

A LIST OF THE INHABITANTS AND SLAVES IN THE
COUNTY OF DUTCHES. 1714.

	Numbers of male persons above sixty years of age	Numbers of male persons from sixteen to sixty years of age	Numbers of male persons under sixteen	Numbers of females above sixty	Numbers of females from sixteen to sixty	Numbers of females under sixteen	Numbers of male slaves from sixteen and above	Numbers of male slaves under sixteen	Numbers of female slaves from sixteen and above	Numbers of female slaves under sixteen
Jacob Kip	4	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
John Lovell	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
Adriaen Sleight	3	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
Evert Van Wieren	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
Whilliam Ostrand	2	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
Lowrans Ostrout	2	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
Peter Palmater	2	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
Maghell Pallmatir	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
William Tetsort	2	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
Hendrick Pells	2	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
Peter Vroom	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
John Kip	5	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
Elena Van De Bogart	4	1	1	4	1	1	1	1	1	1
John De Grave	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
Lenard Lewis	3	1	1	5	1	1	1	1	1	1
Bartolumus Hoogenboom	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
Baltus Van Kleek	2	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
Frans Le Roy	3	1	1	2	1	1	1	1	1	1
Barent Van Kleck	2	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
John Ostrom	2	1	1	2	1	1	1	1	1	1
Harmen Rinders	3	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
Meindert Van Den Bogaert	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
Johanes Van Kleck	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
Lenar Le Roy	2	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
Swart Van Wagener	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
Henry Van Der Burgh	3	1	1	2	1	1	1	1	1	1
Elias Van Bunchot	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
Thomas Sanders	2	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
Catrine Lasink Wedderburn	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
Peter Lasink	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
—ey Scouten	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
Mellen Springsteen	2	1	1	2	1	1	1	1	1	1
Johnes Terbots	3	1	1	3	1	1	1	1	1	1
John Beuys	2	1	1	2	1	1	1	1	1	1
Abram Beuys	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
Garatt Van Vleit	2	1	1	4	1	1	1	1	1	1
William Outen	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
Andreis Daivedes	1	1	3	1	1	1	2	1	1	1
Frans De Langen	1	1	4	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
Aret Masten	1	1	1	1	1	1	3	1	1	1
James Husey	2	1	2	3	1	1	1	1	1	1
Roger Brett	1	1	3	1	1	1	1	1	1	1

Govrl. House.

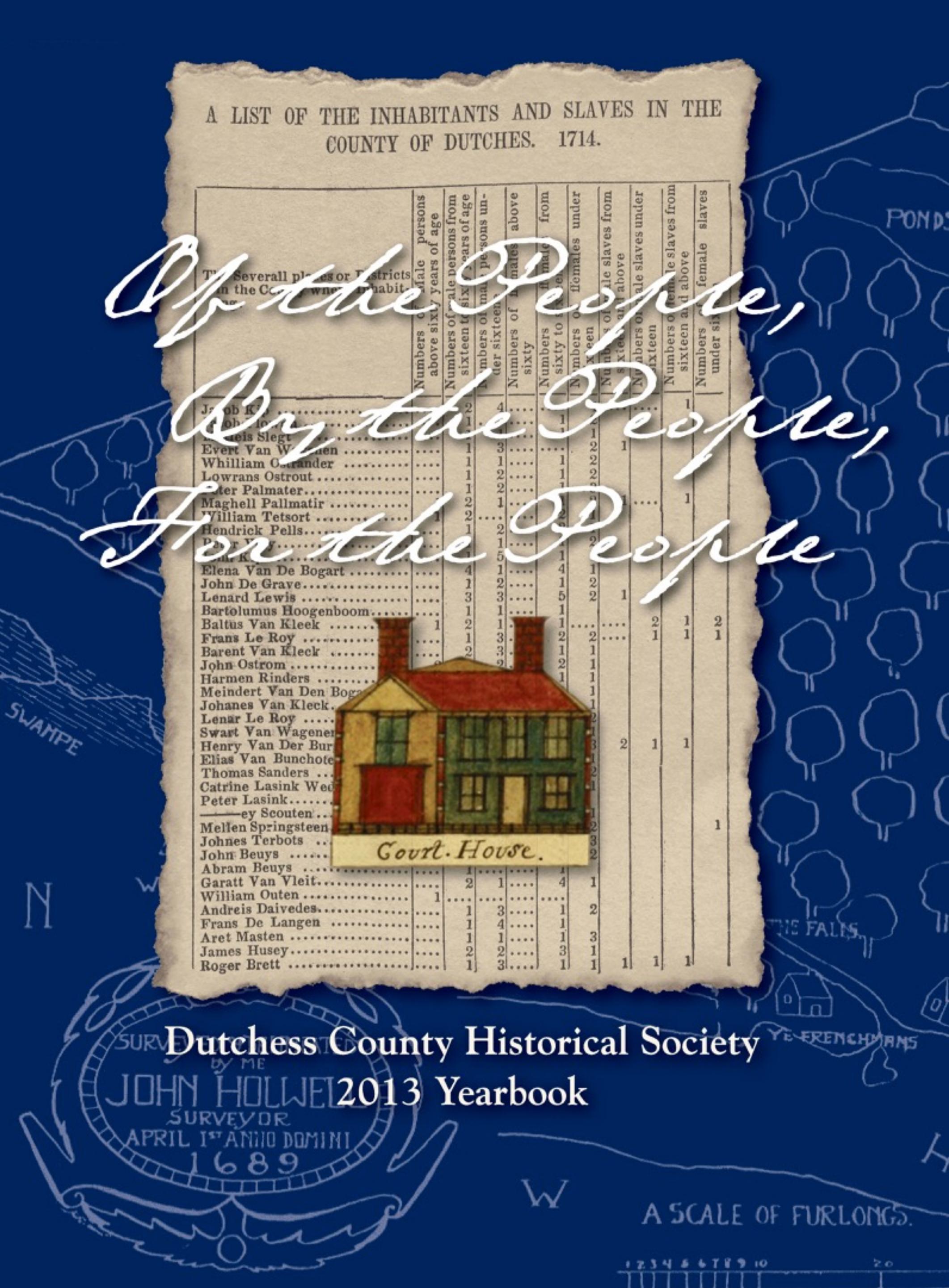
Dutchess County Historical Society
2013 Yearbook

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A SCALE OF FURLONGS.

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Of the People, By the People, For the People:

*The Pursuit of Law, Self-Governance,
and Liberty In Dutchess County*

Dutchess County Historical Society
2013 Yearbook • Volume 92



Roger Donway, *Editor*



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www.mymainprinter.com

Printer: NetPub, Inc. www.netpub.net

Dutchess County Historical Society Yearbook 2013

Volume 92 • Published annually since 1915

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ISSN: 0739-8565

ISBN: 978-0-944733-08-0

Cover: Symbols of Dutchess County:

John Holwell's map of 1689; page from census of 1714;

image of the county courthouse from John Beadle's map of 1804

Back Cover Photos (top to bottom):

E. Stuart Hubbard, leader of the apple industry in Dutchess County
during the early twentieth century.

Ed Fitchett, Alson Fitchett, Ed Fitchett Sr.; Collection of Ed Fitchett.
The Family Adams of Adams Fairacre Farms, in 1948;
Collection of Ralph and Doris Adams.



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Letter from the Editor

We owe the theme of the Forum in this 2013 yearbook to a suggestion by County Executive Marc Molinaro, who proposed that we celebrate the tercentenary of Dutchess County's birth as a self-governing polity. In addition to his suggestion, the County Executive very kindly provided the Forum with an Introduction. But neither his suggestion, his contribution, nor our yearbook cover should be taken as suggesting any sort of imprimatur. DCHS does not publish official histories.

As for the Forum's title, we have chosen a description of American government that comes from precisely the mid-point of the last three hundred years: the 1863 Gettysburg Address. Sadly, Lincoln's phrase has become so familiar as almost to have lost its meaning. Isn't it just three ways of saying the same thing? And isn't that one thing democracy? No and no.

Because man is disposed to evil, a coercive control must be exercised over a nation's citizens. That is government *of* the people. Yet, the West's ideal has been that control should be carried out only in accordance with law. This issue of the yearbook honors that tradition of putting government power under law by interviewing one of the most prominent judges ever to come out of Dutchess County, the Honorable Albert M. Rosenblatt.

"Government *by* the people" may refer to democracy—but it may not. After all, the Supreme Court was established *by* "we the people," but we the people do not elect its justices. We do choose our principal executive officers, however. And in this yearbook, County Historian William P. Tatum III tells the story of the democratic moment, in 1713, when New York judged Dutchess County ready to elect its own magistrates.

"Government *for* the people" is nearly the opposite of democracy. "Governments are instituted among men," the Declaration of Independence says, to secure the rights of life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness—against both criminals *and* democracies. Unfortunately, the original Constitution did not secure the rights of blacks from democratically imposed slavery—thus creating America's "irrepressible conflict." Gregory Wiedeman's article in this issue describes the Civil War material that DCHS has recently made available to the public.

In sum, Lincoln's description of America's triune government, so far from being a string of redundancies, possesses a complexity worthy of a theological formula. The 2013 DCHS yearbook celebrates those interwoven ideals, without speculating on whether they are compatible. — *Roger Donway*

This issue of the Dutchess County Historical Society's
yearbook has been generously underwritten by the following:

Lou and Candace J. Lewis



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FORUM



Introduction to the 2013 Dutchess County Historical Society Yearbook

By Marcus J. Molinaro

This year marks Dutchess County's 300th anniversary as an independent, self-governing polity. Though founded in 1683 as one of the original twelve counties of New York, Dutchess's population was so small that the colonial assembly ordered the county to be administered by Ulster. After thirty years of growth, in October 1713, the assembly passed an act, signed into law by the royal governor, granting the inhabitants of Dutchess permission to elect their own supervisor, treasurer, tax assessors and collectors, and other officers. The county has maintained this tradition of home rule ever since those first elections.

Three centuries later, as we look back on our community's accomplishments, assess where we are today, and look towards the future, we face two simple, yet profound questions: "Who are we as a people and how do we hope to live?" The articles in this edition of the *Dutchess County Historical Society Yearbook*, along with the programs planned around the 300th anniversary of democracy in Dutchess, are not merely exercises in nostalgia. Instead, they offer a window into past centuries of our shared story, reminding us that Dutchess played an important role in the experience and development of American democracy.

Dutchess County's governmental milestones echo with those of the state and the nation as a whole. In the opening decades of the eighteenth century, as covered in the articles by William P. Tatum III and Melodye Moore, Dutchess experienced its own independent birth of democracy with the establishment of independent county government. During the Revolutionary War, patriotic fervor swept a new group of revolutionaries into power, men like Melancton Smith, who would go on to shape the nature of the new nation. In 1788, Poughkeepsie played host to New York's Ratification Convention of the U.S. Constitution, where Smith stood out as the man who engineered the compromise that insured the state's support of the new national charter.

Over the course of the nineteenth and twentieth centuries, Dutchess County government continued to adapt to the changing circumstances of life in

America. Lou Lewis's interview with Al Rosenblatt, a pivotal legal figure in New York, provides an excellent bookend for bringing that story to the present day. The creation of the Dutchess County Court of Common Pleas and General Sessions, the fore-runner of the modern county court, in 1721 completed the process of establishing home rule in the county. Rosenblatt's recounting of his experiences while serving in the Dutchess County District Attorney's Office and as a judge of the county court reminds us that those deep roots of three centuries past continue to bear fruit today. His journey from a childhood in Brooklyn as the son of immigrant parents to Judge of the New York State Court of Appeals illustrates Dutchess County's role as home to talent from across the world and the continuing impact of our community on our state and nation.

We see reflections of this rich and proud heritage of public engagement in the many ways in which democracy has interwoven politics so deeply within the fabric of Dutchess County. The life of this county and the way in which it relates to the larger stories surrounding us has been, and continues to be, defined by our politics and the way in which we engage in our own self-governance. The story of democracy in Dutchess, spanning three hundred years, written by the people of our community, goes on.

The Birth of a County: Establishing a Government in Dutchess, 1713–1721

By William P. Tatum III

The idea that Dutchess County has an important three hundredth anniversary in 2013 can be a confusing one. Thoughts immediately jump to the most obvious conclusion: the county must have been laid out three hundred years ago and that is what we have been celebrating this year. Factually, this idea is incorrect, though in a more qualitative sense it has a great deal of merit. Dutchess, along with eleven other counties named after members or allies of the British royal family, was established in 1683. Because the county's population was so small at that time, the decision was made that Dutchess would be administered by Ulster County, an arrangement that lasted for thirty years. Finally, on October 23, 1713, Royal Governor Robert Hunter signed into law an assembly bill granting the inhabitants of Dutchess the right to elect their own government.

Thus in a practical perspective, Dutchess did experience an independent birth three hundred years ago, at least on paper. The actual process of establishing the necessary panoply of governmental organs and filling them with elected officers was a much lengthier affair than the denizens of the computer age might imagine. In an age when communications travelled no faster than a horse over broken roads or a ship navigating shifting waterways, the work required to give effective substance to the orders contained in that October 1713 law required eight years of concerted effort, along with multiple interventions by the colonial authorities to keep the ball rolling. This article will provide an overview of that process and some explanation of its local tie-ins.

The story of governance in Dutchess began on November 1, 1683, when the General Assembly of the Colony of New York passed a bill “dividing the Province into respective Countys for the better governing and settling Courts in the same.” As established by this act, “The Dutchess’s County” lay above the northern boundary of Westchester, stretched as far north as “Roelof Jansens Creeke” and traveled twenty miles into the woods lying east of the Hudson. The act further directed that each county select a higher sheriff and deputies on a yearly basis.¹

The earliest surviving indication that everything did not go as intended, with an independent government for Dutchess, came in 1691. The act establishing the courts of common pleas, passed on May 6 of that year, specified that Dutchess County “be annexed...to ye County of Ulster.”² While the new law provided no grounds for this decision, a subsequent act the following year again lumped Ulster and Dutchess together for the mutual defense of Albany. This September 10, 1692, law required the two counties to provide a combined eighty men to reinforce Albany against attack from hostile native tribes, in marked contrast to the 300-man quota for each of the other counties.³ A clarification for this pairing finally came in the civil list of the province of New York for 1693, which stated “Dutchess County having very few inhabitants [was] committed to the care of the county of Ulster.” The same list, however, indicates that this administration from Kingston was not an entirely one-sided affair: Henry Beeckman, the namesake of the famous land patent in Dutchess, was listed among the justices of the peace for Ulster.⁴

A key governmental concern prompting Ulster’s administration of Dutchess was the collection of taxes. With Dutchess having a small population, it made a certain degree of sense to tax both counties simultaneously and charge the Kingston authorities with gathering the money. For example, the Ulster County Court of Common Pleas and General Sessions Minutes for February 22, 1709, include references to a tax for frontier defense and government salaries that was to be split between Ulster and Dutchess.⁵ Collecting Dutchess’s contribution, however, proved to be tricky at that time. In 1711, the general assembly passed a new tax law requiring Dutchess to pay £130 over the following five years. By June 1718, the county was still in arrears on this tax along with several others.⁶

Self-Governance

Population growth, along with these problems in effectively governing Dutchess from Kingston, were the most likely factors behind the general assembly’s vote in 1713 to grant the county permission to elect its own government. The new law built in a considerable time frame within which to implement the first election: the vote was set for the first Tuesday in September 1714, providing the justices of the peace with the better part of a year to organize. Their duties in accordance with the act were to travel through Dutchess’s far-flung communities to warn the free-holders and other eligible voters of the upcoming election and to organize the ballot-casting. These activities probably resulted in the census of 1714, which is discussed in detail by Melodye Moore later in this issue of the DCHS yearbook.⁷

In granting permission for the inhabitants of Dutchess to elect a supervisor, treasurer, two tax assessors, and two tax collectors, the 1713 act referenced two earlier laws, passed in 1691 and 1703. The first law, entitled *An Act for the defraying of the Publique and necessary charge throughout this Province and maintaining the poor and preventing Vagabonds*, and passed on May 13, 1691, effectively established town and county government in the colony. The act required elections to be held in each town to elect two freeholders annually who would set county-wide tax rates for supporting the most impoverished residents. This early form of welfare was based on the English Poor Rates, which stretched back to medieval times. Once the rates were set, the inhabitants were directed to elect another freeholder annually to review the charges against the county and act as its treasurer, guarding against any attempts at fraud.⁸ These were the tax assessors and treasurer listed in the 1713 Dutchess law.

The 1703 law sought to clarify the 1691 act, which had been derailed owing to the “Generallity of the Words” in it, which had sparked “many disputes Cavills Controversies and mistakes.” In addition to better defining the voting structure and the exact duties of the assessors and treasurers (the latter being chosen by the supervisors), this new law established the office of supervisor and tax collector. Every county was to have one supervisor per town, one treasurer, two assessors, and one collector—all to be elected each year on the first Tuesday in April, with votes being held in each town. The supervisors were directed to meet annually in the “county town” on the first Tuesday in October to review all charges against the county’s accounts. With the exception of increasing the meeting times per year, these duties would remain effectively unchanged until 1963, when the state assembly granted county governments the right to pass local laws.⁹

Thus, when the elections of 1714 took place on September 7 (under the Julian calendar then in use throughout the British Empire), the basic structure of how county government should function was well established. While the names of those first officials have been lost to time, their initial purpose seems clear. The election in September would have provided sufficient time for the annual October meeting, held officially for the first time in Poughkeepsie instead of Kingston, to review county accounts. The short duration of those first terms, with the next set of elections taking place in April 1715, would have given the initial office holders just enough time to try out their new roles before beginning the standard year-long term in earnest.

The earliest official records of Dutchess County’s new government are contained in the First Book of Supervisors. The book predominantly covers

the period from 1717 through 1722, although it contains some records that reach back to the beginning of county government. When combined with information from the colonial statutes and other early sources, the Supervisors' records provide a basic outline of the development of Dutchess government from 1715 on, although many questions remain about the details of the first few years.

A payment to Henry Van Der Burgh, recorded in the First Book of Supervisors during their October 1717 meeting, provides the earliest evidence of the county clerk. Entered as "Clark To Two Years Servis as pr Egreement," this debit indicates that Van Der Burgh had served at least since 1715. Given the short space of time between the September 1714 elections and the mandated October 1714 meeting of the supervisor, treasurer, and assessors, it seems likely that a regular clerk was not appointed in that first year. As the entry indicates, the clerk's initial job was to take down the minutes from the annual meeting, including the charges against the county's accounts. Over time, the responsibilities of the office would grow to include entering all legal documents, especially land titles, and to serve as the clerk of the county court of common pleas during its initial years. Likewise, the earliest indication of a county treasurer dates to 1716; a reference to his pay is contained in a June 24, 1718, receipt for tax money.¹⁰

Courthouse and Jail

Two other notable advances occurred in 1715, though neither was immediately successful. On July 21, 1715, the general assembly passed a bill ordering Dutchess County to build a courthouse and jail, and directing the justices of the peace to issue writs for holding elections to select two freeholders who would supervise this process. The county was further authorized to levy a special tax equaling the value of "Two hundred and fifty Ounces of good Mexico, Pillar or Sevill Plate," that is, gold or silver in its ingot form.¹¹ This new building would be the essential home of county government, the place where both the supervisors and the courts would meet, criminals would be held, and the people could gather to witness the operations of the government and the law. Little progress would be made on the building until two years later.

The second major effort of 1715 that failed to bear immediate fruit was the establishment of Dutchess County's own Court of Common Pleas. In November 1715, Leonard Lewis, a notable Poughkeepsie resident, wrote to the colonial government requesting "A Comision for to kiep a Coort of Common pl[eas]" in the county, with him as judge. Lewis pointed out the

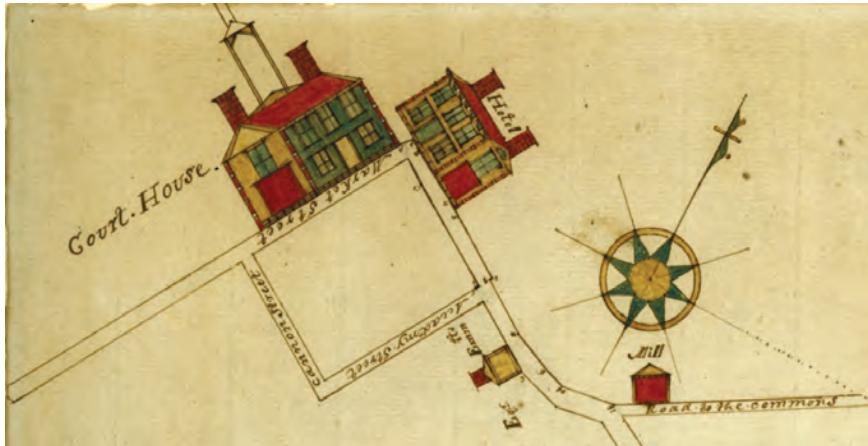


Figure 1. Map showing the location of the Dutchess County Courthouse or “County-House and Prison.” From the Dutchess turnpike map made by John Beadle in 1804. Courtesy of the author and the Dutchess County Clerk.



Figure 2. A jail cell in the fourth county courthouse, completed in 1809. Photograph, taken about 1901. Collection of the Dutchess County Historical Society.

necessity of having the court present in order to naturalize new immigrants of foreign birth (that is, people from outside of the British Empire), and requested that Barendt Van Kleeck and John Terbus be appointed as assistant judges and Captain Richard Sacket as clerk.¹² While Dutchess did not receive its commission for the court until 1721 (at which times Lewis

became its first judge), this action nevertheless demonstrates the zeal with which the county's notable citizens pursued the goal of a fully independent government.

The failure of the initial push for a courthouse and jail resulted in a new act for their erection in May 1717, just ahead of the July deadline set by the 1715 act for the new building's completion. This subsequent act extended the grace period by an additional three years.¹³ On June 11, Leonard Lewis (now listed as a judge), Captain Barendt Van Kleck, and Lieutenant Johannes Terboss, the latter two being justices of the peace, convened in Poughkeepsie and issued orders to all constables in the county to summon the freeholders to meet at Lewis's house on June 22. There they would elect the two supervisors and directors for the "County House and preson." At this subsequent meeting, Captain Van Kleck and Jacob Van Den Bogart were chosen to fill the posts.¹⁴

Lewis's position as judge, indicated by the order of June 11, 1717, presents a historical mystery. According to one scholar's research, Lewis received a commission as Judge of the Dutchess County Court of Common Pleas and General Sessions in 1716.¹⁵ Beginning in February 1718, records appear in the First Book of Supervisors of a court sitting at Poughkeepsie for Dutchess County, with Leonard Lewis as its judge and Captain Barendt Van Kleck, Machill Parmentie, and Johannes Terbos serving as justices of the peace. The first court entry in the First Book of Supervisors, dated February 19, 1718, specifies it as acting for Dutchess County in a special session to try John De Grasse for selling "Strong Licquors" without a license. Yet an order from Royal Governor William Burnet in July 1721 establishing the Court of Common Pleas and General Sessions of Dutchess County is the earliest surviving official recognition of that court's establishment. It is possible that Lewis had been issued a commission as a judge of the Ulster County Court of Common Pleas with permission to hold special sessions in Dutchess until such time as the latter county received its own independent judiciary.¹⁶

The First Election

The earliest recorded election for Dutchess County officeholders took place in April 1718, providing the first complete slate of names for county officials. The results were as follows:

Henry Van Der Burgh Supervisor
Leonard Lewis. Treasurer

Elias Van Bunschoten	Assessor
Mindert Van Den Bogart	Assessor
Isack Titsort	Collector and Constable
Hendrick Pels	Overseer of the Highway
Peter Parmeter	Surveyor of the Fences
Johannes Van Kleeck	Surveyor of the Fences

For the South Ward of Fish Kill

James Hussey	Assessor
Jan Buys	Assessor
Marckuss Van Boomel	Collector
Jacob Schouten	Constable and Collector
Gerrett Van Vliet	Overseer of the Highway
Jan Buys	Overseer of the Highway
Frans De Lange	Surveyor of the Fences
Pieter De Boys	Surveyor of the Fences

Lewis replaced Johannes Terbos as treasurer and retained his post as judge, while Henry Van Der Burgh continued to act as county clerk. Such dual office-holding was not unusual during the period, especially in areas with small populations of freeholders.¹⁷ The election returns show two notable diversions from the letter of the 1713 law. First, the freeholders voted for a larger number of officers than originally authorized by the 1703 or the 1713 acts. These included the overseers of the highways and the surveyors of the fences, the predecessors of today's Department of Public Works. An act passed by the general assembly in 1691 authorized the election of these two officers to encourage the expansion of road networks within each county and insure that regulations regarding the width and repair of the roads were enforced. The Overseers of the Highways and Surveyors of the Fences were, like the other county officials, elected in each of the towns, but served three-year terms instead of a single year.¹⁸

The other notable element from this election return is the de facto division of Dutchess into two wards, although the colonial authorities had given no such permission or direction. The earliest reference to two wards—one in the north and one in the south—can be found in minutes of the Ulster County Court of Common Pleas in 1709.¹⁹ Balanced between Poughkeepsie and Fishkill, these two wards, as seen above, enjoyed their own slate of assessors, collectors, overseers, and surveyors—although, in keeping with the 1713 act, only one supervisor and treasurer were elected for the entire county. The tax officials were certainly active in both wards this year, as

indicated by full assessment lists recorded in the opening pages of the First Book of Supervisors.²⁰

In 1719, the general assembly granted official recognition to Dutchess County's internal divisions and extended them, increasing the number of wards from two to three. The south ward began at the Hudson Highlands and extended northward to Wappingers Creek. The middle ward began at Wappingers and ended at "Cline sopas Island." The north ward ended at the county's northern boundary in modern Columbia County. Passed in June of that year, the act cited the increase in "Inhabitants & Settlements" and divided the county for the "more easy adjusting the Accounts of Taxes...& payments of the County Charge." Each ward's inhabitants would elect their own supervisor, who would have "the same power, function and authority to raise publick money to defray the necessary Charge of the County." The first elections featuring three supervisors were slated for the following April.²¹

Further Development

The year witnessed several other notable developments for county government. The earliest potential reference to the Sheriff of Dutchess County in the First Book of Supervisors appeared in January 1719 in the form of a payment "To Cornelus Van Den Bogart for Caryng of the Cheff Justeses Comison to Kip that Was Left with Cherf." While relying on phonetic spelling to decipher the final word as being "sheriff," this entry does bring up a notable detail of county government in New York during the late seventeenth and eighteenth century: there are no references to sheriffs in colonial legislation until 1773. Prior to that time, all official acts regarding law enforcement in New York counties referred to "constables." Both terms were of English origin and theoretically interchangeable, though these were distinctly different offices in England itself. The New York constabulary was constituted by an act of the general assembly on October 22, 1684, which authorized freeholders to elect town and county constables on the third or fourth day of April annually. A March 8, 1773, act of the general assembly entitled "An Act to regulate the Office of Under or Deputy Sheriff within this Colony" offers the first official statutory reference to that office. As seen above, the constables in Dutchess served dual duty as tax collectors, which was in line with their duties as described in the 1703 act establishing county government.²²

In February, the Book of Supervisors recorded the first sure sign of progress on the courthouse. The supervisors elected in 1717 ordered the county

tax assessors to prepare a special roll on February 11, 1719, to start the process of collecting money to fund the construction. The lackadaisical tone would continue to plague their efforts. On March 18, 1720, the courthouse supervisors ordered the assessors to prepare revised taxed lists and on March 23 the justices of the peace ordered the taxes to be collected, presumably offering the first real government funding for the project.²³ The courthouse would not be finished until after the formal establishment of the court of common pleas in 1721.

