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## THE SILVERSMITHS OF POUGHKEEPSIE

Early history inevitably shades off into tradition and is consequently inaccurate and sketchy. We find that true of the history of silversmiths. At the time they worked they were simply craftsmen in a community and taken for granted; so different from soldiers and politicians, whose every motion was noted and not infrequently recorded. The village of Poughkeepsie dates back to 1717 but was not incorporated until 1799. Naturally there were silversmiths working here early in the eighteenth century, for they followed the blacksmiths very closely.

Up to the present time the earliest known reference to a silversmith in the village was in 1761, but his name did not appear in the assessment lists for that year. The reference was made in a news note in *The New-York Mercury* of July 13, 1761, as follows:

We hear from Poughkeepsie, that about a Fortnight since, one Hamilton, a Silversmith, was committed to Goal there on Suspicion of making Spanish milled Dollars; but in a few Days after he was put in, to save any further Trouble, he hang'd himself with his own Handkerchief, by making it fast to a Spike that was drove into the Goal Wall.

The next mention of a silversmith was in 1765, in the assessment list for Poughkeepsie Precinct which contained the name of "Mr. Rockwell, silversmith," but his name did not appear in subsequent lists so he evidently moved on. Who he was we cannot be sure, but John Rockwell was a silversmith in Lansingburgh in 1787 as a member of the firm of Yates & Rockwell and, in 1788, of Rockwell, Smith & Whitney. The following year the partnership was dissolved and he worked independently there until 1795.

The assessment list for Poughkeepsie Precinct in 1773 carried the name of "Reed, the Silver Smith." The name appeared as Eli Reed in 1774, 1775 and 1777 but was not included in the list for 1778. In the assessment list for 1778 there was an entry of "James Pritchett, Silversmith." The following year the name is repeated but spelled "Pritcher," no occupation is connected with this name and the assessment rolls for the subsequent years are missing. However, he remained in the village and worked there for some years. Before this, in the list for 1775, appeared the name of Andrew Billings and history began, perhaps because he was a soldier as well as a silversmith.

On June 5, 1798, there was published in Poughkeepsie Vol. 1, No. 1, of *The Rural Casket*, probably the only issue to appear. It was printed



by Power & Southwick. Nicholas Power, the senior member of the firm, was the father of Henry Power and grandfather of Henry R. Power, both silversmiths. The first article in this publication was entitled, "Description of Poughkeepsie," and the following is a quotation from it:

Of dry good, grocery and hardware stores there are perhaps twenty; two shops of jewelry, watches and clocks; a manufactory of tobacco; a large tan-work; and saddles, harnesses and carriages, made as expeditiously and as neat as in New York.

One of the jewelry shops was undoubtedly that of Andrew Billings.

If the writers on early American silver had deliberately conspired to rob Poughkeepsie of its silversmiths, they could hardly have been any more successful. These smiths are entirely ignored or misplaced. Andrew Billings is either not located or placed in Connecticut, Preston, Conn., or Troy; the firm of Storm & Wilson is placed in Connecticut or Philadelphia; and A. G. Storm and A. G. Storm & Son are located in Albany. Even such a comprehensive list as Ensko I gives but one Poughkeepsie firm and that of 1840, and as late and correct a book as Currier places A. G. Storm and A. G. Storm & Son in Albany. John Adriance is located by the Ryerson genealogy as a manufacturer in Worcester, Mass.

One of the Poughkeepsie silversmiths used a most curious mark. It was "S & Wilson" with the "s" in Wilson reversed. French gave it as "S. N. Wilson, Connecticut;" Ensko I presented "S. Wilson, Philadelphia;" Ensko II, "S. & S. Wilson, Philadelphia;" Graham, "S. & S. Wilson, Philadelphia;" Okie and Wyler both gave "S. Wilson, Philadelphia," and "S. & S. Wilson, Philadelphia." After considerable research it appears that the mark was that used by Storm & Wilson of Poughkeepsie, and apparently they never used any other mark. Just why Storm's name was abbreviated to "S", it is hard to say. Storm was the strong member of the firm; who James Wilson was, where he came from, where he went after the dissolution of the partnership, history has not revealed. His association with Storm and his prominent name in this mark are his chief excursions out of obscurity. Perhaps this mark betrays compensation. Ensko I lists a James Wilson in Trenton, N. J. in 1769; was this the same one? He was a trustee of the village of Poughkeepsie in 1809 and a trustee of the Lancaster School when it was organized.

A.G. STORM

  W.S. MORGAN  
POKEEPSIE

S. & WILSON

HAYES & ADRIANCE

*Storm & Son*

H & ADRIANCE

E. MORGAN

P. P. HAYES

B. VAN LEIT.

A. HENDERSON

A. B. 

A. BILLINGS

 C. P. ADRIANCE

C. P. A.

Marks used by some Poughkeepsie silversmiths.



There are at least four cases among American silversmiths where the mark is characterized by this idiosyncrasy, two of these in Poughkeepsie. The other Poughkeepsie mark is that of "H & Adriance" to represent the firm of Hayes & Adriance. Here, again, Hayes was the stronger member of the firm. This firm however, also used as a mark the name written in full, "Hayes & Adriance."

