



FALL 2005

### VFW CONSULTS EBHS ARCHIVES

Recently Harold Fell, Sr. has been using the Society's large file of obituaries to determine the war in which a list of deceased veterans served. The research is in preparation for a new monument to replace the existing monument in Memorial Park which has suffered weather damage. The first phase of the project will be the creation of a new base and a new obelisk. The second phase will be the addition of individual monuments for WW1, WW2, Korea and Vietnam, listing the deceased soldiers from each conflict.

The obituaries which Fell is consulting are housed in nine indexed and alphabetized volumes, a project begun a number of years ago by Marlene Hejnal and continued by Society volunteers. Individual obituaries clipped from local newspapers are preserved for posterity on photocopies.

VFW Post #7765 is spearheading the memorial project and has inaugurated a fund drive to raise the estimated cost of \$20,000. William Moore, Chuck Simmons, David Cohen and Harold Fell are working on the project. Contributions may be sent to: Memorial Fund, c/o VFW Post #7765, P.O. Box 293, Red Hook, NY 12571.

### TOWN OF RED HOOK TO HOST SILVER RIBBON TOUR

The Egbert Benson Historical Society is working with the Dutchess County Historical Society in the planning and preparations for the 12th Annual Dutchess County Historical Society Silver Ribbon Tour. The tour, which is an annual event conducted by the County Historical Society, will be held in the Town of Red Hook on Saturday, June 10, 2006. A list of properties to be visited on the tour is currently being developed by our historical society and the County Society. If you would be interested in volunteering to be a house docent or a house manager for the day of the event, please advise John Kennedy of our Board who can be reached at (845) 758-0914 or at [jkennedy3@hvc.rr.com](mailto:jkennedy3@hvc.rr.com). House Managers are responsible for overseeing the activities at one of the various properties being opened to the public. House docents are needed to serve in one or more of the various rooms in a historic home. Information on developments regarding the tour will be contained in future editions of this newsletter.

## GIFTS TO THE EGBERT BENSON HISTORICAL SOCIETY

The generosity of some people never fails to amaze me. The generosity of William McDermott to the Society is a genealogist's dream. Also any others that are doing research in the eighteenth century. Mr. McDermott gave us all his card files for the study of his book *Ordinary People*.

The wealth of this material is overwhelming so here goes a listing of what is involved:

1. Baptisms in the churches of Rhinebeck, Red Hook and Germantown
2. Miscellaneous cards with specific information regarding the residents of Rhinebeck and Livingston Manor.
3. Church matters
4. Cards from West Camp Lutheran Church on which religious identification is noted.
5. 1710 West Camp Census
6. Simmendinger List -1717
7. Sponsors to 1755
8. Clergymen - All filed together
9. Rhinebeck: Information from Board of Supervisors -1718-1755
10. Red Hook: Elected officials -1718-1755
11. Military matters principally from Calendar of British Manuscripts
12. Naturalizations, Kingston -1715
13. Morgan Lewis Papers - Correspondence papers 1715-1789, NY Historical Society
14. Wills
15. Rhinebeck Rent List & tenant information, Beekman
16. Marriages - Husband's
17. Marriages - Wives  
West Camp - 1<sup>st</sup> Communion
2218. Sponsors West Camp to 1755
19. Gallatin Reform Church; Parents, Children 1756-1775
20. St. Paul's (West Camp) - Parents 1756-1775
21. Christ Church and Round Top- Parents 1756-1775
22. St. Thomas Lutheran Church: Parents, Children 1756-1775
23. St. John's Lutheran Church: Parents 1756-1775
24. Germantown Reform Church: Parents Children 1756-1775
25. Linlithgo Reform Church: Parents, Children 1756-1775
26. Consistory - Kirkmasters, Elders, Deacons of the following churches: Rhinebeck Reform, Katsbaan, Linlithgo, Germantown, Gallatin, St. Pauls's St John's, Red Hook
27. West Camp - 1<sup>st</sup> Communion
28. Wurtemberg - 1<sup>st</sup> Communion
29. Lutheran Church of New York City as relevant to "Ordinary People" study.
30. Loonenberg Lutheran Church; Confirmations 1729-1755
31. Linlithgo Reform Church: Members 1756-1780
32. Members of Germantown Churches - 1710-1778
33. Members of Rhinebeck Churches: 1733-1775

Now if that isn't all, Mr. McDermott gave us the Censuses of Dutchess County from 1790 to 1865. Now that's what I call a GIFT.

Bobbie Thompson

## NOTES FROM A FELLER INTERVIEW

The trunk full of paper from the Feller homestead described in our last newsletter has been cleaned, sorted by subject and date and stored in archival sleeves in five fat notebooks forming a treasury of clues to the agricultural economy of our town. As a follow-up Nick Annas and John Vincent video-taped an interview with Feller's grandson, John Fraleigh Feller, who carries on the family business of fruit farming aided by an apple storage building built by his father in 1935.

