

# *An Evening in the Garden*

Sponsorship Opportunities

Honoring 2026 Anne Bruce Haldeman Award Recipient:

*Lois Mateus*

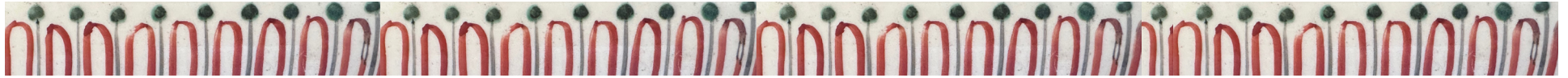
For her service to Kentucky history, landscapes, and preservation

*Thursday, June 4 at 6 p.m.*

With a special recognition of **Chris Morris**, Master Distiller Emeritus of Woodford Reserve, for 50 years of service to Brown-Forman

3033 Bardstown Road, Louisville, Kentucky 40205

# *The Committee to Preserve Farmington*



In 1955 Miss Anne Bruce Haldeman initiated a series of conversations and formed a committee to preserve Farmington. Those present at the initial meetings included:

- Mrs. John Welburn Brown
- Mrs. Marshall Bullitt
- Mr. & Mrs. Grady Clay
- Mrs. John Collis
- Mrs. Leonard T. Davidson
- Mr. & Mrs. Joseph C. Graves
- Mrs. Walter N. Haldeman
- T.D. Luckett
- Mr. A.B. McCulloch
- Mrs. Squire Ogden
- Mr. John Speed
- Miss Mary Louise Speed
- Mrs. W.S. Speed
- Mr. O.P. Ward
- Mr. Lowry Watkins

These meetings led to the formation of the Historic Homes Foundation, incorporated in 1957, with the following individuals serving as members of the Board of Directors:

- Mrs. Charles Allen Jr.
- Mrs. Dwight Anderson
- Mrs. T.J. Beam
- Mrs. George R. Bickel
- Mr. Barry Bingham
- Mr. Edward Bonnie
- Mr. Andrew Broaddus
- Mrs. Russell Briney
- Mrs. Castner Browder
- Mr. J. Graham Brown
- Mrs. John Welburn Brown
- Mrs. W.L. Lyons Brown
- Mrs. William M. Bullitt
- Mrs. Patrick Calhoun
- Mr. Grady Clay
- Mrs. John V. Collis
- James Clark Courtenay, Esq.
- Dr. Walter Creese
- Mrs. Leonard T. Davidson
- Miss Anne Bruce Haldeman
- Mrs. Baylor Hickman
- Mrs. Walter Lips
- Mr. T.D. Luckett
- Mrs. Lewis P. Seiler
- Mr. Robert K. Smith
- John Sackett Speed, Esq.
- Miss Mary Louise Speed
- Mrs. William Shallcross Speed
- Mrs. Edwin V. Sprowls
- Mr. J. Alexander Stewart
- Mr. John Hunt Stites
- Mrs. Joe A. Wallace
- Mr. O.P. Ward
- Mr. Lowry Watkins

*Farmington opened to the public as a historic home in 1959*

# *The Historical Significance of Farmington*

Farmington was not only the home of one of Kentucky's oldest and most prestigious families, but its main house remains a handsomely preserved example of the Federal style of architecture preferred among wealthy early nineteenth century pioneers on the Kentucky frontier. Farmington was also a thriving hemp plantation – a fact that required a large labor force - and, at the time of John Speed's death, at least fifty-seven enslaved Blacks also lived at Farmington. It's also where a young Abraham Lincoln paid a visit to his best friend Joshua Fry Speed for three weeks in 1841; an experience that stayed with him years later as he struggled with how to preserve the Union and heal the differences of a nation.

The Speeds and Frys had important connections to prominent families in Virginia including the family of Thomas Jefferson. Lucy Fry's great-grandfather, Joshua Fry, surveyed and drew maps with Thomas' father, Peter Jefferson, and also served as Thomas Jefferson's tutor. When Peter died, Lucy Gilmer Fry's maternal grandfather, Dr. Thomas Walker, became one of Thomas Jefferson's legal guardians.

