



Egbert Benson

HISTORICAL SOCIETY OF RED HOOK**P.O. Box 397 Red Hook, N.Y. 12571-0397**

From the Desk of:

*J. Winthrop Aldrich, Red Hook Town Historian***St. Margaret's Home**

The Red Hook Town Board in May appointed a three member taskforce to represent the community in exploring alternative uses and preservation approaches in charting the future of this historic property on Route 9 south of the Village. Hannaford Brothers, Inc., its owner, has offered to donate the former orphanage building and its lot to the Town, but the Town Board hopes to minimize cost burden -- if any -- to the Red Hook taxpayers. Beth Pagano, Wint Aldrich and Steven Cole, the appointees, will be working to effectuate the property's listing on the National Register of Historic Places and its consequent eligibility for a State rehab grant, application for which would be made once title has been transferred. They will be discussing with organizations and individuals possible tenancies in the building. They will be making periodic reports to the Town Board, and recommendations as to further action.

The Historical Society and its members are cordially invited to participate in this important effort by contacting a member of the taskforce with suggestions. This proffered gift presents a remarkable opportunity to preserve and bring into community use a notable building, conveniently located and in adequate repair -- an opportunity that must not be allowed to elude us through inaction. With a little imagination and goodwill a significant piece of Red Hook's heritage can come to play an important role in the community's future.

St. Margaret's Home

Photo courtesy of

Egbert Benson Historical Society

Photo collection

Archives Room

Village of Red Hook Historic Survey

The time has come to give serious thought to undertaking a survey of the buildings and neighborhoods of the Village of Red Hook with the objective of determining which portions of the Village are eligible for listing on the State and National Registers of Historic Places, and then to consult closely with the staff of the State Historic Preservation Office, the Village government and the respective property owners as to whether or not to proceed with the nomination of districts and individual properties. As is well known, such listing does not affect an owner's rights respecting his property, but it surely enhances his sense of pride in his neighborhood and his interest in its heritage, and in certain instances can make properties eligible for State grants and Federal income tax credits. The entirety of the Village of Tivoli and much of the Village of Rhinebeck have been listed on the National Register for many years.

This would be a timely and appropriate project for the Historical Society to sponsor, through establishment of an ad hoc committee. Recruits, please step forward!

ST. MARGARET'S HOME,
RED HOOK, N.Y.

Mr. and Mrs. Benjamin Pier Return to Red Hook

By Barbara Bielenberg

Large oil portraits of Red Hook farmer and merchant Benjamin Seymour Pier and his wife Ann Marie Mooney Pier now hang in the 2nd floor gallery of the Elmendorph Inn. They were loaned to the Dutchess County Historical Society for its Bicentennial exhibition, Nineteenth Century Art in Dutchess and have been in storage in Poughkeepsie ever since. The portraits are especially significant to the Red Hook community because they were painted by Mrs. Pier's brother, Edward Ludlow Mooney (1813-1887), a recognized 19th-century portrait painter.

Edward Mooney was born and worked in New York City but maintained a summer home and studio in Upper Red Hook until his death in 1887. He studied at the National Academy of Design and regularly exhibited in the Academy's Annual Exhibitions. Regarded as one of the prominent portrait painters of his time, his portraits of former Mayors hang in the New York City Hall. In 1840 he was awarded a coveted commission to execute a portrait of the emissary of the Imam of Zanzibar to President Van Buren. The emissary arrived in New York harbor on the Imam's ship, El Sultanee on April 30, 1840. Mooney is said to have done full justice to his exotic subject and his gorgeous, colorful costume. The portrait survives in the City Hall collection.

Mooney studied portraiture with the well-known painter Henry Inman and Inman painted a portrait of his talented student. The portrait is now in the collection of the National Academy along with a companion portrait of Inman painted by Mooney. Both portraits hung in Mooney's Red Hook home until the death, in 1909, of the Mooney's only daughter Ella. An inventory listed 82 paintings hanging in the house at the time of Ella's death, some by Edward Mooney and his contemporaries and a number by Ella herself.

The house still stands on "Maple Hill" at the corner of the old Post Road and Spring Lake Road in Upper Red Hook. The present owners, Mr. and Mrs. Peter Lombard run a bed and breakfast in the spacious building that is believed to have been built as early as 1752. Robert G. Livingston advertised it for sale in 1783. The purchaser was Henry Van Allen Lyle a noted lawyer. He and his wife Gertrude (Gitty) lived there for almost 50 years. In the end an auction was held and John Cruger was the winning bidder. It was Cruger who sold the property to Edward Mooney in 1855. The Livingston ad describes a property of about five acres with thirty apple, plum and cherry trees. At the back of the garden stood All Saints Chapel. Mooney's daughter who inherited the home was deeply religious and left the house and an endowment for its maintenance to St. John's Episcopal Church in Red Hook to provide a home for the Deaconesses who served the Chapel. The late John Losee used to tell how he would pump water for the Deaconesses every day after school, filling a third floor tank, which was part of a gravity, feed system.

