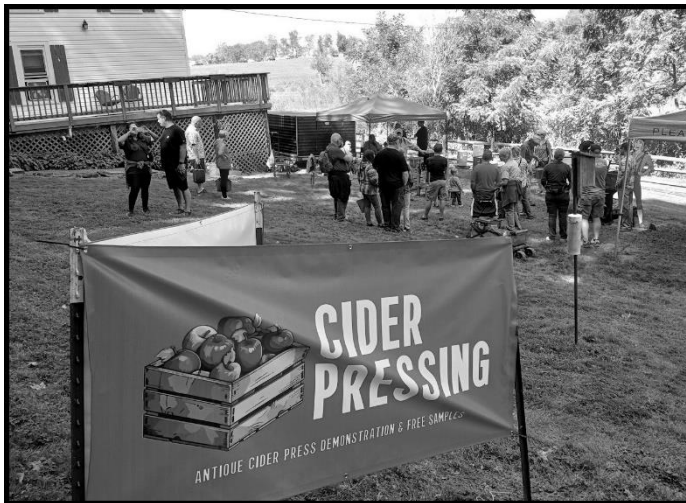




## Apple Cider Pressing at *Ohio Heritage Days*—A Grand Success!



The Malabar Farm Foundation was pleased to host apple cider pressing demonstrations by Pat Drouhard during Malabar Farm State Park's *Ohio Heritage Days* festival held on September 23 and 24. Pat owns the ca.1880 cider press. With the help of his brothers Warren and Dick, as well as Foundation members Louis Andres, Kenny Libben, and Tom Bachelder, roughly forty gallons of apple cider were produced from 16 bushels of apples. All of the cider was given away as samples or was bottled for donations. Approximately 900 visitors enjoyed this popular demonstration, which was held at the Ceely Rose House. A big thank you to Pat, Warren, and Dick for sharing their time and talents.

## Another Community Centered Way For You To Support Malabar Farm

**Richland Gives** is a web site sponsored by the Richland County Foundation which solicits donations to over 100 area charities, including the Malabar farm Foundation. This is an important source of funds which adds to our support of the Malabar Farm State Park, preservation of the Big House, and the promotion of the legacy of Louis Bromfield. The site, <https://richlandgives.mightycause.com> will be open for 2023 contributions in November, ending on the 28th. Please consider a donation to the Malabar Farm Foundation during this period. It would be much appreciated.

**Ferguson Falls, A Place In History**



The special geological feature known as Ferguson Falls is located in one of the more remote areas of Malabar Farm. The deep and heavily wooded ravine through which an intermittent stream flows after it has passed over the rock ledge of the Falls still retains much of the primeval atmosphere likely experienced by the Lenni Lenape (Delaware) in the mid-18th century when they passed along its rim on hunting excursions – or when it was first discovered by white settlers of Richland County in the early 19th century.

In 1858 the Reverend James McGraw wrote a book about the early pioneers who penetrated the Richland County wilderness. In that book he describes the discovery of Ferguson Falls (before it carried that name) by Philip Seymour. Below is an excerpt from that book.

***Philip Seymour or Pioneer Life in Richland County***

by Rev. James F. McGraw, 1858

re-published by R. Brinkerhoff, Herald Steam Press, Mansfield, 1908

(Excerpt from Chapter X, pgs. 46-47)

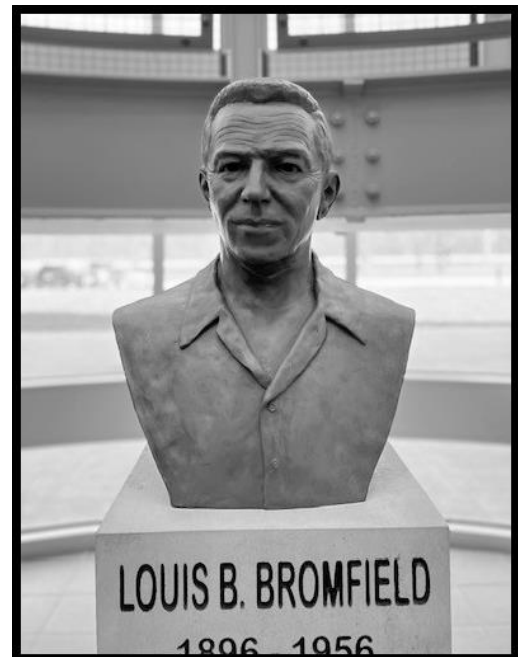
The sun had now sunk behind the adjacent hill, and the shadows of night were again settling down upon the forest; and yet our heroes [Philip Seymour 1785-1850, and Martin Ruffin 1775 -1812] knew not where to rest for the night. In a few moments, however, they caught sight of a ledge of rocks, at the head of a deep ravine, and proceeding to these, they discovered a spacious opening, which running some distance under afforded an ample shelter. Having examined the cavern, if such it may be

named, and finding no visible signs [of Indians?] or wild beasts or reptiles, they determined to shelter here till morning; necessary preparations were accordingly made, and the hunters laid down. But their slumbers were frequently disturbed during the night by the hideous yells of prowling wolves...

