

# Living History

A Quarterly Journal of Historical Preservation

Volume 2, Number 2

## Preserving American Livestock Heritage

**A**round the world the extinction of species proceeds at an alarming rate as deforestation, agricultural development, human population expansion and ecological degradation continue. Even the farmyards, pastures and fields of North America no longer support the diverse livestock breeds of 50 to 100 years ago.

About fifteen years ago, agricultural historians in Massachusetts who had recreated early agricultural habitats at Old Sturbridge Village and Plymouth Plantation were hard pressed to find authentic livestock to stock their recreations. The American Minor Breeds Conservancy (AMBC) was conceived out of the recognition of a need to preserve the vanishing American livestock diversity. In this short time AMBC has grown rapidly to become active throughout America and has begun to go worldwide in efforts to preserve endangered breeds.

In 1985 AMBC began a comprehensive list of American livestock breeds to identify those which are in danger of extinction. After careful consideration of census results, the following definitions have been developed.

**RARE** . . . Cattle and horse breeds with less than 200 registrations per year. Sheep, goat, and pig breeds with less than 500 per year.

**MINOR** . . . Cattle, Sheep, goat, and horse breeds with less than 1,000 registrations per year. Pig breeds with less than 2,000 per year.

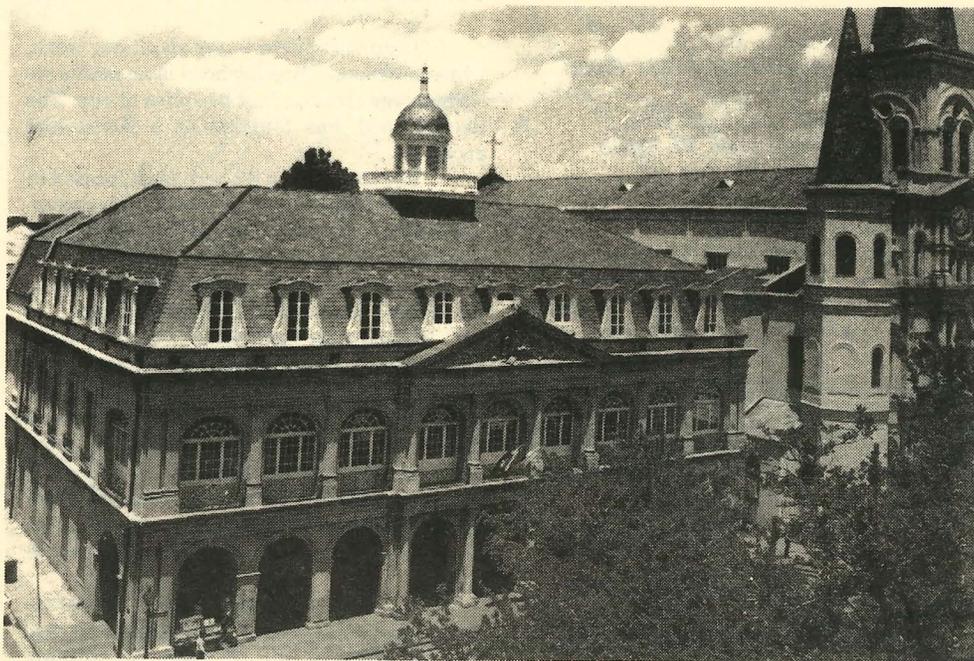
**FERAL** . . . Stocks known to have been running wild for at least 100 years with no known introductions of outside blood.

**WATCH** . . . Breeds whose registrations over a 15-year period have shown a steady decline or where registrations are less than 5,000 per year.

Many of these breeds are associated with a geographic area, a particular time period, or an area settled by a

*Continued on page 7*

## Framing the Cabildo Roof



*The Cabildo, Jackson Square, New Orleans, Louisiana, as it appeared before the 1988 fire. Photo courtesy of Koch & Wilson Architects, New Orleans.*

*"The procedures of French scribe layout could not be more unlike the square rule practice used today in most American shops. Where modern American timber framing is a patchwork quilt of tradition and invention. French scribe is a tapestry, a whole piece of cloth woven over centuries of continuous practice."*

*—Ed Levin, Timber Framing, 1992*

**A**bout 150 years ago in much of America a new system of timber framing called square rule replaced the older European method known as scribe rule. In studying and documenting the old barns of New England and the Northeast there is good evidence of scribe rule in the joining of the timbers and in the marks scribed by the master carpenter to guide the cutting of the joinery and the final erection of the frame. These marks are keys to our understanding of New World scribe rules. These historic techniques were oral traditions developed over generations of carpenters and were put aside and forgotten when the new system of square rule was adopted here.

Detailed drawings and plans, numbers and fractions describing degrees of angle and measurements of length were of no use to the scribe rule carpenters. From a few basic measurements established on a layout floor and without a ruler or tape measure the carpenters moved and matched the timbers in an orderly and deliberate choreography, leveling, plumbing and scribing and joinery. Finally the timbers were coded with a series of chisel cuts or the marks of the boss's race knife, locating their position in the finished frame.

Recently a group of experienced American timber framers had the opportunity to work under the direction of a French timber framer, Frederic Brilliant, a member of *Compagnons du Devoir*, the ancient French trade guild, who is trained in the method

*Continued on page 5*

## COMMUNICATIONS

### TO THE EDITOR:

Well done on *Living History*. I have some feeling for what it has been like getting started, and wish you the best of luck.

Enclosed is our current *Directory*, the *Fall Rag*, an info sheet on S.W.E.A.T. (Society of Workers in Early Arts and Trades) and a membership form in case you run into someone who wants to join.

