

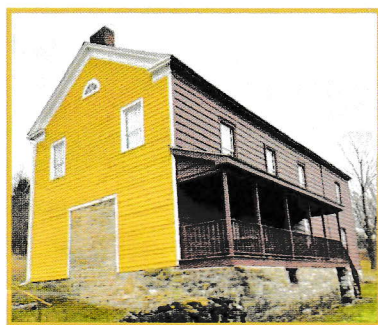
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Newsletter

Building Happenings

by Walt Lane



7355 State Rt. 5, St. Johnsville, NY

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 and by appointment 518-762-8259

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It is time to bring you all up to date on our three-part upgrade project of the PSS 1747 Nellis Tavern properties. They include the Tavern building, the little Red Building, and School #8 located on the New Turnpike.

Back in 2018, the trustees began discussing refurbishing all three buildings. The Tavern had water-damaged siding and other damage, the Red Building had multiple problems, and the school had been closed since 1945. In 2019 we began getting estimates for the Tavern project. The original estimate was about \$30,000.

The Elwood Construction Co. was hired to do the Tavern work over a four-year period. Unfortunately, problems behind the clapboards needed attention, so by the end of 2020 they were not quite finished with the north side. In 2021 the Elwood's completed that side and gutters were added. The work included window work and priming and painting after the construction work had been done. The total for the north side came to \$27,000. The east side was finished for \$7,000 as there was much less damage there.

The south side was the work for 2022 and included work on the porch and rebuilding the stairway as well as siding and window reconstruction and of course the painting. Here the job was three-story height and required a power lift part of the time. The total was \$28,000.

Early on, back in 2019, we decided to ask other local carpenters to work on both the Red Building and the school. The work was necessary but simpler. In 2020, an Amish family repaired the outside of the Red Building, repaired or rebuilt several windows, built a new door, and repainted the outside of the building. Our cost was \$2300.00.

The school is a similar story. For at least 100 years it had been covered with brown wooden shakes. In 2021 John Case discovered that behind the shakes were good white clapboards. The shakes came off and the clapboards were repaired and painted white with green trim as they had been originally. The windows were repaired, and new shutters were built for protection. A porch was replaced. In 2022 the interior was cleaned and painted, an old ceiling was removed, one slate blackboard was replaced, and a bulletin board repaired. Battery-powered electric lights now use the original electrical system throughout. Desks donated from several sources are now in place. This project's cost was \$8,500.00.

We started three projects, completed two, and have one ¾ finished. Most of this work was done during the Covid Pandemic, so the PSS had to forgo several good fundraising activities. And now, the west side project, about to commence, may be nearly as expensive to repair as the north side.

A new problem that we discovered this past fall is that a portion of the foundation beneath the kitchen has seriously deteriorated and needs a major overhaul to the tune of about \$12,000. We have contracted for that new job and have applied for a grant to pay for part, hopefully most, of that cost. If we fail to get the grant, the west side project will have to be completed over several years.

Our financial situation needs some assistance. We are reinstating the Antique Show this March and the Rhubarb Festival will continue in June. That and a couple of other events should help. Membership renewals will be really welcomed this year, especially if folks have not done that in recent years. Donations in any amount will make a huge difference.

District #8 School - 2022

By John Case

Having worked several years restoring the building and grounds of the schoolhouse on New Turnpike, we proceeded to the classroom. First, we removed the fiberboard ceiling that had been covering the original wainscot. After repairing several holes in the walls, we painted the entire interior, matching the original color. The existing built-in bookcase in the northwest corner was cleaned, repaired and painted. The books in it were cleaned and/or replaced.

We installed shades in all the windows and repaired the bulletin board. We repaired the existing wiring to accommodate 12-volt LED lights. This was done to provide light without the expense of rewiring the building and installing a new electric entrance.

The remainder of the year we cleaned the floor and the remaining donated desks. We worked on re-supplying the school like it would have been prior to its closing in 1945.

Many members of the Palatine Settlement Society and others donated time and materials to refurbish the school. Sally Nellis Kuehl gave us a very generous financial donation which gave us incentive to complete our project.

Our challenge for the future is to encourage the public to become involved in the history of School #8. We welcome visitors and ideas.

