



SPRING 2010

Egbert Benson HISTORICAL SOCIETY OF RED HOOK
P.O. Box 397 Red Hook N.Y. 12571-0397

President's Letter

Barbara Bielenberg

Amid all the bad news which fills the airwaves and internet, Red Hook has a great deal to celebrate: Bard College is 150 years old this year and Key Bank has been on its present site for 50 years. We hope you saw the period clippings and fascinating time line displayed in the lobby. Much of the bank's historical material has been safely stored in our Archives and Manage Mary Bayer included us in the celebration by delivering a generous donation to our recent board meeting!

Last year was the 300th Anniversary of the Palatine 1709 arrival in the Hudson Valley. This group of Protestant immigrants from south western Germany has had a tremendous influence on our region. Their sturdy stone dwellings still dot the landscape and their descendants remain among our most active citizens. We are looking forward to celebrating our Palatine ancestors at a meeting next fall.

We lost the battle to save the Lutheran Church's ancient Moul House but its removal has opened up a broader vista of the lovely Lutheran cemetery, the resting place of many of Red Hook's most prominent citizens as well as its "ordinary people". The church hopes to enrich its impoverished treasury by the sale of the lot to a commercial developer. What a splendid gift to the community if the lot could be purchased by a not for profit and permanently preserved as "open space".

Lastly, the April 2010 issue of the Hudson Valley Magazine declared Red Hook the first of the "Ten Best Places to Live in the Hudson Valley" extolling our sprawling farms, winding roads "fine restaurants and a "public school system arguably one of the best in the Hudson Valley". Such an appellation can be a mixed blessing. We must remain ever more vigilant to protect those features which make living here such a pleasure.

We are most grateful to the many members and friends who responded so promptly to our recent appeal for renewals. We heard from members as far away as Ohio, Florida, and California and many sent generous donations. Such a response assures us that the sometimes lonely efforts to preserve Red Hook are appreciated! Patsy Vogel designed the attractive acknowledgement card sent to each donor.

We hope you will join us at our Annual Dinner Meeting so we can introduce you to the energetic, comparatively young candidates for membership on our Board of Directors and help us honor some of our citizens who have made significant contributions to the fabric of our community. We are pleased that Wint Aldrich has agreed to return to our podium to speak about the future of historic preservation from the perspective of his office in beleaguered Albany! We look forward to greeting you on June 16th.

Laurence Apsey, an Appreciation by Robin Cherry

I'll admit that my interest in the Egbert Benson Historical Society started selfishly. Maynard Ham stopped my neighbor, Nick, and me in the middle of Prince St. and started to tell us about our houses. His grandfather had lived in Nick's house and sundry relations had lived in mine.

I don't know much about my house or its former inhabitants yet ... but since joining the historical society, I've learned a great deal about the man who used to live in the house next door. Many long-time residents remember Larry Aspey as a nice, unassuming man who lived in a modest house on Prince St. with his wife, Virginia. But that description is just a small part of his story as I learned by going through some papers that his family donated to the historical society.

Larry was a Harvard-educated lawyer who argued successfully in front of the US Supreme Court and served as corporate counsel for two large multi-national corporations: defense contractor Raytheon and Celanese, a chemical company. After he retired, Larry switched his commitment from the law to peace. He converted to the Quaker faith and often held weekly meetings for worship in his home. An admirer of the non-violent path to change championed by Gandhi and Martin Luther King, Jr., Larry worked in the civil rights movement and opposed the Vietnam War. His legal training came in handy when he was called on to defend protestors who'd been arrested and jailed during anti-war demonstrations.

Perhaps most importantly, he helped to found the Alternatives to Violence Project (AVP). Hatched in Larry and Virginia's living room, the project started with a single workshop in a maximum security prison. The group worked with incarcerated youths to teach them how to react non-violently to conflict and stressful situations. From that one workshop, the program spread to other prisons throughout the state. Workshops were subsequently developed for at-risk schools and communities. Today, AVP conducts workshops for businesses, churches, street gangs, halfway houses and women's shelters. The organization is active throughout the United States and in over 50 countries including South Africa, Russia, Bosnia/Herzegovina, Rwanda, and Israel. In the words of one AVP prison graduate, "I began to grow from a person filled with hate, anger, and despair into a person who believes that he, too, is responsible for the protection, preservation and enrichment of humanity." Therein lies the remarkable legacy of Larry Aspey.

ARCHIVE ROOM

Timeline 1800-1850

In conversation and while pondering the past events and history of the Town of Red Hook, Barbara Thompson gleaned the following timeline from Clare Carr's book [A Brief History of Red Hook](#). When one reflects on the events that took place between 1800 and 1850 it makes one wonder about the lives of the folks that lived here in our town. The great joy in volunteering at the Archives Room is in helping researchers. As we assist them in their quest, we learn more about the families, houses, farms and industries that made the history of our town of Red Hook. We hope as you read the timeline you will ponder on life in Red Hook 200-250 years ago.

