

Malabar Farm News

The Malabar Farm Foundation

May 2018

Edition 8, Volume 2

"Then I pushed open the door and walked into the smell of cattle and horses and hay and silage and I knew I had come home and that never again would I be long separated from that smell because it meant security and stability and because in the end, after years of excitement and wandering and adventure, it had reclaimed me. It was in the blood and could not be denied."

– Louis Bromfield

In The Spotlight

A Haunting We Will Go!

By Chris McQuillen, Board Member and Volunteer

Ghost Haunt – words that might conjure up a spooky, eerie evening. But Malabar Farm's Night Haunts are, and have been for over 10 years a more historical event for Malabar's visitors. And, if along the way the event has seemed a little eerie, then so much the better.

The event is held once a month during the spring and summer months on a Saturday night, beginning at 8:00 p.m. Participants gather at the Visitors Center for a brief introduction to the evening. From there, visitors go by wagon to the Ceely Rose house where the grisly, tragic tale of the Rose family murder is told. The narrative may also tell of the many other unexplained things that have happened at Malabar Farm over the years – particularly in the Big House.

Next, visitors get back on the wagon and head for the cemetery. The evening has become dark now, and maybe there is a moonlit night with strange shadows following the wagon. Visitors may be surrounded by the noises of the night, tree frogs, the distant hoot of an owl, or the soft flutter of a bat overhead.

Arriving at the cemetery, visitors disembark and walk into the cemetery where they are greeted by some of the "residents" who are waiting to tell their stories. And one by one they tell of the difficult years of traveling from the east to settle in Pleasant Valley. Next, the Bromfield family members all talk about their lives.

(Cont. page 2)



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

By Tom Bachelder, Board Member & Volunteer

The sixth issue of the Louis Bromfield Malabar Farm Foundation Newsletter was published in September of 1959. It continues the story of Malabar Farm following the death of Louis Bromfield.

September, 1959 (No.6)

A new plant being grown in the Malabar vegetable garden this summer is the tomango, a hybrid of the tomato and mango pepper. The fruit is angular, but not as much so as the mango pepper. The foliage resembles that of a tomato plant and so does the taste of the fruit. Tomangos are excellent for salads, with solid "meat", few seeds and just a trace of the mango flavor. The hybrid was produced by "Red" Miller of Miller's Greenhouses on Possum Run, near Malabar Farm.

On August 31 we at the farm played host to a group of 19 young ladies from Tunisia, all of them schoolteachers. These foreign exchange students were accompanied by Professor Arch Heck of Ohio State University, an interpreter, Chet McGrew, County Agricultural Agent, and the farm folks with whom they have been staying in Shelby. Among other interesting visitors to the farm this summer were Dr. Walter P. Taylor, zoologist, just returned from a 7-country visit to Europe, [and] Dr. Prichard of the British Nature Conservancy.

(Cont. page 2)

The Malabar Farm Foundation

Contact us @

Website: www.malabarfarm.org

Call: 419-892-2784

E-mail: mfspecialerevents@yahoo.com

Address: 4050 Bromfield Rd., Lucas, Oh 44843

In the Spotlight – A Haunting We Will Go! (from page 1)

Then, it's back to the Visitors Center where visitors enjoy hot dogs and s'mores. Finally, it's off to the Big House where they are permitted to wander the house in the dark, of course, to see if anyone senses or sees anything unusual. All this wandering is supervised by staff and volunteers. Many visitors bring their own paranormal sensing devices with them hoping to get some kind of reading. Picture taking is permissible.

And whether or not you believe in things that go bump in the night, many visitors, staff and volunteers have experienced strange sightings, the smell of roses, (Mrs. Bromfield's favorite fragrance), cigar smoke, and an uneasy feeling in certain rooms of the Big House. Louis Bromfield himself has been spotted.

And so, the Night Haunts continue to be a popular event each year at Malabar Farm. Come experience it for yourself. Night Haunts in 2018 are scheduled for May 5, June 30, July 28, and August 25, all from 8:00 p.m. – Midnight. Also join us in October for the 'Haunting at the Harvest' scheduled October 19 & 20 @ 7:00 p.m. – 10:00 p.m. & October 21 @ 12 p.m. – 3:00 p.m.

