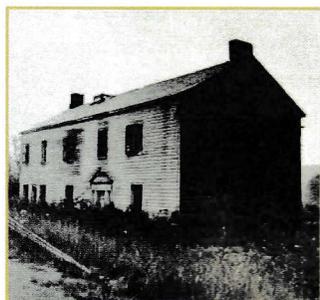


Board of Trustees

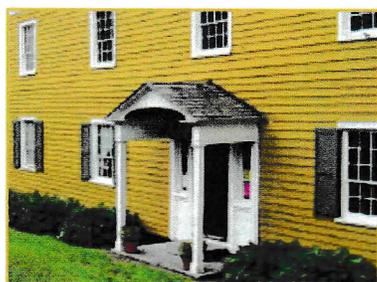
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Joan Draus
 Judith Mihal
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 Walt Lane



Come visit the
1747 Nellis Tavern
 on Sunday afternoon
 this summer. We are
 open every Sunday,
 June—September,
 1:00-4:00 P.M. \$5.00



7355 State Rt. 5, St. Johnsville, NY

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Newsletter

PSS Loses a True Friend

by Ron Burch and Donna Reston

On January 6, Willis E. (Skip) Barshied, Jr., of the Town of Palatine passed away at age 89. Born and raised in Montgomery County, Skip was a lifelong dedicated, zealous supporter of Mohawk Valley history, architecture, and material culture. He was a longtime friend and supporter of historic Nellis Tavern, as well as neighboring Fort Klock and other historical organizations and sites in the region. His wry wit and profound knowledge of history and artifacts will be sorely missed.

Skip's knowledge of tools and how to use them proved invaluable to restoration efforts at Nellis Tavern. He even had his own key so that he could "fix" something at the Tavern when he found the time or had fashioned a part that was needed.

Over the years Skip fabricated and installed sash stops to keep window frames from falling out, and he forged decorative wrought iron sash pins to securely lock windows from the inside. He found early 19th century iron "Norfolk" latches for the upstairs doors, and when local Amish craftsman Eli Kurtz reproduced paneled shutters for the front of the building, Skip fashioned iron hinges as well as iron "shutter dogs" to hold the shutters in place while open. About 20 years ago, so that the main door on the river side of the building would be operable and appropriately "period," he had hinges copied, repaired the antique box lock, and even found a usable antique key among his "stash."

Skip's carpentry skills were put to good use when he replaced a lower panel in the upstairs loom room door, one of two originals in the house, which had been vandalized many years earlier. He repaired and fit a door to the access area to the attic. He also adjusted Eli's shutters so that they would fit the individual window openings – in a structure whose core is 270+ years old and boasts few 90-degree corners, there are always adjustments to be made during restoration.

Over the years Skip assisted the Tavern in acquiring furnishings that would fit the early 19th century interpretation scheme of the building, loaning objects for several exhibits. He donated a set of neoclassical maple side chairs, c. 1840, with a history in the extended Montgomery County Nellis family. He also facilitated the donation of a set of decoratively stenciled rush-seat chairs manufactured by Charles Robinson of Rochester, NY, c. 1850 (Gift of Kathryn Gulick). An early 19th century ox yoke from the William Nellis farm in Stone Arabia is on exhibit in the upstairs "long room" gallery.

Rest well, Skip – we'll miss you.

Photo by Craig Williams
 6-18-2015



An Evening at the Tavern

by Judi Mihal

Have you ever read an article relating to history and wondered what it would have been like back then? An Evening at the Tavern is just such an event. The people serving you are wearing clothes similar to that of the late 1700's. There is no TV, no internet, no lamps, no running water, no cars, no phones, no modern conveniences as we know today.

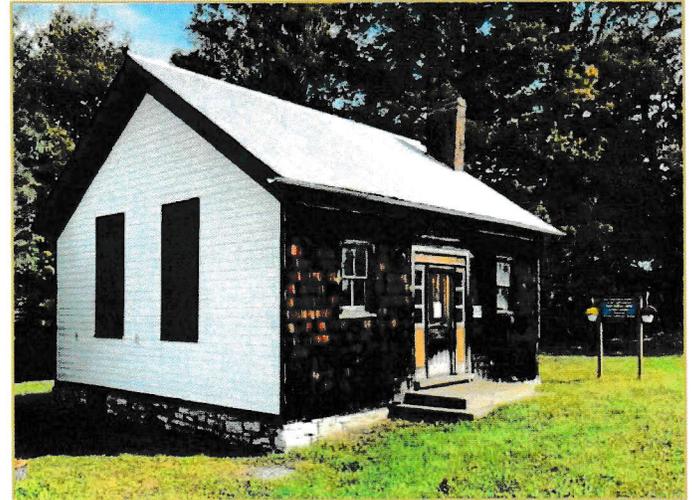
You are visiting a tavern that has overnight accommodations that can take care of your horse and put you up for the evening for a fee and you can also purchase a meal and a "pint" of beer. You will meet many new people who are there for just a meal or a drink and visit with them for the evening. Your meal might be a choice of hearty soups and breads, and a choice of cake or cookies for dessert along with coffee or tea. All the people, the innkeeper, the bartender and the cook, are in clothes indicative of the 1700's.

