

Society for the Preservation of  
**HUDSON VALLEY**  
**VERNACULAR ARCHITECTURE**



December 2005

**NEWSLETTER**

Vol. 7, No.11

**From the Editor...** Wim Lanphen, who keeps a web site on <[www.hooiberghen](http://www.hooiberghen)> (hay barracks), has informed us that a new organization has been formed in The Netherlands, SKHN, to preserve the knowledge and use of the old thatched hay barracks that are being replaced with barracks of metal construction there. They invite us to join them sometime at the double barrack in Zoelmond to examine a recent restoration of a double barrack originally built in 1900.

Zoelmond is a very small township in the province of Barbant, just to the south of where the River Rhine gets a new name, River Lec. In the garden next to the double barrack, Wim tells us, a very small river begins, the River Zoel. It flows south and joins the most picturesque river in Holland, the River Linge, along its banks you find the giant four to seven pole barracks. They would also take us to see some *parapluie* (umbrella or one-pole barracks) that are found to the east.

(continued next page)

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

**Monday, October 31** Met at a Dutch barn on Turkey Hill Road, Town of Milan, with Bob Hedges and, the real estate agent, Ann Simmons. The property with 10-acres and barns is for sale, \$395,000. The Red Hook Dutch Cultural Resources Survey is now officially including the adjoining towns of Milan and Rhinebeck, Dutchess County. We Registered the barns:

4-bay Dutch barn and 6-bay straw-mow  
 Milan, Dutchess County, NY  
 \_\_\_/Holesaple (NY/Dut/Mil/003)  
 coordinates N 42°00.714; W 073°48.102.  
 elevation 379'



**Dutch barn with straw-mow**  
**Turkey Hill Road, Milan, Dutchess County, NY**

The enlarged stone house across the road was recently sold. It is said to have been an inn and to date to 1750. Parts of the Dutch barn are scribe-rule and appear to date before 1780. There is evidence of the use of augers without lead-screws. The barn is in stable condition with a metal roof. It measures 39-feet wide by 36-feet long, classic Dutch barn proportions. The side aisles measure 11- and 12-feet wide, the nave, 16-feet. The anchorbeam/lintel on the back end, away from the house, shows evidence of harr-hung wagon doors.

The Millan barn is similar in its proportions and heavy anchorbeam braces, with the 1770 Palatine Farmstead barn in Rhinebeck (Rhi-20) and the Mosher barn in Red Hook (RH-18). There was an extensive rebuilding of the Milan barn at some time and bent 2. was laid-out with square-rule, dating the reconstruction after 1810. The straw mow circa 1830 20-ft behind the Dutch barn was originally a separate building and was joined to it in the 20<sup>th</sup> century. The barn and mow would probably be better off without the connecting section of balloon framing that may not make it through the winter without help.

The barn should be documented and studied further. It is a good example with lots of evidence of changes for the above ground archaeologist to decipher. There are the usual 19<sup>th</sup> century lamp-black numbers painted on the beams and siding of the straw mow that record the weight of hay bales, often they are dated, but this straw mow contains a rare date in lamp-back that perhaps commemorates the end of an era in the hay making business.

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"MILTON HOLSAPPLE PRESSED HIS  
 LAST BALE OF HAY.....  
 AN I AM DONE BUT.....

....15, 1918

(continued next page)

2.

(From the Editor, continued)

HVVA will hold its regular third Saturday meeting, 10:00 AM, at the Marbletown Firehouse on Route 209. Everyone is welcome. There will be a show, guess and tell of curiosities and common objects of the material culture. Progress with book sales, plans for the June barn restoration workshop and suggestions for some architectural tours in 2006 will be discussed. Officers and trustees will be elected. This will all be followed with a tour of two houses in nearby Kripplebush a picturesque settlement with an intriguing name.

