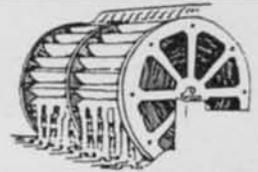


MILLWORK



Spring, 1995

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SPRING EDITION

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The Hay Barrack, A Forgotten Architecture

by Peter Sinclair, Guest Writer

Timber framing, the ways of the carpenter in preparing and jointing the timbers of a building, evolved gradually in America. Beginning with distinct regional styles based on European models, its history reflects environmental, cultural and technical changes.

The seventeenth and eighteenth century English - America timber frames of Massachusetts, with principle rafters, and the Dutch-American frames of New York and New Jersey, with common rafters were very different in their design and in the processes of joining and raising them. By 1800, American builders had developed a new and more efficient Square Rule method that replaced European Scribe Rules, and by the mid nineteenth century a distinct and widespread American timber frame had developed. It abandoned the complex English methods for the more simple ways of framing, more like that of the Dutch or Northern Europeans.

At the same time the design of roof lines and interior spaces of buildings also changes. The broad Dutch aisled barn was abandoned for the English three-bay barn and the Pennsylvania-German basement barn. Farm houses came to have more rooms and their uses were more specialized, but despite the Americanization of rural architecture, local traditions persisted and survived in barns, outbuildings and farm houses.

Recent study of timber frame barns in New York and New Jersey has led to the rediscovery of a farm building that

(Barrack, Continued on Page 7)

Mill Worker Will Hetherington - With Connections to East Meredith

by Caroline L. Meek, Curator

This column was started to answer the comment: "We are tired of hearing about the Hanfords; tell us about their employees." It is a valid complaint, so we have extended our research to find out about the mill workers. Sometimes, though, we just can't help talking about the Hanfords, because East Meredith families had such close ties. Even though mill worker William Hetherington may have been an Irish immigrant's son, you will find that he was a man related to the families of East Meredith.

William's father, Samuel Hetherington, was born in Ireland on May 6, 1842. He came to the United States in 1860 and worked as a foreman building the railroad through Oneonta, NY. As he worked in the area, Samuel met Sarah Haddon, and Samuel found his incentive to stay. He also had relatives in East Meredith, and he came to help them build an addition on their house. In that very addition, on the Connor farm, Samuel married Sarah in March of 1871 and they began farming.

Together, Samuel and Sarah had eight children, five boys and three girls. James, the oldest boy, married Jeannette McAuslin. Jeannette's sister, Elizabeth, later married D.J. Hanford's son, John, and James became his brother-in-law. Two of their daughters also married into East Meredith families. Margaret married Merritt Barnes, a grandson of D.J. Hanford, and the other, Clara, married Roland Henderson, who owned a local farm and general store.

(Hetherington, Continued on Page 7)



Will Hetherington poses with the rest of the cast of The Heroic Dutchman in December, 1894. Will is second from the right, leaning on the seated man.

Hanford Mills Happenings

by David S. Godwin, Promotions & Advertising

* **Arbor Day Celebration** is just around the corner. On April 29, 1995, Hanford Mills Museum will once again open its doors to the public with its first Special Event of the season. Included in the Arbor Day Celebration agenda are Maypole Dances, tree give aways, an appearance by Smoky Bear, sing-alongs in the Hanford House over tea and muffins, spring flower sales and live entertainment. The water wheel will again turn for all who wish to see history come to life in the depths of our 1800's mill. The giant saw will be in working condition fulfilling its task of making short work of the oversized logs in the mill yard. Concessions will be available.

