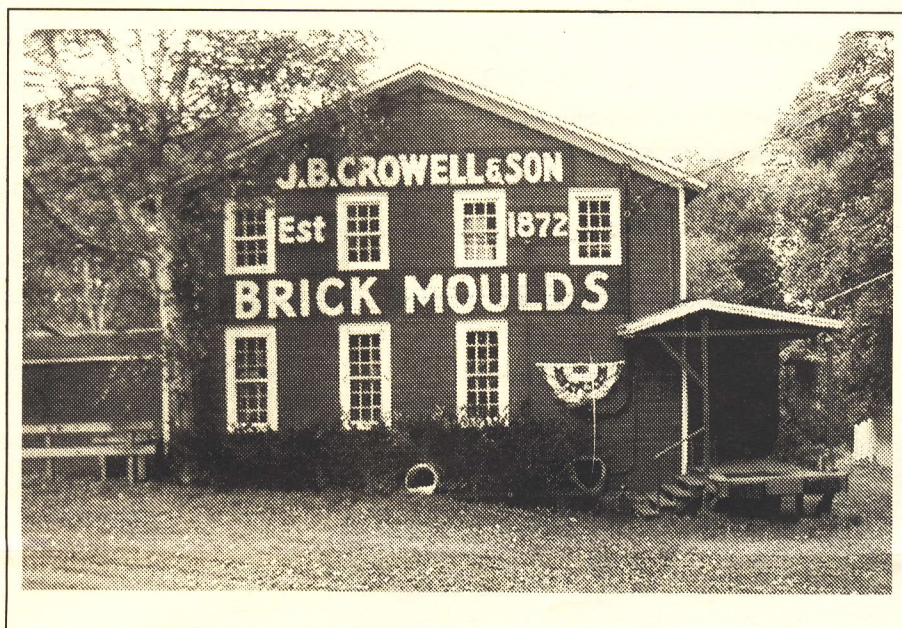


NEWSLETTER

Historical Society of Shawangunk and Gardiner

Volume 2 Number 4 Fall 2003



A Shawangunk Treasure

One of Wallkill's oldest continuing yet little-known commercial enterprises nestles quietly along the Dwaarkill stream east of the junction of Lippincott and Albany Post Roads. The James B. Crowell & Son Brick Mould Mill boasts operation since the Civil War by the Crowell family and is now managed by the 4th and 5th generations. It is the only independent company in the U.S. manufacturing hardwood brick moulds.

Looking like a giant ice cube tray their specialty is the steel-reinforced wooden box in

which the bricks are formed. Wood-molded brick is specified for particular applications by architects/designers. In addition, however, a new computer-guided router/shaper now allows them to supply intricate shapes and designs quickly for specific markets. At this writing, wooden chair backs were being processed for a customer.

Records compiled for their National Register application in 1983 show that their 13-acre parcel on the North and South sides of the Dwaarkill has been an important mill site since the 1700's when the stream was harnessed by an overshot water wheel. Fires have destroyed several mills but

the 1915 reconstruction remains essentially unchanged except that purchased electrical power replaced hydro-mechanical power in 1948.

Earliest deeds indicate ownership succession by familiar names: Hendricus DuBois and Cornelius Schoonmaker; Gerardus Beekman & Co.; Cornelius Bruyn & son Morris; Wm. Peartree and others, and the Bate Family.

Maps from 1829-58 show mill operations by the Bate family with a log dam and water wheel. When the Crowells purchased it in 1868, the mill was gone but was reconstructed by 1871 when advertisements by Wallkill Valley Sleigh Works offered children's sleighs, agricultural implements, cutting boxes, well curbs, harrows, ox bows, and brick moulds. By the 1800's, brick moulds had become their major product which continues to the present, but with the addition of modern machinery the company is diversifying once again.

The well-preserved 1800 stone home, out-buildings and barns make a visit there a step back into a slower-paced era where you are warmly welcomed by people who enjoy their work.

Letter from the President

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The vision of thirteen history buffs who met at the Church Hall of the Reformed Church of Shawangunk on February 22, 1977 was to "form an Historical Society of the Towns of Shawangunk and Gardiner." The function was to be the preservation of town documents, artifacts, genealogies of local residents, restoration of historical buildings, and a general interest in the historical facts of the area.

By December 29, 1981 the IRS had granted the Society an exemption number. On June 14, 1996 the State of New York Department of Education granted us an Absolute Charter.

