



# NEWSLETTER

## Red Hook Turns 200 - Again!

Not to confuse things, but 2013 is Red Hook's actual bicentennial. But don't worry. We're not about to call out the troops to put on another celebration. Once in a lifetime was enough!

Technically, the legislation creating Red Hook was approved June 2, 1812, hence last year's birthday bash. But it wasn't to take effect until "the first Monday of April next..." – April 5, 1813. Promptly on Tuesday the 6<sup>th</sup>, town officials met at the "house of Henry Walter."

Then as now, agriculture and keeping the peace were prime concerns, as one of their first resolutions suggests: "... no boar or male swine shall be permitted to run at large... [and] if found... any person shall have the right to castrate the same at the risk of the owner or put such boar into the public pound."



### Upcoming Events!

(All programs at the Elmendorph Inn with refreshments to follow).

**Sunday, February 10, 3:00 pm** 'Searching Genealogy Records in Colonial New York and New England.' Genealogist Marny Janson offers an informative talk geared to beginners as well as those with experience tracing family histories.

**Sunday, March 10: 3:00 pm** 'The Women of Our Town: A Cultural History of Women in Red Hook.' RHHS history teacher Jen Huber looks at lives of local women since the 1800's.

**Sunday, April 28: 3:00 pm** "The Red Hook Public Library: Eight Sides to A Story." Historic preservationists Olivia and Chris Brazee uncover the history of the octagon house fad popularized by local phrenologist Orson Squire Fowler. Library tour to follow.

**It's time to renew your membership for 2013! See back page.**

# President's Letter

*Claudine Klose*

Happy New Year! I am pleased to report that we enter 2013 with a stable and growing membership, sound finances and an excellent relationship with our landlord, The Friends of Elmendorph. Although it was always intended that EBHS eventually own the Elmendorph Inn, it is to the Friends whom Red Hook is to be forever indebted for saving, restoring and protecting the inn for future generations to treasure.

Last year's Bicentennial Celebration offered unprecedented opportunity for the Society and the Friends to roll up their sleeves and work closely together. And that we did! In the process, we developed much greater appreciation for and confidence in each other's not inconsiderable people skills, administrative talent, financial and organizational acumen.

We also realized that we face similar challenges – of mission, constituency, relevance to today's Red Hook, fundraising and more. So we decided it might be worthwhile to rethink our relationship, to explore blending the Society and The Friends to better serve our members. Since then a small group made up of members from both Boards has been meeting to discuss the possibilities.

As our discussions move forward, we will keep you apprised of the options under consideration. In the meantime, both the Society and The Friends will continue operating as normal. We ask that you please renew your EBHS membership, using the form on the back of this newsletter. We will

continue operating as usual, and have many exciting programs in store for you in 2013.

For those interested in family genealogy (who isn't!), we hope that you will join us February 10 when genealogist Mary Janson offers clues not only on how to start your search but how to probe deeply for interesting stories about the people you're researching.

In honor of Women's History Month, on March 10 you won't want to miss Jen Huber's engrossing cultural history of the women of Red Hook. Jen teaches history at Red Hook High School and is a specialist in women's history. Next on April 28, historic preservationists Olivia and Chris Brazee will delve into the rich history of our unique octagon house - the Red Hook Public Library.

Later this year Bernie Tieger will share his tales of Tivoli with us from his new book, "Tivoli: The Making of a Community." Bernie was down with the flu on January 6, when he was first scheduled.

Thank you for your continued support and love of history!

## **Board of Trustees**

2013

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Doing your family tree? Researching your property? Interested in local maps? Visit the EBHS Archives Room, open Tuesdays 10am-4pm or by appointment. Contact us at 845-758-1920 or [redhookhistory@gmail.com](mailto:redhookhistory@gmail.com). 2nd floor, Elmendorph Inn, 7562 No. Broadway (Rte 9), Red Hook.

# Notes from the Archives

During our Bicentennial year we were fortunate to add some important new items to our local history holdings. Joan Lewis generously donated papers belonging to her late husband Jack (1931-2012), including many interesting documents related to the history of Red Hook schools (where he excelled as athlete, coach, teacher and principal) and the companies he worked for, among them Voorhis-Tiebout Co. and STAMP, Inc. (Smithers Tool and Machine Products). Born and raised in Barrytown, Jack penned a delightful memoir, available in our archives, of growing up there.



*Post-war brochure advertising the new 'SoapMaster' dispenser manufactured by the Voorhis-Tiebout Co., in business 1940 - 1994 in what is now the Red Hook Emporium. (Visit the Emporium's display detailing the company's history). In 1949 Jack Lewis worked at Voorhis-Tiebout assembling soap dispensers -- and filing away valuable memorabilia!*

Other treasures gifted by EBHS members in 2012 include a photo from Joyce Cole, of Red Hook's 1916-1917 champion basketball team, and a rare cocoa tin from the W.H. Baker Chocolate Company, donated by Susan Ellis. Such generosity helps to preserve and illustrate Red Hook's rich heritage for future generations.



*Red Hook basketball 1916-17 champions*

*First row left to right: Ed Tinklepaugh, Chet Boice, Fritz Knauss, Elliot Jewell, Cecil Spencer*

*Second row left to right, Byron Tinklepaugh, Ernest North (Mgr), Leonard Shuttee, and unidentified player*

Thanks to the Bicentennial Legacy Fund, we were able to acquire from Richard Coons a set of 1934 Red Hook maps produced by the Sanborns Insurance Company, with detailed information about each village street and building. Accompanying the maps were several boxes of files relating to local churches, family genealogies and the Red Hook Grange. A favorite item from that collection is a tiny notebook containing minutes of the Red Hook Grange #918's first meeting in Upper Red Hook. Dated March 7, 1902, it lists charter members and their positions: Overseer, John H. Clum; Steward, John G. Kerley; Lecturer, Rev. Chas. Maar; Treasurer, Elmer Teator; all locally familiar names, offering glimpses into Red Hook's agrarian past.

## Membership Form 2013

**The Egbert Benson Historical Society of Red Hook**

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

**[www.redhookhistory.com](http://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 like to become more involved. 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