* It's finally here! Hanford Mills Museum will once again be in the spotlight beginning April 29, 1995 at the Annual Arbor Day Celebration and Official Opening Day for 1995. However, there is still so much that has to be done prior to Opening Day, that Hanford Mills staff will be in a fevered pitch attempting to finish preparation for the big event. On April 22, 1995 Hanford Mills Museum will have **Volunteer Work Day** in order to prepare for the Opening the following week. **We Need You!** Hanford Mills Museum is constantly looking for people to serve on our Corp of Volunteers. So much still needs to be done that it is almost impossible to complete our task without the help of all the Hanford Mills Museum Volunteers. If you are interested in becoming a volunteer on April 22 or throughout the 1995 season, please contact any of the Hanford Mills Museum Staff at (607) 278-5744.

* **Poster Distribution** is a large part of Hanford Mills Museum Special Event Advertising. Because we have such a great poster distribution network, we are able to spread the word about Hanford Mills to a larger amount of people. If you have some spare time, and would like to become part of Hanford Mills Museum Poster Distribution Network, please contact David S. Godwin at (607) 278-5744, or write to David S. Godwin, Hanford Mills Museum, P.O. Box 99, East Meredith, NY 13757. Please remember to include an address for us to send posters. Thank you.

* Hanford Mills Museum's **1995 Membership Drive** is about to kickoff for the year. Within the next few weeks all past and present members will receive membership packets for the new season. Membership to Hanford Mills Museum entitles you to free admission to Hanford Mills Museum throughout the season and all Special Events. While on site, you receive a 10% discount on museum store purchases. You will also receive a free quarterly newsletter, *Millwork*, plus all of the current information on Hanford Mills Museum events and happenings. Look for the Hanford Mills Museum Membership packet in your mail very soon.



Arbor Day Celebration

April 29, 1995

10:00 A.M. - 5:00 P.M.

Hanford Mills Museum's official opening day for 1995. Enjoy Maypole dances, sing-a longs in the Hanford House over tea and muffins, spring flower sales, horse shoe pitching and live entertainment. Watch the big water wheel start up again after an ice encrusted winter to power the Mill as it begins another season of sawing logs and grinding grain.

What's Going On at the Mill

by Roy Cotten, Maintenance and Repair

1995 is sure to get a lot of positive responses. We have many projects underway that will enhance the surroundings here at Hanford Mills.

First restoration work is being performed in the Mill Building. This is being done by Jim Kricker of Rondout Woodworking. Since our gates are leaking, Jim has removed the gates and is sandblasting them, milling the meeting surfaces on the gate frames, and reinstalling them. The interior roof in the engine room is being repaired along with the realignment of shafts and belting for a smoother operation. Also in the Mill, we are replacing approximately 400 square feet of deteriorated corrugated steel on the north side.

Secondly, we are going to give the Post Office building, the Office Building, the Feed Mill, the Saw Mill and the White Barn new paint jobs.

A walk in the Feed Mill is sure to catch your eye with 18 to 24 inch old hemlock boards standing upright enclosing two new bathrooms with handicap facilities. Thanks to Cornerstone Properties and myself, this project is completed.

Continuing on down the roadway to the Gift Ship, you will see our new bridge, with 6,000 pounds of steel underneath. I constructed and built this enabling a team of horses and vehicles to ride over the Head Race of the Mill Pond. Flowering shrubbery will enrich the beauty of the bridge which is also the entrance to the Museum. Also nearby is our new horseshoe pits to entertain all the pitchers.

Landscaping will take on a new look in 1995. With the purchase of new and better equipment, we will be able to do much more to the grounds. We have started a nature trail that will be of interest to many visitors. It has been brought to my attention that Caroline has identified over one hundred different types of plant growth here at Hanford Mills. New site signs will be seen on Opening Day. Herb and traditional gardens will be planted. Rumor has it that Jane will be seen doing the weeding. More plants and flowers will make their appearance this year to enhance the beauty here at the Museum. How will I ever find time for a coffee break with all that is taking place?

Although I've only been working at Hanford Mills Museum for a few months, it's sure easy to get excited with everything that is happening around me. I would greatly appreciate any ideas that you may have to enrich this museum, but please hurry, I only plan to be here for the next twenty years.