NEWSLETTER

Joseph P. Trapani

Kasey Antonelli

Doris Callan

Freda Fenn

Suzanne Isaksen

Shirley K. Orndorff

Al Smiley

Dear Members & Friends,

Our society opened its 2003-2004 monthly meetings with an excellent program by Mr. Tom Daley. Focusing on the subject "Old Houses and Places of Interest in Newburgh and the Surrounding Area", Mr. Daley took us via slides and narrative on a wonderful journey. We visited Newburgh in the 1890s and 1950s, the Mohonk Mountain House in the 1990s, and many other historical and natural scenes in our area. Long-time residents had a chance to reminisce about trips on the ferry at Newburgh, for example, and there were many exclamations of "I remember that!" Many of the scenes shown in the slides have long disappeared.

What can we do to preserve and protect our natural and built environment? Individually, we can carefully observe the scenes around us and record them through photo-

graphs and journals. Include details about date, place(s), and names of individuals on the backs of photographs, and include your name as the photographer. (Don't be shy!) You will create a significant legacy for generations to come.

Collectively, historical societies can educate the community about the value of preserving our natural and built surroundings. Preservation has come a long way since the 1960s, but it still has to make sense for the whole community. Through photo exhibits, publications, and presentations, we can help our neighbors understand our surroundings by understanding its history- and hopefully recognize the need to protect and preserve it.

I look forward to my next visit to Newburgh with renewed awareness of its famous past.

-Suzanne Isaksen

Upcoming Events

Wed. November 5

Capt. John M. Miller

Celebrating 100 Years of Flight

Wed. December 3

Holiday Pot Luck Celebration

Music by Jordan Koschei

6:00 PM

Wed. January 7

Video Presentation

In Memory of

Elizabeth Hammesfahr

*all meetings are held at 7:30 at the
Wallkill Reformed Church,
Bridge & Church Streets.*

Standing Committees

Programs & Education

Anita Vandermark, Estelle Caswell

Fund Raising

Kathy Antonelli, Freda Fenn

Membership

Joseph P. Trapani

Publicity

Mary Wright

Restoration & Bldg Maint.

Suzanne Isaksen

Publications

Joseph P. Trapani

Finance

Marjorie Hileman

Archives & Collections

Karen Dale

Email

HSSG@Frontiernet.net

Shawangunk Cemetery Survey Underway

The Town of Shawangunk Historic Preservation Committee is conducting a survey of cemeteries and burial sites (public and private) within town borders. The goals of this survey are to confirm the location of gravesites, determine numbers and dates of burials, identify individuals and families (if possible), and assess the condition of burial grounds and grave-stones.

On Saturday, July 12, 2003, committee members **Toni Gagan** and **Karen Schoeberl** along with HSSG members **John Isaksen**, **Suzanne Isaksen**, and **Al Smiley** met at the Walker Valley Schoolhouse on Route 52 to begin the survey of sites in the western portion of Shawangunk. A survey of the eastern part of town began on Saturday, July 26th.

Plans are being developed to work with sites that have been abandoned and/or need gravestone conservation and further documentation. If you are interested in working with the survey or any aspect of preservation of burial grounds, or if you know of any burial sites within the Town of Shawangunk, please contact **Toni Gagan** at 845-744-3357.

Available From Our "Gift Shop"

(call Freda Fenn 845-895-3986)

- Coverlets depicting historic Shawangunk
Navy, Green, or Cranberry \$35.
- Small framed copies of old local postcards \$10.
- Book "Hometown Memories"
by Ollie Burgess of Wallkill \$10.
- Boxed Glass Christmas Ornaments
depicting the Andries DuBois House..... \$10.
- Wooden Toys
made by Bill Michalski of Wallkill\$5. and up
- Book series "A Collection of Tidbits & Clippings
From the Scrapbooks of Shawangunk Women and
Their Favorite Receipts."1845-1922
Volumn No. 1 now available..... \$20.

November Meeting To Highlight Flight

On Wednesday, November 5, 2003, **Captain John Miller** will present a program entitled *Celebrating 100 Years of Flight*. Captain John Miller is the world's oldest professional pilot at a spry 97 years of age. He con-

ducted his first solo flight at the age of 18. One of his most memorable occasions was being present during the take-off of Charles Lindbergh's historic flight. In his younger days, Captain John Miller was a pilot for Eastern

Airlines and also tested planes for the Navy during World War II. We look forward to him sharing his experience and memories with us in what promises to be a fascinating program.

