



Newsletter

Historical Society of Shawangunk & Gardiner

Volume 8, Number 2

Fall 2011

THE TERWILLIGER and HASBROUCK HOUSES

Sometimes we do not see what is before our eyes on well-travelled roads. This is the history of two 18th century houses in Gardiner whose history is bound up in the story of the Terwilligers and the Hasbroucks.

The first Terwilligers to sail up the Hudson were Evert Dirksen and his sister Annetje from Vianen, Holland, each with young children, each having lost a spouse. Evert abandoned the traditional patronymic system of naming when he arrived in America in 1662 and gave the first generation of family born in America some form of the name Terwilliger which literally means "from or near the willows," a reference to the family neighborhood in Holland.

In early America, land and family alliances determined fortune. In 1717, Evert's grandson, Evert Terwilliger, married Sarah Freer, a daughter of one of the twelve Huguenot founders of New Paltz. Five years later he purchased 450 acres of land on the Shawangunk Kill within the John Rutsen patent and added 1310 acres from the Captain John Evans grant in 1727. To this sizeable estate, his wife Sarah contributed 600 acres in Plattekill that she had inherited from her father Hugo.

Evert and Sarah built a simple Dutch-style stone farmhouse on the banks of the Plattekill River in 1738. The house is a large rectangle, built with dark grey stones, its mortar a mix of mud and horsehair. It can be seen just off the wide bend in the road on Route 32, nine miles south of New Paltz.

Looking at the house, it is hard to imagine that the couple raised 12 children in its two rooms. By the time the 8th child – Jonathan – married his first cousin Mary Freer, most of the children had left home. Evert and Jonathan upgraded, but did not extend, the existing structure for the newly married couple and Evert deeded the house, mills, barn, and outbuildings to Jonathan in 1762 (having already deeded 249 1/2 acres to his second son John in 1759). Evert and Sarah lived

with the young couple until Evert's death at 81 and Sarah's at 72.



Under Evert and Sarah's stewardship, the homestead prospered. Its proximity to the Plattekill Creek allowed them to use waterpower to service a gristmill and sawmill for transforming harvested trees into lumber and construction materials for sale. The property also included a large kitchen garden, fruit orchards, and a Dutch barn for curing and threshing wheat and housing the family cow and horses.

The family lived comfortably, as evident by the 1765 assessment of Jonathan's real and personal estates at 16 pounds and 2 shillings, ranking him at the high end of the middle range in the population.

John, the second son, did not do as well. In 1789 he mortgaged his land, possibly to build a dam and sawmill, and his death in 1797 left the estate in serious debt. Josiah Hasbrouck and a cousin (who he later bought out) held the mortgage and in 1802, Hasbrouck obtained clear title to the entire estate; eventually, Hasbrouck's holdings exceeded a thousand acres.

After Jonathan's death in 1803, his widow sold the homestead to Hasbrouck for \$8,500, a considerable

Officers

Co-Presidents Carolyn Crowell
and Toni Gagan

Vice President Libby Ross

Recording Secretary
Doris Callan

Corresponding Secretary
Betty Decker

Treasurer Bob Mooney

Trustees

Doris Callan
Carolyn Crowell
Stewart Crowell
Freda Fenn
Toni Gagan
Alex Hoyt
Carol LeFevre
Bob Mooney
Libby Ross
Mary Wright
Harold Van Aken

Editorial Staff

Libby Ross
Bob Mooney
Freda Fenn
Doris Callan

Standing Committees

Programs and Education:
Freda Fenn

Fund Raising: Trustees

Membership: Bob Mooney

Publicity: Mary Wright

Restoration/Bldg Maintenance:
Al Smiley

Finance: Suzanne Isaksen

Archives and Collections:
MaryLou Van Aken

Publications: Libby Ross

Letter from the Co-Presidents

Dear Members and Friends,

Restoration of the DuBois House was back in action late July with the help of Keith Roosa and his Hickory Mountain Chimney & Masonry Co. Keith is volunteering time and services and the Historical Society will pay for materials and the labor of his workers. In August, two chimneys were taken down to the point of stability. All cracked brick and material has been removed. Keith and crew will rebuild the two chimneys and reinstall the flue vent for our new furnace in the south chimney. When the work is completed in September, Ken Betz will once again be able to continue his work on the eave rebuilding and roof repair. Keith's professionalism and historical sensitivity makes him a welcome honorary member of our Society. At the same time Bob Mooney is at work clearing the grounds so we can have the "full perspective" of our property. Thank you, Bob. We hope the activity at the DuBois House will encourage support from the community that we serve.

