



**From the Editor...**The Five-day Barn Repair Workshop at the Palatine Farmstead in Rhinebeck, Dutchess County, was a great success. Bob Hedges and Conrad were the instructors, Devin and Eric Schatzel of Hurley, Ulster County, returned from last year's workshop. Eric brought his forge and made nails and demonstrated forge welding on hooks he made. Reynolds Tate, a local contractor with interest in the historic, spent the week with us. Joanne Engle, of the farmstead committee delivered the lunches and refreshments, Eric Bramer, who did the workshop and archaeology last year, returned for a day with Roberta from, Hartgen Associates to help out and Chris Farrington from Philmont, gave us a day. Many people read the sign on the front lawn facing Route 9 and stopped by to see what was going on and have a chat. We were glad to see old friends like Brian Kennedy, contractor from, Accord, Ulster County, with his young son and daughter, on their way home from visiting his wife and their very new son in the Rhinebeck hospital, John Adriance, farmer from south of here in the Krum Elbow near Hyde Park, with family associations to the Farmstead, and John Sharinger, carpenter from Olive. We met many new friends, including Laurie Dahlberg who is buying the 1787 Feller/Newmark House in Rhinebeck and has a friend who speaks Dutch.



(continued next page)

**Day-4 Barn Repair Workshop  
Palatine Farmstead, Rhinebeck, NY**

**FROM THE JOURNAL** =====



**Wednesday, April 26** I left from Hurley, Ulster County, NY, with John Kaufman for the 3-day 73rd Annual Meeting of the Early American Industries Association (EAIA) being held this year at Williamsburg, Virginia. I was especially interested in what I could learn about the Ulster County Historical Society's tool collection and perhaps pick up some books on the subject. About 250 EAIA members attended, tours of Colonial Williamsburg and the Jamestown Restoration were made as well as displays of tools and books. EAIA is a non academic organization that publishes a newsletter and a quarterly journal filled with informative, well researched articles.  
**Thursday, May 5** Arrived at Schiphol airport outside Amsterdam, The Netherlands, with Bob Hedges, for the **First Old World Hooiberg (Hay Barrack) Exploration**, a 5-day tour arranged by Wim Lamphen and his **Society for the Preservation of Knowledge of Hay Barracks in The Netherlands (SKHN)** We came to visit farmsteads in the Provinces of Guelderland and Overijssel, to examine their barracks and with these SKHN students of the form, to meet the farmers, thatchers and carpenters who make and use them. Many of the farmers and tradesmen we met did not speak English well and we are thankful to our SKHN guides for their help in translating for us.

We stayed in Marcelo, east of the Ijssel River where we lodged at Jan ten Tije's family camp ground. On day 3 of our five day tour we explored the region around Marcelo and visited its museum with Jan and Diedrik Roeterdink. It is an area with some land a few hundred feet above sea level, land left by the Ice Age and occupied since the Bronze Age. Marcelo has some low hills they call mountains. In the old-days, murderers and such were judged up on one mountain at a place underneath a roof. Those that were condemned would be taken to another mountain to be hung bellow the open sky. Perhaps this accounts for Gallus (Gallows) Hill, a foothill of the Catskill Mountains, just outside the Village of Hurley, here in Ulster County, New York.

(continued next page)

(From The Editor, continued)

We were able to plumb the front bent of the barn, install a circa 8x10-inch white oak sill, make a 5-foot repair to the hill-side corner post, and construct the rail-and-stile frames for the two harr-hung wagon doors. These circa 11.5x5-foot doors will swing into the barn without metal hinges. They will be the first harr-hung wagon doors built in the Hudson Valley in 200-years. Conrad took a day to straighten the two stiles for the doors from 12-foot long slightly bowed and twisted circa 4x5 white-oak timbers, Deven cut the four ends that will rotate in the four 3-inch holes in the front sill and beam, Bob cut and adzed the six tapered oak stiles and on the last rainy day, inside the barn, many of us cut the joinery of the rails and stiles.

Tuesday, June 13, and perhaps the 14<sup>th</sup>, 9AM - 5PM are set aside to complete and install the harr-hung doors, make nails and complete the siding.