Visit www.malabarfarm.org/events for more information.

Looking Back (from page 1)

On August 15 we tried an educational experiment that worked out very well and should certainly be adopted as a part of the regular program next summer. In the afternoon there was a guided trip over the Malabar nature trail for the purpose of studying midsummer wildflowers and other plant life, and in the evening under the stars on the south patio, an illustrated lecture on "Nature's Garden in Midsummer" was given. Both features were handled by Dr. Chapman. They were well received and were attended by 30 people. Walter Tucker, Director-Secretary of the Columbus Metropolitan Park Board, responded to our pleas for help in preparing new signs for the nature trail and about 25 of these descriptive labels are now in place. They appear to be more resistant to weather, rodents, and insects than those used last year.

Our first pedigreed heifer calf to bear the "Malabar" prefix was born during the month. She will bear the proud name of "Malabar First Lady". John Clark, farm manager, will show three bulls and a heifer, all Holsteins, at the Ohio State Fair. He also plans to show at several county fairs and at the International Livestock Show in Chicago. The Hereford cattle summering on the Ferguson Place have produced a good crop of calves. We have eight new calves by count and probably more. And not all the population gains at Malabar have been made in livestock. Eight new people came to live here during the month and four left. Ray Smith, his wife and four boys came to Malabar from a dairy farm at Napoleon to handle the milking and other chores. Ray's father and mother, Mr. and Mrs. Frank Smith, came from a farm in the same vicinity; she will do the housekeeping in the Big House and Frank to help out wherever needed on the farm. Bill Morgan, who has been at Malabar for several years, left with his family for Sommerville, New Jersey, where he will be employed on the Duke Farms.

New signs point the way to Malabar Farm. Situated in a rural area that is "off the beaten path", the farm has been most difficult to find since last winter, when most of our road markers disappeared. A new section on Malabar has been written for a forthcoming revision of the AAA Guidebook, and various oil companies who publish road maps are being contacted to "put Malabar on the map".

COMING EVENTS: Sept. 11, Hill 'N' Dale Garden Club of Mansfield; Sept. 18, Mohican Garden Club of Mansfield; Sept 19-20, Friends of the Land Annual Meeting.

The Maple Syrup Cabin at Malabar Farm State Park



This rustic cabin overlooks a pond, offers a great view of wildlife, is close to several hiking trails, and compliments the history of Malabar Farm. Reservations for this year-round rental cabin can be made at ohiostateparks.org or by calling 866-OhioParks. It is located near the Sugar Shack and offers: full amenities, fire ring and picnic table outside & cozy fireplace inside, sleeps 4, and has a full kitchen and bath.

BOOK YOUR STAY TODAY!

Listening to the Past and Seeing the Future: The Turning Point: *The Man Who Had Everything*

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

To say that Louis Bromfield is complex is a little like saying that the sun is hot. It is a truth so obvious that no one need mention it. Bromfield's complexity is frequently seen in the contrast between what he said (and wrote) and what he did. He said he wanted to return to the land, to work that land, and to produce a farm that was completely self-sufficient (and he did, in fact, come close to that goal). Yet, on the other hand, he could not escape the allure of high society, and the glamour of his Hollywood friends.

This complexity, the pull between two contrasting, but equally attractive ways of seeing reality, is often revealed in Bromfield's fiction. One such semi-autobiographical novel is *The Man Who Had Everything*. Published in 1935 right after his masterpiece *The Farm*, *The Man Who Had Everything* focuses on one main character, Tom Ashford, a successful New York playwright, who has reached the pinnacle of his career. He has a devoted wife and two fine sons, an expensive Manhattan apartment, producers who want to finance his plays and actors who demand to be in those plays.

Yet, he is profoundly lost instead of enjoying his success he wanders through life with everything and yet with nothing. His anxiety is unlike the anxiety of any other Bromfield character up to that point in Bromfield's career. Characters like Lily Shane and Ellen Tolliver, know the source of their anxiety, and they know what to do about it, even if they do not fully succeed in that quest. Tom Ashford, on the other hand, knows none of this. Instead, he is haunted by an inability to find peace, despite being a man who, quite literally has everything.

