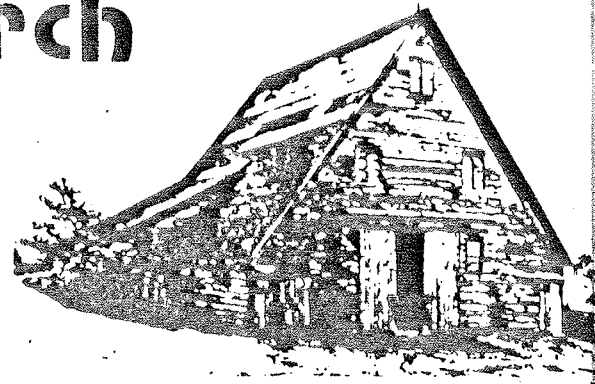


# Dutch Barn Research Miscellany

Vol. 1 No. 1 JUNE 1988

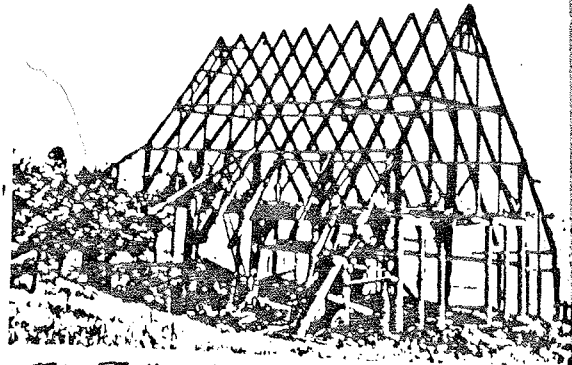


This publication is planned to provide more information than can be included in the News Letter of the Society. The papers are based on the research activities, historical archives, field trips and collections of members and others interested in Dutch Barns. They are presented as unedited copy.

It is hoped that this information will lead to a better understanding of the chronology, the builders, and the utilization of these unique buildings and the role they played during the early settlement of Northeastern America.

The "Miscellany" will be compiled, reproduced and distributed at random times dependent on the accumulation of useful data.

Please send copy to  
Vincent Schaefer.



The Tellar/Schermerhorn Barn  
Schermerhorn Road, Schonowee,  
Rotterdam, Schenectady, N.Y.  
1701-1948  
Vincent J. Schaefer.

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# INDEX - Vol. 1 No. 1

## Dutch Barn Research Miscellany.

Vol.	No.	Page	Subject
1	1	1	Title Page Inauguration Issue.
1	1	2	The Schönowe Area and The Teller-Schermerhorn Barn
1	1	3	The Teller-Schermerhorn Dutch Barn V. J. Schaefer
1	1	4	" " " " " "
1	1	5	" " " " " "
1	1	6	The Teller-Schermerhorn House
1	1	7	" " " "
1	1	8	The Foremost and Hindermost Farms of the Great Flats
1	1	9	The Dutch Pioneers of Schenectady and The Great Flats
1	1	10	Development Pattern of Farms on the Great Flats
1	1	11	Drainage pattern of the Great Flats
1	1	12	Information about Hindmost Farm No 5 Great Flats VJS
1	1	13	Information related to Hindmost Farm No 5 Great Flats VJS
1	1	14	Information about The Teller-Schermerhorn Dutch Barn VJS
1	1	15	" " " " " " " " " "
1	1	16	" " " " " " " " " "
1	1	17	9 Photos of The Teller-Schermerhorn Dutch Barn VJS
1	1	18	8 Photos of The Teller-Schermerhorn Dutch Barn 1701-1948 VJS
1	1	19	8 Photos of The Teller-Schermerhorn Dutch Barn VJS
1	1	20	Scale model photos of Teller-Schermerhorn Barn VJS
1	1	21	Dutch Barn Check List
1	1	22	Sleepy Hollow Restorations, Tarrytown N.Y.
1	1	23	The Jordans Mayflower Barn Beconfield England
1	1	24	The Pitch Pine
1	1	25	Teller genealogy related to Teller-Schermerhorn Barn VJS
1	1	26	Occupants of Foremost and Hindmost Farms No 5
1	1	27	Schermerhorn genealogy related to Teller-Schermerhorn Barn
1	1	28	Genealogy of Sannetje (Jane) Delamont
1	1	29	An analysis of The roofline evolution of the New World Dutch Barn
1	1	30	" " " " " " " " " " V.J. Schaefer

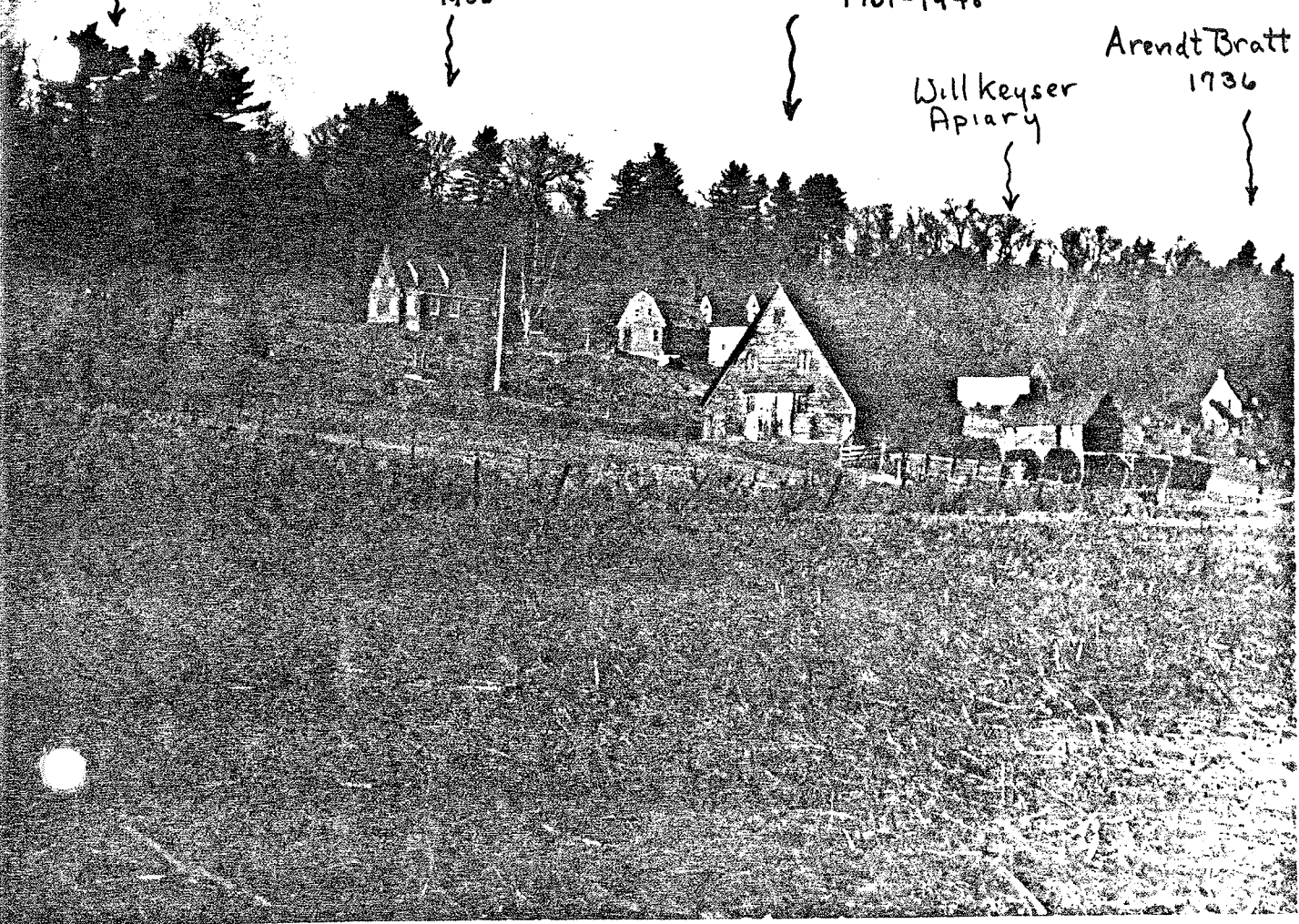
The Schonowe Area in the Town of Rotterdam is an area of considerable historic importance.

This photograph taken about 1938 shows the area at the end of the farming period. Hindmost Farm No 5 was essentially treeless. The Teller/Schermerhorn Barn was last used as a horse barn, harboring horses being sold by Charley Meyers, a horse trader. The horses grazed in the pastures surrounding the barn area the fields extending eastward to the River Road, also called the Kings Highway. This land is now occupied by the Schenectady City Water Wells, Interstate 890 + Niagara Mohawk Power Corridor.

Johannes Teller House  
Woestyne South  
W.J. Schaefer  
1933

Teller/Schermerhorn Barn  
1701-1948

Will Keyser  
Apiary  
Arendt Bratt  
1936



THE TELLER/SCHERMERHORN DUTCH BARN - 1701-1948

The Teller-Schermerhorn Dutch Barn of Schonowe (1701-1948) was one of the oldest and finest of these sturdy structures and would be standing today if its roof had not been neglected. Moisture seeping into its rafters and purlin plates destroyed them. Since the rafters were 40 feet long and the purlin plate 50, it was not feasible to replace them. The barn was probably built in 1701 when Johannes Teller acquired the farm land designated as Hindmost Farm No. 5 on the Great Flats along the Mohawk River upstream of the Village of Schenectady. The barn had the steepest roof of any in our region known to have been constructed during the 1680-1780 period. Half of its western side was built similar to the prototype barns in The Netherlands dating in the 17th Century. It was 50 ft. wide and 40 ft. high.

It had four bays separated by massive anchor beams of yellow pine (*Pinus rigida*) (Pitch Pine, Hard Pine) with a cross section of 20" x 12" and length of 32 feet.

The purlin plates extended the full fifty foot length of the barn and rested on tenons cut into the top of the five vertical posts which had held the anchor beams.

