



HVVA is a not-for-profit corporation formed to study and preserve the vernacular architecture and material culture of the Hudson Valley

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# The Society for the Preservation of Hudson Valley Vernacular Architecture

October – December 2012 **Newsletter**

Vol. 15, No. 10-12



Barn afire, Wittenberg Rd., Woodstock NY, Aug. 8, 2012. Photo by Tamara Lang, *Woodstock Times*.

## Gone Without Warning

A spectacular fire (arson suspected), hurricanes and super storms, stream flooding, tidal surges, budget cuts and other natural and human-induced disasters continue to take their toll on our architectural heritage. We cannot hope to prevent these events from happening, but we can make sure more historic buildings are recorded, their histories researched and documented, and their significance understood and appreciated. You will recall that HVVA's stated mission is to build a lasting record of the Hudson Valley's unique historic resources.

We fulfill our mission in a number of ways. One is through our tours, which expose our members to historic buildings and landscapes with which they are unfamiliar and expand their knowledge of the amazing range and diversity of regional vernacular architecture. (More members should take advantage of these tours, which are planned by our intrepid volunteers and are as fun as they are educational.) Another way in which HVVA meets its mission is maintaining an archive of building histories. Centering on the tireless field work of our founder, Peter Sinclair, we rely on our members to expand this collection through the contribution of information (photographs, drawings, histories) on historic buildings they know. Our newsletter is another means of our mission to collect, preserve and share information about Hudson Valley architecture. It only works if members contribute articles. Elsewhere in this issue is a report of HVVA's first workshop on field documentation methods. We would like to offer this on an annual basis so that our members can continue to help us in our mission to document our increasingly vulnerable history.



Instructor John Stevens and attendee John Ham at documentation workshop.

## HVVA Field Documentation Workshop

October 4-5, 2012

During the first weekend of October, HVVA presented its first ever workshop on the basics of the field documentation of historic buildings. On Saturday morning, Oct. 3rd, we gathered at the Bronck Dutch barn in Coxsackie, which would be the subject of our instruction. John Stevens, with the assistance of Walter Wheeler, presented the basic methods of field measurement and the fundamentals of recording them on paper, and before you knew it, we were all sketching the barn's fourth H-bent. In the afternoon we broke into two teams in the hopes of covering more of the building and collect enough notes to combine for a set of drawings each of us could create at a later date. By the end of the day, we received a full appreciation of the amount of time that is needed to do a comprehensive documentation of such a structure.

On Sunday, Oct 4th, we reconvened at the Van Alen House in Rensselaer. Here Walter Wheeler began to hone what we learned the day before into how to sketch the floor-plan of a residential structure as well as the basics in analyzing the features of a historic

house. We were then let loose to measure and sketch our assigned rooms. During lunch Wally presented a very interesting slideshow on how to look for clues about the life of a building. Afterwards, we returned to our rooms to continue documenting architectural features. John Stevens demonstrated how to use a profile gauge to record the shapes of woodwork. At the end of the afternoon we gathered once again to compare and analyze our notes in order to draw some conclusions on the function and status of each room.

Those of us participating in the workshop, no matter our experience level, found the exercises valuable. We thank John and Wally for being so generous with their time, effort and willingness to pass these skills to others. It was such a worthwhile experience that more members should take advantage of it to gain a greater understanding of what they are seeing when studying or just touring a historic place. I hope HVVA will be able to offer such a program again.

Ken Walton

# Dendro vs. Documents: Dating Colonial Houses on Eastern Long Island

By Gaynell Stone, Ph.D., Suffolk County Archeological Association

## Introduction

Dr. Steve Mrozowski of U-Mass-Boston has been excavating 17th century Sylvester Manor on Shelter Island since 1999. Since there is no proof for dating the proposed circa 1734/5 second house, Abbott Lowell Cummings was asked to examine and “date” the house. Cummings is the father of Northeastern dendrochronology dating for architectural history, and he urged me to get dendro dating done for Sylvester Manor, as he was “tired of doing his best to date a house only to find out he was wrong when it was dendro dated.” He connected us with Boston liaison Anne Grady to Dan Miles and Michael Worthington of the Oxford Dendrochronology Lab, Oxfordshire, England, who had done a lot of work in New England, and thus had developed chronologies for Massachusetts, Connecticut, and Rhode Island, which we hoped would connect with Long Island. They kindly extended their American visit three years ago to come to eastern Long Island to collect core samples from seven of the oldest structures there.

Long Island juts out into the Atlantic between the New England and Mid-Atlantic areas, and has had a maritime orientation with extensive trade networks from prehistoric times. It was heavily forested with white and red oak, which served Native Americans and the early settlers who harvested it for their houses, ships, and casks for shipping. The east end of Long Island is composed of the North Fork (Southold Town), the South Fork (East Hampton and Southampton Towns), with Shelter Island Town nestled between them. The houses cored are in this area. The Island has eight eco-zones – the Arctic north side, the Tropical south side bordering the Gulf Stream, and has four zones along the length of it; the houses cored are in the eastern-most zone.

Of the seven houses tested, four provided results that could be used to date them: the Terry-Mulford house in Orient, the Old House in Cutchogue, the Gardiner Brown House and the house known as Home Sweet Home in East Hampton. Core samples did not provide conclusive findings for the Halsey House in Southampton, Mulford Farm in East Hampton and, unfortunately, Sylvester Manor, which was where the project originated. The impact the dendro results had on the accepted dates of the four houses where it was successful is presented below.

## Terry-Mulford House

At the eastern-most tip of Southold Town is the Terry-Mulford House, thought by its owners to have been built early on as a timbering barracks, due to the large stands of white oak to harvest – a strategic resource of the



Fig. 1 – Terry-Mulford House, Orient, NY.

17th century – as well as a pre-1640 early “industrial” zone of turpentine production and a mill at nearby Hashamomuck (Fig. 1). There is circumstantial evidence, documents from 1637 and 1658 indicating ownership of the area, material evidence of rare vertical oak sheathing (also found on later 17th- and early 18th-century Rhode Island & Massachusetts houses) and subsidence of the rear wing, as well as archaeological finding of lead comes of early horizontal leaded glass windows (whose shadows are still in an exterior wall).

Miraculously, the house had never been modernized with wiring and plumbing. Many generations of the Terry family lived there and the 64,000 archaeological artifacts excavated were from their inhabitation. The state historical marker in front of the house identifies the house as “Peaken’s Tavern, 1654,” which is incorrect, but reflects a consensus that the house dates to the 17th century. Fourteen cored samples were taken from 11 timbers; twelve were white oak and two were red oak (all of the houses had a combination of the two woods except the Halsey house). The report established the felling dates of the timber used in the construction of the house at 1715. The owner feels more research needs to be done now that the accepted date is contested.

## The Old House

On the south side of the North Fork, below the Terry-Mulford House, there is Budd’s Pond, named after important early settler, John Budd, who was involved in timbering and thought to have built the early mill in Water Mill, Southampton, as well as the one at Hashamomuck, and possibly the one at Sylvester Manor. He is thought to have been timbering the area around Budd’s Pond, which is why it is named after him, and producing barrel staves (called



Fig. 2 – Old House, Cutchogue, NY.



Fig. 3 – Gardiner Brown House, East Hampton, NY.

