



A

NOTHER SUN! 'tis true, but not the SAME
Alike I own, in Warmth and genial Flame
But, more obliging than his elder Brother,
This will not scorch in Summer like the *other*
Nor when sharp *Boreas* chills our shivering Limbs
Will *this Sun* leave us for more Southern Climes
Or in long Winter Nights, forsake us here,
To cheer new Friends in t'other Hemisphere;
But faithful still to us, this *new Sun's* fire
Warms when we please, and just as we desire.

—"A Second Self or Another The Same" by a Friend (Benjamin Franklin)



Not too big, not too small, but just right

When Gary first met with Steve and Beth Ann, they knew exactly what size addition they wanted, where it was going to position on the house, and what it would “feel” like. They were set on using period-type moldings, sidings, and most importantly having a fireplace. And, because Steve and Beth Ann enjoy rolling up their sleeves and doing what they are capable of doing, they asked what parts of the project they might do in order to save some money. Over the course of several meetings, the overall size, design, and details of their project were worked out, including what their roles would be.

Because Steve and Beth Ann decided they didn't need a full basement, or even a crawl space, the foundation for the new addition could be a simple block foundation and poured slab, thus saving a considerable amount of funds that they could then apply to the rest of the project. The foundation consists of footers,

rior perimeters on which the new concrete slab will rest. This prevents the slab (the floor) from settling. The interior of the area was first filled with crushed stone, which

was compacted, and then poured with concrete. Incidentally, that slab was poured on the very hottest day of the summer: 102 degrees, with relative humidity about the same!

Once the walls were framed up, it was time to set the ceiling joists. The new ceiling structure is not your typical system; Beth Ann wanted a vintage

wood ceiling system. It just so happened that Dean, from Sylvan Brandt, had recently salvaged a suitable joist system from the old hotel in Ephrata. However, the summer beam — massive as it is — was not capable of supporting itself over the 20' span of the new addition. So, we bolted a 6"x6"x1/2" steel angle to the top side of the old beam. Threaded rods were run all the way through from the top side of the steel to the bottom of the beam, with nuts and lock washers attached below the surface of the beam. Then the holes

were plugged with wood plugs made from a piece of the beam that had been cut away. The grain of the plugs was aligned to the grain in the beam to disguise them completely. Then the new/old beam was hoisted into place with the help of a boom truck from Jack Garner & Sons who provided the steel beam. **(Photo #2)** The one end of

the summer beam positioned on the wall above the new fireplace opening, and the other end was set into a pocket made in the gable end of the main house's stone wall. Besides retrofitting the summer beam, many of the tenons of the ceiling joists which fit into the summer beam were damaged or missing, and the joists had to be re-cut to fit the mortises in the summer beam.

With the walls and ceiling structure in place, the roof framing went on quickly. Steve and



block walls up to floor level, and a large bump-out for the fireplace. **(Photo #1)** Rigid insulation was applied to the interior of the foundation walls to prohibit the cold passing from the ground, thru the block, and in to the inside slab which is their floor base. Mason Sonny Weaver laid the block walls up 8" wide from the footers up to slab height. Then he reduced the block size to 4" thick, creating a ledge around the inte-

Beth Ann chose wood shingles for the new roofing, so we installed lath instead of plywood sheathing to the rafters. But, until the roofers could get there to install the wood shingle roof, that open roof system had to remain under plastic covers to prevent any water (rain) damage to the interior **(Photo #3)** — and this was during an extended rainy period. While we were waiting for the roofers, we installed the windows, roofline facias, and corner posts in preparation for siding, and Sonny continued his work at getting the fireplace started.

The new fireplace was real important to Beth Ann. Because this addition was going to be one big open room, it had to be larger than most typical fireplaces, but we didn't want to make it too large and then have trouble with it burning properly; too small and it looks puny in a room that large, too large and you get a smoky fireplace. Sonny Weaver laid up the large firebox in brick, **(Photo #4)** which is backed with concrete block, and the whole thing is then encased on the exterior in stone. And, as you'll soon see, it was neither too small or too large, and it's not smoky.

