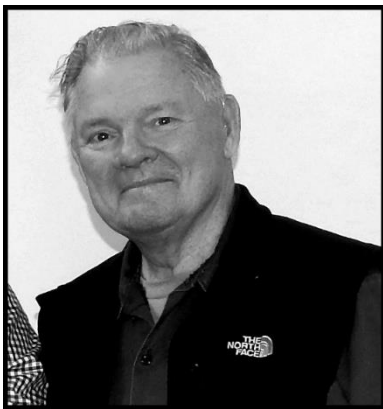




# The Malabar Farm News

A publication of the Malabar Farm Foundation

Fall 2022



## A Sad Passing

The Malabar Farm Foundation is sad to report that Robert “Bob” Hume has passed away. He died on July 22, 2022, three weeks short of his 80<sup>th</sup> birthday. At the time of his death Bob was serving as president of the Foundation, a position he held for nine years.

Bob’s father, also named Robert, was Louis Bromfield’s second farm manager, assuming that position early in 1943. Bob was a year old when his father moved the family to Malabar Farm and he retained many fond memories of growing up there.

In early 1950 Robert Hume moved his family to Ardmore, Oklahoma, where he worked with the Samuel Noble Foundation while managing **Malabar Farm – Texas**, located in nearby Wichita Falls, Texas. This was a joint venture between Robert Hume and Louis Bromfield. In 1952 Robert and his family returned to Malabar Farm in Ohio, where he resumed management of the farm until 1954.

With deep appreciation and respect for Bob’s long and generous service to both the Malabar Farm Foundation and Malabar Farm State Park, the Foundation recently named our meeting room in the Berry House at Malabar Farm **The Robert C. Hume Board Room**. During

the years that Bob’s father served as the farm’s manager his family lived in the Berry House.

Bob served in the United States Army and will be buried with Full Military Honors at the Ohio Western Reserve Cemetery, Rittman, Ohio on November 25, 2022.

## Big House Damage Repaired

In August of this year the Malabar Farm Foundation approved \$3,100 for much needed repair work to the back exterior of the Big House. This work was successfully completed by Horst Home Improvement of Seville, Ohio just in time for September’s Ohio Heritage Days at the Park. The Foundation is pleased to be a part of the preservation of both the exterior and the interior of Louis Bromfield’s historic home at Malabar Farm.



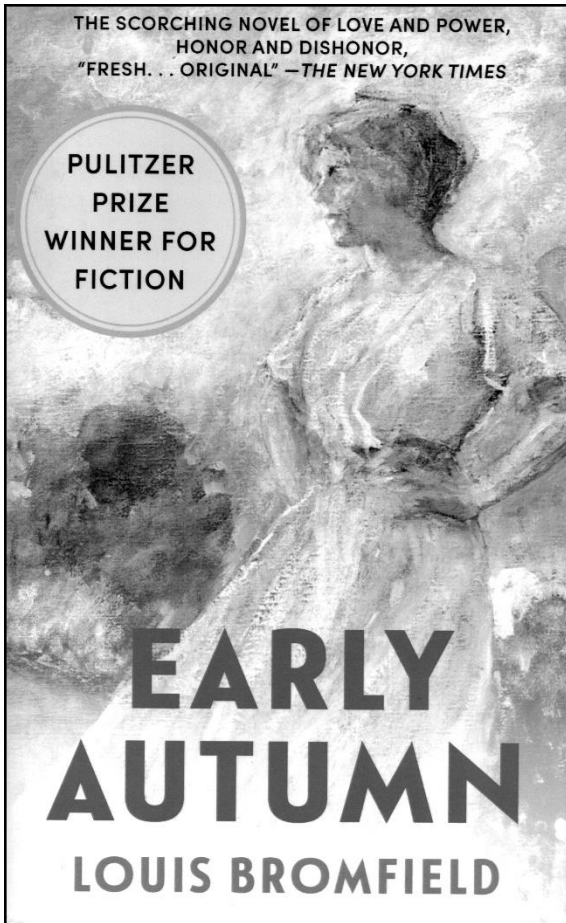
*Before*



*After*

**New Edition of *Early Autumn***

In the Summer 2022 edition of this Newsletter we announced that there was to be a new edition of Louis Bromfield's Pulitzer Prize winning novel *Early Autumn*. Published by Echo Point Books of Brattleboro, Vermont, this book is now available at [Malabar Farm.org](http://MalabarFarm.org) and at the Malabar Farm State Park Gift Shop and includes a new introduction by Foundation president Tom Bachelder.

