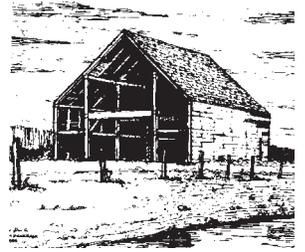


# DUTCH BARN PRESERVATION SOCIETY NEWSLETTER



SPRING 2015

VOL. 28, ISSUE 1

## A Jambless Fireplace in Frederick County, Maryland

by Paul R. Huey

The European inhabitants of the Hudson Valley in New York State in the 17th and 18th centuries were located in a geographically unique area of eastern North America. Elsewhere, the north-south Appalachian Mountain system presented a seemingly endless barrier to westward expansion, and only the Champlain Valley and the Mohawk Valley provided easily accessible routes for trade, communication, and expansion that extended far northward and far westward beyond these mountains. In addition, tributary streams at locations along the Hudson offered limited access from the river into adjacent interior areas.

The fertile valleys of the Esopus Creek and the Rondout Creek in the vicinity of present Kingston, New York, attracted Dutch settlement in the 17th century, but this location also happened to provide access from the Hudson beyond one of the many ridgelines of the Appalachian chain. West and southwest of Kingston,

the Ulster County villages of Hurley, Marbletown, and Stone Ridge lie nestled between the Esopus and the Rondout, at the head of a massive mountain ridge, the Shawungunk Mountains. The Shawungunk Mountain ridge continues as the Kittatinny Mountains southwestward into Pennsylvania along the Delaware River as far as the Delaware Water Gap. The mountain ridge then continues as the Blue Mountain ridge and cuts across the eastern half of Pennsylvania from the Delaware River to Maryland.

More than a few intrepid explorers and traders from the Hudson Valley undoubtedly ventured southwestward into the interior behind this ridge, which formed the eastern edge of the Appalachians. The importance of the ridge is clearly shown on the map by Lewis Evans published in 1749, *A Map of Pensilvania, New Jersey, New York, and the Three Delaware Counties* (Figure 1). It is probable that Evans drew the map to alert

Pennsylvania officials to the importance of the mountain ridges and the “endless mountains” beyond. Farmers followed traders, and perhaps it should not be surprising to find a few evidences of Hudson Valley Dutch architecture along or near this route, even into Maryland and beyond.

A short distance northeast of Frederick, Maryland, stands the Beatty-Cramer house, perhaps the oldest building in the county (Photo 1). It is near the Monocacy River, at 9010 Liberty Road (Maryland Route 26), east of Israel Creek and near a small community named Ceresville. The oldest part of the house was built about 1732 by Susanna Beatty, who moved here with her family from Marbletown, New York, in 1732. It was purchased in 1855 by the Cramer family, who made alterations. The original house, however, utilizes heavy, typically Dutch



Figure 1. Detail from *A Map of Pensilvania, New Jersey, New York, and the Three Delaware Counties* by Lewis Evans published in 1749 (Library of Congress). The Monocacy River appears at the lower left, flowing into the Potomac River, through the word “MARY.” Marbletown is at the upper right corner.

(continued on page 2)

## A Jambless Fireplace (continued from page 1)



Photo 1. The Beatty-Cramer house at 9010 Liberty Road, built about 1732, northeast of Frederick, Maryland.

H-bent construction and is two stories. It has exposed and finished floor beams, and it has brick nogging said to be laid in Flemish bond. Two rooms on the first floor are separated by a wall of "biscuit" construction. Hand-split 1-inch by 3-inch boards 36 inches in length were stacked between vertical upright timbers, held in channels cut into the timbers and then covered with a mud-straw daub finished with a lime plaster or wash. It is believed the west end of the kitchen had a jambless fireplace.<sup>1</sup>

Especially interesting are also the two existing out-buildings: a spring house and a smoke house. The spring house (Photo 2) is a two-story whitewashed stone structure banked into the hillside along Israel Creek, and it is probably as old as the main house. It is 18 feet, 4 inches, by 15 feet, 1 inch, in size. The ground floor, with access through a door, has many original features, such as window jambs and hardware, but perhaps the most interesting is the jambless fireplace. The chimney passes through the second floor room with no opening, although at some time a small opening for a stove pipe or flue was cut into the chimney. The second floor is accessible through a door from the upper ground level, and



Photo 2. The spring house standing near the Beatty-Cramer house.