The anchor beams had long tenons at both ends which passed through mortises in the posts and protruded a foot beyond their rear side. Large diagonal braces were fitted to mortises in the post and underside of the beam. The entire H-framed assembly was snugged into place with two large tapered hickory wedges at each end beyond the vertical posts. The anchor beam and braces were then firmed into an integral unit with hickory pegs.

The height of the anchor beams above the yellow pine flooring was 12 1/2 feet, the height of the sides of the barn was 10 1/2 feet and the length of the rafters was 40 feet.

These rafters, 11 on each side, were tapered from an 8" x 8" cross section at their lower end to 5" x 5" at the top. They were notched to rest on the purlin plate and fastened with a foot long wrought iron spike. The lower end of the rafters merely rested on the side walls - their support being the purlin plates. The upper ends of the rafters were joined with wooden pegs. There was no ridge pole.

The rafters were covered with one inch thick planking, 13" wide and chamfered so that when lapped the angle would lead precipitation outward. Eventually, this plank roof was probably covered with cedar shingles.

While the rafters extended 24 feet above the purlin plate, the thicker lower end which was 16 feet long compensated in weight for the thinner timber above so that the rafters were balanced at the purlin plate.

In most instances the rafters had deep rot where they rested on the purlin plate and thus were relatively easy to remove. None of them or the purlin plates were sound enough to salvage.

The large Dutch doors in the center of the gable ends of the barn at ground level originally swung inward on large wooden hinges. One door was full length; the other consisted of an upper and a lower one which swung independently. Later when the barn was refurbished these were supplanted with doors that were opened by sliding them sideways on metal tracks mounted below pentice. The smaller animal doors were not modified and thus retained the original wrought iron Dutch hinges of classic design.

A singular feature of this barn was the presence of an upper purlin plate located 4 1/2 ft. above the main one. This was supported by two transverse timbers which were pegged into the fourth rafter from each end.

Both ends of this upper plate rested on gable end timbers. I presume this upper plate was installed to bear the snow load of the winter.

There was about two feet of air space under the flooring. The barn was supported by flattish stones placed under the posts and at about 20 foot intervals along the outside sills.

The lower half of the west roof on the north end consisted of six rafters which had a lesser slope with their upper end cut on a long diagonal so they rested on the steeper rafters which ended about two feet below the lower purlin plate. The area under the leanto was 10 feet wider than the rest of the barn. Since this added dimension extended the barn into the hillside, a dry laid stone wall of local Schenectady sandstone about 4 feet high was constructed against the hillside as a retaining wall.

At this portion of the barn's roof a wooden eaves trough was installed to divert the roof water which would have normally dripped down into the dry wall area. This wooden trough carried the roof water several feet north of the barn.

During the various stages of dismantling the barn, I photographed it with the hope that a scale model of it could be constructed. I have now (March 1988) managed to do this and the beauty, integrity and simplicity of this design is impressive. It is intriguing to realize that these early architects anticipated the basic structure of our modern skyscrapers wherein an internal support system bore the weight of the major components and thus permitted the outer curtain walls to be extraneous to a load bearing function.

Vincent J. Schaefer

6/6/88

## THE TELLER/SCHERMERHORN HOUSE

When Johannes Teller, son of Willem Teller, was given the real property of his father after his (J.T.) return from captivity in Canada, he apparently occupied Hindmost Farm No. 5 and began farming in 1701. At that time he probably built the large Dutch Barn located near The Big Spring on the western edge of this farmstead.

As was the custom during that period, he probably built the wooden house which still remains on the north end of the larger brick house which, I believe, was built in 1760 by Simon J. Schermerhorn, son of Jacob and Margareta Teller Schermerhorn.

This wooden house was then enlarged by adding another extension on the south end which is now fastened to the much larger brick house to the south of it.

Today, May 20, 1988, I was invited by the present owner (half) Mrs. Ann Horth, to look at the house - especially the wooden portion. The big beams of this house are in excellent condition and show that the wooden house consists of two parts. The northernmost portion appears to be the oldest part. The roof rafters are considerably larger and are double where the addition was added. The same holds true with the exposed beams on the main floor where a double beam marks the end of the initial house. I suspect this original building was built by Johannes Teller about 1701 with the addition added in 1715-20. Johannes died in 1725 and probably willed his farm, house and barn to his first born daughter, Margareta.

On the north end of the wooden Teller House is a beautiful batten door hung on typical early Dutch Hinges. This is an original door and would fit into the 1701 building date proposed.

The rafters in both houses - the original one and the addition were shaped with a broad axe. Neither set of rafters had a ridge pole and were pegged together with wooden pegs in the same manner as were the barn rafters. The wood of both the rafters and the big timbers in the main house were of pitch pine (yellow pine, hard pine).

When the brick house was built, probably by the Simon J. Schermerhorns about 1760, it is likely that a portion of the second house was removed and then rebuilt to secure the wooden Teller House to the larger brick Schermerhorn House.

Both the rafters of the original house and the large timbers of the main floor were more carefully made than in the addition.

On My 21, Russell Horth took some of the insulation from the roof rafters of the Teller House. The original structure had a lapped plank roof, the planks cut by pit saw. The addition on the south also had chamfered planks. The roof planks in the 1760 Schermerhorn brick house built by Simon J. are also chamfered but are not lapped. The roof timbers of the Schermerhorn House are made from salvaged timbers, mortises are in the timbers and rafter sockets not used.

In the basement of the Teller House is an archway under the fireplace made of bricks much narrower than in similar structures (2) in the Schermerhorn House.



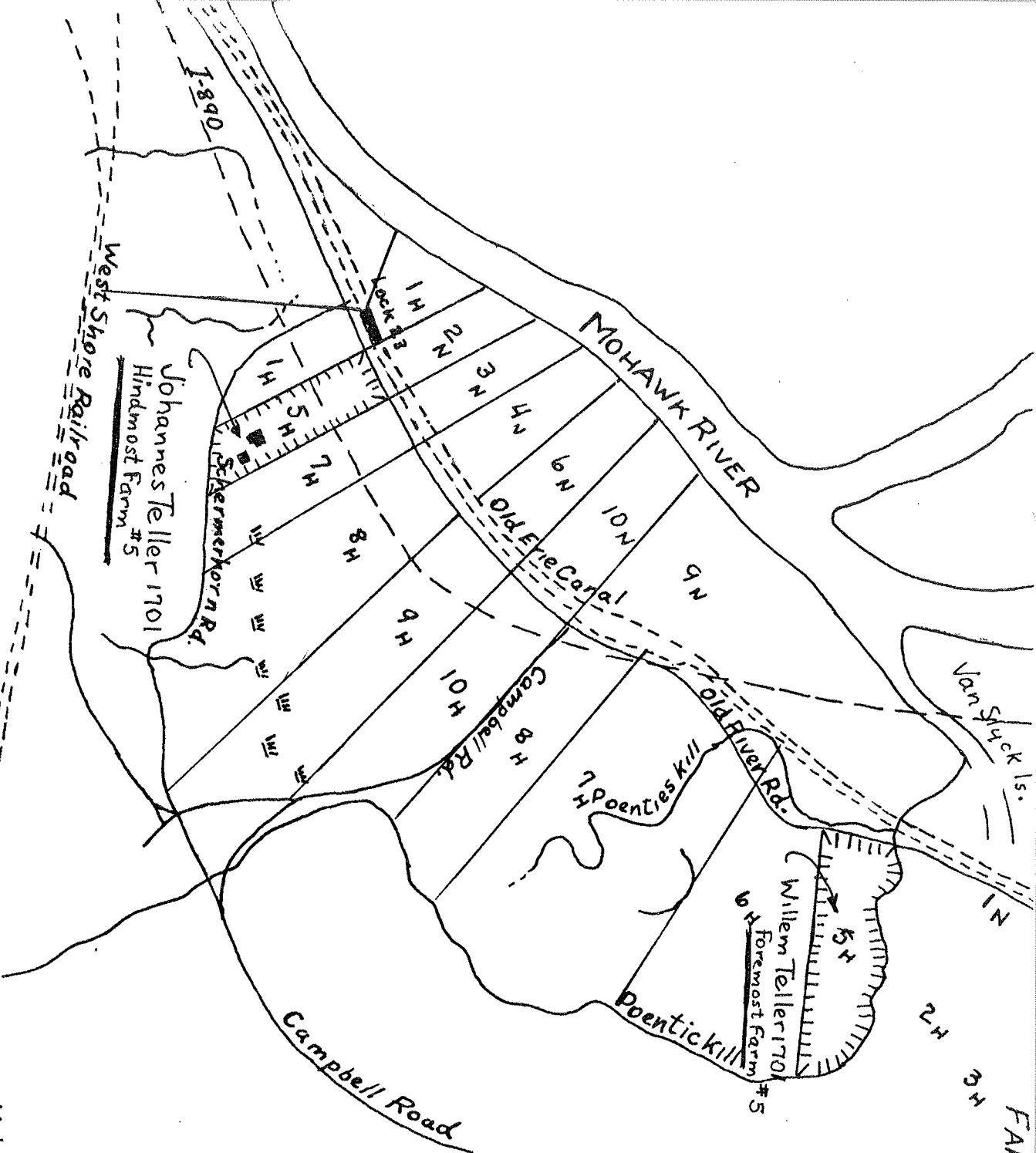
FARMS OF THE GREAT FLATS  
1663 - 1668

Original Owners of the Great Flats Farms

1. Catelyn Devos  
June 2, 1668
2. Philip Browder  
Before 1664
3. Sanders Glen  
June 16, 1664
4. Pieter Soegemakelys  
alias Van Woggelum  
June 5, 1667
5. Willem Teller  
June 16, 1664
7. Pieter Bosboom  
June 16, 1664
8. Martin Van Isselstyn  
April 13, 1668
9. Simon Veeder  
Jan 15, 1667
10. Teunis Swart  
June 16, 1664
6. Gerrit Bancker  
Harmon Vedder  
June 16, 1664

Note: Each owner originally

had both the nearmost and the hindermost farms



TELLER Farms on the Great Flats 1664-1741  
Teller/Schermerhorn Dutch Barn. 1701-1948

Gleaned from Scheneclady Patent-Pearson. V.S. May 88

THE DUTCH PIONEERS OF SCHENECTADY AND THE GREAT FLATS

As with all of the early Dutch families of the Hudson-Mohawk region the interconnections were very complex. In a number of instances the death of a spouse was followed in a year or so with a second marriage. The families were extensive with the number of children ranging from 4 or 5 to 10 or 11. Very frequently the children were named after the father or mother, aunts and uncles. As a result it is often difficult to keep the relationships in proper sequence. If a son or daughter died at an early age, the next one frequently received the name of the deceased. While primogeniture was followed to some degree it apparently was not an inviolable rule and gifts of land or other property may occur when all are living.