This is what it is like to attend an "Evening at the Tavern." You are a guest for a candle-lit evening right out of the 1700's. You are fully immersed in the period. There is even a man singing and playing musical instruments wandering throughout the tavern to make sure everyone is entertained. The fare is winter vegetable and chicken soup along with homemade crusty bread. There is coffee and an assortment of cookies and of course a bartender to serve you a drink. You share a table with two or three guests that are glad to have you join them. This is your night to totally enjoy a long time gone by.

We provided this on October 19, 2019, at the Evening at the Tavern at the 1747 Nellis Tavern in St. Johnsville, NY.

Our next Evening at the Tavern will be Saturday, October 17, 2020, from 4:00 - 7:00 PM. Put it on your calendar for next year as we always have different entertainment, food and other surprises. It's an experience you don't want to miss.

Skip and Donna enjoying the evening candle light.



School No. 8 Update

by John Case and Ron Burch

Since last spring, the Palatine Settlement Society has made great strides in the restoration of the 19th century "School No. 8" on New Turnpike Road. PSS trustee John Case, acting as coordinator, was ably assisted by Bill Farber, David Byler, Urie Mast, and Levi Mast during the project. Trustees Walt Lane and Ron Burch offered occasional input and assistance. Ron's background in architectural history helped uncover and determine the very dark green trim color that has been replicated.

Exterior shutters for the five large windows in the classroom were built and installed. This part of the project included removing all of the window sash, and Urie Mast rebuilt three sash and reglazed and painted all of the sash. Window casings were repaired and three sills replaced. Re-installing the window sash required repairing or replacing all the ballast ropes. Broken panes on the south side of the building were replaced and reglazed. Also on the south side, the entrance door was repaired and a kick plate installed for reinforcement.

Severely deteriorated cedar shakes, most likely a 20th century modification, were removed from the north and west sides of the building, and the clapboard siding beneath was repaired. Under the eaves, the fascia and soffit were repaired and broken crown molding trim, bought locally at Burkdorf & Son, was replaced.

Much improved and stabilized, the repaired and replaced elements were ready for painting by summer's end. Levi Mast had completed the structure's west side before foul autumn weather set in. The painted and unpainted elevations currently provide a striking before-and-after contrast. Work will, of course, resume in the spring.

On the grounds, brush and small trees were removed to restore the schoolyard to its appearance when school was in session in the late 19th and early 20th centuries. This process included starting to clear the end of old Edwards Road to identify it as an access in use when the school was operative. Two large "co-dominant" trunks, which were leaning precariously toward the building, were removed from the large cherry tree near the west side of the school.

Looking Back at 23rd Rhubarb Festival

by Mary Nellis Davis

Planning for our annual Rhubarb Festival begins as soon as our Antique Show of March at the Arkell Museum in Canajoharie is boxed up and put away. A flurry of activity follows. We write news articles and festival ads to encourage our local pie bakers to consider entering our pie contest and donate a pie for the sale. There were 19 pies in the contest this year.

Next is designing new posters and placing them in locations up and down the Mohawk Valley early in May. All are asked to think who might be exciting for entertainment. The Battenkill String Band was approached and two of their members, Alyson Slack and Aaron Pacitti, agreed to spend 2 hours with us. They did a wonderful job, performing from the Nellis Tavern porch. Though it did drizzle on and off, the porch musicians were protected, and the festival goers could listen from the large 20' by 30' tent.

Then is the problem of finding about 80 or so rhubarb pies of all kinds to sell. There are local folks who donate a few pies. My sister, Sally Nellis Kuehl from Rochester, and ten friends spent a day at a church kitchen to make about 30 pies. These she brought when she came to help at the festival as she does almost every year.



Our brother, David Nellis and wife Ruth from Victor, NY, brought desserts for our bake sale table. Our sister, Sylvia Nellis Boyden and husband John from Canton, NY brought items for the sale table where she helped Judi Mihal organize the donated goodies. I brought 30 pies.

All these pies take rhubarb. Our sister, Sandy Nellis Lane has searched out local rhubarb patches (that have owners willing to donate) and collected and refrigerated rhubarb several weeks before the festival. Some of



Dues Are Due

It is that time of year to renew your membership, if you are not a Lifetime Member or Public Relations. Look at your address label on the outside of this Newsletter to see the date of your last membership application.

Example:

Jane Doe 19 (2019, or earlier, time to renew)

or

John Doe L (Lifetime)

Jim Smith PR (Public Relations)

Our Membership year is January 1 through December 31. We are counting on you.

this she makes into punch base which she freezes. Fresh rhubarb, harvested that morning, is sold at the event.

Tours of the 1747 Nellis Tavern were given during the festival by Sandy Lane and her husband, Walt Lane. Documenting is an interesting task as visitors love to talk. Many haven't visited the old building before. They are full of amazement at its survival and have lots of questions. All are encouraged to return during our open summer Sunday afternoons when they can visit our genealogy table.

