

MID-HUDSON CHAPTER of the DUTCH BARN PRESERVATION SOCIETY

August, 1999

Newsletter

volume 1, number 5

from the Editor...The unofficial Mid Hudson Chapter now has 42 members and \$170 in the bank, according to the present records. Our mailing list grows but annual dues remain \$10 and assure you of future issues. Sorry Todd but it could be the Germantown post office because they are never returned here.

I met with Laurence Erusard, owner of the Oliver Dutch barn (Mar-6) in Marbletown, Ulster County, a site that is slowly becoming a temporary headquarters for the unstructured chapter of preservationists. Laurence agreed with what we suggested doing with the barn including a barn-dance to raise money, but before we have a dance, we need to restore the threshing floor. The three most urgent projects are, (1.) remove the two large trees that hang over the roof, (2.) bring in an electric line and (3) finish the windows and walls of the library. Laurence now lives in the south of Spain and refuses to complain about our hot dry weather.

(continued page 8.)

Sunday, July 11, 1999 with Roger Scheff, visited and documented the Winne/Creble stone, brick and frame house in Albany County, NY; with 15 acres, for sale.

The original two-room frame house with a brick front end wall had a center chimney and back-to-back jambless fireplaces. It has 7 1/4 x 1 3/4 x 3 1/2-inch bricks on the front side. The stone addition with brick end wall had an end wall jambless fireplace and 9 x 2 x 4-inch bricks. Both end walls are laid in Dutch cross-bond pattern. The addition was later changed to a jambed fireplace with a kitchen fireplace below it in the cellar with English side-by-side flues. The original corbel brick hearth arch is in place in the cellar.

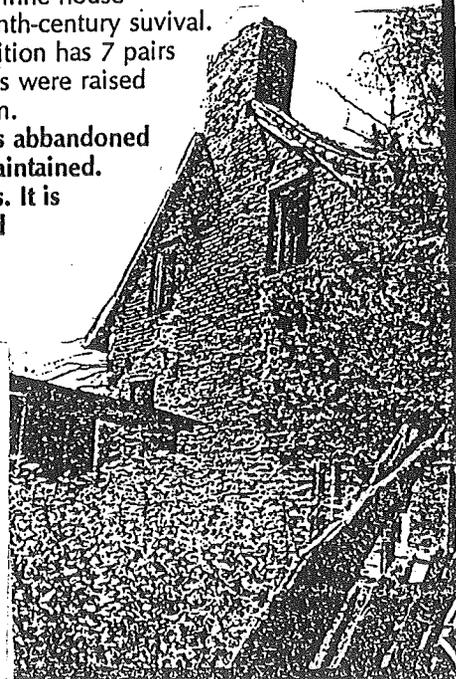
The kitchen fireplace in the original section had an angled hearth cradle in the cellar. Its three beams were set in holes in the stone wall and the other ends rested against the hearth beam. The original hearth support on the other side of the wall can not be determined and that hearth beam was evidently once rotten and replaced. The present hearth support is a two-pier stone-arch typical for jambed fireplaces.

The rafters in the original section are re-used, but at the peak, have no collar ties and overhang the plate. This roof was evidently rebuilt after 1840 when the second story was made taller. The rafters could be re-used from the original roof. They have many gains, some cut at angles, indicating the original roof may have had a truss system. The H-bents have rare early braces like the reconstructed 1677 Schenck house in the Brooklyn Museum and the 1737 Van Allen brick-on-frame house in Kinderhook. The Winne house is certainly an early eighteenth-century survival.

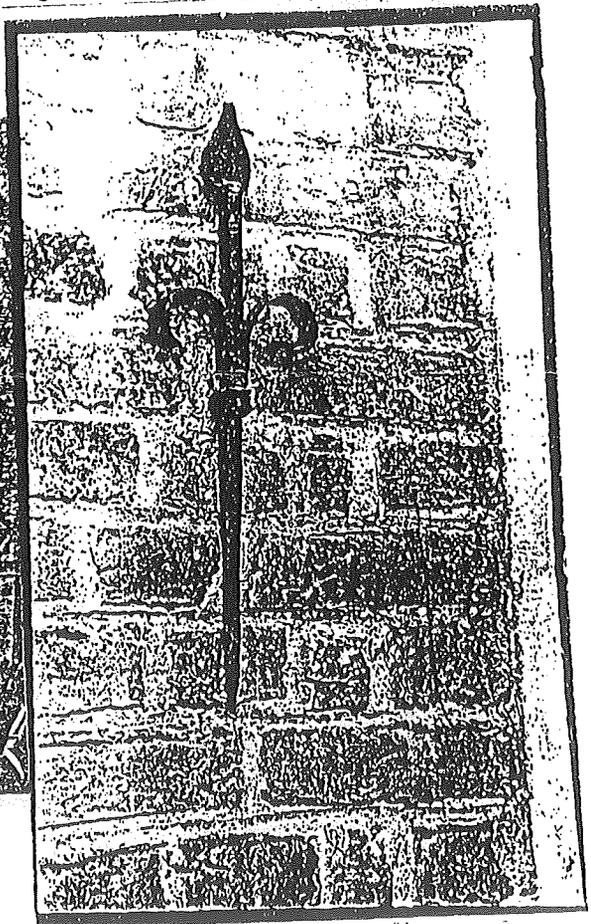
The roof of the addition has 7 pairs of rafters. The low collar ties were raised later to create standing room.

The Winne house is abandoned and not well watched or maintained. Its roof has developed holes. It is in danger of destruction and should be examined again soon.

Saturday, July 16, 1999 with Roger & Todd Scheff, we visited with Dave Collins in Saint Johnsville, Montgomery County, NY and visited four local Dutch barns and an 1840 Greek revival stone house undergoing restoration. Roger bought four anchorbeams and parts of a Dutch barn from Ephrata, Montgomery County, for a frame to be raised at the circa 1710 Kipp stone house in Rhinecliff, Dutchess County.