Fred H. Bair, Jr.  
Wordwright & Odd Hack  
S.W.E.A.T.  
606 Lake Lena Blvd.  
Auburndale, FL 33823

### DEAR FRED,

Thanks for your nice letter. Enclosed is \$8 for a S.W.E.A.T. membership I'm grateful to learn of your organization. I enjoyed reading your *Fall Rag* and

## LIVING HISTORY

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and appreciate its wealth of information and commentary.

With over 1,000 membership and growing nationwide, S.W.E.A.T. certainly represents a group active in living history. That you include workers in all the old crafts with such a good representation from across America is to the credit of your Council of Twelve.

Peter Sinclair  
Editor, Publisher &  
Old Hack, 61

### TO THE EDITOR:

Thanks for your letter about our work. Christiansbrunn Brotherhood is an active religious organization, not a replica of one. The Brotherhood was founded as a Harmonist group.

The cloister is a 63-acre farm located in the Mahantongo Valley of Central Pennsylvania. It is run without a hierarchy of priests or ministerse. Each is equal in all things. This belief is based in the German Pietists, Sectarians and Quakers of early Pennsylvania.

We are an historically based cloister. We plow with oxen (a rare German/Austrian Breed—Pinzgauers), light with candles, haul water from the spring and preserve log and timber-frame buildings in the valley by documenting them and moving others to the cloister and rebuilding them. Our devotion is expressed in our work, *Tsu Bluga iss tsu baeta* (to plow is to pray). We believe in self-sufficiency.

We have a strong outreach program with local schools and do many historical festivals showing how we make our clothing from flax. We will be back at Landis Valley Farm Museum this year for their festivals. We were recently blessed to receive the donation of an entire printing shop, all hand-operated. With it we will soon be publishing a monthly newsletter for our associate members, those who live off the cloister.

Our member organizations are the Fellowship for Intentional Communities, and the

Communal Studies Organization. The address for both is, Center for communal Studies, University of Southern Indiana, Evansville, IN 47712. Good people doing good work.

Sincerely,  
Bro. Johannes Zingendorf  
RD Box 1449  
Pitman, PA 17964

### TO THE EDITOR:

Dear Peter,  
Thanks for your seed sale letter and the copies of *Living History*. A nice issue that, except for some advertisements, I read cover to cover.

With best wishes on your seed projects.

Bob F. Becker  
Rushville, New York

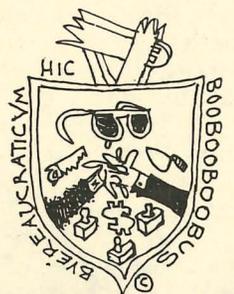
### DEAR BOB:

Let me guess . . . it was either the Alcohol in the Classified, the Canadian Armament Manufacturer in the ALFHAM Report or the Tobacco on page two. Frankly it was the Credit Cards this time I found slightly offensive.

Advertising is a controversial subject these days what with the U.S. Surgeon General directing his forces against an army of cool camels, but you're right; I should set standards and I respect the information and opinions you share. Must be the ALFHAM in you.

How's this, I will refuse ads for Ozone depleting substances, American Indian artifacts and 18th century New England tomb stones. Living History will also support the National Quilting Association and the Schoharie Valley Peacemakers quilting guild, by not accepting advertising from the Smithsonian Institution for any of the 30,000 handmade copies of historic American quilts they plan to have reproduced in China. They will be retailing them at \$200 to \$500 each, a price they could not match with native labor.

In addition, Living History awards its Second Annual Booboo Award to those hard working individuals in the Washington office of the Smithsonian who originated and perpetuated this policy.



Sincerely, Peter

P.S.—The sale of seeds has been slow this spring, but the sowing of the tomato seeds you suggested have brought forth the first pale shoots of two heirloom varieties.



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# Traditional Timberframe Group Meets

About 25 members of the Timber Framers Guild met in January for two days in Northfield, Massachusetts, to share information on historic timber framing relative to projects they have been working on. The Traditional Timber Frame Research and Advisory Group which was formed in 1990 has set the following eight goals.

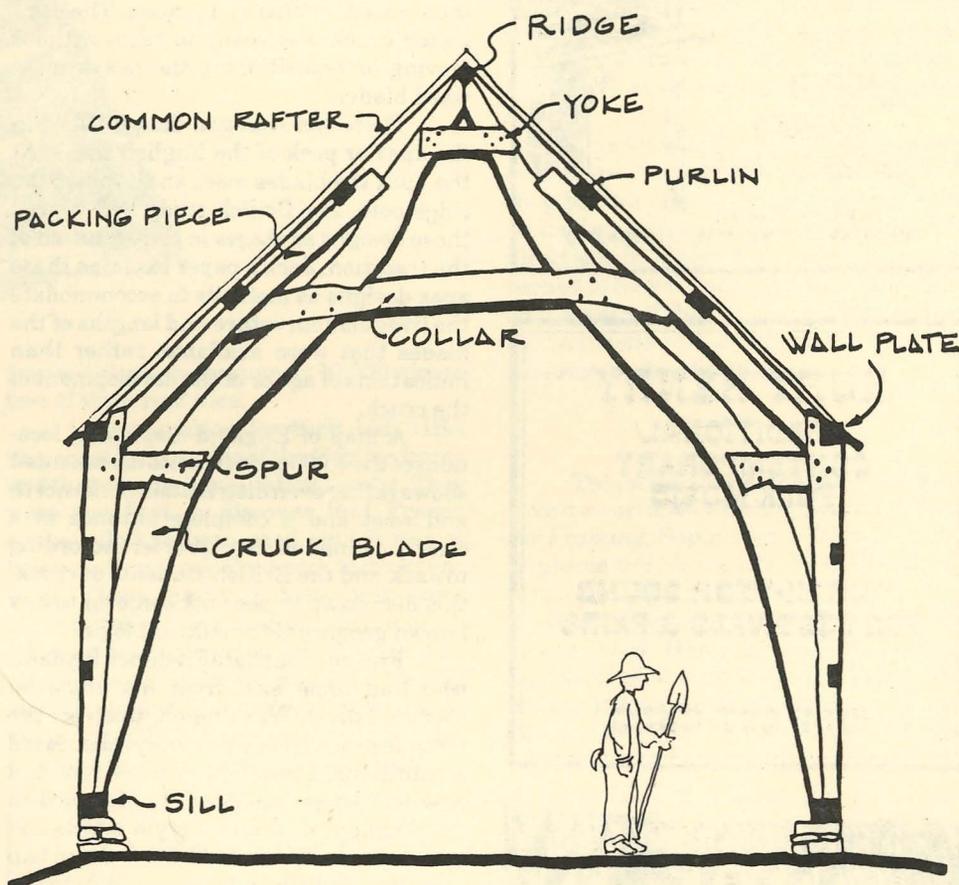
1. To save and/or survey old and unique traditionally timber-framed buildings.
2. To develop a survey form and checklist to be used in cataloging old buildings.
3. To contact appropriate related groups to make them aware of the groups existence and its services.
4. To develop methods to examine the evolution of timber framing, such as the transition from scribe rule to square rule in North America.
5. To develop a shared archive.
6. To create appropriate restoration policies.
7. To promote the use of traditional materials and joinery in contemporary timber framing.
8. To pursue funding from all sources to achieve the aforementioned goals.

