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Rhubarb Fest 2024, Nellis siblings

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.
 Visit **School #8** by ap-
 pointment also.

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Newsletter

300 Years Ago the Nellises Arrived

By Walt & Sandy Lane

In 1725, Christian Nellis (28 years old), Barbara (27 years old, also known as Barvalis Klock), and two or three of their children relocated to the 640-acre Lot #12, within the Harrison Patent on the Mohawk River.

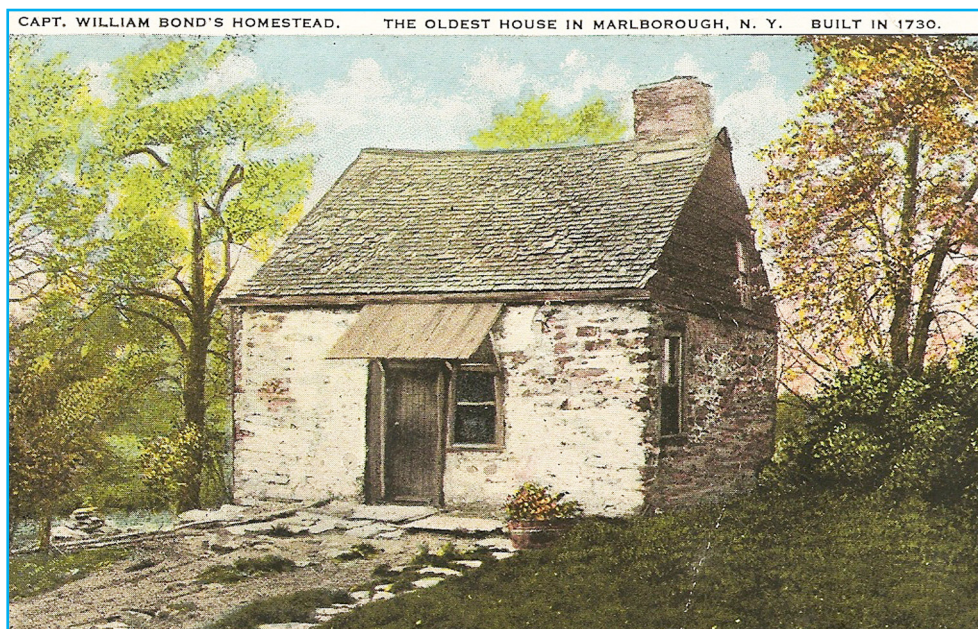
The land from the river's edge to the hills beyond was covered with a thick forest. Christian, Barbara, and their 7-year-old son Henry began clearing the forest and used the cut trees to build a one-room dwelling and possibly some sheds. As they cleared more land, they grew wheat to sell to the British in New York and cultivated crops to feed their family. They also became involved in the developing community that would later become St. Johnsville.

After twenty years near the riverbank, Christian and Barbara had accumulated enough wealth to have built a new home on the north side of the King's Highway away from the river. The family, which now included six children at home (three had grown and moved out), left their small cabin for a larger dwelling. The new house had a fully dug cellar with a large fireplace and a cold storage room, a ground-level floor with two rooms each featuring a fireplace, a center hall, and a loft above for food storage and sleeping. Quite the fancy place for its time.

According to historian Simms, Christian was the head of a wealthy family in the Palatine District. At age 70, Christian transferred much of his portion of the Nellis and Klock Patent to his son, Christian Jr. He lived for about four more years and is buried with Barbara in the Klock graveyard east of St. Johnsville.

The story could go in many directions: following the Nellis family in their new home, exploring Christian Jr. and his exceptional sons, tracing the development of the Palatine District, or focusing on the Palatines who contributed to New York's growth.

Perhaps the Christian Nellis first home near the Mohawk River looked like this.



The Autograph Book

By John Case and the Lanes

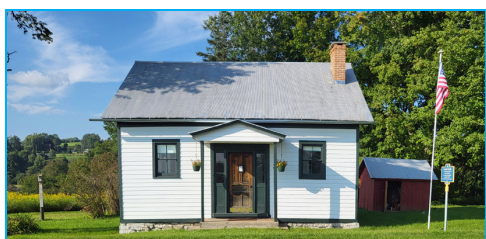
Recently, we (the PSS) were gifted a small booklet by Jan Gilliam, a relative of its original owner. On its pages were signatures of the friends of "May E Nellis" from around 1886. Who was this young lady? Was she in THE BOOK? A puzzle for Sandy Lane and John Case. They searched the Nellis/Nelles books with little success for several weeks, until ... You guessed it ... She is!

