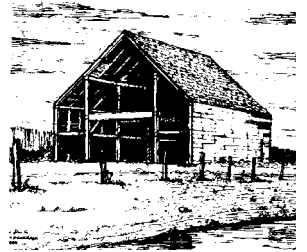


DUTCH BARN PRESERVATION SOCIETY NEWSLETTER

FALL 2013

VOL. 26, ISSUE 2



The Beam-Dusenbury Farmstead, Town of Brunswick, Rensselaer County, New York

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Fig. 1. An early photograph of the Beam-Dusenbury house.

One of the very few colonial-era stone houses in Rensselaer County, the Beam-Dusenbury house is located at 383 North Lake Avenue in the Town of Brunswick, nearly 1.75 miles due east of the Hudson River, exactly midway between the Hudson River and the hamlet of Brunswick Center (Fig 1). It stands on the east side of the Piscawen Kill, which flows from the Troy Reservoir to the river. The Piscawen Kill is said to have taken its name from the Algonkian word *peskhommin*, meaning "it thunders," as a gun or lightning makes a great noise.¹ Across North Lake Avenue from the house, to the south, is a set of barns that includes a commodious New World Dutch barn dating probably from the late 18th or early 19th centuries (Photo 1). The old stone house, which has a New England-style gambrel roof, clearly appears on the map of the Manor of Rensselaerswyck surveyed in 1767 by John R. Bleecker (Fig. 2). It is identified as the home of "Adam Beem."²

The Beam family was of German origin, with numerous Beams settling in North Carolina, Pennsylvania, Maryland, and New York. Georg and Conrardt Beam of Ulster County, New York, were naturalized citizens of New York in 1715.³ Georg Beam's name became the Dutch "Jury Beam," and in 1726 in Kingston, Ulster County, Jury's son Adam was born and baptized. Adam Beam married Catharina Freer in Kingston on October 1, 1748, and their daughter Elisabeth was baptized there in March 1749.⁴ Adam and Catharina evidently lived across the river in Rhinebeck, Dutchess County, and beginning in 1751 their children were baptized in the Dutch Reformed Church of Rhinebeck.

They had five children between 1751 and 1760, all baptized in Rhinebeck. Two of the children were sons



Photo 1. The Beam-Dusenbury New World Dutch barn (January 2011).

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The Beam-Dusenbury Farmstead (continued from page 1)



Fig. 2. Detail from the *Map of the Manor of Rensselaerwyck* surveyed by John R. Bleecker in 1767 showing the house of "Adam Beam" as number 83.

Johannes and Willem.⁵ During this period Adam Beam also served in the French and Indian War. He was among the deserters from Captain Arnout Viele's company listed in August 1757 at Fort Edward.⁶

Adam Beam and his family may have moved from the Rhinebeck area in 1761, when Adam was replaced as the highway commissioner for nearby Northeast Precinct; curiously, he was listed as "deceased."⁷ Instead, Adam and Catharina, with their family, probably moved northward where until 1759, when Crown Point was taken from the French, any attempt to settle in rural areas was extremely dangerous. Their new home was to be in an area east of the junction of the Mohawk and Hudson Rivers that a land speculator, Abraham J. Lansing, was already eager to acquire early in 1759 in anticipation of British victories over the French later that year. The area was called Stone Arabia, and it lay along the east bank of the tidal Hudson River at the head of sloop navigation. His previous land speculation had focused in 1754 on Connecticut lands along the Susquehanna River in Pennsylvania, but in 1760 he acquired part of Stone Arabia, extending along the Hudson River 2.5 miles and inland 6 miles. In 1761 he was a shareholder in the Cambridge Patent, and in 1763 Lansing purchased more of Stone Arabia.⁸

If at some time between 1761 and 1765 Adam and Catharina moved to the farm along the Piscawen Kill, it is likely they occupied a

stone house that was already built. Investigation of the structure indicates a part of the house is older; it originally had a steep roof, the rafters of which were used later in construction of the gambrel roof.⁹ The original one-room house had a gable running north-south, and this house was greatly altered probably in the 1760s.¹⁰ The stone construction of the original house would have made it a safer place, easier to fortify and defend against French and Indian attacks before 1759. The original builder might have been Teunis Viele, a cousin of Catharina (Freer) Beam's father, Hugo Freer. Hugo's aunt Maria had married Louis Viele of Schenectady and Schaghticoke, and their son Teunis, born in 1702, settled in Rensselaerswyck. This was perhaps in 1724, when Teunis married Marie Fonda. Their numerous children were baptized in the Albany Dutch Reformed Church from 1725 through 1744. Teunis was a carpenter and was listed as a freeholder of the Manor of Rensselaerswyck in 1742. There are other records of him as late as 1759. His will is dated 1747, but for some reason it was not proved until 1777.¹¹ If part of the house was built as early as 1724, archeological test-

ing of the site may provide further evidence in support of this interpretation.