Society Selects Architect for DuBois House Study

After a very rigorous selection process, the HSSG has contracted with **John G. Waite Associates** of Albany, NY, for an existing conditions assessment and report for the Andries DuBois House.

This process began in May, when a request for proposal (RFP) explaining this project was sent to fourteen preservation architects in the Hudson Valley area. In response to the RFP, several architects scheduled site visits to tour the house and discuss the scope of work with HSSG representatives. A total of six excellent proposals were received and reviewed by the Restoration Committee, who invited

bidders back for in-depth interviews. Although the selection process was very intense, we are confident we will receive a thorough analysis of the existing conditions of the entire DuBois House- both inside and out.

The final report will detail the architect's findings and provide prioritized recommendations for work that has to be done. This will assist the Restoration Committee in determining scopes of work for a wide range of projects- from those handled by HSSG volunteers, to grant-funded projects requiring specialized contractors. The Existing conditions assessment and report is being funded in part by a New

York State Member Item, administered by the New York State Office of Parks, Recreation, and Historic Preservation.

John G. Waite Associates is a well-established architectural firm highly regarded for its work in historic preservation. The firm has worked on many projects similar to the Andries DuBois House, including several Huguenot Historical Society properties in New Paltz and Gardiner, the Jan Mabee House in Rotterdam Junction (owned by the Schenectady County Historical Society), and Philipsburg Manor in Sleepy Hollow (owned by Historic Hudson Valley).

A Message from the Fund Raising Committee

The Fund Raising Committee was busy this year working on its book "A Collection of Tidbits & Clippings From the Scrapbooks of Shawangunk Women and their Favorite Receipts 1845-1922 Vol.1" (available for \$20.00). The Committee consisted of **Iris Bellarosa, Freda Fenn, and Estelle Caswell**, editor. Estelle deserves a special word of praise for the countless hours and attentive diligence she put into this project.

Also, a special Thank You goes to **Sal Patella** for his assistance towards our first Glass Christmas Ornament depicting the Andries DuBois House.

(available now for \$10.00).

Ollie Burgess, author of "Hometown Memories" has donated the proceeds from her book to the Historical Society. By the end of the year, this financial gift will reach \$1,000.00. Thank you so much for your generosity, Ollie. She will be signing her book at the Society table at the upcoming Shawangunk Day Fair on October 4th from 10 AM to 12 PM. Please stop by.

Our Christmas Shoppe and Bake Sale will be held at the Historic Walker Valley School House located on Rte 52 in Walker Valley on Saturday December 6th and Sunday Decem-

ber 7th from 10 AM to 5 PM. There will be a half price sale on Christmas ornaments and cards.

On Saturday December 13th and Sunday December 14th the Shoppe will be located at Estelle Caswell's home at 37 Lippincott Road in Wallkill hours 10 AM to 5 PM

In 2004 we are planning other exciting events. They will be highlighted in future newsletters.

Gardiner is Celebrating 150 Years !

The Town of Gardiner is celebrating its 150th anniversary with numerous events. For more information you may contact the Gardiner Town Office (845-255-9675). Events will be posted on the Town website and community board.

September/October Local House Tour followed by Mock Victorian Wedding

More information to follow

October 23

West Point Band, "The Jazz Knights"

