



TOWN OF BURLINGTON

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NEWS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

HISTORY IN THE REMAKING

THE RAZING AND RAISING OF A 1770'S ENGLISH STYLE BARN USING ANCIENT RAISING METHODS

The Town of Burlington, Burlington, Massachusetts, has recently acquired a 200-year-old farmhouse with a 40 by 90 foot "Colonial" revival barn. It is believed that the center portion of the revival barn had its origins in the 1770's, built in the City of Boston and moved to its present site in Burlington as Boston expanded from its agricultural beginnings.

The Town will renovate and restore the historic farmhouse over the next few years. After several months of discussions with barn restorers, the Town is pleased to announce that it has entered into an agreement with Richard W. Babcock to dismantle the barn, beam by beam, and restore the center portion of the barn on a different historical Burlington site, in cooperation with the Francis Wyman Association.

Mr. Babcock, also known as "Mr. Barn" learned the trade from his grandfather and taught the trade to his children. The town is privileged to have Richard and his sons participating in this historical venture. The uniqueness of this project is that Mr. Babcock has decided to use "ancient methods" to take the barn down and then raise the barn at a different site.

In the United States Postal Service Guide, Mr. Babcock has been honored with a commemorative stamp for his restoration of the Wolf Trap barns at Wolf Trap National Park at Vienna, Virginia: "Though he did the work in 1980, Babcock used nothing but eighteenth century techniques to get the work done --- block and tackle, gin poles and pulleys".

Mr. Babcock describes his method for raising barns in his publication **Barns, Researched, Restored and Resurrected** using Ancient Raising Methods as: "I raised these barnsusing gin poles, ropes, and at times still another ancient device called a "bull wheel", so named because the men who turned the wheel were referred to as the bulls".

During the next three weeks or so, the barn will be raised and the forty foot hand-hewn timber structure lowered to the ground. The original center portion will be moved to Mr. Babcock's shops in Hoosick Falls, New York; repaired and returned for "raising" at the Francis Wyman Historical Home site.

Participating in this historic event are the Burlington Historical Commission, the Grand View/Marion Tavern Committee, the Francis Wyman Association, and Preservation Architect John V. Goff. The town expects to have an on site press meeting during the week of March 29, 2004. For further information and schedules, contact Larry Rittenberg, Assistant Town Administrator. TEL: 781-270-1636; FAX: 781-270-1608; e-mail: lrittenberg@burlmass.org.
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