"pipes" then), which were then shipped out through the inlet, called Pipes Cove, across from the pond. This spot is on the way west to Cutchogue to the Old House, sited near an inlet on the south shore, thought by local historians to have been Mr. Budd's house at Budd's Pond and moved to the site when his daughter married Barnabas Horton in Cutchogue. Or possibly the house was built in the village on Mr. Budd's homelot in the 1660s (date from the Town Records) and moved here later (Fig. 2).

The house was discovered by a Depression-era WPA architect, who spotted the multi-flue Medieval chimney accidentally while driving through the village. After being the home of local families for many generations, it became a barn and farm tenant housing, the last being local Native Americans. It had a large addition on the rear north side (now removed and replaced by a small one) as well as barn doors on the front south side, as seen in historic photographs. The Old House has in the past been restored to a 17th-century appearance, which may not be its original look. The interior walls have shadows of horizontal leaded came windows, and an original one was found in the wall, one of a very few in America. No archaeology has been done at the site, but there has been an architectural historian's assessment. Thirteen timbers were sampled, of which 4 were red oak. A felling date of 1698/99 and a construction date of 1699/1700 are most likely. Thus the building is not as old as thought, rather about 50 years younger. Documentary research using this new date may uncover who built the Old House.

### Gardiner Brown House

Further north, just below the second expansion of the village of East Hampton at New Town Lane, is the Gardiner Brown house, to distinguish it from the Greek Revival-style Gardiner White house down the street (Fig. 3). It is stated in local histories to have been built by David Gardiner (1692-1751), fourth proprietor of Gardiner's Island. The land it stands on was deeded in 1741 to David Gardiner by

his wife, Rachel's, father, Abraham Schellinger (the family was of Dutch origin, early brought in from New Amsterdam to organize the Town's "Whaling Designe"). Rachel died in 1744 according to her gravestone in the South End burying ground.

*East Hampton's Heritage: An Illustrated Architectural Record*, credits the house as the oldest gambrel roof and earliest 2½ story center chimney house in the village, which makes it a Dutch/English architectural hybrid. It was moved back from the street in 1924, and subsequent extensive changes and additions, as well as a fire, have left little of the original fabric except the 1740s frame and lower roof timbers. According to architectural historian and Town Historian Sherry Foster, the house is typical of the Connecticut River mansions of the time, the "signature" of the wealthy merchants – the "Kings of the Connecticut River." The house has been professionally studied and restored by the Ladies Village Improvement Society for use as their headquarters.

Twenty two samples were taken from 16 timbers, all from the attic structure. Most of the studs and braces had been radially riven from larger-sectioned trunks, thus had maximum ring sequences within each timber; nine were white oak and seven red oak. Multiple samples were combined to form same-timber means; subsequent analysis identified timbers from the same tree, so three different same-tree means were constructed. Thus the 16 timbers were reduced to seven individual trees which produced a site master LVI of 140 rings. With 16 samples dated, 16 precise felling dates were produced ranging from spring to winter 1746.

### Home Sweet Home

East Hampton Town was founded in 1648 as an offshoot of Southampton – both located on south shore Long Island to conduct shore whaling – the fastest way to get rich before the lucrative Caribbean provisioning trade. East Hampton

still maintains its Central Place, with its pond for watering man and beast, the village green for mustering, the Town meeting house, and cemetery – again with box and table tombs indicating status individuals. Windmills were important for running-water-deprived East Hampton; the area still has the largest stand of windmills, many Dutch smock mills, in the country. Often an artificial hill was made to catch more wind for the mills in flat East Hampton. The east side of the green still has an enclave of church (a later Presbyterian one), Home Sweet Home (named after John Howard Paine's song), a windmill, and the Mulford Farm – a rare communal survival.

Home Sweet Home lately has been found not to have been John Howard Paine's home. Architectural historian Robert Hefner thinks this south-facing asymmetrical structure dates from 1720-1740 architecturally (*Fig. 4*). There are no documents indicating who or when it was built, but a 1746 document indicates it exists. Robert Dayton, the owner of the plot, died in 1712; a remodeling in 1750 by Captain E. Jones removed much of the original architecture but installed the rare, for New England, cove cornice, though East Hampton has a half dozen, a notable occurrence. For dating, most of the timber frame was covered with finishes obscuring it. However, the rear lean-to revealed virtually the whole of the rear wall framing of the upstairs floor level.

Four white oak posts and three red oak braces were slow-grown heart-sawn timber. None of the main posts cross-matched; however the three braces did, and were combined to form the 70-ring site master HSH, dated as a constituent part of the Long Island master, spanning the years 1650-1719. All braces were felled in winter 1719/20, so construction was likely 1720-21 – similar to the postulated building date. Documentary research subsequent to learning the accurate building date has enabled firmer ownership data, now believed to be a Mulford.

## Conclusions

This is the largest assemblage of precise felling dates from a phase of building yet to be encountered for the eastern

Fig. 4 – Home Sweet Home, East Hampton, NY.



seaboard. So, an initially unpromising testing situation became the most productive, underpinning the Long Island master chronology. There is a bar chart visually showing the sequence of the dates of the houses derived from the coring data. It would appear that the earlier the house the more likely it would be all white oak (the Halsey house), and the later it was it had more red oak proportionately (Gardiner Brown house). This apparently reflects the effects of the early extensive timbering of the East End's white oak forests.

Of the seven houses tested, four were dated – Terry Mulford and the Old House, younger than thought, on the North Fork. On the South Fork, Home Sweet Home was dated at 1720, about the postulated date for its construction, and the Gardiner Brown House was dated at 1747, a few years later than thought, but very close. A disparity in postulated date and real date from dendrochronology indicates the opportunity to re-read the records for the currently undiscovered contextual information.

This data supports a floating Long Island chronology of 1505-1746, with 242 years of growth, with four samples from Terry Mulford (supported by a donor), five samples from the Old House (paid by the Old House Committee), three from Home Sweet Home (East Hampton Village supported), and seven from the Gardiner Brown house (Ladies Village Improvement Society). East Hampton Historical Society supported the Mulford Farm dating, Southampton Historical Society the Halsey House, and the Sylvester Manor Project the Sylvester Manor House. The dating was derived by matching the three year analysis of Oxford Lab data 'blind' (without dates) with the matching procedure of the Lamont-Doherty Earth Science Observatory Tree-Ring Laboratory of Columbia University, Dr. Edward Cook, Director.

Dendro dating is based on counting the growth rings a tree puts on each year in response to dry and wet seasons. The Long Island corings were extremely difficult to analyze, taking three years instead of less than a year. This problem is apparently due to the wet Long Island Atlantic-related climate which oak roots do not like and thus create dense, twisted rings, difficult to date; it is believed that their rings may respond more to seasonal temperature changes than precipitation. A further problem is the interior home finishes which obscure the timber frame.

Several houses on Western Long Island have been dated, the Conklin House in Huntington, the Bowne House in Queens, and several structures in Roslyn. However, all is not lost for the East End houses yet undated. More testing will provide a larger master chronology, enabling their dating, and allow a fuller vision of the now unknown early Long Island climate as well as when the earliest homes were built.

# Monmouth County, New Jersey and Its Three-Aisle Barns – Couvenhoven Barn

By Greg Huber, Macungie, PA

Attrition, in its multifaceted ways, wrecks havoc on the survival of all kinds of vernacular buildings no matter where they may appear. Perhaps similar to impossibly complex maneuverings of determined humans in cars or airplanes, trying to escape the calamities of fire, or earthquake engulfed cities often seen in popular movies, the Couvenhoven barn has managed to avoid the onslaught of all manner of potential destroyers of its wonderfully crafted form, framing units and other elements of its pre-Revolutionary-War-era design.

