



Egbert Benson HISTORICAL SOCIETY OF RED HOOK

P.O. Box 1813 Red Hook, N.Y. 12571-0397

FROM THE PRESIDENT'S KEYBOARD

Barbara Bielenberg

FALL 1998

In this issue we include one of Maynard Ham's compilations of news items from Fall, 1898 issues of *The Red Hook Journal*. The original issues are in bound volumes in the archives of the Red Hook Public Library and preserved on microfilm. Maynard began putting together these fascinating nuggets last spring in preparation for the Library's 100th Anniversary. So many of the names mentioned are still found here in Red Hook and many appear in the first U. S. census of 1790, and on the roster of Civil War volunteers from Dutchess County.

How fortunate we are to live in a community where the past is so mingled with the present. Though skateboards and minivans have replaced coaster wagons and carriages, the houses and commercial buildings are little changed since the 1890s. We applaud the Red Hook farmers who have dedicated their lands to agricultural use under Scenic Hudson's Farmland Protection Project described by Seth McKee at our 1997 Annual Meeting. Our hamlets and villages developed to serve the needs of farmers; now the farmers serve us by preserving the fields and orchards which have long defined our landscape.

It can be argued that the conservation movement in Red Hook began in 1840 when Louise Livingston and Robert Donaldson negotiated with John C. Cruger to purchase the Saw Kill River gorge between Montgomery Place and Blythewood to prevent its development as a mill site. Although Donaldson and Livingston were protecting their own private "pleasure grounds," 150 years later we can all enjoy their efforts from the hiking trails at Montgomery Place and Bard College.

In just such a manner, the conservation efforts we make today will benefit future generations. Whenever we conserve a farm, a waterfall, a village home, scraps of newspaper or diary, we link the past, the present and the future and strengthen our sense of place and identity in a world that sometimes seems to be disintegrating around us. Care must be taken of small treasures as well as the grand for the sake of all who come after us.

Thank you for your support of the Historical Society and its efforts to preserve the papers and artifacts of our community. We hope you will all renew your memberships for 1999 and consider adding a donation toward the expenses of maintaining and equipping our new home.

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HISTORICAL SOCIETY TURNS TWENTY

On September 22, 1978, The Egbert Benson Historical Society of Red Hook was granted a Provisional Charter by the Board of Regents of the University of the State of New York and in due time a permanent charter was also granted. The original incorporators were **John Losee, Barbara W. Bielenberg, Richard Coons, Leocadia Kittner, Ardith St. John, Marian Champlin, Harriet Johnson, Georgia Coons and Maynard J. Ham.**

The Historical Society grew out of the interest in local history and patriotic fervor generated by Red Hook's Bicentennial Committee and inspired by the National Bicentennial Commission and Village and Town Historians **Rosemary Coons and J. Winthrop Aldrich.** The purposes of the Society are spelled out in the Provisional Charter:

- a. To preserve the past and present for the future;
- b. To collect and preserve documents and artifacts of historic interest relating to Egbert Benson as well as the township of Red Hook;
- c. To promote and encourage historical research and to foster and promote public knowledge, awareness and interest in the history of the township of Red Hook;
- d. To develop and publish materials relating to the history of the township of Red Hook;

[continued next page]

- e. To encourage preservation and ownership by the society of historic sites, buildings and markers in the township of Red Hook;
- f. To cooperate with local officials in insuring preservation and accessibility of the records and archives of the township and its institutions;
- g. To cooperate with or coordinate activities of other organizations in the township to accomplish all of the above objectives.

Fired by the enthusiasm of the Bicentennial, the original incorporators drew up an ambitious set of goals which continue to inspire and challenge the Society and its trustees. Much has already been accomplished and, with the continued support and participation of our members, the Society will expand its service to the Red Hook community, Dutchess County and Hudson Valley.

Barbara Bielenberg

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ARCHIVE UPDATE

Linda Keeling, Archivist Pro Tem

Work on the archival collection has been proceeding at a steady pace. **Bobbie Thompson** faithfully sorts and records on the computer the contents of identified boxes. Two open-shelf units have been bought and assembled with the help of high-school volunteer, **Jonathan Keeling**. Several archival supply orders have arrived and materials inventoried are rehoused, labeled and shelved. The spacious facilities and temporary work tables make this tedious task more pleasurable and rewarding.

