

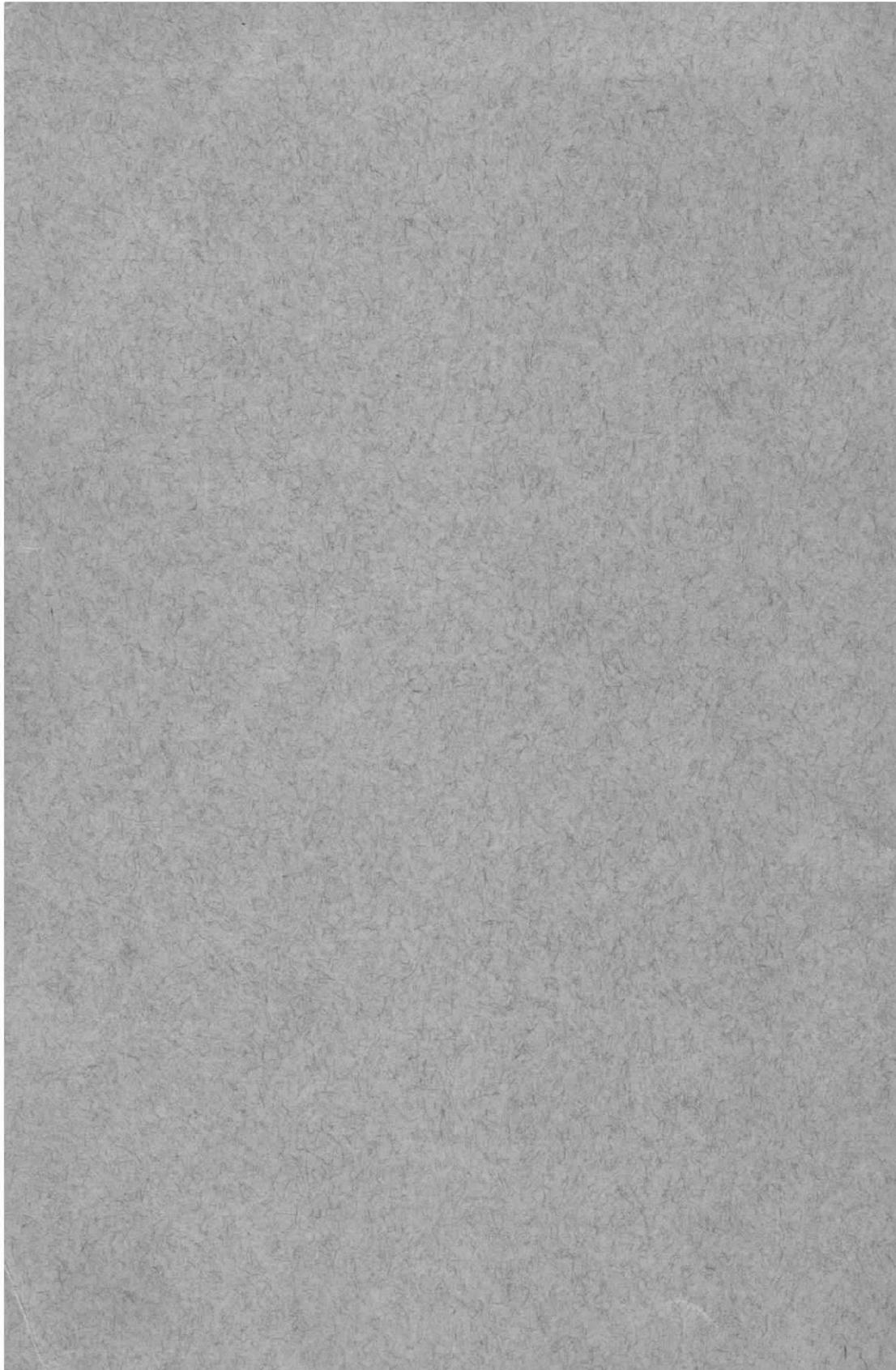
*Eliza J. Reynolds*

# Year Book

Dutchess County Historical Society

Volume 26

1941



46233

# Year Book

Dutchess County Historical Society

Volume 26

1941

Town of Hyde Park Historical Society  
P.O. Box 182  
Hyde Park, New York  
12538

Copyright, 1941  
By the Dutchess County Historical Society

DUTCHESS COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY  
Incorporated under the laws of the  
State of New York  
December 21, 1918  
Certificate of Incorporation filed in the office of the  
Clerk of Dutchess County  
Book 10 of Corporations, page 153

## DUTCHESS COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

*Incorporated under the Laws of the State of New York. Certificate of Incorporation filed December 23, 1918, in the Office of the Clerk of Dutchess County, Book 10 of Corporations, page 153.*

### MEETINGS — MEMBERSHIP — DUES

ANNUAL MEETING, THIRD FRIDAY IN MAY

SEMI-ANNUAL MEETING, THIRD FRIDAY IN OCTOBER

### MEMBERSHIP

Membership in the Dutchess County Historical Society may be had by the election of the applicant at the May or October meeting or at a meeting of the Board of Trustees and the payment of the dues.

Annual Dues .....\$ 2.00  
Life Membership .....\$25.00

These payments carry with them the right to hold office, to vote and to take part in the proceedings of the Society.

Annual dues are payable on January 1st of each year.

Payment of two dollars at date of election entitles a new member to a copy of the Year Book for that current year. Next payment falls due the succeeding January 1st and covers a copy of the Year Book issued in the year ensuing.

Copies of the Year Book are mailed only to those members whose dues are paid to date.

### FORM OF BEQUEST

I give and bequeath to the

DUTCHESS COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

..... Dollars

## OFFICERS

1941

*President:* W. WILLIS REESE, New Hamburg, N. Y.

*Vice-President at Large:* JAMES F. BALDWIN, Ph.D.,  
Poughkeepsie, N. Y.

*Secretary:* J. WILSON POUCHER, M. D., Poughkeepsie, N. Y.

*Assistant Secretary:* MRS. AMY PEARCE VERNOOY, Poughkeepsie, N. Y.

*Treasurer:* MRS. GEORGE B. WATERMAN, Poughkeepsie, N. Y.

*Curator:* ALLEN FROST, Poughkeepsie, N. Y.

## VICE-PRESIDENTS FOR TOWNS

Mrs. J. E. Spingarn	Town of Amenia City of Beacon
Mrs. Jacob Brill	Town of Beekman
Clifford M. Buck	Town of Clinton
Lawrence Belding Cummings	Town of Dover
Mrs. Edward B. Stringham	Town of East Fishkill
Miss Edith Alden	Town of Fishkill
Franklin D. Roosevelt	Town of Hyde Park
Miss Ruth Halstead	Town of LaGrange
Henry R. Billings	Town of Milan
Daniel J. Gleason	Town of North East Town of Pawling
Mrs. Burnap Jordan	Town of Pine Plains
J. Adams Brown	Town of Pleasant Valley
Miss Annette Young	Town of Poughkeepsie
John S. Wilson, M.D.	City of Poughkeepsie
Mrs. Stewart R. Anderson	Town of Red Hook
Miss Ethel Douglas Merritt	Town of Rhinebeck
Mrs. Joseph T. Tower	Town of Stanford
Mrs. R. Theodore Coe	Town of Union Vale
Lenox Banks	Town of Wappinger
Oakleigh Thorne	Town of Washington

BOARD OF TRUSTEES

The President, ex-officio

The Vice-President at Large, ex-officio

The Secretary, ex-officio

The Treasurer, ex-officio

CLASS OF 1942

George S. Van Vliet

Miss Helen Wilkinson Reynolds

Frank V. Mylod

Franklyn J. Poucher

CLASS OF 1943

Charles Meredith De Lavergne

Edmund Van Wyck

J. Hunting Otis

Herbert C. Shears

CLASS OF 1944

Chester Husted

Henry T. Hackett

Mrs. Stewart R. Anderson

Ronald Bogle

CLASS OF 1945

John Ross Delafield

Olin Dows

Raymond G. Guernsey

Baltus Barentszen Van Kleeck

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OCCASIONAL PUBLICATIONS  
OF THE  
DUTCHESS COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

- 1916—PAMPHLET: *Troutbeck, A Dutchess County Homestead*; by Charles E. Benton. Out of print.
- 1924—COLLECTIONS: VOL. I; *Poughkeepsie, The Origin and Meaning of the Word*; by Helen Wilkinson Reynolds.
- 1924—COLLECTIONS, VOL. II; *Old Gravestones of Dutchess County, New York*; collected and edited by J. Wilson Poucher, M. D., and Helen Wilkinson Reynolds.
- 1928—COLLECTIONS, VOL. III; *Records of the Town of Hyde Park, Dutchess County, New York*; edited by Franklin D. Roosevelt. Edition exhausted.
- 1930—COLLECTIONS, VOL. IV; *Notices of Marriages and Deaths in Newspapers printed at Poughkeepsie, N. Y., 1778-1825*; compiled and edited by Helen Wilkinson Reynolds.
- 1932—COLLECTIONS. VOL. V; *Records of the Reformed Dutch Church of New Hackensack, Dutchess County, New York*; edited by Maria Bockée Carpenter Tower.
- 1938—COLLECTIONS, VOL. VI; *Eighteenth Century Records of the portion of Dutchess County, New York, that was included in Rombout Precinct and the original Town of Fishkill*. Collected by William Willis Reese. Edited by Helen Wilkinson Reynolds.
- 1940—COLLECTIONS, VOL. VII. *Records of Crum Elbow Precinct, Dutchess County*. Edited by Franklin D. Roosevelt.
- 

For information in regard to any of the above publications address: Mrs. Amy Ver Nooy, Assistant Secretary, Dutchess County Historical Society, Adriance Memorial Library, Poughkeepsie, N. Y.

# SECRETARY'S MINUTES

## MEETING OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES

MARCH 22, 1941

A meeting of the Board of Trustees of the Dutchess County Historical Society was held on Saturday afternoon, March 22, at four o'clock in the local history room of the Adriance Memorial Library, Poughkeepsie.

Present: Dr. Baldwin, Mrs. Anderson, Mr. Guernsey, Mr. Otis, Dr. Poucher, Mr. F. J. Poucher, Miss Reynolds, Mr. Van Wyck and the Treasurer and the Assistant Secretary.

In the absence of the president, Dr. Baldwin presided and called the meeting to order.

On motion, the reading of the minutes of the last meeting of the Board of Trustees, held February 28, 1940, was dispensed with.

The vice-president stated that the purpose of the meeting was to discuss the program for 1941.

Miss Reynolds explained that plans had been made in 1940 for the spring meeting to be held at Pleasant Plains but that it had been necessary to give up these plans because of the conflict with the date for the celebration of the 75th anniversary of Vassar College in which this society was asked to join. After discussion, it was decided to try to carry out this spring the plans made a year ago and Miss Reynolds was asked to complete the arrangements.

Tentative suggestions were made for the fall pilgrimage but

no definite arrangements were made. Miss Reynolds reported that the society had had an invitation to visit two old residences in Columbia County and that she had had some correspondence and Miss Reynolds was requested to proceed with the plans for such visits.

Mention was also made of a number of anniversaries which would occur this year and it was suggested that the society plan to cooperate with the various organizations.

The treasurer reported that she had been asked if the society would help fill out a file of year books for the library of a local organization. The assistant secretary reported that three libraries in various sections of the United States were also anxious to complete their files. After discussion, it was decided that the society could not afford to present the necessary back numbers to these libraries but that the curator should endeavor to assemble the numbers needed in each case for the price of \$2.00 per volume.

The assistant secretary reported that the society had lost one member by death, Mrs. John M. Goring and several members by resignation. The secretary reported that he had received the resignation of Miss Mary J. Elsworth as a member of the Board of Trustees. This resignation was accept-

ed with regret and a nominating committee, composed of Mr. F. J. Poucher, Mr. Van Wyck and Mrs. Waterman, was appointed to nominate a successor.

The names of the following persons were proposed and they were elected annual members: Miss Margaret E. Mack and Mr. Jacob Strong, Jr., and The Genealogical Society of Utah.

The vice-president deplored the fact that the society had lost sev-

eral members and urged that an effort be made to increase the membership. After some discussion, Mrs. Anderson was appointed chairman of a membership committee to work with the vice-presidents representing the various townships in an effort to obtain new members.

Upon motion, the meeting adjourned.

J. WILSON POUCHER,  
Secretary.

## ANNUAL MEETING

JUNE 4, 1941

The annual meeting of the Dutchess County Historical Society was held on Wednesday, June 4, in the Pleasant Plains Presbyterian Church at 11.30 a. m. There was an attendance of forty persons at the business meeting.

The meeting was called to order by the President.

The minutes of the semi-annual meeting, held October 18, 1940 and of a meeting of the Board of Trustees, held March 22, 1941, were read and approved.

