

SANDS-RING HOMESTEAD

Cornwall, NY



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.

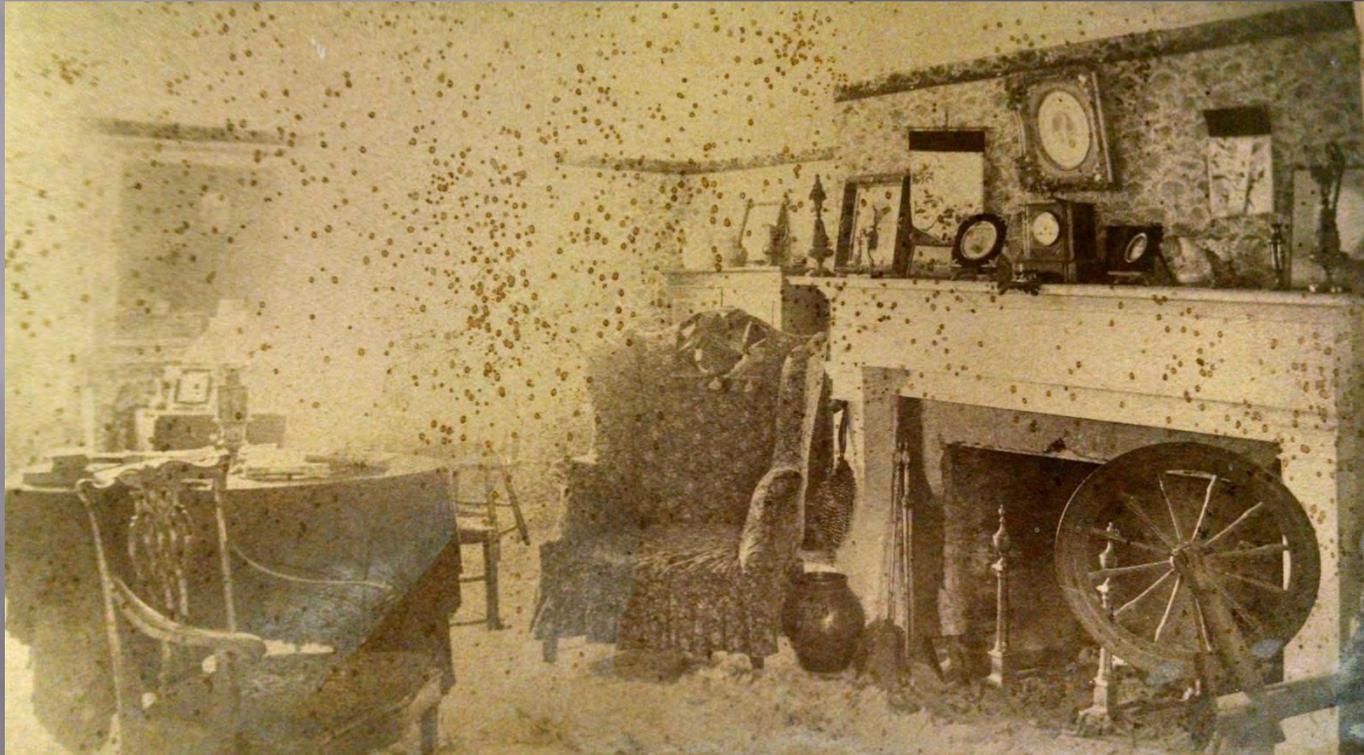
On one such visit,
the General was invited to stay the night
but was awakened
when his guards discovered that
a kidnap plot was planned.

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.

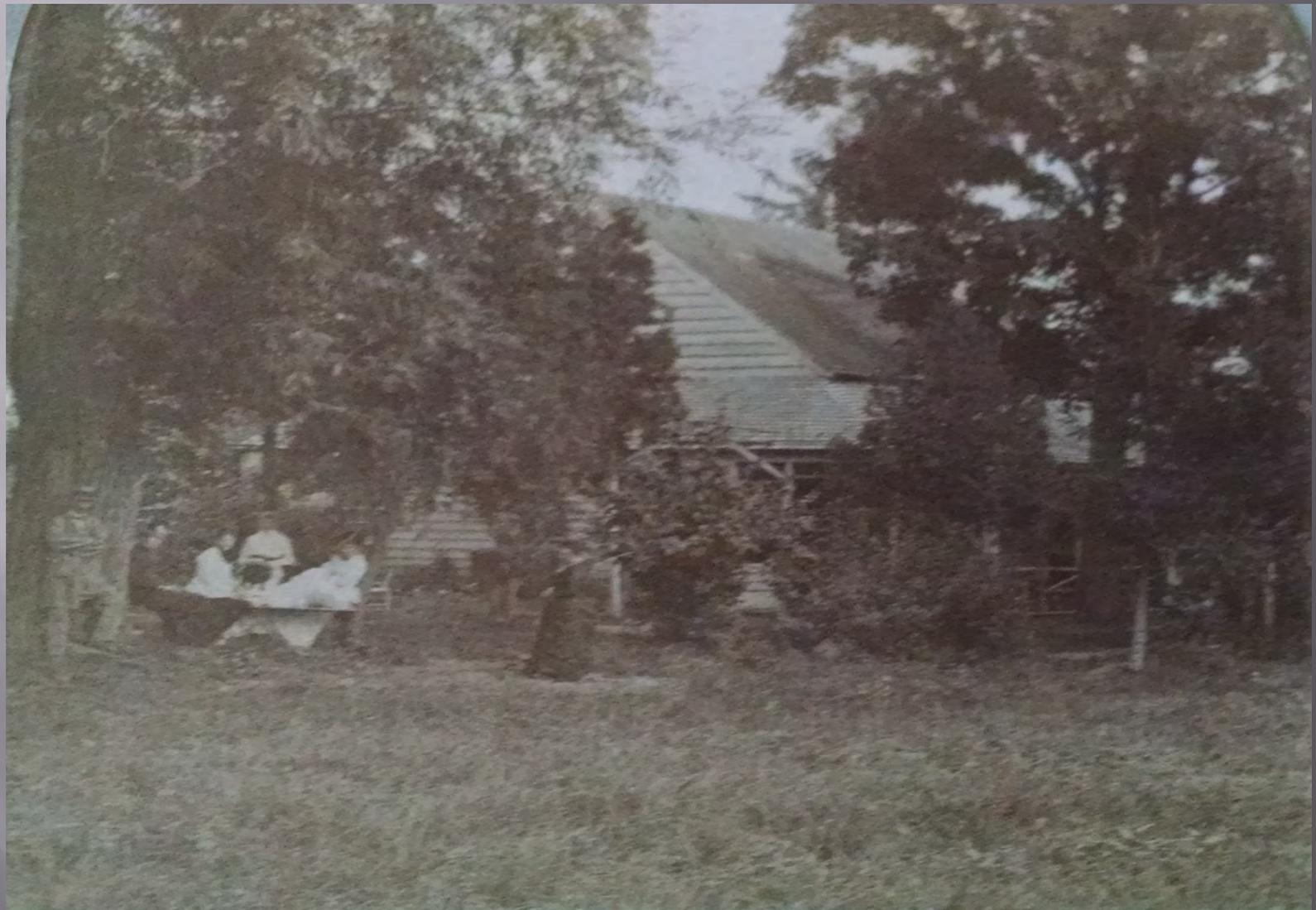
During the Spanish-American War, the homestead was used as a soldier's convalescent home.





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.

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.



Created by

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