

SANDS-RING HOMESTEAD

Cornwall, NY



"Ring House" CORNWALL, NY. BUILT 1732

There is some dispute about the original date
of this historic building,
but whether it be 1732 or 1750,
the fact remains that it stood
before our Nation began
and holds historic significance to
the Orange County Town of Cornwall
along an important 18th century highway known
as Newburgh Turnpike...

The Sands-Ring Homestead
is a Dutch-colonial style building that has been owned by
the Town of Cornwall since 1952.

Its' long history dates back over 250 years
and has many stories to tell.



OLD HOMESTEAD

Built 1732

CORNWALL, N. Y.

David Sands, a prominent Quaker minister, offered his home as a place of worship for a number of years.

By 1790 the Quaker Meeting House was built on what is now Quaker Avenue, with the first wedding ceremony celebration that of David's daughter Catherine to Elias Ring.



King Homestead, Cornwall, N. Y. Year 1905

Tradition states that
General George Washington
visited the Sands house
many times while on his way to his headquarters in
Newburgh.

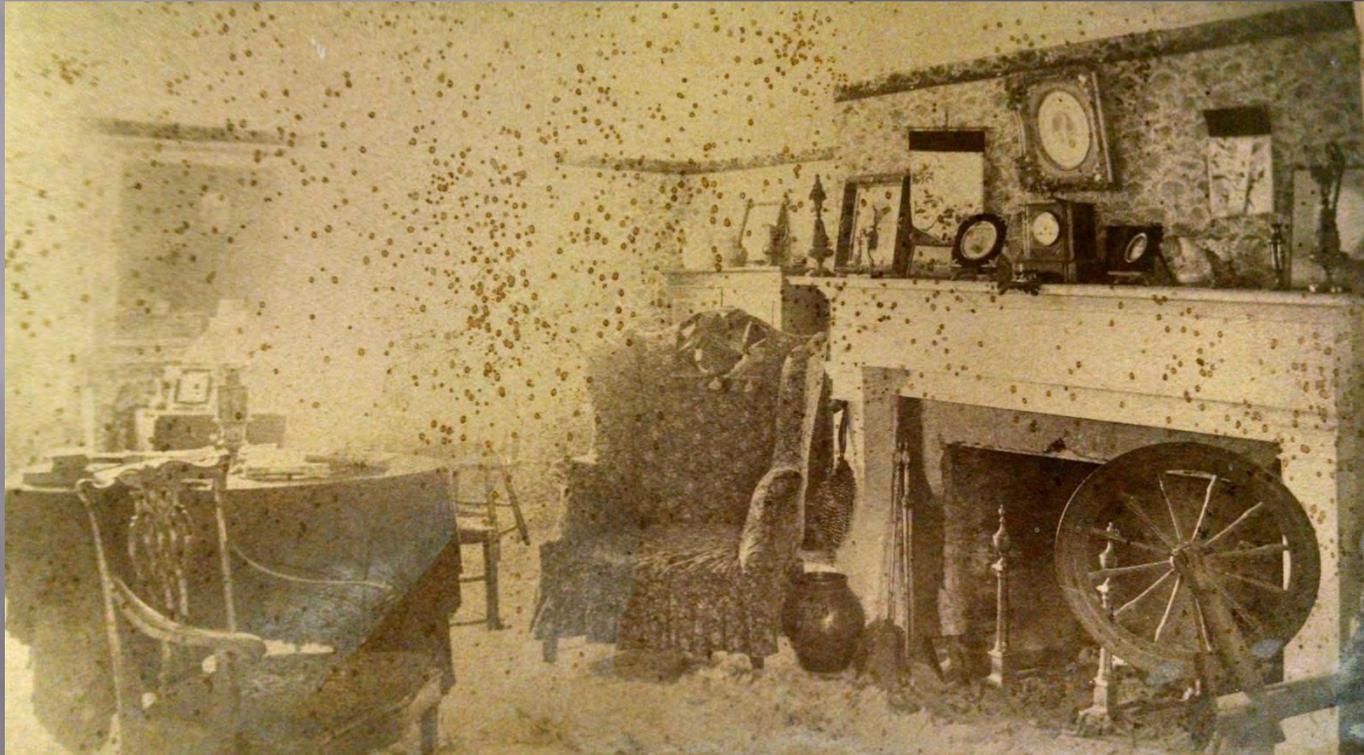
On one such visit,
the General was invited to stay the night
but was awakened
when his guards discovered that
a kidnap plot was planned.