Construction of the Speeds' brick residence began in 1815. The house is identified in the original building contract as the design of Paul Skidmore but was clearly influenced by the architectural designs of Thomas Jefferson and probably the wishes of Lucy Speed. In 1806, Lucy had travelled to Charlottesville, VA and had visited the home of her uncle and aunt, whose house, had an octagonal addition designed by Jefferson. Farmington's plan, with its two octagonal rooms imbedded in the center of the house, is even more comparable to an existing plan by Jefferson for an unidentified residence.

Historians agree that production of hemp in Kentucky necessitated the large labor force that slavery ensured. John Speed had one of the largest slaveholdings in Jefferson County and his enslaved Black workers were an integral part of life at Farmington during the Speeds' entire fifty-plus years on the property. Along with local craftsmen, enslaved Blacks almost certainly had a big hand in building Farmington.

Farmington was the first Kentucky historic property to tell the full story of its enslaved inhabitants and it has been an interpretive priority of ours since the 1990's. We are fortunate to have writings from the Speed family about several of their favored enslaved as well as firsthand documentation from former enslaved Farmington residents and their descendants, some of whom continue to volunteer with our staff today to aid our efforts.

Farmington's best-known guest was Joshua Fry Speed's close friend, Abraham Lincoln. The life-long friendship between Abraham Lincoln and Joshua Speed transcended differences that divided the nation. The Great Emancipator valued the counsel of his pro-Union, slaveholding friend so much that Joshua became Lincoln's unofficial advisor on Kentucky during the Civil War, and his brother, James Speed, became Lincoln's Attorney General. Lincoln noted in a letter to Joshua, 20 years later, that an experience with slavery while on his trip to Kentucky remains "a site that torments me every time I see a border like the Ohio."

Farmington's story deserves to be lifted up, its full history preserved, learned, and shared with new generations. We plan to do more than just restore and preserve the structures on the property, but to create infrastructure for robust educational programming as well. At Farmington, we preserve a quintessential experience of what life was like in early nineteenth century Kentucky. We recreate many aspects of a working hemp plantation, a self-sufficient farm, and a slice of life where future leaders of our community, our state, and even our nation once stayed. In a world where experiences are fleeting or virtual, we supply a hands-on education of a period in time. That is a value to all of society. We hope that you will join us as we continue to preserve Farmington for generation to come.



# *Platinum Sponsor \$10,000*

- Two (2) tables of eight at the event with premier seating
- Link to sponsor's site on event website and Farmington's social media pages
  - Sponsor and name recognition in all media outreach and advertisements
- Lead signage on-site at registration, auction, and event areas during event
  - Premium full-page color advertisement with premier placement in the program book and logo placement on front cover
  - Opportunity to provide company-branded item(s) for guests
    - On stage recognition by event host
    - Opportunity for product display at event
    - Speaking opportunity at the event
  - Commemorative Farmington gift presented at the event





## *Gold Sponsor \$7,500*

- Two (2) tables of at the event with premier seating
- Link to sponsor's site on event website and Farmington's social media pages
- Sponsor and name recognition in all media outreach and advertisements
  - Prominent signage on-site at registration, auction, and event area
    - Premium full-page color advertisement in the program book
    - Opportunity to provide company-branded item(s) for guests
      - On stage recognition by event host
      - Opportunity for product display at the event
        - Speaking opportunity at the event
    - Commemorative Farmington gift presented at the event
  - Right to issue own press release and community outreach regarding association with Farmington and the event

# *Silver Sponsor \$5,000*

- One (1) table of eight at the event with premier seating
- Link to sponsor's site on event website and Farmington's social media pages
  - Prominent signage on-site in registration and event area
- Premium half page color advertisement in the program book and logo placement on front cover
  - On stage recognition by event host



# *Bronze Sponsor \$2,500*

- One (1) table of eight at the event with premier seating
- Link to sponsor's site on event website and Farmington's social media pages
  - Recognition on-site in registration and event area

# *Copper Sponsor \$1,500*

- 4 seats at the event with premier seating
- Recognition on-site in registration and event area





## **Farmington**

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**Michael@HistoricHomes.org 502-452-9920**  
**[www.visitfarmington.org](http://www.visitfarmington.org)**