April 1719 witnessed the last single-supervisor election in the county. Henry Van Der Burgh retained his seat as Supervisor and Leonard Lewis as county treasurer. The other offices witnessed a complete turnover, with new men coming in to replace the incumbents, testifying to the healthy number of freeholders capable of serving the public. The new officers included:

Fransoy Le Roy & Piter Parmante	Assessors
High Constable Lowarance Van Kleeck . .	Constable & Collector
John De Grafe	Overseer of the Kings Highway
Evert Van Wagenen Jr & Arett Mastten . .	Surveyors of the Fences

For the South Ward of Fishkill

Pieter Duboys	Constable
John Buys & Marcques Van Bomel	Assessors
Gerrit Van Vleidt	Collector
Pieter Lassing & Frans De Lange	Overseers of the Kings Highway
James Hossie & Abram Buys	Surveyors of the Fences ²⁴

In addition to the slow advance of the courthouse project, 1720 witnessed the first election of a true board of supervisors for Dutchess, the start of legislative power in the county. The board would continue to administer Dutchess until being replaced by a county executive and legislature by the Dutchess County Charter of 1967. Elections were held throughout the county on the second Tuesday in April and resulted in an expanded roll of public officers thanks to the addition of a third ward. The successful candidates were:

For the Middle Ward of Poughkeepsie

Henry Van Der Burgh	Supervisor
Coll Leonard Lewis.	Treasurer

Johannes Van Den Bogart	Constable & Collector
Johannes Van Kleck & Thomas Lewis . . .	Assessors
Fransoy Van Den Bogart	Overseer of the Kings Highway
Peter Veley & Hendrick Pels	Surveyors of the Fences

For the South Ward of Fishkill

James Hussy	Constable & Collector
Johannes Buys & Johannes Terbos Jr.	Assessors
Johannes Terboss	Supervisor
Robert Dingen	Overseer of the Kings Highway
Frans De Lange	Overseer of the Way for “Pagquaick”
Gerrett Van Vledt & Jan Buys	Surveyors of the Fences

For the North Ward

Jurie Priegel	Constable & Collector
Lourens Knickerbacker	
& Falentyn Benner	Assessors
William Trophage	Supervisor
Tunnes Pier	Overseer of the Kings Highway
William Trophage & Tunnes Pier	Surveyors of the Fences
Jacob Ploeg	“Ponnder for ofending beasts”

Self-Government is Completed

Notable within this list were Frans De Lange, occupying the new post of overseer for the road linking Poughquag in Beekman to the remainder of the county, and Jacob Ploeg, who provided the first animal control services for the north ward.²⁵ These new positions signaled a gradual expansion in county government that would continue over the subsequent centuries.

After seven eventful years, 1721 brought the process of establishing an independent county government in Dutchess to its conclusion. After another successful three-ward election, which returned Peter Dubois as the new supervisor of the south ward, the county at last received its official grant of a court of common pleas and general sessions on July 6. As recorded in the First Book of Supervisors, Royal Governor William Burnet’s ordinance acknowledged that the inhabitants of Dutchess had for “Some time formerly been Subjected to the Jurisdiction of the Justices of ye aforesaid County of Ulster” and decreed that a court would sit at Poughkeepsie. The general sessions, at which special crimes would be heard, would sit on

the third Tuesday in May and October every year and last for two days. The common pleas would begin immediately after the general sessions, trying more minor crimes, and would also last for no more than two days. The Dutchess court would enjoy the same “power And Jurisdictions as other Court of Common pleas in other Countyies within the province of New York.” At last, the inhabitants of Dutchess had their own institution for providing access to the law and maintaining peace in the county.²⁶

By the end of 1721, Dutchess County finally possessed a full set of governmental departments and public officers and was capable of independently administering its business for the first time since its founding in 1683. It had been a long road, lived largely in the shadow of Ulster County and other neighbors, and one that did not end in 1721. Although Dutchess now moved forward on its own track, the years ahead would offer a bounty of new challenges that would require changes and innovations in county government to better serve the needs of its citizens. This process of adaptation continues today as county government faces an ever-changing world.

¹ *The Colonial Laws of New York*, Vol 1, pp. 121–23.

² *Colonial Laws*, p. 228.

³ *Colonial Laws*, p. 286.

⁴ “Civil List of the Province of New York, 1693,” E.B. O’Callaghan, *Documentary History of the State of New-York*, Vol 1 (New York: Secretary’s Office, 1849), pp. 316–17.

⁵ Davis Family Donation, Court of Common Pleas and General Sessions Minutes 1705–1712, 1729–1737, Ulster County Clerk Archives Division, <http://www.co.ulster.ny.us/archives/exhibits/Davis/Common.html>, accessed June 12, 2013. This entry also references north and south wards in Dutchess, ten years before they were officially authorized by the general assembly.

⁶ *Book of the Supervisors of Dutchess County N. Y. A.D. 1718–1722* (Poughkeepsie: Vassar Brothers’ Institute, 1907[?]), p. 4,

⁷ *Colonial Laws*, Vol 1, p. 800.

⁸ *Colonial Laws*, p. 237. The town constables were charged with collecting the tax money.

⁹ *Colonial Laws*, pp. 539–40. For powers to pass local laws, see N.Y. MHR. LAW § 10 : NY Code - Section 10: General powers of local governments to adopt and amend local laws.

¹⁰ *Book of the Supervisors of Dutchess County N.Y. A.D. 1718–1722*, pp. 4, 30.

¹¹ *The Colonial Laws of New York*, Vol 1, pp. 868–69.

¹² “The Organization of A Court of Common Pleas in Dutchess County,” *Dutchess County Historical Society Yearbook*, Vol. 12, 1927, pp. 30–31.

¹³ *The Colonial Laws of New York*, Vol 1, pp. 914–15.

¹⁴ *Book of the Supervisors*, pp. 6–7.

¹⁵ Frances J. Sypher, Jr., “Vicissitudes of the Lewis Family: The Will of Leonard Lewis of Dutchess County, New York,” *American Genealogist*, Vol. 84, No. 3, July 2010, p. 194

¹⁶ *Book of the Supervisors*, pp. 7, 42–43.

¹⁷ *Book of the Supervisors*, pp. 4–5. Terbos is referred to as treasurer in a February 1718 order from Lewis to Constable and Collector Cornelius Van Den Bogart and Collector Evert Wagener. Van Der Burgh signed a March 1719 tax receipt as “Clerk.”

¹⁸ *Colonial Laws of New York*, p. 226.

¹⁹ See note 5.

²⁰ *Book of the Supervisors*, pp. 1–3.

²¹ *Colonial Laws of New York*, Vol 1, pp. 1033–34.

²² *Book of the Supervisors*, p. 30; *Colonial Laws of New York*, Vol 1, pp. 146–47; Vol 5, p. 527.

²³ *Book of the Supervisors*, pp. 13, 23, 29.

²⁴ *Book of the Supervisors*, p. 20.

²⁵ *Book of the Supervisors*, pp. 31–32.

²⁶ *Book of the Supervisors*, pp. 44–45.

Of Sufficient Number: The First 447 to Be Counted

By Melodye Moore

“Dutchess County haveing very few inhabitants committed to the care of the county of Ulster.”

That is how Dutchess County was described in the Civil List of the Province of New-York, 1693.¹ And “committed to the care of Ulster,” the county remained until 1713, when Dutchess was deemed to have sufficient residents to warrant administration independent of Ulster. Edmund Platt, chairman of the committee that published the *Book of The Supervisors of Dutchess County N.Y. A.D. 1718–1722*, opined that Dutchess may have had its own justices of the peace prior to 1713, although their names are unknown, for on October 23, 1713, it was they who were required by a colonial act to issue warrants for an election—to be held “at any time before the first Tuesday next, there to make a choice of one Free-holder to be supervisor, one Treasurer, two Assessors and two Collectors.” Although it is likely that the required election occurred, there is no record of it.

The county, one of the twelve original counties of the province of New York, was the fifth named in an act passed by the colonial legislature on November 1, 1683. At the time the county was much larger than it is today, extending northward into present-day Columbia County to the Roeliff Jansen Kill, and southward to include all of present-day Putnam County. Only three or four families (exclusive of the Native American population) are believed to have lived within its boundaries. The first Native American deed within the county was dated June 15, 1680, and by 1685 crown patents were beginning to be made, the first being the Rombout Patent, which embraced the present towns of Fishkill, East Fishkill, Wappingers, the westerly part of LaGrange, and nine thousand acres within the southern part of the Town of Poughkeepsie. Patents continued to be issued in the county for the next twenty-one years, the last being the Little Nine Partners in 1706 for land in the northeast part of the county. By this time, families were taking up residence in the county, with the earliest settlements occurring near the Hudson River in the vicinities of Rhinebeck, Poughkeepsie, and Fishkill.

What? Who? How Many?

So who were the residents of Dutchess County in 1713 when it was determined that there was sufficient population to warrant self-rule? While we cannot know for certain, we can take a look at the first census of the county, done just one year later in 1714.

According to this colonial census, the population of the county totaled 445 persons (29 of whom were slaves), and they lived in 67 households.

A LIST OF THE INHABITANTS AND SLAVES IN THE COUNTY OF DUTCHES. 1714.									
		Numbers of Male persons above sixty years of age		Numbers of females from sixteen to sixty years of age		Numbers of male persons under sixteen		Numbers of females above sixty	
Jacob Kip	.....	2	4	1	3	1	2	1	1
Jacob Plowgh	.....	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
Matiels Slegt	.....	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
Evert Van Wagenen	.....	1	3	1	2	1	2	1	1
Whilliam Ostrander	.....	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
Lowrans Ostroot	.....	1	2	1	1	1	2	1	1
Peter Palmater	.....	1	2	1	1	1	3	1	1
Maghell Pallimair	.....	1	2	1	1	1	2	1	1
William Tetsort	.....	1	2	1	2	1	1	1	1
Hendrick Pells	.....	1	2	1	1	1	2	1	1
Peter Vely	.....	1	1	1	1	1	2	1	1
John Kip	.....	1	5	1	3	1	1	1	1
Elena Van De Bogart	.....	1	1	1	4	1	1	1	1
John De Grave	.....	1	2	1	1	1	2	1	1
Lenard Lewis	.....	3	3	5	2	1	1	1	1
Bartolomus Hoogenboom	.....	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
Baltus Van Kleek	.....	1	2	1	1	1	2	1	1
Frans Le Roy	.....	1	3	2	2	1	2	1	1
Barent Van Kleek	.....	2	2	2	2	1	1	1	1
John Ostrom	.....	2	3	2	2	1	1	1	1
Harmen Rinders	.....	1	3	1	1	1	1	1	1
Meindert Van Den Bogart	.....	1	3	1	1	1	1	1	1
Johanes Van Kleek	.....	1	2	1	2	1	1	1	1
Lenaar Le Roy	.....	1	2	1	1	1	2	1	1
Swart Van Wagenen	.....	1	3	1	1	1	1	1	1
Henry Van Der Burgh	.....	1	1	2	2	3	2	1	1
Elias Van Bunchoten	.....	1	2	1	1	1	1	1	1
Thomas Sanders	.....	1	2	2	2	2	2	1	1
Catrine Lasink Wedo	.....	1	1	2	1	1	1	1	1
Peter Lasink	.....	1	4	1	1	1	1	1	1
——ey Scouten	.....	3	3	2	1	1	2	1	1
Mellen Springsteen	.....	1	2	1	1	2	1	1	1
Johnes Terbots	.....	2	2	1	1	3	1	1	1
John Beuys	.....	1	1	1	3	2	1	1	1
Abram Beuys	.....	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
Garatit Van Vleit	.....	2	1	4	1	1	1	1	1
William Onten	.....	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
Andreas Daivedes	.....	1	3	1	1	2	1	1	1
Frans De Langen	.....	1	4	1	1	3	1	1	1
Aret Masten	.....	1	1	1	1	1	3	1	1
James Hussey	.....	2	2	3	2	1	1	1	1
Roger Brett	.....	1	3	1	1	1	1	1	1

Figure 1a. A List of the Inhabitants and Slaves in the County of Dutchess, 1714. O'Callaghan, Documentary History, p. 368

But it appears that when the list was first created, there were incorrect totals in two columns: "men under 16" and "slaves." Both columns, when recalculated, increase by 1, bringing the total number of residents to 447. Of this number, 11 (2 percent) were males above 60; 89 (20 percent) were males between 16 and 60; and 121 (27 percent) were males under 16. There was only one woman reported to be above 60, and she was living in the household of Dirck Wesselse of Rhinebeck. Additionally, there were 97 women (22 percent) between the ages of 16 and 60, and 98 women (22 percent) under the age of 16. Generally, then, the population was fairly evenly distributed among the various groups, with the one single woman above 60 being the striking exception. The average number of people living in a household was 6. The largest households were those of Jacob Kip and Jacob Vosburgh of Rhinebeck, and Elena Van de Bogart and John Ostrom of Poughkeepsie, each numbering 10 people. The smallest household was that of William Outen of the Fishkill area who, aged over 60, lived alone.

	Numbers of male persons above sixty years of age.	Numbers of male persons from sixteen to sixty years of age.	Numbers of male persons under sixteen.	Numbers of females above sixty.	Numbers of females from sixteen to sixteen.	Numbers of females under sixteen.	Numbers of male slaves from sixteen and above.	Numbers of male slaves under sixteen.	Numbers of female slaves from sixteen and above.	Numbers of female slaves under sixteen.	Numbers of female slaves under sixteen and above.
Peter De Boyes	1	5	.....	2	1	1	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
Isack Hendricks .....	.....	1	.....	1	1	1	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
John Breines	1	.....	.....	1	1	1	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
Jeurey Sprinsten	1	4	.....	1	1	1	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
Peek De Wit	1	2	.....	2	3	1	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
Aadaam Van alsted	1	1	.....	2	2	1	1	1	1	1	1
Cellitie kool .....	.....	1	2	.....	2	1	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
Harmen knickerbacker	1	1	2	.....	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
Johanis Dyckman Sienjer	1	.....	.....	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
Jacob Hoghtelingh	1	2	.....	1	2	1	1	1	1	1	1
Dirch Wesselse	1	2	.....	1	2	1	2	1	2	1	1
Willem Schot	1	.....	.....	3	3	1	1	1	1	1	1
Jacob Vosburgh	5	.....	.....	3	3	2	1	1	1	1	1
Tunis Pieterse	2	2	.....	3	2	1	1	1	1	1	1
henderick bretsiert	1	.....	.....	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
Roelif Duijster	1	3	.....	2	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
Johannis Spoor Junjoor	1	1	5	.....	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
Abraham Vosburgh	1	3	.....	1	1	2	1	1	1	1	1
Abraham Van Dusen	1	2	.....	1	1	4	1	1	1	1	1
Willem Wijt	1	1	.....	1	1	3	1	1	1	1	1
Louwerens knickerbacker	1	2	.....	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
henderick Sissum	1	.....	.....	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
Aenderis Gerdener	2	1	.....	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
Gysbert oosterhout	1	.....	.....	1	1	6	1	1	1	1	1
Johannis Dyckman Junjor	1	.....	.....	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
	11	89	120	1	97	98	12	6	7	4	

[Total N^o. of souls, 445.]

Figure 1b. A List of the Inhabitants and Slaves in the County of Dutchess, 1714. O'Callaghan, Documentary History, p. 369

The slaves in the county represented 7 percent of the population, with 11 slaves living in the Rhinebeck area, 15 in the Poughkeepsie area, and 4 in the Fishkill area. Among the largest slaveholders in the county were such prominent settlers as Poughkeepsie's Baltus Van Kleeck (5 slaves), Frans LeRoy (3), and Henry Van Der Burgh (4); Rhinebeck's Dirck Wesselse (5); and Fishkill's Roger Brett (3).

To gain some perspective on how sparsely settled the county was at that time, consider that its 528,000 acres (excluding Putnam and parts of Columbia) contained only 447 people, divided largely among three settlements along the river. Compare that to the current number of residents in the Town of Milan, the least populated Dutchess County town. According to the 2010 census, Milan's population is 2370—more than five times the number of residents living within the entire county of Dutchess in 1714.

Counting Heads

The process of taking a census so early in the eighteenth century must have been a lengthy and arduous task, and it is unlikely that the pay was anything more than nominal. The name of the first census taker is not clear from the documentary evidence, but it is certain that he encountered many obstacles. Since it was common for a census taker to live in the area that was being enumerated, he would likely have had a familiarity with the settlement patterns. But he had large areas of territory to cover, and he had to travel under difficult circumstances. While the Colonial Assembly had, in 1703, authorized the finishing of the Post Road for the carriage of goods and the passage of travelers, by the time of the 1714 census it was still barely more than a wagon path. Travelling on horseback or on foot, the census taker would have found that moving between the three population centers was very time consuming.

The census taker himself would have been literate, but he would surely have encountered people who could not read and write, who spoke a different language, or who quite possibly were distrustful of government motives. Take for example John Beuys, listed in the census among the residents of the Fishkill area. On February 12, 1718/1719, the assessments for the three wards were completed, and John Beuys is listed as one of the five assessors who had established the property values of the residents of the county. Unlike the other four, though, Beuys was apparently illiterate, for on this assessment, and on all later documents where he is listed, an X serves as his mark, replacing his signature. Inevitably, such a primitive level of education among some of the population led to problems in the recording process.

Also indicative of the level of literacy, as well as of the different native tongues of those enumerated, are the different spellings of the same name: William is also spelled as Whilliam and Willem; John as Johannes, Jo-hannis, and Johnes; and Lawrence as Lowrens and Lowrans. It is quite possible that William Outen, the single male living alone in the Fishkill area, was entered incorrectly and was actually William Scouten, since this surname was a familiar name in the area.

As in the first Federal Census of 1790, the census taker was interested only in learning the name of the head of the household, the number of free white males and females, and how many slaves resided in the home. Thus, the only time the name of a woman would be found in a census of this period would be if she were the head of the household, which most likely meant that she were widowed or never married. Such was the case in the Dutchess County census of 1714, which lists Catrine Lasink as "Wedo" and Elena Van de Bogart, who was the widow of Myndert Harmse Van de Bogart (although she is not listed as "wedo"). It is not until 1850 that data such as householder names and education levels are included in the censuses.

Three Settlements

The first three areas to be populated in Dutchess County were in the vicinities of Fishkill, Poughkeepsie, and Rhinebeck. Whether by coincidence or by design, the northernmost and southernmost of these three communities are nearly equidistant from the one in the middle, there being approximately 17 miles between Fishkill Landing (Beacon) and Poughkeepsie, and 18 miles between Poughkeepsie and Rhinebeck. Interestingly, the average distance a horse can be expected to cover in a day is 20–25 miles, so these distances would have been a one-day trip for a census taker or a resident travelling between the three settlements on business.

Numerous historians allege that the first Dutchess County settlement of which there is authentic information was the one in Fishkill by Nicholas Emigh, and that may have occurred as early as 1682. Emigh had arrived in America circa 1672 with Robert Livingston and settled first in Fort Orange (Albany). Later, he was said to have removed himself and his family to the mouth of the Fishkill Creek, where he bought land from the Native Americans that extended north to Poughkeepsie and east to the Connecticut line. When this purchase was later invalidated by the granting of the Rombout and Beekman Patents, he moved east into Dutchess County and bought land in the Clove. His daughter Katrina was reputedly the first white child

born in Dutchess County. She later married a man named Lasink (later Lossing), who had moved up from New York City circa 1700.² Emigh is not one of the individuals enumerated in the census, and his exact location in the county at this time is unknown.

Settlements in Poughkeepsie were nearly contemporary with the Fishkill settlement. By 1700, it is likely that there were 3 or 4 families in the Poughkeepsie area, and by 1710 a small original group of early settlers in Rhinebeck was expanding with the arrival of Palatine refugees.

Many of the sixty-seven names in the 1714 census are recognizable, and assuming the households are listed in the order in which the census was conducted, some conclusions can be made about the route of the census taker. The first 6 names listed, from Jacob Kip through Lowrens Ostrout, can all be documented as living in the Rhinebeck area. The next 22, from Peter Palmater through Thomas Sanders, have Poughkeepsie associations. Those beginning with Catrine Lasink, “Wedo,” and continuing through Jeurey Springsten number 18 and are affiliated with the area of the Rombout Patent. The remaining 21, from Peck De Wit through Johannis Dyckman Junjor, are all related to the Rhinebeck area. It is a mystery as to why the Rhinebeck residents were broken up in the census. Of the 67 families listed in the census, 27 (40 percent) lived in the Rhinebeck area, 22 (33 percent) lived in the Poughkeepsie area, and 18 (27 percent) lived in the Fishkill area. In 1719, increasing land sales in these three areas led to dividing the county into three wards, in order to better administer county government. The north ward extended from the Crum Elbow Creek to the northern Dutchess County line; the Middle Ward extended north from the Wappingers Creek to the Crum Elbow Creek; and the South Ward went from the Wappingers to the Westchester County line. Using information from the assessment rolls of 1718/19 and 1722,³ it can be confirmed that the Rhinebeck area continued to grow faster than its sister settlements in Poughkeepsie and Fishkill.

1718/1719 Total Households:	135	1722 Total Households:	187
North Ward 68 (50%)	.....	99 (53%)	
Middle Ward 33 (25%)	.....	46 (25%)	
South Ward 34 (25%)	.....	42 (22%)	

The 1714 census list gives us the names of the individuals who were the earliest citizens of Dutchess County and also gives us a general overall impression of their households. Thanks to other historical records—such as genealogies, land records, and the *Book of The Supervisors*—a glimpse of the real people behind the line in the census record can sometimes be seen.



Figure 2. The Jacob Kip House. Photograph taken in 1915 by Harry Countant. Collection of the Dutchess County Historical Society.

Famous Names

Many of the early Rhinebeck residents emigrated from Ulster County; others came as a result of the Palatine wave of emigration in 1710. Notable among the Rhinebeck men listed in the census was Jacob Kip, brother of the Hendrick Kip who had purchased land from the Native Americans in 1686. Later that same year, Jacob received some of the land from his brother. Circa 1700, Hendrick Kip built a house near present-day Rhinecliff and soon there was a small community known as Kipsbergen. His brother Jacob followed suit circa 1708, when he too built in the area and launched a ferry service to Kingston. One of the most intriguing entries in the *Book of The Supervisors* refers to Jacob Plowgh (Plough), another early resident of the northern part of the county. On January 20, 1724, among the list of accounts payable for services rendered to the county is written the following: “To Mr Jacob Plough for Sarviss done for the County for Tow Viges from Kips berge to pockepsink upon the Business of a Negro of Johanns Dickman that Wass Burnt and forgot to bring it In to the County Charge afore and is allowed 12s.”⁴ Edmund Platt, in his introduction to the *Book of The Supervisors*, recounts that several historians have stated that a negro was at one time burned at the stake in Dutchess County and suggests that this entry might possibly refer to the incident, although the date of 1724 would place the incident “considerably further back than the date ordinarily assigned.”⁵ The Johanns Dickman that Plowgh visited is most likely the Johannis Dyckman Sienjer listed in the census.



Figure 3. Drawing by Benson Lossing, 1864, of the 1702 Van Kleeck house. Collection of the Dutchess County Historical Society.

Many of the earliest Poughkeepsie settlers are enumerated in the 1714 census. On June 9, 1687, Baltus Van Kleeck and Jan Oostrom leased land from Van Kleeck's brother-in-law Robert Sanders. Both are presumed to have built small cabins on their properties. A subsequent 1691 mortgage given by Myndert Harmense of Albany to Abraham De Peyster of New York reconfirms that Van Kleeck and Oostrom are still tenants and adds the additional names of Hendrick Oostrand, Jan Buys, and Symon Schoute. In 1697, Van Kleeck purchased the land he was leasing, as well as considerable additional acreage. In 1702, he replaced his original cabin with the first stone house in Poughkeepsie; it stood near the present corner of Mill and Vassar Streets. While Sanders never occupied the land he had acquired, his widow and their son, Thomas Sanders, moved to Poughkeepsie after his death in 1703. Myndert Harmense (also known as Van Den Bogaerdt) did come to settle in Poughkeepsie, sometime between June of 1691 and June of 1692. His widow, Elena, and son Meindert are both listed in the census. The first county courthouse was built on their land, and another son, Jacobus, gave land to establish the Dutch Reformed Church. Although Poughkeepsie was not formally established as the administrative center of the county, the April 1718 election suggests that it was the early settlers of Poughkeepsie who wielded the most power and influence. The following were elected: Henry V Der Burgh as supervisor; Leonard Lewis as treasurer; Isack Titsort as collector and constable; Hendrick Pels as overseer of the highway; and Peter Parmeter and Johannes Van Kleeck

as surveyors of the fences. All were residents of Poughkeepsie and all continued to hold positions of power during the early years of the county. John de Grave is another Poughkeepsie resident listed in the 1714 census, and an entry in the *Book of The Supervisors* gives us some insight into his activities in the community.⁶

Dutches County
febuary the 19
Annoq 1717/18

At a Specal Sesiones heald at Pockepsink
Present

Leonard Lewis Judge
Capt Barendt Van Kleeck
Machill Palmater Esqrs Justeses

Have Tacken Information of Barthoolomeus Hoogenboom
and Fransey Van Den Bogart and Rachal Buckley That John
De Gafe has Retald Strong Licquors by Smal Measure as
aperth by thare Several Afedafides

Nine days later the same justices met at the request of John De Gafe, who was “Sincebell [Sensible] of his Erore” and “beged the Justess to be



Figure 4. House of Madam Brett, Beacon, New York. Photograph from Dutch Houses in the Hudson Valley before 1776, by Helen Wilkinson Reynolds (New York: Payson and Clarke, Ltd., 1929), p. 405.

Exused of his fine." The justices took into consideration John's "mean Capasety and a Great family to meantain" and acquitted him.

Shortly after the creation of the county in 1683, Francis Rombout and Gulian Verplanck, New York City merchants, received a license from Governor Thomas Dongan, to purchase 85,000 acres of land in Dutchess County. Although neither of the two men ever lived on the land they had purchased, it was Rombout's daughter Catheryna who became one of the most prominent early settlers of the patent and the county. She was born in 1687, four years before the death of her father. At age 16, she married Roger Brett, a British naval officer. In 1707, upon the death of her mother, she became the sole heir to her father's property, and two years later she and her husband had moved from New York City and established themselves at the mouth of the Fishkill Creek. From 1708 to 1713, the Bretts had given leases to several of the other men enumerated on the 1714 census: Jeurey Springsten had received 60 acres; Johnes Terbots had received 180 acres; John Beuys had received 80 acres; and Peter De Boyes was given a life lease on 100 acres. By all accounts, Catheryna was a formidable woman and yet in virtue of the census's head-of-household focus, she was not listed by name; she is the sole woman between 16 and sixty living in the Roger Brett household when the census was taken.