Many buy a piece of rhubarb pie and maybe a whole pie to take home. While waiting to find out who won the pie

contest (first place - Amy Jo Simpson from Esperance), visitors sit at the tables in the tavern rooms and get a feel of how it

might have been long ago. Most head out to the porch and back yard as they have heard of the hot dogs and German dogs and sides of potato and macaroni salad at the barbeque managed by my daughter Jessica and her husband Wayne. Here they can sit under the tent and enjoy good conversation and the music of the Battenkill String Band.



Thank You

We gratefully thank those who have donated toward the maintenance and restoration of the 1747 Nellis Tavern and grounds and the District # 8 Schoolhouse.

Corporate:

- Stewart's Shops restoration grant - \$200
- Mohawk Country - \$900

Business:

- James Dempsey—flower arrangements by Studio Herbage
- George Heigel—Antique Appraisals

Monetary Donations:

- J. Murphy
- T. Persse
- C. & B. Bailey
- and the many people who leave donations and no name
- K. Nabors
- J. Reston
- P. Russell
- M. Nellis
- P. Ferguson
- D. Fenner

Special Donations:

- J. Button
- J. McGlone
- Alice M. Gay Estate
- Robert Hodgson—in honor of Nancy Nellis Hodgson
- R. & M. Van Gorder—in honor of John Case
- Dr. J. Reston—rental of tent for Rhubarb Festival
- Food donors for all events
- N. Nellis
- F. Tosto
- Dr. D. Clement
- K. Elmasry

2020 Future Events for 1747 Nellis Tavern

March 7 Saturday—15th Annual Antique Show, Arkell Museum, Canajoharie 10:00 A.M.-4:00 P.M.; Admission \$5.00

Open Sundays 1:00-4:00 P.M. June thru September (October); tours \$5.00 (Also by appointment - 518-762-8259)

June 7 Sunday—24th Annual Rhubarb Festival, Tavern, 11:00 A.M.-4:00 P.M.; pie baking contest (please sign up 315.866.2619); rhubarb treats and lunch available; entertainment; food donations accepted.

June 6 Thursday—Tour in conjunction with **Ft. Plain Museum Revolutionary War Conference**, June 6-9, to be held at FMCC.

October 17 Saturday—"Evening at the Tavern," 4:00-7:00 P.M.; beer and soup. \$20.00

July 19 Sunday—Annual Nellis Association Reunion at John Nellis Farm, Fort Plain, NY. Lunch at 12 noon; bring a dish to pass and your own table service—Information: 518.993.2978)

(July 18 Saturday—NEW—Nellis Family Reunion at Margie Nellis home, 50 Truman Rd, Barryton, Michigan. Pot luck at 3:00 P.M.)

(August 1 Saturday—NEW—Nellis Family Reunion at Mary Nellis Davis home, 425 Smalls Bush Rd., Herkimer, NY. Potluck at 5:00 P.M. Full reunion July 31-August 2. Descendants of Clive & Martha Nellis.)

Mercantile Members

Thank you for your support.

Paul A. Russell, Ph.D.
PROFESSOR OF HISTORY-EMERITUS

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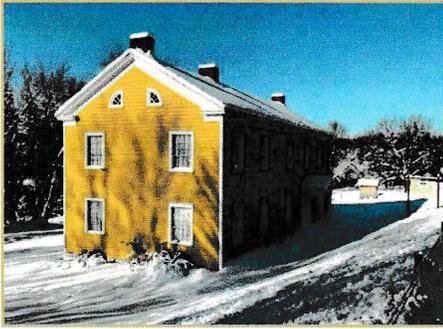
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1747 Nellis Tavern in Winter

Palatine Settlement Society
PO Box 183
Saint Johnsville, NY 13452

FaceBook: 1747 Nellis Tavern
www.PalatineSettlementSociety.org

2020 Newsletter

Our Antique Show & Sale at Arkell Museum

by Joan Draus

The 15th Annual Antique Show & Sale, to benefit the 1747 Nellis Tavern will be held **Saturday, March 7, 2020,**

2017 Show

10:00AM to 4:00PM at the Arkell Museum at 2 Erie Blvd. Canajoharie, NY. Easily accessible from NYS Thruway Exit 29, the Arkell is a 'jewel' of a museum that contains major examples of American art, most donated many years ago by the founder of Beechnut, Bartlett Arkell. The Museum's Great Hall, one location we will utilize for the show, boasts a fabulous painted floor depicting the historic map of the Mohawk Valley.



Our knowledgeable and friendly dealers offer a range of antique and vintage merchandise including china & glassware, jewelry, books, tools, ephemera, paintings, furniture and other items. We will also provide an appraisal booth staffed by Mr. George Heigel; verbal appraisals will be given for a \$5.00 donation per item.

A variety of homemade soups, sandwiches and desserts will also be available for purchase. Admission to the show remains \$5.00 and we look forward to having you join us this year! **Joan Draus, Show Manager.** For more information please text or leave a message (518-894-7807).