Peter Sinclair, Editor  
West Hurley, Ulster County, NY

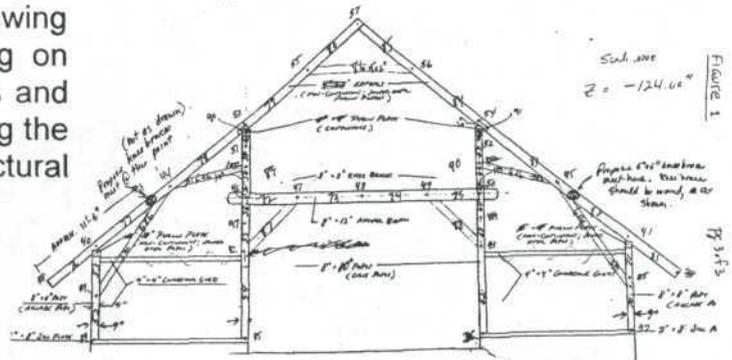
(From the Journal, continued)

These words were in the way of a modern roof that cut through the board. The dotted lines are now covered with aluminum flashing. The entire historic document could be uncovered easily using a short ladder.

**Saturday, November 26** Returned to the Turkey Hill barn (Dut/Mil/03) with Bob Hedges. We met with David Wildermuth, a German instructor at Skidmore College, Saratoga Springs, who is planning to build a Dutch barn frame of pine for a future home/workshop. They don't have Dutch barns in Saratoga Springs. Dave knows them from the books but was interested in seeing some real ones. I had showed him the Niewkerk Dutch barn in Hurley (Uls/Hur/02) (Stevens plate 105) earlier in the year.

Dave brought with him his drawing of the bent design he was planning on using. It was added to with numbers and suggestions of angled supports joining the rafters and posts, made by a structural engineer he took it to.

Dave has experience with timber framing and knows of Jack Sobon's writing. The engineer had worried that the side wall would be pushed out and had added two braces in each side-aisle, attached to the lower rafter.



Dutch Barn Plan of David Wildermuth with Structural Engineers Additions

Bob and I assured Dave that there were better ways to solve the problem. Curiously, the Turkey Hill barn we were standing in, attempted a non traditional way to solve the spreading side-wall problem in its later reconstruction and it didn't work, partly due to poor maintenance. This spreading of the Turkey Hill frame should be addressed from its foundation, up and maybe add iron tie rods. They work well under tension.

