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The Society for the Preservation of Hudson Valley Vernacular Architecture

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Fig.1: UCHS Vice President Bill Merchant surveying the tool collection at the Bevier House.

A New Installation for the Peter Sinclair Tool Room at the Ulster County Historical Society

By Bill Merchant & Leslie LeFevre-Stratton

During the 2018 into the 2019 off-season, members of the Board of Trustees of the Ulster County Historical Society (UCHS) scheduled an upgrade of their popular tool room, which had last been curated by Peter Sinclair in the early 1990s and dedicated to him in 2007. Many “new” objects had found their way into the room in the intervening years so that it and its exhibits had become cluttered and hard to navigate. The lighting was poor and the room, with its excellent displays of important 18th and 19th century everyday items, had become hard to appreciate.

Under the guidance of UCHS Administrative Director, Suzanne Hauspurg, board members, Bill Merchant (D&H Canal Historical Society Curator and UCHS Vice President) and Leslie LeFevre-Stratton (former curator Historic Huguenot Street) designed and curated the new displays. During his forty-plus years as a professional bass violin luthier, Bill has honed his woodworking skills, and has also amassed a large collection of 18th and 19th century woodworking tools, many of which he uses in his work. As a former historical society curator, Leslie is



Fig.2: View of tool room prior to reinstallation, November 2018. Museum staff determined that this wonderful collection of early tools needed significant updating in order to better interpret the historic artifacts. Individual objects are difficult to see and to understand in historic context because they are too crowded together (with too many duplicates), lighting is poor, and signage is not adequate to sufficiently identify tools and explain how they were used.

experienced with artifact handling and interpretation. Also involved were board members Sarah Draney (a sculptor) and Jennifer Muck (owner of Little Egg Farm) who assisted with cleaning and organizing artifacts.

To begin this exciting project, the team removed all of the objects out of the tool room, into a designated staging area of the Museum, where they could be cleaned, categorized and evaluated. All laid out at once, the team could assess the collection at large and then identify the stories and themes about the individual tools themselves; how they worked and what they were used for. There were some objects that, while important in their own right, did not have enough corresponding material to support the story of their industry or activity. The team also eliminated redundancies;

just because the Museum had many examples of one particular object, this did not mean they should all be put on display at once. Items that were deemed superfluous were put into storage and their new location was updated in the digital catalog. Since the UCHS was established in 1859, there is a lot of material in its holdings (and, as with most older historical institutions, not all properly documented). Uncatalogued items found were set aside to be cataloged before being placed in storage.

In order for an improved exhibit to be developed, the space in the Tool Room itself needed to be opened up. Years ago, a twelve-inch-wide open wood display shelf was built against the west wall, with a row of display cabinets located directly in front, which had the effect of shrinking the



Fig.3: View of tool room after reinstatement, 2019. The space was opened up allowing visitors to move about more freely and view the artifacts and labels in a more organized manner. Artifacts were cleaned, catalogued and photographed. Some tools were duplicates, in poor condition or irrelevant to the time period of the exhibit, and these were removed and placed in storage. Others seemed to be more appropriately shown in the kitchen, freeing up space in this room to more adequately display other tools such as those used for building and woodworking.

space by the width of that shelf. The team removed the shelf and then re-grouped the cases to the center of the room. A large antique cupboard along with a modern, but very damaged, display case was removed from the room, opening up the space. These actions also helped to focus attention on the historic nature of the room itself – probably a part of the early kitchen. The early entrance door and south windows are now more apparent. New LED track lighting was installed in the ceiling along the rafters, in a minimally invasive fashion. The UCHS recently replaced all the lighting in the Museum with LED lights, a best practice in museums for mitigating the damage caused by ultraviolet light.

Now a clean and well-lighted Tool Room was ready to receive a newly curated exhibit of tools, properly mounted in lighted display cases. Items that were selected to return on display were grouped with other tools that would have been used in the same type of work. For example, the tools used by coopers and coopered items: barrels, firkins, wash

tubs, and sap buckets, were put together so as to make their relationships more apparent. New interpretative panels and visitors' guide endeavor to tie together the items by their uses, to relate and document these no longer common items and activities.