An immediate goal is to purchase two more open-shelf units, relocate the older shelf unit to the receiving/workroom (providing storage space for the extra archival and office supplies) and continue processing the materials. The overall objectives are to: verify the deed of gift; identify, number and data-enter and describe the collections; rehouse and/or reformat materials; label and store the material for quick identification and easy access by the acting archivists answering public inquiries. The intent is to have a neat, uniform storage appearance, safer storage conditions and faster access to the materials. There is still much inventorying to do and more supplies needed. Acid-free file folders, boxes and tissue are expensive but necessary for the long-term storage of the historic materials entrusted to our care. **We welcome donations in any amount.** One of our pressing needs is a good **desk-top copier** to duplicate material for researchers using our collections. **Two long work tables** are also needed to replace the assorted card-tables we're using now.

To date we have received donations totaling \$605.00 for storage boxes, files and other archival supplies. Our sincere thanks to **Marie Milbrandt**, **Carrier Ellen Burger**, **Fergus Bordewich** and **Mildred and Louis Hubach** for their donations. We're exceedingly grateful to the anonymous donor who presented our archive center with an excellent, nearly-new computer and printer which Bobbie is using to compile our collections records. Thanks also to **Joe Kavaky** for giving us a good color TV on which we can show educational tapes and recordings of previous Society meetings.

The archive center is open for research from 10 A.M. to 3 p.m. on Tuesdays and at other times by appointment. We invite you to stop by and admire the progress!

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On June 27, 1998, a large crowd of well-wishers gathered on the front lawn of the Red Hook Library for a program celebrating the Library's 100th Anniversary.

(photo by Sue Crane)

The Red Hook Journal.

AN INDEPENDENT, LOCAL FAMILY NEWSPAPER.

THE RED HOOK JOURNAL
IS PUBLISHED
EVERY FRIDAY MORNING, AT
RED HOOK, DUTCHESS COUNTY, NEW YORK,
BY A. PIESTER.
TERMS:—1.50 A YEAR, IN ADVANCE.

Rates of Advertising:

| | |
|--------------------------------|--------|
| One Square, one insertion..... | \$.50 |
| Each subsequent insertion..... | .25 |
| Three months..... | 3.00 |
| Six months..... | 5.00 |
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Advertisements should specify the number of insertions they are to have, or they will be continued until forbid and charged according to the above rates.

Subscriptions and advertisements not discontinued until all arrearages are paid, except at the option of the Proprietor.

Communications on all topics of public interest are respectfully solicited. The writer should, in all cases give his name and address, not for publication, but as a guarantee of good faith.

Job Printing.

With new Type and material of all kinds, we are prepared to do all kinds of work, from the Poster to the fine Card, Bill Heads, Letter Heads, Envelopes, and Blanks of every description, in the best style, and on reasonable terms.

Mrs. John Heyne, of this village, had the misfortune on Tuesday to fall and break her leg near the ankle. 10-7

Invitations are out for the marriage of Miss Ina L. Teal and Mr. William C. Aucock, at St. Paul's Lutheran Church, in this village, Oct. 19th, at 1 o'clock. 10-7

W.S. Teator, of Upper Red Hook, is an exhibitor of fifty varieties of apples at the show in New York this week. Last year he took second prize.

John H. Elseffer is at Atlantic City.

Mrs. Joseph H. Donnelly and family have removed to Cohoes. The house vacated by them will be occupied by Mr. John Ham. 10-7

The Hudson young women who are employed in the Athens knitting mill are taken over the river in rowboats every night the mill is kept running until nine o'clock. The mill owners pay for the transportation of the help across the river after 9 p.m. 10-7

Capt. William Astor Chanler, of Barrytown, assistant adjutant-general, U.S.V., has been honorably discharged by direction of the President. 10-7

It is possible that both Theodore Roosevelt and Chauncey M. Depew are coming to Po'keepsie on the 27th of this month. General Ketcham has asked that the opera house be engaged for that evening. — Eagle.

