even the speeders on Interstate 55 may happen to catch the splash of barn art before they flash past the exit for Towanda.

But the best way to get the big picture is to ease up on the gas, touch the brake, lift your butt from its traveling rut

to see a tribute to a man one old buddy chose to honor by erecting a starburst, an explosion of joy for a fellow good-old-boy.

This big white shed on which the quilt hangs was built in the 1980s. It was purchased in 2007 by the Kieser families for use as a grain storage facility. The quilt overlooks the "Mother Road" Rt. 66 near Towanda, IL. Paul Kieser selected this quilt in memory of Dr. George Stimeling, Bloomington District #87 Superintendent from 1970 to 1986, and dear friend to the Kieser Family. The words and vibrant colors of the quilt reflect the Hall of Famer's personality and many interests: education with many of his years at Bloomington High School , the Chicago Cubs, Illinois State University, Indiana University, his favorite pastime fishing, red roses which he grew in his yard, a favorite brand of farm equipment, his leadership and wisdom, and his love of story telling.

This quilt also represents George's deep love and devotion for family, his beloved wife Shirley, and the church. Yes, indeed, George Stimeling was certainly "one of a kind."

You might not guess the purple and gold in the border are the very colors of the school system once blest by the honoree

or that the green reflects the crop and the combine he once rode to feel the glory of straight rows marking a careful harvest.

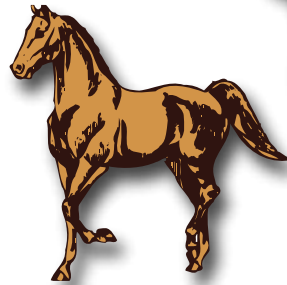
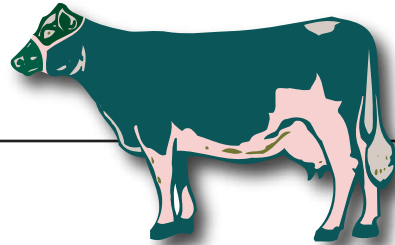
The cross in the center captures devotion to his life mate, his creed and his conviction that love lasts forever.



Every barn quilt can trigger memories for someone. All it takes is time to let the glorious colors carry you home.



The farm was purchased in 1900 by David L. Moody's father, and the barn was built in 1925 by John A. Kitch. The barn originally had wood shingles but was remodeled with asphalt shingles in 1955. The barn is about 48 x 50 feet, with one side for cows and the other for horses. It was remodeled for hog finishing in 1981 and is used primarily for machine storage now. The barn quilt is a geometric pinwheel pattern in several bright colors.



In Honor

-- M. Irene Taylor

What makes a family?

A daughter son
A sister brother
A mother father

Is it the house where we live?
Maybe it's the values we share.

Is it simply love?
Perhaps something more?
Or is it the memories left behind.
Maybe it's the need to remember
to honor that person.

How do we honor the ones who have passed?
By our actions
By our words
By the lessons we learned and pass on to others

Maybe it's simply a gesture.
The example we choose to set and the life we choose to live.
We honor continually those who leave us
with our love
and compassion
and values.

What we do each day honors those who have passed in body
but their spirit lives on for us and for those
who follow.



Claude and Maurine Kennedy purchased the barn in 1955, then moved to the farm in 1958 to raise purebred Hereford cattle and corn and soybeans. David and Lori purchased the farm in 1989 and in 1991 started Kennedy Farm Drainage, installing drainage tile. Both enterprises continue today. The quilt is placed on the original cattle barn built by Claude and Gary in 2009. The artist for the four corners of the quilt is Pam Rathke, a former art teacher at Ridgeview High School.



