

MID-HUDSON CHAPTER of the DUTCH BARN PRESERVATION SOCIETY

July, 1999 **Newsletter**

volume 1, number 4

from the Editor...The unofficial and unstructured Mid Hudson Chapter now has 34 members and \$190 in the bank, according to the written records, which we all know are sometimes incorrect. Annual dues remain \$10 and assure you of future issues of this newsletter. Sorry Nancy, I didn't get the zip code for Kew Gardens.

Many timber frame construction projects are underway in Ulster County, most visible is the Dutch barn going up at the 1765 Wyncoop/Lonsbury house (Mar-13) on route 209 in Stone Ridge. This circa 1823-30 barn frame is being restored and re-assembled by Bob Hedges and the Scheff brothers, Roger and Todd with some help from John Sherringer and an antique mechanical crane from Krumville. It was the last example of a Dutch barn in Otsego County before being moved here, Ulster County.

(Continued on page 5)

Sunday, June 6, 1999 with Todd and Roger Scheff in Columbia and Dutchess Counties we visited five Dutch barns and one 1766 Dutch brick house.

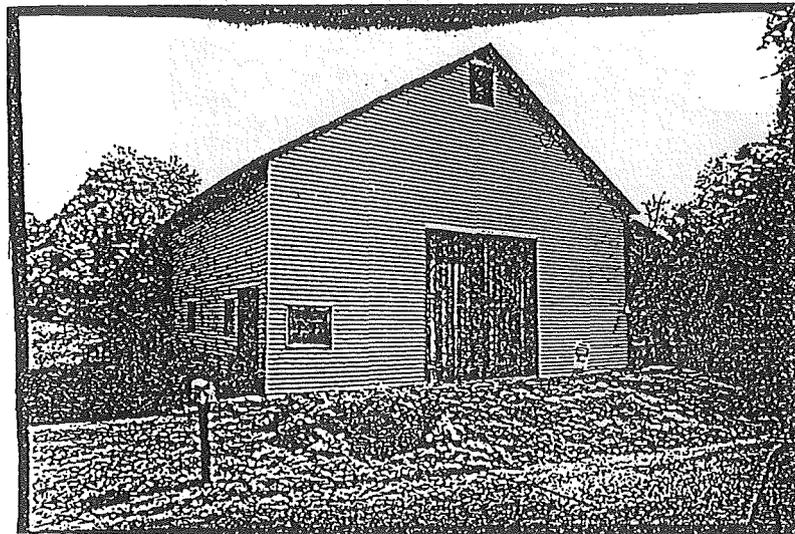
1. ___/Linder/Whitney (Rhi-7)
4-bay Dutch barn with balloon frame. The remains of this farm were recently bought by the owner of the next barn (Rhi-16).. The house across the road is a 1790-1800 center-hall frame house but the present barn, that replaced the original barn perhaps 100 years ago, 1890-1900, is a rare and fascinating study in the persistence and modification of tradition.

The frame is amazingly light with 4x6-inch columns and 4x9 1/2-inch anchorbeams. There are no braces on the H-bents. All the beams are sawn. There are no mortise and tenon joints with pegs. The anchorbeams are joined with nailed half-lap joints and the purlin braces are toe-nailed. The frame is certainly an experiment in what is known as "balloon framing," a system that replaced timber framing by taking advantage of more efficient saw mills and cheaper wire nails.

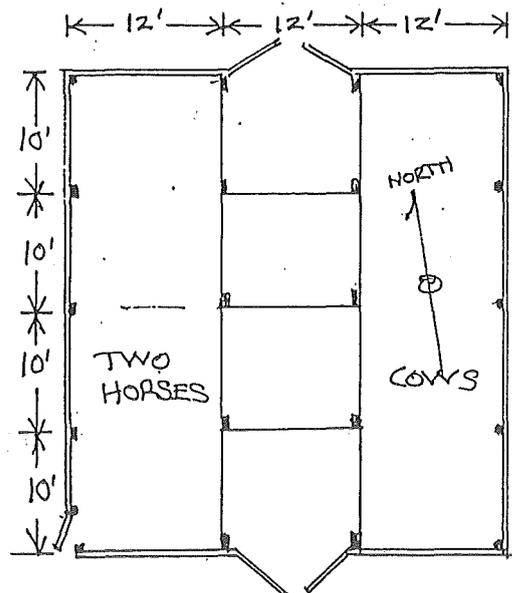
Despite its modern frame construction the barn continued to function as a traditional Dutch aisle barn with animals in the side-aisles. Its present siding is vinyl plastic.

2. ___/Whitney (Rhi-16) 4-bay scribe-rule Dutch U-barn. This farm was on the Beekman Patent. The barn has a scribe-rule frame with race-knife lines and circles for marriage marks. Lines cut across the joints. There is an inscription near the center of an internal anchorbeam. It contains initials, perhaps of the owner and builder, and the numerals "81." The eight is cut with two race knife circles. This seems to indicate a 1781 construction. The anchorbeam tenons extend but are not wedged.

3. ___/Nieman (Rhi-17) 4-bay Dutch barn. The present owner is restoring the house and outbuildings with metal roofs and structural repairs. The Dutch barn is made of the parts of several scribe rule frames. Some anchorbeams have three pegs. All anchorbeam tenons extend but only one wedge could be found. There are parts of longitudinal struts with holes for a stake-wall reused as studs in the front end-wall and there is one stake-wall strut in place on the cow side. Today we find plank walls separating the cows from the threshing floor in Dutch barns but originally the cows were separated by a stake wall and there were no stantions.