It is not until he is reunited with a long lost love, and learns that he has a son (now 17) that he begins to grasp the nature of that indefinable anxiety that has plagued him throughout most of his adult life. What Ashford has learned is that he has been rushing through life seeking fulfillment in a materialistic sense. However, it is not the search itself that has corrupted him. Instead, it is the motivation for that search, the need for the approval of others, that has created that unbearable sense of anxiety and that has caused him to literally lose his identity. At this point, Ashford realizes that he has developed several diverse personalities (Bromfield calls them faces), all of them false, all of them hollow, each one playing to a different audience and each one looking for approval from that audience, rather than from Ashford's own achievement.

These fragmented personalities have caused a constant state of instability and dissatisfaction in Ashford because each audience, his wife, his children, his friends, his agent, his producers, measures success by what he gives to them (or more precisely what they take from him). This subconscious attempt to please others has led him to produce quantifiable results (his plays) in order to make money and live the high life, rather than to use his talent to somehow make a difference in the world. In short, he became the man who had everything but himself. At this point in the novel, the connection between Bromfield and Ashford becomes clearest. Bromfield was rapidly approaching a time in his life when he no longer saw any value in writing fiction. His novels had served him well, but, even as successful as they were, they no longer gave him any satisfaction. They filled his time, brought him wealth, made him friends, but they had no authentic value.

Still, it was quite some time after the writing of the *The Man Who Had Everything* that he began to devote more of his time to writing those socio-political books, essays, radio broadcasts, articles, and speeches that reveal his analysis of the global situation and that promote a solution to the problems of the world that was, in his mind, at least filled with unnecessary conflict caused by the global inequality between the "haves" and the "have-nots". While Bromfield continued to write fiction, he did so mainly to pay the bills and usually at the insistence of his lifelong friend and business manager, George Hawkins.

Inevitable, Bromfield returned to his old battlefield – the struggle between the dangers of industrial capitalism and Hamiltonian mercantilism, on one side, and the ideals of agrarian craftsmanship and Jeffersonian democracy, on the other, as he had depicted in *The Green Bay Tree*, *The Farm*, and so many other works. However, as time went by, Bromfield's understanding of that struggle matured.

In writing his socio-political nonfiction (*England: A Dying Oligarchy*, *A Few Brass Tacks*, and *A New Pattern for a Tired World*, among many other shorter pieces), he stopped depicting the interaction between industry and mercantilism, on the one hand, and agriculture and democracy, on the other, as a battle, and instead, began to develop a blueprint for a world in which these two opposing forces would cooperate for the betterment of all. When we come back in the next issue, we will examine the evolution of his socio-political philosophy as seen (well, "heard", actually) in his radio broadcasts.

Attention Kroger Shoppers

The Malabar Farm Foundation is excited to announce we are now enrolled in the Kroger Community Rewards Program. Your Kroger Plus card can be linked to a charity so that each time you shop for groceries or gas, a percentage will be credited to the charity of your choice. Kroger plus cards can be obtained at the Kroger Customer Service desk. Then, just go online @ krogercommunityrewards.com, create an account, and link your Kroger Plus card to the Malabar Farm Foundation from the list of charities. Spread the word to friends and family who shop at Kroger.

Malabar Farm Foundation

4050 Bromfield Rd.

Lucas, Ohio 44843

CALENDAR OF EVENTS 2018 (May – July)

May – RichHistory Weekend, May 5 & 6 @ 10am – 4pm

A weekend of sharing our rich history and raising awareness of Richland County's wide range of historical resources and destinations. See www.malabarfarm.org for Malabar Farm's Programs.

Night Haunt -- May 5 @ 8pm – Midnight

Barn Dance – May 19 @ 7pm – 10pm

Spring Plowing Days – May 19 & 20 @ 11am – 4pm

June – Night Haunt -- June 30 @ 8pm – Midnight

July – Barn Dance – July 7 @ 7pm – 10pm

Night Haunt -- July 28 @ 8pm - Midnight

“Sunday Drive Car Show” – July 29 @ Noon – 4pm

Other Farm News -

Another Successful Event: The Big House Valentine's Bash dinners held in February were an evening of fun, good food, celebrities, music and took place in the setting of the historic Big House.

Around the Farm: It's calving time at the farm. Come out and see the baby calves and goats. Coming soon – pigs and chickens!