

SPRING 2006

Historical Society Annual Dinner Meeting moved to May 16th.

David Tripp to be featured speaker.

In an effort to spare Historical Society members the heat of summer the Board has moved the traditional June meeting date to Tuesday, May 16th. The evening promises to be most exciting for in addition to the usual sumptuous buffet dinner, parliamentary procedures and granting of awards, **David Tripp**, an internationally respected numismatic and fine arts consultant, writer and cartoonist will speak about his new book **Illegal Tender Gold, Greed, and the Mystery of the Lost 1933 Double Eagle** which the **New York Times** described as a "Dashiell Hammett-like chronicle of the coin – a composite of *The Lord of the Rings* and *The Maltese Falcon*".

Briefly, the book tells the tale of a small handful of \$20 gold coins minted in 1933 that escaped being melted into gold bricks when **President Franklin Delano Roosevelt** took America off the gold standard in the depths of the Great Depression. The Secret Service tracked down, seized and destroyed all but one of the coins in the 1940's. This coin eluded government agents for almost sixty years before being retrieved at Manhattan's Waldorf Astoria. Finally after years of wrangling, the government allowed the coin to be auctioned off at Sotheby's in New York where it brought the highest price ever paid for a coin - \$7,590,020! According to **Entertainment Weekly** the tale "unspools like a Hollywood blockbuster".

Details about the Dinner and a reservation form can be found elsewhere in this Newsletter but it should be noted that three Board members: John Kennedy, John Vincent and Rose Rider, who have completed three years of service, have agreed to run for office again. However, there remain two vacancies on the Board and nominations will be welcome.

Nominations are also requested for the annual **Heritage Awards**. Nominations may be made in one or more of the following categories: Written or Recorded, Architectural, Artistic, and Environmental. For more information call (845) 758-2923. Nominations must be received by Monday, May 8th. Mail to the Egbert Benson Historical Society, Box 397, Red Hook, NY 12571-0397.

Volunteers Needed for Red Hook House Tour

Spend half a day in a Palatine farmhouse, a riverfront cottage or Gen. Putnam's Revolutionary War headquarters and earn a free ticket to visit these and other fascinating Town of Red Hook homes on **Saturday, June 10th**. The annual Dutchess County Historical Society's Silver Ribbon Tour will visit our community that day and 60 to 80 volunteer docents are needed to welcome visitors.

Continued on page two

Volunteers Needed for Red Hook House Tour



Volunteers Needed for Red Hook House Tour

The event showcases a different part of Dutchess County each year and this year is co-sponsored by our Historical Society and the Town of Red Hook. Hundreds of visitors from neighboring states and counties are expected to visit 15 homes, churches and public buildings such as our own Elmendorph Inn where guests will be invited to visit the Carriage Barn Thrift Shop and purchase books and cards in the Inn.

Volunteers will be invited to attend a gala launch party at Rokeby on May 21st (a \$25 donation will be requested) and lectures by Wint Aldrich, Nancy Kelly and Cynthia Owen Philip. A training program, for all volunteer docents will be held from 10:30 to noon on Saturday, May 20th at the Elmendorph Inn.

**To volunteer, please call John Kennedy at (945) 758-0914 or
Email at jkennedy3@hvc.rr.com**



The Boys of Summer – in Red Hook



*The Red Hook High School Baseball Team of 1906.
Can you identify any of the players?*



Can you identify the date of this Photo? The players are (from left to right); John Katrulya, ----- Heck, Bud Hart, Gordon Saulpaugh, Irv Fraleigh, ----- Fingar, Henry Redder, Marty Pulver, Raymond Smith, -----, George McMurray, Cliff Alexander.

If you know the answer, please call the Archive Room at 758-1920 and leave a message.



Free Blacks

By Barbara Thompson

When I was archiving Bill McDermott's file on slaves and owners in Rhinebeck (Red Hook included) Barbara and I began a conversation on the subject. She mentioned an article by Dorothy Dow Crane in *About Town* that was on the same project. I read the same and at the end of the article Ms. Crane mentions free blacks coming from New York. The family name was Jackson and that rang a bell.

Henry Jackson owned a house on Rowe Lane, adjacent to the property of the Mark Rowe. He had a son named Ferris and this is the man I wrote about in the *Milan Newsletter*. Ossie Stippa did a sketch of the house in 1969 for the cover. The house belonged to Henry Jackson and pre-dates 1850. Henry's son, Ferris, lived in the house until his death in 1940. Ferris was born April 5, 1856, took his schooling in the White Schoolhouse on Academy Hill Road, built in 1849. He was well loved in the community and was a happy musical man whose fingers were at home on the organ or piano while he would sing hymns and songs in a rich rolling voice. Anna Jacoby told the story about Emma, the sister of Ferris. How she loved to bake and kept those pretty windows sparkling. She would say how Ferris would stay on the top of a hill, there were no woods in those days, and write in his journal all the going ons that he could see. After he died all those journals were thrown out. What was yesterday's trash would be today's treasure. Ferris is buried in the Lutheran Cemetery at Rock City.

EGBERT BENSON HISTORICAL SOCIETY

ANNUAL MEETING & DINNER

The ANNUAL MEETING OF THE EGBERT BENSON HISTORICAL SOCIETY will take place Tuesday, May 16, 2006, at the Elmendorph Inn, North Broadway, Red Hook, NY. The meeting will be preceded by hors d'oeuvres and beverage at 6:00 pm, followed by dinner at 6:30 pm.

Following dinner, David Tripp will speak about his book "Illegal Tender: Greed, Gold, and the Mystery of the Lost 1933 Double Eagle."

Please send your proxy or dinner reservation to: Carol Annas, 51 Aspinwall Road, Red Hook, NY 12571 (845-758-8154). Please make your check payable to RENNERS. All reservations must be received by May 9, 2006.

PROXY

(For May 16, 2006)

I will **NOT** attend the ANNUAL MEETING of THE EGBERT BENSON HISTORICAL SOCIETY. In my absence, I hereby appoint the President, his deputy, or _____ to act as my proxy to vote on all matters that come before the membership on May 16, 2006.

Signature _____ Date _____

Signature _____ Date _____

DINNER RESERVATIONS

\$16.50 Per Person

Tuesday, May 16, 2006

MENU

Salmon Steaks w/ Tarragon Vin Blanc Creole Pork Chops

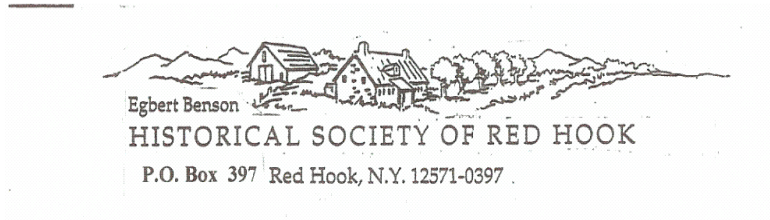
Glazed Carrots & Parsnip Barley & Pine Nut Pilaf

Orange Butterscotch Cheesecake Coffee & Tea

Name _____ Amount enclosed _____

Name _____

Please send your proxy or reservations to **Carol Annas, 51 Aspinwall Road, RED HOOK, NY 12571**. Please make all checks payable to: **RENNERS**. All reservations must be received by May 9, 2006.



MEMBERSHIP FORM 2006
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 \$15 _____	Contributing \$50 _____
		Family \$25 _____	Sustaining \$100 _____
		Student (under 18) \$5 _____	Life \$200 (individual) _____

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 .