The Watermelon Sociable at the M.E. Chapel last Thursday evening was a pleasant affair. The net proceed were about \$6. 10-14

Mrs. Wm. M. Hoffman has been quite serious ill for the past two weeks.

Mr. W. P. Slocum, of Erieville, Madison county, drove in town with a fine pair of carriage horses this week, and is visiting F. I. Whitnall.

**EVERY THURSDAY
—IS—
BARGAIN DAY
AT E. W. PITCHER'S.**

NOVEMBER 3d,

Muslins, Extra Quality, 4½ cents a yard.

Men's, Ladies and Children's
Gloves, Overalls and Jackets.

E. W. PITCHER,
Red Hook, N. Y.

A little son of George Cole received a fracture of his leg by falling from a wagon on Tuesday. 10-14

Mrs. P.W. Rhynders, Mrs. G.W. Thompson and Mrs. W.E. Burnett are visiting friends in New York. 10-14

WANTED.— Girls to work in Chocolate Factory, at Annandale. Conveyance to Barrytown Corners. Apply by letter. J. GRIFFING. 10-14

Col. Roosevelt is advertised to attend the reunion of the 128th Regiment, at Tivoli, on the 19th of this month, also, Gen. Ketcham and Secretary of State Palmer. A grand time is expected. A parade will be formed consisting of the Tivoli Fire Department, the A.O.U.W.; delegations from the school; Clinton Hose Co., and Grand Army Post of Newburgh; the Daughters of Veterans of Fishkill; and the Sons of Veterans of Hudson. There will be a grand ball in the evening. 10-14

Curtis and Benner have the contract to put a hot water heating apparatus in the J.W. de Peyster Home, at Madalin. They will use a Boynton heater and forty nine radiators, costing over sixteen hundred dollars.

The members of the Red Cross Auxiliary are requested to send the garments for the soldiers, that they have been making, to the home of Mrs. C.A. Allendorf, on or before Wednesday afternoon, October 19th. This is the last meeting of the society and the officers wish to send the last package to the supply depot on Thursday, the 20th. 10-14

Pertalties are by law imposed upon those who allow a child under sixteen years to be in any place where beer or liquor is sold; or, who allow any such child to play any game of chance in any resort; or, who gives or sells liquor of any kind to such child. It is a misdemeanor to sell to any child under sixteen tobacco in any form. It is a misdemeanor, punishable by a fine of not less than \$2 for any such child to be found smoking in any public street or resort. —

Po'keepsie Enterprise.

ROCK CITY.—Another fine drove of cattle from over the river has arrived out on the suburbs. The farmers are preparing for winter which the wise ones say will be a "tough one". . . . Miss Mary Hedges and Mrs. John Cotting took a trip to Germantown on their wheels last week . . . The clam chowder supper at the home of Mr. & Mrs. L. Rector's was a pleasant affair. 10-14

Catskill possesses a young married man, who is blind, and is very fond of cycling. He is very frequently found on a tandem with his wife or sister, and has been known to ride alone. He travels about the streets of the village alone on foot about as well as men who possess their sight. 10-21

The United States is now formally in possession of the island of Porto Rico as sovereign. 10-21

There is talk of organizing a drum corps in this village. Let it be done.

Ripe strawberries were picked in the garden of Miss Serena Hevenor the 1st week. 10-21

See that your name is registered on Saturday next if you wish to vote at the next election. 10-21

The Democratic Club will meet at Daly's Hotel, Tuesday afternoon Oct. 25th, at 2 o'clock. All members are requested to be present. 10-21

W.M. Van Steenburgh dispensed free soda water Saturday, which was a treat to all the children, and has discontinued the soda business for the season. 10-21

Mr. John Aspinwall, of Barrytown, will spend the winter in Brooklyn.

Mr. Jas. H. Kidd, of Tivoli, had the misfortune last week to fall and break his arm. 10-21

The death of Mrs. Christiana Scism, wife of the late Henry Scism, of Van, occurred at her residence Oct. 10th. She was 80 years of age. her remains were interred in the Methodist cemetery in this village.

BOOM.



CURTIS FRALEIGH, AGENT,
Red Hook, N. Y.