In general, the families whose names still persist at the present time developed from the pioneer settlers. These persons such as the Vedders, the Van Slycks, the Tellers, the Van Guyslins, the Wemps, the Bradts, the Vroomans, the Mebies, the Swarts, the Van Epps, the Glens, the Veeders, the Schermerhorns and such were mostly born in the Netherlands, or Sweden between 1620 and 1640. After joining Van Curler at Albany to form the new village of Schenectady at the northwesterly edge of the Pine Plains they married girls of 18-25 years of age and established families on the farmsteads of the Great Flats or the other Flats adjoining the Mohawk River upstream of Schenectady.

The descendants of these primary families by their intermarriage established a very closely knit community. This was seriously affected by The Massacre of 1690 when some families were drastically disrupted. However, the survivors carried on and while some lines virtually disappeared, others have proliferated. In some instances as with the Bradt Family, the reunion of 1987 brought together more than 350 of the present descendants. The Vedder Genealogy book lists more than a thousand descendants of Harmen Vedder.

Vincent J. Schaefer  
May 7, 1988

DEVELOPMENT PATTERN OF FARMS ON THE GREAT FLATS - SCHENECTADY

The Teller/Schermerhorn Barn which, I believe, was built by Johannes Teller in 1701 involves the basic history of the pioneering village of Schenectady. When its founder, Arendt Van Curler, first viewed the area in 1642 while acting as a field agent for his uncle Killean Van Rensselaer, he wrote to his uncle saying, "There lies the most beautiful land that the eye of man ever beheld." He was viewing the Great Flats.

In 1661, when, with a group of Dutch countrymen, he founded Schenectady on a piece of land at the northwestern highland opposite Van Slyck Island he occupied, at the edge of the Mohawk River, a village site free from the annual Spring Floods and constructed a stockade which enclosed the village lots which would be apportioned to his colleagues. The Stockade was immediately adjacent to the Great Flats, a rich alluvial flood plain that extended more than two miles up the river on the south and west sides. Van Curler divided these flats into 20 farms which were numbered 1 to 10, designated the Foremost and the Hindmost. The proprietor receiving Foremost Farm No. 1 also received Hindmost No. 1. The Foremost was close to the village, the Hindmost was the furthest away. Only Farms No. 10 located in the midst of the Great Flats were contiguous. The King's Highway, later called the River Road and now called Rice Road, became the dividing line of the Foremost and Hindmost Farms. This road in the early 1800's was paralleled by the Erie Canal.

Foremost and Hindmost Farms No. 5 were assigned to Willem Teller in 1662. It was these farms along with his town property which were given by him to his fourth son Johannes in 1700. Of this property Johannes chose to retain Hindmost Farm No. 5. Foremost Farm No. 5 and his town property was given by him to his brothers Jacobus and Willem. The latter apparently settled on Foremost No. 5 adjacent to a stream called Willem Teller's Kill.

Vincent J. Schaefer  
May 5, 1988

THE DRAINAGE PATTERN OF THE GREAT FLATS - SCHENECTADY

Willem Teller's Kill was fed by a number of large springs which flowed from the base of the sandy bluffs that bordered The Great Flats, the main springs being below 16th Street in Bellevue of modern Schenectady.

At an early date the flow of the Teller Kill was augmented by the digging of a ditch from the Poenties Kill across Hindmost Farm No. 8 occupied by Harmen Vedder. This additional flow was sufficient to power a sawmill. A small settlement developed in the vicinity of this mill.

While Willem Teller, brother of Johannes, occupied Foremost Farm No. 5, the Hindmost Farm No. 5 was occupied by his brother Johannes. This was a choice piece of farm land. It was watered by a huge cold spring that emerged from the hill side north of his house at an elevation 20 feet or higher above his large barn. Thus he was able to have running water in front of the barn and it was sufficient to form a farm pond. If this was done, all trace of it is gone except for a berm that extends into the present wet lands in a southerly direction. At an early date the flow from Partridge Creek which originates from Springs along the southerly edge of the Old Maids Woods flowed along this berm and continued south to enter the Poenties Kill. The Poenties Kill was the original stream that flowed out of the Mariaville Hills, flowed east across The Great Flats to the Kings Highway. There it went under that road, through a stone culvert and then meandered easterly to join the Teller Kill near the Binne Kill north of Van Slyck Island.

The main tributary of the Poenties Kill was the Davidie Gatt Kill which flowed northerly from South Schenectady fed mostly by springs emerging from the sand. This stream once powered a half dozen mills of the Yates family. It enters the Poenties Kill a few hundred yards west of Schermerhorn Road. When it was ditched to join the Teller Kill. The new stream was called the Poentic Kill.

INFORMATION ABOUT HINDMOST FARM NO. 5, GREAT FLATS, SCHENECTADY

This assembly of miscellany is intended to describe several aspects of the historical facts related to the Teller/Schermerhorn Dutch Barn. It is likely it was built in 1701 shortly after Willem Teller gave his real property to his fourth son, Johannes, since he was in such straightened circumstances following his return from Canada where he had been taken as a captive following the Schenectady Massacre of 1690. Altho' Johannes was given Willem's town lot and the two Farms No. 5, he gave his brothers, Jacobus and Willem, Jr., all except Hindmost Farm No. 5 which he retained.

According to local custom, Johannes apparently built a substantial barn on the western edge of his farm and a lesser house. This barn was the Teller/Schermerhorn Barn and his house was likely the one (now modified) which is fastened to the north end of the Schermerhorn House recently restored by Ann and Russell Horth.

These buildings remained in the Teller family "for a long time."

Margareta Teller, first born of the three daughters of Johannes Teller was born in 1693. She married Jacob Schermerhorn in 1712 and died in 1741. Among her eight children born between 1713 and 1735 was Simon Jacobse Schermerhorn who was born in 1730. It is likely that he was given Hindmost Farm No. 5 by his mother upon her death in 1741.

Simon's grandson, also named Simon J., who was born in 1797 and died in 1872, resided on Hindmost Farm No. 5 and quite likely built the brick house or at least lived in it at the time of his death. There is a legend that the brick house was built in 1760. If so, it is quite possible that it was built by his grandfather, Simon J., when he was about 30 years of age. b. 1730 d. 1793.

The Teller/Schermerhorn Barn was given new doors, siding and possibly a roof sometime in the late 1800's. The original frame remained unaltered.

Genealogical info gleaned from Early American Settlers - Pearson  
V.J. Schaefer  
May 4, 1988

## INFORMATION RELATED TO HINDMOST FARM NO. 5, GREAT FLATS, SCHENECTADY

Johannes Teller, who probably built the Teller/Schermerhorn Barn was born in Schenectady in 1659. His father, Willem Teller, was born in Holland in 1620 and died 1701. Johannes survived the Schenectady Massacre of 1690 but was taken as a captive to Canada. He apparently returned to Schenectady about 1692 when he married Susanna Wendel. They had 6 children between 1693 and 1704. Their first born was Margareta. When Johannes died in 1725 he willed his Farm No. 5 to her.

Margareta married Jacob Reyerse Schermerhorn in 1712 at the age of 19 and had seven children. She and Jacob and their family lived on Hindmost Farm No. 5 and received title to this farm when her father, Johannes, died in 1725. When she died in 1741 this farm apparently went to her son, Simon Jacobse, who was born in 1730. He married Sarah Vrooman and they had three children. Their second child was born in 1733 and was named Jacob. He in turn lived on Hindmost Farm No. 5, married Engeltie Bratt and had seven children. Their eldest, named Simon Jacobse, was born in 1797 and was living in the presently standing brick house in 1872 when he apparently died at the age of 75 years. It is likely that this house was built in 1760 by his grandfather, Simon J., son of Margareta.

This brick house may have been built of bricks made on the property at a clay deposit located northeast of the Dutch Barn where a dense deposit of broken bricks is located. This is the house occupied by Clarence and Anna Delong Schermerhorn in 1933 when I bought our property from them. In 1952, I bought the lower part of our lands from Ann and Russell Horth who purchased the house and land from the Schermerhorn Estate. Our purchase included the barn site where I had previously dismantled the Teller/Schermerhorn Dutch Barn in 1947-48 which I bought from Anna Schermerhorn after Clarence died.

Vincent J. Schaefer  
May 9, 1988

INFORMATION ABOUT THE TELLER/SCHERMERHORN DUTCH BARN  
LOCATED ON HINDMOST FARM #5, GREAT FLATS - SCHENECTADY

The Teller/Schermerhorn Barn (built c 1701) was unique to the Mohawk-Hudson (upper) and Schoharie Valleys. Its roof was steeper and sides lower (10 ft.) than any of the other ones. The included angle of the roof was 70° as compared to the other barns which ranged between 95° and 105°, with sides of 14 ft. to 16 ft. high. The Teller/Schermerhorn had half of the western roof line less steep than the higher portion, the break in slope occurring at the purlin plate. This double slope was similar to the barns in the Zeeland section of Holland and was like two of the barns in the mid section region of the Hudson Valley typified by the Decker/Bienstock Barn west of Wallkill and along Red Mill Road below Brynswyck. This barn and the other mentioned, originally had two slopes on both sides of the barns. These however were changed by adding 4 1/2 foot vertical extensions to the posts above the purlin plates which were then topped with a second purlin plate. The roof rafters were in two sections and joined at the upper, newer purlin plate. This gave the roof a single slope which probably shed snow better than in the original configuration.

The original two slope portion of the Teller/Schermerhorn Barn required an extension of ten additional feet so that this quarter of the barn was 25 feet by 35 feet, the other being 25 feet by 25 feet. Since the wider portion of the barn was on the uphill slope of Farm No. 5, a dry stone wall 4 feet high supported the wall siding of this part of the barn.