The room is now much more inviting. This collection of wonderful and intriguing tools, things that would have once been found in the workshops of Ulster County tradesmen and farms to perform everyday tasks, is now more accessible to UCHS patrons. The Society plans to continue its overhaul of the Museum in order to better serve its current members and to attract a larger audience towards appreciating the wealth of important objects that it has collected over many years.

Steenberg's Inn, Rhinebeck, Dutchess County Further Architectural & Historical Investigations

By Rachel Coates



Fig.1: View of house from southeast. Photo by Joe Alper, 1969. Color print used for *Landmarks of Dutchess County, 1683-1867; Architecture Worth Saving in New Your State* (NY: New York State Council on the Arts, 1969), p.48.

Steenberg's Inn is a well-known stone house on Route 9 south of the village of Rhinebeck, about which little, in fact, is actually known. Helen Wilkinson Reynolds brought it to general attention in 1929 with a cursory reference and poor photograph in *Dutch Houses of the Hudson Valley before 1776*. Nearly fifty years earlier, Edward Smith had remarked on the house in his *Documentary History of Rhinebeck* (1881): "The stone house below Monroe's now the property of Lewis Livingston Esq, once Van Steenburgh's and later Smith's Inn, is old but there is no record to tell us how old." In recent years, the house has been referenced in a number of publications about historic architecture in Rhinebeck and Dutchess County, not to mention its having been listed on the National Register of Historic Places in 1987 (Figs.1 & 2).

When I bought the house with my husband in 2012, my interest in elaborating on its earliest history brought me in touch with HVVA. This mission gained new impetus when in May of 2016 a burst water pipe necessitated extensive work on the interior. Fortunately for old-house preservation, the damage almost entirely affected later accretions. Remediation exposed features long concealed, including the earliest floor, whitewashed ceilings, an original plaster-covered stone wall with built-in shelves, an interior doorway, and constructional elements of the two fireplaces (Fig.3). I invited HVVA to see the house in its uncovered state and recruited John Stevens to make an assessment of its architectural origins. John became a frequent visitor with his tape measure, flashlight and notebook, eventually producing drawings that represent his findings (Figs.4-6).



Fig.2: View of house from northwest. Photo by Neil Larson, 2018. The wood frame wing was added in the 1970s.

I also engaged Paul Callahan and Ed Cook from the Columbia University Lamont Doherty Earth Science Laboratory to dendro-date beams in the basement and have been searching public, vital and archival records to find new information on the property. The early features and constructional evidence have all been left visible, not covered up, for future generations to enjoy and explore. It is the pre-1800 history of the house and its surroundings that is the focus of this article.

The physical analysis has associated the house with the mid-18th century. John Stevens determined that the house was built after 1750 based on the absence of evidence for casement windows and on the relatively low pitch of the roof. The dendrochronology, while not unequivocal, supports this conclusion, and points to the 1760s for dating.



Fig.3. Detail of south wall basement kitchen showing timber-frame doorway and built-in shelves; ceiling beam to support upper-story stove visible in upper left corner of image. Photo by Rachel Coates, 2019.

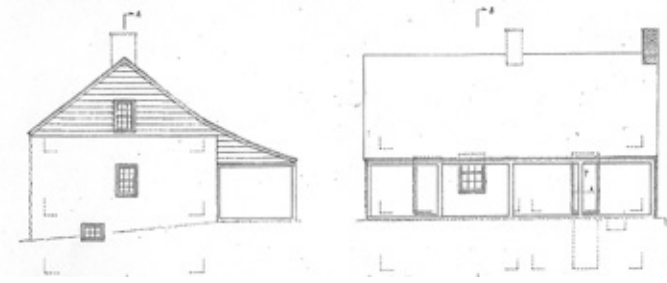


Fig.4: Existing conditions, south & east elevations. Original basement entrance sketched in on north end of east side. Drawings by John Stevens, 2019.

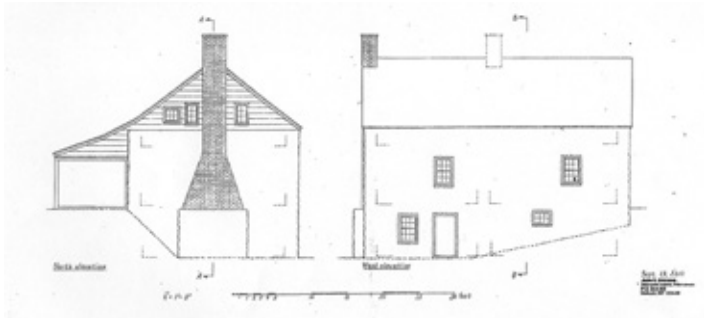


Fig.5: Existing conditions, north & west elevations. Drawings by John Stevens, 2019.