Following are names of family members who were past students:

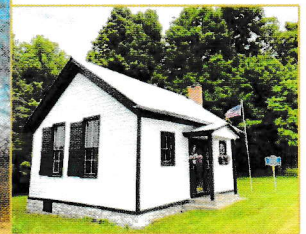
- Billington
- Carpenter
- Christman
- Cristman
- Cool
- Derrick
- Duesler
- Jencks
- Luft
- Miller
- Monk
- Nellis
- Settle
- Smith
- Sponable
- Steenburg
- Stock
- Weaver

Donations:

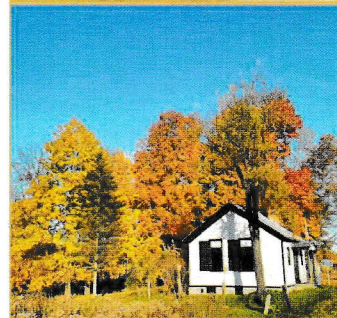
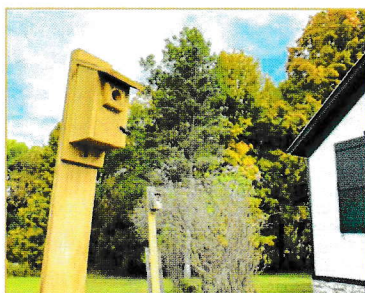
- Dr. Luke Handy, use of land
- Gary Suits, use of land
- Bill Farber, flagpole
- Elaine Ryder, schoolbooks
- Sally Nellis Kuehl, \$2000
- Darin Bellen, slate blackboard
- Walt Lane, schoolbooks, classroom arrangement
- Jill Fluck, 1846 hanging World map
- Mike and Lorinda Settle, teacher's desk, records, bell
- Joe Fowler, wall clock, lunch box
- Peck Lake School, student desks, maps
- Bob Shaut, wire LED lights
- Emanuel Byler, install windows
- David Byler, repair and paint
- Norman Byler, paint
- Jake Byler, clean school
- The Emanuel Byler Family



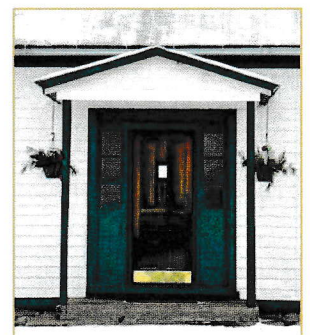
Summer decorations



Winter decorations



Bluebird houses and rhubarb



Evening at The Tavern

By Sandy Lane

We were blessed this year to have an Evening at the Tavern again.

It was a beautiful evening with great attendance, lots of donated food and beer and also beautiful music by Kevin Alexander. Visitors mixed with each other and hopefully made new friends. Many long time friends renewed acquaintances.



Rhubarb Festival

Thanks for the donated rhubarb, pies and desserts.



PSS President Mary Davis

Rhubarb pies

Garry Aney at the barn loom



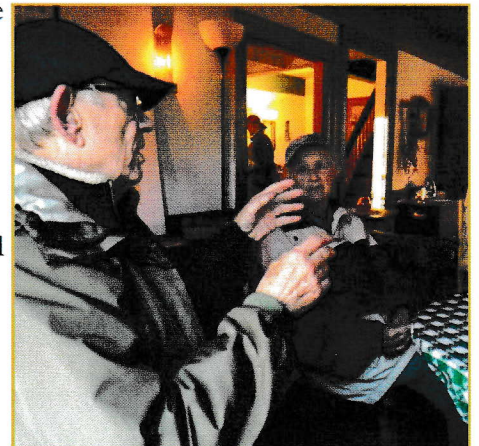
Donna Reston, 1938-2022

By Ron Burch

On December 21, 2022, the Palatine Settlement Society (Nellis Tavern and School #8)—and indeed the whole Mohawk Valley—lost one of its most ardent and enthusiastic supporters of history and material culture. The Society's trustee emeritus, Donna Reston, passed away from a brain injury resulting from a fall. Donna, 84, had been recovering from a stroke. Born in Amsterdam, NY, Donna was a lifelong resident of the city, graduating from Amsterdam High School and receiving Bachelor of Arts and Master of Arts degrees in History and Social Studies from SUNY Albany.

Donna taught high school History from 1960 to 1980, when she left the Fonda-Fultonville faculty to become a full-time dealer in antiques and folk art. Passionate about Mohawk Valley history and the preservation of local heritage, Donna spent several decades as a board member of the Palatine Settlement Society, contributing her expertise to the restoration efforts at Nellis Tavern, and she acquired antiques and artifacts to help furnish the Tavern's rooms. For a time, she served on the board of the Montgomery County Historical Society (Old Fort Johnson), and she supported the decorative arts and art collections at the New York State Museum in Albany through loans, sales, and gifts. Her interest in folk art extended to regional artists Fritz Vogt and Claude Mann, as well as the numerous anonymous early artists and craftspeople who chronicled the history and people of the Mohawk Valley.

