

MALABAR FARM NEWS

The Malabar Farm Foundation

Spring 2019

Edition 12, Volume 4

COMING SOON: The "Malabar Farm Exhibit" at the

Little Buckeye Children's Museum in Mansfield



In The Spotlight

Transfer of the Bromfield Sisters Trust Assets to the Malabar Farm Foundation

In 2001 Ellen Bromfield Geld and Hope Bromfield Stevens, surviving daughters of Pulitzer Prize winning author, Louis Bromfield created the Bromfield Sisters Trust. Both served as co-trustees of the Trust. The Trust owned the worldwide copyrights to the works of Louis Bromfield. The Trust was also the recipient of all royalties and income associated with Louis Bromfield's works. All income derived from the works of Louis Bromfield's works was divided equally between the two trustees.

With the passing of Hope Bromfield Stevens in 2016, her daughter Melanie Read became the trustee representing the interests of Hope Bromfield Stevens.

In 2018 the trustees of the Bromfield Sisters Trust (Ellen Bromfield Geld and Melanie Read) began the process that would transfer the worldwide copyrights and all royalties and income from the works of Louis Bromfield to the Malabar Farm Foundation, Lucas, Ohio. The Malabar Farm Foundation is a 501(c)(3) non-profit whose work it is to support Malabar Farm State Park, previous home of Louis Bromfield, and to extend the legacy of Louis Bromfield in the fields of agriculture, conservation and the arts. The intent of this transfer would be to create an additional income stream for the Foundation to support its mission and vision.

The transfer of the ownership of the copyrights, the royalties and the income was completed in December 2018. The Malabar Farm Foundation is committed to administer the managing of the publishers, agents, and copyrights of Louis Bromfield. The Foundation's purpose is also to use the income derived from Bromfield's works to provide resources for the promotion of the principles, philosophies and ideals of Louis Bromfield in the areas of agriculture, conservation, and the arts as well as preservation of Malabar Farm State Park.

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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

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.

(Information in italics below was added to the original Newsletter text.)

October, 1959 (no.7)

Many visitors to Malabar Farm, who have admired the picturesque brick house known as the Bailey Place, built in 1820 as a stagecoach tavern or inn, will be gratified to learn that one of Louis Bromfield's fervent desires, to have the place converted into a fine restaurant, may soon be fulfilled. Workmen will soon begin to make badly needed repairs to the roof, replace trim boards, eaves and downspouts, repair the floor of the veranda that extends along the full length of the front, and replace broken windows. The entire exterior will be painted white, but this may be deferred until spring due to the dampness of the brick walls. Several persons have shown interest in leasing the Bailey house for a restaurant, to be opened next spring as the "Malabar Inn" and the Foundation Trustees will undoubtedly select, in the near future, the best qualified person to meet the high standards that have been outlined.

The "Bailey Place" is in reality the old David Schrack farm and home. Louis Bromfield purchased the farm from an absentee owner named Niman in 1942.

Bromfield gave the property the appellation "Bailey" in his first non-fiction farm book Pleasant Valley, published in 1945. This property, the last of the farms added to Malabar Farm, was in extremely poor condition, having been leased for decades by men Bromfield accused of "mining the soil", and it provided him with his most ambitious soil restoration challenge.

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The Malabar Farm Foundation

Contact us @ 419-892-2784

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Address: 4050 Bromfield Rd., Lucas, Oh 44843

In The Spotlight (from page 1)

Once transfer of ownership was complete to the Malabar Farm Foundation, the Malabar Farm Foundation Board of Directors voted to elect Kenneth Carson Geld and Melanie Read as Honorary Board members of the Malabar Farm Foundation so that each family of the original Bromfield Sisters Trust remains represented and connected to Malabar Farm.

Looking Back. . . (from page 1)

One of the activities in which we have engaged during September was the making of ensilage for the big trench silo at the main dairy barn. Into the pit went load after load of chopped sorghum and corn. After each self-unloading wagon was pulled away, a man in the pit leveled off the pile and gave each layer a liberal sprinkling of a commercial ensilage flavoring that was given to us last year. This material has a pleasant odor and the cows like it, in fact several were seen licking it up around the edge of the trench silo where some had spilled. A day or so later this caused a problem. The tank truck came to pick up the four milkings in our bulk tank. The driver noticed that the milk had a peculiar flavor and odor and refused to take it. A veterinarian was quickly called but he found all the milk cows in good health. By eliminating all other possibilities, the search was narrowed down to one thing, the ensilage flavoring. One or more cows had eaten enough of the raw material lying on the ground to show up in the milk. After the powder is mingled with the fermented ensilage, there would be no danger, but we learned not to let any of the raw material lie around within reach of the cows. Throughout history, dairymen have been plagued with trouble when their cows ate wild onions, fennel, or other strongly flavored weeds. They are now on the alert for such things, From our recent experience at Malabar, we urge dairymen to exercise care in using the various commercial ensilage additives with strong odors and tastes.