Time Line

- 1688-1700 Dutch come into North Ward of Dutchess. Courtesy of Henry Beekman and Barent Van Benschoten
- 1700-1750 Palatines begin to arrive in North Ward (Rhinebeck)
 - 1721 Nicholas Hoffman purchases land comprising of Tivoli and starts a ferry service
 - 1733 St Paul Lutheran Church begin baptisms
 - 1735 Red Church begins baptisms
- 1750-1800
 - 1761 River Estates: The Pynes built
 - 1769 1st Mill known as Oriole Mill
 - 1775 Hamlets: Cedar Hill(Annandale), Lower Landing(Barrytown), Hardscrabble(Lower Village)
 - 1783 Distribution of lands of Livingston Estate of Alida Livingston Armstrong
 - 1793 Construction of St. Johns Reformed Church in Upper Red Hook
 - 1795 Development of Village of Red Hook (Hardscrabble)
 - 1795 Society for the Prevention and Apprehension of Horse Thieves began. Red Hook becomes primarily agricultural "Bread Basket"
 - 1796 David Van Ness moved Post Office to Red Hook; built Maizefield
- 1800-1850
 - 1805 River Estates-Montgomery Place built
 - 1812 Red Hook separates from Town of Rhinebeck
 - 1813 Education for children are at one room school houses
 - 1816 Trinity Episcopal Church and School is built in Tivoli by John Bard
The associated school becomes De Peyster Industrial Home for Girls
 - 1827 Methodist Circuit riders come into Red Hook
 - 1830 Bread Basket appellation disappears with opening of Erie Canal
Farmers turn to dairy, livestock and fruit farming
 - 1840 New York State passes laws prohibiting leaseholds
 - 1848 Methodist Church built on land donated by Philip Fraleigh
 - 1850 The growth of factories for chocolate, tin ware, chewing tobacco etc,
Total 24. River businesses are fishing for sturgeon, shad & herring,
Harvesting and storing ice.

During these years the anglicizing of the German and Dutch names of the residents of Red Hook took place. It was primarily in the years from 1800 to 1820. Some examples are Mohr, Moor to Moore; Bender to Benner, Deder to Teator, Frolich to Fraleigh, Cool, Kool to Cole, Felder to Feller, Buys to Boice.

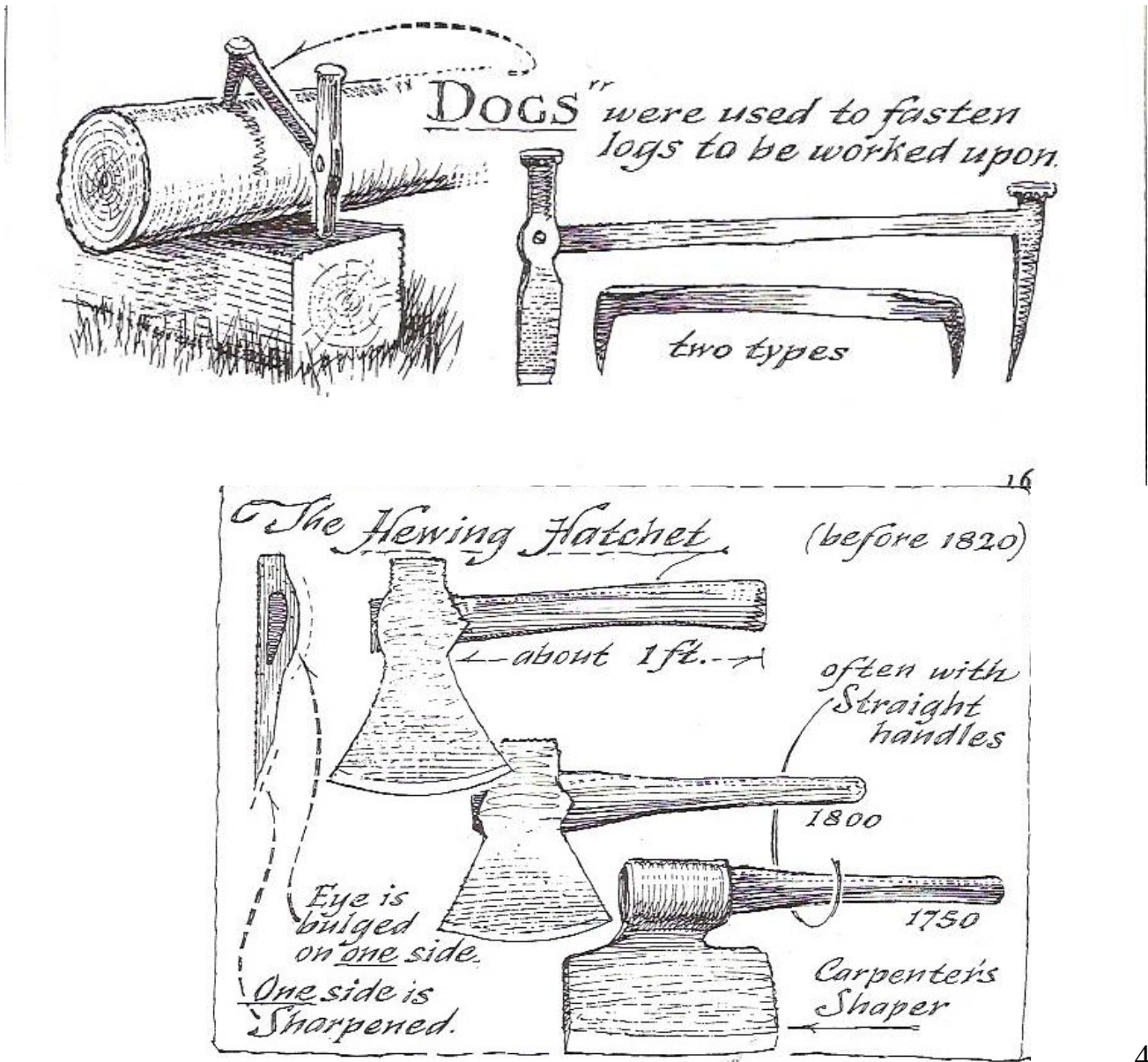
What's new at the "Ole Inn"?

