

**From the Editor...**The Palatine barn workshop on Route 9, Rhinebeck, planned for May 22 to 26 is still being planned but since its purpose is really to repair the barn and not teach a formal class, it was decided that the workshop is free to those who wish to attend to work and learn about repairing barns. Free lunch for a day's free labor. The work will be directed By Bob Hedges of Pine Plains and Conrad Fingado from Pleasant Valley. We plan to finish stone work, sill replacement and frame repairs, make hardware and nails on-site, as well as harr and key-hinged wagon doors.

A barrack project is formally underway, a joint effort of HVVA and DBPS being led by myself and funded already by a \$2,000 pledge. The aim of the project is to construct a full scale barrack and interpretive display for the 2007 Dutch Legacy of America Exhibition in Albany. After the Albany exhibition of 2 to 3-months, the barrack will be moved to the Mabee farm Museum in Schenectady County. The project will include classes held on site and at the Mabee Farm in historic agriculture, crafts, timber-framing, black-smithing and thatching.

*(continued next page)*

**FROM THE JOURNAL** =====

**Saturday, March 11,** I drove with John Stevens to Cohoes, Albany County, a small hilly town where the Mohawk River empties into the Hudson. The Cohoes Falls remain sacred to the Mohawk but the early trade routs to the west that passed through the lands of the Five-Nation Confederacy, took the easier portage to the south past Schenectady. Cohoes was slow in getting going but became a manufacturing giant once the water power was tapped, and later abandoned by the mills when cheaper labor was available in the south. The town has more ancient rail lines, canals and twisted streets with dead-ends of any place in America. It is filled with interesting survivals of 18<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> century vernacular architecture.

About 50 people met at the Douw Fonda House in Cohoes, for a Dutch Barn Preservation Society (DBPS) tour and annual meeting organized by the president Keith Cramer and others. The Fonda house is a small timber frame brick veneer house with a gambrel roof and a generous owner who let us inspect it in detail. The tightly-packed crowd of enthusiasts moved slowly through main floor rooms and cellar, noting familiar features and guessing at what might lie behind the tin ceiling. Parts of a hood beam with corbels could be deduced, an early feature. Although listed on the National Register as a 1724 house, it seems more likely 1750-60 to Wally Wheeler, who has studied the house carefully, and a number of the group who were in it for the first time.

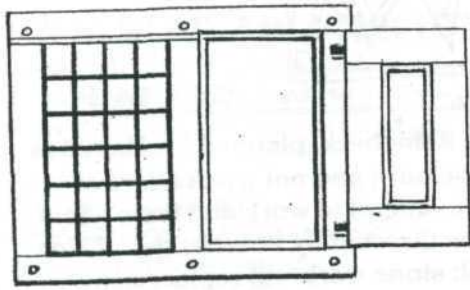
*(Continued next page)*



**The Douw Fonda House Cohoes, Albany County, NY  
(back view)**

This timber frame house with brick veneer was built in about 1750-1760. The front section with the gambrel roof was built at the same time as the back wing with the gable roof. The back wing was originally 5-bays long. Three-bays were removed at a later date and the back wall covered with weatherboards. The front section is a center-hall plan of two 3-bay rooms with end-wall fireplaces and a one-bay center hall.

(From the Journal, continued)



**Early *Bolkozijn* with fixed leaded glass on one side and shuttered opening on the other,**

In the loft, the framing of its gambrel roof is classic New World Dutch with the use of plank purlins. There is also an early discarded casement window frame there, with a vertical mullion, what the Dutch call *bolkozijn*. John Stevens thought the frame might be from another earlier house and the main wing of the Fonda house may always have had double-hung sash. John and Bill McMillan took measurements of the frame.

It had been said that there was evidence of pit-sawn boards in the loft but it was agreed by many and explained by Bill McMillan that these familiar kinds of markings, are caused by a misalignment of the sawmill blade. They are often found used as floor-boards in lofts of houses, because they were hard to plain smooth for finished

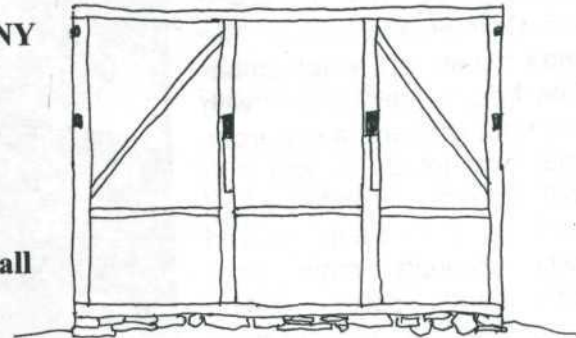
boards. They are often miss-interpreted as pit-sawn. Those present agreed that pit-sawing evidence is rare in the Hudson valley.

Next we drove north to Waterford to visit a newly discovered scribe-rule Dutch barn that is probably a first generation barn, circa 1760. The Grattan Dutch barn is being used to store hay. It has massive anchorbeam braces and a unique longitudinal bracing system, new to all present.



**Grattan Dutch barn, Waterford, Albany County, NY**

**Center Section  
unmeasured sketch  
showing unique  
longitudinal bracing  
system in the column-wall**



(From the Editor, continued)

We hope to send a small group soon to meet with Wim Lanphen and his barrack preservationist friends in Holland for guidance on using and constructing thatched barracks. We welcome information and images to add to our archive that will eventually be edited and published for the exhibition.

If you are interested in participating or contributing to this barrack project or perhaps joining the trip to The Netherlands, contact the Editor:

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