Constructed as early as, if not earlier than, the dated 1788 Schenck barn described in a previous article, the Couvenhoven barn, with its very wide end walls, is one of the most ancient looking of any three-aisle Dutch-American barn in either New York or New Jersey. Two hundred and fifty years ago such dimensioned barns were common. Now we are very fortunate to have even half a dozen of these barns anywhere.

## Barn Closest to the Atlantic Ocean

The Couvenhoven barn is the third and last of the extant three-aisle barns in Monmouth County, New Jersey described in a series of articles in the HVVA newsletter. It is located on Kings Highway East in Middletown a little more than three miles southwest of the Atlantic Ocean. Of all remaining barns in the Dutch-American realm, it may be the one located closest to the ocean (*Fig. 1*).

The Longo family is the current day owner who purchased the old homestead house, barn and property in 1965 from the Perry family. The remnant farm now comprises just two 1¼ acre lots. One building on the property may have served as a dwelling and is thought to date from the early 1730s. It is possible that the barn also dates from that period, which would make it one of the very earliest three-aisle structures remaining in the entire cultural settlement area. Dendro-dating the barn may erase any doubts.

It should be noted the family name of Couvenhoven is spelled a few different ways, some that include K as the first letter. The family established several homesteads in the area and was among one of the first settlers of Dutch heritage in the county. The name of Couvenhoven at some later point was anglicized to Conover, which was a common name in the county at one time. The late Samuel Conover, who was twice sheriff of Monmouth County, often remarked that there were three kinds of Conovers: Lop-Eared Conovers, Big-Foot Conovers and Wide-Mouth or Weasel Conovers.



**Fig. 1** – View of Couvenhoven Dutch barn looking west showing its very broad end wall indicating a pre-Revolutionary-War-era of construction.

## Approach to the Barn

Most extant three-aisle Dutch-American barns were built after the Revolutionary War and display proportions that reflect evolving barn use, construction methods and materials in the very late eighteenth and early nineteenth centuries. Rare are glimpses of any barn built prior to about 1785. Anyone approaching the Couvenhoven barn is immediately struck by the outstanding broad-based proportions of the barn. The structure is one of the very widest of any remaining three-aisle barn in either New York or New Jersey. The author first visited the barn in early September 1991, and later returned to measure it on October 8th 1991. A few subsequent visits have been made in the past twenty years.

The barn is located about 180 feet east of the early Dutch-American frame house. Its house side end wall faces four degrees south of east. The ridgelines of the house and barn are set at a fairly distinct angle (neither parallel nor perpendicular to each other). This feature is seen at other homesteads where the barn and house were constructed before the Revolutionary War, such as the Wemple farm near Schenectady, New York and the Van Alstyne farm near Kinderhook in Columbia County, New York.

## Exterior Features

The Couvenhoven barn is 52 feet 10 inches wide across each end wall and 40 feet 5 inches long on the eave walls

(Fig. 1). There is likely no other three-aisle barn built before 1785 with an end-wall width greater than this. The pre-Revolutionary-War Paramus Golf Club four-bay barn in Paramus, Bergen County, New Jersey is just over 52 feet wide. The c. 1805 Kelley barn near Ravena, Albany County, New York has a 52-foot width. The Jacobus Bruyn five-bay barn along Route 209 near Accord, Ulster County, New York has a similar width. The structure with the greatest end-wall width of any era is the 1851 Elmendorf barn in High Falls, Ulster County measuring 56 feet 3 inches. Only a very few other three-aisle barns have end walls greater than 50 feet in width. In addition, the non-extant anglicized Revolutionary War era Schenck four-bay barn (examined in August 1991) in Holmdel, Monmouth County, had extremely wide end walls determined to be an unprecedented 57 feet in width. So, the Couvenhoven barn is in very select company.

Side wall height is 11 feet 5 inches which should be considered of medium height. Height of roof peak is about 28 feet. Roof slope is fairly steep. No upper roof edge overhangs are seen at either end wall. All four exterior walls are covered with non-original wood shingles with six inches exposed to the weather. Perhaps strange, no wood slats for attachment of the shakes are seen on the interior. Recall that wood shingles were a popular siding material for barns (and houses) in much of central New Jersey. Wagon doors are exactly centered on each end wall but the doors are not original. Corner animal doors are seen only at the house side end wall. Two modern windows have been added to the near end wall. The barn frame sits on so-called peanut stones of local origin.

### Interior Features

As a result of its very wide proportions, the interior of the Couvenhoven barn is cavernous. This is the visual effect despite the fact that the barn is only just over 40 feet in length. As with all four three-aisle barns seen in the county in the past twenty years, the barn was constructed with four bays. The first three bays vary in their widths from 9 feet 7½ inches to 9 feet 11 inches; the last bay is 10 feet 7 inches wide as measured to the end-wall H-frame posts. The middle aisle or nave is 28 feet 1½ inches wide. Many of the earliest Dutch-American barns often have the widest naves; most pre-1785 barns have middle aisles 28 feet wide or wider. There are exceptions, such as the Bull barn in Hamptonburgh, Orange County, New York (dendro-dated to 1726) that has only a 22-foot-wide center aisle. The south side aisle in the Couvenhoven barn is very close to 12 feet wide while the north side aisle is 12 feet ¾ inches wide.

Basically all the corresponding members of the three inner H-frames are of the same size. The anchor-beams of the ends walls are similar sized to each other but are shorter in height by an inch or two than any of the three

inner anchor-beams. The H-frame members of the first inner bent will serve to represent the dimensions of all the corresponding members of the two other inner bents.

The south H-frame post is 11¼ by 9 inches as measured 4½ feet above the floor. The north post is 11 ¾ by 9 inches. The anchor beam is 17¼ inches tall and 12 inches wide at its mid-point. The tenon passes through a mortise on the south end and extends 14 inches past the post and is 14½ inches in height; two wedges secure the anchor-beam to H-frame post timber union. The north tenon is joined in the same manner but extends only 10½ inches past the post. In keeping with pre-1785 building traditions, the timber unions have angled cuts (diminished haunches). Hewn H-frame braces are 8¼ by 7¼ inches in cross section, which should be considered medium-to-large sized. The braces are not set at 45 degrees; its vertical co-ordinate is several inches longer than the horizontal co-ordinate (Fig. 2).

**Fig. 2** – View of anchor beam to H-frame post union of inner bent. Union is double pegged and double wedged. View includes five foot long upper H-frame post extension or *verdiepingh*. Such short post extensions are typical of a number of pre-Revolutionary-War-era barns, especially in southern New York and New Jersey. All timbers are of oak that is typical of most barns in New Jersey.



The section of the post above the anchor beam (*verdiepingh*) is just five feet in height; it is one of the very shortest upper post extensions in any Dutch type barn documented in all of central New Jersey. However, this dimension is consistent with dimensions found in other barns built in the pre-1785 era. No raising holes were found in any of the H-frame posts. This condition may be related to the fact that the *verdiepingh* is quite short. Ropes that were normally attached to raising-hole pegs may have been affixed to where the anchor-beams joined to the posts. Several other Dutch type barns in the county have no raising holes.