The upstairs Gallery at the Elmendorph Inn has a set of new display cabinets. The wood and glass cases were designed by Larry Thetfort and custom made by a local carpenter. The cabinets presently have a large variety of old wooden tools on display.

The theme of the display is "From Tree to Inn". The tools and methods used to build the Elmendorph Inn in 1750-1760 are shown. The display shows the five important steps in building the structure. It starts with 1. selecting the correct type of tree, 2. hewing the tree, 3. making the joints, 4. assembling the pieces and 5. erecting the structure. Illustrations and descriptions are provided to help with interpretation. A model of the Elmendorph Inn is also on display.

We hope that you will visit the new Gallery at the Inn the next time you are at the Elmendorph. You will be amazed at the tools that were used 250 years ago..no battery operated hand tools!

The display is presented by Larry Thetford, Friends of Elmendorph and Patsy Vogel, representing Egbert Benson Historical Society of Red Hook.



EGBERT BENSON HISTORICAL SOCIETY
ANNUAL MEETING & DINNER

The ANNUAL MEETING OF THE EGBERT BENSON HISTORICAL SOCIETY will take place **Wednesday June 16, 2010**, at the Elmendorph Inn, North Broadway, Red Hook, NY. The meeting will be preceded by dinner at 7:00 pm.

Following dinner, the program speaker will be: **Red Hook Town Historian, J. Winthrop Aldrich**

Please send your proxy or dinner reservation to: **Carol Annas, 51 Aspinwall Road, Red Hook, NY 12571** (845-758-8154). Please make your **check payable to Egbert Benson Historical Society**
All reservations must be received by June 8, 2010

PROXY
(For June 16, 2010)

I will **NOT** attend the ANNUAL MEETING of THE EGBERT BENSON HISTORICAL SOCIETY. In my absence, I hereby appoint the President, his deputy, or _____ to act as my proxy to vote on all matters that come before the membership on June 16, 2010.

Signature _____ Date _____

Signature _____ Date _____

DINNER RESERVATIONS
Mediterranean Buffet
\$17.00 Per Person
Wednesday June 16
6:30 P.M.
Dinner 7: P.M.

Name _____ Amount enclosed _____

Name _____

Please send your proxy or reservations to **Carol Annas, 51 Aspinwall Road, RED HOOK, NY 12571**. Please make all checks payable to: Egbert Benson Historical Society.

All reservations must be received by June 8, 2010 .



Egbert Benson

HISTORICAL SOCIETY OF RED HOOK

P.O. Box 397 Red Hook, N.Y. 12571-0397

MEMBERSHIP FORM 2010

The Egbert Benson Historical Society of Red Hook
P.O. Box 397 Red Hook, New York, 12571

Name(s) (please print): _____

Mailing Address: _____

Telephone Number (with area code): _____

Dues: Please check: Individual \$15 _____

Family \$25 _____

Student (under 18) \$5 _____

Donation (indicate any company matches please) _____

Contributing \$ 50 _____

Sustaining \$100 _____

Life \$200 (individual) _____

Benefits of membership : Advance notice of monthly programs ~ The knowledge that you support the collection, preservation, and dissemination of the history of the Town of Red Hook .