

HISTORIC FARMSTEAD INVENTORY FORM



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DATE: October 2010

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ORGANIZATION (if any): Town of Rochester Historic Preservation Commission

IDENTIFICATION

1. NAME OF FARMSTEAD: Thomas S. Schoonmaker Farm, 607 County Route 6 (Kyserike Road)
2. COUNTY: Ulster TOWN/CITY: Rochester VILLAGE: Alligerville
3. **DESCRIPTION:**

This resource contains the following parcels and components.

Map ID#	Parcel No.	Address	Acreage	Components
1	72.2-2-12.1	607 Kyserike Road	32.45	Wood frame house, barn, poultry house , outbuildings, farm land, canal & tow path
2	69.4-2-18	Kyserike Road	27.46	Farm land
3	69.4-2-20	Kyserike Road	54.84	Farm land



View of Thomas S. Schoonmaker Farm from northeast.

3. **DESCRIPTION:**

The core of the Thomas S. Schoonmaker Farm exists essentially intact on the north side of the Rondout Creek, although early deed descriptions indicate it was larger, extending south across the creek and west across Kyserike Road. Later deeds document that the family also owned lots on the north side of the Shawangunk ridge. Thomas's father, Simon Schoonmaker (1765-1827) was the first of the family to own and develop the farm, but no evidence of his occupation has been identified. It is probable that the fertile bottom land had been farmed before the Schoonmakers appeared on the scene, but by whom remains unknown. Simon Schoonmaker was the fourth generation of his family living in Rochester and Marbletown. His grandfather, Daniel Schoonmaker, lived within the large tract granted to the family in 1703 nearer to Accord. Simon's father, Thomas, inherited Daniel's Marbletown lands and settled there. Thomas married Helena Van Wagenen of Kyserike, which is probably how he obtained the land that his son eventually farmed. Little more is documented. The earliest recorded deed yet found, by which the farm was sold by Simon Schoonmaker and Sarah C. Lounsbury, two of Simon's grandchildren, to their brother, Daniel, cites it was the farm that Simon Schoonmaker conveyed to his son, Thomas. The house, barn and most of the outbuildings date from Thomas S. Schoonmaker's lifetime. It is not known if the existing house replaced an earlier one.

The Greek Revival-style of the story-and-a-half wood frame farmhouse indicates that it was built c. 1840 when Thomas S. Schoonmaker was the proprietor of the farm. His father Simon Schoonmaker had died in 1827, and Thomas seems to have made a concerted effort to modernize the farm. The house retains the traditional scale and form of 18th-century dwellings, though updated in exterior appearance and interior plan. The symmetrical front façade with center entrance was a common design feature by the turn of the 19th century as well as the center passage plan with one or one-and-a-half rooms on each side. Windows in the Greek frieze indicate that the upper story was finished with bedrooms. A large kitchen ell attached to the rear is another item of domestic improvement that was popular in the period. Stone had fallen out of favor by this time. The material evidently was associated with old-fashioned customs and lifestyles and no longer conveyed an elite class distinction; in fact it was the opposite with the existing stone houses being relegated to older generations or lower-class tenants. Houses the design of Thomas S. Schoonmaker's proliferated in this period and distinguished the better farms in the early 19th century. The best houses of the period were still two-stories in scale and built of either brick—a costly manufactured material—or wood.

The barn was built in three sections, with the earliest western half being built around the time of the house. Like the house, it represents the progressive mentality of the period. By 1830 or 1840 farm function had shifted from wheat-growing to dairy and animal husbandry, and the Dutch barn was no longer an effective building. Those that survive were enlarged and adapted to accommodate animals and their feed, but many were replaced with a more efficient and commodious barn, often with a basement to house the dairy herd. Perhaps because of its location on the flats near the Rondout Creek, a basement was not practical in this case. Alternatively, a cow house may have been attached to one end of the barn, which was later replaced by an addition built on the easterly end of the barn in c. 1875 that doubled the size of the barn with stations for cows below and a voluminous hay mow above. Increasing production of hay drove farmers to build larger and larger barns. The third section is a granary attached to the southerly side of the barn where the two earlier sections are joined. The granary was where feed was stored and this unusual instance of it being connected directly to the barn presages the later introduction of silos to store feed (ensilage) in a manner and location facilitating delivery to the animals within the barn.

