

# THE BLAUVELT NEWS

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Summer 2006

***Come Join the 80<sup>th</sup> Birthday Celebration of Your ABD  
at the  
Tappan Reformed Church  
Tappan, New York  
Site of 37 ABD Reunion Meetings  
September 15 & 16, 2006***

Since 1926, the Association of Blauvelt Descendants has held thirty-seven reunion meetings at the Tappan Reformed Church. This historical landmark in Tappan, New York held the first ABD meeting in 1926 and it will now hold our 80<sup>th</sup> meeting celebration. Most meetings of the first fifty years of our Association were held here. The foundation of our Family Association and indeed our Blauvelt Family can be found at this church.

During the Revolutionary War, the church served as a hospital, courtroom and prison. It was during this time that Major John Andre was captured and imprisoned in the '76 House. Since the court house had been burned in Tappan, he was tried and convicted as a spy in this church. During the trial, George Washington was staying at another Tappan landmark, known to the Blauvelts, as the DeWint House.



About seven years after the issuing of the Tappan Patent, on October 24, 1694, eleven area residents gathered together to organize the Tappan Reformed Dutch Church. Of the group, three were children of Gerritt Hendricksen; Johannes, Margrietje, and Marretje. Two were their husbands. It was somewhat of a family affair.

The Tappan Reformed Church was the fifth church to be established between New York and Albany.

Johannes Blauvelt, one of the original Dutch patentees gave 97 acres of land for the church. Much of this land was sold with nineteen acres today making up the church, the cemetery, the Manse and other buildings.

We return to this historic site in the history of our country, our family's heritage and our ancestors' earliest beginnings.

*Please see **Reunion** on Page 34*

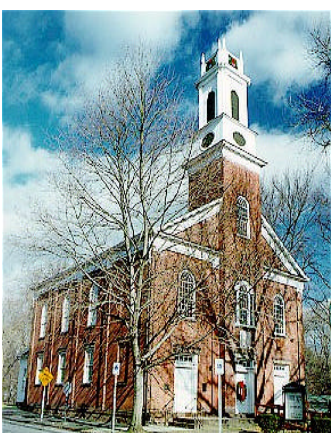
Reunion from Page 25

The celebration begins on Friday evening at the Holiday Inn and Conference Center in Suffern, New York. This newly renovated conference center will host our room accommodations, our Friday night birthday party and Saturday night's Banquet.

Friday evening's festivities will take us to an "Evening in Amsterdam." Take a stroll down "Blauvelt Lane" with your Blauvelt Cousins. Enjoy some Dutch Gouda or Edam *Kaas*; a cup of *Erwtensoep*; a bite of *Haring*; and snack on *saucijzebroodjes* and *Vleesballen*. Finish up your stroll with a dessert of *Verjaardagkoek* and Dutch *Bankets* with *Koffie* or a drink of *Jenever*. You will experience an evening of Dutch delights as you make your way to the *dans hal* for some *Klompens dansen* and *Muziek*.



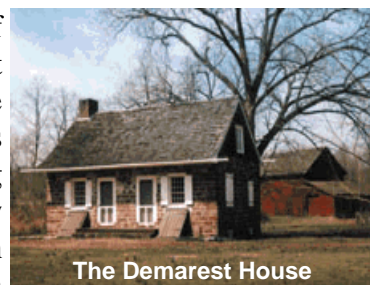
A fun evening is being planned to celebrate our Dutch heritage. The "Dutch Fest" will begin at 7 PM in the Atrium. There is a \$25.00 charge for adults and \$10.00 for children 6-12 years old. There is no charge for children 5 and under.



Saturday brings the seriousness of our business matters with the reunion meeting at the Tappan Reformed Church starting with registration at 9:00 AM and a meeting start at 10:00 AM. Like seventy-nine previous years, our President will welcome all Blauvelt attendees to another remarkable year for our ABD. The Tappan Patent was home for seven of Gerritt's children, so the area is indeed "Blauvelt Country." Our Blauvelt Journey started on the Tappan Patent. Look where it has taken the Blauvelt Family today!

Ralph Blauvelt, former ABD Genealogist, will help us understand those early days on the Patent and the history of our family in this area.

Jim Bellis, Director of the Blauvelt Demarest Foundation, will be updating us on activities at New Bridge Landing in River Edge, New Jersey. This restoration of an early Dutch Village in New Jersey is being spearheaded by the Foundation.

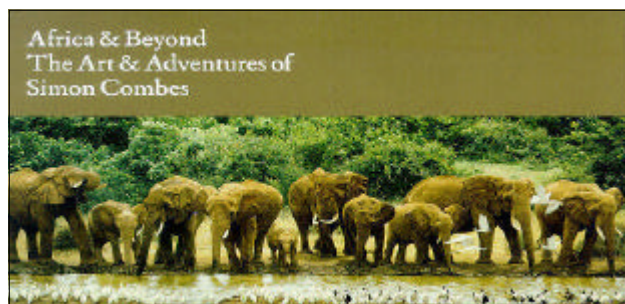


The morning will also feature Bob Goldberg who will speak on a more recent event in Tappan. The construction of Camp Shanks.

After a catered lunch in the Manse Barn at the church, we will visit the Camp Shanks WW II Museum in Orangeburg, New York. 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.



The Blauvelt Art Museum will be our next stop on the afternoon tour. The presentation of *Africa and Beyond; The Art and Adventures of Simon Combes* will be on exhibit for us to enjoy. This is also the site of the Hiram Blauvelt Mansion, built in 1896. It was the home of our former ABD President, who presided from 1933 to 1935.



Time permitting, we will also visit the site at New Bridge Landing, where plans are underway for a Dutch Village restoration. A leisurely tour with all your "Cousins" will be a great way to spend the afternoon.

The cost of the Meeting and Lunch will be \$40.00 for adults and \$15.00 for children 6-12. The Museum and Tour will be \$25.00 per person.

Our Saturday evening banquet and entertainment will be held in the Ballroom at the Holiday Inn and Conference Center beginning at 7:00 PM. You might be surprised to learn about the various talents of our Blauvelt "Cousins!" The cost of the dinner is \$40.00 for adults and \$20.00 for children 6-12 years of age. The entrée choices are: Prime Rib of Beef, Chicken Marsala, Baked Salmon or a Vegetarian Platter. The choice for children 6-12 are: Chicken Tenders or Cheese Ravioli. Please indicate your entrée choices on the enclosed registration form. A fun evening is being planned to complete our ABD weekend birthday celebration. Eighty years of Annual Blauvelt Descendant Meetings and Reunions. How many families do you know of that can boast that claim? *Come and join the fun and good times!*

## Reunions of the Past



25th Annual Meeting - 1951



50th Annual Meeting - September 1976



75th Annual Meeting  
April 2002