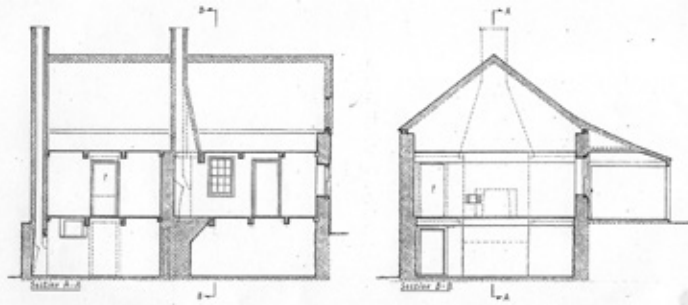


Fig.6: Sections north-south & east-west. Drawings by John Stevens, 2019.

John also determined that the house, was built in a single campaign, not in stages. It has a two-room center-chimney plan above a basement kitchen with gable-end fireplace (Fig.6). The fireplace in the south room was jambless, with a five-plate stove in the north room built into the back of the fireplace and fed by embers (Fig.7). The carrying beam for the center chimney, measuring 17" x 10.5" in cross-section, is one of the largest recorded (Fig.8). Carpentry reinforcement of the north room's flooring to support the heavy metal stove is still visible in the basement (Fig.3). The basement kitchen had a fireplace and bake oven built into the north wall with a brick chimney engaged to the exterior (Fig.6). Such a chimney type is relatively uncommon in surviving Colonial-era Hudson Valley houses but can be seen, for example, on the Kip House in Rhinecliff and the Abraham Hasbrouck house in New Paltz. Both fireplaces in Steenberg's Inn were altered: a brick



Fig.7: Example of five-plate stove embedded in back of jambless fireplace in adjoining room. Photo courtesy John Stevens.



Fig.8: View looking east in south parlor showing massive beam that supported chimney jambless fireplace on left. Photo by Rachel Coates, 2019.



Fig.9: Historic photograph of George Crusius House, Ackert Hook Rd., ca. 1762. The east façade of Steenberg's Inn originally would have looked like this. Altered and renamed Strawberry Hill in 20th century; listed on the National Register in 1978. Early 20th-century photo in collection of Neil Larson.

chimney with an English fireplace replaced the jambless and the stove was removed towards the end of the 1700s, and the north chimney was reconstructed flush with the exterior wall, using newer brick, towards the end of the 1800s. The construction of the English fireplace with a Federal-style mantel corresponds roughly with the time the house became known as a tavern.

The design of the building conforms with that of other stone and wood frame houses built during the mid- to late-eighteenth century in the region, many of them by Palatine tenants in Rhinebeck. They are characterized by their hillside sites with the end of basements containing kitchen partially exposed at grade (Figs.9 & 10). Before significant grade changes were made to Steenberg's Inn, both its main-floor and kitchen entrances were on the front side as pictured in the foregoing historic photographs. Inconvenient as it seems, the only way to get from the basement kitchen to the rest of the house appears to have been to go outside and up steps within the porch to the next level and then back in through the main door. According to Neil Larson, this was done to physically separate slave quarters from family sections of the house. (The owners of stone houses typically also owned slaves.) Alterations shifting the doorways and adding interior stairs were probably made during the tavern phase; however, they could have been done later in the 19th century when the house was converted into staff housing for the Grasmere estate.



Fig.10: Historic photograph of Fredenberg House, Wheeler Rd., 1716 datestone. Located nearby to Steenberg's Inn with basement kitchen at grade on east end; listed on the National Register in 1978. Early 20th-century photo in collection of Neil Larson.



Fig.11: Historic view of house from southeast. Early 20th-century photo in collection of Neil Larson.

