

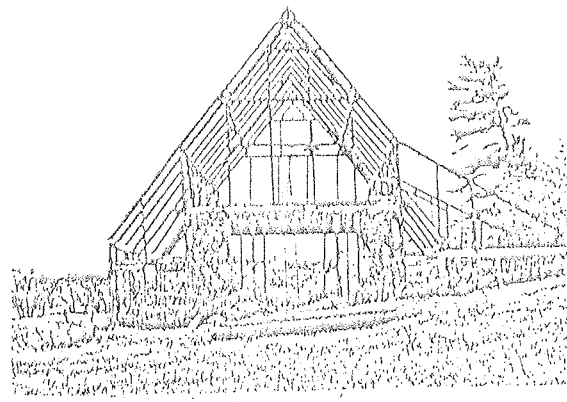
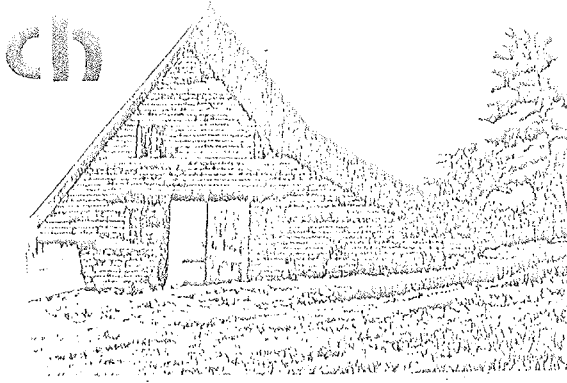
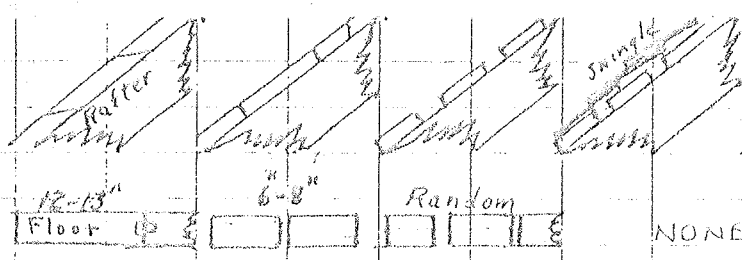
# Dutch Barn Research Miscellany Vol. 1 No. 3, 1988

This publication is planned to provide more information than can be included in the NEWS LETTER of the society. The papers are based on the research activities, historical archives, field trips and collections of members and others interested in Dutch Barns. They are presented as unedited copy.

It is hoped that this information will lead to a better understanding of the chronology, the builders, and the utilization of these unique structures and the role they played during the early settlement of North-eastern America.

The "MISCELLANY" will be compiled, reproduced and distributed at random times dependent on the accumulation of useful data.

Please send copy to Vincent Schaefer.



The TELLER/SCHERMERHORN BARN  
Schermerhorn Road, Schonowe,  
Rotterdam, SCHENECTADY, N.Y.  
1701-1948.

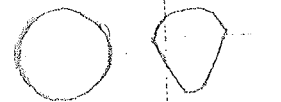
A publication of the Dutch Barn Preservation Society, P.O. Box 176, Rensselaer, N.Y. 12144.

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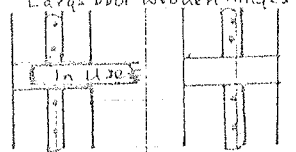
The MISCELLANY is prepared by  
Vincent J. Schaefer  
R.D.#3 187 Schermerhorn Road,  
Schenectady, N.Y. 12306



Martin Holes



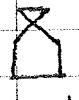
Large Door Wooden Hinges



1-2-54

## The Crouse / Czapski Dutch Barn - Comments

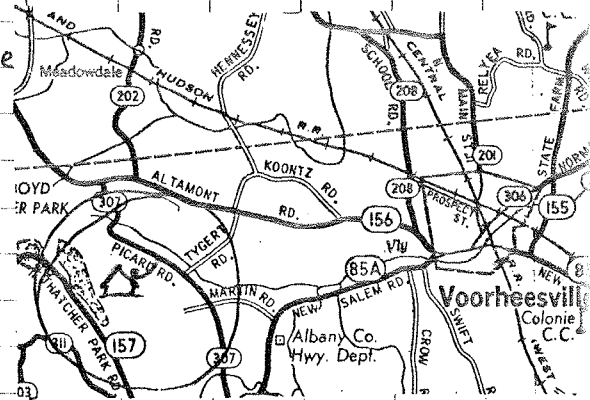
This barn is on Picard Road at the base of the Helderberg cliffs about 1/2 mile north of New Salem in Albany County. This barn is in reasonably good condition but is missing a number of the original parts.

The original siding is on the east gable end with 5 martin holes similar to those on the Ingold Barn cited in the Inaugural News Letter of our Society.  Only one anchor beam is intact the others having been modified or in one instance removed to make way for side doors. The west gable end originally had wooden hinges. Since the barn is on sloping ground the threshing floor terminates at the end of the third bay from the western gable. Part of the original planking and the median sill is intact. End sway braces are long but not at or below the anchor beam. The anchor beams have been adzed but not finished with a smooth surface and appear to be Pitch Pine. The anchor beam braces are not as wide as the columns. The anchor beams have a cross section of  $17\frac{1}{2}$  inches x 9 inches. No wrought iron hinges of the Dutch design were found though the smaller animal doors have been replaced. Roof sheathing are not overlapped or butted but have an inch or so between them. Some of the sway braces have been removed.

The purlin plates seem to be OK, but have a number of mortises not in use.

This barn was said to house an illegal still during the Prohibition Era at which time alterations to the integrity of the barn were made.

The barn is about 250 feet west of the farmhouse which is now occupied by the present owners Dr. & Mrs. Ulrich Czapski. They have restored the old Crouse house. It is said to date from the 1780s. The barn was built at about the same time. It is now used for car and equipment storage. V.V. Schaefer 1/24/88





## THE FUTURE EXISTENCE OF DUTCH BARNs IN THE NORTHEAST

The Dutch Barns of the Mohawk, Schoharie and Hudson Valleys remain as one of the few tangible connections between the early pioneer settlement of Eastern New York and the present era. These areas were settled by the Holland Dutch, German Palatines and a few Swedes starting in the early 1600's.

The decline of the farm economy in the Northeast is posing a rapidly cresting concern for the future welfare of these unique structures.

The distinctive structural design of Dutch barns reflects the tradition of the Dutch and northern Europe homeland. These barns are essentially replicas of those built in Holland in the early 1600's and earlier. Nearly identical architecture can be seen in the few structures remaining in Europe of that time period including features also present in some of the homes of that era.

Fortunately, some of our barns are still used on a daily basis on working farms and so long as the roofs remain leak free and fire is avoided, can persist so for another century or more. Others are not so fortunate. Where originally the Dutch Barn was the dominant structure on a farm containing from 40 to 100 acres or more, many of them are now surrounded by single family homes, condominiums and even industrial structures. As population pressure builds, the farm economy dwindles and real estate developers plan, the future destiny of many of the remaining Dutch Barns become precarious at best.

What should happen under these circumstances?

That is a hard question to answer. As the old farmhouse is modernized, restored or destroyed, the other barn buildings bulldozed, several things can happen to a Dutch Barn. If its roof has not been neglected, its timbers are likely to be intact with their massive anchor beams, posts, purlin plates, rafters and braces. Choice ones may even have their rafters covered with a plank roof, wide boarded original siding, wooden hinges on the large gable end wagon doors and Dutch iron hinges on the animal doors. The early barns were obviously built by master builders who apparently enjoyed working with the huge virgin pine and oak trees available nearby. Not only were the timbers fashioned by broad axe but many were finished by adze, the resulting surfaces being so smooth and flat that they appear to have come from a planing mill. Some of the massive anchor beams were even chamfered as giving finishing touches to the timber.

When such an intact barn is likely to be detached from its original central role in the farm economy there are several alternate uses available. If the developer has a sense of propriety, a respect for local history, heritage and posterity, he will use the barn as a central theme, respecting its integrity and using it with as few modifications as possible as a recreational and cultural center of his new development.

A second and less desirable alternative is to carefully dismantle the barn reerecting it somewhere else either as close as possible to its original configuration or with as few modifications as possible. This

procedure is the one currently in favor. Such action has led to the removal of a basic part of our local historical tradition.

It is a rare situation in which a barn is taken down without some loss in its integrity when it is reerected. In most instances when a barn is destined to become a "second home" or a studio for a city dweller, drastic changes may be expected. While the massive timbers may survive the dismantling and transportation activity, it is likely that many, many more subtle features will disappear. Even this however may be a better use of these ancient structures than to have them disappear by fire, rot or under the blade of a bulldozer.

I write with a degree of understanding of this rapidly developing problem. In 1947 I bought what appeared to be a magnificent very old Dutch Barn which was apparently built in 1701 on one of the original farms on the Great Flats adjacent to the pioneer village of Schenectady settled in 1661 by Arent Van Curler. This barn was located on the western edge of a farm adjacent to a beautiful cold spring. This barn was among the early ones erected on the Great Flats and was built by or for Johannes Teller who had survived the Schenectady Massacre of 1690.

After I had bought the barn with my hope in 1947 of eventually converting it into a museum, I discovered that because of a long neglected roof covering, rot had become established in the massive posts, the purlin plates and the long roof rafters. At that time I could see no way I could possibly replace these damaged timbers. Even today it would require a tremendous effort and cost and the result would have questionable merit. Consequently, I was forced to dismantle the barn, salvaging all of the sound timbers, siding, doors and floor planking.

I decided to see whether I could take down the barn alone and eventually was successful in doing so except for the massive posts and anchor beams. As the dismantling process proceeded, I obtained a series of excellent photographs of the barn structure and its simple but highly functional design. From these photographs I have been able to construct an accurate scale model of this barn at a reduction of 24 to 1. Thus the finished model is 25 inches square and 21 inches high. The leanto on the northwestern side has an area which was originally 25 feet long and 10 feet wide.

As the field research of our Society proceeds, it becomes apparent that there are probably at least 100 Dutch type barns still in existence in 1988. At least half of them however face a very uncertain future.

Many of the better ones have been integrated into a barn complex on working farms so that their pristine condition in many cases ceases to exist. A few of these are still in excellent condition after more than 200 years.

Those facing an uncertain future range from the few still in excellent condition to the majority which are no longer being used effectively and face the distinct possibility of neglect and eventual destruction from fire, rot, snow loading and wind storm. Those which are in fairly good

shape but are without a useful function are likely to be sold by the current owners to the highest bidder. When this happens and the barn is removed our region loses one of its most important linkages with the past.

