

PALATINE SETTLEMENT SOCIETY NEWSLETTER

Summer/Fall 2008

NELLIS TAVERN STENCILS

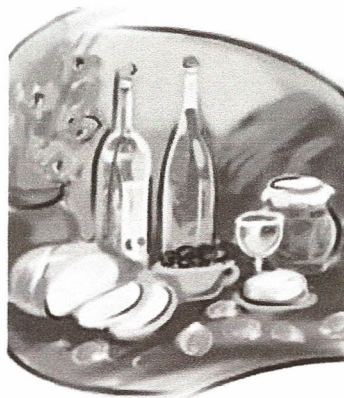
The Arkell Museum at Canajoharie held its "Explore Your Roots" Family Day on Sunday, July 13.

Several Nellis family portraits were on display in the museum. This family day included activities that highlighted the rich heritage of local founding families.

Sandy Nellis Lane, Secretary of the Palatine Settlement Society, lead a stencil activity inspired by stenciling in the Nellis Tavern. Families used a historically inspired stencil (tulip or clover) to create their own early American design on slate salvaged in 2007 from the roof of the Nellis Tavern. They then toured the Nellis Tavern to see how stencils, not expensive wallpaper, were used to decorate in the early 1800s.

Local historian and Arkell Museum trustee Willis Barshied, Jr. "Skip", was on hand with a selection of William Nellis family artifacts and signed copies of his recently published book, Shoes for John: The Story of a Stone Arabia Farm Boy During the American Revolution. "It is my hope that this story will help to enlighten, especially the younger reader, that these people we casually call ancestors were real people subject to the same human feelings we have, and that important events occurred here upon our own thresholds," writes Barshied of his book and its subject.

UPCOMING EVENTS:



*Relax and Enjoy
select wines, beers
and hors d'oeuvres
midst white linens,
candlelight and
Mr. Ron Burch's
period music.*

Evening at the Tavern

September 21st

4 to 7 o'clock

A benefit for the historic

Nellis Tavern

On State Highway 5, St. Johnsville

Donation \$15/person. Reservations appreciated.

Please call 518-842-6400

Palatine Settlement Society's

Member Meeting

Monday Sept. 8, 6:30 pm

Nellis Tavern

Announcing slate of officers for 10/08 - 10/09

Annual Meeting

Mon. Oct. 13, 6:30 pm

Nellis Tavern

Election of Officers

12th Annual RHUBARB FESTIVAL

On June 1st, 2008 from 12-5 P.M. the Palatine Settlement Society hosted their 12th annual rhubarb festival at the 1747 Nellis Tavern. A rhubarb pie-baking contest was held at 12:00 and the prizes were awarded at 1:00. 1st and 2nd place winner was Rose Guy with her entry of a rhubarb custard pie (1st prize) and her rhubarb blueberry pie (2nd prize). 3rd prizewinner was Christine Lenahan of Palatine Bridge who won with her rhubarb pie. 14 pies were entered total and the pies were judged on four categories: appearance, crust, taste, and texture.

Two performers provided entertainment throughout the day. From 11:00-2:30 was pianist, Karen Welthy of Delmar, NY. From 2:30-5:00 was drummer Mark Greco of Schenectady, NY, who played with taped jazz music in the background.

Different items were on sale throughout the day including prints of paintings from local folk artist, Jim Parker. Jim has created over 300 different paintings that celebrate the history of the area. Jim paints pictures of local historical areas as he interprets, based on research, what they looked like in their prime. Jim sells note cards and prints of his paintings as well as his original works of art. Jim creates lots of paintings for local historical areas' bicentennial celebrations. Jim's original paintings sell from \$1200-\$2000 and the prints of his paintings sell for \$14-\$24. Jim is from Ilion, NY where he owns an apple farm. Jim is an organic farmer who grows apples and makes his own maple syrup, as well.

All proceeds benefit the continued preservation of the historic 1747 Nellis Tavern. ***Thank you*** to all those who came out and supported the Palatine Settlement Society and more importantly the 1747 Nellis Tavern.

By: Maisie Orsillo, Youth Member

ANNUAL NELLIS ASSOCIATION REUNION

On July 20, 2008, the Nellis Association held its annual reunion at the 1747 Nellis Tavern, east of St. Johnsville, in Montgomery County, New York.

Registration began at 11:45 AM and a covered dish lunch followed. The 1:00 PM business meeting included the re election of the current slate of officers and the agreement to hold next year's reunion at the Nellis Tavern on Sunday, July 19, 2009.

Skip Barshied, whose wife was Ethel Nellis, was among the 25 participants. He brought copies of his book – Shoes for John. Skip has been very helpful to the Tavern, donating many items and many hours of woodworking labor.



**Gas-free vacation
Enjoyed along Erie Canal**

Some 500 bicyclists from 35 states started out in Buffalo on Sunday, July 6, leaving their cars and expensive gas behind. They arrived in the Mohawk Valley on Thursday, July 10 as participants in the 10th annual *Cycling the Erie Canal* tour. The 400-mile bicycle tour ended on Sunday, July 13 in Albany.

It is an inexpensive, fun and healthy way to explore the Erie Canal and upstate New York as more than two-thirds of the journey is on the off-road Erie Canalway Trail.

On July 11, 10 % of the group, history buffs, left the trail in St Johnsville long enough to cross the Mohawk River and tour the Nellis Tavern and other historic sites along NYS Rt. 5. They were a very appreciative audience, especially because the Tavern was open on a Friday, just for them.

**DEDICATION OF HISTORIC KLOCK
CHURCH MARKER**

The Town of St. Johnsville celebrated its 1808-2008 Bicentennial with the dedication of a historic marker for Klock's Church and Churchyard on Saturday August 2, 2008 at 12 noon. The marker was donated by The Heritage and Genealogical Society of Montgomery County and is 1/2 mile east of St. Johnsville along NYS Route 5.



WATCH for DATE:

...o, ...iri, ...ec or

Hear stories of hauntings,
Paranormal presentations,
games, refreshments, etc.

Fun for the whole Family!

**12 to 6 pm
at Nellis Tavern
Route 5, St. Johnsville**



500 feet north on a hill is the site of the first St. John's Reformed Church and cemetery. Christian Nellis is buried there along with his wife, Barbara Klock. There is also a small Nellis cemetery where Christian Nellis, Jr., his wife, Christina Kaiser and other Nellises are buried.

Members of the Heritage Society, Klock Family, and Nellis Family, Daughters of the American Revolution (DAR), Tryon County Militia, American Legion and local historians took part.