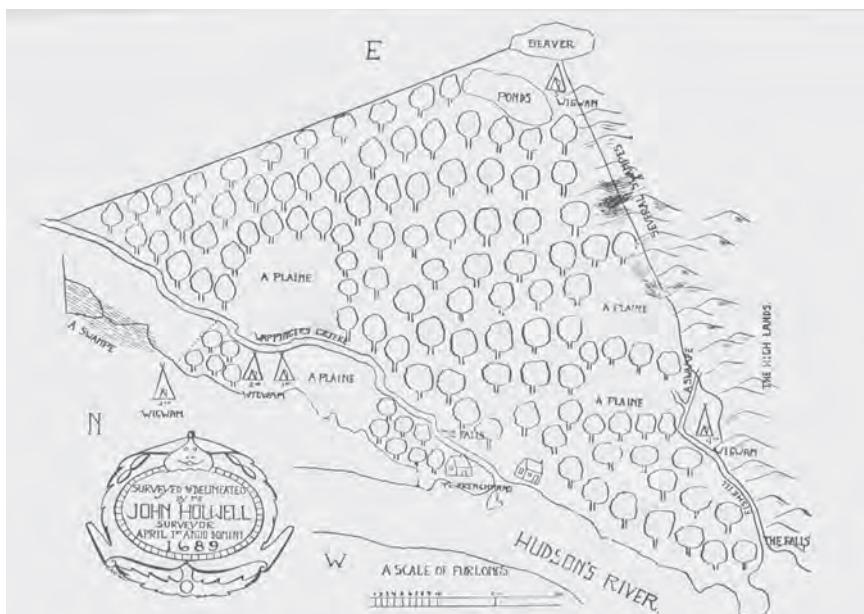


Figure 5. 1689 Holwell Map of Rombout Patent. Original map collection of New York Historical Society.

When the Bretts arrived in 1709, they found Peter Du Bois and his family living on land at the mouth of the Fishkill Creek. Today the area is known as Denning's Point. The first Dutchess County evidence of DuBois is on the 1689 map of the Rombout Patent, which was drawn by John Holwell. Depicted on the map adjacent to the Wappingers Creek are two houses marked "Ye Frenchmans." A later map done in 1707 by Sheriff Noxon for purposes of dividing the property shows no structures at the mouth of the Wappingers Creek but two buildings at the mouth of the Fishkill Creek. Apparently DuBois, a Huguenot, was "ye Frenchman," having moved first from Ulster County and then down from the Wappingers area to Fishkill. He may indeed be the first white inhabitant of the Rombout Patent. Although he was a squatter on the Bretts' property, they apparently accepted his family as neighbors and Catheryna gave him a life-lease to the land they occupied. Unlike his generous neighbor Catheryna, heir to the Rombout Patent but not head of her household, Peter, a squatter, is listed by name among all the other legal free holders and tenants.

Also notable among the earliest settlers of the Rombout Patent was Pieter Pieterse Lassen. Throughout early documents the spelling of the family name varies considerably, as shown in the census listing of his "wedo" Catrine and son Peter Lasink. A German immigrant, Pieter settled first in Albany, where he was a brewer. In 1683, Lasink received a free gift of a farm in the southern part of what is now the Town of Poughkeepsie from a Highland Indian named Massany. While it is not known when Lasink and his family actually arrived to settle their land, they may be the people who were reported to be living with Indians near Poughkeepsie prior to official land grants or patents.

All of the individuals listed in the 1714 census can be considered the founders of Dutchess County. Their names and their activities are well documented in Books 1 and 2 of the *Book of The Supervisors*. In the north, Matteis Sleijt was a lieutenant in the militia in 1700 and later served as an assessor. Joining him as county assessors were Evert Van Wagener and Lowrans Ostrout. Poughkeepsie leaders included Peter Palmater, a deacon in the Reformed Church and a surveyor of fences. Maghell Pallmatir was a justice and an elder of the Reformed Church. Isaac Titsort, likely related to William Tetsort, was a tax collector and a constable. Hendrick Pells was an overseer of the highway. Leonard Lewis rose to prominence as the county representative to the colonial assembly of 1713–1714 and was the first judge of the Court of Common Pleas and the treasurer of the county. And, in the south, Johnes Terbots served as an early Justice of the Peace and a representative to the colonial assembly from 1716 until his death in

1723. John Beuys served as assessor and Garret Van Vleit as an overseer of the highway. Frans de Langen and Peter de Boyes were elected to survey fences and James Hussey to be an assessor. While the census makes the early female settlers (and all who are not heads of their households) little more than numbers, their names and the parts they played show up often in the *Book of The Supervisors*. Some examples of their activities are:

Annoq 1719 To the Widow of John Kip for Two Voyages
 That John Kip Did When he Wass Constaple
 One With a Warent an Other Weth an
 Express

Anno
 1720 To the Wedow of Baltus Van Leeck for
 June 3 Tendance of Expences that She has been
 at for the County is allowed 12s

Att A Sessions Held at Pockepsingh
 November the 29th Anoq Domini 1721
 Present
 Leonard Lewis Esqr one of the Corum
 Barent Van Kleeck Esqe Justice

The Justices Meett Upon the Complaint of Sarah Hooge Boom
 made Against Elenah Van Den Bogart Widdow that She had
 Retailed Strong Licker Less then by five Gallons after the time
 of her Excise and Licence being out

June 12 To Hellena Van Den Bogard Cr for Intertaining ye
 1722 Supervizors assessors Clark & other tendance to
 April 10 Wit a measage don by Jacobus Van Den bogert
 Dito her son in all [01£, 07s, 3d]

As a group, these early settlers of the county were the risk-takers who were willing to do the hard jobs necessary to establish themselves and their families in an undeveloped area. They rapidly became the leaders of the fledgling county and shaped its development during the early days of the county's colonial history.

¹ Published in E.B. O'Callaghan, *Documentary History of the State of New-York* (Albany, New York: Weed, Parsons & Co., 1849), Vol. 1, pp. 313–19. See p. 317.

- ² Philip H. Smith, *General History of Dutchess County From 1609–1876 Inclusive* (Pawling, New York: Published by the author, 1877), p. 178.
- ³ *Book of The Supervisors of Dutchess County N.Y.A.D. 1718–1722* (Poughkeepsie, N.Y.: Vassar Brothers Institute, undated, [1907?]), pp. 9–13, 54–60.
- ⁴ *Book of The Supervisors of Dutchess County*, p. 33.
- ⁵ Edmund Platt, “Introductory,” *Book of The Supervisors of Dutchess County*, n.p. Compare, Edmund Platt, *The Eagle’s History of Poughkeepsie: from the Earliest Settlements, 1683–1905* (Repr. Dutchess County Historical Society, 1987; Poughkeepsie, NY: Platt & Platt, 1905), p. 22. “Isaac Platt in a historical sketch published in the Weekly Eagle in May, 1858, spoke of the burning of a white and a negro ‘on the eve of the Revolution,’ and stated that it took place on the ground next south of John Thompson’s place on Market Steet.”
- ⁶ *Book of The Supervisors of Dutchess County*, p. 7–8.

Albert M. Rosenblatt: A Life in Law and Public Service

Interviewed by Lou Lewis

Judge Albert M. Rosenblatt was born in New York City on January 17, 1936, the son of Jewish immigrants from Eastern Europe. After graduating from the University of Pennsylvania (Class of '57) and Harvard Law School (Class of '60), Rosenblatt moved to Poughkeepsie in 1963 to join the law firm of his cousin Ed Kovacs. Rosenblatt served two terms as the District Attorney of Dutchess County, from 1969 to 1975. He was a Dutchess County Court Judge from 1976 until November 1981, when he was elected a justice of the state Supreme Court. Rosenblatt was appointed Chief Administrative Judge of the New York State Courts and served in that role from 1987 to 1989. In 1989, Governor Mario Cuomo designated Rosenblatt an associate justice of the Supreme Court, Appellate Division, Second Department, and he served in that post from 1989 to 1998. Governor Pataki then nominated Rosenblatt to be an Associate Justice of the New York Court of Appeals; he was confirmed by the state Senate on December 17, 1998, becoming only the third resident of Dutchess County to serve on the state's highest court. In December 2006, as he was approaching mandatory retirement age, Rosenblatt stepped down from the high court. He is currently of counsel with the Poughkeepsie firm of McCabe & Mack LLB, working as a mediator and arbitrator.

Early Years

L. Lewis: *It was interesting to me to read about your parents and grandparents and where they came from. It occurred to me that this must have been a formative influence on you in terms of who you are as a person. I mean, I hear you joking about "shtetls" and so on, but your family is very much a part of the great migration of Jews from Eastern Europe that came here in search of a better life. To what extent do you think that your grandparents' and parents' experience as immigrants and as Jews from Eastern Europe has influenced you in the way you think?*

A. Rosenblatt: That's an interesting question, and I think an apt one. It's hard to draw a line in terms of influences from the "shtetl" to the courtroom. But there are certain elements that come into play and they may have contributed in some way or other. You are quite right, my people came

here as part of the great migration in the late nineteenth century and early twentieth century.

My mother was a little bit older than my father: she being born in 1888 and he in 1895. She came over here as one of four siblings in 1893, with her 15-year-old brother in charge during the voyage. Her father was already here. As was often the case in those days, the father would come to the New World, settle down, get some roots, and then send for the children and the wife. But the wife—my grandmother, whom I never met—was ailing and was not ready to come. So the four kids made the transatlantic voyage alone. My grandmother never made it to America; she died in 1892 at age 35, after having given birth to seven children, four of whom survived infancy and came here in 1893.

My father also was part of a larger story in which young lads, teenagers really, were put on a boat, and sent to America by their parents. The parents said, “We’ll never see you again. But this is no life for you here in Europe. Go to America. Good luck.” And that’s just what happened.

In terms of your question—how did this immigration affect the way I think—I cannot make an easy link except to say that they were part of a generation that made their way here: no frills; tight-knit family, and a deep appreciation for education.

L. Lewis: *Your parents married in 1924, which was the year in which the immigration laws were radically changed in this country, essentially slamming the door on immigration from eastern Europe.*

A. Rosenblatt: It's good we made it.

L. Lewis: *Yes. What are your attitudes about immigration in light of your own family experience?*

A. Rosenblatt: Well, how can they be other than optimistic and reassuring when you think of the waves of immigrants that came over here and eventually found their way into the American business, public life, law, the sciences, and the arts. We say we are a nation of immigrants and we are, and history has repeatedly proven that our immigrants have succeeded very well. So I feel as though I have been a part of that—and fortunate, considering that had there not been immigration here, I would likely have been murdered by the Nazis.

L. Lewis: *When you were growing up, was only English spoken at home?*

A. Rosenblatt: Yes. I guess once in a while they'd speak Yiddish if they wanted to conceal something from the kids. But they were part of a generation in which the attitude was: "You're in America now. You are an American. Speak English and never mind what you spoke in the old country. You're a full-fledged citizen." That was very much the ethos around the house.

L. Lewis: *You grew up in Washington Heights down in New York City, and you attended schools there. Did you attend Yeshiva Elementary and High School [Talmudic Academy]?*

A. Rosenblatt: Yes

L. Lewis: *Was there any thought of your entering rabbinical orders at any point in time?*

A. Rosenblatt: No

L. Lewis: *But you had a relative, Edward Kovacs, a lawyer who lived here in Poughkeepsie, and at some point in time, you were able to join him in his law practice. Was that the first time you had come to Dutchess County or had you come up for visits periodically as you were growing up?*

A. Rosenblatt: I was close with Ed Kovacs's wife, Hilda; she was my first cousin. She had been an executive at Countess Mara neckties in the 1940s, and she had been living in Poughkeepsie in the 1950s. I would visit them from time to time. I was 9 or so years old when Ed and Hilda met at Grossinger's Hotel, around 1945. I happened to be there that weekend. He was recently discharged as a lieutenant in the United States Army, having served in Persia.

L. Lewis: *Were you already busing tables? What were you doing there at nine years old?*

A. Rosenblatt: Working there as a busboy, and then as a bellhop later. I did very well there; it went a long way to pay for the tuition at college and law school—which was then about \$2000 a year! I could make about half of that on tips during the summer and on holidays. I feel very grateful for that—and I am still in touch with Elaine Grossinger Etess—the granddaughter. But I was there in 1945, because of a family connection. And again this is tied in with background, because Selig and Malke Grossinger began the Grossinger's Hotel in about 1910, 1915, or thereabouts. The people in the neighborhood helped out the couple, Selig and Malke, to

open up a farmhouse in Ferndale, New York, to which they were going to invite guests.

L. Lewis: *By the neighborhood, you mean—*

A. Rosenblatt: The Lower East Side. So my grandfather was a neighbor of Selig and Malke Grossinger, and, along with others, lent them some money to start the hotel. Now, I'm not suggesting for a moment that my grandfather put him into business. My impression is—and this story has been handed down a bit—that the friends and neighbors all chipped in to lend them money, and my grandfather, who by then may have become slightly successful, had perhaps \$500 to loan, which in those days was a lot of money.

My grandfather began with a push cart on the Lower East Side, like many others, and eventually gathered a clientele that got somehow transformed from a pushcart into an insurance business. Thirty years or so later, in 1945, Grossinger's had become a fabulous resort and Malke said she would like to meet me because I was the grandson of, let us say, one of the very small “benefactors” of the hotel. So I went up there, and that was the very weekend that Ed Kovacs and Hilda Kovacs met at the hotel.

I recall he took her for a car ride and her mother—my Aunt Minnie—said “Albie, quick, go after the car and copy down the license plate,” which of course I did. She really had nothing to worry about; they were married around 1947 and produced a wonderful family, now with great-grandchildren.

When Ed died in 1974, I “inherited” his license plate, PK-21, which may have been the 1945 plate. It adorns my car, as we speak.

L. Lewis: *Well, in any event, you came here to practice law but you had already been practicing law for a few years at another firm or two other firms.*

A. Rosenblatt: I was in New York for a short time, but I didn't feel like I wanted to stay there. I liked the idea of Poughkeepsie. I would come up to visit Hilda and Ed from time to time when their son Alan was growing up. To me, it was a countrified place, and I liked the idea of being more of a country lawyer than being a New York City lawyer. And so, in 1963, I left my job in New York and took off a few weeks—the winter season—and went skiing in Europe with my college and law school roommate, Dave Speck. (Sadly, Dave, who lived in Port Townsend, Washington, died in 2013.)

District Attorney

L. Lewis: *What led you to make the transition to public service?*

A. Rosenblatt: Well, in truth, it was not any great desire to go into public life. I had imagined that my law career would be as a so-called country lawyer, doing various things of general practice and living a nice life in Poughkeepsie, not like the New York City people working until midnight and then having multiple houses and woes.

But Ed Kovacs and I thought that, because I was interested in doing trial work, and developing my skills as a lawyer, I should go into the DA's office for a couple years and try as many cases as I could, in order to learn my way around the courtroom.

L. Lewis: *When you became an Assistant District Attorney, Dutchess County was heavily Republican. And in fact, I believe it is true, that Franklin Roosevelt had never carried Dutchess County in any of his elections.*

A. Rosenblatt: Yes, people would boast of that.

L. Lewis: *This was a heavily Republican county and I think it's fair to say that, coming from New York City, your family may have been Democrats.*

A. Rosenblatt: Right.

L. Lewis: *Was this an easy fit for you because obviously you registered here as a Republican, and your subsequent career was the result of Republican nominations.*

A. Rosenblatt: Well, as a practical matter when I came here, I was pretty non-partisan and had no political interests or ties or affiliations. Ray Baratta was a Republican, and all the Assistant DA's were and that was fine with me. I wasn't involved with politics. I wanted to be a prosecutor and a trial lawyer, so to me it was pretty much of a shrug. As the years went on, I became closer to the Republican people here because I turned out to be their nominee.

L. Lewis: *You've been quoted as saying of your career: "Everyone ahead of me at the DA's office resigned or retired and, the next thing you know—I was the Chief Assistant." So was the Chief Assistant a full-time job or just part-time?*

A. Rosenblatt: There was a transition right about then. It was still part-

time, but for me being Chief Assistant was pretty much full time. I was still affiliated with Ed Kovacs, and I was a bachelor. I was earning, my goodness, more than I could possibly spend, \$12,000 a year. That was a hefty salary, so I was making ends meet, and that was fine.

L. Lewis: *But your decision to stay and continue as an assistant District Attorney: that seems to me to be a fundamental kind of decision and has to do with your view of the world, your role in it. I mean you already said that you didn't want to be in New York City and work in a sweat-shop type environment in a big firm. You wanted to have a balanced life, but it seems to me that the decision to go into public service must have been influenced in some degree by your heritage and your view that you wanted to do something with the world and make it turn out better. Or do you think it was just fortuitous or opportunistic? It's probably hard to go back and to re-create those ideas and emotions.*

A. Rosenblatt: It was partly happenstance and partly that my primary orientation was not to become a very rich lawyer. I wanted to live a pleasant, productive, professional life. I think the eventual decision to remain in the DA's office after being Chief Assistant was that the work was so fascinating and communitarian. I was very much in touch with the community, the work was important, and I loved it. I became a better lawyer. I became much more interested in the moral and ethical issues and also of course the legal issues.

L. Lewis: *What were the circumstances that created the vacancy in the office of District Attorney and led you then to become a candidate?*

A. Rosenblatt: That reminds me of what John F. Kennedy said when they asked: "How did you become a naval hero?" He said something like "Well it was easy, they sank my boat." So, how did I become a candidate? Everyone ahead of me in line left, retired, died, moved out, whatever, and the next thing you know, I was the Senior Assistant DA. John Heilman went on the bench, to Family Court. That meant that there was a vacancy for DA.

The Chief Assistant was the logical and assumed nominee. That had been the case probably for decades or more. And so the night that John Heilman was being elected, everyone knew that if John Heilman was going to win, which was all but inevitable, that I as the Chief Assistant DA would be the putative nominee. That's the night that Terry Davis invited Julie to the election returns to see John Heilman elected to Family Court.

L. Lewis: *Who was Terry Davis?*

A. Rosenblatt: Billy Davis's mother. Bill C. Davis, the playwright. Patty Davis Marks's mother. She was the wife of Warren Davis, who managed M. Schwartz and Co. men's' store on Main Street. Terry Davis was Julie's neighbor. Terry was the mother of Bill C. Davis who wrote *Mass Appeal*, which played on Broadway and then was a film with Jack Lemmon. I still see the Davises. Patty became an eminent judge in Rochester, and I will be going to dinner with Bill next week.

L. Lewis: *Oh right, I saw that play and I knew Bill Davis. He went to Marist. And Terry Davis?*

A. Rosenblatt: That's his mother. Terry invited Julie to come down and watch the election returns; she had in mind that Julie and I would meet that night. In any case, we did meet and after meeting Julie, I never had another date, ever in my life.



Figure 1. Albert M. Rosenblatt and his wife, Julia, in 2012.
Photo: Collection of Al and Julia Roseblatt.

L. Lewis: *Do you recall who your opponent was that first election? Had to be a Democrat, or was there a primary?*

A. Rosenblatt: All right. This is the whole business with Gordon Liddy. I really didn't intend to get into this, and it's rather sensational.

L. Lewis: *Well, it is sensational, but it's an important part of Dutchess County's history, and I think it's reasonably important because, as every reader knows, Gordon Liddy went on to become infamous during Watergate. So I think it's worthwhile to explain to some extent how he went to Washington. Liddy was going to run on the Conservative line against Hamilton Fish, wasn't he?*

A. Rosenblatt: The way it happened was that the expectation had always been that the Chief Assistant, the Senior Assistant, would be the nominee for District Attorney. Truly, that was my expectation, and that was the expectation of my friends and of the lawyers and of the other assistant DAs. It seemed pretty apparent and reasonably secure. Then Gordon Liddy announced that he wanted to be the District Attorney.

L. Lewis: *He was an Assistant DA in the office with you?*

A. Rosenblatt: Right, and he announced that he wanted to be the District Attorney. If he didn't receive the appointment, he would run on the Conservative line against Congressman Ham Fish and split the vote. It then went to the Republican Committee to decide which of the two of us would succeed John Heilman as DA. That would, at the outset, take the form of a recommendation by the County Committee to Governor Nelson Rockefeller, who presumably would appoint whomever the Committee wanted. It came to a vote, and I was very much gratified that the Republican Committee voted in my favor as opposed to Gordon Liddy's—notwithstanding that there was some political price to be paid, which was that Gordon, after not having been given the appointment for District Attorney, opposed Hamilton Fish in a primary in which the Republican Party risked being split and the Democrat, John Dyson, thereby possibly being elected.

Liddy went on of course to work for Richard Nixon and the Committee to Re-elect the President [Nixon].

L. Lewis: *Well I heard that at one point, Gerald Ford had actually come to Dutchess County and attended a Republican gathering out in the Town of Pleasant Valley, I believe, and that is where he in fact met Liddy. Were you there at that gathering as well?*

A. Rosenblatt: Yes and it was relayed to me that Gerald Ford thought it would be a good idea if Liddy were given what he wanted, namely, that he be District Attorney because that would foreclose Liddy from remaining on the ballot and thereby splitting the Republican party, enabling the Democrat to win, and influencing the numerical majority in the U.S. Congress. So the election had, in a sense, national implications, but the Committee stayed with me nonetheless.

L. Lewis: *So Liddy became the Conservative nominee for Hamilton Fish's seat?*

A. Rosenblatt: He did. He stayed on the ballot. He stayed on Row C, on the Conservative ballot.

L. Lewis: *But he didn't get the Republican nomination, and Ham Fish was then re-elected, isn't that the case? And John Dyson eventually became Chairman of the New York State Power Authority.*

A. Rosenblatt: Sounds right. He also served as Deputy Mayor of New York City. He is credited with creating the "I Love New York" campaign.

L. Lewis: *Gordon Liddy has written about that Congressional campaign. Have you ever read his accounts?*

A. Rosenblatt: Not about the campaign. I know he's written about Watergate but much of what I have said would be in the newspaper record. Maybe not every detail—but the dates and names and so forth would be a matter of record in the *Poughkeepsie Journal*.

L. Lewis: *One of the roles that you carried out as District Attorney was to exercise a degree of discretion in the exercise of prosecutorial power. You had a case that you declined to prosecute, one where someone made an American flag with the green stripes instead of red stripes.*

A. Rosenblatt: Yes, Austin Bentley.

L. Lewis: *There was quite a bit of political outcry about that, but you declined to prosecute because you felt that was a freedom-of-speech issue, not unlike cases in which people burn the American flag. But I think some of those cases may have come much later than the Bentley case.*

A. Rosenblatt: Yes, the Bentley case came long before *Texas v. Johnson*, in which the U.S. Supreme Court in 1989 held that burning the American flag was protected by the First Amendment. I think that in this country we have shown that we are big enough to abide by such disturbing behavior. I think as Americans we abide that kind of behavior, because we are able to defeat ugly "speech" of that type with other speech. It should all be out in the market place. The ecology flag to me was much easier.

L. Lewis: *That is what it was called? The Ecology Flag?*

A. Rosenblatt: That's what Austin Bentley called it. He was a schoolteacher who just replaced the red stripes with green stripes and they arrested him, saying it was flag desecration. And I thought: this is not flag desecration; this is perhaps a bit eccentric and it has got some people highly irritated. But he was well motivated, and even apart from his motivation, this was not anything that approached criminal behavior in my view. So, in the

DA's office, we didn't see it as a violation of the law, and refused to prosecute. Theoretically, the Governor could supersede any District Attorney and name a special prosecutor but it was inconceivable that the Governor would step in to prosecute the Ecology Flag.

But you raise an important point about prosecutorial discretion. We have been pretty fortunate in this country that prosecutors, with some exceptions of course, have for the most part acted responsibly. I liked the job of DA because there was such a wide discretion, and it enabled us to differentiate between cases that we wanted to prosecute and other cases which we felt were not worthy of prosecution or were constitutionally flawed. To me that was very, very important.

L. Lewis: *Speaking of pressure: Were you expected to hire Republicans in those days?*

A. Rosenblatt: I would hire people based on their merit and not on their party.

L. Lewis: *Did that ever create any problems for you with the Republican hierarchy here in Dutchess County?*

A. Rosenblatt: No, I think they abided it well. And as long as the office was being run in a way that was good, they felt content and did not try to impose their will on me in any way. Nor did they ever ask anything of me—which is remarkable and commendable. Ethel Block was chair of the local Republican Party, and before that Jay Rolison, and later Dick Brady. None of them even so much as asked for an adjournment on behalf of the Republican Party or anything or anyone else. And that's something that I can never forget.

County Court and Supreme Court

L. Lewis: *Next, I presume, you got your first nomination for judge in County Court, right—that was the path that was followed. The DA, if an opening occurred, moved to County Court judge. That was the first step on the judicial ladder. Then there came a time when there was a vacancy in Supreme Court and you were asked to run against Judge Hawkins who was a Democrat.*

A. Rosenblatt: Yes, I remember that. Joe Hawkins and I were friends and I didn't feel comfortable being the nominee against him. (a) I liked him and (b) he was a very good judge. And (c) I just didn't think it was right that I would run and (given the voting patterns) defeat him, a friend.

L. Lewis: *Plus you had only been a judge for a few years.*

A. Rosenblatt: Yes, I was very happy as a county judge. I was perfectly content.

L. Lewis: *You were hearing primarily criminal cases then?*

A. Rosenblatt: Yes, I was in a good spot. I enjoyed doing what I was doing and so I said "No. It's nice of you to invite me to be the next Supreme Court judge candidate, but no, I'm happy where I am. I don't want to run against Joe Hawkins." They did get another candidate, who did defeat him.

L. Lewis: *Yes, given that he was a Democrat.*

A. Rosenblatt: And because most voters have no idea who they're voting for. It's a line vote. Nothing against Joe Quinn, who defeated him, but if people knew that Joe Hawkins was as good as he was, they would have stayed with Joe Hawkins. Maybe they would have voted for Joe Quinn for good and different reasons, but it is unfortunate whenever a good judge loses an election.

L. Lewis: *But then Joe Quinn passed away in office and so again there was a vacancy.*

A. Rosenblatt: Yes, and that time I took the nomination, and guess who my opponent turns out to be? Joe Hawkins. We had a nice rapport.

L. Lewis: *But you prevailed in the election and then became a Supreme Court Judge. I'd like to talk to you a little bit about your approach as a Supreme Court justice to settling cases and compare it to your current role as an arbitrator, because to me there's got to be some relationship between the two. If I may say so, you were famous when you were a Supreme Court judge, for your ability to settle cases. What qualities or what approaches do you think you had that made you a successful case settler?*

A. Rosenblatt: Well, the calendars were large enough so that no judge could possibly have all the cases go to trial and verdict. That would have been impossible, and so settling cases was an important facet of the job. I found that if you're straight with the lawyers and show them trust and respect, that would be returned in kind, and that mediating cases or settling them requires your gaining the trust of the lawyers. If the lawyers don't trust you, it's going to fail. I had a good rapport with the lawyers. I knew a lot of them, personally. The trust ran both ways. And that turned out to be a successful formula.

