

Dutch Barn Preservation Society e-news, 24 August 2012

We had a great turnout at Saturday's talk on *Barns of New York* at the Mabee Farm- about 85 attended.

Keith asked that I remind you of the talk this Saturday on House Barns. Here's the announcement.

"The House barns of America"

Saturday Aug. 25, 3:00 pm.
Schenectady County Historical Society
32 Washington Ave, Schenectady

Robert W. Sherman has been interested in Ethnic, Rural & Vernacular Architecture since the 1960's when he was a Field Representative for the State Historical Society of Wisconsin. Doing a survey for the future Museum of "Old World Wisconsin", he was looking for the ethnic and vernacular architecture of the State's early settlers.

He found a number of House barns in the German area of Eastern Wisconsin; one was a Bohemian, log House barn. He began to search for House barns throughout the Midwest and has recorded many examples, including; limestone House barns in Iowa, stone, log and framed House barns in Illinois, a half-timbered House barn in Missouri, and House barns in Minnesota, the Dakotas, North Carolina, and even in Manitoba. This exploration of vernacular architecture is also a legacy of ethnic settlement patterns. These House barns mark the first American generation homesteads of many Finnish, German, Czech, Russian, and Mennonite families.



We at the DBPS are very interested in House barns, as some of the first structures built in New Netherland were house barns—that is, the family lived in one end of the structure and the other end was the barn. There is a plan and sketch of one in Shirley Dunn's Article in our Spring 2012 *Newsletter*, and a house barn was built in our area ca. 1631.

Robert W. Sherman, of Springfield, Illinois, continues to search out interesting barns and farmsteads whenever he travels, and he is a member of many Barn Preservation Societies and Networks. He gives barn lectures on various barn related topics and leads barn tours in the Midwest.

He is currently working on two publications. "**The Great Barns of Illinois, from Log to Stone**" and "**The Housebarns of America**" He keeps current an annotated bibliography of books about barns for the National Barn Alliance's web page.

He is a member of the Sangamon County Preservation Commission and Dutch Barn Preservation Society. He is a Board Member of the Illinois Barn Alliance and the National Barn Alliance. Sponsored by the Dutch Barn Preservation Society www.dutchbarns.org and the National Barn Alliance www.barnalliance.org

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