The basement of Steenberg's Inn now has its kitchen entry on the west side, with its main story opening onto a porch on the other side, toward the road, the former Kings Highway or Old Post Road, now Route 9. The existing porch is a later addition, and an in-filled basement doorway and evidence for a set of steps on that side are concealed below grade changes around the northeast corner of the house (Figs.4 & 11). It would be unusual for the basement to have had entrances on both sides; the current basement door was probably added later when the original door was abandoned.



Fig.12: Detail of Alexander Thompson's map of Rhinebeck showing "Steenberg's Inn," ca. 1798. Library of Congress.

I have been trying to trace the identities of the early inhabitants of the house and associated land, hoping ultimately to identify the builder of the house. Based on the building style — a bank house with the accommodation for a five-plate stove — it seemed that we might be looking for a Palatine tenant. The record, however, suggests a less straightforward cultural history, and paints a picture of the varied backgrounds of the early settlers of Rhinebeck, not only through the leaseholders at our house but through those of the surrounding, related farms as well. And the story also throws some unexpected light on the lives of one of Rhinebeck's most illustrious — and tragic — colonial couples, Richard Montgomery and Janet Livingston, the granddaughter of Henry Beekman.

The popular name for the house comes from Alexander Thompson's charmingly illustrated maps of Rhinebeck, drawn in 1798, which label it "Steenberg's Inn" (Fig.12). (By the fourth version of the map, probably dated 1800, it had apparently changed hands, becoming "Brown's Inn."¹) The map series also depicts a number of small, unidentified dwellings in the vicinity. These most probably represent Palatine tenants whose presence is often absent in land records, but who started to settle from 1714 on, when Henry Beekman offered them leaseholds after the failure of Robert Livingston's East Camp (Germantown) naval supplies project.

My research took me to the Edward Livingston Papers collection at Princeton University, where I looked at land surveys and leases dating from the early 1700s to the Revolutionary War period, discovering names for several of the occupants of the surrounding land parcels.² Most helpful initially were three survey maps from the 1740s,

drawn for Henry Beekman to identify the boundaries, acreage and tenants on his leaseholds in the area that roughly corresponds to the present-day Grasmere estate and a slice of Southlands horse farm.

On the earliest of the survey maps, dated 1740, four leasehold farms, including the one where our house stands, are demarcated (Fig.13). The three neighboring farms show one Dutch name, Van Etten, and two Palatine ones, Sheffer and Mayer. Dates on the two contiguous pieces of the Sheffer/Scheffer/Shever farm, 1714 and 1718, note when it was first leased out and correspond with the earliest wave of Palatine settlement. Separately, the lease evidence identifies the first occupant as (Palatine) Albartus Shryver/Schreiber.

As for the farm that includes our property, the 1740 survey shows Abraham Freer Jr. in possession. Abraham Freer Jr. shows up in the Rhinebeck tax record of 1723, with a separate entry for his father, Abraham Freer Sr. The family were neither Palatines nor Dutch, but French Huguenot, son and grandson of New Paltz patentee Hugo Freer. In 1723 they transferred a pew at their Kingston church to other family



Fig.13: Survey map of farms in Henry Beekman's Rhinebeck Patent, 1740. Oriented with south at top. Courtesy of Princeton University Library.

members, presumably to take up this land across the river. In fact, father and son had leased farms next to each other. The lease for the neighboring Sheffer farm indicates it was transferred from Albartus Shryver to Abraham Freer (Sr.) in 1722 before being passed on to Hendrich Sheffer in 1732.

Odd, perhaps, that members of a Kingston Huguenot family became leaseholders, but owning land outright was probably not an option in Rhinebeck at the time. Henry Beekman, too, was a resident of Kingston, and many people from there crossed the Hudson into Dutchess County, which was just opening to settlement.

The next survey map in the series is from about 1741 (Fig. 14). It shows a fifth farm in the area, leased to Will Scott. One of Abraham Freer Jr.'s sisters, Helena, married a Willem Schut in 1728 in Poughkeepsie, and this version of the name suggests a Dutch heritage. It's tempting to imagine that the Freer family connection in some way brought the Schuts to the Beekman tract alongside their relatives the Freers.



Fig. 14: Survey map showing the Kings Highway (Route 9), ca. 1741. Oriented with south at top. Written on the reverse the map: "Sundry farms of P Tibbel, Will Scot, Hendk Mayer, Matths Earnst, Hendk Scheffer, Jacobus V Etten, Migh Polysher." Courtesy of Princeton University Library.