Other outbuildings include a wagon house that was built during the period of the barn and an ice house and equipment shed that were added some time later. A small shed sited between the two latter buildings is reputed to have originated as one associated with the Delaware & Hudson Canal, which was routed on the south side of the creek opposite the farm, and later moved to its present location. The design and finish of the building supports this assertion. At the west end of the property, outside of two stone gate posts flanking the driveway leading to the house, a long, story-and-a-half building currently identified as a workshop is nestled within some evergreens. The exact function and history of this building is not known; it may have been used as a poultry house at an earlier time.

The buildings are assembled at the southwestern end of a large, open 115-acre field that continues to be cultivated for sweet corn. The earliest farm statistics are found in the 1850 U.S. Census when Thomas S. Schoonmaker was reported as owning 80 improved acres and 70 unimproved acres, the latter probably on the mountainside south of the farm. In that year, the farm was largely involved with animal husbandry. It supported two horses, four milk cows, and four swine. Compared to other farms of similar value, this was a small animal population. There were neither cattle intended to be slaughtered for beef nor were there any sheep. This would suggest that this bottom-land farm had little pasture on which these animals relied. (Hillside farms were better suited to sheep and less suited for crops. The present open landscape would have been compartmentalized into a number of smaller fields that planted with oats, rye, buckwheat and corn, all of which largely went to animal feed. Only 4 tons of hay was produced in 1850, suggesting that Thomas S. Schoonmaker was not engaged in producing feed and bedding to ship on the canal to city stables or to feed to tow mules. In addition, Irish potatoes were grown for human and animal consumption. Butter was the principal market product. The 420 pounds of butter churned on the farm was not an exceptional amount, and the waste products would have been fed to the swine. Animals were slaughtered for meat, some for home consumption and some for sale. Poultry and orchard products were not recorded in 1850, but they would have made an important contribution to the farm's income. The low farm statistics may reflect Thomas S. Schoonmaker's advancing age (he was 50 years of age in 1850) and diminished interest in producing at a higher level. Once his son, Simon, took over management of the farm, production recorded in subsequent censuses was notably better.

The house and farm buildings on the Thomas S. Schoonmaker Farm no longer functions as part of an agricultural enterprise; however, its land continues to be farmed by others. In spite of its current condition as a single open 100-plus-acre expanse without interrupting stone walls or tree rows, the historic agricultural setting is preserved. The historic house, barn and remaining outbuildings link the property to its agricultural origins in the 19th century.

Farm Features (numbers relate to site plan at end of form)

1. Thomas S. & Elizabeth Schoonmaker House, built c. 1830
2. Ice house, c. 1900
3. Shed (former D&H Canal "Locktender's Shanty" moved to site), built 1828-1850
4. Equipment shed, c. 1900
5. Barn, c. 1830 & c. 1875
6. Wagon House, c. 1875
7. Gate posts, c. 1830
8. Poultry House, c. 1895
9. Delaware & Hudson Canal, 1828

Chain of Ownership

1. Thomas Schoonmaker (1734-1815), probably acquired farm through marriage to Helena Van Wagenen
2. Simon Schoonmaker (1765-1827) & Margaret Louw, by unrecorded conveyance
3. Thomas S. Schoonmaker (1799-1886) & Elizabeth Alliger, by will
4. Heirs of Thomas S. Schoonmaker, Simon Schoonmaker (1823-1895) was proprietor of farm
5. Daniel Schoonmaker, by deed from brother Simon and sister Sarah C. Lounsbury, 1889
6. Mary Schoonmaker, inherited from father, Daniel Schoonmaker, when he died in 1919
7. Elmer & Brigetta Smith
8. Virginia Smith Boyce Schoonmaker, by will, c. 1940, farmland conveyed to John L. Schoonmaker, Jr., Daniel L. Schoonmaker & David J. Schoonmaker after 1962
9. Keith Eddleman & Frank Macagnone, house and 32.45 acres, 2001