Although David was suspected,
it was learned that he was in no way involved.



Throughout the years, the Old Homestead stood as a meeting place for many organizations.

During the Spanish-American War, the homestead was used as a soldier's convalescent home.





During the Civil War, the Dorcas Society met at the house to collect and store items to be sent to the Union Soldiers.





After the death of Abram Sands, David's grandson,
the house fell into disrepair
and discussion of razing the building was the talk of the town.

In 1912 the Village Improvement Society
of Canterbury and Cornwall-on-Hudson
purchased the property.

Preservation began under the
Old Homestead Association.



This group of mostly women began fundraising efforts to pay for repairs and restoration.

Local businessmen and artisans began working on the structure and brought the house back from the ruins.



Their efforts as a community saved this “Old Homestead” from what would have been just a memory and a story told...

...and eventually forgotten.

Their efforts paid off.....



World War I saw the home as headquarters for war relief and in later years the American Legion held meetings there.

In addition to preserving the homestead for future generations, the society intended its use for the public benefit.

One of the rooms became a tearoom and Women's Exchange shop, while another was rented for social gatherings.

A dance pavilion was erected behind the house for community events.

...and the
Garden
Club
thrived...





By 1952, the Town of Cornwall owned the Homestead and surrounding lands.

The Sands Family Cemetery is south of the Homestead and also owned by the Town.



After World War II,
the Homestead had been
placed on the
National Register Of Historic
Places.



The Town of Cornwall took over maintenance and a Board of Trustees was appointed by the town.

Needed repairs were made and restoration efforts continued through the Town budget.





Children from area schools
came to the Homestead as
part of the 4th Grade
curriculum on Colonial life.





Docents pictured with quilt 1970s

Well into the year 2005 the Friends of Sands-Ring Homestead Museum and Sands-Ring Trustees have held programs focused on colonial living during 18th century America.

Memorial Day and Independence Day “Open House” events allowed visitors to learn of the Sands-Ring family and their many contributions to Cornwall.

The Garden Club maintained the grounds and held a fundraising plant sale each May.

An upstairs apartment was leased to a caretaker who maintained the house and reported needed repairs to the Town Board.



In 2009, an effort to raise funds for a new roof began.

Some \$1200.00 was raised but efforts stalled when a key member of the Friends moved away.

Unfortunately, the Town budget did not provide for the additional costs projected and the plan was scrapped.

Hurricane's Irene, Lee and Sandy came to visit.....



Lack of attention
for a number of
years added to
the devastation.



Lack of documentation by the town of storm damage
prevented FEMA money to help defray costs for restoration.

By mid-2013
the Cornwall Town Historian
and the Friends of Sands-Ring Homestead Museum
joined forces with other community members
to “Save the Homestead”.

Fundraising efforts are underway to assist the town in costs
that have been estimated
to exceed *One Million Dollars*.

Grants have been submitted to
our elected officials and we are awaiting notification.

But the process is slow.....



With the election of a new Supervisor in January 2014, a new push began to restore this historic gem.

Supervisor Clark resurrected an event from his childhood in Cornwall called “Community Day”.

The Friends, Town Historian, Greater Cornwall Chamber of Commerce, Lions Club and other interested community members skated on Rings Pond and enjoyed hot Cocoa and ‘s’mores’ while collecting donations for the ‘Old Homestead’

That began a new push to begin again to ‘Save the Homestead’.