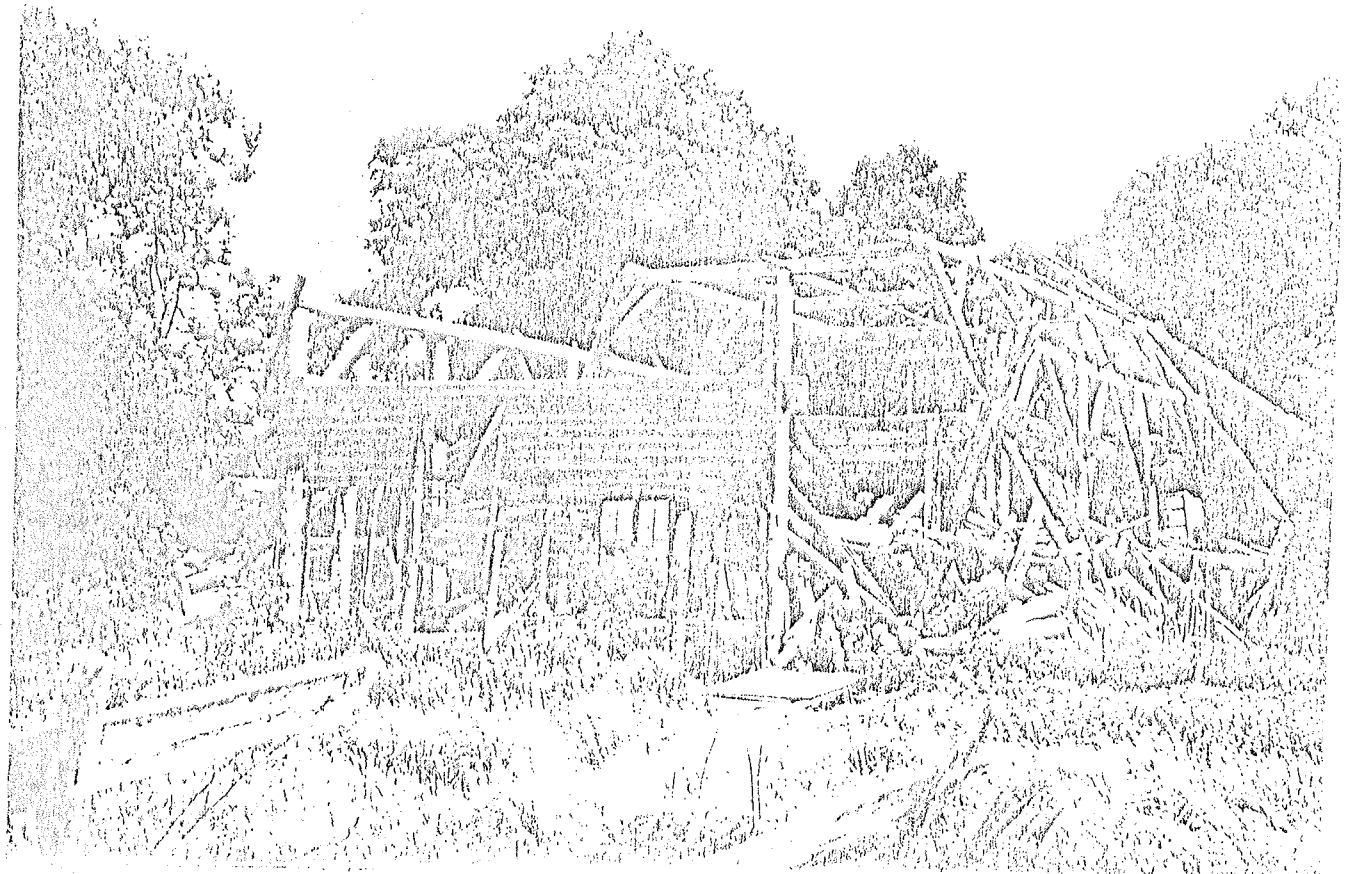
At least a few of the best ones should be designated as National Historic Landmarks, protected from further change and developed into a formal part of our national heritage.

In Switzerland, Sweden and other European countries extensive collections of ancient structures are accumulated, meticulously restored and perpetuated as outdoor museums with government sponsorship and continuing support. In America a few such assemblies have been established as tourist attractions under private initiative. Perhaps this is the best we can do.

Meanwhile we hope that our Dutch Barn Preservation Society can raise public consciousness to appreciate the intrinsic value and importance of these ancient structures so that they are better appreciated by their owners as well as the general public.

Meanwhile the research minded members of the Society should bend every effort to glean as much solid information as possible from the barns still remaining. There are many fascinating questions about these Dutch Barns and great satisfaction in obtaining the answers.

Vincent J. Schaefer  
September 5, 1988



The fate of one of our finest Dutch Barns. The 1680 Van Bergen Barn at Leeds, New York,

Dutch Barn news from New Jersey -- R. William Pauley, Belle Mead, NJ

THE DUTCH SETTLERS IN CENTRAL NEW JERSEY

These notes on the Dutch settlers in the Raritan Valley of New Jersey were gleaned from various texts and historical booklets that cover Somerset, Hunterdon, and Middlesex Counties. The purpose is to help those who are interested in the New World Dutch Barn to become more familiar with the Dutch migration to this fertile Valley and the family names of some of these pioneers.

The Dutch in Nieuw Amsterdam began to farm the West bank of the Hudson (Bergen County) and along the Raritan Bay in the mid 1600's. Indian attacks made life difficult. In 1660 Peter Stuyvesant ordered the families to move from outlying farms to safer villages. This led to the first permanent town in northern New Jersey, named Bergen, and now known as Jersey City.

The British took over in 1664, forming East and West Jersey, and set up the seat of government in Elizabeth. The intent was to develop New Jersey, which the Dutch had failed to do. The Proprietors granted religious and political freedom to the Jerseys, which meant that a variety of groups saw the opportunities and began to move into the region in the late 1600's. The English and Scotch were most common in the East, while Quakers moved into the West Jerseys, as far north as Princeton.

The Dutch living in New York and Long Island were attracted to the Raritan Valley in the early 1700's when large tracts of land were offered for sale. The river provided transportation and the fertile lowlands were ideal for grain and livestock. A small port was established on the Raritan in about 1730 near the present Rutgers University stadium. Some of the Raritan Landing founders came from the Albany area, including Schuyler, Van Dyke, and Suydam. Church records for this period indicate that about 1/3 of citizens of this area (Middlesex County) were Dutch and in Somerset County, further west on the Raritan and Millstone Rivers, the majority of residents had Dutch ancestry.

An example of the large tracts of land that were purchased by Dutch businessmen and farmers in Somerset was the buying of the Harlingen Tract of over 9000 acres by 17 New Yorkers in 1710. In about the same period, a 10,000 acre tract was bought by a group of Long Island Dutch that was on the opposite, eastern side of the Millstone. During the early and mid 1700's many family farms and plantations began in the county, and Dutch speaking villages and churches were established. A major center developed in the Raritan/Somerville area a few miles east of the junction of the North and South Branches of the Raritan River. The first Reformed Church was built there in 1699. Reformed Churches were started in the villages of Franklin Park (near New Brunswick) in 1710, twenty miles north in Bedminster in 1758, and in the western most region of Somerset, Meshanic, in about 1750. Included among the hundreds of Dutch families that flourished in Somerset through the Revolutionary War era and that are still prominent today are Frelinghuysens, Bergens, Hoaglands, Staats, Van Cleefs, Strykers and Van Zandts.

Hundreds of Dutch homes have survived in the Raritan Valley, even though few were made of brick or stone. In Somerset County about two dozen New World Dutch barns remain, primarily along the Millstone Valley.

Dutch Barn Research Possibilities

When the Dutch settled in New York State they brought many traits and habits with them. Therefore it should not be considered unusual that their houses and barns that were erected in the new world were reflections of their past.

However the climatic and environmental conditions in Holland are very different from those in New York. Are the design criteria for the structures built by these early pioneers the same as used in Holland? How soon after they arrived were they able to modify their designs to cope with the harsher environmental conditions of New York?

It would be of interest to know what wind loadings and snow depth loadings they assumed a structure must stand in New York versus in Holland. How did they cope with the much larger fluctuations in temperature. How could they keep the structures comfortable?

A more general question is: what is so unusual, unique about these structures? Did they have advantages that English, German or French structures didn't have? Another aspect relates to the hazards of the times - Indians. Did these structures have additional security advantages? How long did these structures last and what led to their demise?

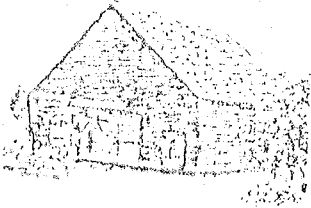
In recent times much emphasis has been given to systems analysis. That is to say we must first specify requirements (i.e., size, volume, floor loading, wind loading, snow loading, insulation required, illumination required, etc.). It is only after these requirements are specified that we can build to satisfy such requirements. Did our forefathers bring such native ingenuity with them from the old world? Perhaps they had a simple concept, such as "Form Follows Function" as their design criteria. It would be interesting to make an analysis of some old world structures and determine their design criteria.

Eugene Bollay  
Santa Barbara, California  
11/3/88



Joseph, New York, of the National Register Field Representative for the NYS Office of Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation, a founding member of The Dutch Barn Preservation Society, and one who has extensive statewide knowledge of vernacular architecture opened his slide talk with an extensive quotation from "Memoirs of An American Lady; With Sketches of Manners and Scenery in America, as They Existed Previous to the Revolution" Vol. 1, Second Edition, 1809, Chapter XVIII, p. 176 (These two volumes are a prized possession in our library, the bequest of Hon. F. Walter Bliss.) It refers to a "Description of Colonel Schuyler's Barn, the Common, and its various Uses".

"Adjoining to the orchard was the most spacious barn I ever beheld; which I shall describe for the benefit of such of my readers as have never seen a building constructed on a plan so comprehensive. This barn, which, as will hereafter appear, answered many beneficial purposes besides those usually allotted for such edifice, was of a vast size, at least a hundred feet long, and sixty wide. The roof rose to a very great height in the midst, and sloped down till it came within ten feet of the ground, when the walls commenced, which like the whole of this vast fabric, were formed of wood. It was raised three feet from the ground, by beams resting on stone; and on these beams was laid, in the middle of the building, a very massive oak floor.



"Before the door was a large sill, sloping downwards, of the same materials. A breadth of about twelve feet on each side of this capacious building was divided off for cattle; on one side ran a manger, at the above mentioned distance from the wall, the whole length of the building, with a rack above it; on the other were stalls for the other cattle, running also the whole length of the building. The cattle and horses stood with their hinder parts to the wall, and their heads towards the threshing floor. There was a prodigious large box or open chest in one side, built up for holding the corn after it was thrashed; and the roof, which was very lofty and spacious, was supported by large cross beams; from one to another of these was stretched a great number of long poles, so as to form a sort of open loft, on which the whole rich crop was laid up. The floor of those parts of the barn, which answered the purposes of a stable and cow-house, was made of thick slab deals, laid loosely over the supporting beams. And the mode of cleaning those places was by turning the boards, and permitting the dung and litter to fall into the receptacles left open below for the purpose; thence in spring they were often driven down to the river, the soil, in its original state, not requiring the aid of manure. In the \* (\*By the front is meant the gable end, which contains the entrance.) front of this vast edifice there were prodigious folding-doors, and two others that opened behind.