The participants come from many places in North America; their experiences included the study, restoration and replication of barns, bridges, and churches.

Newman Gee from Maine brought with him a knee of tamarack wood, an L-shaped piece about 4 feet long, which he had cut in a local swamp. The knee, the strongest piece of angled lumber available, is formed by the lower trunk and an extended root. It is used extensively in building wooden ships and in some very early framing. Newman described the characteristics of knees and how they are gotten. He is carrying on a trade which has a long history in Maine where the tamarack is still known by its old name, "hack," or what the Indians called "hackmatack."

Greg Huber from New Jersey reported on the clean-up and documentation being done on the 18th-century Wemple barn in Albany County, New York, by the Dutch Barn Preservation Society. Greg emphasized that the Dutch barn, which represents perhaps the earliest New World tradition of timber framing, is in need of urgent attention. Perhaps less than 500 examples remain in New York and New Jersey, and they are disappearing fast without good documentation.

Jack Sobon of Windsor, Massachu-



*Cruck Frame drawing by Jack Sobon. Farmer by Robert Bissel.*

etts, submitted a short paper concerning a 1981 report of the Council for British Archaeology. A marked contrast to America's recent and slow-growing interest in its historic timber framing, the report is a documentation and study of 3,000 examples of cruck frames in the British Isles, with extensive research as to the origin and spread of the tradition.

The cruck was introduced into England during the 1200s and gained wide and long-lasting popularity there. It is one of the most primitive framing systems and this simplicity may account for its continued use in the English countryside. Jack pointed out that "in poorer areas, surviving cruck frames seem to utilize more lap joinery than mortise and tenon."

Though mortise and tenon joints are superior structurally, lap joints saved much labor, both in cutting and handling the timbers. Jack believes all the cruck frames in England were cut by scribe rule, a process of matching and scribing the timbers in their intended positions without the use of a ruler or elaborate plans. Using

scribe rule and lap joints, the horizontal timber called the collar could be connected  
*Continued on next page*

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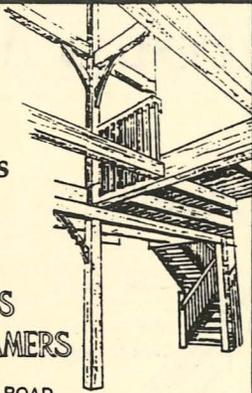
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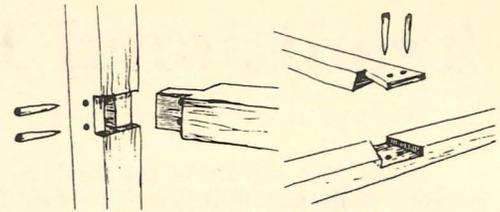
to the vertical timbers called blades in a simple process. The heavy blades were positioned on the ground and the collar laid upon them and scribed. The collar was then rolled over, the joinery cut, and the collar rolled back. The three timbers were then joined, drilled and pinned. The completed cruck was ready to raise without moving or repositioning the heavy awkward blades.

There were several designs used in the apex or peek of the English cruck. At the apex the blades meet and support the ridge pole. The British study had viewed these designs as stages in the evolution of the tradition. Jack's paper explains these apex designs as methods to accommodate the irregular curvature and lengths of the blades that were available, rather than indications of age or of the development of the cruck.

A map of England displaying locations of the 3,000 cruck frames documented shows rather even distribution in the north and west and a complete absence in a clearly defined eastern quarter. According to Jack and the British students of cruck, this demarcation does not conform to any known geographic or cultural logic.

French expatriate Frederick Brillant, who had come east from his home on Vashon Island, Washington, to direct the Cabildo project (see cover story), discussed a traditional French barn truss roof and how its design was used by Mansard in development of the roof style which had such a wide spread influence on urban architecture both in Europe and America during the 19th century.

Because stone buildings predominate in France, timber framing is almost synonymous with roof framing there. Frederick explained how the French truss is to some extent a tradition that developed from the use of second growth forests and the scarcity of large and tall trees. It was a method which utilized short, irregular timbers to span wide spaces. It is the antithesis of many American barn-framing traditions, which were established at a time and place when a virgin forest was



Mortise and tenon joint. Dovetail lap joint. Drawing by Robert Bissel.

available to the builder.

