

Balentine Settlement

Newsletter # 15

Spring 1993

UPDATE:

Good news first. Our charter has been renewed by New York State. We have adopted a collections management policy, as required by the state, and have begun accessioning our collections. We are working on a series of educational programs with several groups in the local schools.

We invited the public to a program on the early Dutch settlers of New York State given by Dr. Charles Gehring, director of the Netherlands project of the state. The project is translating old Dutch records which had lain in limbo in the state archives for over a hundred years.

Our local library presented a talk by Douglas Glover on his new book, The Life and Times of Captain N. Hendrick Nellis who sided with the British during the Revolution and fought against his family and neighbors. (See the review on page 4.)

The bad news. On February 24 the historic home of our president Milford Decker was destroyed by fire. Many items owned by the Society were stored in the attic of the home until the restoration of Nellis Tavern could be completed. We lost many items, including a chest, a ladderback chair, a spinning wheel, a rope bed, and a lap desk. It was indeed a great loss both for the Society and for Milford, who lost many priceless antiques and family memorabilia.

HERE'S HANNAH!

Meet Hannah, the Nellis Tavern wench. Hannah is serving in the Tavern as an indentured servant, working off the cost of her voyage to the new world.

Hannah dreams of the day when she will be free to marry and raise a family of her own in the beautiful Mohawk Valley.

Hannah is lucky to be with the Nellis family, who treats her well. Not all indentured servants or slaves were so lucky.

Hannah is a gift to the Society from one of our talented members, Nancy Linn-Nellis of Iowa. Thank you, Nancy.