At the peak of the south gable end of the barn was a windvane in the outline of a fish. It was blown away during the 1938 hurricane which swept over the lower Mohawk Valley at that time. It was never found. (Vincent J. Schaefer, May 4, 1988)

The anchor beams of the Teller/Schermerhorn Barn were made of pitch pine (hardpine, yellowpine). These trees were of local occurrence. In fact, there is one now growing in the Old Maids Woods, within a quarter mile of the barn site from which a timber 24" x 12" x 40 feet could be fashioned at the present time. Unlike the smallish pines now growing in the Pine Bush between Schenectady and Albany, the original forest in that area was made up of trees so massive and tall that a traveller crossing the sandy plains in the early 1700's reported that the sky was not visible during his journey between the two villages. The site of the present tree is the northernmost portion of this sandy plain which was originally the bed of glacial Lake Albany existing about 10-12000 years ago. The posts of the barn connecting the anchorbeams as well as the anchor beam braces were of the same pitch pine materials as was the purlin plates and the roof rafters.

When I purchased the barn from Mrs. Anna Delong Schermerhorn, I discovered that due to roof neglect the massive 40 foot rafters were mostly in a decayed condition. Despite my hopes that the barn could be converted into a museum, I was forced to dismantle the barn. I decided to see if I could do it single handedly.

Accordingly, I first removed the siding which had a coating of yellowish paint in a deteriorated condition. At the same time I removed

the doors. Except for the smallest animal doors these doors were not original but were the type opened by sliding sideways on a steel track. The two animal doors close to the side walls on the south gable end had original wrought iron Dutch hinges. The grooves on the door posts of the large doors showed that the original large doors swung inward on wooden hinges. The siding was made of 1" x 10" uniform white pine planks and were lapped and in excellent condition. Roof planks were chamfered and overlapped in such a way as to lead water outward. Thus they were an excellent example of a plank roof. (Vincent J. Schaefer, May 5, 1988)

The plank roof which covered all of the Teller/Schermerhorn Barn was an excellent example of this type of structure and attests as to its early construction date. Eventually, such a roof would no longer shed precipitation at which time it apparently was covered by shingles as shown in the nail holes found in the planks when they were removed. In more modern times the shingles were supplanted by horizontal strips of tarred roofing sheets nailed on top of the shingles. It was a tedious job to remove these several layers of material.

During the dismantling process several long planks of the original siding were discovered. They are still in excellent condition and were 3/4" x 13" x 12 feet. The saw markings on these planks showed that they had been cut with a pit saw. All of the larger timbers including the roof rafters were shaped by broad axe and adze. The finished surfaces were beautifully smooth as though they had been finished with a plane.

The barn sills were supported with massive stones mostly of limestone, granite and gneiss. The former probably from ledges along the Mohawk River above what is now Pattersonville, the latter two from glacial boulders carried down from the Adirondacks by glacial action. The piles of stones were located under the load carrying posts.

As the roof planks were removed, I discovered the extent of the decay in the roof rafters. I can't remember a single one that was in good solid condition. The worst ones broke at the purlin plate, the others I found could be removed by prying them up from their notch at the plate and removing the large spike which secured them. Since they were all tapered from 8" x 8" at the base to 6" x 6" at the ridge top, they were in balance at the purlin plate. Rocking them up and down I found I could then give them a twist and they would roll down on top of the remaining rafters. In this manner the roof was removed. (V.J. Schaefer, May 5, 1988)

The dismantling process posed many problems. When there appeared to be an impasse I would cease work for a week or two as I pondered over the problem. Invariably a solution developed after which I would spend early mornings and evenings on the project.

Eventually I removed everything but the massive posts and anchor beams. This was accomplished by the late Fall of 1948 after about a year of effort in my spare time. My brother, Paul, used the anchor beams with their braces and portions of the posts to frame his library which he added to the gable end of his limestone house on St. David's Lane in Niskayuna. He didn't shorten them but used their full 30 foot of length to determine the dimensions of his library.



The useable timbers and planks I stored in a barnlike structure I fashioned from the big doors of the barn. I used the white pine siding for fashioning kitchen cabinets in my home and for many other applications. The broken and decayed planks and timbers served as firewood for several decades! In fact, a few of the skeletons of the roof rafters still exist where they fell forty years ago! They are enmeshed among the blackberry bushes and sumach which thrive in the rich soil adjacent to the barn site.

During the dismantling of the barn I took many black and white and color pictures of the barn skeleton from the time the siding was removed till the anchor beams lay horizontally on the ground. These were sharp enough in detail to permit me to scale off the barn's dimensions in all aspects for building a model.

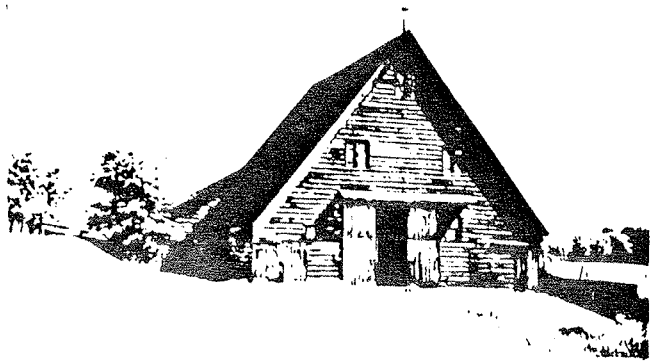
Using these measurements I have made a scale model of the barn including all of its features from anchor beams to purlin plates, rafters, roof, doors, wooden and wrought iron hinges, siding, floor and even wind vane. (V.J. Schaefer, May 5, 1988)

As with all of the Dutch Barns of the Hudson-Mohawk and Schoharie Valleys, loose, straight stems of small trees were limbed and placed so as to span the distance between the anchor beams so they were flush with the outer edge of the beams. These were spaced from each other about the 6" diameter of the thicker dimension of the trunks. This provided ventilation of the stored hay or grain bundles from below and provided space for the adjoining assembly of similar cut trees. A space was provided in the central region of the two interior bays for the hay or grain bundles to be tossed up to the person stowing the harvest.

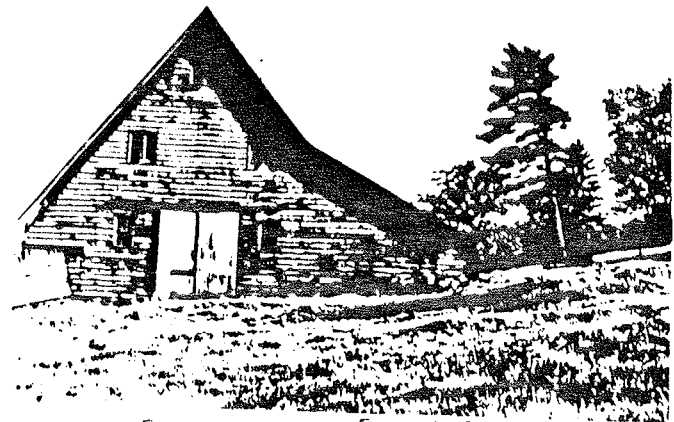
With the Teller/Schermerhorn Barn a more modern hay lifter was utilized probably when the new siding was installed. It consisted of a metal track suspended from the top of the roof rafters on which a trolley with four wheels ran the length of the barn. Suspended from this with a 5/8" rope was a U-shaped device which when used, dropped into the hayload as an inverted U. At the sharpened tip ends of this heavy iron device, spreaders could be activated which secured a large load of hay which was then raised above the threshing floor and carried to any central zone of the stowage level where it could be dumped. This device was probably operated using horse power.

When the new siding was installed six double louvered "windows" were installed to ventilate the area above the top of the anchor beams. These were fashioned so as to shed rain but to freely admit air for drying the hay or grain. Since broom corn became a major crop grown on the Great Flats during the 19th Century, it is possible that the "broom" portion of the corn was dried in this same manner.

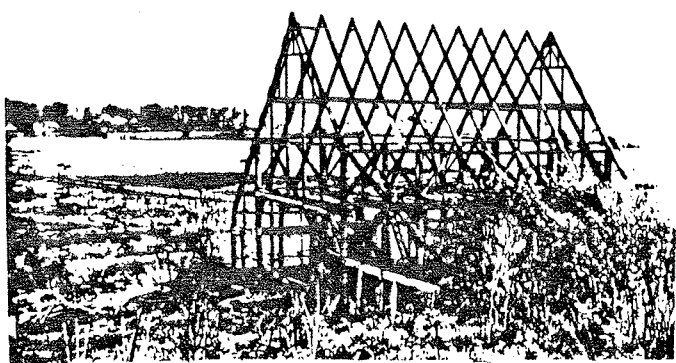
The extended section of the Teller/Schermerhorn Barn had a wooden eaves trough sloping down toward the north. This was probably used to keep the dry laid hillside wall from getting wet. (Vincent J. Schaefer, May 6, 1988)



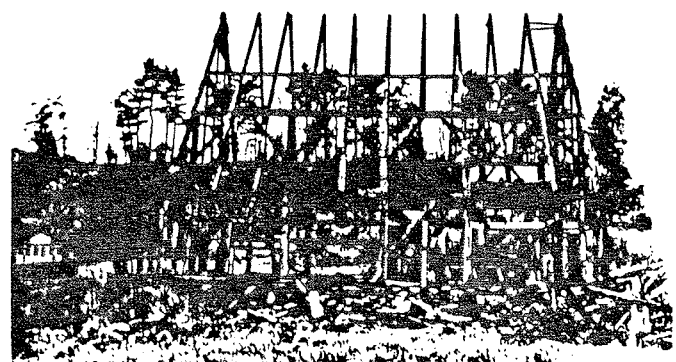
Teller/Schermerhorn Barn from SW.



