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7355 State Rt. 5, St. Johnsville, NY

Come visit the  
**1747 Nellis Tavern**  
 on Sunday afternoon  
 this summer. We are  
 open every Sunday,  
 June—September,  
 1:00-4:00 P.M. \$5.00  
 and by appointment  
 518-762-8259

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## Newsletter

### District #8 School

by John Case

Five years of work and Nellis School #8 in the Palatine District is mostly restored, and the grounds returned to their original area. Bluebird houses and rhubarb patches have been added.

During the time the school was abandoned the privy was moved to Fort Klock. It was not maintained and allowed to deteriorate. This year the Fort allowed us to bring it back to its original location according to the memory of Janet 'Settle' Shuster who attended the school. William 'Bill' Murphy, a board member at Fort Klock and a member of the Palatine Settlement Society, helped us stabilize and relocate it. David E Byler restored the privy to its original design. (It is with great sadness that we report the death of Bill Murphy in November, 2023 because of injuries from a fire at his home, and the death of Janet Shuster, January 2024.)

When the school was in session there was a bell on a pole in the yard. A similar bell was installed where the original location was believed to be. Jakie E Byler helped install it.

Our challenge for 2024 is to present the school to the public so that its history can be appreciated.

Front



Before



Back



After, ashes, odor control



Catalog  
 for toilet  
 paper.  
 Little  
 people  
 stool.



Bell



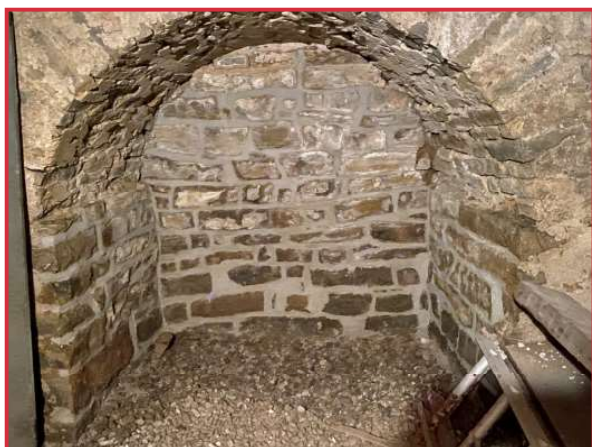
## Masonry Project 2023

By Walt Lane

In the Fall of 2022, as the Trustees of the Palatine Settlement Society were contracting to complete the refurbishment of the outer walls of the Nellis Tavern, we were informed that the foundation beneath the western half of the building needed attention. The mortar in those walls had seriously deteriorated.

Facing two expensive projects at the same time in 2023 seemed beyond our saving account's ability to proceed. We were reminded of a special foundation, Americana Corner, headed by Mr. Tom Hand, which provides funds to assist organizations such as ours with history from 1607 to 1876. We wrote a grant application and submitted it in December 2022, requesting help for our masonry project.

Initially, we were not granted any funds, and we had no response from Mr. Hand. Hearing nothing, we wrote to ask him about the outcome. Mr. Hand kindly reviewed our application and wrote back saying he was rather impressed with the scope of work we had done over the past decade. After that second consideration, he offered us \$7500.00 for the masonry project, about two-thirds of that expense. His kindness and generosity enabled the trustees to honor our project contracts in a timely fashion. By September 2023, in time for our Evening at The Tavern event, all was completed and cleaned up.



West  
Chimney  
Support



North  
Wall

## Nellis Arrive in the Mohawk Valley

by Sandy Nellis Lane

The New York Chapter of the Palatines to America held their fall meeting at the Nellis Tavern in October after visiting several other neighboring historic sites. I gave them the following history of the Nellises.

1709-1710 – Rupert and Maria Nellis and their 3 children left the German Palatinate and traveled through Amsterdam and England to the Hudson River along with many others.

1711 – Johann Wilhelm (William), 17 years old, volunteered for the British in Queen Ann's War and secured titles to land in upstate NY.

1712 – Only Maria, about 37 years old, William, 18 years old, Christian, 15 years old, and Catharine Elizabeth 9 years old were listed at West Camp.

1712 – Maria died before the 3 siblings were able to move to Schoharie later in 1712.

1714 – William, 20, married Anna Sabina Dygert, 17.

January 1719 – Christian, 22, married Barbara Elizabeth Klock, 21, after their first child, Henrich, was born December 1718.

1722 – The Palatine Germans lost ownership of their land in Schoharie.

1723 – William, 29, Anna, 26, and 3 or 4 of their children moved to lots #32 and #42 in the 12,000-acre Stone Arabia Patent. They were to have a total of ten children. Descendants still running the farm celebrated 300 years this year (2023).

1724 – Catharine Elizabeth Nellis, 21, married Jacob Krauss 28, in Fort Plain.

1725 – Christian, 28, Barbara (Barvalis), 27, and 2 or 3 of their children moved to lot #12, 640 acres, of the Harrison Patent on the Mohawk River.