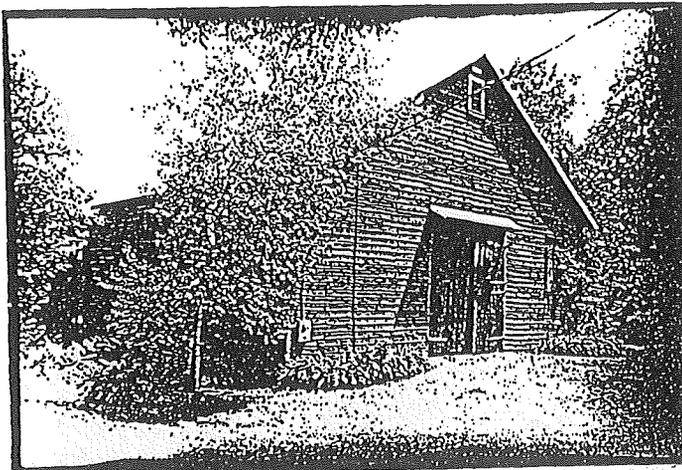
___/Linder/Whitney 4-bay Dutch barn
with balloon frame (Rhi-7)
Rhinebeck, Dutchess County, NY
June 1999, neg # 200



4. /Pumpkin Hollow Farm (Tag-3) 4-bay square-rule Dutch barn. This farm is a Theosophical Center "dedicated to promoting study, service, meditation and fellowship." This Columbia County farm has an early Livingston mill site, a 1790-1800 center hall house and a square-rule Dutch barn. It was purchased by Michael Sellon in 1937.

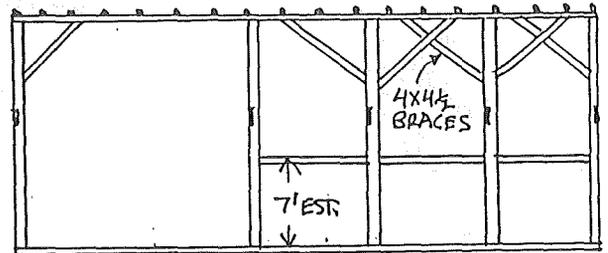
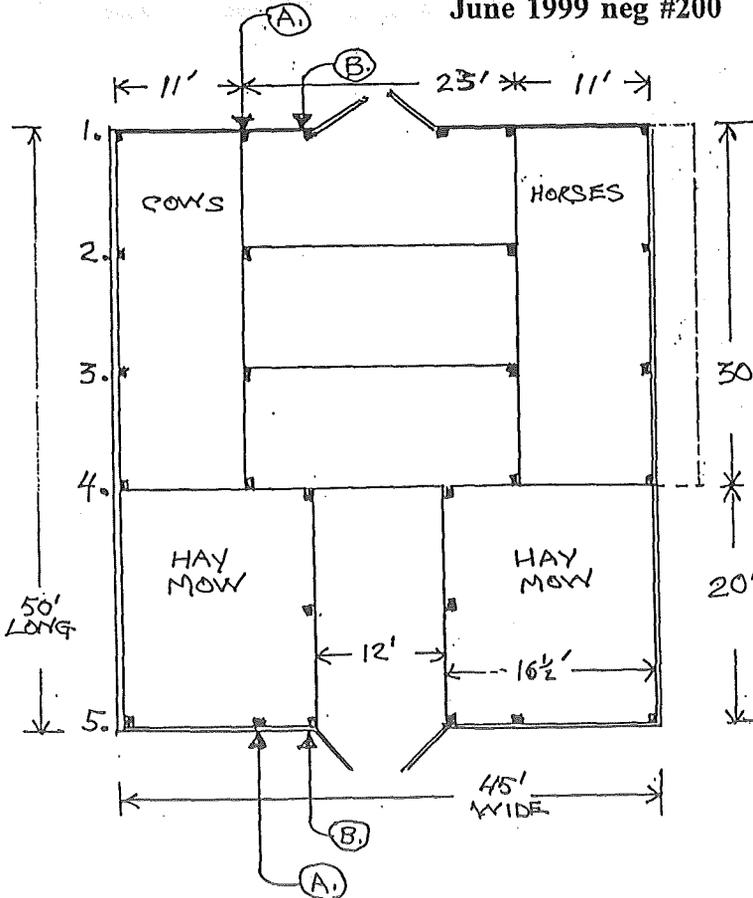
Evidence indicates the frame is square-rule dating after 1815. There are chisel marriage marks on the scissor purlin-braces. The anchorbeam tenons do not extend and the purlin-braces are not pegged. There is a profuse use of braces and they are all sawn. All of the side-wall-posts are sawn and the in-between studs are poles. There is an 1888 date on the end-wall but this must date the reconstruction in which a new roof was built and the aisle in three bays on the horse side was extended out about 3-feet.

This last alteration is rare. Normally when deeper horse-stalls were needed or desired the manger was moved into the nave. Another rare feature of the barn is the 20 foot bay with interior posts that created a 12-foot nave flanked by 3 1/2-foot high mowstead-walls. This created a very Anglo-American system for hay storage while the other three bays kept their Dutch uses.