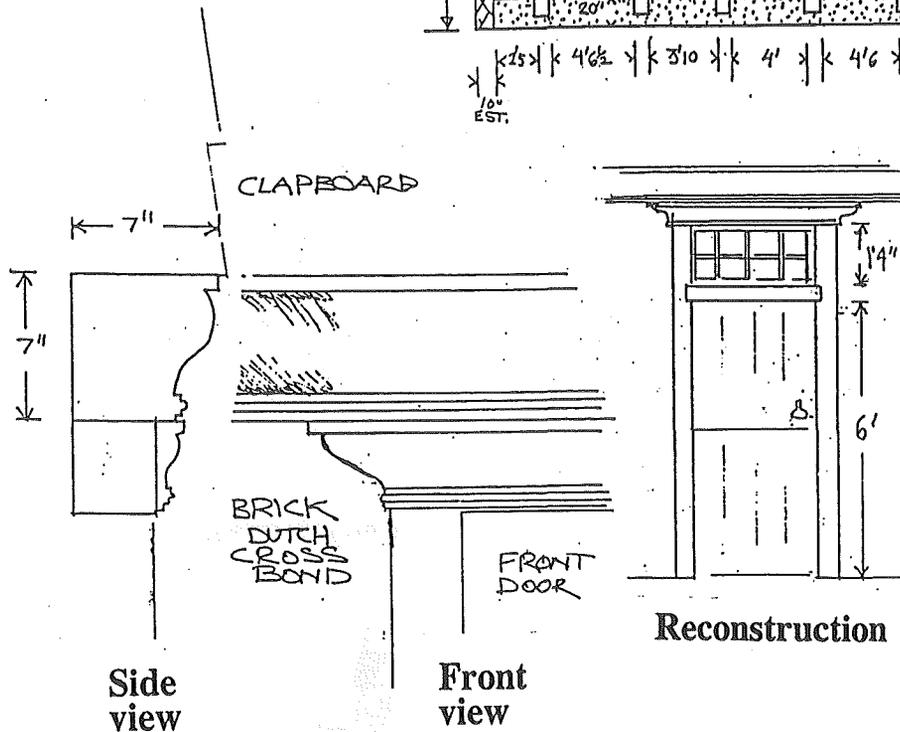
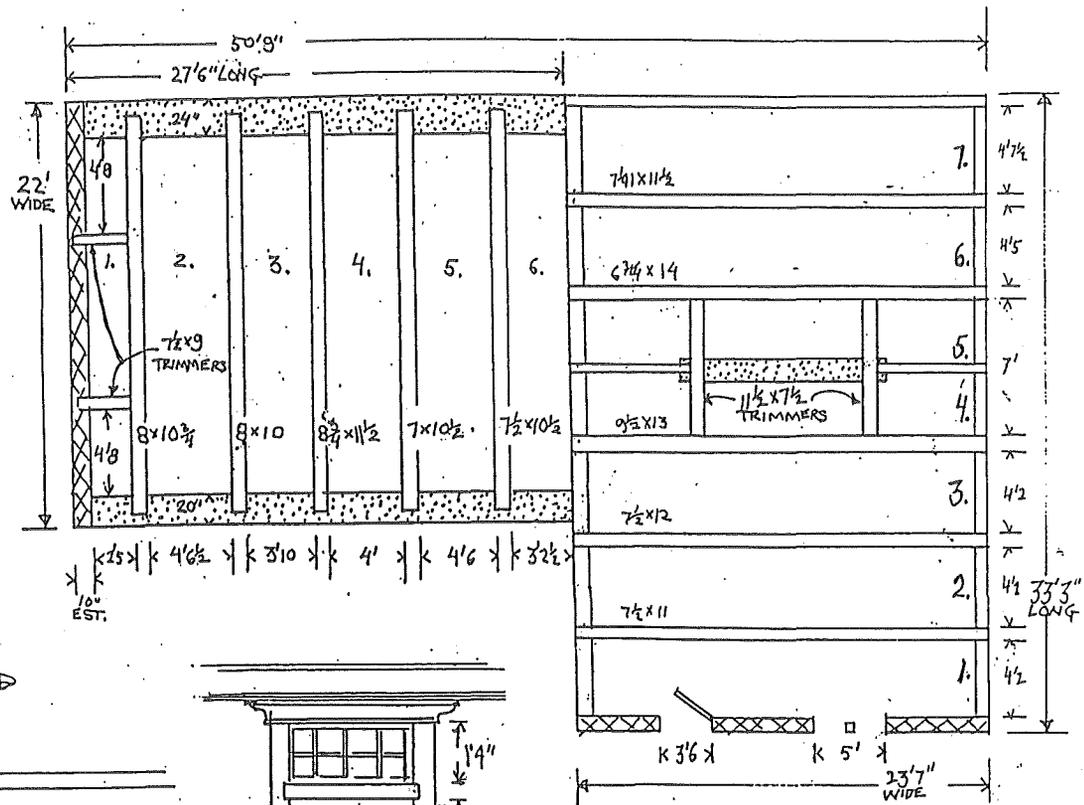


**Brick end-wall of Addition
Winne/Creble stone, brick
& frame house
Albany County, NY
July 1999, neg# 202**



Anchor iron on original brick end-wall

**Floor plan
with ceiling beam
distribution and
detail of original
front entrance
Winne/Creble
frame, brick
and stone house
Albany County, NY**



The present door was made taller than the original but evidence in the frame indicates the double door and transom as in the drawing. The gable end entrance house plan with center chimney seems to be derived from the Dutch town house. Certainly this was a proud dwelling with a brick face and a clapboard peak above slightly extended on a 7" x 7" beam with a moulding.