New Mill Foreman

by Jane Shepherd, Executive Director

With the arrival of spring this year a new Mill Foreman will be in place to operate the historic machinery and mill production at Hanford Mills Museum. Mr. Robert Grassi of Pruling, New York will join the Staff in mid-April. Robert worked for a number of years with James Kricker at Rondout Woodworking in Saugerties. Rondout Woodworking is a mill restoration specialist company which is held in high regard by many mills in the north eastern United States. Rondout Woodworking was also one of the companies which co-hosted the 1994 SPOOM Conference with Hanford Mills Museum. Grassi worked with the late Charles Howell for many years in mill restorations, mill wrighting, and mill operations. Most recently he conducted a "Gristmilling Workshop" sponsored by the New York State Folklore Society at Hanford Mills Museum. During the workshop he taught the Hanford Mills Museum staff to sharpened mill stones, grind corn, the background of milling and introduced a wide range of millers tools.

In his new position as Mill Foreman at Hanford Mills Museum, Robert Grassi will monitor all the historic machinery within the mill from the large Fitz water wheel to the small hand tools used by mill interpreters. He will lead in restoration of machinery and the mill building, oversee mill production - both woodwork and grist, and be a main player in the development of mill interpretation. Grassi brings to Hanford Mills Museum a professionalism in historic milling and restoration.

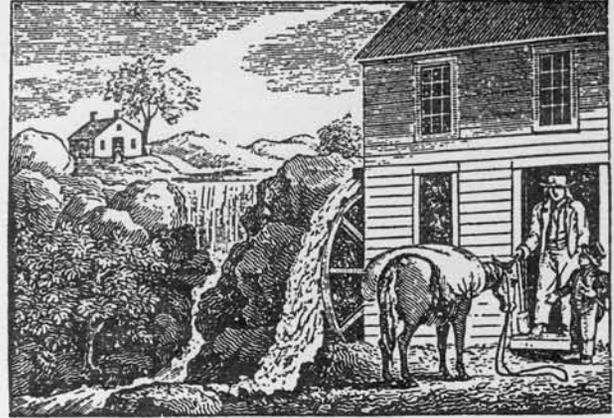
Robert Grassi and his wife, Sarah Sharp, have been avid supporters and members of Hanford Mills Museum for many years. It is with great excitement and pleasure that we look forward to Robert becoming a part of the Staff. Rondout Woodworking has declared that we are "very lucky and could not have found a better person to fill the Mill Foreman position." Hanford Mills Museum Board of Trustee member, Craig Boyko, who is also the owner and operator of Caverns Creek Grist Mill said, "Robert's love for old mills is evident in his performance of the lost art of mill stone dressing. With all his years of experience in mill restoration and operations he will certainly bring a high level of integrity and professionalism to the job."

Education News and Notes

by Roger Ree, Museum Educator

Winter is fading fast and spring will soon arrive. As of March 8th we completed our last Ice Harvest program for 1995. Despite school budget cuts our program reached slightly over 300 students this year, which is comparable or slightly higher than last year's program. Due to an unusual January thaw our program ran late in the season which necessitated a great deal of rescheduling. We trust that each child who participated in the program took home special memories of his or her experience at the mill site.

As I mentioned earlier, spring is arriving soon and the



children's voices, hardly gone from the winter will be ringing again as the spring programs begin. At the present time we have over 400 students scheduled to visit the museum this spring. The next several weeks should be very busy as we work to fill the open dates and prepare the mill to once again play host to its young explorers. These children will be participating in one of the following programs offered by the museum this spring: The Working Mill, The Mill & Its Community, Exploring the Industrial Age, Waterpower and the Mill Environment, and Forest to Frieze.