Friends of Sands-Ring • Cornwall Historical Society • Chamber of Commerce • Cornwall Lion's Club

Cornwall Winter Carnival
Sunday, Feb. 2 ❖ 1:00 to 4:00 pm
at Ring's Pond

Our own winter games! Bring the whole family for skating, hockey, and sledding. Drink hot chocolate by the bonfire. Learn about efforts to restore the Sands-Ring Homestead.

Other fundraising projects have been held to defray the taxpayer's burden to restore the building....

And many others are in the works.....

The *Sands-Ring Homestead Museum* is pleased to announce the availability of the **Sands-Ring limited edition ornament**, courtesy of *Clearwater's Gallery & Frame Shop at the Shops at Jones Farm*.

Thanks to the generosity of *David and Terri Clearwater*, Teri commissioned her artwork to create this beautiful ornament.



All proceeds of the sale of the ornament go to the *Sands-Ring Homestead Museum* for costs associated with the **Town of Cornwall's** restoration efforts to save this historic 1700's Dutch Colonial building.

To purchase this *limited edition ornament*, please visit the *Shops at Jones Farm* at 190 Angola Road, Cornwall - 845-534-4445 - www.jonesfarminc.com. The *Shops at Jones Farm* is open Monday-Friday from 8:00am to 6pm and Saturday/Sunday from 8am - 5pm.

Rings of Time



A collection of children's paintings on wood (coaster and trivet size) depicting scenes of Cornwall, particularly Sands Ring Homestead's rich past. This project was organized by Cornwall Art Teacher Alaina Enslin and Christine McDonald, President of Sands Ring Homestead Museum. Boy Scouts, Daisy Scouts, and local art classes are participating in the exhibit. All works will be available for purchase with proceeds being donated to Sands Ring.





I WANT YOU!
**FOR THE RE-ENACTMENT OF
THE BATTLE OF STONY
POINT!**

**Volunteers of all ages are needed to tell
the story of our region's contributions
to the American Revolution for
Independence and Liberty.**



**Actors are needed to portray British and American soldiers – all part of Cornwall
history! Re-enactment to take place at Sands Ring Homestead,**

MEMORIAL DAY, MONDAY MAY 25

MEET AT THE GIRL SCOUT CABIN IN THE GROUNDS OF THE HOMESTEAD

INDUCTION OF RECRUITS: 1:30PM AND 3:30PM

RE-ENACTMENTS: 2:15PM AND 4:15PM

**DONATION: \$10 Includes Uniform rental and soldier kit (musket, haversack, etc)
Pay at time of re-enactment**

**HOW TO SIGN UP: Visit website at www.cornwalljuly4thpageant.org/SandsRing
Or Call Re-enactment Coordinator Peter Erwin at **845-661-0851****

MUST SIGN UP BY WEDNESDAY MAY 20, 2015

Town of Cornwall



Friends of Sands-Ring Homestead Museum

“Antiques Roadshow”

Appraisal Fair

*Featuring renowned *Certified Appraiser **Jon Felz**
of PBS “Antiques Roadshow”*

Specializes in Military Memorabilia, Fine Art, and Collectibles

Saturday, May 30, 2015

1pm – 5pm

Sands-Ring Homestead Grounds

180 Main Street – Cornwall, NY
(Park at Town Hall 183 Main Street)

“That junk in your attic could be a treasure”

\$10 for 2 items

Sands-Ring Homestead Fundraising Event

www.cornwallny.gov – www.sandsring.org

The Town of Cornwall
has the town engineer firm of McGoey, Hauser and Edsall
working with Marilyn Kaplan, a Preservation Architect,
to develop a phase plan
for restoration.

Grant writer Mary Ellen Hern has begun working on grant applications.

Together they will map the course for this historic buildings rebirth.



As the community joins forces,
the “Old Homestead”
will once again be the gem of Cornwall.

Created by

Maryanne O'Dell

Historian - Town of Cornwall
2015