



40th Anniversary

Living History Farms held its first event, a grain harvest festival, in 1970. Forty years later we celebrate this Iowa institution with a fond look back at how we began.

Dr. William G. Murray, a professor at Iowa State University, saw that the essence of farming includes living things – crops, livestock and people. While many museums preserve farm machinery and artifacts, Dr. Murray's view was that agriculture history can never be adequately interpreted by merely looking at objects under glass. Therefore, he envisioned a "living history" farm, where people could touch, see and hear 300 years of history. Although Dr. Murray passed away in October of 1991, his dream lives on.

Timeline:

1969 – Living History Farms Foundation purchased 335 acres of land in the northwest corner of Des Moines along a combined section of two major interstate highways.

1970 – Log house and an 1850 Farm are established, where interpreters use hand tools and ox power to raise three acres of crops. Additional land was purchased on the east side of the Interstate that included the 1870 Martin Flynn House and Barn, both of which are listed on the National Register of Historic Places.

1975 – The 1900 Farm was added to demonstrate the tremendous impact the industrial revolution and horse-drawn machinery had on agriculture during the last half of the 19th century.

1978 – The Henry A. Wallace Exhibit Center was added to tell the story of modern agricultural techniques.

1979 – The 1875 Town of Walnut Hill began construction to show the interdependence between farm families and townspeople. The largest crowd in Iowa gathered on October 4, 1979 to listen to Pope John Paul II's sermon to 340,000 people.

1982 – 1700 Ioway Indian Farm was established with the help of members of the Ioway tribe.

1997 – Newly restored Flynn Barn and Visitor Center opened.

2010 – Living History Farms includes 500 acres and includes three working farms, an exhibit center, and 1875 town complete with 14 shops and trade sites and two homes, including the historic Flynn House and Barn. Living History Farms attracts more than 130,000 visitors annually, including visitors from every state in the nation and more than 60 foreign countries. A new logo is introduced in honor of our 40th birthday.

Living History Farms

Vision Statement

Living History Farms will be the premiere destination for people to create memories and experience rural traditions.

Mission Statement

Living History Farms is an interactive outdoor museum which educates, entertains and connects people of all ages to Midwestern rural life experiences.

Statement of Purpose

The purpose of Living History Farms is to make the public aware of the significance of agriculture in the development of America. Living History Farms will present the changes that have occurred in farming methods, concepts and technology and interpret the significance of those changes both in history and in modern life. By showing authentic models of historical and modern farming, Living History Farms enables visitors to observe and participate in these processes and relate them to their lives.

Structure

Living History Farms is a non-profit, 501c3 historical, educational museum. LHF is a private non-profit and receives no state funding. LHF is governed by a Board of Directors.

Location

Living History Farms is located at 11121 Hickman Road, exit #125 from the combined Interstates 35/80, in Urbandale, Iowa.

40th Anniversary Fun Facts

Since 1970, Living History Farms has enjoyed sharing its mission with more than 5 million visitors.

In 40 years, 1.2 million volunteer hours have been donated to the Farms by people in the community.



Quick Stats		
1970	Summer	Opened
500	Acres	Land Size
3	Working Farms	1700, 1850, 1900
40	Historic and Modern Buildings	
6.5	Miles	Roads
16,000	Artifacts	
85	Professional Staff	26 FT, 41 PT, 18 INTERNS
1053	Volunteers	2009
2188	Members	2009
130,000+	Visitors	2009
60 Countries	Visitors	
50 States	Visitors	
35,400 students	Educational Programs	Annual
587	Donors	2009
\$2.48 Million	Operating Budget	2010
\$1,110,000	Fundraising Need	2010
44%	Operating Budget from Fundraising	2010



Special Event Schedule

40th Birthday Celebration

Saturday, May 1, 3-5 pm

FREE to Members, Volunteers, and Donors.

This special afternoon is a sneak peek at new and exciting happenings at Living History Farms during the 2010 season, as well as a look back at how Living History Farms has grown over 40 years! Enjoy music by the Porch Stompers, traditional lawn games, children's crafts, a scavenger hunt, pony rides and much more! Upon arrival, guests will receive a VIP wristband to get into the special celebration tent, which will have refreshments, cake, ice cream and fun activities. This is a members-only event, but anyone can become a member at the door!