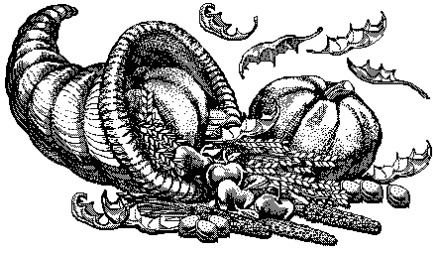
**Update On The Bust of Louis Bromfield**

The Summer 2023 issue of the Malabar Farm Newsletter included an article about two busts that had been done of Louis Bromfield. At that time the artist who had created the bust that now sits in the Lobby of the Ohio Department of Agriculture’s Administrative Building could not be identified. Thanks to Jessi Starkey, Multimedia Communications Specialist at the Ohio Department of Agriculture we now have a name for that artist.

His name is Gary Ross Sr. and he created the bust of Louis Bromfield in 1996. Mr. Ross taught sculpture at Capital University for nearly forty years. During his career he was awarded the Ohio Exposition Award for Sculpture, the Columbus Museum of Art Award for graphics, and the Columbus Art League Prize for Sculpture.



.....  
In 1989 Louis Bromfield was posthumously inducted into the Ohio Agricultural Hall of Fame.



### **Listening to the Past and Seeing the Future: Spiritual but not Religious?**

By Paul Sukys, Professor Emeritus  
North Central State College

No one who knows anything about Louis Bromfield would characterize him as a mid-twentieth century “fashion plate.” Certainly, many photographs picture him in a suit, white shirt, and tie, the most famous of which show him with Humphrey Bogart and Lauren Bacall on their wedding day. However, even in those photographs he looks uptight and uncomfortable.

Some Bromfield experts might argue that the Boss’s fashion sense is demonstrated by his upstairs closet, which is jammed full of expensive looking, fashionable suits. However, a close inspection reveals that those suits are identical to one another, designed this way so that, in preparation for one of his many out-of-town speaking engagements, Bromfield could stuff any one of them into a suitcase, confident that everything would match when he arrived in Cleveland, Detroit, or New York.

So, no, despite any visual evidence to the contrary, Bromfield was never comfortable in his “Sunday best,” the clothes we all put on (or used to, anyway) for our weekly visit to church. Of course, it is also true that Bromfield was never dressed in his church going clothes because he hardly ever (well, never, actually) went to church.

Bromfield’s absence from regular church services, however, does not mean that he had no interest in religion. On the contrary, despite what many people think, while not a regular church goer, Bromfield was a deeply spiritual person.

Like many of his ventures, Bromfield’s exploration of the Divine was unconventional at best. His study of religion was characterized by its diversity and its sporadic nature. Despite this, he did spend much of his life searching for the truth about the Divine. That search was often unplanned, undirected, and perhaps even unconscious, but it was there, nonetheless, and it often cropped up in unexpected ways.

For example, in a newspaper column which appeared in 1955, a year before his death in 1956, Bromfield penned a brief but insightful commentary on the current state of religion as he saw it at that time.

The column begins, as many of his analytical pieces do, with an examination of the problem and its source. Many of the people he met when he was at Malabar Farm, he writes, “hunger for standards of decency and ethical behavior.” Yet they are unable to satisfy that hunger in church or in the sermons of preachers who seem unable or unwilling to deal with the ethical issues of the time, but prefer, instead, to “concern themselves more with absurd stories and fantasies such as Jonah and the whale.”

Now in fairness to the preachers of that time, Bromfield’s involvement with the clerics of Mansfield was limited to boyhood experiences when, as a child, he was dragged to church each Sunday and deposited in a pew, when, like any young boy, he would have preferred to be wading in a creek or climbing trees in the summer sun. However, while these youthful experiences soured him to a certain type of religious encounter, they did not drive him away from an authentic search for the Divine nor from the religion of his heritage. Instead, it drove him toward a deeper and more meaningful understanding of that faith.

We can see this in that same newspaper article which he concludes by looking at the work of a preacher that he did greatly admire, who summed up his religious beliefs in the following way, “Christianity . . . is decency, honesty, charity, understanding and kindness toward neighbors . . . though they live on the opposite side of the world.”

This religious fervor can also be seen in a prayer titled, appropriately, “A Thanksgiving Prayer” that Bromfield penned while living at Malabar Farm. The prayer states in part:

“Oh. Lord . . . I thank you for the smile on the face of a woman, for the touch of a friend’s hand, for the laughter of a child, the wagging tail of a dog and the touch of his cold nose against my face.

I thank you for all these things and many more, and above all I thank you for people with all their goodness and understanding which so far outweigh their vices, their envy, their deceptions.

Thank you, God, for life itself, without which the universe would have no meaning.” – Amen!

**Did You Know?**

You can help the Malabar Farm Foundation support Malabar Farm 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 online 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
- Friend** - \$100 / year
- I would like to make an additional donation of \$ \_\_\_\_\_

**Make checks payable to:**  
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