

Society for the Preservation of
HUDSON VALLEY
VERNACULAR ARCHITECTURE



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NEWSLETTER

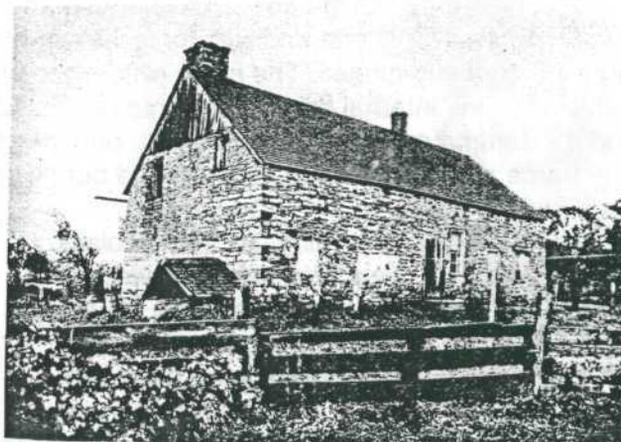
Vol. 8, No. 8

From the Editor...A two-day Barn Repair Workshop is being planned for Saturday and Sunday, August 12 & 13, at the Palatine Farmstead barn, 9AM to 5 PM, Route 9, Rhinebeck. The Wagon Doors will be completed and preparations for roofing the 800-square-feet with tin will be made. We had hoped to find some reused tin or some at cost but to date no luck. Let us know if you know of such.

Our third-Saturday of the month meeting, August 19, will begin at the Bevier House Museum at 10AM and will go from there to see the DePuy/DeWitt 18th century stone house in Wawarsing. About which Helen W. Reynolds illustrated and wrote in her classic Dutch Houses book of 1929, page 251, "The house was a frontier dwelling, subjected to raids by Indians and Tories. It had few doors and windows and affords direct evidence of the hardships experienced by the pioneers in the valley of the Rondout."

On Saturday, September 23 a barn tour is being organized by the Winakee Land Trust of Dutchess County to raise preservation funds. One building of special interest will be the Stewart barn in Red Hook (RH-12) that has been the subject of controversy. It is a three bay side entrance barn, what is often called an English barn but its frame has many Dutch features and its rafter system is unique, but related to the

(continued on page 6.)



DePuy/DeWitt House, Wawarsing,
Ulster Co., NY
early photograph, plate 68,
Dutch Houses in the Hudson Valley
Before 1776, by Helen W. Reynolds

The VP Message:

Thanks to all who attended and supplied food and drink for HVVA's picnic. A special thanks to the homeowners who invited us to study their historic structures, without the generosity of private individuals HVVA could not perform its task. Our next meeting is scheduled for August 19th, we will gather at the Bevier House Museum on Route 209 in Stone Ridge. The morning meeting will start at 10:00 am. Then continue on to the Depuy/Dewitt House, home of HVVA member, Rosemarie McBride, further south on route 209 in Wawarsing. Please remember our meetings are open to all our members, if you read this newsletter, we would like to see you at the meeting. HVVA is currently going through a bit of a growth spurt and would love to involve more of the membership in planning for the future. If you own an early house or barn and would like it to be part of a study tour please contact one of the board members to schedule a date. There is also opportunity to work with the "Dutch farmstead survey" which we are hoping will commence shortly, as the plan stands it should be complete by 2009. The Dutch Barn Preservation Society is the lead agency, but HVVA members are encouraged to help complete this daunting task. We await the DBPS's survey form and instruction. Further information will be shared as it filters down to us. -

Rob Sweeney, HVVA Vice President

FROM THE JOURNAL ===== 

Thursday, July 6 I went with Craig Vogel to examine the Salsman barns in Rhinebeck and registered them:

Moved and modified Dutch barn with sawn frame addition
 ___/Thomson /Cookingham /Salsman (NY/Dut/Rhi/27)
 Rhinebeck, Dutchess County, NY
 N 41°55.657 W 073°53.706, elevation 257-feet

This 4-bay Dutch barn on the Landsman Kill measures 34-feet square and has 3-part wagon-doors at only one end with forged strap-hinges. Evidence in the door posts indicates it originally had key-hinges. The hewn rafters are pinned at the peak and have bird-mouths at the wall plate. One internal anchorbeam measures 12x15-inches with un-wedged extended tenons and the column measures 8x12-inches, both of white oak. I could find few carpenter's marks. The frame has many scribe rule features but I would estimate its original construction date as circa 1800-1820.

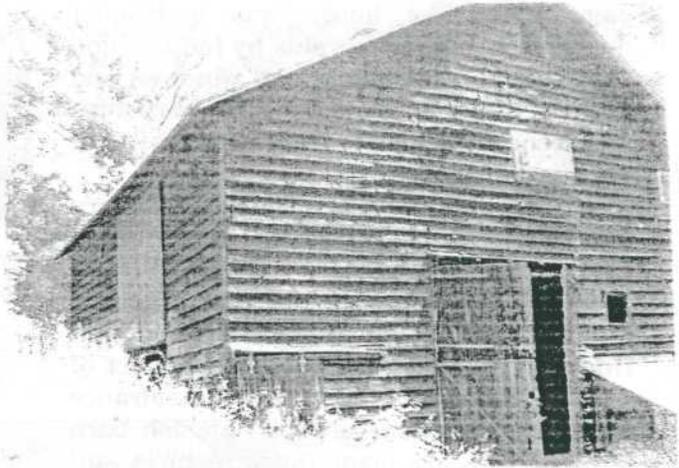
In 1863, according to lamp black writing on the original side entrance wagon-doors, that were moved to the side of the addition when sliding doors were installed, the Dutch barn was reconstructed as a two-story ramp-barn. At this time a dirt ramp was built on the left side of the barn. The frame was then reconfigured, bent 3. was moved back by about 6-feet to enlarge the second bay. The Dutch barn may very well have come from another farm. An 1877 Thomson map of the farm shows the house but no barns.

The present owner, Tremper Salsman, recalls the story told him by Joe Cookingham, that when he was 3-years old, in 1899, he recalled seeing the barn constructed and despite a spanking from his mother, returned again to view the work.

Originally, light sheaves of grain were stored above the anchorbeams in the Dutch barn to dry on mow poles 12-feet above the threshing floor. Now a strong floor was built where wagons would unload heavy loads of loose hay into the mows to feed the animals, especially horses and cows, in the level below. One of the beams used to support this floor is the anchorbeam from bent 4., with its tenons intact, a feature that shows the barn had been disassembled.

The 24-foot square two-level circular-sawn frame was added off the back probably during the 1899 construction. There is an 1897 inscription on the stone retaining wall, and a shingle from the roof of the Dutch barn, dated 1899, was discovered near the ridge of the barn in 1999 when the present standing-seam metal roof was constructed by a roofer from Vermont. Two light plank trusses were installed at this time to strengthen the roof and support the cupola. This roof and work that Tremper Salsman has done to maintain and repair the barn have stabilized it and its unaltered condition makes it an important artifact. Tremper's memories of the families and farming of this area of Rhinebeck should also be preserved.

Of special interest to this observer were the two barrack plates re-used in the back wall of the Dutch barn. We made an appointment to document them on the next Tuesday.



**The Salsman 4-Bay Dutch Barn
 converted to a Side Entrance Ramp Barn
 Rhinebeck, Dutchess County, NY**
 photograph by Patsy Vogel