No upper transverse side-aisle ties were used in framing the barn since the side or eave walls are only of medium height. Lower transverse ties on the north side, 9 by 6 inches in cross section, appear 5 feet 3 inches above the threshing floor. At the south side the ties appear 5 feet 5 inches above the floor. Notches are cut into the bottoms of the H-frame posts on the inner sides of the post range on the road side of the barn. This feature is a quite widely expressed regionalism in central New Jersey barns and was a means of attaching horse manger planks. These notches are not seen on the opposite side post range.

Thirteen rafter pairs comprise the roof structure. Most of the rafters are milled and not original; the others are hewn and may be original. They rest flat on the top surfaces of the wall plates to which they are spiked. All rafters are oak as are most other structural timbers. A few may be chestnut. Each purlin plate is a single timber about 40 feet in length. A number of post-1785 barns have purlin plates that are spliced. The purlin braces attach only nine inches above the tops of the anchor-beams. This low-positioned joint is another attendant feature of barns constructed before the Revolutionary War.

The wagon door posts at each end wall have integral vertical slots about three feet long on their inner sides for the insertion of boards to prevent farm animals from entering the barn while the doors are open. A few other area barns, including non-Dutch ones, also have this feature. The original plank threshing floor has been replaced with concrete. The floor of the right side aisle is 12 inches below the level of the wagon floor.

## Summary and Conclusions

The single most outstanding feature of the Couvenhoven barn is its distinctive end wall silhouette that is evocative of an age of building prior to the Revolutionary War. It embodies the mindsets of both builders and farmers who were immersed in a culture years removed from many of the effects of the post war era. The two architectural elements that most reflect how these rural people preserved the pre-1785-era conditions are the proportions of their barns' end walls and their attendant short upper

extensions of the H-frame posts. We know that the dimensions of these features were in clear harmony with what their intentions were for the uses of the interior of the barns.

Local tradition asserts that the Couvenhoven farm may date from the first third of the eighteenth century. Taking this into consideration and keeping in mind the barn's early features it remains possible that the building may date somewhere in the 1700 to 1735 era. If true, the Couvenhoven barn may be one of the very earliest barns in the entire Dutch settlement area.

The barn is consistent with the fundamental dimensions and proportions of about a dozen barns seen in the past thirty-five years. In addition, there are photos of perhaps fifteen to twenty non-extant barns taken in the 1875 to 1950 time frame that coincide with its basic size and proportions. Without doubt, all these barns were born of an age long before the turn of the nineteenth century. The first chronicler of the Dutch-American barn, John Fitch, thought that the fabrication of the three-aisle barn came to an end by time of the war. As far as the broad-based barns that we are discussing here, he was precisely right. As it was, several of the barns that he saw in the 1960s had just such dimensions and this was a major determinant in his thinking.

In understanding the importance of the survival of the Couvenhoven barn, we need to be aware that there was a major reshuffling of labor power and obtainment of materials that occurred after the war. This was a profound shift and in almost all cases it spelled the demise of the great proportioned Dutch-American three-aisle barn. It no longer served the needs of farmers in countless areas in New York and New Jersey in the post-1785 era. We now know that the three-aisle barn continued to be built well into the second quarter of the nineteenth century. During this time thousands of barns were built in many hybrid styles. This was an era of evolution both in agriculture and in barn construction methods. It was also an era that was not conducive, in most cases, to the continued existence of fifty-plus-foot wide barns with their attendant low height eave walls and short *verdiepingen*, such as the Couvenhoven barn.

In some way, the Monmouth County barn we are looking at managed to evade for a period of 225 plus years all kinds of negative influences that destroyed its "close cousins" in hundreds of communities where the pre-war three-aisle Dutch-American barn was constructed. To what looks to the casual observer like just another old barn, the Couvenhoven barn is a relic of a much earlier time and way of life masked by modern shingles and a fresh coat of paint. The old saying, "Don't judge a book by its cover," applies here in no small way. Maybe a "wide mouthed" Conover uttered this, too.

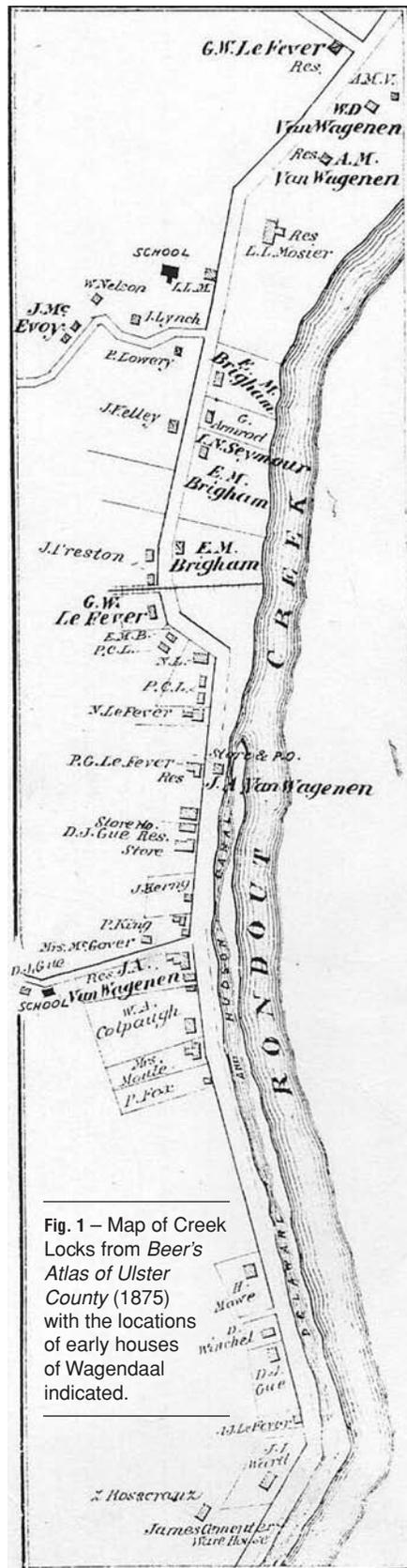
## Around the Neighborhood

By Ken Walton

The dangers of the wilderness outside the stockade of Wiltwyck (Kingston) seemed to have been little deterrent for those whose most pressing desire was to cut out a little piece of the new world for their own. In so doing they created new communities that spread settlement throughout the region. One such place was called Wagendaal.

In 1682, not quite twenty years after the Second Esopus War, Colonel Henry Beekman purchased a tract of land from the Esopus Indians in what became the Magowasinginck Patent. In the same year Beekman sold off a 600 acre parcel of the patent to Jacob Aertsen (Van Wagenen). It was located about four miles outside the stockade as well as an equal number of miles inland from the Hudson River and covering both sides of the Rondout Creek. It was Jacob's son, Benjamin, that started using the surname Van Wagenen.<sup>1</sup> As three sons and one daughter of Jacob's carved out their own farms from the original homestead, the area became known as Wagendaal, which was included in the Corporation of Kingston until October 19, 1708 when it became part of the Town of Hurley. The community continued to be identified by that name until the upstart of the Delaware & Hudson Canal in 1828, when it was changed to Creek Locks (Fig. 1). Then on April 26, 1844, it became part of the Town of Rosendale.<sup>2</sup>

Interestingly, it was Jacob's nephews, sons of his brother Gerrit Aartse, who started using the surname, van Wageninge. Gerrit resided nearby, if not on, his father's farm on the west side of the Esopus Creek somewhere between Hurley and Wiltwyck.<sup>3</sup> However, Gerrit was involved in the early patent of 1688 in Dutchess County when he partnered up with Arie Roosa, Jan Elting and Hendrick and Jacob Kip. While the Kip brothers were the first to settle in the Rhinecliff area, then called Kipsbergen, all of Gerrit's sons, except his youngest, Simon, also moved to the east side of the Hudson on their father's portion



of the patent deeded to them. Simon inherited his grandfather's land along the Esopus Kill.<sup>4</sup>

