

Museum of Rhinebeck History

Celebrating Rhinebeck's Rich Heritage

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September 2010

Progressive Dinner Sept 12

The Museum of Rhinebeck History and Quitman Resource Center will hold their annual progressive dinner on Sunday, September 12, 2010, from 4 to 7 PM. The meat/dinner course, coordinated by the Museum and catered by Great Food & Company, will be served at Maizefield.



Maizefield, in the Village of Red Hook

Maizefield is also known as the David Van Ness Homestead and is on West Market Street (Route 199) in the village of Red Hook. Parking is available next door at the Linden Avenue School (drive west of the school and enter via the high school parking lot). It is a very short walk from the lot to the house site.

The dessert will then be held at Bryndlebrook on River Road, a property that was owned by Vincent Astor, located just south of Ferncliff Nursing Home. Signage

will be found on River Road indicating which entrance to use to the site. The homemade desserts and coffee/tea service are being coordinated by the QRC.

Some may ask why the Rhinebeck Museum is featuring a site in Red Hook. The reason is that the area that today is Red Hook was part of Rhinebeck in 1800, when Maizefield was built. The dinner will feature a tour of the first floor of this stately mansion close to the center of the Village of Red Hook. The house is an excellent example of a large Federal Era brick house with all the appropriate architectural elements and refinement of that period. The first resident was David Van Ness, an officer in the Revolutionary War and a Brigadier General of the Dutchess County Militia from 1793-1801. David's son Jacob is said to have carried Aaron Burr's written challenge to Alexander Hamilton, both frequent visitors to Rhinebeck. *(continued on page 2)*



Architectural element above window at Maizefield

Progressive Dinner Sept 12 (cont'd)

It is said that William Van Ness, David's nephew, was a close friend of Burr and hid Burr at Maizefield after the duel.



The pool house at Bryndlebrook

The site for dessert will be a beautiful modern pool house on River Road in Rhinebeck. The property has all the comforts of home, including kitchen and bathroom, and is beautifully appointed next to a lovely in-ground swimming pool.

Bryndlebrook was a portion of the properties that made up the estate of John Jacob Astor and which, after the loss of his father on the Titanic, passed on to his son Vincent Astor, and which the family referred to collectively as Ferncliff. Bryndlebrook is only a few hundred feet from Astor Courts, site of a recent widely-heralded wedding. The main house at Bryndlebrook was once the residence of the estate's carpenter, and is also believed to have been the residence of the Astor family chauffeur--proximity to the main mansion allowed a quicker response to Astor's convenience.

At evening's end, a basket (hand-made by June Vanderlaan and filled with

wine and other delicacies) will be raffled off (raffle tickets will be \$1, or 6 for \$5).

Ticket sales to the Progressive Dinner are limited to 125. As this newsletter goes to press at the end of August, almost 100 have already been sold. Checks are \$40 per person, payable to **QRC**. Mail to Brenda Klapproth, 132 E. Market St., Rhinebeck, NY 12572. (\$15 of every ticket is tax deductible.) For further info, please call 876-2436, or bklaproth@ymail.com.

Yard Sale Saturday October 9th

On **Saturday, October 9th**, from 9-4, (rain date Sunday October 10th) at Quitman House, we're having another Museum yard sale. The last such event, on July 17th, resulted in a net income to the Museum of about \$1,000, thanks to many very generous supporters of the Museum who responded with donations of numerous items that attracted quite a few buyers.

So once again, we are asking for household goods, used books, ceramics, holiday decor, small kitchen appliances, collectibles, antique glass, china and the like, and (if in good condition): wallets, pocketbooks, overnight bags, silk scarves, costume jewelry, children's toys.

For pick up or drop off, call the Museum weekends, 2-4 PM at 871-1798, or email michaelfrazier@earthlink.net. Please check those drawers, cupboards, and attics. There are bound to be endless treasures! We are also having a bake sale table. Goods may be dropped off October 9th between 8-11 AM (we'd like them as early as possible for the crowds). Thanks again for your support.

MANY THANKS TO OUR SUPPORTERS

A non-profit organization depends very much on the good will and generosity of its supporters. The Museum's supporters have been absolutely fantastic. Printing this list is not meant to substitute for the personal thanks we owe to so many not only for their continuing membership in the organization but for their help above and beyond the call of duty. And although we have tried hard to double-check our records to be sure we haven't excluded any of our supporters, we apologize in advance to anyone whose contribution has failed to be acknowledged in this list. To everyone who has supported us, many thanks.

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MEMORIALS

Vernon and Mary Sipperley in memory of Marilyn Swendsen
E. Marie Wager in memory of David S. Wager

Astor Farm Papers

The Museum is the recipient of a portion of the Astor Farm papers for 1913-1914, with a few additions from the 1940s. The 300 pieces of correspondence about the management of Vincent Astor's farm operation will be part of a future exhibit.

The content is fascinating and names many local people who worked on the estate. Correspondence includes letters to manufacturing and seed companies, letters between the US Department of Agriculture and Farm Superintendent Herbert Pinkham about growing alfalfa in Rhinebeck, and interoffice memoranda regarding basic farm operations and instructions to the workers.

Holiday Auction Saturday Nov 20th

Mark your calendars for **Saturday, November 20th**. Preview available 1 PM, auction starts promptly 2 PM, at Rhinebeck Town Hall, 80 East Market St. Gift baskets, hand-made items, baked goods, new merchandise, small collectibles, books. For info, call Brenda Klaproth, 876-2436 bklaproth@ymail.com or Mike Frazier 876-7462. Donations of auction items welcomed. This event was a big hit last year, with Lida Traver-Landy and Brenda Klaproth sharing the stage as auctioneers. Held jointly with the Chancellor Livingston Chapter of the DAR, the event is a great way to do some early holiday shopping for some terrific bargains, with free entertainment as well.

Museum of Rhinebeck History

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