L. Lewis: *I know from my own experiences engaging in settlement discussions in courts that occasionally a judge might say, “You’re going to lose on that point,” or “That’s not your strongest argument.” Was that one of your techniques? It’s a fine line, because you don’t want to appear to be prejudging anything that is before you.*

A. Rosenblatt: Obviously, if it’s a bench trial, then, of course, those lines can blur and overlap and create problems, if not discomfort. So that’s not done in connection with bench trials to any great degree. But when the jury is the fact finder, I think lawyers want to hear from you what their strong and weak points are. It’s illuminating, and they can be guided in their stance. If it’s done without a heavy hand, the lawyers appreciate it. They typically want to know from a neutral standpoint how you see the strong and weak points of the case, and often the settlement would ensue.

L. Lewis: *Do you see your role differently as an arbitrator? You’ve been doing a lot of very heavy arbitrations since you left the bench. Is that different in any marked or even subtle way from the role of the judge?*

A. Rosenblatt: It’s very similar in that in both instances you hear proof and reach a resolution; at least that similarity exists when acting as a judge in a bench trial. When there’s a jury, that’s different. So the similarity is between an arbitrator and a bench trial judge. And the similarities are close, so much so that they’re almost the same. The chief difference is that arbitrators are largely unreviewable, and judges are reviewable by a higher court or two or three.

L. Lewis: *And there’s also the dynamic, is there not, of having fellow arbitrators, very often, on an important matter. You’re only one of three arbitrators—so there’s that dynamic. Is that something you’ve been uncomfortable with, or has that been an enjoyable process for you, having other distinguished jurists or lawyers serving with you as an arbitrator?*

A. Rosenblatt: I’ve done both, sole arbitrator and one of three. I like both types. They have different qualities. I enjoy the collegial process of discussing the resolution with two other arbitrators; that’s fine. I’m in such a case right now, and it’s usually the case that the arbitrators are people that you like and admire. And when that’s true, the arbitration goes well.

The sole arbitrator means that you don’t have to consult with anyone. You’re just guided by your own instincts and your own findings, but that’s a heavier responsibility, so it’s kind of a tradeoff.

L. Lewis: *I know that one of the first very important and major mediations that you handled involved the insurance coverage on the World Trade Center? Is that case essentially over now? Are you free to talk about it?*

A. Rosenblatt: I'm really not free to talk about it, but it's over. The mediation is over, but what was said in mediation is understood to remain confidential. I can say it was a privilege to be in the case.

L. Lewis: *On occasion you've compared your Supreme Court work to that of a rabbi in a shtetl laboring to bring opposing parties to amicable agreements.*

A. Rosenblatt: Did I say that?

L. Lewis: *Yes. More than 90 percent of your cases never went to trial and your law clerk Jack Schachner described the uncanny ability you had to fashion settlements in lawsuits as contentious as disputes between the Hatfields and McCoys.*

A. Rosenblatt: Well, if it was parallel to the shtetl, it would have been the Finkelsteins and the Goldbergs.

L. Lewis: *Right.*

Chief Administrative Judge

L. Lewis: *How did it come about that, after serving some years as a Supreme Court Judge, you got an appointment as Chief Administrative Judge for the State of New York?*

A. Rosenblatt: I really don't know why or how. Sol Wachtler came to me.

L. Lewis: *He was the Chief Judge of the Court of Appeals?*

A. Rosenblatt: Yes, which means the Chief Judge of New York.

L. Lewis: *And he has administrative jurisdiction?*

A. Rosenblatt: The Chief Judge of the New York Court of Appeals is in charge of the judiciary, meaning that the Chief Judge is the CEO so to speak. The Chief Judge appoints the equivalent of a COO, chief operating officer, called, in my case, Chief Administrative Judge, because I was already on the bench. So instead of saying CEO and COO they speak of the Chief Judge and Chief Administrative Judge. The Chief Administrative Judge is the day-to-day manager of the judiciary, but the boss is the

Chief Judge. Sol Wachtler asked me if I wanted to do that and I was a little bit taken aback by it, because I was very happy as a state supreme court justice. I liked being a judge and I knew that being an administrator or administrative judge was a totally different life.

L. Lewis: *It's a huge court system.*

A. Rosenblatt: Yes, there's a billion dollar budget, three thousand judges, unions.

L. Lewis: *What kind of staff did you have in that position?*

A. Rosenblatt: I had the whole Office of Court Administration.

L. Lewis: *Which has offices throughout each of the judicial districts?*

A. Rosenblatt: Hundreds of employees throughout the state and a budget of almost a billion dollars then—now, \$2.7 billion. It meant going from one job as a judge to another as an administrator.

L. Lewis: *I know one of the things you focused on when you were Chief Administrative Judge was the refurbishment of some of the courthouses. And didn't you cause the refurbishment of the Dutchess County courthouse to a certain extent?*

A. Rosenblatt: That was really Lucille Pattison—sadly, she just passed away.

L. Lewis: *She was the County Executive at that time?*

A. Rosenblatt: Yes, she had to decide whether to build a new courthouse—not she alone, but she and the legislature of the County had to decide whether to build a new courthouse or use the old courthouse. I urged her to stay with the old courthouse. For one thing it would be cheaper than a new building, and second, the 1901 building was, and is, fine looking, and an architectural achievement by William Beardsley.

L. Lewis: *So, in 1987, you became the State's Chief Administrative Judge and in your role as Chief Administrative Judge, you created the New York State Advisory Committee on Judicial Ethics, on which I believe your good friend, and mine, George Marlow—rendered yeoman's service there.*

A. Rosenblatt: He's been chairman. He's been chair of the Committee for years and does a Herculean job.

L. Lewis: By 2006, the group had written more than 2,500 formal opinions and given out thousands more pronouncements of informal advice. Were you involved in the actual deliberations of the committees?

A. Rosenblatt: I was never involved in the deliberations, because I was never a member. We just created the group as an entity and Judge Marlow has been the head of it almost from the start. The judges really needed something like this because there's no other way for them easily to check beforehand whether what they are going to do is risky, and so the statute provides that if they ask the Committee whether a particular course of action is ethical and permissible and the Committee says yes, that provides a *prima facie* defense. It's a bit like getting clearance from a medical-insurance carrier that it will pay for a procedure.

I remember negotiating that with the legislature so that the committee's work would have some meaning, so that the committee's opinion would have value and legitimacy. Because if the judge followed the Committee's advice, and desisted or did not desist based on whatever the Committee said, but someone was free to simply act nonetheless against the judge, that would really remove the usefulness of the Committee.

L. Lewis: So this provided a way to guide judges regarding what they do in the ethical realm, as opposed to legal realm.

A. Rosenblatt: Yes, and by following the committee's position, they are assured of being on the right track. It's worked remarkably well, thousands of times, without which they would have been at sea, at risk, maybe do things that they might not otherwise have done, so the Committee's work has turned out to be very valuable.

L. Lewis: You also, while you were Chief Administrative Judge, reformed certain jury procedures, including lengthening the availability period from two years to four years and establishing the standby and call-in systems. Most of those who have to serve on juries are extremely grateful for those reforms.

A. Rosenblatt: Before the reforms, jury service was a nightmare. It involved people sacrificing incomes and dedicating a large amount of time with very little recompense. They spent much of their time sitting around jury rooms reading stale magazines and inhaling second-hand smoke. After the system changed, people would come in for a much shorter period of time; they would be treated better; they would, after serving one case or one day, be relieved of their duty; and they would not be called back

every two years, because we extended that to four. So, I would say that jury service has improved a lot. The people that have experienced it report to us that the experience is by and large a good one, and that they come away with the feeling of confidence in the justice system. But I guess it has a long way to go. Further changes and improvement can always be made, such as finding parking spaces for everyone, maybe better pay. But it's a civic duty and most people don't expect to make money on jury service; it's an obligation that one does as a citizen. The job of the court system is to make it as painless as possible so that the people can contribute their time, feel good about it, and not be overly burdened by needless delay.

L. Lewis: *In 1989, Governor Mario Cuomo designated you as an Associate Justice of the Appellate Division, Second Department. Then in 1998 Governor Pataki appointed you to the Court of Appeals. Why, historically, does New York State not have a State Supreme Court as the final court? It is very confusing to people to have our court of original jurisdiction being “the Supreme Court.” It seems like it’s turned on its head. Do you know how that evolved?*

A. Rosenblatt: Yes. There had been a Supreme Court that was established in 1691, and the decisions of that court were reviewed by a blend of judges and lawmakers. That court—the reviewing court—was called the Court for the Trial Impeachments and Correction of Errors. It was the court of the cumbersome name. (But a better name than in Connecticut where it was called The Supreme Court of Errors.) So New York's high court, so to speak, was initially a blend of legislators and judges, similar to The House of Lords. It was a body composed of both branches and even the lieutenant governor. When, in 1847, after the Constitution of 1846, the court system was reformed, the court of last resort was called simply the Court of Appeals and the state's Supreme Court continued on, with its rulings reviewable by the Court of Appeals.

Obsessions and Avocations

L. Lewis: *You've always had a strong interest in legal history and Charles Ruggles was the only Dutchess County member of the Appeals Court before you. Could you tell us, briefly, the story of the search for Ruggles's image?*

A. Rosenblatt: Yes. But I think we also have to count Smith Thompson as a Dutchess Justice. So I was the second or the third from Dutchess County.

L. Lewis: *Smith Thompson?*

A. Rosenblatt: Yes.

L. Lewis: Now there's a name that I don't believe I've ever heard. When was he on the Court of Appeals?

A. Rosenblatt: He was on the court in the nineteenth century. The court was then the New York Supreme Court of Judicature. He was from Dutchess County and served on the court from 1814 to 1818 and then on the United States Supreme Court from 1823 to 1843.

But Ruggles has a special resonance with me because in 1997, for the 150th anniversary of the Court of Appeals, Judge Kaye, then Chief Judge, was taking an inventory of the portraits of all the judges that have served on the court since 1849, and she noticed that there were one or two missing, for whom the court had no likeness, no painting. And she asked if I could help find a Ruggles picture or painting, so that they could learn what he looked like.

L. Lewis: Was Ruggles pre-photography?

A. Rosenblatt: Well, photography was not common. But he wasn't completely pre-photography, it was in the very early stages. And so there were things like daguerreotypes that created imagery and, of course, there were paintings. Anyway, when she called me, I said, "Sure, I'll just find pictures of him." Sounded easy. And I thought it would be easy to find Ruggles, just go down to the *Poughkeepsie Journal* or the Kingston newspaper, get his picture in the obituary when he died, which was in 1855. But if you look at the 1855 papers, there were almost no pictures. No photography. And so I teamed up with Jack Gartland and we made the rounds trying to find Ruggles.

Eventually, after writing fifteen or twenty letters, to every organization or governmental entity that we thought might have Ruggles, we got word back from the Kingston Senate House that they thought they had him in a tiny daguerreotype about maybe an inch or two high. By then Jack Gartland had joined me in the quest. Their records established provenance that it was him, and then Jack paid an artist to use the daguerreotype and from it generate an oil painting, which is now hanging in the New York Court of Appeals.

I'll never forget when we got the call from Kingston, I phoned Jack immediately. We both dropped everything and went over to Kingston to look at it. We were delighted. To this day, truth be told, we're not sure

whether Ruggles had blue eyes or brown eyes. But the artist said he felt—judging by the daguerreotype—that the eyes were blue. So we said fine.

L. Lewis: *Another thing that you've done, which I think is going to have a lasting impact, is that you have created the Historical Society of the Courts of New York. What was your motivation for doing that? I must say I, personally, am very appreciative, because I've now attended a number of the meetings of that society and some of them have been absolutely wonderful. I'm thinking particularly of the one on copyrights, in which you had some performers there from Lincoln Center, a husband and wife couple. That was vastly entertaining. But even more than that, you've had some of the top scholars in the country who have come and addressed the Bench and Bar on important historical issues.*

A. Rosenblatt: That arose out of early morning conversations that Chief Judge Judith Kaye and I had in Albany when we were on the Court. We would talk about the need for an organization that preserves our records and our heritage, because there was none. She must be credited with the title “founder,” because without her it could never have happened. We now have a website with legal history; we have calendars that reflect legal history; we’ve put on dozens of programs, presented scholarship. The most recent one was on New York City legal landmarks. We’ve done replays of trials and the history of the ratification of the Constitution; also a program called *Palsgraf Reargued*, and of course have had a lot of notable speakers. We began with scholars who discussed the formation of the Constitution of the State of New York, scholars involving even trials conducted by Nazi tribunals, all relating to law history, mostly New York’s but not entirely.

L. Lewis: *You and Julie have also published a history of New York State courthouses, and that was engendered in part by your collection of postcards.*

A. Rosenblatt: Right. Postcards of courthouses. We had the postcards, that was easy enough; they were in a shoe box. And in a way the book wrote itself, because each courthouse has its own story to tell, each county has its own history of how the court system began, and the courthouses reveal a lot of that.

Community business was often conducted in the courthouse. Today, sad to say, courthouses are sometimes thought of as part of “governmental centers,” where the court is there with a lot of other civic buildings. For Julie and me, the courthouse imagery was something special and in many cases the courthouses are freestanding buildings, some of them still historic and



Figure 2. Postcard picture of the Dutchess County Courthouse. Photo: Collection of Al and Julia Rosenblatt.

beautiful. The one in Johnstown, New York, the oldest in the state, and maybe the nation, still exists. And there's still a lot of symbolism in the courthouse itself, as a temple of justice and a community meeting place. Unfortunately, people are less likely to meet at the courthouse to conduct public business than they were a hundred or a hundred fifty years ago.

L. Lewis: No interview with Al Rosenblatt would be complete without some discussion of Sherlock Holmes. When did your interest in the stories begin? Was it while you were solving crimes as the District Attorney? Or was it earlier?

A. Rosenblatt: Probably earlier. But it re-surfaced when Glenn Laxton and I were friends. He was a radio announcer with station WEOK, and we got to know each other because as a DA you are involved with media people and I was friends with a lot of them, including Glenn. We came to share an interest in Sherlock and founded the society here—the Hudson Valley Sciontists. That would have been around 1972.

L. Lewis: Of course at that point, you were married to Julie. Was that a pre-existing interest of hers as well, or did she pick it up from you?

A. Rosenblatt: It really took off for both of us when we were skiing in Europe, in Switzerland. We were going from one ski area to another looking for snow, when we saw a sign that said “To Reichenbach Falls.” That was

near Meiringen, Switzerland. I could not believe there was actually such a place as Reichenbach Falls. I thought Doyle made it up in “The Final Problem.” I said, “Julie, this place actually exists. I thought all of these places were fictitious.” So we took an interest together from that point on. I wrote to Julian Wolff.

L. Lewis: *Julian Wolff was the leader of the Baker Street Irregulars?*

A. Rosenblatt: Yes. We had a correspondence with him, and that’s how we got to attend the meetings of the Baker Street Irregulars. And subsequently we became active in that organization.

L. Lewis: *Can you say what drew you to Sherlock Holmes? Do his attitudes have any confluence with your own regarding how the world should be and so on?*

A. Rosenblatt: Well, that’s an interesting question, Lou, because Holmes, like his namesake Oliver Wendell Holmes Jr., had an incisive, philosophical turn of mind. So, it would be nice to say that, as District Attorney or being in the law, you want to see things set right, you want to see order and tranquility, and you want to see the right things happen in the right way. But I think the truth is: What attracted me to Holmes was not the agreeable and just resolution of criminal matters but the mystique of nineteenth-century England: the cobblestones and gaslights and the romance of the era. So, the attraction was more literary than legal.

L. Lewis: *Al, thank you so much for doing this.*

ARTICLES



Saint Francis Hospital at 100

By Gail Jones

A modern hospital is a testament to all that is remarkable in the human spirit. It is a place where the miracles wrought by science and the caring provided by human hands come together each day to reaffirm the simple value of life.

Founded by a small group of Franciscan Sisters in 1913, Saint Francis Hospital stands as a dynamic and innovative leader in Hudson Valley healthcare. But the hospital's story is really a story written in quiet ways by thousands of people who, in their time, went about their work with steady hands and steady hearts.

Years ago, in a speech marking the opening of a new wing, Francis Cardinal Spellman perfectly captured the special spirit of the people of the hospital when he said: "*Nothing more should we ask than the privilege of laboring valiantly in the service of our neighbor.*"

That credo has illuminated the work of all who have served the hospital these past 100 years. They have been Sisters, doctors and nurses, volunteers and donors, trustees and staff members.

They have all left their mark.

By any journalist's standards, February 12, 1914—a Thursday—was bound to be a slow news day in Poughkeepsie. Government offices and many businesses were closed for the national observation of Lincoln's Birthday. Meanwhile, the second major cold spell of the season had moved into the Hudson Valley, driving temperatures down to minus 12 and encouraging many Dutchess County residents to spend their day off close to home.



*Celebrating a Century of
Compassionate Community Care*

Figure 1. The logo of the St. Francis Hospital Centenary

Two stories dominated that day's edition of the *Poughkeepsie Evening Enterprise*. One was an account of a local lawmaker's attempt to legalize amateur baseball on Sunday. The other carried the headline, "Sisters Formally Take New Hospital." Unlike the baseball story, it earned a picture—a street shot of the new home of Saint Francis Hospital.

Five days later, on February 17, the hospital accepted its first official patient, Theodore Bromley, of 106½ North Clinton Street, Poughkeepsie. The new hospital contained 40 beds. During its first year, 751 patients would be admitted for treatment.

The opening of Saint Francis Hospital culminated a lengthy campaign by local physicians and surgeons to establish a new hospital in Poughkeepsie that would welcome doctors of all faiths to practice, an option unavailable at that time. The area's growing population was taxing the capacities of the city's two private sanitariums and Vassar Brothers Hospital, which had opened in April 1887.

Only three of the 30 physicians practicing locally had privileges at Vassar Brothers. Other physicians were forced to do surgery on kitchen or dining room tables. Tonsil clinics for children were conducted in the basement of a church or community hall.

The seed that was to give birth to Saint Francis Hospital may well have been planted by Dr. James E. McCambridge—on a fishing trip. McCambridge had gone fishing with local attorney James E. Carroll. The two men were joined by Carroll's brother, Monsignor Thomas Carroll, a Poughkeepsie native who served as secretary to John Cardinal Farley. At the trip's conclusion, the Monsignor promised to speak to the Cardinal about the possibility of bringing a hospital to Poughkeepsie.

A few days later, Cardinal Farley agreed to have the hospital staffed by nuns if the local community could raise the needed funding—and if he could find an Order of Sisters to undertake the work. Of those he contacted, the Franciscan Sisters were the only Order ready, willing, and able to do so.

But where do you put a hospital?

Three sites were considered: the Wheaton House on Hamilton Street in the City of Poughkeepsie, a city-owned property on Innis Avenue, and Hillcrest Park Mansion, the residence of Daniel Webster Wilbur, mayor of Poughkeepsie.

Mother Mary Sebastian and Sister Mary Michael traveled from the Motherhouse in Hastings-on-Hudson to Poughkeepsie to look at the selected site: Hillcrest Park, high above the Hyde Park Road. They approved. In the words of Mother Sebastian: *"It offers the quiet and beauty of a suburb and is at the same time readily accessible to Poughkeepsie City."*

Approached by a physician friend about the possibility of selling the property, Wilbur volunteered to donate the residence and several acres. In addition, he offered to sell three adjoining stucco cottages and eight small frame houses.



Figure 2. *Saint Francis Hospital in 1914.*

When the deal was finally struck by the Sisters' attorney, John J. Mylod, the price was \$50,000. A cash payment of \$16,000 was made, with the remainder covered by mortgages.

In all, the hospital property covered nearly 30 acres, including an adjoining parcel of 2.5 acres purchased from the Fairview Improvement Co. Fairview parted with the land for the sum of one dollar.

The main house had been built in the 1850s for Stephen Baker, a U.S. congressman and a founder of the Dutchess County Republican Party. As part of Saint Francis Hospital, the building served first as the hospital's main building, later as a maternity ward, then as a residence for student nurses, and finally as administrative office space, when it was known as Mary Immaculate Hall.

In the fall of 1913, with five dollars between them, Sisters Mary Perpetua and Mary Regis departed the Motherhouse and boarded the train to Poughkeepsie. They took up residence in one of the stucco cottages on the Hillcrest Park grounds. Mother Mary Sebastian, Sister Mary Michael, Sister Mary DeBorgia, and Sister Mary Concepta soon joined them. They supervised the gathering of materials and the conversion of the main house into a hospital. The Sisters organized a cadre of women from the community who sewed bandages, sheets, and hospital gowns. A public fund drive raised more than \$123,000.

The first few years were a time of both growth and struggle. In 1916 and again in 1919, fires heavily damaged buildings. An influenza epidemic in 1918 brought hundreds of patients to Saint Francis Hospital. As many as 300 people were treated without charge that year.

After only five years in operation the hospital was feeling the need for larger, more modern facilities. In 1919 a committee of local citizens launched a major funding drive which, despite the national war debt, raised nearly \$100,000. In 1920 ten beds were added, thanks to an \$18,000 gift from local banker Oakleigh T. Thorne.

In 1921, the hospital board approved construction of a new main building, a four-story brick structure that would include, among other things, three large operating rooms, one of which was dedicated to eye, ear, nose, and throat surgery; private and semiprivate rooms; a 12-bed men's ward and a 12-bed women's ward.

When the unit opened the following year, there was one more grand touch: a tunnel connecting the hospital's buildings, thanks to a \$20,000 donation provided by Archbishop Patrick Hayes.

The Sisters of Saint Francis

By the time Saint Francis Hospital opened its doors, Franciscan Sisters had been serving the needs of Americans for more than a half-century.

A Sister was the senior administrator at the hospital from its origin until Sister M. Ann Elizabeth retired as president in 2001. Members of the order have served both as nurses and in administrative capacities throughout its history. Today, five Sisters carry on the tradition, and their continuing presence underscores the hospital's special commitment to caring. In the words of the hospital's Mission, Vision and Values:

Saint Francis Hospital is privileged to serve the healthcare needs of our community with reverence for life and the dignity and worth of every individual, embracing a healing ministry in the spirit of Saint Francis of Assisi.

Its vision is to be the hospital of choice in the Hudson Valley, spiritually grounded, quality-driven and trusted for generations to come.

Our Catholic Tradition is reflected in our CREST of Values:

Compassionate Care

Respect

Excellence

Service

Teamwork

The mission of the hospital has not changed since its founding. The Sisters of St. Francis have made every effort to deliver to the sick and the poor the quality of care they deserve and which their Franciscan charism calls them to provide. They remain the guiding force in the institution, influencing each person in the hospital family as they share in carrying out the healing mission.

Between Two Wars

In the rollercoaster years between the end of World War I and December 7, 1941, Saint Francis Hospital emerged as a modern medical center.

Reading through the hospital's history, one begins to glimpse the strong, comprehensive institution that would come into being in the decades following World War II.

Consider:

- 1920: The first laymen joined the Saint Francis Hospital Board of Trustees.
- 1923: The first organized volunteer group was formed.
- 1926: Sadlier Nurses' Residence, which would serve for more than four decades as the hospital's nursing school, was opened.
- 1927: The hospital purchased a new ambulance.
- 1936: New Deal social legislation and the expansion of workplace insurance plans helped to bring both patients and new revenue to Saint Francis Hospital.

- 1941: The board began making plans for a major addition to the Roosevelt Main Building, which had opened in 1924. (The outbreak of World War II postponed all expansion.)

In many ways, Saint Francis Hospital in the decades between the wars was a microcosm of the American healthcare system, a system which was becoming more comprehensive, reaching more people with better care—and growing significantly more complex. More lives were being saved and more suffering alleviated, but the days when a handful of dedicated nuns could found a hospital had passed.

What remained in the period between the wars, though, was the close bond between the hospital and its community. Volunteers played a bigger part in the hospital's daily life, and community leaders provided generous support. A gift of \$50,000 from Oakleigh Thorne, coupled with \$15,000 raised by Dr. James E. Sadlier, made possible the nurses residence. Ever diligent, Dr. James McCambridge worked with the Knights of Columbus, the Elks, and other civic groups to raise funds for the ambulance.

Emblematic of the hospital's broad-based community support was James Roosevelt, a leader of the Episcopal Church who understood the great good the Catholic hospital was doing for all Dutchess County residents. Roosevelt, a half-brother of Franklin Delano Roosevelt, donated \$13,000 toward the new main building in 1922, served as one of the hospital's first lay board members, and was a moving force behind the hospital's expansion.

By the start of World War II, Saint Francis Hospital was on the verge of unprecedented growth. First, though, there was a war to be fought.

Brothers and Neighbors

By the time the Sisters of Saint Francis arrived in Poughkeepsie, the Marist Brothers had been in residence for the better part of a decade. With the Sisters on the hill, and the Brothers at St. Ann's Hermitage only a few hundred yards away on the riverfront, it was a most natural alliance.

During the flu epidemic of 1918, Brothers served on emergency teams to transport the afflicted to the hospital, and members of the Marist order went door-to-door to solicit funds for the hospital's expansion in the early 1920s. Later, Marist faculty members served as instructors at the School of Nursing, and during many blood shortages, both faculty and students became a "living blood bank" for the hospital. Members of the Marist order were instrumental in moving the Sisters to temporary quarters

when the wooden Saint Francis Hospital convent was condemned by fire officials in 1959.

Today the hospital provides medical services to Marist students, and students frequently have internships at the hospital.

The Auxiliary Arrives

For years, a group of women volunteers had existed at the hospital, but in 1941, with war ripping through Europe, a different kind of group arose. Made up of younger women with a motto of “service,” it was to be known first as the Women’s Guild and later as the Women’s Auxiliary.

Over the years, the group has conducted War Bond drives, served as volunteers, and assisted in every major fund drive conducted to benefit the hospital. Today, Auxilians run the gift shop and manage a thrift shop.

The group’s first gift to the hospital in 1942 consisted of, among other things, a toaster, a waffle iron, softball equipment (for the student nurses), and two bicycles.

Now the Auxiliary is incorporated and has 350 members. Fundraising by the group has financed everything from a daycare playground and scholarships to cardiac and mammography equipment, vehicles, and major renovations.

The Growth Years

Even before the war ended in 1945, the hospital’s board of trustees had set in motion plans for an expansion that would dwarf Saint Francis Hospital as they knew it. The first addition was to be the Oakleigh Thorne and Joseph T. Tower Wings, dedicated September 8, 1951.

Oakleigh Thorne was one of the earliest and most generous supporters of Saint Francis Hospital. A resident of Millbrook, Thorne had been president of the Trust Company of America. He retired when the bank was sold in 1912 to the Equitable Trust Co.

Joseph T. Tower was one of Thorne’s Millbrook neighbors. The Tower family made several major donations to the hospital, including \$600,000 from a family trust fund in 1948.

Thorne’s nephew, Oakleigh L. Thorne, served as chair of the trustees’ dedication committee for the wing’s opening.

The two wings more than doubled the size of the hospital and cost \$2.3 million. A fund drive—the third major campaign in the hospital's history—raised \$700,000. The federal government provided another \$535,179 through the Hill-Burton assistance program. Saint Francis Hospital qualified for the money by raising a matching amount in private donations and by continuing its long practice of accepting charity cases.