Dave is in the business of selling architectural parts, often these come from local farms which have been bought by the Amish, a group that has been growing in this area for the past decade. When they buy a farm they sometimes redesign and reconstruct the buildings to suit their needs and tastes. Dave often buys parts from them.

The landscape and geography of this Mohawk Valley area north of Canajoharie is unlike that of the Mid-Hudson. It is a land of long hills and open fields with vistas. Farming and rural life are changing but have not yet been invaded by the malls and corporate fast-food chains. Dutch barns are everywhere. They are much taller than their Mid-Hudson cousins. A few churches and houses survived the destruction of the American Revolution that ravaged the Mohawk Valley, but perhaps no pre-Revolutionary barns remain.

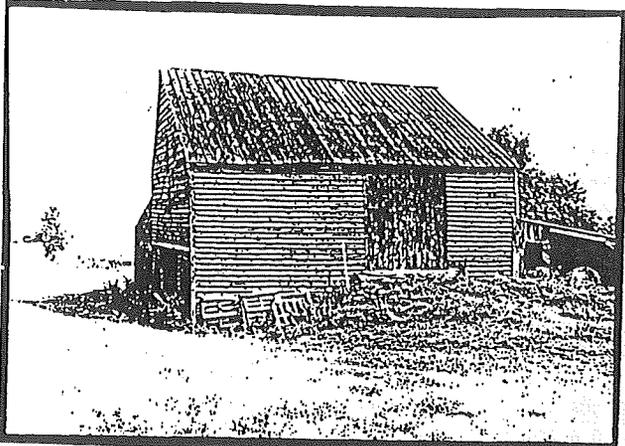
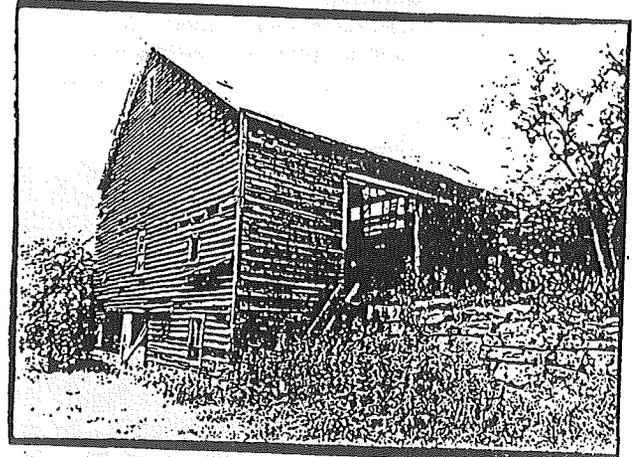
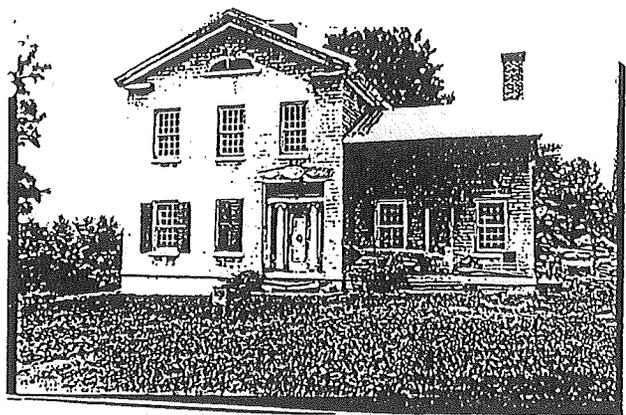
The area was settled after 1712 by many of the Palatine German families who had come to the Hudson Valley in 1710. 3,000 people in ten ships had fled the Rhine Valley for refuge in the New World. The largest immigration of colonial times. These north German families who settled in New York shared similar building traditions with the Dutch so that the evident Palatine adoption of New World Dutch traditions is not surprising. What they maintained from their European heritage and contributed to the local architecture is one of the questions we hope to eventually answer.

Driving down a back road near Fort Plains in Fulton County Dave pointed out an early frame house on the side of the road, a building long converted to other uses and recently abandoned and overgrown with vegetation. He pointed out a Dutch strap-hinge with a pad reused on a door. Roger noted that there was only one nail in the pad and how this was a German trait.

The pad of a Dutch strap-hinge developed as a way to triangulate the nails and so strengthen the door. When the Mid-Hudson Dutch stopped triangulating the hinge nails in the early nineteenth century, they went to strap-hinges without pads like their New England neighbors. The Fulton County blacksmith who made the hinge we saw maintained the pad as a decorative motif like his distant German cousins in Pennsylvania.

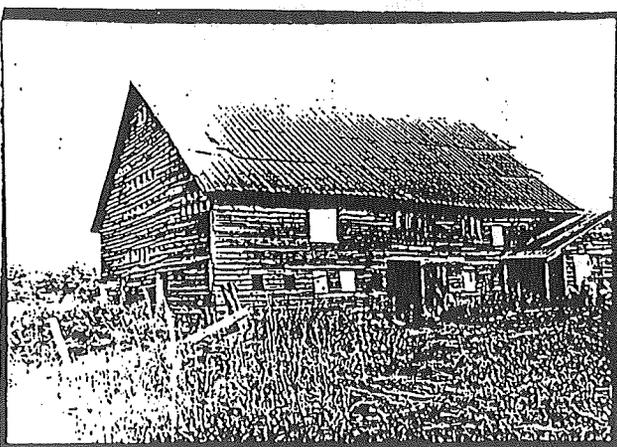
1. The Fox/Collins farm (Stj-1) in Saint Johnsville, Montgomery County: was the first site visited. It has an impressive 1840 limestone Greek revival house that Dave Collins is restoring and a 4-bay square-rule Dutch barn. The anchorbeam tenons do not extend. Perhaps the barn is contemporary with the house. The barn was raised above its original foundation and a five- or six-foot wall of round-sawn timbers inserted to support the frame above. An earth-ramp was constructed to the upper level and the new basement used for a dairy.

