



From the Editor... I received a call from Wally Cook who is organizing this years Hurley Corn and Craft Festival to be held August 19th, 10AM-4PM, at the Hurley Reformed Church. This well known Ulster County festival draws a large number of people. In addition to the fresh buttered sweet corn from neighboring farms, this year's event will emphasize and demonstrate historic crafts. I told him that I would plan to have our group represented and would let members know about it.

Wally is with a wood turning group that meets at 7PM for a workshop the second Wednesday of the month, just outside the village at the Wynkoop/Updahl farm. Wally is interested in talking with anyone interested in demonstrating an historic craft at the festival, he can be reached at (845) 338-2193 or <cooker.1@earthlink.net>.

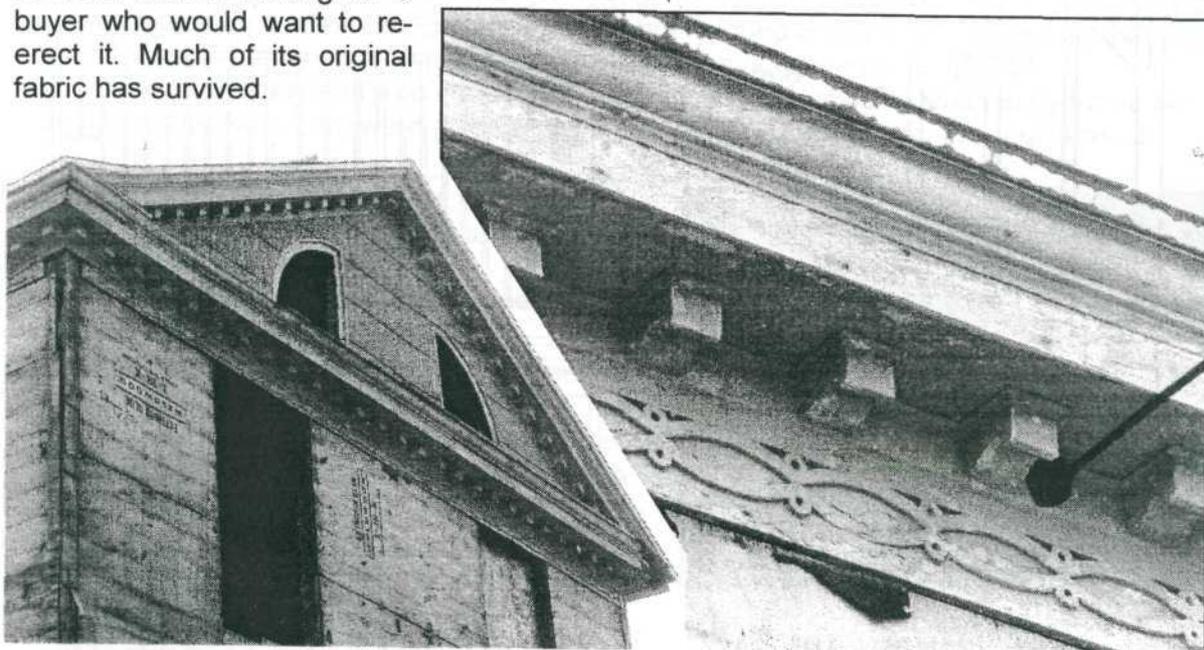
Jonthan Nedbor, the High Falls blacksmith, has just returned with his son from their trip to The Netherlands. He met with a group of Dutch blacksmiths at Rekken, where he learned from several of them that the Dutch pad-hinge was made by adding on to the rear face of the strap, His method was new to them. They were interested to see forge-welding that they do not do much of.

I went by bus to Williamsburg, Virginia with John Kaufman for the 73rd annual meeting of the Early American Industries Association (EAIA). 250 members were in attendance. They come from many states and represent many interests. This is a non-academic group that have collected and studied material culture and the products of early trades and industries. I was especially interested in obtaining information that would help in understanding the tool collection at the Ulster County Historical Society that some HVVA members have begun working with.