The Feller farmhouse, said to have built in 1787, is owned by John Feller's sister and is currently for sale with 3.01 acres. The trunk of papers was bought by the Society at an auction, which included a blanket chest from which a collection of pristine blue and white woven coverlets was pulled. Feller showed John and Nick a fine jacquard-woven coverlet dated 1848, which he said, descended in the family. He complained that most of the family possessions had already been sold, including a portrait of John Fraleigh Feller, whose papers we have acquired.

A photo in the Historical Society archives shows a large piece of machinery labeled "Feller" which we learned was well drilling equipment used by Feller's father and his brothers, who quit farming to go into the well-drilling business and drilled most of the wells in Red Hook including the Town wells. John Feller, after a career as a photographer shooting weddings and testing cameras for the Roosevelt Library in Hyde Park where he was called upon to photograph Eleanor Roosevelt, returned to the family farm. Like his grandfather, he raises a variety of fruits and some vegetables.

We asked him about the Paint Mines referred to in the 19<sup>th</sup>-century correspondence. He remembered that there had been a quarry where they crushed gravel. The rocks in that area had so much iron that they would rust! The name Oriole Paints and Oriole Orchards came from the birds, which nested in the trees on the hillside.

## Life on a 19th Century Farm

Legal documents in the Feller papers shed light on the organization of the 144-acre Feller farm. In April 1878, John Fraleigh Feller leased to "Ishbond" Tyler for one year much of the farm, reserving for his own use "the dwelling house, the old orchard, the Cabbage patch, the fish pond, the old garden and the pig yard near the house and the swamp."

Tyler was to have "the use of all farming implements and machinery, the use of two teams for farming purposes, the milk from two cows, ½ the increase from Ducks, Turkeys and Geese, one half of the lambs raised the present season, one half of the pigs from the two old sows..." Thirty-seven bushels of Rye were growing on the farm and at the end of the lease Tyler was to "leave the same number".

## Life on a 19<sup>th</sup>-Century Farm (cont.)

The tenant was to pay \$400 rent in two installments and all "hiway taxes" assessed on the farm. In addition he was to pay all blacksmithing for the horse team and keep all farm equipment in repair. The tenant agreed not to claim any pay for labor performed by him "on the new house". (Leases to subsequent tenants include the use of a tenant house.) Tyler agrees to sow "the two stubble lots" and the potato ground with rye the coming fall and not to remove any manure made on the farm during the term of the lease. Feller agrees to pay for Rye in excess of the original 37 bushels at the rate of \$2 per bushel. Feller agrees to feed the fowls over the winter at his expense but Tyler is to feed and shelter the other farm animals. It was further agreed that all produce raised from the farm would remain the property of Feller and sold by him until the rent is paid and if any surplus remains it shall be the property of Tyler's wife. Similar terms were extended to Julia A Coon in 1880 except that the lease allows her the use of the tenant house, and all sheds, barns and other farm buildings for \$300, plus the "hiway taxes".

In 1882, Feller entered into an arrangement with Thomas Jefferson and Harry B. Stall of Red Hook allowing them the use of a 2 ½ acre plot "next to his orchard", providing them his teams to plow, harrow and furrow and "draw manure upon it". They were to plant eight bushels of potatoes and 1 ½ ponds carrot seed and the balance of the land in cabbages, providing all seed except the cabbage. Feller was to receive half the produce as his payment.

Most of the produce was sold locally for cash, or bartered for goods and services. Onions were shipped to commission merchants. In October 1892 James Tongue, Jr., Union Avenue, Rondout complained that the "pickling onions" bought from "the boat" were larger than they had been before and would not bring as good a price. The next year, 65 bags of onions were shipped from Barrytown to Hudson via the New York Central and Hudson River Railroad.

In 1895, 2 quarts strawberries sold for 20 cents, 4 quarts peas - 18 cents, 4 quarts beans - 13 cents, 14 head cabbage and ½ bushel onions - 33 cents and one 10lb turkey - \$1.40. Other crops sold were celery, radishes and peppers.

Apples were sold by the barrel in New York and shipped to merchants in England and Scotland. The barrels were purchased from George Feroe in Tivoli. In 1893 20 barrels were purchased for 28 cents each. 15 years earlier, 32 barrels were bought from Cornelius Pulver for \$2.88.

On Sept. 22, 1894, Woodall & Co., Liverpool, England acknowledged receipt of 18 barrels of apples shipped via the Cunard Steamship Company some of which were said to have arrived "in very bad condition". The 18 barrels brought \$33.07, less freight and cartage of \$3.60 for a net of \$29.47.