2. We next visited the Eaney family Dutch barn (LF-1) on Route 5 in Little Falls, Herkimer County. This is a square-rule 4-bay frame. The anchorbeam tenons do not extend. The rafters are hewn and joined with fork-and-tongue. The anchorbeam braces are hewn and the purlin braces sawn and not pinned. This barn was raised to form a basement, like (Stj-1) but in this case a new floor was constructed above the first level and the anchorbeams were cut at the columns and raised to form a new loft. A dirt ramp was built at the side of the barn with a side entrance to the upper level. The repositioned anchorbeams are joined to the columns with two nailed side plates.



**1840 Greek Revival limestone house and 4-bay Dutch square-rule basement barn
Fox/Collins farm (StJ-1)
Saint Johnsville,
Montgomery County, NY,
July 1999, Neg # 203**

**4-bay Dutch square-rule basement barn
Eaney family (LF-1)
Little Falls, Herkimer County, NY
July 1999, Neg #203**



**3-bay Dutch scribe-rule
Barn with addition
Hatch/McIntosh (Eup-1)
Euphreta, Fulton County, NY
July 1999, neg# 203**

3. We next visited the Hatch/McIntosh Dutch barn (Eup-1) in the township of Euphreta, Fulton County, bought recently by Virginia McIntosh and her husband. She is from Putnam County. This is a scribe-rule barn with extended round-end anchorbeam tenons, with diminished shoulders, two tenon wedges and three pins. It was originally a 3-bay barn. At a later date the barn was extended with a 20-foot bay by building a new internal H-bent, adding 20-foot purlins and moving the end bent out to its new position. This was a similar method used to extend the Oliver Dutch barn (Mar-13) in Ulster County. The new bent of (Eup-1) has no raising holes.

There are no tie-beams on the internal bents of (Eup-1). The end bents are designed like the Otsego County barn (Cla-1) moved to Dutchess County and illustrated on page 6 of the last newsletter. That is, the braces are above the anchorbeam and the tie-beam rests on the Purlins.

Column	8 3/4 x 12 inches
Internal Anchorbeam	circa 20 x 12 inches
Braces	8 1/2 x 5 1/2 (these are set with their long side on top)
Rafters	join the wall-plate with a tenon.

4. The last barn visited was the **Getman Farm (Pal-1)** in the township of Palatine, Montgomery County, owned by the great granddaughter of the builder, George Getman who built the circa 1840-50 Greek Revival house and perhaps the barn, although the barn seems earlier than the house. This barn received a \$500 restoration grant from The DBPS about 6 years ago. It is being carefully maintained by its owners who treasure it as an artifact of the regions past.

This frame is similar to the previous (Eup-1) Dutch barn with flat braces, end-wall collar-ties set on the purlins, mortises for pentice roof out-riggers and extended round-end tenons.

Columns 10 x 15 inches
Internal Anchorbeams 23 x 10 inches
Rafters join the wall-plate with a tenon. The placement of the nine-pairs of rafters on the wall plate are not staggered but correspond with the wall-posts.

One feature that seems typical of the early scribe-rule frames of the Mohawk Valley is the careful finish of the columns, braces and beams. No rough axe marks or score-lines are left and the joining is precise. Whether they were finished with the broad-axe or adz is often debated but these massive timbers are finished with pride and their extended tenons and diminished shoulders maintain their Medieval European origins.

The surviving early scribe-rule barns of the Mohawk Valley could be called fourth-generation barns, 25-years being a generation. It would be interesting to know how the earlier barns were built and what their proportions were.

Saturday, July 24, 1999, about 15 people met at the Bull Homestead (CH-2) in Orange County. Mike Brown gave background information on the Bull family, the stone house built in 1722 and the Dutch barn, that according to family legend, was raised a few years before the house. This building sequence is true for the Niewkirk/Kaufman farm (Hur-2), an important site in Ulster County on which the Dutch barn is dated 1766 and the stone house 1769. Greg Huber, who has studied the Bull Dutch barn for years, is presently conducting a dendrochronology study, a comparison of tree ring growth, to determine a date for the timbers.

A graduate student from Columbia did a study of the mortar of the stone house but there are still things in the house worth documenting. There is a storage area in the cellar that may date to the original construction of the house. It is made of riven wood, hand-made nails and the door is *har-hung*, that is, the pintals are an extension of a light timber that forms the jamb side of the door. In the Bull house the lower pintel rotates in a hole in the sill and the upper pintel in a beam above. Very few *har-hung* doors have survived although they were once common. There is evidence of *har-hung* wagon doors in the Oliver Dutch barn (Mar-6), Ulster County.

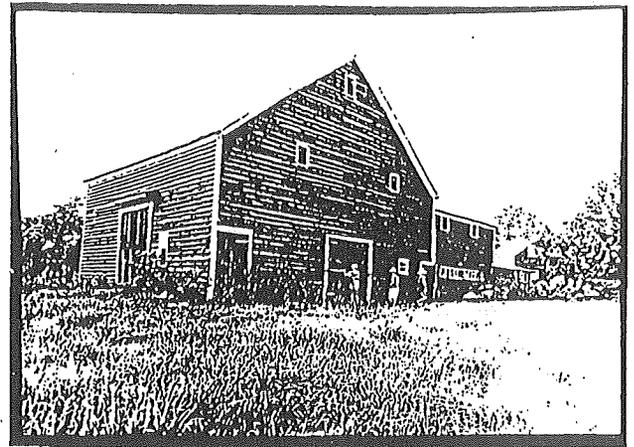
Family lore explains the cellar room of the Bull home as "the place they kept the slaves," but it is just as likely where they kept the slaves and other unauthorized personnel away from certain goods. There is a similar room in the 1765 Loundsbery house (Mar-13), Ulster County.