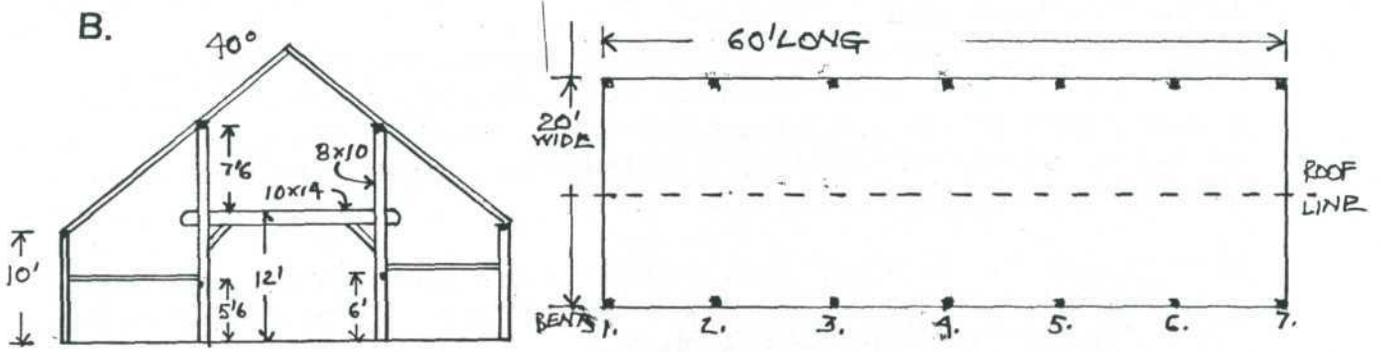
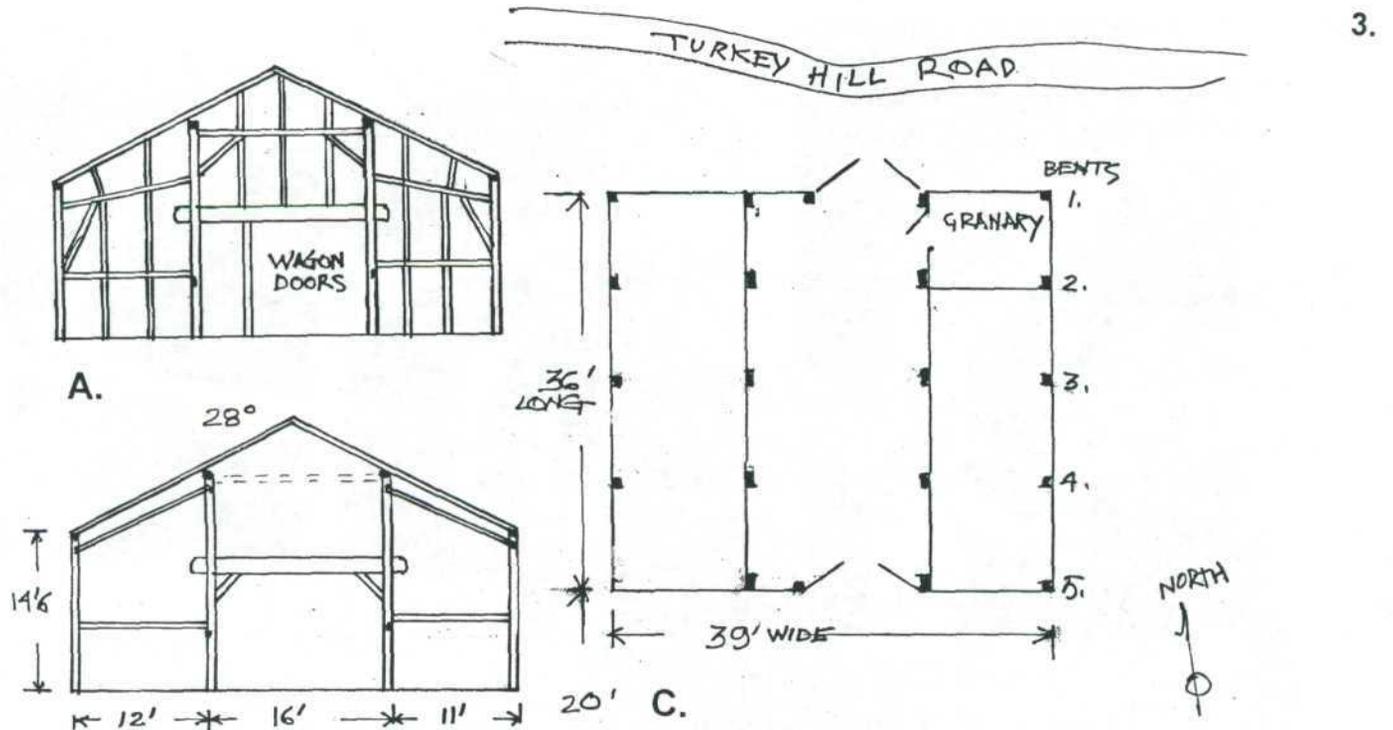
It was 20-degrees Fahrenheit, we took more measurements but did not linger.

**Sunday, November 27** I met at the Turkey Hill barn with Todd Scheff, of Germantown. It was above freezing. We attempted to uncover the inscription on the straw mow siding and got more of the last line, "AN I AM DONE BUT I PITY YOU..... FEBRUARY 15, 1918" but could not uncover it all without doing damage.

There was probably a stationary hay baler in the small barn at that time in which Milton Holsapple "pressed" the 200 to 250-pound bales of hay that were sent down River to The City on barges. The hay was pressed by hand with a long sweep, hard work.

Was Milton passing on the job to another? When would the mechanical portable field baler make the stationary baler obsolete? Words of the inscription are still hidden. The pieces of siding should be removed, rejoined and kept in a dry place like a local museum.

The interior frame of the mow is covered with lamp-black harvest writing, Todd and I inspected it with a flashlight; lists of hay bale weights, late 19<sup>th</sup> century dates, names, initials and comic caricatures. Much is faded and hard to read. Perhaps there is a technique that could be used to enhance harvest writing.