4. SIGNIFICANCE:

The Thomas S. Schoonmaker Farm is historically and architecturally significant as a distinctive example of an early-19th-century farmstead that has evolved over a 200-year period. The farm appears to have been created by Thomas's father, Simon Schoonmaker (1765-1827), on land obtained through his mother Helena Van Wagenen. The composition of the farm in that and earlier periods is not known. All the physical evidence extant on the farm is associated with Thomas S. Schoonmaker (1799-1886) or later. He spent his entire life on the farmstead, which was conveyed to his heirs upon his death and was consolidated by three of his children: Simon, Sarah and Daniel. Simon Schoonmaker (1823-1895) continued to operate the farm, while Sarah (1825-1916) lived separately with her husband, shoemaker John E. Lounsbury, and her family somewhere in nearby Alligerville. Daniel Schoonmaker (1836-1919) was a merchant in Alligerville and lived with his sister. Both Simon and Daniel were widowed with children. In 1889, Simon and Sarah conveyed their interests in the family farm to Daniel. It is not clearly known who lived at or operated the farm after Simon died in 1895. Daniel continued to work as a merchant afterwards and live with his widowed sister and both their daughters, Mary Schoonmaker and Cornelia Lounsbury. Title to the farm gets cloudy after this point. Daniel or his daughter, Mary, after his death in 1919 sold the farm to Elmer Smith. Smith willed the property to his daughter, Virginia, at his death in 1940 granting his widow, Brigetta Peterson Smith, life tenancy. Virginia Smith married Richard Boyce in 1946 and after that lived primarily in New York City. In 1962 Virginia Boyce Smith was married for a second time to John L. Schoonmaker. In 1983 she deeded most of the farmland to John L. Schoonmaker's sons. She sold the house and 32.45 acres to its present owners in 2001.

By 1850 the farm comprised 80 improved acres situated in one of the most fertile areas in the Rondout Valley: an expansive flood plain through which the Rondout creek wound in a tight series of bends. The farm was valued at \$6000, which ranked it in the upper 16% of farms town-wide. By this time the agricultural economy was based in dairy production, with butter being the principal market product. This production level and property value actually increased towards the end of the 19th century when Thomas S. Schoonmaker's son Simon assumed management of the farm. Unlike other major farms on the bottom lands in the town, it does not appear that production evolved into market gardening. By the end of the century, the family disinvested themselves from the farm. Thomas's remaining heir, Daniel Schoonmaker, made his living as a merchant and the farm was likely rented, essentially passing out of the family at that point. The 100-plus-acre cornfield surrounding the farmstead is still farmed by others.

The following chronology provides a more precise account of the property's history.

CHRONOLOGY

1791 Simon Schoonmaker married Margaret Louw and they settled on a farm in Alligerville.

Simon Schoonmaker (1765-1827)

m. (1791) Margaret Louw (1766-1845), dau. Benjamin Louw & Catherine DuBois

CHILDREN:

Helena D (1795-1849), m. (1813) Frederick Westbrook of Rochester

Catrina (1797-1874), m (1813) Isaiah Depuy of Rochester

Thomas S (1799-1886), m. Elizabeth Alliger

Benjamin, b. 1801, died young

Garret V., b. 1805, died young

Jane (1805-1840), m. (1827) Abram L. Sahler

Daniel L. (1807-1882), m. (1831) Helena Jansen

Benjamin (1810-1840), m. (1830) Margaret A.____

Simon Schoonmaker is believed to have established a farm at this location, although it is probable that the land was cultivated before that time. Land records do not clearly document the transaction by which the land came into Simon's possession, although it was probably through his mother Helena Van Wagenen's family, who had earlier settled the area. Simon Schoonmaker was the second of two sons of Thomas Schoonmaker (1734-1815) and Helena Van Wagenen (1733-1805). His older brother Daniel (1761-1782) likely inherited their father's farm in Marbletown.

Thomas's father, Daniel Schoonmaker (1713-1791) owned a farm on the north side of the Rondout within the family's original land grant. One source reported that "Daniel's stone house still stands on Route 209 just north of Accord." It is no longer extant. By the time he died, he was living in Marbletown on a farm at Jaagkreepelbush that he conveyed to Thomas in his will. Thomas also received his father's surveying instruments in consideration of being the first-born. Daniel conveyed his lands in the town of Rochester to his second son Jochem, and his third son, Hendricus was bequeathed lands at Ashokan in Marbletown, which Daniel had obtained through his wife, Magdalene Janse (1711-1786). [Gustave Anjou, Ulster County Probate Records, (1906), II, 80.]