Will be performing at St. Charles Church Hall, 7:00 pm

November 1

Harvest Dance

Dinner Dance to be held at Ireland Corners Public House

December 7

Christmas Tree Lighting and Caroling



The Gardiner (Old Schoolhouse) Town Hall Renovation

Historical Society of Shawangunk & Gardiner

Cordially invites YOU to become a MEMBER

___\$5.00 Student ___\$10.00 Individual ___\$15.00 Family ___\$30.00 Business

___\$50.00+ Supporting ___\$100.00+ Patron ___\$250.00+ Benefactor

NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

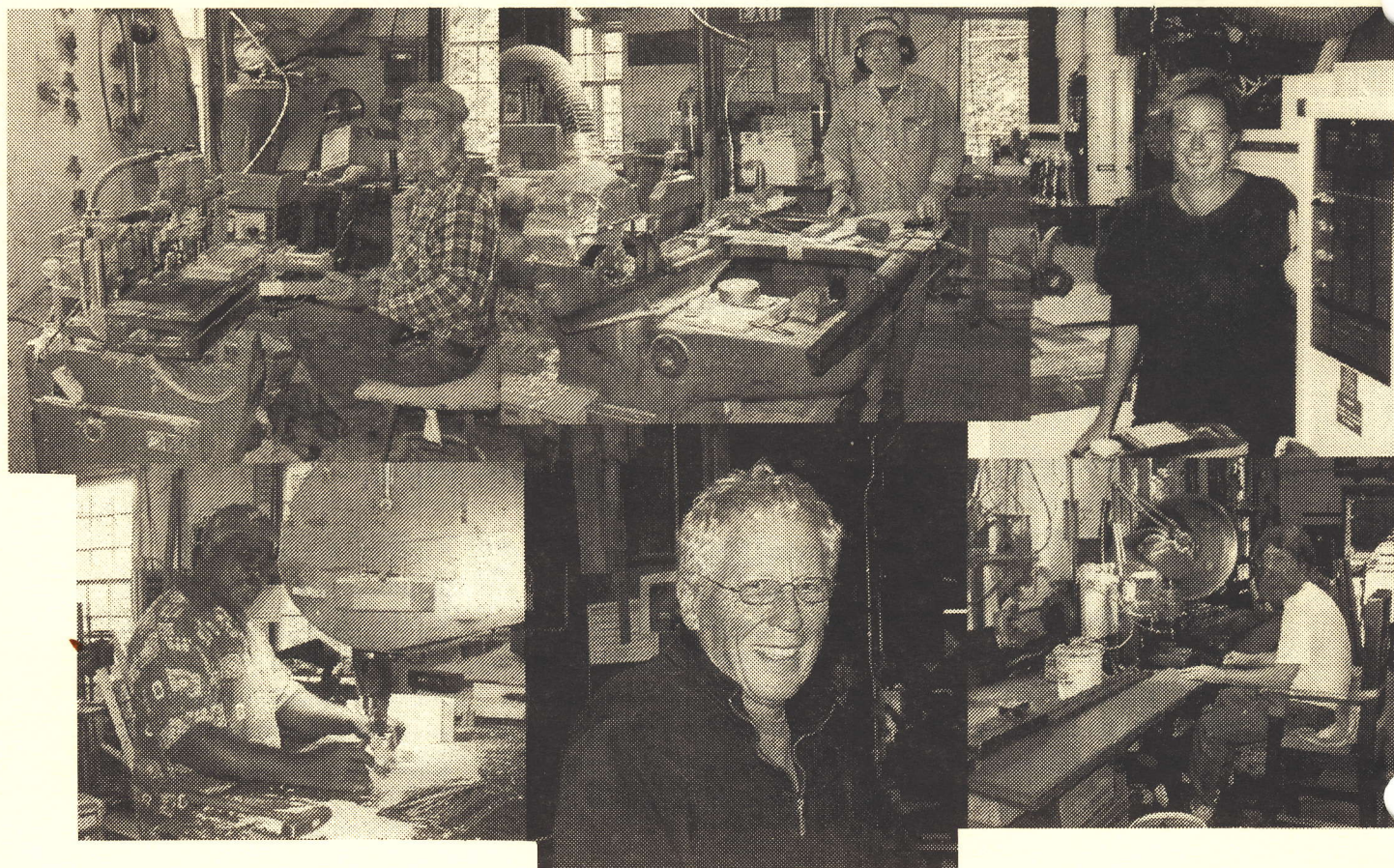
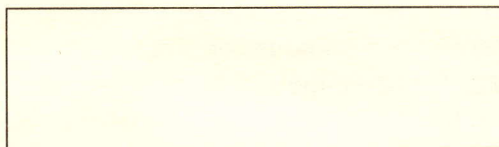
TELEPHONE _____ EMAIL _____

We want your ideas for programs and events. Please list them here.

Mail check (tax-deductible) payable to
HISTORICAL SOCIETY OF SHAWANGUNK & GARDINER
P. O. Box 570 Wallkill, N.Y. 12589-0570
Email HSSG@Frontiernet.net

Historical Society of Shawangunk and Gardiner
P. O. Box 570 Wallkill, New York 12589-0570

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Jim Crowell, daughter Wendy Sutherland, and crew at the Brick Mold Works