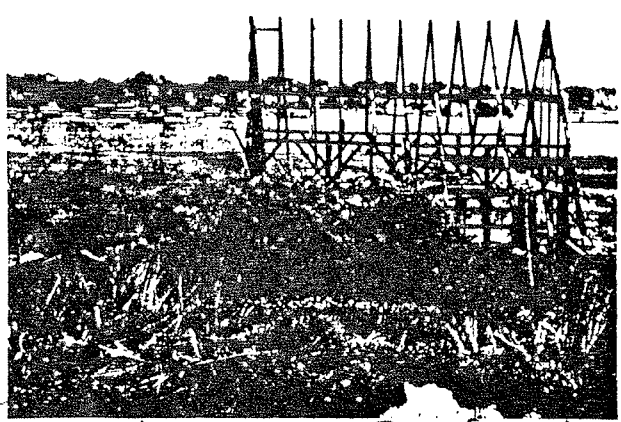
Teller/Schermerhorn Barn from North



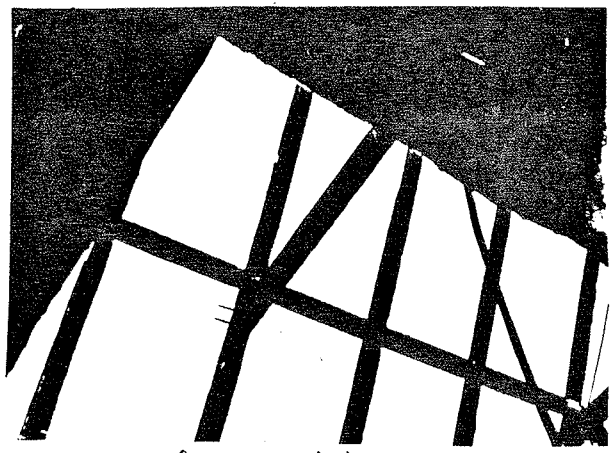
Teller/Schermerhorn Barn from Southwest



Teller/Schermerhorn Barn from East



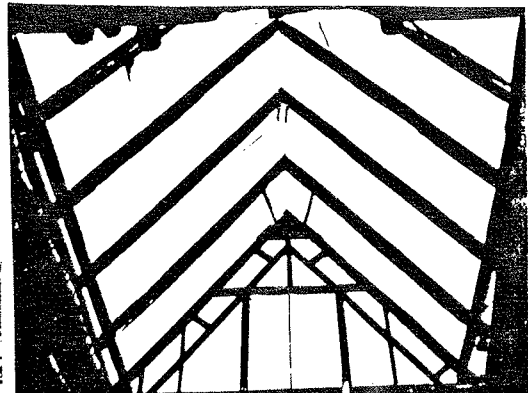
Teller/Schermerhorn Barn from West



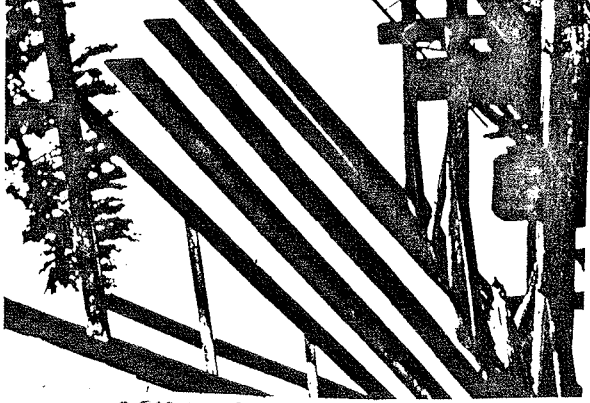
Close up of upper plate



Partial view of the barn



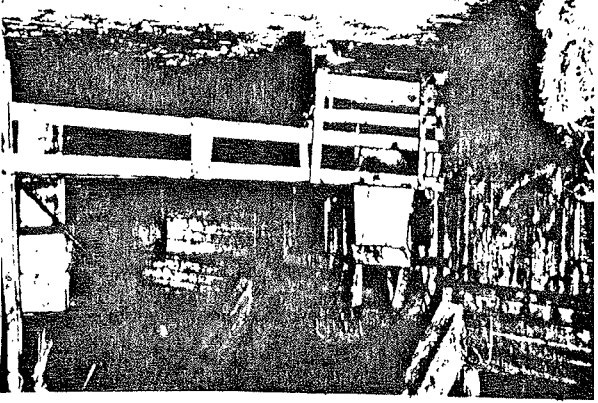
View of the barn's interior structure



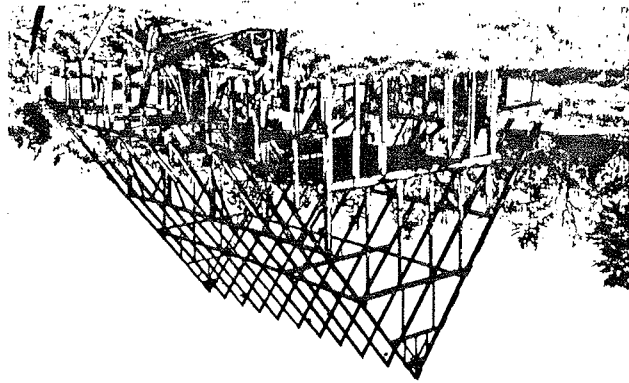
Interior from Southeast



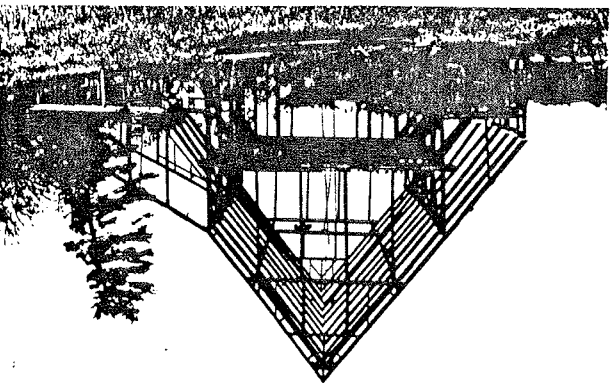
View from Southeast



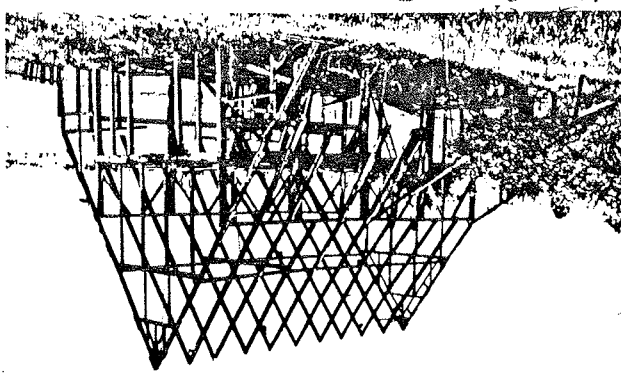
View from North



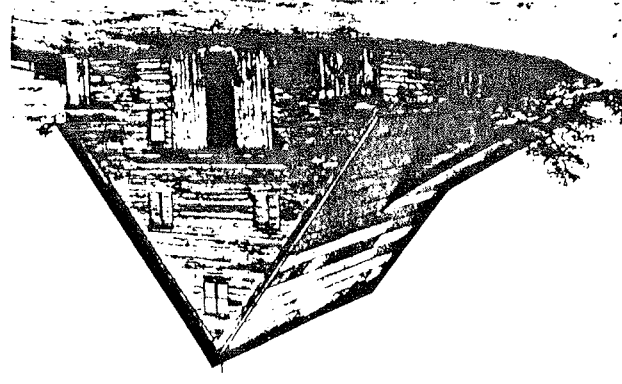
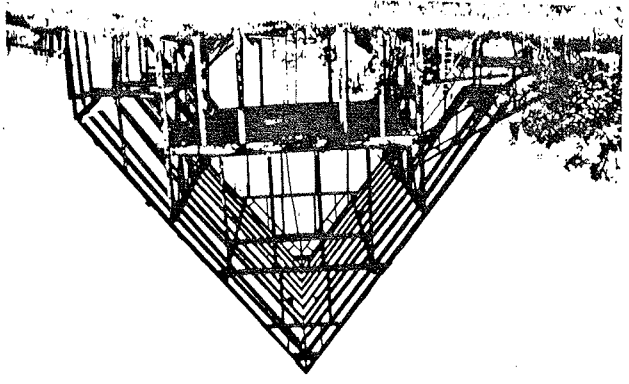
View from South west



View from South

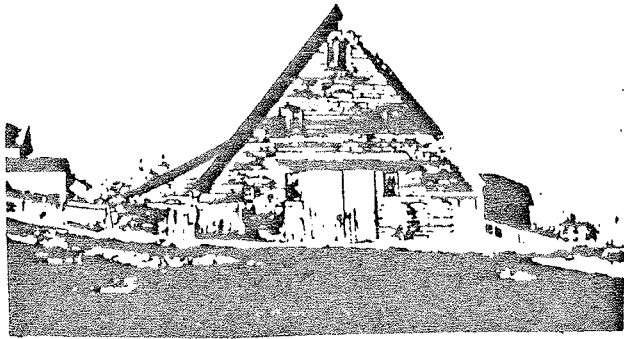


View from South west

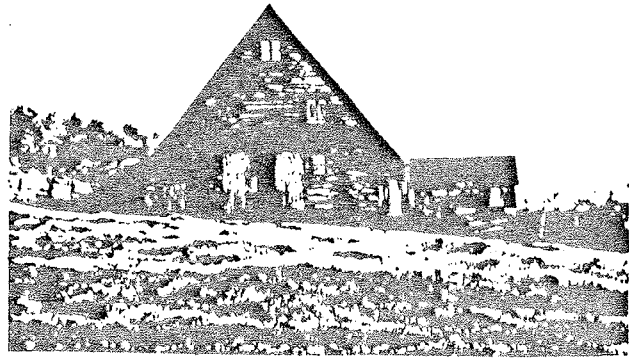


The Teller/Schermerhorn Dutch Barn 1901-1947

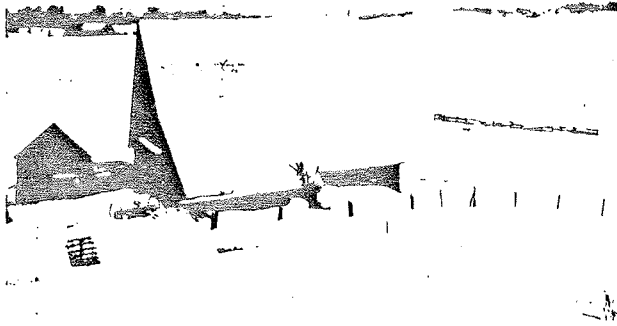
# The Teller/Schermerhorn Barn 1701-1948