Some 1,500 people turned out for the Thorne-Tower dedication ceremony. Among those on the dais with Cardinal Spellman and Sister M. Anne Roberta, the hospital's administrator, were New York State Governor Thomas Dewey and Thomas J. Watson, chairman of the board of IBM.

Features of the new wings included a maternity ward named for Watson, an X-ray department, a laboratory, the Vincent Astor clinic, kitchen and dining facilities, business offices, an admitting area, additional medical/surgical beds, a library and a central oxygen system.

These wings were considered "marvels of mid-twentieth century beauty, utility, and ingenuity. The interior has wall construction of golden-vein Saint Clare marble and terrazzo floors. The most modern Otis elevator system connects all floors."

The new additions were barely broken in when three years later, the board once again voted for expansion.

On a bright spring afternoon in May 1959, Dr. James E. McCambridge made his way once more to Saint Francis Hospital to the new south wing, known as the Cardinal Spellman Pavilion, representing a \$2.5 million investment that would bring 72 more beds to the hospital, raising the total to 250. An additional 3,000 patients a year would receive care. Forty-five years earlier, Dr. McCambridge had celebrated the hospital's opening as one of its founding physicians. The ground that once harbored Daniel Webster Wilbur's estate was now home to a thriving regional medical center.

Looking Back, Looking Forward

The Cardinal Spellman Pavilion, which was in full use by 1960, represented for Saint Francis Hospital both a reaffirmation of its traditions and a harbinger of new directions. The pavilion contained the Mid-Hudson region's first hospital psychiatric unit, a new operating room suite, a recovery room, a 40-bed medical/surgical unit, and a fourth-floor "shell" to provide space for future growth. At the same time, the Sisters of Saint Francis had provided for the inclusion of a new and larger chapel. In 1963, the hospital paid tribute to its founders, marking the 50th anniversary of the purchase of

the Hillcrest Park property. In a special brochure, the hospital showed how much times had changed in a half-century. Among the contrasts:



Figure 3. An aerial view of St. Francis Hospital, taken in 1967.

- During the hospital's first five years, 4,310 patients were treated. Fifty years later, a five-year span brought 46,590 patients to the hospital.
- An operating budget of \$138,545 carried the Sisters through their initial five years. The five-year budget 50 years later was more than \$11.1 million.
- The hospital opened its doors in 1914 with 40 beds. By 1963, that number stood at 261.
- Fourteen student nurses were in training the first year. More than 90 were enrolled in the hospital's three-year program by the early 1960s.

Changing Times

America began rethinking healthcare in the 1970s. The technology of medicine—from CT scanners to probes that allowed doctors to examine damaged hearts—made commonplace procedures that seemed like science fiction to many of us. But there was also a new movement afoot, a movement that wanted to see fewer people needing elaborate and costly high-tech treatments. A new term came into being: Wellness.

At the same time, hospitals, like patients, continued to feel the tight squeeze of finances. During the final half of the 1970s, 47 hospitals closed in New York State alone.

As it had done so often in the past, Saint Francis Hospital, confronted with new challenges, evolved with the times. The St. John Neumann Wing, named for the founder of the first American Community of Franciscan Sisters, was opened in 1977, offering the Mid-Hudson region's most advanced emergency and ambulatory care. Beginning in 1967, St. Francis Hospital became the first hospital in the Mid-Hudson region to staff the emergency room with full-time physicians. In 1974, anticipating the need for more efficient use of resources, Saint Francis Hospital and Vassar Brothers agreed to consolidate all maternity services at Vassar Brothers.

Indicative of the changing nature of both the hospital and healthcare were trendsetting new wellness programs, such as an aerobic fitness program jointly sponsored with Dutchess Community College, that were the fore-runners to today's more sophisticated wellness and preventive medicine programs like the hospital's The WorkPlace occupational health services.

It was also a time when hospitals like Saint Francis renewed their commitment to personalized care. In 1977, the hospital instituted the Primary Nursing system, in which each patient's primary nurse manages the total treatment plan, working closely with other members of the health-care team as needed.

By the end of the 1970s, physicians and hospitals were capable of doing so much, thanks to better training, greater know-how, and dazzling new technology. But for most patients, the intangible quality of care remained central. Said one patient of Saint Francis Hospital, "*It has a very warm heart.*" In a letter to Sr. M. Ann Elizabeth, another patient praised Sister Jerome: "*Her bedside manner is a God-given gift; one visit from her can often accomplish more than a bottle of pills... If I knew how to accomplish it, I would propose her for sainthood.*"

Even in changing times, the tradition of the Sisters of Saint Francis lived on.

To Teach and to Learn

For much of its history, Saint Francis Hospital was a place not only of healing but of teaching. The hospital's nursing school closed in 1970, but for more than 50 years Saint Francis Hospital left its mark on hundreds of future nurses.

The school of nursing was established in 1914, with fourteen students admitted for training.

For many years, the school was housed in the Sadlier Nurses' Home, which opened in 1926 and was named for Dr. James Sadlier, a surgeon who had been associated with Saint Francis Hospital from its inception. Later, student nurses also lived in Mary Immaculate Hall, the building that had housed the original Saint Francis Hospital. More than 90 students were enrolled annually in the state-approved nursing program in the late 1950s and early 1960s.



Figure 4. St. Francis Hospital's first building and its first class of nursing school graduates.

Eleanor Silvernail, a 1952 graduate and daughter of another Saint Francis Hospital alumna, recalled the family feeling of the school and the hospital. Many of her classmates stayed on to work at Saint Francis "because they had such good feeling about the hospital. It was such a happy place to work," said Miss Silvernail. "The camaraderie can never be replaced."

Realizing a Dream

Terence Cardinal Cooke surveyed the newest addition to Saint Francis Hospital. "*This,*" he said, "*is an achievement.*"

Indeed it was. The Terence Cardinal Cooke Pavilion opened on December 5, 1981. It was dedicated by the Cardinal on May 8 of the following year.

The seven-story, wedge-shaped wing had been completed under budget and ahead of schedule. It represented the most ambitious project in the hospital's history.

The wing housed medical and surgical units, the radiology department, a rehabilitation unit, endoscopy and cystoscopy areas, and a surgical suite equipped for one of modern medicine's most promising trends: same-day surgery. Elsewhere in Cooke were such areas as pediatrics, including facilities to meet the special needs of adolescents, and a three-tiered critical care unit with intensive care, coronary care, and progressive care areas.

Glimpsing the angular brick face of the Cooke Pavilion cutting into the sky high above Washington Street and Route 9, it is hard to recall the modest dream of the founding Sisters who struggled to bring their 49-bed hospital into being. On May 8, 1982, Cardinal Cooke was reminded that the Sisters who came in 1913 had only five dollars between them. He decided the least he could do was match it. He presented Sister Mary McCaffrey, the order's superior general, with a \$5 bill.

He followed it with a check for \$50,000.

Rapid progress continued. In 1981 the hospital opened its Early Intervention and Special Needs Preschool program with 20 children. Chartered by New York State to serve children from birth to 5 years of age, it now serves 400 children in 28 classrooms at 5 sites, and is the largest private provider to special needs children in Dutchess County. In 2000 it became the first school-based program in Dutchess for autistic infants and the first approved Dutchess County preschool for children with autism spectrum disorder in 2002.

In 1985 Saint Francis Hospital saved southern Dutchess County's only hospital. On September 13, the financially troubled Highland Hospital, located on a park-like 32-acre parcel on Delavan Avenue in Beacon, became Saint Francis Hospital Beacon. With the acquisition of the Beacon facility, Saint Francis Hospital increased its total number of beds from 276 to 396. Beacon also became home to the hospital's 20-bed drug and alcohol rehabilitation unit, the Turning Point, which now cares for over 2,000 patients per year.

In 1987, Saint Francis became the first hospital in the state to transport multiple trauma patients with the NYS Police Medevac program. The same year, Saint Francis Home Care Services, Inc., was established. For three years running, Saint Francis Hospital Certified Home Health

Services achieved HomeCare Elite, Top 100™ status; and in 2013, was one of only two in New York State to do so.

Also in 1987, the hospital established a children's daycare program in the convent on the hospital campus. The program expanded to a second, larger location in 1992 at the Martha Lawrence School on Spackenkill Road, Poughkeepsie—now a site of the hospital's Learning Links Children's Center.

In 1988, the in-patient mental health program expanded to 54 beds, including an 8-bed adolescent unit. Two years later, a then state-of-the-art three-dimensional, high-speed helical CT scanner was acquired, and Saint Francis became the first hospital in the area to own an MRI. The hospital established the Nursing and Allied Health Careers Scholarship Program in 1990. The Sleep Center opened in 1991, which in 2003 became the region's first sleep center to be accredited by the American Academy of Sleep Medicine. Also in the 1990s, triggered by a great need in the community, a dialysis unit was established.

In 1993, the hospital was named the region's designated Trauma Center by the New York State Department of Health.

Between 1993 and 2000, the Joint Replacement and Spine Center and the Therapy Connection were established, the medical office building at 243 North Road and the Atrium were opened in response to requests from physicians who wanted their offices sited closer to the hospital, and a new endoscopy suite and MRI suite were dedicated.

The hospital family suffered a blow on March 17, 2002, when President Emeritus Sr. M. Ann Elizabeth passed away. She was 91. Sr. Ann had been the hospital's guiding light for almost 70 years, holding leadership positions in the school of nursing and the hospital. She had served as administrator and president from 1962 until her retirement in 2001.

In 2001, the Saint Francis Hospital Cancer Center opened, followed in 2003 by the dedication of the Father (now Monsignor) John J. Brinn Center for Psychiatric Care within the emergency department. In 2004 Saint Francis partnered with Professional Radiation Oncology Services (PROS) to install a linear accelerator for non-surgical cancer treatment. Wound care took a leap forward with the hospital's first use of hyperbaric oxygen in 2005.

In 2007, the hospital broke ground for the \$10 million renovation and

expansion of the James J. McCann Emergency Care Center, the George T. Whalen Family Trauma Center, and the Brinn Center. Phase I, completed in 2008, expanded the emergency room to over 16,000 square feet. The second phase, renovation of the trauma center, was completed and dedicated the following year.

The Panichi Family Center for Communication and Learning was opened in Beacon in 2007. At the Panichi Center is one of the sites of the Center for Communication Disorders and the Hearing Works.

To address the growing need for the ability to treat cardiac disease, the hospital opened the \$5.2 million Charles and Mabel E. Conklin Cardiac Catheterization Laboratory that same year. The latest addition to the “cath lab” is the Interventional Radiology Suite, opened in early 2010.

The year 2011 saw the opening of the Center for Balance and Mobility within the Therapy Connection. Its Neurocom balance equipment is available in the Hudson Valley only at Saint Francis. A state-of-the-art 132-slice CT scanner (the first of its kind in the area, with a 30-percent reduction in radiation dosage) and cutting-edge MRI unit with high gradient strength were installed in the Imaging Center.

The Center for Robotic Surgery was established in 2012 with the acquisition of a Da Vinci Si surgical system. Also in 2012, the new, expanded cancer center was dedicated—later named the Herb and Sue Ann Redl Center for Cancer Care.

That year, Saint Francis Hospital formed a strategic alliance with two other Hudson Valley health systems to enhance patient care through the collaboration of clinical, physician, and support services, and through enhanced efficiency via group purchasing and shared resources. Hudson Health Partners, LLC is a partnership of Saint Francis Hospital with Bon Secours Charity Health System and St. Luke’s Cornwall Hospital.

Early this year the Center for Wound Healing and Hyperbaric Medicine moved into expanded headquarters in the Atrium. Soon the hospital will start work toward the expansion of the Redl Center for Cancer Care, which will include a dedicated women’s imaging center.

Call and Response

It was a little prayer answered in a big way.

As the 1900s dawned, a persistent group of Poughkeepsie physicians and supportive clergy approached Cardinal Farley to open a hospital that would welcome all qualified doctors, regardless of religion. The Cardinal was initially unsuccessful—until he asked the Franciscan Sisters at Mt. Hope in Hastings-on-Hudson.

You see, the motto at Mt. Hope was *Call and Response*.

The path of the Order of the Sisters of Saint Francis is one that made them the obvious choice to lead this new hospital. Theirs was, and remains, an Order of caring, treating, and responding to the call.

From the first group of Sisters to the present five Sisters who live and work on the campus of Saint Francis Hospital, there have been 82 Sisters—13 serving as administrators—their presence underscoring the hospital's commitment to caring. Their most important service, whatever their professional preparation, is the spiritual care and support they provide to patients and staff. Long before pastoral care departments existed, after the Sisters finished their day's work, they took turns to ensure that a Sister visited every patient daily.

It has been said that one of the hallmarks of greatness is to enable others to do better than their best in whatever their capacity. The Sisters of Saint Francis have inspired and encouraged that pledge with the wonderful result of being surrounded and supported for 100 years by hundreds of people who have done better than their best for people in need of healing.



Figure 5. St. Francis Hospital's first ambulance and first intern, Dr. Herbert Cochrane, in 1915.

Through the faith, dedication, and labor of the founding Sisters of Saint Francis, and the hundreds of men and women who have so tangibly demonstrated their commitment and leadership through their voluntary service as trustees, the hospital remains a spiritually grounded, dynamic and innovative leader in Hudson Valley healthcare. We have been tested and have changed with the times. While serving our neighbors, our faith and dedication carried us through the local effects of World Wars, the Great Depression, the advent of Medicare and Medicaid, and a dazzling array of technological and social advances.

In this, our 100th anniversary year, we treasure our past and cherish our future.

We are as we were—Saint Francis Hospital.

To learn more about the hospital, visit sfhospital.org. To learn more about the Sisters of Saint Francis and their ministries, visit sosf.org.

Credits

We are grateful to the following for the information for this publication:

Members of Saint Francis Hospital Men's Guild, authors of *St. Francis Hospital: 1914-1951*

David McCraw, author, and Carol Huber, project director of *Saint Francis Hospital at 75*

Sister Rose Marie Mullen, o.s.f., Saint Francis Hospital historian

Editor: Gail N. Jones, Saint Francis Health Care Foundation

“Apples, Apples, Try Them, Buy Them”

The Hart-Hubbard Collection At the Dutchess County Historical Society

By Melodye Moore

During 2012–2013, the Dutchess County Historical Society received an extensive collection of archival and photographic materials from Mr. and Mrs. E. Stuart Hubbard III of Stormville, New York. The collection offers an extraordinary opportunity to examine one of Dutchess County’s most important agricultural businesses—the apple industry—and the Historical Society looks forward to organizing and making the collection available to scholars.

The materials given to the society fall into several categories:

- Business records for the family’s farm in the town of LaGrange from the early twentieth century through the early 1960s. These records include account books, payroll records, tax inventories, ledgers, cash books, time books, day books and invoices and receipts.
- Nineteenth-century correspondence of various family members.
- Organizational materials related to the New York and New England Apple Institute, including copies of brochures, promotional literature, advertising counter cards, photographs of “Apple Annie,” and Institute bulletins to members.
- A collection of children’s posters submitted to the New York and New England Apple Institute as part of a 1941 apple poster contest.
- Business records for the Federal Point, Florida, orange groves.

The Hubbard Family

E. Stuart Hubbard III is a direct descendant of Benjamin Hall Hart and his wife Elizabeth Nichols. The Harts moved from Long Island to LaGrange in 1837 and purchased a 150-acre farm. In 1838 they completed construction of their home, “Heartsease,” on Overlook Road. Here they raised seven children, established fruit trees and nursery stock, and raised livestock

and farm crops. Upon Benjamin's death in 1875, the farm operations were taken over by Benjamin's son, William Hall Hart. William's sister Louisa married Edwin Smith Hubbard and they, along with three of Louisa's siblings, managed the orange groves in Federal Point, Florida, that had been purchased by Benjamin in 1867. In 1896 Louisa and Edwin's children, Edith and E. Stuart, then eleven and twelve years old respectively, came to "Heartsease" to attend private school as day scholars: she at the Quincy School located on the corner of Market and Pine Streets in Poughkeepsie, and he at Riverview Military Academy. After E. Stuart completed his schooling at Riverview, he returned to Florida where he helped his father with the Florida operations, returning to "Heartsease" in the fall to help his Uncle William with the apple harvest. He was specifically in charge of buying and loading apples at railroad stations in central Dutchess County. Around 1917, E. Stuart came north to assist his Uncle William and finally assumed ownership of the farm upon William's death in 1934.

E. Stuart Hubbard was by all accounts a very influential person in the horticulture and apple-growing community of New York. He was a founding member of the New York State Horticultural Society and a founding

member and publicity chairman of the New York and New England Apple Growers Association. He remained an active leader in the apple industry of New York until his death in 1963. In November of that year, Dan Dalrymple, the then Assistant Commissioner of Agriculture and Markets for New York State, wrote a tribute to E. Stuart Hubbard in which he said: "Perhaps his greatest contribution was his persistent and unrelenting support of apple promotion. His faith in this operation is now beginning to bear the wonderfully good results he predicted. His unflagging support kept the good work going when it was in dire straits. Many times



Figure 1. E. Stuart Hubbard, 1941.

in the critical period when the Market Order was being developed Mr. Hubbard would rise and speak strongly and forthrightly.”¹ Sadly, the farm operations ceased shortly after his death.

The Founding of the Apple Institute

One of the fascinating stories revealed through the papers given to the Dutchess County Historical Society is the story of the New York and New England Apple Institute, founded in 1935 as the brainchild of Thomas E. Cross of Lagrangeville. Worried about the declining consumption of apples in comparison to lavishly advertised citrus fruits, bananas, pineapples, and cranberries, Cross approached his neighbor E. Stuart Hubbard with an idea. “Stuart, he said, unless we apple growers and cold storage operators get together and do something to help sell more apples we will all go broke. If the orange, banana and pineapple people can increase their use of fruit, we can too. I don’t know how we can do it, but we should be able to help ourselves if others can help themselves.”² Thus was born the Institute, and Thomas E. Cross and E. Stuart Hubbard were the first two founding members. Incorporated in Albany on September 27, 1935, the aim of the Institute was “to acquaint the public with the goodness, plentifullness and cheapness of our apples and to demonstrate to the distributors of them how they can be handled, processed and attractively displayed so as to meet the stimulated demand for them and increase the movement and profits for those handling them. A moderate increase in the consumption of apples is all that is necessary to cause a satisfactory advance in their price and a fair return to the producer.”³ A business office was opened at 12 New Market Street in Poughkeepsie with an acting secretary in charge. The Gotham Advertising Company, Inc., of New York was hired to handle an advertising, sales, and publicity program. In order to raise funds to support this new organization, supporters were identified who would pledge one cent per box for their apple crop, provided as much as \$10,000 could be secured for the first season’s work. By August, Dutchess County fruit growers had pledged \$1,200 for 120,000 bushels.

Included in the Hubbard Collection is a “History of the New York and New England Apple Institute 1935–1960,” written by E. Stuart Hubbard in 1960. The thirty-page manuscript details the accomplishments and the struggles of the organization during the first 25 years of its history. Following are indented and italicized excerpts from that history that illuminate the activities of the organization. Incorrect spellings have been left as in the original. Non-italicized text is the comments of the author of this article.

The Bulletin

It had been previously decided that a newsletter be sent to members and prospective members and to the trade and influential people to acquaint them with the activities, plans and purposes of the Institute and to provide such information as could strengthen the industry. Stuart Hubbard was made editor of this "confidential" bulletin for growers. As they were riding towards Albany Mrs. Clarahan (Virg Clarahan worked for the Gotham Advertising Agency and specialized in indirect methods of promotion) suggested that the bulletin and the Institute be given a personality represented by say an old-fashioned woman called Apple Annie, like a character who sold apples in downtown New York. So she had a cartoon-like drawing made of a little woman with long skirt and sunbonnet with an apple in her hand. Apple Annie graced our bulletin. A saying of hers keynoted its contents. Apple Annie's picture with a humorous saying was supplied to many newspapers who printed it, thus bringing the apple to the public's attention.

Apple Week

From the beginning it was customary to ask the governors of our States to announce Apple Week. In 1937 Virg Clarahan planned to get big publicity through pictures of the presentations of apples to the governors taken when Apple Annie was requesting the announcement. Any item featuring apples that could make the big metropolitan papers as well as the smaller local papers was considered valuable promotion.

So she arranged with American Airlines to take Apple Annie to Boston and Hartford to present baskets of apples to the governors of these states and to the commissioners of markets with the request for observance of Apple Week in their states. American Airlines contributed free passage for Apple Annie and her chaperone-manager Miss Southwick, a very capable assistant of Virg, for the publicity they would also receive. The public was still loathe to use the airlines freely. The advertising chairman (E. Stuart Hubbard), busy as he was during apple harvest, could not take the



Figure 2. Letter to Retailers depicting "Apple Annie." Date unknown.

time to arrange for another grower's daughter to be Apple Annie for this complicated project, nor did he care to assume the responsibility. So he persuaded his oldest daughter, Louisa, who was a student at Vassar College, to leave her studies for parts of the two days required. At nine A.M. he, with his wife, picked Louisa up at the College, met Miss Southwick at the station, drove the 73 miles to Albany, where Apple Annie presented apples to the Commissioner, Gov. Lehman being in New York City at this time. This was so enjoyable that time passed quickly. Webster Birdsall, glancing at his watch, exclaimed, "Good gracious, we have only ten minutes to catch the plane. Jump in my car, Annie, it is an official car and has a siren." So off they flew at 60 miles per hour in stitches and just made it.

It so happened that there was no direct plane from Albany to Hartford. So Apple Annie and companion flew to Boston and took the plane from there back to Hartford. So her parents drove to Hartford, reaching there just in time to see her present her basket to the Lieut. Governor and be greeted by Pres. John Lyman, who represented the Institute officially. Apple Annie was quickly driven the 93 miles to Vassar and her beloved studies.

The next morning Apple Annie was picked up at the college and driven the 75 miles to Gov. Lehman's residence on Park Avenue, where she was graciously received by Gov. and Mrs. Lehman who accepted the basket of beautiful apples with pleasure. Meanwhile, two mounted police [sic] were idling their motors close by the car. Quickly Apple Annie and Miss Southwick climbed in and off they went down Park Avenue, up the ramp and around Grand Central Station, one officer in front and one alongside, sirens shrieking cross traffic stopping with squealing brakes, on down Fourth Avenue to Center Street near the Brooklyn Bridge to the office of New York City's Commissioner of Markets. After the presentation Apple Annie was whisked through the narrow, crowded streets through the Holland Tunnel to the Pulaski Skyway where the police escort reluctantly turned back to their own city.

At the Newark Airport the Boston plane was waiting. Soon Apple Annie alighted in Boston to be met by Director George Drew and Mrs. Drew and the Governor's car. Again Apple Annie was whisked through sedate Boston with shrieking siren to the statehouse where the Governor and the Commissioner of Markets and admiring officials accepted the gorgeous Massachusetts apples, cameras clicking at every occasion. Back Apple Annie was driven to the plane for Newark Airport where she arrived in a gale of wind and dust as the sunset was painting the Western sky, after a very rough passage. Then 85 miles home.

Such was the tempo of Virg Clarahan's publicity, such were the responsibilities the chairman of advertising assumed.

Promoting Eastern Apples

The history of apple growing in New York State is long and important. In 1647, Governor Peter Stuyvesant planted an apple tree from Holland on the corner of Third Avenue and 13th Street in New York City. By the 1700s Hudson Valley orchards were shipping fruit to New York City on the Hudson River. In the late 1700s, John Chapman (Johnny Appleseed) planted his first orchard on his Uncle's farm in Olean, New York. In 1896, a record apple crop of 54 million bushels was produced.⁴ Competition for consumer dollars for eastern apples soon appeared from western and southern fruit growers, and this was one of the major factors driving the formation of the New York and New England Apple Institute. To stimulate the distribution and consumption of the McIntosh and other Eastern varieties, the leaders of the Institute quickly recognized they needed an aggressive and ambitious marketing campaign.

Advertising and Publicity

The main problems were: 1. To change the consumer's demand from "eating apples" to McIntosh, Cortland, Spy—especially McIntosh and, from "cooking apples" to Baldwin and Rhode Island Greening. Red Delicious and Rome were seasonally mentioned; 2. To get the retail stores to buy, advertise and sell these varieties.



Figure 3. Apple Annie presenting a basket of apples to Gov. Lehman.

To this end our advertising agent prepared strips to paste on windows and walls—"It's McIntosh Time." They originated a little Scotchman in a kilt and tam-oshanter holding up a red McIntosh; and a chef with a Red Baldwin. Counter cards of these with space for price were distributed to the stores to identify the advertised varieties. They supplied mats with these figures for chain stores and others to use in their advertisements.



Figure 4. Advertising cards produced by the New York and New England Apple Institute.

Industry Participation

The Institute was formed as a grower association. No distributor, unless also a bona fide grower, could be a member. Distributors and suppliers, cold storages, etc., could be contributors without vote. To encourage such contributions, special projects were set up. The Seaboard Cold Storage contributed \$500 to finance a colored movie which the advertising chairman persuaded Prof. and Mrs. Taylor of The Oakwood School to take of local orchard operations of growing, picking and packing. Special emphasis was given to the prevention of bruising in picking, in packing and in retailing to impress the growers and the retailer groups to which it was shown. The Red Hook Cold Storage and Palmer Hart furnished \$500 to put an apple booth in the great Brooklyn food show. Tens of thousands of consumers saw our varieties attractively displayed and described both by attractive literature and display signs and by pleasing apple men and girls. The Winn-Ricker Co., and others of Boston financed displays in the Boston fruit show different years. One year the Red Hook Cold Storage and Palmer Hart, Wm. A. Brown and the Bronx Refrigerating Co., financed the purchase of and placing in fruit stores in lower Manhattan educational apple signs. A young fruit grower was employed under the direction of A. Percival Hart, who had been in charge of such work for Stuart Hubbard, who canvassed some 1,200 fruit stores in upper Manhattan, Bronx and Queens for many years. The most effective advertising pieces for such displays were large yellow cards printed in red and green, illustrated attractively and worded as follows:

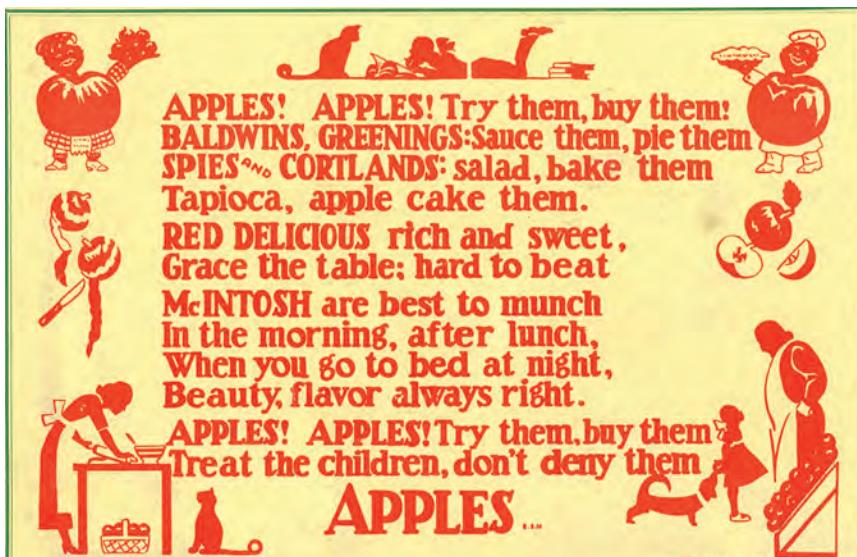


Figure 5. The "Apples" verse composed by Hubbard was among the institute's most effective promotional pieces.

