

Living History

Quarterly Journal of Historical Preservation

WINTER 1995

Volume 5, Number 1

WHY THERE WERE WITCHES

The autumn issue of this quarterly journal, *Living History*, page 7, was incorrect when it said that J. Hosey Osborn, postmaster of Passaic, New Jersey, and author of *Life in the Old Dutch Homesteads*, did not describe the two black men in the photograph with thatched hay barracks, which he titled, "Yon, The Fiddler and Sam, The Witch Doctor."

On page 187 Osborn writes, "The Illustration of Yon (John), the fiddler, and his brother, Sam, in their backyard is a unique photograph. They were free negroes born in the valley (Saddle River) of slave parents in the first quarter of the nineteenth century. Yon was a fiddler and earned his living by playing at parties. He had no other means of support. Sam was as devoted to his gun as his brother was to fiddling. But he had other means of support. Sam was the "witch-doctor," mentioned in the narrative. He was known as 'the man who could drive out the witches,' and many shillings he wiggled from the superstitious Dutch on account of his supposed power."

"The yard with its rambling buildings was typical of the poorer class. The hand-sled, dog coops, and ladders in the yard as well as the buildings (hay barracks with additions) were of their handicraft."

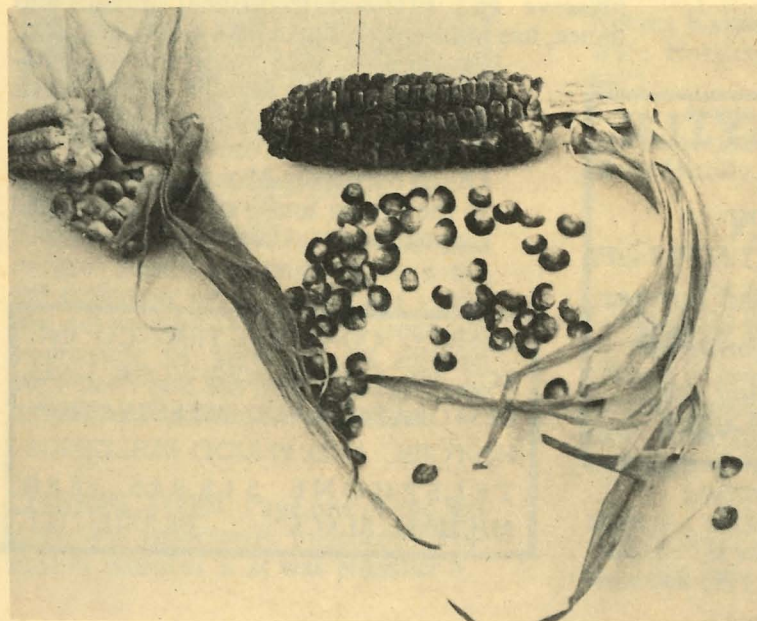
After reading about the witch-doctor of Saddle River, New Jersey, I went to talk with Francis Wolven, an old-timer from the Highwoods area of Saugerties, New York. Francis recalls the stories of witch-doctors his grandfather told to him.

(Continued on page 6)

Good News from Hanford Mills Museum

Two organizations, with over 2,000 membership each, that serve important functions in the world of living history and historical preservation have announced that they are making Hanford Mills Museum in Delaware County, New York, their headquarters. The Society for the Preservation of Old Mills (SPOOM) and The Society for Workers in Early Arts and Trades (SWEAT) will now have the same address in Meredith, New York, and Hanford Mills Museum will act as their service center for membership records and accounts.

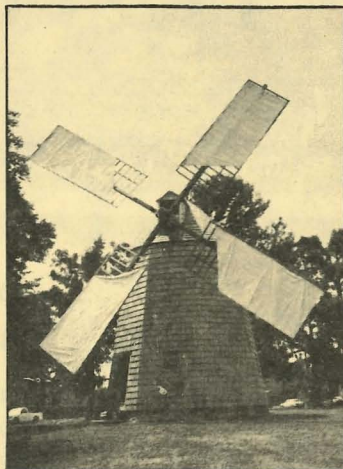
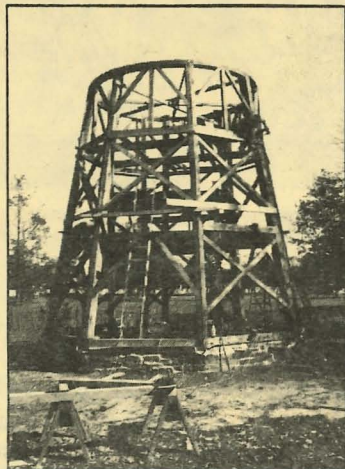
Beginning immediately all mail and telephone calls for SPOOM and SWEAT are being directed to Hanford Mills Museum. Requests, donations, advertising, and articles will be routed through Hanford to the proper Society and officer. Tom Freestone, of Whitleyville, Tennessee reported that the SPOOM board was "over the moon" (continued on page 2.)