In any case the circa 1741 map shows a new leaseholder on our land, Math(ias) Earnst. An early history of New Paltz indicates that Abraham Freer Jr. conveyed his Rhinebeck leasehold to Earnst and moved to Poughkeepsie in 1738.³ Earnst appears on the 1740 list of freeholders in Rhinebeck and was one of the first deacons of the new Dutch Reformed Church there in 1741. Could German-sounding Earnst have been the builder of our house, twenty years later?

The answer seems to be no, because by 1749, the final map in the series shows another newcomer on our land, Joghham Radley/Joachim Radcliff (Fig. 15). Lease evidence indicates the transfer from Earnst took place in 1742. Who was Joachim Radcliff? Not a Palatine it seems, and not English



Fig. 15: Survey map, 1749. Titled Boeke Bos (Dutch for Beech Wood) in text written on the open field that can still be seen at Grasmere today. Oriented with north at top. Courtesy of Princeton University Library. Special thanks to Nancy Kelly, who showed me this map in 2013.

either, in spite of his last name. He was from a Dutch family, born in Albany in 1697, son of Joachim Radcliff and Rachel Lambertse Van Valkenberg. His brother Johannes Radcliff lived in the Van Ostrande-Radcliff house on Hudson Street, reputedly the oldest house surviving in Albany. Joachim was a member of the Albany Reformed Dutch congregation between 1717 and 1719, and was paid by the church for various services, not least providing “rope for a cow.”

As a young man he made his way across the river to Columbia County, where he married Hilleitje Hoogeboom in 1723 at Linlithgo Reformed Church of Livingston Manor. By 1742 they had moved to Rhinebeck and taken up the lease of our land.

The Radcliff family became solidly established in Rhinebeck, with at least four sons and four daughters thriving in adulthood. Hilleitje had a pew in the Reformed Church of Rhinebeck in 1753, and Joachim was an elder there in 1754 and 1756. One daughter, Jannetje, married the church’s dominie. The 1755 census of slaves in Rhinebeck lists Joachim with two. He was an Overseer of the Ways in 1755-6, and laid out a road “starting at Radcliff’s farm going east,” probably present day Ackert Hook Road.

Joachim Radcliff died in 1759, at the lower end of the approximate date range for the construction of the Steenberg house suggested by dendro-dating, but his widow is shown on the tax list through 1767. Could he have built our house shortly before he died? Could his widow have built it? Or did someone else take over the lease after his death and build it in the 1760s?

Although I could not locate leases for the Freer-Earnst-Radcliff farm, I did find two documents terminating the lease and selling it back to the landowner. The documents are dated July 4 and July 5, 1776, easy dates to remember.⁴ The landowner at this time was Janet Livingston Montgomery, who had inherited the land as granddaughter of Henry Beekman. Janet had been widowed at the end of 1775, when her husband, General Richard Montgomery, was killed at the Battle of Quebec in the early stages of the American Revolution. They had started to build a mansion, Grasmere, soon after their marriage in 1773, and so one assumes that this was a forced sale. The land was close to their new home and they would have been putting together what was intended to be their grand estate.

And who was the party being asked to sell back the lease in 1775? Hilleitje Radcliff, widow of Joachim, and sons Cornelius, William and Peter. The sum paid by Mrs.

Montgomery was 350 Pounds. The language, while it has elements of boilerplate, references “all sixty-seven acres of land together with ... the houses, barns, gardens, orchards, wood, and water ways.” Certainly, the most significant and valuable among the improvements would have been the sturdy stone house next to the Kings Highway.

We know something about these Radcliff sons. Cornelius, the oldest, appears to have moved away in 1768, when he shows up on the tax list for Nine Partners precinct, an area in Dutchess County where freeholds rather than leaseholds were available.⁵ Peter joined him there in 1777, soon after the sale of the family farm. But William appears on the Rhinebeck tax list continuously during this time and rose to be quite a material success as town supervisor, state assembly representative and major in the militia. In 1761 he married Sarah Kip, granddaughter of one of the Kipsbergen patentees (present day Rhinecliff); he probably owned and ran the lucrative Long Dock on the Hudson River. Two of the sons of William and Sarah Radcliff attended Princeton and two went to Yale.

