

Seminar of the New Netherland Project Meets at Albany, NY

About 150 people attended the day long (14th Rensselaerswijck) Seminar at the Cultural Center in the Empire State Plaza at Albany. The title of the seminar, The Persistence of the Dutch after 1664, was addressed from several perspectives gained from recent research of the written record as well as the study of Dutch architecture.

Joyce Goodfriend, Professor of History at The University of Denver, spoke of the need to correct the impression that Dutch culture vanished with the coming of the English. They were a conquered people but not a colonized people, she said, and talked about the marriage patterns of the 2nd and 3rd generation Dutch in America.

David Narrett, Associate Professor of History at the University of Texas at Arlington, spoke of how the Dutch colony had been a mixture of cultural groups and that acculturation did not go in one direction. He spoke of the "mutual wills" which the Dutch made between husband and wife and their sense of community property in marriage. In Dutch society the woman had significantly more legal rights and control of property than in English society and this cultural concept was slow to change, he concluded.

David S. Cohen, Senior Research Associate with the New Jersey Historical Commission, gave a slide talk about Dutch houses of the Hudson Valley and how their floor plan and room arrangement had developed in the 18th century, not in imitation of the English Georgian style, but as a separate American style. He pointed out the differences in English and Dutch timber framing traditions. The box like English frame in contrast to the Dutch use of the H-bent in frame houses and barns.

Andy Hendricks, founder of the New Moon Project, which recently built a replica of Henry Hudson's 1609 ship of discovery, announced that the ship is now docked at Liberty State Park, New Jersey, and they are hoping to raise 40 million dollars to reproduce part of Manhattan as it was in 1640.

Alan J. Lipsky, Administrator of the Pieter Claesen Wyckoff House Museum in Brooklyn, a house restored to represent its 1652 through 1819 development, said that the museum has recently acquired more land and is thinking of a Dutch barn to accompany the house.

The NNP and The DBPS share interests in New World Dutch culture and history as well as membership. Charles I. Gehring, Director of the New Netherlands Project whose efforts helped organize the seminar, has been active in the Dutch Barn Preservation Society.

A Beautiful and Fruitful Place, is a new 382 page soft cover publication offered by the NNP. It is an important collection of 31 scholarly papers presented at the annual Rensselaerswijck seminars beginning in 1979. The book is available for \$19.50 including postage. Make checks payable to The Friends of the New Netherland Project, P.O. Box 2536 Empire State Plaza Station, Albany, NY 122300536.

Joy Barn to be Moved by New Owner, Ulster County, NY

Despite three years of efforts to save the Joy Family Dutch barn and homestead for public use as part of an historic site in the township of Woodstock, the City of Kingston sold the barn in September to Brian McKay for \$2,025.99. He plans to dismantle the small five bay barn soon and take it to his bed and breakfast in New Paltz. He plans to raise the barn next year on his 18th century Van Orden homestead.

Brian has been interested in Hudson Valley vernacular architecture for many years and he plans to restore the barn and perhaps keep a few animals in it. He has offered to cooperate with DBPS in documenting the Joy barn as it is disassembled.

The Woodstock Historical Society has offered to cooperate in organizing a Spring exhibition of Dutch barns in their township which would include photographs, drawing, and family histories. I have three in mind, one an interesting late transitional.

The following letter is from a Vermont timber framer and new DBPS member who saw a Kingston City Water Department ad for the Joy barn in an obscure trade journal and after talking with me on the phone put a \$250 closed bid on it.

Dear Peter, I would be very interested in receiving THE REPORTER on a regular basis. It's good to hear that there is an organization such as yours in view of the fact that so few of these structures remain. I feel the whole thing boils down to community education. People have to know how important these proud buildings are in order to make the necessary decisions to preserve them. So I applaud you on your efforts.

I'm sorry that my bid was not accepted as I am sure you heard by now. I would very much have enjoyed working with a Dutch barn and I intended to make every effort to make it a public building. Within the network there are many who may have been able to assist me in doing so if only I'd had a bit more time. Let's hope that Mr. McKay of New Paltz at least does the structure justice. Sometimes, that's all we can hope for. I'll be writing him shortly to see if we can be of assistance.

Sincerely, Ken Epworth, Pres. The Barn People, Windsor, VT

Annual Meeting and Wemp Barrack Project, Albany County, NY

The Annual Meeting at the Wemp barn on November 2nd is the day set to raise the six pole hay barrack being constructed at Feura Bush. It is a project which has involved a number of the members.

Ev Rau has planted a crop of wheat and rye on his farm at Altamont. A harvest is being planned for a time in Summer when the stalks of the grain are still green so that the straw may be used to thatch the roof of the hay barrack, both scythes and siths will be used.

DBPS Represented at Altamont and Clermont Fairs

Members of the Society maintained a table and display during the Altamont Fair (Albany County, NY), August 12-18 and at the Clermont Fair (Columbia County, NY), October 19 and 20. The new three panel display and brochure along with barn models and artifact loaned by DBPS members all help to attract and educate. These are enjoyable and informative events, good food, a way of meeting people with interest and knowledge of local history and culture. If you would be interested in participating for part of a day at a future event please contact The Reporter, 914-338-0257, or Ev Rau, 518-355-0411.

New Dutch Barn in Orange County, NY

Greg Huber of New Jersey reports that Sam Phelps of Walden, who has restored many local Dutch barns and houses, wanted a small barn and he ordered one from a Connecticut timber framer. The builder had fashioned many English barns but this was his first Dutch frame. It is a two bay success measuring 30 feet long by 30 feet wide with eleven pairs of rafters, a central anchorbeam 18 inches deep, and side aisles 7 feet 8 inches wide. Sam placed the barn 200 feet from his Dutch frame house.

Dutch Barn Disassembled in Monmouth County, NJ

Greg Huber reports that the New Jersey Barn Company has taken down an interesting 3 bay barn in Freehold with an oak frame and purlin plates of hard pine. The columns have no raising holes which he says is typical both of Monmoth and Bergen counties. The internal anchorbeams have massive braces measuring 10 by 11 inches. To date it is the most southern Dutch barn he has found in New Jersey.

Rare Doors in Wemple Barn, Schenectady County, NY

Greg has found three doors in the Wemple barn that possess extremely rare scribe marks that run diagonally on the battens to form large X's. The wrought nails were positioned where the lines cross. The batten scribes appear on both gable-end threshing floor doors and on the Northeast animal side aisle door. He has seen this condition on only one other Dutch barn, namely the granary door of the Fredricks barn in Montgomery County, NY. This is an indication of a very high standard of craftsmanship.

Dutch Barn Available in Montgomery County, NY

Rod Blackburn of Rensselaer County has reported that an early 19th century Dutch barn is available for removal 1 mile east of Nelliston. The owners want to remove it and anyone interested must act immediately. A local Amish family is willing to dismantle the barn for the cost of their labor. Contact Nick Klerker 518-993-4678.

Peter Sinclair, Editor  
The Reporter, Box 202  
West Hurley, NY 12491

If you have not yet done so, please mail your membership dues to The Dutch Barn Preservation Society, Box 176, Rensselaer, NY 12144 Student \$5, Regular \$10, Contributing \$20, Supporting \$25, Thanks.