It is difficult to understand why Andrew Billings was not more correctly located. His military record, was somewhat outstanding, his engraving the seals for the city of New York should have given him prominence and his connection with the Livingston family elevated him a little above his fellows. It is probably his own fault that in one book, he is supposed to be two different persons, because one of his marks lacks the final "s" in his name. However, he worked as early as 1775 in Poughkeepsie, was president of the village board and made good silver for prominent people.

Abraham G. Storm was a very active business man, but always in Poughkeepsie, and was interested in many ventures outside of his own business. Poughkeepsie was rather advanced in this respect. In the 1830's an organization called "The Improvement Party," which might now be known as the Chamber of Commerce, was formed and was very much in evidence for a time. New streets were laid out, two whaling companies were organized, a locomotive factory was built, plans were made for the railroad, several schools and two new churches were erected and the silversmiths of the period were prominent among the stockholders of the various companies as well as office holders in the village. A serious fire in 1836, followed by the financial depression of 1837, forced a drastic curtailment of the work of the organization. Many of its members lost their money and some moved to the West.

There seems to have been a bountiful distribution of middle initials among Poughkeepsie silversmiths but a great paucity of middle names. Abraham G. Storm never used a middle name, not even in his will. He was baptized without a middle name but probably carried out the Dutch custom of using his father's name, Goris, to differentiate him from other Abraham Storms in the neighborhood and John B. Frear, son of Baltus Frear, most likely adopted the middle initial for the same reason. Peter P. Hayes, Edmund M. Hayes, William S. Morgan and Henry R. Power seem never to have had or, at least, to have revealed middle names. Peter



Van Bomell decided to give himself and his family a new deal in respect to names, so, in 1803, by an act of the legislature he became and afterwards remained Peter Robert Maison.

The towns and villages situated on the banks of the Hudson River for two hundred miles above New York City, all produced silver in the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries but, with the exception of Albany, the most important center for the exercise of this craft was Poughkeepsie. Andrew Billings was its most outstanding silversmith, perhaps because he refused to be lured away from his planishing hammer and snarling iron. Abraham Storm became a hardware merchant, Peter Van Bomell a dry goods merchant and John Adriance a foundry manager. In addition to those named as silversmiths the village directories listed the following men as jewelers or watch and clock makers: Moses Myers Adsit, 1845; Matthew V. Cable, 1850, located at the same address as Benjamin C. Van Vliet; William Hayman, 1847-1849; Solomon G. Jennings, 1848, 1849; Thomas L. Jones, 1850; — Knoeller, 1843; M. Maryon, 1850, at the same address as William S. Morgan; Enoch Pardee, 1843-1848; and Jonathan Putnam, 1843, 1844. In 1820 Alva Hotchkiss advertised that he repaired clocks. The register of the Reformed Church at Poughkeepsie, records the marriage on March 17, 1833, of William Griffith, jeweler, to Mary Canfield. Some of these people may have also worked with silver.

Although Poughkeepsie developed into the largest community, it was not the only locality in Dutchess County which could boast of silversmiths. In the assessment list of Amenia Precinct for 1763 is listed the entry "Josiah Burton, Goldsmith", and he undoubtedly worked with silver too. In Philip Smith's history of the county mention is made that "on Quaker Hill, lived one Peter Fields, a silversmith, doing a small business," before the Revolution. John Bedford (1757-1834) of Fishkill, was a well known and very skillful craftsman. In 1813 Hooker & Morgan, of Pine Plains, advertised as clock and watch makers. Rhinebeck had several silversmiths, among whom were Spencer Whiting who advertised in 1816, James Styles who worked there in 1780 and William J. Styles who, in 1823, advertised that he continued "at his old stand on Main-street, Rhinebeck." William Terry was a clock maker in the Nine Partners in 1793 and was the maker of "Terry spoons" owned by local residents. In 1790 he was living in the town of Washington, at Mechanic.



Following is a list of the silversmiths of Poughkeepsie and included in the number are some who may have been watchmakers or jewelers. It is difficult to differentiate them, for many workmen practiced all of these related crafts. Our research ends at 1850 as this is about the time when electric plating began and machinery was being introduced.

**ADRIANCE & COOK (1814-1815).** John Adriance and Harry Cook. The partnership was announced June 8, 1814, and dissolved the following year.

**CHARLES PLATT ADRIANCE (1790-1874).** He was born at Hopewell, N. Y., October 12, 1790, the son of Theodorus Adriance and Killetie Swartwout. He came to Poughkeepsie to the home of his sister, Mrs. Abraham G. Storm, and learned his trade in the shop of his brother-in-law. On June 15, 1813, he married Sarah Camp, daughter of Aaron Camp, of Newark, New Jersey, and formerly of Rhinebeck, N. Y. In 1816 he went to Richmond, Va., where he engaged in business as a silversmith and jeweler. He remained there until he sold the business August 28, 1832, to Charles Gannet. Family tradition says he then purchased a team of horses and a carriage and, with his wife, two daughters, and son William, drove from Richmond to Poughkeepsie where he bought the property later known as College Hill, the highest ground in the village. He soon after sold the crown of the hill for the erection of the Poughkeepsie Collegiate School but retained the handsome residence on the southern slope until a few years before his death, November 25, 1874. His wife died August 22, 1877.

The son, William Adriance, was engaged in the jewelry business for seven years in Natchez, Miss., and later in the dry goods business in St. Louis, but returned in 1864 to make his home in Poughkeepsie.

