



# Newsletter

Historical Society of Shawangunk & Gardiner

Volume 10, Number 3

Fall 2013

## *Celebrating the 350<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Evert Terwilliger's Arrival in the New World*

On July 12-14, 2013, Terwilligers in America, Inc. held a special celebration commemorating the arrival of Evert Terwilliger to the port of Nieuw-Amersterdam; Evert and his two children sailed from Amsterdam on the De Arent (The Eagle), departing on March 15 and arriving on June 2, 1663. From that beginning, the Terwilliger family has grown to include family members across the United States. The family created Terwilligers in America, Inc. in 2010 as a non-profit corporation for sharing genealogical and family information for those interested in the family and related Terwilliger surnames. Terwilliger means Ter (near) and Williger (willows) – or near the willows.

The weekend started with a lovely reception held at the Locust Grove estate in Poughkeepsie. The Young-Morse Historical Site staff provided a tour of the Samuel Morse mansion and its beautiful grounds. Members of the Historical Society of Shawangunk & Gardiner attended the reception to meet and speak with Terwilligers from West Virginia, New Hampshire, Connecticut, New York, Pennsylvania, Michigan, New Jersey, Ohio, Vermont, and Colorado. Members from other states sent best wishes, including Grace Terwilliger, aged 103 years, the oldest member of the Terwilligers in America, who was sorely missed at the event; she has attended every reunion since its inception. Attendees were especially pleased to see Myron Terwilliger, his wife Peg, and son Paul, who brought some of his extensive collection of Terwilliger family artifacts and memorabilia. (see, p.2). The evening ended with dinner at the River Station Restaurant, which has a view of the Mid-Hudson Bridge and Walkway Over the Hudson. It was a pleasant way for old friends to reminisce and new Terwilliger family members to get to know one another.

On Saturday, July 13<sup>th</sup>, the Terwilligers had their traditional “coffee and crumbs” meeting on the porch of the Evert Terwilliger House in Gardiner. Members shared stories of their Terwilliger ancestors or

memories of past reunions, including one member who told how she met her husband at the last reunion! Dawn Elliott, who organizes events at the neighboring Locust Lawn and the Terwilliger House, spoke of ideas for future events, including pancake breakfasts, re-enactments, and living history demonstrations. Check out the Locust Grove Facebook page to stay updated on planned events and send suggestions to Elliott.dawn4@gmail.com. A family photo was taken in front of the Terwilliger House (see, p.2).

After the meeting, several members drove north to Hurley for the annual Stone House Days celebration where many homes were open for tours. Christine Wade, author of *Seven Locks*, gave a short talk on her book about a Dutch family living in the Catskill Mountains around 1769 – 1800. In addition, several members spent time looking at records at the Ulster County Genealogical Society or the Ulster County Historical Society.. This was followed by the traditional Dutch Treat Dinner, held at the Hurley Mountain Inn, an old hostelry built in 1830.

On the last day, members attended the traditional worship service at the Reformed Church of Shawangunk, where a lovely service was provided by Pastor Howie. Many Terwilligers have been baptized and married in this church and several are buried in the adjacent cemetery. After the service, delicious refreshments were served in the fellowship hall.

After the service a number of Terwilligers met with Shawangunk & Gardiner Historical Society members to tour the DuBois House Museum and the Knights of Pythias House in Wallkill. Discussions took place about how the two groups can mutually support one another.

Check the Terwilligers in America, Inc. website for information about how to join the organization. (article and photos contributed by Trustee Debra Wolff)

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Dear Members and Friends,

We are happy to report that work continues on the DuBois and Knights of Pythias Houses. Our diligent workers include, but are not limited to **Bob Mooney, Hal Van Aken, Alan White, Jim Malloy, John Ross, Stu Crowell and Freda Fenn**. Thanks to all of them for their many hours of toil and dedication. We look forward to another **Borden Day**, with bus rides to the Home Farm accompanied by docents **Bob Mooney and Karen Dale** who will impart much history on the way. The Long Barn will have many exhibitors and a lecture will take place at the Home Farm. Unfortunately, because of the diversion of volunteer time to Borden Day, we are unable to hold our benefit tea event this year, but with Christmas and the holidays around the corner, we will again have our Christmas Shop fundraiser at the DuBois House. Also, we hope you will come and take advantage of our monthly programs and continue to support our efforts in the community.