The portraits of Benjamin and Ann Marie Pier memorialize the artistic skill of Edward Mooney, adding luster to the roster of Red Hook's distinguished residents.

Edward Ludlow Mooney Home

Photo EBHS collection

Archives Room



In the Autumn of 2003 Wint Aldrich donated two of George Elting's account books to the Historical Society. They date from 1837 and 1839. Mr. Elting owned a general store in Barrytown and sold to residents and the men who worked the boats on the river.

A list of the customers from 1837 follows:

Elting & Mabey	James Huddleson	Robert McKerrick
James & David Burhans	Nicholas Huffman	George Moore
General Armstrong	Samuel Hull	Peter Moore
William. Astor	William Hutton	Henry Moore
Robert Barringer	Philip Johnson	Evert Myers
Nelson Barringer	George Ketchum	Henry Myers
Morgan Batis	Philip Kimble	Samuel Nelson
Anthony Bell	Jeremiah Kipp	Calvin Pulver
Doct. Benedict	Abram Kipp & Wool Co.	Robert Puvringis(?)
William Benner	Andrew Leech	Peter Ranney
John Black	Peter Lewis	George Risdorf
Philip Bonesteel	Philip Link	Garret Risselbrach
Roswell Bradley	John Link	Peter Rockefeller
William Bradley	John Livingston	Jonas Rowe
Captain. Brown	Robert. Livingston	Adam Sagendorph
Benjamin Burhans	John Livingston	Robert Saulpaugh
Peter Burhans	Louis Livingston	Martin Schryver
John Burhans	Montgomery Livingston	Peter Schultz
Whittaker Burhans	Louisa Livingston	Thomas Shackleton
John Burtic	Eliza Livingston	Peter Shoemaker
Capt Burtis	David. Lown	Frederick Shook
Hoysradt Champlin	John. Lown	George Shufeldt
Zachariah Cole	Mr. Mabey	Coenrad Sigler
Simon Cole	Robert. Mabey	Philip Sipperly
Tinman Cole	John Matrin	William Sipperly
John Cruger	Philip Mc-nson	Henry Staut
John Davis	James McKensie	Holly Stickle
Jacob Decker	Robert McKerrick	Anthony Straats
Andrew Decker	George Moore	William Swart & Co.
Robert Donaldson	Peter Moore	H. Sweet
Andrew Donnally	Henry Moore	Allen Sweet
Theodore Doty	Evert Myers	Jacob Teel, Jr.
Walter Elder	Henry Myers	Levi Thomson
Cornelius Elmendorph	Samuel Nelson	Robert Tillson & J. Crendale
John Elting Jr	Calvin Pulver	John Tompkins
John Elting	Robert Puvringis(?)	Abraham Tripp
Thomas English	Peter Ranney	Thomas Van Steenburgh
Richard Esselsttyn	George Risdorf	Peter Van Steenburgh
Richard Fay	Garret Risselbrach	Bornet Van Wagenen
Michael Fay	Peter Rockefeller	John Van Wagenen
Philip Feller	Jonas Rowe	David Wager
David Frazier	Adam Sagendorph	Christopher Waldorf
George German	Robert Saulpaugh	John Waldorph
Richard Harcoat	Martin Schryver	Horace Walker
Thomas Harris	Peter Schultz	Joseph Walker
John Heiner	Thomas Shackleton	David Waters
Jeremiah Hendricks	Peter Shoemaker	Jacob Wendell
George Hermance	Frederick Shook	Thomas Wicks
Andrew Hermance	George Shufeldt	Steohen Wicks
Peter Hevenor	Coenrad Sigler	Holly Wicks
William Holsapple	Philip Sipperly	Henry Witherwax
John Houck	William Sipperly	Stephen Wool
John Hoysradt	Henry Staut	

Examples of what some of these customers purchased on a particular day is listed.