**JOHN ADRIANCE (1795-1873).** He was born at Hopewell, Dutchess County, N. Y., January 10, 1795, the son of Abraham Adriance, Jr., and Anna Storm. In August 1809, he came to Poughkeepsie where he was an apprentice to Storm & Wilson. He was a member of the firms of Adriance & Cook and Hayes & Adriance from 1814 to 1826. He retired from Hayes & Adriance to enter the foundry business. He was connected with the Dutchess Furnace and remained with that concern until the organization of the famous Buckeye Mower & Reaper Company, with which firm he was associated until the time of his death. In later years the firm of Adriance, Platt & Company built an



extensive factory and shops on the riverfront and manufactured farm machines for many years, exporting them to a number of countries in Europe.

He married, July 31, 1817, Sarah Ely Harris, (born February 15, 1799, and died June 3, 1838). On July 21, 1840, he married Mrs. Eliza Orton, the widow of Perez Orton and daughter of Abraham G. Storm. He was prominent in the village life. In 1833, he was one of the incorporators of the Dutchess Whaling Company, in 1838 a member of the conservative political organization, in 1840 a trustee of the village and was for many years a director of the Merchants Bank. He died at Poughkeepsie April 19, 1873.

His son, John P. Adriance, who followed him in the manufacture of farm machinery, was prominent in the business and civic life of the community for many years. The Adriance Memorial Library, housing the public library of Poughkeepsie, was built in his memory.

**SAMUEL G. BAILEY.** He was listed as a silversmith in the village directories in 1849 and 1850 and for some years after. In the directories of 1860 and 1862 he is listed as a lieutenant of the 23rd Connecticut Regiment. He married, May 27, 1849, Martha A. Denton, of Poughkeepsie.

**ALBERT BALL (1811-1875).** He came to Poughkeepsie in 1831 and worked for Peter P. Hayes. The following year he bought out Hayes' watchmaking department and continued to work in the store. On September 22, 1832, he married at Christ Church, Susan M. Depew. They had several children. In 1838 and 1839 he was a director of the Poughkeepsie Lyceum. In the fall of 1840 he left Poughkeepsie and settled at Galveston, Texas. When he died there, August 8, 1875, he was president of the Galveston Insurance Company. After the death of her husband Mrs. Ball returned to Poughkeepsie, where she died June 27, 1900. He and his wife and four of their children are buried at Poughkeepsie.

**CHARLES BALL.** He evidently followed Albert Ball at Peter P. Hayes' in 1840. His name appears in the village directories until 1848.

**ANDREW BILLINGS (1743-1808).** He was born November 25, 1743, at Stonington, Conn., the son of John Billings and Elizabeth



Page. He has been the subject of four articles\* published within the past few years which have left little to be said further about this most prominent of our early silversmiths. His name first appeared in the assessment lists of Poughkeepsie Precinct in 1775. In that year he was commissioned a captain in the third line regiment and the following year became a major. His service continued until 1781. He is also referred to as "Assistant Commissioner of Conspiracies," having been appointed a member of the Commission for Detecting and Defeating Conspiracies in the State of New York, and he attended, in the fall of 1779, several meetings of this committee held on board the sloop *Hudson* in the Esopus Creek. He was a member and officer of Solomon's Lodge and of the Mechanics' Literary and Benevolent Association of the village, a slave owner, a pewholder and contributor at Christ Church, to which latter organization, in 1790, he presented "an elegant Time piece."

Major Billings married, August 2, 1778, "the amiable Mrs. Van Kleeck, relict of the late Mr. Lawrence Van Kleeck, and daughter of James Livingston, Esq." She was Cornelia Livingston, the widow of Dr. Lawrence Van Kleeck and the mother of four young children. The oldest son, Lawrence, died as a child. These children were apparently much attached to their step-father; when Sally married the newspaper notice spoke of her as Sally Billings Van Kleeck (she probably grew up as Sally Billings), and Baltus Livingston Van Keeck, a physician for many years in Newburgh, named one of his children Livingston Billings Van Kleeck. For several years, until the partnership was dissolved in 1798, Billings was a partner in the drug store, under the firm name of Doctor James L. Van Kleeck and Company. He may have supplied the money in the early years of the business of his step-son. Major Billings and Cornelia were the parents of seven children. They lived on the corner of Main and Academy Streets until about 1800 when he built a handsome home on Academy Street which survived the changes in that neighborhood until after 1900.

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\* "House of Andrew Billings," in *Dutchess County Doorways*, by Helen Wilkinson Reynolds, New York, 1931; "Dutchess County Men of the Revolutionary Period,—Major Andrew Billings," by J. Wilson Poucher, published in *Dutchess County Historical Society Year Book*, 1940; "Andrew Billings, Silversmith of Poughkeepsie," by Millicent Stow, published in *New York History*, July, 1944; "Additional Notes Concerning Andrew Billings," by George B. Cutten, published in *New York History*, April, 1945.



In 1798, *The Country Journal* of June 2, reported that his shop had been robbed of "about 20 watches, a Silver Teapot and Sugar Cup." Whether it was for this robbery or for a later and more serious offence that a man was hanged could not be ascertained from the incomplete files of local newspapers in Poughkeepsie. However, *The Poughkeepsie Telegraph* of April 19, 1848, commenting on an execution in the village, reported:

A gentleman who is one of our oldest inhabitants, informs us, that he saw in his boyhood three persons executed on the corner of Main and Market Streets, on a gallows which was erected where the pump near the northeast corner of the Court House, now stands . . . . ; the third was Francis Uss, executed for breaking into and robbing the watch and jewelry store of Major Billings, of this village. The gallows on which they were executed, stood for some years at the above place, as a terror to evil doers. A bloodier code prevailed at that day than exists now, for two of the persons were hung for burglary."

