

Malabar Farm News

The Malabar Farm Foundation

2/1/2018

Edition 7, Volume 2

"It is simply that in all life on earth as in all good agriculture there are no short-cuts that bypass Nature and the nature of man himself and animals, trees, rocks, and streams." – Louis Bromfield

In The Spotlight

Artist Grandma Moses (aka Margie Cutnaw) visited Malabar Farm during the Arts in the Parks series in October 2017. It was one of the many art themed workshops presented over a 2-week period. There are 2 original Grandma Moses paintings hanging in the Big House. One is in the Red Room and titled "The Spring Time". The second is in the George Hawkins Room and titled "The Postman".



Getting to Know You: Grandma Moses

The Malabar Farm Restaurant

Philosophy – Good food is simple at the Malabar Farm Restaurant. We do our best to source the freshest local ingredients and prepare them simply, focusing only on flavor.

- Now featuring brunch items on Sundays
- Catering at the Pugh Cabin, Kehoe Center and Maple Wood Farm

For details contact info@malabarfarmrestaurant.com

Restaurant Hours:

February: Tues.-Thurs. 12pm – 7pm, Fri.-Sat. 12pm – 8pm, Sun. 12pm – 6pm

Closed Mondays - Serving lunch until 4pm

March: Call 419-938-5205

April: Call 419-938-5205

Join ~ Donate ~ Volunteer!

The Louis Bromfield Society is the membership program established to raise funds in support of Malabar Farm State Park's mission.

Your membership dues help the Malabar Farm Foundation, an independent, non-profit, 501(c)(3) organization, continue to make education, development, and preservation projects possible at Malabar Farm State Park. All contributions are tax deductible, as provided by law. **Member \$50.00 / Friend \$100.00**

LOOKING BACK

History of the Malabar Farm Restaurant

The Malabar Farm Restaurant located in beautiful Pleasant Valley in southern Richland County holds a rich history all its own. Completed in 1820 by David Schrack and his sons, the two story home was made from bricks formed on site.

The foundation of the home was made from hand-hewn sandstone blocks quartered just 300 feet from this building. The four foot thick walls still stand as a silent tribute to the dedicated work done by this frontier family nearly 180 years ago. The Schracks built their home along one of the busiest routes of the day. Pleasant Valley Road had its roots as an early animal trail, a path used by Native Americans and later an important trade route for a young Ohio. In 1941 Schrack Place became part of the Malabar Farm, home of the Pulitzer Prize winning author, farmer and conservationist Louis Bromfield.

Bromfield said he hoped to open a restaurant featuring a French chef in the Schrack Place. He never got the chance, but he did use the spring beside the home as a market stand to sell his farm fresh produce. Since 1976, Malabar Farm has been a State Park, charged with reflecting the agricultural tradition of Ohio and preserving Louis Bromfield's heritage and philosophies.

The Malabar Farm Foundation

Contact us @

Website: www.malabarfarm.org

Call: 419-892-2784

E-mail: mffspecialerevents@yahoo.com

Address: 4050 Bromfield Rd., Lucas, Oh 44843

The Story of the Renault F.T. 17 Tank Ink Well

Malabar Farm Foundation Board President Bob Huge received a letter several months ago from Christian Lucas, former Mayor of Senlis, France. In the letter Mr. Lucas stated that it was his understanding the Foundation had photos and documents having a connection to the long stay of Louis Bromfield in Senlis, France between the 2 World Wars.

He said he would be sending us a gift, a souvenir object from the war of 1914-1918. It is an ink well from the desk of Louis Bromfield in the shape of a Renault F. T. 17 tank. It belonged to Louis and he gave it to Mr. Lucas before his return to the USA in 1938. Mr. Lucas was 8 or 9 years old when Louis gave it to him along with a latex Mickey Mouse toy which had disintegrated over time. In return, Bob Huge sent Mr. Lucas a new Mickey Mouse toy to replace the one he received from Louis Bromfield 77 years ago.

The Renault F.T. 17 tank ink well is now on display in one of the display cases in the Visitors Center lobby.

Art Restoration Project in the Big House: Royal Archer

This watercolor, for a long time stored in the basement of Malabar's Big House, was recently restored by the Intermuseum Conservation Association (ICA), and is now on display in Louis Bromfield's Study. The painting, done by James "Jimmy" Reynolds, is of Royal Archer, Louis Bromfield's favorite riding horse.

Reynolds was a costume and set designer on Broadway. Of Irish descent, Reynolds was born in Warrenton, Virginia in 1891. His work on Broadway extended for 1919 to 1943. After that he began to travel, write, and paint. He designed much of the wallpaper for Malabar's Big House, created a Christmas Card for the Bromfields from one of his rejected wallpaper ideas, designed the curtains that hang in the Big House study, and painted the two-panel divider in Bromfield's study. Reynolds also painted a watercolor still-life that hangs in Mrs. Bromfield's bedroom. James Reynolds died in Bellagio, Italy on July 21, 1957.



Royal Archer by Jimmy Reynolds



Mr. Bromfield's riding horse: Royal Archer

Listening to the Past and Seeing the Future: *The Rains Came* as Bromfield's Original Manifesto

By Paul Sukys, Professor Emeritus of Philosophy and Law, North Central State College

In *The Rains Came*, Louis Bromfield's eleventh and, very possibly, his best novel, a new Bromfield has emerged, one who has re-enlisted in the socio-economic-political battle between industry and nature, and between Jeffersonian idealism and modern cynicism. This new Bromfield has added an unexpected dimension to this battle, one that recognizes that the war is not limited to an individual, a small town, or a single nation. Instead, this struggle characterizes the next stage in global progress. To communicate this revelation, Bromfield takes us to India.