(continued next page)

FROM THE JOURNAL =====

Tuesday, March 29, I went with Paul Spencer to see a house on Winchell Mountain in Millerton, Dutchess County. It is being dismantled. We met the owner, David Holdredge, who owns the house but not the land and is looking for a buyer who would want to re-erect it. Much of its original fabric has survived.



Col. Martin E. Winchell House, circa 1790
Millerton, Town of North East, Dutchess County, NY

(continued next page)

2. (From the Editor, continued)

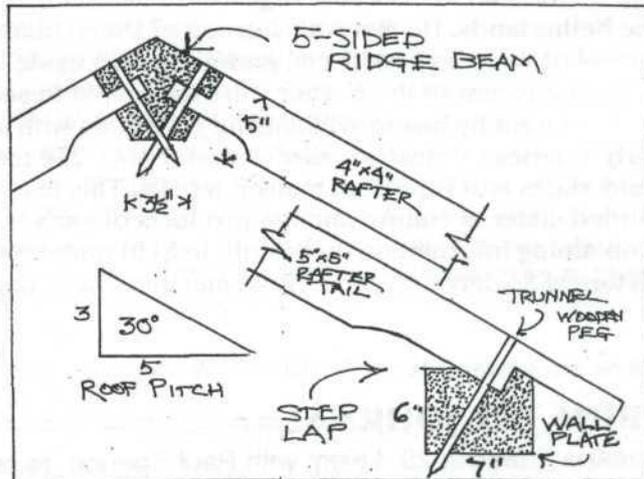
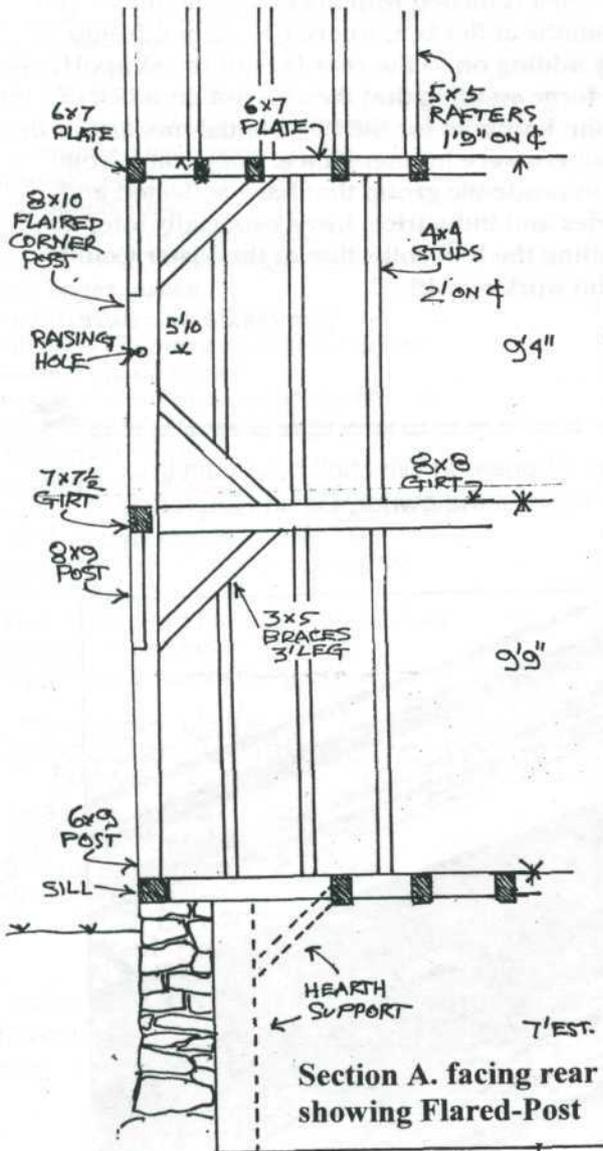
Bob Hedges and I are on our way to Holland to meet with Wim Lanphen and his *hooiberg* (hay-barrack) friends to see what we can learn in a few days about thatched barracks in the Old-World and how they might have been built in the Hudson Valley in the 17th century. We will also be asking about the "sith and mathook" the early Dutch tools of wheat harvesting.