Major Billings was one of the first trustees of the village when it was incorporated in 1799 and in 1803 became president of the board. In 1802 he was appointed Coroner of the county, which office he held for several years. He is said to have made silver for George Washington, Lord Sterling (William Alexander, who was the husband of Sarah Livingston, daughter of Philip Livingston, second Lord of the Manor, and a sister of Philip, the "Signer"), and other famous men. Recently some examples of his work, cuff links and canes that belonged to Governor George Clinton and Governor DeWitt Clinton, were purchased by the Albany Institute of History and Art. In addition to other engraving, he engraved the seals for the City of New York in 1784.

On September 17, 1805, he sold his business to Sadd & Morgan and retired. He died April 28, 1808, and his widow died November 18, 1820, aged 68 years.

**DANIEL BOYTER.** He was a watchmaker in Poughkeepsie in 1803, claiming to be from New York. His advertisement ran in the newspaper from August 23 through October 4, of that year.

**BROWN & FIELD.** — Brown and John Field. The firm advertised in the newspaper from September 27, 1796, through January 11, 1797.

**WALTER D. CABLE.** He was listed as a silversmith in the village directory of 1847 at the same address as Charles Ball.

**HARRY COOK.** He was a member of the firms of Morgan & Cook and Adriance & Cook and was working independently in Pough-



keepsie in 1817. He may have been the Major Harry Cook who died in 1830 and of whom *The Dutchess Intelligencer* of Wednesday, April 14, 1830, says: "In this village yesterday morning, Major Harry Cook, aged about 40 years." *The Poughkeepsie Journal* of the same date, says: "In this village, on the 13th inst., Mr. Harry Cook, formerly of Hartford, Connecticut, but for the last twenty years a resident of this village."

**GEORGE CREAMER.** ( -1869). He was a jeweler in Poughkeepsie from 1843 until after 1850. He married September 12, 1853, Cordelia Jones of this city and lived on the corner of Catharine and Mansion Streets and died there in 1869.

**JOHN FIELD** ( -1821). He was in business in Poughkeepsie as a member of the firm of Brown & Field in September 1796. In his advertisement of June 6, 1798, he "commenced business by himself" as a watchmaker, silversmith and brass founder. In August 1803, a William Smith "was detected in stealing three watches in the shop of Mr. John Fields, of this Village." He was later a member of the firms of Field & Monger and Field & Halliwell. He died at Poughkeepsie December 21, 1821.

**FIELD & MONGER** (1805-1806). John Field and Benjamin Monger. The partnership was announced June 25, 1805, and dissolved March 18, 1806. Monger was a merchant.

**FIELD & HALLIWELL** (1806-1813). John Field and George Halliwell. The partnership was announced May 20, 1806, and dissolved May 11, 1813, at which time it was stated that the business would be carried on by John B. Frear and George Halliwell.

**JOHN B. FREAR** (1787-1821). He was born at Poughkeepsie October 18, 1787, the son of Baltus Frear and Jacoba Van Kleeck. He married December 15, 1812, Elizabeth, the daughter of Henry Hageman and Catharine Griffin, and in 1813 became a member of the firm of Frear & Halliwell. He probably worked independently after the dissolution of this partnership, June 4, 1816. His wife died August 10, 1816, aged 26, and he died December 14, 1821.

**FREAR & HALLIWELL** (1813-1816). John B. Frear and George Halliwell. The partnership was announced May 11, 1813, and dissolved June 4, 1816.

**SCHENCK GLASS.** The 1847 directory lists him as a silversmith. He evidently worked for Charles Ball.



**GEORGE HALLIWELL** ( -1816). He was born in the vicinity of Manchester, England, where he learned his trade. In 1801 he came to America and, in 1805, settled in Poughkeepsie. He began work as a member of the firm of Field & Halliwell and this business which started May 10, 1806, was finally closed out following the death of his great-grandson, December 22, 1938. Four successive George Halliwells conducted the business. It was continued over one hundred years in the same building, said to be the first building to have had plate glass windows in the city.

He was a member and officer of Solomon's Lodge and a member and pewholder at Christ Church. The firm of Frear & Halliwell, formed in 1813, was dissolved in 1816. In December of that year he went to New York on a business trip and disappeared. His body was subsequently found in the East River and, according to family tradition, years later a hotel keeper confessed to his murder. The date of his death is supposed to have been December 19, 1816. Following his disappearance the business was carried on by Adam Henderson who taught his trade to the son, George William, and later married, first, the oldest daughter and, following her death, another daughter.

**GEORGE WILLIAM HALLIWELL** (1811-1875). He was born in Poughkeepsie, the son of George and Phebe Halliwell. He learned his trade with his brother-in-law, Adam Henderson, and worked with him for some years. The last twenty years of his life he was in business for himself. On December 4, 1830, he married Julia Simmons of Poughkeepsie. He was a member of the Poughkeepsie fire department for some years. He died at Poughkeepsie on May 9, 1875, and was succeeded in business by his son, who in turn was succeeded by his son, all of whom had the same name, George William Halliwell. He was survived by a wife and five grown children.