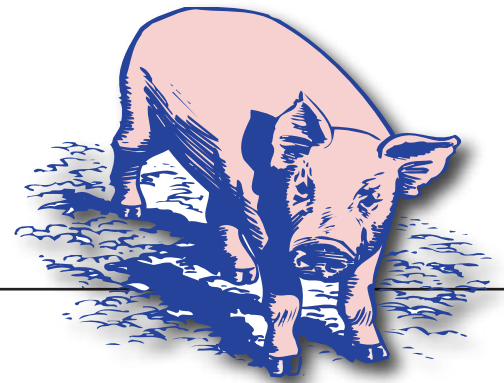
Irish Luck

-- Ardis L. Stewart

Tipped in twilight prairie sky blue
is a starburst of pumpkin blossom yellow
and ditch lily orange,
colors also found in the fire pit
where marshmallows are toasted and enjoyed
while sitting on an old-fashioned porch swing.
This is Irish luck:
when you drive a tractor, shamrock green,
at an age most kids are first allowed
to ride a bike in a street;
when you forget to plant corn
and plant pumpkins instead;
when you move to a farm,
overlooking the Mackinaw River valley,
that provides autumnal color while you work;
when you are greeted by John F (as in JFK),
the red cocker spaniel who wags his stump of a tail for everyone,
when lilacs, irises, lilies, peonies,
bloom every year in the same spot as they have for decades;
when you have access to a tire swing;
when you are the youngest and your brother
is someone you can look up to like your father;
when friends give you gifts of flowers to expand the garden;
when tradition, like stitches in a quilt,
unites family layers.



Part of the family since 1882 when it was purchased by P. J. Killian, an immigrant from Ireland, the farm originally raised corn, beans, wheat and alfalfa in addition to cattle, pigs and chickens. Today, corn and beans are grown along with participating in government conservation programs. The farm is owned by P. J. Killian, Inc. and is currently used for a machine shed and an airplane hanger. The quilt features a Celtic Knot.



Stopping by Killian Farm on a July Afternoon

— Peg Kirk

Whose barn this is I'm glad to know.
The family told me where to go
to see the pattern painted there,
a blessing on the place below.

So peaceful here that I'm aware
these curving lines create an air
of reverence for what is true,
respect for love and quiet prayer.

Yet look again. There's something new—
a hoop for basketball in view.
A time for peace, a time for play.
A quilt that covers sporting too!

This Celtic knot seems poised to say
“May no disaster fall your way—
I will protect you, come what may.
I will protect you every day.”



The farm has been in the family since 1893, originally purchased by William and Nora Killian, later by William and Angie Killian Sweeney, Ed Sweeney, and finally by Jim and Judy Killian in 2014.

The current structure was built of wood and steel in 1970 and used for machine storage. The quilt honors Will Sweeney who was one of the original policy holders of State Farm. Its pattern is that of a bumper plate that attached to a license plate of clients.

Treasures from the Past

– Peg Kirk

Old homes present challenges.
Plumbing is rusty, closets are small,
ghosts from the past walk in the night,
creaking down the stairs, troubling
the children. Dusty old boxes
fill the attic with forgotten trivia.
Yet new owners forge ahead
to make the updates, ease the fears,
discard the accumulated trash.
Aye, there's the rub.
For this old pile of junk meant something
to someone. A closer look, perhaps?
Ah ha! Suddenly resolution becomes
discovery. A great uncle's claim
to fame: a photo with the CEO, an article
revealing honors achieved, loyalty praised.
Stop the rush, take time to think,
preserve, don't toss. Don't risk a loss.
Enlarge this treasure, post on the barn—
a vintage auto, insured by State Farm.