The report of the Secretary was read and recorded the following list of accessions which had been received by gift and exchange:

New York History, the quarterly of the New York State Historical Association, for January and April 1941; Bulletins of the New York State Historical Association for November 1940 and February 1941; The New York Historical Society Quarterly Bulletin, for

October 1940 and January and April 1941; The Bulletin of the Fort Ticonderoga Museum, January 1941; The Long Island Historical Society Quarterly, January and April 1941; The Quarterly Bulletin of the Westchester County Historical Society for April, July and October 1940 and for January 1941; The Utah Genealogical and Historical Magazine, October 1940; The Year Book of the Dutch Settlers Society of Albany, 1940-1941; A bound volume of the Dutchess Observer, March 1822 through May 1824; Historical Collections of the State of New York, by Barber and Howe. Published in 1842. The gift of Mrs. Mary F. Van Voorhis. A typed and bound volume, "Dutchess County Gazetteer and Dictionary of Officials," compiled by Rollin Howard Masten. The gift of Mr. W. Willis Reese; 10 copies of back issues of the year book of Dutchess County Historical So-

ciety, the gift of Dr. James F. Baldwin.

The Secretary also reported that the society had lost several members by resignation and the following members passed away since the fall meeting: Mr. Harry C. Barker, Mr. Melbert B. Cary, Jr., Mrs. John M. Goring, Mr. Seward T. Green, Mr. Thomas F. Lawlor, The Hon. George V. L. Spratt, Mr. Everett H. Travis and Mr. Ernest Steenburgh.

The report of the Treasurer, given by Mrs. Waterman, was accepted as read and follows these minutes.

Miss Reynolds reported for the Year Book Committee that the issue for 1941 was planned out and the material was being assembled. She promised an interesting number. She explained that the type for the major part of the book was set during the summer and the proof read so that in the fall there remained only the story of the pilgrimage and the minutes of the fall meeting to be added.

Miss Reynolds also reported for the Pilgrimage Committee. She said that the society had been invited to make a visit to the home of Mrs. Charles Townsend near Clermont. This house was built by Dirck Wessels Ten Broeck in 1762 and has been partly restored by Mrs. Townsend. She also said that the society had been invited to visit two other houses near Clermont, one the home of Mr. and Mrs. Edward A. Fitch, built by Henry Walter Livingston about 1800, and the other the home of

Miss Ann Hulme Wilson and Miss Jane Livingston Wilson, built in 1829. She assured the members that a very pleasant day was in prospect if the present plans worked out.

Mrs. Stuart Anderson reported as chairman of a committee to secure new members. She said that she had secured three new members and suggested that the society consider a new form of membership, a joint membership of man and wife under the provisions of which both might become members of the society but would receive only one year book. There was considerable discussion of this proposal and before the matter was brought to a vote Dr. Baldwin suggested as an amendment to the original motion that the matter be brought before the next meeting of the Board of Trustees for discussion and settlement.

Mr. Reese reported for the committee which had been appointed to nominate a successor to Miss Elsworth, resigned, as a member of the Board of Trustees. He reported that the name of Mr. Olin Dows of Rhinebeck, son of Mr. Tracy Dows for many years a member of the Board, had been suggested and recommended that he be elected. Upon motion, Mr. Dows was unanimously elected.

Mr. Reese announced that nominations were in order for the various offices of the organization. Mrs. Schwartz moved that the Secretary cast one ballot for the re-election of the present officers. This motion was seconded and the

officers were re-elected, including the three trustees whose terms had expired: General John Ross Delafield, Mr. Raymond G. Guernsey and Mr. Baltus B. Van Kleeck.

The names of the following persons were presented and they were elected annual members: Dean and Mrs. Harold C. Gray, Mrs. John Bishop, Jr., and Mr. Carlton M. Sleght.

Mrs. Gordon Wightman, president of the Historical Society of Newburgh Bay and the Highlands, announced that that society had planned a pilgrimage to be held on Monday, June 30, to visit the headquarters of General Washington at Tappan, Rockland County, and invited the members of the Dutchess County Historical Society to join in that pilgrimage.

Mrs. Schwartz announced that a Hudson River Garden Fete for the benefit of war relief would be held on June 12, 13 and 14 under the auspices of the Poughkeepsie Garden Club. She expressed the hope that the members of the Dutchess County Historical Socie-

ty would be interested to attend.

As there was no further business the meeting adjourned for lunch. Because of the rain it was impossible to have the picnic lunch out of doors, so the members present scattered in small groups and ate their lunch in the church building.

At half past one the President again called the meeting to order and presented Mr. George S. Van Vliet who gave a most interesting and instructive talk on the history of the Town of Clinton. Concluding his talk Mr. Van Vliet exhibited and told the story of the numerous articles which he had brought with him to the church. Mr. Van Vliet's talk appears as an article in another part of this issue of the year book and includes his description of the items in his exhibit.

The meeting closed with a rising vote of thanks to the Rev. Ralph Beaumont and the congregation of the Pleasant Plains Church and to Mr. Van Vliet.

J. WILSON POUCHER,  
Secretary.

## SEMI-ANNUAL MEETING

OCTOBER 17, 1941

The semi-annual meeting of the Dutchess County Historical Society was held on October 17, at the Nelson House, Poughkeepsie, at 11.30 a. m. There were fifty members in attendance at the business session.

The meeting was called to order by the President.

The minutes of the annual meet-

ing, held June 4, at the Pleasant Plains Presbyterian Church, were read by the Assistant Secretary and approved.

The report of the Secretary was read and listed the following accessions:

New York History, the quarterly of the New York State Historical Association, for July and

October 1941; Bulletins of the New York State Historical Association for May and August 1941; Bulletin of the Fort Ticonderoga Museum for July 1941; The New York Historical Society Quarterly Bulletin, for July and October 1941; The Long Island Historical Society Quarterly, July 1941; "Save the Aquarium Building," a radio address given by Mr. A. J. Wall, Director of the New York Historical Society, on June 26, 1941; "From a Day in May, 1866", a pamphlet issued by the Beacon Savings Bank in celebration of its 75th anniversary; 3 volumes issued by the Historical Records Survey of the Federal Work Projects: Calendar of the Gerrit Smith Papers in the Syracuse University Library, Vol. 1; Inventory of the County Archives of New York State, Ulster County (Part 2); Guide to Manuscript Depositories in New York City; St. Lawrence University in the World War, 1917-1918, a Memorial. Published by St. Lawrence University; A framed sampler, made in 1841 by Susan Curtis Hutchins of Hyde Park, the gift of Mr. Charles F. Derby of Philadelphia, Penna.

The Secretary also reported that the society had lost a few members by resignation and the following members by death: Mrs. James Roosevelt, Miss Martha Akin Taber, Mr. Alexander R. Wilson and Mrs. Woodbury G. Langdon.

Mrs. Waterman gave the report of the Treasurer, which was accepted as read and follows these minutes.

Miss Reynolds reported for the Year Book Committee that the issue for this year was almost completed, that it would contain a large amount of material in text and also several illustrations.

Miss Reynolds also reported for the Pilgrimage Committee and said that the weather on the day of the trip had been perfect and that she believed everyone who attended had had a most enjoyable time. She said that the addresses which had been given on that occasion would appear as articles in the year book.

Mr. Reese recommended that the persons who had contributed so much to the enjoyment of the members of the society on the occasion of the pilgrimage should be accorded a vote of thanks. It was separately moved and seconded that a letter expressing the appreciation of the society be sent to each of the following:

To Miss Jane Livingston Wilson, who had made the address at the Ten Broeck Bouwerie; To General John Ross Delafield, who made the address at "The Hill;" To Mr. and Mrs. Townsend, host and hostess at the Ten Broeck Bouwerie; To Mr. and Mrs. Edward A. Fitch, host and hostess at "The Hill"; To the members of the Wilson family for their hospitality at the Wilson homestead.

The names of sixteen persons were submitted for membership in the society. Following the plea of Mrs. Waterman for new and younger members several more names were submitted and the following were elected annual members: Mrs. John T. Carroll, Mr.

Claude M. Conger, Mr. Peter F. Connolly, Mr. Edward A. Fitch, Miss Bertha A. Greene, Mr. Alfred Hasbrouck, Mrs. Theodore Heeg, Mrs. George S. Huntington, Mrs. Theodore I. Jones, Mrs. Irving Lasher, Miss Delia West Marble, Miss Jean Earl Moehle, Mrs. Oscar Moehle, Mrs. John M. Nelle, Mrs. Henry B. Nichols, Miss Ida H. Ogilvie, Mrs. N. Otis Rockwood, St. Lawrence University, Miss Elizabeth Shears, Mr. Fred W. Shipman, Mr. Malcolm Smith, Mrs. Robert L. Smith, Mr. J. Coleman Triller, Mrs. Nathaniel Weg, Miss Maybelle Williams and Miss Ruth Williams.

As there was no further business the members adjourned to the dining room where about 100 sat down to lunch.

Following the luncheon Mr. Reese introduced the representatives of several organizations which were celebrating anniversaries in 1941. Dr. J. Addison Jones, pastor of the Reformed Dutch Church of Poughkeepsie, gave a brief history of his church which had just celebrated its 225th anniversary. The Rev. Earle V. Conover, pastor of the Fishkill Reformed Dutch Church, spoke on the history of that church and remarked that the Fishkill Church was the twin sister of the Poughkeepsie Church, having been organized on the same day, October 10, 1716. He also, in behalf of the Rev. J. Benjamin Myers, rector of Trinity Episcopal Church of Fishkill, extended greetings from Mr. Myers and expressed his regret that he was prevented from attending the meeting.

Dr. Cummins, of Christ Church, Poughkeepsie, said that Christ Church was celebrating its 175th anniversary, having been organized at the same time as Trinity Church, Fishkill, on October 26, 1766. He said that the history of the parish, the "Records of Christ Church," compiled by Miss Helen W. Reynolds, was the most comprehensive church history in the United States and a model for other churches.

Mr. Herbert Shears gave a brief and interesting account of the Dutchess County Agricultural Society which was in existence as early as 1806 and had apparently lapsed in the 1820's and was re-organized under a law passed by the state legislature in 1841. He said that in the one hundred years since 1841 the organization had conducted ninety-seven successful county fairs.

Mrs. Edward F. Cary told of the beginning of the society now known as the Women's City Missionary Society and of the work that it had accomplished during the one hundred years of its existence.

Mr. John J. Morrow, librarian of the Adriance Memorial Library, gave a brief outline of the growth of the public library in Poughkeepsie which had been established in January of 1841. He also spoke of the close cooperation between the library and the Dutchess County Historical Society.

Mr. Reese thanked the speakers on behalf of the society and the meeting closed with a rising vote of thanks.

J. WILSON POUCHER,  
Secretary.

ANNUAL REPORT  
TREASURER  
DUTCHESS COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY  
JUNE 4, 1941

PERMANENT ACCOUNT

Balance on hand October 18, 1940.....	\$ 882.04
Interest to January 1, 1941 .....	6.62
Total .....	\$ 888.66

CHECKING ACCOUNT

Balance on hand October 18, 1940.....	\$1,455.45
Received as dues and Year Book sales.....	1,004.00
Total Checking Account .....	\$2,459.45

DISBURSEMENTS

Lansing Broas & Co., 618 Post Cards.....	\$ 4.50
Amy Vernooy, returned money from two library sales at \$10.25 each .....	20.50
Amy Vernooy, Postage, Postcards, Programs .....	24.75
Elmer Tripp (Two cards at \$1.00 each) .....	2.00
K. B. Waterman, Labeling, Packing and Mailing Year Books .....	14.00
Helen W. Reynolds, editing Year Book.....	200.00
Lansing Broas, Inserts printed and Year Book Bind- ings .....	40.00
Charles I. Lavery, Postage on Year Book.....	14.16
Rhinebeck Gazette, Printing Year Books and the envelopes .....	308.79
Amy Vernooy, Services as Secretary .....	50.00
Allen Frost, Services as Curator .....	25.00
K. B. Waterman, Services as Treasurer .....	50.00
Lansing Broas, 1,000 envelopes .....	5.35
New York Historical Society dues .....	3.00
Emily T. Lane, Junior League Treasurer .....	120.00
Lansing Broas, 1,000 stamped envelopes .....	32.45
Helen W. Reynolds, Postage .....	5.00
Total Disbursements .....	\$ 919.50

Balance on hand June 4, 1941.....\$1,539.95

Respectfully submitted,

KATHERINE B. WATERMAN,  
Treasurer.

SEMI-ANNUAL REPORT

TREASURER  
DUTCHESS COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

OCTOBER 17th, 1941

PERMANENT ACCOUNT

Balance on hand June 4th, 1941 .....	\$888.66
Interest to July 1st, 1941 .....	6.66
Total .....	<u>\$895.32</u>

CHECKING ACCOUNT

Balance on hand June 4th, 1941.....	\$1,539.95
Received from dues and Year Book sales.....	86.00
	<u>—————\$1,625.95</u>

DISBURSEMENTS

Amy Vernooy for postage and cards.....	\$ 8.25
Lansing & Broas, postals for May meeting.....	2.85
Amy Vernooy, honorarium as secretary.....	50.00
Allen Frost, honorarium as curator .....	25.00
Katherine B. Waterman, honorarium as treasurer...	50.00
	<u>————— 136.10</u>
Balance on hand October 17th, 1941.....	<u>\$1,489.85</u>

Respectfully submitted,

KATHERINE B. WATERMAN,  
Treasurer.

## THE ANNUAL PILGRIMAGE

For the pilgrimage of 1941 pilgrims enjoyed on September 20th a day of perfect weather. The interesting houses visited were glorified by autumn sunshine and beautiful natural settings, while medium temperature made comfortable the rather long mileage that was involved as well as the standing and walking that were necessary.