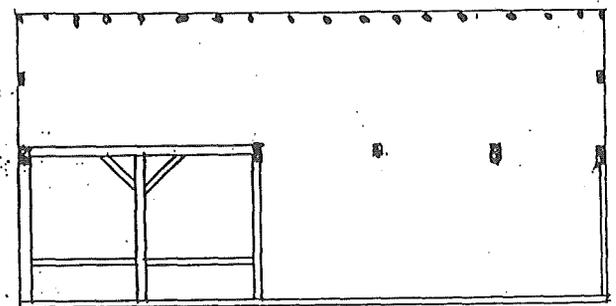


Aside from two examples of Dutch barns in Vermont, according to Jan Lewandoski, this newly discovered barn in Craryville, township of Taghkanic, is perhaps the most eastern of the approximately 600 surviving Dutch barns in New York and New Jersey, taking the place of the 3-bay Hamm/Woods (PP-1) Dutch barn in Pine Plains. Perhaps because of their location on the fringe of Dutch-American culture, both of these barns show features that have been adopted from New England. The Woods barn makes extensive use of wedged dovetail tenons, a rarity in Dutch timber framing.

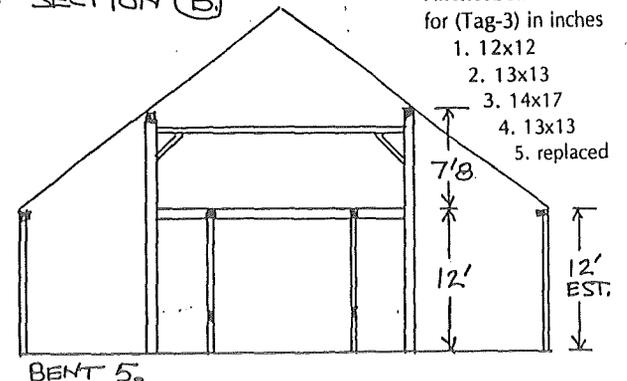
 /Pumpkin Hollow Farm
4-bay square-rule Dutch barn (Tag-3)
Craryville, Taghkanic, Columbia County, NY
June 1999 neg #200



SECTION (A)



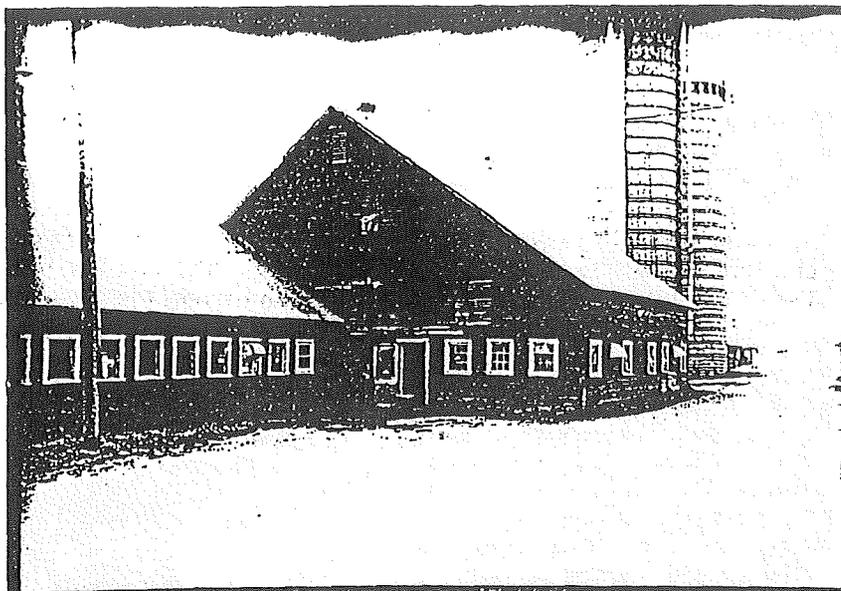
SECTION (B)



BENT 5

- Anchorbeam dimensions for (Tag-3) in inches
1. 12x12
 2. 13x13
 3. 14x17
 4. 13x13
 5. replaced

5. **Tishauser/Northrop (Cla-5) 4-bay Dutch barn.** This barn is being used for a dairy operation and as is often the case with Dutch barn conversion to dairy, the lower 6 1/2-feet of the frame is replaced with metal posts and stantions and the floor covered with cement. The anchorbeam braces are hewn and the purlin braces sawn and pegged. There are two raising holes in each column, one 3-feet below the purlin and one 10-inches above the anchorbeam. There are longitudinal rasing-holes in some wall posts.



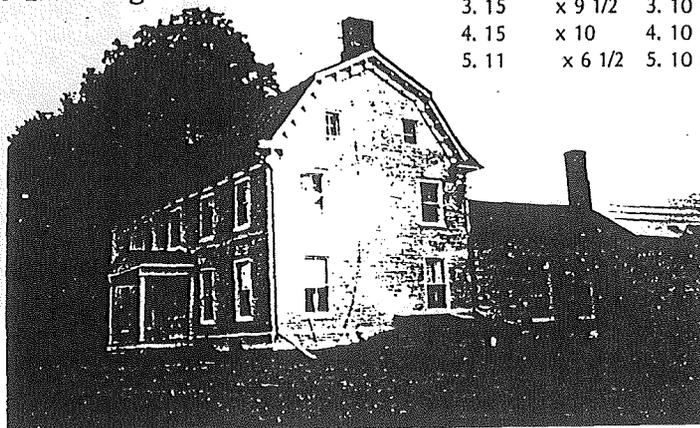
**Tishauser/Northrop
4-bay scribe-rule Dutch barn (Cla-5)
June 1999 neg #200**

Anchorbeams for (Cla-5) in inches	Columns for (Cla-5) in inches
1.	1.
2. 13 1/2 x 9	2. 11 x 16
3. 15 x 9 1/2	3. 10 x 11
4. 15 x 10	4. 10 x 11
5. 11 x 6 1/2	5. 10 x 11

6. **_____/Sheldon (Cla-6) two-story center-hall brick house with gambrel roof and earlier stone wing.** This brick house is dated 1766 and contains many original features. The house and 150 acres are for sale.