Daniel was the son of Joachim Schoonmaker (1710-1789), whose father Jochem Hendrickz Schoonmaker (c. 1655 – c. 1730) was one of the trustees of the Town of Rochester when it was organized in 1703. His grandfather, Hendrick Jochemsz (or Jochemsen), had arrived in Albany from Hamburg, Germany by 1653, which was the year he married Elsie Janse. He was an innkeeper there, but soon moved his family to Wiltwyck (Kingston) where he became a prominent figure and officer in the local militia.

Family lore states that his young son, Jochem Hendrickz, was captured by the Indians during the Wiltwyck Massacre in 1663 and was tortured and disfigured by them. In 1679 Jochem Hendrickz married Petronella Slecht, daughter of Cornelius Barentsen Slecht and Tryntje Tysen Bos. Slecht also was an officer in the citizens' militia and was a close associate (and probably good friend) of Hendrick Jochemsz, who died in 1683.

Jochem Hendrickz and Petronella Slecht moved to Mombaccus soon after their marriage and established a homestead there. At least one account (Schoonmaker Genealogy) speculates that this homestead may have been located at Appeldoorn Farm, where his son Benjamin lived on the north side of the Rondout, but it is more likely that it was on the south side of the Rondout near the family cemetery outside Accord. Petronella died within ten years, having given birth to five children, and Jochem Hendrickz married for a second time in 1689 to Antje Hussey (1670-1752) daughter of Frederick Hussey and Margaret Bos of Marbletown. Together Jochem Hendrickz and Antje Hussey begat 11 more children. Daniel Schoonmaker was their final child.

1800 U.S. Census, New York, Ulster County, Town of Rochester

Simon V.W. Schoonmaker
1 free white male under 10 years [son Thomas]
1 free white male 26 to 44 years [Simon 35 years]
1 free white female under 10 years [daughters Helena & Catrina]
1 free white female 16-25 years [wife Margaret 34 years]

The enumeration does not accurately reflect the household described in the family genealogy.

1810 U.S. Census, New York, Ulster County, Town of Rochester

Simon V.W. Schoonmaker
1 free white male under 10 years [son Daniel]
1 free white male 10-15 years [son Thomas]
1 free white male 26 to 44 years [Simon 35 years]
1 free white female under 10 years [daughter Jane]
1 free white female 10-15 years [daughters Helena & Catrina]
1 free white female 26-44 years [wife Margaret 34 years]

The enumeration still does not accurately reflect the household described in the family genealogy raising a question about the two daughters, Helena and Catrina.

1820 U.S. Census, New York, Ulster County, Town of Rochester

Ephraim & Thomas Schoonmaker
2 free white males 26-45 years
2 free white females 26-45 years
2 persons engaged in agriculture

Thomas Schoonmaker
1 free colored male 14-25 years
1 free colored male 26-44 years
1 free colored female under 14 years
1 all other persons, other than Indians, not taxed

Simon Schoonmaker is not enumerated as living in Rochester in the 1820 census. His whereabouts are unknown. In an unusual entry, Thomas and Ephraim Schoonmaker are listed on the same line as free white males 26 to 44 years of age. It implies that they were in the same household, with both engaged in agriculture. The entry also enumerates two females of the same age, suggesting that they were the wives of the young farmers, but Thomas Schoonmaker's marriage is not recorded until three years later. Ephraim Schoonmaker's identity has proved to be somewhat of a mystery. One source records his father, Daniel, as the son of Daniel Schoonmaker and Magdalene Janse, making him the twin brother if Thomas's grandfather and namesake. But Daniel's will makes no mention of this son, who would have been alive at the time it was written. Also, the death date assigned to Ephraim (1812) predates the 1820 census.

There is a second entry for Thomas Schoonmaker that enumerates three free black persons in his household, as well as one "other person, other than Indians, not taxed." These people apparently were employed on the farm.

1823 Thomas S. Schoonmaker married Elizabeth Alliger

Thomas S. Schoonmaker (1799-1886)
m. (1823) Elizabeth Alliger (1802-1887)
CHILDREN
Simon (1823-1895), m. (1862) Catherine Elizabeth Carman
Sarah Catherine (1825-1916), m. John Edgar Lounsbury, res. Alligerville

Margaret (1833-1900), m. (1853) Lewis D.B. Hornbeck, res. Kingston
Daniel S. (1836-1919), m. (1870) Mary C. Sahler
Williamhenia (1838-1847)
Maria Jane (1839-1911), m. Lawrence Gilbert Hall Davis
John G. (1841-1843)
Isabella Depuy (1847-1848)

Elizabeth Alliger was the daughter of John Alliger (b. 1768) and Catrina Louw of Marbletown. Her grandparents were Benjamin Alliger (1741-1791) & Sarah Rosenkrans of Rochester. It was Benjamin Alliger's father and namesake who was the first of the family to settle in the Town of Rochester. He was born in 1704 in New London, Connecticut, the son of Roger Alger and Elizabeth Innis. He was apprenticed to a joiner there. In 1726 he married Elizabeth Briggs in Kingston; they had two children, Benjamin and Mary. Thomas Schoonmaker's mother, Margaret's maiden name also was Louw.

