

## EARLY HOTELS OF HYDE PARK VILLAGE

The Community's First Hotel,—“Hyde Park Hotel.”

The present village of Hyde Park is practically all in the ninth “water lot,” originally the property of Jacobus Stoutenburgh, and where he established his home about 1742, at the time of his retirement from public business in Westchester County. Before his death he gave each of his children a farm, and to his son Luke he gave the one consisting of about 250 acres surrounding his home in the present village of Hyde Park.

Luke Stoutenburgh died some time prior to 1791, and at that time his estate was separated into 42 lots and divided amongst his children, as follows: John L. was allotted Lots 1, 15, 26, 27 and 42; Peter L., Lots 20, 5, 9, 32, and 41; James L. (Jacobus), Lots 25, 2, 10, 29 and 38; Tobias L., Lots 24, 6, 16, 30 and 40; Margaret L. (married Richard Teller), Lots 23, 3, 11, 28 and 36; Elinor L. (married Samuel K. Van Kleeck), Lots 22, 4, 12, 31 and 35; Luke L., Lots 7, 19, 13, 34 and 39; and William L., Lots 8, 17, 18, 33 and 37. The homestead house stood on Lots 14 and 21 and, as Mrs. Stoutenburgh survived her husband, these lots were not included in the division.

Thus Lot 25 fell to James L. Stoutenburgh, who sold a part of it, about 1796, to Israel Carpenter. No deed of this sale was ever recorded or ever found; however, by July 1, 1809, Joseph Carpenter and Anna, his wife, sold it to Jabez Miller of Long Island, for the sum of \$3,750; by deed dated May 1, 1809, described as “situate in lot No. 25, beginning at the southeast corner of the same, where the road leading to D’Cantellon Landing intersects the said turnpike and where the dwelling house stands;” containing one acre, two rods (Liber 21, p. 50).

Under date of June 5, 1804, an advertisement appeared in the *Poughkeepsie Journal and Constitutional Republican*, as follows:

### For Sale

A Valuable stand of the subscriber's in Clinton town, Dutchess county, six miles and a half above Poughkeepsie, on the post road and the four corners of the new shun-pike road, leading from the Nine partners to D’Cantillons landing, within a few rods of the Church, and with-

in half a mile of said landing, a good and well finished HOUSE, two stories high, 44 feet by 28, and a kitchen in the rear, and likewise a good barn and stables and other out houses, convenient for store and tavern, which has been occupied as such ever since it was built; containing nearly half an acre of land and a number of grafted fruit trees on the said premises, and likewise thirteen acres of good wood land, lying between two or three miles from the above said premises on the Nine partner road, which will be sold together or separate as may suit the purchaser; the subscriber wishes to decline his present business, therefore will sell it reasonable; apply to the subscriber on the premises, who will give a good title for the same.

Walter Skidmore

June 5, 1804

This advertisement appeared in the same paper each week up to and including the issue of September 5, 1804. There can be no question that this is the Hyde Park hotel, but how Walter Skidmore became attached to the selling of it, is a question unanswered. We find a bond and mortgage, given by Walter Skidmore, "a taylor" to Dr. Samuel Bard, in the sum of \$250, on a piece of land containing 68 acres, situated in Nelson Lot No. 4, and dated April 15, 1799 (Liber of Mortgages, 8, p. 4). The location states that it was bound on the south side "by road leading from James Conkling's Ferry;"\* on the north "adjoining Christopher Hughes south line" (Liber 49, p. 540). Walter and Sarah Skidmore were living there December 1, 1822.

Whether Walter Skidmore had a lien on the Hyde Park Hotel and thus took it upon himself to advertise and sell the property, the records do not tell. However, as above recorded, the property was deeded from "Joseph Carpenter and Anna, his wife, and Israel Carpenter and Anna, his wife, to Jabez Miller of Long Island," and dated May 1, 1809, some five years later, and Skidmore does not appear in the transaction. Walter Skidmore locates the property "on post road and four corners of "Shunpike" road, leading to D'Contellon landing." The town records show that the "Shunpike" road (leading from the village square to East Park) was laid out March 25, 1803.

\*James Conkling's ferry was located south of Staatsburg, in what is now (1948) Norrie Park, at Point Inn, and the road leading "from the Dock on the Bank of the Hudson River and running easterly [Murray or South Cross Road] to the Creek Road near Widow Molly Nelson House." Molly Nelson's house was located at the northeast corner of the Creek road and Fallkill road, leading to Clinton Hollow and Salt Point. Some of the foundation is still (1948) there.