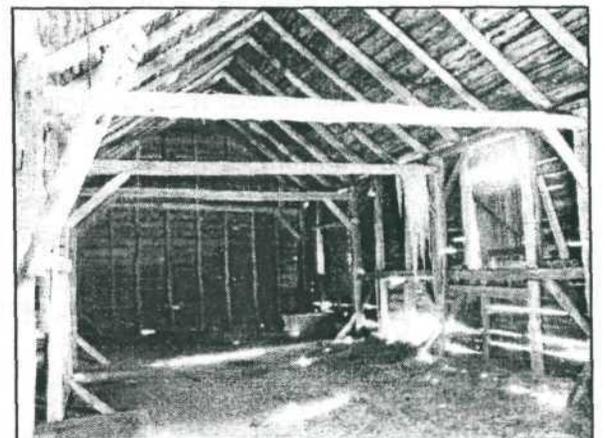
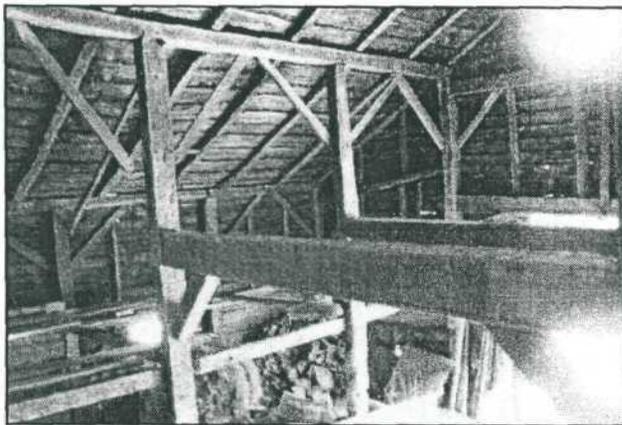
D. 4-bay Dutch barn and 6-bay straw-mow  
 Turkey Hill Road, Milan, Dutchess County, NY  
 \_\_\_/Holesaple (NY/Dut/Mil/003)

A. is the external bent 1. of the present Dutch barn, showing upper angled aisle struts connecting the columns to the side-wall post. These are joined with lap-dovetails.

B. is the present internal bent 3., also with an angled aisle-strut joined with lap-dovetails.

C. is the plan of the present 4-bay Dutch barn facing the road and 20-feet behind it the 60-foot 6-bay long straw mow.

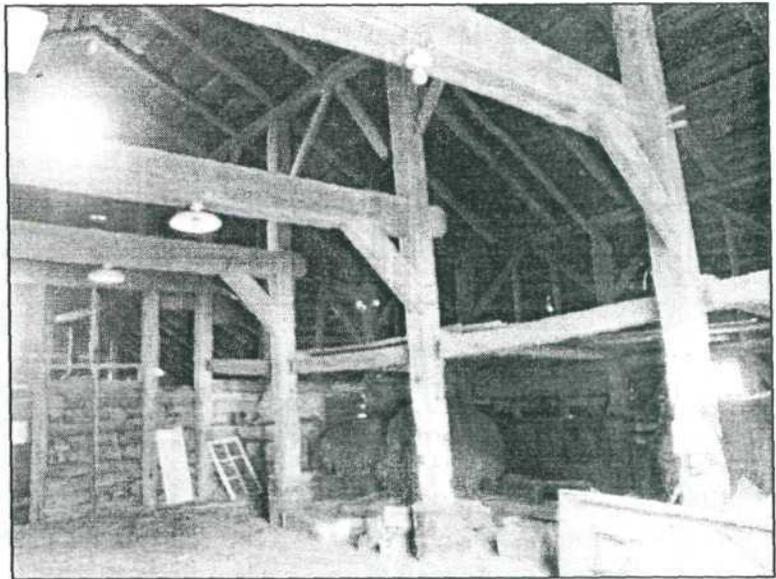
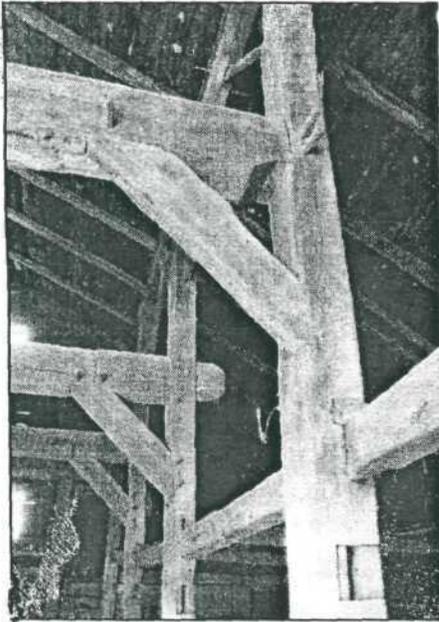
D. is the internal bent 3. of the original 3-bay Dutch barn with conjectured side wall height of 10-feet.