To the several hosts and hostesses who received the pilgrims,—Mr. and Mrs. Charles Townsend, Mr. and Mrs. E. A. Fitch, and the members of the Wilson family, namely Miss Anne Hulme Wilson, Miss Jane Livingston Wilson, Mrs. William Ten Broeck Mynderse and Mr. and Mrs. Harold Wilson, Jr.,—most grateful acknowledgment is made here for the courtesies and hospitality they extended. Members of the Dutchess County Historical Society are deeply appreciative of all that was done for them.

The thanks of the society are also offered to Mr. Philip Clum and Mr. Paul Poleschner of Clermont, who added greatly to the interest of the visit to the home of Mr. and Mrs. Townsend by their demonstration of old-time handwork in wood and in metal.

By count there were fifty-odd cars present during the day, carrying an estimated number of 175 persons.

Below is appended a copy of the official program.

TWENTY-FOURTH PILGRIMAGE

Saturday, September 20, 1941

Daylight Saving Time  
Basket Lunches

### PLAN OF PILGRIMAGE

The plan for the pilgrimage of 1941 grew out of the fact that Mrs. Charles Townsend, a friend of Mr. and Mrs. William Willis Reese, extended to the Dutchess County Historical Society an invitation to visit the old house in Columbia County which she has recently acquired. Following the acceptance of that invitation permission was asked to visit two other interesting homes which are near Mrs. Townsend's and thus a plan for the pilgrimage evolved itself.

### ROUTE OF PILGRIMAGE

At 10:30 a. m. the leader's car will park on the Albany Post Road immediately south of the four corners at the village of Clermont. State troopers will control traffic. Cars will fall into line in order of arrival. Please be prompt.

Follow leader to the Ten Broeck Bouverie, home of Mrs. Charles Townsend. Part of the route is down grade over a narrow road. Drive carefully. Due to arrive at 11 a. m.

The original house on the *bouwerie* (Dutch for farm) was torn down. The second house, built in 1762 and now standing, is an excellent example in structure and floor-plan of the brick dwellings erected in the valley of the Hudson in the third quarter of the eighteenth century. The house still contains paneling of 1762.

Pilgrims will assemble in front of the house to meet the hostess, Mrs. Townsend. Miss Jane Livingston Wilson will tell the story of the house and farm, the house having been built by her ancestor, Dirck Wessels Ten Broeck.

Basket lunches and a visit to the house will then be enjoyed by the pilgrims.

At 1 p. m. signal to assemble.

At 1:15 p. m. leave Ten Broeck Bouwerie. Follow the leader.

At 1:45 p. m. due at The Hill, the home of Mr. and Mrs. E. A. Fitch. The original part of this house was built by Henry Walter Livingston (born 1764, died 1810). In architectural design, floor-plan, size of rooms and height of ceilings this house is unique in the river counties.

Pilgrims will assemble on the terrace in front of the south portico. General John Ross Delafield will tell the story of the property, after which the house may be visited.

At 3 p. m. pilgrims will re-enter cars. Follow the leader.

At 3:20 p. m. due at the old home of the Wilson family.

Dr. William Wilson, a graduate of the University of Glasgow, came to America after the War of the Revolution bringing letters of introduction. On the invitation of Chancellor Livingston, Dr. Wilson settled at Clermont, Columbia County, where he practised medicine many years. It is important to local history to note that Dr. Wilson held the degree of M.D. A degree in medicine was not obtainable in this country until long after the Revolution.

In 1829 Dr. Wilson's son, William H. Wilson, built the house to be visited on this pilgrimage. In height and floor-plan and in the division of the central hall into two parts the house is typical of a period.

Pilgrims will be received by Dr. Wilson's great-grandchildren, Miss Anne Hulme Wilson, Miss Jane Livingston Wilson, Mrs. William Ten Broeck Mynderse and Mr. Harold Wilson, Jr., and will visit the main rooms of the house, which hold many interesting things.

From this point pilgrims will disperse for home at individual convenience.



## THE TEN BROECK BOUWERIE\*

In *The Documentary History of the State of New York*, Volume III, is a map of Livingston Manor, made October 20, 1714, at the request of Robert Livingston. On this map is shown a "Waggon Path yt leadeth from ye Manor House to Jacob Vosboroughs, Mr. Wesels, Jon Dykman." The old "Waggon Path" follows in many places a natural ridge between sharp declines. This, I have been told, was an Indian trail that the Red Men used in going from the mouth of the creek to an island near "Mr. Wesel's" place where the Indians often held encampments, as well as on the opposite side of the stream.

The "Waggon Path" is the only road on the map, excepting "The Kings hie way yt leadeth from the Manor house to Tahkanick." The Manor house was built near the mouth of the creek but time has obliterated all signs of the house. Dirck Wessels, the Mr. Wesels of the map, who came from Broeck of course in the Netherlands, after living in this country was known as Dirck Wessels Ten Broeck. He was Recorder and twice Mayor of Albany, Major of Militia of Colonial New York and Indian Commissioner and envoy in the Colonies and Canada. He had a house in Albany and lands in Saratoga County. On October 26, 1694, Dirck Wessels Ten Broeck received a deed from Robert Livingston for two tracts of land, one of which tracts, lying on both sides of Roeliff Jansen's Kill, is the tract where this meeting is held.

There were twelve hundred acres of land in this tract. Now parts of the original bouwerie are separate farms. As was usual with the Dutch settlers, Mr. Ten Broeck built his house near the stream. The date of that house is unknown, it is certain that it was standing in 1698. This present house was built in 1762 by a grandson of Dirck Wessels Ten Broeck who bore the same name as his grandsire.

The creek, or kill, is still called by the unusual name of those days. Roeliff Jansen, the first husband of the famous Anneke Jans, was assistant Bouwermeister for the Patroon Van Rensselaer. He died in 1636. The current tradition regarding the naming of the stream is as follows: Owing to a very severe winter in those early times, Roeliff

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\*Paper read by Miss Jane Livingston Wilson, September 20, 1941, at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Charles Townsend, Clermont, N. Y., before the Dutchess County Historical Society. Acknowledgement is made by the writer of certain data obtained from *The Ten Broeck Genealogy* by Emma Ten Broeck.

Jansen's boat became fastened in the ice of the kill so securely that he was obliged to spend the winter season with the Indians and await the warm air of spring to release his boat from the ice, and ever thereafter the water of the stream bore his name.

On the banks of this kill, on a gentle rise of ground, Dirck Wessels Ten Broeck had a dwelling erected and, as the years passed on, his interest grew and centered around his home and land-holdings. His great-granddaughter, Albertina Ten Broeck, was probably the last of the family born in this house erected on the Bouwerie. She made a silhouette illustration of the place which is both curious and interesting\*

The Bouwerie of Dirck Wessels Ten Broeck with its tract of twelve hundred acres on the Roeliff Jansen's Kill became the property of his grandson of the same name, partly by inheritance and partly by purchase from the heirs of his uncle, Tobias Ten Broeck. This Dirck Wessels Ten Broeck it was who built this house.

I use the description given by Miss Reynolds in her book, *Dutch Houses in the Hudson Valley before 1776*: "It is built of brick laid in English bond and is two and one-half stories high, with a gambrel roof. A covered Dutch stoep at the front was replaced about 1865. In each gable are two circular portholes, about a foot in diameter. The north gable carries an ornamental design in the bricks, three graduated diamonds, one above the other, outlined by black headers. Across the front of the house white headers form the figures, 1762. The interior of the house consisted originally of a hall between two rooms on each floor. Panelling remains over the fireplace in the south room on the first floor; across the north wall of the north upper room; and in the south upper room; in which last is also an iron fireback, marked: 1763. In the north room on the first floor is an ornamental arch on either side of the chimney. Blue and white tiles faced the fireplace opening in the north parlor, prior to the present mottled marble."

The house stands on a slight rise of ground above the clear waters of the kill. It overlooks the quiet green meadows, or flats, that were an important part of the fertile and beautiful lands comprising the estate.

Dirck W. Ten Broeck died at his Bouwerie and was interred in the place of family burial. His grandfather and other members of that

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\*This silhouette is now owned in the family of the writer. It was on exhibition at the Wilson homestead, later, this same day.—Editor.

famous clan lie there also, a beautiful spot at the summit of the hill. Near this was the space allotted to the slaves for the burial of their dead.

On the level plateau to the north of the house and near the public highway is pointed out the site of the racecourse where the Ten Broecks and the Livingstons found their chief recreation. None had a better eye for the points of a horse and the best were sure to be found in their stalls.

Mr. Thomas Hunt, in his *Historical Sketch of the Town of Clermont*, says that this house and one other, "The Stone Jug", owned by Mrs. Robert R. Livingston, are the only Dutch houses that are still standing.

Letters we have from Dirck Wessels Ten Broeck, dated in 1732, are written in Dutch showing how much the language was used at that time.

Although the first Dirck Wessels Ten Broeck in his will, written in Dutch, requested that none of his real estate should be sold, in 1813 Samuel and his wife Emitje, growing old and wishing to have less care, exchanged with Walter T. Livingston for the smaller place of Richmond Hill, about a mile west of the Blue Store, but could not part with the post to which so many of their horses had been fastened, so took that with them to their new home.

This exchange of property almost fell through because of a dispute as to the ownership of the potash kettle. Walter Livingston contended that the kettle should stay on the place, while Samuel Ten Broeck insisted that it was not a part of the real estate and so could be moved. It needed a law suit to settle the matter and this was done in Mr. Livingston's favor and the kettle remained and still remains on the farm. In these days one may not know the importance of a potash kettle nor its use. It is an enormous iron pot, perhaps three feet in diameter, that stood on a brick foundation. A fire could be made under it and it was used to leach wood ashes for soap making and it was also useful for heating water for other purposes needful in those days.

About 1865 for some years the Bouwerie was called "Valley Farm" and was noted as one of the two best farms in Columbia County. It has been very productive. People have often spoken of the beautiful picture presented of the mowing being done by men going across the fields and swinging their scythes in unison. These meadows comprise one hundred acres.

An old man working on this place in the early sixties took pride in

the crop of potatoes raised in the field near the entrance, telling me that the potatoes were so large that the men carried them in their arms as they would sticks of wood.

Sheltered beneath the hill the garden brings forth early vegetables; spring flowers and wild strawberries abound in the meadows and it is indeed a beautiful spot that far back in the years Dirck Wessels Ten Broeck chose for his home.

JANE LIVINGSTON WILSON.

## THE HILL\*

We are privileged today to visit this one of the more beautiful and best preserved of the Livingston mansions that remain in the old manor of Livingston. Its location is indeed lovely. Located well within the boundaries of the great manor; as far as the eye reaches even in the most distant parts of this magnificent view from the hill top where this house stands, all was once a part of the manor of Livingston. The only exception is the blue mountains which bound the horizon there in the west across the Hudson River, and even a great part of those also belonged to the Livingstons, though they were not a part of the manor.

The story of this manor, and of the family of its owners, is so well known that I will only briefly outline so much of it as shows the place in it of Henry Walter Livingston, who built this house, and how he came to have this land.

Robert Livingston, the founder of the manor family, began his purchases in July 1683 when he bought 2,000 acres from the Indians. Shortly after, he bought an additional 600 acres and both purchases were confirmed by Crown patents issued by Governor Thomas Dongan. On 22 July 1686 this territory was created a manor by patent of that date. A confirmatory patent was issued in 1715 to Robert Livingston by Governor Hunter and his council under the great seal of the Province of New York.

The survey made in 1714 for this last patent showed the manor to contain 160,240 acres and to extend above twelve miles along the Hudson River from what is now Tivoli, to the southern line of Rensselaerwyck, a considerable distance above the mouth of Roelof Jansen's Kill. It grew wider as the northern and southern lines reached eastward till they came to the western boundaries of Massachusetts and Connecticut. Enormous as this estate seems to us today, it is to be remembered that it was then virgin forest and uninhabited but by the American Indians. It was little better then than a great tract in the almost inaccessible forests of northwestern Canada would be today.

Out of his manor Robert Livingston had in 1710 sold for £400 to the Province of New York 6,000 acres of the best land on the Hudson

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\*An outline by Brig. Gen. John Ross Delafield, A.M., L.L.B., D.S.M., read at a meeting of the Dutchess County Historical Society at this old mansion 20 September, 1941.

River to be used for the Palatine settlers. This land ceased to be a part of the manor. The rest of the manor remained intact until after the war of the American Revolution, when by law the manorial right came to an end.

Robert Livingston, the first lord, died 1 October 1728 leaving a will by which he entailed the manor on his oldest surviving son, Philip Livingston. He also gave his second son, Robert Livingston, 13,000 acres at the southwesterly corner of the manor, south and east of the 6,000 acres sold to the Province for the Palatines and west of Roelof Jansen's Kill. This 13,000 acres, however, remained subject to the manor paying it annual quit rents, etc., just as other purchasers of lands on the manor paid and did service for their lands.

On this 13,000 acres, called Clermont, Robert Livingston the younger, about the year 1730 built his house, which was burned and rebuilt in 1777 and still remains a beautiful example of the houses of the time. It is the first of the Livingston mansions to be built on the manor, and in so far as the walls of the old house were used for the new, it is the oldest.

