

# Sands Ring News



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## Homestead's 250th Birthday

By Sally A. Stanley

This year marks the 250th birthday of Sands Ring Homestead. Built in 1760 by Nathaniel Sands, this building has seen a lot of history. As the saying goes, if these walls could talk. Originally from England, members of the Sands Family came first to Plymouth Plantation, and then moved to Block Island, Rhode Island. From there they settled in Cow's Neck, Long Island, (now known as Sands Point) and finally came to New Cornwall in the Hudson Valley.

Nathaniel built this house for his cousin, Comfort Sands, a prosperous merchant. When Comfort and his wife came to survey Nathaniel's accomplishment, his wife refused to move here saying there was nothing here. As the year was 1760, I'm sure she was right.

Not to be discouraged, Nathaniel moved his own family from Long Island to this Homestead. His family prospered and grew. Members of the family lived in this house until 1907. Check out our History of Sands Ring Homestead on page 4 for more details on the family.

In 1912, the Homestead was in a terrible state so members of the community rallied together to purchase the building and surrounding property. They worked together to restore the property.

Unable to keep up with the taxes, the Homestead was sold to the Town of Cornwall in 1950. A year later, the State Education Department of New York granted the museum an educational charter. Since 1973, Sands Ring Homestead Museum has offered hands-on colonial workshops and tours to thousands of students and adults. Now those students' children come to participate in our programs.

In 2007, I worked to create the non-profit organization, Friends of Sands Ring Homestead Museum to help sustain the museum.

As I walk through the Homestead, my thoughts center on those early Sands and Ring family members who came to the Hudson Valley in the 1700's. Life was difficult and comforts were few. Yet they persevered. Their home has stood for 250 years through their own efforts and the subsequent support of the community. It's time for us to rally again and raise the money for the new roof this building so sorely needs. It's not only their history, it's our history, too. Let's work together to keep it alive.

To contribute to our New Roof Fund, you can send a check to Friends of Sands Ring Homestead Museum, P.O. Box 226, Cornwall, NY 12518. Or if you prefer to contribute online, you can visit our website at [www.sandsring.org](http://www.sandsring.org).

*Sands Ring  
Homestead Museum  
P.O. Box 226  
Cornwall, NY 12518  
845-534-4829  
[sandsringfriends@yahoo.com](mailto:sandsringfriends@yahoo.com)  
[www.sandsring.org](http://www.sandsring.org)*

*Friends of Sands Ring  
Homestead Museum is a  
non-profit organization  
organized exclusively for  
educational purposes  
under Section 501 c(3).*



**Sands Ring Homestead  
1760 to 2010  
250 Years of History**

# We Appreciate Our Members

*Your encouragement and support helps us grow!*

## Contributing Members

Jim and Lidwin Goodwine  
 Lynn P. Harrington  
 Mr. and Mrs. Tristan Laurion  
 Bruce and Sally Stanley  
 Erica Stanley  
 The Stanley-Dueck Family  
 Doug and Margaret Vatter  
 Colleen A. Zlock  
 Georgene Zlock

## Family Members

Assemblywoman Nancy Calhoun and William Mulherin  
 Phillip and Elsa Cameron  
 Tom and Arlene DeSocio  
 Brooke Garfinkel  
 Carol and Wynn Gold  
 Mary Beth Greene-Kraft  
 Paul and Marjorie Krupa  
 Michael and Andrea Hamberger  
 The Grodence-Hastey Family  
 Michael and Sally Mattausch  
 Bill and Marie-Elise Pearson  
 Richard and Mary Randazzo  
 Ronald and Eileen Tulloch  
 Hilary and Jean-Paul Vallet  
 Gerry and Patricia Wagner  
 The Wickiser Family

## Individual Members

Cailen Belanger  
 Ken Cashman  
 Marilyn Klein  
 Mary Ann G. Newman  
 Jayne Peterson  
 Francine Pirraglia  
 Nicole Stanley

