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## - ECHOES -

Winter 1993

*Dear Friends,*

*Christmas Open House at the Elmendorph was beautiful, innovative, warm and wonderful. For probably the first time in this century, our kitchen bake oven was used for the baking of breads and treats and even baked beans. Catherine Jones was our volunteer 19th century baking expert and what a wonderful job she did! So many visitors came and were warmed by the fire and the hot chocolate or Richard's mulled cider. They were delighted with the decorations and enchanted with the children who made decorations for the tree.*

*Thanks to all of you who donated homemade treats or greeted visitors. We want to especially thank Greig Farms for their apples, John Hardeman and Fruit Growers of Dutchess County for cider, Roger Hoffman for our Christmas tree, Mead Orchards for Lady apples, Red Hook IGA for fruit, Doris Lemmerman for organizing the children's activities, and all the many special people who decorated, cleaned, served and cooked.*

*In 1975, I spoke to several Elementary School classes about the importance of saving the Elmendorph. One of those classes was Barbara Field's 4th grade. They wrote to the Grand Union who owned the property and received a letter and even a phone call in the classroom. Barbara was a spark who got the children fired up about the project. She became a Charter Member of the Friends. In time, she became a Life Member and served on the Board of Directors as an outstanding secretary, aware that she was recording history. Barbara recently retired to Florida, but not before leaving her impact on our project. She was an outstanding teacher and used those abilities with children at the Elmendorph, giving them a true appreciation of the building that her school children helped to save. Best to you, Barbara.*

*We are proud and pleased to have received a grant from the distinguished Kaplan Foundation which likes the work we are doing. You'll read more about the grant and the ongoing restoration in this newsletter.*

*Save the date of Monday, March 29th, for our Annual Meeting. We'll send you more information soon. See you then.*

Rosemary E. Coons  
President  
Board of Directors

*P.S. Thank you to all the gracious friends who baked. The cookies were so wonderful that we plan to publish a little Christmas Cookie Book for next year's Elmendorph Open-House party. We hope many of you will send us your recipes. This will be a pleasant fund-raising effort and in time for Christmas giving '93.*



## RESTORATION COMMITTEE

- BARBARA BIELENBERG

We have begun the slow process of gaining State approvals of the plans and specifications for the restoration of the Middle Room, funded in part by the balance of our EQBA Matching Grant and the creation of an adjacent handicap lavatory and office/storeroom paid for by a Natural Heritage Trust grant from the New York State Legislature. The two projects will be bid together and separate accounts kept of all expenditures.

In the course of researching the Middle Room, we have found some painted panelling probably dating from the 1760's and evidence of a cupboard next to the fireplace which may also pre-date the present Federal appearance of the room.

Before work begins on the Middle Room, we plan to *carefully* remove the layers of wallpaper which cover large sections of the plaster walls. Technical assistance and encouragement has been received from Robert M. Kelly, editor of *Wallpaper Reproduction News* and a leading consultant in the historic wallpaper field. Mr. Kelly visited the Elmendorph in 1991 and pointed out the possibility that early 19th-century paper may still exist beneath the layers of later paper and paint.

Paint samples taken by Deborah S. Gordon, a consultant employed by the NYS Office of Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation at Peebles Island, have helped us identify which pieces of trim are original to the room and which, like the mantle, were added in the Federal updating. She also pointed out the existence of hand graining over intense red/brown paint on the door to the hall as well as the door surround. We are studying ways to remove the later layers of cream and off-white paint which cover the graining.

Scientific paint analysis allows us to peel away layers of history. For instance, immediately below the graining on the door is a lead-based turquoise paint which appears on other woodwork apparently dating from the original construction. A similar color appears on the fireplace surround of the 1830 kitchen! The early layers of paint were seen to be glazed with linseed oil which imparted a lustre to the otherwise flat paint surface.

We would welcome the assistance of patient volunteers to help with paint and wallpaper removal. Please call me at 758-2923 if you are interested in helping us uncover the secrets of our fascinating old building.

### FRIENDS OF ELMENDORPH, INC.

FEBRUARY 4, 1993

#### MONETARY DONATIONS

MR. & MRS. LOUIS AHLBACH\*  
FAITH COMPO\*  
CAROL FYLLINGEN\*  
MR. & MRS. JEROME GOLD  
BARBARA GUIDOS  
MR. & MRS. ROBERT TOTMAN  
MR. & MRS. GAY MILBRANDT  
FRIEDE MUNDHAUSEN  
MR. & MRS. DOUGLAS NORTON  
in Memory of Clinton & Ethel Falton Gallagher  
OLD DUTCH GARDEN  
MR. & MRS. SAMUEL PHELAN  
JAMES HARDIN in Memory of Mary Hardin

\* Denotes IBM Matching Grants

#### NEW MEMBERS:

JEAN COONS  
BILL AND GAIL DeLANNEY

#### DONATIONS: KITCHEN CABINETS/KITCHEN

ALMA & ROBERT BOWMAN  
MRS. RUSSEL L. CLUM in Memory of Russel L. Clum  
MRS. RUSSEL L. CLUM  
in Memory of Mr. & Mrs. Henry Brenzel  
EGBERT BENSON HISTORICAL SOCIETY  
MR. & MRS. HAROLD FIELD  
JOHN & EVELYN GIVISON  
in Memory of Amelia and Clareance Givison  
THE KAPLAN FUND  
ETHEL Z. WILKEN in Memory of Herbert Wilken

#### NEW LIFE MEMBERS:

MR. & MRS. HAROLD FIELD



Dear Friends,

The ANNUAL MEETING of the FRIENDS OF ELMENDORPH, INC. will be held on Monday, March 29, 1993 at 8:00 PM at McCaffrey's Cottage Restaurant on Route 9, north of the Village of Red Hook. The meeting will be preceded by a cash bar reception at 6:00 PM Dinner will be promptly at 6:30 PM.