Philip Livingston, the second lord, continued the careful and able management of the manor started by his father. He made long leases and sales of farms, subject to the manor rights, and as the land was gradually cleared of the forest the naturally rich virgin soil brought abundant crops. He died on 4 February 1749, and the manor passed under the entail to his oldest son Robert. It is of interest that none of his younger sons remained on the manor or built mansions there. They were able and successful. One of them, Philip, signed the Declaration of Independence. Another, William, was the celebrated war governor of New Jersey.

Robert Livingston, the third and last lord, followed as his father and grandfather had done. He had several sons of whom the oldest was Colonel Peter R. Livingston, the second Walter Livingston, the third Robert, and the fourth Henry.

In time Peter R. Livingston as oldest son would have succeeded under the entail, but Peter was not a good business man, and during his father's lifetime involved himself heavily in debt. Fearing that if the whole estate went to him Peter's creditors would in some way destroy it, the father Robert, the last lord, employed James Duane, his son in law,

to break the entail. This he did by a suit brought in 1771 (note 1).

Of his children, the oldest Colonel Peter R. Livingston, was provided for by his father by building for him the house called the "Hermitage", which the Dutchess County Historical Society visited in 1939. This house, built shortly after the year 1773, and certainly before 1784, and the 600 acres that went with it, made ample provision for the oldest son during his father's lifetime and was secured to him by a trust arrangement in the father's will.

The second son, Walter, obtained from his father in 1773 a grant of 498 acres on the east side of Roelof Jansen's Kill and there built his mansion, which he called "Teviotdale" and which this Society also visited in 1939.

John Livingston also received a grant from his father, and possibly Henry, the youngest son, also had land, but little is now known of these. Many other grants and long leases were made of the manor lands. Indeed the map of the manor made by John Wigram in January 1798 and that of Augustus Tremain made in 1840 show all but a small part to have been so disposed of. But all of these leases and grants, including those to the younger Livingstons, were made subject to the manor rights and the holders had to make their annual payments and do service to the lord of the manor.

So when Robert Livingston died in November 1790, he had the whole manor to divide free of the entail. This he did by his will made on May 31st, 1784. (Note 2). It specifically devised most of the manor west of the Post Road and then gave "all my remaining lands in the Manor of Livingston" to his four younger sons, Walter, Robert C., John and Henry. These remaining lands included the whole part of the manor easterly of the Post Road, subject as to most of it to the grants and leases made in previous years.

The four sons then divided the lands received from their father between them and in a deed dated 4 October 1792 (Note 3) provided as to the territory easterly of the Post Road as follows:

"And whereas the said Testator did by said Will devise to the said four devisees as Tenants in Common in fee simple his residuary real estate comprehending the Tract herein after distinguished as the Great Tract also parcel of the said Manor."

"And whereas the said Walter Livingston did by conveyance bearing date the fourteenth day of April last convey to the said Henry Livingston in fee all the real estate devised to him."

"And whereas the said Henry Livingston being by virtue of said conveyance entitled to what was the share of said Walter Livingston of the said devised premises, it was afterwards agreed between him and the said parties of these presents that they should abide by the said intended partition of the said Small Tract and in order to a due partition of the said Great Tract it was further agreed between them the said parties to the presents to refer it to Robert Yates, Egbert Benson and John Wigram, Referees elected by said parties, for the purpose to determine the manner in which a partition of the said Great Tract should be made and said Referees having accepted the said trust and fully considered the matter divided the said Great Tract into four lots as nearly equal in value as they could estimate."

"On balloting Lot Number One fell to what was the share of said Walter Livingston" (conveyed to Henry as above).

Lot 2 to Robert C.

Lot 3 to Henry

Lot 4 to John."

For some reason, not now known, Walter Livingston had, by deed dated 14 April 1792, conveyed to his youngest brother Henry all his undivided one-quarter interest in the lands under the will of his father, but reserving the dower of his wife Cornelia. This was for an expressed consideration of £24,900, which Henry could not have paid, for letters from Henry Livingston of about this date show that he was in constant need of cash. As we might say he was land poor.

In any event about three and a half years later by deed dated 10 December 1795 Henry Livingston conveyed the same land to Henry Walter Livingston, oldest son of Walter Livingston, for \$24,900, the same sum named in the first deed. It is clear that this money was not actually paid, for Henry Livingston as his letters show continued as impecunious as before. (Note 4). However this may have been, Henry Walter Livingston in 1795 thus received his father's share left him by Robert Livingston, the last lord of the manor. He did not, however, record the deed until 6 November, 1797 after his father's death, which occurred 14 May 1797.

Henry Walter Livingston did not immediately build this house, which is at the westerly end of Great Lot No. 1 in the division of 1792. As shown by the map made by John Wigram and dated in January 1798 he was then living at the Hermitage. However, he was no longer living at the Hermitage on June 13th, 1799 when his younger brother, Schuyler Livingston, who had apparently bought it from the children and widow of Peter R. Livingston, was advertising that property for sale. It may, therefore, be fairly assumed that "The Hill" was built about the years 1798-1799. The detail of ornament and arrangement, and

shapes of the rooms in the house suggest that it was designed by a European architect. Indeed there is a tradition that it was planned by an Italian architect whom Henry Walter Livingston had met while he was abroad.

Henry Walter Livingston, the oldest son of the Honorable Walter Livingston, was born in 1768 and graduated at Yale in 1786 and became a lawyer in New York. In 1792 he was appointed private secretary to Gouverneur Morris, the Minister Plenipotentiary to France, and accompanied him to Europe, returning with him in 1794. After his return Morris wrote a letter commending him to General Washington, then the President of the United States, which contained the statement "You will find Mr. Livingston is to be trusted, for, although at a tender age, his discretion may always be depended on. He is modest, polite, sensible, and brave, and will, I feel sure, should he want to continue in the diplomatic line, become an honor to it". He served for some years as judge of the Court of Common Pleas of Columbia County, and was twice elected to Congress, holding office from 17 October 1803 to 3 March 1807. He died while abroad on 22 December 1810, and his remains were sent to this country in a solid lead coffin. To receive them his widow built a brick vault in the side of the hill north of the mansion dated on a white marble slab 1813. In it were also buried his widow and one of his children. Because of the tradition that she was buried with her jewelry, the vault was broken open some years ago and the coffin smashed and bones scattered. Much of the old lead coffin and parts of the others still remain.

Henry Walter Livingston married in 1796 Mary Masters Allen, daughter of James Allen of Allentown and Philadelphia. (Note 5). They had seven children of whom three were sons, the oldest being also named Henry Walter Livingston. (Note 6). By his will dated 21 September 1808 he left his property to his children and, subject to a life estate in Great Lot No. 1 in his widow, his oldest son was to have The Hill and 271 acres between the Post Road and a line drawn due south from "Manor Rock". (Note 7).

This son born 21 January 1798, probably while his parents were living at the Hermitage, married in New York City on 20 February 1823, Caroline de Grasse de Pau, daughter of Francis de Pau and granddaughter of the celebrated Admiral Count Francois Joseph Paul

de Grasse-Tilly. They had ten children (Note 8), of whom the oldest son born in this house on 25 January 1824 did not receive The Hill because his father by his will left his estate to his brother in law, Samuel M. Fox (Note 9), and to Josiah Sutherland in trust to sell to pay debts and to convey the rest to all his children as tenants in common, thus making a sale necessary for division.

This will dated 22 October 1847 (Note 10) went into effect in 1848, when the second Henry Walter Livingston died. But as his mother, Mary, the widow of the first Henry Walter Livingston, was still alive and had her life estate in the property, the partition and sale did not occur until after her death, which occurred on 11 December 1855. (Note 11)..

This remarkable woman by her personality and activities made this house famous, and the memory of her still lingers in the neighborhood. She was generally called Lady Mary and sometimes the Widow Mary. Her business ability in managing her great landed estate and its many tenants is well shown in her diary or journal preserved for the years from 1 December 1811, about a year after her husband's death, to 15 April 1820. It begins with the following words:

"A Twelve month has nearly elapsed since that dreadful event which deprived me of my Friend, my Protector, my Guide—which left me for the first time in my life to my own direction, & which presented unto my own view as a Child unable from weakness to go alone, yet a . . . in a wide world, without one supporting hand, without one consoling voice—With a heart filled with anguish, a mind enfeebled by distress, & health impaired, I found myself called upon to fulfil not only the duties of a Mother & a Mistress, but to regulate the Concerns of a large Estate, which at that unfortunate moment, was involved in difficulty by the cabals & discontents of the tenants. Surely at that dreadful Crisis Heaven heard my prayer. It permits my adored Husband to watch over, and direct me; & will reward my endeavours to act with propriety and virtue—

Several circumstances have prevented my employing an Agent, in the management of my affairs yet I am totally unacquainted with Business and can only gain a knowledge of it at the expense of some mistakes in the Beginning. I therefore purpose to keep memorandums of every circumstance worth recollecting as a review of my errors may preserve me from them in future, & as they will assist to remind me of many things which might otherwise be forgotten."

This was a time of real trouble with the tenants and the circumstances are well and briefly told by Mrs. Livingston in an entry of December 1811.

"After the commencement of this year a spirit of disaffection prevailed among the tenants, which was caused in a great degree by one .

He had been on a former similar occasion extremely violent, but after the tenants, who called themselves proprietors, had been defeated in the Legislature, the Court of Errors & various suits in which the title of the Manor had been fully proved, he compromised with Gen. Livingston (Note 12) who gave him a farm for 14 years, free of rent—This period has expired & Mr. no doubt hoped, by producing the same disturbances, to reap a similar reward. He was aided by some discontented persons, & their plan received the support of many, who had strong political considerations in view. Mr. Emmet of New York, & Van Beuren of Hudson, were employed as their Counsel at great expense; they petitioned the Legislature to enquire into the Title of the Manor, which they pledged themselves to prove defective. The matter was referred to the consideration of the Attorney & Surveyor General, whose report was decidedly against the tenants, & the Legislature adopted it without one dissenting vote. Here then it was supposed the business would rest, but the following Summer pretended to discover they had been wrong in contesting the title of the whole Manor, that a gore only of 17,000 acres was wrongfully included in it. This he ascertained by actual survey, & the tenants now propose to present a new petition to the Legislature concerning this Gore, which lies principally in Lot No. One. They have also entered into a written agreement to withhold their rents & to defray by subscription the costs of all suits which may be instituted against them. A few who were leading persons last year, have now prudently withdrawn from all opposition, Mr. Avery, Friend Shelden, John I. Best, &c. &c.”

And on 20 March 1812 the following :

“Received information this day from Judge Van Ness that the affair respecting the gore is at an end. The beginning of this Winter the tenants presented a memorial, to the Governor, stating that there was a gore of land, lying in Claverack & the Manor, to which the title was defective. They petitioned him to enquire into it, & to prosecute for it on the part of the State. Emmet the Irish renegade, & Van Beuren a Hudson Democrat, were their Counsel. Governor Tomkins examined their Maps & Surveys, received bonds to the amount of \$2,000. from the tenants to defray the costs of prosecution, & promised to order the Attorney General to issue it immediately. In the meantime he was prevailed on to hear our Counsel, who shewed him the true Maps, Surveys, &c., which convinced him of his error. He acknowledged that he was in a scrape, prevaricated, kept up the hopes of the tenants, talked of referring it to the Legislature, & ended by submitting it to Mr. Hildrith, the Attorney General. This gentleman who last winter gave a decision in our favor, now unequivocally promises it again.

have returned home, mortified & disappointed; & the tenants will probably return to their duty, pay their rents which they have withheld, & remain quiet for many years to come.—My own opinion, in unison with that of Judge Van Ness, points out some rigour, & much firmness in my conduct towards the ringleaders of this business—it has produced much confusion, irritation, & law suits; expense & anxiety on our part, a loss of time, money & trouble to the tenants.”

And on 1 April 1812

“The Governor has broke his promise of referring the business of the Gore to the Attorney General—who has returned home, & the Legislature by a violent act of Tomkins is prorogued. Our affairs thus remain unsettled, which will keep alive the hopes of the tenants till the election is over & induce them to vote

for their friends the Democrats—They have renewed their meetings, bound themselves by Oath to withhold their rents, to resist the Sheriff, & to assert their rights with powder & Ball—They threaten violently & the terms 'Murder & Bloodshed' are frequently made use of among them."

And in May

"The tenants have published a violent advertisement, accusing the Owners of the Manor of fraud, falsehood, treachery & every crime which can be mentioned. It is signed by their Committee & two others—I have therefore requested Mr. Bay to bring ejectments against the above mentioned persons together with for rent due the 1st of this month."

This culminated in June 1812 as shown by the following entries:

"A villanous plot has lately been discovered, as was formed principally by to burn several houses & to kill Mr. J. S. Livingston. These three men are the ringleaders, in this lot, in the commotion which exists; they engaged to pay largely one if he would destroy by fire Gen.l Livingston's Works at Ancram & my house and Barns, &c. &c.—Van Gelder employed Kline to assist him, who apparently acquiesced in the plan, but gave nothing of it to the parties concerned, when the proper legal measures were pursued to prevent it. is lodged in jail. Very soon after this viz on the 3d of July, my house was discovered to be on fire at the roof—It raged with violence, & I had every article of value removed from it, supposing it would be consumed, but after three hours the flames were subdued, & I am now engaged in repairing the damages. The general idea is, that the House was set fire to, intentionally; this I doubt, but there are so many reasons for & against it, that it is impossible to ascertain the matter—(Note 13).