He states the place is "convenient for store and tavern, which has been occupied as such ever since it was built." This statement confirms that it was a tavern prior to its sale to Jabez Miller and the date of Walter Skidmore's advertisements in 1804. Walter Skidmore was one of the three commissioners of highways from 1823 through 1828, and was an overseer of the poor in 1829.

The name that this tavern went under, if it had one during the ownership of the two Carpenters from 1796 to 1809, the writer has failed to discover. However, Jabez Miller was determined to have one that would attract the public attention when he named it the "Hyde Park Tavern."

This, of course, was (much to the doctor's annoyance) named for the beautiful estate of Dr. Samuel Bard, located just north of the village and abutting the village property. But, in spite of the doctor's objection, Mr. Miller retained the attractive name for his place and, to make sure that the name was to be attached to the community, he applied to the federal government to establish a post office in the settlement, and the records show that in 1812 a United States post office was established here and given the name of Hyde Park. At this time the records state that it was "a pleasant village, consisting of forty houses."

After about five years, Jabez Miller and Sarah, his wife, of the town of Clinton, sold to Jonathan Husted of the town of Fishkill, for the sum of \$5,500, the property, containing three parcels of land, under date of May 1, 1814 (Liber 24, p. 301). The other two parcels were located in Lots No. 2 and No. 29.

The three parcels as originally laid out were as follows: the Hyde Park Hotel property located in Lot No. 25, containing  $1\frac{1}{2}$  acres; the second parcel in Lot No. 2, containing  $7\frac{1}{2}$  acres; and the third parcel in Lot No. 29 and containing  $7\frac{1}{4}$  acres. In the last sale there were two additions to the original hotel property.

After about eighteen and one-half months, Jonathan Husted and Mary, his wife, sold all three parcels to Garret P. Lansing of the town

of Clinton, for the sum of \$8,750 (Liber 25, p. 168), and dated November 18, 1815. In this conveyance, for the first time, one of the parcels is recorded as the "Hyde Park Hotel Lot," and in each conveyance thereafter it is so recorded.

In about three and one-half years Garret P. Lansing sold all three parcels to Ebenezer S. Husted (son of Captain Silas-5, Ebenezer-4, Angel-3, Angel-2, Robert-1). There is no deed recorded but on May 1, 1819, he gave Garret P. Lansing a mortgage on the property. Ebenezer Husted came from the town of Stanford and was a nephew to the writer's great-great-great-grandmother, Mary Husted, the wife of Nicholas De La Vergne.

After three years as its proprietor, Ebenezer Husted sold the Hyde Park Hotel property, including the two other parcels, to Benjamin (Big Ben) Delamater of Hyde Park, for the sum of \$4,000. The deed states that the hotel was 94 links from the southwest corner of the church, and is dated April 25, 1822 (Liber 35, p. 449). There were two Benjamin Delamaters,—“Big Ben,” the father, and “Little Ben,” the son. They owned considerable real estate in and about Hyde Park, including the Bard grist mill and saw mills at Union Corners, now the property of Grant Dickinson; the Traudt mill in the village, which was destroyed by fire on December 11, 1941; the Hyde Park Hotel and other property.

After the division of the town of Clinton, in 1821, the first election of officers for the new township of Hyde Park, was held at the Hyde Park Hotel and Philip Bogardus was the tenant landlord. Some of the officers chosen were: James Duane Livingston, supervisor; Reuben Spencer, town clerk; Tobias L. Stoutenburgh, Peter A. Schryver and Christopher Hughes, assessors; Isaac Balding, collector, etc., etc. At this date the population was 2,301; electors, 431; and taxable property valued at \$547,106.

After four years, Benjamin Delamater and Almira, his wife, sold the hotel property, May 1, 1826, to John Forman for the sum of \$2,340, and, for the first time since its sale by the Carpenters it included only

the hotel property in Lot. No. 25, and is recorded (Liber 36, p. 335) as the "Hyde Park Hotel property," as follows:

..... All that piece or parcel or tract of Land situate in the Village of Hyde Park, county and State aforesaid, described as follows now known as the Hotel corner at the juncture of the highland turnpike and the road leading to the Upper Landing. Beginning at the South east corner of said lot at a bolt drove in the ground where the road leading to the landing intersects the turnpike near the corner of the Hyde Park Hotel, and ninety four links from south west corner of the Church on a course of South sixty eight degrees 30 minutes west from thence north seventeen degrees, west three chains twenty three links and runs along said turnpike to a stake set in the ground thence south Eighty three degrees thirty minutes west, one chain and forty eight links, to a white oak post thence south seventeen degrees East three chains and twelve links to the said Landing road, and thence north Eighty Eight degrees thirty minutes East one chain and fifty Links to the place of beginning.