*Carolyn Crowell and Toni Gagan, Co-Presidents*



*Myron Terwilliger (top)*

*The Terwilliger family at the Terwilliger House in Gardiner (bottom)*



**EVENTS**

**BORDEN DAY IS ON SATURDAY, 9/28, 9-4**  
 Join us for a great day at the Borden Farm in Wallkill. Guided tour buses leave the John G. Borden Middle School at 9, 10, 11, 1, and 2, returning at 10:30, 11:30, 12:30, 2:30, and 3:45 p.m. Tickets are \$5/adult, free for children under 12. Tour the Borden Mansion, hear the history of the Borden Farm by Rodney Thompson and a talk by Alex Hoyt in Borden's office, and view displays in the Long Barn. Take a wagon ride with Richard Hoyt; adults \$5/adult, free for children under 12, accompanied by an adult.

\* \* \* \*

For the program at the Shawangunk Town Hall Community Room on **Wednesday, November 6 at 7 p.m., Freda Fenn, Gil McCord, George Lowe** will narrate **WWII Memories and Mementos**. If you have personal memories and memorabilia from World War II, bring them along to share.

\* \* \* \*

In one of the most delightful programs of recent memory, the Historical Society held a Benefit Auction on **Sunday, May 5** at the Andries DuBois House. Thanks to the inventive and tireless efforts of **Freda Fenn** and her committee, the lucky 50 ticket holders were matched with 50 paintings, dishes, blankets, wooden toys, glassware, antiques, wine bottles, etc. and enjoyed a wine & cheese reception on a beautiful spring early evening. Proceeds from the auction benefitted the on-going restoration of the DuBois House.

\* \* \* \*

On **Monday, May 6, Adam Schenkman** presented his book, **Wicked Ulster County**, to an appreciative audience at the Gardiner Town Hall. He described the goings-on of an unusual cast of characters that included axe killers, mobsters, bigamists, and gamblers that enlivened the earlier days of this county.

\* \* \* \*

On a balmy evening on the **5<sup>th</sup> of June**, Historical Society members met on the lawn of the **Andries DuBois House** to enjoy a very social potluck picnic.

The highlight of the event was the personal, moving stories of World War II veterans **Gil McCord and George Lowe**. For more memories of this defining war of the 20<sup>th</sup> century, plan to attend the November 6 program at the Shawangunk Town Hall Community Room.

\* \* \* \*

To initiate our Fall program series, on **Wednesday, September 4, Gertrude Hutchinson (RN, MA, MSIS)**, from the Terwilliger Association, presented a thoughtful program on the **Care and Preservation of Archival Documents**, discussing how to preserve and display them. Ms. Hutchinson is an archivist and nurse historian of the Foundation of NYS Nurses.

\* \* \* \*

**Progress report:**

The **Andries DuBois House and the Knights of Pythias House in Wallkill** The **Restoration Committee** continues work on both the Andries DuBois and Knights of Pythias Houses. At the DuBois House, we are developing multiple options to solve a long-time leaky roof problem, a necessary precondition for grant applications. We continue with cleaning, organizing, and preparing for regular Open House visits; each Saturday visitors tour the house and hear about its history, resulting in donations and some new members. At the Knights House, we have installed a new window, completed plaster wall repair, and applied a primer coat in the general meeting room, bringing us several steps closer to using the space for our meetings.

\* \* \* \*

**CLARIFICATION:** The lead article of the Spring 2013 newsletter, **The Life & Times of the DuBois House in Wallkill: 1759-2000**, was based in part on an Historical Site Report of the Andries DuBois House completed in 2005, prepared by John G. Waite Associates, Architects PLLC, Albany, NY.

**Historical Society of  
Shawangunk & Gardiner  
Fall 2013 Programs**

**Saturday, September 28, 9-4 p.m.  
Borden Day in Wallkill (read details inside)**

**Wednesday, October 2 - 7 p.m. The Vin  
Fiz – First Coast to Coast Flight, 1911. Ed  
and Linden Dubin. Shawangunk Town Hall**

**Wednesday, November 6, 7 p.m.  
Memories and Mementos of WWII (see  
request inside) Shawangunk Town Hall**

**Wednesday, December 4, 6 - 8 p.m.  
Candlelight party at the Andries DuBois  
House. Wine & cheese, favorite LPs, and your  
friends & neighbors**

\*\*\*\*You can always find the latest information about programs, historic photographs, newsletters, and much more on WallkillHistory.Com.

**MEMBERSHIP DUES 2013**

As the year winds down, if you have not already done so, please send in your 2013 membership dues to the Historical Society covering January through December. Our monthly programs, newsletter, and special events depend upon your financial and in-kind support. Thank you.

|                   |        |          |        |
|-------------------|--------|----------|--------|
| Individual        | \$ 20. | Student  | \$ 10. |
| Family            | \$ 30. | Business | \$ 50. |
| Supporting        | \$ 50. | Patron   | \$100. |
| Benefactor \$250. |        |          |        |

**Checks payable to the Historical Society of Shawangunk & Gardiner. Mail to P.O. 570, Wallkill, NY 12589.**

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