Please send your proxy or dinner reservation to the Friends of Elmendorph, Inc. - PO Box 1776, Red Hook, New York 12571-0044 by March 20th, or call Mary Cioffi at 758-6204.

Our program for the evening will be MASON LORD of Hudson Valley Preservation who finished the exterior restoration of the Elmendorph last fall.

You may, of course, attend the program and meeting without coming to the dinner. Please let us know so we can arrange a seat for you.

Now is the time to renew your membership. A membership envelope is enclosed. We appreciate your continued support. REMEMBER, IBM employees' donations are matched.

-----PROXY-----

I/We will not attend the ANNUAL MEETING of the Friends of Elmendorph, Inc. In my absence, I hereby appoint the President or her deputy or \_\_\_\_\_ as my proxy to vote on all matters that may come before the membership on March 29, 1993.

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
signature

\_\_\_\_\_  
signature

-----DINNER RESERVATION-----

March 29, 1993

6:15 PM Open Bar      6:30 PM Dinner

MEETING at 8:00 PM

DINNER SELECTIONS

(include salad, rolls/butter, entree, dessert, tea or coffee, tax, tip)

1. Broiled Stuffed Sole
2. Chicken Franchise (lemon sauce)
3. Roast Beef

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Dinner Selection: \_\_\_\_\_

PLEASE MAKE DINNER CHECKS PAYABLE TO: MC CAFFREY'S COTTAGE

Please have your reservations in on or before March 20th



## ACQUISITIONS

- Barbara Bielenberg

The departure for Florida of our able Secretary, **Barbara Field**, leaves a gap which will be hard to fill but, before they left, Barbara and her husband Harold graciously left us some splendid additions to our collection of furnishings — a mahogany tilt-top table and a Windsor armchair for the Middle Room and an antique tole lantern and powder horn — which are right at home on the "new" mantle shelf of the 1830 kitchen. Thank you Barbara and Harold for these useful parting gifts.

**Bob Bielenberg's** Christmas gift from our son, **Reid**, was three handcrafted reproductions of the large antique key to the "new" old box lock on the restored kitchen door. Now we no longer have to worry about losing our one and only historic key to the back door! No gift could have pleased Bob more. Thank you, Reid!

## ADOPT-A-CABINET

Our campaign to create an efficient new kitchen/workroom adjacent to the 1830 kitchen has been given a major boost by a generous grant from the **J. M. Kaplan Fund** and a flurry of Adopt-a-Cabinet donations listed elsewhere in this newsletter. We are very grateful to **Joan K. Davidson**, President of the Kaplan Fund, and to all of you who have contributed since we began this campaign last summer.

Encouraged by your tangible show of support, our Directors authorized the Restoration Committee to draw up plans and specifications and the committee solicited proposals from local craftsmen and suppliers. **Kent Garlinghouse**, an independent contractor, was awarded the contract and hopefully, by the time you read this, work will be under way. We'd like to welcome our wonderful Elmendorph Etc. volunteers with a brightly lit, clean and convenient workspace in which to clean and prepare the many donations already coming in for the spring re-opening of our very popular Shop.



It's not too late to Adopt-a-Cabinet with a \$100 donation to the kitchen fund. Donations in any amount are always welcome. We also need a like-new 30" electric range and refrigerator for the kitchen.



*Early American Inns and Taverns* by Elise Lathrop, published 1926 and reissued 1977 by Arno Press, New York, provides evidence of the spartan quality of accommodations offered by inns and taverns in the days when the Elmendorph provided food and shelter to travelers on the Albany Post Road.

Kinderhook had a Mansion House which old residents can not now locate. In 1798, Elijah Hudson attracted attention to his inn here by advertising that he would provide lodging and clean sheets for one shilling, in answer to the advertisement of a Tarrytown inn that "lodging and clean sheets, 3 sh; dirty sheets, 1 sh." might be had.

In 1805, the proprietor of Russell's Tavern in Batavia, NY "...insisted that his sheets were clean, for they had been slept in only a few times since they were washed."

The Marquis de Chastellux stopped for the night at a drovers' inn in Dover, CT and "...found two hundred and fifty head of cattle around the place, the least troublesome of the company." However, learning that all the beds were taken, and preparing to sleep on the floor, some of the drovers engaged him in conversation, and learning that he was a Frenchman and an officer, protested that they could not allow him to do such a thing. He in turn assured them that, as a soldier, he was accustomed to hardships, but they persisted, and he was then given a room with beds for himself and his aides."

Friends of Elmendorph, Inc.  
P.O. Box 1776  
Red Hook, New York 12571

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