

Maplelawn Farmstead: In retrospect

Part X of a 10-part series

City dwellers may have trouble relating to a 165-year-old property that was occupied all those years by just two families. Even among farm families, longevity of ownership by a single family is rare enough that special recognition is given to family ownership of the same

PAST TIMES

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farm after 100 years. The Hoosier Homestead Award, through the office of the Commissioner of Agriculture, is presented to those who qualify.

Maplelawn Farmstead, with its two-families-over-165-year-history, is now awaiting a decision by the Zionsville Parks and Recreation board as to whether its farmhouse and outbuildings are worthy of preservation. After all, the Town of Zionsville bought the 37-plus acres on which the farmstead stands with the intention of turning them into an active park.

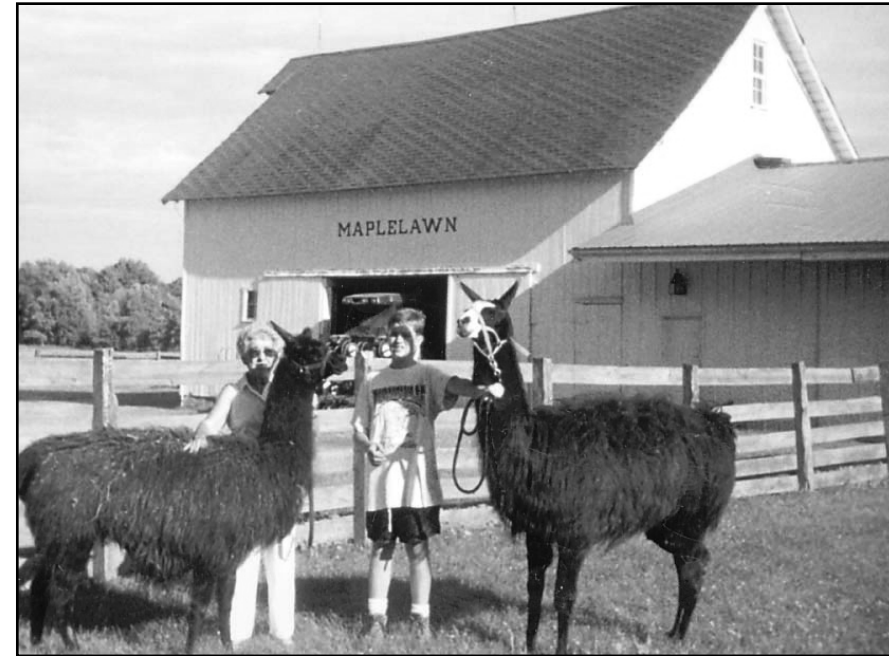
Only after the Zionsville Historical Society came to them with a proposal that they be allowed to restore the structures and turn the corner of



the plat on which they stand into an interpretive farmstead, did the parks board consider that alternative. Now the board has turned to Ratio Architects to provide plans for the proposed park with and without the inclusion of the farmstead.

Whatever their final decision, it has been interesting to follow the ownership of this historic property through the years since it was first purchased by John and Jane Wolf in 1835. It was the Wolf heirs who sold the farm to Alfred Elroy and Elmira Moore Scott in 1900, and it was the surviving spouse of a Scott heir who was the last resident of the farmstead until his death in 2000.

Editors note: Joan Lyons is a member of the Zionsville Historical Society's committee to preserve the Maplelawn Farmstead.



Ed Shortz, who farmed the Maplelawn property with Lester and Alyce Bradley for over 20 years, provided the three snapshots included with this wrap-up of our Maplelawn Farmstead series. All were taken in the early to mid-1990s.

Left: A touch of fall color is just beginning to appear in the view of the Maplelawn residence, while a peacock (above left) poses elegantly for the photographer in another shot. **Above:** Two of the llamas that lived at Maplelawn at the time are shown with Alyce Scott Bradley and Mark Shortz. It was the latter who inspired Alyce to acquire the first llama so that he could show it at the Boone County 4-H Fair, and the small herd just grew from there.



Highlights of important events at Maplelawn over the past 165 years.