Photo 3. The jambless fireplace in the Beatty-Cramer spring house.

the room had plastered walls, a baseboard, and a chair rail.<sup>2</sup> The jambless fireplace in the ground floor room appears to be entirely original with little, if any, restoration. The back of the fireplace is the masonry wall of the spring house. The original timber framing remains around the opening above the hearth, and above this is the chimney, which probably has been somewhat restored (Photos 3 and 4). The masonry chimney opening flares inward on three sides above the timber frame to form a narrow flue, so perhaps the weight of the chimney was somewhat directed sideways rather than straight downward on the timber frame. There are no jambs whatever, and this fireplace conforms to the stereotype of Hudson Valley jambless fireplaces, nearly all of which have been reconstructed but which sometimes require extra support for the chimneys. It should be noted that most Dutch paintings show larger fireplaces for cooking which are not entirely jambless but instead have very small jambs. A traveller in the Hudson Valley in 1755 also noted that "The Dutch Chimneys have very small Jambs with 3 or 4 rows of Tile Some no Jambs at all."<sup>3</sup>

Susanna Beatty was the oldest daughter of William Asfordby, of Stayne-in-the-Marsh, Lincolnshire, England. He was baptised in March 1638 at Saltfleetby, a nearby fishing village on the North Sea coast. These villages were in the Lincolnshire Marshlands, a stretch of alluvial marsh extending southeast along the coast from the



Photo 4. Framing of the hood of the jambless fireplace in the spring house.

River Humber with a width varying from six to ten miles. The area was subject to high spring tides, not to mention great storms which led to coastal flooding and destruction. Susanna was born probably in England, but by 1674 William Asfordby was in Ulster County.<sup>4</sup> In December 1675 he purchased a farm, including a "house and barn" and 20 morgens of land, located "under Marbletown."<sup>5</sup> The next year, a tract of about 100 acres "called ye froid [fijfde?] stuck," meaning probably "fifth piece," in Marbletown to be patented to Asfordby was surveyed (Figure 2). The actual patent of 108 acres was granted in October 1676 and consisted of the "fifth piece" and the "sixth piece" located east of and behind "the Kaelbergh." For this he paid a quit rent of one bushel of wheat.<sup>6</sup> In 1678 he also purchased a house and lot at Marbletown, but in 1682 he conveyed to Wessel Ten Broeck 12 acres of land "over the mill dam, between the path of the great valley and the small



Figure 2. Detail from Sauthier's *Chorographical map of the Province of New-York*, published in 1779, showing the Marbletown, New York, area (Library of Congress).

valley." Governor Thomas Dongan appointed Asfordby to sheriff for Ulster County in December 1686.<sup>7</sup>

Susanna Asfordby married John Beatty "of Esopus" in November 1691. He was a native of Ireland, and the previous September he was on a list of "six persons for Sheriff of Ulster County." In June 1695 Susanna and John had a son, William, and in August 1695 a patent was granted to William Asfordby's English wife, Martha, and their daughters, including Susanna, for land at Marbletown originally patented to William Asfordby. The quit rent was 3 shillings. In 1697 William Asfordby wrote his will, and he died in February 1698. He left all his property to his widow, Martha, and her heirs, and her title to the property was confirmed in 1711. It now amounted to 230 acres "of low land, rivers swamp and wood land," and it was "commonly called the 'Fifth Piece' with wood land and marshes," located "on the South west side of the Esopus Kill." John Beatty owned adjoining property.<sup>8</sup>

As early as 1709 John Beatty was performing surveys for various land patentees in Ulster County, and in 1712, as provincial Deputy Surveyor, he surveyed a tract laid out for Charles Brodhead "between the Esopus Creek and the Blue Hills, near Ashokan." In 1713 he surveyed land on the north side of the Mohawk River near Nestegajunie (Niskayuna), but his most famous map is the map of Livingston Manor he surveyed and drew for Robert Livingston in October 1714. The next month he surveyed Beekman lands at Rhinebeck, New York.<sup>9</sup>