Hay and straw were shipped to New York by barge, often on Carnright & Fraleigh's barge "Sarah Smith". In 1880 8 Bales hay brought \$9.71, less \$1.65 freight. On August 16 of the same year 7 crates of pears brought \$7.70. The "Sarah Smith" left Barrytown every Monday at 6p.m and sailed from the foot of 10<sup>th</sup> Street in New York every Thursday at 5 P.M. Sometimes Carnright & Fraleigh bought produce outright. A receipt dated 1882 shows the purchase of 2719 cabbages for \$81.57.

All this activity seems to have produced only a marginal income for John Fraleigh Feller. For all the receipts in the collection there seem to be just as many accounts in arrears and in 1882 he began a serious effort to develop a quarry of iron bearing rock into a Paint Quarry - an enterprise which in the end also proved to be unsuccessful.

In spite of the national economic panic of 1893, John Fraleigh Feller managed to hold on to his farm and pass it on to his son Ernest. His son, John F. Feller, continues to farm and recently sold the development rights to his 139-acre orchard to Scenic Hudson and the Town of Red Hook, guaranteeing that it will remain in agricultural use. Located on Feller-Newmark Road in Upper Red Hook, the property has extensive views of the Catskill Mountains and the agricultural lands of Red Hook.

Barbara W. Bielenberg

## Survey of Dutch influenced Farms and Farm Buildings

**In the Former New Netherlands** (excerpt from article by Peter Sinclair)

There is a visual bond that connects New York State's Hudson, Mohawk, and Schoharie Valleys, with western Long Island, and with the northern counties of New Jersey. Our oldest buildings, what is now called vernacular architecture, have a characteristic look, and elements of style, not found anywhere else in the United States. These buildings are vestiges from our region's shared cultural heritage, from the time when we were all part of the Dutch Colony of New Netherlands.

In name, New Netherlands ended in the 1660's, but Dutch influences on building styles lasted well into the middle of the 19<sup>th</sup>-century. Surprisingly, while we now recognize the value of these early structures, and some have been preserved, we have neither an accurate inventory, nor even an accurate count of how many survive.

The year 2009 will mark the 400<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Henry Hudson's voyage to the New World. This led to the establishment of New Netherlands. The events and publicity of 2009 will be a chance to teach the value of preserving our vernacular architecture to a wide and diverse audience. By doing this, we can attract new partners, scholars, property owners, and the general public to our local and regional preservation efforts.

The Dutch Barn Preservation Society and the Hudson Valley Vernacular Architecture Society have teamed up with the SHBO, the Institute for Historic Farm Research at Arnhem, the Netherlands, and we propose to undertake a comprehensive survey of the surviving Dutch farm buildings in the entire region that encompassed the New Netherlands.

### **You can help by:**

1. Providing references to existing surveys and documentation in the Red Hook, Milan, and Rhinebeck Townships.
2. Help us locate existing buildings and farms that might qualify for the survey.

If you are interested, have information to share, or would like to help please contact:

Patsy and Craig Vogel by phone: 845-758-0706  
By email: Patsy@hvc.rr.com

## 2006 Membership Dues Announced

The Board of your historic society recommended to you at our Annual Meeting in June of last year, that the membership fees for the Society be adjusted in order to reflect current economic conditions and the rising costs of supplies and services. This recommendation was approved by the membership. For the 2006 membership year beginning 1/1/06, the new fees will be as follows:

Student (under 18 years)	- \$5.00
Individual -	\$15.00
Family -	\$25.00
Contributing-	\$50.00
Sustaining-	\$100.00
Life -	\$200.00

The Society is able to provide archival reference and program services due to the generosity of its members. We hope that you understand the need to slightly increase fees in order to cover necessary expenses.



Egbert Benson

HISTORICAL SOCIETY OF RED HOOK

P.O. Box 397 Red Hook, N.Y. 12571-0397

## MEMBERSHIP FORM 2006

The Egbert Benson Historical Society of Red Hook  
P.O. Box 397 Red Hook, New York, 12571

Name(s) (please print): \_\_\_\_\_

Mailing Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone Number (with area code): \_\_\_\_\_

Dues: Please check: Individual \$15 \_\_\_\_\_

Family \$25 \_\_\_\_\_

Student (under 18) \$5 \_\_\_\_\_

Donation (indicate any company matches please) \_\_\_\_\_

Life \$200 (individual) \_\_\_\_\_

Sustaining \$100 \_\_\_\_\_

Contributing \$50 \_\_\_\_\_

Benefits of membership : Advance notice of monthly programs ~ The knowledge that you support the collection, preservation, and dissemination of the history of the Town of Red Hook .