The Bull Dutch barn (CH-2), Orange County, has undergone a number of changes over the generations, including new side-walls with girts for vertical siding, but the core of the barn, the H-bents and purlins seem original and could date to the early 18th century, Anchorbeam shoulders are diminished and the purlin braces were joined with lap-dovetails. These are characteristic of pre-Revolutionary Dutch barns in Ulster County, perhaps ten examples known there.

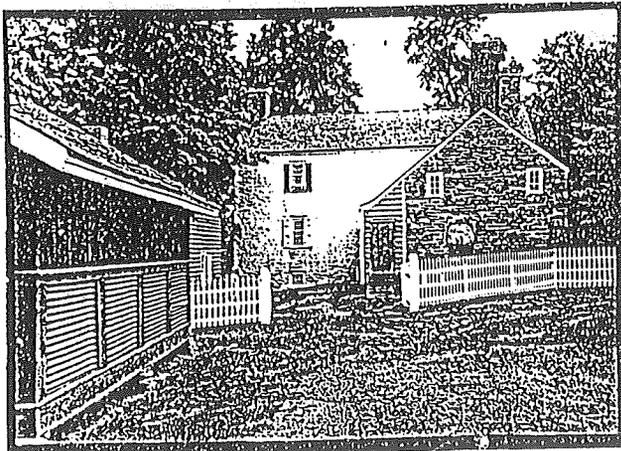
The Bull barn is the last example of a Dutch barn to survive in Orange County. Its restoration was the work of Sam Phelps.

With Robert Eurich leading the way the group next visited the Hill-Hold farm museum (CH-1) with a two-story 1769 limestone house in Campbell Hall, Orange County, NY. Like the Bull house and the 1768 Brick house (Mon-1) visited next, they are all two-story English style houses with tall plastered ceilings and jamed fireplaces. They retain some Dutch character in their hardware and in their timber frame carpentry.

The barn at Hill-Hold is a nineteenth-century square-rule English barn. The Brick House barn was a 3-bay scribe-rule English barn. The roof was later raised and rotated 90 degrees and the barn enlarged. Its carpentry is very Dutch.



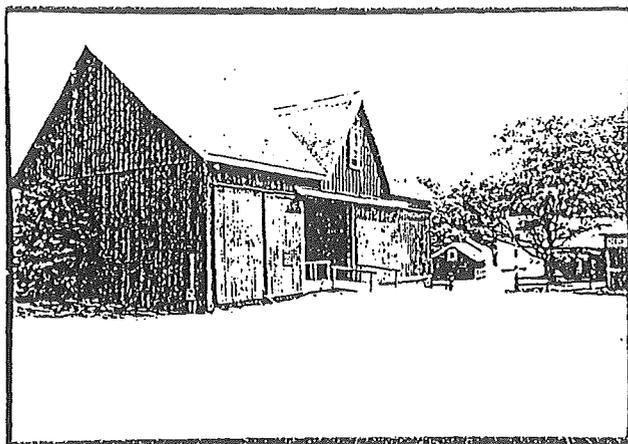
**3-bay Dutch scribe-rule barn
Getman (Pal-1)
Palatine, Montgomery County, NY
July 1999, neg #203**



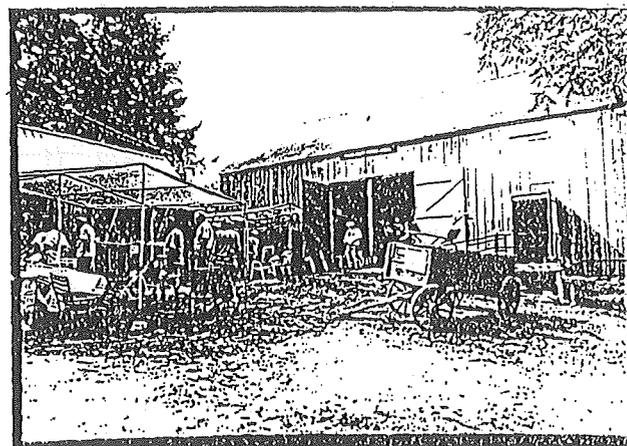
**Back side of the
1769 Hill-Hold farm house (CH-1)
Campbell Hall, Orange County, NY
July 1999 neg# 204**



The Salutation, 1760
left side-plate of a 5-plate stove
cast iron 22 1/2 x 18 1/4 inches
number 130 in H.Mercer's Bible in Iron



Square-rule English barn
Hill-Hold farm (CH-1)
Campbell Hall, Orange County, NY
July 1999 neg# 204



Scribe-rule English barn
Brick House farm (Mon-1)
Montgomery, Orange County, NY
July 1999 neg#204

The 1768 Brick House farm, like the Hill-Hold farm, is an Orange County Parks Department site. The day we visited, the Orange County Farm Museum, a separate organization that uses the farm, was holding an event with demonstrations, marching bands, reanactors and food.

Sunday, July 25, 1999 with Roger and Todd documented the 1781 Beekman/Whitney 4-bay scribe-rule Dutch barn (Rhi-16) (see page 1, Vol. 1, No. 4) and examined the farm's sawn frame house that seems to have been rebuilt in the nineteenth century on its eighteenth-century stone foundation.