**CHARLES B. HAYES**. He was a son of Peter P. Hayes and, in 1844, took over the business of his brother Edmund M. Hayes, under the firm name of C. B. Hayes & Co. On May 14, of that year, he married Susan Hurd of Poughkeepsie. The firm continued in business for only a year or two.

**EDMUND M. HAYES** ( -1857). He was a son of Peter P. Hayes and a member of the firm of P. P. Hayes & Son. On June 10, 1841, he married Jane B. Fowler of Pleasant Valley. After the death



of his father in 1842 he continued the business for a short time and then sold out and went West. On May 9, 1857, he died at San Francisco. He was a member of the Masonic order and was "one of the pioneers of California, settling in San Francisco, and experiencing in a great degree her prosperity and adversity."

**PETER P. HAYES (1788-1842).** He was a member of the firm of Hayes & Adriance and of P. P. Hayes & Son, and he worked independently. He was interested in many business and civic ventures. In 1822 he was secretary of the Lancaster School, and in 1835 was one of the incorporators of the Poughkeepsie Collegiate School, and of the Poughkeepsie Female Seminary. In 1833, when the Poughkeepsie Savings Bank was opened, he was vice-president and a member of the board of trustees from then until his death. In 1833 his home had a frontage of 173 feet in Garden Street, he was a trustee of the village; was one of the incorporators of the Dutchess Whaling Company and was interested in a canal project. At one time he was chief engineer of the village fire department, in 1818 a fire warden and a street commissioner and, in 1838, one of the central committee of the Conservative Party. He was a member of the Universalist Church which held its services at the Court House. He died in Poughkeepsie March 11, 1842, and was survived by his widow, Betsey, who died in New York June 23, 1851. Enoch Pardee and Benjamin C. Van Vliet were two of the administrators of his estate.

**HAYES & ADRIANCE (1816-1826).** Peter P. Hayes and John Adriance. The partnership was announced May 23, 1816, and dissolved February 28, 1826. Mr. Hayes carried on the business.

**P. P. HAYES & SON (1841-1842).** Peter P. Hayes and Edmund M. Hayes. The partnership was announced June 1, 1841, and dissolved by the death of Peter P. Hayes, March 11, 1842. Edmund M. Hayes continued the business for a short time, when it was taken over by Charles B. Hayes who continued it for a brief period.

**JOHN J. HEBARD.** He advertised as a silversmith in 1831 and 1832. In 1833 William Hayman advertised as a "Silver and Brass Plater, . . . at the shop of J. J. Hebard." Hebard was later engaged in the grocery business.

**ADAM HENDERSON (1794-1859).** He was born at Fishkill, N. Y., April 14, 1794, the son of John Henderson who died at Fishkill,



January 15, 1812, at the age of 102 years, and who had been "a soldier at the battle of Culloden in Scotland, fought April 17th, 1746; at Minden in Germany, fought August 14th, 1759; and at the taking of Quebec under General Wolf, April 28th, 1760;" and at the conclusion of the war had left the British army and settled in this part of the country.

Adam Henderson came to Poughkeepsie as an apprentice to George Halliwell and, after the death of Mr. Halliwell, he took over the business in 1817 and continued it for some years. He taught his trade to George William Halliwell and they were, later, partners over a period of years. On May 1, 1819, he married the oldest daughter of his former employer, Maria Halliwell, who died October 28, 1834, and on September 15, 1835, he married her sister, Martha, who died October 28, 1858. In 1833 his apprentice, Benson J. Lossing, became his partner under the firm name of Henderson & Lossing. After the dissolution of this firm he worked independently. He was a trustee of the Poughkeepsie Savings Bank from 1842 until the time of his death, a trustee of the village in 1847, president of the village in 1848 and town clerk in 1849 and 1850. In his obituary he was said to have "held various social and political positions of confidence and respectability." He was a pewholder at Christ Church and died in Poughkeepsie on May 24, 1859. The *Poughkeepsie Telegraph* of May 31, 1859, in a short obituary, reports that "some eight or ten months since a virulent form of fever attacked one of the members of his family and five have died as a result,—Mr. and Mrs. Henderson, a daughter, Mrs. Jones, and two sons."

The business was continued by his sons, John W. and Oliver S. Henderson, until the death of John in 1871, when it was sold out to Myers & Ainly.

**HENDERSON & LOSSING (1833-1835).** Adam Henderson and Benson J. Lossing. The partnership, announced April 1, 1833, lasted about two years.

**JOHN KEARSING.** He was listed in the village directory of 1843 as a "gold beater." He may have worked with silver.

— **KENNEDY.** He formed a partnership with Elijah Morgan, Jr., on July 29, 1807, which lasted only a few weeks. It was dissolved August 22, of the same year.

**JONATHAN LEWIS.** In *The Poughkeepsie Journal* of May 2, 1797, he informed the public that he had "commenced business



in the shop lately occupied by Brown & Field," as a silversmith and brass founder. He was a pewholder and contributor at Christ Church and parish clerk there, 1797-1801.