1747 – They had 6 or 7 more children in their home by the river, before they became prosperous enough to have this handsome new house, now known as the Nellis Tavern, built, up off the river, facing south, on the north side of the King's Highway, when Christian was 53 and Barvalis was 49.

Christian born 1697, died 1771 at 74 years.

William born 1694, died 1778 at 84 years.

Kees Nelis tulips in May





## Thank You

We gratefully thank those who have joined our Society and also those who have donated toward the maintenance and restoration of the 1747 Nellis Tavern and grounds.

### Corporate:

- Benevity CIF, Marc Livesy - \$485.50
- St. John's Reformed Church Deacon's Fund - \$100

### Monetary Donations:

- |             |                    |                |
|-------------|--------------------|----------------|
| - W. Burch  | - P. Ferguson      | - A. Follett   |
| - J. Heiser | - Konicki Family   | - K. S. Nellis |
| - M. Nellis | - K. Stein         | - W. Thompson  |
|             | - R. Thomson, Arch |                |

### Special Monetary Donations:

- |               |                        |                   |
|---------------|------------------------|-------------------|
| - P. Betz     | - Dr. D. Clement       | - B & L Coutts    |
| - L. Elmasry  | - J. D. Foster         | - S. E. N. Kuehl  |
| - J. Lein     | - N. Nellis            | - S. Nellis-Davis |
| - C. Ocuto    | - W. Pickard           | - J. Reston       |
| - R. Williams | - Estate of S. Thomson |                   |

### Hearth Keeper Members

- D. Clement
- C. F. Nellis
- A. Smith

### PSS 2024 Events

- March 2, 10:00AM-4:00PM **Antique Sale** at Arkell Museum \$6
- May 18, 11:00AM-4:00PM **Schoolhouse Open House**
- June 2, 11:00AM-4:00PM **Rhubarb Festival**, at the tavern
- August 4, 1:00PM-4:00PM **Presidential First Lady Dolls**, displayed at the tavern
- September 14, 4:00PM-7:00PM **Evening at the Tavern** \$25

### Mercantile Members

## And You Gave It!

By Walt Lane

Last year, in this very same space, I wrote to tell you "We Need Your Help," and WOW you all really did just that. Some renewed your memberships (that is a very important part of our finances) and some renewed and added a donation (thank you so much). Others who are not actually members sent in donations of varying amounts (may we call you "Friends of the Tavern"?), which is always appreciated every year you do that. In all you gave over \$5800.

From the entire Board of Trustees  
"THANK YOU ALL"

We also want to express our sincere gratitude to Mr. Peter Ellwood of Ellwood Construction LLC for spending a good part of the past four summers on ladders and lifts resurrecting, rebuilding and repainting the entire exterior of the 1747 Nellis Tavern. She looks lovely, is breathing better, and was ready to celebrate our "Evening at the Tavern" fund raiser last September.

Mr. Evan Buck also earned much gratitude from our Board for the great work he has done so far in our west end basement (you read my article, right?).

There are so many fabulous folks who help us in so many ways during the year. They lend a hand at fund raisers and donate rhubarb, pies, cakes, and cookies and more for the Rhubarb Festival and the Evening at the Tavern. They help with and donate to our School House #8. Some spread the word of our activities on Facebook. And, of course, there are the wonderful folks who just come to be a part of the 1747 Nellis Tavern.

God bless you all. We could not do this without you.

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# AMERICA





Nellis  
Tavern  
1983

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FaceBook: 1747 Nellis Tavern  
[www.PalatineSettlementSociety.org](http://www.PalatineSettlementSociety.org)

## *2024 Newsletter*

# ANNUAL ANTIQUE SALE March 2<sup>nd</sup>

Our annual Antique Show and Sale, to benefit the Palatine Settlement Society, is slated for Saturday, March 2<sup>nd</sup>. This Antique Show is well known for its quality antiques. The knowledgeable and friendly dealers offer a range of items including textiles, primitives, china and glassware, books and ephemera, paintings, tools, advertising, and jewelry.

We will offer an Appraisal Booth staffed by Mr. Joe Fowler, of Brotherhood Antiques, Canajoharie. For a \$5.00 donation

per item, you may receive a verbal appraisal. Additionally, several members of the Palatine Settlement Society will provide a variety of homemade soups, sandwiches, and desserts, which will be available for purchase.

This event will again be held at the Arkell Museum, 2 Erie Blvd, Canajoharie, conveniently located off Exit 29 of the NYS Thruway I-90. The Arkell is a jewel of a museum that contains major examples of American art, many of which were donated many years ago by the founder of Beechnut, Mr. Bartlett Arkell. The Museum will offer reduced admission on this day.

The Sale opens at 10 AM and closes at 4 PM. Admission to the Antique Sale is \$5.00 per person with our advertising card or \$6.00 without the card.

*We look forward to having you join us this year!*

**Show Managers, Joan & Ray Draus**

Arkell Museum, 2023