Turkey Hill Road, Milan, Dutchess County, NY

(left) Interior of the 4-Bay Dutch Barn, facing north.

(right) Interior of the Loft of the 6-Bay Straw-Mow facing east.



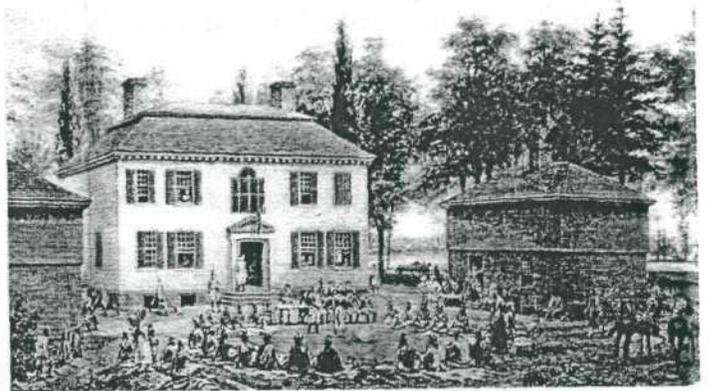
**Interior Facing South, 4-Bay Dutch Barn**  
**Turkey Hill Road, Milan, Dutchess County, NY**  
**(left) Detail of Bent 4., 3. & 2.**

Bent 4. in the foreground, was added to the frame when it was disassembled and reconstructed sometime after 1815. It extended the barn one bay. The diminishing of the anchorbeam where it joins the post is a sign of square rule joinery. Also the tenon does not extend as on the other bents. The open mortise on the side of the column shows the original height of the longitudinal struts that were raised about 3-feet in the reconstruction.

**Saturday, November 19** George Van Sickle, Peter Sinclair, Jon Boka, Rob Sweeney and Karen Markisenis had a short HVVA monthly meeting (3<sup>rd</sup> Saturday of the month) at the Bevier House Museum in Marbletown, Ulster County, NY.

**November 19-21** Attended with John and Marion Stevens, a sold out conference in Johnstown, New York, at the Fulton-Montgomery County Community College, entitled, **The Western Frontier: Plantation Society in Colonial New York, 1750-1775**. Scholars from throughout The State and beyond gave illustrated talks of their research and work in progress concerning the colonial period in the Mohawk Valley in which a landlord-tenant plantation society had been established. It is certainly one of the most colorful, intimate and violent periods in American history.

HVVA was especially interested in the architecture talks, one given by Walter Wheeler, enlarging on his study of gambrel roofs in the Upper-Hudson and Mohawk River Valleys. Cynthia Falk, PhD, Cooperstown Graduate Program, spoke on her findings of the few remaining pre-1775 Palatine German Houses in the Mohawk and Schoharie Valleys and some of their differences from Palatine houses built in Pennsylvania.



#### **Johnson Hall**

**Johnstown, Montgomery County, NY**  
**20<sup>th</sup>-century painting by E. L. Henry**  
**Albany Institute of History and Art**

Sir William Johnson built Johnson Hall, a two-story English Georgian center-hall frame house in 1763 and it was important place in Iroquois-English relations. It is now a NY State site furnished and interpreted as it was is Sir William's day. A costumed candlelight reception was held here for conference attendees.

