



NEWSLETTER

Bicentennial Update!

As our Bicentennial summer draws to an end, we can savor the marvelous events of the past few months. Thanks to an outstanding Bicentennial Committee led by Loretta Campagna, Red Hook has celebrated its birthday in unforgettable fashion. From the moment the Bicentennial Quilt was unveiled to “oohs” and “ahs,” we have enjoyed an unbroken string of superb weather and even better events, including the Heritage House & Barn Tour, the musicale at Bard, the Old Rhinebeck Aerodrome Open House, Community Heritage Day at Montgomery Place (including the incomparable Giant Puppets in Procession), the Country Music Concert and Dance in Rokeby’s Ox Barn and the West Point band concert. In between, informative walks and talks have attracted and entertained us. We’ve certainly covered a lot of territory but most importantly we’ve succeeded in our goal of “strengthening the bonds of place, time and neighborly commitment that have grounded and guided Red Hook for more than eight



Giant puppets representing Red Hook’s history conclude Community Heritage Day at Montgomery Place.

Photo courtesy George Karpel.

generations.” That’s the good news. The best news of all, however: There’s more Bicentennial to come!

More Bicentennial Happenings!

Friday & Saturday, Sept. 14, 15 -- 7:30 pm, **Our Town** – Thornton Wilder’s classic play about small town America, presented by the Red Hook Performing Arts Club and directed by Debbie Temple. Admission: \$5 at the door, St. Paul’s Lutheran Church & Cemetery.

Saturday, Sept. 22 -- 4:00 pm, **Hardscrabble Day Parade**. Pick up a Giant Puppet and parade up Broadway behind the Bicentennial hay wagon! Sign the Community Heritage Book.

Tuesday, Oct. 9 -- 7:30 pm, **Bicentennial Quilt Dedication**. Red Hook Town Hall.

Saturday, Oct. 13 -- 1:00 pm, **Bicentennial Closing Ceremony and Reception**. Join volunteers, neighbors and friends to witness burial of our 2012 Bicentennial Time Capsule – not to be opened until 2112! Elmendorph Inn.

President's Letter

Claudine Klose

What a fabulous Bicentennial summer this has been! At times, it has been exhausting for the Bicentennial Committee, but always exhilarating and rewarding. The outpouring of energetic goodwill, old fashioned "hands on" effort and generous financial and in-kind support has been extraordinary. Kudos go to the Boards of the Town of Red Hook and the Villages of Red Hook and Tivoli, who have pitched in from the beginning to ensure the Bicentennial's success.

Equally important have been the Bicentennial's unique venues: Montgomery Place, Rokeby Farm, Bard College's Fisher Center and Blithewood, and the Old Rhinebeck Aerodrome. We are so grateful for the gracious welcome extended to the Bicentennial by Ray Armater and Historic Hudson Valley, the Aldrich family, Bard College, and the Aerodrome board and staff. As well, we are indebted to the homeowners and churches who opened their doors to us.

Special thanks go to the Red Hook Central Schools and the enthusiastic support of Paul Finch, superintendent, and his staff. We could have had no more creative, dedicated partners! It seems as if every class was involved at one time or another with a Bicentennial project. We enjoyed many of the fruits of their efforts at Community Heritage Day – the Village of 1912, Decade Cut-Outs, and Altered Books (currently on display at the Elmendorph Inn). You can still listen to the second graders and fourth graders sing their Bicentennial song by visiting our Web site www.redhook200.org. Once there, don't miss Amy Murray's incomparable Community Heritage Day video, featuring interviews with Larry Thetford, who chaired this largest Bicentennial event, and others. I guarantee you won't be able to resist the theme music, written and sung by the fourth graders.

We look forward to maintaining and extending the relationships we've developed over the past year. This month, the Historical Society resumes its regular 'second Sunday' talks (see EBHS events below). We'll revisit some of the themes highlighted during the Bicentennial. And of course we thank the Friends of Elmendorph for so generously granting us frequent use of the inn – it has been busy this year! (see FOE events below).

Upcoming EBHS programs

Sunday, September 9, 3:00 pm, **Red Hook's Apple Heritage: Alive and Growing**. Doug and Talea Fincke, managers of Montgomery Place Orchards, discuss how they enjoy reviving Red Hook's antique apple varieties.

