

**The Moses Yoeman House, Ponckhockie,
Kingston, Ulster County, NY**

illustration from Pictorial Field Book of
the Revolution, by Benson Lossing, 1855
Volume 1, page 388

Lossing's illustration shows the house before it was
Victorianized with its present façade dormers.



We left the Esopus Valley and next
drove to Ponckhockie a neighborhood
near the mouth of the Rondout Creek
where it empties its Catskill Mountain

water into the Hudson River. This stone house has a reputation of being
the first burned during the 1777 conflagration.

British troops landed here to destroy the Village of Kingston, located a few
miles inland. They did not know which way to go so they captured a black
slave of the house, and forced him to be their guide.

Kevin McEvoy & Barbara Epstein, the present owners of the
house, recount a story that claimed the fire was quickly extinguished and
little damage occurred. Some in the present crowd of experts felt the
house had been built probably 10-years before the British came. It was
most likely built in one section. The basement kitchen has a hearth and
along side it is an old double casement window (*bolkozijn*) with nice board
shutters attached with H-L hinges. This once common window style is now
quite a rare find.

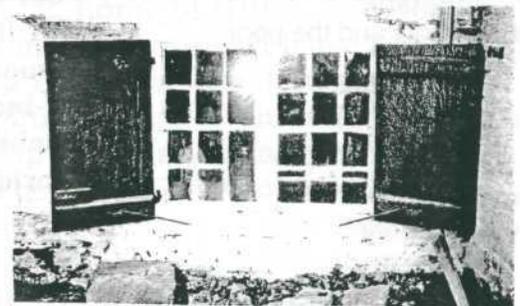
The house is associated with a mill site on a stream now less fluid,
while the future city of Kingston grows up around the Moses Yoeman
House and plans are in the works for some large waterfront development,
the owners have recently listed the house on the State and National
Registers as a means to call attention to the fragility of the historic
surroundings.



What to make of this house? The woodwork looks third quarter of the 18th century, the mantel
is very "English". Does this woodwork predate or postdate the incineration of the house by the British?
Or was this house actually burned at all? How to determine this? As with many of these Anglo-Dutch
houses, there are quite Dutch features, like the mullioned window in the basement.

Bill McMillen was sure it always had double-hung sash- I am not so sure. I am intrigued by the
first floor joist pattern, which is parallel with the front wall, and the second floor joists which are quite
small and never intended to be exposed. They are parallel to the end walls. There is stuff going on in the
house that at this point we cannot fully comprehend! The front door, showing panels on the exterior,
and a lining of horizontal boards on the inside is typical of late 18th century work, including on Long
Island.

John Stevens. *E-MAIL*



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Kingston, Ulster County, NY**
photographs by John Stevens

HUDSON VALLEY VERNACULAR ARCHITECTURE

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COMING EVENTS 2006=====

Friday, August 11 Town of Ulster, Ulster County, NY

Documenting the Lem Boice Stone House

For information contact: Rob Sweeney (845) 336-0232

Friday, Saturday & Sunday August 11, 12 & 13

Friday 5PM at the Marriot Hotel, Islandia, Long Island for a Two-day tour of Long Island water and wind mills organized by the **Society for the Preservation of Old Mills (SPOOM) Northeast Chapter.**

For information contact: Thomas Glick, (508) 429-2158

Saturday-Sunday, August 12-13, 9-5 PM at the

Palatine Farmstead, Route 9, Rhinebeck, Dutchess County, NY **A Two-Day Barn Restoration Workshop** will be held.

This will complete the work of restoring the harr-hung doors of the 1770 Dutch barn, continue the restoring of the front end and preparing for a metal roof. Lunch will be provided and fun is guaranteed. If you have suggestions or are interested in participating or supporting the barn restoration please contact HVVA and we will keep you informed. (845) 338-0257

Saturday, August 19, 10AM at the Bevier House, 2682

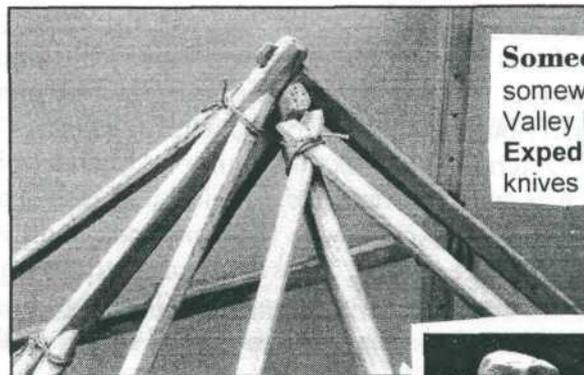
Routed 209, Marbletown, Ulster County. Third Saturday **Meeting of HVVA and Tour** of historic houses in Kerhonkson to the southwest along the Old Mine Road.

Saturday, September 16, 10AM Third Saturday **Meeting of HVVA and Tour** place to be announced. Suggestions welcome.

Saturday, September 23, 10AM at the Sepaskot Farm,

781 Route 308, corner of Cedar Heights Road, Rhinebeck, Dutchess County, NY. **Winakee Land Trust Barn Tour** This will include barns in Red Hook and Rhinebeck.

For information call: Winakee Land Trust (845) 876-4213



Someday in November
somewhere in the Mid-Hudson
Valley HVVA **Reed Cutting**
Expedition for Thatch bring
knives and rubber boots.

Four Pole (roden)
Hay Barrack (kapberg type)
Demonstration Scale Model
1.5-inches to the foot
combining Old and New
World design.