Jacob's grandfather, also named Jacob Aertsen, sailed aboard the "Calmer Sleutel" (Calm Water) to arrive at New Amsterdam on August 4, 1642 with his son Aert Jacobsen, who was born in 1620 in Wagenengin, Gelderland, Holland. That same year, they both moved to Rensselaerswyck, where as early as 1648, Aert occupied a farm at Bethlehem under lease from the Van Rensselaer Patroon. Fire destroyed the Aertsen homestead about a year after the second Jacob Aertsen was born on February 14, 1653. After leasing another farm in Greenbush, Aert purchased 97 acres in the Corporation of Kingston on the west shore of the Esopus Creek from Johanna Delaet, the wife of Jeronimus Ebbinck, in September 17, 1660 "for the sum of six hundred guilders, half beavers and half wheat at market price," in three equal annual installments starting in the following year. This land was bounded by the lands of Jans Schoon, Aert Pieterse Tack, and Tjerck Claessen (De Witt).<sup>5</sup> Starting in 1662, Aert was not stranger to the courts of Kingston as there are several instances in the surviving records of Aert Jacobsen being ordered to remit payments to various plaintiffs.

Jacob Aertsen (Van Wagenen) erected a stone house on the west side of the Rondout. Today this house is sited at 1070 Creek Locks Road, where a New York State historical marker will state you have found Wagendaal. Unfortunately, a severe fire in 1929 devastated the house. A new dwelling was built within the surviving masonry walls. In *Genealogy of the Van Wagenen Family from 1650-1884*, Gerrit Hubert Van Wagenen reported that a date stone inscribed "J.A., 1699" originally existed in the foundation, but by then was left laying on the ground by the side of the house. With her



Fig. 2 – Jacob Aertsen House, 1070 Creek Locks Rd., Rosendale. Photo from Helen Wilkinson Reynolds, *Dutch Houses in the Hudson Valley Before 1776* (1929), 283.

book being published the same year as the fire, Helen Reynolds included a photograph and fairly detailed description of the house in *Dutch Houses in the Hudson Valley before 1776* (Fig. 2).

Surviving documents bring to light that even twenty years after the last formable conflict with the Esopus Indians, the risks of establishing a farmstead outside the safety of the stockade were still relatively undiminished. On January 26, 1684, Jacob Aertsen was among a group of 62 others who gathered to petition Governor Dongan with a list of grievances about the ongoing Indian troubles detailing the killing and capturing of several settlers, the burning of homes and the destroying of goods. Overall, the settlers were successful in defending themselves from attacks, but were on constant guard while plowing and harvesting. Adding to their troubles was the fact that the crops were poor due to a dry summer the previous year and followed by an extremely severe winter were making means less than adequate. So they were looking to the British governor for compensation. Dongan was livid when presented

Fig. 3 – Aert Aertse Van Wagenen House, Main St. & Creek Locks Rd., Rosendale. It is considered the oldest intact house in the Town of Rosendale (c.1699). Photo by Ken Walton.



with the petition and ordered the petitioners to be arrested as rioters. As the trial did not take place until June, most were released on bail with the majority, including Jacob Aertsen, making no defense, but pleading guilty at the trial and paying a fine in the end.<sup>6</sup>

In what seems miraculous by today's standards, Jacob Aertsen's family bible still survives and is on display in the museum of the Dutch Reformed Church in Kingston. He had fifteen children, eleven of which were mentioned in his will.

The house of Jacob's eldest son, Aert Aertse Van Wagenen, on the corner of Main Street and Creek Locks Road is mistakenly identified by a New York State historical marker as that of Petrus Van Wagenen (Fig. 3). The center portion of the stone house is claimed to have been built around 1699. The house then passed to Aert Aertse's second eldest son, Gerrit Aertse. The eldest son, Jacob Aertse, inherited his grandfather's original homestead across the street of Creek Locks Road. Petrus, born in 1745, was Gerrit's son, who inherited the house and is probably responsible for some of the major renovations and further additions. This house is considered the oldest intact house in Rosendale and has remained in descendants' ownership right up into the 1990's and still may currently be so.

Abraham Aerste Van Wagenen built his stone house right next door to his father's, to the south and down the road at 1060 Creek Locks Road. It, too, had a New York State historical marker, but it has been laying on the ground in the yard for the last few years. As Abraham is one of Jacob's younger sons, it is claimed the house was built somewhere between 1725 and 1730, however it is likely that Abraham's grandson, Abraham Masters Van Wagenen (d. 1891), after inheriting the house, renovated it with the addition of a mansard roof in the 1880s. His daughter, Mary Catherine, and her husband, Louis Livingston Mosier, were the last descendants to live there during the early twentieth century.

The house of a third son of Jacob Aertsen (the sources are not clear as to which one) was located about a quarter mile south of the original homestead and on the west side of Creek Locks Road just before an S-curve in the road. Descendants continued to live here until John J. Van Wagenen abandoned the house sometime between 1855 and 1865 and then turned the property over to his wife's first cousin, George Washington LeFever. The 1875 Beers map shows a property with a house marked G.W. LeFever adjacent to an incline railway which ran three-eighths of a mile from the creek to a cement mine just north of where the Delaware and Hudson Canal enters the creek. A lithograph of E.M. Brigham's quarries at Creek Locks in the 1875 Beers Atlas depicts the one and a half story house south

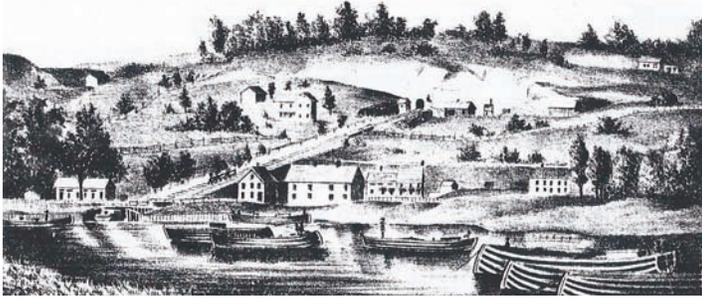


Fig. 4 – Lithograph view of E.M. Brigham's quarries at Creek Locks from 1875 *Beers Atlas*; depicts the one and a half story house Aertsen at the far left side of the image.



Fig. 5 – Isaac Aertsen House, 11 Van Wagener Rd., Rosendale, c. 1745. Photo by Ken Walton.

Fig. 6 – The “new” Van Wagenen house, c. 1810 with the barns that reputedly were associated with an earlier house on the site, now gone. Photo by Ken Walton.



of the tracks (Fig. 4). No doubt being so near this operation is why the house had been abandoned. The house lasted until 1925 but in serious disrepair, when Cornelius I. LeFevre extracted an iron fireback that bears the date 1742 and affixed it to the outer wall of his own house on Route 32 in Bloomington. The fireback was cast with a representation of the story of the Pharisee and the tax collector as told in the book of Luke, 18:10-14.<sup>7</sup> It is not known how much longer the house remained standing.