Adam Beam signed the lease for his farm with Stephen van Rensselaer on June 4, 1765, and his daughter Catharina was born 22 days later. In 1767, Adam served in Captain Abraham van Aernam's Company of Rensselaerswyck militia, and in July 1769 Abraham J. Lansing signed a lease to Stephen van Rensselaer for



Fig. 3. Detail from the *Chorographical Map of the Province of New-York in North America* by Claude Joseph Sauthier, published in 1779, showing boundaries of the Stone Arabia patent. Adam Beam's house is not shown, but his farm was just within the southeast corner of the patent.

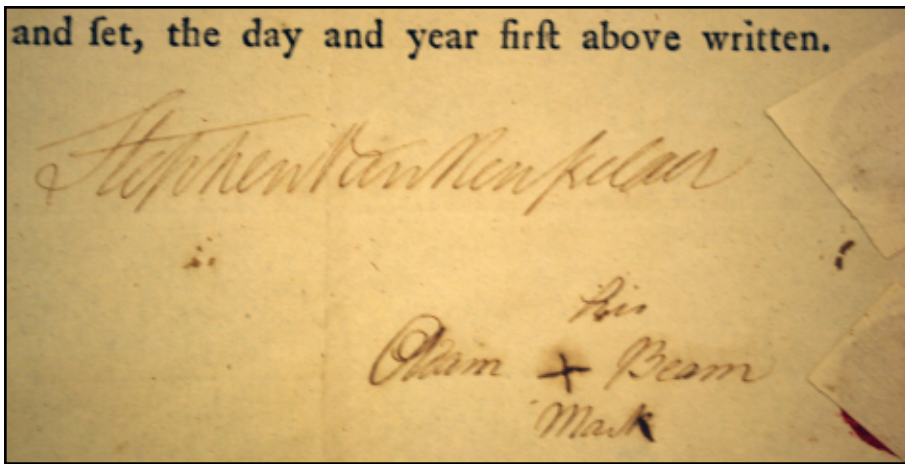


Fig. 4. Signatures on the November 1791 lease of Adam Beam's farm (New York State Library).

Adam Beam's farm. This lease evidently confirmed Van Rensselaer's title to the Beam farm even though it was just within the Stone Arabia tract (Fig. 3).¹² Adam was a patriot during the War for Independence, serving as second lieutenant in the First Company of the Sixth Regiment of Albany County militia. In June 1781 he got into trouble briefly when he unknowingly helped a notorious spy, Dr. George Smyth, escape by giving him a ride in his wagon to Bennington. He was referred to as "Adam Beam of the New City." New City was the name of the village in Stone Arabia established on the Hudson by Abraham J. Lansing that later became known as Lansingburgh. The people of New City at this time were greatly suspected of being loyalists because of a growing crisis with Vermont.¹³

Adam Beam evidently prospered in spite of the war. In January 1788 he acquired from Gideon and Susannah (Vanderheyden) Hinman a lease for 50 acres of land adjoining his farm to the southeast and located in the southeast corner of the Stone Arabia patent. The census of 1790 indicates that his household of nine people included three slaves; he was one of the relatively few individuals in Rensselaerswyck who owned slaves. In November 1791, Stephen van Rensselaer signed a new lease with Adam Beam for his farm, located at "Elizabethtown," an early name for the area. Beam could not sign his name and made a mark instead (Fig. 4). The surveyed farm contained 210 acres, for which Adam was to pay a yearly rent of 25 skipples of winter wheat and four fat fowls, in addition to providing one day's service with carriage and horses. Van Rensselaer also reserved one fourth of the money Beam would receive if he sold the farm, while the farm's purchaser would also pay Van Rensselaer one fourth of the sum for which the farm was sold. Finally, on September 9, 1793, Adam Beam sold his 210-acre farm to Moses Dusenbury. On a duplicate copy of the 1791 lease, it was noted on this date, probably by Van Rensselaer, that the farm of 210 acres was "assigned to Moses Dusenbury together with 50 acres which is not included in the Lease whereon his Improvements stand....Recd £100 for Qr Sale agreed for 36 Skips [of wheat] yearly for the whole." The meaning of this note is not clear, be-

cause on December 25, 1795, Adam Beam sold the adjoining 50 acres in the southeast corner of the Stone Arabia patent to John Wolcott of Lansingburgh for £300.¹⁴

