

**Next Up: One Man's Lincoln November 3**  
**And then: Handel's Messiah December 5**

# Homeplace on Green River

October 2018

## Abe Lincoln's Law Partner Comes to Homeplace

The fifth show in this season's Homeplace on Green River's Shakespeare in the Barn series is November 3 when veteran actor Robert Brock brings Abe Lincoln's law partner, Billy Herndon, who was born in Green County, to life in his stage presentation of *One Man's Lincoln*.



Herndon probably knew Lincoln better than anyone else. In addition to their strong friendship, he was Lincoln's law partner for 18 years. His biography of the 16<sup>th</sup> president paints a convincing and passionate portrait of Lincoln. In *One Man's Lincoln*, Robert Brock presents Billy Herndon in all his irascibility as he shares Herndon's story of a severely divided nation that was held together by the vision and will of an extraordinary, dignified, fierce and gentle man.

When Lincoln left for the White House he told Herndon not to remove his name from the shingle hanging on the door because he would be back. We all know that was not to be.

After Lincoln's assassination, Herndon dedicated his life to collecting materials and writing a biography of Lincoln's life. Herndon's critics labeled his work as a negative portrait of Lincoln and his wife Mary Todd. In Herndon's eyes, however, he presented Lincoln unvarnished, a great man in all his humanity, neither saint nor villain. Those who follow Herndon's life as it is relived on the stage at Homeplace may come to their own conclusions.

Robert Brock is Lindsey Wilson's director of theater. He has directed more than 100 plays, 45 while at Lindsey Wilson. In addition to *One Man's Lincoln* he has performed one man shows of The Gospel of John, The Gospel of Mark, The Book of Revelations, and Mark Twain. He designed and supervised construction of the stage at Homeplace and has directed many plays and acted in many roles on many different stages.

He has adapted his presentation of Billy Herndon from *One Man's Lincoln* by Wade Hall and brings it to the Homeplace stage with the assistance of the Kentucky Humanities Council and the National Endowment for the Humanities. The program at Homeplace on November 3 will include a fish fry prior to the show. The dinner begins at 6:00 EDT and will be served until the show starts at 7:00 EDT. Both are informal in keeping with the barn venue. Tickets are \$20 for the dinner and show and \$10 for the show alone.

**The final show of the year will be the Christmas portion of Handel's *Messiah* December 5.** It will be performed by the Lindsey Wilson Singers and the Concert Choir under the direction of Dr. Gerald Chafin. They will be accompanied by the Commonwealth Musicians.

Space is limited, and ticket information and reservations for both performances can be made by calling or e-mailing Phil Hanna at (270) 384-2894 or [cphanna51@msn.com](mailto:cphanna51@msn.com).

Homeplace is located at 5807 New Columbia Road (KY Highway 55), Campbellsville. For additional information about stage performances in the historic barn and other information about Homeplace on Green River, go to [www.homeplacefarmky.org](http://www.homeplacefarmky.org).

# Fall Heritage Festival—fun for all ages

Homeplace on Green River Fall Heritage Family Festival turned out a large crowd despite threatening weather. About 1800 people paid \$10 per car to enjoy the all-day live music in the barn, exhibits and demonstrations, rides, arts and craft vendors and good food.

The strong new additions this year, added to many of the favorite activities returning, some who have been part of the festival for all 11-year run, met the high expectations.

Headlining the new activities were Kay Gschwind and Ben Burgess with their Suffolk Punch draft horses demonstrating how logging was accomplished prior to tractors and log skidders. There were several new artists and crafters, exhibitors and food vendors. Two new music groups—students from the Burkesville Academy of Fine Arts, and the Unity of Praise Youth Choir from Taylor County's Pleasant Union Baptist Church—were part of the all-day live music show in the barn. Two repeat favorites, the Exie Boys, frequent performers of bluegrass and country western at Homeplace festivals, and Renetta and Friends, who performed a variety of music at both the spring and fall festivals last year returned for this year's festival. Both groups drew large crowds of listeners.

Many of the most popular activities from previous years returned, including Somerset's Liberty Nature Center with their raptors including hawks, falcons and owls. There was butter making, colonial reenactors, a petting farm with exotic animals, flint knapper, wood carvers, the alpacas from Barnett's Creek Farm and many other activities. The festival is a family event, and there was lots to do for the young and those who wish they were young including hay rides, a barrel train, and a barn-sized hay maze. Food vendors sold pulled pork, tenderloin, catfish, hot dogs, barbecue and rib-eye sandwiches.



*Put January 19, 2019 on your calendars for the Homeplace Annual Winter Meeting. It's open to all*



## A variety of activities drew a large crowd to the fall festival



For more festival photos go to [www.homeplacefarmky.org](http://www.homeplacefarmky.org).