In his lengthy study of Bromfield, entitled simply, *Louis Bromfield*, David D. Anderson reports that, in the 1930s, Bromfield was fascinated by the rising state of India. It was not the India that we know today, however. It was, instead, an India caught in a contest that pits tradition against innovation, religion against science, and sovereign independence against colonial dominance. In *The Rains Came* (1937) Bromfield embodies this universal struggle in the lives of his carefully crafted characters.

According to Anderson, the two main characters in the novel are Major Safti and Tom Ransome. Safti is an Indian military man who is immersed in the midcentury problems of his native India, a set of problems that, strangely, mirror his own difficulties. Tom Ransome is an Anglo-American who seeks sanctuary in India where he hopes to unravel a life plagued by feelings of inadequacy and hopelessness.

Other characters include the Maharajah and Maharanee who rule the state of Ranchipur, where much of the novel is set; the Smileys and the Simmons, two missionary families who have strikingly different motives for getting involved in India and its crusade for progress and improvement; and a vast range of characters, many of whom find either salvation or destruction somewhere within the pages of this complex novel.

In addition, Bromfield sprinkles the novel with several vivid symbols that stand for various aspects of India's struggle as it is seen in the lives of the characters. The central symbol, however, is the dam of Ranchipur, an engineering marvel that provides Ranchipur with power and, thus, plays a fundamental role in the movement of India toward the future. The dam stands as the perfect image for the triumphs of innovation over tradition, science over religion, and colonial dominance over sovereign independence.

Or does it?

The dam appears to stand for the power of industrial innovation, the usefulness of scientific progress, and the value of colonial dominance. However, it is a power that is built upon deceit and exploitation. Like the steel mills of *The Town in The Green Bay Tree*, the dam does more, much more, harm than good. When the authentic adversity arrives – the rains of Ranchipur – the dam fails because it has been built by Westerners with inferior, unsuitable components and substandard engineering techniques.

The disaster of the dam represents all that is wrong with the British, in particular, and also, by association, those in the West who depend on industry, science, and colonial domination. The destruction of the dam wipes out any vestige of hope that the Western world might someday genuinely help the East.

The bottom line is that, those in positions of power in the West (politicians, entrepreneurs, investors, scientists, bankers, "egg-headed" academics, the nouveau and the hereditary rich) will do anything to preserve their own power, including the power of industry, science, and the colonial empires.

As we saw last time, in *England: A Dying Oligarchy* (1939), Bromfield transforms the individual battles of each of the major characters in *The Rains Came* into the universal struggle he saw brewing in England in the days before World War II. The exploiters of *The Rains Came* become, in *England: A Dying Oligarchy*, the British nobility (the Saxons), in general, but also politicians, like Neville Chamberlain, in particular, who were willing to appease Hitler so that English trade could continue unabated, thus, preserving their own financial and political power.

What they all failed to realize was that the preservation of trade, the extension of political power, and the accumulation of money, cannot serve as a substitute for individual human integrity. Bromfield depicts this failure and the struggle to rise above it, in his semi-autobiographical novel, *The Man Who Had Everything*, which we will examine in the next edition of this column.

Newsletter Deadline: If you would like to submit an article for the Malabar Farm News or have a suggestion for a topic, please let us know by e-mail, phone or mail (see page 1). Articles and suggestions will be used according to content and space availability. The deadline for the next newsletter is March 31, 2018.

Questions or comments – contact Lorri Collins @ mffspezialevents@yahoo.com

The Malabar Farm Foundation is excited to announce a new SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM and ESSAY CONTEST that focuses on improving language art skills and understanding the need for conservation of our natural resources. This program is available to all 7th grade Richland County students this first year. The deadline to apply is March 1, 2018.

Students will submit a written essay on the benefit and needs for conservation after spending a day at Malabar Farm State Park. The day will be spent touring the farm, learning more about the heritage of Louis Bromfield and his passion for conservation, and attending a lecture on soil conservation that increases their knowledge on the need to conserve this valuable natural resource. Following this "Day at Malabar" students will submit their essays to the Foundation. Essays will be judged on their language art skills and their awareness of the importance of soil conservation. Three cash scholarships will be awarded (1st place \$300, 2nd place \$125, 3rd place \$75). For more information and the Essay Contest Application visit malabarfarm.org or call 419-892-2784.

Malabar Farm Foundation
4050 Bromfield Rd.
Lucas, Ohio 44843

CALENDAR OF EVENTS 2018

February –

BIG HOUSE VALENTINE'S BASH – Feb. 9 & 16 @ 6:00 pm, Feb. 10 & 17 @ 4:00 pm & 7:00 pm

Experience artistic stylings in the tradition of the Great American Songbook while enjoying a 5-course meal in the historic Big House.

One seating on Friday at 6:00 pm, two seatings on Saturday at 4:00 pm and 7:00 pm

\$50.00/Person. Pre-registration is required. Call Victoria Cochran at 419-892-2929.

March –

MAPLE SYRUP FESTIVAL – March 3 & 4, & March 10 & 11 @ 12noon – 4pm

Experience sugar camp with live historical demonstrations, horse drawn wagon rides, food and maple products to taste and buy. Free event: Donations to the horse group are appreciated. Bringing cash is recommended.

Other Farm News -

Another Successful Event: The Richland Area Chamber of Commerce held its "Business after Hours" Event at Malabar Farm on October 12, 2017. Over 200 people attended the evening of food, fun and networking. Food was provided by Exclusively Yours Catering and music was provided by Fat Daddy's Blues Band.

The Lower Pugh Cabin

A newly renovated private cabin will be available to visitors for overnight rentals at the historic Malabar Farm State Park. The new overnight opportunity looks out over a pond and is next to the maple sugar shack. More details to follow.