**BENSON JOHN LOSSING (1813-1891).** He was born February 12, 1813, in the town of Beekman, Dutchess County, N. Y., the son of John Lossing and Miriam Dorland. Left an orphan by the death of his father when he was an infant and that of his mother when he was thirteen years of age, he came to Poughkeepsie where he was apprenticed to Adam Henderson, watchmaker and silversmith. His only schooling he is said to have received in three years at the district school. He is better known as an historian and writer and an engraver on wood than as a silversmith. Having served his apprenticeship with Henderson the two formed a partnership as Henderson & Lossing on April 3, 1833. This partnership lasted only two years when Lossing purchased the interest of Aaron Low in the *Poughkeepsie Telegraph* and launched upon a career of journalism which was to continue for the rest of his life. His training as an engraver and silversmith probably led to his interest in wood engraving for he became an expert in this art and his many publications of biography and history were profusely illustrated with engravings which he made from his own sketches.

He married twice. His first wife was Alice, the daughter of Thomas Barritt and Maria Henderson, and the niece of Adam Henderson. They were married June 26, 1833 and she died April 18, 1855. On November 18, 1856, he married Helen, the daughter of Nehemiah Sweet and she, with two sons and two daughters, survived him. The family were members of Christ Church, Poughkeepsie, and he was at one time a member of the vestry. His funeral was held at that church, following his death at his home in the county, June 3, 1891.

**ELIJAH MORGAN, Jr. (1783-1857).** He was born in Westchester County, N. Y., the son of Elijah and Lavina Morgan. His father moved to East Fishkill after the end of the Revolutionary War. In 1797 the son came to Poughkeepsie as an apprentice to Andrew Billings and, on November 2, 1806, he married Nancy, the daughter of William Smith. He started business in 1805 as a member of the firm of Sadd & Morgan, having purchased the business of Andrew Billings. He was later a member of the firms of Morgan & Cook and Morgan & Kennedy. In 1807 he was appointed a fireman in the village. In 1824



he was a trustee of the Lancaster School. In 1832 he and his son, William, formed the firm of E. Morgan & Son. He was a prominent member of the Methodist Church. He retired from business in 1855 and died at Poughkeepsie April 26, 1857.

**MORGAN & COOK (1806-1807).** Elijah Morgan, Jr., and Harry Cook. The partnership was announced April 1, 1806, and the dissolution March 1, 1807. Morgan continued the business.

**MORGAN & KENNEDY (1807).** Elijah Morgan, Jr., and ——— Kennedy. On February 12, 1807, Morgan & Cook announced the dissolution of their partnership to take effect March 1, and that the business would be continued by Elijah Morgan, Jr. The firm of Morgan & Kennedy was formed July 29 and dissolved August 22, 1807.

**E. MORGAN & SON (1832-1836).** Elijah Morgan, Jr., and William S. Morgan. The partnership was announced April 2, 1832, and was dissolved May 12, 1836.

**WILLIAM S. MORGAN (1807-1886).** He was born at Poughkeepsie, the son of Elijah Morgan, Jr., and Nancy Smith. He learned the silversmith craft from his father and was a member of the firm of E. Morgan & Son. On September 9, 1833, he married Hannah, daughter of James Reynolds of Poughkeepsie. A disastrous fire swept over the business district of the village on May 12, 1836, after which he built a new store and began business independently in April 1837, occupying this store until he retired in 1881. He was a trustee of the Poughkeepsie Savings Bank from 1850 until 1886 and was vice-president at the time of his death. In 1849 he was one of the original trustees of the Poughkeepsie Female Collegiate Institute and in 1855 was one of thirty-seven persons who signed a call for the organization of the Republican party. He was a prominent member of the Methodist Church and for twenty-five years the superintendent of the Sunday School. In 1847 he was a subscriber to the stock of the Hudson River Railroad. He died in Poughkeepsie September 17, 1886.

**JAMES PHILIP.** His name was listed as a silversmith in the village directory of 1850 and his business address the same as that of Henry Power & Son.

**HENRY POWER (1797-1867).** Henry Power was born at Poughkeepsie, the son of Nicholas and Mary Power. His father established the first Poughkeepsie newspaper in 1785. In 1822, Henry



Power advertised as a silversmith "continuing business at the old stand." In 1830 he was County Sealer of Weights and Measures. In 1843 he added umbrella manufacturing to his business and later became a member of the firm of Henry Power & Son. In 1846 he was manufacturing silver spoons and had received a diploma at the recent Dutchess County Fair. He married, September 29, 1819, Eliza Carman, who died March 23, 1831, aged 33 years. He married August 12, 1843, Mrs. Catharine Storm. He died January 30, 1867, aged 70 years, and was survived by his widow, Catharine Power. In the obituary, printed in the *Poughkeepsie Daily Eagle* of February 2, 1867, he was referred to as Capt. Henry Power who had been "one of our most active business men."

**HENRY POWER & SON.** Henry Power and Henry R. Power. The firm advertised in 1849 and 1850 as umbrella manufacturers and silversmiths.

**HENRY R. POWER (1827-1857).** He was the son of Henry Power and Eliza Carman and was born at Poughkeepsie July 22, 1827. He was a member of the firm of Henry Power & Son for some years. In 1852 and after, he was in business for himself. He was a member of the Universalist Church and of the Poughkeepsie Lyceum of Literature, Science and Mechanic Arts, an educational society formed in 1838 by the amalgamation of two similar organizations, the old Mechanics' Literary and Benevolent Association and the Lyceum of Natural Science. He married, January 2, 1856, Jane A. Worthy of Poughkeepsie. He died January 7, 1857, "aged about 30 years," and was buried at Poughkeepsie. He was survived by his widow, Jane Amelia Power, and his father.