The Hyde Park Hotel now began its longest period of ownership in its entire history,—sixteen years. John Forman stayed until a foreclosure action brought through Joseph H. Jackson, Master-in-Chancery for the State of New York, before the Vice-Chancery, between the "President, Directors and Company of the Dutchess County Bank, plaintiffs; and John Forman and Mary, his wife, Amos T. Garrett and Thomas E. Parker," to satisfy a mortgage. It was sold to John Greenfield for the sum of \$3,000, the highest bid, and dated April 23, 1842 (Liber 73, p. 274).

In three years it appears to have been in trouble again, for John W. Brown of Newburgh, as assignee of John Greenfield of Newburgh, sold the hotel to Benjamin Delamater, for the benefit of its creditors, in the sum of \$1,842, plus \$2,750, a total of \$4,592, and dated May 1, 1844 (Liber 78, p. 342). Thus Mr. Delamater became its owner for the second time, and this time he kept it for one year and eight days.

Benjamin Delamater and Almira, his wife, sold it to Augustus T. Cowman of Hyde Park, for the sum of \$4,800, by deed dated May 9, 1845 (Liber 80, p. 235).

Augustus T. Cowman was a gentlemen of some wealth. He built the "Cowman Row," in the village, located on the west side of the Albany post road, at a corner of Main street. He owned the house and

63 acres of land, located on and at the north end of the estate of the late F. W. Vanderbilt, from April 6, 1842 until November 2, 1853, for which he paid \$17,500 and sold to Joseph R. Curtis of Philadelphia, for \$30,000. This house was last occupied by the late Samuel B. Sexton and was destroyed by fire, which started in the tower, in April of 1899.

After eight years and six months, Augustus T. Cowman sold the hotel to Joseph R. Curtis of Philadelphia for \$900. The deed was dated November 26, 1853 (Liber 100, p. 284). Joseph R. Curtis was one of California's 'forty-niners, who hit the jackpot and owned considerable real estate in and around Hyde Park. He owned the north part of the F. W. Vanderbilt property from 1853 to 1861 and sold it to the Widow Sylvia Drayton of New York City, for \$70,000.

After having owned the hotel property for four years and nine months, Joseph R. Curtis and Maria L., his wife, sold it to Edward Lawrence of Hyde Park, for the sum of \$6,000, under deed dated August 12, 1858 (Liber 111, p. 564). Mr. Lawrence seems to have run into trouble in less than a year; in eleven months, by order of the Supreme Court of Brooklyn, an order was signed foreclosing the mortgage of Edward Lawrence, and it was sold by James Hammond, sheriff of Dutchess County, under an execution to Joseph R. Curtis, plaintiff. It was bid in by Curtis for the sum of \$1,100, and dated July 25, 1859 (Liber 114, p. 545).

After seven and one-half months, Joseph R. Curtis sold the hotel to George P. Fowler of Poughkeepsie, for the sum of \$4,500, deed dated March 9, 1860 (Liber 115, p. 372). Fowler conducted the hotel for over five years and sold it at a good profit. The next year he purchased the "Washington Hotel," just across the street. George Fowler and Cornelia, his wife, sold the property to William Jones and Jesse Holmes of Hyde Park, for \$11,000 (Civil War prices) under deed dated May 1, 1865 (Liber 131, p. 321).

Inside of a year and a half, they were in difficulties and on October 1, 1867, J. Z. Storrs, referee, sold the Hyde Park Hotel to satisfy its creditors and an unpaid mortgage of George P. Fowler, at a foreclosure

sale. One of the largest creditors was Thomas E. Parker, who conducted the meat market. The property was bid in for the sum of \$4,673.46 by George P. Fowler (Liber 141, p. 480). So, for a second time, George P. Fowler became the owner of the Hyde Park Hotel.