Family Weekend: 40th Birthday Party

May 1-2

Come help us celebrate our 40th Birthday with music, children's craft activities, free popcorn, historic birthday traditions, visiting folk tradesmen and horses. Enjoy the return of historic baseball with the Bluestockings opener at 2 pm on Sunday.

History Snapshot: Decoration Day

May 31

Bring the family and become a part of America's first Memorial Day traditions. Enjoy a rousing patriotic concert by the Walnut Hill Choral Society at Noon in the Church of the Land. At 1 pm, march in a town procession down Main Street to the town cemetery for a moving pageant of Victorian speech and song, honoring the Union's fallen heroes. After the ceremony, watch the Walnut Hill Bluestockings compete in a 1870s-rules baseball game at the Walnut Hill Field.

Give Us A Hand Activity Program

June 1 - August 15

Give the historic interpreters a hand with their chores and historic tasks. Children and adults can assist staff with hands-on activities at a variety of historic sites. From grinding corn to printing a handbill, or

churning butter to grooming an ox, varied activities are offered every day from June 1 through August 15. Activities take place from 10 am-Noon and 1-3 pm and vary from day to day. Specific daily activities are posted at the LHF visitor center; all activities are weather dependent.

Family Weekend: Family Heritage

June 5-6

Connect with your family's roots as we celebrate the family tree. Hands on activities will focus on gathering and preserving family history and traditions, and trying select folk heritage handcrafts. Visit with local folk tradesmen about the heritage of their craft and explore the Irish and Norwegian roots of the Flynn Country Home and Tangen House.

History Snapshot: Victorian Funeral

June 12

Explore the rituals surrounding death and loss in the Victorian era as the 1875 town of Walnut Hill experiences a funeral. At the Tangen House, the family prepares the parlor for the re-created funeral of a loved one. Visit with an interpreter in widow's weeds and discover mourning traditions such as black draping, stopping clocks, and funeral invitations. At 1:00, join in a solemn procession, led by a horse-drawn hearse, as it makes its way from the house to "New Hope Cemetery". Visitors may join in dropping dust on the "coffin" at the cemetery and enjoy hearing a hymn sung by the Walnut Hill Choral Society.

Family Weekend: Independence Weekend

July 3-4

Saturday is All-American Ice Cream Float Day with free root beer floats, Civil War era music in the bandstand from 1-4 pm, games, and children's crafts. On Sunday, enjoy an old-fashioned Fourth with a historic Independence Day celebration in the town of Walnut Hill including pie eating contests, foot races, spelling bees, watermelon seeding spitting



contests and more! Games begin at 11 am, then enjoy a concert by the Walnut Hill Choral Society at 12:30 pm, followed by a patent medicine show at 1:30 pm. At 2 pm, join in an 1875 vintage Independence Day parade with a brass band followed by a historic baseball game at 2:30 pm.

History Snapshot: Circuit Court Hearing

July 17, 1-4 pm

Join the citizens of Walnut Hill at the C.H. Taylor Law Offices for an afternoon of law and order. Lawyers, witnesses, judge and court clerks, re-created by costumed interpreters, will present real court cases from 1870s Iowa courts. Museum guests will sit on the jury and find out if their verdicts match those of their 19th century predecessors! Cases last approximately 20 minutes.

Family Weekend: Threshing Days

August 7-8

From hand power to horsepower, witness it all as you hear the smash of the flail, the roar of the steam-powered thresher, and the clicking of the cutter bar. Experience the methods used to harvest oats and wheat and help bring in the harvest that will feed our animals throughout the winter. Demonstrations will be weather dependent. In the town of Walnut Hill from 1 - 4 pm, visit the children's craft center and enjoy free popcorn and lemonade.

History Snapshot: Pioneer Wedding

August 14

Join the 1850 Farm staff as they recreate a pioneer wedding celebration, including the wedding ceremony, dancing and wedding cake. The pioneer farm family looked forward to weddings as a chance for neighbors and friends to gather. Traditional foods and fun were always a part of the festivities. Groomsmen might ride the groom on a rail and play a good-natured prank on the wedding couple. Music and food brought the community together. LHF visitors will become part of the day's fun, with ceremonies at 11 am and 2 pm.