Some notable features are the steep original ladder-stairs in the stone wing and the stairs and balustrade in the center-hall of the brick house. There is a wall of panelling that may have been moved when the fireplaces were replaced with stoves. Part of the paneling might be a wall-bed. There is evidence in the cellar that the original 1766 house had end-wall jambless fireplaces, one of which had later been converted to a jambed fireplace.

This house makes an interesting comparison with the Wyncoop/Lonsbury house (Mar-13), a two-story stone house of a similar date in Marletown, Ulster County, that is a more refined Georgian style, while the Sheldon house retains many traditional Dutch country features. It was evidently a house of the Rensselaer family.

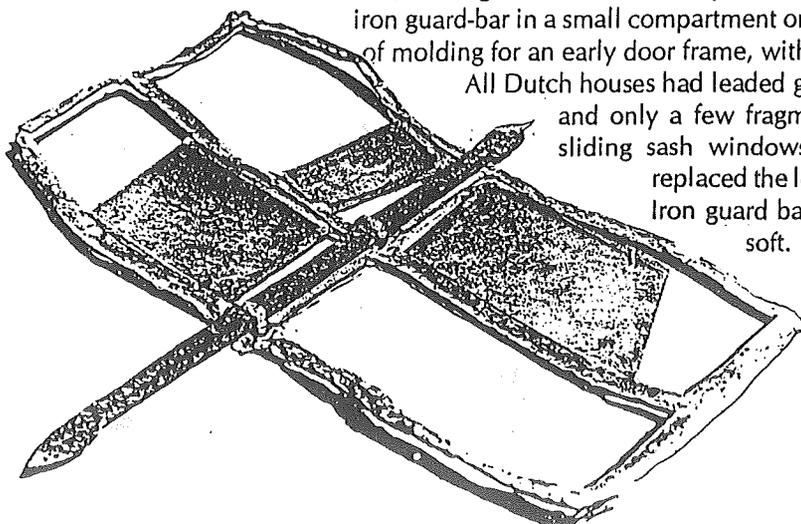


**_____/Sheldon
two-story center-hall brick house (Cla-6)
with gambrel roof and earlier stone wing.
photo by John Stevens June 1999**

The four-lite windows, the front porch and the extended eaves with decorative braquets on the roof are nineteenth century changes.

Friday, June 11, 1999 with Roger & Todd Scheff and John Stevens we met with Bill Reinhart and measured the 1727 Kiersted stone house (Sau-23) in Saugerties, Ulster County, NY. Roger found a fragment of leaded glass with attached iron guard-bar in a small compartment on the side of the parlor fireplace paneling and a piece of molding for an early door frame, with an original red stain finish, nailed to a cellar beam.

All Dutch houses had leaded glass windows before 1740 but none remain in place and only a few fragments and evedence of their use survive. Vertically sliding sash windows with wood mullians, as we know them today, replaced the leaded windows that were casement or hinged sashes. Iron guard bars were necessary for support because the lead was soft. The Kiersted example was originally a six-pane window. The 2x5 inch glass panes differ from the 4x6-inch standard pane.



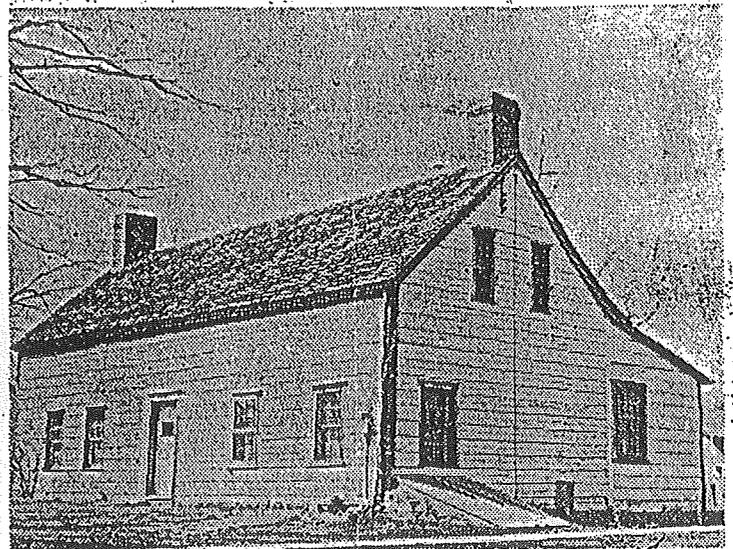
**Fragment of leaded glass window
with 2x5-inch panes & iron guard-bar
found in the Kiersted House, (Sau-23)
Saugerties, Ulster County, NY
June 1999 neg #200**

Saturday, June 19, 1999 about 13 people attended a meeting at the circa 1776 Graham/Brush house (PP-5) in Pine Plains, Dutchess County.

