

What's New at the Stables?



- ◆ Our 10th International Saddlebred Hall of Fame Ceremony for 2026 was held on Sat, May 30th at the stable. Steve Gaw & Jerome Rader served as dual Master of Ceremonies. This year's class of 2026 Inductees were: Kent & Stacey Swalla, Larry Hodge, and Howie Schatzberg. 2026 Posthumous Inductees were: Lee Roby, Ross Drake, Bill Otto and Fritz Jordan. Congratulations to all the 2026 Saddlebred Hall of Fame Inductees!
- ◆ We'd like to thank Bucky's Sit-or-Get for cooking the pork steaks & hotdogs today for this event.
- ◆ The front fan light window has been removed, rebuilt & painstakingly painted. It is ready to be placed in its spot above the south entrance. The stable, granary and the blacksmith windows have been rebuilt and painted with linseed oil paint. They will be installed as weather allows. Our thanks to sponsors and local grants that have allowed us to preserve this barn's historic windows.
- ◆ The granary bins have been dismantled. The concrete floor was poured a couple weeks ago. A drain was installed to divert puddling away from the granary. Next will be the rebuild of the wood structure so the bins can be crane lifted into place.
- ◆ A note of passing: Tony Washer (1947-2026)

Something Borrowed, Something New

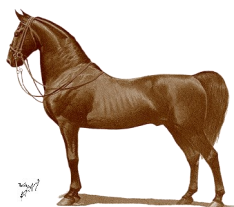
REX MCDONALD

By Walter Palmer

He little knew, that sable-coated king,
Just what the future held of fame and fate;
He little dreamed of what the years would bring;
He reasoned not that men would call him great.
It was not his to think that down the years
His progeny would sleep where poppies blow;
He never heard the plaudits and the cheers
That greet his royal kinfolk as they show;
His equine monarch of a bygone day;
He left for us the story that we tell
As Rex McDonald sleeps the years away.

Ottawa, IL
Nov. 17, 1931

1890



1913



Classic designs of mugs & a new youth art contest T-shirt for Simmons' Stable Preservation are available at Stubblefield Furniture. Stay tuned to our Facebook page for more for details.

Thank you for joining us today at the Barn.

WE WARMLY WELCOME YOU



24th ANNUAL AUCTION & BARN-B-Q Sunday, September 13 2026

**Barbeque Pork Steak, Sides & Homemade Pies
Lunch served at 12:30
with Auction to follow**

All proceeds from today, benefit the
International Saddlebred Hall of Fame
to preserve & rebuild the
Big Barn on the Boulevard.





Today's Auctioneer

JR JOHNSON

JR Johnson is our esteemed Auctioneer today. This year we again welcome JR Johnston and Shawna Langerud as they have graciously volunteered to assist us. JR is a second generation auctioneer and has sold everything from ostriches to ironing boards.

JR is a master leather craftsman and he owns Homestead Auctions. We truly appreciate them being here & giving up their Sunday to help us raise funds for this project.

Proposed Officers & Board Members

- ◆ Co-Presidents.....Bobette Balser Wilson & Mary White Littrell
- ◆ Vice-President.....Ann Stubblefield
- ◆ Secretary.....Heather Little
- ◆ Treasurer.....Mary White Littrell
- ◆ Proposed Board: (3yr terms)...Joan Volkmer, DeAnna Amos, & Mary White Littrell
- ◆ Returning Board Members:Ann Stubblefield, Bobette Balser Wilson, Tom Usnick, Laura Mackey, & Heather Little
- ◆ Graphic Design/Media:Laura Mackey



A short business meeting will be held following the meal, special guests will be honored, then our live auction will begin.



2026 Honorees

SCOTT WEBER

Scott began working at the stable long before the preservation group was a thought. At the age of 16, Scott rode his bike 8 miles Monday thru Saturday to his first job at Simmons' Stables painting the fence and buildings, mowing, cutting weeds, and helping now and then with the horses. He entertains with his guitar and song at our Old-Fashioned Christmas event each December at the stable, has served as the bugler at our Kentucky Derby Party, and has portrayed individuals at our "Voices of the Past" cemetery tours at Elmwood Cemetery.

Scott helped save the historic courthouse flagpole by calling Bobette to let her know it was being

taken down and sent for scrap. Bobette arranged to have it hauled to the stable grounds and now it graces the property with the American flag! Thank you, Scott, for all you do to preserve history and for sharing your wonderful talents with our group!



2026 Honorees

LISA SILVERS

Lisa is definitely the Queen of Cakes and Desserts! Each year at our International Saddlebred Hall of Fame Ceremony Lisa makes the delicious desserts. She makes fabulous cake balls of various assorted flavors along with a delicious cake that could include a picture of the stable on it or shaped as a horse shoe or horse head. She comes to personally set up the dessert table and it looks like a five-star restaurant's dessert section. As soon as the meal is finished, attendees flock to the dessert bar table to sample all the delicious goodies! Thank you, Lisa, for sharing your creative skills adding "the icing on the cake" to our event!!



JEANNIE NOBIS

Every year for our BarnBQ, Jeannie has baked the fabulous and numerous assorted pies and rolls. Lately she has begun to make delicious brownies to add to the choices. She also donates pies, bread, rolls, and jellies for our auction. She makes sure everything is fresh and stays up all night baking. One would think she would deliver her goods and go home to sleep. Not Jeannie, she stays and helps clean up and put chairs and tables away after the event!!!

Thank you, Jeannie, for all you do to help make our fundraising event a success!



RUSTEMEYER ROOFING

Rustemeyer Roofing has been associated with the stable since its renovation in 2008. Tim, Hector, and crew put the new roof on the renovated stable, the blacksmith shop, and tall granary. Rustemeyer Roofing has graciously offered to decorate the stable for Christmas every year since its completed restoration in 2009. They bring their big ladders and place the wreaths on the dormer windows, above the fanlight, and on both sides of the front of the building. Out of towners coming home for Christmas have told us the red glow of the wreaths on the stable give them that warm, nostalgic feeling of being home for Christmas. Thank you for all the roofing jobs and taking time out of your busy schedule to help make the stable festive for Christmas and to bring Christmas cheer to the community!



2026 UPCOMING EVENTS

- ◆ Dec 6th: Old Fashioned Christmas at the Stable Event. Santa & Mrs. Claus will meet children and free photos will be taken & printed for each child/group that would like them. Serving homemade cookies, & hot chocolate, with Belgian draft horses to pull a sleigh (weather permitting). Thanks to our many sponsors, this Christmas Event is free to the public. We sure hope to see you all there!