

THE STOCKADE ★ SPY

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A CLUMP OF AUTUMN BRANCHES

*Tomorrow I shall go down to the river
Along the path where the trees are in
full autumnal glory,
Trees which even but a few days past
were so richly green*

*That not a piece of the sky could be
seen thru the mass of their foliage.
And now, looking down at them along
the river's edge from my kitchen
window*

*I see a riot of colors brought on by
the early frost*

*And of such dramatic variety that one
would speechless be*

*To bespeak in simple words its infinite
beauty.*

*So tomorrow I shall go down to the
river and cut a clump of branches
And set them up in a huge brimmed
bowl*

*In a corner of my living room, there
to remain hopefully retaining a*

*Semblance of color, even tho they
dry, thru the Fall and Winter still to
come.*

*There in the corner toward which I
may steal a glance, as I sit and read
And maybe find a mite of ease to the
longing*

*For a magic wand to jet me quickly to
a place of blue*

*Cloud bespattered skies and the heal-
ing warmth of*

*Sapphired waters lapping the sands of
the ever spreading beaches.*

*And so until the Winter gratefully
ends*

*My clump of autumn branches may
offer a vagrant morsel*

*Of comfort and patience to see the
season thru.*

Ernest A.R. Cohen

*Reprinted from the News Letter of the
Preservation League of New York State.*

Volunteers Needed for Bridge Survey

Because the metal truss highway and railroad bridges built during the late 19th and early 20th centuries are rapidly disappearing, the Division for Historic Preservation of the New York State Office of Parks and Recreation is seeking volunteers interested in surveying the historic metal truss bridges of New York State on a town or countywide basis. The information will be integrated into the ongoing Statewide Survey of Historic Resources. Survey forms, instruction manuals, and technical assistance will be provided. Individuals, historical and engineering societies, and planners who would like to participate in this project should contact Raymond W. Smith, Historic Preservation Program Assistant, N.Y.S. Office of Parks and Recreation, Div. for Historic Preservation, Agency Building 1, Empire State Plaza, Albany, N.Y. 12238.

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*Recipe from the Apple Kitchen Cook
Book by Demetria Taylor.*

AFTER-CHRISTMAS BAKED APPLES

- 10 large tart apples
- 2/3 cup crumbled fruit cake
- 1 cup finely chopped
raw cranberries
- 2/3 cup sugar
- 2/3 cup crushed
peppermint candy
- 3/4 teaspoon cinnamon

Core apples, being careful not to cut all the way through. Peel 1/3 of the way down from stem end. Combine remaining ingredients; fill apples, rounding mixture on top. Set in large baking pan. Pour hot water into pan to a depth of 1/2 inch. Cover; bake at 350° for 40 minutes to 1 hour, or until apples are tender. Sprinkle peeled portions generously with granulated sugar; run under broiler to glaze. Serve warm or cold with plain or whipped cream. Garnish with whole peppermint candies, if desired. Makes 8 to 10 servings.





THE STOCKADE SPY

Editor Pat Davidsen
Business . . . Bruce Backer

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President W. E. Davidsen, Jr.
Vice President James Lane
Recording Secretary Barbara Sauer
Corres. Secretary Robbie Stimson
Treasurer Robert George

STOCKADE ASSOCIATION GENERAL MEETING MINUTES

Monday, November 29, 1976

President William Davidsen called the meeting to order at 7:50 P.M.

The minutes of the September 1976 meeting were accepted as published in the *SPY*.

Treasurer's Report: Bob George reported that the bank balances are as follows: Heritage Fund — \$6,978; General Fund — \$2,481. This includes \$3,200 which was transferred from the General Fund to the Heritage Fund. Total income was \$2,702 and total expenditures were \$170.

Mary van der Bogert asked if a monetary goal had been set for the Heritage Fund. The President replied that no goal had been set and that the Board was open to suggestions on how to best use this money. Dr. Navias suggested that a house on College Street with caved-in walls be reported and investigated. He will speak to Mr. Narsu, the building inspector about the matter.

Stockade Movie: President Davidsen reported that a contract with Lee Bowden will be negotiated by Allan Brown, the Association attorney.

Lee Bowden reported that \$6,500 has been collected to date. This represents the \$5,000 grant from the Council on the Arts and \$1,500 raised from the September dinner at the Van Dyck. He is now beginning to solicit the needed \$3,500. He has filmed several exterior scenes, but no interior ones to date. He estimates that the film will be completed in May.

Christmas Tree Lighting: Bob Strain thanked Robbe Stimson for his help and advice on the Tree Lighting. Mr. Strain reported that the City will donate the tree. The tree will be decorated on Saturday, the 11th. There will be a meeting, Wednesday, December 1st, to discuss the plans for the Tree Lighting. Peter Caputo has agreed to speak at the ceremony. A choir has not been obtained as yet due to several scheduling conflicts with area churches.

Membership: Jim Lane reported that the membership drive will be held after the holidays.