1827 Simon Schoonmaker died.

1830 U.S. Census, New York, Ulster County, Town of Rochester

Thomas S. Schoonmaker
1 free white male 5-9 years [son Simon]
1 free white male 30-39 years [Thomas]
1 free white female 5-9 years [daughter Sarah]
1 free white female 20-29 years [wife Elizabeth]

1840 U.S. Census, New York, Ulster County, Town of Rochester

Thomas S. Schoonmaker
1 free white male under 5 years [son Daniel]
1 free white male 15-19 years [son Simon]
1 free white male 40-49 years [Thomas]
2 free white females under 5 years [daughters Williamhenia & Maria]
1 free white female 10-14 years [daughter Sarah or Margaret?]
1 free white female 30-39 years [wife Elizabeth]
1 free white female 70-79 years [mother Margaret]

1850 U.S. Census, New York, Ulster County, Town of Rochester

Thomas S. Schoonmaker, 50, farmer, \$7,000 in real estate
Elizabeth, 48
Simon, 26, farmer
Margaret, 16
Daniel, 14
Maria J, 11
Patrick Killey, 20, laborer, b. Ireland

Agricultural Production
80 improved acres

70 unimproved acres
\$6,000 cash value of farm
\$150 value of farming implements & machinery
2 horses
4 milch cows
2 working oxen
0 other cattle
0 sheep
4 swine
\$412 value of livestock
80 bushels of rye
90 bushels of Indian corn
150 bushels of oats
90 bushels of Irish potatoes
70 bushels of buckwheat
420 pounds of butter
4 tons of hay
\$68 value of animals slaughtered

At \$6,000, this farm was in a better class of property among the 240 recorded in the town. Those of lowest value—assessed in the hundreds of dollars—were relatively few in number, and they probably mostly were for subsistence of people whose occupations were other than farmers. A total of 51 farms were valued at \$5,000 or greater. Ten were valued at \$10,000 or more, with the highest assessment being \$20,000 for Wessel B. Westbrook's 1,700-acre farm. However, Thomas S. Schoonmaker's farm was moderate in size (80 improved acres) and production when compared to others of this value. Perhaps its favorable location otherwise inflated its overall value. Thomas S. Schoonmaker was 50 years of age in 1850, which may have been a factor in its comparatively diminished production levels.

1858 Map of Ulster County: "T.S. Schoonmaker"

1860 U.S. Census, New York, Ulster County, Town of Rochester

Thomas S. Schoonmaker, 61, farmer, [real estate value illegible]
Elizabeth, 58
Simon, 37, farmer
Daniel, 23
Maria J, 21
Lodowyck H. Schoonmaker, 4
Maria M Yeaple, 15
Hdiah Yeaple, 20

Agricultural Production

86 improved acres
80 unimproved acres
\$5,000 cash value of farm
\$200 value of farming implements & machinery
4 horses
5 milch cows
2 working oxen

2	other cattle
0	sheep
4	swine
\$665	value of livestock
80	bushels of rye
175	bushels of Indian corn
200	bushels of oats
12	bushels of peas & beans
80	bushels of Irish potatoes
70	bushels of buckwheat
500	pounds of butter
10	tons of hay
\$101	value of animals slaughtered

In the ten years since the last census, the value of the farm decreased to \$1,000. Yet, the milk herd increased along with butter production. Crop statistics increased as well. Thomas S. Schoonmaker's son, Simon, likely was taking more of a role in the management of the farm and was rejuvenating it.