Steve and Beth Ann were great at formulating their own ideas about how things should eventually look, and were great at making decisions on the spot, but they also very often asked Gary, "Well, what would you do?" and would leave it with him to decide. If you know Gary, you know that (1) he loves stone, and (2) he likes to make use of what's on hand or native



to the area. Well, Steve had just purchased 20 tons of old sandstone that had come from a nearby barn that "got in the way of progress." Because the stone was local, it matched the original house's stone perfectly. And, according to Gary's thinking, if you're going to do a stone chimney, make a statement with it. Sonny laid 14 tons of stone in this chimney, and did a masterful job at laying the stone — complete with dressed stone corners — in a way that it is pleasing to the eye. **(Photo #5)** One interesting point: Beth Ann mentioned that she particularly liked the stones that had pebbles embedded in them — which is often found in sandstone. Typically, a mason will avoid using them; but, in this case, Sonny laid several of them in the base of the chimney, just below eye

level, so that Beth Ann could see and appreciate them whenever she's out in the yard. Because the stones came from an old barn, many of them had whitewash still sticking to them. Steve and Beth Ann liked the look and decided to leave the whitewash on. It all came together to make this a one-of-a-kind chimney.

While Sonny was laying stone, the carpenters were installing siding on the front and back façades. The siding is random width (8"-10"-12"), shiplapped, cypress with a solid-hide stain the color of Madeira wine. All the siding on the gable end had to be scribed in against the irregularities of the stone chimney. **(Photo #6)** As we customarily do, the siding was installed over lath in order to provide air circulation behind the siding. Air circulation



With her rough sketch in hand, Jim proceeded to create a phenomenal architectural piece that includes period strap hinges for the doors and a paint job that would blow anybody's sox off. **(Photo #8)** For Jim, the woodworking part of the process is the more fun and interesting part of his projects, but his paint work — which he considers the

wood siding is crucial in preventing cupping of the siding due to trapped moisture.

The addition was laid out to make as little impact against the side of the house; however, the rear roofline would have cut thru a corner of a second-floor bedroom. Instead, we built a “gusset” into the roof of the addition which preserves the window. **(Photo #7, see roofline where it abuts the house)** The porch roof is a replica of a porch found in our own weekend travels around Berks County. We (that is, Gary & Denise) had been taking photos of interesting architectural features found around the Shartlesville area, and when the design for this porch was being worked out, Gary showed Beth Ann a few of our photos. Beth Ann particularly liked this design which was proportionately scaled to fit their new addition.

Inside, plasterers were busy at finishing the walls with a textured plaster that give an old look to the room. Sonny laid the fireplace hearth with vintage paving brick, and the carpenter crew installed vintage oak flooring made from resawn lumber — many pieces 12"-15" wide — that also came from Lancaster County (the old Pennfield mill in Rohrerstown).

Originally the fireplace was only to receive a very simple low-tech mantle. That was the concept when we started; however, as the project progressed, Steve and Beth Ann asked if we could make it a bit more elaborate and put wood doors on it. Gary supplied them with some old architectural books that showed regional fireplace treatments from the 18th- and early 19th-centuries. Realizing it was going to be more involved, Gary brought in Jim Tshudy, cabinetmaker, to meet with Steve and Beth Ann to see what they really liked. Steve and Beth Ann also made a trip to historic Schaefferstown, and during that trip saw what they thought would be perfect, other than the proportions needed to be changed.



least interesting — is phenomenal. The paint surface is a build-up of at least 6 layers of paint, crazed and

worn so perfectly that it could fool even the best. **(Photo #9)**

Steve and Beth Ann are real “hands-on” kind of people, and they chose to do the floor finishing and all the painting (other than the fireplace surround). They intentionally painted the trims on one side of the room one color, and the trims on the other side a different color. **(Photo #10)** Her reason: To make it look as though the addition had, at one time, been two or more rooms. And, because access to the main house is through two passages (both former windows) — one directly into the kitchen, and the other the dining room — it's quite plausible to the uninformed that that really was the case.