"Certainly never did cheerful rural toils wear a more exhilarating aspect than while the domestics were lodging the luxuriant harvest in this capacious repository. When speaking of the doors, I should have mentioned that they were made in the gable ends; those in the back equally large to correspond with those in the front; while on each side of the great doors were smaller ones, for the cattle and horses to enter. Whenever the corn or hay was reaped or cut, and ready for carrying home, which in that dry and warm climate happened in a very few days, a waggon loaded with hay, for instance, was driven into the midst of this great barn; loaded also with numberless large grasshoppers, butterflies, and cicadas, who came along with the hay. From the top of the waggon, this was immediately forked up into the loft of the barn, in the midst of which was an open space left for the purpose; and then the unloaded waggon drove, in rustic state, out of the great door at the other end. In the mean time every member of the family witnessed, or assisted in this summary process, by which the building and thatching of stacks was at once saved; and the whole drop and cattle were thus commodiously lodged under one roof.

"The cheerfulness of this animated scene was much heightened by the quick appearance, and vanishing of the swallows, which twittered among their high-built dwelling in the roof. Here, as in every other instance, the safety of these domestic friends was attended to; and an abode provided for them. In front of this barn were many holes, like those of a pigeon-house, for the accommodation of the martin; that being the species to which this kind of home seems most congenial; and, in the inside of the barn, I have counted above fourscore at once. In the winter when the earth was buried deep in new-fallen snow, and no path fit for walking in was left, this barn was like a great gallery, well suited for that purpose; and furnished with pictures not displeasing to a simple and contented mind. As you walked through this long area, looking up, you beheld the abundance of the year treasured above you; on one side the comely heads of your snorting steeds presented themselves, arranged in seemly order; on the other, your kine displayed their meeker visages, while the perspective, on either, was terminated by heifers and fillies no less interesting. In the midst your servants exercised the flail, and even, while they threshed out the straw, distributed it to the expectants on both sides; while the "liberal handful" was occasionally thrown to the many-coloured poultry on the sill. Winter itself never made this abode of life and plenty cold or cheerless. Here you might walk and view all your subjects, and their means of support, at one glance; except, indeed, the sheep; for which a large and commodious building was erected very near the barn, the roof containing a loft large enough to hold hay sufficient for their winter's food.

"Colonel Schuyler's barn was by far the largest I have ever seen; but all of them, in that country, were constructed on the same plan, furnished with the same accommodation, and presented the same cheering aspect. . . ."

Memoirs of An American Lady  
Ca. 1770.

1-3-66

## Early Descriptions of New World Dutch Barns

PETER KALM'S TRAVELS

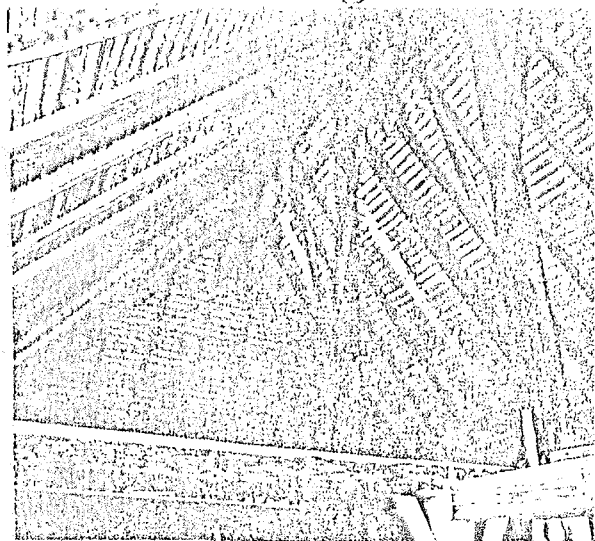
119

The barns had a peculiar kind of construction in this locality, of which I shall give a concise description. The main building was very large almost the size of a small church; the roof was high, covered with wooden shingles, sloping on both sides, but not steep. The walls which supported it were not much higher than a full grown man; but on the other hand the breadth of the building was all the greater. In the middle was the threshing floor and above it, or in the loft or garret, they put the unthrashed grain, the straw, or anything else, according to the season. On one side were stables for the horses, and on the other for the cows. The young stock had also their particular stables or stalls, and in both ends of the building were large doors, so that one could drive in with a cart and horses through one of them, and go out at the other. Here under one roof therefore were the thrashing floor, the barn, the stables, the hay loft, the coach house, etc. This kind of building is used chiefly by the Dutch and Germans, for it is to be observed that the country between Trenton and New York is not inhabited by many Englishmen, but mostly by Germans or Dutch,<sup>1</sup> the latter of which are especially numerous.

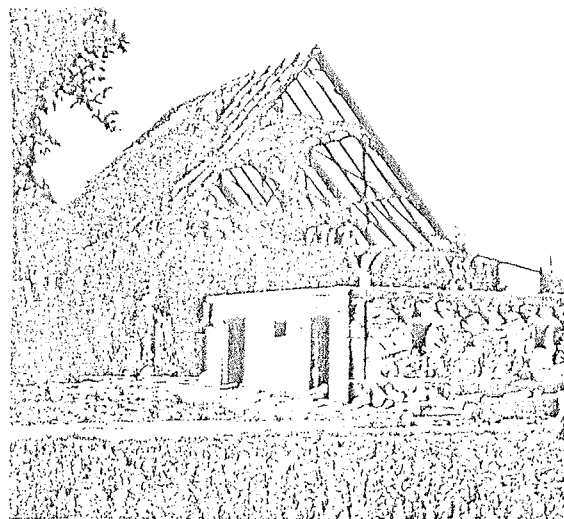
Pg 118, 119 Peter Kalm's Travels in  
North America Volume No. 1  
Dover Publications Inc. N.Y.  
Observations made 1748.

Timber Framing in barns of Switzerland.

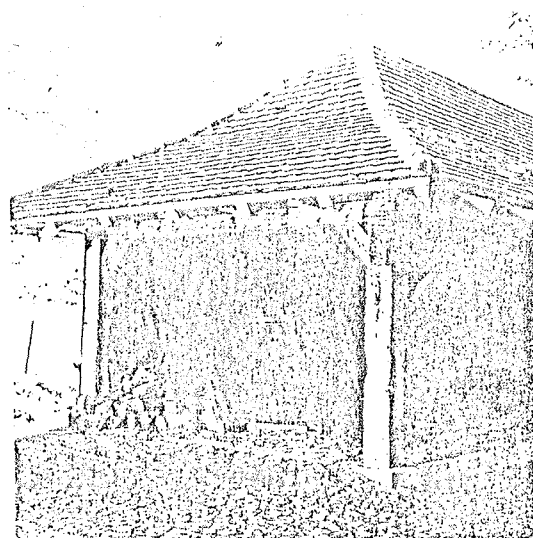
1-3-61.



Interior details of barn which has ridge beam and center post quite unlike Dutch Barn design  
Madiswil, Switzerland



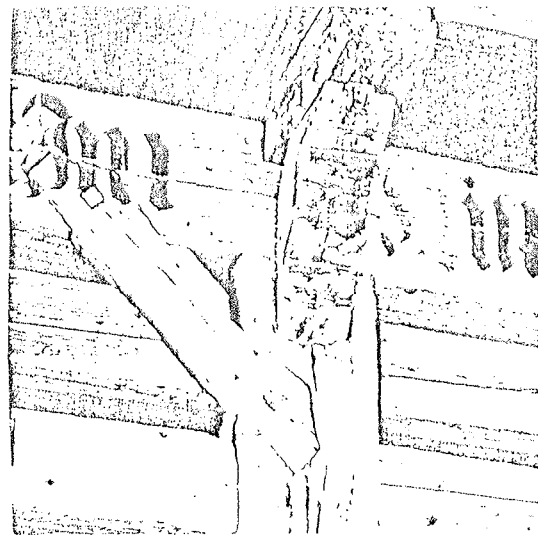
Barn of Ostermundigen, Berne  
This was part of house.  
Rafters have center beam connecting top of rafters.  
Dutch type barn never had a rafter center beam.



Framing of sawmill with short braces.

Mill from Rafz - Zurich

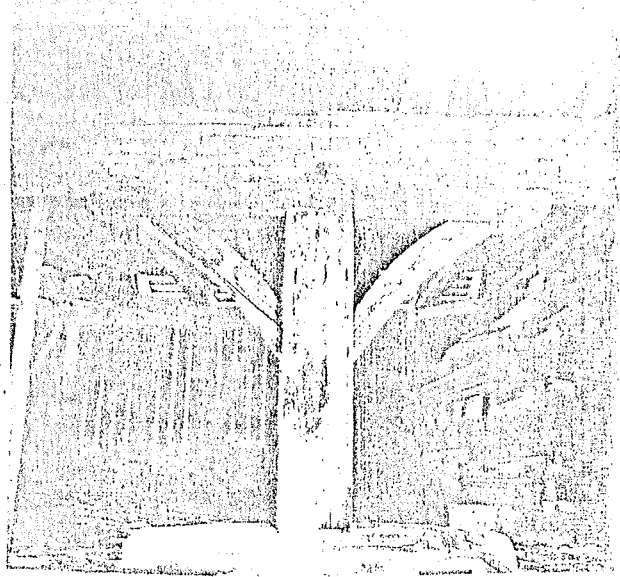
Ca 1841



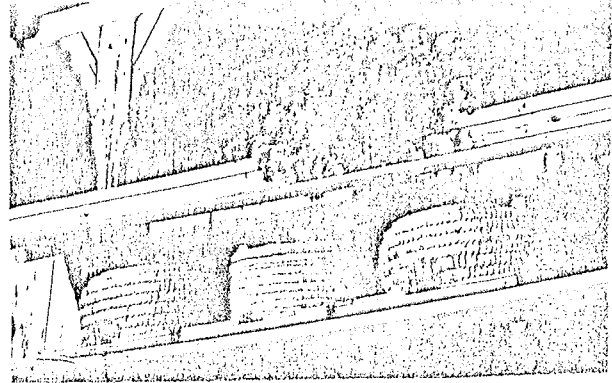
Dove tail Brace joining timber

Some what similar to anchor beam braces in some barns in mid-Hudson area.

Barn of Abraham von Grafenreid  
Faulensee, Berne, Switzerland

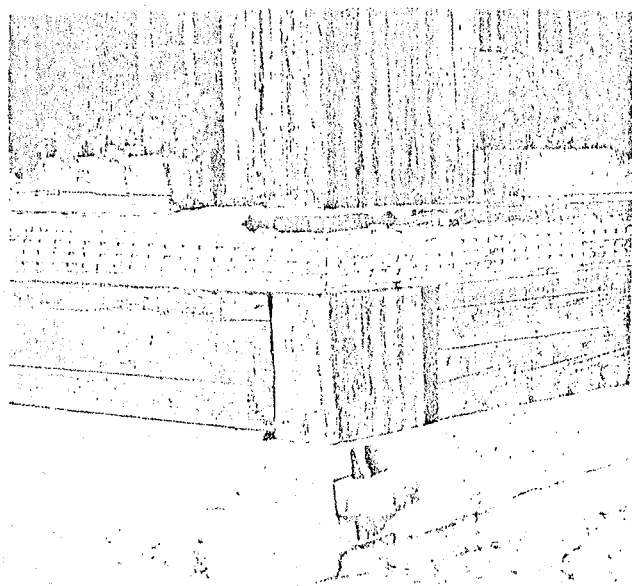


Sidepost with curved braces in Sawmill Except for these braces the timber assembly is quite different than in a Dutch Barn Rufz, Zurich, Switzerland.