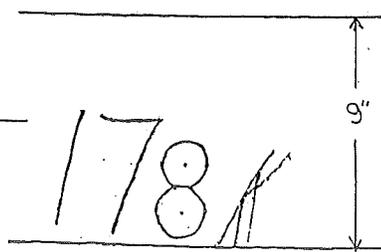
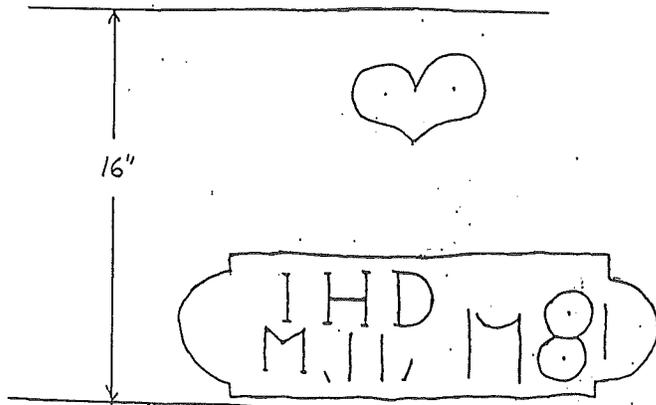
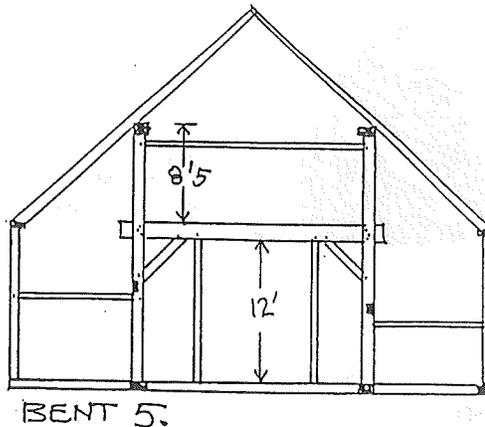
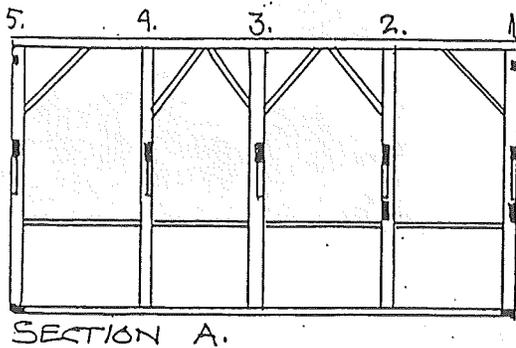
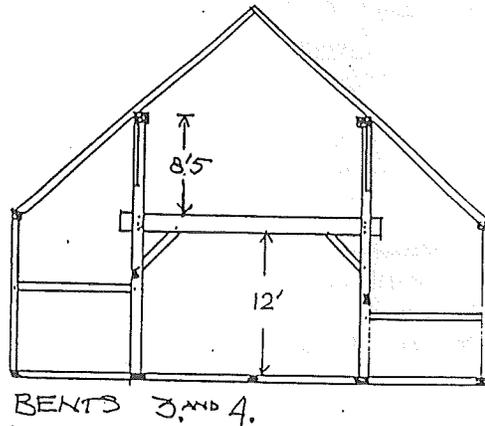
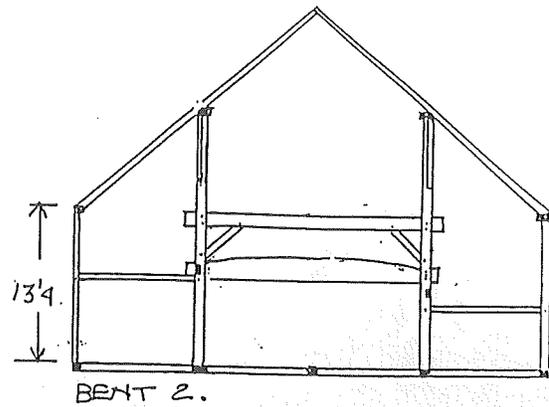
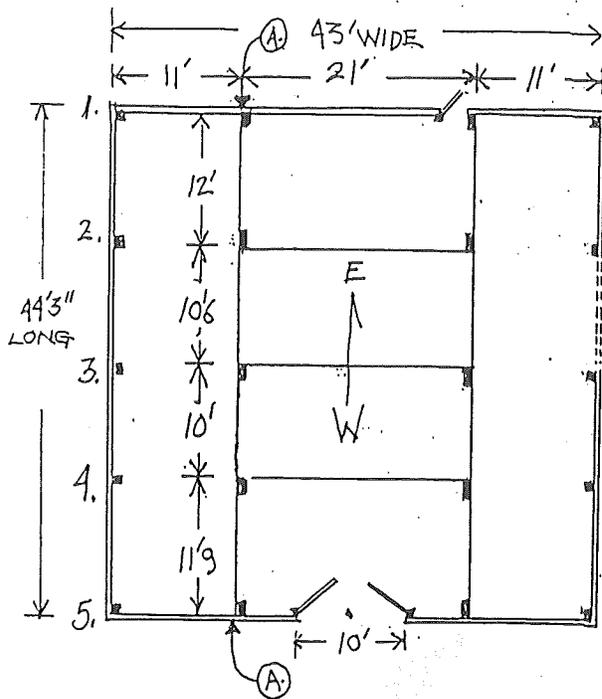
The barn is not a true-form drive-through Dutch barn but a U-barn type with lowered anchorbeams in bents 1. and 2.. The scribe-rule frame is marked with a race knife, lines cut across joints and circles distinguishing left and right. It is dated 1781 in three places, on the face of the 19-inch anchorbeam 2. and on the soffits of anchorbeams 3. and 4.. The present side entrance has eliminated the original condition of the side-wall but the layout-faces of bents 2. and 3. face each other and suggest there may have been an original entrance indicated with dotted lines. The farm was on the Beekman Patent and probably worked by tenant farmers.

The following measurements and observations were taken of timbers in the barn.