Many new improvements for Malabar are in the planning stages or work is actually under way. One of these projects is the modernization of the dairy barn. This old structure, built in the 1800's, creaks and groans every year as the new supply of baled hay is brought in, and were it not for the huge wooden beams and posts beneath, it would surely have toppled over before this. Many of these have cracked under the terrific weight, and are being replaced with steel "I" beams and posts. After this work of shoring up is completed, a considerable part of the loafing area beneath the barn, as well as the outdoor feed lot, will be concreted. Later it is planned to install a modern milking parlor. Plans are being developed for an enlarged and improved vegetable garden next year, and in mid-October, 2300 feet of drain tile will be laid under the supervision of the Soil Conservation engineer.

The dairy barn spoken of above was the main barn located near Louis Bromfield's Big House. It was built in 1885 and burned down in 1993. In 1994 the Timber Framers Guild of North America rebuilt the barn, making it look almost exactly like the original building, but with a much more substantial concrete foundation.

There was practically no letup in the continuous stream of visitors coming to Malabar Farm in September. Several rather large groups came unannounced and almost caught us off guard. The Sunday afternoon wagon tours of the farm were especially popular. These will continue through October 11. After that date only the tours of the Big House will be available each day of the week during the winter, on the hour at 9, 10, and 11 a.m. and 1, 2, 3, and 4 p.m. On the evening of October 24 we will inaugurate the monthly winter lecture series that was so popular last year.

On September 19 and 20 several out-of-town members of Friends of the Land visited the farm on their way home from the annual meeting in Mansfield. Among them were the Flynns from Robinson, Illinois, George Rickert from Minneapolis and Charles Hodel from Beckley, West Virginia. Bill Flynn and George Rickert were made new directors of Friends of the Land. Mr. Rickert responded to our earlier plea for bird houses and feeders and bought more than 20 of them, as well as a quantity of books and pamphlets for the library, and collections of fossils, rocks and minerals to be used as study aids.

RichHistory Weekend – May 4 & 5 @ 10:00 am – 4:00 pm. - a weekend of sharing our rich history and raising awareness of Richland County's wide range of historic resources and destinations. Visit www.richhistoryalliance.org for specific locations and event details, and www.malabarfarm.org for Malabar Farm's programs.

Night Haunt (Saturday 8:00 pm – Midnight) Registration required \$30/person – call 419-892-2929

Old Fashioned Film Feature "It All Came True" in the Main Barn (Saturday 6:00 pm – 8:00 pm) Free & concessions available

Ceely Rose House - Self-guided walk-through (Saturday & Sunday 10:00 am – 4:00 pm) Free

Spinning & Weaving Demonstrations (Saturday & Sunday 12:00 pm – 4:00 pm) Some fiber art items will be for sale

Film Feature - Viewing of "The Man Who Had Everything" (Saturday & Sunday 12:00 pm – 4:00 pm) Free

"The Bromfield Cup" Vintage Baseball Tournament (Sunday 12:00 pm – 5:00 pm) Free & concessions available

Basket Weaving Workshop (Sunday 1:00 pm) Registration required, \$35/person – call 419-892-2929

Listening to the Past and Seeing the Future – Bromfield and the National Council Against Conscription

By Paul Sukys, Professor Emeritus, North Central State College

Once in a while, I stumble on something about Louis Bromfield that had previously escaped attention. This time the unknown “something” is a little-known book entitled *New Evidence of the Militarization of America* the authors of which have been identified as Pearl S. Buck and Louis Bromfield. This discovery intrigued me because, as far as I knew, no connection had ever been made between Bromfield and Buck, let alone the idea that they had co-authored a book. As it turns out, the book that bears the names of Buck and Bromfield was written by neither Buck nor Bromfield but, instead, by the members of a commission named the *National Council Against Conscription*.