Carolyn Crowell and Toni Gagan, Co-Presidents



The 1771 Hasbrouck house (above), once purchased by John G. Borden and later by the Hoyt family, suffered a disastrous fire in December 2009 and it is gradually being rebuilt (below).

(see article page 3)



(cont'd from p. 1) sum in that time. Josiah Hasbrouck and his family occupied the Terwilliger house during the five years it took to build a large federal-style mansion a three-minute walk up the hill. Josiah Hasbrouck served in the Revolutionary War and two terms in the US Congress under the administrations of Jefferson and Monroe. Undoubtedly, his time in Washington influenced the architecture for his grand new home.

When Hasbrouck moved into his new house in 1814, he rented the Terwilliger house to a succession of farm laborers; the house was tenanted for the next 158 years.



The Josiah Hasbrouck house

After his death, his son Levi and family continued to live in the Hasbrouck house. It was Levi's daughter Laura Hasbrouck Varick (1834-1925) who named it Locust Lawn.

Laura's niece Martha Innis Young ultimately inherited the Hasbrouck house. (Martha lived in Poughkeepsie, at Locust Grove, former home to the painter and inventor Samuel F.B. Morse.) Martha's daughter Annette Innis Young left Locust Lawn to the Huguenot Historical Society (HHS) in 1972. Annette left the Terwilliger stone house to her chauffeur, Earl J. Teed who promptly sold it to a local property speculator.

To the rescue came Kenneth Hasbrouck, local historian, then president of the HHS. He called a meeting of all the Terwilligers that he could locate (roughly 200) and nineteen family members appeared in New Paltz on December 8, 1973 to create the Terwilliger Family Association. The next year, with funds they had raised to purchase the house,

supplemented by a HHS loan, the Association turned care of the Terwilliger homestead and its small family cemetery to the HHS which was already managing the Hasbrouck house. Stewardship of the Terwilliger homestead has passed to the Locust Grove Foundation in Poughkeepsie.

The Terwilliger family continues to build family genealogy and preserve the homestead, now under the aegis of a new organization, Terwilligers in America, Inc. Terwilliger and Hasbrouck family histories have intertwined for hundreds of years and the neighboring houses continue to grace the mid-Hudson Valley. (written by Libby Ross, based largely on materials of the Terwilliger Association of America)

THANKS!

This year's June Garden Tour, ably organized by Board member **Freda Fenn** and her hard-working committee, raised over \$1200 for the Historical Society Restoration of the Andries DeBois House. Thanks go to those who graciously showed their gardens.

PROGRAM NOTES: The Cornelius Hasbrouck (Andrews, Borden, Hoyt) Stone House in Walkkill was almost completely destroyed by fire in December 2009. On September 7, Board member **Hal Van Aken** gave a slide presentation in the Town Hall Community Room that showed the restoration stages from ashes to present day condition. Several days later, on September 10, Historical Society members made a "hard hat" site visit to view the substantial progress towards restoration of the historic Hasbrouck house that is being preserved for future generations.

DUES: Have you paid your 2011 dues?

Check your mailing label to find out. Mail dues to P.O. Box 570, Walkill, NY 12589-0570. **Individual: \$20, Family: \$30, Supporting: \$50, Business: \$50, Patron: \$100, Benefactor: \$250.** **THANKS!**

**Historical Society of
Shawangunk & Gardiner**

Fall 2011 Programs

Wednesday, Sept 7 – 7:30 p.m.

Rebuilding the Hasbrouck House

*Presented by Harold Van Aiken - Town Hall
Community Room*

Wednesday, Oct 5 – 7:30 p.m.

The Honey Bee: Historical Perspective

*Presented by Bob Mooney - Town Hall Community
Room*

Wednesday, Nov 2 – 7:30 p.m.

**3 Centuries on the Hudson River: Story
of the Hoogebergh (1696-2009) *Presented by
William Staats - Town Hall Community Room***

**Wednesday, Dec 7 – 6 p.m. Pot Luck
Dinner/music - Town Hall Community Room**

**Annual Tea to benefit the
Historical Society of Shawangunk &
Gardiner - Date to be announced**

Printed by Shawangunk Correctional Facility
J.T. Smith, Superintendent
J. Nicotera, Instructor

Return Requested

Historical Society of Shawangunk and Gardiner
PO Box 570
Wallkill NY 12589-0570

Historical Society of Shawangunk and Gardiner

NONPROFIT ORG
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
NEWBURGH NY
PERMIT No. 481