The following April, George P. Fowler and Cornelia, his wife, and Thomas E. Parker and Julia, his wife, sold the hotel property to Lewis D. Simmons of Hyde Park, subject to a first mortgage of \$2,000 and a second mortgage of \$1,000, held by the Poughkeepsie Savings Bank, and reserving unto Dr. Lamont and Thomas E. Parker "the fixtures in the rooms where they keep their drug store and meat market" respectively, for the sum of \$8,500. The deed was dated April 28, 1868 (Liber 144, p. 459).

Inside of two years the owner died and Simeon Simmons of the City of New York, as executor of the estate of Lewis D. Simmons, late of Hyde Park, sold the hotel to William Crandell of Rhinebeck for the sum of \$8,400, again subject to the two mortgages of the Poughkeepsie Savings Bank of \$2,000 and \$1,000. This deed was dated April 5, 1870 (Liber 154, p. 14).

Within fifteen days William Crandell and Elsie, his wife, of Hyde Park, sold the property to Horace Crandell of Jersey City, New Jersey, for the sum of \$8,500, subject to the same two mortgages, and under date of April 20, 1870 (Liber 154, p. 157).

On March 9, 1872, Horace Crandell sold the property to Thomas E. Parker of Hyde Park, for the sum of \$5,724, subject to a first mortgage of the Poughkeepsie Savings Bank of \$4,300, and a second mortgage of Simeon Simmons of \$1,200 (Liber 164, p. 40).

The next month Thomas E. Parker and Julia, his wife, sold the hotel to John A. Stoutenburgh of Hyde Park, for the sum of \$7,500, retaining "a small strip of land on the north end, for a driveway," also "the parcel upon which his brick market building rests." This deed was dated April 22, 1872 (Liber 166, p. 340).

After a little over five years the new owner was in trouble and

the property was sold at public auction by Samuel M. Purdy, referee in an action against John A. Stoutenburgh and Mary G., his wife. It was bid in July 17, 1877, by the Bowery Savings Bank of the City of New York, for the sum of \$1,000, (Liber 188, p. 502).

So, the Bowery Savings Bank was the owner of the Hyde Park Hotel when it was destroyed by fire on the night of March 14, 1879, in the most disastrous fire in the history of Hyde Park.

#### THE HYDE PARK HOTEL FIRE

An account of the fire was published in the *Poughkeepsie Daily Eagle* of March 17, 1879:

"A \$17,000 BLAZE,—A CONFLAGRATION AT HYDE PARK,—THE WORK OF A FIRE BUG," and stated that the news of the fire had arrived too late on Saturday to be included in the paper of that day.

The hotel, the hotel barns, sheds, the store in the west end of the hotel, the Thomas E. Parker meat market, Jacob Zepf's saloon and dwelling, the east side of Henry Rottman's dwelling, Miss Phillips' boys' school, Thomas E. Parker's ice house and Mrs. East's furniture and belongings, also the contents of John Stringham's grocery store, were burned.

Mrs. East was in charge of the hotel at the time of the fire, but she had given up and had all of her things packed about ready for shipment to Iowa. The fire broke out about an hour after midnight and was discovered by Richard East, her son. He hurried downstairs, found the fire burning under the cellar stairs, took a pail of water and put out the fire and returned to bed. In a short time he was again aroused by his mother and they barely escaped with their lives, as the fire was burning fiercely and the hotel seemed to be on fire all about.

The alarm was spread and the Eagle Engine Company came at once but the fire was out of control. They telegraphed to Poughkeepsie and received help, but arson was in the air and before help could arrive someone cut five lengths of the leather hose. John G. Briggs (father

of the writer) was foreman of the company and he stationed his brother, George H. Briggs, and two other firemen to watch the hose lines. The fire spread rapidly, first to John Stringham's grocery store, located in the west end of the hotel; then to the meat market of Thomas Parker; next to the saloon and dwelling of Jacob Zepf; then to Henry Rottman's dwelling, unoccupied at the time, where it was arrested in that direction. However, the firemen were having great difficulty in preventing it from crossing to the south side of West Market street, especially to William H. Hopkins' drug store and George P. Fowler's hotel, both of which were badly blistered.