## Institutional Members

Adams Fairacre Farms  
 Mr. and Mrs. Vincent Hufford  
 Edward and Floranne Moulton  
 Len and Judy Rothman  
 Mr. and Mrs Ed Staudle and Daughters

## Corporate Matching Partners

Becton Dickinson  
 Benjamin Moore and Company  
 Chevron

**Membership Benefits:**  
*Receive Sands Ring News*  
*Email notifications of events and programs*  
*Discounts on museum programs*  
*Tax Deduction*  
*The satisfaction of knowing that you are helping to preserve and maintain a 1760 colonial homestead*

## Not a member? Become a member! Join Friends of Sands Ring Homestead Museum!

Contributing Member \$100  
 Institutional Member \$50  
 Family Member \$15  
 Individual Member \$10

Name \_\_\_\_\_  
 Address \_\_\_\_\_  
 City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip Code \_\_\_\_\_  
 E-mail \_\_\_\_\_  
 Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Send your membership application and check to:  
 Friends of Sands Ring Homestead Museum  
 P.O. Box 226, Cornwall, NY 12518-0266

As a non-profit organization we are eligible for company matching funds. If you wish to participate, please enclose your company form. Thanks!

\_\_\_\_\_ Check here if you wish to volunteer at the Museum. Your participation helps us staff our events.

# Volunteers Keep History Alive

With a small Board of Trustees and an even smaller educational staff, we need additional volunteers to help us with our 2010 events. If you enjoy working with people and wish to help to keep history alive in the Hudson Valley, join Friends of Sands Ring Homestead Museum and indicate your willingness to volunteer.

*If you're on our current list of volunteers, Thank you! We will be contacting you.*

*If you would like to volunteer, we sincerely appreciate your assistance.*

*Call us at 845-534-4829 or e-mail us at [sandsringfriends@yahoo.com](mailto:sandsringfriends@yahoo.com).*

## Many Thanks to our 2009 Annual Fund Contributors:

Bruce and Sally Stanley  
Philip J. Hopp  
Lynn P. Harrington  
Mary Evelyn Whitehill  
Marge Krupa  
Nancy Peckinham

## Thanks to our Volunteers!

Friends of Sands Ring Homestead Museum is very grateful for the support and assistance of our volunteers who helped us with our 2009 events, including:

Floranne Moulton	Eileen Tullock
Brooke Garfinkel	Nicole Stanley
Jayne Petersen	Sally Mattausch

## Thanks to our Corporate Benefactors:

Becton Dickinson  
Chevron Corporation

## Join the 192 Sands Ring Facebook Fans!



Learn interesting facts about Sands Ring history, keep posted on upcoming events, open houses and news. We invite you to share your memories of the Homestead.

# History of Sands Ring Homestead

**1760** Nathaniel Sands builds the Homestead for his cousin Comfort Sands. Comfort's wife did not want to move to the new house, so Nathaniel and his family moved in.

**1771** Nathaniel gives The Homestead to his son, David, and his wife, Clementine Hallock, as a wedding present.

**About 1770 to 1790** David opens The Homestead to The Society of Friends known as The Quakers. The Meeting Room was used until 1790 when the present Quaker Meeting House was built.

**1775 to 1783** Revolutionary War Soldiers camp on the property and spend time in The Homestead.

**1783** David opens a General Store in a room on the first floor of The Homestead. Soldiers and members of the community trade here.

**1818** David dies and bequeaths The Homestead to his daughter Catherine Sands who is married to Elias Ring.

**1865** David's son, Nathaniel Sands, creates the Sands Medals to be awarded to students who demonstrate excellence. Today, the medals are still given to students in Cornwall and New Windsor schools.

**1907** Benjamin Ring Davis, Catherine's grandson, dies and is the last family member to live in the house.

## The Homestead Becomes Part of the Community

**1912** Community members concerned about the future of The Homestead form the Village Improvement Society and purchase The Homestead and surrounding property.

**1913-1914** The Meeting Room is converted into a Tea Room. The Homestead becomes headquarters for the American Fund for the French Wounded. Garments are made and food is sent to devastated countries. The A.F.F.W. ran the Tea Room to benefit the Red Cross.