About this time the Sheriff having served some legal process, was returning, when he was shot at by a person concealed, the contents of whose gun entered the thigh of a Mr. Truesdale, who was in the waggon; he was in consequence long in danger of death, though at length he recovered—He swore confidently that he had seen the person who discharged the gun & that was the man, but as it could not be fully proved at Court he escaped punishment on that score, though if he did not fire the gun there is little doubt of his having caused it be done & probably he was present at the moment. He has since been confined in jail for a month with & they have all given large sureties for their good behaviour, in consequence of their plot to harm &c. &c. As the intention would merely be proved, the punishment was of course slight—

It is tedious to relate all the enormities of which these wicked people are guilty. In consequence of their resistance to the execution of justice in St. Steven's lot a posse was ordered out to enforce it. The Sheriff with a band of soldiers & many of the gentlemen & farmers of the County sallied out, & were threatened with violent opposition, they pretended to have two peices of Cannon prepared, & ox chains cut into bullets. They prudently however withdrew from a force of 2 or 300 persons & the house was torn down."

However the matter was brought up again the next year as appears from the following dated January 1813.

"Sent Gen.l Livingston \$100. towards my proportion of the expenses incurred by his going to & from Albany & prosecuting the business relative to the title

of the Manor. Besides this I am at the expense of seeing lawyers & carrying on all the affairs of this lot. I have given Mr. Van Schaak \$25. as a fee & I presented to Truesdale who was shot \$20. besides which I believe Gen.l Livingston considers me responsible for a fourth part viz. \$100. which he gave to Truesdale.

"The Supreme Court has confirmed the judgments which the Circuit Court passed in my favor, without a moment's hesitation. I have therefore desired Mr. Bay immediately to dispossess the persons ag.st whom they were obtained.

"February—The Governor, Tomkins, has acceded to the request of the tenants & has ordered Emmet, the Attorney General, to prosecute me in order to investigate the title of the Gore. Fred.k Van Tassel & Cornelius Williams have been ejected by his order from their farms & I of course have prepared to defend their title. Tomkins has disgraced himself in the eyes of all reasonable men, by this measure, which was dictated by the meanest political views. He will probably attain the votes of the tenants at the ensuing election for Governor; their hopes of defeating our title are reanimated, they already fancy the Gore the property of the State, & expect to buy this farm for a mere trifle—they are therefore confirmed in the resolution to withhold their rent, & to expend all they are worth in the prosecution of this Business—

"The claim of a Gore they declare to be only a preparatory step to the acquirement of the whole Manor—I find myself called upon to bear with fortitude the vexations, expense & various evils growing out of this Prosecution, & to exert all my energy to meet with firmness, these rapacious demands, & their insulting triumph; fortunately I am not deficient in either—but if it were merely a Contest for Wealth I believe I should yield the Victory—I am not ambitious of great riches—nor do I ever wish to be conspicuous for fortune. Even for my Children I am not greatly solicitous for Wealth; if they have talents they can make a fortune, & if they have not, industry will always procure for them a competence. My own estate will educate them genteely & enable me to support with comfort my numerous family. It would not permit me to figure in an expensive style, but it would afford an excuse for living in the only way now agreeable to me, that is in retirement—Splendour I never wished for—Now my only desire is to pass quietly along the road of life & when I have performed the duties of my station to bid adieu to it with calm composure. I have been formed with a heart tremblingly alive to the impressions of pleasure & pain—the first I have known in an exquisite degree! but it has been followed by such suffering, such anguish! May you never my beloved children be able to conceive what has been your Mother's Sensations. But I have unconsciously strayed from my subject, I must hasten back to it, before I become bewildered in recollections, which would be misplaced in a mere page of Memorandums."

The conclusion of this matter she entered in October 1813 in these words:

"Wednesday 6, 1813. On this day our Trial commenced after every artifice had been used to procure farther delays. A Great Concourse of gentlemen & tenants crowded the Court House. My Son Henry attended & took his seat within the Bar; the best talents of the State were employed, & no pains or expense spared. The following extract is from a letter or rather Journal of the proceedings of the Court dispatched to me by an express. By Judge Van Ness—Hudson—9 o'clock A. M. The persons who instigated the vile prosecution against the Manor title, finding it was no longer possible to procrastinate the trial, after exhausting every possible means to produce that effect which artifice & villainy could suggest, & finding that the Attorney General Mr. Van

Vechten, was determined to do his duty & try the cause, slunk out of Court with Mat. Van Beuren at their head.

9 o c. A. M. "The jury called & the cause opened on the part of the people by the Attorney General—Mr. Williams then opened the Defence in an impressive & masterly speech.

10 o c. "The patents & Documents read—

"Mr. Emmett takes the lead in reading the papers, & examining witnesses, four or five of whom are 90 years old—The North line now under Consideration; it seems to walk ahead in the Court House visibly, so strong is the light shed upon it by our testimony—

1 o c. "The testimony draws to a close & the Chief Justice by his looks & expressions exhibits the strongest indignation at the injustice & oppression of this most unprincipled prosecution—the Bystanders also betray marked symptoms of dissatisfaction with those who have been the ringleaders in this impious enterprise—the moment of virtuous exultation is fast approaching!—Glory to God!

2 o c. "The Chief Justice, the testimony being closed, told the Jury that if ever any man after this exhibition of our proofs disputed the Manor title, he should consider him a rebel against his Country & its Government and directed the Jury to find a verdict for us, which they did, without leaving the Bar.—*Finis coronat opus*"—

It is probable that the widow Mary made many improvements in the house;—the marble mantles and some of the cornices, the entrance hall and the wide stairs are all of a date later than its building. As to the furniture and furnishings little is now known. Some of the portraits and pictures she mentioned in her will, and it is said she had made and long used in the great hall a beautiful carpet with the Livingston arms in the center.

That she was generous and kind to her relatives and neighbors her memorandum book shows. To this may be added that when her sister in law, Harriet, the widow of Robert Fulton and wife of Charles Dale, overcome by financial misfortune, went to England the Fulton children were taken from Teviotdale to The Hill and cared for by Lady Mary who continued to look after them when their mother soon after died.

The nature and scale of her hospitality are well illustrated by the following:

"Here Henry Walter Livingston and his wife, Mary, whose maiden name was Allen, a granddaughter of Chief Justice Allen of Pennsylvania, and known in the New York society of her day as 'Lady Mary' from her charming manners, entertained their friends and visitors in quite a regal manner, as his widow continued to do after Henry Walter's death. Among foreign visitors of distinction, who at various times were welcomed under their hospitable roof, were Louis Philippe, afterwards King of France, Joseph Bonaparte, ex-king of Spain, and the Marquis Lafayette. In connection with the visit of the ex-king of Spain, the late Bishop Kip relates the following anecdote in his *New York Society in the Olden Time*:

'Thither came Joseph Bonaparte, the ex-king of Spain, who remained several days with a suite of forty persons. At the moment of his departure, when all the equipages were drawn up at the grand entrance, and Mrs. Livingston was making her adieux on the marble piazza, the princess, his daughter, called for her drawing materials. It was supposed that she wished to sketch the view, which extends for sixty miles around. But those who looked over her page discovered that it was the chatelaine she was sketching.'

'Like Louis Philippe, the ex-king of Spain never forgot his hospitable entertainers in a foreign land; and to quote Bishop Kip again:

'How vivid were Joseph Bonaparte's recollections of this visit may be drawn from the fact that when, years afterwards, he was dying in Florence, hearing that a lady of this family was in the City, he sent for her to his bedside. He talked to her about her mother, and ended with the remark: 'Your mother should have been a queen!' (Note 14). (*The Livingstons of Livingston Manor*, pgs. 487, 488).

Following her death and as a result of a partition action brought by her grandson Henry Walter Livingston (Note 15), the Hill was sold by deed date 28 May 1857 to Jacob R. LeRoy, of New York City, for \$45,000. (Note 16).

Jacob R. LeRoy did not hold the property long and by deed from himself, as then being a resident of Columbia County, dated 15 March 1862 (Note 17) he sold it for \$50,000 to Samuel M. Fox of Westchester, the son of the Samuel M. Fox, brother in law and trustee under the will of the second Henry Walter Livingston. In 1852 Samuel M. Fox, the younger, had married, Marie, one of the daughters of this Henry Walter Livingston.

He in turn sold The Hill to William Bell of the village of Yonkers for \$80,000 by deed dated 2 October 1865 (Note 18). It was in the time of William Bell that the newspaper pictures were used to paper the walls of the room now the dining room.

From William Bell the property passed at auction in foreclosure of a mortgage on 1 July 1882 to his brother James C. Bell, a banker with a prosperous business in Yonkers. He was a son of Abram Bell a ship-owner and merchant of New York City. James C. Bell died in 1902. He married Harriet daughter of Philip E. Thomas of Baltimore, first president of the Baltimore and Ohio Railroad. They had a number of children and after his death his sons John and Philip and daughter Elizabeth lived at The Hill until 1929 when Edward A. Fitch and Mary his wife bought out the other interests in the property and became the sole owners. Mrs. Fitch is the daughter of Jacob Harvey Bell, another son of James C. Bell who died before his father, and of his wife Lilly Cock of Flushing, New York.

An excellent description of the house and grounds was written in 1925 by Mr. S. Hedding Fitch, an uncle of our host. This I venture to quote in part:

"The house is situated on an eminence overlooking the valley of the Hudson for sixty miles, although the river itself is not visible. It is on the easterly side of the Post Road—about a half mile distant—in the Township of Livingston, and some six miles south of the City of Hudson. It faces the Southwest, commanding a magnificent view of the Catskill range fifteen miles distant and over the country southwest to the Highlands. The ridge on which the house stands is well wooded except in front of the mansion, and to the northwest it is much in the nature of a park, containing many magnificent trees, mostly oak and pine. Some of the trees are of immense size and great age and were probably in existence when the Manor was founded over 200 years ago. The easterly side of the ridge is much more densely wooded with bridle-paths and trails winding through it. East of the ridge is a lovely valley of meadow and pasture through which the Claverack Creek meanders on its way to the Hudson which it joins at Stockport, ten miles distant. The house, gardens and graperies are on the south, while various outbuildings are on the north, partially concealed by trees. The enormous barn, with stables attached, is an amazing structure, with accommodations for many horses and numberless tons of hay, and it gives one a fair idea of the large scale on which the estate was run in the olden days. In front of the house the surface of the ridge slopes gradually down to a beautiful artificial lake around the margin of which grow myriads of pond lilies, white and yellow, and other native aquatic plants. Throughout the park and woods, wild flowers of many varieties abound, often carpeting the ground with white and pink coverlets.

"The house is approached by two long driveways: One leads from a side road and winds through the park to the main entrance of the house which is in the rear, while the other comes in from the Post Road and passes through a grove and fields to the mansion. The real front of the house, facing the river, has now no main entrance as the driveways do not encircle the building but a walled terrace stretches across the entire front. From this terrace and from the portico of the mansion, a superb view is spread out. South, west and north, the landscape extends over a vast area of woods, hills and farms, with the splendid Catskills dominating over all.

"The house is of stone and brick, stuccoed, and is so solid and substantial that although it has stood for over a century and a quarter, it has entirely escaped the ravages of time. On the front are four great columns, or, pillars, extending from the ground to the roof, which give something of a Colonial effect.

"There are but two stories between the ground and the attic but each is of great height (14 feet), and equals double the number as found in our modern apartment houses. On the sides of the main building, the walls are partly bowed and rounded to admit of two circular rooms—the state dining room and the drawing room. On the rear are two extensive wings containing the family dining room and the library which are large and commodious. The vestibule opens into the reception room and the grandeur and stateliness of the interior are at once seen. The lofty ceilings, large high windows and carved woodwork give the impression of a baronial hall which is heightened as we pass into the central hall, grand and spacious, with its broad arches and marble columns and the magnificent staircase, superb and massive. The state dining room and drawing room are of great size and the rounded walls add to the architectural effect.

"The basement is extensive and rambling with its kitchens, housekeeping apartment, servants' dining room, wine cellars and other divisions; not least noteworthy of which are the dungeons, dark as midnight, in which refractory slaves and evil doers were occasionally confined for their misdeeds, according to tradition."

The great landscape gardener of the day of Lady Mary Livingston was Andrew Jackson Downing. He wrote of The Hill:

"The mansion stands in the midst of a fine park, rising gradually from the level of a rich inland country, and commanding prospects for sixty miles around. The park is perhaps the most remarkable in America, for the noble simplicity of its character, and the perfect order in which it is kept. The turf is, everywhere, short and velvet-like, the gravel roads scrupulously firm and smooth, and near the house are the largest and most superb evergreens. The mansion is one of the chastest specimens of the Grecian style and there is an air of great dignity about the whole demesne." (*Landscape Gardening* by A. J. Downing, 4th Edition (1852) page 46.)

## JOHN ROSS DELAFIELD.

### NOTES

Note 1: The case is known as Richard Downs vs. Samuel Still and was heard at the October term of the Supreme Court in 1771.

Note 2: Columbia County Clerk's Office. Book 25, page 41.

Note 3: Columbia County Clerk's Office, Deed Book A, page 134.

