



HELP SAVE THE PAST FOR THE FUTURE

Please enroll me as a member of
East Fishkill Historical Society.

Annual Dues (January -December)

- ☐ Single Member (\$15) ☐ Family Membership (\$20)
☐ Contributing Member (\$35-\$99) ☐ Patron (\$100 & over)

I have enclosed dues in the amount of \$_____ (Tax deductible)

I would be willing to assist in the operation of the society.
Please contact me to see how the society might best be
able to use my time and talents.

Please check _____

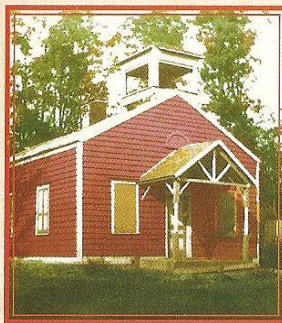
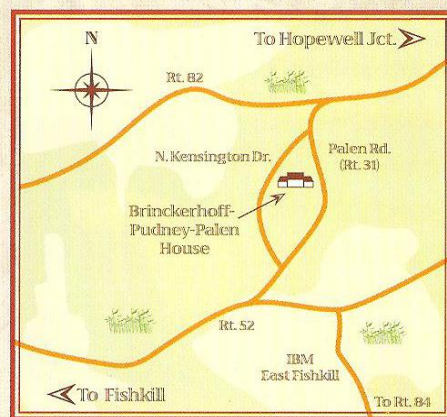
NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

PHONE _____

E-MAIL _____

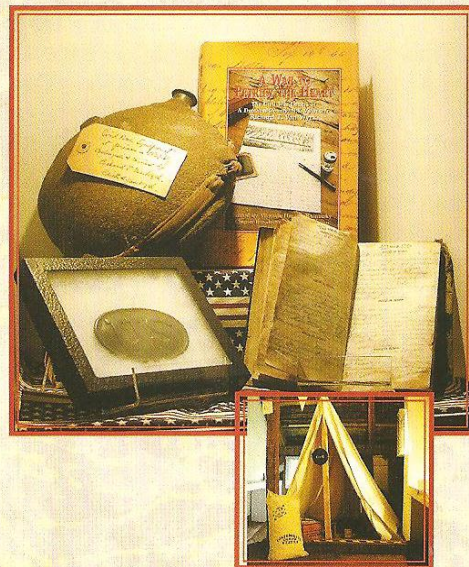
East Fishkill Historical Society • PO Box 245
68 Kensington Drive • Hopewell Junction, New York 12533



1826 ONE ROOM SCHOOLHOUSE

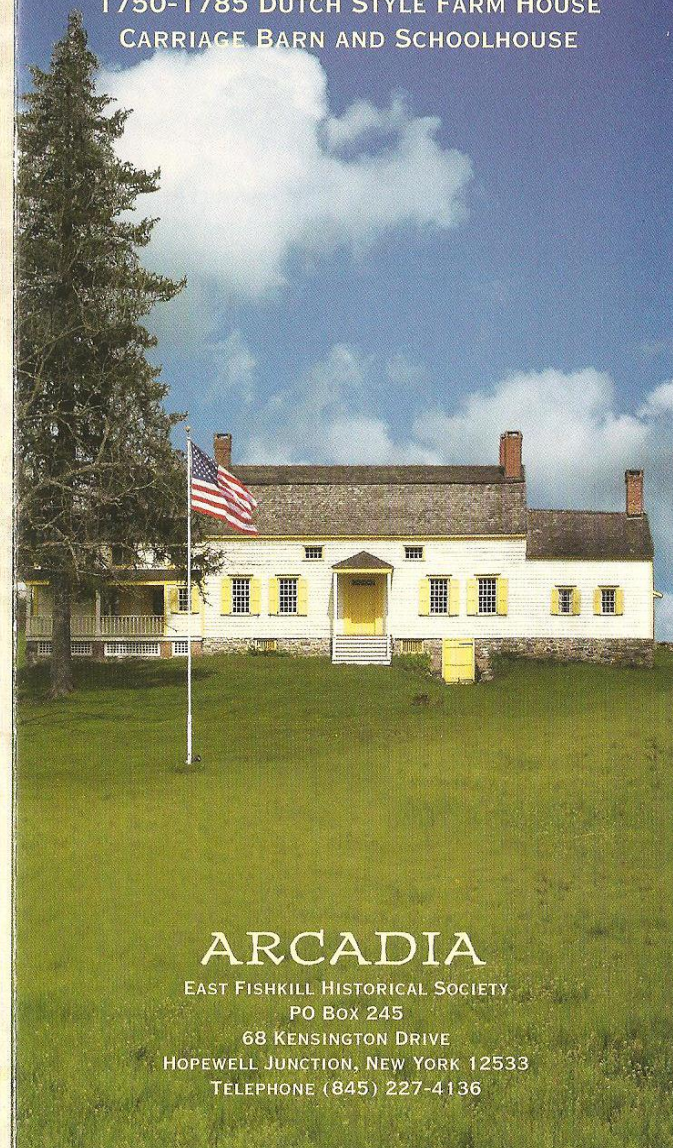
"Old Hopewell Schoolhouse #9" was originally located at Beekman Road, Hopewell Junction. It is an early example of the fourteen schoolhouses that provided education for the children of East Fishkill. Following its donation to the society, it had to be removed from its original site. All the pieces were marked before the structure was dismantled. Rotted beams were replaced when it was erected on EFHS's grounds. The frame is post and beam construction and has an interesting "king post" structure for supporting the ceiling. The school was used until 1956. Recent interviews have been recorded with students who attended classes in the early 1920's. Today's students can experience lessons as they were taught in classes of one hundred years ago.