Hallowe'en next Monday night, Oct. 31st.

D.W. Kipp is making large additions and improvements to the house of Frank Nelson. 10-28

Bertha Melius, of Tivoli, was terribly burned on her arm while lighting a gasoline stove Wednesday morning. 10-28

The dePeyster Engine House, of Tivoli, will not be finished in time to hold the dedication exercises on Nov. 15th, as was first announced. 10-28

From the present outlook, the coming election, November eighth, will be a lively one. The candidates and politicians are pushing the campaign as vigorously as possible. 10-28

J. W. WALDORF, PAINTING,

Paper Hanging, Kalsomining and
Wood Finishing,
Red Hook, N. Y.

EDWARD O. KIPP, Mason and Builder, RED HOOK, N. Y.

Estimates furnished on application. Satisfaction guaranteed. Jobbing a specialty. All orders promptly attended to. Prices reasonable.

The Rev. Dr. Potter, who has recently taken charge of St. John's Church, Barrytown, has rented from Mr. John Aspinwall "the Oaks," formerly occupied by Rev. Mr. Cushing. 10-28

On Friday evening, November 4th, the Round Table Literary Society will hold a debate in the Methodist Chapel on the subject, Resolved "That the United states retain the Philippine Islands. 10-28

The house of John Boice, near Upper Red Hook. was entered by burglars last Wednesday, while the family was away. The thieves were arrested at Madalin and sent to jail. 10-28

The officers of the government Weather Bureau offer to furnish this village and vicinity with telegraphic reports of the weather forecasts, and furnish the necessary signal flags provided the citizens will put up a suitable flag-staff for the display of these signal flags. Cards explaining these signals are furnished free. These telegraphic reports are received several hours in advance of the evening papers. It remains to be seen whether there is public spirit enough to purchase the flag-staff. Contributions can be left at the Post Office, Geo. S. Aucock's or E.W. Pitcher's. 10-28

On Monday, October 31st, at 7:30 o'clock, there will be a Social in the M.E.Chapel, admission to which will be a book suitable for the new library in process of arrangement. It is earnestly requested that every one by sufficiently interested in this matter to come and bring a book. Many undoubtedly have in their libraries books they have read and no longer care to retain, but that others may be very desirous of reading. Do not bring paper covered books. It is hoped to have the books ready for distribution in a short time, and the above method of obtaining some will allow us to purchase more and thus increase the circulating power of the library.

M.G. WILBUR,
Sec'y. Library Board 10-28

TOM DALEY AND OUR HUDSON HERITAGE

Patrick Higgins

The Hudson Valley is where the deer outnumber the people, the nights are silent except for the steady hum of the insect life. Occasionally the nocturnal setting is enlivened by a chorus of foxes. It is this bucolic setting that has attracted people to the area for over two hundred years. The newcomers came and many left their mark in the form of mansions they built often to glorify their own existence. Whether for self-glory or not, the architecture of these palaces was a credit to the builders and often an enhancement to the landscape.

One of the great students of the magnificence of the Hudson Valley mansions is Tom Daley. Tom has spent almost fifty years recording and photographing the architecture of these places. Many have long since gone, some captured by nature reclaiming its own, others becoming the victim of vandals or falling prey to the wrecker's ball. As many of these great houses were passing away, Tom Daley was able to photograph their fading grandeur before they passed into oblivion. Tom's ambition is to preserve the past through photography. He has studied the great architects of the last century and traced their works in the Hudson Valley. As some of the great mansions were about to disappear, Tom with his camera was often the last one to admire the architectural art that was about to fall by the wayside.

Tom's interest in architecture was first aroused in the early 1950s when the Newburgh City Historian asked him to photograph some old buildings in the city that were to be demolished. When he saw the art that was to be destroyed, Tom directed his attention to the great houses in the Hudson Valley and began photographing them, fearing that they too would become lost in the dust. We still have many great mansions in the Hudson Valley, and through Tom's photography we have records of the ones that are no longer with us.