Renaming of Streets and Park: Jim Schmitt presented a resolution asking the City Council to rename West Front Street to Cucumber Alley and Rotundo Park to Riverside Park. Mary van der Bogert suggested that the City may be unwilling to re-name the Park because the Rotundo family donated money for the park's upkeep. Dr. Navias suggested that the two resolutions be separated.

The Association members present were polled. No one wished to speak against the resolution. The President asked Mr. Schmitt to present the resolution at the next Board meeting.

New Business — Brick Streets: Hoddy Van Voast suggested that brick paved streets be reinstated. He stated that volunteers from the neighborhood and area colleges could handle the work. He asked that some thought be given to doing this from Washington Avenue to the Indian next Spring. The President suggested that Mr. Van Voast appear before the Board with his proposal.

A number of complaints were aired — Mrs. Shanklin stated that the stonework on the abutment to the Old Bridge is in terrible shape. Allan Brown suggested that the pumping station fence be removed, and Art Levy inquired as to what has become of the Schenectady sign on the Western Gateway Bridge. Mrs. Shanklin will check with Larry Hart on this matter.

Sales Tax: Jim Schmitt suggested that the Association establish a committee to support either a sales tax or a raise in property taxes. The President asked Allan Brown for a decision on the political nature of this proposal. Mr. Brown will research the matter and report to the Association at the January meeting.

After some discussion, Mr. Schmitt amended his motion to forgo the formation of a committee and instead invite various speakers to inform the Association on the matter. A vote was taken. There were two opposed, one abstention, and the remaining voted in favor.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:30 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,
B. P. Sauer

*Reprinted from the News Letter of the
Preservation League of New York State.*

HELP FOR PROPERTY OWNERS ON REPOINTING AND PAINTING

Two new technical leaflets are available to guide preservationists on proper conservation methods for old buildings — *Repointing Mortar Joints in Historic Brick Buildings*, published by the Interagency Historic Architectural Services Program of the National Park Service, and *Guide to Paint Restoration and Preservation for Property Owners*, published by the Preservation League of New York State.

The selection of improper techniques or materials for repointing historic buildings can not only alter the appearance of a building but also lead to further deterioration of the masonry. The 8 page IHASP leaflet focuses on identifying the causes of mortar deterioration and implementing a repointing program. The leaflet discusses the proper mortar mixes to use on old buildings, which are often damaged by repointing with mortar containing too much portland cement.

The 6 page leaflet on paint was produced by the League as an introduction to the selection and proper application of paint on older buildings. The leaflet discusses the historical types and colors of paints and describes methods of physical and documentary investigation to determine original color schemes for historic buildings. It also includes an extensive bibliography.

The paint leaflet is available for \$1.00 postpaid from the League, which will also distribute the repointing leaflet for \$.25 to cover postage and handling. Both will be mailed without charge to League members within the next month.

NOTICINGS

Spending Thanksgiving with their parents, Lt. Colonel and Mrs. James M. Sherwood of Front Street, were Miss Suzanne Sherwood of Washington, D.C., Miss Fredrika Sherwood of Saratoga Springs, and Miss Emily Sherwood, a student at Mt. Holyoke College.

Mrs. Robert B. Moore of Front Street spent Thanksgiving with her son-in-law and daughter, Mr. and Mrs. Robert Kelley, in Memphis, Tenn.

Miss Nicki Corbo, formerly of Washington Avenue, was married on November 27, at the Union Presbyterian Church to Mr. Harvey A. Tallman of Saratoga Springs.

Lt. Col. and Mrs. James Sherwood of Front Street were the recent guests of Mr. and Mrs. Cobb Milner in Westfield, N.J. Mr. and Mrs. Milner are former residents of 24 Front Street.

The SPY extends its sympathy to the family and friends of Stella Androkavitz who passed away November 15, 1976. Mrs. Androkavitz lived at 151 Front Street.

The SPY extends its sympathy to the family and friends of Vincent J. Sukatski who passed away November 5, 1976. Mr. Sukatski lived at 152 Front Street.

Miss Carol Marie Ronayne, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. John H. Ronayne of Green Street, was married to Edward John Phillips in the Blessed Sacrament Chapel, Base Naval de Rota, Rota, Spain, on October 21, 1976. After the wedding, Mr. and Mrs. Phillips honeymooned in Torremolinos, Spain and Mr. and Mrs. Ronayne, the bride's parents, went on to Madrid.

The James Lanes of Front Street spent the Thanksgiving holiday at Mrs. Lane's parents' home in Cranberry, N.J.

Pat and Vito Cerone of 8 College Street have returned from a warm week in Mexico.

Mrs. Kitts of Front Street is home from the hospital.

Bob Small of the Chase Steers Tavern is in the hospital. If you would like to send him a card the address is: Room 104, Ellis Hospital. Get Well soon.

Reprinted from the News Letter of the Preservation League of New York State.

TAX BENEFITS FOR HISTORIC STRUCTURES APPROVED


The Federal Tax Reform Act of 1976, signed into law on October 4, contains very significant incentives for preserving historic commercial buildings. The incentives remove many of the past biases against historic preservation rehabilitation efforts which have existed in the Internal Revenue Code.