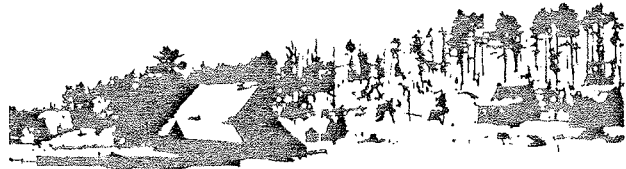
The Teller/Schermerhorn Barn



The Teller/Schermerhorn Barn



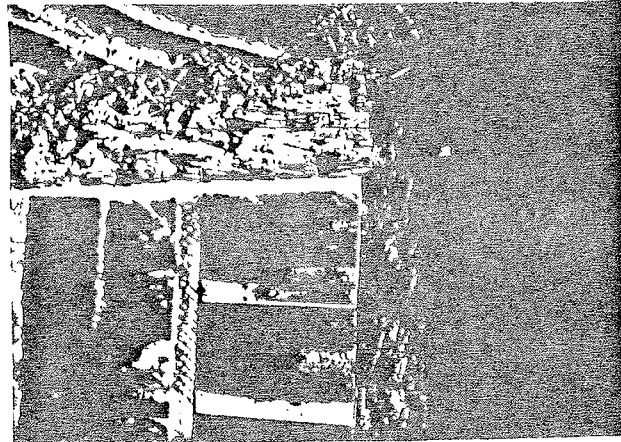
View from West



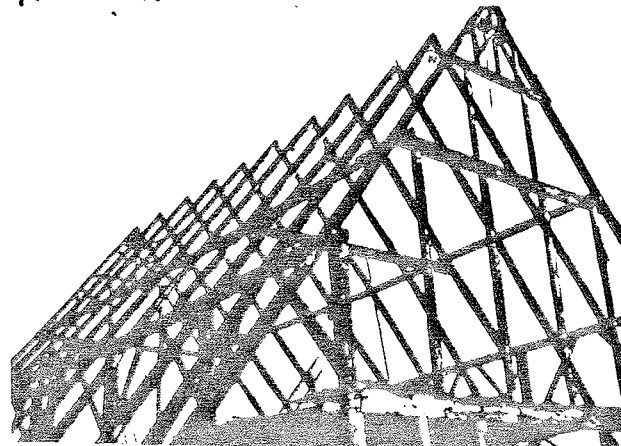
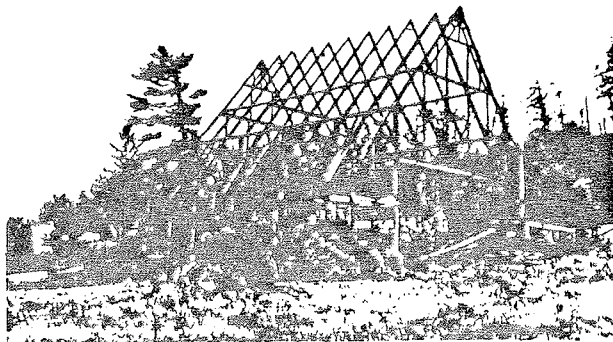
View from Northeast

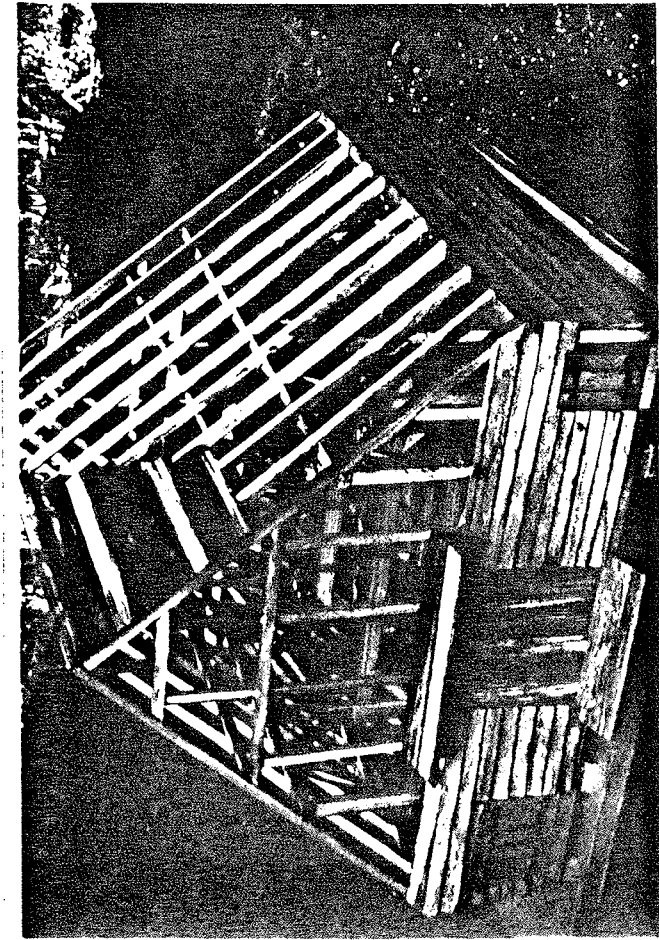
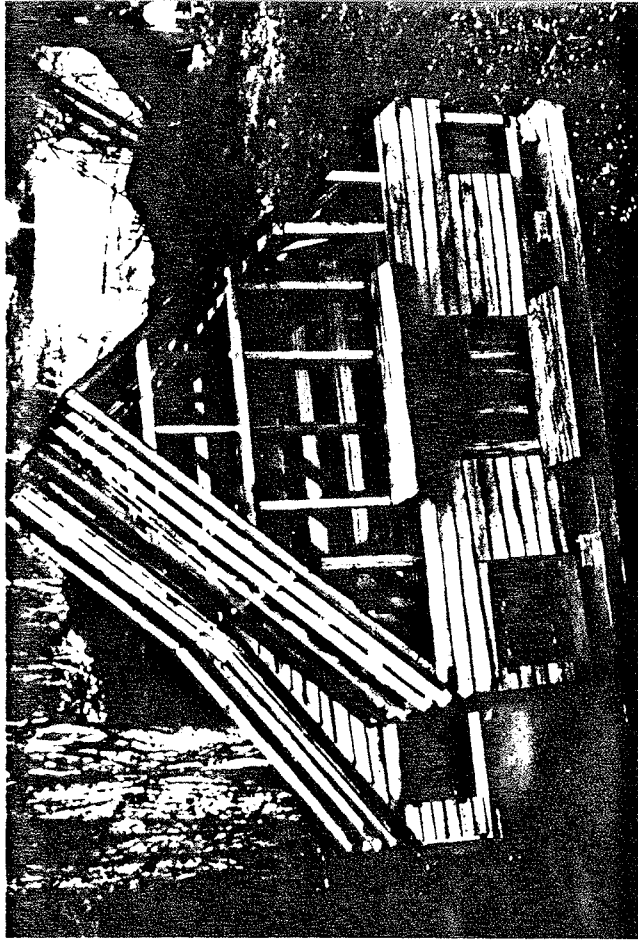
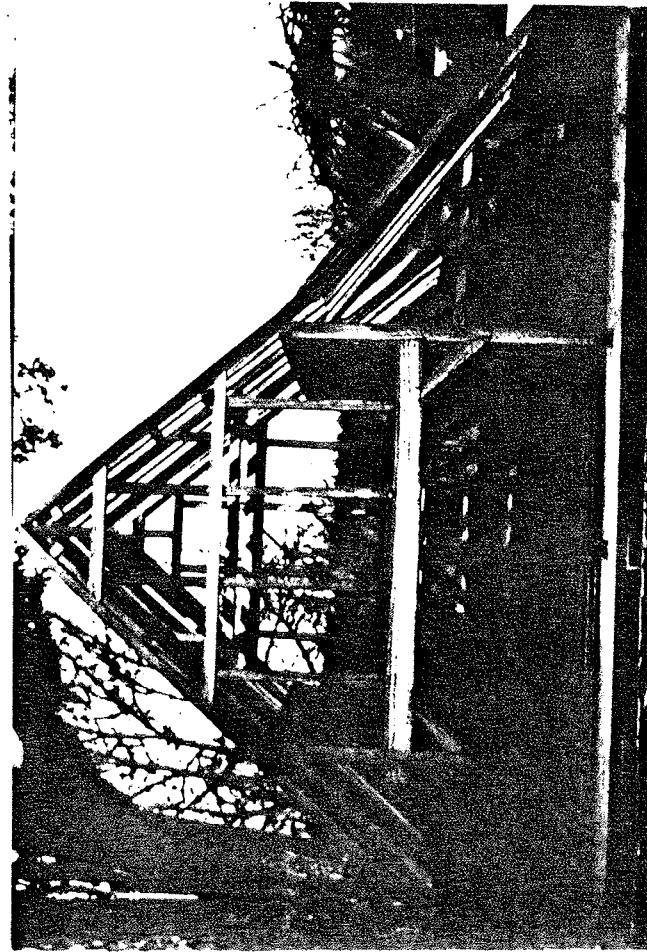


Anchor Beams + Braces



A ladder

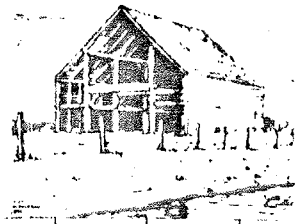




Scale Model of Teller/Schermerhorn Barn 1701-1948  
Model made by Vincent J. Schaefer March 1958

Scale 1" = 2ft.