Last year, with the concept of a summer day camp in mind, the museum introduced a new program for kids called SAW or Summer Apprentice Workshop. Encouraged by last year's the positive response we will be offering it again this year during the week of July 17th - 21st. The day-camp, though careful examination of artifacts, hands-on activities, work sheets, and discussions, attempts to provide students with a closer look at the way people used to live.

This year's Summer Day Camp will cover three major areas. The first will examine various things that were part of everyday life for many people in the 1920's and 30's. The depression, electricity, self reliance, and family traditions will be some of the concepts discussed.

Using the two water-powered mills on site, students will explore the differences between the products and processes of each mill. Explaining what a mill is and what it does, changes in technology, and water as a power source will form the primary topics in this segment.

In another segment students will be encouraged to discover the many ways in which the mills and the community became interconnected. This segment will focus more on the community, its social activities, its ability to supply raw materials, and its dependence on the mills.

Though this may sound like the basis for a college level course, we will attempt to present it in a way that 8-13 year olds will understand and enjoy. Getting the kid's whole body involved both through physical activity and mental challenges is important and will help to make learning easier and more interesting.

Even though a great deal of work lies ahead to see day camp and our other programs to completion, it is exciting. If any of these programs have aroused some interest and you would like more information please feel free to contact me at the museum.

"The New Arrivals in Town"

by Caroline Meek, Curator

Hanford Mills Museum catches the imagination of thousands of children each year by letting them try their hand at skills and crafts done in the past. By participating in these activities, we hope they get some idea of what life was like one hundred years ago. Of course, these activities are only a small part of life in the past. What experiences were children faced with in the East Meredith of 1895 (rather than 1995)?

Life began, as it does for all children, at birth, but there were some differences between the 1895 and 1995 experience. While coming into the world for most children was relatively safe, most births did not happen in a hospital as they do today. East Meredith residents were lucky, though, because they often had at least one doctor, and sometimes two, available in the area. Births were often attended by a doctor, female relatives and perhaps a woman neighbor. Fathers were rarely, if ever, in attendance. Births are often recorded in local diaries, but these diaries have to be read carefully to find mentions of pregnancies. It wasn't socially acceptable to mention the word "pregnant" even in one's own private writing, so entries like the one following are often the only mention of a pregnancy: "Carrie sick. A young daughter born at nine o'clock. Mary Hanford & Sister Delia & Mrs. Haxtun & Dr. Donnelly here. A ten lb. baby." - December 17, 1881, Elizabeth Hanford Diary. Of course, not all births went routinely, but these births are hard to recognize in local diaries because most deliveries were recorded as illnesses rather than pregnancies. The baby might not even be mentioned. Local oral tradition tells us that this entry from Elizabeth Hanford's diary was probably a pregnancy gone wrong: March 22, 1881 "... I went to Josiah's. Gus [Augusta] taken very sick. Had Fits. Sent for two Doctors Donnelly & Maharg. Sent of her sisters. I fear she cannot live, knows nobody." and March 23, 1881 "Still at Josiahs. Gus very bad. Insensible. Doctors and friends all there. Think she cannot live. Doctors think she will not live an hour. I staid till nine o'clock come home. She died ten o'clock ..." Augusta Hanford's problem sounds much like eclampsia, which is still one of the most common causes of pregnancy related deaths today.

Once a child did make it into the world safely, it didn't get much time to rest before it was introduced to the rest of the community. A baby's arrival was announced in the local paper, where the correspondent often jokingly referred to a father's hopes. The mother's name was rarely mentioned: "Among the new arrivals in town is a young painter at George Dudley's. He registered at the Dudley home Oct. 24. George has looked over the lists of all the common names that he could get hold of to find a front name for the youngster, but could find none suitable. He is now, with the assistance of Alex Palmer, carefully going through the Sacred volume in pursuit of a suitable appellation." Delaware County Dairyman newspa-

per, November 22, 1895. Of course, once it was known that a baby was born, everyone had to come and visit the new mother and child. The day after Elizabeth Hanford's second granddaughter was born, she wrote: "Carrie & Baby Smart. We washed & received lots of calls..." By "Smart" Elizabeth meant healthy and by "calls" she meant visits by friends and relatives. For these visits the baby would have been dressed up in clothing the mother and relatives had been working on for weeks before. Both boy and girl babies were dressed in gowns or dresses. It wasn't until after a little boy began walking that he was put in "short pants."