**JAMES PRITCHARD (1748-1813).** James Pritchard's name appeared as a silversmith on the assessment list in Poughkeepsie Precinct in 1778. He was a patriot and was one of the group of men, together with Andrew Billings, who signed a protest sent to Governor Clinton requesting him to withdraw a pass issued to James Emott to visit relatives in New York, denouncing Emott as a "Sly, Crafty, Designing Tory." He married Cornelia Mott on January 5, 1783. They were prominent members of Christ Church. He was a pewholder, a vestryman 1784-1789, and clerk of the vestry in 1789. In 1787 he advertised as a "Gold and Silver Smith near the Court House." He had at least thirteen children and was survived by his widow, five sons and three daughters. In



1800 he was living in what is now the Town of Hyde Park and was an overseer of highways in his district. His property was in Water Lot No. 2 of the Great Nine Partners Patent and he died there May 25, 1813. His wife died January 26, 1826, in her sixty-third year. He left a considerable estate.

**ELI REED.** The assessment list of Poughkeepsie Precinct in 1773 carried the name "Reed, the Silver Smith." Subsequently the name appeared as Eli Reed in 1774, 1775 and 1777, but was not included in the list for 1778 and the assessment rolls for the years following are missing. The register of the Reformed Dutch Church in Poughkeepsie shows the baptism on May 26, 1774, of Eli, son of Eli Reed and Abigail Wood. His name did not appear in the 1790 census of New York State.

**MR. ROCKWELL.** The assessment list for Poughkeepsie Precinct in 1765 contained the entry, "Mr. Rockwell, silversmith," but it did not appear subsequently.

**SADD & MORGAN (1805-1806).** Henry Sadd and Elijah Morgan, Jr. On September 17, 1805, this firm took over the shop and business of Andrew Billings. The partnership was dissolved March 10, 1806, and the business was continued by Morgan & Cook "at their shop, Sign of the Watch in Main-street."

**RICHARD M. STAINER.** The village directory of 1843 contained his name, listed as a silversmith.

**ABRAHAM G. STORM (1779-1863).** He was born at Hopewell, N. Y., on March 28, 1779, the son of Goris Storm and Maria Concklin. His baptismal record shows that he was named Abraham, and the initial "G" is probably for Goris, his father's name, and used to distinguish this Abraham from several others of the same name. He married Mary Adriance in February 1800 and the same year came to Poughkeepsie where he shortly afterwards became a member of the firm of Storm & Wilson and, later, of A. G. Storm & Son. After the dissolution of the latter firm he continued business independently and added hardware to his stock. In 1836 he formed a partnership with Stephen Uhl, as Storm & Uhl, dealing in hardware.

He was prominent in many business and civic affairs. In 1808 he served as secretary of the Mechanics Literary and Benevolent Association and in 1811 was a trustee of the village. In 1817 he was president of the Middle District Bank, in 1836 a director of the Dutchess



County Bank, and in 1845 a director of the Merchants Bank. In 1832 he was treasurer of the Lancaster School and the same year called for proposals for the construction of a new church. In 1824 he was one of a committee which established the newspaper, the *Republican Telegraph*; in 1825 he was treasurer of Dutchess County; in 1833 he was one of the incorporators of the Dutchess Whaling Company and one of those who petitioned for the construction of a canal.

His first wife died December 17, 1816, and on October 15, of the following year, he married, in Fishkill, Miss Susan Van Wyck. He died at Poughkeepsie December 22, 1863, having been a member of the Dutch Reformed Church for fifty years.

**STORM & WILSON (1802-1818).** Abraham G. Storm and James Wilson. The partnership was dissolved April 1, 1818.

**A. G. STORM & SON (1823-1828).** Abraham G. Storm and John Adriance Storm. In 1824 they also advertised as Poughkeepsie agents for a New York lottery firm.

**JOHN ADRIANCE STORM (1801- )**. He was born in Poughkeepsie, March 2, 1801, the son of Abraham G. Storm and Mary Adriance. On February 11, 1824, he married, at Hopewell, Catharine Adriance. He was a member of the firm of A. G. Storm & Son and later, probably of Fellows & Storm of New York. In the Poughkeepsie directories from 1847 to 1856 his name appeared without any occupational designation. In 1859 and 1860 he is listed as "grocer, N. Y." In 1864 he is listed as "Superintendent of the Poor and Asst. Assessor, City-Hall." He was not listed in 1866 but in the directory for 1868 the name of Mrs. John A. Storm is included. He was one of the appraisers of the estate of Benjamin C. Van Vliet in 1859.

**PETER VAN BOMELL (1771-1848).** He was born October 9, 1771, and on July 27, 1794, married Elizabeth Marshall, born May 9, 1774. He announced the opening of his business as a silversmith August 1, 1792. In 1795 he added groceries to his stock and in 1796 was located "at the sign of the Gold Watch." In 1797, he advertised for the return of a black indentured female servant. In his advertisements of 1800 he offered a long list of articles and in 1802 he included millinery. In 1803, by act of the legislature, his name was changed to Peter Robert Maison and the surname of his wife, Elizabeth, and children, Leonard, Jane Ann, Elizabeth and Charles, was changed to Maison. After 1803,



while he never deserted the silver business entirely, he advertised mostly dry goods and his advertisements were longer and more detailed than most of the storekeepers of his time. In the 1820's he offered a wide variety of patent medicines.