(left) Wolven Old-Fashioned Blue and White Sweet Corn, *Living History* grew from a project, in the winter of 1991, to sell the seed of this local heirloom corn to support a Dutch barn preservation effort. We continue to maintain this variety of sweet corn here in West Hurley, along with a vine pea, and two types of lima beans that were grown by local families for many generations. The last native to maintain these seeds was Francis Wolven.

Of the many open pollinating varieties of corn and vegetables that must have been maintained on farms in this Catskill Mountain Region until recently, these may be the only survivors. When asked about the origins of his blue corn, Francis Wolven said, "I don't know. We all took it for granted and handed it down over the generations. The Carles had it and the France family and the Van Akens family-the Dutch side of my family. It was good practical corn that was always there, just like the weather."

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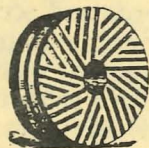
J. Corwith Windmill, Watermill, NY; restoration completed 1985

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(GOOD NEWS, continued from page 1.)

excited" to have Hanford Mills Museum for its headquarters as it was a model of what SPOOM represents in the preservation of historic grist and saw mills and the sharing of information on old technology.

Both societies publish membership directories and quarterly journals. SWEAT's Journal, *The Rag*, contains a broad national network of news and local events. Its editor, wordwright and Old Hack, Fred Bair, Jr. lives in Auburndale, Florida, when he is not on the road visiting with local groups and organizing SWEAT. He will be putting out his 40th issue of *The Rag* this spring. Then, after a little scrubbing with hot water and soap, Fred will be handing it to some New Hack from Hanford at the "Double Ribbon Cutting Ceremony" and annual "SWEAT Meet and Heritage Craftsman Weekend" planned for June 10 at the Mill Museum. For information contact:

Hanford Mills Museum
PO Box 99
East Meredith, NY 13757
(607) 278-5744

Center for Traditional Arts and Agriculture, New at Altamont Fair

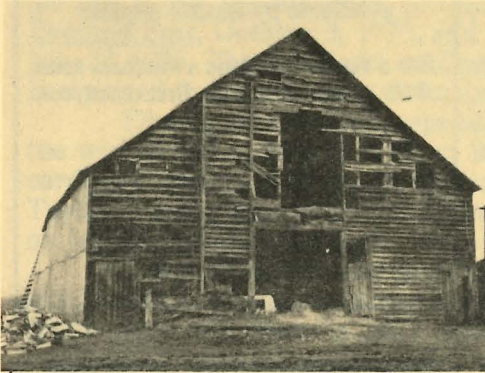
The Center for Traditional Arts and Agriculture has completed the first phase in its plans for a new acre-and-a-half site at the Altamont Fair in Albany County, New York. Over the next three years two barns with a connector building will be erected, gardens planted, and outbuildings built to house livestock. The Center at Altamont will be a living history museum, a farmpark which preserves and interprets historical farming of the Mohawk Valley. It will include a concert hall.

In an effort to find a new home, Old Songs Inc., a not-for-profit group from Guilderland, New York, founded in 1977 to preserve and perform traditional music and dance, has joined with The Albany, Schenectady, Greene County Agricultural and Historical Societies Inc., a group which manages the hundred year-old Altamont Fair, to moved a traditional Dutch barn from Montgomery County to the Center for Traditional Arts and Agriculture at Altamont.

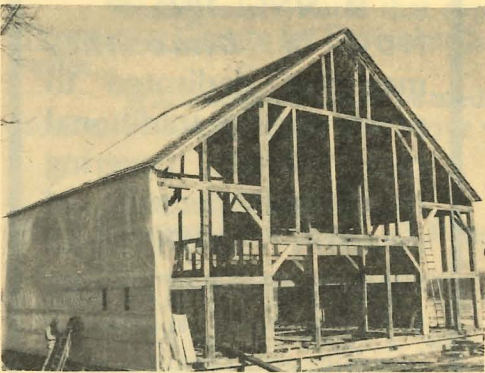
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With the help of Jack Sobon, an architect from Massachusetts, and the work of Stephen Swift of Middleburgh, New York, The Stevens family Dutch barn at Fort Plain, built in the late eighteenth century and utilizing a distinct regional framing tradition, was disassembled in May 1994 and taken to Altamont where the frame was restored to an 1850 condition, its walls insulated and its interior adopted for use as a hall to accommodate 300 people. For information contact:

Old Songs, Inc.
POB 399
Guilderland, NY 12084
(518) 765-2815



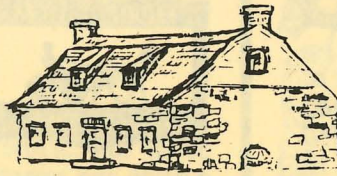
Stevens Family Dutch Barn, Fort Plain, New York Disassembling began on May 11, 1994.