The 1795 deed indicates that Adam Beam had moved to Ballston, Saratoga County, New York, while the 1800 and 1810 census records show that he returned to Rhinebeck. He appears in Schodack, Rensselaer County, in the 1820 census, however. If this was the same Adam Beam, he must have been 94 years old. In 1821, Adam Beam was sued for a debt of \$600, and the court ordered that a sufficient amount of his property be seized and sold to pay

the debt. Consequently, the Rensselaer County Sheriff sold 62 acres of Beam's land in Schodack, Rensselaer County, for \$469.⁵³¹⁵

Having purchased Adam Beam's 210-acre farm in Brunswick, Moses Dusenbury signed a new lease with Stephen van Rensselaer for the farm on March 11, 1795.¹⁶ It is possible the Dutch barn was built about this time by the new owner of the farm, Moses Dusenbury, Jr. He was born in 1750, a son of Moses Dusenbury of Philipstown, Dutchess County (present-day Putnam Valley, Putnam County, New York). Moses Dusenbury, Jr. married Sarah Carey about 1772 at Fishkill Landing (now part of Beacon), in Dutchess County. They lived in Putnam Valley below Adams Corners in the home of his father, Moses Dusenbury, Sr., who was nominated colonel of a Dutchess County militia regiment in May 1776. Less than a week later, Moses, Jr., and his brother, William, enlisted in Westchester County. Moses, Jr., served "in the Waggon Service under Major Quackenbush" and then as second lieutenant and teamster in Colonel Henry Luddington's regiment until May 1778. He next served as an express rider for the army and "ran a great many narrow escapes of his life." He "was considered one of the most daring and fearless men in the Army. He was a great annoyer of the Tories, as that part of the Country was over run by them. He would ferret out their places of meeting in the night, give notice to the officers and in a number of Instances through his means larger number of them were taken prisoner." Moses, Jr. continued to serve in the Dutchess County militia after the war, until he resigned in March 1787.¹⁷

Moses and Sarah had eight children between August 1773 and September 1791. Together with Moses Dusenbury, Sr., they most likely moved to Brunswick in 1795 after the lease for the farm was signed. Their youngest child, a son named Joseph H., was born in April 1798.¹⁸ The 1800 census lists Moses Dusenbury with a household of 13 people, two of whom were slaves.¹⁹ By this time his older children were beginning to leave home and venture on their own. Moses

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The Beam-Dusenbury Farmstead *(continued from page 3)*



Photo 2. Graves of Moses and Sarah Dusenbury in the Quaker Section of Oakwood Cemetery in Troy.

Dusenbury's younger brother, William, went with his 22-year-old son, William C. Dusenbury, to Addison County, Vermont, where the two Williams, uncle and nephew, took the freeman's oath in 1800. Moses acquired land there, and in 1805 and 1810 he sold two parcels there to Zadock Everest, Jr. The 1810 census shows that by 1810 William C. Dusenbury had left Vermont and moved to Cayuga County, New York. Moses, his father, was still in Brunswick with a household diminished to six persons, only one of whom was a slave.²⁰

Moses and Sarah Dusenbury's sons Jarvis and Theodorus married in 1812 and 1814, respectively, and in 1816 Moses and Sarah gave a part of the 210-acre farm to each of them. They gave Jarvis 37.4 acres, and they gave Theodorus 110 acres, each subject to rents payable to Stephen van Rensselaer. The 1820 census reveals that Moses no longer had any slaves, while his household had increased to 11 persons. In 1832, shortly after Moses reached the age of 82 years, Moses and Sarah conveyed 50 acres of their original 210 acres to their youngest son, Joseph Dusenbury, who was to pay a yearly rent of five bushels of winter wheat and one load of wood to Stephen van Rensselaer. This 50 acres included the "Homestead Farm," and Joseph, in turn, was to be a joint tenant on the property with his parents only for as long as they lived.²¹