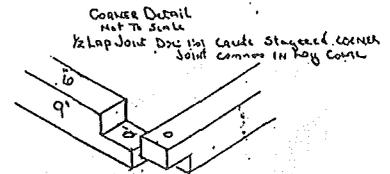
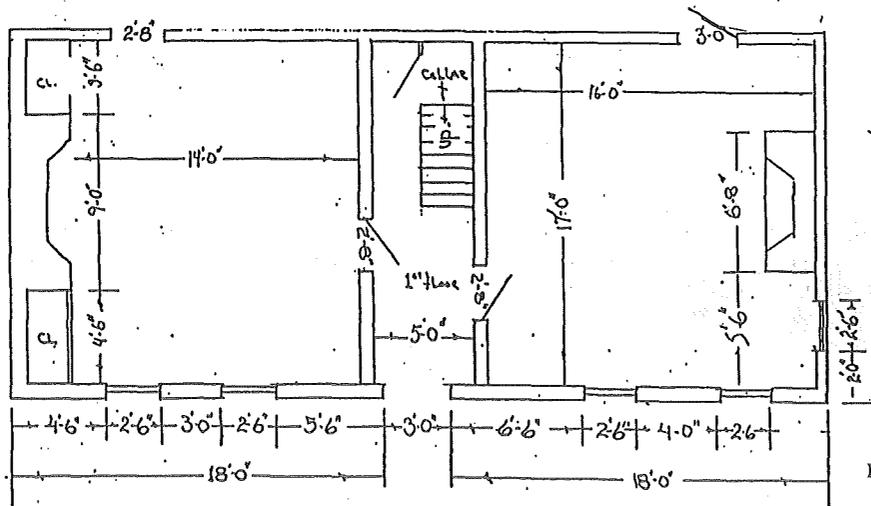
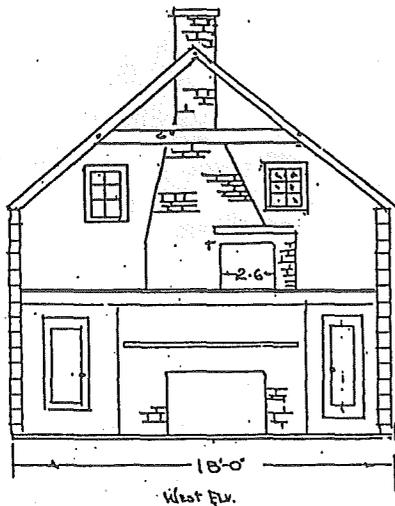
The Brush house was recently acquired by the local historical society, the Little Nine Partners, and was soon after damaged by an arson fire. This was especially sad because of the very original condition of the house. Work is now underway to restore it.

There is an historic marker that says the house was built as a blockhouse in association with the Revolution but recent research by Neil Larson has uncovered a different story. It seems Graham came from Westchester County where the British had burned his house. He came to this place of refuge and built a one-room log cabin without a cellar to which he soon added a center hall with stairs to the loft and another room with a fireplace, all of logs. The log addition was built over a cellar with an outside entrance. The simple lap joining of logs, without dovetails, relates its construction methods to the military garrisons being built at that time to house troops. Graham came to Pine Plains because his father had been one of the Little Nine Partners in the local land patent.

Bob Hedges gave a slide show and talked about local barns, some of which no longer stand. About eight people took a tour of two Pine Plains buildings. The Grange Hall (PP-6), now an antique store, was visited. It has an exposed king-post truss rafter system. A small side entrance barn (PP-7) of about 1840, presently owned by a veterinarian, was visited. It has a five-sided ridge pole into which the hewn rafters are joined and pegged. The square-rule frame is built with girts for vertical siding and there is an abundance of bracing, both ascending and descending and some short ones on the rafters. I have seen two similar, highly structured frames of this type. One of a water-powered saw mill in Palenville and the other at a water mill site in Gardner.

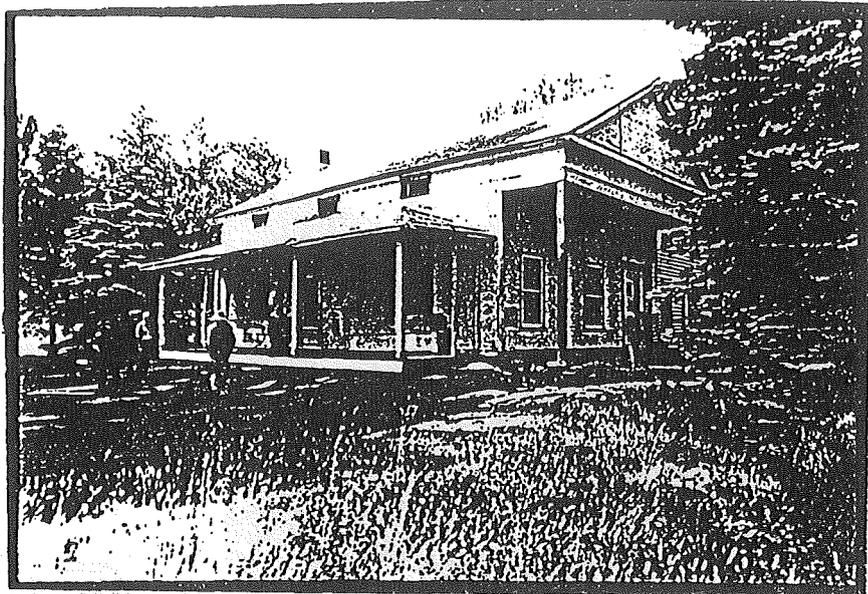


Graham/Brush log house (PP-5)
circa 1775 Pine Plains, Dutchess County, NY
photograph circa 1930, collection R. Hedges
The logs were sided with milled clapboard
sometime in the late 19th century.