Tom likes to bring the grandeur of the past to us through lectures and slide showings. I have been fortunate to have attended some of his lectures. The excellence of his slides is only surpassed by his presentation. Many of the mansions Tom talks about, he knew as a child growing up in the area. His presentations have such a personal aura that the beauty of the slides becomes even more alive. The past is gone, we cannot reconstruct the great houses that are no longer with us, nor can we recreate the artwork that has been allowed to disappear from the scene. But even if the past has fled, through the photography of Tom Daley we can still revisit it.

Tom Daley will show slides and talk about the **Lost Treasures of Red Hook and Rhinebeck** at our November 17th meeting. Included will be Elizabeth Schermerhorn Jones's brick mansions **Wyndcliffe**, now a ruin; William Astor's **Ferncliff**, demolished in 1941; Douglass Merritt's **Leacote**, burned down in 1977 and, closer to home, Franklin and Laura Delano's Italianate **Steen Valetje**, extensively remodeled and renamed in the late 1960s.

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Egbert Benson Historical Society of Red Hook FALL SCHEDULE

Sept. 15 - **A Prehistoric Perspective of the Hudson Valley**
Ted Filli and Larry Thetford

Oct. 20 - **Researching Your Family History:** Panel Discussion
Audrey Klinkenberg - Genealogy 101
Jenny Fleck - Genealogy on the Internet
Nancy Kelly - Researching Church Records
Barbara Thompson - Family History Center and Libraries

Nov. 17 - **Lost Treasures of Red Hook and Rhinebeck:** Slide Talk
Tom Daley

Dec. 15 - **A Norwegian Christmas Party**
Hosted by Mim Brown and Magnus Fyllingen

*Coming in 1999: "Remembering Milan and Rock City" with
Milan Historian Patrick Higgins and longtime residents*



Kelly Small of the Hudson Valley Ladies Aid Society describes women's lives during the Civil War to a rapt audience at the July 25th-25th reenactment cosponsored by the Historical Society
(photo by Barbara Bielenberg)



WHERE DOES OUR MONEY GO?

1998 Income:

| | |
|---|-----------------|
| Donations | \$ 3,413.50 |
| Memberships | 1,812.50 |
| Redemption of CD, Interest, Sales, etc. | <u>2,127.73</u> |
| | \$ 7,353.73 |

1998 Expenses:

| | |
|--|---------------|
| Archive Room Furnishings | \$ 2,569.48 |
| Supplies (archival boxes, file folders, photo storage materials, etc.) | 641.49 |
| Photocopies and Newsletter | 1,139.34 |
| Postage (newsletter and meeting notices) | 991.17 |
| Publications | 1,000.00 |
| Miscellaneous (awards, refreshments, etc.) | <u>724.78</u> |
| | \$ 7,066.26 |

As you can see, we really do NEED your memberships and DONATIONS for 1999!
Remember, if your address label doesn't say 1999—your dues are due NOW!



Linda Keeling and a capacity crowd enjoy colorful Norwegian-style sandwiches prepared by Mim Brown and Carol Fyllinger for the December meeting



Egbert Benson HISTORICAL SOCIETY OF RED HOOK

P.O. Box 1813 Red Hook, N.Y. 12571-0397

MEMBERSHIP FORM - 1999

Name(s) (Please Print)

Mailing Address

Telephone Number ()

ANNUAL DUES

Check appropriate line(s): make check payable to "Egbert Benson Historical Society"

____ Family \$12 ____ Individual \$8 ____ Student (under 18) \$1
____ Contributing \$25 ____ Sustaining \$50 ____ Life (\$100 or more)
____ Business or Organization \$15 DONATION _____

We invite you to help with the work of the Society. Please indicate your interest by checking below:

____ Archives (collecting, cataloging historical documents) ____ Fundraising and Membership
____ Newsletter (writing, printing, mailing) ____ Hospitality (meet, greet members at regular meetings,
arrange for refreshments)
____ Program (meet once or twice yearly to plan monthly programs, prepare information for Newsletter)

BENEFITS OF MEMBERSHIP: • Advance notice of monthly meetings • Three newsletters each year • The knowledge that you are supporting the collection, preservation, and dissemination of the history of the Town of Red Hook.

Address change service

Egbert Benson HISTORICAL SOCIETY OF RED HOOK
P.O. Box 1813 Red Hook, N.Y. 12571-0397



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