Moses Dusenbury wrote his will in 1834, leaving the house and farm "on which I now reside" to his wife, Sarah. Of the 50 acres that he and Sarah shared jointly with Joseph, he gave Joseph 10 acres, and he gave Jarvis and Theodorus each 15.95 acres. To his other children and grandchildren he left shares of his personal estate and sums of money. Moses died on December 12, 1840,

and was buried in the "Old Plantation" cemetery. Sarah died on February 15, 1843 (Photo 2).²² In 1841, following the death of their father, Jarvis and Theodorus conveyed to Joseph the 10 acres specified in the will, for which Joseph was to pay a yearly rent to Stephen van Rensselaer of one bushel and five pounds of winter wheat. Also reserved was unrestricted access to the burying ground "situated south of the barn" that stood on the property.²³

The Rogerson map of 1854 shows the house at 383 North Lake Avenue owned by "J. Dusenbury," which was Joseph Dusenbury.²⁴ This is verified by the 1855 State census, which lists Joseph living in a stone house valued at \$400. He was then 57 years old, and with him lived his wife, Catharine, whom he had married in 1820, his wife's unmarried sister, Jane, and his widowed sister, Susanna Reece. The house next door, a frame house also valued at \$400, was occupied by his son, Moses J. Dusenbury, and his family.²⁵ The 1860 census shows that Joseph's sister, Susanna, had left the household, leaving only his wife and much younger sister-in-law besides himself. His personal property was valued at \$700, while his real property was valued at \$7,000. This was one of the highest real estate values for his neighborhood.²⁶ In 1860 Moses J. Dusenbury still lived with his family in separate neighboring house, but the 1861 map of Brunswick shows the house at 383 North Lake Avenue owned or occupied by "J. & M.J. Dusenbury" (Fig. 5). Apparently Moses J. had moved in with his parents.²⁷

Unfortunately, in January 1861 Joseph had mortgaged his 10 acres for \$2,150 to Charlotte Haskell of Lansingburgh, to be repaid in one year at 7 percent interest.²⁸ This debt remained unpaid, and his wife, Catherine, died in 1866. He then married her sister, Jane, and the 1870 census shows that Joseph and Jane shared their



Fig. 5. Detail from the *Map of Rensselaer Co., New York* published by Smith Gallup & Co., Philadelphia, in 1861, showing the house at 383 North Lake Avenue as owned or occupied by both "J. & M. J. Dusenbury."



Photo 3. Grave of Joseph Dusenbury, 1870, Oakwood Cemetery.

house with Moses J. Dusenbury, his wife, and their five children. Joseph owned the house, with a substantial real property valued at \$13,000. Moses was listed as a carpenter, and Joseph was a farmer with 65 acres of land, according to the 1870 directory. Joseph died on December 24, 1870.²⁹

The inventory of Joseph's estate the following February reveals interesting details about his household and farm. Property that was set apart for his widow, Jane, included items such as one "Parler Carpet," a "Valet Table," a feather bed, a "Straw Tick," a pair of pillow cases, cotton and flannel sheets, a "2 Year old Heifer," a "Cow called 'Pussy'," and a "Cow called 'Killian'." There were also "Two Cook Stoves with Pipe and cooking utensils" as well as "Six Tea Cups & Saucers." Live stock included one pair of gray horses valued at \$150.00, a black mare valued at \$25.00, a bay mare valued at \$5.00, a "Spring Calf" valued at \$10.00, and a "yellow & White sp[ot]t[e]d cow" valued at \$30.00. Other property included a stone boat, a "Two Horse spring wagon," a "One horse spring wagon," "Hay Rigging," a "Light Sleigh," "2 threshing Flails," a "Lot of Hay in barn," and a "Lot of Oats in straw."³⁰