Once a child reached the age of five (sometimes four), it was sent to school. East Meredith had its own one-room school house from at least the 1830s, where grades one through nine were taught. Later, as the local population grew, East Meredith needed a larger school. In 1902, a two room school was built across the road from the earlier building. This new building used one room for lower grades and the other for the older children. They also fitted out the basement to use for recesses and sports activities when the weather was bad. A "Report of Examinations" in the Delaware County Dairyman in 1895 gives at least a partial listing of some of the topics studied by children in school: civil government, history, arithmetic, physiology, geography, grammar, spelling, language, and drawing. Children's test scores were recorded in all these topics from third to ninth grade, suggesting that all courses were commonly taught to almost all grades. The classes also celebrated special holidays and events including Christmas, Arbor Day, and Admiral Dewey Day (referring to the Spanish-American War in 1898).

If students wished to further their education, they had to look elsewhere for a high school diploma. Most children who were educationally inclined finished their schooling in Oneonta, New York, which is thirteen miles from East Meredith or Stamford, New York, which is about 16 miles away. The distance was too far to travel every day by horse and too expensive by train. Students found an Oneonta or Stamford resident to board with (often a family member or former East Meredith citizen) while they went to school in the area, returning home only on weekends. In later years, a bus ran from East Meredith to Oneonta for the high school children.

In 1938, the East Meredith school closed. At this point, the Depression had taken its toll. Many families had left the area, and those families who stayed had fewer children. School enrollment was down in East Meredith, and the local school was using only one of its school rooms. The East Meredith district was combined with others to create the present Charlotte Valley School District, which had (and still has) a combination elementary and high school in Davenport, seven miles from East Meredith.

What did children do when they weren't in school? Play, of course, unless they were working. While local newspapers and diaries mention children's births, accidents,

(New Arrivals, Continued from page 4)

illnesses and deaths, they rarely mention what they did in their day to day life. For that sort of information we turn to the memories of some of East Meredith's former children. Elma Hetherington Mitchell, who grew up in the village in the 1920s and 30s, remembers playing outdoor games like Snap the Whip, Drop the Handkerchief, and Three Deep in the Snow (also know as "Ducks and Geese" or "Fox and Geese"). Besides the latter, Veronica Pizza Nelson remembered other winter activities including sledding and skating on the millpond. Baseball, croquet, fishing, and bicycling were favorites in the summer, and in the 1930s youths from the church built their own tennis court behind the church. Indoors, play was quieter - a game of checkers, playing house, sing-alongs or reading. Many children learned to play an instrument to help entertain themselves and others in a time when there was no television or even radio. The church, clubs and a local social hall provided a place for children to use their musical and acting talents.

Children in East Meredith were also expected to work. Many children were brought up on local farms and were expected to help out when necessary. Frances Sheehan Adair remembered raking hay in the fields: "I drove the horses. ... I loved it. ... We had a rake that you had to trip with your foot..." and Elma Hetherington Mitchell had to help her mother milk cows when the men were out in the fields haying or thrashing grain. While no children officially worked at the Hanfords' mill, it drew many fascinated little visitors. Most were not adverse to being asked to help. Larry MacClintock remembers visiting the mill when he was young. He liked to help change belts on machinery, and was even paid a small amount for folding grain sacks to return to feed companies. Many children spent time with their parents as they worked, learning how to shoe a horse, take care of farm animals, or butcher a chicken for dinner. In fact, many children learned the family business and took over once their parents retired. Many farms were passed on in this manner, just as D.J. Hanford's mill became D.J. Hanford & Sons, and later, after their father's death, the Hanford Brothers' mill.