The "Apples" verse was composed by the advertising chairman at 5 A.M. when he lay in bed on Thanksgiving morning pondering how to tell all there was to tell about our varieties of apples so that consumers in the store would read and remember. This verse was said by retailers to be the most effective piece of advertising ever placed in their stores. Children gathered in front of it, chanted it, begged for the card to take to Art of [sic] English teacher. Retailers asked that it be left up or a new one furnished. Some did duty for five years on the store wall. Wherever the Cortland sign was displayed, the sale of Cortland soared.

The Apple Education Project

It early became evident that three vital factors must operate in marketing a product: the retailer must have the article for sale; he must know its uses and its values and must want to get consumers to buy; the consumers must so keenly desire the article that they will search for it, demand it, and encourage its presence in the stores in variety and condition.

The first two prerequisites were attacked through contacts with the chain store national organization; the heads of the individual companies; the individual; the individual store managers and their clerks; also through the national and local independent grocers associations; and by calling upon individual stores, putting up display material and furnishing recipe folders.

Attempts to reach the consumer were made through newspaper advertisements, publicity in newspaper food columns, radio food broadcasts, food shows, blossom festivals and any means available to our agents, our staff or our members.

There was apparent a sad lack of information as to the health value, the food value, the characteristics and best uses, how to select apples when buying them and the best methods of caring for and keeping apples in the home.

It seemed to the education chairman in 1939 that the most effective way to blanket the population with such information could be to prepare it for use by the teachers of every home economics class in the area, especially in New York State where the chairman was in close touch with and close by the state departments at Albany.

Apple Poster Contest

As a corollary to the school project, an apple poster contest was run in the schools. In this project all art teachers were supplied with copies of three apple posters which the chairman had developed and used in his and Institute canvassing of stores. Their display in the schools had value. Twenty-eight teachers entered their classes in a contest for the best apple posters submitted. The first prize was a lovely poster. It was sent to all art teachers for display.



Figure 6. The winning entry of the Apple Poster Contest, submitted by Betty Torpy, Lancaster High, Lancaster, New York.

In 1960 when E. Stuart Hubbard completed editing his "History of the New York and New England Apple Institute 1935–1960" he was optimistic about the future success of eastern apples. He concluded his history by saying:

As We Come of Age

We come of age this coming year. Surely our stalwart body, trained and tried, can swell its chest, flex its muscles and shout a Tarzan cry of joy of living and of confidence in our ability to master any of the beasts of the Jungle. Our sober, humble conscience can guide us on to greater achievements in the years of our maturity.

His beloved Institute survived until 1994 when it dissolved and the eastern New

York growers and New York Apple Growers Association unified to create the New York Apple Association. Although not as numerous as in years past, Dutchess County and Hudson Valley apple growers remain important contributors to the economic success of the area. This success has been bolstered by a better educated public that values fresh local produce. E. Stuart Hubbard understood and championed this premise throughout his entire career as an apple grower and probably he would be championing the cause were he here today.

The Hubbard papers that William Hall Hart and E. Stuart Hubbard saved are rich with endless research possibilities. As we pore through the documents, they are certain to enlighten us about the history of apple growing in Dutchess County and an important story can finally be told.

¹ Dan Dalrymple, Assistant Commissioner of Agriculture and Markets, “A Tribute To E. Stuart Hubbard,” New York State Horticultural Society Newsletter, November 1963, p. 1.

² E. Stuart Hubbard, Editor, “History of The New York and New England Apple Institute 1935–1960,” p. 2.

³ New York and New England Apple Institute, Inc., “New York and New England Apple Institute formed By Eastern Growers,” press release, September 27, 1935, p. 2.

⁴ “Timeline of Apple History New York Apple Country History,”
<http://nyapplecountry.com/nyahistory>

DOCUMENTATION



Doris and Ralph Adams of Adams Fairacre Farms, *With Their Daughter Anabel Adams*

Interviewed by Candace J. Lewis

C. Lewis: For this interview with Doris and Ralph Adams, I am here with Doris Adams in the living room of the family home on Dutchess Turnpike. Their daughter, Anabel Adams, has joined us to assist with any questions. So good to see you, Doris, and Anabel. I understand that Ralph is home and may join us shortly. Where would you like to begin the story of the Adams family and Adams Fairacre Farms?

Doris Adams: Well, it all started with Ralph's grandfather, Jimmy Adams. Then we have his son Ralph Senior – then his sons Ralph and Donald took over the business. Ralph Senior's daughters, Diana and Dorothy, were not included. Ralph and Donald took over the business. Diana and Dorothy both had careers in New York City. Later on, Diana started the Pastry Garden and Dorothy was a main figure in the cheese department in the Poughkeepsie store. Now Donald's sons, Patrick and Stephen, are in charge of the business. Ralph's children are not involved presently. Mark, Ralph's son, owns and operates Mark Adams Greenhouses with his wife Sue. That is a thumbnail version of the story of the business and the family through three generations and a little over a century.

C. Lewis: I know that you now have the fourth, fifth, and sixth generations of this family coming along. You have just mentioned that members of the fourth generation, Donald's sons Patrick and Stephen are assuming leadership positions, while your son Mark and his wife are running a parallel business. For the purposes of this interview and the events that we are trying to record for the Dutchess County Historical Society, we are concentrating on the earlier history of the family and, in particular, on you, Doris, and Ralph.¹

Doris Adams: All right.

Let's begin with Ralph's grandfather, Jimmy Adams (Figure 1).



Figure 1. Jimmy Adams at about age 60.
Photograph: Collection of Ralph and Doris Adams.

Grandfather came over from Italy and he had a small, very small, farm near Cedar Avenue off Hooker Avenue in the City of Poughkeepsie. It was a little area there where he started farming. And up on that hill, he had a plot of land that he cultivated. Also he worked at the brickyard, perhaps as a laborer. We don't know that Jimmy was a laborer, only that he worked at the brickyard at Brickyard Hill here on Dutchess Turnpike [Route 44].

C. Lewis: *Do you know the original family name or where Jimmy Adams came from in Italy?*

Doris Adams: It was Adamucci. No, I don't know the original town.

Anabel Adams: *But we don't know my great-grandfather's original first name in Italian?*

Doris Adams: I can't think of his first name—Ralph's grandfather's original first name—but he took the name Jimmy Adams once he came to America. Ralph's father, Ralph Senior, was maybe two or something, when he came over here from Italy with his family. They had this small building they lived in while they built a house and had the farm off of Cedar Avenue. And so later, they had a townhouse down by the high school, Poughkeepsie High School. It was on a little street that goes across there, right in front of Poughkeepsie High School. They had a house where they lived in the wintertime. Anyway, then, Ralph's grandfather and grandmother had four boys.

Anabel Adams: *That might have been Manitou Avenue.*

Ralph Adams, Senior, 1893–1958

C. Lewis: *If we move on to the next generation, we come to Ralph Senior. He grew up in Poughkeepsie seeing his father, Jimmy Adams, working a fairly large vegetable garden on Cedar Avenue and working at the brickyard to support his family. Is this right?*

Doris Adams: Yes. Ralph Senior, like his father Jimmy, farmed. Ralph's father bought this land, the hundred acres here on Dutchess Turnpike, I think it was, yes, a hundred acres. It had the name Fair Acres when he purchased it. And the family raised all kinds of vegetables and strawberries and raspberries.

Anabel Adams: *This is right here on this property? On Route 44?*

Doris Adams: Yes. Right here. Dutchess Turnpike—it was a toll road. And so, originally, when they lived here, they lived in an inn. It was called the Toll Inn, the Toll House Inn, or something like that, and I have a picture of it. They lived there and they had four children, two boys and two girls.

Ralph's father would get up at two in the morning and hitch up the wagon to the horses and go to the market, which was right on the corner of—you've got to help me out here, Annie—you know, where that Army and Navy place is where you bought your Levis? Clinton and Main? Yes, the corner of Clinton and Main was the market. This is the summertime, of course, summer or fall—and they had peach trees. And I don't know if they had corn way back then, but I suppose they did. They had all kinds of produce.

Anabel Adams: *Any apples? Was it an apple farm?*

Doris Adams: They had apple trees, yes. Ralph Senior, my husband's father, was the only one of the children who became a farmer. Another one of the brothers went to Massachusetts and became very involved with the River Paper Company. He made a lot of money and lived in Framingham with a big home. One brother became a very wealthy person; he had a flower shop in Buffalo, New York, and he made a fortune there. And the other brother, the youngest brother of all, Julius, went out west. We don't know much about Julius because he lived in California.

C. Lewis: *I think this family had a strong work ethic.*

Doris Adams: Yes, they did. Anyway, so Ralph's father and his mother met at a dancing school. She came over from Ireland at age 16 to live with her aunt and she worked for a family here in Poughkeepsie. They met at dancing school and got married. (Figure 2)

Anabel Adams: *One from Italy, one from Ireland, and they end up with this English name.*



Figure 2. The Adams family in 1948. Ralph Senior; his wife, Mary Rogers Adams; and their four children: Diana, Dorothy, Ralph, and Donald. Taken near the barn that is now Marlene Weber's Spa. Photo: Collection of Ralph and Doris Adams.

Doris Adams: Yes. The grandfather changed his name, he said, for people to spell it, but I think there was a lot of prejudice against Italians back then. And so, I think he changed it to make everything easier for his family. And I think he was successful.

Years later, when my son, John, went on a bicycle trip and went through Massachusetts and his name was John Adams, they really hit on that, you know, and reporters were interviewing him from the paper. He was 13 years old at the time. They thought he was a descendent of the family of John Adams – or maybe Samuel Adams.

Anabel Adams: *That is a cute story, Mom.*

C. Lewis: *[We are joined by Ralph Adams.] Hi, Ralph.*

Doris Adams: Hey, honey.

Ralph Adams: I'm coming out to straighten this all out.

Doris Adams: You're a little late. We've already lied and made stuff up.

Anabel Adams: *Hi, Dad. We've already tried to guess the names of many streets.*

Doris Adams: Ralph, was this road called the Toll Road out here, back when your parents lived out down in the Toll House Inn?

Ralph Adams: Pleasant Valley Road.

Doris Adams: And when your grandfather had his plot of land where he grew vegetables—was he on Cedar Avenue?

Ralph Adams: Yes.

Doris Adams: Ralph, I have a question about your grandfather. What did he grow, up there on Cedar Avenue?

Ralph Adams: A whole variety of things.

Doris Adams: It seemed so un-farm-like now. . .

Ralph Adams: I know he had asparagus.

C. Lewis: *And what was the name of your mother, Ralph?*

Ralph Adams: Mary. Mary Rogers.

Anabel Adams: *Mary Rogers Adams. We are reconstructing the family history here.*

Doris Adams: And, okay, then we have Uncle Ray from Massachusetts, the uncle from Buffalo, Ralph's father, and then little Julius. As for any of them becoming citizens of the United States, well, I know Ralph Senior did take out citizenship, because I have the papers, but I don't know about the grandfather.

Anabel Adams: *And who was the guy in Buffalo? What was his name?*

Ralph Adams: Frank.

Doris Adams: That was Frank and he had a very good flower shop where he made a fortune somehow. Did he make a fortune on stocks and bonds or what?

Ralph Adams: I think he made it on the stock market.

Doris Adams: In Ralph Senior's family, there were also four children, but,

in that case, it was two girls and two boys. There were two older sisters, Diana and Dorothy. Dorothy died last year, in 2012, at age 90. Ralph's sister Diana is 96 and still well. She owns some of the property here. The boys are Ralph and Donald. Eventually, Ralph and Donald owned this place. Adams Fairacre Farms is coming down through the generations of the family. Donald's sons Patrick and Stephen run the business now.

So the family had this little market, I don't know precisely when they started it, but it was probably after they built this house. At first Ralph Senior and Mary lived in the Toll House Inn that fronted directly on Dutchess Turnpike (then called Pleasant Valley Road), the toll house out in the front, which was an inn. And after a while, they tore it down.

Anabel Adams: *Didn't they build this house when Dad was two?*

Doris Adams: Three, I believe. I think the house dates to about 1926 and Ralph was born in 1923. I think that's when they opened the stand (Figure 3). (It was like a little garage out there with doors that slid up. They would just sell the produce in the summer and in the winter it was closed up.)

The winter was fairly calm, except they started growing their vegetables in a small greenhouse that had to be fired up with coal. They were always out there from March on, making these fires in this little furnace to grow this stuff. And once they grew it to a certain size, it would be put out in these hotbeds.



Figure 3. The Stand, built by Ralph Adams Senior in the 1930s on the property where Adams Fairacre Farms, Poughkeepsie, is today. The family home, also built by Ralph Senior and his wife, Mary Rogers Adams, is visible in the background. The date of that structure is known: 1926. This photo may date to the 1950s. It shows piles of pumpkins and bushels of apples—the early fall harvest. Photograph: Collection of Ralph and Doris Adams.

Ralph Adams: They were called “cold frames” not “hotbeds.”

Doris Adams: Thank you, dear. We still had cold frames when I lived in this house with Ralph as his wife. In the middle of the night, he would get up, and say, we have to go out and cover the cold frames. I would say, “oh, my Lord.”

Anabel Adams: *Were those the boxes with glass tops, because I even remember them?*

Doris Adams: Yes. We had to cover the cold frames with quilts which we got from this place down by Fishkill that had all these old quilts. I saved some of them because they were beautiful. In the daytime the box would be open when there was sun. But then when it was very, very cold; the glass wouldn’t keep it warm enough, so you had to put the blankets over it.

Anabel Adams: *They were right in this area where the store is now.*

C. Lewis: *And when was this, that you were tending the cold frames?*

Doris Adams: I would say from 1959 to about 1969, maybe longer.

Ralph Adams, Junior (b.1923)

C. Lewis: *Could you please tell us about your younger days, how you met, how you came to Poughkeepsie, how you both, in your own ways, became integrated into the family business? I always thought that, for your husband, what was dearest to his heart was produce? Would that be a correct assessment?*

Anabel Adams: Yes.

Doris Adams: That’s what he was. He was the farmer. They worked together – Ralph and Donald.

Donald was the visionary. Donald was responsible for the store expansions: Kingston, Newburgh, Wappingers and the opening of Landscaping, Fence, and Power Equipment.

As for the farming, the big thing was the corn, growing the corn. Because then you didn’t get corn from everywhere else, you know. Now you get it from our southern states. But back then all corn was local. You only got corn in the summer and you waited and waited for it. The truck would come in with it and people were so eager that, instead of waiting for the

farmers to take it off the truck, the customers would run over and want to buy it right out of the truck.

Anabel Adams: *Daddy grew corn, tomatoes, melons, pumpkins, cucumbers, green beans, beets, zucchini squash, egg plant, peppers – lots of peppers. (Figure 4)*



Figure 4. *Ralph Adams in the Stand, the original Adams Fairacre Farms store, on Dutchess Turnpike (Route 44), 1940s.*
Photograph: Collection of Ralph and Doris Adams.

Doris Adams: But, I have to tell you, there's another phase of this. Between 1948 and 1958, Ralph and I lived in Salt Point on an apple farm. And the great thing is that Ralph's father bought that farm—it must have been during the war, because right after the war Ralph came home and the place was there.

Anabel Adams: *First, Ralph went to Cornell Agriculture School.*

Doris Adams: Oh, yes. Ralph went to Cornell Ag. School and then he joined the army while he was in college. I only met him because when he came back from the army, I was there, a student at Cornell. He graduated in 1947. I stayed another year to graduate in 1948 and then we got married.

Anabel Adams: *Oh, I didn't know that.*

Doris Adams: Yes. He said, let's get married now. My father said some people do drop out of college to get married. I said, not this one, Dad, I'm

staying. He thought he could save some money. But he was happy that I went anyhow. Ralph went home and worked on the farm for a while, then I graduated and we got married. Ralph and I met after he was out of the army and had returned to Cornell to finish school.

Anabel Adams: *Dad, I would like to know more about this period. Did you learn most of what you knew about farming from your dad or from Cornell?*

Ralph Adams: From my Dad.

Anabel Adams: *From your dad. Because at Cornell were they really teaching you about vegetable farming? They were, weren't they?*

Ralph Adams: No.

Anabel Adams: No?

C. Lewis: *What did you learn from Cornell, do you think, from your education at Cornell, anything?*

Ralph Adams: I didn't learn much about farming, I don't think. I was a pomology major. I learned about fruit trees.

Doris King Adams (b. 1926)

C. Lewis: *Doris, may I please interrupt you for just a minute and ask you to tell us a bit about your background and family history? Where did you come from? (Figure 5)*



Figure 5. Doris Adams in about 1970. Photo: Collection of Ralph and Doris Adams.

Doris Adams: From Dansville, New York. Five thousand people lived there. We had a factory in town that made ship boilers for World War I and II. And we had nurseries there. There were big nurseries—two big ones. My father and his father had a smaller nursery. Therefore, when I was growing up in upstate New York, we lived on a farm, but we didn't have any apple trees. My maiden name was Doris King. My father, Dr. King—he was Mr. King then—was in the business of selling bare root trees. He and his father had this whole thing going where they had a catalog and everything and they sold bare root fruit trees—apple, peach, and plum. They called it Franklin Nurseries. Then, before he became a doctor, he sold the business.

Anabel Adams: *Dr. King went from that to med school?*

Doris Adams: Yes. And while he was in medical school, World War I happened. My father was offered the option to graduate early if he went and took care of the people who had the flu down in North Carolina. He could either go to North Carolina or he could go overseas. He chose to go south where loads of people in tents were down with the flu. Why he didn't get sick I do not know. This would have been 1918 or 1919.

Ralph and Doris Adams Settled in Dutchess County.

Doris Adams: And then, to return to our story in Poughkeepsie, Ralph's father, Ralph Senior, said, when you get married, why don't you live on that apple farm? And that apple farm was an old house, very old house, small.

Anabel Adams: *How did he know about it? I mean, how did you happen to buy it?*

Doris Adams: We never bought the house. Ralph's father bought it during the war for \$8,000 fully equipped with the apple trees ready to pick and peach trees ready to pick.

Anabel Adams: *What a deal!*

Doris Adams: It was. I think there were a sixty acres there too. I'm not positive how many acres, but it was big. And the apple trees were up on the hill and then the peach trees were across the street on Ring Road. And the man next to us, at Ring Orchards, was very popular then, a very nice man. He used to come over and plow our driveway when it snowed because we didn't have a plow. So we were there ten years and that's where I had three

of my children, Mark, John, and Mary, and the fourth one, Anabel, was born down here (Figure 6).



Figure 6. Doris Adams with her two oldest children, Mark and John. Front porch of Ralph and Doris's first home, on Ring Road. 1953. Photograph: Collection of Ralph and Doris Adams.

rained with something that's now illegal—Malathion, which you had to put on so they wouldn't rot from the rain. And I'd be driving this tractor up this hill and, you know, it felt like it was going to slide off and we were going to be killed. So I did this for a couple of years and then I said, no, I'm not doing this anymore because I had a baby. And I thought, you know, I could be killed and then who would take care of the baby. So I stopped doing that.

But I would be out there, you know, watching the pickers and helping to fasten up the crates, the apple crates, and Ralph would take them down to Ralph Smith for cold storage. That's another person that's famous around here – Ralph Smith of the Ralph Smith Orchard. The present day restaurant, Le Pavillon, is Ralph Smith's old house and his storage facility was behind it. Ralph would drive down with apples in his pickup truck.

Anabel Adams: *And then Dad would sell them?*

Anabel Adams: *Did you do the picking too, Mom?*

Doris Adams: I didn't. No. We had had pickers from Jamaica, they came here. Ralph's father was in the farm bureau. So that's how he knew, probably, about the Jamaican pickers. They usually lived on the farm, but they didn't live with us. But, anyway, we didn't hire many because it was a small orchard compared to all the big ones nearby. There were a lot of big orchards here in Dutchess County, until after the war. They started dwindling down because people would sell their property. Apples didn't make enough money. So most of the apple farming now is in Ulster County.

I was involved at the apple farm on Ring Road because back then we were dusting the apples when it

Doris Adams: Yes, eventually—maybe at Washington Growers. I'm not sure I remember all of this.

Anabel Adams: *Dad, do you remember?*

Ralph Adams: The apples grown in the orchard on Ring Road were put into cold storage at Ralph Smith's on Salt Point Turnpike and later sold mostly at the stand. We sold some to New York City, but not through Washington Growers.

Doris Adams: At that time, Ralph Senior had the small stand here on Dutchess Turnpike out in front of this house. Then later, we moved down here in 1958 and bought this house from Ralph Senior's widow (Ralph's mother). I met Ralph at Cornell and I came here and then I had four kids, two boys and two girls, the same way – like Ralph's parents' family.

Anabel Adams: *They built the store when Grandpa died. Dad and Donald took over then?*

Doris Adams: Yes. We moved down here. And that's when they started building the new store, which was open, at first, just in the summer with produce. (Figure 7)



Figure 7. The “new” store, built in 1959, when Ralph and Donald Adams took over the running of Adams Fairacre Farms. Photo: Collection of Ralph and Doris Adams.

Many people would come to buy big bushel baskets of tomatoes for canning. (Figure 8)

My son Mark still preserves them. He still cans tomatoes. He grows his own stuff. We go to a little dinner there every fall of his stuff. It's called the Harvest Dinner. He tries to catch a fish to go with it.



Figure 8. Four men happily surveying the apple harvests. From left: Don Adams, John Mullaly, Tommy Rugar, and Ralph Adams. From room of the 1959 Adams store. Date c. 1963. Photo: Collection of Ralph and Doris Adams.

Anabel Adams: The farming expanded, as well, right? Dad farmed for 40 years.

Doris Adams: Yes. In the early days, he didn't have enough land. Ralph and Donald rented land from the Hubbards and from the Sleights (Figure 9).

But much later, Ralph stopped farming when it became such a problem to get help. That was in the 1990s. Not enough people wanted to work on the farm.

Anabel Adams: Dad? I think you should tell Candace how you felt when you and Donald decided to build that store, like was that very frightening, because I don't even know?

Ralph Adams.: You mean the first one?

Ralph Adams: Well, I thought about it for a while.



Figure 9. Corn growing in a field at the Hubbard family farm. The Hubbards were neighbors of the Adamses. Ralph and Donald rented the land from them to grow their own corn, which they sold at the store. Date c. 1967. Photo: Collection of Ralph and Doris Adams.

Anabel Adams: *You did?*

Ralph Adams: Yes.

Doris Adams: Because you were more of a farmer. When did you stop farming, Ralph?

Ralph Adams: About five years ago, well, maybe in the '90s.

Anabel Adams: *Wait. I want to hear how he felt about building that store. Because that was a big switch from farming to deciding to concentrate on a store.*

Ralph Adams: I felt very excited about it.

Anabel Adams: *You were?*

Ralph Adams: Yeah.

Anabel Adams: *And you felt like —*

Ralph Adams: I didn't feel—I didn't have any...

Anabel Adams: *No reservations?*

Ralph Adams: No. Donald and I thought it would be a good idea.

Anabel Adams: *And did that mean you had to expand the amount of farming that you did?*

Ralph Adams: True.

Anabel Adams: *Now, what was the most challenging thing about farming?*

Ralph Adams: Getting help.

Anabel Adams: *We decided to stop farming because...*

Ralph Adams: Well, I had become pretty involved in the retail side of it. So I needed to.

Anabel Adams: *Well, wait a minute, because of the expansions of the stores? Because there were two stores at that point?*



Figure 10. Ralph Adams in the store built in 1959. He is conversing with Grover Perkins, a broker buying produce from local farmers and selling it to Ralph and Donald. Mid-1960s. Photo: Collection of Ralph and Doris Adams.

Ralph Adams: Yes.

Anabel Adams: *That it seemed what? It seemed—too challenging when you got older?*

Ralph Adams: Probably.

Anabel Adams: *Do you have anything to add, Dad? This is why I don't know anything, Candace, he's tight-lipped. He is not one to talk about the past. It's very interesting. He's always talking about now. As an older guy, you would think he would say, oh, you know, back when I was little—But he's never done that. Not focusing on the past. I think also it is because he was always out there surrounded by young people. He's always lived in the moment. (Figure 11)*



Figure 11. *Ralph Adams in the store, 2005.*
Photograph: Collection of Ralph and Doris Adams.

Anabel Adams: *Over the years, the business has grown and changed. You and Donald completed an extensive renovation of the Poughkeepsie store. You opened new stores in Kingston and Newburgh.*

Doris Adams: My son Mark is not in the business, but runs the greenhouse—a separate business.

Ralph Adams: Yes.

C. Lewis: *So, Ralph, when you and Donald were engaged in making the renovations at Adams Fairacre Farms in the 1990s, did you think that they would result in increased business?*

Ralph Adams: Yes.

C. Lewis: *Yes. And did the renovations at Adams Fairacre Farms increase business?*

Ralph Adams: Oh, sure.

Anabel Adams: *Dad, looking back, what do you think was the biggest thing you grew that was popular and received the most attention from the public?*

Ralph Adams: Corn. (Figure 12)

Anabel Adams: *Corn. Okay*



Figure 12. Ralph driving the pickup truck, loaded with bushels of corn. Young boy in truck is Albert Davis; man standing at right is Joe Murfitt; boy in foreground is not identified. C. 1967. Photo: Collection of Ralph and Doris Adams.

Doris Adams: What about the pumpkins in the fall? They were so beautiful and everyone loved them. (Figure 13) Also, what about the tomatoes, Ralph? I was telling about the Italian women who came for these huge bushel baskets of tomatoes. They would be canning tomato sauce for the winter.

Ralph Adams: Yes.

Doris Adams: Wasn't that important, those tomatoes?

Ralph Adams: Yes.

Doris Adams: And what about the pumpkin fields that people picked their own? And the strawberries?

One time I came down from Ring Road and I saw all these cars, and I thought, oh my God there's been a disaster or something, a fire or something horrible has happened. They were parked all on the front lawn in front of the Pastry Garden. There were cars everywhere. And I rushed in and said, What are these cars? They were picking strawberries.

Anabel Adams: They are fun to pick. And the kids would eat them as fast as they picked them, but no one cared.



Figure 13. Piles of pumpkins from the fall harvest, shown here in front of the then modern Adams Fairacre Farms building on Dutchess Turnpike (Route 44). The addition visible in the background was built in 1977. Date of photo c. 1978. Photo: Collection of Ralph and Doris Adams.

C. Lewis: Thank you so much for talking with me for the Dutchess County Historical Society. As a concluding question, may I ask: after all these years and all this discussion, what first comes to mind when you think of Adams Fairacre Farms and the original store here in Poughkeepsie right where you have lived and worked?

Doris Adams: I guess I would say we feel lucky to have built our business in such a wonderful community. People have been so supportive of us throughout the years. Some of our customers began shopping here when it was just a stand.