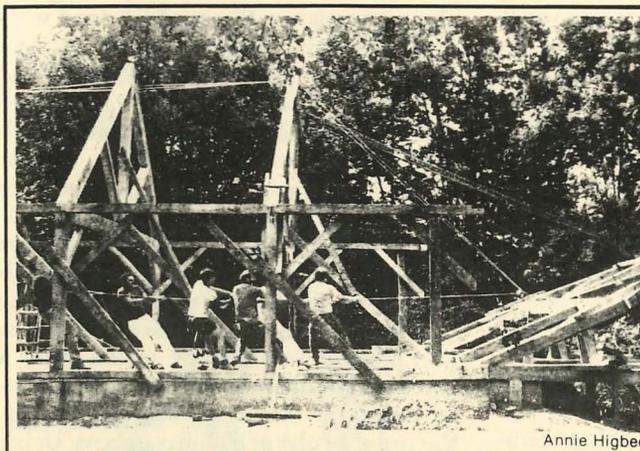
On the final day of the conference, Richard Lawson of Winchester, new Hampshire, spoke on a recent project he and a team of carpenters had completed. It was the replication of the massive oak frame of the Harmsworth tithe barn in England, one of the most impressive of the English tithe barns. These cathedral-like buildings were less functioning barns than storehouses for "tithe" or taxes paid to the church and nobility, he explained. The Harmsworth barn was built at a time of peasant unrest in England so that its architectural message was a bishop's statement of ecclesiastical grandeur and authority, an effective device for maintaining the status quo. Unfortunately for those who struggled for their freedom from tithe, the barns are awfully lovely to look at.

Richard, an early practitioner and educator in the recent American timber-frame revival, stressed the need to "institutionalize" the guidelines for study and teaching of the timber framing craft. This led to a lively discussion and finally someone asked him, "So how would you join this institution?" and he answered, "You would document and photograph 200 barns to become an apprentice." This met with enthusiastic approval. The meeting was adjourned and everyone went back to work.

\*\*\*

If you you are interested in the Traditional Timber Framers Research and Advisory Group write:

**TTRAG Timber Framers Guild**  
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Framing the Cabildo Roof continued ...



Interior of The Cabildo Roof before the 1988 Fire. Photo courtesy of Koch & Wilson Architects.

of French scribe rule still practiced in his homeland. His direction of the Cabildo framing has introduced a living tradition of scribe rule that could have lasting effects on the methods of future timber framing in America.

In 1988, fire destroyed the timber frame roof of the Cabildo in New Orleans, Louisiana. Built originally in 1751 by the French as a police station and rebuilt by the Spanish in 1788 after a fire, it served as city hall during the years of Spanish rule. Today the Cabildo is home to the Louisiana State Museum.

In 1788 the design of the Cabildo presented a two-story facade with flat roof in neoclassic style. The L-shaped stone structure occupied a rectangle roughly 100x70 and contained 12,000 square feet of floor space. Soon the Baroness Pontalba built a pair of three story apartment buildings close by and they out scaled the Cabildo.

Unable to tolerate this the city authorities commissioned a Mansard roof with many dormers to be built atop the 30-foot stone walls of the Cabildo, thus adding a third story and 23 feet to the height, plus an octagonal cupola to emphasize the building's importance. It was this timber frame Mansard roof, built by Louisiana carpenters in 1849, which was destroyed by fire four years ago.

Instead of adopting modern construction techniques and materials to replicate the appearance of the old roof of the Cabildo, the city decided to restore it with traditional framing, using rough-cut timbers held together with wooden pins. Bids for its construction, one of the largest framing commissions in recent history, were requested and *Historic Building Associates* of Winchester, new Hampshire was awarded the contract.

HBA, a consortium of traditional timber framers from three states, had faced stiff competition in winning the contract to transform 800 timbers of rough-cut cypress and yellow pine into the complex

framework needed to support 10,000 square feet of slate roof tiles.

In preparation for their bid, HBA inspected the remains of the Cabildo frame and that of a similar building nearby. They were the first to discover that French scribe rule had been used, and it was at this time they hired Frederick to direct the work. There may well have been some sighs of relief among other bidders when HBA got the contract because the timbers which were to be used to construct the roof were irregular and twisted and the L-shaped roof had many angles. It was becoming clear that this was a job better

suitable to the direct simplicity of scribe over the complex mathematics which would have been necessary with square.

The contrast between modern and traditional practice was most apparent in the design department. In submitting bids for the job, one architectural firm produced 250 pages of construction documents and 31 pages of framing plans. On the other hand Brillants working drawings total four sheets.

This winter the 800 timbers, many over 40 feet long were transported to HBA's shop in New Hampshire where they were scribed and cut under Frederick Brilliant's direction. In March the timber frame returned to New Orleans and was assembled on the walls of the Cabildo, a happy ending for Louisiana and an important event for America timber framing.

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This article has made use of material from two articles which appeared in *Timber Framing*, September 1991 by Norman Deplume and March 1992 by Ed Levin, For further information, write: Timber Framers Guild of North America, P.O. Box 1046, Keene, New Hampshire 03431. It also made use of Marita Wiser's article in the winter 1992 *Joiners' Quarterly*, P.O. Box 249, Snowville Rd., West Brownfield, Maine 04010.

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## CORN REPORT

When Joe Borries returned from World War II to his farm in Teutopolis, Illinois, he thought that all the old open-pollinated varieties of field corn had been replaced by the new hybrids. In 1965 a relative told him about some nearby farmers who still grew the old varieties and he began to collect and plant the seed. Today the Borries have created a lively business selling the seed of four local varieties of open-pollinated corn.