1864 Simon Schoonmaker married Catherine Elizabeth Carman

Simon Schoonmaker (1823-1895)

m. (1864) Catherine Elizabeth Carman (1841- c, 1880)

CHILDREN

Georgina, b. 1865, m. Charles Ten Hagen, blacksmith, res Rosendale

John, b. 1867

Agnes, b. 1868, m. Jacob A. Lay

1870 U.S. Census, New York, Ulster County, Town of Rochester

Thomas S. Schoonmaker, 71, farmer

Ann, 49, housewife

Simon, 47, farmer, \$13,000 in real estate

Eliza, 29, housewife

Daniel, 32, merchant, \$5,000 in personal estate

George, 5, at home

John, 3, at home

Agnes, 1, at home

Agricultural Production (Simon Schoonmaker)

698 improved acres

0 unimproved acres

\$8,000 cash value of farm

\$500 value of farming implements & machinery

\$600 total wages paid

2 horses

5 milch cows

2 other cattle

4 sheep

17 swine

\$1000 value of livestock
 90 bushels of winter wheat
 0 bushels of rye
 150 bushels of Indian corn
 350 bushels of oats
 0 bushels of buckwheat
 0 pounds of wool
 75 bushels of Irish potatoes
 300 pounds of butter
 20 tons of hay
 \$0 value of animals slaughtered
 \$1,300 total value of farm production

Simon Schoonmaker is recorded as the owner of the farm in 1870; his father was 71 years of age and retired from farm management. Thomas S. Schoonmaker is listed without his wife, which evidently is an error, since she reappears in the 1880 census. Simon's wife, Eliza, and three children are also enumerated in the household along with his unmarried brother, Daniel. Production increased noticeably and, like other farms along the flats, had shifted towards market gardening and crop production—principally hay and oats—for sale.

1875 Ulster County Atlas: "S. Schoonmaker"

1880 U.S. Census, New York, Ulster County, Town of Rochester

Schoonmaker Simon, 56, farmer
 Thomas S, 80, father, at home
 Elizabeth, 78, mother
 Georgina, 15, daughter, housekeeper
 Johnie, 13, son, at school
 Agnes, 9, daughter, at school

[listed three entries above]

Lounsbury John E, 62, shoemaker
 Sarah C, 54, wife, housekeeper
 Thomas J, 21, son, clerk
 Cornelia, 18, daughter, teacher
 Katie, 15, daughter, at school
 Schoonmaker, Daniel, 44, boarder, store keeper
 Mary, 9, boarder, at school

Agricultural Production [Simon Schoonmaker]

90 improved acres
 70 acres woodland & forest
 \$8,000 cash value of farm
 \$200 value of farming implements & machinery
 \$300 value of livestock
 \$10 cost of building repairs
 \$225 amount paid in wages for farm labor
 36 weeks hired labor was on farm

\$500	value of all farm production
11	acres grass lands mown
18	acres grass lands not mown
10	tons hay
2	horses
2	milch cows
5	other cattle
2	calves dropped
0	cattle purchased
1	cattle sold living
2	cattle slaughtered
250	pounds butter
0	sheep
4	swine
38	poultry on hand
272	eggs produced
3	acres planted in buckwheat
91	bushels of buckwheat
6	acres planted in Indian corn
350	bushels of Indian corn
7	acres planted in oats
200	bushels of oats
6	acres planted in rye
76	bushels of rye
1/2	acres planted in Irish potatoes
40	bushels of Irish potatoes
3	apple trees
1	peach trees
2	bushels peaches
\$3	orchard products
\$30	value of forest products sold

Farm production appears to have been stable or declining in 1880 suggesting that the family unit was aging and losing interest in the enterprise. (An unusually large sum was expended on hired labor.) Simon Schoonmaker was widowed with three young children, and he was still supporting his aged parents in the household. The property was still owned by his father or in common by his heirs. Simon's brother Daniel, a merchant in the Alligerville hamlet, was also a widow with a small child. His wife was Mary C. Sahler. Daniel and his daughter, Mary, lived with his sister, Sarah C. and her husband, shoemaker John E. Lounsbury, and three children. Mary Schoonmaker (1870-1951) would inherit the farm from her father.

1886 Thomas S. Schoonmaker died

1889 Deed, 5 Sept 1889, 287:350, \$4984.56
Simon Schoonmaker and Sarah C. Lounsbury to Daniel Schoonmaker

All these several parcels of land "near a place called Alligerville and being the same as was devised by Simon Schoonmaker to his son Thomas Schoonmaker.