The following Barn Repair Workshop will remove old rotten asphalt shingles and screw down a 5-ridge metal roof. Future plans are to build a pentice roof above the doors and complete the weather-board siding above the doors with one or two Dutch/American owl holes (*martin holes*, J.Fitchen).

Farmers want owls not martins in their barns. We have learned that the Dutch, like the English, call these "owl holes" and our New World holes have somewhat the look of that elusive bird.



The Owl Hole  
for a New World Dutch Barn

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(from The Journal, continued)

There are thought to be 4,000 hay barracks still standing in The Netherlands. Marcelo is in an area rich with them. Barracks are of many regional styles as are the farms and buildings throughout The Netherlands. The short classic book on the subject, with an English translation, is by R.C. Hecker, *Historical Types of Farms*, published by SHBO, Arnheim, 1991. It places Marcelo in the east of the large central region of the *hallehuis* or aisled-house group.

This is the region of origin for the New World Dutch barn and house with their anchorbeam H-bent construction. The aisled plan of our barn derives from the ancient Saxon house where animals were kept in the side aisles facing out. In the later *hallehuis*, animals were



**Peter Storiman's Old Saxonian Farm, Blaricum, photographs by Wim Lanphen**

(left) Peter Sinclair and Bob Hedges approach their first 4-pole hooiberg. In the foreground is a wheel-plow. In the background is an H-bent aisle barn.

(right) The author climbs the aluminum ladder into the loft while the farmer arranges the hay bales and bundles of reed. This thatched barrack has a roof that is framed with a traditional rafter system but the poles are set outside the plates and raised with a winch, cable and pulley. The poles do not have holes for pins to support the roof but depend on the cables.

kept in the side-aisles facing the center-aisle (*deef*) and the family lived at one end with an open hearth. This developed to the still present historic form in the Netherlands where the animals and living space are connected in the same building, but separated by a wall against which a jambless hearth with smoke hood was built. It is a working farm house to which eventually a separate barn, brick kitchen, framed sheds and hay barracks might be added.

The living space in the early farmhouses we visited in The Netherlands have taller ceilings than our Hudson Valley descendants and their ceilings are lightly framed. The smoke hood for the jambless fireplace is supported internally with metal straps. In the New World, the massive hood-beam and trimmers that support the smoke hood are perhaps the result both of the separation of house and barn and the abundance of wood and lack of iron in the New World.



**Guelderland House Barn  
with overhanging wolf-roof (*wolfdak*)**

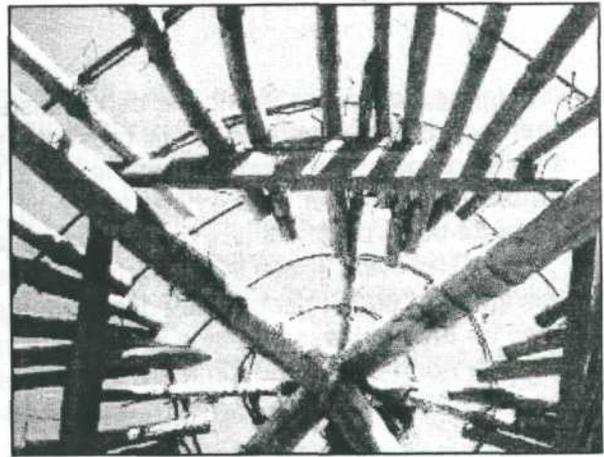
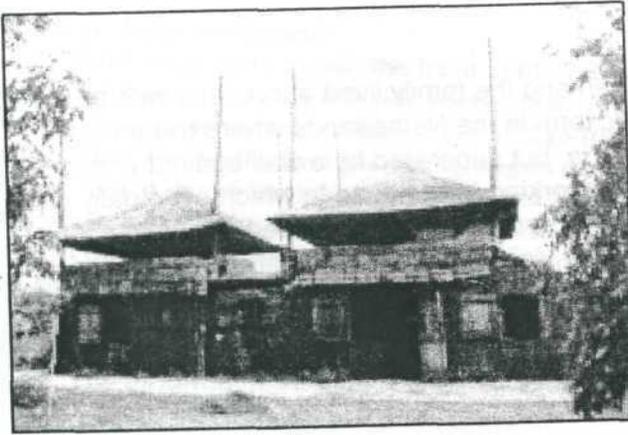


Of the houses and barns examined on our tour, all had anchorbeams (*ankerbalken*) except one that had dekbeams (*dekbalken*). One early barn had a Germanic front end overhang. This barn had raising holes at the bottom of the columns for lifting the bents onto the stone piers. These were the only use of raising holes we found. Many farm buildings have docked-gables (*wolfdaken*) and in some places in Guelderland this forms a large sheltered area at the entrance of the barn.