It's hard to decide which way the fireplace looks its best; with the doors opened or closed. **(Photo #11)** Either way, this spectacular fireplace (not too small and not too large) is the focal point of the room and warmly beckons visitors to come, sit awhile, and rest. ☺



Gary's Exceptional Excerpts

The Great Stove Wars

There are few more entertaining chapters in our religious history than those describing the attempts to heat the meetinghouse properly. The early colonists were a hardy race and apparently did not consider that a comfortable degree of warmth might contribute to a profitable hearing of the gospel, although the First Parish Meeting-house in Salem, Mass. had a chimney connected with it from 1662 to 1667, when it was taken down. It was a catted [log-&-plaster] chimney, and the danger of fire was always present.

Records show that some people brought dogs to church and used them for warmth, but it was a practice frowned upon and proved such a nuisance that special laws were passed to make the parishioners leave them at home.

Heated stones and bricks were also used, as well as foot stoves, which varied in size and shape, from small individual ones to those large enough to impart warmth to the entire family. To keep the heat in the pew, a large comforter was often spread out and tucked over the shoulders of the whole family. One wonders how the minister could keep his mind on the sermon when he looked down from his high pulpit on a gay sea of patchwork.

Many times what comfort there was in the foot stoves was reserved for old ladies, while the men muffled themselves in the comforters and shivered....

The waters of life, dispensed from the pulpit froze to solid ice before they reached the congregation, and Judge Sewall mentioned that one day it was so cold "the communion bread was frozen pretty hard and rattled sadly in the plates." Yet he added that he "was very comfortable at meeting."

Sermons were long, and the congregation became weary near the close of the service. People began to stamp their feet, boys shut up their seats (which swung on hinges) with a sturdy bang. Clergymen became annoyed, and at time rebuked the people. One is said to have shut his Bible with a snap and roared out a passage from Job, closing with the words:

Harken to this. *Stand still* and consider the wondrous works of God!

One of the objections to the installation of stoves was aesthetic. They were large box stoves, and as no allowance for such installation had been made when the church edifice was built, they were placed where there was room. Sometimes it was in the central aisle, from which position stovepipes were extended to the nearest exit, usually a window, and extended through it.

Joints were poorly fastened; the stovepipes spread; they leaked smoke and soot, even pyroligneous drippings, on the congregation. Often, gutter-like affairs were hung under the stovepipes to catch the drippings, ending in tin pails. The whole thing was unsightly and makeshift, and there was basis for the objections from this viewpoint.



Among other things it was alleged stoves would be the means of starting destructive conflagrations. It was said they would cause severe headaches, and worst of all – that *the heat would warp the ladies' tortoise-shell back-combs!...*

There were many quarrels and discussions in New England communities over the use of stoves. Meetings were held and votes taken on the important subject, and as a result numerous stories and amusing accounts of the reactions of the conservative members of the congregations have been recorded.

For instance, there was the wife of the anti-stove deacon who went to church with an air of resignation the first Sunday after the stove was installed. She swept past the intruder with averted head and slid into her pew, where she sat, growing paler with the unaccustomed heat, until the minister mentioned "heaping coals of fire" whereupon she fainted. She soon recovered when carried out of the church and said, "It was the heat of that awful stove." How indignant she was, going immediately home, when informed that no fire had been lighted in the stove.

Similar chronicles exist about other New England churches but the most authentic was printed in the *Hartford Daily Courant* referring to the "Great Stove War of 1816."