Peter Sinclair, Newsletter Editor, West Hurley, NY
(845) 338-0257 <hvvernar@netstep.net>

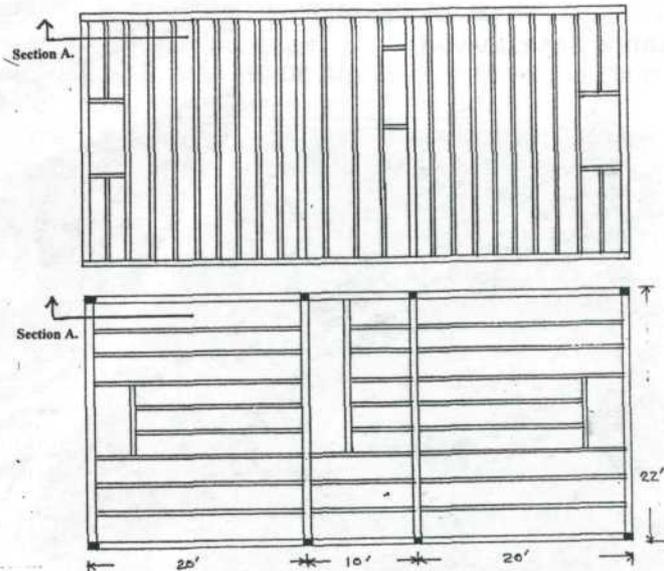
(From the Journal, continued)

Sunday, April 9 Returned to Millerton with Bob Hedges to take more measurements and registered the house:

Two-story center hall English frame house circa 1790
Col. Martin E. Winchell / Holdredge (NY/Dut/NE/01)
Winchell Mt., Millerton, Town of North East, Dutchess Co., NY
N41°58.126 – W073°32.56 – 1215-foot elevation

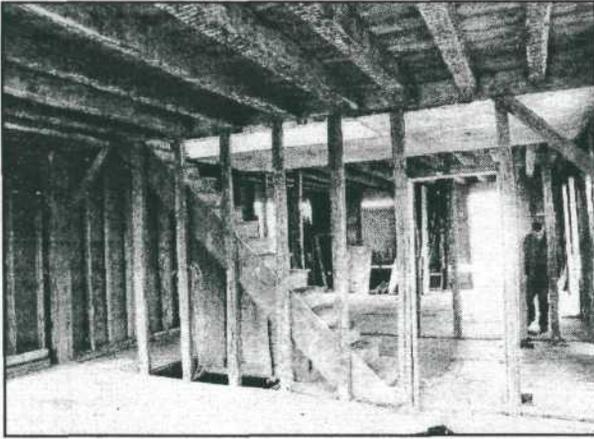


5-sided Ridge-Beam and Step-Lap Joining of Rafter to Plate

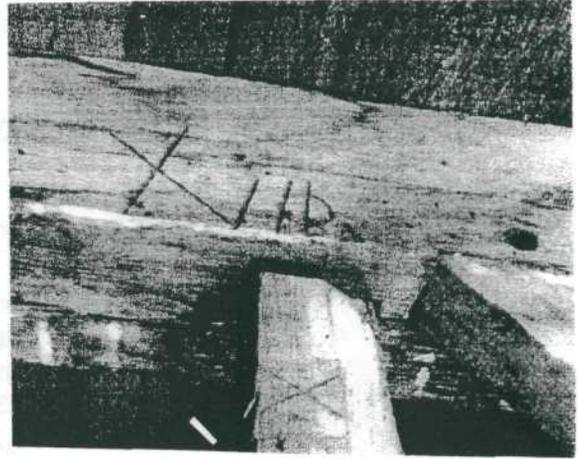


Plans of Joist Arrangements at the Loft and Main Floor level of the Frame

Col. Martin E. Winchell House, circa 1790
Millerton, Town of North East, Dutchess County, NY
In this late style box-frame the flaired posts do not project into the room.