"The farmer that just goes out and tries to bust bins is not suited for this kind of corn," says Joe's son, Gerald. "But, for the farmer who doesn't have the best ground and doesn't like to fertilize heavy, open-pollinated corn can make a lot of sense when it's going to end up being fed on the farm. Many of our customers buy our corn in order to produce silage. Open-pollinated corn generally has a lot more leafy vegetation."

"The way this farm lies, Joe says, "a lot of farmers wouldn't like it. We've got strips of woods and such that divide fields off from one another. But for our purposes it's perfect. Our biggest cross-pollination threat is from our neighbors who plant corn up against us. When that happens, we compensate by not allowing at least the first 40 rows, closest to the nearby corn, to be used for seed. In fact, we tell customers that if they intend to save seed, they should



Top right: Joe Borries; center: left to right—Leonard, Gerald and Joe; bottom left: Joe and Leonard. All photos by Roger Peach.



take the same precaution. One thing that slows down sales for us is that we try to impress on farmers that they can select their own seed from this year's crop to plant next year."

"We grow and sell four varieties." Leonard wrote Living History, "*Reids Yellow Dent* was developed by James L. Reid in Northern Illinois in 1846 and was crossed the next year with an earlier yellow corn. From this cross the

*Reid* was developed to mature in 110 days. *Boone County White* was developed in Boone County, Indiana by James Riley in 1876. We believe that *Krugs* is an offshoot of *Reids*. Its characteristics are similar. *Henry Moore* was developed in our own Effingham County. We found farmers from 20 to 100 miles of our home growing OP corn and got our start from these people. Gerald and I sell the corn now, although we couldn't get it all done without dad's help."

	Protein	Lysine	Maturity (days)
Henry Moore (yellow)	11.3	0.38	110
Krugs (yellow)	10.0	0.30	90
Reids (yellow)	9.9	0.31	110
Boone County White	7.8	—	120

P.S.—If you need any more info please let us know. Thank you.

Leonard J. Borries  
Rt. 4, Box 79, Teutopolis, IL 62467  
Phone: (217) 857-3377



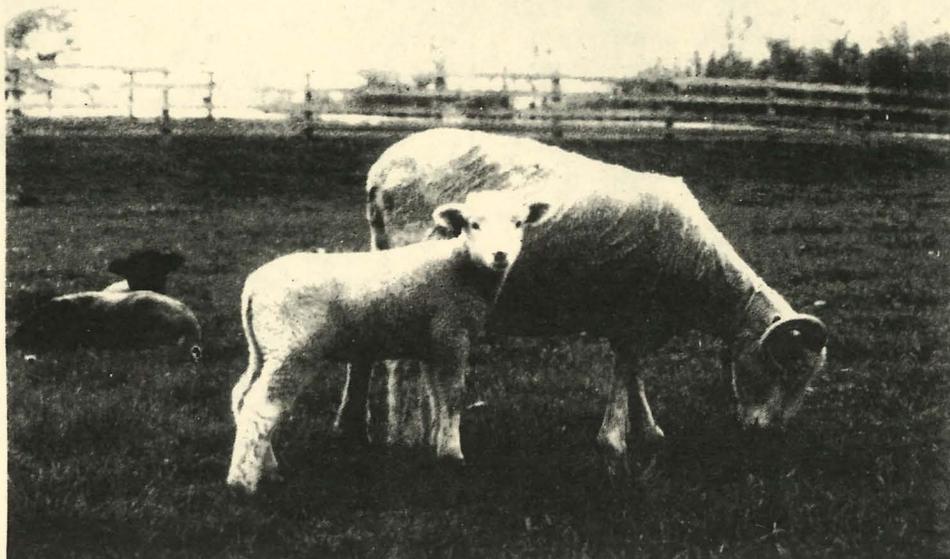
## Preserving American Livestock Heritage continued ...

specific ethnic group. The milking Devons, one of our rarest cattle breeds, was very important during the 18th and 19th centuries in the Northeast as dairy, beef, and draught animals. More closely associated with the Midwest is the Milking Shorthorn, the first improved breed of cattle, they were formerly known as Durham Cattle.

Many of the older breeds have lost popularity because they were "generalists." Modern agriculture demands "specialists," one type of chicken for eggs, another for meat, one type of cattle for milk, another for beef. Some breeds have declined in numbers simply because their attributes have been overlooked in the commercial context.

Living history museums and farms can offer a legitimate and important niche to threatened breed groups of appropriate animals. Livestock adds dynamism to historic sites. Animals help to "trademark" and personalize a museum. They attract the public and bring them back, time after time, to experience the seasonal cycles, to see the new lambs and calves in the spring; the shearing in early summer; and the processing of meat, leather and horn during the harvest seasons associated with fall and winter.

Don Bixby, DVM  
Executive Director AMBC



*The Horned Dorset ewe and lamb are among Lake Farmpark's (England) dozen breeds of sheep. Photo by Linda Nicolas. Courtesy of AMBC News.*

The Annual Meeting of the American Minor Breeds Conservancy is being held this year, June 12 & 13, at Old Salem which is the living history farm at Wake Forest University, Winston-Salem, North Carolina. It will be followed there, June 14 through 18, by the Annual Meeting of ALFHAM (Association for Living History Farms and Agricultural Museums). ALFHAM plans a full schedule of events, meetings and workshops. Titles and speakers include: Don Bixby, explaining how to

manage livestock at historic sites; and Rabbit Goody asking, "What's wrong with this reproduction textile?" LH plans to attend.

For information write: AMBC, Box 477, Pittsboro, NC 27312; or Old Salem Inc., P.O. Box F, Salem Station, Winston-Salem, NC 27108.

## SEED REPORT

Since publication of the winter issue of Living History which focussed on heirloom seeds, one oversight was discovered and two important additions arrived in the mail.