Violent opposition had been made to the introduction of a stove in the old meeting-house, and an attempt made in vain to induce the society to purchase one. The writer was one of seven young men who finally purchased a stove and requested permission to put it up in the meeting-house on trial. After much difficulty the committee consented. It was all arranged on Saturday afternoon, and on Sunday we took our seats in the Bass, rather earlier than usual to see the fun. It was a warm November Sunday, in which the sun shone cheerfully and warmly on the old south steps and into the naked windows. The stove stood in the middle aisle, rather in front of the Tenor Gallery. People came in and stared.

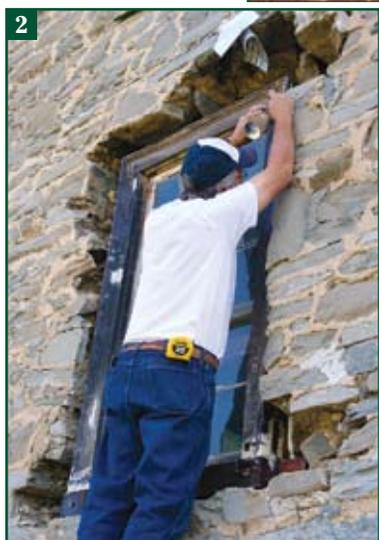
Good old Deacon Trowbridge, one of the most simple-hearted and worthy men of that generation, had been induced to give up his opposition. He shook his head however as he felt the heat reflected from it, and gathered up the skirts of his great-coat as he passed up the broad aisle to the deacons' seat.

Old Uncle Noah Stone, a wealthy farmer of the West End, who sat near, scowled and muttered at the effects of the heat, but waited until noon to utter his maledictions over his nut-cakes and cheese at intermission.

There had in fact been *no fire in the stove*, the day being too warm. We were too much upon the broad grim to be very devotional, and smiled rather loudly at the funny things we saw. But when the editor of the village paper, Mr. Bunce, came in (who was a believer in stoves in churches) and with a most satisfactory air warmed his hands by the stove, keeping the skirts of his great-coat carefully between his knees, we could stand it no longer, but dropped invisible behind the breastwork. But the climax of the whole was when Mrs. Peck went out in the middle of the service! It was however the means to reconciling the whole society; for after that first day, we heard no more opposition to the warm stove in the meeting-house. ☺

If Windows Had Ears...

Way back in the year 1717, Hans Weber sailed to America. Sometime between then and 1750, Hans built a substantial, 2-1/2 story, 4-bay, limestone, Germanic house in Lancaster County. This sturdy stone house, which has undergone some major chang-



es over the years, was originally built with a steep roof (the evidence is still visible in its gable ends) and central chimney. In its original construction, it would have resembled the Hans Herr House which is situated not too far from this house. The window openings on both the first

and third (attic) floors were constructed with arched stone heads, with a round ventilator tucked into the peak of the gable end. At some point in time, the roof and perimeter walls were raised in order to provide full use of the second floor, and second-floor windows were added to the front and rear façades.

Needless to say, these windows have seen a whole lot of weather over the past 250+ years, and it's not surprising that they've suffered some because of it.

This second-floor window (Photo #1) is just one example of all the windows' deteriorated condition. If you look closely, you can see that the sill is completely rotted away leaving the side-leg tenons exposed, and the tenons are rotting away as well. The only way to repair old, rotted window frames like this is to remove the entire window frame from the stone wall.

Removing an old window frame from a stone house isn't as simple as pulling out a few nails or screws. The process requires tearing out all the stone surrounding the window on all four sides (Photo #2) in order to expose the "ears" — the back tenon — on both the window head and sill. These "ears" are what get embedded in the stone wall as the walls are being laid up, and they

anchor the frame into the wall. Here, Jim Koller has one just about ready to pull out.

Once Jim had three or four window frames freed from the stone wall, he brought them back to our shop for the repair process. He repeated that process of removing, repairing, and re-installing until all seventeen windows were completed. One of the attic frames (Photo #3) shows the extensive damage rot had caused to the sills and tenons. The sill (the left side of the square) was completely rotted and hollowed out — so much so, that critters had made their homes inside of it. In an old repair, someone had covered the already rotted sills with aluminum, and the critters took up residence between the aluminum and rotted out "pockets" in the sills. As the picture shows, not only was the sill rotted, but the bottoms of the side legs were completely dozed off.