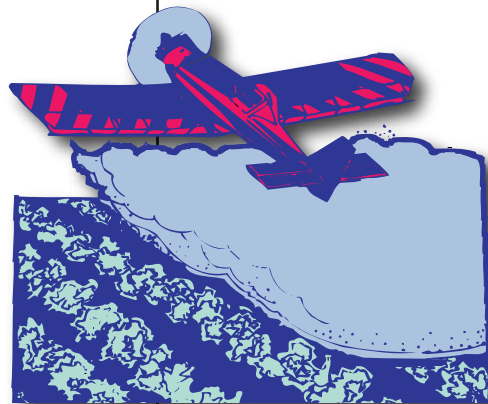


A Little Spot of Heaven
– Ardis Stewart

A little spot of heaven,
earth-touching, not bound,
where windsocks ripple
over corn tassels in the breeze;
where the various colors of history
and storytelling tied together
with pride and comradery
blanket acres and airspace;
where the past comes alive again
from pilots caring for the warbirds
that brought them safely back to ship or field
to reenacted dogfights, aerobatic dances
where enemies are buoyant partners
flirting in sync with lift and flow;
where warrior shares ice cream
with barnstormer, crop duster,
and ultralight masquerading as whooping crane;
where even an insult—flip it,
stake those wings, slap
a port-a-potty logo on the fuselage--
becomes a badge of honor;
where “family” is defined by aerial love
and where no one is lost,
just flying into the sunset forever.

Built by Bill Thacker, the structure is headquarters for the Metro Warbirds, a loose group of grass root aviation enthusiasts. It is an airplane hanger with a complete kitchen and bathroom. The Thackers have owned the building since 1990, but the airport was started in 1947 by Harry and Howard Pick.

The Metro Warbirds, whose symbol is on the barn quilt fly together to the annual Experimental Aircraft Association annual convention in Oshkosh, Wisconsin, which attracts nearly 1,000,000 visitors and 14,000 airplanes yearly.





A deer in a cornfield identifies the quilt at this location. Nancy painted the deer, jumping under a field of blue, and bordered in the corners by John Deere green and yellow.

The building is a Morton building, used as a machine shop and storage unit in the farm repair business that Joe operates.

Deer Crossing

-- *Kathleen Kirk*

In my travels on these roads, I have seen a family of deer in the harvested field, looking for what's left. In late winter, before the harrowing. In early spring, the first green unfurling in the world. They have come out from the woods to graze, at dawn or at dusk, or by day, if hungry enough to brave bright sun, travelers on the road, farmers at work.

The people who came to settle here, from the Black Forest or Bavaria, left behind their dear white mountain flower, edelweiss, for black-eyed Susan and sunflower, for plenty of chicory and wild carrot, Queen Anne's Lace, with its drop-of-red center, like a bead of blood on a finger pricked by a needle, quilting, thimble for a moment set aside.

In my travels back and forth on these roads, passing the woods and fields, I see the sign of a deer leaping, the wild and lovely shape of a deer midair! A farmer on his tractor rides high in the blue air—a deer leaps across his John Deere cap! And there!—on the side of a Morton Building, a deer leaps across a barn quilt square! All summer long, the corn rises, green, deeper green, then ripening, turning gold.

In my travels, I watch the progress of the grain, the corn, the yellow beans, the great machines, the endless work, the orchestration of it all by weather, how all life is precarious, precious, delicate, golden, eternal, brief, and dear.

KEVIN AND CINDY RUSTEMEYER

16750 East 325 North Road, Heyworth, IL 61745



The farm has been in the family for 31 years. The Rustemeyers purchased the farm in 1984 and built the barn in 1992. The barn is a metal pole structure, used for storage of personal equipment. The quilt pattern they chose is the Mexican Star.



Here Now Today -- M. Irene Taylor

We hear so much today
 Make Our Country Great Again
 Our Country is Already Great
 I'm with her
 I'm with you

We're scared
or are we?
We're united
 or are we?

Here now today
 We raised our children.

Here now today
 Responsibility was taught, shown, lived
and learned.

Here now today
 We live in the home in which we raised our children.

and
 we watch as they raise their children.

The values pass on from one generation to the next and we know.

