

# THE BLAUVELT NEWS

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## TAPPAN

## 80 YEARS

## 1926 - 2006



On September 15, 2006 the Association of Blauvelt Descendants returned to the town many call the birthplace of the Blauvelt Family, Tappan, New York for the 80<sup>th</sup> celebration of our ABD Reunions and meetings.

The festivities began on Friday evening at the Holiday Inn and Conference Center in Suffern, New York with an "Evening in Amsterdam." The banquet room was decorated by Carol Blauvelt in a festive Dutch décor that gave us all a feeling of being in a typical Dutch village, like Deventer, the Netherlands. Perhaps at a local "dans hal" for a Friday night birthday celebration.



A "Dutch Feast" including *Kaas*, *erwtensoeep*, *Haring*, *Vleesballen* and *Saucijbroodjes* was enjoyed by all the "Blauvelt Cousins." *Roomijs* and *Koffie* were served as dessert. Everyone had plenty to eat and enjoyed the time greeting one another and catching up on Family News since last year's reunion in Delaware. After this delicious buffet, we were ready for some *Klompens dansen* and *Musiek* in our *dans hal*. It was time to put those wooden shoes into action. First we took



pleasure in watching the Van Wyckel Dutch Dancers in native costume perform some traditional Dutch Klompen. This group from the New York Metro and Pennsylvania areas showed plenty of energy and were part of our Blauvelt Family for the evening. After a while, it was our turn to join them on the dance floor for some Dutch Klompen. I must say, "we looked pretty good out there on the dance floor!" We did leave the wooden shoes to the pros.

It was a fun evening and it provided us with the opportunity of remembering our Dutch Heritage and probably what may have been a typical Friday evening here in Blauvelt Territory with our ancestors as



they may have celebrated some festive occasion.

*Please see **Reunion** on Page 60*

On Saturday morning we returned to the Tappan Reformed Church for our 80<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting. The church is celebrating 320 years of service (1682-2006).

This historic place in our country's history; our family's heritage; and our ancestors earliest beginnings, was the place where on 18 September 1926 the first Association of Blaauvelt Descendants Annual Meeting was held. In fact, the gavel has dropped thirty-nine times here at the Tappan Reformed Church to open an ABD Annual Meeting. It's also interesting to note that thirty-nine Presidents, eight Treasurers, thirteen Secretaries and seven Genealogists have provided the leadership with members of the Board for these past eighty years.

Once again our meeting program followed some tradition as President, Tom Blaauvelt called the meeting to order and we sang "The Dutch Hymn of Thanksgiving," also known as "We Gather Together." For eighty years the Blaauvelt Family has gathered together to conduct some family business, listen to a speaker or two and enjoy the friendship of our "cousins." It was no different at the 80<sup>th</sup>. The Reverend Kathy Jo Blaske, Reformed Church Minister, welcomed our group and spoke of the Blaauvelt history at this church. Here 320 years before, sat our Blaauvelt ancestors as they organized.



Ralph J. Blaauvelt, former ABD Genealogist spoke about the slave document and this area as "The Birthplace of the Blaauvelt Family." Historian, Bob Knight spoke to the group and did a slide presentation of the area and "Camp Bluefields." This training academy and rifle range, in Blaauvelt, New York, was built in

1914 and used for troop training for World War I.

Family business was discussed with reports from our President and Treasurer. Doris Blaauvelt, Project

Coordinator, provided an update of the Genealogy Project. New members were elected and other business completed the busy morning agenda.

A special recognition and corsage was presented to Eleanor Clark, Life Member #82 and Past President. Eleanor has attended over 75 Annual Meetings and Reunions. It may be close to eighty, but she does remember missing a few! Eleanor is a treasure trove of Blaauvelt information and stories about the ABD and many family members. If you want to know something about the ABD, just ask Eleanor!



With business completed, it was time for lunch in the Manse Barn, across the street from the church. During lunch, we held our Annual Raffle, and gave out some prizes.



The winner of the Original Blaauvelt Family Genealogy, by Louis L. Blaauvelt was Lorraine Kiernan, from Metuchen, New Jersey.

The winner of the award winning photo of the DeWint House was Florence Taylor of Upper Nyack, New York. Scott Peterson and Ira Jersey presented the prize.





The Youngest, Korinne Hennelly



The Oldest, Eleanor Clark



"Petey" Semmens won the Door Prize



Traveled the Farthest - Bob and Ken Springsteen

Our afternoon program started promptly after lunch with a luxury bus coach waiting to bring the group to the Camp Shanks Museum and the Hiram Blauvelt Wildlife Art Museum.



Camp Shanks was the final stateside stop for 1.3 million soldiers, who processed through this staging area and prepared for departure from Piermont pier to the European Theatre of Operations during World War II. Several of our ABD Members in attendance were processed here and worked at this facility.



museum's own collection on display in this beautiful modern facility. A delightful array of desserts and beverages were served as we waited for a very special presentation prepared for our group by James Bellis, Executive Director of the Blauvelt-Demarest Foundation.

Once again, our friends at the Blauvelt Art Museum provided a wonderful reception for the visiting group of ABD Members. Upon arriving, we viewed the

David Major, PhD and his brother, John Major, PhD, both Demarest Descendants and authors of "A Huguenot on the Hackensack" presented a slide

show of their travels to research Demarest History in Europe.

Mr. Kevin Wright, President of the Bergen County Historical Society and Commissioner of the New Bridge Landing Project discussed the work that will be done there to construct a Dutch Village as it existed in Bergen County in the 1700s.



Photos courtesy of Bergen County Historical Society

The Steuben House as it appeared during the American Revolution, and how it looks at New Bridge Landing today.



*“New bridge Landing was a strategic river crossing throughout the American Revolution. Its homes served as military headquarters. Soldiers passed this gateway so often that the Steuben House is said to have seen more of the Revolution than any other house in America.”*

*Bergen County Historical Society*

Our evening banquet, once again, gave us the opportunity to complete our family reunion with some “Cousin” conversation and a time to relax after a busy day.

The weekend always goes too quickly. The 80<sup>th</sup> was another success and hopefully, our ABD continues to remain strong so our families will remember their heritage for many years to come.

Please consider joining us for the 81<sup>st</sup> Annual Meeting and Reunion to be held in Holland, Michigan, on **Friday May 3<sup>rd</sup> and Saturday May 4<sup>th</sup> 2007**. If you have visited the Netherlands, it is guaranteed that Holland, Michigan will bring back some memories and if you have not visited the Netherlands you will see what you have missed. Holland, Michigan at Tulip Festival will definitely make you feel like you are spending time in Amsterdam.