1-1-20

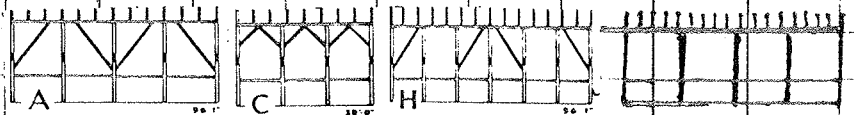


# Dutch Barn Checklist

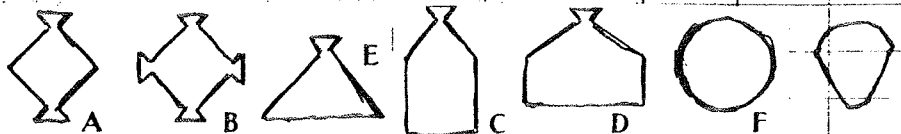
Anchor Beam Tenons



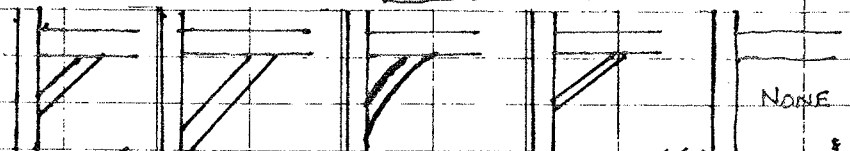
Purlin Plate Braces



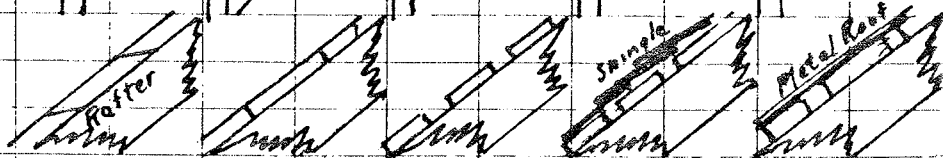
Martin Holes



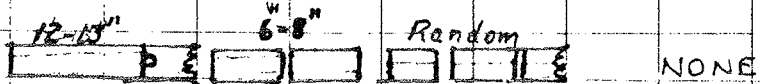
Anchor Beam Braces



Roof Sheathing



Floor Planks



Small Door Hinges



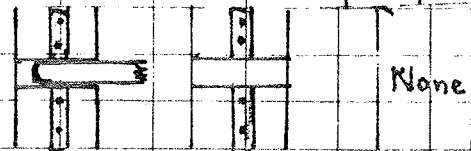
Nature of Siding



Rafter Contact on Plate

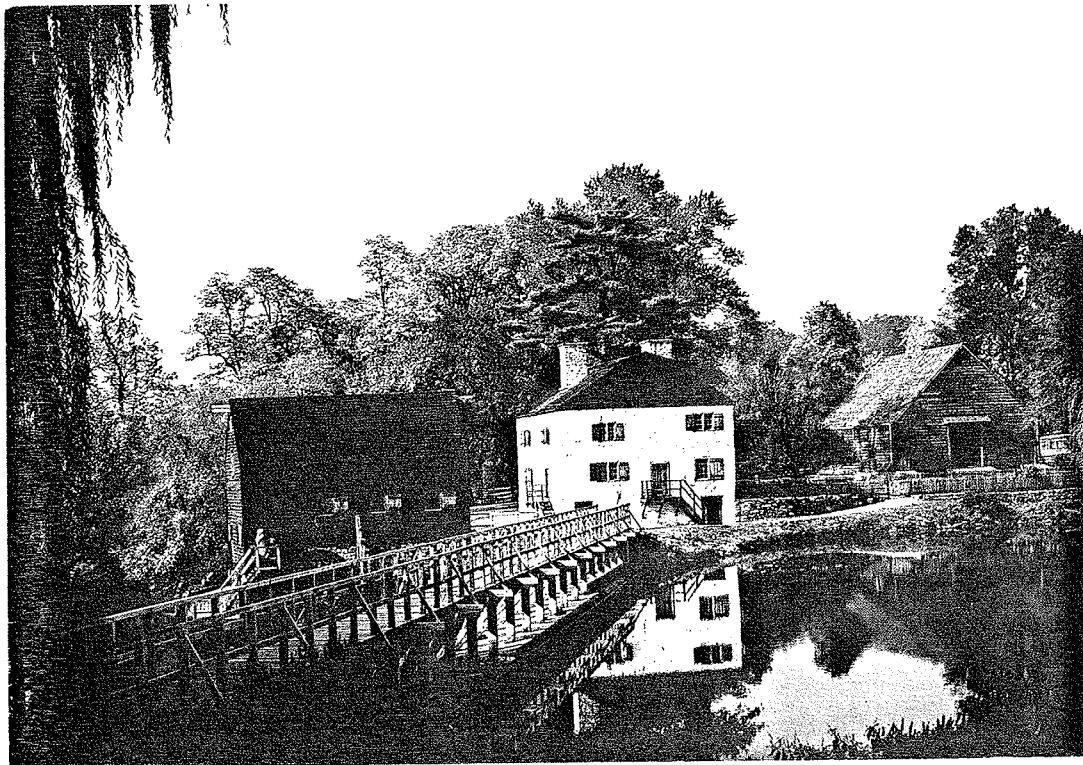


Large Door Hinges



Timber Shaping Marks





Sleepy Hollow Restorations  
Philipsburg Manor  
Upper Mills

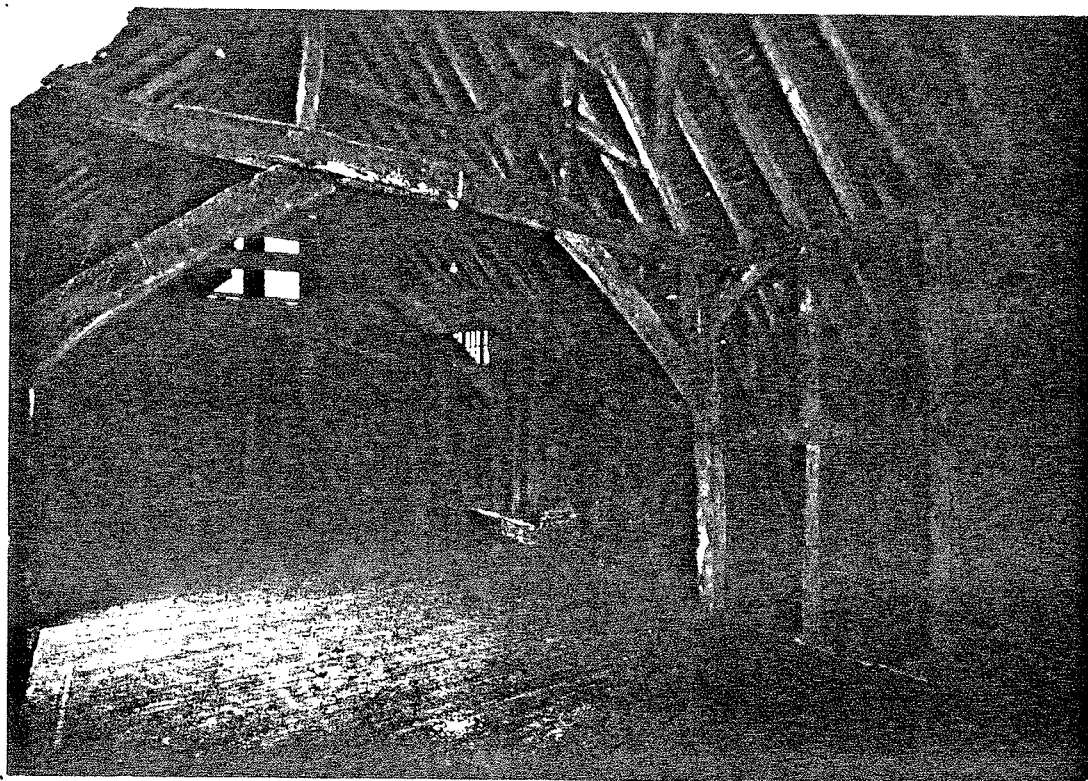
View of the Manor House, Mill and Barn.

This property is restored as it appeared c 1750

Note: This barn was originally in the Town of Guilderland  
Albany County, N.Y.

The Jordans Mayflower Barn - Beaconsfield  
England

1-1-23



The Interior of the Mayflower Barn at Old Jordans Beaconsfield, Bucks, England. A residential center administered by Jordans Monthly Meeting of the Society of Friends. (Tel. Chalfont St Giles 4586

This barn was built using the large timbers contained in The Mayflower when it was no longer sea worthy. It was bought by a farmer named Jordans who used its timbers in constructing a steep roofed barn in a rural area North west of London. The "anchor beam", columns, braces and the purlin plate are somewhat similar to the construction used in The Dutch Barns of the Hudson Mohawk and Schoharie Valleys. This suggests a boat building tradition used by the barn builders.

Photocard supplied by Katherine Nicklin/Doris Shamleffer.



PITCH PINEHard Pine, Yellow Pine.Pinus rigida Mill.

**HABIT**—Generally a low tree 30-50 ft. in height with a trunk diameter of 1-2 ft. occasionally 70-80 ft. in height with trunk diameter of 2-4 ft.; trunk more or less tapering, branches thick, gnarled, often drooping, forming an open pyramidal or oblong head; foliage in coarse rigid, yellowish-green tufts. Dead branches and old persistent cones are frequent and the tree has generally a decidedly scraggly appearance.

**BARK**—On young trunks and branches rough, broken into reddish brown scales, with age becoming deeply furrowed into broad flat-topped ridges separating on the surface into rather loose dark reddish-brown scales. Clusters of leaves and short branches are not infrequently formed directly from the old trunk (see in photograph above the tape measure.)

**TWIGS**—Stout, light brown, not downy, roughened especially after the fall of the leaves by the decurrent bases of scales subtending the leaf-clusters.

**LEAVES**—In clusters of 3, with persistent sheaths, yellowish-green, 2½ inches long, stout, stiff, spreading with pointed tips.

**MICROSCOPIC SECTION**—3-sided, showing 2 fibro-vascular bundles, resin-ducts located intermediate between bundles and periphery, strengthening cells beneath the epidermis in patches several layers thick, generally surrounding the resin-ducts and at one side of the vascular bundles, stomata on all three sides.