Reconstructing the bottoms of the side legs was the first step in the rebuilding process. Jim cut off the rotted portion at the bottom of the legs, including the tenon. He then "toothed" a new tenon into the cut end, and then wrapped the area with an aluminum form that was clamped and sealed around the cut end. He would apply white putty around the bottom of the form



in order to seal the form to the wood (Photo #4) before filling the form with liquid epoxy which sets up hard and knits itself to the wood fibers. This then hardened epoxy is impervious to water, which will help prevent any future rot, and makes for a far stronger bond than the original wood.

In the case of the attic windows, Jim had to completely reproduce them because the original frames were too deteriorated. Using the originals (as seen in Photo #3) as his template, he built all new heads, legs, and sills out of solid, 6"x6", vintage lumber. With the



new pieces all laid out (Photo #5), it's easy to see how each solid piece of lumber was cut to create the mortises in the ends of the head and sill, and the tenons in both ends of the side legs (which Jim is holding). The tenons fit snugly into the mortises, and it all goes together a little like Lincoln Logs!

These new frames — as well as the re-built originals — are not nailed or screwed together. Rather, the originals were pinned together with tapered wooden pegs; and that's exactly how Jim reproduced them, also. (Photo #6) The pegs make a very tight connection; yet, if the frames ever have to be removed in the future, that future carpenter need only knock the pegs out to disassemble the frame.

Once Jim had his next batch of frames re-built, he re-installed each one in its original opening. (Photo #7) Note the hardened white epoxy visible at the bottom of the frame's side legs, and the new sill. Now the mason can come back and re-lay the stone heads and sides, anchoring the frame (thanks to the "ears") back into the wall.

A re-constructed frame has been re-installed, mason Rob Horst has re-laid the stones surrounding and anchoring the frame into the wall, the original sash have been re-installed, and a fresh coat of paint has been applied. (Photo #8) The next step in the process will be to remove and repair the sash or reproduce new ones. But that's another story, for another issue. ☺



Great Expectations

*“Go tell it on the mountain,
Over the hills and everywhere;
Go tell it on the mountain
That Jesus Christ is born.”*

—a traditional Spiritual

Did you ever set something down, walk away for only a few moments, and when you returned, it was gone? Well, that’s what happened to the whole of 2006! I remember setting down in January and thinking to myself, this is going to be a great year — a whole lot of “happenin’” going on. It seems like I set January down, turned around, and it and the other eleven months just flew out the window. Where did it all go?

I’ll tell you where it went. It went from Reamstown to Gettysburg, Unionville to Millersville, Drumore to Robeson, Mt. Gretna to Lampeter, and all points in between...and then some. It’s no wonder I wonder where it went. And Don, Dennis, Jim, and all the other fellows must surely be wondering how they did all they did in one very fast year. (I’ve always said they’re good, but now I’m beginning to suspect they each duck into a phone booth each morning and change into “Super-Restore-N-More-Man”)

Well, as great as 2006 has been — great clients, great projects, great subs & suppliers, great architects & designers — 2007 is going to be another winner. And one that will be especially dear to our hearts because RESTORE ‘N MORE will be celebrating its 20th Anniversary. We’re going to be telling everybody and celebrating all year long because, truth be told, not many companies survive past the first five years, let alone twenty. But then, not many companies have been blessed with the great clients, great projects, great subs & suppliers, great architects & designers as RESTORE ‘N MORE has.

So, as we ponder our blessings, our wish is that you too will ponder your many blessings — especially the blessing of that first Christmas Day — and find all sorts of reasons to celebrate!

Be joyful always...

Dennis

Let them shout from the mountaintops, Let them give glory to the Lord. —Isaiah 42:11-12

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