Sunday, October 14, 3:00 pm, **History Happened Here: Upper Red Hook**. Roger Leonard explores Upper Red Hook's rural roots and signs copies of his new book, *An American Crossroad*.

Sunday, November 11, 3:00 pm, **Soft History: Learning to Read the Past From an Old Quilt**, presented by Diana Louie, owner of the Red Hook Village Fabric Shoppe.

All EBHS programs are at the Elmendorph Inn, with refreshments to follow.

And Friends of Elmendorph events to support maintenance of the inn!

Every third Saturday, 7:00 – 10:00 pm, **Tavern Night**, featuring the Acoustic Medicine Variety Show with live music by local performers. \$10 entry fee: good for 2 beverages and snacks. Pizza sold separately.

Saturday, November 3, 6:30 – 10:30 pm, **Elmendorph Inn Celebration and Silent Auction**, with seasonal bounty by Private Table, live music, festive libations and silent auction items. Tickets: \$35 members, \$40 non-members.

845-758-5887, friends@elmendorph.org

In October, more than 150 years ago, this article appeared in the Red Hook Weekly Journal, lamenting our narrow-minded political parties. As the Elephants and Donkeys heat up their rhetoric prior to this election year's "... first Tuesday in November," it may be reassuring to know that the political landscape has been worse!

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 10, 1861

THE GREAT NATIONAL SIN !

Never was a greater truth uttered than that of the Reverend gentleman whose sermon we published last week, in which he declares, "Party Worship, is the great National sin of our times!" We are indirectly, at least, at this very moment suffering all the horrors of a gigantic civil war from this very cause. For years has our political system been teeming with corruption and villainy because people would insist that the claims of party were paramount to the claims of honor, of justice, of patriotism. It has been a notorious fact, and one upon which nations abroad whose desire for our overthrow has been undisguised, have looked with peculiar satisfaction, that all our political contests for years have been waged with a bitterness and rancor fierce, uncontrollable and unscrupulous; and that in all acts of public policy, high above every other consideration has been placed the narrow and debasing question, how will this effect the future prospects of our party? Will we dare as a party desiring future success and uninterrupted power and promotion to perform this act of public justice, or pursue this plainly correct line of public policy? This is the malaria which the American people have been breathing into their nostrils for so long a time that the nation is now shaking with fearful violence with an ague-fit of disunion and revolution. And yet, incredible as it may appear, notwithstanding the dreadful lesson we are being taught, the evil is not yet entirely subdued. There are still party men and party leaders who are viewing this contest and shaping their course only with an eye to the effect it will have upon the future of their party. There

are such men at Washington, there are such in our own State, and recent developments indicate that there are such in our own County of Dutchess. They are not confined to either branch of the old defunct political organizations; but on either hand, high above the din of battle and the fierceness of the strife for National existence; sadly discordant with the groans of the wounded soldier and the bitter wail of bleeding hearted mothers, wives and sisters, is heard the disgraceful clamor of old party hacks for the preservation of old party lines, and the sanctity of rotten and crumbling party platforms. If the dreadful evils which are now upon us shall result, as they doubtless will, in breaking up root and branch, the cliques and petty organizations which have so long governed the people to their ruin, and shall arouse the sensible masses to the importance of *self government* it will, at least, be some compensation for the trials and deprivations to which we have been subjected.

We would not be understood to be opposed to all political division. Political parties in our country are right, and act as a check, the one upon the other; but when party ties become stronger than the claims of justice—when good measures are denounced and condemned, simply because they originate with an opposite party, and vile acts are upheld and applauded because they are performed by "our party," it is high time the old lines were swept away, and the people begin to understand fully the dangers to which they have been exposing themselves with the greatest apparent recklessness and blindness.

Board of Trustees 2012

Claudine Klose, President
Christopher Klose, Vice-President
Robin Cherry, Treasurer
Carol Annas, Secretary
Patsy Vogel, Trustee

Barbara Bielenberg, Trustee
Henry Christopher, Trustee
Carolyn Taylor, Trustee
John Vincent, Trustee

Membership Form 2012

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 by regular mail.

_____ I would be interested in volunteering. Areas(s) of interest _____

Membership benefits: 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