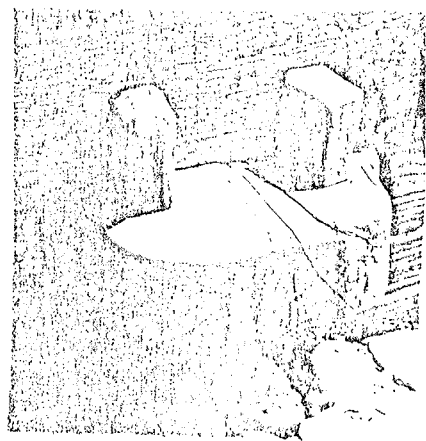


Support post with double braces Nothing similar has been found in our Dutch Barns

Kiesen, Berne, Switzerland.



Tapered wedges in sill of house The only use of tapered wedges in Dutch Barns is with anchor beams 1710 Madiswil, Berne, Switzerland



Tapered wedges in sill The sills of Dutch Barns are not like this.

Wila, Zurich, Switzerland

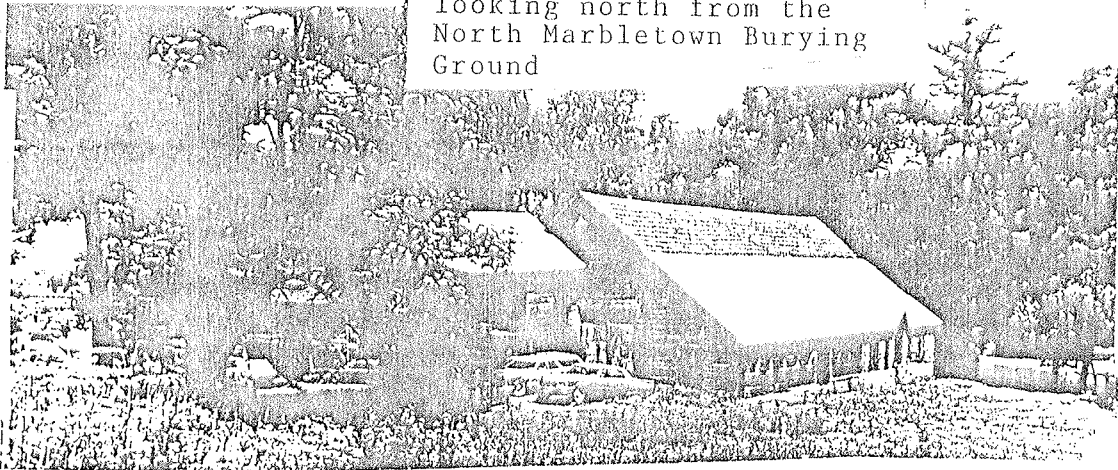
TOUR OF FOUR ULSTER COUNTY BARNS, SEPTEMBER 23, 1988

On Sunday, September 25, members of the Dutch Barn Society toured four barns in the townships of Marbletown, Hurley, and Woodstock.

The tour began at the Oliver/Erusard barn just north of the North Marbletown Dutch Reform Church on the Old Mine Road, presently 209. Services are recorded as being held here in 1677.

The Oliver barn is a long 7 or 8 bay barn made of salvaged bents and beams from many structures. It was recently stabilized by John Kaufman of Hurley.

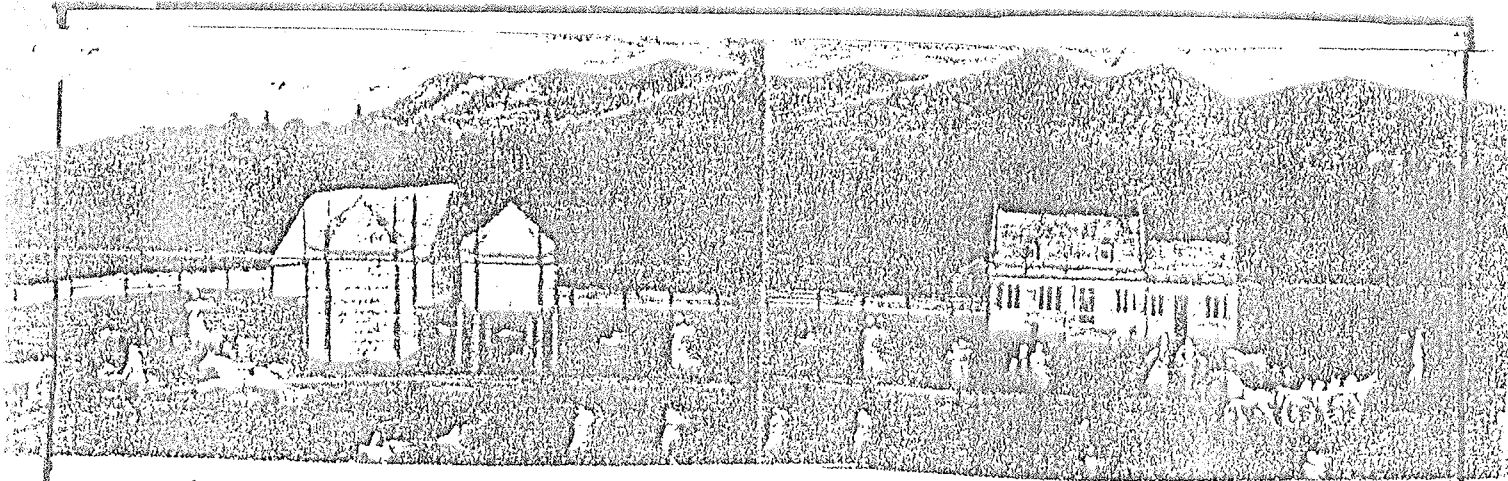
Oliver/Erusard barn (Ma-6)  
looking north from the  
North Marbletown Burying  
Ground



Vincent Schaefer, who had come from Schenectady said that the barn contained a number of puzzles, particularly the spliced extensions on six columns of three bents, similar to the modifications in the Decker/Bienstock barn which he has written of.

Charles Gehring, who had come from Albany county, is a translator of early Dutch manuscripts and records. He pointed out two weathered beams about 25 to 30 feet long which had been used in the south end-wall. Both were drilled through with a series of holes about a foot apart. Charles said that these were reused posts from a "barrack". The holes were used in raising the roof of the structure with a device called a barrack or bark screw. The filled structure is better described as a "Hooibergh" or mountain of hay.

The barracks of four and five poles were used for storing hay and grains, independent of the barn. Originally the Dutch barn was designed to shelter a few animals and to store and thrash grain. Most of the hay storage was in barracks.



Detail of the Van Bergen overmantel, by an anonymous Limner. circa 1735  
New York State Historical Association, Cooperstown, New York.

This view of an early Dutch farm, just north of Ulster County in what is now Greene County, gives us a view of the Catskill Mountains and on the left a Dutch barn with two five-pole barracks. The poles of which could be 40 or 50 feet high. They are filled with carefully layered hay. The Barrack to the right has, "a floor a few feet off the ground under which the cattle could shelter, serving themselves from the hay that they could reach while the heavy roof kept it pressed down to their level." (Alice Kenney, Stubborn for Liberty, the Dutch in New York, 1975.)

The two poles in the Oliver barn which were salvaged from a barrack, tell the story of an early change in local agriculture. The three bay addition on the south, with its lowered anchorbeams, was designed to increase hay storage as the use of the barrack and the "layering" of hay in stacks was abandoned on this farm.

The Tour next visited the DeWitt/Neumerich barn in the Town of Hurley. The DeWitt farm dates to the late 1680's but the barn does not seem to date to that time. It is a large 6 bay barn with a spliced purlin-plate, indicating it was built all at one time. This barn is in excellent condition and its interior structure is open and easily viewed. Mrs. Neumerich recalls John Fitchen documenting the barn on September 3, 1963. He photographed the interior but she never hear anything further from him. He numbered it 23 of the 76 he documented for his 1968 book, The New World Dutch Barn.

The tour next stopped at John Kaufman's barn a few miles north on the Hurley Mountain Road. It had not been scheduled but was hard to pass up, especially with John driving the lead truck, and it was a great discovery overlooked by the author.

John Sobon, who had come from Windsor, Massachusetts, and often gives his well educated guess, thought the barn might be a 17th century one.

The barn's nearness to Kingston, the first settlement in the Esopus Valley, beginning in the 1650's, makes this possible. The high pitched roof and the boxed in, upper perlin plate are symilar to the 17th century Teller/Schermerhorn Barn in Albany County which Vincent Schaefer dismantled and documented in 1948. The Nieuwkerk/Kaufman barn is number 42 in Fitchen's book.

The tour unfortunately changed course for a 2:30 appointment and missed the Wolven/Skolnick barn in Saugerties with many early local features. This barn has 9 foot side walls. It's anchorbeams have upper braces, a feature so far unique in Ulster County.

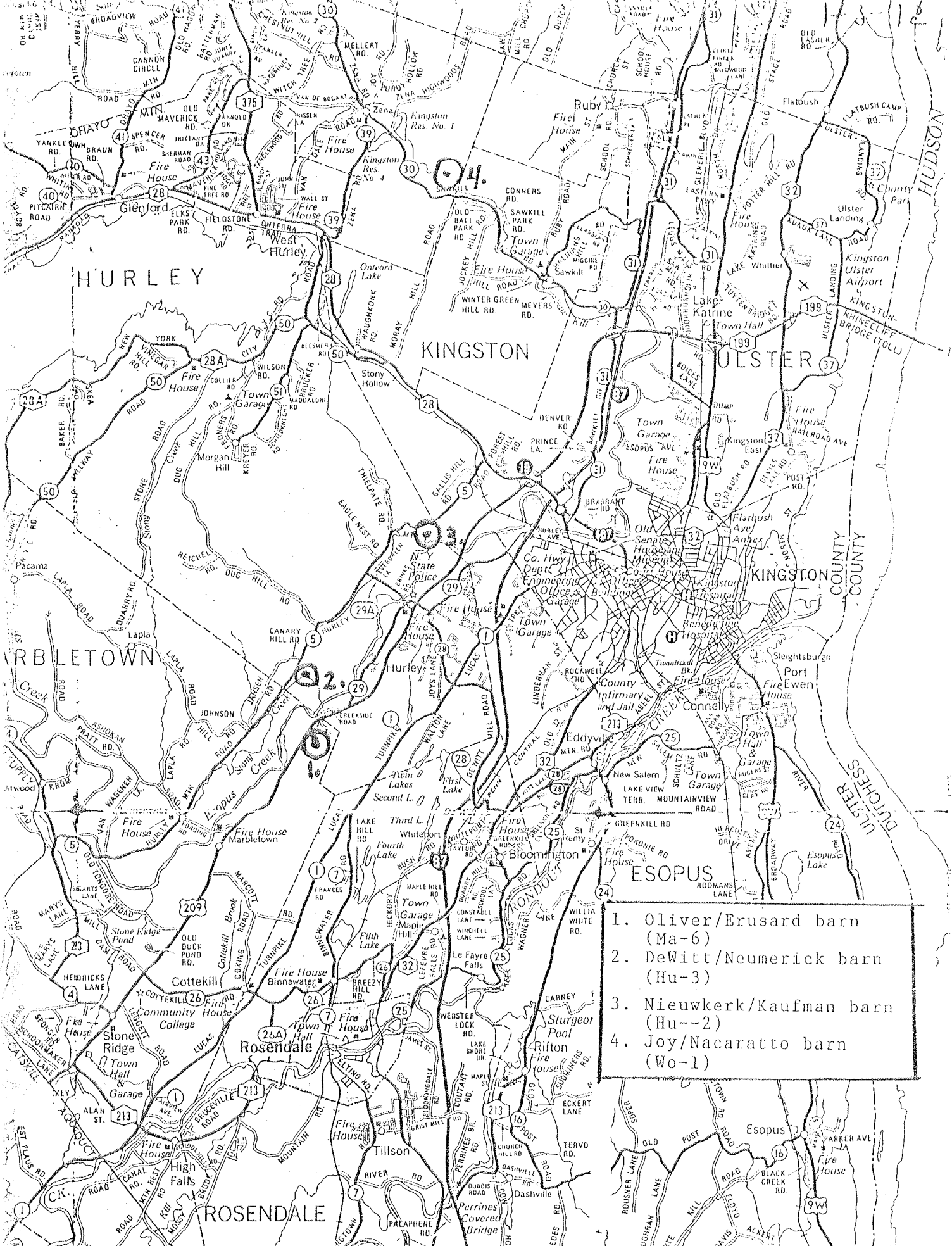
At 2:20 the 4 car tour arrived at the Joy/Nacaratto barn, where it was met by a number of local people including Alf Evers, writer and Catskill historian, Peter Leaycraft of Woodstock, and Olive Clearwater author of Hurley in the Days of Slavery, 1986, and town historian. They had come out of concern for the the City of Kingston's condemnation of the land and buildings, especially the small 5 bay barn which Joe Nacaratto has maintained for many years. A barn and house with many interesting original features. Its internal structure is similar to the Oliver barn first visited. In the case of the Joy barn a two bay addition with lowered anchorbeams enlarges the hay capacity of the barn.