Anchorbeams (3" wide tenons)	Columns	A.B.Braces (these vary in size)	W.Posts	Trans.strut (These also)
2. 10 x 17-19	3. 11 1/2 x 8 1/2	6-8 x 4	7 x 7	9 1/2 x 6-7 1/2
5. 9 1/2 x 16 6 x 6 ties	4. 11 x 8 5. 11 x 8 1/2			

7" wide wooden-hinge door-post has 2" tall slots, 5" long, 2 1/2" deep with insets for 1 1/2" diam. pintals

6.



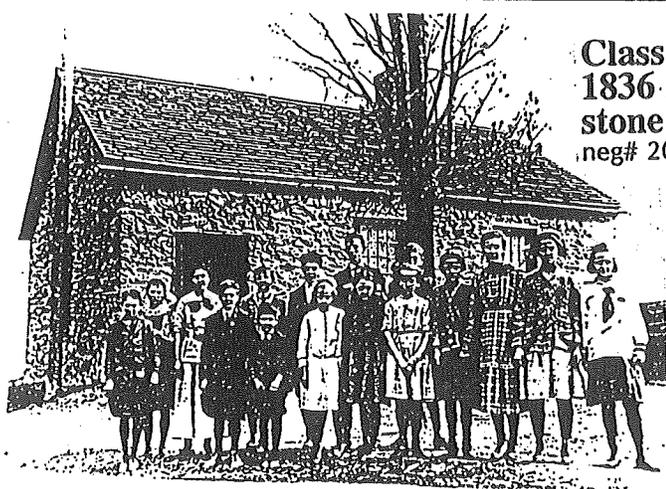
1781 Beekman/Whitney 4-bay scribe-rule Dutch U-barn (Rhi-16) Rhinebeck, Dutchess County, NY

Saturday, July 31, 1999 with George VanSickle and others documented the 1836 Marblétown district 3 stone school (Mar-19), and visited the site of a bridge abutment nearby on the Dove Kill thought by local people to be the 1670 bridge across the Esopus.

Later in a meeting with Daryl Britten, who has done extensive research into the settlement and distribution of land in Marblétown, some interesting records and notes were shown that indicate the 1670 bridge was built further west near the present Cantine bridge. In 1668 Christopher Berisford and five soldiers were ordered to clear and survey land, build a block house and temporary shelters in the furthest "niew dorp" (Marblétown). In April 1670 the British soldiers drew lots for the new farms and soon after the first settlement began.

**Class of 1912
1836 Marbletown dist. 3
stone school (Mar-19)**

neg# 202



The block house was built for protection of the inhabitants of Hurley and Marbletown against the Indians. It was known as Hamm's Block House. It could have been a log structure. Its mention in a 1706 deed seems to place it on the north side of 209 further east across from the Ulster County Historical Society. In 1684 Derick Wessel was granted the block house for a school, "if the same was not needed in an emergency."

A 1763 grant of land by Andreas DeWitt dates a wood frame school built off 209 at the Forging Place Road as perhaps the second school in this part of town. Andreas's brother Charles wrote in a letter that same year giving a detailed description of the primitive school construction at that time.

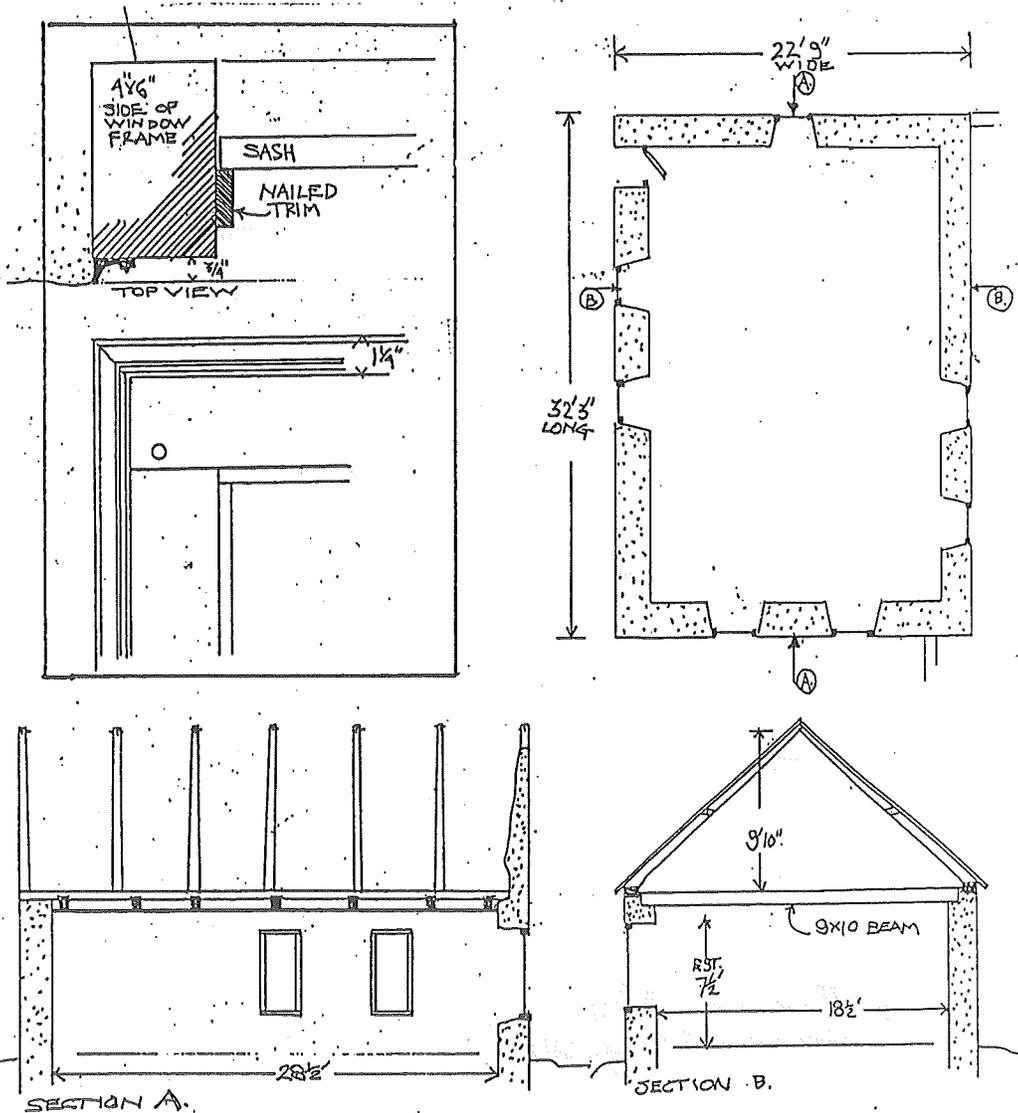
"..we have taken a particular turn this yr (year) to build school houses; which at present are more plenty with us than schoolmasters. The upper end of Marbletown at Daniel Cantine's they have built one after the old fashion, viz a large heap of white oak, black oak and perhaps other sorts of timber piled up to a convenient height and two or three holes cut in for the children and light to pass. This building is not so magnificent as another built near Father DeWitt's (at Greenkill on the Rondout), of stone, a shingle roof, two floors but they tell me the upper floor is not planed very smooth, the joists ugly, etc; however two large sashes are made therein, besides another place where the master and his children pass and repass."