While life in the past is sometimes considered to have been more wholesome than it is today, it was also a more dangerous time. Illness was common - measles, scarlet fever, whooping cough - and medicine was not always advanced enough to save children. The Delaware County Dairyman newspaper followed the story of Nellie Van Alstine, who had an appendectomy in January of 1895. By March, it was obvious that her operation had not been completely successful. By December 13, this item appeared: "Nellie, oldest daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Wm. Van Alstine, of this place, departed this life from the residence of Dr. Peck ... Up to within about a year ago Miss Nellie was a healthy, hard working girl, when her health failed her and her physician operated on her for appendicitis. The operation was not a successful one, the patient never recovering from its effects." Sometimes doc-



An unidentified boy helps with the work of laying the foundation for the new church in June 1865. It wouldn't be surprising if he learned a little about masonry that summer.

tors did not even know how to attempt to fix a problem: July 31, 1882 "...Carrie went after Rhaspberries with Mrs Hudson & Alice. Alice taken sick in the lot." August 1, 1882 "...Alice Hudson sick. had the Doctor today." August 2, 1882 "...Alice worse. died tonight. a poor suffering girl. obstruction of Bowels. I helped lay her out." Elizabeth Hanford diary. Children also faced a world full of accidents waiting to happen, "Funeral of Mr. Kimalls Child that was killed by Horses running away & run over with a Stone Boat [a flat bottom sled used to haul stones out of the fields in spring]. Broke its neck." June 25, 1902, Elizabeth Hanford diary. Of course, the majority of illnesses and accidents were not life threatening incidents, such as this one from Elizabeth Hanford's diary on October 4, 1885: "Libbie Barnes little boy had his finger mashed in a window. Took the nail and end of his finger off."

In the end, the children grew to adulthood and stayed in East Meredith or they left for brighter lights depending on their interests. New children were born and came to take their place. Today, East Meredith is smaller than it was one hundred years ago, but there are still children here. They are rarely, if ever, born right in the village and they no longer go to school here, but they do play and work in East Meredith. Television and video games have taken over much of the indoor play, but children still play outdoors in much the same way they did in 1895. The mill still draws local children to wonder and sometimes even to help out with the work as Larry MacClintock did years ago. With programs, like the Summer Apprentice Workshop day camp, Hanford Mills Museum hopes to educate and entertain a generation of children who no longer are as close to the land as they used to be.



(Hetherington, Continued from page 1)

The Hetherington family was connected to East Meredith, but what about William?

William Matthew Hetherington was born on January 13, 1877. He was not the oldest or the youngest. William grew up on his father's farm. In school he was known as Pete because he was too shy to tell what his real name was on the first day of school. From examination records, it appears that Will was a better than average student. He was also involved in local plays.

In 1898, William began work at Hanford Mills. He was 21 years old when he started. As with most mill workers, the records show very little about what Will did. In the state census of 1905, William told the recorder that he was a day laborer. Oral tradition also tells us that he was a teamster for the mill. When he started, Will received 69 cents a day, the lowest rate the Hanford paid. Later, by 1905, he was earning a dollar for a ten hour day, six days a week, though it was still the lowest rate.

As William worked, he also courted a local girl, Mary Elizabeth Hanford, daughter of Charlie Hanford, a sometime fellow employee at the mill. Charlie was also a cousin of mill owner, Horace Hanford (son of D.J. Hanford). In March, 1909, William and Elizabeth were married. They made their home in the Will Hanford house (the present office of Hanford Mills Museum). Will Hetherington continued to work at the mill, and it is interesting to note that he received a pay raise around this time. He was no longer paid at the lowest rate, but he wasn't paid at the highest rate either. Will's interests lay elsewhere, however, and he did not stay long at the mill. His last day was November 23, 1910.