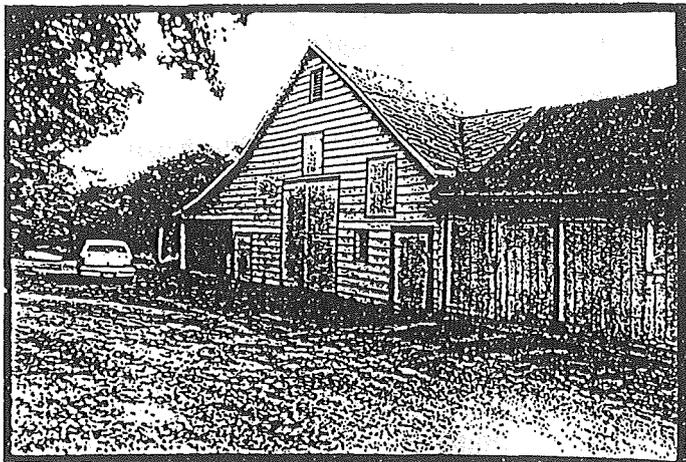


measured drawing by R. Hedges

Alvin, Roger, Myself and John Stevens drove to Steuvasant, Columbia County, and visited the **Andries Witbeck (Stu-1)** house visited. May 22, 1999 with Roger and Todd. This is an early 18th century two-room center-hall stone house. It is undergoing restoration by its owner who has a good understanding of the evidence he is uncovering and of the building's many changes from a Medieval Survival into a Greek Revival with a few later touches of Victorian. The story-and-a-half house originally had jambless fireplaces on its end-walls and its center-hall had an encased stairway to the loft.



Witbeck/Matson stone house (Stu-1)
 Steuvasant, Columbia County, NY
 June 1999 neg #201



Miller/Van Deusen Dutch barn (Cla-7)
 Claverack, Columbia County, NY
 June 1999 neg #201

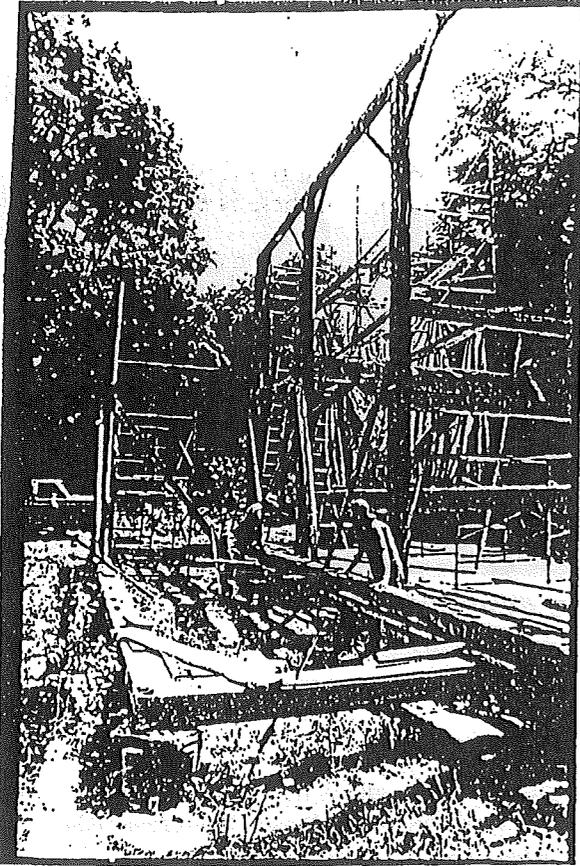
On the return home we visited the **Steven Miller/Van Wyck/Van Deusen homestead (Cla-7)**. The original 2-bay Van Deusen Dutch barn measures 32-feet wide and 21-feet deep. It has a 12-foot nave and 10-foot side aisles making it the smallest Dutch barn known. There are six-pairs of rafters. The center bent has 7x9-inch columns and a 12x7-inch anchorbeam. The braces are hewn and the tenons extend and have one wedge on the center, internal bent. The shoulders are diminished indicating it could be an 18th century example. The 2-bay addition to the original barn contains a number of re-used parts. The frame house with gambrel-roof dates to about 1760.

(continued from page 1)

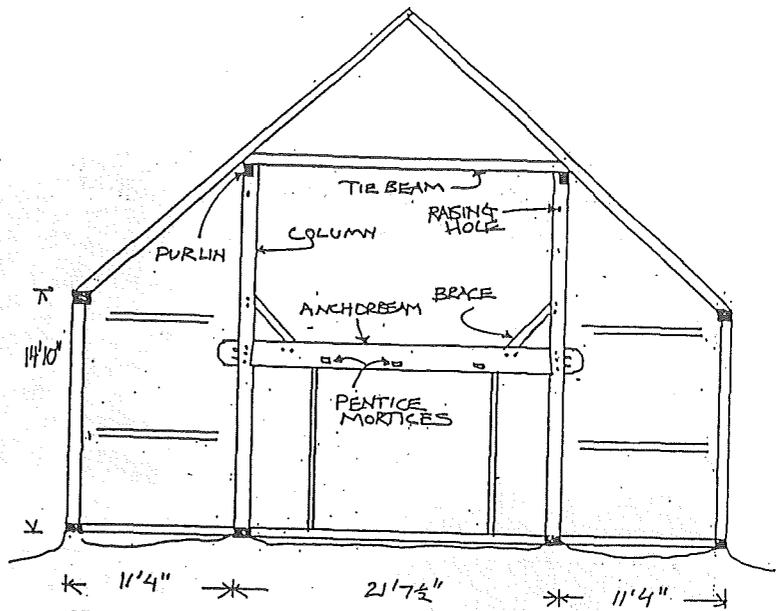
Probably the second-to-last Dutch barn frame from Otsego County was the 4-bay scribe-rule ___/Chapen (Cla-1) moved to Claverack, Columbia County, recently and reconstructed as a house there. Most of the frame is exposed. I went with Alvin Scheffer and Michael Carr in November 1998. There is one feature in this Otsego County barn, illustrated in the drawing on the next page of the end-wall bent, that is typical of the northern tradition and unlike Mid-Hudson Dutch barns. This is the group (three) of pentice mortices in the anchorbeam. These are *through-mortices* which accommodated *extended-tenons* with wedges. (Mar-13) has pentice mortices but they are not through indicating a later decline of that tradition.