Farm houses and barns are normally thatched or tiled, often a combination of the two. The tiled slope below the thatch is to shelter the cows in the side aisle. The cattle generate too much moisture for thatch so tiles are used over the aisles. Small twisted bundles of straw were placed under and between the tiles to make the roof more weather proof.

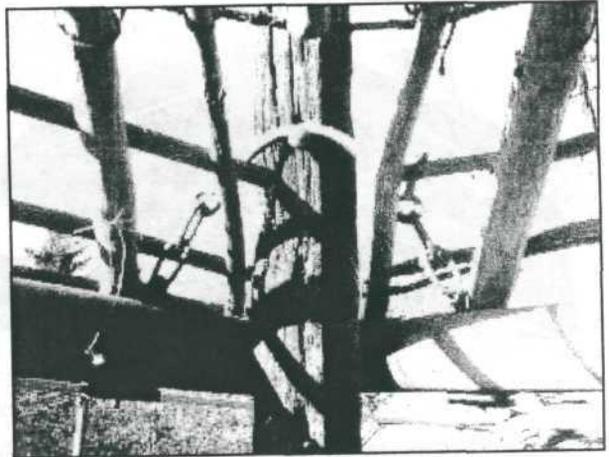
Markelo is in an area where the traditional thatched hay barrack is still part of many farmsteads. The most actively used, and most are not, are being replaced with 6-sided metal barracks. These have three poles of metal or cement and the roof is raised with winches, cables and pulleys. The use of the cable began in about 1920. Like the many American barns and silos that stand unused and deteriorating here, this same situation faces the hay barrack in Holland. There is also a deep sense of identity with the thatched barrack and we visited and saw a number of newly built and restored ones.

When we arrived, Wim met us at the airport and drove us about 125-kilometers east to Markelo. Along the way we saw many farms with many types of barracks. from one pole, the umbrella-barrack (*Paraplu*), to six pole barracks and all the numbers between. We visited two Old Saxonian farms in Blaricum, Wim's home village about 20-kilometers east of Amsterdam. The farm of Peter Storimans had the first barrack we visited. Peter maintains a diversified working farm. His barrack is thatched and he repairs it himself as needed. He demonstrated for us the modern tools and method for tying the reed down to the willow lath with wire.



**de Werff Farm Shed-Barrack (*schuurberg*)  
Betuwe region, Province of Gelderland  
photographs from Wim Lamphan**

We drove southwest, crossing the IJssel and Rhine rivers and into the Betuwe region of the Province of Gelderland and arrived at the farm "de Werff" at the origin of the river Zoel, at a place called Zoelmond. The type of double four-pole barrack with additions off three sides that we found there is known as a shed-barrack (*schuurberg*) and is found in the region south of the Rhine. I was familiar with this particular example from Wim's web site (<hooiberg.info.nt>) where he covered its restoration with good photographs.



The two barracks were built originally in 1900 over an existing barn. Wim calls it "the utmost version of the great hooibergen," of the Betuwe region and Zuid Holland. Wim's photographs and e-mail correspondence with him convinced me the Dutch use a different barrack rafter system for a thatch cover than the American-Dutch did, a New World system that I had previously deduced from a few reused barrack plate fragments and one drawing in an 18<sup>th</sup> century manuscript. Our Old World discoveries on this tour have convinced me that we need to go back and measure common-rafter mortise angles and rethink the New World design. Could it pre-date the Old World system?

As Wim had written, our journey began at de Werff farm with a "warm welcome of SKHN and the owners of this *schuurberg*, (barrack with raised floor and extensions) Bea and Arjin Vette.", After lunch Bob and I were interviewed by two lovely young women from the local TV.