It is a small barn with 20 foot anchorbeams spanning the threshing floor, as compared to the perhaps 30 foot beams of the Oliver barn. The bracing in the Joy barn is sawn, and the tenons do not extend beond the backs of the columns. It is probably an early 19th century barn. Its owner has maintained the original double hung doors with wooden hinges that swing in. He has repaired the removable center post which is traditional to these doors and holds them securily shut.

Francis Wolven of Saugerties told me that the removable center post, one of which he still uses on his converted garage, was called a "mittelmanse" or middle man. No one on the tour recognized the word and one person pointed out that it was a German word. Saugerties was half founded by Palatine Germans in 1710. Perhaps it was a term in the local dialect.

To date things have gone well concerning the City of Kingston's condemnation of the Joy/Nacaratto barn. We are awaiting a public hearing before the City of Kingston Water board, hopefully soon. The press and public response has been good.

copyrighted 1988  
Peter Sinclair



1. Oliver/Erusard barn (Ma-6)
2. DeWitt/Neumerick barn (Hu-3)
3. Nieuwkerk/Kaufman barn (Hu--2)
4. Joy/Nacaratto barn (Wo-1)

without any cover over it. When the people wanted any hay, they cut some of it loose, by a specially made cutter. However, many people, especially in the environs of Philadelphia, had haystacks with roofs which could be moved up and down. Near the surface of the ground were some poles laid, on which the hay was put, that the air might pass freely through it. I have mentioned before that the cattle had no stables in winter or summer and were obliged to graze in the open air during the whole year. However, in Philadelphia, and in a few other places, I saw that those people who made use of the latter kind of haystacks, *viz.* that with movable roofs, commonly had built them so that the hay was put a fathom or two above the ground, on a floor of boards, under which the cattle could stand in winter when the weather was very bad. Under this floor were partitions of boards on all the sides, which however stood far enough from each other to afford the air a free passage.

The America of 1750. Travels in N. America. Dover, N.Y.

### Hay barracks

Although ethnic relationships are not yet clear for cornercribs, the hay barrack is a structure having strong ethnic associations, especially with the Dutch (fig. 6-48).<sup>100</sup> Just as the granary is a specialized structure for storing small grains and the crib for storing corn, so the barracks is for preserving hay and straw.

The structure is simplicity itself, comprised of just four corner posts and a pyramidal or gable roof, with the gable ends enclosed. The building usually had no foundation other than a series of poles laid on the ground to keep the hay or straw from contact with the damp earth. What made the structure unusual was that the roof rested on four movable wooden or metal pegs placed in a series of holes in the four posts. By using a ratcheting jack, the entire roof could be raised or lowered by moving each roof corner, one peg at a time. "The first corner is the most difficult to raise because of the weight of the roof. The last corner is easiest to raise since the upward warping or spring of the roof frame decreases the weight on the unraised corner."<sup>101</sup> Raising or lowering the roof ensured maximum protection for the stored hay or straw (sometimes even grain was stored). Dimensions of the barrack varied normally between twelve and sixteen feet, and occasionally these structures were as large as twenty feet.<sup>102</sup>

Some early barracks were constructed with a raised floor to permit the shelter of one or two cows under the barrack.<sup>103</sup> Generally speaking, the hay barrack was so simple that it could not be converted to other functions and, hence, tended to disappear from the landscape as agricultural conditions changed. Apparently, only a handful of barracks have survived into the middle of the twentieth century (fig. 6-49). The range over which the hay barrack has been reported suggests a connection to northern German immigrants, and even to Ukrainians, as well as to the Dutch with whom it has its strongest associations.<sup>104</sup> Among Pennsylvania Germans the hay barracks is known as the *shotscheier* and seems to have been a fairly common feature of their farmsteads.<sup>105</sup> Indeed, a special kind of thatched roof, used only on shotscheier, has been identified, suggesting that these structures were originally all thatch-roofed, as many still are in the Netherlands today.<sup>106</sup>

The hay barracks was known and utilized in other parts of Europe besides the north German plain and Rhine delta. In the Ukraine, for example, it was called an *oboroby*.<sup>107</sup> Furthermore, Peter Wacker has postulated that the simplicity and cheapness of the barrack encouraged its adoption in pioneering areas without strong ethnic associations. These two considerations may explain the unusual pattern of reported

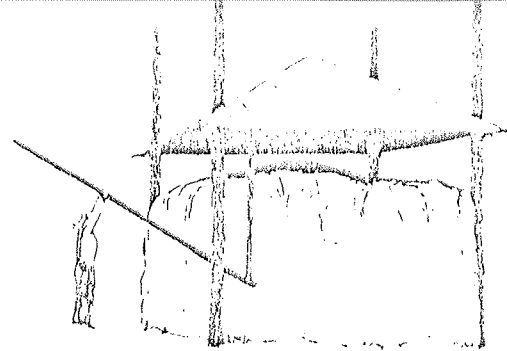
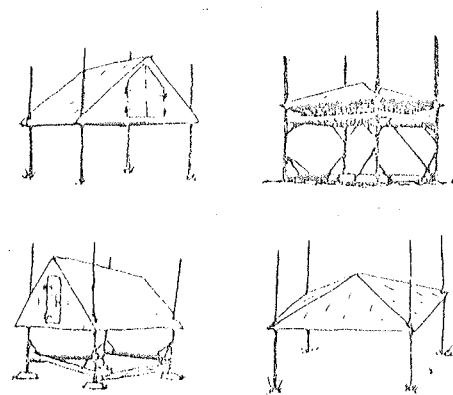


Fig. 6-48 The hay barrack (from McTernan)



occurrence of scattered hay barracks in eastern Massachusetts and Virginia, Maryland and Ohio, in two separate areas of eastern Iowa, in northern Illinois, in western New York, in Rhode Island, on Prince Edward Island, in southeastern Manitoba, and on Irish farms in eastern Newfoundland.<sup>108</sup> It is likely that other, as-yet-unreported occurrences will be documented in the future. Here again is a material landscape feature that warrants closer scrutiny. Such study might well begin with an examination of the large number of nineteenth-century illustrated county atlases which contain hundreds of drawings of farmsteads.<sup>109</sup>

In western America, where there is greater emphasis on animal raising because of the drier climate, an open-sided hay barn is frequently used to store the larger amounts of hay raised there. Although superficially resembling the hay barrack in that it has open sides, it differs by having a fixed roof, a rectangular plan, and often one closed side facing the prevailing wind direction.



### Comments and Questions about the Dutch Hay Barracks

In Europe it is my understanding that hay barracks are still used. This is not surprising since not only is the hay barrack a very inexpensive structure to build but it is a highly effective method for storing hay. In addition, in the event that wet hay must be gathered because of inclement weather, if the hay catches fire due to "spontaneous combustion" only the moveable roof and the guiding poles may be lost rather than the cherished "big barn."

To my knowledge, none of the ancient Dutch Hay Barracks remain in our region. However, in a number of instances, the poles which guided the moveable roof are still around since they were incorporated in the construction of walls or ceiling beams. They are identifiable by the presence of the line of holes spaced a foot or so apart which were originally used to raise and/or position the moveable roof when hay was piled in the barrack.

When our Society members visited the Oliver Dutch Barn west of Hurley in Ulster County, we found two hay barrack poles used in the construction of a wall in the barn. I have been told that such poles have been used as ceiling beams in two Dutch Houses near the base of the Helderbergs in Albany County south of Altamont, New York. I hope to see them in the near future.

I have recently constructed the model of a hay barrack using a scale of 24 to 1 similar to that used when I modeled the Teller-Schermerhorn Dutch Barn. In doing this I copied the models depicted in the over mantel painting of the Van Bergen farm complex which can be seen in the Cooperstown headquarters of the New York State Historical Society and which is reproduced in Peter Sinclair's report of our Ulster County Field Trip Miscellany Pg. 1-3-70.

This painting shows two barracks, one with hay built up from ground level, the other with a floor positioned about five feet above the ground which could be used by cattle during inclement weather. The moveable roof in both of these barracks appears to be guided by six barracks poles which seems to be about 25 feet high.

In constructing the model I discovered that it would be quite feasible to build a moveable base or floor which could either rest on stones placed on the ground or positioned at any desirable level above the ground with wooden rods projecting through the holes in the barrack poles. Only three such rods would be needed to hold the base at the selected height.

I made the roof in the form of a hexagon. If a thatched roof was employed, the moveable roof would be relatively light and easily raised with a lever or a barrack screw. I would favor the former. Such a device is depicted in Miscellany Pg. 1-3-73.

In constructing the Hay Barrack Model I recognize several items to which I do not have answers. They are as follows:

1. What is a barrack screw and how was it used?

2. Barracks poles of 1, 4, 5 and 6 in number are mentioned. Why not 3?

3. How was the moveable roof held up while the hay pile was being formed?

4. What method was used in "layering the hay so that it was easily removed without destroying the pile's stability?"

5. How high were the hay piles in a barrack? With a cross section of 20 feet (the maximum I believe that is feasible) poles about 30 feet high appear to be adequate. In the Van Bergen painting the cross section of the barrack appears to be about twelve feet and the poles about 25 feet high.

6. Was the hay in the barrack available to the cattle as a sort of self feeder or was it arranged so the farmer handled it?

Vincent J. Schaefer 12-1-88.

