

Schulz Family Barn Quilt

The farm family chosen for the seventh barn quilt was the Schulz family. The Schulz farm is located at N320 Brandenburg Avenue south of Merrill.

The quilt was a family project for Karen Kunkel, Mark Schulz, Linda Fellbaum and Jeff Schulz to honor their parents, grandparents and generations past. The farm land where the Schulz quilt is hung was purchased in 1917 by their great grandfather, Carl Schulz. Their grandfather, Arnold Schulz, then bought the land from his father. He and his brothers built all the farm buildings by hand, including the house. All the beams in the barn are hand hewn. Their grandparents retired from dairy farming in 1963, when their parents took over and lived till they passed on. Now, Karen Kunkel and her husband have taken over the homestead and have updated the farmhouse for their retirement years. The fields are rented out for crops.

The barn quilt was designed by Linda Fellbaum. It is two plowshares to symbolize farming, which is what the Schulz family has done for many generations. The green triangles stand for fields and the corn cob in the corner, for crops. The John Deere tractor is the only tractor their father used, and he restored them after he retired from farming. The blue and white colors are from the Pomeranian flag, which is where the Schulz line came from, immigrating here mid 1800's. Also the blue reminds the family of the Wisconsin River which borders the east side of the farm. Natalie Watland, an artist from the Tomahawk area, painted the quilt and RTL Electric of Merrill did the hanging.