These two 4-pole thatched barracks have traditional Dutch rafter systems and the holes in the poles are set diagonally to the plates and are rigged with some of the same hardware known to have been used in the Hudson Valley. One tool, the barrack-screw (*bergheef*, *bergwinde*, *bergwaag*, *bergnaaf*) (\*) "has been used in a great part of The Netherlands. It is made of elm or cherry wood. They were made in different sizes for one, two, four, five and six pole barracks." (\*\*)

At the de Werff Farm we examined a collection of barrack hardware and parts of a *snijtte*, a tool to cut the thread in the beam (*dwarshout*) of the barrack-screw. We had planned to visit the retired barrack builder who is making barrack screws and have him show us how to do it, but his daughter was getting married that day and he could not be at home. Instead, we went to the river Linge to see the large barracks standing along the river there, and drove atop the dike along the river Waal with views of farms and barracks below.

We stopped in the village of Doesburg on the river IJssel to visit its 13<sup>th</sup> century gothic church. It was remodeled in the 16<sup>th</sup> century by the Calvinists, no statues or murals and the tall leaded windows are of clear glass. There is a good interpretive display in the church with its history and a large scale model of the framing of the spire. Further along the IJssel we stopped at Old Bronckhorst to walk through the smallest city in Holland with old buildings and full city rights, to find a café with Dutch beer.

On Sunday, day-3, Bob and I toured a small area, mainly to the north of Markelo, with Jan and Diederik. A highlight was our press conference at the 300-year-old dendro-dated, *steltenberg*, a barrack with a raised floor, where Bob explained our mission to the reporters, "Alle stukken van hooibergen zijn hergebruikt in andere gebouwen."

## Twentse hooiberg mee naar Amerika

Op camping de Keite in Markelo vertoefden afgelopen weekeinde twee Amerikanen. Op zich niet bijzonder rond Bevrijdingsdag. Timmerman Bob Hedges en architect Peter Sinclair kwamen echter niet voor de herdenking. Ze wilden leren een zeventiende-eeuwse Twentse hooibergconstructie te bouwen en namen daarvoor een stukje Twente mee terug naar hun thuisland.

MARKELO



Jan ten Tije, Peter Sinclair, Bob Hedges en Diederik Roeterdink verkennen een echte Nederlandse hooiberg.



Two 4-Pole Barracks (*steltenbergen*) with raised floor and enclosure along the Linge River



5-Pole Barrack (*steltenberg*) bellow the dike along the river Waal

Monday, day 4, We drove with Martin Jansen to Gorssel to see two replacement barracks for one that had burned. The common lore is that it was caused by the heat of a passionate act in the mow, but others say it was struck by lightning.

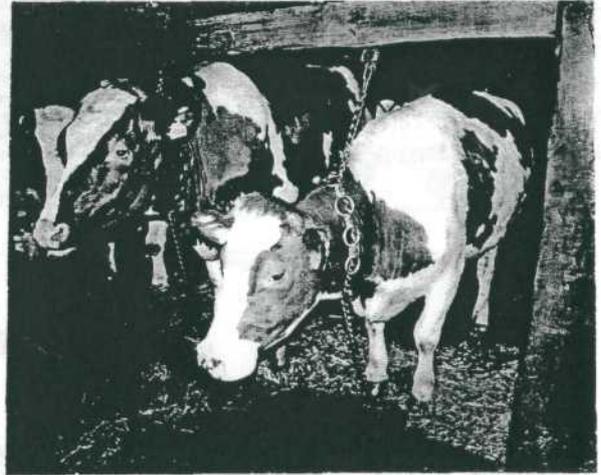
We stopped off at Martin's house in Hattem and viewed his collection of barrack artifacts. Especially interesting was a rare and working example of a capstan-like devise (*heeft*) that was used to raise the roofs of the very large barracks, especially in Holland. It is illustrated in an important Dutch book by Francq van Berkhey, on South Holland hay barracks published in 1809. The illustrations in the book include the *heeft* and the barrack-screw but not the clever eastern method using a long sweep and a small piece of chain (*boom en ketting*). With this method the holes in the poles are at right angles to the plate and the roof (*kap*) is held up by an iron triangular support (*bergijzer*).