Yes, our country is great and it can be greater.
Yes, I'm with her
 and him
 and them.
And you are with me.
Here now today

JACOB AND KELLIE RUSTEMEYER

16770 East 550 North Road, Heyworth, IL 61745



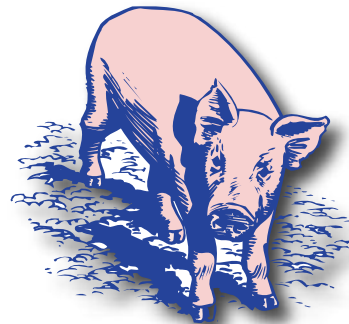
Built originally as a church in Sparta, IL, in 1867, the barn was purchased and moved in 1916 for \$200. It remains where it was moved by mule in 1916, and in 2014, it was purchased by Jacob and Kellie Rustemeyer.

The barn currently houses pigs and goats, as well as cats and dogs. It is post and beam construction pegged together using 8 x 8 local timbers. The foundation of the barn was elevated, with the sanctuary currently the hay loft. It is decorated by a red, white and blue barn quilt.

Watching Feeling Accepting

-- M. Irene Taylor

We learned of responsibility
We learned by watching feeling accepting
as the parents travelled the countryside showing the sports cattle
and the club calves
We learned by watching feeling accepting
the satisfaction that comes from recognition of a job well done
the love expressed through actions as often as through words.
We have the home in which each of four generations raised four children
And we are no different.
In daughters and sons
the spirit of those lessons learned lives on.
The barn that was once a country church
houses the animals we now take across the countryside
just as our parents once took us.
Again, as they did for us, we show responsibility.
In four diamonds we honor the past and look forward to the future
We look to the tomorrow we give our children
as they are who we will someday give to that tomorrow.



HEYWORTH PUBLIC LIBRARY DISTRICT

119 E. Main Street, Heyworth, IL 61745



First established under the Works Project Administration in 1934, the current building is the third structure to house the Heyworth Public Library, and where it has stood since 1987. Mounted on the wall facing Main Street, the quilt measures 4 by 4 foot. The Railroad Crossing quilt block is done in green and white.

Railroad Crossing

— *Kathleen Kirk*

A quilt block can be turned any which way to intersect with another quilt block to make a pattern. A train can be switched from one track to another to avoid a collision, to take a new route. At Manassas Junction, in 1861, at the crossing of two railroads, Manassas Gap and the Orange & Alexandria, North and South intersected in the first land battle of the Civil War, called The Battle of Manassas (or First Manassas, as there was another) by the Confederacy, and The Battle of Bull Run by the Union Army, for the nearby creek. People see things differently, as when the village of Heyworth split in its views on slavery and states' rights. You can read about it at the Heyworth Public Library, 75 years old,

where people come together to learn and to play. You can even make a quilt block, instructions provided, to match the Railroad Crossing quilt block up on the library's outside wall, greeting us in bright squares & triangles of green and white. Heyworth exists thanks to the railroad, on land donated by Campbell Wakefield for the station, the village named for Lawrence Heyworth, a director of the railroad. And before Wakefield and the settlers of the area, Randolph Township, the Kickapoo lived on the land, with deer and wolves, wild turkeys, and the prairie sky. If I were a bird, circling, I might see everything come together every which way in Heyworth like a wonderful crazy quilt, history intersecting with the present, railroad tracks stitching the village to the fields, each life to every other.

JEAN SCHMIDT 1209 N 1400 East Road, Heyworth, IL 61745



The farm was purchased by Gary and Jean Schmidt in 1988 (Gary died in 2015). Measuring 4 by 4 foot, the quilt resides on a structure built by Jean in 2016. The building itself is a 30 by 40 foot pole barn, with an 8 by 16 foot chicken enclosure and an 8 foot by 24 inch overhang. Jean will use the structure for a horse barn and chicken house to be enjoyed by grandchildren and a niece for 4-H projects.

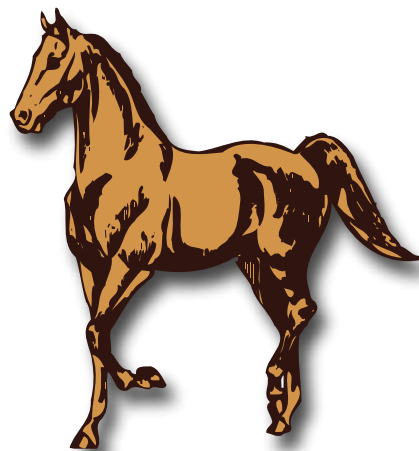
The building is built of steel and wood reclaimed from a 110-year-old corn crib. The barn quilt has a 4-H symbol in the center.