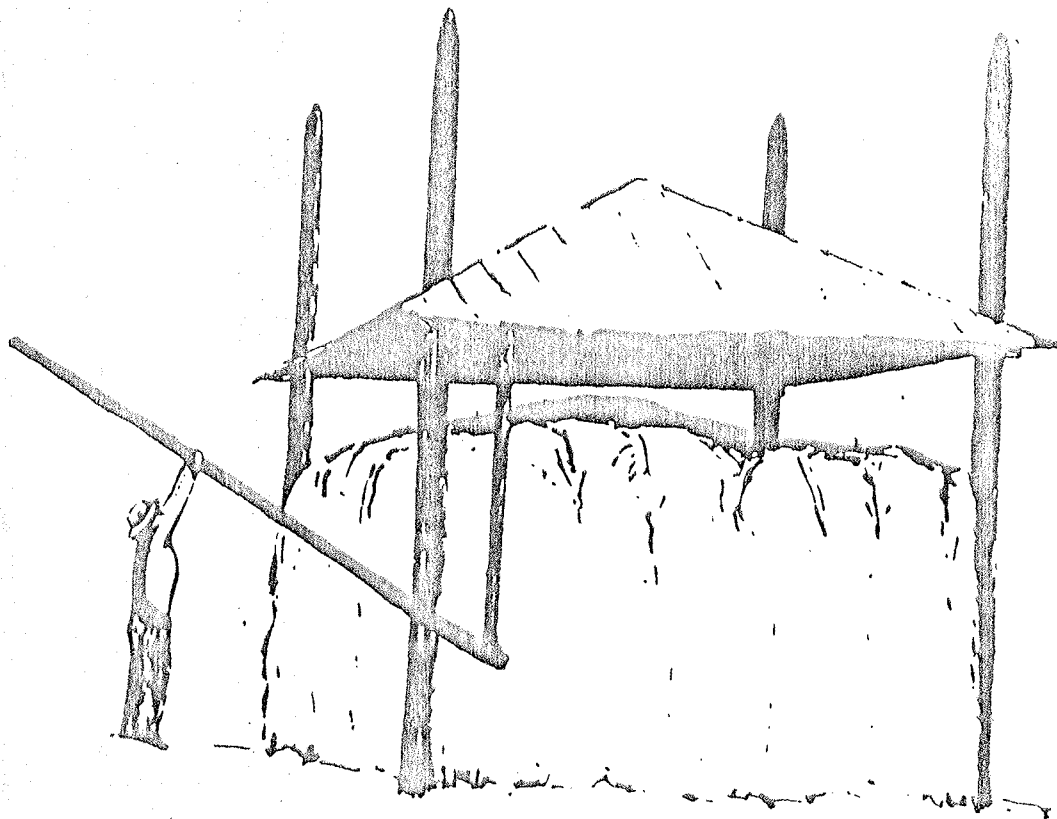


Fig. 6-48 The hay barrack (from

McTernan) from Allen G. Nobles'

Volz Wood Brick and Stone -- Barns & Farm. Structures

Drawing by Margaret Geib.

Univ of Massachusetts Press Amherst 1984

A 4 sides hay barrack. See 1-3-70 for a six sided version associated with the Van Bergen Barn of 1680.

## Barrack Bouwerij: The answer to a Puzzle and Related Items

Heading west from Schenectady across the Rotterdam, Mariaville and Florida Hills, a view of the far western horizon reveals a distinctive mesa like hill that projects above all of its surroundings. An excellent view of it obtains from the top of the long sloping highway of Interstate 88 and Route 7 as they head down into the Schoharie Valley. Nearly seventy years ago an old farmer friend of mine, Robert M. Hartley, one of the top antiquarians of the time told me that he knew it as Bark Zowry. This unusual name has remained with me and has puzzled me ever since. I had never been able to find anyone who knew where the name came from and none who had ever heard it called that. On the Santhier Map published in England in 1775 it is labeled Brimstone Hill. On the USGS Topographic Maps there is no name.

In September on a Dutch Barn field trip to Ulster County led by Peter Sinclair we encountered several posts in the Oliver Barn that had earlier been used in a hay barrack. This structure was built adjacent to the big Dutch Barn of the early pioneer settlers and consisted of a vertically adjustable roof placed above a layered hay stack. According to Alice Kenny, "Stubborn for Liberty - The Dutch in New York" 1975 cited by Sinclair, Misc. 1-3-70, such a barrack as described as a Hooibergh which is translated as "mountains of hay." Thus it is quite possible that this distinctive hill near Cherry Valley which appears in silhouette as a flattened hay stack was called Barracks Zowerie (?) for this reason and is thus a term having an ancient origin. The second part of the name is somewhat uncertain.

The morning of November 1, 1988, I decided to go to the vicinity of Bark Zowry to learn more about it. As I reached Carlisle on Route 20 it became quite apparent that my earlier plan to go southwest of Sharon would take me quite a distance west of the hill. Therefore, I decided to go directly south from Little York, a small roadside settlement. Turning south I found the road to be Little York Road. It is one of the most crooked roads I have ever travelled, which suggests it may originally have been a farm road, cow path or maybe an Indian Trail. It soon became apparent that it would take me close to the eastern side of the hill. A car some distance ahead of me turned into the driveway to a farm house. I decided on the spur of the moment to ask the occupant about the name of the hill. It turned out to be a young woman about twenty years old. As she got out of her car I approached her, told her about my interest in the hill and its name. She said, "Oh, you mean Bark Zowry?" I nearly fell over I was so surprised. Upon further interrogation it became quite apparent that she knew very little beyond its name.

However, she told me I should try to find Ray Briggs, a retired college professor, who lived a short distance away. She told me how to find his house. I left and found the cross roads she described but little else. I saw a house which I figured might be the Briggs home. However the name of the mailbox was Warner. I then saw a very large farm tractor moving from a field to the road some distance away. I waved to its driver and he stopped, climbed off of the very noisy tractor and approached me. I asked him if he could tell me how to find Ray Briggs. He said Ray was his father and pointed to a car coming down the road and said, "There he is now." As I watched the oncoming car, I saw it turn into a large barn

complex so I got my car and followed it down a farm road. When I accosted Ray Briggs, he appeared to be a very friendly man. When he learned of my quest he told me that the name was indeed Bark Zowry (as he pronounced it) and that he had a book or two at the house which might contain information about the name. He invited me to his house warning me that it was in quite a mess since his wife was sick abed.

I was rather reluctant to barge in but he insisted on it. Ray Briggs is a very remarkable man. Since retirement he is an auctioneer, an inspector for the U.S. Government Farm Disaster Relief, is interested in history, ornithology (he is responsible for the erection of 7000 blue bird houses in the area), genealogy, etc., etc. One of his ancestors was Lieutenant Peter Young (6.1760) who fought in the Revolution. He told me that his farm consisted of 400 acres which was the original homestead of Young and that there has been a continuing ancestral line which now spans 9 generations. Part of his farm takes in the summit of Barracks Zourie, which I find is the proper spelling of the name according to Noyes.

In her book, "The History of Schoharie County," written by Marion F. Noyes of the College at Cobleskill in 1964 and published by Richmondville Phoenic Press, a picture of the hill is reproduced as well as a second name Bergh Sovere. Ray told me that there is an oxen road which climbs the hill starting on the southeast side heading north and then swinging west and south to the summit. Near the beginning of this road is a rock shelter in which Peter Young's wife and child hid when the Indians during the 1780 raid were laying waste to the countryside. Ray told me that when he was a youngster the field on top of Barracks Zourie was planted in buckwheat.

He offered to take me to several ancient barns in the region which he though might be Dutch Barns. Meanwhile, I told him I'd like to see his since the central one had the "right" slope. We entered it and I found that it was indeed a Dutch Barn altho' modified quite a bit. The anchor beams had been sawed off on the inside of their posts leaving the big tenons intact. These were excellent examples but had no tapered wedges at the rear of the posts. I believe this barn would merit measurement.

He then took me to a large barn also on his property where a very large timber had collapsed. This was not a Dutch Barn altho' it had the "right" slope. It is however a fairly old one. It had a huge swing beam and a rather intricate upper complex of timbers. Its roof was not symmetrical since one side was shorter than the other. Since then I have found three others with identical profiles. This barn resembles the so-called porch barns which Noble calls by that name and which are common in Wisconsin. One big timber had collapsed, the other was about half rotted. It was quite a distance in from the road. We also passed a narrow old barn with typical martin holes but did not see the interior tho' Ray offered to arrange for me to do so. It had started raining so I decided to head for home. It was a fine morning with many serendipitous happenings!

After reaching home I wrote a letter to a member of our Society, Charles Gehring, who is a translator of early Dutch documents at the New York State Library asking him about the word Zourie. After giving considerable thought to the word he told me that he believes the original

word may have been Bouwbergh (farm) which then would mean that Barrack Bouwerij meant the mountain on the farm. (Barrack = Bergh = Hooibergh = mountain of hay.)

It is a fact that the view of this eminence from a distance resembles that of a flattened hay stack. The hill is steep on all sides, has a flat top, and its slopes are covered with a mixed forest. It is the dominant hill in the region and quite unique in appearance.

A few weeks later with my wife I returned to the vicinity of "Barrack Bouwrie" to photograph it. I went to the Howe's Cave exit of I-88 at Cobleskill. At the ramp leaving the highway I had a fine view of "the mountain" and photographed it. Then going to Cavern Road I headed north and after several false headings I found a road which provided an excellent view of "the mountain" and made photos of it.

After making the photographs I happened to look down the road and saw what seemed to be a Dutch Barn (by the profile). I went to the house nearby and found a young woman who knew nothing about barns! However, she told me that her husband who was down in the field could help me. I found Dick Buffo, the son of the owner of the farm. He told me that the barn was indeed a Dutch Barn and that he had taken another one down and reerected it in New Lebanon. Entering the barn I saw immediately it was indeed a Dutch Barn which was in excellent condition. Though loaded with hay its massive anchor beams were intact and as with the Young-Briggs Dutch Barn the tenons had no trace of wedges! I now wonder if this may be characteristic of "Dutch Barns" built by the German Palatines who settled this region.

On November 17, a rainy Sunday with the Rotterdam Hills covered with a low cloud, I decided to go to the lower Schoharie Creek to check out the location of Young's Lake which I had told Ray Briggs may have been named after one of his early ancestors. Young's Lake was close to a spot where as a young boy I had spent my first "campout." I had planned a trip by bicycle with three other friends to do some fishing in the Schoharie at a place where the father of one of them had taken us earlier in the year to fish for smallmouth bass. As the day for departure approached, one after the other of my friends decided to drop out of the expedition until no one was left to go with me. I was determined to go, so early one morning I loaded my bike with my pup tent, blankets, food and fishing gear and took off with my army surplus bicycle.

I suspect my parents were not too happy about my plans but they didn't object. I was probably about 14 years old. I went along the Mohawk to Pattersonville and then headed up into the Rotterdam Hills by way of Scotch Bush and Minaville. At Minaville I continued heading west by way of Young's Corners Road. Reaching what is now called Power House Road I went down the steep road, found the place where we had parked our car in our previous visit and there I pitched my tent.

After getting my campsite and bedding in order I rigged up my fish pole and spent an hour or so in a futile attempt to catch fish for supper. Approaching sunset, I prepared supper and then as it got dark I slipped into bed -- but did not sleep! The night noises were so different than

anything I had previously experienced that I imagined all sorts of creatures stalking my tent!

