



Evening at the
Tavern with
Liaisons Plaisantes
and plenty of good
food.

Sandy Lane



Katrina Caringi

A “Belle of St. Johnsville”

By Ron Burch

Last March (2023) the Palatine Settlement Society at Nellis Tavern received by donation a framed oval oil portrait, circa 1840, of an attractive young woman. The donor, Daniel Ehle of Johnstown, had been given the portrait several decades ago by a lady who said the sitter was a young woman “from St. Johnsville.”

To date, the subject’s identity remains unknown. Her hair-style and clothing, including her gold “cannetille” jewelry and delicately wrought lace collar, date the portrait to about 1840. She does not wear the type of lace cap usually associated with married matrons, so she might be single, engaged, or very recently married.

The portrait is apparently unsigned, and the artist is as yet unidentified. The sitter’s pose and the portrait’s dark background resemble the works of Mohawk

Valley portrait artists Samuel Sexton and Charles K. Palmer, but research is ongoing. Her true identity might never be discovered, and until then she remains a “belle of St. Johnsville.”

Nellis Tavern’s current period of “interpretation” is about 1840, the date of the portrait. The core of the building dates to the mid-18th century, but it was enlarged and lengthened in the early 19th century, about the time the Mohawk Turnpike (approximately present-day NYS 5) was constructed, and the Tavern was not only a home for the Nellis family, but a focus of refreshment for the traveler as well.



In our gardens we have Nellis pear trees, Kees Nelis tulips, roses and narcissi, among other things. If you like white or yellow daffodils, we have several bulbs we have harvested and are willing to part with.

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 23 (2023, or earlier, time to renew)
or

John Doe L (Lifetime)

Jim Smith PR (Public Relations)

Our Membership year is January 1 through December 31.

PALATINE SETTLEMENT SOCIETY

MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION 2024

For those interested in restoring the 1747 Nellis Tavern and preserving local history!

() Pioneer – Individual membership

- participate in events
- share in decision-making
- receive newsletter

Annual dues \$20

() Apprentice – Student membership

Annual dues \$5

() Homesteaders – Family membership

- participate in events
- share in decision-making
- receive newsletter

Annual dues \$35

() Mercantile – Professional or Business

- participate in events
- share in decision-making
- receive newsletter
- public acknowledgement of support

Annual dues \$50

() Hearth Keeper – Individual membership making a considerable donation to the Tavern

- participate in events
- share in decision-making
- receive newsletter
- public acknowledgement of your financial support in newsletter

Annual donation \$250

() Founding Father/Mother – Contributor of a substantial donation to the tavern, which can be directed to a specific restoration project

- participate in events
- share in decision-making
- receive newsletter
- public acknowledgement of your financial support in newsletter

Annual donation \$1,000

Complete this whole page and MAIL with your check to:

Palatine Settlement Society, PO Box 183, St. Johnsville, NY 13452

Date: _____ Our membership year is January 1 through December 31.

Name: _____

Mailing Address: _____

Telephone: _____ **E-mail:** _____

* The Nellis Tavern needs individuals, couples and families who are willing to help prepare for and staff tavern events, assist with maintenance and chores, distribute flyers and assist the Board of Trustees in completing the mission of the Palatine Settlement Society. If you can offer a few hours of your time, please **check all** that may interest you:

- ___ Bake pies for Rhubarb Festival
- ___ Spring Building clean-up
- ___ Gardening (weeding, watering, etc.)
- ___ Fall Building closing
- ___ Historical research

- ___ Help at fundraiser event
- ___ Spring Grounds clean up
- ___ Scraping and/or painting
- ___ Contribute to newsletter
- ___ Other: _____

Donation: \$ _____ **Membership:** \$ _____ **Total enclosed:** \$ _____

Please make checks payable to: Palatine Settlement Society