With this deed, Simon Schoonmaker and his sister, Sarah C. Lounsbury, conveyed their interests in the farm to their brother Daniel. This deed also documents the transaction by which their father, Thomas S. Schoonmaker had obtained the farm from his father, Simon Schoonmaker.

1895 Simon Schoonmaker died.

1900 U.S. Census, New York, Ulster County, Town of Rochester

Schoonmaker Daniel, 64, head, widow, grocer, owns
Mary, 27, daughter, single

Lounsbury Sarah C, 74, sister, widow
Cornelia, 38, niece, single, dressmaker

Even though he now owned the farm, it does not appear that Daniel Schoonmaker moved his household there. It is likely that an unidentified tenant occupied the farm for the rest of his lifetime. Deed grantor indexes show that Daniel was selling parts of the farm to others during this period. Between 1896 and 1902 there a number of transactions where Daniel Schoonmaker sold land on the north slope of the Shawangunks to Alfred H. Smiley or Albert K. Smiley.

1910 U.S. Census, New York, Ulster County, Town of Rochester

Schoonmaker Daniel, 73, head, widow, merchant, general store, owns
Mary, 39, daughter, single

Lounsbury Sarah C, 84, sister, widow
Cornelia, 46, niece, single, dressmaker, home

1919 Daniel Schoonmaker died.

It is assumed that Daniel's only daughter, Mary, was the beneficiary of his estate, and it was around this time that Elmer Smith bought the farm, although no deed was found recording this transfer. Mary Schoonmaker married Elmer's brother, John H. Smith, in 1922, which explains the connection. John H. Smith (1880-1952) owned his own farm at the time, and Mary still could have been in possession of her father's house.

1920 U.S. Census, New York, Ulster County, Town of Rochester

Schoonmaker Mary, 49, head, single, no occupation, owns

Smith Elmer, 47, head, farmer, general farm, owns
Brigetta Christine, wife, 43, none
Virginia, 7, daughter, none

Elmer Smith is listed in the 1920 census as owning his farm.

- 1930 U.S. Census, New York, Ulster County, Town of Rochester
- Smith John H, 49, head, married at 41 years, none [no occupation], owns, \$10,000 value
Mary S, 59, wife, married at 51 years, none
Lounsbury Cornelia, 69, cousin, single, housekeeper, private family
- Smith Elmer, 57, head, farmer, general farm, owns
Evelyn, 50, wife, married at 50, none
Virginia, 17, daughter, single, none
- 1940 Elmer J. Smith died.
- It appears that the farm was conveyed to the Smith's daughter, Virginia. Elmer Smith granted his wife, Brigetta Peterson Smith, life tenancy on the Thomas S. Schoonmaker Farm, and she lived there until her death. [Ulster County Deeds, 948:556]. Virginia Smith married Richard Boyce in 1946, and they lived in New York City. In 1962 she was married a second time to John L. Schoonmaker.*
- 1990 Deed, 22 Aug 1990, 2039:150 [farm land]
John L. Schoonmaker, Jr., Daniel L. Schoonmaker & David J. Schoonmaker, Accord, to Peter & Marsha Demarest
- 2001 Deed, 28 Dec 2001, 3274:274, 32.241 acres [house, farm buildings & farm land]
Virginia Schoonmaker (aka Virginia Smith Boyce), Alligerville, to Keith Eddleman & Frank Macagnone, NYC
- 2004 Deed, 30 July 2004, 3969:269 [farm land]
Peter & Marsha Demarest, Hillsdale NJ to John L. Schoonmaker, Jr., Daniel L. Schoonmaker & David J. Schoonmaker, Accord