I got up at dawn, built a fire and fixed breakfast although somewhat bleary eyed. I then packed my tent and other gear and headed home. Somewhere near Minaville, being thirsty, I stopped at a farmhouse to ask for a drink of water. The old lady at the house brought out as batch of cookies, some fresh bread and butter and a glass of milk. It hit the spot! Here I was 68 years later retracing my route. I was amazed to consider my path finding ability at that early age.

At the junction of Young's Corners and Power House Roads, I found a historical marker having the legend - Peter Young: Settled near Young's Lake in 1728. Received the first lease in Warrensbush from Sir Peter Warren, Oct. 7, 1738. Thus it appears that the Schoharie Peter Young may have been the grandfather of the Peter Young of Barrack Bouwerie!

Thus has my interest in hay barracks been intensified. While I have built several models of them, I have developed a number of interesting questions about them which I have outlined in Misc. 1-3-74. Answers to these would be greatly appreciated from members of the Dutch Barn Preservation Society!



Bark Zowry (Hartley); Brimstone Hill (Sauthier); Barrack Zourie (U.S.G.S. BoucksAurie (Moot); Bergh Sourere (Noyes); Bark Ourway (Ayers); Barrack Sourie (Beers); Barrack Bouwerij (Gehring)

This hill (el.1806) dominates the western horizon when seen from 1-88 at the crest of the eastern slope of the Schoharie Valley. This picture was taken from a road running north of Howes Caverns.

It resembles a flattened hay stack- hence a hay barrack. V.J.S. 12-3-88

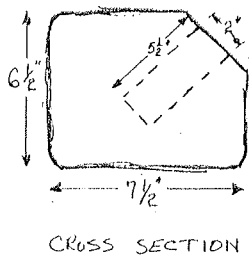
1-3-80

## Observations of Probable Hay Barrack Upright Support Posts.

While recently measuring a Dutch Barn at the Altamont Orchard complex, Chris Albright and I observed structural members within the barn that we felt were reused upright support posts from a hay barrack. These used as as upper transverse ties between the columns and wall posts (8ft to 10ft. long), and also as structural supports in both gable ends. These supports obviously had no purpose where they were located in the barn as they were designed and it was apparent they had been cut from longer sections to accommodate their current use,

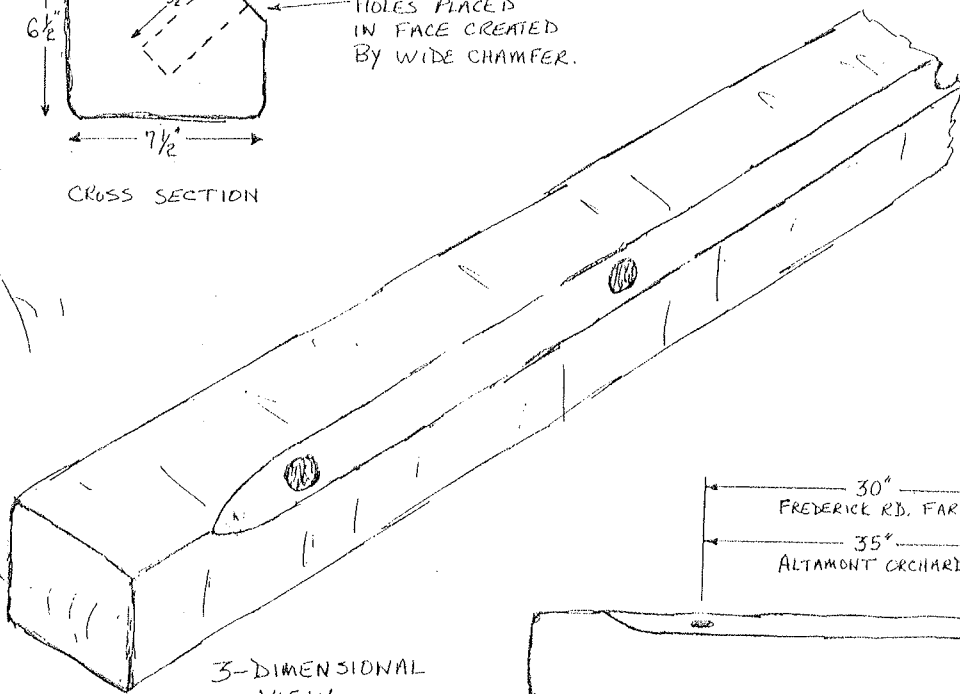
### HAY BARRACK STRUCTURAL UPRIGHTS

1/3/89  
M.T. HESLER



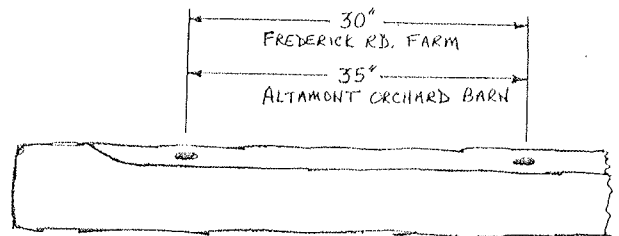
HOLES PLACED  
IN FACE CREATED  
BY WIDE CHAMFER.

CROSS SECTION



3-DIMENSIONAL  
VIEW

(MEASUREMENTS + SCALE APPROXIMATE)



SIDE-VIEW

This discovery peaked my interests so I made arrangements to visit that afternoon, a farm site on Frederick Road in Guilderland about 3 miles from Altamont Orchards. I had been told by the owner that the oldest section of her house (which appears to be late 1700s) had ceiling supports that were supposedly posts from an early hay barrack.

1-3-81

When I viewed the ceiling supports, they were the exact design and approximate size and dimensions of the timbers I had seen earlier in the Altamont barn. These ran the width of the room (about 17 feet) and again had been cut shorter at both ends.

Based on these two observations I will give a composite description of what I feel were originally upright support posts for early "Dutch" hay barracks. I am assuming they are of Dutch origin because of their location; each farm site currently identified has 6-8 Dutch Barn within a 1 mile radius. All of these farms were of Dutch origins. The sketch on the preceding page will help to clarify the following points.

- Squared (not rounded) hand hewn timbers; no sign of adze work, slightly rectangular (approx.  $6\frac{1}{2}$ "  $\times$   $7\frac{1}{2}$ " )
- One corner edge was deeply chamfered to about  $2\frac{1}{2}$ " wide; This chamfer ran the entire length of the timber and was very consistent in design.
- In some cases obviously near the "working" section of the timber we observed the chamfer clearly and purposely ending almost decoratively.
- Into the face of the chamfer, were regularly placed bored holes approximately 2" in diameter and  $5\frac{1}{2}$ " deep. They were angled into the timber perpendicular to the plane of the chamfer, and did not go through to the other side.
- The spacing between these holes were similar and consistent: 30" Frederick Road site and 35" Altamont Orchards.
- The wood used appeared to be white pines for both groups.

Regarding the design of these structural supports, I think they would have worked very effectively in a hay barrack application, the drawings on 1-3-73, this issue of Miscellany lends further support for the following suggested application:

- The chamfered surfaces and holes faced outward from the center point of the barrack



1-3-82

- The upright posts were "captured" in the corners of the roof and were supported by the outward facing pegs. Enclosing the posts within the roof would increase the integrity of the structure.
- The ratcheting jack shown in the top illustration could have worked very effectively with the barrack, the outward facing chamfer creating a much more stable working surface for the jack.
- Based on the longest timber observed with continuous holes (17') these barracks could have been at least 20 feet high.
- This type of support could have worked successfully with the six sided hay barracks illustrated in Miscellany 1.3.70.

One last thought-it is interesting to find these hay barrack pieces incorporated into early structures. One possible theory-- could these barracks have been generally built and considered temporary structures? Could use have been <sup>made</sup> during the early establishment of the farm (the first several years) when land was still being readied and crop yields were small. While the Dutch Barn timbers were being cut, seasoned, shaped and erected these hay barrack structures would have been relatively quick and easy to erect and would have required little investment or man power on the part of the pioneer farmer. They would have provided almost immediate crop protection (although for more limited quantities and with less protection than a barn).

Possibly with this perspective many farmers viewed these structures as temporary and utilized their timbers for the more permanent farm structures not long after their initial erection and before they weathered very much.

I would be interested to receive other observations and reports of any other findings of hay barrack timbers. This is something to watch for when visiting other Dutch Barns while on Society field trips. We should also explore early Dutch houses with the same questions in mind.

Mark T. Hesler 1/4/89.

1-3-83

## A Map of Historic Places in the Schonowe Area of the Town of Rotterdam.

I have been familiar with the Schonowe area for more than seventy years. As a youngster my father frequently took me for walks across the Great Flats, northeast of Bellevue in the City of Schenectady where we lived.

When my wife Lois and I married we were building our home on the edge of the Great Flats along Schermerhorn Road on the ancient farmstead designated as Hindermost Farm No 5 granted to Willem Teller in 1664 and given to his son Johannes in 1701.

The Teller-Schermerhorn Dutch Barn stood at the base of the hill where we built our home in 1934. In 1946 I purchased the barn from Mrs. Clarence Schermerhorn who lived in the ancient Teller House (1701) and the attached larger brick house built by Simon J. Schermerhorn in 1760.

Much of my knowledge about the Schonowe area was acquired in talks with Simon and Clarence Schermerhorn, William Marlette, Fred Abel their handy man and from Aaron Becker, and William Efner local friends and historians. I also acquired a great deal of knowledge from the careful reading of the "History of the Schenectady Patent" by Prof. Jonathan Pearson of Union College and his other book "Early Schenectady Settlers". Historical deeds, papers and other materials found in The County Records and The Schenectady County Historical Society

The Dutch Barns that were along Schermerhorn Road which I knew about are marked on the accompanying map of the Schonowe Area as hatched circles # 80, # 67 # 62, # 57 and # 33.

Vincent J. Schaefer 1/8/89

1-3-84

Prehistoric, Historic and Other Features on my Schonowe Map.

