

# Hudson Valley Vernacular Architecture Dutch Barn Preservation Society Field Trip to the Palatine Region of the Mohawk Valley May 18, 2013

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## Trip Schedule

Site	Arrive	Depart
Old Palatine Church	10:30 am	11:15 am
Fort Wagner	11:30 am	Noon
Fort Klock (Lunch)	12:15 pm	2:00 pm
Kilts Farm	2:15 pm	4:00 pm
Getman Farmstead/Dutch Barn Farm	4:10 pm	4:30 pm

## Old Palatine Church

### Location

State Hwy 5, Between Nelliston and St. Johnsville (At the intersection of Route 5 and Palatine Church Road)

### Description

The old Palatine Church stands on Route Five between St. Johnsville and Nelliston on the north side of the Mohawk River at a place once known as "Fox's Mills" on the Caroga Creek. It stands on a raised knoll where the Caroga Creek cannot touch it during the spring when the creek overflows its banks. Built of selected limestone in 1770 by our early pioneers.

### History

The Old Palatine Church is one of the oldest remaining churches in the Mohawk Valley. Lutheran Palatine Germans built it in 1770 using limestone taken from the creek nearby. The construction cost \$155,000 in 2008 dollars with funding donated primarily by the Wagner, Nellis, Reber and Hess families.





The small hamlet by the name of Palatine Church, situated about two and one half miles north and west of the village of Fort Plain on the north side of the Mohawk River, is the oldest settlement between Utica and Schenectady and for a long time after the Revolutionary War it was the main business place between those two sections.

In October 1780 British Loyalist John Johnson led 875 troops in a devastating raid across the Schoharie and Mohawk Valleys. They burned all the farms along this road. Legend has it that the Indians were ready to set the church on but a British officer stopped them. He had promised his good friend, Henry Nellis, to protect the church.

When the church was restored for its centennial in 1870, workmen found a rare thirteen star American flag in the building, now on display.

### **More information**

<http://oldpalatinechurch.org/>

## **Fort Wagner**

### **Location**

*6710 State Hwy 5*

### **Description**

A two story stone farmhouse built in 1750 by Johan Peter Wagner, with a wooden extension. The fortified house was palisaded shortly after the start of the Revolutionary War.

### **History**

The stone house fort was built about 1750. The old part and new are easily distinguishable since the addition is a



wooden structure. The pioneer settler was Johan Peter Wagner who settled in West Camp with his wife Margaretha Laucs (Loucks), and there they lived. They moved to the Mohawk Valley along with some three hundred others, to land given them by Governor Hunter. Johan Peter and his wife lived until about 1750 and are buried in the Wagner plot southeast of the house, on the near side of a hill called the "Steilerberg" or "Steep Hill."

The Stone section of house was stockaded home of Lt. Col. Peter Wagner, Palatine Regt. Tryon County Militia, 1750. The fort was unsuccessfully attacked in 1780.

The property currently serves as a functioning homestead.

### **More information**

<http://threerivershms.com/wagner.htm>



## **Fort Klock**

### **Location**

*Hwy 5 – 2 miles east of St. Johnsville, NY*



### **Description**

This fortified homestead also served as an early trading post. Generals Schuyler and Clinton, along with Alexander Hamilton and Mohawk Chief Joseph Brant stayed here on their passages through the valley. Now maintained by Fort Klock Historic Restoration the complex includes in addition to the home, a

Colonial Dutch Barn, blacksmith shop, and 19th century schoolhouse. Fort Klock is open to visitors Memorial Day through mid-October.

## History

Fort Klock was built in 1750 by Johannes Klock, a Palatine German. By 1775 a line of frontier settlements stretched westward along the Mohawk Valley 65 miles from Schenectady to German Flatts. Agriculturally rich, the valley served as a major bread basket for the patriot cause. Its white population of about 15,000 settlers provided a militia force of about 2,500 men. As the danger of invasion from Canada increased, Mohawk Valley Settlers began erecting a series of military posts and also built log stockades around a number of stone dwellings and churches until a total of some 24 strong-posts guarded the valley. The purpose of these fortified private houses was to provide places of safety where neighboring settlers could seek refuge when bands of raiding Indians and Tories swept through the valley.



On October 19, 1780, the Battle of Klock's Field was fought just to west-northwest of the fort.

Fort Klock was declared a National Historic Landmark in 1972

## More information

<http://www.fortklock.com/>

## Kilts Farm

### Location

Kilts Road, Ft. Plain, NY

### Description

Peter Kilts bought this homestead from the heirs of Philip Livingston in 1750. The farm remained in the Kilts family until 1965. Its two main houses, Dutch barn, and outbuildings were listed on the National Register in 2009. Both houses are story-and-a-half frame buildings, with

central doorways, two windows on each side, and their broad sides to the street, with Greek Revival details. A detached outbuilding, perhaps once the main kitchen, contains a large fireplace and cooking oven.

## History

During the period 1580 – 1614, Native Americans were interred on this property. A memorial to them was erected in 2005. On August 24, 1750, Peter Kilts purchased 50 acres lot number 43 of the first division of the Stone Arabia Patent from the heirs of Philip Livingston, a member of a wealthy Hudson Valley family.

Circa 1835 – 1845, the white Greek Revival house was constructed along with the summer kitchen.

Conrad Kilts died on May 12, 1846 here where he had been born ninety years before. His monument, along with those of numerous descendants, are here in the Kilts Cemetery.

In the mid 1800s the Dutch Barn was greatly altered and added so as to accommodate more dairy cows. The trend in agriculture was moving from an era of grain growing to one of dairying for the production of cheese and butter. Numerous local cheese factories were erected.

In the mid 1870s the Kilts family moved to a farm a short distance south, on a more travelled road. Subsequently the buildings began to fall into disrepair.

On June 29, 1965, a much deteriorated Kilts house and summer kitchen were sold to Willis Barshied Jr. by Albert F Kilts. It was the first time in 215 years that the property was not owned by the Kilts family. An effort to repair and restore the house and summer kitchen began at this time.

On October 24, 1983, the 18th Century house frame that was located on the upper end of lot #11 of the Harrison Patent was purchased and disassembled for transport to the Kilts Road property. The frame was repaired and by 1985 the exterior was completed... the inside shortly thereafter.

On August 24, 1987, I purchased the building frame which was to become my shoe shop. The much neglected structure originally stood a few miles south of its present location. During the following months a foundation was completed with the help of two Amish boys. The frame was repaired and the building was erected with the help of friends. The shop was furnished with examples of early shoes, shoemaker's tools and other implements used in the leather trade.

Kilts Farmstead was placed on the state and national registers of historic places in 2009.

## Getman Farmstead/Dutch Barn Farm

### Location

1311 Stone Arabia Rd, Ft. Plain, NY.

### Description

The farm was part of the Stone Arabia Patent of 1734 and was maintained by the Getman family for over 200 years. The property includes a Greek revival home and a Colonial Dutch Barn currently under restoration. Other outbuildings include English barns and a stone smokehouse.

### History

Part of the Stone Arabia Patent, the farm came in to the Getman family in the 18<sup>th</sup> century. It was operated primarily as a dairy farm until the mid 20<sup>th</sup> century.

In 1996 the Dutch Barn Preservation Society awarded Florence and Eleanor Getman a \$500 grant for barn restoration. The September Trustees meeting was held at the farm. The photograph below was taken in June 1996 by Ev Rau



### More information

[www.dutchbarnfarm.com](http://www.dutchbarnfarm.com)