Note 4:

Ancram House Oct. 16, 1798

Dear Sir:

Your favor of the 14<sup>th</sup> In<sup>st</sup> was delivered me last night. To save me from perdition I have not the money to pay you. My resources in this country are taken up with my Manor lawsuits. I shall have a draft on Mr. Wollcot, the Sect. of Treasury, in Novb. for money out of which I will pay my Debts,—as to my Manor income, it is so inconsiderable that I don't think of it to support me in this back part of the country—much more to pay Debts—I hope you will excuse me, it is not done with intention. My situation is such that I cannot command money from any property I have but Iron, and I am supplying the Foundry in Salisbury as fast as I can, from whom I can expect considerable sums in Novb.—if I had 200\$ I would send them to you for I know you must be cut off from your resources in New York. Don't blame me for all my exertions shall be used. I have not recd. as yet from my Honbl. Father's personal Estate as yet £500—and I have considerable sums due me.

I beg my best respects to your good Lady, and the family at Clermont.

I am with sentiments of true

Esteem Your He Svt

Henry Livingston.

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Letter addressed to Hon. Edward Livingston, at Clermont, Columbia County, New York.

Note 5: As other members of this Allen family made their homes in this part of the Hudson Valley it seems appropriate to give a short account of them.

WILLIAM ALLEN born in Dungannon, Co. Tyrone, Ireland, and died in Philadelphia in 1725. He became a successful merchant in Philadelphia; and there married Mary, daughter of Thomas and Susanne Budd. They had

children: John, James, William, of whom below; Thomas, who removed to New York, married and left issue.

WILLIAM ALLEN, the third son, was born in Philadelphia 5 August 1704 and trained for the law succeeding William Hamilton in his law practice. He obtained a grant of 5,000 acres in Lehigh County, Pennsylvania, and there laid out a town called Allentown. He became Chief Justice of the Court of Pennsylvania in 1750 and resigned in 1774 when, being a loyalist, he went to England. There he wrote and published "The American Crisis" in which he proposed a plan for bringing the colonies back to allegiance to England. He married ( ? ), and they had children:

Andrew, born in 1740. He became the Attorney General of Pennsylvania in 1766. When the British took New York he joined them and took an oath of allegiance to the Crown. He went to England, as his father had done, and was later there granted a pension.

William, at first joined the American Army and was commissioned Captain in the First Pennsylvania Battalion 27 October 1775, and Lieutenant Colonel of Second Pennsylvania Regiment on 4 January 1776. He, however, resigned this commission on 24 July following and joined the British forces.

John, who died in 1776 and had married Mary, one of the daughters of John Johnstone, son of David Johnstone of Lithgow in Dutchess County, New York. After his death and in 1801 Mary Allen, the widow, purchased the property just north of Montgomery Place and called it Annandale after an ancestral estate of the Johnstones in Scotland. She and her son John lived there for nine years. Another son of John and Mary named William, born in 1776, died in 1850, built in 1814 and occupied for about nine years a beautiful house on the point at the mouth of the Fish Kill.

James, born in 1742, graduated College of Philadelphia in 1759, studied at the Temple in London, built Trout Hall in Allentown, Pennsylvania, in 1770. He died in Philadelphia 19 September 1778. Married Elizabeth, only child of John Lawrence and Elizabeth Francis, his wife, on 10 March 1768. They had four children.

Anne Penn, who married James Greenleaf.

Mary Elizabeth, who married William Tilghman.

Mary Masters, who married Henry Walter Livingston.

James, who died in 1788 at the age of ten years.

Note 6: The will of the first Henry Walter Livingston seems of sufficient interest to justify the following abstract:

Will of Henry W. Livingston

Dated Sept. 21, 1808. Registered Jan. 4, 1811.

I give to my wife Mary Livingston all household furniture, books, plate, horses, carriages and stock also for the term of her natural life "all that part of my estate known and distinguished as Great Lot No. 1 of a certain division of the manor of Livingston" &c. appurtenants &c. and all rents due or in arrears at the time of my death.

"In consideration whereof it is my will that my said wife Mary shall clothe, maintain and educate in a manner suitable to their station in Society our dear children hereinafter named and also that she shall pay or cause to be paid yearly unto my dear mother Cornelia Livingston and my sister Louisa Livingston the sums of money which I have stipulated to pay them annually during the term of their natural lives.

At and immediately after the decease of my beloved Wife Mary Livingston I do give, devise and bequeath unto my eldest Son Henry and to his heirs and assigns

"All that part or portion of said Great Lot. No. one beginning at the Southwest corner thereof at a Stone marked W L & R C L standing by an oak

tree near the barn of John Van Deuzen in the Village of Johnstown on the North side of the Ancram turnpike road thence northerly along the Post road leading from New York to Albany as the same ran in the year one thousand seven hundred and eighty four to a place near the house of William Mellius where the north boundary line of the said manor of Livingston crosses the aforesaid post road thence easterly along said north boundary line to a heap of stones being one chain and eighty links north of a rock called Manor Rock near the house of James Bashford, thence due South to the South boundary line of said Great Lot No. one, thence along said last mentioned line to the place of beginning" x x to have and to hold &c.

Also unto my eldest son Henry tract "on which Andrew Weeks lives on the north bank of Copake lake including the large island" &c. &c.

Note 7: According to the map made by Augustus Tremain dated 1840 (map 11 Columbia County Clerk's Office) this was designated as Lot No. 1 extending from the Albany Post Road east to the Claverack Creek and from the northern line of the Manor south to the road south of the Pond leading to the Mill, containing according to the map 271.0.14 acres.

Note 8: As there were three generations of this family all of the same name associated with this house, a bare outline of each and their children is here given.

HENRY WALTER LIVINGSTON was born in 1788 died 1810. He resided at The Hill, Livingston, Columbia County. He married Mary Allen, who died 11 December 1856, daughter of James Allen of Allentown, Pennsylvania. Children:

Ann, married Anson Livingston, son of Hy. Brockholst Livingston.

Mary, married James Thomson, died 14 April 1880 in Paris.

Cornelia, married Carroll, son of Hy. Brockholst Livingston.

Walter born 26 January 1799, married Mary Greenleaf and lived in Philadelphia.

James Allen born 5 January, 1801, died unmarried.

Elizabeth, married William D. Henderson.

Henry Walter, see next following.

HENRY WALTER LIVINGSTON, son of Henry Walter Livingston, born at Manor of Livingston, 21 January 1798, died 18 February, 1848. Married in New York City, 20 February 1823, Caroline de Grasse de Pau, daughter of Francis de Pau, and granddaughter of Admiral Count de Grasse. Children:

Henry Walter, of whom below.

Silvie Mathilde, born 12 Feb. 1827, died 31 December 1873, married New York, 28 Oct. 1851. Johnston Livingston.

Francis de Pau, born 14 May 1828, died 3 May 1829.

Walter Louis, born 21 Dec. 1830, married June 1857, died 23 February 1839.

Marie Adelaide, born 20 Jan. 1832, died 7 March 1853, married in 1852

Samuel M. Fox and had issue Stephenie Jacqueline Fox, born 31 May 1853, and married 27 September 1876, Henry Beekman Livingston.

De Grasse, born Sept. 1833, died 15 Oct. 1895. He did not marry.

Robert L., born 12 November 1834, married 25 Nov. 1865, died 25 Feb. 1877, of whom hereafter.

Stephanie Caroline, born 23 Nov. 1835, married 30 April 1850 Adolphe Finot, died 10 Feb. 1856.

Louis Philippe de Montebello, born 28 July, 1837, died at Stuttgart, Germany, 8 April, 1881. Served as a subject of the King of Wurttemberg in the Franco-Prussian War. He did not marry.

Carl Francis, born 6 May 1816, died 9 January 1847.

HENRY WALTER LIVINGSTON, son of Henry Walter Livingston and Caroline de Grasse de Pau, born at The Hill, Livingston, 25 Jan. 1824, died at Livingston 18 Feb. 1888. Married Angelica Urquhart, daughter of David Urquhart of

New Orleans, and after her death Mary McRa, the widow of his younger brother Robert L. Livingston. Children by his first marriage.

Mary Allen, born 5 Jan. 1851, died in Paris 1881, married Albert Farley Heard in 1868.

Henry Walter, born 1 Jan. 1852, died 1887, married in 1880 Caroline Dearborn, and had issue Henry Walter and two daughters.

Bayard Urquhart, born at Livingston 24 Feb. 1858, married 9 Oct. 1879 Margaret Livingston Morris, and left issue.

ROBERT L. LIVINGSTON, the younger son, was born at The Hill, Livingston, 12 November 1834. On 25 November 1865, he married Mary, daughter of McRa of . They established themselves in a house on the westerly side of the Albany Post Road at Livingston now occupied by the Potts Memorial Hospital. He died 25 February 1877. His widow later married her brother-in-law, the widower Henry Walter Livingston, who came to live in the house at Livingston, and died there in 1888.

Robert L. and Mary his wife had issue:

Duncan McRa Livingston married Margaret L. Clarkson, no issue.

Jacqueline Livingston. Did not marry.

Robert L. Livingston, married Marie J. Sheedy, and left issue.

Allen, a cripple, died young, unmarried.

Mary, died young.

Note 9. Samuel M. Fox had married Eliza de Pau, one of the sisters of Mrs. Henry Walter Livingston 2nd. Their son, also named Samuel M. Fox, married Marie Adelaide Livingston, his first cousin, and a daughter of this Henry Walter Livingston.

Note 10. This will is briefly abstracted.

#### WILL

Henry W. Livingston

Dated Oct. 22, 1847

Probated Apr. 26, 1848.

To my wife Caroline de Pau Livingston

All household furniture &c.

All Horses &c and

My Library.

The residue both real and personal to my brother-in-law Samuel M. Fox and Josiah Sutherland of Hudson, Atty. at law. In Trust with power to sell and apply to the payment and discharge of all my debts and liabilities.

After said discharge said Trustees to convey to my (descendants per stirpes) as tenants in common. (quotes deed to Fox).

"It is my desire the house and small lot of ground now occupied by John Holley be conveyed to my beloved daughter Sylvia at a fair valuation as part of her share and the cottage &c. now in possession of William D. Henderson to my daughter Mary. Both of said lots being situate adjoining or near farm in possession of my Mother Mary Livingston."

Note 11. An abstract of her will gives some suggestion of the furnishings of The Hill at the time of her death.

"Will of Mary Livingston. Dated Nov. 30, 1852. Probated Feb. 18, 1856; Recorded Will Book L. 1 page 686.

Offered for probate by 'Walter C. Livingston one of the Executors' — 'Henry W. Livingston also appeared.'

Whereas I have provided for my daughters by the settlement of a portion of my real estate upon them in and by a deed of trust to Anson Livingston, etc. I hereby dispose of all of the residue, etc., as follows:

First I give and devise to my dear son Walter C. Livingston of the City of Philadelphia, etc., farm lands known as the Weeks Farm marked on the map of

Great Lot No. 1 as Farm 56 together with its wood lot xxx 122 acres and 2 rods and its wood lot 2+ acres 'together with all the real estate I may die possessed of in the Manor of Livingston' with rents, etc., in trust for his wife during her life time and after her death to him in trust for her heirs per stirpes. With power to sell etc.

I give and bequeath to my dear children all my silver and plate to be equally divided among them.

I give and devise all the stores and provisions that may be in my dwelling house at the time of my death and all the horses, carriages, harness, farming implements, cattle, hay and grain in the ground together with all the household furniture except as hereinafter mentioned to the heirs of my dear deceased son Henry W. Livingston reserving however any particular articles which my beforementioned children may be inclined to select for his or their use including books and particularly all such pieces of furniture for the use of my daughter Elizabeth Henderson as she may choose to possess and also all the following items which I hereby devise as follows, viz:

To my son Walter C. Livingston the portraits of my husband, father and grandfather painted by West and presented to them by him as token of gratitude for favors received from them. To my son's wife Mary the portrait of her mother painted by Stewart.

To my daughter Mary Thomson two portraits of her husband and a painting of her family group executed in Italy also a bust in marble of herself and one other marble bust supposed to be of Seneca.

To my daughter Elizabeth Henderson two Italian paintings of a Madonna and a sybil and five framed engravings of the Cartoons of Raphael and one of 'Dianna and her nymphs' with a large portfolio of drawings and engravings.

To my daughter Cornelia an engraving of the head of Moses with its opposite pendant and that of Apollo and the large volume containing a copy of 'The Florence Gallery' and a portrait of herself by

To my daughter Ann a portrait in oil of the late Chancellor Livingston which was executed in Paris by the order and at the expense of the Emperor Napoleon and two paintings in oil of an artist's studeo.

Note 12. General Livingston was Henry Livingston, youngest son of Robert Livingston, the last lord of the Manor.

Note 13. The last entry as to this matter is dated June 1815 and reads as follows:

and his wife gave their testimony in the presence of General Livingston and Judge Tremain as to the Burning of our house on the 3rd July 1812. It was set on fire by \_\_\_\_\_ and others who made use of some chemical preparation. He asserted that it must inevitably be consumed as he had placed the materials on three parts of the roof and while they were extinguishing one fire, another would still burst forth. Before this could be proved at Court, the Statute of Limitation interfered by which means these wicked persons were preserved from Death. At this I rejoice for though their plan was to guard the doors, and consume my Children and myself, had they been hung I should have been much shocked.