1. Prehistoric Indian campsite.
2. Original wells of the Great Flats Aquifer - City of Schenectady.
3. Mohawk River.
4. Vieles Island.
5. Present wells of Great Flats Aquifer - Town of Rotterdam.
6. The Brick Row - City Water Wells workers homes.
7. Lock 23 - Old Erie Canal.
8. Site used for developing binaural submarine detection. G.E. Res Lab.
9. Flood dike.
10. Present wells of Great Flats Aquifer - City of Schenectady.
11. Ancient flood channel of Mohawk River.
12. Prehistoric Indian campsite.
13. Old River Road (The Kings Highway).
14. Prehistoric Indian campsite.
15. Dove Gat.
16. Prehistoric Indian campsite.
17. Long Pond (ancient flood channel).
18. Harbor in Old Erie Canal.
19. Farm road to King's Highway
20. Channel from Schermerhorn Wet lands.
21. Prehistoric Indian campsite.
22. Slough where waters sink into the Great Flats Aquifer.
23. Campbell Wet lands (now covered by Rotterdam Square Mall).
24. Old trotting track of Campbells of Mansion (destroyed)
25. Ancient channel of Poentieskill.
26. Diversion ditch.
27. Site of tenant house of Campbell Mansion (destroyed)
28. Old Mill Road.
29. Early sawmill site
30. Old Mill remains (destroyed)
31. Possible site of slave burying ground.
32. Site of Vedder Cemetery (preserved at Mall)
33. Site of early Dutch Barn (destroyed)
34. Campbell Mansion. (Built by David Daniell Schermerhorn 1832 destroyed)

1-3-85

35. Location of Indian burial ground (destroyed by Mall)
36. Ancient road to sand plains and Campbell Racetrack (destroyed)
37. Site of early mill pond
38. Storage site of Limestone vault of Mohawk National Bank.
39. Ancient pine, hemlock and blackbirch trees (destroyed)
40. Poentic Kill channel (formerly Poentic Kill before ditching)
41. Mill road to flouring and paper mill on Davitje Gat Kill.
42. Cobblestone Church (ancient Dutch Reformed Church of Schonowe.
43. Cemetery of Reformed Church.
44. Old hotel (demolished)
45. Daniel Vedder homestead.
46. Old pond in Schermerhorn Wet land.
47. Schonowe School (1948).
48. Prehistoric Indian campsite.
49. Early two room Schonowe School.
50. Channel of Gordon Road Spring.
51. Original location of Gordon Road Spring.
52. Quarry in Schenectady Sandstone.
53. Quarries in Schenectady Sandstones used for building stonewalls.
54. Former home of William Marlette.
55. Ice Pond fed by spring.
56. Former home of Simon Schermerhorn.
57. Site of old Dutch Barn.
58. Teller burying ground & ancient foundation.
59. Schermerhorn Wet land.
60. Ice Pond.
61. Schermerhorn Road.
62. Site of ancient Dutch Barn (Brouwer?)
63. Brouwer Farm homestead.
64. Schermerhorn homestead 1760/Ancient Teller homestead 1701
65. Schermerhorn Spring.
66. Slump gully formed by Schermerhorn Spring.
67. Site of Teller/Schermerhorn Dutch Barn. 1701-1948
68. Former location Schermerhorn Cemetery (Removed to Cobblestone)
69. V. J. Schaefer home.

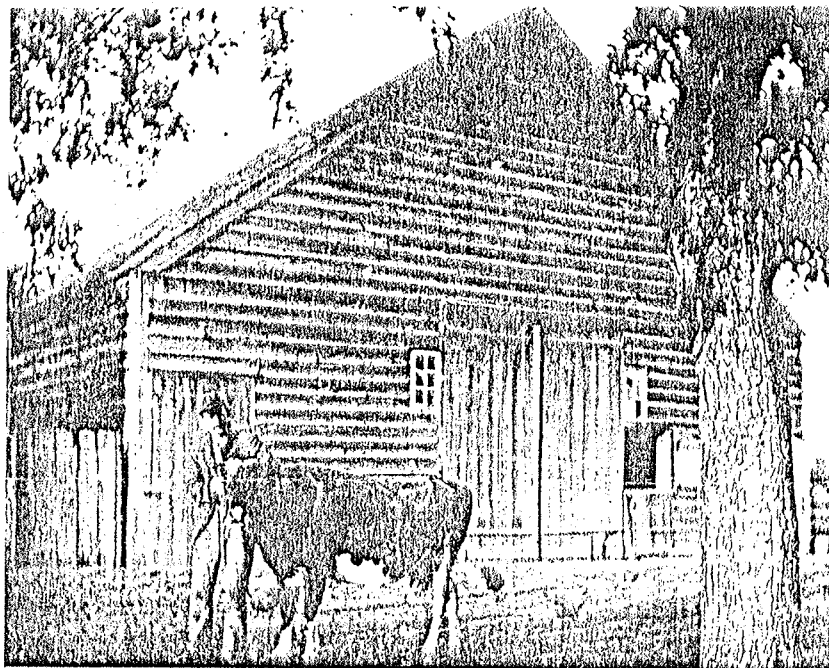
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70. Prehistoric Indian campsite.
71. Colonial brickmaking site
72. Schermerhorn Site--- large prehistoric Coastal Indian village.
73. Schermerhorn Mansion Carriage House (Baechel residence)
74. Site of windmill and Schermerhorn Barn (dismantled)
75. Schermerhorn Mansion (Congressman Simon J. Schermerhorn)
76. Slave burying site.
77. Prehistoric Indian campsite
78. Arent Bradt House (1735)
79. Ancient Road to Old Maid's Woods.
80. Site of old Dutch Barn.
81. Partridge Brook
82. Prehistoric Indian campsite
83. Old Maid's Spring.
84. Old Maid's home.
85. Ancient white pine, hemlock, oak and pitch pine woods
86. Prehistoric Indian campsite.
87. Old quarry in Schenectady Sandstone
88. Old quarry in Schenectady Sandstone.
89. Hindmost Farm No. 1. patented to Catelyn DeVos 1668.
90. Hindmost Farm No. 5. patented to Willem Teller 1664.
91. Hindmost Farm No. 7. patented to Pieter Bosboom 1664.
92. Hindmost Farm No. 8. patented to Marten Van Isselsteyn 1664.
93. Hindmost Farm No. 9. Patented to Simon Veeder 1664.
94. Hindmost Farm No. 10. patented to Teunis Swart 1664.
95. Nearmost Farm No. 8 patented to Marten Van Isselsteyn 1664.
96. Nearmost Farm No. 7 patented to Pieter Bosboom 1664.
97. Hindmost Farm No. 6. patented to Gerrit Bancker/Harmen Veeder 1664.





by HOWARD I. DURIE



The above picture dating from 1903 recently turned up in a collection of glass negatives of Pascack scenes taken by a local resident. The site today is within the northeasterly portion of property owned by the Apostolic Christian Church on Pascack Road in Woodcliff Lake. This makes a total of three known early Dutch barns on local farms owned by the Wortendyke family. The one at #13 Pascack Road in Park Ridge is the only surviving structure. The other stood near Spring Valley Road to north of Fremont Avenue in Park Ridge and was associated with the Wortendyke house at #112 Spring Valley Road.

The above barn stood on the farm purchased by Frederick Wortendyke of Park Ridge from Isaac Alyea of Goshen, N. Y., by a deed made May 6, 1775, for a consideration of 510 pounds. The farm contained 100+ acres lying on both sides of Pascack Road, bounded on the east by the Pascack brook and extended beyond Rose Avenue on the west. The homestead and farm buildings were on the west side of the road in an area approximately 250 feet north of present Woodcliff Avenue.

The farm was purchased for Frederick Wortendyke, Junior, who had married his cousin, Jane Wortendyke, a year or two before. The last will and testament of Frederick, Senior, made in 1797 after his son's death, left the farm to the four grandchildren, two shares to Frederick III, the only grandson, and one share to each of the three granddaughters. Their widowed mother was given her support and maintenance from the farm during her widowhood. After she remarried October 22, 1803, a division was later made among the children. The story of the farm and later homestead at the northeast corner of Pascack Road and Woodcliff Avenue appeared in Relics, Vol. 16, No. 91, in May 1972.

Frederick Wortendyke III was living in Orangetown, Rockland County, N. Y., when he received a deed made May 25, 1805 (shortly after he reached legal age), from his three sisters, releasing to him a tract of 36.90 acres on which stood the family homestead and farm buildings, including the Dutch barn. The southerly boundary from a point beyond Rose Avenue, ran "about 79 degrees east crossing on and over the well, to said Pascack Road." The well was located near the road and the barn, homestead and other



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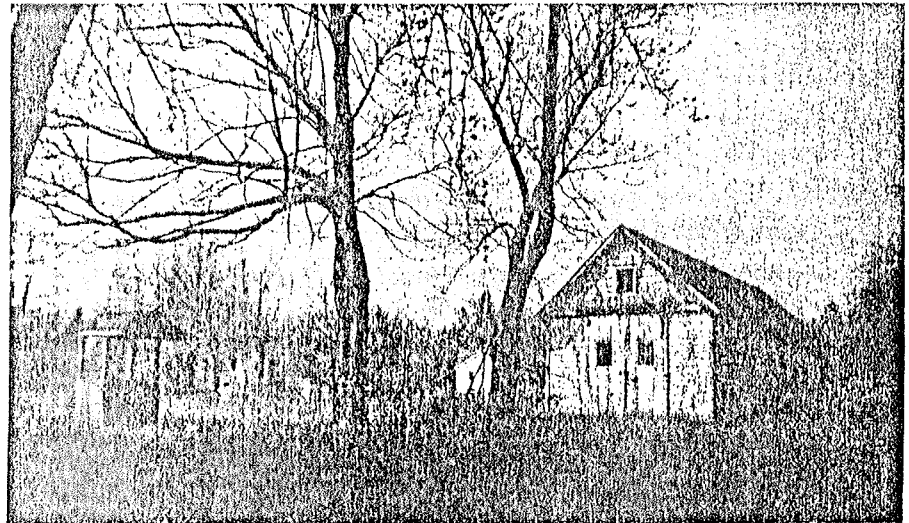
Relics, No. 164

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farm buildings were nearby. When Woodcliff Avenue was extended easterly from Pascack Road in 1811, the beginning point was fixed by a line running from the well, probably the nearest stationary object, on a course of south 12 degrees west and three chains (198 feet), therefrom.

In comparison to the extant barn in Park Ridge this one had higher sides and perhaps a narrower main door. The long hand-forged hinges on the doors are evidence of age, as well as the small "Dutch" door of divided sections, immediately to the right. The two small windows on either side may have been added later, or were original, to admit some light when all doors were closed.

Years ago this style barn was common on all larger farms, and hardly exceptional as we may believe. Today, very few examples survive. Within recent times the DeMott-Westervelt barn at #285 Grand Avenue, Englewood; the Demarest barn at #35 County Road, Cresskill; the Haring barn at #341 South Pascack Road, Chestnut Ridge, N. Y.; and a Haring barn near Orangeburgh Road North, Old Tappan, have been dismantled; also the



THE ELMER VAN HORN  
BLACKSMITH SHOP &  
THE EARLY WELL AS  
THEY APPEARED  
PRIOR TO THE TIME  
THE LAND WAS SOLD  
AFTER HIS DEATH

Van Buskirk barn at the southeast corner of East Allendale Avenue and East Saddle River Road, Saddle River, the timber from which was incorporated in a new nearby dwelling. Surviving are a Demarest barn at #467 Old Pascack Road, Chestnut Ridge, N. Y.; the Haring barn on Piermont Road, Rockleigh; the DeGray barn at #650 Ewing Avenue, Franklin Lakes; the Bartholf barn at #1122 Ramapo Valley Road, Mahwah; and the one preserved by the Paramus Golf & Country Club at #314 Paramus Road, Paramus.

Like old homesteads, the Dutch barns were sometimes remodeled such as the Haring barn in Old Tappan in which the original beam construction was preserved. Another example is the Eckerson barn on Pascack Road, Woodcliff Lake, an illustration of which was shown in Relics for November 1987. The large central doors and the smaller doors near each corner show that this was originally a Dutch barn of substantial size before the roof line was reversed.

It is not known how long after 1903 the Woodcliff Lake barn survived. The adjacent blacksmith shop stood until more recent years before it was removed. The well was also filled in and the well house demolished. It had just as long a history, if not longer, and was the well mentioned in the 1805 deed, and had no doubt survived from the Alyea ownership prior to 1775.