Just south of here where the S-curve bends closer to the creek is where the Van Wagenens would ford the creek to reach their property on the east side of the Rondout. Jacob Aertsen's youngest son, Isaac, is said to have erected the stone house here at 11 Van Wagner Road in 1745 (Fig. 5). The date is carved in to a boulder in the rear or oldest section of the structure. At least three generations of Isaacs lived here. A Lewis Van Wagenen (family relationship unclear) built a house a few thousand feet to the southeast of Isaac's. The exact construction date is unknown but it was probably in the late 18th century. All that remains of this house is a foundation, but what does stand today is a stone house built in 1810 in the same general area but closer to the road at 15 Van Wagner Road, along with barns predating the newer house (Fig. 6).<sup>8</sup> Presumably it was built by a Van Wagenen descendent, but I have no other information about it. On the northern end of the property still stands a Van Wagenen burial ground which is the final resting place of many of the family, as descendents were known to reside in Isaac's place up to the 1920s with William J. Van Wagenen living there then.

Jacob Aertsen gave land and possibly a house to his daughter, Rebecca, in 1706 when she married Jean Freer, son of Hugo Freer, one of the twelve New Paltz patentees. It is a little over a mile to the northeast from her father's farmstead on Creek Locks on the way to Eddyville. The farm stayed in the Freer family until it was sold to James Elmondorf Schoonmaker in 1851. It is stated that the old stone house still stood at the “Narrows” of the Rondout Creek, but that Schoonmaker built a new brick house in 1861.<sup>9</sup> What exists today on top of a knoll on the west side of the road overlooking the creek at 1422-98 Creek Locks Road is a house with the first story of stone and a second full story of brick with a center gable and a brick wing on the north (Fig. 7). A date stone adjacent to the front entrance is marked with “GF • EF IF CF ANNO 1766”. Jean and Recca's eldest son was Gerritt born 1711 and he married Elizabeth Van Vliet on November 1, 1735. At the time the datestone was inscribed, their only son Jan who was nineteen and probably still living at home as well as their youngest daughter, Catharina born in 1749. It would be interesting to see if it could be determined if the datestone represents an expansion done by Gerritt of his parents' house or if it was entirely a new construction. The brick second story and addition may be the work of J. E. Schoonmaker as the style fits the period of 1861.



Fig.7: Stone house associated with Garrit Freer, son of Rebecca Aertsen and Jean Freer, c. 1766. Brick second story and wing probably added by J.E. Schoonmaker around 1861. Photo by Ken Walton.



Fig.8: Johannis J. Van Wagenen House, 1775, not extant. Photo from Helen Wilkinson Reynolds, *Dutch Houses in the Hudson Valley Before 1776* (1929), 38.

Coming full circle, just a few yards away to the east of the original homestead, Jacob Aertsen's great grandson, Johannis J. Van Wagenen, erected yet another stone house with a datestone inscribed "1775 IVW." Helen Reynolds included a picturesque photograph of the house and its setting in her book on Dutch Houses (*Fig. 8*). At that time she reported that the house was "out of repair;" there is no trace of it today.<sup>10</sup>

Not all the Van Wagenens stayed in Wagendaal. Jacob Aertsen's second eldest son, Evert moved to Dutchess County and settled near Poughkeepsie where many of his descendents stayed. One is mentioned and pictured in Helen Reynolds' book as Evert's grandson also named Evert built the stone house around 1767 on land willed to him by his father, Nicholas. Described as being located about a mile south of Netherwood on the road to the village of Pleasant Valley, it still existed in the 1920s, but was converted into a barn. Today, it is being used as a garage at 339 Smith Road in the Town of Pleasant Valley, but enough of the original features remain to confirm it is the same place with sliding barn doors where there use to be two doorways.

It is hard to imagine that today's suburbs of Kingston were dangerous wilderness frontiers three centuries ago slowly tamed by families that kept closely together in communities

like Wagendaal, or Freerville just a couple miles to the east on the other side of the Rondout, or the LeFevres of Kettleborough and so on. This pattern of settlement was typical in the Hudson Valley during the 18th-century as the plans of the early towns of Kingston, Hurley and New Paltz (and Albany) could no longer accommodate new generations. Each of these new settlements represents a branch of a family tree, a generation that breaks away and strikes out anew someplace a bit further remote, creating a forest of kinship throughout the region.

Of course, I am always interested in hearing from anyone who knows more about these houses mentioned or of others not mentioned here. I also want to thank those members who have contacted me about their interest in the old houses. These discussions have been loads of fun. Hope to hear from more of you... until later... happy hunting!

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*For more information about most of these houses and more, go to [www.HVVA.org](http://www.HVVA.org) and click on the "Mapping History" tab. Please send any comments you have to: [kaw9862@optonline.net](mailto:kaw9862@optonline.net) or by mail to: Ken Walton, 12 Orchard Dr., 2nd Fl., Gardiner, NY 12525. If [HVVA] is at the beginning on the subject line of the email, it will help me expedite a response.*

<sup>1</sup> Minor Descent website – <http://minerdescent.com/2010/08/11/jacob-aertsen-van-wagenen/>.

<sup>2</sup> Deana F. Decker, *Hurley, New York; A Brief History* (2009), 51.

<sup>3</sup> Minor Descent website.

<sup>4</sup> Gerrit Hubert Van Wagenen, *Genealogy of the Van Wagenen Family; From 1650 to 1884* (1884). (Google Books)

<sup>5</sup> Minor Descent website.

<sup>6</sup> Ann Gilchrist, *Colonizing the Dales: The Stone Houses of Wagendal and Bloemendal* (1996).

<sup>7</sup> Reynolds, *Dutch Houses in the Hudson Valley before 1776*, 233.

<sup>8</sup> Karl Wick, *The Early History of Saint Remy*, <http://www.stremy.net/srearly.html#early>.

<sup>9</sup> Gilchrist, *Colonizing the Dales*.

<sup>10</sup> *Dutch Houses in the Hudson Valley Before 1776* (1929), 38.

# From Carl's Scrapbook: The Bee Hive, Sand Lake, Rensselaer County, NY

By *Walter Richard Wheeler*

## Introduction

You might recall that I have been mining my friend Carl Erickson's scrapbook for materials he collected as a curious youngster in the 1950s. He accompanied his parents on a number of trips that were specifically motivated by an interest in the region's historic architecture, and they did not shy away from going into abandoned structures. Their travels appear to have largely been limited to Columbia, Greene and Rensselaer counties.

## The Bee Hive

In August 1956 the trio visited Sand Lake in Rensselaer County. The Butts House, also known locally as "The Bee Hive" was in the process of destruction. Carl's mother Marion wrote an article on the house for the *Troy Record*, which was illustrated by a photograph taken by Carl (*Fig. 1*).

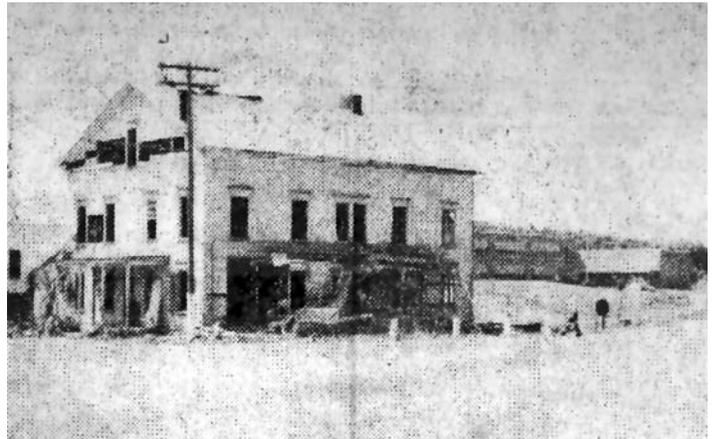
"If the walls could only talk!" It's an old lament and a trite one but the lover of old houses uses it over and over again as he strives to look back across the years an old house has known. So it is with the Butt residence at Sand Lake. Soon this lovely landmark will have disappeared and in its place will stand a bright and shiny gas station, symbol of the Twentieth Century and of a way of life undreamed of when Squire Butts built his white frame dwelling at the cross roads in Sand Lake.