Winchell House Interior



Marriage-Marks, cut with a race-knife

The Col. Winchell house is located on the side of Winchell Mountain, two-miles from the Connecticut boarder, with spectacular views of the Catskills to the west and the Berkshires to the east. It is a perfect spot for a wind farm but will probably grow condominiums and second homes unless Paul Spencer and local activists can put some restrains on the development of the area.

The Winchell house has been stripped to its bones. Almost all of the plaster has been removed, revealing the entire timber frame, a rare chance to study such an 18th century artifact. It is a very New England box frame. Raising holes were the only New World Dutch feature I could find and suggest that the four transverse frames were raised in the Dutch manner. The winds that sweep this hillside may account for the unusual use of a 5-sided ridge beam.

The house is based on eight flared posts joined to horizontal sills, girts and plates. The floors are supported on joists. On the 2nd story the 20-foot floor joists run longitudinally while the 22-foot main and loft floor joists run transverse, probably to resist spread. Use of longitudinal joists saved on materials. The timber frame was intended to be hidden behind lath and plaster but its present condition exposes the very large bold marriage marks of the carpenter, these lines and circles are the builder's code for matching timber joints that are scribed and cut on a lay-out floor to be erected later. These very distinct marks are cut with a race knife, a tool that seems associated with New England framing but is found on frames occasionally in Dutchess and Columbia Counties. There appears to have been no wall-infill.

Next we drove a three miles west to Pine Plains to look at a small early frame house on Johnny Cake Road. We were given a tour by its owner, Donn Potter. We registered it:

One-room English frame house, circa 1760
with cellar, room and center hall addition.
___ / Potter (NY/Dut/PP/08)
N41°57.754 – W073.37.138 – 576-foot elev.

Bob has examined this house before and believes the original room with an English style box-frame, located on the left facing the house, was one-room without a cellar and that the cellar, center-hall and room, to the right, were added soon after. This addition is built with a Dutch H-bent frame. The four flared corner posts in the original section project into the room, typical of early New England box-frames.



The Potter House

4.

Sunday, April 2 Returned to the Brink House just outside of the village of Hurley, measured and registered it:

One-room circa 1760 stone-house with 1840 brick addition.
Brink/Lebhar (NY/Uls/Hur/16)
Wynkoop Road, Hurley, Ulster County, NY.
N41°55.840 – W074°04.463 – 182-foot elevation

This is the farm first leased for 5-years and later bought by Lambert Hybertse (Brink) in 1661. Brink is a family name prominent in the history of the county. The present house and farm stayed with the family until 1955 when Sarah Brink Dietz sold it. It is again for sale by its present owners, Norm and Barbara Lebhan, (845) 338-4560.

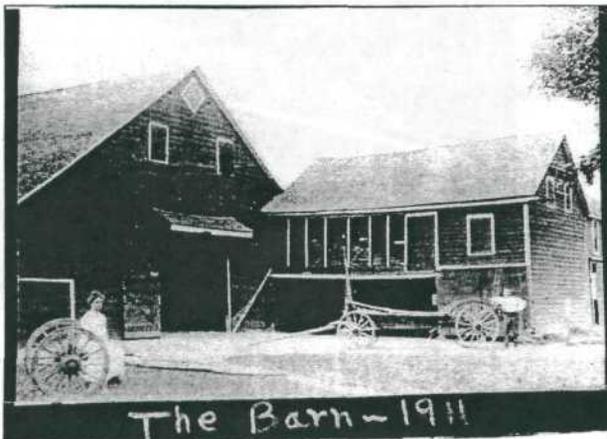
I recently bought a reprint of volume 2, 1906, of Benjamin Meyer Brink's journal, *Olde Ulster*, and in it he gives a detailed and interesting history of the family, both in the Old and New Worlds. (*) Lambert was born in the town of Wageningen in the province of Gelderland, 12 miles from Arnhem, on the right bank of the Rhine. In 1659 Lambert, his wife and three children, one born at sea, arrived in New Amsterdam (Manhattan). At the start of the Second Esopus War in 1663, local natives burned the village of Hurley (*Nieuw Dorp*) and Lambert's wife and children were captured and held for three months. Records indicate the only thing left in Hurley after the fire, were an unfinished barn and a barrack filled with wheat.