Others may have been feeling unsettled around this time, too. The Sheffers on the neighboring farm were also required to sell back, according to another lease cancellation document.⁶ Being even closer to Grasmere, their farm was reclaimed first in 1774 by Richard Montgomery before he went off to war. The Sheffer/Scheffer/Shever family had leased their farm for over forty years, though three generations. These transactions represent the beginning of the period when Rhinebeck leaseholds were being consolidated for the development of large country estates by the Livingstons and other elite families with tenant houses incorporated as picturesque dependencies. The leaseholders, those who stayed around, made the transition from semi-independent farmers to employees of estate proprietors.

Located on the Post Road, our house became a tavern soon after it was bought by Janet Montgomery, and in 1798 it shows up as Steenberg’s Inn on the Thompson map (Fig.12). It was probably named for Benjamin Van Steenberg (1735-1804), who married Rebecca Kool/Cole (1732-1771). Her mother’s Traphagen family owned land in the center of Rhinebeck, including the present location of the Beekman Arms, and reputedly, her brother Simon I. Cole was proprietor of the first tavern on that site. So perhaps innkeeping ran in the family. In any case, it is likely that the smokey jambless fireplace was modernized when the inn was launched.

The histories associated with this patch of Beekman land suggest a rich interplay of European ethnicities and cultures — Huguenot, Palatine, English and Dutch — a microcosm, one might say, of the colonial Hudson Valley as a whole. Ours and other surviving stone houses are landmarks of the evolving land use from tenant farming to genteel country estates that came to characterize Rhinebeck’s cultural landscape. I will keep looking for insights into the question.

ENDNOTES

- ¹ The Library of Congress, which owns this version, says “surveyed 1798,” but Brian Plumb, in *Rhinebeck’s Historic Beekman Arms* (Charleston SC: The History Press, 2014), dates it at 1799-1800.
- ² Three survey maps of Henry Beekman land in Rhinebeck. Edward Livingston Papers (C0280); Manuscripts Division, Special Collections, Princeton University Library. Edward Livingston Papers collection at Princeton University Firestone Rare Books Library (ELP). Box 157, Folder 8. Henry Beekman leases. Shryver/Freer Sr/Shever farm lease between Beekman and Abraham Freer (Sr), 1723, with transfer from Freer to Hendrick Shaver, 1732: ELP Box 157, Folder 2. Also lease transfer from Hendrick Shefer to Adam Shefer, 1746. Eighmy/Myer/Bender farm lease between Beekman and Nicolas Eighmy, 1719: ELP Box 157, Folder 2. Scot farm lease between Beekman and William Scott, 1741: ELP Box 154, Folder 2.
- ³ Ralph LeFevre, *History of New Paltz, New York, and its Old Families* (1909), p 138. “Records of the Dutchess county clerk’s office show that in 1723 Abraham Freer of Dutchess County purchased of Henry Beekman sixty-seven acres of land ‘joining the land of his father’ Abraham Freer, senior, on the King’s Roat and fifteen years later the former... sold this identical sixty-seven acres... to Matthew Earnest of Rhinebeck for 190 Pounds. These records show that Abraham Freer junior and his father both owned land in Rhinebeck in 1723.”
- ⁴ Sale (release) of leasehold for Freer Jr./Earnst/Radcliff farm, between Janet Montgomery and Cornelius, William, Peter & Hiletje Radcliff, July 4 and 5, 1776. ELP Box 154, Folder 1.
- ⁵ William P. McDermott, *Dutchess County’s Plain Folks*, Ch. 11.
- ⁶ Sale (release) of leasehold for Shryver/Freer Sr/Schaffer farm between Richard Montgomery and Jacob Shever, 1774. ELP Box 154, Folder 6.

Obituary of Willis Ernest Barshied, Jr.

Editor’s Note: In addition to Skip Barshied’s many preservation activities in the Mohawk Valley, he was a member of long standing in the Dutch Barn Preservation Society and is fondly remembered by many members of that organization.