Thanks to Lori Kolbensschlag and Dennis Beach for contributing their photos.



# Homeplace water ram pump to be revived

Thanks to Homeplace friend and volunteer Greg Eastham the long deceased water ram pump at Homeplace will be operating again, hopefully, sometime early in 2019. Greg is a registered professional award-winning civil engineer with an active interest and education in fluid mechanics. He will be working on installing the pump this fall with the help of Landon Marcum, a Lindsey Wilson College Bonner Scholar and others. It will require considerable work in both building the pump and preparing the area.

Ram pumps have been around for many years. They are still popular and are used in areas where other external power sources are not available. The force of moving water gives them all the power they need. The basic idea behind a ram pump is simple. The flowing water is captured in a drive pipe above the level of the pump. When the water enters the pump it is under pressure from the Earth's gravity which opens a valve allowing the water to flow into a capture chamber and compressing the air in the chamber. When a certain pressure is reached, it forces the input valve closed and the compressed air forces the water back through a second valve and up the hill. At one point in the early 1900s water rams were very popular and several mid-sized cities used them for their cities' water systems. They were first used in Europe in the late 1700s and in the United States in the early 1800. They are still in use on many farms in some parts of the U. S. And remain efficient and dependable.

At some point, probably in the early 1900s, a ram pump was used at Homeplace to pump water to a tank in the attic of the house. There is still a large tank in the attic that held the water and the remains of the pump are in the stream below the house.

The water from the new pump will be used to water cattle and the Homeplace gardens at some point, but for the near future will just be used as a demonstration

of how the system works.

For a more detailed explanation of how water ram pump work, you can check the Homeplace Web page at [www.homeplacefarmky.org](http://www.homeplacefarmky.org).

## Large walking trail grant to impact on Homeplace

A grant for an estimated \$180,000 has been awarded to Taylor County to improve the existing Tebbs Bend Recreation and Nature Area and Homeplace trail system and add an additional approximately two miles of new walking trails.

The money was granted by the Kentucky Office of local Development. The majority of the grant will be used to construct a new trail which will highlight agricultural lands and connect with the existing trails. When completed, the trail will provide additional opportunities for walkers and hikers to enjoy Homeplace on Green River. The trail construction will begin before the end of the new year and should be completed by October 2019.

### **The new trail will showcase typical crops, grasses and other farm activities**



# Looking Forward ....

## Comments from Homeplace Board President Billy Joe Fudge

We send you these Newsletters intermittently because of your interest in Homeplace on Green River. We hope they keep you up to speed with the improvements, developments and happenings at Homeplace, which have been significant since we first began in 2001. Your friendship, support and encouragement are a driving force to much of the growth Homeplace has and is experiencing.

Homeplace on Green River is Kentucky's Outdoor Classroom. At present, our efforts to make a quality agricultural educational experience available for our schools, organizations and our community at large has been hampered by our need to generate income from row crop and hay leases. Now that we have most of the buildings stabilized and rehabbed, we are discussing ways to enhance the outdoor classroom experience. For example, establishing plots of all different types of grasses, legumes, heritage crops, etc. and developing a full-time presence of different types of farm animals beginning most probably with beef cattle.

That discussion is precipitated by: (1) the realization that many of our friends and neighbors, both far and near, know very little about the natural processes of the Earth ecosystem, the foundation for food and fiber production in this country, (2) the realization that these many have little or no understanding of the history and evolution of the practice of farming and the science of Agriculture, and (3) they have little to no opportunity to interact with the community of plants and animals upon which their existence depends.

Our experience with thousands of school children and thousands of adults, both young and old, tells us that there is an innate desire to understand one's place in the Earth ecosystem. Much data and research indicate that developing that understanding of one's place in the Earth ecosystem leads to better mental health and emotional stability. We are attempting to do these things in a way that is fun and brings our individual families and the community together. This is all a monumental task, and that task is driven by volunteers.

I would like to leave you with this tidbit of foundational truth, "if all would do a little, a few would not have to do it all." We can always use more volunteers.

### **Friend, benefactor, link to Homeplace's history, dies**

*Mrs. Verna Hancock, Akron, Ohio, whose generosity provided early Tate family furniture and financial support to Homeplace on Green River, passed away October 3. She was the wife of Robert Tate Hancock, whose mother, Amanda Tate, was a direct descendant of Isaac and Amanda Tate, who built the original home still standing at the farm in 1803-1804. Mrs. Hancock will be interred at the Bethany Cemetery alongside Robert, who died in 2010. Bethel Cemetery is located at the site of the earlier Bethel Presbyterian Church on Taylor County highway 3183 just few miles from Homeplace. Many of the tomb stones at the cemetery bear the names of the first two families who owned the Homeplace property, the Tates and the Buchanans.*