Tradition recalls that the one-room story-and-a-half field stone house was built in about 1760 and its beams and lay-out attest to this. Where the original house was located is not known but it may not have been much different than its 18th century descendant. In about 1840 a slightly taller two-room center-hall brick addition was built to the south and the original house made into a kitchen wing. Probably at this time the pitch of the original roof was lowered and the fireplace converted from a Dutch Jambless to an English jambed type.

The hearth beam in the cellar shows a great deal of water damage on its underside (soffit). This is because during the fireplace conversion, the beam was loosened where it fit into the stone walls and rotated to use the undamaged side of the beam to support the flooring. This also exposed the two empty mortises for the trimmer beams part of the original Dutch fireplace design.

The hood-beam on the main floor above is set 19-inches from the back-wall indicating that it was also moved during the conversion, being set back a foot from its original placement. The internal beams of the cellar and main floor are finished clear oak without chamfered or beaded edges. The house may originally have had an end entrance facing south toward the road.

(*) Reprints of the first two volumes of *Olde Ulster* and other books of mid-Hudson Valley interest are available from Hope Farm Press of Saugerties. 1 (800) 883-5778
<www.hopefarm.com>



**The Lambert Brink Farm
pictures from a family album.**



J. Skinkle House, timber frame with brick veneer
Route 9-H Kinderhook, Columbia County, NY

Tuesday, April 11 Met with Johnathan Hallam, Todd Scheff, Steve Anderson and Ed Klingler to see the J. Skinkle house. Many of us remember the Skinkle Dutch barn that was standing till maybe 20-years ago, located across the road. It seemed to be an early barn and should have been saved. Ed recalls its sad history into oblivion. It is #10 in the Fitchen-Huber book, The New World Dutch Barn.

Two-room frame house with brick veneer
J. Skinkle (NY/Col/Kin/01)
Route 9-H Kinderhook, Columbia County, NY
N42°18.414 – W073°42.259 – 194-foot elev.

This rare house and its outbuildings are in neglected condition with piles of discarded artifacts, perfect for the above-ground archaeologist. It needs an owner looking for an adventure into the invisible past, and one who can wait to move in. It needs some local restoration craftsmen with knowledge and respect for local houses and for the evidence they uncover. During the process, it should be open to the interested public and to their opinions. Like what is being planned for the Van Huesen house.

The Skinkle house shows various stages in its development. It may have begun as a classic Dutch urban-style one-room frame house, with an end entrance facing the road and a jambless fireplace on the back wall. This was rebuilt perhaps in 1760 as a two-room side-entrance house with no cellar under the addition but one finished loft room. At this time, end wall fireplaces were installed, a jambed fireplace in the original room and perhaps a jambless in the new room. The beams are incased and can not be examined. We suspect they were later hacked for a plaster ceiling.

There were many changes in the 19th century that obscured much of the original house but in the early 20th century, during the Colonial Revival, there was an interest in restoring the house and some well done paneling and corner cupboards were installed. We plan to stay in touch with the fate of this house which is just coming on the market. There was talk of removing the 19th century frame addition but it could also be moved away and reused, perhaps as the place of modern amenities and comforts.

One of the great mysteries of the house is its date (17 1 JS) set in black brick on the front end of the house. The missing number appears to have been there from the start. Did they not know what year it was or did they just run out of black bricks?



**Second or Henry Brink
Stone House 1743-1800
Saugerties, Ulster County, NY**

When Helen Wilkinson Reynolds, author of Dutch Houses of the Hudson Valley before 1776, Holland Society, 1929, visited the Brink house, the date stone above the door read, "HB 1743". The date has since delaminated.