The conference was organized by a number of regional organizations and the newly formed, Mohawk Valley Heritage Corridor Commission. It was funded in large part by the NY Council for the Humanities. Especially important, they published a 121-page, spiral bound book with text, outlines and bibliographies for all of the 16 papers given. We look forward to next years Mohawk Valley Conference.

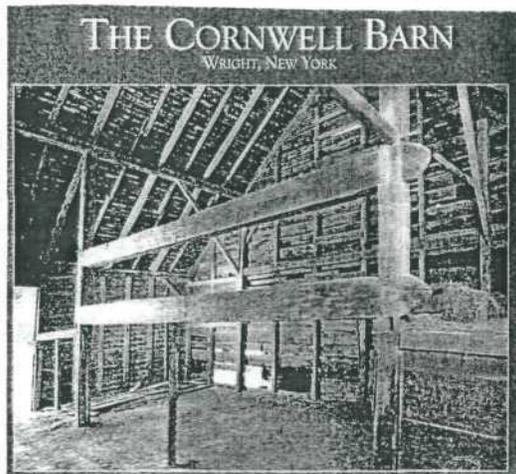
**Saturday, December 3**, HVVA held a Christmas party and lunch at the Felton/TenBroeck/Sweeney stone House in Flatbush, Town of Ulster (NY/Uls/Uls/002), hosted by Rob Sweeney. About 20 people attended.

For a holiday present, Rob took three car loads of us to The Lem Boice house nearby (NY/Uls/Uls/008), a Dutch stone house that is barely visible, driving Route 209 to the Rhinecliff bridge, and completely unknown to our group of enthusiasts. The present owner Anna Forster, took us on a tour from cellar to loft. It is a very early and important house, especially for the unaltered survival of many original features and the family traditions that Anna recalls of alterations and of outbuildings on the farm that are gone now. It began as a one room stone house. Another stone room was added. This seems to have had a jambed fireplace with a wall bed to the side where Anna's great grandmother is said to have been born.

John Stevens discovered and measured a window frame that had been an early 18<sup>th</sup>-century leaded cross-casement window frame. He plans to match it with the two or three other known survivals of this early Dutch window form. (Stevens plate 3. & 74.) We promised to return and spend more time documenting the house and its history.



**The Lem Boice House**  
Town of Ulster, Ulster County, NY  
(NY/Uls/Uls/008)



**The 2006 New World Dutch Barn Calendar is available**  
twelve color photographs by Geoffrey Gross  
published by;  
**The Dutch Barn Preservation Society**  
available from: HVVA  
Box 202, West Hurley, NY 12491  
for \$12.00, postage included  
.....a good Christmas gift.

## New Books:.....

Teller & Halverson, *Masters of The Colonial Revival*, by William B. Rhoads, published 2005 by The Friends of Historic Kingston, P.O. Box 3763, Kingston, NY 12402.  
36-pages stapled soft-cover.

This well researched and written book was published, in part, to commemorate the demolition in 2002, in the City of Kingston, of the City Laboratory and Ulster County Tumor Clinic. This two-story brick building was designed by the architectural firm of Teller & Halverson and built during 1935-40 and 1947-49. It was an era, beginning at the start of the 20<sup>th</sup> century, in which many of the families that could afford new homes saw the historic vernacular buildings of the area, especially the low undecorated Dutch stone farm houses and their beamed interiors, as attractive. The Architect, Myron S. Teller (1875-1959), with an office at 280 Wall Street, Kingston, was a central figure in this Colonial Revival and in the restoration of many of the area's 18<sup>th</sup> century Dutch houses.

The Laboratory and Tumor Clinic had served the community since the 1940's and the history and continuity of its research and treatment in the fight against cancer had taken place there. The building was sound and of modern structure, containing steel and concrete. It reflected the simple Georgian style of its time and fit in comfortably with its neighbors, but this did not interest Kingston Hospital in its plan to expand, and despite the protest of local people who have worked hard over the years to preserve the architectural heritage of the City, the building was demolished.