The oversight was Seed Saver's Exchange of Decorah, Iowa, an organization which has been a pioneer in the field of saving and exchanging heirloom seeds. Kent and Diane Whealy began with three heirloom varieties in 1973 and today the organization they founded maintains thousands, including 2,200 types of beans and 700 tomatoes.

Soon after publication mail arrived from Monticello and Mount Vernon describing seed projects at both of these historic Virginia sites. Both offer excellent written material and a selection of historic seeds and plants associated with these two



*1880-90 photograph of George Washington's 16-sided barn, constructed on the Mount Vernon Estates between 1792 & 1794. The barn is no longer in existence. Photo courtesy Mount Vernon Ladies' Association.*

important American farmers. The Thomas Jefferson Center offers a wide selection of seeds at \$1.75 a package. They include perennials like Blackberry Lily and Great Golden Knapweed. Roses, classic flower bulbs, and sparkling Virginia-made cider are also available from Monticello.

Mount Vernon sells seeds as well as boxwood cuttings from George Washington's original boxwood hedges. Re-

cently they provided Jackson and Perkins seed company with over 400,000 packages of their flower seeds to be distributed by them to customers. Mount Vernon also announced a \$1.75 million grant from the W.K. Kellogg Foundation of Battle Creek, Michigan, to "support a new exhibition area that will focus on Washington's accomplishments off the battlefield and outside government, when he was home in Virginia struggling to make a living as an innovative farmer."

Neil W. Horstman, Resident Director of Mount Vernon, which is owned and managed by the Mount Vernon Ladies' Association noted, "We are determined to introduce Americans to a side of George Washington that has always remained in the background. Washington was happiest and most creative when he was at Mount Vernon experimenting with new crops and unusual fertilizers."

Included in the Kellogg grant, and of special interest to this issue of Living

*Continued on next page*

*SEED REPORT continued ...*

History, are the plans to rebuild Washington's 16 sided barn built in 1792. A program of internship from such organizations as 4-H and National FFA will enable students to participate in the planning and construction of the barn which will include handmade bricks and wood from mature trees harvested on the estate.

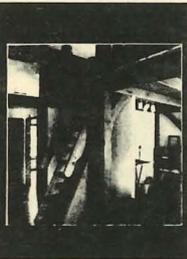
**Seed Savers Exchange**  
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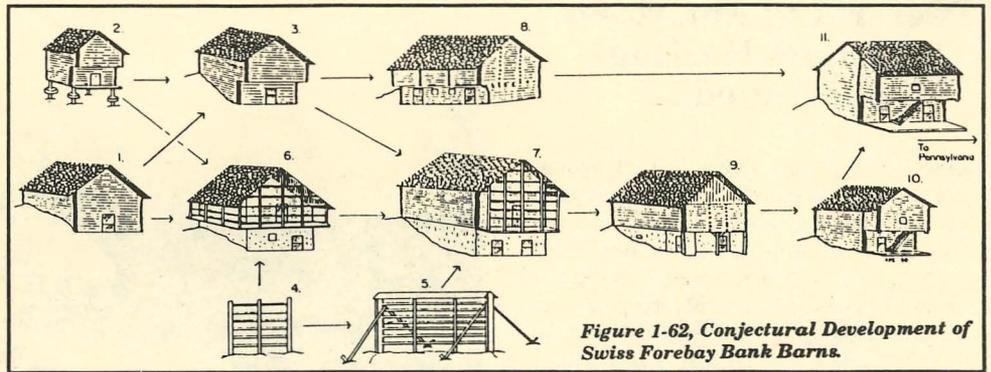


Figure 1-62, Conjectural Development of Swiss Forebay Bank Barns.

**BOOK REPORT**

Robert F. Ensminger has kindly allowed Living History to reproduce an illustration from his forthcoming book, *Pennsylvania Barns, an Examination of the Origin, Evolution, Form and Distribution of Forebay Bank Barns in North America* which will be published in September 1992 by Johns Hopkins University Press. The barns and material culture of Pennsylvania have probably been better documented and studied than that of any other region of America, yet Ensminger's book will introduce new and perhaps controversial ideas to our understanding of this important barn, a tradition which was established in southeastern Pennsylvania in the early 18th century and was eventually taken north and west into Ohio, Wisconsin and beyond.

Unlike the English three bay barns or the New World Dutch barns which had no basements and whose threshing floors rested on the ground, the Pennsylvania barn was built into a hillside and the threshing floor was in a loft, above a stone basement where the cattle were kept. On one side a bank of earth gave the farmer access to the loft and on the other side an overhang, called the forebay, gave shelter

to the basement stable doors.

"This book is the result of 15 years of research and fieldwork, covering thousands of miles across North America and Europe." Ensminger writes in the Introduction, "It represents the first attempt to integrate and update the relevant research about the Pennsylvania barn's origin, development and diffusion—those aspects which have produced the distinctive agricultural landscapes characterized and sometimes dominated by its presence."

One intriguing contribution to the Pennsylvania barn which Ensminger points out in the drawing illustrated here is the incorporation of the chischner rack (numbers 4 and 5) into the forebay of the Swiss barn. The chischner was a device used until recently in Alpine regions to dry grain in the field and in some places it was adapted to the barn forming a talina or open forebay (numbers 6 and 7). The talina was later closed (number 9, 10 and 11) and Ensminger finds evidence of this origin in the Pennsylvania barn.

Ensminger made an important observation in 1988 when he returned to Europe to re-examine some of the barns singled out as potential prototypes of the Pennsylvania barn. "Things had changed very little in the ensuing ten years," he writes, "and the hundreds of barns previously described are still in use even though many are two and three hundred years old. These structures may very well survive longer than their more recent American cousins where changes in agriculture and land use have resulted in a rapid rate of barn destruction."