Wednesday, April 19 I went with Jim Decker to visit the Henry Brink House in Saugerties and met up with Jean Goldberg. This stone house was first visited and documented in February 1997 with Don McTernan and Roger Sheff. It was registered:

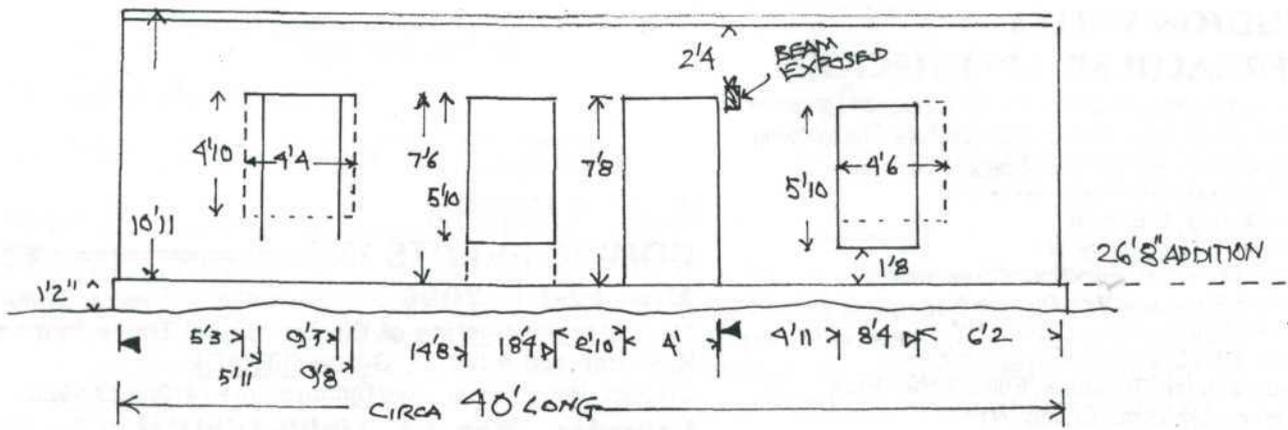
Two-room stone house with stone addition
Henry Brink House 1743-1800
Brink/Finger/Boice (NY/Uls/Sau-18)
Saugerties, Ulster County, NY

It was visited again in July 1997 with John Stevens, Shirley Dunn, Roger Scheff and Pam Herrick. John discovered part of a door frame re-used as a nailer in the masonry of a jambed fireplace. It had been part of a transom window above a door and showed evidence of the house originally having leaded glass windows.

Very little has changed on the inside of the abandoned house since we saw it 9-years ago. A metal roof has saved much of its wooden parts. Except for the end-wall, the 26-foot long stone addition has collapsed into the cellar hole. In the main house the loft flooring is missing as well as the doors, fireplace mantel and paneling. These were already gone 9-years ago. Some of these parts are known to have been moved and re-used in other houses. What is left are 90-percent of the roof and seven 24-foot long beams in good condition. The two hood-beams measure 11x17-inches, some of the largest in Ulster County. There have been many plans over the years for saving this Dutch stone house but none of them ever worked out and the owner now wants to remove the building because it presents a danger in its present condition.