He was a justice of the peace in 1802 and 1803; a trustee of the village in 1804 and again in 1816. In 1804 he was the librarian of a subscription library. His family was long prominent in the village and his son, Leonard, an able lawyer and politician, was state senator in 1837. The family was also, for many years, identified with Christ Church where he was a pewholder and contributor, and a grandson, the Rev. Dr. Charles A. Maison, son of General Leonard Maison, was ordained a clergyman of that denomination.

Peter Robert Maison died August 3, 1848, in the village of Sing Sing, N. Y. (now called Ossining), and his wife died there a few months later, November 21, 1848. They are buried at Tarrytown.

**BENJAMIN CROMWELL VAN VLIET (1805-1851).** He was born in Poughkeepsie on August 14, 1805, the son of John Van Vliet and Elizabeth Cromwell. On December 7, 1830, he married Sarah Ann Dakin, (daughter of E. K. Dakin), who died January 19, 1836. On December 13, of the same year, he married Persis Balding, daughter of Isaac I. Balding, a trustee of the village. There were three children by the first marriage and eight by the second.

Benjamin Van Vliet was a trustee of the village in 1847 and 1848. He was town clerk in 1848. He held office as coroner of Dutchess County and as treasurer of the village and, at the time of his death, was one of the Overseers of the Poor. For many years he was a member of Christ Episcopal Church, in 1829 was superintendent of the Sunday School and from 1842 to 1847 was director of the choir. He was a director of the Poughkeepsie Lyceum 1839-1841. In 1847 he was one of the subscribers to the stock of the Hudson River Railroad. He was treasurer of the Poughkeepsie Lyceum 1839-1841.

He died in Poughkeepsie February 25, 1851, and was survived by his widow and seven children. His widow died March 22, 1870. In the Poughkeepsie directories in the 1870's, his son, Hilan R. Van Vliet, was listed as a "manufacturing jeweler," and *The Poughkeepsie Daily Eagle* of May 1, 1873, says:

Van Vliet, the jeweler, is constructing a miniature trotting wagon out of solid silver. It will be a first class wagon in every detail, with springs, run-



ning gear, top that will raise and lower, &c, &c. What he can't make out of silver and gold no one else need try to make.

VAN VLIET & CROMWELL (1844). Benjamin Cromwell Van Vliet and — Cromwell.

JAMES WILSON. He worked with Abraham G. Storm under the firm name of Storm & Wilson from 1802 until 1818. In 1809 he was a trustee of the village and in 1814 he was one of the trustees of the Lancaster School Society.

PHINEAS WING. He was listed as a silversmith in the directory of 1850, with the same business address as Samuel G. Bailey. He was possibly the Phineas R. Wing, son of Hiram Wing and Catharine Lyon of Stanford, Dutchess County, N. Y., who married, November 16, 1858, Mary, daughter of Thomas and Anna Sands of Stanford.

GEORGE BARTON CUTTEN,  
and  
AMY PEARCE VER NOOY.

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A file of local newspapers at the Adriance Memorial Library, Poughkeepsie, N. Y.

A file of village and city directories at the Adriance Memorial Library, Poughkeepsie, N. Y.



GEORGE HALLIWELL ( -1816). He was born in the vicinity of Manchester, England, where he learned his trade. In 1801 he came to America and, in 1805, settled in Poughkeepsie. He began work as a member of the firm of Field & Halliwell and this business which started May 10, 1806, was finally closed out following the death of his great-grandson, December 22, 1938. Four successive George Halliwells conducted the business. It was continued over one hundred years in the same building, said to be the first building to have had plate glass windows in the city.

He was a member and officer of Solomon's Lodge and a member and pewholder at Christ Church. The firm of Frear & Halliwell, formed in 1813, was dissolved in 1816. In December of that year he went to New York on a business trip and disappeared. His body was subsequently found in the East River and, according to family tradition, years later a hotel keeper confessed to his murder. The date of his death is supposed to have been December 19, 1816. Following his disappearance the business was carried on by Adam Henderson who taught his trade to the son, George William, and later married, first, the oldest daughter and, following her death, another daughter.

GEORGE WILLIAM HALLIWELL (1811-1875). He was born in Poughkeepsie, the son of George and Phebe Halliwell. He learned his trade with his brother-in-law, Adam Henderson, and worked with him for some years. The last twenty years of his life he was in business for himself. On December 4, 1830, he married Julia Simmons of Poughkeepsie. He was a member of the Poughkeepsie fire department for some years. He died at Poughkeepsie on May 9, 1875, and was succeeded in business by his son, who in turn was succeeded by his son, all of whom had the same name, George William Halliwell. He was survived by a wife and five grown children.

CHARLES B. HAYES. He was a son of Peter P. Hayes and, in 1844, took over the business of his brother Edmund M. Hayes, under the firm name of C. B. Hayes & Co. On May 14, of that year, he married Susan Hurd of Poughkeepsie. The firm continued in business for only a year or two.

EDMUND M. HAYES ( -1857). He was a son of Peter P. Hayes and a member of the firm of P. P. Hayes & Son. On June 10, 1841, he married Jane B. Fowler of Pleasant Valley. After the death