Stevens Family Dutch Barn, Altamont, New York

Frame of the barn re erected and roofed. Foam insulation covers the left side over which clapboard siding will be applied. The Dutch barn will eventually be joined by an English style barn and the two buildings connected with a modern structure.

CORRECTION: Page one of the last issue was incorrectly numbered Volume 4, Number 3. It was Number 4.



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Peter Sinclair, Editor/Publisher, Denise Martin, Chief Copy Editor

FROM THE EDITOR:

Dear Reader,

This winter issue will be the last of *Living History*. The next publication that subscribers receive will have a new title, not yet discovered, and a new publisher, Robert Kaldenbach, who has produced 54 issues of the monthly magazine, *Rural New England* and is looking to expand into new areas of readership. He has asked me to join with him and edit a section within a new monthly, a magazine that will explore the roots and branches of American rural life. This change will increase readership ten fold and free me from production and distribution.

Within this new monthly I will continue to include news, events and information concerning living history and historical preservation. I hope that this new publication, with its increased readership and better promotion, will help to bring the study and enjoyment of rural history and culture to a wider audience.

If you have questions about this new monthly, such as how to subscribe to it, advertise in it, or receive a sample issue of it, write Robert Kaldenbach, *Rural New England Magazine*; 73 Bridge Street #16; Northampton, Massachusetts 01060, or call him at (413-586-6475).

If you have articles or information of interest to living history and historical preservation, send them to me, Peter Sinclair; Box 202; West Hurley, NY 12491; or call me at (914) 338-0257.

Peter Sinclair, Editor

PIG UPDATE:

The project here in West Hurley to save the genetics of the Gloucester Old Spot pig is underway, and we are expecting two litters in the spring. The American Livestock Breed Conservancy has offered to provide a list of potential buyers and the Altamont Fair, in Albany County, New York, would like to show Old Spots at their new farm park in August, and to promote the preservation of endangered livestock breeds in the Mohawk Valley.

Did you know that this is the year of the pig in China, and that the Chinese character of a pig with a roof over it represents "family?" If you are interested in breeding Gloucester Old Spots, give us a call (914) 338-0257.

BOOKS & PUBLISHERS

The Catskill area of New York State now has three active publishers of regional books on art, folklore, history, and travel. The oldest of these is **Hope Farm Press** which was reviewed in the Fall issue of *Living History*. Located now in Ulster County, it was established in Greene County in 1960 by Charles Dornbush. Hope Farm Press specializes in reprints of important local histories as well as new titles and issues a free catalogue of about 150 books. It has begun to offer electronic books, a field which has a promising future for historic research and genealogy.

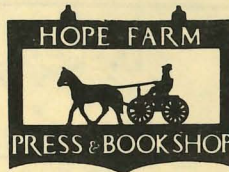
Purple Mountain Press in Delaware County was established in 1974 and is a leader in publishing new titles of New York State history and local lore. Its most recent title, *The Mohicans and their Land; 1609-1730*, by Shirley Dunn is a 350 page well organized book with early maps and appendixes that make it a useful tool for further research.

Where most New York histories have focussed on the Dutch/English relations with the Mohawk, this detailed and well written account describes the important and often neglected roll of the Mohican nation of the Upper Hudson Valley in the early settlement of the Dutch there. In this detailed study of 150 years of land sales by the Mohican nation to the Europeans, Shirley Dunn describes the complex relations between native and newcomer. The book deals primarily with the Upper-Hudson Valley but does include an important chapter on the Esopus wars of the 1650s and 60s in Ulster County and the extensive negotiations the Dutch administration had with the Mohican, Mohawk, Wappinger and Catskill Indians to maintain peace between the native people of the Esopus Valley and the newly established Dutch population there.