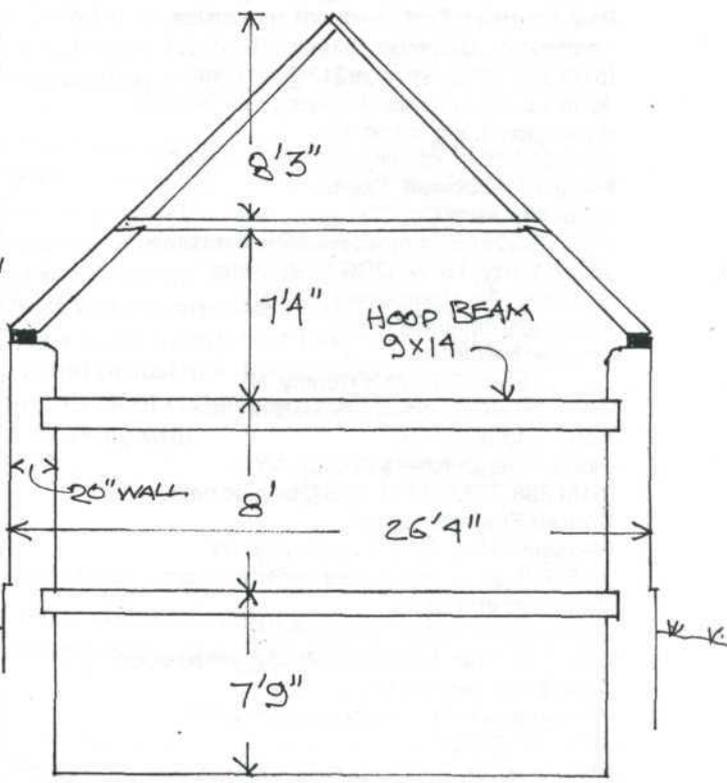
The sea-born son of Lambert Huybertse, the Gelderlander who bought his Hurley farm in 1662, was named Cornelis Lambertsen (Brink). In 1685 he married Marijken Meynderse and in 1688 bought a farm where the Plattakill enters the Esopus Creek. Thus aside from "the sawyer", became the first permanent resident of the Town of Saugerties. There is a small stone house at the Cornelis Brink site. It has not been well studied. The Peter Brink house is known as the second Brink house in Saugerties.

In measuring the front-side wall and taking note of earlier openings, it seemed the two-room house originally had two front doors and possibly cross-casement windows to the sides. Bymoving this building it would be possible to reconstruct, in a museum setting or as a private home, these 1743 and 1800 interiors. A similar stone house was recently moved on Staten Island and reconstructed at Richmond Town Restoration. Their experience would be helpful,



**Front-Wall Fenestration and Section
Second or Henry Brink
Stone House 1743-1800
Saugerties, Ulster County, NY**

The dotted lines indicate evidence of changes. It seems that the house originally had two front doors and two almost square casement window openings with leaded glass, to the sides.



HVVA MEETING.....

Saturday, April 16, 2006

The regular HVVA meeting was held in Albany, NY where we assembled at the Albany Institute of History and Art to see the slide show and talk given by John Stevens. Present were Jim Decker, Peter Sinclair, Rob Sweeny, Alvin Scheffer, Marion and John Stevens, Brian Parker and Cristina Tressiletti.

Before the meeting some of us walked to see an exhibit at the NY State Museum, Crossroads Gallery. We enjoyed an excellent exhibit called Preserving Family Traditions, featuring incredibly beautiful NY State early furniture, weavings, Indian artifacts, etc. After lunch we returned to the Institute of History and Art where John's talk was well received and some books were sold by the Museum.

We met again at Brian Parker's renovation project on Hudson Ave. known as the Johannes Radcliff (Radcliffe, Radley) House, in Albany. It is a rare example of wood over a brick as is The Pieter Winne house at Bethlehem (1723), South of Albany. Brian is going forth with dendro-dating to determine more closely the original date of the structure. It was built after 1756 some think. It was an interesting 2 hours with an interesting development, finding a new cross window at the right rear wall, which was previously thought to be a single casement. John was especially excited about this find.

Respectfully submitted,

Maggie MacDowell
Secretary

HUDSON VALLEY VERNACULAR ARCHITECTURE

Is a not-for-profit corporation formed to study and preserve vernacular architecture and material culture. The following people are the trustees and officers of the society.

Jim Decker, President

Wallkill, Ulster County, NY
(845) 895-3272 <jdeck@frontiernet.net>

Robert Sweeney, Vice President

Town of Ulster, Ulster County, NY
(845) 336-0232 <gallusguy@msn.com>

Peter Sinclair, Treasurer, Editor & Past Pres.

West Hurley, Ulster County, NY
(845) 338-0257 <hvvernar@netstep.net>

Paul Spencer, Past President and trustee.