Donna's knowledge of Historical artifacts, her committed support of local history, her assertive personality, and her hearty laugh will be remembered and will be missed.



Skip Barshied and Donna Reston.

Dues Are Due

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

Example:

Jane Doe 22 (2022, or earlier, time to renew)

OR

John Doe L (Lifetime)

Jim Smith PR (Public Relations)

Our Membership year is January 1 through December 31.

Thank You

Because of Covid and our lack of fundraiser events, we gratefully thank those who have donated toward the maintenance and restoration of the 1747 Nellis Tavern and grounds.

Corporate:

- Benevity Community Impact Fund - \$971
- Trilogy, Elizabeth Kuehl Rowland - \$100
- Network for Good, Face Book Fundraiser - \$575

Monetary Donations:

- B. Mielkarski - P. Wybron
- S. Mayceka - J. Reston
- K. Nabors - D. Fenner
- N. Nellis - B. Ferraro
- W. Thompson - M. Nellis
- S. Nellis-Davis - P. Ferguson
- J. Lein
- W. & S. Watkins
- A. Follett
- P. & V. Naegele
- K. S. Nellis

Special Monetary Donations:

- J. Button - S. E. N. Kuehl - Dr. D. Clement
- P. Russell - C. F. Nellis - V. Bisbee

Special Donations:

- Bonny Sweet's food donations for Evening at the Tavern
- Rhubarb and dessert donations by all for Rhubarb Festival.

Donations in Memory of Donna Reston:

- Anonymous - Draus, R. & J. - Kuehl, S.
- Mihal, S. & J. - Pattersonville Furniture - Natale, F. & C.
- Reston, J. - Tosto, F.

PSS 2023 Events

- March 11, 10:00AM-4:00PM **Antique Show** at Arkell Museum \$5.
- June 4, 11:00AM-4:00PM **Rhubarb Festival**, at the tavern
- July 15, **Cornhole Tournament** at the tavern \$
- September 30, 4:00PM-7:00PM **Evening at the Tavern** \$25

We Need Your Help!

By Walt Lane

It's me again. Last year in this space, I sent out a plea for help from all of you who take the time to read through our annual newsletter. We need new people on our Board of Trustees.

I was only partially successful. We actually gained a Nellis Grandson, Kevin Alexander, as a trustee. However, we also lost a former trustee, Dave Devendorf. So we are still a bit shorthanded, and now each a year older.

You all know, as we do, that we share a very important piece of early American architecture and history. This old Tavern needs three or four new friends to carry on the preservation and presentation of its story. Several of us are now reaching a time when we will not be able to do that any longer.

As trustees, we plan how to finance the continuing preservation needs; we participate in fund-raising activities; we help take care of the property; we spend several Sundays and by appointment giving tours to interested visitors; we meet to make decisions on all these activities and more.

Take some time to go on the PSS web site and read through the twenty-plus newsletters. Read how the trustees have brought our Tavern to its current state, all that with your help, of course. Then please give some thought to whether you could become a trustee. It could be possible even if you live a distance from St. Johnsville. If you might be interested, please contact one of us so we can answer your questions, discuss your concerns.

We really do need your help. Thank you, again, for listening.

Mercantile Members Thank You for Your Support

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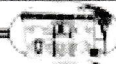


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Nellis
Tavern
1983

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FaceBook: 1747 Nellis Tavern
www.PalatineSettlementSociety.org

2023 Newsletter

ANNUAL ANTIQUE SHOW March 11th

WE'RE BACK!! Our annual Antique Show and Sale will happen this year! Scheduled for **Saturday, March 11th**, it will once again be held at the beautiful **Arkell Museum in Canajoharie**. Located 1/8 mile from the NYS Thruway I-90 Exit 29, this location is easily accessible for antique & decorative arts patrons from near and far!! The Museum's Great Hall, where show dealers are located, boasts a painted floor

depicting the historic footprint of the Mohawk Valley, which certainly complements the atmosphere of our show!

This Antique Show is known for its quality wares, with dealers exhibiting and selling only genuine antiques and collectibles. Show hours are 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. with admission remaining \$5 per person. Antique Appraisals will again be offered by our good friend and Antique Dealer George Heigel for an additional fee of \$5 per item. Furthermore, our own Palatine Settlement Society members will provide excellent homemade sandwiches, soups and desserts for purchase during show hours. You will truly enjoy these tasty treats!

We look forward to seeing you again at this event, our first of the New Year, 2023.

**Joan Draus, Show
Manager & Member
of the PSS Board of
Trustees**



Arkell Museum, 2016