Zachariah Cole

1 gal. Molasses	0.50
2 paper tobacco	0.12
1 soap	0.9
shot	0.12
1/4 powder	0.13
4 flints	0.04
1 2/16 codfish	0.07
4 skeins thread	0.04

William B. Astor

1 keg white lead	3.50
1/2 gal. Linseed oil	0.85
1/2 gal. Turpentine	0.50

John C. Cruger

2 loaves bread	0.25
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Peter Schultz

1 bottle castor oil	0.31
1 pair suspenders	0.14
1 plug tobacco	0.25
1 paper tobacco	0.06

Doc. Richard Esselstyne

1 pr. Mittons	0.82
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Robert Barringer - 26 Dec

1 arithmetick	0.38
3 sheets writing paper	0.03

John Elting - Dec 29

1 pint Holland gin	0.15
1 corset	0.03



A few of the assorted items for sale were interesting because of the prices and the variety which were found in the store. Can you imagine paying \$.13 for a loaf of bread or \$.15 for a dozen eggs.

1 yard twilled muslin	0.15
6 skeins black silk	.24
1 dozen buttons	.04
1 qt. Brandy	.25
1 pint lamp oil	.15
1 loaf bread	.13
1 pint cider	.03
2 candles	.04
1 dozen eggs	.15
1 hoe	.63
1 gal. Tar	.13
1 pk of fine salt	.18
1 pair shoes	.88
hand saw file	.10
6 lb. nails	.45
4 3/4 lbs. pork	.59
3 yds. Calico	.33
1 pint ale	.03
1 iron shovel	1.00
2 lbs. Cofee	.28
1 lb tea	.56
1/2 tallow	.06
1 box blackening	.09
1 paper cucumber seed	.06

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1 box blackening	.09
1 paper cucumber seed	.06
1 pkg pepper	.13
1 allspice	.12
1 scrub brush	.21
2 round bolts	.20
1 1/3 dog screws	.07
3 lbs. Sugar	.33
2 earthen pots	1.18

These account books are invaluable because they give us a sense of the community, who the people were, what they bought and how they lived.

By Barbara Thompson

Thomas Lyon Gilbert, 1922 – 2004

On Wednesday June 2nd, a large crowd gathered at Union Cemetery in Hyde Park to say goodbye to Tom Gilbert who passed away on May 30th. The mourners represented the many interests of the kindly man who gave so generously of his time and energy. Each of us appreciated Tom for his contributions to the interests we shared with him. I remember how cheerfully he helped his wife Ann serve the refreshments at Historical Society meetings and clean up afterwards.

But most of all I remember him on the frozen Hudson River bundled up in his many layers enjoying the companionship of fellow ice-boaters. According to Town Historian J. Winthrop Aldrich, Tom and his beloved and superbly maintained ice yacht "Sweet Marie" were an inspiration to the present generation of aficionados, who have been busily discovering, restoring and sailing these lovely relics from the past. Tom was out on the River at Rokeby in February enjoying his favorite sport and making us the happier to see him there.

I knew Tom had been a dairy farmer carrying on his family's operation at Gilbert Bros. Dairy in Hyde Park. I didn't know he was a charter member of the Ralph T. Waterman Bird Club and treasurer of the Union Cemetery in Hyde Park. Most of all, I had no idea that this peaceful man as a Lt (jg) was the commanding officer of a minesweeper YMS 269 during World War II.



Tom Gilbert on the Hudson River 2004

Photo by Patsy Vogel

All of us who knew and loved him will miss Tom's warm smile, his good humor and his kindly assistance. He was a rare and beloved gentleman and an inspiration to all who knew him.

Barbara Bielenberg

Fred Briggs 1915 - 2004

The Historical Society, and, indeed, Red Hook, lost a good friend with the passing of Fred Briggs on June 10th, 2004. Fred was a true historian, self-taught, and especially knowledgeable about Red Hook and the area. He was a collector of all things historical, especially post cards, but ranging from old family things to political buttons to Red Hook milk bottles, and more. The milk bottles, along with some other artifacts, were donated to the Society, and are in our collection at the Archival Room.

Fred enhanced many of our meetings with displays of material relating to the program topic, and also presented programs for us from time to time. His historical displays at the Dutchess County Fair were always interesting, and were appreciated by a large audience.

Fred and his late wife Mary were a devoted couple who were faithful members of our Society. Their daughter Margaret Antanaitis lives in Selah, Washington with her husband Ted. Fred and Mary have three grandchildren and one great grandchild.

As Pastor Dave Jolly wrote, "Fred's death, as was true of Mary's death, does take something from us all and from the community of Red Hook."



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

MEMBERSHIP FORM 2004

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 \$10 _____

Family \$15 _____

Student (under 18) \$5 _____

Life \$100 (individual) _____

Sustaining \$50 _____

Contributing \$ 25 _____

Donation (indicate any company matches please) _____

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 .