

Bicentennial Barn Quilt Project Update

by Lynne Belluscio

If you didn't have a chance to buy one of the Bicentennial Barn Quilt T-shirts, we have three dozen here at the Jell-O Gallery in assorted colors. You might want to know where the T-shirt quilts are located. The top row, left to right: "Tilted Triangles" is located at 90 East Main Street, and was painted by Kim and Tom Cox.

I like to say that they chose this pattern because of the importance of the Triangle Tract in LeRoy; "Amelia Earhart" 9700 Asbury Road on the side of the old Woodward Airport hangar used by the Town of LeRoy Highway Department. Obviously this is to commemorate Amelia Earhart's visit to LeRoy on January 24, 1929.

The quilt was painted by all the fourth grade students at the Wolcott Street School during their visit to LeRoy House for the Pioneer Sampler program; "County Fair" is on a shed at 7989 Oatka Trail. Scott & Betsey Collins purchased this quilt at the Historical Society Dinner Auction in February and the colors were changed to red, white and blue; center row, left to right: "Dash Churn" was painted by Shelley Stein and the pattern was taken from one of her grandmother's quilts. This barn quilt is actually green and yellow with a black dash churn design in the middle symbolic of the Stein Dairy Farm and the surrounding corn and alfalfa fields. The colors were changed to red, white, and blue for the T-shirt. This barn quilt is located on 8343 Gully Road.

In the center is a patriotic version of "Sunflower". This barn quilt was painted by Irene Walters and Shelly Leone and is on the south end of the Walters' family 19th century barn at 9306 Summit Road. "Eastern Star" is a 4x4 quilt painted by Donna Greene and is located at 9758 Asbury Road. Donna has painted nearly a dozen barn quilts for the project, including the four designs that are on the barn across the street and a new one on the silo.

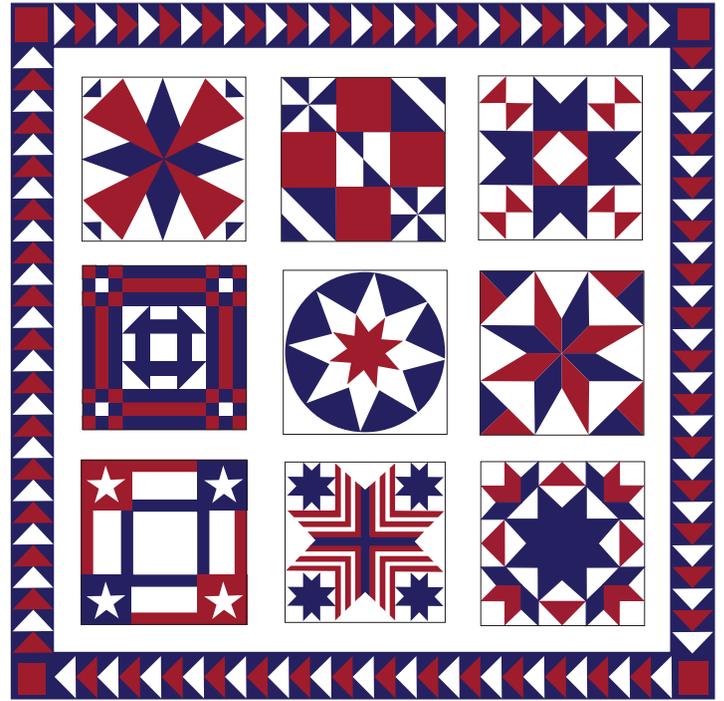
The bottom row, left to right includes "Stars and Stripes" which was painted to commemorate

Mike Risewick's military service in the Middle East. The four stars, which are gold on the barn quilt, represent the four Risewick boys. This quilt is not visible from the road. The center design, "Veteran's Pride" was a birthday present to a World War II veteran. This barn quilt is located at 6195 Sweetland Road, just east of Transit Road.

The design at the bottom right is the logo for the LeRoy barn Quilt Trail and is displayed in the front yard of LeRoy House. Around the entire nine-patch design is a traditional quilt border called "Flying Geese" which is most appropriate for a LeRoy design.

This past weekend at the Oatka Festival, the last 94 diamonds were painted on the barn quilt "Pride of LeRoy". One hundred and ninety six people are registered in the book. I think a couple of people painted more than one. All of the names will be put into the Bicentennial Time Capsule, as well as photographs of the design. In a couple of days, the quilt will be hung next to the smaller quilt on the side of the Woodward Airport hangar. The vibrant colors of the Bicentennial quilt include: Bright yellow for lemon Jell-O; gray for the limestone in LeRoy; the red and black for the school colors, and the blue is the Oatka Creek which circles the entire quilt.

Hopefully by the end of the month a very nice brochure and map will be available through the help of the Genesee County Chamber of Commerce. We'll distribute them around the town when they are available. In the meantime, we have a black and white copy available that has most of the quilts listed. There are 80 now that can be seen and a half a dozen that are not listed on



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the map, because they are not readily available. In the next couple of weeks, the web-site will be updated with the stories of the barn quilts and the people.

Also, several people contacted us and asked if we had any more of the June 8 programs from the Bicentennial. We printed 75

more and they are available at the Jell-O Gallery for \$2. We also have some of the wooden nickels that we are selling as souvenirs for \$1. They are nice little mementos for a very special year. We also have some of the broadsides (posters) available and they will look great framed.