The design of this iron hardware and that used to hold the corners of the barrack plates from spreading should be known to American archaeologists and collectors of old wrought iron. If any of these were found here, it would help expand our understanding of our Old World links. I suspect that some Dutch techniques we saw and read about on our tour, may represent techniques developed since 1664, the date by which, I assume, the barrack was established and on its own path of development here in the Hudson Valley.

We drove next to Baak to visit the Hackford estate where a company of thatchers (*reitdekkers*) were thatching the Hackford's one-pole or umbrella-barrack (*paraplu*). Mr. Franken showed us the *verstekhaal*, a kind of metal jack that was used to raise the roof of one-pole barracks. Now, more and more of them are fitted with winches and cables. We visited the nearby Franken farm, home of the thatchers, and saw their large metal warehouse full of bundles of reed, some from as far away as Romania.



**The Fa.Hissink Reitdekkers of Baak Thatch the Hackford's One-Pole Barrack (*Paraplu*)**



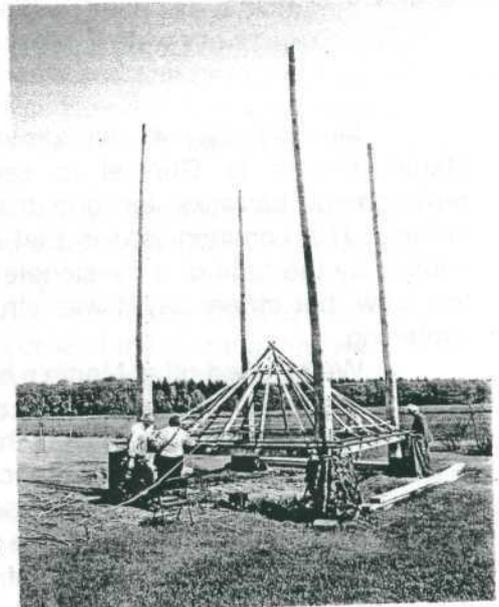
**Cows in an Aisle Barn, Veluwe Region Held with a Modern Chains Devise**

On Tuesday, day 5, we went with Suzan M. Jurgens to Zeesse to see two newly restored thatched hay barracks on an old estate and we looked in two of their large barns. One had evidence of a stake-wall for cows on one side and a more modern system for holding the cows with a taught vertical chain replacing the simple rounded wooden stake nailed to the strut. We saw this same chain arrangement in a barn in the Veluwe region on our way to catch the plane home. How does the chain improve things? And, they are noisy when in use.

We drove to Hoonhorst to meet the carpenter, Willem Ruhoff, who has been specializing in restoration barracks. The average sized four-pole barrack takes about four weeks to build. Willem showed us a number of details of the roof construction and thatch, and we noted these features on other barracks he took us to. Most interesting was the joining of the major-rafters (what the Dutch call king-rafters) at the top of the roof. On the 4-pole barrack they are joined in opposite pairs, one



**Four-Pole Hay Barrack at Hoonhorst being built by Willem Ruhoff**



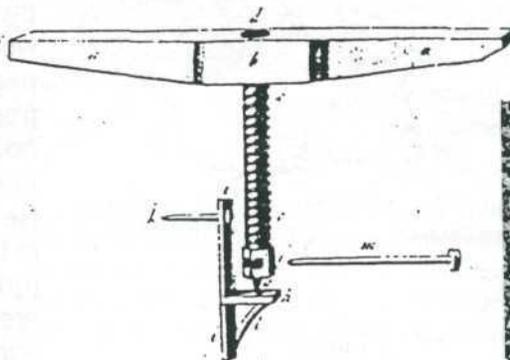
pair above the other. I had surmised for the New World rafter system the four major rafters joining to a center block. This should be rethought. The Dutch system allows for flexibility.

The minor rafter, and there are usually four per side in The Netherlands (six per side in the Hudson Valley), rest on a collar (*zwaarden*) that is nailed to the major rafters. Over the rafters long shoots of black willow were tied about every foot, now they are nailed, and over this, layers of thatch, a mixture of fragmites-reed and cat-tail are applied and willow shoots placed above the thatch and tied to the lower willow shoots to hold the thatch in place, now this is done with a stainless steel wire. The peak is capped with a cone of straw. In the west these are given a decorative shape. Twists of straw are also used to plug the holes where the poles go through the thatch at the corners.