Under the new provisions, the owner of a "certified" historic property will be provided favorable tax treatment on rehabilitation expenses, through a rapid five-year write-off of such rehabilitation expenditures. In addition the tax deduction formerly granted for demolition of a historic structure as well as the accelerated depreciation for new construction on that site will be denied to a developer. It should be noted that the provisions apply only to *commercial* structures, not *residential* buildings.

In order to qualify as a "certified" historic structure under the act, the building must

- 1) be listed individually on the National Register of Historic Places, or
- 2) be included as part of a historic district listed on the National Register and certified by the Secretary of the Interior as being of historic significance to the district, or
- 3) be located in a historic district designated under a statute of the appropriate state or local government if such statute is certified by the Secretary of the Interior as containing criteria which will substantially achieve the purpose of preserving and rehabilitating buildings of historic significance to the district. (Locally designated individual landmarks do not qualify).

Most of the historic preservation provisions of the new act are retroactive to June 30, 1976. The *Newsletter* will carry more details in forthcoming issues.



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The dike and DORP
 cure from Roberts,
 History of old Schenectady

HISTORY OF THE DIKE

The dike connecting Schenectady with the village of Scotia is two or three years the junior of the old wooden bridge which preceded the present decrepit, although not old, iron bridge. Up to 1811, the road from Scotia to the bridge was across the flat. When the Mohawk river was high and the flats flooded, there was no communication between Scotia and the city. Floods were not so frequent nor so great in those days as they are now, nor did the river fall so low as it does now. Both of these conditions were due to the forests in the immediate vicinity of the river and up north toward the Adirondacks and south along Schoharie Creek. The woods kept the snow from melting as fast as it does now and also held sufficient moisture in the summer months to keep thousands of springs and scores of brooks and larger streams alive, which have disappeared, in the case of the springs, and are dry for a part of the year in the case of the brooks and streams. To return to the dike; the conditions were such and the traveling so great that in 1811, bids were advertised and the contract let to John Sanders, of Scotia, for \$1,500. The earth for the dike was scraped up from the flat land along the dike on both sides and this was topped with gravel. On the river bank, at the foot of the low bluff upon which the Sanders mansion stands, is a few hundred feet of a dike. This was built before the Revolution to protect the flat land from being washed away by the river. The dike built by Mr. Sanders was to be two feet higher than the "Deborah Glen dike," as it is known in the Glen-Sanders family. The dike was fenced on both sides, as the law required all property to be fenced in those days, and for many years thereafter, and on either side was a row of Normandy poplars. The dike was really most attractive in the days when these fine trees flourished. They were finally cut down as the shade prevented the sun from drawing the frost out of the ground, and in wet weather, their shade kept the mud from drying. There was no walk on the dike till 1867. Before that year, persons who crossed on foot walked in the middle of the road except when the mud was deep, then they skinned along on the fence and in time, boards were pulled from the fence in places to walk upon. In 1867, the Rev. Mr. Wilson, pastor of the Scotia Dutch Reformed Church, took up the matter of a plank walk and secured sufficient

money for its construction. This walk was on the south side of the dike as was the narrow stone walk which was moved across the dike by the General Electric Company when it built the trolley line. The dike was a part of the Mohawk Turnpike Company's property, as was also the old wooden bridge, till 1835, when the Schenectady and Utica Railroad was forced to buy it in order to obtain a right of way. The deed required the railroad company to keep the turnpike in repair for its entire length and this, it and its successor, the New York Central, did till about 1880, when the road was abandoned.

MEANING OF "DORP AND "CAMP"

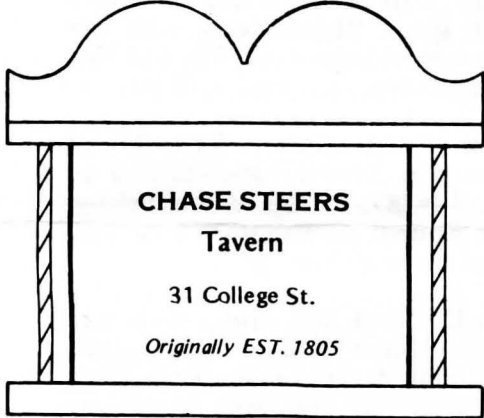
All new arrivals in Schenectady hear and see in print the word Dorp used for Schenectady and many are curious in regard to its origin and meaning. Dorp is simply a Dutch word meaning "village." Schenectady has been called "The Village" for more than 200 years.

While nearly everybody in Schenectady knows that the land along the Mohawk river and the river road, or Mohawk turnpike, extending from near the Sanders mansion to the neighborhood of old Maalwyck, or the Toll place, is called "The Camp," very few know why it is so called. In 1759 two Highland regiments under General Prideaux encamped upon the land between the Mohawk turnpike and the river for the purpose of keeping his soldiers from the temptations and gay life of Schenectady. The word, "camp," in time included all the land between the actual site of Prideaux' camp north to the "high bank." There is a popular belief that it was so called because the Indians encamped upon it, but this is a fallacy.

HEAR YE!

The SPY would like to wish everyone of its readers a very merry Holiday Season.

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