Moses J. Dusenbury died a year later, on February 21, 1872.³¹ The inventory in 1873 of his property that was set apart for the use of his widow included items such as a clock, the family Bible, pictures, books, a "Spring Marked Wagon," a grain cradle, a fanning mill, a hay cutter, a mowing machine, and a "bob Sleigh." The property now faced an uncertain future. In 1875, Charlotte Haskell sued to recover the debt now owed to her. The county atlas map of 1876 shows the house at 283 North Lake Avenue as the "Dusenbury Est.," but in February 1876 Joseph's property of nearly 60 acres, including the "Homestead farm," was sold at auction for \$7,950 to Richard C. Derrick. Derrick then quickly sold 42 acres of the property to William Calhoun of Lansingburgh, for \$6,000. The deed stipulated that access to the Dusenbury burying ground of .5 acre was to remain free and unrestricted.³² Thus, it was apparently at some time after 1876 that six family burials were moved from the "Old Plantation" cemetery to the Quaker section of the new Oakwood Cemetery, which had opened in 1850. These included not only Moses, Jr., and Sarah, but also Joseph (Photo 3), Moses, Sr., who

had died about 1828, and William C. Dusenbury, son of Moses, Jr., and Sarah.³³ They are buried in the Quaker Section (H-3) of Oakwood Cemetery. While some of Moses Dusenbury, Jr.'s ancestors were Quakers, it is unclear whether he was also, since he was not only a soldier but also a slave owner.

William Calhoun, 29 years old, his wife Margaret, and infant son David were the new occupants of the old stone house. William was a farmer, and both he and Margaret were born in Ireland. A daughter, Carrie, was soon added to the family. By 1900, the two older children had left, but three other children remained in the home with their parents, together with a 23-year-old hired "servant."³⁴

It would be worthwhile to study the Dusenbury deeds and their land surveys in much greater detail in order to identify all the property owned by Moses Dusenbury, Jr., and to document how the original Beam-Dusenbury farm of 210 acres was split up and divided among his various children and grandchildren during the 19th century. It appears to have been the same process that occurred in New England through the previous century. The splitting up of farms created farms of decreased size, and sons who inherited land were likely left with farms that were so small in acreage that they were no longer profitable. Because of this land shortage, many of the Dusenbury descendants had no choice but to migrate elsewhere, to Vermont or to northern or western New York. Others, such as Moses J. Dusenbury, took up a trade such as carpentry. The entire community gradually changed, so that by 1900 William Calhoun's immediate neighbors (a miller, an engineer, a shipping clerk, and a cuff stitcher) represented a wide variety of occupations and skills.³⁵

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The Beam-Dusenbury Farmstead *(continued from page 5)*

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The Beam-Dusenbury Farmstead—Analysis of the Structures

Walter Richard Wheeler



Photo 1. Aerial view looking south, showing the relationship of the house, barns and landscape features including the Piscawen Kill (n.d., c.2011).

Introduction

The Beam-Dusenbury farmstead was featured on the Dutch Barn Preservation Society's Annual Meeting tour in early January 2011. Preliminary scoping at the site had been undertaken by members of the Society in the previous autumn, when the property was initially offered for sale. After the annual meeting, members gathered at the property and several stayed on to begin its documentation. Subsequent visits completed measuring of the house, the New World Dutch barn and a small one-aisle bent-framed barn.¹

The landscape

The Beam-Dusenbury farmstead is located on an eighteenth century farm road now known as North Lake Avenue. The narrow road begins at Hoosick Street (Route 7) at



Photo 2. View looking east showing relationship of house, single aisle barn and New World Dutch barn (October 2015).

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Photo 3. View looking northwest at the Beam-Dusenbury house (October 2015)

second phase of work made use of smaller structural components; the rafters measured 4" x 3" and the plate 6" x 7".

Subsequent late 19th and early-to-mid 20th century work added a cobblestone porch across the south elevation, and substantially altered the interior finishes and room configuration (Photo 3).

The New World Dutch Barn

The New World Dutch barn is located southeast of the house, across North Lake Avenue (Photos 4 and 5). The barn is oriented almost exactly north-south. Like many Rensselaer County barns dating to the first half of the nineteenth century, there is a second-level drive-through. This regional feature appears to have had its greatest concentration in Rensselaer County; however, several examples also known in Columbia and Dutchess Counties as well, in addition to a single identified example in Schoharie County.² As with many of the barns of this type—several have been discussed in previous issues of the *Newsletter*—the drive thru represents an early alteration. Although at least two of the known

the south, and passes through an early twentieth century suburban neighborhood and by a few nineteenth century farmhouses before making a sharp bend to the east. The Beam-Dusenbury house is located on the north side of this turn, between the road and Piscawen Kill, which courses to the west of the house and barn northward on its way to the Hudson. A large New World Dutch barn is located to the south of the house, and oriented north-south (Photos 1 and 2).