After the hotel was fully enveloped in flames, one of the spectators who was viewing the scene from the stoop of Henry Vedder's store, situated on the east side of the Albany post road, thought he saw a flash of fire in the hotel barn which was fully seventy-five feet to the north, with no communicating buildings between. He ran over and found a fire in progress and while attempting to extinguish it, was approached by a hostler who asked what he was doing. The hostler, who was intoxicated, was later questioned by the reporters and others, but he walked away and refused to talk. However, many people were satisfied as to the identity of some of the persons responsible for the fires. Hyde Park suffered a series of bad fires and finally one resident was sentenced to four years in the state prison, which cooled off the rest of the incendiaries.

The hotel fire spread to Thomas E. Parker's ice house and to Miss Phillips' Boys' School, which was situated on the south lawn of the residence of the late Henry J. Myers, and both were destroyed. The fire loss was as follows:

Hotel, barns and sheds,	\$9,000,	insurance,	\$6,000
Thomas E. Parker,	2,500,	"	1,000
John Stringham,	500,	"	1,500
Jacob Zepf,	2,000,	"	in part
Henry Rottman,	300,	"	unknown
Miss Phillips,	unknown	"	"
Mrs. East,	3,200,	"	3,200

Thus went the first and oldest hotel in Hyde Park village. The writer vividly remembers when this old place was destroyed, as it was the first fire he had ever seen. He and his brother, Theodore, were

ill with the measles and their mother drew their crib over near the window so they might see the big fire, less than 400 feet away. The reflection of the fire could be seen in the sky as far away as Poughkeepsie.

For many years this was the only building where public gatherings or entertainments might be held in the community. Its ballroom had a spring floor which had a wide reputation as a dance floor and was used by many groups in the surrounding neighborhood. The writer's father and mother and uncles, aunts and many other relatives danced there many a time.

For a number of years after the fire the property was vacant and was a bad scar in the center of the village, until Charles S. Tilley purchased sixty-five feet of the frontage on West Market street, July 29, 1884, and built the building which housed a general merchandise store on the northwest corner of that street and the Albany post road. The building is still standing and is owned (1948) by Park Lodge No. 203, I.O.O.F. A barn erected on the property at the same time was removed in 1947. The balance of the frontage was sold to Mr. Zepf.

The Hyde Park Hotel seems to have had a rather stormy time after George P. Fowler sold it. It changed hands frequently, eight times in fourteen years, the ownerships running from fifteen days to five years and three months, the longer period in the possession of John A. Stoutenburgh. In seventy years it changed ownership twenty-two times, with more than that number of proprietors. John Forman owned it for sixteen years, longer than any other person. James Hinkley was one of its proprietors, at the time when it was owned by the Bowery Savings Bank. It was either unfortunate in its proprietors, or possibly there was not enough business for two hotels in the small community. George P. Fowler had purchased the Washington Hotel, across the street, and renamed it the "Fowler House." He had put on an addition, in reality a new hotel, making it a modern and up-to-date hotel of the 1860's. It was the headquarters of the stage coach and this made it the popular stopping place for other travelers.

## THE SECOND HOTEL IN THE VILLAGE

Dr. Hunting Sherrill, the person who had the first building on this property, was of English ancestry, whose people first settled on Long Island. He was born April 3, 1783, and died in New York City January 16, 1866. He was licensed by the state medical society in 1809 and affiliated with the Dutchess County Medical Society the same year. He published, in 1826, *A Review of the Diseases of Dutchess County from 1809 to 1825*; and in 1832, *An Essay on Epidemics as they Appeared in Dutchess County, from 1809 to 1825*; as well as several other articles.

He purchased heavily of the Luke Stoutenburgh farm property and one of the pieces was in Lot No. 13, upon which he built his residence. He speculated in property in and about Hyde Park village for several years. At one time he owned the Williams' mill dam rights and there was the Sherrill nail factory south of the New Guinea bridge, both on Crum Elbow creek. He was also a wealthy merchant of New York City, where he lived during his last years.

Hunting Sherrill and his wife, Margaret Mulford, sold the property to David Barnes Jr., for the sum of \$2,000, May 1, 1832 (Liber 48, p. 566). It was located in Lot No. 13, of the Luke Stoutenburgh farm, with a frontage of 1 chain, 40 links (about 92 feet), and is described as follows:

. . . . . Beginning at the North west corner of lot number nine in the subdivision of the farm of Luke Stoutenburgh deceased from thence running in a line touching the North East corner of the house on the lot hereby conveyed South eight degrees East three chains to a post set in the ground from thence South eighty eight degrees thirty minutes West one chain forty links to a post thence north eight degrees West three chains to the South side of the Street leading to the De Cantillon Landing thence North eighty eight degrees thirty minutes East one chain forty links to the place of beginning.