Black Dome Press, the youngest publisher from Greene County, is an infant with a dozen titles and a nice range of subject matter evident in the following three books. *The Greene County Catskills; A History*, by Field Horn, is the "first complete and up-to-date history of Greene County in over 100 years." Well written with good historic photographs. *Diamond Street; the Story of the Little Town with the Big Red Light District*, by Bruce Edward Hall is a tale of Hudson, a town on the east side of the river established by the Quakers as a whaling port in the late eighteenth century. This small town came to have a thriving neighborhood of open prostitution in the nineteenth century that was institutionalized in 1930, and officially ended in 1950.

Bruce Hall does not write a dull book. With photographs of local landmarks and individuals associated with the trade, and research into old newspaper accounts, police reports, and numerous interviews with local people who recalled or worked there, Hall describes the history of prostitution in Hudson. He details the lives and actions of its people during two times of crisis, a murder in 1877 which led to a public trial and the 1950 state police bust that turned the red lights off forever on Diamond Street.

The Mill on the Roeliff Jansen Kill; 250 years of American Industrial History, edited by Harold Faber, is the result of years of research by six local historians. The oldest operating commercial mill in New York State, Ancram was saved from destruction by the Central Hudson Power Company



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(continued on page 8)

EARLY ACCOUNTS OF CORDUROY IN PHILADELPHIA

by Sue Huesken

Members of the living-history community are always searching for modern equivalents of period fabric. For those portraying the Revolutionary War era, corduroy has always been considered unacceptable.

Florence Montgomery, in her excellent book *Textiles in America*, states that merchant James Beekman's corduroy order of 1794 is the first known in America. However, corduroy is listed in Philadelphia area newspapers as early as 1775.

William Barrel lists corduroy among his goods for sale in an ad in the *Pennsylvania Ledger*, April 15, 1775. Joseph Fawcett had one pair of white and one pair of drab corduroy breeches stoled according to the *Pennsylvania Evening Post* for June 19, 1777. William Adcock has some for sale in his vendue store, according to the *Pennsylvania Evening Post*, October 3, 1775, and this same newspaper on July 23, 1776, Thomas Gadd, an English servant and weaver, is reported to have run away wearing corduroy breeches.

During the British occupation of Philadelphia during the winter and spring of 1778, at least 21 merchants listed corduroy among their goods for sale, and in 1782, Amos Taylor, a tailor, sold corduroy, according to ads in the *Post* on January 22 and May 2.

A few ads list corduroy by color, such as white, drab and "colour'd." On the evidence of advertising frequency, the fabric does not seem to have been common, but it was available to those who could afford more than ordinary cloth.

The difficulty of newspaper documentation is that we do not know exactly what the cloth looked like. Was it the same as our modern fabric? Did it have the variety of narrow and wide wale?

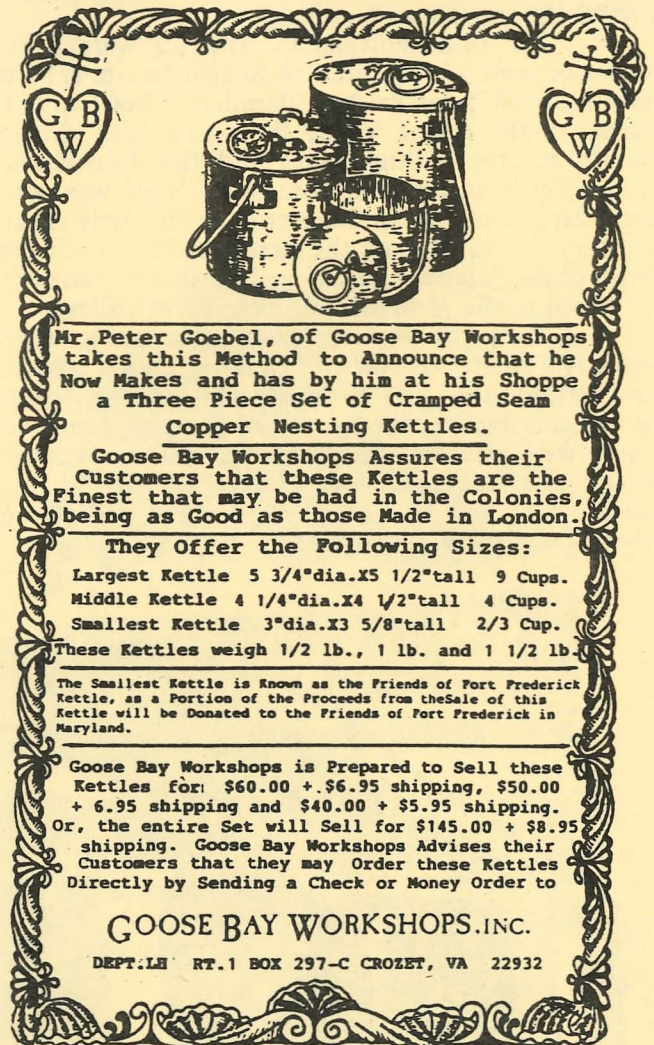
Montgomery states that corduroy has changed little since the late eighteenth century. An ad in the *Providence Gazette* for December 5, 1789, referred to, "all kinds of corduroy." This could indicate a variety of wales.