That same year, Will and Elizabeth bought the Connor farm, the first property west of Sheehan Road on the road to Meridale. This was the same farm that had brought his father to the area. Elizabeth called it the "Twin Stacks Farm" because, more often than not, there were at least two stacks of hay in the yard. The property was considered the best hay farm in Delaware County, NY.

It was on this farm that Will and Elizabeth raised their two daughters - Elma and Alyce. Daughter Elma has many happy memories of life there - memories of her mother's flower garden, and the apple orchard that was so prolific that it helped pay for the farm. She also remembers the winter when she was five years old, both the girls and their father contracted whooping cough. Her mother was frightened of the disease, since her own sister had died of it in the 1870s. It must have been trying to watch her husband work the farm even though he was sick, while Elizabeth tended her two daughters. She even managed to teach Elma to read and to do math so well that she entered school that year in the second grade. The whole family pulled through.

In the years William and his family were on the farm, he made many improvements to the buildings and his operations. He was civic minded, and worked with other East Meredith men to bring a new polling place to the village. He also took time out for fun. Will was one of the first men buy a radio. The Hetherington family competed with other early East Meredith radio owners to find the most distant signal and the greatest number of radio stations in a night.

In 1941, Will's daughter Elma completed the circle her grandfather, Samuel, had begun when she married Thomas Mitchell in the same parlor addition where Samuel had married so



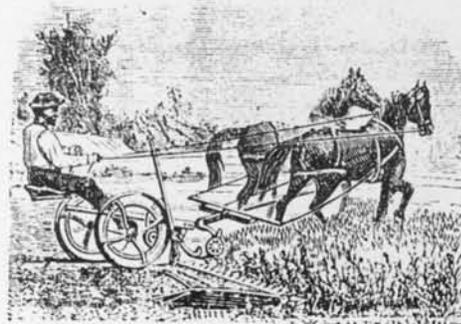
Will Hetherington and his new wife, Elizabeth, stand on the porch of their new home, the Will Hanford House, c. 1909.

many years before. A year later, in 1942, Will retired and sold the farm, moving his family to Oneonta, NY. On September 27, 1951, William Matthew Hetherington died at the age of 74. His children continued the tradition of maintaining ties to East Meredith even though they moved away. Elma would later write a three volume history of East Meredith. Alyce acted as a board member for Hanford Mills Museum, a place which is now filled by Gordon Roberts, Alyce's husband who also has ties to East Meredith.

William Hetherington had a life bound in so many ways to East Meredith and the Hanford family. He is a good example of the family connections and ties that made up so many small villages and neighborhoods throughout the United States in the 1800s and early 1900s. He also illustrates the security and support that one could find in such a community.

NOTE: To Elma and Alyce, who still live in the area. I hope that my introduction to your father's life has a minimum of errors. Please let me know if I went wrong in any direction.

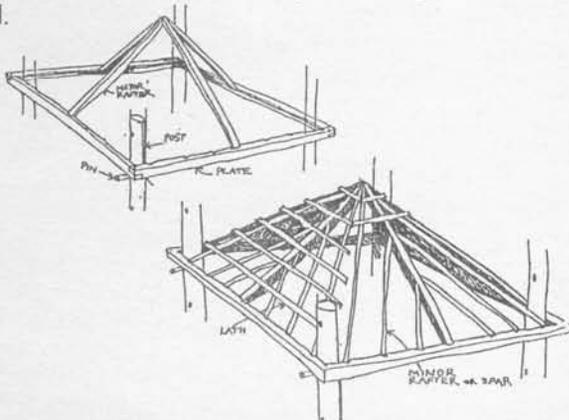
Hanford Mills Museum
fondly remembers
Carol Donovan
Former Board Member,
Member and Friend



(Barrack, Continued from page 1)

was once commonly used but is today almost forgotten. The barrack was a type of pole-barn, commonly four poles, with a lightly framed roof that could be raised or lowered. The corner posts were set three feet into the ground and a series of holes drilled through them a foot apart. The roof plates rested on iron pins inserted in the holes. A farmer could easily build a barrack and adapt it to shelter livestock. The Dutch knew it as a "hooi-bergh" and the Germans as a "rutenbergh." In northern Europe, its use has been traced to the late Bronze Age.