The house, herein mentioned, the residence of Dr. Hunting Sherrill, was a low, one-and-one-half story frame building which sat facing the east, south of the hotel proper and attached to the hotel, and remained in its original shape until it was all taken down in 1944. It appears to have been used as an inn by the next owner, when David Barnes Jr., and his wife Sarah, transferred it to Caleb G. Tompkins, for the sum

of \$1,500. The deed was dated April 13, 1836 (Liber 59, p. 169), and Tompkins had the post office in the building. After four years Caleb G. Tompkins and his wife, Harriet, sold it to Isaac Travis, of Pleasant Valley, January 23, 1840 (Liber 68, p. 200), for the sum of \$2,500.

It was transferred by Peter R. Du Bois, as executor, with David Travis, of the estate of Isaac Travis, to Orrin Travis for the sum of \$1,450, May 1, 1847 (Liber 84, p. 410).

Isaac Travis had died after running the inn for seven years. Within the next two years, Orrin Travis built the hotel in front of the inn and named it the "Washington Hotel." It is called the "Washington Hotel Lot" in the deed, dated May 1, 1849 (Liber 89, p. 218), when he sold it to Lansing T. Mosher for the sum of \$2,600.

In a deed, dated May 1, 1851 (Liber 94, p. 478), Lansing T. Mosher and his wife, Merian, sold it to James P. Van Wagener for the same sum as he paid for it.

After a period of seven and one-half years, James P. Van Wagener and his wife, Helen, of Hyde Park, sold the property to Hiram Marshall of the same village, for the sum of \$4,000. The deed was dated October 14, 1858 (Liber 111, p. 700), and the post office was still located there.

Hiram R. Marshall, in 1855, had also purchased of Joseph Curtis a piece of property abutting this land and facing on Main street, where he built a beautiful home which was known thereafter as the "Marshall House." It was sold in 1876 to Thomas E. Parker and John Hackett, who in turn sold it, in 1886, to Colonel Archibald Rogers. Colonel Rogers built a bowling alley to the east, which was the finest in this section of the country. He equipped the house as a "Hyde Park Social Club" for the men of the community and, after renting the hall for various gatherings in the village for some years, he finally presented it to the Town of Hyde Park. The "Marshall House" was taken down in 1891 when the present town hall was built on that location (Liber 104, p. 248).

Hiram Marshall and his wife, Sarah Ann, sold the Washington Hotel, May 1, 1866 (Liber 135, p. 248), to George P. Fowler of Poughkeepsie, for the sum of \$4,000. Fowler changed the name of the hotel to the "Fowler House" and he was its proprietor until his death in the early part of 1881.

George P. Fowler was a kindly man and had many friends in the community. After his death, his grand-daughter, Cora S. Pearl, conducted the hotel until December 4, 1883, when it was transferred to Charles Schlesinger of New York City, for the sum of \$50. and a mortgage in the sum of \$2,300 (Liber 215, p. 286).

Charles Schlesinger and his wife, Hannah, sold it (conditioned on a lease given to David Courtney by Cora S. Pearl, to expire April 1, 1884) to Michael H. Horning, of Schenectady, N. Y., for the sum of \$3,200. The deed was dated January 1, 1884 (Liber 216, p. 264). Horning had changed the name of the hotel to the "Horning House," and after his death in 1890, it was conducted by his widow and his daughter, Helen Masten. After twenty-four years it passed into the hands of Walter Corlies, Jr., who sold it to Albert E. Zepf, for an undisclosed sum, April 17, 1908 (Liber 357, p. 341). It was taken down in 1944.

In the early days the hotel had housed the post office and the mail and passenger stages had stopped there for changing horses. On one occasion they were carrying a very distinguished passenger from New York to Albany and, in their great haste in turning into the road, the coach very nearly overturned.

The original building was a story-and-a-half, frame building with a hall through the center, with an entrance from both front and rear. After the new front was added, giving the hotel a T-shape, this part was used as living quarters for the family and help and the meals for the guests were prepared in this section. It had a large built-in oven in the kitchen.

Until the present town hall was built in 1891, all the elections, spring and fall, for many years, were held in the west room on the main

floor. At that time each candidate for office had an individual ballot printed with his name and the office to which he aspired. A voter would have a handful of ballots, one for each office for which the election was held, and each went into a separate ballot box.