**Laboratory and Tumor Clinic  
Being Demolished in 2002.**

and reconstructing the Colonial Look, sometimes with salvaged parts or well made replicas. Teller developed a line of traditional hardware that was forged by local blacksmiths, especially the brothers Abram and George Van Kleek of Sampsonville. Teller's reputation was wide spread and he made an important contribution to the National Colonial Revival Style of his time. The respected author and student of Dutch Colonial Houses of the Hudson Valley, Helen Reynolds, recommended his work, but these well done Teller restorations and alterations often present problems for the contemporary architectural archaeologists to decipher, to recognize original from revival restoration. The neglected or poorly repaired house, with hidden beams, layers of later fabric and unexplored fireplaces often have more to tell about their history than the comfortable reconstruction.



**Kingston City Laboratory and  
Ulster County Tumor Clinic (1935-2002)  
drawing by Myron S. Teller**

One characteristic of the 18<sup>th</sup> century vernacular architecture of the area was its ability to add-on and adapt over generations of changes and still maintain features that were native to the place. The developers and corporation minded will tell you today that it is cheaper to demolish the past and reconfigure the land to build more efficient structures, but they don't show you where the mountain of historic rubble is dumped, or how the air is polluted somewhere, to brew up their next batch of cement and steel. Their estimates are based on a bookkeeping that is wasteful of resources and lacks imagination and respect.

Myron Teller was a native of Ulster County and a graduate of Cooper Union in New York City. By 1920 he had restored a number of early Dutch stone houses in the area, removing 19<sup>th</sup> century fabric



Myron and Friends at Frank Steven's house in Stone Ridge.

This book is especially interesting in its descriptions of Teller's clients and friends and their relationships. Many of the successful artists and active intellectuals who chose the simple rural life in Marletown, Woodstock, Olive and Accord, used Teller to help designing it. The author paints a good picture of their era. The Dutch vernacular house, as it existed before 1750, was, by Teller's time, already invisible and forgotten beneath later changes, its open fireplace and dark crowded intimacy would not have appealed to the new clientele who had grown accustomed to central heating, bedrooms and closets.

Of special interest to HVVA is the list of local public collections that hold papers and photographs by Myron Teller, whose interest in, and documentation of the region's historic vernacular architecture began in 1900 and continued till his death. Teller's best known writing is, Early Stone Houses of Ulster County, New York, published in 1959. "While useful," Rhoads writes, "the booklet is brief and did not pass on his vast knowledge of the subject. Curiously, but appropriately, the cover photograph represents the old stone house in Stone Ridge that Teller had remodeled for a friend, Frank Steven. The house was not a pristine example of Ulster's early houses but apparently a place of happy memories."

Teller & Helverson is available for \$10.00, plus \$5.00 shipping and handling from:  
The Friends of Historic Kingston, P.O. Box 3763, Kingston, NY 12402

The Editor

### Dutch Vernacular Architecture in North America

1640-1830 by John Stevens,

(ISBN) 0976599007

published by Hudson Valley Vernacular Architecture (HVVA), 2005

"At last a definitive study of Dutch vernacular architecture. Stevens' exhaustive and highly illustrated book covers both houses and barns with details of interiors and exteriors in a very appealing format. Tantillo's painting of the Winne house on the cover is alone worth the price. Without question, it is a major contribution to New Netherlandic studies."

Charles Gehring  
New Netherland Institute,  
New York State Library



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Houses, barns and mills are documented in xiv+449-pages, including 132 plates, drawings of buildings, plans and elevations, construction features, details of doors, windows, stairs, fireplaces and moldings, etc; 276 illustrations and 4 maps in 9 by 12 inch horizontal format.

## HUDSON VALLEY VERNACULAR ARCHITECTURE

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is available with a  
\$20 membership.

\$15 for students and the poor

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## COMING EVENTS 2005-2006=====

**Sunday, December 18, 3:00-6:00** in Saugerties, Ulster County, NY **Candle Light Tour of Six Historic Homes.** Tickets available until Dec. 15 for \$15 from The Saugerties Historical Society, PO Box 32, Malden, NY 12453, or \$25 the day of the tour at the Kierstead House 119 Main Street, Saugerties.