Traces of what may have been an earlier alignment of the road are visible to the north of the house, between it and the Piscawen Kill. It is likely that access to the property was, in the eighteenth century, from the south.

The house

Close examination of the house revealed that it had originally been constructed as a one-room stone-walled dwelling measuring just under 25 feet (north-south) by 22'-6" (east-west) in plan. The house originally had a gable roof featuring a steep 55 degree pitch. Its rafter pairs measured 7" by 6.5" and rested on a 6" x 9" oak plate. The principal entry was originally on the

west gable end wall of the house. Portions of this original roof framing system survive in the house today.

At a later date, probably in the late eighteenth century, the house was extended to the east, given a leanto across the north, and the roof was reconfigured as a gambrel with its ridge running east-west. This



Photo 4. View southeast showing the New World Dutch barn and single aisle barn, at left (October 2015).

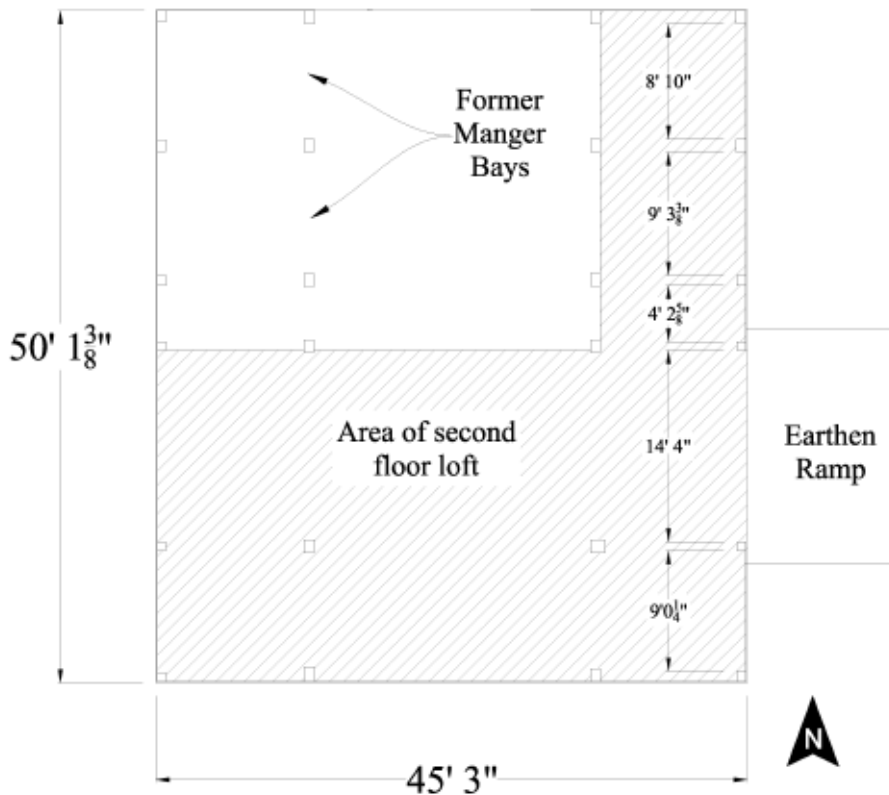


Figure 1. Plan of the New World Dutch barn (Drawn by Tracy S. Miller from field notes by W. R. Wheeler, 2015).

barns of this type bear eighteenth century dates on their frames, there is no firm evidence to indicate that NWD barns with drive-throughs on their eave-sides were constructed previous to 1800.

In the present example, the elevation of the ramp is below the bottom

of the anchorbeams, and thus it likely represents an alteration to the barn. In further support of this interpretation are observed alterations to the frame, particularly in the spacing of bent number 3 (numbered from the south), which was moved approximately five feet to



Photo 5. View west-southwest, showing the earthen ramp and wagon entry on the east elevation of the barn (January 2011).



Photo 6. View looking north at the east end anchorbeam-post joint of bent 3 (January 2011).

the north to accommodate the ramp (Figure 1). Braces attached to the posts were removed at that time, leaving pockets in the purlin plate to document the original arrangement. The frame of the barn may date to the early nineteenth century. It is of relatively crude construction; the principal framing elements are roughly wrought. The anchorbeam ends are secured with two pegs and two wedges, and the projecting tongues are roughly squared, with beveled edges (Photo 6). A small drawing of an anchorbeam-post assembly is engraved on the south face of one of the posts (Photo 7).