The 1763 wood frame school was to the west of the present stone school house. Ed Croswell, who owns the property between the two sites, uncovered the foundation of this building shown on a 1797 map. Some records remain from this early school.

Benjamin Snyder was a teacher there beginning in 1789. His school book for that year lists 19 students. What stories he might have told them of his interesting past as the owner of river sloop and Captain of the Militia during the Revolution.

In 1777 Snyder and his son were captured at their farm in Saugerties by Tories and Indians and taken to Canada from whence they later escaped. In 1834 Andreas DeWitt, perhaps a grandson of the previous Andreas, conveyed the site for the present Marbletown district 3 stone school house.

In documenting the 1836 stone school it was found that the nine-pairs of rafters were reused from an earlier building with a steeper roof. It is likely that the beams and rafters are reused from the 1763 wood frame school house.



**Floor plan, sections and window frame detail
1836 Marbletown dist. 3 stone school (Mar-19)**

Newsletter (continued from page 1.)

Interesting information on leaded glass windows (see page 3., Vol. 1, No. 4.) has come from Paul Huey of Albany by-way-of Lesslie LeFever of New Paltz. A chapter by Isabel Davies in a 1973 publication of Colonial Williamsburg, Five Artifact Studies describes seventeenth and early eighteenth-century window evidence found in eleven excavations in the Jamestown and Williamsburg area. Some of the terms used are *saddle bar* for guard bar, the iron bar that supported the soft lead, and *lead comes* for the cast "H" shaped lead bar that held the glass. *Milled lead* is the type of H-bar we have found used on Hudson Valley leaded windows.

A 1986 article by Geoff. Egan, Susan D. Hanna & Barry Knight, Marks on milled window leads, in volume 20, Post-Medieval Archaeology, states that lead has been used since Saxon times (before 1066AD) to hold glass. In the sixteenth century a small rolling mill or *vice* was invented that could mill lead comes into thin light-weight leads that improved window construction and reduced the price by conserving on the lead. One such vice survives in the collection of the Connecticut Historical Society. It is dated 1717.

Most interesting is that some of the vices embossed a date and name on the inside of the milled lead. The English have found these marks on 10% of the milled leads examined. They have disclosed seventeen distinct vice marks dated 1625 to 1808. So far no Hudson Valley leads have been examined. One problem Paul Huey points out is the danger in damaging the lead and perhaps the window in searching for the marks. He suggests there might be another way with a strong light to find them. There is, using a "Mini Maglite" with a fiber optic attachment the milled lead of the Kierstead window fragment at the Saugerties Historical Society was examined and a clear pattern of *reeding* on the bottom of the grouve was found but no dates or names.

One Dutch barn in Ulster County was recently destroyed. The Lester Davis (Oli-1) Dutch barn. It was one of two surviving in the township of Olive. The barn had gone un repaired for years and was in a state of collapse. The Mid Hudson Chapter began documenting it and its 1808 stone house in February last year and issued an initial report in December, hoping to complete the study of the barn when John Scherringer took the frame down. An unknown vandal recently cut all but one of the anchorbeams into small pieces with a chain saw and John says there is little else to salvage for parts.

Peter Sinclair

The Turkey Hill Barn Tour will explore some relatively unknown barns in Red Hook, Dutchess County. The 10AM meeting place is yet to be determined so call Peter Sinclair-(914) 338-0257 or Alvin Sheffer-(518) 828-5482.

The Annual meeting of the Dutch Barn Preservation Society will be held in the Dutch barn at the Old Stone Fort Museum in Schoharie. There will be a buffet dinner at the nearby Parrot Restaurant, good food for a nominal fee. To reserve a meal or attend the meeting, contact one of the following people

Harold Zoch-(518) 827-5488

Ev Rau-(518) 355-0411

Amelia Andersen-(518) 797-3466

Lou Caputzal-(413) 229-2704

Peter Sinclair-(914) 338-0257

ANNUAL MEETING

of The Dutch Barn Preservation Society

10AM, Saturday, October 23, 1999**Old Stone Fort Museum Complex****Schoharie, New York****Turkey Hill Barn Tour**

Mid-Hudson Chapter

10AM, Sunday**September 26**

Red Hook, Dutchess Co.

see above for details



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

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

NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

CITY _____ STATE _____ ZIP _____

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