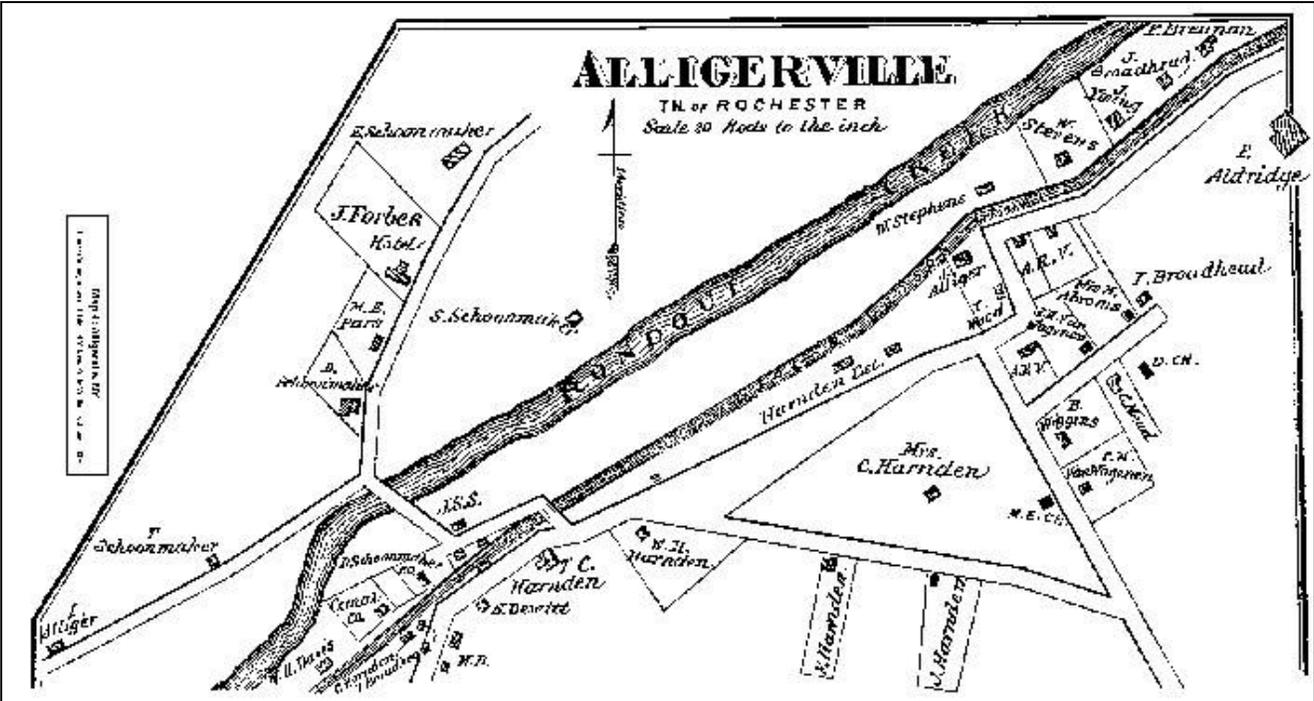
5. SOURCES:

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6. MAPS



The boundary of the existing farmstead and associated land is outlined in a heavy red line. It encompasses three parcels, one containing the farmstead (1) and two others containing farm land now in separate ownership (2 & 3). Source: Ulster County Planning Department, On-line Parcel Viewer.



Map of Alligerville, 1875 showing “S. Schoonmaker” on north side of creek and “D. Schoonmaker on west side of road.



Site plan. Numbers are keyed to list of historic components listed below. Source: Ulster County Planning Department, On-line Parcel Viewer.

1. Thomas S. & Elizabeth Schoonmaker House, built c. 1830
2. Ice house, c. 1900
3. Shed (former D&H Canal "Locktender's Shanty" moved to site), built 1828-1850
4. Equipment shed, c. 1900
5. Barn, c. 1830 & c. 1875
6. Wagon House, c. 1875
7. Gate posts, c. 1830
8. Poultry House, c. 1895
9. Delaware & Hudson Canal, 1828

7. PHOTOS: (Credit: all images by Larson Fisher Associates, 2010 unless otherwise noted)



View of house from SW.



View of house from SE.



View of house from NE.



View of farm buildings from SE.



View of ice house, shed (“Locktender’s Shanty”) and wagon house (left to right) from SE.



View of ice house and shed (“Locktender’s Shanty”) from NE.



View of equipment shed from SE.



View of equipment shed from NE.



View of barn from SE.



View of barn from NE.



View of barn from east; granary section in foreground.



View of barn from NW.



Interior view of barn looking south along threshing floor.



Interior view of barn looking south from threshing floor.



Interior view of barn looking north from threshing floor



View of cow stalls in east section of barn.



View of cow stalls in east section of barn.



View of hay mow in east section of barn.



View of wagon house from NW.



View of gate posts and poultry house from NE.



View of poultry house from NE.



View of farm land NE of barn.



View of farmland north and northeast of farmstead.



View looking SW along Rondout Creek. Canal located on left side, bridge in background relocated downstream of original crossing or closer to house.