John Beatty in 1717 was not as wealthy as his immediate neighbors in Marbletown in terms of real and personal property. In 1719 and 1720, however, the trustees of Marbletown granted him tracts of land totaling 950 acres, and John and Susanna Beatty also had inherited land from her father and mother. Soon after his acquisition of land in 1720, John Beatty wrote his will, leaving Susanna "all my Low land on the fifth stick or piece" together with his house and barn, and he left his other property and interest in a mill to their ten children. By March 1721, John Beatty was dead, and the will was proved. One son, Charles, died in 1726 or 1727, and another married in 1729.<sup>10</sup>

It was perhaps following the death of Charles that Susanna Beatty and three of her other sons decided to move far away to Maryland. Those three sons were William, Thomas, and Edward Beatty. The 1728 list of freeholders of Marbletown includes William Beatty, but Susanna, Thomas, and Edward are not included. If Susanna and her sons Thomas and Edward had already left, William must have soon followed.<sup>11</sup> Unless Susanna chose to travel to Maryland

(continued on page 4)



Figure 3. Detail from *A map of Maryland with the Delaware counties and the southern part of New Jersey &c.* by T. Kitchin, published in London in 1757, showing the location of Frederick, Maryland, and the Monocacy River (Library of Congress).

by ship from Kingston and Rondout, a long voyage down the Hudson, around New Jersey and Delaware, and up Chesapeake Bay, most likely she instead traveled with loaded wagons and headed southwest along the west side of the Shawangunk ridge. She would have followed Rondout Creek, the Basha Kill, and the Neversink River to the Delaware River. Along the Delaware her route would take her past a location soon to be settled by Andrew Dingman, born in Kinderhook, New York, and named Dingman's Ferry. Farther down the Delaware, near present Stroudsburg, Pennsylvania, was a tract of about 3,000 acres purchased in September 1727 by Nicholas Depui, who soon settled there, although the 1728 list of Ulster County freeholders still includes his name in Marbletown. From Marbletown to the Depui settlement was about 90 miles. Nearby, also just east of present Stroudsburg, Daniel Brodhead, born at Marbletown, settled in 1737.<sup>12</sup> The map made in 1749 (Figure 1) shows the settlements of Brodhead and Depui at the head of parallel mountain ridges which continue away from the Delaware southwestward across the Pennsylvania "wilderness." From the Delaware River it would be another 200 miles to the headwaters of the Monocacy River northeast of Frederick, Maryland.

In 1749, according to Lewis Evans, a trail or path ran along the west side of "The blue Mountains or the Kittatinny M.," a mountain ridge cut through only by the Susquehanna River just above present Harrisburg. Crossing the Susquehanna, the Beattys probably then took a road leading southward east of the South Mountain chain to the upper Monocacy (Figure 3). Edward Beatty had arrived by 1730, when he acquired land in Maryland. In July 1732 Susanna Beatty acquired

1,000 acres of land along the east side of the Monocacy River, and on this land was built her house. In May 1733 she purchased another 939 acres across the river, and by 1733 eight of her ten children were with her in Maryland. Susanna divided up her original 1,000 acres and the 939 acres across the river by deeds of gift in 1740 between her sons Thomas, William, John, and James and her two daughters Martha and Agnes. In her will dated 1742, she left other parts of the land west of the river to some of her grandchildren. She died before October 1745, when her will was probated.<sup>13</sup>

Susanna lived with her son William on the "home plantation," which was the portion of the original 1,000 acres given to him in 1740.<sup>14</sup> It is not known if there was once a Dutch barn on the Beatty-Cramer farm, but further research, both documentary and archeological, may provide further evidence relating to this question. It is most remarkable, perhaps, that Susanna Beatty, having been born in England and having had a husband born in Ireland, built a house and an outbuilding with Dutch characteristics in an English colony nearly 300 miles from their previous home in the Hudson Valley.

## ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

The author wishes to thank Helena and John Madison of Frederick, Maryland, for calling his attention to the Beatty-Cramer house; also, Michael Schifferli graciously provided digital image assistance. Thanks also go to Walter R. Wheeler for encouraging the research and writing of this article.

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## A New New World Dutch Barn

*Travis Chapman*

Seven years ago, Thirty Acre Farm in Whitefield, Maine, approached me about building a timber framed barn for their new farm. Owners Simon and Jane Frost



Photo 1. Topping out.

purchased the land 11 years ago and started clearing for fields and developing their numerous fermented products such as organic sauerkraut, kimchi, pickled carrots, and the like. They also raise pigs, chickens, and grow vegetable crops for the local markets. Historically the land was once a farm, but the barn was long gone and forest grew where fields were abandoned. Thus it made perfect sense to use the timber for a new barn that would serve the farm's immediate and future needs. I don't know about other joiners, but this job request was certainly the most exciting one I've received, not so much for the size of the barn but simply because it is a barn on a working farm. I knew the project would create a portal into the past, when joiners were routinely cutting barns to meet the farmer's needs, a task I have long dreamt about.

The Frosts obtained a grant to help pay for the site prep and foundation, followed by the felling of white pine, red oak, ash, black cherry, poplar, locust, and

*(continued on page 6)*

## A New New World Dutch Barn (continued from page 5)



Photo 2. The completed frame.

maple. After several discussions on design, we arrived at the New World Dutch barn for its simple joinery, versatile open spaces, haylofts, and finally because of the mysterious and entrancing beauty of these historic barns. The ground floor however was framed with flared jowled posts and English tie joints in order to maximize clearance for the tractor by bringing the plates and tie beams closer together. Cutting began in the fall of 2009 with Simon Frost, myself, and some farm help, namely Ben Marcus, now a skilled cutter. We started by building a small out building for the tractor and implements before moving on to the main barn. Cutting was often interrupted to get the pigs back in, cut fire wood, jar sauerkraut, etc., along with my going off to work other projects here and there to keep food on my table. By the end of February we were ready for a raising but had to wait a grueling three weeks for the big event. This waiting was much more difficult than cutting throughout the winter months.

On March 21st the crane pulled in early in the morning only to get stuck on the steep, muddy driveway. The

local excavator was waiting atop the hill to pull him up as we watched in great relief! About twenty skilled carpenters and farmers also showed up and the raising began. The 48'x54' New World Dutch barn was assembled and Simon and I fastened the fir bow to the rafter's peak by 2:30pm, leaving plenty of time for socializing with the large turnout of friends, family, and wider community. There was a strong feeling of relief for us, but also sheer amazement over how well and fast the raising went. Deeper than that however was a feeling of history, of a farming community, of "the way things used to be." This feeling brought tears to one of my builder friend's eyes and it seemed as though everyone was greatly touched by this window into the past. Deeper still however, was being near that barn and feeling its own strong but quiet spirit, made from all those trees, and I myself was simply overwhelmed by it. It was a great honor to help that barn come into existence, and to realize these barns are alive like anything else.



Photo 3. Detail, showing the year "2010" inscribed on one of the anchorbeams.

## Images from the Past



Figure 1. J. N. Ayer Farm, Plymouth, VT, in a view dating to c. 1910. The principal barn on this farm, located east of Rutland, appears to have been a NWD barn, rather than a northern New England barn.



Figure 2. Unidentified farmstead, in a photograph taken between c. 1880 and 1895. Do any of our readers recognize this farm?



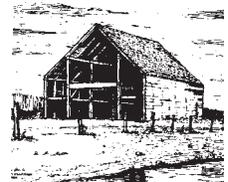
Figure 3. "On Yanney farm, Barn built 1795, Johnstown, NY". Photo dates to c. 1895-1900.

*(continued on page 8)*



Figure 4. Detail from a stock certificate for the First National Bank of Rhinebeck, dated 1882, but engraved as early as 1853, when the bank was established. A NWD barn figures prominently in the upper left hand corner.

## DUTCH BARN PRESERVATION SOCIETY NEWSLETTER



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