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## BARN REPORT

Three half hour videos called *Brainstorming* were produced in 1990 by a student at the University of Iowa and were aired locally on Iowa City public access television. What the tapes lack in production polish is well compensated for by their intelligent examination of 10 barns in central Iowa.

The tours are guided by Emily Roberts, a "farmer's wife" with a lifelong interest in local history and 30 years of looking into local barns. She takes us first to the large and unusual, then to the Pennsylvania over-bay types, and finally to the round and multi-sided barns. Along with a description of the barn, each program includes an in-depth interview with an owner describing the family history, uses and personal recollections of the barn.

Paraphrasing Eric Sloan and others like him who have helped us discover our barns, Emily begins each program, "The era of barns is nearing an end in America. Barn ruins are a common site in the rural Iowa landscape today. They are a visual and material remnant of the past, one way of looking at the lives of a people, what they felt was necessary."

If you would like to see the tape or communicate with a barn preservationist, write: Emily Roberts, 4716 Kansas Ave. S.W., Iowa City, IA 52240

\*\*\*

In March, eleven companies of carpenters from the Timber Framers Guild raised the oak frame of a small Ohio threshing barn. The site of the raising was in Columbus, Ohio, at the Ameriflora '92 exhibition.

The pre-cut timbers were brought to the site from Guild shops in many states. The event was well covered by media. The building will house part of the *Victory*

*Garden* display and will be used as a backdrop for several installments of the how-to garden show on PBS.

Ameriflora '92 is an international gardening and horticulture exposition open from April 20 to October 12. The 80 acre exhibition of flower and vegetable gardens, some from the Netherlands, Morocco, and Japan is expected to attract four million visitors. If you enjoy pleasant and well-manicured crowds Living History recommends it.

\*\*\*

A workshop in traditional timber framing is being held September 30 to October 4 in Massachusetts at the Hancock Shaker Village. It will be conducted by Dave Carlon, one of the Historic Building Associates, and Jack Sobon. If you are interested contact: Dave Carlon, P.O. Box 223, Windsor, MA 01270; phone (413) 684-3612.

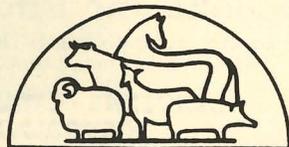
A Timber Frame Guild Workshop in compound roof layout is being held May 9 in Washington at the Cascade Joinery. It will be conducted by Doug Nash of Timberframe Homes, and Jeff Arvin.

*Scantling*, the Guild's newsletter reports, "Mastery of compound roof framing opens the door to the creation of a wide range of handsome building forms. Doug and Jeff will present a shop proven approach based on similar triangles and simple mathematics using a hand-held calculator. No computers or computer nerds are required." If you are interested contact: The Cascade Joinery, 1336 E. Hemmi Road, Everson, WA 98247.

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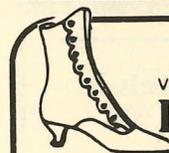
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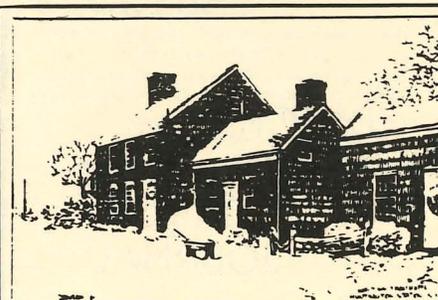
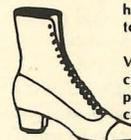
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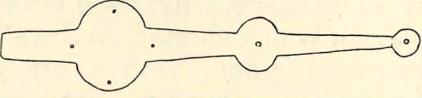
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**OLD TIME POWER REPORT continued...**

wide movement. Stemgas of Lancaster, Pennsylvania, is the publishing giant in the field. Their *Gas Engine Magazine* alone has over 20,000 subscribers and their 1992 18th Annual Steam and Gas Show Directory is just out. If you plan to visit rural America this summer, get it. It lists over 600 events. New York State alone has 26 regional groups who sponsor some lively shows. Living History recommends Old Time Days, August 1 & 2, organized by the Hudson Valley Old Time Power Association from Hudson, New York.

To buy the directory, send \$5 to Directory, Stemgas Publishing Co., Box 326, Lancaster, PA 17603. For directions to Old Time Days, write Frank P. Pflegl, 5214 Cauterskill Creek Road, Catskill, NY 12414.

the last paragraph ...

For the people of Liberia, Africa to recover and reconstruct their nation, Thomasson writes, urban Liberians and outsiders must learn to value and respect the intellectual and cultural achievements of Liberia's precolonial people. Cultural Survival is an organization which focuses on issues of native people and their problems of survival in the modern world.

For more information write: Cultural Survival, 53A Church Street, Cambridge, MA 02138.

**Guelph 1992  
June 9 through 13**

The Timber Framers Guild of North America will be holding its annual meeting in Canada. The conference will include workshops, seminars, barbecues and softball games. It will be held on the campus of Guelph University in Ontario. The Guild welcomes one and all and suggests you bring the family.

*Scantlings* reports, "The Guild conference staff will go all out to make visitors welcome and show them a wonderful vacation. Check out Toronto, explore the

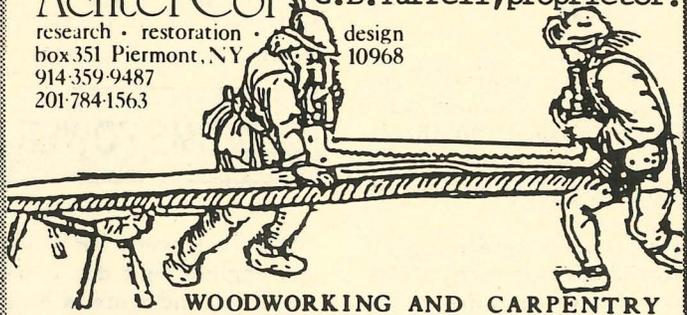
**CORRECTIONS**

Top photograph, page 7. The retired farmers are Kermit Clum (left) and Stanley Van Vohrees (right). They sort of look alike but they say that they're not related.