A highlight of the day was our visit with Ab Goutbeek and his wife in the village of Dalfser, north in the province of Overijssel. They are retired from a flower shop business. Among other things, Ab is an accomplished entomologist, a science that depends on careful observation and a passion to understand the differences. Ab brought this to his study of barracks and with Dr. Everhard Jans published in 1988, and now out of print, what may be the best book on the subject Hooibergen in Oost Nederland; Opkomst, gebruik en typologie (ISBN 90-6697-038-3)



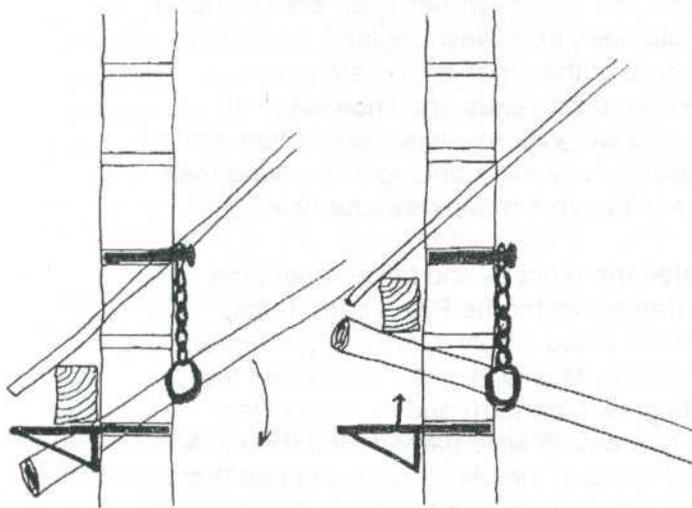
Ab Goutbeek Demonstrates  
a Barrack-Screw (*Bergwaag*)



A Barrack-Screw (*Bergwaag*)  
illustrated by Francq van Berkhey  
1809



Capstan (*heeft*)  
used to raise roofs of large barracks.  
Martin Jansen Collection



**Raising the Roof of a Barrack  
with a sweep and a small piece of chain (*boom en ketting*).**

(left) diagram by Ab Goutbeek, showing the pin inserted in a hole in the pole attached to a short chain and ring that is used as the fulcrum for a long sweep to lift the roof. When it is lifted a triangular iron support (*bergijzer*) is raised a hole higher in the pole. This is repeated at each pole.

(right) photograph by Susan Jurgan, showing the use of the sweep to lift the roof. A second man at the pole resets the *bergijzer* and disengages the *boom en ketting*.





(\* ) Names of barrack types, parts, hardware and tools are often regional.  
 (\*\* ) page 8. The Dutch hay barrack, regional differences and other variances, written and published in English for HVVA with 20 pages of text, pictures, captions and drawings, by Suzan M. Jurgens. Suzan is working on the next Hooiberg Book. page 1. "The word hay barrack derives from the Dutch word *hooiberg*, with *hooi* meaning hay and *berg* derived from the Dutch word *bergen*: to store. Nevertheless, not only hay was stored in the barracks, but sheaves of corn (grain). Nowadays, only hay and straw are stored in them, if being used for agricultural purposes at all."

The dotted areas on the map indicate places in The Netherlands explored.

**Friday, May 12** I left by car with Bob Hedges for Lennox, Massachusetts, to attend the three day Annual Spring Conference of the **Traditional Timberframers Research and Advisory Group (TTRAG)**. This is a group within the larger **Timber Framers Guild, of North America (TFG)**. 135 TTRAG members attended from New England, all parts of America and several European countries. The core of the organization are active, hands-on restoration people who love to share their discoveries and knowledge of vernacular architecture and its many traditions and innovations. It is a group that came together in the 1970 and 1980 with a young passion for understanding and saving their own historic environment and over the years have become more wise and have expanded into many continents.