The barn measures 50'-1³/₈" (n-s) by 45'-3" (e-w). The side walls measure 18'-4" in height. The peak of the roof is 29'-9¹/₂" above the ground surface. The threshing floor (center aisle) measures 21'-6" in the clear, between the posts. The west side aisle measures 10'-3¹/₄" wide; the east aisle is one inch wider. The largest of the anchorbeams measures 1'-7" high by 11" wide (the smallest 1'-3¹/₂" x 10¹/₂", at an end wall) and the distance between the floor of the barn and the underside of each anchorbeam is about 11 feet (Figure 2). The exterior bents feature what Fitchen termed "high transverse beams." The H-bent posts measure 22'-6¹/₂" in height, to the underside of the 6¹/₂" x 10" top

(continued on page 10)

The Beam-Dusenbury Farmstead—Analysis of the Structures (continued from page 9)

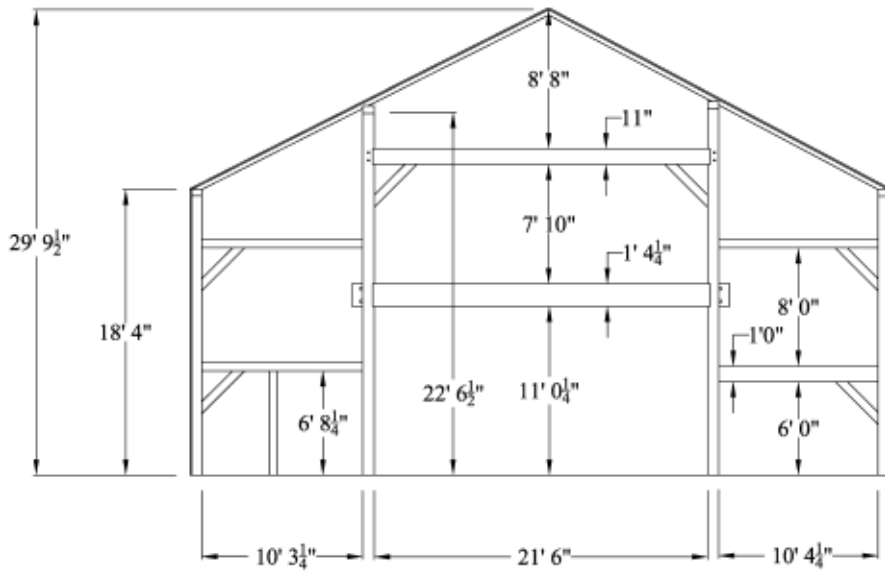


Figure 2. Section thru the Beam-Dusenbury barn (Drawn by Tracy S. Miller from field notes by W. R. Wheeler, 2015).

Alteration of the barn undertaken at the time the side entrance and ramp was installed included insertion of a floor structure in the southern two bays of the barn at an elevation a few feet below the bottom of the anchor beams. Girts and braces in the west aisle, which formerly was the site of the manger, were removed to create a mow.

It was not possible to access the structures attached to this barn, which form an extension to the south. It may be that the first of these, dating to the nineteenth century and attached to the west end of the south elevation of the barn, is framed as a single-aisle New World Dutch barn. A separate structure on the property is in fact framed in this manner.

The Single Aisle New World Dutch Barn

A single-aisle New World Dutch barn measuring 20'-0" wide and

plate. The sills were not visible; the top plates of the outside walls measure 6 1/2" x 8 1/4" in size. As originally constructed, the northern end of the west aisle was the site of a manger (Photos 8 and 9).

The H-bent posts are joined to the purlin plate by braces which begin about 4'-8" above the top of the anchorbeams and are greater than 45 degrees in slope. The exterior wall posts are secured by sawn braces to both the plate (which measures 6 3/8" x 8 1/8") and to a 7 5/8" x 7 1/2" girt, the latter of which joins the posts at 10'-8 1/2" above the floor.

The anchorbeams of all of the four internal bents of the barn are secured with sawn braces, the dimensions of which varied somewhat. One example measures 5" x 4 1/2"; another 6" x 4 3/4". Marriage marks are in the form of Roman numerals, and progress from south to north. They are located on the south side of the anchor beams and posts, and on the west face of the east-side anchor beam posts and braces. They may also be on the west face of the west side of the barn; these are currently covered by the exterior sheathing.