Ancramdale, Columbia County, NY
(518) 329-2616 <spencer212@aol.com>

John Stevens, Senior Architectural Historian

Huntington, Long Island, NY
(631) 239-5044 <dutchjam@optonline.net>

Maggie MacDowell, Secretary

Gardiner, Ulster Co., NY;
(845) 255-2282 <mmacdowell@hvc.rr.com>

Joyce Berry, HVVA.ORG Webmaster

St. Johnsville, Montgomery Co., NY
<ajberry29@hotmail.com>

Todd Scheff trustee

Germantown, Columbia County, NY
(518) 537-6993, <ctscheff@valstar.net>

Bob Hedges trustee

Pine Plains, Dutchess County, NY
(518) 398-7773 <rmhedges@taconic.net>

Conrad Fingado trustee

Pleasant Valley, Dutchess County, NY
(845) 635-2714 <cfrestoration@hvc.rr.com>

Mike Barberi trustee

Germantown, Columbia County, NY
(518) 537-6435 <universal12526@yahoo.com>

Dennis Tierney trustee

Wappingers Falls, Dutchess County, NY
(914) 489-5262

Alvin Sheffer, Past President and Historian

Germantown, Columbia County, NY
(518) 828-5482 <awsheffer@aol.com>

Hudson Valley Vernacular Architecture Newsletter

is available with a

\$20 membership.

\$15 for students and the poor

Mail to: **HVVA**

**P.O. Box 202,
West Hurley,
NY 12491**

(845) 338-0257

<hvvernar@netstep.net>

<http://www.hvva.org>

COMING EVENTS 2006

May 12-14, 2006 at the Eastover Resort, Lenox, Mass. **Annual Meeting of the Traditional Timberframers Research and Advisory Group (TTRAG)**

Contact: Will Beemer, <will@tfguild.org> (413) 623-9926

Saturday, May 13, 10:00-1:00PM at The Old Stone Fort Museum, Schoharie, NY, **DBPS Trustee Meeting and Tour of the Palatine House and Dutch Barn Restorations**

Contact: <www.schohariehistory.net/directions.htm>

May 22-26, 2006 at the Palatine Farmstead, Route 9, Rhinebeck, Dutchess County, NY.

A 5-Day Barn Restoration Workshop will be held. This will continue last year's work of restoring the frame of the 1770 Dutch barn and rebuilding the foundation. We will also be shaving shingles, making doors and hope to have a blacksmith making nails and hardware. Lunch will be provided and fun is guaranteed. The project will be developed over the next two months. If you have suggestions or are interested in participating or supporting the workshop please contact HVVA and we will keep you informed.

June 1-3 in New York City **Annual Conference on New York State History**

For information contact: <conference@nyhistory.net>

Wednesday June 7, 7PM at the Mabee Farm. A lecture by **Daniel Lieberman**, Architect, Berkely, California, **The Homestead, a Dutch Farmstead Through Four Centuries, the Kovenhoven Farm, Middletown, NJ**

June 8-10 at SUNY Plaza, Albany, NY. AANS/NNI Conference; **From De Halve Maen to KLM; 400 Years of Dutch-American Exchange.**

Friday, June 9, 8:30 -10:00 AM "Hudson Valley Buildings". Shirley Dunn, *Rensselaerswijck's Farm Buildings*, Keith Cramer, *Defining the Dutch Barn*, Peter Sinclair, *The Hay Barrack*, Ned Pratt, *Moderator.*

Saturday, June 10, 10:30-12:00 "Toward a Dutch Built Environment in America". Jeroen van den Hurk, *Documentry Sources*, Walter Wheeler, *Post-Colonial Architecture in the Upper Hudson and Mohawk Valleys*, Neil Larson, *Building a Stone House in Ulster County*, Michael Douma, *'Koloniaal' Dutch House in Michigan*

12:00-1:30 "Reading Rubish". James Bradley, *Glass Beads During the 17th Century*, Paul Huey, *The Continuity of Change in Colonial Dutch Material Culture After 1664*, Charles Fisher, *Arcaeological Collections at the NYS Museum*, Kevin Moody, *Excavation of a Brick Maker's House*, Marie-Lorraine, *Food Remains from Schuyler Flats*, James Bradley, *Moderator*

Contact <www.nnp.org> for information.

June 14-17 in New York City **Meeting of The Vernacular Architecture Forum (VAF).**