She was Mary Elena "May E" Nellis who was born and raised on the farm a half mile west of School #8 on the opposite side of the New Turnpike. She lived on her parents, John Adam and Lovina Nellis's farm with her three brothers until she married. They most likely each attended School #8 for a time. This farm was owned in the late 1900's by Bernard Seeley and family, good friends of PSS.

As the Nellis kids matured, brother Amon P. Nellis moved to the farm just west of the school. It was owned more recently by Herbert and Phyllis Mueller. Phyllis donated School #8 and the lot it resides on to the PSS.

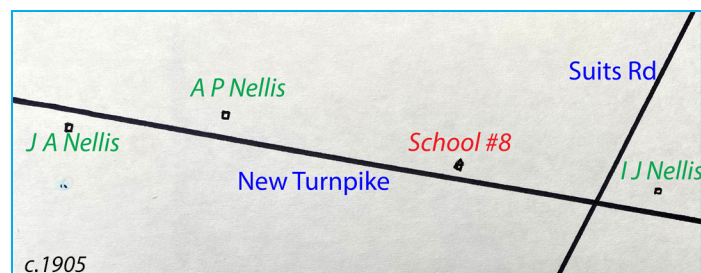
Brother George Mahlon Nellis moved to a farm along Route 5 on the western edge of the village of St. Johnsville. He bottled milk for sale at that farm. The farm has since belonged to Donald Nellis and is now owned by Gary Stowell.

Finally, oldest brother Ira John Nellis moved to their grandfather Ira Nellis's farm east of School #8 at the corner of Suits Road. This farm later was owned by C. J. Settle, father of Harold and three sisters. Sister Janet Settle Shuster who recently passed, attended School #8 in 1945, the year the school was closed. She helped us with much history about the school. That farm is now owned and occupied by John and Patricia Case.



May E's autograph booklet now resides in School #8 along with a G M Nellis milk bottle. Why don't you stop in during the summer to

see them and explore the many other artifacts that have accumulated and are on display there? It is worth the visit.



Open House at School #8

By Sandy Lane

May 18, 2024, was a warm and sunny day for our Open House and School Art Show at District #8 School. Many art



students from Oppenheim-Ephratah-St. Johnsville Central School, Fort Plain Central School and Canajoharie Central School supplied their beautiful pieces for friends and family to see.



Jean, granddaughter, Tim, George, Jr, Pauline, daughter

Among the many visitors that day was the Matis Family reunion. Dan Matis, Jr. (now deceased) visited in the morning. In the afternoon his sister Pauline Brundige and her daughter and granddaughter from Connecticut and

his brother Tim from St. Johnsville arrived. Their cousins, George, Jr. and Jean Gehring (and husband Charles) also stopped in. Pauline was the only one who had attended the school as it closed by the time the others were born and of school age.

George Matis, Sr lived on what is now Matis Drive and would come to the school each morning to start the fire in the stove.

Thank You

We appreciate those who have joined our Society and also those who have donated toward the maintenance and restoration of the 1747 Nellis Tavern, grounds and District #8 Schoolhouse.

Corporate:

- Mohawk Country/Montgomery Co - \$1000
- St. John's Reformed Church Deacon's Fund - \$100

Monetary Donations:

- | | | |
|--------------------|----------------|------------------|
| - J&S Boyden | - J&P Case | - P. Ferguson |
| - A. Follett | - GendronPrice | - Konicki Family |
| - J. Lein | - A. McEnroe | - K. Nabors |
| - D&R Nellis | - N. Nellis | - S. Peck |
| - T. Persse | - P. Russell | - K. Stein |
| - R. Thomson, Arch | - W&S Watkins | |

Special Monetary Donations:

- | | | |
|--------------------------|----------------|------------------|
| - Dr. D. Clement | - J. D. Foster | - S. E. N. Kuehl |
| - C. Lull | - M. Nellis | - J. Reston |
| - D. Sundblad | - W. Thompson | - R. Van Gorder |
| - In Memory of C. Bailey | | |

Hearth Keeper Members

- | | | |
|--------------|----------------|------------------|
| - D. Clement | - C. F. Nellis | - A. Smith |
| - J. Reston | - J. Button | - K. Nellis (DC) |

PSS 2025 Events

March 8, 10:00AM-4:00PM **Antique Sale** at Arkell Museum \$6
 May 17, 11:00AM-4:00PM **School #8 Art Show**
 June 1, 11:00AM-4:00PM **Rhubarb Festival**, at the tavern
 September 13, 4:00PM-6:00PM **A Gathering at the Tavern** \$

From the Board of Trustees

By Walt Lane

We are immensely grateful for your support in 2024. This page acknowledges those who funded the historic 1747 Nellis Tavern Project. However, we can't list everyone who volunteers their time and energy. You participated in our very successful fundraisers (Antique Show, Rhubarb Festival, Evening at the Tavern), stopped in throughout the summer hours and popped in on weekdays when we were around. You have donated to the School #8 restoration and sent emails with suggestions and encouragement. For all that and much more:

"THANK YOU ALL"

Peter and Linda Elwood of Elwood Construction LLC have donated the finishing touches to the small bedroom off the master bedroom on the second floor this year. Additionally, Mr. Evan Buck has completed the masonry work in the west end basement.

Please know how proud we are to have had you all as part of our community family to bring this special building back from the brink of destruction to a grand reminder of the spirit and determination of the fine Palatine families who settled in the Mohawk Valley 300 years ago.



If anyone would like to use PayPal to send a donation to the PSS, please use this QR code. It will allow you to send directly to our account.

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AMERICA





Rhubarb Festival 2024

Palatine Settlement Society
PO Box 183
Saint Johnsville, NY 13452

FaceBook: 1747 Nellis Tavern
www.PalatineSettlementSociety.org

2025 Newsletter

Antiques at Arkell Museum March 8

**-Joan Draus, Show Manager
PSS Secretary**

Again this year, we are holding our annual antique show and sale "Antiques at Arkell Museum" in Canajoharie. Scheduled for Saturday March 8th, the sale is open from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. No early arrivals will be admitted to the building.

The show features multiple reputable antique dealers from areas including Albany, Schenectady and Troy, Lake Luzerne, the Cherry Valley region, Little Falls and Utica, Cooperstown, Canajoharie, Broadalbin and other Mohawk Valley areas. They are bringing with them a wide assortment of primitives, textiles including quilts, coverlets and clothing, glassware and china, jewelry, books, postcards, ephemera and advertisements, tools, artwork, and furnishings. Shoppers will enjoy their time exploring the multiple offerings available to them for purchase to add to their collection or to begin a new collection!

Our Antique Show has traditionally offered the services of an Antique Appraiser, and this year is no different! Mr. Ed Schillaci, of East Greenbush has agreed to offer his talents to appraising items. Objects will be assessed and a verbal appraisal provided for \$5.00 per item.

We will again have a variety of tasty homemade soups, sandwiches and desserts available for purchase. These are made and offered by our members of the Palatine Settlement Society and Trustees, and specifically Judi Mihal.

Admission to the Antique Sale is \$6 per person unless one presents a card found at many antique shops around the Mohawk Valley, Hudson Valley and Capital District to save one dollar.

All monies received, including admission, appraisals and sale of refreshments will benefit the Palatine Settlement Society's ongoing restoration and renovation of the historic Nellis Tavern and the St. Johnsville Schoolhouse #8. We hope each of you will attend to shop and say hello to our dealers and Trustees in attendance on March 8th!

1747 Historic Nellis Tavern Benefit

Antiques at Arkell Museum

Saturday, March 8, 2025

10 AM - 4 PM



**2 Erie Blvd
Canajoharie
NYS I-90 Exit 29**



Primitives, Textiles, Books, China, Jewelry
Sandwiches, soups, desserts available

Admission \$6

Appraisals: 1 item for \$5