Liberia's Agriculture a Casualty of War, page 3. Editor's error. Substitute for

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Niagara escarpment, take the bus tour to the Ontario Agricultural Museum, visit Niagara Falls, tour nearby Amish and Mennonite communities, take in a Blue Jay's game. Day care will be available at both the conference and the bridge."

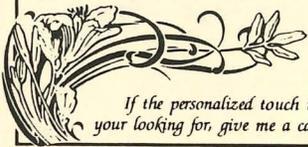
This year's cooperative timber frame project will be the construction of a 120 foot clear span covered bridge across the Speed River in Ontario. It is expected that thousands will view this event.

The Guild's conference is rich and varied. Seminars subjects include: forest management, timber frame philosophy, sacred timber buildings of Eastern Europe, and the vernacular architecture of Holland.

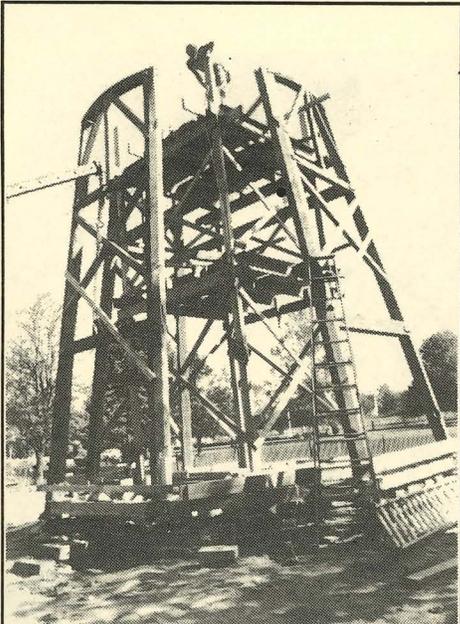
Early conference registration is advised. Contact: TFGNA, P.O. Box 1046, Keene, New Hampshire 03431; phone (603) 357-1706.

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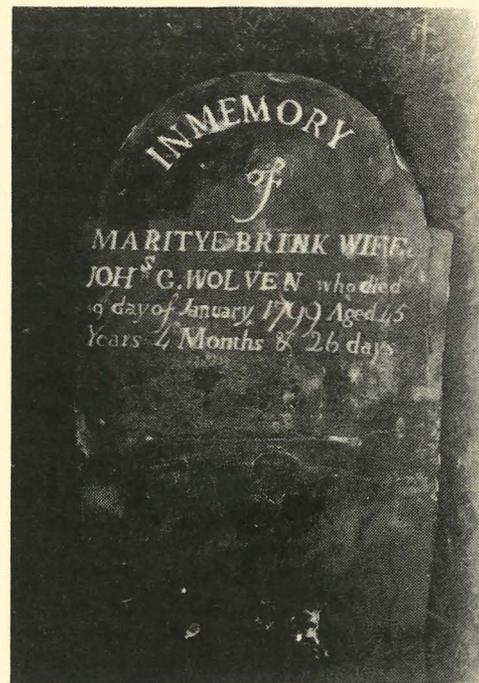
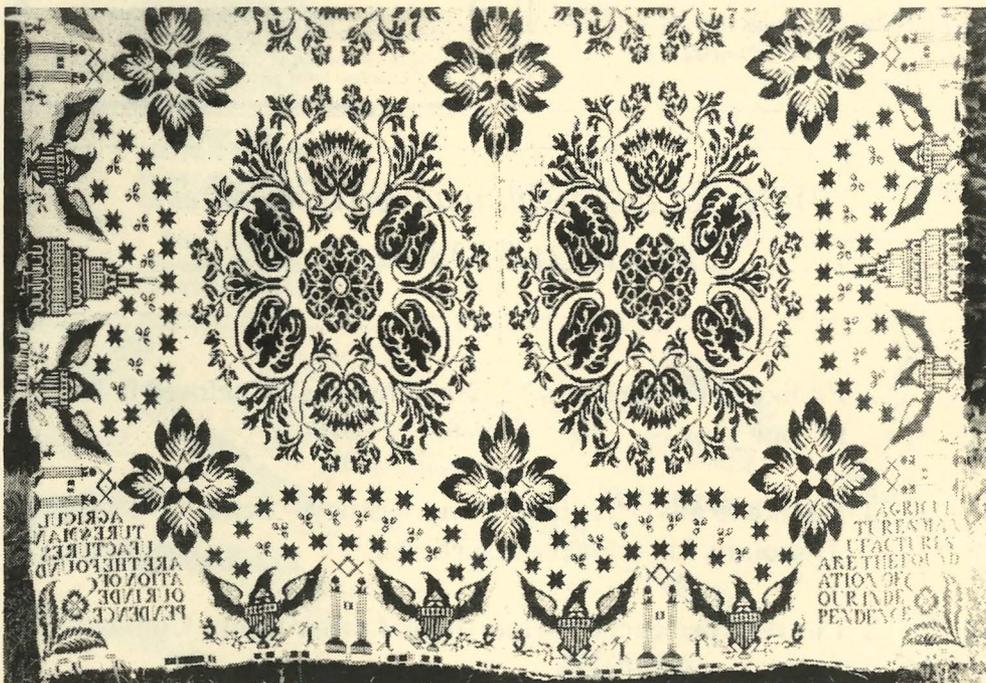
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Left: Mid-19th century Hudson Valley blue and white coverlet, whereabouts unknown. Right: Tombstone, Saugerties, NY. The incised lettering on the dark stone has been made more visible with shaving soap lather.

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