



NEWSLETTER

A House Divided: The Losees of Upper Red Hook and... New Orleans

In the early 1820s, Simeon and Sarah Eckart Losee left Dutchess County to farm in Saratoga County. Two of their sons, John E. and Harvey S., escaped the drudgery of farming through education. John became a doctor and moved back to Upper Red Hook. Harvey graduated from Union College in 1854. Two years later, family records show him being admitted to the Louisiana bar, in New Orleans.

On September 29, 1857, Harvey married Sarah Bartlett, another Dutchess County native. But when the Civil War broke out, he elected to fight for his adopted state and the South. Wounded at the Battle of Shiloh, he distinguished himself at the Battle of Pittsburgh Landing, was made a Lieutenant, and finally mustered out in 1863.

Like thousands of families North and South, the Losees were riven by the nation's bloodiest conflict. So what happened to the Losees after the war? Did Harvey and John manage to reconcile and move on, as so many others did not?

For the answer, be sure to join us for 'Civil War Voices,' Sunday, November 10, at The Elmendorph.



Harvey S. Losee



John E. Losee

*Photos courtesy Sarah
Hermans*

Upcoming Events! (All at the Elmendorph Inn)

Sunday, October 20, 3:00 pm: "Extra! Extra! Read All About It!" Observer publisher Kristofer Munn and columnist Christopher Klose examine the newspapering business in Red Hook from the mid-19th Century to the present.

Sunday, November 10, 3:00 pm: Civil War Voices In a Veteran's Day program co-sponsored by the Historical Societies of Rhinebeck and Red Hook, the war comes alive in glimpses of Red Hook and Rhinebeck soldiers and their loved ones, gleaned from their letters home and first-person journals and exhibits of Civil War artifacts.

Sunday, December 8, 1:00 pm - 4:00 pm, Ye Olde Dutch Christmas Open House
Mulled cider and cookies, live music, fresh-baked bread from the beehive oven.

President's Letter

Happy autumn, everyone! We trust that you enjoyed the summer and are settling into your fall routines. Late spring and early summer we were pleased to present some very interesting programs, including April's fascinating illustrated history of our very special octagonal gem, the Red Hook Public Library. In July, Dutchess County Historian Will Tatum joined us for a discussion on the latest on how best to generate interest and membership in historical societies. Both the Library history and Will's talk are available on our Web site.

Culinary historian and author Gary Allen highlighted our May annual meeting with his "A Taste of History" talk and tastings of period 19th Century foods.

In conjunction with New York State's "Path through History" project, we were very pleased to open the Elmendorph on two successive Sundays in June. Diana Louie exhibited antique quilts, describing their history. Sarah Hermans shared some of her family's extensive Civil War stories and mementoes, and Larry Thetford's wonderful "Ice Harvesting on the Hudson" exhibit on the second floor was a huge draw.

The Elmendorph was bustling again in late September when 140 fourth-graders toured the inn, especially enjoying Cornelius Elmendorph who took them back in time and Larry Thetford who greeted them as their ice harvesting "boss." A highlight was a peek into the recently furnished upstairs bedroom (complete with period rope beds and chamber pot), where Boss Larry told his crews they would sleep "no more than five to a bed" before reporting to him on the river for work in the morning!

I'm pleased to report that the planned consolidation of the Historical Society and The Friends of Elmendorph has been unanimously approved by the memberships and boards of both organizations. Our application to consolidate was submitted to the State in June and the Board of Regents is scheduled to vote on it by October 22. Fingers crossed, we should receive formal confirmation soon after.

When "Historic Red Hook" becomes official, we will announce the new organization with all due fanfare in the local media and across the Internet.

We look forward to seeing you at our programs as well as helping with any research here in the Rosemary Coons Archives Room. We are open Tuesdays between 10 a.m. and 4 p.m.