While decisions must be made by the individual interpreter or the site portraying the eighteenth-century, corduroy should be one alternative to be considered.

★★★

Sue Huesken runs:

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ALHFAM'S HISTORIC CLOTHING COMMITTEE LAUNCHES NEWSLETTER

Karen Mullian has begun a, "with luck," quarterly newsletter for the Historic Clothing Committee (AHCC) of the *Association for Living History Farms and Agricultural Museums* (ALHFAM). This publication, which will cover new books, information exchanges and upcoming meetings, will be valuable to interpreters, curators, historians and others with an interest in historic clothing. Volume 1, Number 1, announces the third historic clothing symposium, sponsored by Tidy's Storehouse in Oxford, Pennsylvania to be held on Saturday, April 1, 1995. Speakers from Ohio, Halifax, Nova Scotia, and beyond will be speaking and a guided tour of Winterthur is planned.

The AHCC newsletter also announces a new group, the Historic Foodways Society of the Delaware Valley (HFSDV), which had its initial meeting and is also organizing a newsletter. It is planning a number of events for 1995. *For further information, contact:*

Karen Mullian
AHCC
1021 Washington Ave.
Prospect Park, PA 19076-1307
(610) 534-8490

D.L. Tidy
1102 Hopewell Rd.
Oxford, PA 19363

HFSDV
Rita Fillinger
859 County Line Road
Horsham, PA 19044

(WITCHES, continued from page 1)

The first Wolvens in America were a Palatine German family who came to Saugerties in 1710 with a group of 500 "poor Palatine" families. They had left their farms in the Rhine Valley for a new land they hoped would be free of high taxes and the destructive wars which swept across their homeland. There was not much farm land available in Saugerties in the early eighteenth century so that during the first decade of their coming, most of the Palatines had moved south into Pennsylvania, or north to the Mohawk and Schoharie Valleys.

When the Wolvens came to Saugerties there was already a small settlement, primarily Dutch families like the Brinks and the Winnies, who had settled here a generation before; by the end of the eighteenth century there were still few family names in the township, and many of the people were closely related. Their small farms, with low houses, built of stone and frame, and their Dutch style barns and thatched barracks, were



Francis Wolven's Garage This small building was once the family's horse and carriage shed. The double doors, where Francis parks his Toyota hatchback today, are still held shut to a removable center post. This door locking device, once known in the local dialect as the "mittlemanje," or little-man-in-the-middle, was traditionally used on the wooden hinged wagon doors of eighteenth-century Dutch Barns.

scattered and isolated. this situation continued well into the nineteenth century.

In Woodstock, a township just to the south of Saugerties, there were many Wolven families and a similar rocky terrain and isolated population, one native is quoted as saying, "...that the witch doctors used to ride through the country on horseback and did a thriving business."(*)

One tale that was told in Woodstock was of a witch-doctor who cured a child of bewitchment. He had her shirt removed and "...flailed it to shreds. The next morning they found the witch dead outside of the house, her back gashed with welts from the doctor's whip,"

"My grandfather, Lyman Carle, was a firm believer in that." Francis Wolven told the author recently during a conversation about witches. Francis is related to both the Carle and Carl branches of the family (**). "The Carles were tied in (by marriage) with the Brinks, and of course the Doctors Brink down in Lake Katrine, they were the old witch-doctors, the head-shrinkers of their day. They knew quite a bit about practical psychology; they knew some Indian remedies; and they knew a bit about the medicine of that day. So, if a guy figured he was jinxed, or cursed, or hexed, or whatever, or somebody put a hex on the butter churn, they went to the witch-doctor."

"What do you remember of witch stories?" I asked Francis.

"Not a great deal." he confessed, "There used to be a batch of mills over where the Zena Reservoir is. There was a barrel head mill and a snuff mill. Well, there was a story my grand-dad used to tell about that place, of a girl they had suspicions of being a witch. They had a dance over there and the creek was flooded and the bridge out. The girl couldn't get to the dance and somebody saw a black dog swimming through the creek and she showed up at the dance. So of course it was nothing to having her turn herself into a dog and swimming the creek."