Two of the most interesting deviations from the Dutch-American tradition in the Otsego County barn (Cla-1) are the tie-beam resting on, perhaps joined to the purlin plate, and the raising holes drilled in the columns longitudinally (with the ridge of the roof) rather than transverse as is normal. (Mar-13) has end-wall tie-beams joined to the columns below the purlins and transverse raising-holes.

The position of the tie-beam in (Cla-1) may show English or German influence but it may also relate to the direction of the raising hole and indicate a regional method of assembling and raising the frame. There is still no clear understanding of the origin and use of the raising hole, but this example suggests that these columns were raised transversely and joined to the anchorbeam rather than the H-bent, with braced anchorbeam and columns, raised longitudinally.



**Raising the Otsego County Dutch barn
at the Wyncoop/Lonsbery house (Mar-13)
Marbletown, Ulster County, NY
June 1999 neg #201**



Endwall-Bent

___/Chapen 4-bay scribe-rule Dutch barn (Cla-1)
Claverack, Columbia County, NY
Moved from Otsego County.

Saturday July 31, George Van Sickle, a native and long-time student of the history and pre-history of Marbletown, will take us from the Oliver Dutch barn up-the-road a short-way to the 1832 Marbletown one-room stone school and then down the hill toward the

creek to what local lore maintains, are the remains of an old road and a stone foundation for a bridge built by the British army in the seventeenth century. Originally the bridge spanned the Esopus Creek and connected the village of Marbletown with Andreas DeWitt's farm and the Hurley Mountain Road that runs along the base of the Catskill Mountains. In the early eighteenth century the Esopus Creek changed course washing out the bridge and forcing the people to find another crossing point. A small stream known as the Dovekill (*dove* rhyming with *stove*, as George says it) now passes by the old bridge foundation. George says the Esopus itself was sometimes called the Dovekill in old records.

One returning to the Marbletown stone school, there will a workshop conducted on **documenting an historic structure**. The results will be given to Jody Ford at the Marbletown Library. She is actively collecting photographs and information on the towns one-room-schools.

The Saturday, July 24 tour of Orange County, will begin at **The Bull Family homestead** at 10AM. Mike Brown will show us through the 1722 Stone house and the early Dutch barn that are preserved by the William Bull and Sarah Wells Stone House Association. This is the only remaining Dutch barn in Orange County. There is a nearby restaurant for those wishing to have lunch. Others who bring lunch can stay on at the Bull Homestead.

The next two visits have been arranged by Robert Eurich who has studied local architecture for many years. At 2PM we will meet at the 1769 **English Georgian stone house and English barn in Hillhold, Campbell Hall**. This is a County Parks Department site that has a good collection of local furniture. At 3:30PM we will meet at the 1768 **Brick house and Farm Museum in Montgomery**, another county site.

There will be a \$2 entry fee at both county sites.

Peter Sinclair
West Hurley, Ulster County, NY

SCRIBE-RULE and SQUARE-RULE

systems used by timber frame carpenters

by Peter Sinclair & Bob Hedges

There are very few timber frame barns with dates of construction carved in the timbers but there are a number of features in the framing of barns that help in dating them. One of these is evidence of *scribe-rule* and *square-rule*.

Hudson Valley carpenters of the seventeenth and eighteenth centuries followed a scribe-rule system based on early European carpentry. In this system the major timbers of the frame were brought together, the cuts to be made scribed with an *awl* and the joints fit individually. The columns, braces and beams were marked with *marriage-marks*, matching numbers and symbols that allowed the carpenter to correctly reassemble the timbers later.

Roman numerals, in which each line was cut with two opposing cuts of a *straight-chisel*, are the most frequently found marriage-marks in the Hudson Valley. In Ulster County and northern New Jersey *cup-marks*, cut with a *gouge-chisel*, have been found on some dutch barns dating before the American Revolution (1776) but roman numerals are the type most used to match timbers.

In Dutchess, Columbia and some northern Counties of New York, marriage-marks are frequently cut with a *race-knife* and *race-knife-compass*.

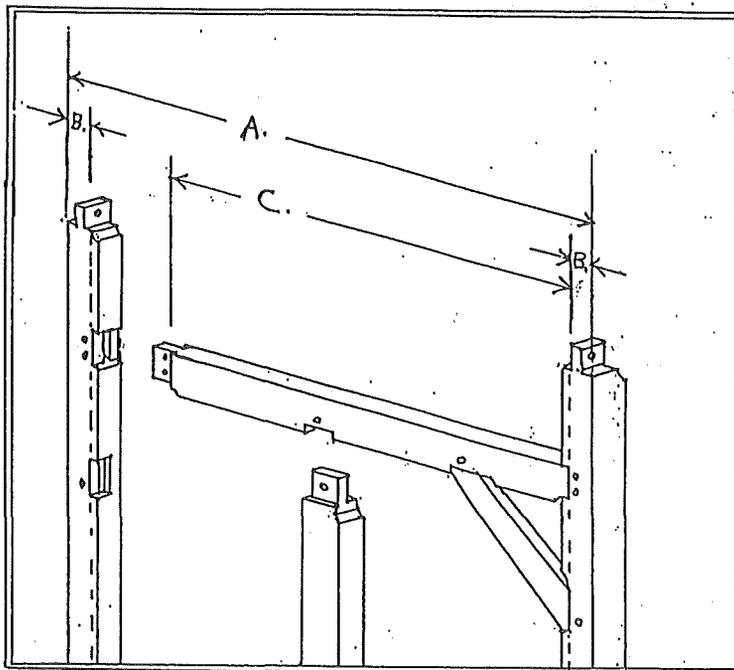
Square-rule is a system that may have originated in New England in the late eighteenth century. Its first public use in Pine Plains, Dutchess County, in 1815, was described as a new wonder. The carpenter, Elijah B. Northrop, prepared his timbers in the forest and cut his mortises and tenons there, without physically matching them, side-by-side.