Skip Barshied passed away peacefully at home on the afternoon of January 6, 2020, surrounded by his friends. Born June 3, 1930 in Amsterdam, NY, to Margaret and Willis Barshied, Sr., Mr. Barshied spent his early life in Marshville, NY. His education included six years at the Marshville school. He graduated from Canajoharie High School in 1948. That same year, he married Ethel Nellis and moved with her to the Nellis Farm on Route 10. Like Skip, Ethel was from a long-established Palatine family. He resided in Stone Arabia for 70 years. Skip had a deep interest in the land and worked on the Nellis farm for 10 years. For a few years, he was secretary of a small fire insurance company founded in the Town of Palatine in 1854. For 28 years, he directed and helped restore the 18th century Brower-Loucks-Dunn farm property in Stone Arabia.

Mr. Barshied was an accomplished historical preservationist. From a very early age he was engaged in collecting, preserving, restoring and stewarding all forms of Mohawk

Valley heritage—artifacts, sites, stories and people. He was one of the founders and first president of a group which dedicated itself to the preservation of Fort Klock near St. Johnsville in 1954. Fort Klock and its surrounding complex is now one of a very few national landmarks in Montgomery County. He participated in the restoration of the Windfall Dutch Barn at Salt Springville and was the first chairman of the Trustees of Salt Springville Community Restoration. He restored the Conrad Kilts Farm at Stone Arabia, which includes a Dutch barn circa 1790, Greek Revival house, summer kitchen, a relocated 18th century house and a relocated building used as a shoe shop. Many of those with an interest in the past and the area were proud to have been given personal tours of the beloved property.

Willis was a strong participant and leader in many important Mohawk Valley organizations. He was one of the founders of Stone Arabia Preservation Society as well as a Trustee of Canajoharie Library and art gallery. He spent many years helping the Young Pioneer Program at Fort Klock. He was a supporter and friend of the Stone Arabia Amish community. Many of his tools can be seen in the hands of this community today. He was an active part of the Town of Palatine citizenry and often informed the town board on ruling and events of

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the recent (and distant) past. In 2008, Mr. Barshied received the 2008 Liberty Bell Award from the Montgomery County Bar Association and the National Historic Preservation Medal from the Daughters of the American Revolution.

Skip's collecting often focused on the families of Stone Arabia. His collections have been important for many in genealogy searches and those looking to learn more about the Palatine region of New York. Throughout his years, he authored various newspaper articles and historical narratives. He was the author of the book "Shoes for John," the story of a Stone Arabia boy in the time of the American Revolution. Over the past few years, many of his unique historical tools and artifacts have had a weekly presence in the paper under the title of "Whatchmacallits." Many of his musings and stories can still be enjoyed online at www.DutchBarnFarm.com/essaysbyskip.php.

His wife of 58 years, Ethel Nellis Barshied, predeceased him on November 10, 2006. His brother Robert and sister-in-law Penny also predeceased him. Mr. Barshied is survived by his son Andy and daughter-in-law Maureen, who reside in Averill Park, NY. He has four wonderful grandchildren: Ben (and Claire) Barshied, of New York, NY; Matthew (and Lauren) Barshied of Ross, CA; Gregory (and Alexandra) Barshied of Grand Rapids, MI; and Kristen (and Tim) Sheehan of Pleasant Valley, NY. His nephew Scott Barshied resides in Mechanicsville. At the time of his death, there are 12 children that called him Great-Grandpapa.

Upcoming Events

- | | |
|---------------------|--|
| February 15 | McDowell Lecture, Woodland Pond
Leader: John Cox |
| March 21 | Pine Plains, Dutchess Co.
Leader: Bob Hedges |
| April 18 | Snyder Farmstead and Barn, Saugerties, Ulster Co.
Leader: Roberta Jeracka |
| May 16 | John Jay Homestead, Katonah, Westchester Co.
Leader: Rich Gromek |
| May 30 | 10 th Wallkill Valley Land Trust House Tour |
| June 6 | Greene Co. Historical Society 44th Annual Tour of Homes |
| July 11 | Hurley Stone House Day and Summer Picnic, Hurley, Ulster Co.
Leader: Jim Decker |
| August 15 | Schoharie, Schoharie Co.
Leader: Wally Wheeler |
| September 19 | Bethlehem, Albany Co.
Leader: Christine Shields |
| October 17 | Princeton NJ, Montgomery Township
Leader: JF de Laperouse |