Anabel Adams: Yes. We used to call it “The Stand.”

Doris Adams: Donald’s wife, Dale, still calls it “The Stand.”

A Brief History of Adams Fairacre Farms

- 1895 Jimmy Adams arrived from Italy and began farming on Cedar Avenue, Poughkeepsie, NY.
- 1919 Adams Fairacre Farm begun.
- 1920s Sold vegetables from the barn to neighbors.
- 1930s Opened a farm market in the barn.
- 1959 Adams Fairacre Farm grew to a retail produce market, Adams Fairacre Farms, Inc.
- 1964 Adams Landscaping was founded.
- 1965 Adams added a Garden Center Department.
- 1968 Greenhouse Department was added.
- 1974 Adams Fences was founded.
- 1977 Adams added a deli, gourmet, and grocery items, domestic and imported cheeses.
- 1978 Mark Adams Greenhouses, Inc., was founded.
- 1981 Adams Fairacre Farms opened its second store, in Kingston, NY.
- 1986 Expanded Gift Shop and Floral Shop departments were added to the Poughkeepsie store.
- 1987 Adams Power Equipment was founded.
- 1988 Meat and Seafood Departments were added to the Poughkeepsie store
- 1991 Meat, Seafood, and Bakery Departments were added to the Kingston store
- 1998 Adams Fairacre Farms opened its third store in Newburgh, NY.
- 2002 Adams completed Poughkeepsie remodeling, adding Candy/Gift Basket, Prepared Foods, and a Salad Bar. Adams Landscaping and Adams Fences each had its own building and Adams Power Equipment was remodeled.

- 2005 Kingston's remodeling was completed, adding Candy/Gift Baskets, Prepared Foods and a Salad Bar.
 - 2009 Adams began the process to open a fourth store in Wappingers Falls, NY. Newburgh remodeling project was set to begin in this year.
 - 2010 Newburgh's remodeling was completed, adding a seating area for Prepared Foods. Construction began on the fourth store in Wappingers Falls, NY.
 - 2011 Adams Fairacre Farms opened its fourth store in Wappingers Falls, NY, adding a Kitchen Supply department.
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¹ For some earlier accounts of Adams Fairacre Farms, see Nancy Alden, "The Adams Brothers," *Dutchess*, Spring, 1999, pp. 28–31; and "Farmstand, Plant Nursery, Gourmet Food Store: Adams Fairacre Farms, Poughkeepsie, Dutchess County, and Kingston, Ulster County," *Hudson Valley*, November, 1996, p. 55.

Ed Fitchett of Fitchett Brothers Dairy

Interviewed by Candace J. Lewis



Figure 1. John S. Fitchett, left, and Edwin B. Fitchett, right, standing with Fitchett Bros. Dairy delivery wagon, c. 1907. Later, family members would remember that the dairy business began in 1904, but by some accounts it may even have begun as early as 1902. Photo. Collection of Ed Fitchett.

C. Lewis: Thank you for agreeing to speak to me for the Dutchess County Historical Society Yearbook about the history of Fitchetts' Dairy and the dairy business in Dutchess County, NY. Why don't we start at the beginning? How did the dairy begin? Where was it?

Ed Fitchett: My father was in farming with his parents on Cream Street, Hyde Park. Then, in February, 1904, my father and his older brother, John, bought a milk route putting them into the dairy business (Figure 1).¹ They purchased their milk from a Mr. Campion, whose farm was six miles away from downtown Poughkeepsie. It was a one-hour drive by horse and sleigh. On the cold winter mornings, they had to cover the milk cans with a blanket and place a lantern underneath for warmth to prevent the milk from freezing (Figure 2). Meanwhile, they were pretty cold themselves. They served about 150 customers in the Mt. Carmel area, mostly Italian immigrants. Milk was transferred from the 40-quart cans into a ten-quart can which they carried to the homes. Then they used a pint-sized dipper to ladle the milk into the housewife's pitcher or pail. Selling price was six

cents per quart. My father always told me that his customers were very loyal. He said to them, "Pay me next week." The money could wait; their need for milk could not. Children of these families always bought Fitchett's milk in the years ahead! The milk wouldn't keep. Fresh milk had to be delivered every day, early in the morning before people went to work. This was before there were milk bottles and pasteurization.



Figure 2. This photograph was given to Ed Fitchett some years after it was taken. It is believed to be an image of Fitchett's milk delivery. Written on photo: "Jan 19, 1936. Twas on a Sunday A.M., temp +13 degrees F, BRRR!, NE Gales, 18 inches deep by Eventide." Photo: Collection of Ed Fitchett.

I estimate that there were about 40–50 independent milk routes in Poughkeepsie at that time. Vandewater Dairy, Seaman's Dairy, and Paul Beck's Dairy at 230 Mansion Street were a few.

Soon, about 1912, there was a demand for bottles, which they bought at the Poughkeepsie Glass Works located near the river at the Dutton Lumber site. They filled and capped them by hand, submerging them in ice water to keep them cold. As the business grew, machines were acquired to wash and fill the bottles.

They bought property on Creek Road that had a large house for the two families as well as buildings for the dairy and a barn for the horses. (Edwin Fitchett, my father, and Edith Ganse, my mother, were married in 1907. John Fitchett, my uncle, and Verna Ganse—Edith's sister—also married in 1907, that same year.)

C. Lewis: *We are interested in your recollections about your family? Do you have any especially vivid memories of your childhood and your family?*

Ed Fitchett: Well, I was born in Poughkeepsie in 1922. My brother, Alson, was born in 1919 and my sister in 1912. I have many fond recollections of the 1920's and 1930's. There was much excitement when Charles Lindbergh flew non-stop to Paris, for example, in 1927.

Family picnics to the Catskills were special treats. My mother made the food at home: I remember potato salad, deviled eggs, sandwiches, lemonade, fruit, cookies, milk and much more. Usually another family joined us so we shared many of the items. The twenty-minute trip across the Hudson on the ferry steamer *Brinckerhoff* was a real adventure for us boys (Figure 3). Once we had driven on board, along with other cars, trucks, and horses and wagons, my parents let Alson and me roam around the ship, with the promise to be back in the car before we landed in Highland.

On the upper deck we could watch as we went under the railroad bridge and wave to the other ferry as it went by. We could see the "walking beam" as it moved up and down, turning the side wheels that moved the ship in the water. In the middle, between the two rows of cars, was an enclosed space with a door where we could look down at the boilers and the man shoveling coal. It was really hot down there. There were also passenger rooms on each side to accommodate the many pedestrians.



Figure 3. The Ferry Brinckerhoff crossing the Hudson River just south of the 1889 Railroad Bridge. C. 1925-1930. Photograph. Collection of the Dutchess County Historical Society.

We had two favorite destinations—the Ashokan Reservoir where they aerated the water for New York City and the Catskill Mountain House, unoccupied and a bit spooky but still majestic with its many columns, plus that spectacular view of the river valley. At lunch time we sat on the grass with a blanket on which the food was placed. We had lots of fun running around with my cousins or other young friends who may have joined us.

My parents loved to travel when they could. Vacations were always camping with all the gear on the running boards and on the rear of the car. Sometimes there was a small trailer for this purpose. The routine would be to drive all day, find a place to pitch the tent, perhaps in someone's yard or field (with permission), prepare dinner, sleep on cots or on air-mattresses

on the ground. In the morning, prepare breakfast, pack some lunch, load the car and be on our way. There were no super-highways, no motels, just a few “cabins” which we seldom used.

In 1933, we camped our way to the World’s Fair in Chicago—an exciting destination. We camped behind a gas station a few miles away. We just had to make a return trip by way of Kentucky, the Blue Grass State, so my father could admire the beautiful horses.

It was about 1934 when my brother (14), my cousin (15), and I (12) rode the Hudson River Dayliner from Poughkeepsie to New York—a wonderful four hour ride on that magnificent steamer. My Aunt met us and, for three days, showed us the amazing sights of the City and Long Island. We returned by train. It was a grand adventure which we always appreciated.

In 1929, my parents took us on a trip around the Gaspé Peninsula in Quebec. There were no paved roads and we counted 55 covered bridges. Everybody spoke French. How different from home!

C. Lewis: *Thank you for your accounts of your youth. Perhaps we should turn our attentions again to the story of Fitchett's Dairy and its progression in time. Could you tell us some more about the development of the business?*



Figure 4. The Fitchett Bros. Dairy barn. This was the most modern architecture and technology for the time. Image from 1941 company brochure. Text from brochure read: “Steadfast service since 1902. We take pleasure in serving you. Get your Vitamin A the easy way, Drink Fitchett's Milk every day.” Collection of Ed Fitchett

Ed Fitchett: Yes, I think so. In 1925, in order to supplement their supply of milk from local farmers, my father and uncle bought a farm on Bedell Road, about 2 ½ miles from the dairy. They built a large modern barn that

would house 100 Guernsey cows (Figure 4). People loved the rich milk that they gave (Figure 5). In fact, the more cream, the better—so they added some Jersey cows whose milk was even richer. My father bought special milk bottles with narrow necks—to emphasize how much cream would be in our milk!

In the 1920's pasteurization was introduced—a process whereby raw milk was heated to 143 degrees and held for 30 minutes before being cooled and bottled. Some people wanted it and others did not, saying it "tastes cooked." So we carried both types so people could choose. Pasteurization became mandatory after a while....longer shelf life and much safer for one's health. (The newer, more efficient method of pasteurization was 163 degrees for 15 seconds. Many years later, ultra-pasteurization, performed under sterile conditions at an even higher temperature, 285 degrees for one or two seconds, helped products keep a month or more.)



Figure 5. The Guernsey cows inside the barn. There were 100 cows, 50 on each side. Image from 1941 company brochure. The text from the brochure read: "Clean Cows, Clean Stables, Pure Milk." Collection of Ed Fitchett.

C. Lewis: Thank you for explaining a bit about pasteurization. Most of us don't know much about it. Were there other major changes in the industry that affected your business?

Ed Fitchett: As people became more conscious of their nutrition, they moved away from the nice rich Guernsey milk and preferred milk that was more easily digested—homogenized milk. What is it? As I explained to the young students I took on tours through the dairy: "*This homogenizer is really a big pump that forces the milk through a very small opening (at very*

high pressure). It breaks up the butterfat particles so small that they can't find each other anymore. They can't get together and become cream that rises to the top. So we say that now there is cream in every drop. It's more easily digested. It makes creamier soups and puddings!" My father didn't want to buy an expensive homogenizer, so he bought a small herd of Ayrshire cows that are noted for their "soft curd" milk—milk that was also more easily digested. For a few years we distributed "Ayrshire Soft Curd Milk" before the demand for the newest thing—homogenized milk—became too great and we succumbed and bought our first homogenizer.

People soon wanted Skim milk (with no butterfat) and then 1% and 2% butterfat. We sold the Guernsey cows and replaced them with the more productive Holsteins whose butterfat is much lower. Because of a new government program that supervised marketing and the pricing of milk to farmers based on how it was used, many of our farmers were able to get more money by selling to New England dairies. We then bought our milk from farms west of the Hudson and even further by tank truck from upstate New York. Our plant had been receiving milk mostly in 40-quart cans but as that declined we converted to receiving by transport tankers.

C. Lewis: *Previously you have spoken to me about significant changes or turning points that were important in the business and in the lives of all the people working there. Would you like to elaborate?*

Ed Fitchett: World War II became a reality for the USA when the Japanese bombed Pearl Harbor in Hawaii on December 7, 1941. My uncle John had died in January of that year and later we separated from our cousins



Figure 6. The devastation after the plant burned down in March 1943. Photo. Collection of Ed Fitchett.

who kept the farm operation on Bedell Road and we kept the plant on Creek Road.

A huge event for us at the dairy was the fire at the plant in March of 1943. I have pictures of the devastation (Figure 6). My father applied to the War Office for assistance in obtaining building materials. We were in the middle of fighting World War II just then and everything and everyone was going to the war effort. Nevertheless, the dairy was considered important and we received the construction materials. The newly built plant opened in October 1943, the same year—an amazing achievement (Figure 7).



Figure 7. The newly built plant was created in a few short months in 1943, a great achievement in a time of short supplies because of world war. Photo. Collection of Ed Fitchett.

C. Lewis: You, like many of the young men of your generation, went off to fight in World War II. For most, this was a defining experience of their lives. Was this the case for you?

Ed Fitchett: When the plant burned down in 1943, I was a student at Cornell in the College of Agriculture. I was also in ROTC (Reserve Officer Training Corps). I graduated in 1944, enlisted in the Army, and served for 3 ½ years. I was stationed at Fort Sill, Oklahoma; Camp Hood; Texas, Fort Bragg, North Carolina; and Camp Shelby, Mississippi. I was with the 165th Field Artillery Battalion that fired 155 millimeter howitzers. We placed fire over troops in training. We ourselves were also training for overseas. I was in the States for a whole year before being shipped to Manila in the Philippines in preparation for the invasion of Japan.

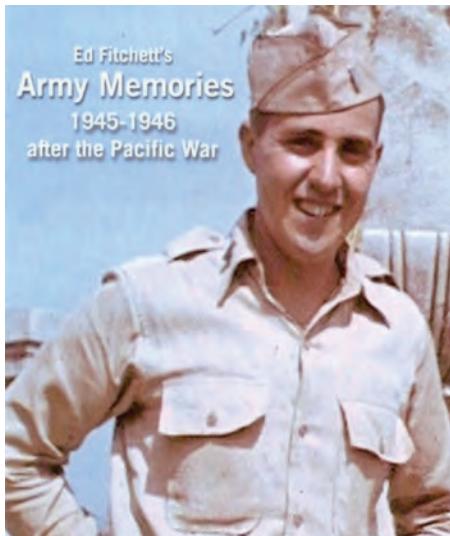


Figure 8. Image of Ed Fitchett as a second lieutenant at the end of World War II.² He was placed in charge of returning 1,500 prisoners of war from the Philippines to their home countries of Formosa (now Republic of China), Korea, and Japan. It was April 1946, less than a year after cessation of hostilities. Ed said most of the prisoners—common soldiers, young officers, and nurses—were happy to be going home, but there were one or two Japanese generals and they were quite serious. Ed took all the footage with his film camera—in color. Censorship had been lifted and Ed was allowed to send for his camera to take pictures

It was the summer of 1945 and the war ended. I was assigned to a 1,000 man prisoner-of-war camp. My biggest mission was to take 1,500 Formosan (modern day Taiwanese), Korean, and Japanese prisoners back to their home countries on a large transport ship (Figure 8).

C. Lewis: *I will interject here for our readers and say that I have seen the film that you have made of this experience. It is a great film. It is also impressive that the U.S. Army trusted a 23-year old second lieutenant with charge over so many people less than a year after cessation of hostilities.*

Ed Fitchett: After World War II, my brother Alson and I joined the business, my brother became general manager and I was in charge of sales and advertising.

When I came home from the Army in the fall of 1946, we still had one horse and wagon route.

We retired “Tom” as soon as we could buy new trucks again (Figure 9). There had been gas rationing and our old milk trucks needed lots of repairs during the war (Figure 10).

I want to comment on my father’s love for horses—it was a way of life in those days, not only on the farm, but whenever transportation was needed—for work and pleasure. He drove a horse and fancy wagon when he was courting my mother for example. He kept three riding ponies at the dairy so he could take my brother, Alson, and me for rides after work. Horses were the subject of conversations, especially buying and selling them.



Figure 9. Right after World War II, young Ed and Alson joined their father working full-time at the dairy. The first order of business: retire the horses and buy new trucks. Left to right: Ed Fitchett, Alson and Ed senior. Photo. Collection of Ed Fitchett.

There are so many stories about the horse and wagon on the milk routes. First of all, my father bought very large Percheron Horses. They were strong and for the most part, very gentle. On the route, some of them were pretty smart. A milk driver would stop, fill his carrier with dairy products and start walking to two or three homes. The horse knew the route so well that he would turn the wagon around and wait for the driver at the last house. Some of them would stop for the traffic light and wait for it to turn. (Sometimes it would turn from green to red and the horse would start up anyway. After all, he was just waiting for the light to change, not realizing what the colors meant!)



Figure 10. Alson, Ed senior, and Ed Fitchett at the plant shortly after World War II. Photo. Collection of Ed Fitchett.

C. Lewis: *I have seen your 1936 film footage of your father with his two matching horses hitched to his grand carriage as part of a parade. His pride in the horses is very clear.*

Ed Fitchett: Ah, yes, and we return to the story of the evolving business.

We were the first company in the Hudson Valley to introduce the “Pure-Pak” container. This was the one with the pointed top. Our competition had flat top containers, easier to stack in the stores, so we were a little edgy about this decision. We didn’t need to be—it was a sweeping success. The advantage of this container (to us) was that it required much less storage and was formed and sterilized in our plant. On our first machine, the container would be opened, bottom sealed, and then immersed into a container of melted wax to coat both inside and out. It was then cooled, top crimped, filled with milk, top sealed, and discharged onto a revolving table from which it was hand packed into a special wooden case. Later the cartons came coated with plastic so the waxing became unnecessary.



Figure 11. Ed Fitchett showing school children through the plant. C. 1955.
Photo. Collection of Ed Fitchett.

My goal in advertising was to find ways that would be unique, that would stand out from the others. We had a “Birthday Club” on radio station WKIP that would meet on the top floor of the *Poughkeepsie Journal* building for a half hour every Saturday morning. Parents would register their child’s birthday, and they would receive an invitation to the “party”—which featured local celebrities, Tex Roy and Uncle Jerry and others. Fitchett Brothers Dairy always provided the half pints of chocolate milk.

As mentioned above, we took many school children on tours though the dairy (Figure 11). To this day, grown-ups come to me and comment on the trip they took through the plant years ago and the special climax—a drink of chocolate milk (Figure 12)!



Figure 12. Fitchett Dairy products. Image from 1941 brochure. Collection of Ed Fitchett.

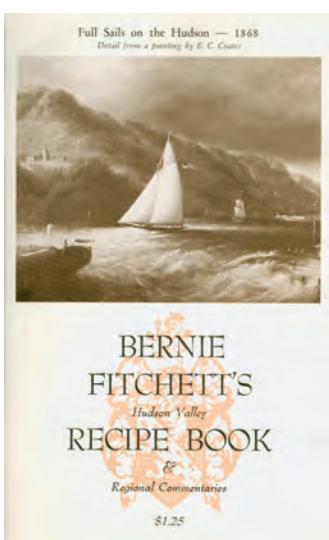


Figure 13., Bernie Fitchett's Hudson Valley Recipe Book, 1965. Ed's wife, Bernie Fitchett was a wonderful cook and baker. As well as producing this cookbook and another in 1976 for the bicentennial, she published recipes in the newspaper under the byline "Bernie Fitchett Suggests..." Collection of Ed Fitchett.

We sponsored several Little League and Junior League baseball teams—uniforms and more chocolate milk! We used billboards regularly and changed the message on the side panels of the milk cartons.

The most outstanding success of our advertising originated in my own home. My beloved wife, Bernice Henry, whom I married in 1947, had a wonderful background in food preparation. She was from a farm family and her German mother taught her how to be a good cook when she was very young. She studied Institutional Management at Cornell University and later took the National Restaurant Apprenticeship at Greenfield's Restaurant in Detroit.

Bernie would find recipes (that used dairy products), test them in our kitchen, then select the best ones which we would publish in the newspapers under the by-line: "Bernie Fitchett Suggests..." At Christmas we filled a whole page with holiday recipes. In a way, she was a real live "Betty Crocker!" We published two recipe books, one in 1965 ("Bernie Fitchett's Hudson Valley Recipe Book") (Figure 13) and the other ("Recipes of '76") to celebrate the bi-centennial. Bernie was so helpful with our public relations with her volunteering in the community. To this day, people come and tell me how they still use her recipes and cookbooks (Figure 14).



Figure 14. Ed and Bernie Fitchett at the celebration of 60 years of marriage, 2007. Sadly, the family lost Bernie shortly thereafter. Photo. Collection of Ed Fitchett.

Not exactly advertising—but it didn’t hurt our public relations—my hobby was magic and I gave many shows each year for Cub Scouts, churches, and other organizations. I was a charter member (1942) of Al Baker Assembly #35 of the Society of American Magicians. Somehow, the dairy got mentioned and there was usually a trick or two using milk (Figure 15)!

My brother, Alson, president of the corporation, was a good executive. He helped grow the business by contacting smaller dairies and arranging to package milk for them under their own labels. He envisioned the

need to expand and make improvements to the plant to be more efficient. New machines would put the bottles in cases, then stack the cases five-high and move them into the cooler on in-floor conveyors. He became well known in the dairy industry and, at one time, served as president of the New York State Milk Distributors Association.



Figure 15. Ed Fitchett at a gathering of magicians demonstrating a magic trick, 2010. Photo. Collection of Ed Fitchett.

While advertising was important, it was our wonderful group of employees that built our reputation. Plant, maintenance, office, sales people, and especially our milk drivers were like family and treated our customers with good service and respect. It was the way my father, who passed away in 1959, always wanted it to be.

¹ For another short account of Fitchetts' Dairy, see Harvey K. Flad and Clyde Griffen, *Main Street to Mainframes: Landscape and Social Change in Poughkeepsie*, (SUNY Series, An American Region: Studies in the Hudson Valley, Thomas S. Wermuth, Editor), Albany, NY: State University of New York Press, Albany, 2009, pp. 138–139. According to this history, the Fitchett family had been engaged in farming locally since the 1740s. Later offspring created family groups with the Fitchett name many of whom lived along Cream Street. The street was referred to colloquially as “Fitchetts’ Alley.” Gradually some family members moved out of farming and into new lines of work such as plumbing, upholstery, fancy goods, and cabinetmaking. Some would work for the railroad or the telegraph.

² Cover (detail) from *Ed Fitchett's Army Memories, 1945-1946, after the Pacific War* (DVD with two sides: *Adventures in the Philippines: Last days of World War II*, running time 38 min., and *Sullivan's Travels: Returning Prisoners of War*, running time, 33 min., copyright Edwin E. Fitchett, 2011, Poughkeepsie, NY 12603.

Law, Politics and an Ordinary Farmer of Dutchess County

By Margaret Duff

From 1851 to 1896, Benjamin Joseph Hall (b. 1825) kept a journal of his Dutchess County farm activities. This journal included references to family life, medical issues of the day, and politics. Except for one comment in which he mentions that he attended the town meeting for the first time in three years, he seems to have attended town meetings regularly. For a term or two, he was on the school board and also served as the road master. For a time apparently, he was an assessor, which involved him in taking the chain and measuring estates (farms) when they were bought or sold. Otherwise, it seems to have been common for the men of the area to help resolve disputes in an unofficial capacity. This journal is now at the Dutchess County Historical Society

Benjamin Hall seems to have felt the need to be conversant with the law as seen from this excerpt from his journal early in his married life:

1854-January 31: *a law book pedlar stopped in the morning and sold me 1/2 of a book.*

Was this all he could afford? Was the book really half a book? Or did a friend perhaps buy the other half, and they shared the expense of the book? Did he buy only the half dealing with the kinds of law in which he was interested?

Here are a few excerpts from his journal that show his efforts to help the neighboring farmers:

1885-February 10 *Tuesday . . . Went to Ury Hicks—to get Ury to go and see N.M. Waltermire about settling with Mrs. Wilkinson for assaulting her last June.*

1885-February 27 *Friday . . . Mrs. Emily D. Waltermire was here waiting for us when we got back at dark to have me go and see Ury Hicks about the sheep stealing affair; and Saturday went and saw him and came back via Mrs. Wilkinson's—but accomplished nothing.*

1885-May 15 *Friday morning. Went to try to settle the Wilkinson against Waltermire suit . . . Monday 18th. Completed a settlement between Waltermire and the Wilkinsons—he giving them \$10 and they*

to discontinue the suit against him—each party releasing the other of and from all claims or demands whatsoever.

Benjamin Hall has quite a tale to tell about a dog shot during a fox hunt, perhaps because his son Preston (19 at the time) was involved. It also shows some local farm activity. This would not be a fox hunt of the sort the gentry did for sport, but much more likely the hunting down of a fox that had been marauding among the sheep. Here's his tale:

1875-January Week of Jan. 3: *George Thurst came to see about a dog which somebody shot for him. It was shot last Sunday afternoon. It seems Joe West, Court Wright and George Turner were out fox hunting and came up with their houn[d] and found—Mr. Wright says,—Thurst's dog bothering him. About this time Preston got near them and supposing the houn[d] had got off the track, he went to tell them where we had seen the fox cross and to get the houn[d] on the fresh track. He heard the report of a gun and when Court came he asked him what he shot. He (Court) said he shot at Thurst's dog, but that the barrel was loaded with fine shot and he only pricked him a little, but it seems he was mistaken: the shot were coarse and he killed the dog, we have no doubt about it; but don't know as nobody saw it done. At the same time I also heard the report of a gun and a dog yelp but thought not much of it—till today when Thurst came to see about it.*

1875-February 11 Thursday, a very rainy day. Went to Bangall to George Thurst's and Courtland Wright's dog trial but did not stay till it was through. Thurst got \$100 damages. Preston was the only witness to prove that Courtland shot the dog. George Turner, who heard the same conversation Preston did was not to the trial till Mr. Turner went back home in the rain and got him. When sworn he denied that he and Court and Preston had any conversation while together.

While the story in its details is not clear as to whom or what the dog was bothering, and why Mr. Turner was not supporting Preston's word, it seems as though \$100 is a lot to get for a dog, especially if the evidence is not strong. Benjamin comments at the end that Turner might as well have stayed home.

In addition to regularly attending annual town hall meetings in January, Benjamin notes that he voted in November. He took an active interest in the candidates, as the following would indicate:

1856-September 13 [at Paynes Corner] Saturday . . . in the evening went to a Buchanan meeting. It commenced with a full house, proceeded with weak arguments and ended with three cheers for Fremont. [double underlined]

1856-September 18 Thursday. Went (to) a Republican meeting near Salt Point.

1860-March 17 Sun. cold, made the Locust Box.

This cryptic phrase records the making of a small box in which he mounted specimens of 17-year cicadas (locusts) that he had collected from the previous year. Some were larval stage and others the adults. But what is of interest are the newspaper clippings that he pasted onto the bottom of the box. They refer to President Abraham Lincoln and other officials. This box is now part of the Hall family collection at the Dutchess County Historical Society.

1868-November 3 Tuesday, Fair. Went to election to Bangall and to mill. (U.S. Grant elected president.)

1872-November 2 Saturday. Went to Po'keepsie to a Grant meeting.

1881-September 19 Sun. went to meeting. Elder Morrill Preached, having returned from his preaching in New York. Mon. President Garfield died of a pistol shot wound by the hand of the assassin Guiteau July 2nd His funeral to be Mon 26th

1888-November 6 Went with Preston to election-to Millbrook. It was the pleasantest election day I have any recollection of, which I think is favorable to republican success in N.Y. state as the bulk of the republican party live in the country and stormy weather is more of a hindrance to travel than in the large cities where the bulk of the democratic party reside.

1892-October 30 Heard McKinley.