"Then there were the stories about the witch that a...what was it...I know it involved a hot iron. I don't remember if it was an animal breaking out, anyway, the injury that was done to the animal appeared on a woman in the neighborhood. She had been the witch. It almost invariably seemed to be a woman. I don't remember much of anything about male witches."

"Do you remember any of the Brink cures?" I asked.

"Well the traditional one of the hot horseshoe in the churn. That always worked. I also know they prescribed a great many herb remedies for conventional illnesses."

"How about skunk oil?" I asked him.

"Oh sure, skunk's grease or snake oil. You'd render out snakes too, rattle snakes, oh yes." he said.

"Do you think the use of grease for a cure is European or Native American?" I asked.

"Well, you go back to biblical times when they anoint with oil." Francis replied, "What Mary Magdalene pored on Christ's head was grease, an oil. Some of these things are much older than any record we have"

"I know for a fact," he continued, "that there were witch traps in the chimneys (in Saugerties) and another favorite protection against witches was a piece of mesh, a fish net, or screening with a fine mesh. Because the witch

ANO 7 7 2 F R O C R * B O M 21

Commemorative Stone for Fredrick Rau, his Wife and Son, 1742



Francis Wolven tracing a commemorative stone inscription onto an acetate sheet taped to the foundation wall of the Eligh-Wolven-Meyers house in Saugerties. The significance of the hearts and round symbols is unknown. The inscription (illustrated above) has been translated as the marriage of Fredrick Rau and Catharina Van Ettan Rau in 1742, and the baptism of their son at the Katsbaan church.

couldn't go about her dirty work until she had counted all of those holes in this barrier. The symbol of the cross was also good, the Doctors Brink used it also. There were two Doctors Brink that I know of. They were of my grandfathers generation, his and the one before him. They were rather well to do for that time. They had a good business and of course there was a fair amount of money to be made taking off curses and removing hexes."

"Why were there witches?" I asked Francis.

"So many people have to pass the buck to something." Francis Wolven told me, "We never want to accept responsibility. It was a very easy way out at that time to blame any kind of malfunction or misfortune on a witch; and of course, anyone different or anyone that looked a little bit suspicious, well..."

Peter Sinclair



Commemorative Stones, Back Wall of the Katsbaan Church, Saugerties, NY

The inscriptions made in the dark bluestone have been made visible for the photograph, with shaving cream and squeegee.

NOTES:

(*) Publications of the Woodstock Historical Society, Volume 16, September 1951, "The Story of Yankeetown, Now Whittenberg," by Rose Oxhandler, p. 10.

(**) The Ulster County Genealogical Society, founded in 1972, has a 22 page listing of the County's historical surnames and individuals. This growing collection of family research and its computer based organization, networks individuals who are seeking genealogical information, with the person who has researched it. The UCGS is a pleasant and helpful group of people, their library, in the basement of the Hurley Dutch Reformed Church, is open the second and third Mondays, and the first Friday of the month. UCGS, POB 536, Hurley, NY 12443; membership is \$12 per year and they publish a quarterly newsletter.

(BOOKS, continued from page 4)

as a result of the timely action of a few local people in the 1950's who realized its importance to the community and eventually found a new owner. Established as the first Iron foundry in New York by Philip Livingston, lord of the manor, in 1743. It witnessed the break down of the manor system after the Down Rent Wars of the 1840 and was converted to a paper mill in 1854. The book traces the colonial history of Ancram as well as the technical improvements and product innovations that were necessary for its continuing survival in the modern paper market.

Hope Farm Press
1708 Route 212, Saugerties, NY 12477

Purple Mountain Press
POB E-3, Fleischmanns, NY 12430-0378

Black Dome Press
RR 1, Box 422, Hensonville, NY 12439

TO THE EDITOR:

Dear Peter,

It was a double delight to hear from you. Your quarterly has ideas I never came across in my 35 years of homesteading AND Robert Kaldenbach is my favorite living writer. He never fails to enlighten, educate and give me a number of big belly laughs. You should have a Beautiful marriage. Also you might remind Robert that "Hell" and "Damn" are powerful curses to people who don't use them.

Enclosed is our schedule-thanks for putting it in the Coming Events. I just sent a check for two years of Rural New England and asked for 2 ads. Enclosed is \$10 to support your effort. I will really look forward to your first joint effort.