Rafters measure between 5 1/2" and 6 1/2" wide and 5 1/4" to 5 3/4" tall. They are spaced about 2'-5"

apart, in the clear. Roof boards measure 1" thick, and are of varying widths, between about 5" and 10", and are spaced for the installation of wood shingles.



Photo 7. Detail showing inscribed drawing on face of east bent post 3, together with marriage marks (January 2011).



Photo 8. Interior of barn, looking south-southwest from the loft (January 2011).

30'-0" long is located to the north-east of the main barn (Photo 4). It was apparently used as a wagon barn, and/or a supplemental hay barn and looks to have been con-

structed c.1830-1860. Its structure consists of four H-bents, the posts of which are hewn and measure between 9" and 10 1/2" square. The end bays measure approximately 10



Photo 9. Interior looking northeast. The irregular spacing of the bents, resulting from the insertion of the wagon entry bay, can be seen in this image (January 2011).

feet wide, measuring from the center of the H-bent posts. The central bay measures approximately 9'-4" wide by the same reckoning. The anchor beams are reduced to 7" high at their ends, and measure approximately 9" square at their greatest width and height. The side walls measure approximately 13'-10" in height, with the top of the anchorbeams at 8'-0". Only the end-wall anchorbeams remain in place; the interior beams have been sawn off to facilitate storage of farm equipment. The end walls have, in place of the braces supporting the anchorbeams, descending braces and a central post support. A girt has

been secured to the face of the two north-end posts and anchorbeam to provide additional support (Photo 10). Braces strengthen the top plate-post joint as well as the connections between the posts and girts. Braces, studs and collar ties are all sawn; the braces and studs measure 4" x 3 1/2". Studs were originally located only above the side wall girts. The anchorbeams were pegged into each post; the two interior bays making use of three pegs, while the end wall bays used only two.

The roof has an approximate slope of 35 degrees, and the rafter pairs are butted at their apex. The rafters are sawn; their spacing was not measured but they are approximately three feet on center. The original sills do not survive; the top plates measure 6" x 8". All wood used in the construction of this barn is pine or hemlock.

(continued on page 12)

¹ Eddie Cattuzzo, Keith Cramer, John Ham, Paul Huey, Roberta Jeracka, Ned Pratt, Rob Sweeney and the author undertook the field documentation on 8, 16 and 29 January 2011.

² Ramp barns of this type have been discussed in articles in both the *DBPS Newsletter* and the *HVVA Newsletter*. For example, see *DPBS Newsletter* Spring 1994 (7:1), Fall 1994 (7:2), Spring 1996 (9:1), Spring 2005 (18:1), Spring 2010 (23:1) and Spring 2011 (24:1) and in the *HVVA Newsletter* for October 2001 for articles which discuss barns of this type. Barns mentioned include the Tarbox barn in Brunswick and the Wagner barn, formerly in Poestenkill, Rensselaer County. A second Wagner (or Wiegner) barn of this form was also located in Poestenkill; it was disassembled in 2009 and is slated for reconstruction (alas, probably without its ramp) at the Knickerbocker Mansion property in Schaghticoke, Rensselaer County. The DeFreest barn in North Greenbush has recently been converted to an events

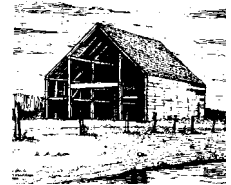


Photo 10. Interior view looking north in the single aisle barn (January 2011).

space; its ramp was removed in the course of the conversion. An additional example, the Cole-Dibbs barn, located on Winter Street Extension in the Town of North Greenbush, Rensselaer County, was visited by the DBPS in June 2009; it was unfortu-

nately razed and its parts offered for sale in October 2013. Other examples in Rensselaer County include the Stanley barn in Poestenkill and the Herrington barn in Brunswick. A comprehensive history and assessment of this barn form has yet to be written.

DUTCH BARN PRESERVATION SOCIETY NEWSLETTER



This newsletter is printed by the Dutch Barn Preservation Society, a non-profit organization incorporated by the Regents of the State of New York.

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All memberships run from Jan. 1 to Dec. 31.

Membership:
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