Note 14. Joseph Bonaparte visited the United States in 1815. He died in Florence, Italy, on 28 July 1844.

Note 15. The parties to the partition mentioned in the deed make it interesting enough to note a brief abstract:

"xxx Sheweth to this Court:

"The plaintiff is one of the sons of Henry W. Livingston late of the said town of Livingston now deceased and who departed this life on the eighteenth day of February one thousand eight hundred and forty-eight. That the above named defendants Silvie M. Livingston wife of Johnston Livingston, Walter, L.

Livingston, DeGrasse Livingston, Robert L. Livingston, Stephanie Finot wife of Adolph Finot and Louis Philip de Montebello Livingston are also children of Henry W. Livingston. That the defendant Stephanie Fox is the granddaughter of said Henry W. Livingston deceased and the only child of Marie Livingston a daughter of said Henry W. Livingston, who intermarried with one Samuel M. Fox, and is now recently deceased; that the above named persons are all the children and heirs at law of the said Henry W. Livingston deceased, and the above named Caroline de Pau Livingston is the widow of said Henry W. Livingston deceased."

Plaintiff Henry W.

Silvie M

Johnston

Reside in the Town of Livingston.

Walter L. Livingston

Stephanie Fox

Degrass Livingston

Robert L. Livingston

Reside in the City of New York.

Stephanie Finot

Adolphe Finot

Reside in the Kingdom of France.

Caroline de Pau Livingston

Louis Philip de Montebello Livingston

Reside at Stutgard in the Princi-

pality of Wurtemburgh.

All of full age except

Robert L. Livingston who will be 21 Nov. next (1855). Stephanie wife of Adolph Finot aged 19 years. Louis Philip de Montebello Livingston aged 18 years. Grandchild Stephanie Fox aged about 3 years.

"that Henry W. Livingston the father of your petitioner on the 15th day of September 1847 was owner of and seized in fee of Lot No. 2 in the subdivision of Great Lot No. 3 of the Manor of Livingston and of the Western Part of Great Lot No. 1 subject to the leases for lives, for years and in perpetuity reserving rent, then existing on portions of both said lots, and excepting such portions as had heretofore been conveyed in fee" by Henry W. "and persons under whom he claimed title."

"that Henry W. in his lifetime with Caroline de Pau his wife did on Sept. 15, 1847 by deed and declaration of Trust convey the said two parcels to Samuel M. Fox but upon the Trust and confidence that the said Samuel M. Fox should sell and dispose of the same or as much thereof as might be necessary and pay and discharge all debts and liabilities of said Henry W." etc.

Fox died Dec. 9, 1849. Trust uncompleted Jan. 14, 1850 Mortimer Livingston appointed substituted Trustee. He completed the trust, made a final accounting and by court order conveyed Sept. 7, 1855 the unsold remainder to Henry W. Silvie M — wife of Johnston — Walter L — Stephanie Fox, Degrass — Robert L. Stephanie Finot wife of Adolphe and L. P. de Montebello "being all the children and heirs at law of said Henry W. Livingston deceased, as tenants in common in equal proportions, subject to the dower interest therein of said Caroline de Pau Livingston."

Detailed descriptions follow:

Deed Mortimer as Trustee to heirs is recorded Book 3 page 340. It grants by the same general description as above in complaint Excepting xxx and subject to "All the deeds conveyances and leases, contracts and agreements heretofore made and executed by the said Henry W. Livingston in his lifetime", etc. "And a portion of tract and lot of land herein first above described lying

in great lot number one and being farm number one on said map of the Western part of great lot number one containing two hundred and seventy one acres and fourteen perches and now in occupation of Mrs. Mary Livingston is hereby conveyed subject to the life estate of the said Mary Livingston."

Also excepting parcels deeded by Samuel M. Fox Trustee and by grantor Mortimer Livingston.

Also subject to the dower rights of Caroline de Pau Livingston.

The complaint includes in the detailed descriptions (many pages of fine print) farm No. 1 in Great Lot 1.

The report of the Commissioners shows that they made a physical partition of the whole except that certain cash payments had to be made to equalize (small amounts).

And the Commissioners further report that "we were directed to set off and award to the said Caroline de Pau Livingston ten twenty fourths of each of said seven shares for her dower right therein and for her interest therein as heir at law of her deceased daughter Stephanie Finot late wife of Adolphe Finot to be held and enjoyed by her the said Caroline De Pau Livingston for and during her natural life."

This was done by detailed descriptions except as to share No. 7 the owner of which (Stephanie Fox ) was to pay her annually \$117.49.

Mortimer Livingston, mentioned above, son of Maturin and Margaret (Lewis) Livingston, had married Silvia de Grasse de Paul and was, therefore, a brother-in-law of the second Henry Walter Livingston.

Note 16. Columbia County Clerk's Office Book 16, page 582.

Note 17. Columbia County Clerk's Office Book 16, pages 584 and 620.

Note 18. Columbia County Clerk's Office Book A, page 143.

EDITOR'S NOTE:—*At several places in the diary of Mrs. Henry W. Livingston, as the same is quoted above, blank spaces occur. In the original manuscript (now owned by Mrs. William Ten Broeck Mynderse of Scotia, Schenectady, New York) names are mentioned at such points. Permission to publish excerpts from the diary in the Year Book was granted on the express condition that the said names be omitted.*

## THE TOWN OF CLINTON\*

This Town of Clinton has been a part of a number of sub-divisions in this county. In the first place, in the year 1683, the county was laid out, as one of the counties of the Province of New York, and there were no towns or wards or anything in the county at that time. In fact, no one owned a foot of land here. The patents had not yet been granted, the land patents. There was a census taken in 1714, and it was found there were sixty-seven families in the county, and about four hundred and forty people. Then in 1717 the County of Dutchess was divided into three wards. The first ward was south of a line to the east of the mouth of the Wappingers Creek, and extended to the Westchester County line. That was the South Ward. The Middle Ward was laid out in a line due east from Esopus Island, and the North Ward was north from Esopus Island to the Albany County line, which is now Columbia County. The Town of Clinton was in both the North and Middle Wards. There were no people in Clinton at that time, 1717. The land patents which covered Clinton had not yet been divided. Then in 1717 the county was divided, as I said, into three wards.

Then in 1737, after the division of the Great Nine Partners had been made, the county was divided into seven precincts, and all that part of the county known as The Great Nine Partners and the patent of Hyde Park was known as Crum Elbow Precinct. The seat of government of the Crum Elbow Precinct was at Washington Hollow. The town meetings were held there, what is now known as Washington Hollow, and the Town Clerk's office was situated there. This continued until the year 1763 when Amenia was thrown off into a precinct by itself, and Washington, Stanford, Clinton, Pleasant Valley and all of Hyde Park, with the exception of Pawling patent, became known as Charlotte Precinct.

Then again, in 1786—people began to come in, it was more densely populated—another division was made. Washington and Stanford were taken off and made into Washington Precinct, and what are now the

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\*An address delivered before the Dutchess County Historical Society at the annual meeting held June 4, 1941, at the Presbyterian Church at Pleasant Plains, Dutchess County, New York, by George S. Van Vliet.

Towns of Clinton, Hyde Park and Pleasant Valley became Clinton Precinct. In 1788, two years later, the Township Law was enacted, and it became Clinton Town. The seat of government of the Town of Clinton was east of the Crum Elbow Four Corners, on a farm that we know as the Theron R. Marshall farm. The old town meeting building still stands there. The mode of electing officers at that time differed from today. There were no ballots nor voting machines. If two men were nominated for an office, those who favored one were told to stand on one side, and those who favored the other were told to stand on the other side, and the tellers went through and counted the people. That was the way the officers were elected in the days of old Clinton Precinct, and the old Clinton Town.

Then again in 1821 the old Town of Clinton was divided into three towns, Clinton, Hyde Park, and Pleasant Valley, as they are today. This division was made by Major Henry Bentley, who lived in the north-east corner of the present Town of Clinton,—and his great-granddaughter still resides there, Mrs. Lulu Fields, it having passed down through the family through four generations,—Jacob Manning, of the Town of Hyde Park, and Samuel M. Thurston, of what is now the Town of Pleasant Valley. I will not read the whole description of it, but this may interest you because of the names of the people whose land this line ran through. The starting point was at the southeast corner of the Abram I. Conklin farm. This was the farm that was known as the Elmer J. Conklin farm until recent years. It passed through four generations of the Conklin family. I will read these names: "That the line was on the back line of the nine water lots of Abram I. Conklin, waterlot No. 1; Sylvanus Wilbur, No. 2; No. 3 was Peter Ostrom; No. 4, Charles and Jacob Manning; No. 5, Captain R. Whyley; No. 6, Seaman; No. 7, Henry S. Marshall; No. 8, Kipp Lamoree; No. 9, John Culver and John DeGarmo; and then it passed through some lands of John Briggs, Henry Vanderburgh (Henry Vanderburgh resided east of the Crum Elbow Four Corners and he was the son of the famed Colonel James Vanderburgh of Beekman), Benjamin Sheldon, Thomas Ryder, David Dickerson, Stephen Briggs, Joseph Doty, Nehemiah Hoag, Samuel Hewlett and Cornelius Van Vliet, intersecting the North Road (this road has gone now, it's closed up, but it's there as a monument to the town line), Lawrence Traver and Ichabod Williams, who lived the second house west of the Crum Elbow Creek between the lands of Samuel

Barker and John Le Roy, now the farms of Martin W. Hayes and Mr. Duncan.

These are the people who lived there a hundred and twenty years ago. The names are nearly all gone, I guess all of them. The land of the town, its divisions, the great lands of the Great Nine Partners, was in 1734 laid out in thirty-six great lots. Five of these lots were in the Town of Clinton. Lot No. 1, which extended from the Rhinebeck line to the Stanford line, fell to the lot of the heirs of Jarvis Marshall; Lot No. 2, to David Jamison; No. 3 to John Aertson; No. 4 to Augustine Graham; No. 5 to Henry Ten Eyck. Henry Ten Eyck's south line was the line between Clinton and Pleasant Valley.

These nine partners, whose patent was granted in 1697, were all dead when the second division was made, with the exception of David Jamison, and inasmuch as he was the only one living, I will read a short sketch regarding him. David Jamison was a native of Scotland, and he joined a sect called the "Sweet Singers" resembling the Quakers, obnoxious to the government. He and others were arrested and without trial sent into New Jersey in 1685. They were sold for four years redemption to pay their passage. Jamison was bought by George Lockhart, and by him assigned to Rev. George Clark, Chaplain of the Port of New York. The principal men of the city bought Jamison's time, and sent him to teach a Latin school. Soon afterward, he entered the Secretary's office as a clerk, and was appointed Deputy Secretary and Clerk of the Governor's Council in 1691. Later he acted as full Secretary, and was in 1711 appointed Chief Justice of New Jersey. In 1720 he became Attorney General of New York. He probably renounced the "Sweet Singers" soon after his arrival in America, for he was Vestryman and Warden of Trinity Church most of the time, from 1697 to 1714. His reputation as a lawyer stands high. He was employed on several noted cases. Elizabeth Jamison, his daughter, was married on the 19th of May, 1711, to John Johnston. They begat David Johnston, who settled in Lithgow, and erected the present Isaac Wheaton house in 1760.

The rest of the patent, that had not yet been laid out, was not laid out until 1740. It was known as the third and last division of the patent, and was laid out by Judge Jacobus Ter Boss. There were eighteen lots, seven of which were in the present Town of Clinton. These lots were largely around the east bank of the Crum Elbow Creek, and a

ways back. They were, however, sold by the trustees of the patentees, Jacob Goelet and Charles LaReux. Three lots formed this division. One was of 1304 acres on the east bank of the Crum Elbow Creek, to Polycarpus Nelson of the County of Westchester. The one north of that is what is known as the 1000 acre lot sold to Francis Van Dyke, of Westchester. Van Dyke divided this purchase into six lots. The first lot was what we know as the Smith Schultz farm today, and went to Gilbert Williams. The second lot, where Dr. A. J. Bruder now resides, went to his son, Cornelius Van Dyke. The third, what is known as the Odell place, went to Peter Van Dyke. The fourth went to Richbill Williams, son-in-law. The fifth went to Francis Van Dyke, Jr., and the sixth went to Arthur Williams. Back of this was the 700 acre lot, the land directly in front of this church. This was sold by the trustees to Francis Van Dyke, Adolph Banker and Joost Garrison. Joost Garrison settled where Frederick M. Barker now resides west of here, and he had 212 acres in the north end of the 700 acre lot. Banker never came to Dutchess County, but in 1744 sold this land to Sebastian Traver. The south part went from Francis Van Dyke to his son, Jacobus Van Dyck.

Inasmuch as Sebastian Traver did more to people this section of the country, through his descendants, than any other man, I will refer briefly to him. I know of no better way of doing so, than to repeat the story that my father told me back in 1883, with an admonition to always remember. He had been up in Milan to survey. I acted as chain bearer, and we turned into a road known as the Traver neighborhood road, and at every house he gave me its history and traced them back to the original Sebastian Traver wherever he could.