For information call: (845) 246-0710

**Wednesday, January 11, 2006 7:00 PM, (Snow Date January 18)** At the Long Island Studies Council, Huntington Library, **John Stevens, Lecture and Book signing.**

**Saturday, January 21, 10:00 AM** at the Marbletown Firehouse, just off Route 209 on North Marbletown Road, **Monthly Meeting of HVVA**, there will be a show-and-tell, bring your recent acquisitions and curiosities of material culture. There will be an election of officers and a tour of two houses in nearby Kripple Bush.

**Saturday, April 15, 1:00 PM** at The Albany Institute of History and Art, Key Conference Center, **John Stevens, Lecture and Book Signing.**

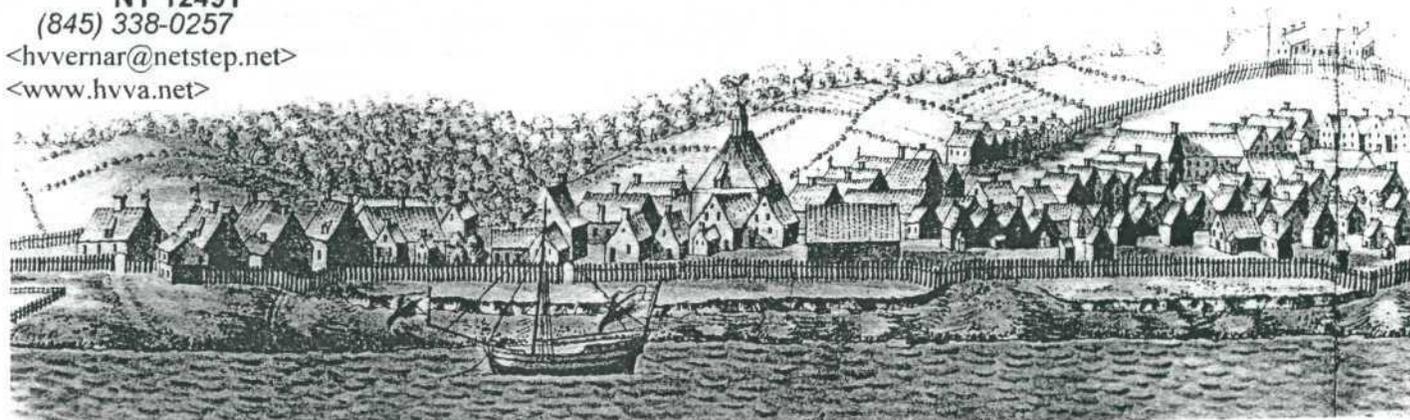
**May 12-14, 2006** at the Eastover Resort, Lenox, Mass. **Annual Meeting of the Traditional Timberframers Research and Advisory Group (TTRAG)**

Contact: Will Beemer, <will@tfguild.org> (413) 623-9926

**Sometime in May, 2006** at the Palatine Farmstead, Route 9, Rhinebeck, Dutchess County, NY. **A 5-Day Barn Restoration Workshop** will be held. This will continue last year's work of restoring the frame of the 1770 Dutch barn, doing more archaeology and rebuilding the foundation. We will also be shaving shingles, making doors and hope to have a blacksmith making nails and hardware. Lunch will be provided and fun is guaranteed. The project will be developed over the next two months. If you have suggestions or are interested in participating or supporting the workshop please contact HVVA and we will keep you informed.

**June 8-10** at SUNY Plaza, Albany, NY. AANS/NNI Conference; **From De Halve Maen to KLM; 400 Years of Dutch-American Exchange** Contact <www.nnp.org> for information.

**June 14-17** in New York City **Meeting of The Vernacular Architecture Forum (VAF).** papers, talks and tours. More later.



Albany in 1763, detail of watercolor by Thomas Davies (1737-1812)

Albany Institute of History and Art.

Page 10, Dutch Vernacular Architecture in North America. 1640-1830. by John Stevens