In recent years passers-by have paid little attention to this historic building which dates back more than a hundred years, for it sat by the roadside shabby and neglected with only slight suggestions of its architectural beauty still evident.

Today, however, as the wreckers go about their business, many motorists have stopped their cars to look around the plaster-strewn interior of this house that dates back beyond the memory of any living man.

Despite its age, the structure is still strong and sound. Great hand-hewn [sic] beams arch across the attic and two of the main rafters still are covered with bark. The wide boards in the floor, measuring 18 inches in width, and the huge fireplace with its Dutch oven in the cellar attest the great age of this disappearing landmark (*Fig. 2*). The tiny-paned windows and the window-paneled main door contained glass believed to have been made at the old factory at Glass Lake (*Fig. 3*). It, along with the sunburst details over the windows, have been purchased by Harold Tiff, historian of the Town of Sand Lake.

Hayner's History of Troy and Rensselaer County lists William Butts as one of the first settlers in the town. William came to Sand Lake from Providence, R. I., at the close of the Revolutionary War in which he had served. He located in Sand Lake in 1790. Of his nine children only one, Gideon, stayed. Whether the house was built by William or by his son, Gideon, is not certain. Farming and lumbering were Gideon's main interests. While demolishing the building, workmen came upon a contract 123 years old, whereby one, Horace Huntington, was given the right to take standing wood and timber from "lot 168." The contract bears the date of Dec. 15, 1832. Sellers of the standing timber were



*Fig. 1* – The original caption read, "The old 'Bee Hive' at Sand Lake will soon make way for a gas station. Shabby and neglected in recent years, the house, one of the oldest in the village, was once a picturesque spot, surrounded by a picket fence and shade trees." All illustrations by Carl Erickson, 1956.

*Fig. 2* – Basement kitchen fireplace, looking northwest. Note the parallel hewn logs of small size supporting the first floor. The room had been stripped of its fittings and finishes by this time.



Richard L. Knowlson, Gideon Butts and George Horton. The signatures are attested by John Wilkinson.

Sand Lake folks know the house as the “Bee Hive.” During its many years, a cross section of Rensselaer County rural life has passed its doors. Anti-renters from Alps, who sped down the highways in the dark of night in their conspiracy against the patrol system, charcoal burners from the Taborton mountains, urging their sleepy teams across Miller Hill in the pre-dawn hours to reach the city markets at an early hour, farmers from Stephentown with their barrels of produce making a heavy haul over narrow, rutted roads; the stage coach with its weary travelers, who welcomed a refreshing pause at Cris Crape’s Hotel across the road from the Butts House.<sup>1</sup>

The Butts house was located at the northwest corner of the intersection of Routes 43 and 66, facing east on Route 66, also known as Miller Hill Road (*Fig. 4*). According to a more



*Fig. 3* – Detail showing the front door and a sidelight, looking west-south-west. The applied shell-form decoration was a feature of the lintels on both the east and south (that is, street) elevations. It is not known if they were also used on the secondary facades.

*Fig. 4* – Postcard view, dating to c.1910-20, showing the main intersection in the village of Sand Lake, looking west. The Butts house is seen right of center.



recent source, it is said to have been built for Gideon Butts “a lumber pioneer” in 1824.<sup>2</sup> Details such as the front door with attached narrow sidelights and window and door architraves whose design is similar to tabernacle framed mirrors of the period suggest a date of c.1815-1825 for its construction date, and so the 1824 date may be accurate.

The plan of the house featured a broad central hallway with a straight run of stairs rising along its north wall (*Fig. 5*). Two windows in both the east and end elevations lit the front rooms which flanked the hall. The two rear rooms were each lit by single windows located in the west and end elevations. The plan also shows doorways located in the middle of the north and south gable ends that gave direct exterior access to both rooms on each side of the hall via small interior vestibules, which appear to have been original features of the house. In addition to linking the rooms to the exterior, the vestibules also served to connect the front and rear rooms to one another, obviating the need to enter the hall in order to pass between them. This arrangement suggests the possibility that the rooms were separately tenanted. Carl recalls it having been said that the cove-ceilinged attic room was used as a meeting room for the local chapter of the Odd Fellows at some point in the nineteenth century (*Fig. 6*). This function may have required the end entrances to isolate the center hall for use during lodge meetings.<sup>3</sup> The arrangement of the plan, with two internal chimneys straddling the interior partition between front and rear rooms, may be a reflection of the New England roots of the Butts family. The basement kitchen may have been a response to local preferences, but doesn’t seem in this case to have been created in order to accommodate slave labor, since the Butts family is not known to have owned slaves.<sup>4</sup>

Carl Erickson’s photographs, taken in August 1956, reveal portions of the framing of the house. As mentioned above, the first floor log joists were oriented east-west and framed into a principal crossbeam running perpendicular to them and in front of the chimney (*Fig. 2*). It can be presumed that the majority of the remaining first floor joists were similarly framed, but the framing of the hall is not known.

The photographs taken in the attic allow us to extrapolate several details about the framing and construction of the house. The framing was of the “box frame” type, with six braced posts on its long (east and west) elevations (*Fig. 6*). The rafters were supported on purlins and the roof appears to have been boarded to receive wood shingles. The purlin posts may have been supported by transverse beams oriented north-south, or parallel to the front elevation of the house. This would explain why the floor boards seen in these photos were oriented east-west. The principal framing members appear to have been hewn pine; secondary members including studs and braces appear to have been sawn from the same material.

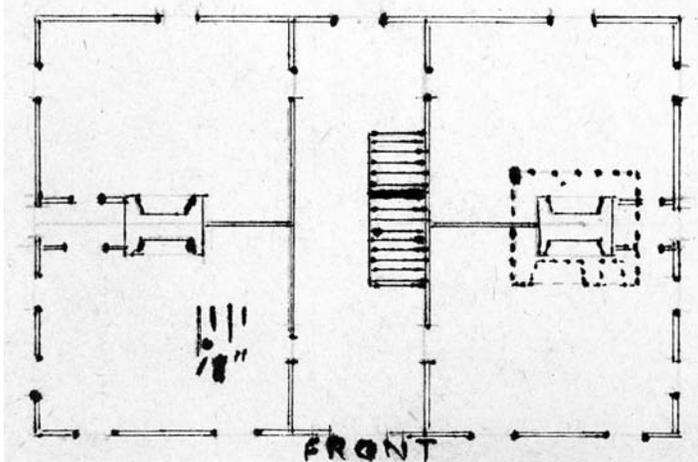


Fig. 5 – Sketch plan of the first floor, showing the location of the basement kitchen, the chimney indicated by dotted lines.



Fig. 6 – View of attic from southwest. The remains of the curved ceiling can be seen, the ends of which rest on the purlins.