The *National Council Against Conscription* (NCAC) was formed in 1945 when two anti-draft groups, the National Council Against Peacetime Conscription Now (NCAPCN) (formed in 1916) and the Nation Council Against Conscription joined forces in 1945 to oppose the peacetime draft and universal military training. Members of the NCAC wrote articles, books, and pamphlets, communicated with Congress, and made public speeches, that opposed the draft, militarization, racism, and war and that supported disarmament, international cooperation, the prevention of war, and the United Nations. In addition to Bromfield and Buck, commission membership included such notables as Albert Einstein and Eleanor Roosevelt, among others.¹

Whether Bromfield supported all the goals of the NCAC is problematic. Bromfield was not a pacifist. He proved this in his pamphlet, *England: A Dying Oligarchy* in which he admonished Chamberlain for appeasing Hitler. Nor was he a diehard supporter of the United Nations a fact made clear in *A New Pattern for a Tired World*. It is true, of course, that he supported international cooperation, but it was a special brand of cooperation that followed his plan for the economic restructuring of the global economic community.

So how do we reconcile his membership in a group such as the NCAC which clearly has a political agenda that, on many

points, opposed his own? The answer lies within Bromfield’s dedication to strategies that work and his opposition to unnecessary and crippling expenditures that waste public dollars on tactics that are wildly foolish, outrageously expensive and simply do not work.

Many of the claims made in *New Evidence of the Militarization of America* point in this direction. In *New Evidence*, the NCAC argues that dedicating public funds to the military redirects the production of consumer goods to expenditures on military hardware, thus driving up prices and contributing to inflation; also, more spending on military projects means less spending on other areas of the federal budget, areas that need the money more than the military; and, finally, military spending depletes our natural resources by using them for unnecessary projects, thus forcing prices up and depriving the private sector of the remainder of those resources.

This agenda is in line with Bromfield’s relentless opposition to wasteful government spending and would, thus, attract his pragmatic side. However, and perhaps more importantly, the most fundamental policies of the NCAC, those that argue that military control, in and of itself, threatens the very existence of a free society, are in line with Bromfield’s most heartfelt and sincere beliefs. Those beliefs support the ideal of individual freedom that was the hallmark of Bromfield’s understanding of Jeffersonian Democracy, a belief system that Bromfield never abandoned in his political writings and in the causes that he promoted in the public arena.

¹ The Swarthmore College Peace Collection, <https://www.swarthmore.edu/library/peace/DG051-099/dg052NCAC.htm>; and The Aberdeen Protest Blog, <https://aberdeenprotest.wordpress.com/2018/05/22/national-council-against-conscription-aberdeen-1916>.

“ Sunday Drive” Car Show – July 28th

Noon – 4:00 pm



The Malabar Farm Foundation & Malabar Farm State Park invites you to participate & attend the 5th annual car show

Event price: Entrance fee for those entering a car only – call Victoria Cochran for more information @ 419-892-2929

FREE to the public Food - Music - Fun

BARN DANCE SPONSORS NEEDED

Continuing a Bromfield tradition, Square & Line dances in the main barn are held 6 times during the season on Saturday nights with live music and a caller. Food concessions are available. \$1.00 donation is requested at the door for age 12+.

Sponsors are needed to help defray the costs. Please contact Victoria Cochran @ 419-892-2929 if you are interested in becoming a sponsor.

Barn Dance dates for 2019: April 27, May 25, July 6, August 3, September 28, October 26

Malabar Farm Foundation
4050 Bromfield Rd.
Lucas, Ohio 44843

CALENDAR OF EVENTS 2019: (May – July)

May – RichHistory Weekend, May 4 & 5 @ 10:00am – 4:00pm

Old Fashioned Film Feature, May 4 @ 7:00pm

Night Haunt, May 4 @ 8:00pm – Midnight – *Registration required

Spring Plowing Days, May 18 & 19 @ 11:00am – 4:00pm

Barn Dance, May 25 @ 7:00pm – 10:00pm

June – Night Haunt, June 15 @ 8:00pm – Midnight – *Registration required

July – Barn Dance, July 6 @ 7:00pm – 10:00pm

Night Haunt, July 20 @ 8:00pm – Midnight – *Registration required

“Sunday Drive” Car Show, July 28 @ Noon – 4:00pm

Visit www.malabarfarm.org for Malabar Farm’s activities.

Follow us on Facebook @ Malabar Farm State Park

*Registration required @ 419-892-2929