"...without 'Scribing' as it had hitherto done...Doubts as to the fitting & coming together in all its parts in the frame were general, almost universal, But like the temple of Solomon the timber felled in the forest were nicely adjusted in mortise & tenon and went together in the frame Not However without the sound of Ax or hammers."

Eventually square-rule would replace scribe-rule as the method used in laying out timber frames in the Hudson Valley. By 1830 even the conservative Dutch-American carpenters of Ulster County had adopted square-rule but in Pennsylvania some German-American carpenters were practicing their scribe-rule traditions into the late nineteenth century.

Evidence of square-rule joining can be seen in the lack of marriage-marks and in the frequent diminishing of timbers at the tenon. Hewn timbers have irregular surfaces and dimensions. Square-rule is based on the idea that a perfect timber lies within the rough hewn one and so the beam is diminished to that perfect dimension at the joint. Mortises and tenons of beams and braces are made uniform and interchangeable. Over-all square-rule saved time.

The American scribe-rule traditions, whether Dutch, English, French or German in origin, were all oral traditions and forgotten when square-rule was adopted. The survival of French and German scribe-rule carpentry in Europe and its recent exchange of information through the Timber Framers Guild of North America has added to the understanding of our lost Dutch-American traditions here.



Isometric Drawing, square-rule diagram
by Bob Hedges

If A. is the given measurement of the outside dimensions; B. is cut to a uniform size; then C. can be determined.

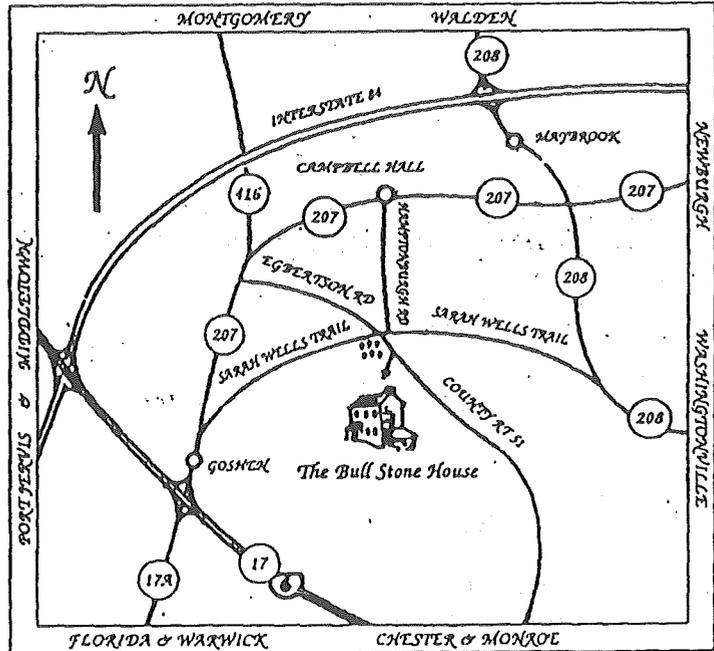
A Tour of three Historic Sites
 in Orange County, NY
 Starting at the Bull Homestead
Saturday, July 23,
1999, 10:00 AM



**MEETINGS OF
 THE MID-HUDSON CHAPTER 10 to 5 PM
 Saturday, July 31, 1999
 Saturday, August 31, 1999
 Oliver Dutch barn, 2911 Route 209
 Marbletown, Ulster Co., NY
 (across from the Widow Davis Tavern)**



**ANNUAL MEETING
 of The Dutch Barn Preservation Society
 Saturday, October 23, 1999
 Old Stone Fort Museum Complex
 Schoharie, New York**



DIRECTIONS TO THE BULL HOMESTEAD

The Bull Stone House and Dutch Barn, placed on the National Register of Historic Places, are surrounded by over 100 rolling acres with lawns, hay fields, ponds and wood lots.

Traveling from East or West take I 84 to Middletown, then Route 17 East to Goshen exit #124 for RT 207. Take RT 207 through Goshen to right (East) on Sarah Wells Trail. Go about four miles to right on County RT 51; then an immediate right on gravel lane alongside Hamptonburgh Cemetery.

Traveling from North or South take I 87 to the Harriman exit. Then take RT 17 West to Goshen exit #124 for RT 207. Take RT 207 through Goshen to right (East) on Sarah Wells Trail. Go about four miles to right on County RT 51; then an immediate right on gravel lane alongside Hamptonburgh Cemetery. If confused or lost, call the Stone House 914-496-BULL (2855).

The Newsletter of the Mid-Hudson Chapter of the Dutch Barn Preservation Society
 and notice of up-coming events will be made available with a \$10 membership.
 Mail to Peter Sinclair, 83 Spillway Rd., West Hurley, NY 12491; (914) 338-0257

.....
 I would like to join the Mid-Hudson Chapter of the Dutch Barn Society

NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

CITY _____ STATE _____ ZIP _____

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