### More on the Butts (Butz) Family

Additional information on the Butts family can be culled from Sylvester's *History of Rensselaer County* (1880). That book appears to have served in large part as the basis for Hayner's history as cited by Marion Erickson, above. From it, we learn that

William Butz went from Providence, R. I. after the close of the Revolutionary war...and located in Dutchess [sic] County. Marrying there, he remained a short time, and finally located, about 1790, at Sand Lake...[Gideon Butts] engaged in farming, and also paid much attention to the lumber business, being first a member of the firm of Knowlson, Butz & Horton, and finally of Knowlson & Butz. He died, in 1852, at the age of seventy-three.<sup>5</sup>

The 1820 census lists a total of seven people in the Gideon Butts household (including five children), with one of the family members being engaged in agriculture.<sup>6</sup> Butts, in partnership with a few others, constructed the first steam-powered mill in Rensselaer County, in 1831.<sup>7</sup> A manuscript account book for this mill covering the years

1839-1843 survives, and has been transcribed and published.<sup>8</sup>

In 1837, together with George Horton and Col. Richard I. Knowlson, Butts "bought the mountain lands in Sandlake of the Patroon, and all realized a fine fortune from the speculation."<sup>9</sup> At the end of her *Troy Record* article about the house, Marion Erickson imagined that anti-renters once "passed its doors." This was a somewhat ironic reference. Gideon Butts is known to have had one of his horses shot by a protester dressed as an "Indian, Lester by name," who was subsequently arrested under the warrants brought against anti-renters executed in Columbia and Rensselaer counties in January 1845.<sup>10</sup> An anecdote recorded in a nineteenth century newspaper recalled that he "could not be swerved from his opposition to the movement. One day he was taken from his home to a lake near by. He was put into the water and held by the anti-renters, but he would not abandon his determination, daring his persecutors to drown him."<sup>11</sup> Butts' activities in land speculation – particularly through his purchase of lands whose ownership by the patroon was contested by the anti-renters – was probably the source of all the attention they paid him.

<sup>1</sup> Marion Erickson. "Many Memories Stirred By Passing Of Area Landmark," *The Troy Record*, 27 August 1956.

<sup>2</sup> Mary D. French and Robert J. Lilly. *Images of America: Sand Lake* (Charleston, SC: Arcadia, 2001), 82.

<sup>3</sup> The Elisha Gilbert House (1794) in New Lebanon, Columbia County has a Masonic hall in its attic and the central entrance and hall are distinguished to suggest they were designed as part of the lodge.

<sup>4</sup> This from a consultation of the 1790 census for William Butts and the 1810 census for Gideon Butts.

<sup>5</sup> Nathaniel Bartlett Sylvester. *History of Rensselaer County, New York* (Philadelphia: Everts & Peck, 1880), 520.

<sup>6</sup> 1820 U S Census; Census Place: Sand Lake, Rensselaer, New York; Page: 63; NARA Roll: M33\_68; Image: 284, accessed online at [www.Ancestry.com](http://www.Ancestry.com), on 9 September 2012.

<sup>7</sup> "Family Memories: The Radz Family," in *Historical Highlights* 26:1 (Fall 1999), accessed online at [http://www.capital.net/~kdanneil/body\\_sand\\_lake\\_historical\\_society.html](http://www.capital.net/~kdanneil/body_sand_lake_historical_society.html) on 9 September 2012.

<sup>8</sup> Arthur C. M. Kelly, transcriber. *Lumberman's Account Book, 1839-1843 (formerly Steam Mill, Taborton), Town of Sand Lake, Rensselaer County, New York* (Rhinebeck, NY: Kinship Press, 1999).

<sup>9</sup> "Death of a Prominent Citizen of the County," *Troy Times*, 20 April 1872, 3.

<sup>10</sup> "Another Arrest," *The Spectator* (New York, NY), 15 January 1845, 2, reprinted from the *Troy Whig*.

<sup>11</sup> "The Death of the Anti-Rent Chieftain – An Eventful Record," *Troy Times*, 22 November 1888, 3.

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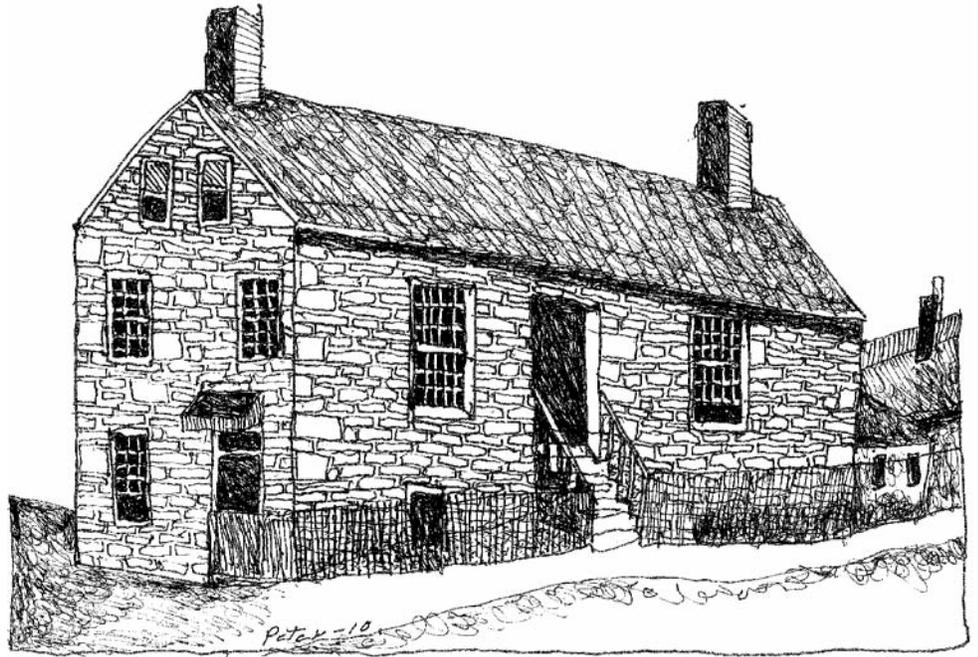
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Drawing by Peter Sinclair

## The Schuyler Flatts: Archeology and Architecture

January 27, 2013 at 2:00 pm

Presentation by Walter R. Wheeler and Paul R. Huey for Historical Society of the Town of Colonie  
William K. Sanford Town Library  
629 Albany-Shaker Road, Colonie, New York

### Check Out This Web Site!

Roberta Jeracka has sent us a link to a great German site devoted to the research of old houses or *hausforscher unterwegs*. It is full of information regarding European vernacular architecture as well as lessons we can apply in our own sphere. And, it can be translated into English. Visit [www.hausforscher.de](http://www.hausforscher.de) today.

## Calendar of Upcoming Events

### 2012

**December 8** Holiday Tour & Luncheon in Kingston, hosted by Rob Sweeney

### 2013

- January 19** Annual Meeting, Elmendorph Inn, Red Hook
- February 16** Bus trip to NYC area museum [Tentative]
- March 16** Tour of Houses along Passaic River in Lower Bergen County, NJ
- April 20** Tour of British Farmhouses in Orange County, led by Neil Lars
- May 18** Tour of Historic Properties in Palatine Bridge
- June 15** Richmond Town, Staten Island, NY
- July 13** Hurley Stone House Day & HVVA picnic
- July 20** TBA
- August 17** Tour in Greene County
- September 21** Tour in Saratoga or Rensselaer County
- October 19** Tour in Westchester County
- November 16** TBA
- December 14** Holiday Tour and Luncheon in Kingston

For more information, please check [www.HVVA.org](http://www.HVVA.org)