**BUDS**—Cylindrical to ovate, pointed, resin-coated, scales reddish-brown.

**FRUIT**—Cones 1½-4 inches long, without stalks, ovate becoming more or less spherical when opened, borne laterally, singly or in clusters at about a right angle to the twig often remaining on the branches for ten or a dozen years and frequently found on trees only a few feet high. **SCALES**—thickened at tip and with a stiff recurved prickle.

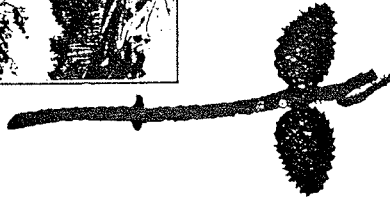
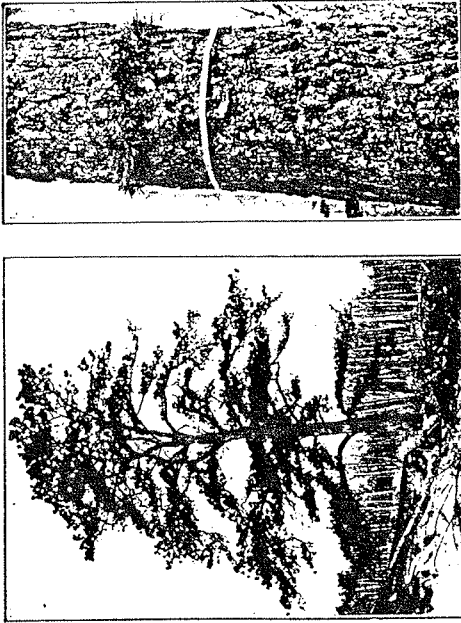
**COMPARISONS**—The Pitch Pine is the only native Pine in New England that has three needles in a cluster. Its ragged appearance with frequent dead branches, persistent cones, and yellowish-green, stiff foliage renders it easily distinguished from the White and Red Pines without examination of the needles.

**DISTRIBUTION**—Most common in dry, sterile soils, occasional in swamps. New Brunswick to Lake Ontario; south to Virginia and along the mountains to northern Georgia; west to western New York, Ohio, Kentucky and Tennessee.

**IN NEW ENGLAND**—Maine—mostly in the southwestern section near the seacoast; as far north as Chesterville, Franklin county; scarcely more than a shrub near its northern limits; New Hampshire—most common along the Merrimac valley to the White Mountains and up the Connecticut valley to the mouth of the Passumpsic, reaching an altitude of 1,000 feet above the sea level; Vermont—common in the northern Champlain valley, less frequent in the Connecticut valley; Connecticut—rare or local in Litchfield county, frequent elsewhere; common in the other New England states, often forming large tracts of woodland, sometimes exclusively occupying extensive areas.

**WOOD**—Light, soft, not strong, brittle, coarse-grained, very durable, light brown or red, with thick yellow or often white sapwood; largely used for fuel and in the manufacture of charcoal; occasionally sawed into lumber.

The Pitch Pine was frequently used to make The Anchor Beams of The Dutch Barns in New York



PITCH PINE

## Teller Genealogy related to Teller/Schermerhorn Barn on Hindmost Farm No 5

Willem Teller b. 1620 d. 1701

m.

Ch. Andries 1642

Helena 1645

Maria 1648

Elisabeth 1652

Jacob 1655

Willem 1657

Johannes 1659

Jannetie

→ Johannes Teller b. 1659 d. 1725 Captive 1690. Received lands from father 1701  
Retained Hindmost No 5.

m. Susanna Wendel

Ch. Johannes 1686

+ Willem 1695

Jacob 1698

Margareta 1693

Maria

Annetie

Jacob Schermerhorn b. 1690 d. 1753

→ m. Margareta Teller 1712 (22 yrs) d. 1741

Ch. Reyer 1713

Johannes 1717

Jacobus 1720

Willem 1722

Arent 1725

Andries 1727

Simon J. 1730Susanna 1735

← received Hindmost No 5 from Mother

# Occupants of Foremost & Hindmost Farms No. 5 Great Flats

Willem Teller b. 1620 d. 1701

m

- Ch. Andries 1642
- Helena 1645
- Maria 1648
- Elisabeth 1652
- Jacob 1655
- Willem 1657

→ Given Foremost Farm No 5 by Johannes Teller

- Johannes 1659
- Jannetie 1661

- Given Village lots & F# 5 and H# 5 by Willem Teller

Johannes Teller b. 1659 d. 1725 - Lived on Hindmost Farm No 5

m. Susanna Wendel Aug 18 1686

- Ch. Johannes 1691
- Willem 1695
- Margareta 1693
- Maria 1700
- Annatie 1704

- Inherited Hindmost Nos from father & Lived There after marrying Jacob Schermerhorn.

Willem Teller b. 1695 d. 1764

Lived on Foremost Farm No 5.

m. Catherina Van Alen Mar. 5 1731

- Ch. Johannes 1732



Johannes (John) b. 1732 d. 1784

m. Jannetje (Jane) Delamont Oct 8 1761 m. Aaron Schermerhorn

- Ch. Catarina 1762
- Johannes 1765
- Annetje 1768
- Eva 1774
- Willem 1777



Johannes Teller b. 1765 d. 1799

m. Esther Toll 1787

- Ch. Jannetje 1788



- Gleaned from First Settlers of Schenectady - Pearson. Graves along Schermerhorn Rd. at Nature Trail Entry V.S. 4/15/88

# Schermerhorn Genealogy Related to Teller/Schermerhorn Barn

Jacob Janse Schermerhorn b. 1622 d. 1689.  
m. Jannetie Segers Van Voorhoudt.

Ch. 

<b>Reyer</b>
Symon
Helena
Jacob
Machtelt
Cornelis
Jannetie
Neeltje
Lucas

Ryer Jacobse Schermerhorn b.                      d 1719  
m. Ariantje Bratt July 1676

Ch. Catalina  
Janneke  
Jan 1685  

<b>Jacob</b>	1690
Arent	1693

Jacob Ryerse Schermerhorn b 1690 d 1753  
m. Margareta Teller Oct. 1712

Ch. 

Reyer	1713
Johannes	1717
Jacobus	1720
Willem	1722
Andries	1727
<b>Simon</b>	1730
Susanna	1735

Received Hindmost Farm #5 from mother

Simon Jacobse Schermerhorn b. 1730 d-1793  
m. Sarah Vrooman

Ch. Johannes  

<b>Jacob</b>	1773
Sara	1775

Jacob Simonse Schermerhorn b. 1773 d.  
m. Engeltie Bratt

Ch 

<b>Simon</b>	1797
--------------	------

 d. 1872 Occupied brichhouse near barn on H #5  
Jacob 1799  
Jacob 1801  
Daniel 1803  
John 1806  
Elisabeth 1809  
Sarah 1810

V.J.S. 4/12/88

### Genealogy of Jannetje (Jane) Delamont

Jacob Delamont b. 1638 d. 1719

m.  
Ch. Johannes 1689  
Marten

Johannes Delamont b. 1689 d. 1766

m. Johanna Clara Kleyn May 4, 1707

m. Eva Brouwer b. 1702 d. 1747

Ch. Jacob 1723  
Maria 1725  
Hendrik 1727  
Catrina 1728  
Abraham 1730  
Elisabeth 1732  
Margarjeta 1735

Jannetje 1737  
Annetje 1739  
Henrik 1745



Johannes Teller b. 1732 d. 1784

m. Jannetje (Jane) Delamont Oct 8, 1761

Ch. Catarina 1762  
Johannes 1765  
Annetje 1768  
Eva 1774  
Willem 1777

Jacobse

Aaron (Arent) Schermerhorn b. 1725 d.

□ m. Jannetje Delamont Teller Nov. 9, 1786 d. 1823 86yr.

Gleaned from First Settlers of Schenectady - Pearson.

□ - Burial Site at Nature Trail on Schermerhorn Rd. V.J.S. 4/10/88

AN ANALYSIS OF THE ROOF LINE EVOLUTION OF THE NEW WORLD DUTCH BARN

Vincent J. Schaefer

January 20, 1988

Distinctive, impressive and highly serviceable barns marked the homesteads of the early Dutch farms in New York and New Jersey.

It is quite likely that the first series of these barns were quite similar in basic construction to the barns of the Netherlands. In outward appearance some of these barns possessed a roof outline having two slopes. The peak portion above the threshing floor had a very steep incline with an included angle of less than ninety degrees. The lower portion of the roof line over the side aisles was less steep with a slope whose included angle was greater than 100°.

The "break" in the roof line occurred above the purlin plate on top of the columns which held the massive anchor beams. The outlines of three such barns from Holland are shown on Page 74 of Fitchens "The New World Dutch Barn."

Only one barn which retained a suggestion of this European design is known to me here in the Mohawk Valley. This occurred in the Teller/Schermerhorn Barn at Schonowe, just west of Schenectady. About half of the western side of this barn had the break in roof line quite similar to the ancient barns of Holland. The roof rafters in this part of the barn were in two pieces terminating at the purlin plate. The other half of the west side and all of the eastern side retained the very steep slope of the central section with an included angle of 79°.

A recent visit to the Johannes Decker Barn on the farm of Anne Bienstock west of Wallkill in Ulster County west of the mid-Hudson region

disclosed a barn which originally had a two slope roof with the same configuration of the Holland barns. The columns of this 5 bay barn were then spliced so that the present roof has the single slope conforming to the familiar outline which is so distinctive of the Dutch Barns in New York. These barns have slopes having an included angle of about 100°.

That the Decker Barn is not unique to the region is shown by a second one also in the general vicinity which was given identical treatment. We now need to determine if this is a common trait with the early Dutch Barns of this geographic region.

It is quite possible that the change from a two to a one slope roof line originated when it was found that a heavy load of snow formed at the junction line of the double slope.

The following roof angles show these relationships:

<u>Barn</u>	<u>Central slope (incl. <math>\angle</math>)</u>	<u>New Slope (incl. <math>\angle</math>)</u>
Beuningen	80°	100°
Brabant	85°	105°
Drents	75°	100°
Decker/Bienstock	91°	110°
Teller/Schermerhorn	79°	106°