In the final incident related here, one can see how neighbors tried to bring a man to justice, but the justice of the peace has an excuse:

1886-February 13 Saturday. Still rainy. At night Myron Thurst got drunk and abused the whole family, knocked his mother down twice in his attempt to turn the folks all out of the house. I went down at the urgent request of John Thurst—got John Losee, George Scism and William Smith (justice) to come, expecting to have him arrested—William Smith and Elmer Thurst went to get a warrant but Knickerbocker a Justice of the Peace of Stanford refused to give one for he said it would cost the town three dollars to keep the prisoner over Sunday!! Myron had committed a rape on Mary Ann Wilkinson only last Monday.

And his final comment, “On Monday he ran away!” shows that by waiting over the weekend, the offender got away.

The Civil War Collections Of the Dutchess County Historical Society

By Gregory Wiedeman

The Dutchess County Historical Society has now opened some of its oldest archival collections for research. These original and rare collections contain records from as early as 1718 and detail some of the county's most notable events. Two collections, the Richard Titus Papers and the Charles Edward Bostwick Papers, contain the records of Dutchess County soldiers in the Civil War. The Titus Papers in particular provide valuable evidence of these forgotten men and their fates.

On August 21, 1862, the Poughkeepsie *Eagle* published an appeal from Mrs. Benson J. Lossing. Endorsed by editor Isaac Platt, the notice called for the formation of a Dutchess County regiment to serve in the Union cause. Prior to that August, men from the county had enlisted into State regiments, like the 20th and 128th New York. Mrs. Lossing's call was a response to President Lincoln's proclamation of July 2nd that asked for 300,000 fresh troops to serve three-year terms. Soon after the appeal appeared in the *Eagle*, fifteen men approached A. B. Smith of the General War Committee to ask permission to recruit volunteers for the regiment, which became the 150th New York Volunteer Infantry under Colonel John H. Ketcham.

Of the original fifteen men, 24-year-old Richard Titus was made a First Lieutenant and charged with recruiting volunteers. He began in Poughkeepsie on the 22nd of August, where Edward Hurt was his first volunteer, and continued to the towns of Washington and North East. Between August and October, he enlisted 75 men, who became Company I under the command of Titus's brother-in-law Captain Benjamin S. Broas.

Remarkably, extensive records of the recruitment process remain. Extant is a large newspaper broadside advertisement that exclaims "Rally! for the Dutchess Regiment!" The collection also contains at least one copy of the enlistment records for the 75 men of Company I. These records are extremely detailed: listed are the age, occupation, height, eye color, hair color, and complexion of each enlisted man. About half of the

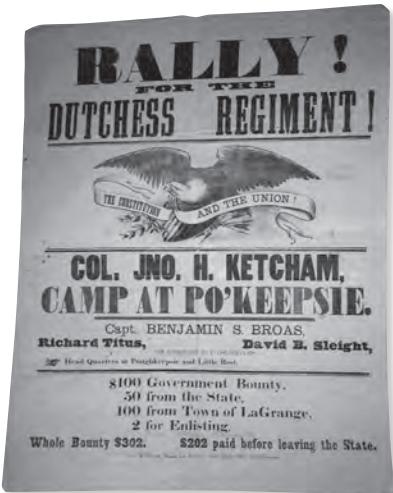


Figure 1. Civil War poster calling for enlistment in Company I of the Dutchess Regiment (the 150th Regiment, led by Colonel Jonathan H. Ketcham). Company I was led by Captain Benjamin S. Broas, supported by Lieutenants Richard Titus and David B. Sleight. Collection of the Dutchess County Historical Society.

recruits were unable to sign their name, merely marking the record with an X. Thus, these records are likely to be the only evidence of these men in the historical record. The collection also includes monthly ordnance and supply accounts and monthly returns of men, which detail any special statutes of the enlisted men, from 1862 until the company was mustered out in 1865. Thus, we have a rough account of who was killed in combat, got sick, or deserted.

The men of the 150th were assigned as a garrison at Camp Millington, near Baltimore, in the spring of 1863. In July 1863 they marched to Gettysburg where they saw action at Culp's Hill on July 2, 1863, and lost one man, killed in action. Later, they were assigned to the Army of the Cumberland and were stationed in Alabama and Tennessee, before seeing action during the Atlanta campaign and the subsequent "March to the Sea."



Figure 2. Official record of volunteer enlistment, city of Poughkeepsie, state of New York, for William H. Roberts Jr. as a soldier in the army of the United States of America, on the sixth day of September 1862. Collection of the Dutchess County Historical Society.

Gettysburg, when Captain Broas fell ill. Titus was promoted to Captain in December 1863, and breveted Major right before mustering out in October 1865.

The society also holds the papers of Charles Edward Bostwick, Poughkeepsie resident and Captain of Company B of the 128th New York Regiment. The collection includes his appointment, a company roster, and a lithograph image of Camp Millington, the important staging ground near Baltimore, Maryland.



Figure 3. Monument to the 128th New York Volunteer Infantry Regiment, Clinton and Cannon Sts., Poughkeepsie. The 128th Regiment, formed in 1862, at Hudson, New York, comprised men from Dutchess and Columbia counties.

In 1863, it took a central role in (ironically) the siege of Port Hudson, Louisiana".

central role in the Siege of Port Hudson. The Regiment lost its commander, Colonel David S. Cowles, along with many others, in frontal assaults on May 27th and June 14th, which ended in a 48-day stalemate. The Confederate garrison learned of the surrender of Vicksburg to General Ulysses S. Grant after July 4th, and finally relented, surrendering on the 9th. Combined with the capture of Vicksburg, the victory at Port Hudson opened the entire Mississippi River to the Union.

The 128th New York Volunteer Regiment was formed in 1862 at Hudson, New York from men gathered from Columbia and Dutchess Counties. Captain Bostwick's Company B was gathered from Washington, Amenia, Dover, Pawling, North East, Stanford, and Pine Plains. Stationed at Camp Millington, they were sent into the field in 1862 to chase Jeb Stuart's Confederate cavalry out of southern Pennsylvania but saw no action.

In December of 1862 the 128th New York was assigned to the army of General Nathaniel Banks, which set its sights on reclaiming the lower Mississippi basin for the North. During the trip south, disease ate through their ranks. The regiment was assigned to the 1st Brigade of General William T. Sherman's Division.

The 128th New York saw its first action on May 13, 1862, at Pontachoula in a small engagement, and later took a

The 128th NY served as the garrison of Baton Rouge until March 1864 when they were assigned to General Banks's Red River Campaign. During the Union retreat in late April 1864, the regiment's commander, Colonel James Smith was breveted General for the unit's bravery at the Cane River Crossing. The regiment then constructed an important dam from April 30th to May 10th, which saved the Union fleet at Alexandria. After the retreat to the Mississippi, the Regiment was returned to Washington.

In August of 1864, the 128th New York was assigned to General Philip Sheridan's Army of the Shenandoah with the mission of destroying the fields and crops of Shenandoah Valley. On September 19th, they defeated a rebel force at Winchester, and again on September 22nd at Fisher's Hill. After chasing the Confederates south out of the valley, the army turned around and headed back north, laying waste to all that they considered possibly useful to the South's ability to make war.

The 128th New York were the advance picket guards at the Confederate sneak attack at Cedar Creek at dawn of October 19, 1864. Large portions of the regiment were captured before General Sheridan gathered the retreaters and retook the field in the afternoon. The prisoners were removed with the retreating Confederates and sent first to Libby Prison at Richmond, and Salisbury Prison in North Carolina, and were only released in February of 1865. A monument dedicated to the soldiers of the 128th New York Volunteer Infantry forms the center of Reservoir Square at the junction of South Clinton Street and Cannon Street in Poughkeepsie.

Historians of recent decades have found records like these to be invaluable. Research has shifted away from oversimplified political accounts of events and towards accounts of culture and society. The experiences of common men have been found to be more representative than the events of an elite few. In other words, historians are more interested in the experiences, actions, and negotiations of middle and lower class men and women—people who—in the nineteenth century—left us few records to work with.

One important subject of debate in recent years is how the high mortality rate of the Civil War affected everyday life and culture. Most notably, Harvard President Drew Gilpin Faust argued that the death of so many loved ones fostered new cultural customs like embalming, wakes, and bedside “last words.” Her 2009 book *This Republic of Suffering: Death and the American Civil War* won the Bancroft Prize and was a finalist for both the Pulitzer Prize and the National Book Award. Detractors argue that the overall death rate in the nineteenth century was so high, owing to disease

and transportation, that the war had a negligible overall effect on mortality. Additionally, some scholars have seen the beginnings of “total war” and the trenches of the First World War in General Grant’s campaigns of attrition and in the trenches at Petersburg. Yet, Mark E. Neely’s controversial 2010 book *The Civil War and the Limits of Destruction* highlights the restraints of Union troops in the destructive campaigns of General Sheridan in the Shenandoah Valley and General Sherman after Atlanta, and the treatment of prisoners of war. The Richard Titus Papers and the Charles Edward Bostwick Papers provide invaluable evidence for these and many other important debates.

ADDENDA



Contributors

Margaret Graham Duff is a daughter of Ruth Hall Graham (1911–2007), who was the eldest of three daughters of Benjamin Virgil Hall (1881–1963). Now retired, she has been at times a housewife and teacher. Although her family lived mostly in California and Pennsylvania, on one vacation to her family's shunpike farm in Dutchess County, she found an old chest that contained the farm journal of Benjamin Joseph Hall, as well as other items that he had put away for posterity. She has graciously donated these items to the Dutchess County Historical Society, so that others can benefit from the information they give about rural life in Dutchess County in the 1800s.

Gail Jones is an associate for planned giving and donor relations at the Saint Francis Health Care Foundation, in Poughkeepsie, New York.

Candace J. Lewis is an art historian with a PhD in the field of early Chinese art and a secondary area of specialty in nineteenth-century art in America and Europe. She is a long-time member of the Dutchess County Historical Society and became a trustee in 2008, assuming the society's presidency in 2010. She has lived in Poughkeepsie with her husband, attorney Lou Lewis, since 1970.

Lou Lewis is the senior member of the Poughkeepsie law firm Lewis & Greer, which he founded in 1978. He has practiced law in New York since 1969 and is a past president of the Dutchess County Bar Association (1992–93), as well as a former trustee of Marist College (1971–91).

Marcus J. Molinaro is the current Dutchess County Executive, having assumed office on January 1, 2012. At the age of just 18, Molinaro was elected to the Village of Tivoli Board of Trustees, and, in the following year, became the youngest mayor in the United States. He was re-elected mayor five times and elected four times to the Dutchess County Legislature. From 2007 to 2011, he served in the New York State Assembly as the representative of the 103rd District.

Melodye Moore is head of the Collections Committee of the Dutchess County Historical Society. From 1979 to 1986, Moore served as executive director of DCHS, before taking on the job of managing all site operations at the Staatsburgh State Historic Site (Mills Mansion). She returned to DCHS as a trustee in 2011.

William P. Tatum III has held the office of Dutchess County Historian since October 2012. He earned his BA in History and Anthropology from

the College of William & Mary in Virginia in 2003, his MA in History from Brown University in 2004, and is completing his Ph.D. at Brown this year. His main area of research is Colonial North America under English rule. In addition to his scholarship, Tatum has been involved in historic site and museum programs throughout the east coast and England.

Gregory Wiedeman is a Project Archivist at the Marist College Archives and Special Collections, and the Collections Project Manager for the Dutchess County Historical Society. He holds an MA in History and an MS in Information Science, both from the University at Albany, SUNY. His master's thesis, "The Most Interesting Place: the Eastern Mediterranean and American Cultural Knowledge," examines the effects of generalized common knowledge of the Middle East in nineteenth-century American culture.

Letters to the Editor

To the Editor:

Two copies of your 2012 yearbook arrived yesterday. I am so pleased with them that I am ordering three more from the DCHS.

The book and its cover are just elegant! Thank you very much for your skillful editing of my article [“William Woodworth’s Planer: The Patent and Its Politics”] and your addition of relevant and attractive illustrations. I particularly liked the anti-Woodworth resolution of the Ohio legislature in the *Scientific American* of February 23, 1856, and the striking photo of William Seward. It was kind of you to include the booster of my *Shaping Invention* book by showing its cover.

I enjoyed reading other articles, too, especially the “Memoir of Charles F. Beck Sr., Immigrant Farmer,” and “A Farmer’s Almanac: The Journal of Benjamin J. Hall.” They provided contrasting glimpses of farming in the mid-19th century and in the early 20th century.

From other articles, it was interesting to learn that there was a strong presence of Quakers in Dutchess County, and also that within a general toleration of different faiths, there were such vigorous “schisms and dissent.” It served to correct my former, untutored impression that everybody thereabouts would be Dutch Reformed.

All in all, a fine accomplishment, of which you should be proud.
Congratulations!

Carolyn Cooper, Ph.D.
Seattle, Washington

Carolyn Cooper is a leading authority on the patent system of nineteenth-century America.

To the Editor:

The copies of the Yearbook arrived today and I have quickly perused it. You did a wonderful job. This may be the finest county historical yearbook in the nation. Really well done.

Tim Walch, Ph.D.
Iowa City, Iowa

Timothy Walch is the Director Emeritus of the Herbert Hoover Presidential Library.

Call for Papers: 2014 Yearbook

"It is proposed to hold a meeting Tuesday, April 28, 1914, at 7:30 P.M., in the [Pleasant Valley Free] Library, and all interested in the subject of 'local history' are especially invited to attend."

Such was the beginning of the Dutchess County Historical Society. Next year, therefore, will mark the centenary of DCHS. And as we look back across the span of one hundred years, we can see how apt was the timing of our society's founders. Two months after their foundational meeting, Archduke Franz Ferdinand was assassinated in Serbia. And one month after that, the Great War began. The whole charmed world of Victorian-Edwardian society was swept away. Within four years, the long nineteenth century had died in the trenches of France. If ever there were a moment to begin preserving relics of a vanishing era, that was it.

But the habit of preserving the past does not come naturally to a people as active as Americans, and even less are they inclined to consult the past for its wisdom. If there is any adage more fervently embraced by Americans than that which says the present is better than the past, it is the adage that asserts the present is wiser than the past. Our society's founders understood those limitations of their countrymen all too well. In his January 1915 address to DCHS, Vassar College professor of history James F. Baldwin (1871–1950) observed: "Americans are fonder of making history than preserving records or turning to the past for guidance or information."

To mark the centenary of DCHS, therefore, the theme of the 2014 yearbook's Forum will be: "Thinking Historically." And by that we mean both looking with a historical perspective on the products and people around us and trying to appreciate the truths they represent. "What were they thinking" may seem like an amusing jibe at the people of earlier times. But answering it empathetically is the principal job of the historian.

As always, the Yearbook will make room for articles and documents not directly keyed to the theme of the Forum. But whatever the subject of the proposed article, please write to me at rdonway@gmail.com, with the subject line "DCHS Article," so that we may discuss it.

— Roger Donway

Dutchess County Historical Society

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Review of the Year 2013

We received a grant from the Lillian Cumming Streetscape Fund at the Rhode Island Foundation for \$15,000 (\$5,000 for curatorial services and \$10,000 for the general fund). For the general fund: We have received grants from the Community Foundation of Dutchess County: from the Denise M. Lawlor Fund for \$8,000, from the Dean Family Fund for \$5,000, \$1,000 for two new computers.



In 2012, the Common Council of the City of Poughkeepsie voted to allocate \$50,000 towards a new roof at the Glebe House. That project was completed in November.



Presently, other moneys (up to \$20,000) dedicated to the Glebe House at the City have also been deemed available. The Facilities Committee has prepared a plan to repair and paint portions of the portico and interiors of the Glebe House. We have obtained bids and will start work shortly.



The D.A.R. has planted two bushes in front of the Clinton House and will be maintaining them. Thank you. The front porch of the Clinton House shall be repainted thanks to a generous gift from a longstanding member



Work in Collections has expanded considerably this year with more donations and continuing accessioning and cataloguing of our incoming and existing items. Especially notable is a large and rich collection from the Hubbard family covering the activities of a farm and apple orchard business from 1839 to the 1960s.



As part of the 300th Anniversary Dutchess County Heritage Days, we co-sponsored a series of lectures on the history of the county. The Dutchess County Historical Society co-sponsored with the Hudson Valley Federal Credit Union, and Central Hudson Gas & Electric.



This August, for the first time the Society went to the Dutchess County Fair with a booth where our volunteers distributed literature and talked about local history. We signed up a few new members and spoke with several hundred visitors

This year again, as part of the Big Read sponsored by the Poughkeepsie Public Library District, the Society sponsored an essay contest for Middle and High School students.



The annual Fall Foliage Road Rallye was held in Stanfordville on Saturday, October 13. It was a beautiful crisp autumn day. Barbara Van Itallie organized delightful historical clues for the ride around the countryside. The event was a great success.

The Collections Committee led by Melodye Moore, member of the Board of Trustees, has increased the number of acquisitions over the last year. With the Centennial Year coming up in 2014, we expect this trend to continue and increase. She has been assisted by Gregory Wiedeman, Collections Project Manager, funded by a grant, in addition to volunteers and interns. Greg has been cataloguing the earliest archives collected by the founders of the Dutchess County Historical Society in the second quarter of the twentieth century.

Among the most notable acquisitions this year have been the Hubbard Collection and the Hall family flag.

The Hubbard Collection is extensive—over seventy boxes of family archives covering the period of a family farm and apple orchard from 1839 in continuous operation until 1963. It is still lived in today. This was such a large gift that the Board had to deliberate carefully about accepting it, for caring for the collection would be a factor in decisions about the future of the organization.

Apple Posters: A special feature of the collection is the group of over 70 posters from a contest run by E. Stuart Hubbard in his capacity as head of the New York and New England Apple Institute. The contest was held in 1941 and was open to school children in high school and middle school. The apple posters are in need of conservation. We are raising money for that purpose and anyone wishing to contribute may contact the society office. We plan to exhibit them in the future.



Two posters from Hubbard Collection Apple Contest, 1941, entered by school children, high school and middle school, New York State. In need of conservation.

Photos by Michele Phillips, paper conservator, Bureau of Historic Sites, Peebles Island.

The Hall Family Flag: This was given to the Dutchess County Historical Society by Margaret Duff. It once belonged to her ancestor, Benjamin Hall, who lived in the Town of Millbrook.

According to family legend, the flag may have flown outside a schoolhouse, later taken to the farm of the Hall family where it was pulled out for holidays and nailed on to the front of the house in celebration. This flag is also known as the Kansas flag, because the 34 stars identify the date as after Kansas had entered the United States in 1861. The flag is in very good condition and is of large size—five feet by seven feet.



*The Hall Family Flag, 1861-1863, from Clinton Corners, NY. 5x7 ft.
Donated by Margaret Duff. Photos provided by the family.
Collection of Dutchess County Historical Society.*

Historical Societies of Dutchess County

DUTCHESS COUNTY HISTORIAN

William P. Tatum III

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wtatum@dutchessny.gov

DUTCHESS COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Post Office Box 88, Poughkeepsie, New York 12602
dchistorical@verizon.net
Betsy Kopstein-Stuts
(845) 471-1630

CITY HISTORIANS / HISTORICAL SOCIETIES

Beacon	Poughkeepsie
Post Office Box 89	62 Civic Center Plaza,
Beacon, New York 12508	Poughkeepsie, New York 12601
Historian: Robert Murphy	Historian: George Lukacs
info@beaconhistoricalsociety.org	saltglazed@aol.com
(845) 831-0514	(845) 471-5066

TOWN & VILLAGE HISTORIANS / HISTORICAL SOCIETIES

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Historical Society: Norman Moore mmoore1776@aol.com
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Beekman 96 Hillside Road, Poughquag, New York 12570
Historian: Thom Usher beekmanhistory@aol.com
(845) 724-5364 / (845) 475-5617

Clinton Post Office Box 122, Clinton Corners, New York 12514
Historian: Craig Marshall craigmarshall266@aol.com
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Historical Society: Mary Jo Nickerson nickersonmaryjo@gmail.com
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Dover Post Office Box 478, Dover Plains, New York 12522

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Historian: Caroline Reichenberg reichenberg@townofdoverny.us

East Fishkill Post Office Box 245, Hopewell Junction, New York 12533

Historian: David Koehler healthyharvestcsa@gmail.com
(845) 226-8877

Historical Society: Malcolm Mills bluhilfm@frontiernet.net
(845) 227-5374

Fishkill (Town) Post Office Box 133, Fishkill, New York 12524

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Fishkill (Village) 40 Broad Street, Fishkill, New York 12524

Historian: Karen Hitt crotchet@gmail.com (845) 896-8022

Fishkill Post Office Box 133, Fishkill, New York 12524

Historical Society: Steve Lynch asklynch@yahoo.com
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Hyde Park Post Office Box 182, Hyde Park, New York 12538

Historian: Vacant

Historical Society: Patsy Costello patsyc97@aol.com
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Milan 20 Wilcox Circle Milan, New York 12571

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Historian: Patrick Higgins higginspj@optimum.net (845) 834-2599

Millbrook (Village) Washington (Town)

3248 Sharon Turnpike, Millbrook, New York 12545

Historian: David Greenwood ngreenwd@aol.com (845) 677-5767
Historical Society: Laurie Duncan hsinfo@optonline.net
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Millerton / Northeast Post Office Box 727, Millerton, New York 12546

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Historical Society: Ed Downey eddowney@millertonlawyer.com
(518) 789-4442

Pawling Post Office Box 99, Pawling, New York 12564
Historical Society of Quaker Hill and Pawling
Historian: Elizabeth Smith esmith1248@aol.com (845) 855-1248
Historical Society: John Brockway johnbetsyb@comcast.net
(845) 855-5395

Pine Plains Post Office Box 243, Pine Plains, New York 12567
Historian: Vacant
Historical Society: Ann Simmons cas@fairpoint.net
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Pleasant Valley Town Hall, Route 44, Pleasant Valley, New York 12569
Historian: Fred Schaeffer fredinhv@aol.com (845) 454-1190
Historical Society: Marilyn Bradford

Poughkeepsie (Town)
1 Overrocker Road, Poughkeepsie, New York 12603
Town Office (845) 485-3646
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Red Hook Post Office Box 397, Red Hook, New York 12571-0397
Egbert Benson Historical Society of Red Hook
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Rhinebeck (Town) Post Office Box 291, Rhinebeck, New York 12572
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Stanford Post Office Box 552, Bangall, New York 12506
Historian: Dorothy Burdick No E-Mail Town Office (845) 868-1366
Historical Society: Kathy Spiers lakeendinn@aol.com
(845) 868-7320

Tivoli Post Office Box 311, Tivoli, New York 12583
Historian: Bernie Tieger villagebooks@frontiernet.net
(845) 757-5481

Unionvale 249 Duncan Road, Lagrangeville, New York 12540

Town Office (845) 724-5600

Historian: Fran Wallin franw821@hotmail.com

Historical Society: Henry Kading (845) 677-8174

Wappingers 20 Middlebush Rd. Wappinger Falls, NY 12590

Town Office (845) 297-4158

Historian: Joe Cavaccini & Mary Schmaltz

Historical Society: Sandra Vacchino (845) 430-9520

info@wappingershistorialsociety.org



Dutchess County Historical Society leadership at Springwood during 1927 pilgrimage to Hyde Park.

Left to right: John J. Mylod, trustee; Helen Wilkinson Reynolds, trustee; William Platt Adams, president; Eleanor Roosevelt; Franklin D. Roosevelt, vice-president.

Photograph from Wide World Photos. DCHS collection.

Dutchess County Historical Society
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JOIN AS A MEMBER

Throughout the year, the Dutchess County Historical Society sponsors historical trips, lectures, seminars, and workshops about a broad array of topics.

Help support the work of the Society.

MISSION STATEMENT AND GOALS

The Society is a not-for-profit educational organization that collects, preserves, and interprets the history of Dutchess County, New York, from the period of the arrival of the first Native Americans until the present day.

Furthermore, The Society aims:

- To collect, catalogue, and preserve artifacts that make visual and tangible connections to the history of Dutchess County.
- To create permanent and temporary exhibitions, programs, and publications to stimulate interest in the history of Dutchess County.
- To develop program partnerships with other historical, educational, and governmental groups to promote community involvement with the history of Dutchess County.
- To administer Clinton House and Glebe House so as to meet The Society's educational and interpretive goals as well as to preserve the structures and landscape thereof.
- To serve the needs of researchers, educators, students, DCHS members, and members of the general public who wish to study and use the collection.



Glebe House



John Beardsley, first occupant of the Glebe House in 1767 (played by Steve Wing, 2010).

LEVELS OF MEMBERSHIP

Millennial Circle.....\$1,000

All benefits listed below plus two tickets to the Gala Awards Dinner

Sponsor.....\$500

All benefits listed below plus two tickets to Living With History Series

Patron.....\$250

All benefits listed below plus a ticket to Living With History Series

Sustaining.....\$100

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Family/Contributor.....\$75

Includes free library access, annual year book, and invitations to programs and events

Individual.....\$50

Includes free library access, annual year book, and invitations to programs and events

JOIN DCHS TODAY!

Millennial Circle.....\$1,000

Sponsor.....\$500

Patron.....\$250

Sustaining.....\$100

Family/Contributor.....\$75

Individual.....\$50



Dutchess County Historical Society

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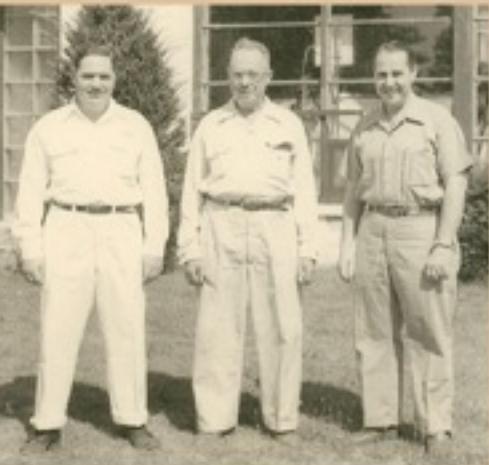
Of the People, By the People, For the People



Dutchess County Historical Society 2013 Yearbook

Forum: Of the People, By the People, For the People

Dutchess County has been struggling for no less than 300 years with the paradoxes generated by the principles of Abraham Lincoln's tripartite description of American government—ever since New York State gave county residents permission to govern themselves in 1713. In this 2013 issue of the DCHS yearbook, celebrating the tercentenary of the county's self-governance, County Historian William P. Tatum III relates how the earliest machinery of the people's government was established here. Melodye Moore provides insight into what sort of people these newly enfranchised citizens were. And the Honorable Albert M. Rosenblatt, one of the most prominent judges ever to come out of Dutchess County, discusses some of his own recent encounters with the interplay of law, self-governance, and liberty.



Articles: An Agricultural People

Three articles in this edition of the DCHS yearbook draw attention to just how thoroughly immersed the life of Dutchess County has been in agriculture. Melodye Moore tells the story of the early twentieth-century apple industry as seen through the memoirs of Dutchess County's E. Stuart Hubbard, a tireless promoter in New York horticultural circles. And Candace J. Lewis offers two interviews with people who have been pillars of local food production and marketing: Ed Fitchett of Fitchett Brothers Dairy and Doris and Ralph Adams of Adams Fairacre Farms.



Dutchess County Historical Society

\$20.00

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