Some farmers in New Jersey, on Long Island and in Greene and Columbia Counties, New York, used the hay barrack until recent times, but because they were earth-bound and open to the weather, barracks were not long lived and all the surviving examples have been modern rafter systems designed for plank roofs. Old photographs and illustrations indicate that barrack plates and posts reused in New Jersey and New York timber frame barns, and the description of a rafter system in a late eighteenth-century manuscript, have led to the design of a hip-roof for a thatched barrack that may have originated in the New World.



American Hip Roof Design for Thatched Hay Barrack

The upper drawing shows how the four major rafters are mortised into the center of the four plates and joined at the peak. The lower drawing shows the next stage in construction where the minor rafters are set into angled holes in the plate and nailed to the major rafters. Thin vertical lath is then applied to which the straw or reed thatch is attached.



English Helm (barrack)

This illustration is from a book by the Swedish naturalist Peter Kalm, of his 1748 visit to England on his way to America. Kalm was quite taken by a helm (barrack) which he was shown. The four posts were 30 feet long and set into the ground 14 feet apart. At the bottom, horizontal oak boards were nailed to the posts forming a room to shelter animals.

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We want you.

Grounds, buildings, clerical, telephone, special events, concessions, promotions, housekeeping, gift shop, computer, woodworking, gardening, helping with group tours and much more.

Call the Museum Office (607) 278 5744

Heritage Craftsman Weekend

by Jane Shepherd, Executive Director

On June 10 & 11, Hanford Mills Museum will celebrate becoming the International Headquarters for the *Society for the Preservation of Old Mills*. There will be an official ribbon cutting and reception at 10:30 a.m. on June 10. The President of the Society will be on hand, as well as Museum Board members. We encourage all members to be in attendance at this momentous occasion. The activities for the weekend will include a large gathering of traditional and heritage craftsmen. Blacksmiths, tin-smiths, weavers, lace makers, ropemakers, woodworkers and many more will be on hand to demonstrate and sell their wares. The Mill will be doing many varieties of demonstrations throughout the weekend; sawing with the carriage saw, grist milling, box building, and more. On Saturday, June 10, *Fiddlesticks*, a country and bluegrass fiddling band will entertain. This group plays old time country fiddle tunes that originated in the British Isles in the 1600's and migrated to America with our forefathers. Many European countries are represented in the music *Fiddlesticks*, such as Peek-a-boo Waltz, Under the Double Eagle, Over the Waves, and Turkey in

the Straw. They do the old fashioned square dancing, should enough folks choose to dance. *Fiddlesticks* will present the history of fiddle playing and some background with each song they play. *Fiddlesticks* will entertain throughout the afternoon on Saturday, June 10. On Sunday, June 11, visitors will be entertained with the country/folk music of *Unclaimed Freight* whose smooth delivery creates a delightful day of toe tapping and harmony. *Unclaimed Freight* is made up of musicians from the Catskill region and presents a program of nostalgic melodies and songs we all enjoy. They are back by popular demand.

On Saturday night, Hanford Mills will host a Chicken BBQ. All members are encouraged to attend, but preregistration and payment is a must. The cost for the BBQ is \$6.50 per person for the meal, beverage and desert. (Send your registration to Hanford Mills Museum, Chicken BBQ, PO Box 99, East Meredith, NY 13757). Live entertainment is planned for the evening as well. Desert will be homemade ice cream made with the museums gasoline powered ice cream maker using the ice from last winter's Winter Ice Harvest. For more information about the Heritage Craftsman Weekend call 607-278-5744.

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