The old hotel was a popular place and it had a wide reputation for its splendid meals. It served many a famous guest enroute for Albany or the west, when the only transportation was by horses. During the holidays and on Sundays numbers of Poughkeepsians drove up for dinner. Many sleighing parties from the surrounding area came to the hotel for dinner and dancing. In the 1870's and '80's James B. Livingston was a frequent visitor with his guests, conveyed by tally-ho and four. It was the scene many times of the settling of a bet, as to who owned the fastest horse, in a race from Teller Hill to the village square, and where Theron Felter, with the famous "George Wilkes" were refreshed after a spirited tilt with all comers. The colonel enjoyed the champagne at their expense. It was the dispensing center of all news, local or other, and the debating circle of all the topics of the day. Hog guessing contests were held here and, after the advent of the bicycle, that vehicle brought many patrons.

It was here that Michael Kelly ("Mike" Kelly), the famous \$10,000 baseball catcher, spent much of his spare time during several winters, while under contract with the Boston Baseball Club of the National League. He was a brother of Mrs. David Howatt, whose husband was superintendent of Crumwold farm, owned by Colonel Archibald Rogers. Kelly was a great athlete and a fine looking man, generous to a fault, and very popular. On several occasions he gave large parties at the hotel to which he would invite many of the folks of the village, one hundred or more, beginning with a ball upstairs and at midnight a march downstairs to a sumptuous dinner. The young men of the village, some forty of them, met and formed in his honor, the "Regular Club," which had its headquarters in the hotel and met at least once a month. One of their pastimes was coasting on the "river hill," the hill on the road leading to the river, and the writer raced them many times and could have beaten every time, if they had not held back his "bob" to prevent his passing.

The old barn, connected with the hotel, was a massive building with a very wide barn floor, containing rows of stalls running the entire length of the building. These stalls would hold eight horses on each side. The building was so large that a coach and four could be driven right in and when the leaders were unhooked the vehicle with the other two horses could be turned around right on the floor.

There was a shed for sheltering and feeding horses, which would accommodate ten teams or single rigs, and which extended from the north end of the barn to the west end of the hotel building, the horses facing the west. The barn and the shed were destroyed by fire in 1895, during a second outbreak of incendiariism. After the Hyde Park Hotel property was destroyed by fire in 1879, this was the only shed for horses in the village and was used by many people attending the local churches.

After the fire of 1879 another hotel had been built in the village, but the old days had passed.

So, the Hyde Park Hotel burned down and the Fowler House passed out of existence. A new brick building, three stories in height, was erected in the village, but the day of the old hotels had gone and, with modern means of transportation, there was little need for a real hotel in the village.

HARRY T. BRIGGS

## BILLETING RECEIPTS OF 1759

During the colonial period the militia of Dutchess County was called out on occasion but the county was not the scene of active military operations. During the French and English war of 1744-48, Governor George Clinton was advised by the Council (upon the urging of Colonel Beekman) to engage 200 men from this county and to recommend that the Provincial Assembly provide ammunition, pay and subsistence for them. These provincial forces were disbanded in September of 1748, after the signing of the treaty of Aix la Chapelle. In 1755, in the French and Indian war, the militia of Dutchess County was again called into requisition and was sent to Albany to cooperate with Lord Loudon. It continued in the service until the overthrow of the power of France in Canada in 1760. Many of the men who later fought in the Revolutionary war received their training during the French and Indian wars.

There is in the local history room of the Adriance Memorial Library, Poughkeepsie, a "scrap book," or billeting book, compiled by the late Mr. Henry Booth. It contains slips of paper, dated 1759-1761, used as receipts for billeting money paid by the county clerk, Henry Livingston, and signed by the militiamen or their agents. The receipts had been strung on a linen thread, with a wad of cotton cloth to hold them. The needle and thread and the wad of cloth are attached to the first page of the scrap book. The receipts are mounted, in chronological order, in the book.

Many of the receipts are in a simple form, prepared by the county clerk, of which the following is a sample:

Rec'd this 2d Aprill 1760

From Mr. Henry Livingston, Esq., the Sum of £1: 7: 6 — in full for my Billeting Money for the year 1759.

	his	
John <sup>s</sup>	x	Schout n
	mark	

Some of the receipts mentioned that the money due was "for our Subsistence Last year from the Time of our Inlistment untill we drew the King's provision." The sums paid varied in amount but one re-