

# **Barn Quilt on the Keys Property**

## **Ron and Heidi Keys, Sam Weinzierl, Grace Weinzierl, Ellie Keys**

The barn quilt was completed by the Hilltop Climbers 4-H Club July 14, 2014. It was mounted on the Ron and Heidi Keys barn on August 16, 2014.

We are not sure of the name of the pattern. Heidi provided us pictures of quilts that she liked. She liked vibrant colors and we chose the pattern we did with the water drops because we thought it would be nice and showy being the barn is next to Mirror Lake in Mondovi. The colors we chose to paint the quilt are 2 shades of red: Daring Red, Red Dragon; 2 shades of purple: Burgundy Velvet, Stiletto Heels; orange: Flowing Lava; yellow: Craspedia Bouquet and blue: Work of Art. The most important thing to the Keys family was that the quilt would be highly visible from the lake and road.

The address of the property the barn is on is 656 N. Eau Claire St., Mondovi, WI 54755.

The Keys Family was asked by our club if they would like a quilt. Being the barn is next to Mirror Lake, this property is very familiar and popular in the town and is easily seen from Mirror Lake Park. The property has been in the Keys Family for a little less than two years.

Heidi stated that the first name on the abstract was Myron Cronk in 1855. She is not sure who built the barn because the abstract shows many transactions of the property. The original farm was 160 acres and the Keys' own 45 acres of the original homestead. They believe the barn to be about 100 years old being the abstract talks about maintaining and insuring buildings around 1917. The barn is two barns that were built together. The old barn, where the quilt hangs, was probably used for horses and maybe one or two cows. Part of the old barn had wooden floors. The barn is constructed of wood. Today, Ron and Heidi use the barn to house their twenty chickens and two lambs. They believe the newer barn was used for milking cows from the way it was built.

The property was owned by the Farrington Family at one time who were instrumental in helping to establish Mondovi. This farm was also owned by the Brownlee Family and the creek that flows through the property is called the Brownlee Creek. The Hansemann Family, who also owned this farm, had a son, Chris, who was killed in World War 2 and was a fighter pilot.

Heidi said they were interested in having a barn quilt because it would add a beautiful touch to their property and she liked how they look. The Keys Family believes that community and schools are very important and that is why they chose Buffalo County to call their home. Because this property used to be a farm, they wanted to continue farming it and to make sure the acreage they owned remained a farm and not divided up into a housing development. They believe this farm is a landmark in the heart of Mondovi.

When asked what they thought of the quilt and how does it represent them, Heidi said, "We love the quilt; it is bright and vibrant!"

Members of the Hilltop Climbers 4-H Club constructed painted and hung this quilt. We thank the Ron and Heidi Keys Family for being part of the Buffalo County Service Learning Project and letting us show our work on their barn.

The Hilltop Climbers was an active 4-H club years ago and it dissolved. In 2009, Patty George, a former Hilltop Climber member, formed a 4-H club under the Hilltop Climber name. The newly-formed club started out with twelve families and has now grown to sixty members. I believe we are one of the largest clubs in the county.

This interview was completed by Marissa Pax with The Keys Family on September 1, 2014.