CIVIL WAR LETTERS The society has some artifacts and a significant collection of Civil War letters written by Richard T. Van Wyck, a local farmer. These have been published in a book titled "A War to Petrify the Heart."



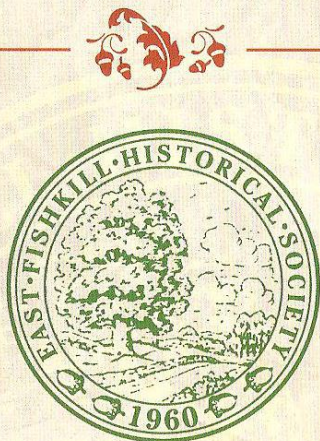
• THE • BRINCKERHOFF HOUSE

1750-1785 DUTCH STYLE FARM HOUSE
CARRIAGE BARN AND SCHOOLHOUSE



ARCADIA

EAST FISHKILL HISTORICAL SOCIETY
PO Box 245
68 KENSINGTON DRIVE
HOPEWELL JUNCTION, NEW YORK 12533
TELEPHONE (845) 227-4136



THE BRINCKERHOFF LAND PURCHASE

Originally East Fishkill, like Fishkill, Beacon and Wappingers Falls was part of an 85,000 acres tract of land known as the Rombout Patent. This tract was purchased from the Algonquian Wappinger Indians in 1683. The Royal Patent, completing the sale, was granted by King James II of England two years later. The original patent holders were Francis Rombout and Gulian Verplank of New York City and they later sold a share to Stephanus Van Cortlandt. It was not until Francis Rombout's daughter, Catheryna, inherited her father's share that any of the patentees attempted to settle these lands. In 1709 the Supreme Court of the State of New York ruled on Catheryna's request to divide the lands incorporated in the Patent and each of the holders was granted 28,000 acres. Catheryna, along with her husband Roger Brett, a British Navy officer, then left New York City to settle in Dutchess County. The house, which they built in Beacon, N.Y., still stands and is now the property of the Melzingah Chapter of the Daughters of the American Revolution. Tragically Roger Brett perished during a squall when he was swept overboard while sailing on the Hudson. Catheryna never remarried and became an astute and successful business woman, selling many parcels of land to early settlers. One of the first buyers of her land was Dirk Brinckerhoff, of Flushing, Long Island who purchased 2,000 acres lying along the "Vis Kill" (Fishkill Creek) for 800 pounds in 1718. Dirk Brinckerhoff never lived on his new property, however some of his sons moved onto the lands, built houses and developed successful farms.

THE BRINCKERHOFF-PUDNEY-PALEN FARMHOUSE

Written records show Captain John G. Brinckerhoff conveyed to George C. Brinckerhoff a 213 acre farm on the south side of the "Vis Kill" on which the original east wing of the Brinckerhoff-Pudney-Palen house was built during the last half of the 18th century. Originally the entire house consisted of a kitchen with a large fireplace, a beehive oven, a steep staircase to a single upper room and a Dutch style door. An enclosed porch was created when a shed roof addition was constructed sometime later.



The Brinckerhoffs built the center hall, gambrel-roofed colonial section sometime around 1780. This is the largest section of the house and contains a spacious foyer hall graced by elegant architectural features. This home is one of only two gambrel-roofed houses with flared eaves remaining in East Fishkill. This style was often seen during the period 1750-1800. The small paned windows, enclosed staircases, Dutch doors and wrought iron "HL" hinges were characteristic of the 18th century, thus making the house an architectural treasure.

In 1814, the 213 acres were sold to Obadiah Bowne and Thorn Pudney. A year later Pudney purchased Bowne's interest and the farm was named "ARCADIA," as it appears on the 1867 map of East Fishkill (Chartered in 1849). It remained in the Pudney family for the next 60 years and it was around 1830 that they added the western wing of the house. This addition featured a small summer kitchen complete with fireplace, crane and a brick oven, with an iron door cast at Fishkill. A stone cistern was constructed

in the cellar beneath the kitchen to collect rainwater. Reminders of the Pudneys include a windowpane bearing the name "Lititia Pudney" scratched into the glass and Jacob Pudney's name painted on the wall above the grain bins in the main attic.

In 1875, Edward Palen purchased "ARCADIA" and he and his son-in-law, William Bogardus changed the character of the farm by focusing on dairy production. Edward's son, James H. Palen, later ran the farm, which had about 60 milking cows. The Palen farm was self-sustaining, even producing the trees that James sawed into lumber using a horse-powered treadmill saw. A dog-powered treadmill was located in the cellar to operate the butter churn.

Due to James Palen's failing health the farm was sold in 1926 to Banton Moore, who rented it to Gene Satterlee. He continued dairy farming for many years until a fire burned the cow barn. "ARCADIA" was sold for a final time in 1974 to Gustav Fink, who built houses on the tract. At the same time he donated the Brinckerhoff-Pudney-Palen house, which at the time was in a poor state of repair, together with three acres of land to the East Fishkill Historical Society. Through the continuing efforts of the society's members, the house has been restored to its former glory and stands as a fine example of an original Hudson Valley farmhouse.

T. VAN WYCK CARRIAGE BARN Also located on the property is the carriage barn from the Theodorus Van Wyck site, which was two miles away. The barn was dismantled, parts numbered and put back together as it originally stood. IBM funded this project. The barn houses a collection of carriages, a farm wagon and several sleighs that were used by local families.