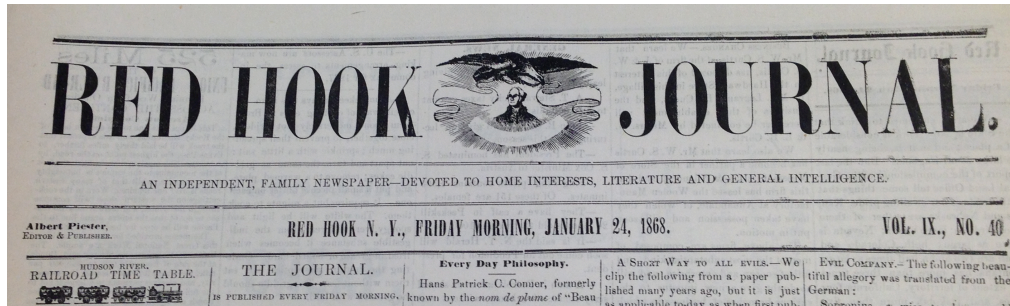
Thank you for your continuing enthusiasm and support!

Board of Trustees

2013

Claudine Klose, President
Christopher Klose, Vice-President
Robin Cherry, Treasurer
Carol Annas, Secretary
Barbara Bielenberg, Trustee
Carolyn Taylor, Trustee
John Vincent, Trustee
Patsy Vogel, Trustee

Notes from the Archives



We are very pleased to report that we have recently completed a project with the Red Hook Public Library to inventory and transfer its local history materials to the Historical Society. These include a valuable collection of publications on local genealogy that we have added to our existing research library, and a long run of original Red Hook newspapers from the mid-19th to late 20th Centuries. They make for fascinating reading and are available for research on Tuesdays or by appointment.

Meanwhile, we remain indebted to Maynard Ham for continuing his wonderful “Red Hook Journal” distillations from original newspapers. His latest compendium will give us a good sense of life in Red Hook during that fateful Civil War year of 1863.

As part of the transfer, we received microfilms of our earliest newspapers (*The Red Hook Journal*, 1859-1917). They are being digitized and will soon be uploaded to the Fulton History website for all to see and search. We’ll keep you posted as to when they are launched.

Also, we are fortunate to have acquired a complete run of the *Red Hook Advertiser* from the 1920s to the 1960s, for which no microfilm exists, and we plan to apply for a grant to digitize this collection.

Our sincerest thanks go to the Library for entrusting the Historical Society with this valuable set of research materials. We hope and trust that they will be used widely in the years to come by amateur and professional genealogists, historians and the generally curious alike.

Duplicate Historical Materials Free for the Asking!

As we make room in the archives for the new trove of local history materials, we are offering never-accessioned duplicates to the public free of charge. Among the items available for immediate pick-up are:

- Unbound issues of *Gazette Advertisers* from various periods between 1972 to 2004.
- Lyceum movie posters, in poor condition but evocative of Red Hook’s past.
- Various genealogy and New York State history reference books.

If you are interested, please leave a message at 845-758-1920 or contact Claudine Klose at claudineklose@gmail.com.

Membership Form 2013

The Egbert Benson Historical Society of Red Hook

P.O. Box 397 Red Hook, New York, 12571

www.redhookhistory.com, 845-758-1920

Name(s) (please print): _____

Mailing Address: _____

E-mail Address: _____

Telephone Number (with area code): _____

_____ I would like to receive my newsletter via e-mail rather than regular mail.

_____ I would like to volunteer. Area (s) of interest _____

Dues: ___ Individual \$15; ___ Family \$25; ___ Student (under 18) \$5; ___ Contributing \$50

_____ Sustaining \$100; ___ Life (Individual) \$200

Benefits of membership: Newsletter subscription ~ Advance notice of monthly programs ~ Satisfaction that you support the collection, preservation and dissemination of the Town of Red Hook's rich history.

Egbert Benson Historical Society of Red Hook
P.O. Box 397
Red Hook, N.Y. 12571

