



**Winchell House Interior**



**Marrage-Marks, cut with a race-knife**

The Col. Winchell house is located on the side of Winchell Mountain, two-miles from the Connecticut boarder, with spectacular views of the Catskills to the west and the Berkshires to the east. It is a perfect spot for a wind farm but will probably grow condominiums and second homes unless Paul Spencer and local activists can put some restrains on the development of the area.

The Winchell house has been stripped to its bones. Almost all of the plaster has been removed, revealing the entire timber frame, a rare chance to study such an 18th century artifact. It is a very New England box frame. Raising holes were the only New World Dutch feature I could find and suggest that the four transverse frames were raised in the Dutch manner. The winds that sweep this hillside may account for the unusual use of a 5-sided ridge beam.

The house is based on eight flared posts joined to horizontal sills, girts and plates. The floors are supported on joists. On the 2<sup>nd</sup> story the 20-foot floor joists run longitudinally while the 22-foot main and loft floor joists run transverse, probably to resist spread. Use of longitudinal joists saved on materials. The timber frame was intended to be hidden behind lath and plaster but its present condition exposes the very large bold marriage marks of the carpenter, these lines and circles are the builder's code for matching timber joints that are scribed and cut on a lay-out floor to be erected later. These very distinct marks are cut with a race knife, a tool that seems associated with New England framing but is found on frames occasionally in Dutchess and Columbia Counties. There appears to have been no wall-infill.

Next we drove a three miles west to Pine Plains to look at a small early frame house on Johnny Cake Road. We were given a tour by its owner, Donn Potter. We registered it:

One-room English frame house, circa 1760  
with cellar, room and center hall addition.  
\_\_\_ / Potter (NY/Dut/PP/08)  
N41°57.754 – W073.37.138 – 576-foot elev.

Bob has examined this house before and believes the original room with an English style box-frame, located on the left facing the house, was one-room without a cellar and that the cellar, center-hall and room, to the right, were added soon after. This addition is built with a Dutch H-bent frame. The four flared corner posts in the original section project into the room, typical of early New England box-frames.



**The Potter House**

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**Sunday, April 2** Returned to the Brink House just outside of the village of Hurley, measured and registered it:

One-room circa 1760 stone-house with 1840 brick addition.  
Brink/Lebhar (NY/Uls/Hur/16)  
Wynkoop Road, Hurley, Ulster County, NY.  
N41°55.840 – W074°04.463 – 182-foot elevation

This is the farm first leased for 5-years and later bought by Lambert Hybertse (Brink) in 1661. Brink is a family name prominent in the history of the county. The present house and farm stayed with the family until 1955 when Sarah Brink Dietz sold it. It is again for sale by its present owners, Norm and Barbara Lebhan, (845) 338-4560.

I recently bought a reprint of volume 2, 1906, of Benjamin Meyer Brink's journal, *Olde Ulster*, and in it he gives a detailed and interesting history of the family, both in the Old and New Worlds. (\*) Lambert was born in the town of Wageningen in the province of Gelderland, 12 miles from Arnhem, on the right bank of the Rhine. In 1659 Lambert, his wife and three children, one born at sea, arrived in New Amsterdam (Manhattan). At the start of the Second Esopus War in 1663, local natives burned the village of Hurley (*Nieuw Dorp*) and Lambert's wife and children were captured and held for three months. Records indicate the only thing left in Hurley after the fire, were an unfinished barn and a barrack filled with wheat.

Tradition recalls that the one-room story-and-a-half field stone house was built in about 1760 and its beams and lay-out attest to this. Where the original house was located is not known but it may not have been much different than its 18<sup>th</sup> century descendant. In about 1840 a slightly taller two-room center-hall brick addition was built to the south and the original house made into a kitchen wing. Probably at this time the pitch of the original roof was lowered and the fireplace converted from a Dutch Jambless to an English jambed type.

The hearth beam in the cellar shows a great deal of water damage on its underside (soffit). This is because during the fireplace conversion, the beam was loosened where it fit into the stone walls and rotated to use the undamaged side of the beam to support the flooring. This also exposed the two empty mortises for the trimmer beams part of the original Dutch fireplace design.

The hood-beam on the main floor above is set 19-inches from the back-wall indicating that it was also moved during the conversion, being set back a foot from its original placement. The internal beams of the cellar and main floor are finished clear oak without chamfered or beaded edges. The house may originally have had an end entrance facing south toward the road.

(\*) Reprints of the first two volumes of *Olde Ulster* and other books of mid-Hudson Valley interest are available from Hope Farm Press of Saugerties. 1 (800) 883-5778  
<[www.hopefarm.com](http://www.hopefarm.com)>



**The Lambert Brink Farm  
pictures from a family album.**