Blessings,

Richard Fahey
The Christian Homesteading Movement
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Dear Richard,

Thanks for your kind letter. Enclosed are some back issues of Living History. I also enjoy your newsletter, The Homesteader: progress in human values, which you publish "when the other chores are done." How is the weather in Chenango County? We in Ulster County got our first winter snow just the other day.

Sincerely,
Peter, Editor



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January 4, 1995

Governor George Pataki
Albany, New York
Dear Governor

Please save the state some money and drop the \$5,000,000 Catskill Interpretive Center in Ulster County. Please do not build a gambling casino there but place a low fence around the Winnie family burying ground and seed the land, disturbed by excavation, with sweet grass and wild flowers. Ulster County does need interpretive centers which respect and interpret local traditions of architecture, agriculture and industry, and preserve its history, material culture, genealogy, and folklife, but interpretive centers should encourage participation of local people and discourage the kind of politics that have characterized the Catskill Interpretive Center.

I publish the enclosed journal, Living History. It is read by subscribers from more than 40 states who are involved with many facets of historical preservation and interpretation. The journal grew partly from my frustration with New York State and a desire to see how it was done in other places. I believe that the historic sites this state maintains in the Hudson Valley and the efforts it is making, many under the Department of Parks and Recreation, have too often been directed toward preserving the estates and memories of the rich and famous and have ignored the lives and traditions of the rural community and the common person.

I believe that the motives for The Catskill Interpretive Center, here in Ulster County, like those which inspire state funded heritage areas and cultural parks in other places may be well intended, but some motives do not mix well and their administration is too professional, bureaucratic and aloof from the community. As our new Governor, please consider new ideas and directions for regional interpretation in New York State.

Sincerely, *Peter Sinclair*

Editor/Publisher LIVING HISTORY

February 6, 1995

The newspaper reports that Governor Pataki did take some of my good advice and did not include the Catskill Interpretive Center in his budget proposal to the legislature for 1995-96. The 17,000 square foot building, with offices and conference rooms, was eight years in the planning stage. To date it has cost us 1.5 million dollars, \$900,000 dollars to create a bridge to nowhere and a drainage problem at an old farm site in Mount Tremper. The rest going to a architect from Maryland, who likes to build with cement block, and an out of state design firm, which has the proven ability to imitate Catskill Mountain bluestone with painted plaster. They were to present plans for the interior,

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COMING EVENTS**February 26, 1995****Superior, Wisconsin**

"History Sunday" Ojibwa story telling 1 p.m. \$1 admission. "Finnish Farming" on Sunday March 26. Call for calendar:

Rachael E. Martin
(715) 394-5712

February 26 to 28, 1995**Boston, Massachusetts**

"Restoration '95" A large international gathering of restoration professionals, serious homeowners and collectors; panel discussions, products and services from over 250 exhibiting companies, many from Europe. Call:

Andrew Burrell
(617) 933-9055

March 9-11, 1995**Dayton, Ohio**

"Getting it Right: The Stuff of Interpretation and Beyond" Spring Conference sponsored by The Midwest Open Air Museums Coordinating Council (MOMCC), Carriage Hill Farm, and the Montgomery County Historical Society. MOMCC publishes a quarterly journal with information on regional sites and articles on historical research. For information call:

The Spring Conference Chair
(616) 436-7301

March 19-25, 1995**Bonner Springs, Kansas**

"National Agriculture Week Celebration" Grand opening of the National Agricultural Center and Hall of Fame for the 1995 season. Special activities planned for each day. Call:

National Ag Center
(913) 721-1202

March 25-26, 1995**Bethlehem, Pennsylvania**

"First Annual Meeting of The International Molinological Society of America (TIMS America)" This newly formed group which publishes a newsletter, will be promoting the study and preservation of historic mills in America. The meeting will include a tour of local historic mills. TIMS America is working in conjunction with TIMS International to host an international conference in the year 2000. TIMS America will augment the work of the veteran American group, Society for the Preservation of Old Mills (SPOOM) which publishes a journal and maintains a data base on historic mills. For further information about TIMS America call:

Steven Young
(610) 867-9402 evenings

March 30-April 1, 1995**Chicago, Illinois**

"Preserving the Recent Past" a national conference sponsored by the National Parks Service, Illinois Historic Preservation Agency, Association for Preservation Technology International, and others. More than 80 leading experts will examine the philosophy and practical

issues associated with preserving architecture and landscape designed between 1920 and 1960. Call:

Conference Information
(217) 244-7659

April 8, 1995**Port Huron, Michigan**

"History in the Re-making; a Conference for Historic Re-enactors" The St. Clair County Community College, Port Huron Museum, and the French Colonial Heritage Society are co-sponsoring this event to present an academically oriented conference that will appeal to re-enactors of 1750 through 1865. Merchants are invited to rent booths, \$5. Call:

Michael Du Long
(810) 398-003

April 27-30, 1995**Indianapolis, Indiana**

"Communities for the Future: African American Heritage Preservation in the United States" A training conference on preservation strategies for the African American Community. For more information call:

Communities for the Future
(317) 685-2750 or (800) 772-6706

May 11-14, 1995**Noblesville, Indiana**

"62nd Annual Meeting of the Early American Industries Association" Conner Prairie, an 1836 village restoration, open air museum of frontier life, will host this years meeting of EAIA. Contact:

Kathy Fox
275 Kent Place Blvd.
Summit, NJ 07901

May 13, 1995**Lancaster, Pennsylvania**

"Herb Faire" 9 a.m. 'till 4:30 p.m., free admission to the largest sale of rare and historical plants in Pennsylvania at the Landis Valley Museum; more than 40 vendors exhibit and sell plants and culinary, medicinal, fumigary and ornamental herbs. Contact:

Steve Miller
(717) 569-0401

May 31 to June 2**Dearborn/Detroit, Michigan**

"Annual Meeting of the Costume Society of America" Call:

(410) 275-2329

June 10, 1995**East Meredith, New York**

"Annual meeting of the Society for Workers in Early Arts and Trades (SWEAT)" Members will be demonstrating historic crafts and trades at Hanford Mills Museum, a water powered grist and saw mill. A "Double Ribbon Cutting Ceremony" will be held to celebrate Hanford as the new headquarters for SWEAT and SPOOM. For information call:

Jane Shepherd
(607) 278-5744

June 11-17, 1995**Marshall, North Carolina**

"Ladderback Chairmaking" Drew Langsner

of Country Workshops will direct this 7-day, \$490 workshop. Call:

Drew Langsner
(704)-656-2280

June 17-18, 1995**Leesburg, Virginia**

"2nd-Annual Celtic Festival" The rolling green hills and gardens of the 265 acre Oatlands Plantation will abound with Gaelic gaiety from 10 a.m. until 5 p.m. daily; dancing, fiddling, bagpipes, Scottish games, We.sh choirs, authentic ale, food and crafts; thatching, weaving, sheep sheering and more. Continuous live ethnic music, headlined by Scottish ballad singer Jean Redpath. Admission cost \$8 per day, children under 12 free. For information call:

Outlands
(703) 777-3174

June 17-21, 1995**Hiram, Ohio**

"24th Annual Meeting of ALHFAM" The Association for Living Historical Farms and Agricultural Museums will meet at Hiram College and visit two living history sites in the area, Century Village and Hale Farm and Village. Both maintain steam powered sawmills and interpret 19th century rural life. For information about ALHFAM or the conference call:

Andy Baker
(216) 256-2122

July 1-8, 1995**Oxford, New York**

"Basic Homesteading Week" learn the fundamentals for making the transition to homesteading life., \$195 per individual or family. Organic gardening, food storage, introduction to work horses, and more from the Christian Homesteading Movement. Also held August 19-26, September 2-9, and Sept 30-October 7. Write:

The Christian Homesteading Movement
Oxford, NY 13830

July 8 & 9, 1995**Williston, North Dakota**

"Fort Buford 6th Infantry Regiment Military Encampment" Reenactment of the daily life of an army camp and demonstrations of the skills of the Frontier Army of the Dakota, 1870 fashion show, stagecoach rides and a medicine show. Call:

6th Infantry Regiment Association
(701) 572-4580

July 15-16, 1995**Avella, Pennsylvania**

"The Western Pennsylvania Rural Heritage Festival" will be held in Washington County at Meadowcroft, a 200 acre open-air museum which includes pioneer farming as well as the archaeological interpretation of its rock shelter, an important and perhaps the earliest, 14,000 BC, sites in North America..

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(photograph from the Wolven collection)

Train Station of the Ulster & Delaware RR, West Hurley, N.Y. circa 1917

This station was built in the early twentieth century. It was destroyed sometime before the rail line was abandoned as it became unprofitable to its owners in the mid 1970s. The U&D once served rural communities of the Catskill Mountains by transporting their milk, butter and bluestone to Hudson Valley markets from Manhattan to Albany. The Empire State Railroad Museum is actively restoring the line in Ulster County. We will be bringing you the story soon, as well as that of the nationwide movement to preserve railroad history and insure its future.

Empire State Railway Museum, P.O. Box 455, Phoenicia, NY 12464