Family Weekend: Farmer's Fall Carnival

September 4-5

Spend the weekend enjoying the sights and sounds of a small town fair! Walnut Hill will celebrate the fall with a mix of modern and Victorian entertainments including music, carnival games and strolling players. Enjoy pony rides, a melodrama, old-fashioned carnival games, Choral Society performances, and the 1875 traveling museum of curiosities. Also a variety of hand-cranked, band and fair organs will share their music throughout the weekend, as members of the Carousel Organ Association of America gather for their rally.

Photography Day

September 18

Enjoy a day of photography workshops in Iowa's largest outdoor classroom! Take a lens for a "test drive" from the Canon or Nikon representatives. Photography experts will be on hand to offer classes and will be out in the field to help you perfect your photography technique. Amateurs as well as professionals are encouraged to attend. Sponsored by Christian Photography, all workshops are included with admission price to Living History Farms.

Historic Quilt Show

September 29 – October 3

Thirty rarely seen historic quilts from the nationally recognized Living History Farms quilt collection will be on display in the Church of the Land along with historic clothing and household textiles. Children's hands-on activities include quilt block coloring and sewing cards.

Family Weekend: Harvest Fest

October 2-3

Master the techniques of handpicking corn at our historic farms. Take a horse-drawn wagon ride into the fields to watch working machinery harvest corn from 1910-1950. In town, stir a copper kettle of apple butter, crank the cider press, and sample apple fritters fresh out of the Dutch oven. Music, children's games and crafts round out the fun.



 **TOUCH. SEE. HEAR.**
300 Years of History

Family Halloween Nights

October 21-24 and 28-31 from 5:30 – 8:30 pm
Horse-drawn wagon rides, marshmallow roast, storytellers, scarecrow and jack-o-lantern displays delight all during this non-scary family event. Children aged 12 and under trick or treat through town, and free pop and popcorn for all. Prices: \$5.00 per person, \$4.50 each for Living History Farms members and pre-sold groups of 10 or more.

Prairie Christmas

December 11, Noon-4 pm
Enjoy a holiday open house with a prairie feel. Take a horse-drawn wagon ride to the General Store and the Church for an old fashioned holiday social with music, games, and Santa Claus. Taffy pulls and children's crafts make this a festive afternoon on the prairie. The Marketplace and a special children's Santa's Workshop will be open for holiday shopping. Prices: \$5.00 per person, \$4.50 each for Living History Farms members and pre-sold groups of 10 or more.

Historic Baseball Schedule

May 2	2 pm
May 31	2 pm
June 6	2 pm
July 4	2:30 pm
July 18	2 pm
August 8	2 pm
September 5	2 pm
September 19	2 pm
October 3	2 pm

Join the Walnut Hill Bluestockings for a season of historic baseball! Watch the home team compete in 1870s-rules baseball game at the Walnut Hill Field. Cheer the batters or "strickers" as they call their pitch and "leg it" to first. Support the team captain as he argues with the umpire and see if the one bounce rule will be enforced or if new fangled ideas of "catching on the fly" will prevail. The team makes sure kids have a chance to bat around at the end of the game!



Farmer's Market

There's no better place to get fresh produce than Living History Farms! 2010 marks the second year the museum hold a Farmer's Market. Each Wednesday, May 12 - October 6, from 4 - 7 pm, the Farmer's Market will take place on our front grounds.

Living History Farms holds this market as one way of telling the ever-changing story of Midwestern agriculture and rural life. Today consumers are becoming better-educated about the food they eat and where it's from. This brings awareness to the importance of buying fresh and local to ensure the most nutritional food available.

Unique educational opportunities will be included for all attendees through demonstrations about local food and craftsmanship. Local farmers and craftsmen will provide hand grown and hand made products. Community organizations will be present to promote their organizations. Live music will help round out this community event for all involved. Admission is free.

Behind the Barn

Join us this summer for our FREE concert series!

July 7, 6-9 pm
Metro Arts Jazz in July featuring Fred Gazzo

July 25, 5-7 pm
The Bandwagon: Flat Rack Express

August 4, 6-9 pm
Matt Woods and the Thunderbolts

September 1, 6-9 pm
Brother Trucker

Bring a blanket or lawn chair and gather behind the Flynn Barn for an evening of live music. Food concessions and cash bar with pop, beer and wine will be available. Please, no outside coolers or beverages.

For More Information

Living History Farms
11121 Hickman Road
Urbandale, Iowa 50322
www.LivingHistoryFarms.org
515-278-5286