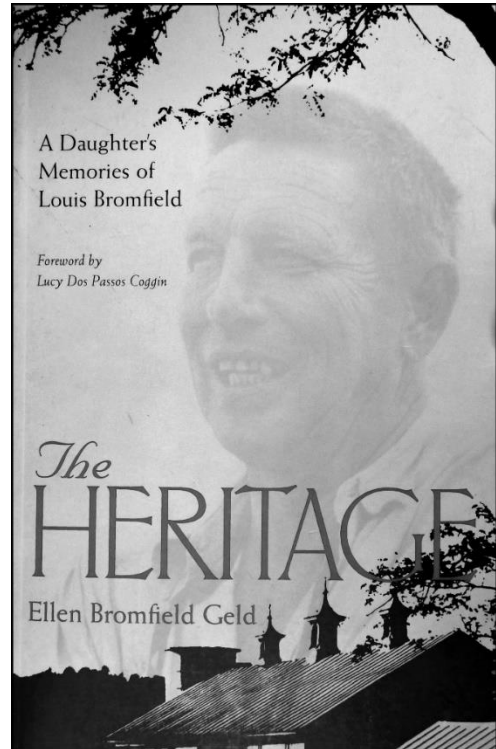


**Are You Looking to Learn More About Louis Bromfield?**

In the past two years there have been two books published about Louis Bromfield and Malabar Farm, 2020's *The Planter of Modern Life* by Stephen Heyman, and in 2021 *Malabar Farm: Louis Bromfield, Friends of the Land, and the Rise of Sustainable Agriculture* by Anneliese Abbott. Both books, available now at the Malabar Farm State Park Gift Shop, provide fascinating insights into the life and work of Louis Bromfield.

However, there is another book you might want to consider if you are looking for a more intimate perspective on this most unusual and complex man.

In 1962 Louis Bromfield's daughter Ellen Bromfield Geld published *The Heritage; A Daughter's Memories of Louis Bromfield*. Ellen's book, still in print, is an excellent resource offering a personal point of view on Louis Bromfield. You can find *The Heritage* at [malabarfarm.org](http://malabarfarm.org) and in the Gift Shop at Malabar Farm State Park.



**“Richland Gives” Fundraising Campaign**

It is that time of year again! The Malabar Farm Foundation is once again participating in the “**Richland Gives**” fundraising program of the Richland County Foundation. Early giving begins on November 14 at 7:00 am. The major campaign day is November 29, from 7:00 am until 7:00 pm. Our Foundation disburses funds in a continuing program of promoting the legacy of Louis Bromfield in the areas of agriculture, literature, the arts, and conservation. In recent years we have sponsored or supported children's programs of education and hands on activities. We also assist in interior and exterior repairs to the Big House and we fund the professional preservation of Louis Bromfield's extensive art collection. Other funds have supported local conservation programs. Please partner with us on November 29 from 7:00am till 7:00pm by logging on to [richlandgives.org](http://richlandgives.org) and look for Malabar Farm Foundation.

Thank you for your consideration.

**Listening to the Past and Seeing the Future:  
Louis Bromfield and the Threat of Atomic War, circa  
1954**

By Paul Sukys, Professor Emeritus, North Central State  
College

Last issue, using the War between Russia and Ukraine as a starting point, we explored Bromfield’s views on the ineffectiveness of the United Nations. In the process we summarized several points that characterize Bromfield’s attitude toward the U.N. Without going into detail, we can say that Bromfield sees that U.N as flawed in both intent and operation.

Since that time, the Russo-Ukrainian War has continued unabated despite all efforts by both the U.N. Security Council and the U.N. General Assembly. In addition, and more to the point here, the dangers related to the war have threatened to spread in ways that could affect us all.