Peter McCurdy from England, illustrated the process and talked about the recent reconstruction of the 14<sup>th</sup> century cruck frame roof for the Pilton barn. It had burned in the 1950's and its impressive stone walls stood empty. Only one photograph of its interior existed. Bill Flynt, from Deerfield Village, Massachusetts, described the history of Dendrochronology (dating wood by its growth pattern) and its use in New England. Paul Otman, from Nevada, spoke of the western aisle barns found there, Jan Lewandoski, from Vermont, described the many forms of the plank framed house that he has found over the years, Rudy Christian, from Ohio, reported on his trip to Sweden with pictures of some odd roof trusses in the attic of the royal palace, and Don Carpentier, from Rensselaer County, New York, recounted his youthfull saga with dismantling the 1<sup>st</sup> Universalist Church and reconstructing it in Eastfield Village.

The TTRAG meeting for next spring will be held in Salem, North Carolina. An open-air-museum of an 18<sup>th</sup> century Moravian community, lots of German *frackwerk* (exposed frame) with brick infill and large communal buildings.



## HUDSON VALLEY VERNACULAR ARCHITECTURE

Is a not-for-profit corporation formed to study and preserve vernacular architecture and material culture. The following people are the trustees and officers of the society.

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### Hudson Valley Vernacular Architecture Newsletter

is available with a  
**\$20 membership.**  
\$15 for students and the poor  
Mail to: **HVVA**  
**P.O. Box 202,**  
**West Hurley,**  
**NY 12491**

## COMING EVENTS 2006=====

**Wednesday June 7, 7PM** at the Mabee Farm. A lecture by **Daniel Lieberman**, Architect, Berkely, California, **The Homestead, a Dutch Farmstead Through Four Centuries, the Kovenhoven Farm, Middletown, NJ**

**June 8-10** at The Hampton Inn, 25 Chapel Street, Albany, NY. AANS/NNI Conference; **From De Halve Maen to KLM; 400 Years of Dutch-American Exchange.**

**Friday, June 9, 8:30 -10:00 AM** "Hudson Valley Buildings". Shirley Dunn, Rensselaerswijck's Farm Buildings, Keith Cramer, Defining the Dutch Barn, Peter Sinclair, The Hay Barrack, Ned Pratt, *Moderator*.

**Saturday, June 10, 10:30-12:00** "Toward a Dutch Built Environment in America". Jeroen van den Hurk, Documentary Sources, Walter Wheeler, Post-Colonial Architecture in the Upper Hudson and Mohawk Valleys, Neil Larson, Building a Stone House in Ulster County, Michael Douma, 'Koloniaal' Dutch House in Michigan

**12:00-1:30** "Reading Rubish". James Bradley, Glass Beads During the 17<sup>th</sup> Century, Paul Huey, The Continuity of Change in Colonial Dutch Material Culture After 1664, Charles Fisher, Arcaeological Collections at the NYS Museum, Kevin Moody, Excavation of a Brick Maker's House, Marie-Lorraine, Food Remains from Schuyler Flats, James Bradley, *Moderator*

Contact <www.nnp.org> for information.

**Tuesday, June 13**, at the Palatine Farmstead, Route 9, Rhinebeck, Dutchess County, NY. **A one- or two-Day Barn Restoration Workshop** will be held. This will continue the work of restoring the harr-hung doors of the 1770 Dutch barn, siding and making nails. A roof is planned for the next workshop. Lunch will be provided and fun is guaranteed. If you have suggestions or are interested in participating or supporting the barn restoration please contact HVVA and we will keep you informed. (845) 338-0257

**June 14-17** in New York City **Meeting of The Vernacular Architecture Forum (VAF).**

**Saturday, June 17, 10AM** Monthly meeting of HVVA at the Bontecoe House in New Paltz on the Wallkill. See the last item in Maggie MacDowell's minutes, page 9.

**June 17-18 and June 24-25** at the Mabee Farm, Rotterdam Junction **Timber-Framing Workshop, restoration and new construction** with Ev Rau. Restoration of an 1800's corn crib and framing doors and windows for a new carpenter's shop.

Register at <www.mabeefarm.org> or call Keith Cramer (518) 438-8352

**July 28 & 30**, Friday 28, 6-8PM a garden party at the home of Donald Westlake & Abby Adams. Meet members of the Ancram Preservation Group. Sunday, 30 10-5PM **Working landscape**, a tour of local farms and gardens. \$30 for members and sales before July 10, otherwise \$35.

For information call (518) 398-6435



The Netherlands  
in the Zwarte Water  
in Genemuiden  
early 20<sup>th</sup> century