**1950** The Town of Cornwall purchases The Homestead and establishes a museum.

**1951** The State Education Department of New York grants the museum an educational charter .

**1973 to the Present** Students from Cornwall, surrounding communities, and NYC learn about colonial life through hands-on colonial activity and learning programs.

**2007 to the Present** Friends of Sands Ring Homestead is created to provide support to the museum. Recognized as a non-profit organization under Section 501 (c) (3), it is organized exclusively purposes for educational purposes.

## Crucial Need for a New Roof

By Sally A. Stanley

Last fall our newsletter featured an article describing how *Sands Ring 's Roof Needs an Angel*. Various members of the Board of Trustees have been asked whether this need as been met. The answer is not yet.

Our roof was in poor condition last spring. It held through the tough winter, but now we're seeing a greater number of damaged shingles and more interior water spots.

The present roof was a gift from Ralph E. Ogden over 50 years ago. It served the Homestead well, but it is time to replace it.

The Board of Trustees of Friends of Sands Ring Homestead Museum has projected an accrual of \$10,000 each year for the next 5 years to meet the projected expense of \$50,000. Thus far we have nearly \$4,000 in our New Roof Fund.

It's not a lot of money, but it's a solid start. We're optimistic that with the community's assistance, a new roof will be a reality. Any donation, large or small, will help us keep Sands Ring Homestead Museum intact. Please consider donating today. All donations are tax-deductible.

Send donations to:  
Friends of Sands Ring Homestead  
Museum  
P.O. Box 226, Cornwall, NY 12518

Or contribute on our website via  
PayPal:

[www.sandsring.org](http://www.sandsring.org)

## Docent-Led Homestead Tours

Traditionally, Sands Ring Homestead offers Open Houses throughout the year. This year, in honor of our 250th birthday, the Board of Trustees is offering another option for our visitors.

On Saturday, July 31, a costumed guide will lead a tour of the Homestead, discussing its historical features and furnishings while sharing stories about the inhabitants. Tours will be offered at 10 a.m., 10:30 a.m., 11:00 a.m., and 11:30 a.m. and will last approximately 40 minutes. Visitors can tour the herb garden before or after their house tour.

The cost is \$5 per adult, \$3 for children 12–6, and free for those 5 and under. The tours are free for members of Friends of Sands Ring Homestead Museum.

Pre-registering is strongly recommended as space is limited. To make reservations call: 845-534-4829 or email [sandsringfriends@yahoo.com](mailto:sandsringfriends@yahoo.com)

## Sands Ring Recipe Books are Available for Donation

To commemorate our special birthday, Colleen Zlock with the assistance of the other members of the Board of Trustees, created a recipe book. We asked you to share your recipes and you did. We added recipes from our Sands Ring Homestead collection, along with a dash of historical information and seasoned it with fascinating facts about herbs.

Now our recipe book is complete. For each book, we are requesting a \$15 donation. It will be available at all of our 2010 events. For those of you who live out of town and wish to obtain a recipe book, we ask for a \$20 donation to help defray shipping and handling expenses. Donations can be made on our website via Paypal or email us for more information regarding payment and shipping. More information can also be obtained by calling 845-534-4829.

All proceeds from the sale of the Sands Ring Recipe Book will benefit our New Roof Fund.

### Help Celebrate our 250th Birthday -

- Attend one of our events
- Buy a Recipe Book
- Contribute to the New Roof Fund
- Become a member of Friends of Sands Ring
- Become a Facebook Fan

## Colonial Learning and Activity Programs

Sands Ring Homestead Museum continues to offer Colonial Learning and Activity Programs to area school districts. We offer a 2 hour combination House Tour and Workshop Program. This field trip option gives students an opportunity to step back into colonial times. Costs are reasonable at \$15 per student.

To learn more, visit our website: [www.sandsring.org](http://www.sandsring.org) or call us at 845-534-4829.