Specifically, Vladimir Putin has made several threats to use nuclear weapons as part of his war strategy. For example, in May of 2022, he laid out a scenario in which Russian nuclear weapons would devastate the United Kingdom and he later threatened both Sweden and Finland by promising a nuclear buildup should those two nations become part of NATO.

In addition, he ordered the mobilization of Russia, and threatened the use of nuclear weapons as part of that mobilization; and he accused the West of nuclear blackmail and promised full retaliation against all nations that attack Russia, hinting in the process, that such a retaliation would include the use of nuclear weapons. There is more but this is enough for now.

Considering these developments, I thought it might be an interesting exercise to investigate of what Bromfield had to say about the use of nuclear weapons. To begin we must recall that the use of nuclear weapons at the close of World War II and the threat of their use during the Korean War were living memories in 1954 for most Americans over the age of ten, and so when Bromfield wrote about the use of atomic bombs in that year, he was writing about a threat that must have seemed very real to him.

By far Bromfield’s most definitive, and most recent discussion of atomic war comes in his final political-science book, *A New Pattern for a Tired World*. In *A New Pattern*, he characterizes the threat of atomic war as “the mightiest problem with which the world has ever been faced.” Bromfield complains that, despite these dangers,

both the Truman and the Eisenhower administrations made “vast expenditures for atomic warfare in the form of new atomic and guided missiles” knowing full well that such a program could lead to “the end of civilization” and “possibly the virtual extinction of mankind.”

What then is Bromfield’s solution to this, “the mightiest problem with which the world has ever faced”? Predictably, Bromfield finds the solution in the need for economic equality; not equality of outcome, of course, which is impossible, but equality of opportunity. He envisions a global conference that would develop a program that would provide reasonable economic development plans for individual nations that would alleviate the fundamental source of hostilities among all nations – economic disparity.

Specifically, such a plan would require, (1) a reversal of the American anti-Soviet program of containment and (2) the abandonment of nationally established trade limitations that strangle nations that might otherwise be able to compete on a global basis, to be replaced by the opening of trade among all nations capable of developing sound economic structures.

There is a hitch in this plan, of course, for what effective plan does not have a hitch or two? However, Bromfield fully admits to this hitch when he reveals the most controversial element in his scheme. That element demands that the program be administered by the most powerful nations on Earth “without the muddling influence of countless small satellites and backward nations or nations without sound economic bases and potentialities sufficient to support their political desires, however passionate, for independence.”

Bromfield goes on to suggest the need for some radical first steps in the program not the least of which would involve the globally sanctioned use of force to make certain those “backward nations or nations without sound economic bases” join the global effort to unify the now divided global community. If this sounds harsh, well, we’ve only just begun. Stay tuned for more next issue.

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*“The average citizen in every nation and most of all in the U.S. is bombarded constantly by propaganda and press releases designed to cloud his judgement, appeal to his prejudices, fill him with deliberate misinformation for a calculated purpose, and generally to sell him down the river.”*

— Louis Bromfield, 1954  
*A New Pattern For A Tired World*

**Did You Know?**

You can support the Malabar Farm Foundation by shopping on-line at Amazon. Go to smile.amazon.com. Sign in with your Amazon.com credentials. Choose Malabar Farm Foundation as your charity. At no cost to you a percentage of each purchase will be donated to The Malabar Farm Foundation.

You can also support the Malabar Farm Foundation through the Kroger Community Rewards Program. Your Kroger Plus Card can be linked to a charity so that each time you shop for groceries or get gas a percentage will be credited to the charity of your choice. If you do not already have a Kroger Plus Card one can be obtained at the Kroger Customer Service desk. Then, go on-line at [www.krogercommunityrewards.com](http://www.krogercommunityrewards.com), create an account and link your Kroger Plus Card to the Malabar Farm Foundation from the list of charities.

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 email - [info@malabarfarm.org](mailto:info@malabarfarm.org)  
 Mail - P.O. Box 551, Lucas, OH 44843



Tax deductible donations to the Malabar Farm Foundation can be made by cash, check, or credit card.

**Member** - \$50 / year     I would like to make an additional donation of \$ \_\_\_\_\_

**Friend** - \$100 / year

**Make checks payable to:**  
**Malabar Farm Foundation**  
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**Lucas, Ohio 44843**



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