The She Shed

-- Ardis L. Stewart

Nothing rivals farmer thrift
from coffee cans and mason jars
full of screws and nails—
why buy when you can save?—
to feed sacks sewn
into the latest fashion.
So it is with a corn crib
no longer functional
when its siding and steel roof
can be used for doors and loft walls
of the new shed—built just for her,
horses, and chickens—
where family and friends reminisce
under the porch quilt;
Springer spaniels snooze at their feet
and dream
of flushing pheasants fieldwork,
while Rhode Island Reds,

matching the barn and shed,
scratch for insects in the yard.
A continuous chain
of past, present, and future pieced together
with head, heart, hands, and health
by grandparent, father, mother,
daughter, son, leader, learner--
always repurposing, reusing, remembering,
but never being thrown away.





The Thomas Farm Trust barn was built by the family in 1914.

Used originally for livestock, grain and tool storage, livestock birthing and hay loft, the barn is currently used for gardening tool storage. The barn quilt is done in fall colors resembling a windmill.



Butterfly Crossing

-- Kathleen Kirk

Gathering and scattering, the prairie wind takes up the seeds of wildflowers, grasses,

milkweed. Sunflowers welcome the return of honeybees, just as the land itself

welcomed immigrants from Ireland, Wales, England, Germany. All over the world,

people are scattered, looking for a home. Once, windmills turned on this very land,

and there, on the side of a barn, a painted quilt square spins its colorful triangles

into a windmill or pinwheel of joy— its roundness like a milkweed blossom;

its orange, a monarch wing; its brown, like the dark discs of sunflowers tilting

in the field; its yellow center like the sun; its blue and white corners like the wide sky.

Now, great white turbines farm the wind on the peaceful horizon. Let everyone

scattered find a peaceful home. Let monarchs rise up from the fields in their spiraling dance

like a double helix weaving the permaculture. Let bees sweeten our world with their honey.

*Thanks, McLean County
Volunteers, for all of your
volunteer time
and help!*



**Barn Quilt
Heritage Trail**
McLean County





Behind the scenes:

(top) Marty Pickett frames a quilt prior to hanging.

(left) Corn Belt men hang Jacob and Kellie Rustemeyer's quilt.

(right) Corn Belt men hang Linda Thomas' quilt – number 50!

(bottom) Jerry Daugherty (right) and Shane Bollhurst, Corn Belt linemen, after hanging the Celtic Knot. Jerry has helped hang nearly all of the quilts for five years

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PAINTERS

Kay Henrichs
Karen Gottlieb
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Connie Carstens
Mary Jane Zook
Donna Dickson
Wilbur Williamson
Eric and Mysty Vaughn
Bud and Deb Johnson
Shirley Boward

2016 POETS

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M. Irene Taylor
Ardis L. Stewart

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Alan Huber
Paul and Jason Kieser
Paul Graf

CONSTRUCTION SITES

This year's Barn Quilts were constructed and painted at the Morrison farm, the Henrichs' basement, and the Zook home.

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Colleen Reynolds

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WEBSITE DESIGN

University of Illinois Extension

ASSISTANCE

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CORN BELT ENERGY INSTALLATION CREW

Jerry Daugherty,
Maintenance Foreman
Shane Bollhurst
Area Service Man

Paul and Jason Kieser
Alan Huber
Paul Graf

BARN QUILT COMMITTEE

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Jo Morrison
June Fitzgerald
Gordon Ropp
Ken Yanzy
Reid Young
Bobbie Lewis-Sibley
Jim Williams
Judy Brown
Mary Jane Zook
Connie Carstens



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