The first house we came to was the Siegendorf house, where a man by the name of Ezra J. Traver resided. An old man, his father, Nicholas, resided there before him, and Nicholas' father was Henry Peter Traver, and Henry Peter Traver was the son of Peter, who was the son of the original Sebastian. Then we came to a road that led to the east, and in that road he said was a stone house which was erected by David Traver, son of Sebastian, in the year 1784, and that he was the ancestor of most of the Travers of that particular neighborhood; that he settled his son, Benjamin, east of him; that he let his son, Samuel D. Traver, have the homestead, and his son, David, the second farm and the field below, and his son, Abram, the farm below that. Also, that his son, Samuel D.

Traver's daughter occupied this farm for many years. Then we came to another house. He said, "A man by the name of Martin Traver lives there. He isn't a descendant of David, he's a descendant of John B., the son of Sebastian," and that his wife was a Traver, and that she was the daughter of Simeon, who was the son of Abram, who was the son of David. And then we came down to where there was a lane, a school house, and he said, "In that lane settled Abram Traver, the son of David, who erected the stone house. He was succeeded by his son, Gideon Abram Traver. Gideon Abram was succeeded by his son, and he had a son Chester H., who was a Lutheran minister of considerable note." And I will add to this, he still had another one, John G. Traver, who was many years principal of the Hartwick Seminary. And we came to another Traver house. "This" he said, "was owned by Simeon A. Traver, who was the son of Abram." I'll not trace them all back to the beginning, which I could, and then he was succeeded by his son, William Curtis Traver, and then we came to another one. He said, "This was David A. Traver's farm." He was the son of Abram, who was the son of David, who erected the stone house, and he had a son also a minister, the Rev. Albert David Traver, D. D., many years rector of St. Paul's Church, Poughkeepsie. And then we came to the land of Peter Traver. We came to the one that is known as the Wollerton place today. "That," he said, "was the home of Jacob D. Traver, who was the son of David Peter Traver, who was the son of Peter Traver, who was the son of Sebastian Traver." And then we looked across the field, a very beautiful farm was there. He said, "That doesn't belong to a Traver, that's the home of Samuel S. Frost." That farm was settled, he said, in the year 1755 by Benjamin Frost, with Rose Springer, his wife, of Oyster Bay, Long Island, and he was succeeded by his son, Zophar Frost, who was a soldier in the Revolutionary War, and he married a Thorn, from the Town of Washington. He was succeeded by Benjamin, who married Catherine Knickerbocker. He was succeeded by his son, Samuel S., who married a Traver. And I'll say this, that this farm went from Samuel S. Frost to his son, Mandeville S. Frost, and it is now owned by the children of Mandeville S. Frost. Benson R. Frost is one of them. Then we came to two more farms. He said, "These farms were owned by David P. Traver, who was the son of Peter, who was the son of Sebastian." He got below there, and he pointed out to me where a house had stood, the house of Frederick Traver, and he had a son, who was a

minister, the Rev. Van Ness Traver, who in turn became the father of the Hon. Frederick G. Traver, who was one time County Judge of Ulster County. Then we came to another one. This was the home of Henry P. Traver, and his son, Peter H. Traver, succeeded him, and Peter H. Traver was the father of Dr. Issac H. Traver, who was many years a physician in Pleasant Valley. And the next was Jacob P. Traver, who was succeeded in that place by his son, Myers Traver, and then he pointed to a lane, "This is the farm of Peter P. Traver," and the next was Adam P. Traver, and then we came to the last farm owned by Charles Traver, son of the first Sebastian, and went from him to his son, William Traver, and then we came to the Pleasant Plains Church. We had traveled five miles. There had not been a farm in that five miles, with one exception, that was not owned by a person by the name of Traver, and that man's wife was a Traver. Today there isn't a person of that name living or owning any of those farms, not one. It's all changed.

These sons of Sebastian Traver, there were eight of them, four of them came out of Clinton, four remained in Rhinebeck. They are the ones who built those homes, with two exceptions, one John B., who remained in the old Traver homestead in this neighborhood, and the other was Nicholas, of Rhinebeck. Three of those old houses are standing yet today after a century and a half. One of them is in Wynkoop's Lane, Rhinebeck. It was the home of Frederick Traver, who was succeeded by his son, Zachariah Traver; Zachariah Traver, by his son, Albert, and then it was sold out of the family. Also this son, Zachariah, begat a son, Frederick; Frederick begat a son, Alexander; Alexander begat a son, Wallace; he begat a daughter, Albertina F. B. Traver, whom some of you know. The other house was a stone house in the north part of Clinton, erected by David Traver in 1784. He was succeeded by his son, Samuel D.; Samuel D. by his daughter, Annie, who was very slender and very tall, and she was known as "Long Annie Traver". She was famed as a weaver of rag carpets. Her clientele went from Fishkill to Northeast. There are many of her carpets, probably, in existence today. She never married, and when she died the house passed out of the family. The other house is the house of Charles Traver, one-fourth of a mile from where we are now assembled. It probably doesn't resemble it's original—but the original house is all there—for the

reason there have been so many additions. It is owned by Mrs. H. Richard Van Vliet. That's all I have to say regarding the Traver family.

There is another family that came in this town that left its name here and impress upon the town. I refer to the Schultz family. The original Schultz in this town was Frederick Schultz, who married Margaret Crapser, the daughter of Johannes Crapser. He settled on a farm of 225 acres, now owned and occupied by his great grandson, Lorenzo Schultz. Its acreage has never changed since it came into the Schultz family. He was born in Fishkill in the year 1748. He was the son of Christian Otto Schultz and Margaret Sharpenstein, his wife. He was born April 15, 1748, at 12 o'clock midnight. He came to this farm in 1772 and raised a family of children, and they became known in the town. The oldest son, John F. Schultz, went to the place afterwards called Schultzville, founded the place. In 1792 he erected a very fine residence there, and it is yet one of the fine old homes in the town. It is occupied by Mr. George Budd's son-in-law, John H. Myers, Jr. He erected a saw mill and grist mill in Schultzville, erected the store in Schultzville, and made a fortune out of it, for those days. One hundred thousand dollars was a big fortune then. When he passed on, his son, Daniel H. Schultz, succeeded him and he, too, made a fortune out of the mill. He left two daughters and one son, Theodore Augustus Schultz, generally known in the Town of Clinton as "Gus" Schultz. When he died about 1866 he left money and the land for the Schultzville church, he left money to erect the Schultzville church, he left the land for the erection of the Lodge of Masons, and he left the money for the Masons to erect the Masonic Temple.

Another family which I will speak of—but I'm not going to run through all the families—Henry Gildersleeve, who came from Long Island directly after the Revolutionary War, and Eunice Smith, his wife. They begat a large family, among them a son, Smith J. Gildersleeve, who stayed here and farmed it most of his life. He begat four children, one Elmer D. Gildersleeve, who removed to the City of Poughkeepsie and became a merchant and President of the Chamber of Commerce; another, Frank V. B. Gildersleeve, who was Hospital Steward in the 150th Regiment, during the War of the Rebellion and afterwards a physician in the west, California. Another son, Henry A. Gildersleeve, started out to be a country school teacher. He raised Company C of the 150th

New York Volunteers, a company of one hundred fourteen men, and went forth as Captain, in the War of the Rebellion. After the war was over he gave up the thought of being a country school teacher and studied law. He went to New York, and then years afterward he was elected Justice of the Supreme Court, in the First Judicial District of the State of New York. He continued in this position long, long years. His daughter, Miss Virginia Gildersleeve, is now Dean of Barnard College. The father of the Dean of Barnard College was once a barefooted, one-room country-school boy.

I will speak briefly regarding Morgan Lewis Smith. He was the son of Maurice Smith and Margaret Streit, his wife. Maurice Smith was a tanner. His son, Morgan Lewis Smith, went early in life to New York, went into the leather business with Jackson S. Schultz. This firm eventually became the largest dealers in leather in the world. He was appointed Colonel of the crack New York 7th Regiment Militia. When Texas threw off the Mexican yoke and became known as the Lone Star Republic, he was appointed the United States Consul to Texas. It was through the influence of Morgan Lewis Smith, born in this neighborhood, who received all his education in this neighborhood, the one-room district school, that Texas was annexed to the United States. For a great deal of this I am indebted to one of the volumes of the New York Genealogical and Biographical Society, Volume 53, page 16.

I will speak no more regarding the families. I will speak of the churches and other institutions.

Right in this place there was, eighty years ago more or less, a seminary of learning, which was conducted by the Rev. Sherman Hoyt. It was not a boarding school, but they came from Greene and Ulster and other counties here, and boarded with the farmers. Pleasant Plains was said to be a very lively place in those days. It was discontinued here in 1875. It was started about 1840. This school was famed in many ways. A great many prominent men along the Hudson River valley, business men, lawyers and physicians, received their education in Dominic Hoyt's seminary here. Smith Lawrence DeGarmo, one time head of Luckey, Platt and Company, was one of the boys. Henry Frost Clark, when he died the oldest dentist in the United States, the crack rifle shot of the world, went to Dominic Hoyt's. Captain Billy Van Keuren, who was Captain of the "Romer" on the Hudson River, and was also Captain in

the War of the Rebellion, was another one of his boys. I could name many more, but they don't occur to me just at this moment. It was also known as a match-making factory, in this way. Most of the young fellows that went there to school secured their future wives out of Dominie Hoyt's students. Even my own father and mother were no exceptions to that rule. Dominie Hoyt always tied the knot.

The churches of the town, the earliest church in the town was the Friends' at Clinton Corners. I know little or nothing of its records, for the reason that these records are all taken to John Cox in New York. He is said to be the custodian of the Friends' records. The people in the locality know very little about them. The stone meeting house was erected as early as 1777. That date was in the roof of the church, in the slate roof.

The next earliest church in the town was the Providence Presbyterian Church of Charlotte Precinct. It stood right here. This church was short lived, it lasted about ten years. A son of this church—it was perhaps worthwhile that they organized it—became the Rev. William Radcliff DeWitt, D. D., more than forty years pastor of the First Presbyterian church at Harrisburg, Pennsylvania, and his son became Professor John DeWitt, DD., LL.D., many years Professor of Church History in Princeton Theological Seminary.

The Schultztville church, as I said, is of newer origin, started in the 1860's and it was erected on land given to them by Theodore A. Schultz.

This particular church here was organized in the year 1837, after the Providence Presbyterian Church of Charlotte Precinct went out of existence, and it has been a prosperous church, fairly prosperous for a country church, during all these years. The church is well sustained financially. It has an endowment of over ten thousand dollars given to it in small sums by the various members of the church when they passed on. The Rev. Sherman Hoyt was seventeen years pastor of the church. The first minister, when the church was organized, was the Rev. William N. Sayre. He drove eighteen miles from Pine Plains every Sunday to conduct service, and back.

There has nothing been said here much about the history of slavery in this section. There was considerable of it, there were a great many previous to 1799, when the act was passed for the gradual abolition of slavery in New York State. I think there were about one hundred and

seventy-five of them in this town at one time. Most of them were small in numbers. Families would have one or two. However, there were three families that had a large number, eight or nine. They were Colonel John DeWitt, Johannes Crapser and John Teller in the north part of town. Strange as it may seem, these people who held slaves, their dwellings are all standing today, two of them in a splendid state of preservation. The DeWitt property is the property of J. Herbert Link, in as good shape as it ever was when John DeWitt lived here. In 1804 he set his slaves free and for those who were married and had families he bought them a little bit of ground, not very good, and built them a shack to live in. One of these slaves was a large negro named Jack DeWitt, and he held his master in such grateful remembrance that every year before Christmas he would look the neighborhood over—Wurtemberg was famed for its fat turkeys—and buy a turkey and kill it and dress it, and walk from where he lived, Hawktown, to Newburgh, and give it to his old master, “for Massa’s Christmas dinner.” He continued this until Mr. DeWitt and his wife died, the old home was occupied by the daughter Hilletje and son Andrew, and he continued to make this trip every year. On one of those occasions, my grandfather overtook Jack, and took him to what is known as the Upper Landing where the ferry landed. Jack was standing about waiting, the ferry was on the other side. The captain of a freight boat came off and looked at the turkey and he said, “There’s the turkey I want for my Christmas dinner. How much will you take for it?” “That turkey am not for sale, that is for my chilluns’ Christmas dinner.” “Who are your children? Where do they live?” And then the old darkey replied, with tears in his eyes “Andrew and Hilletje, old Sheriff DeWitt’s chillun, they’s my chillun.”

I tell another story about Jack DeWitt that isn’t as pathetic as this. Farmers used to have bees when they wanted a lot of work done and Jack was sent with the Sheriff’s oxen to a stone pit, and there was a free negro in the neighborhood by the name of John Johnson. He was always lording it over the negroes who were slaves, and finally he put it on Jack more than Jack thought was necessary, and Jack was going to lick him. John Johnson said, “You can’t fight, you got to ask your Master first, you’re a slave,” so Jack thought it over and started for home, and he came up and he said, “Massa, can I fight that free nigger, John Johnson?” “What do you want to fight him for?” “He’s mean to me, he tantalizes me.” “Do you think you can lick him, Jack?”

"Massa, I knows I can lick him." "Well, you can fight him, but be sure you don't get licked." "No, sir, Massa, I'll not get licked." Jack started back, and when he got near the place where the men worked, he started into a run. John Johnson saw him and squared off. He himself was a powerful negro. And then, as Jack got just out of reach of his arms, his head ducked, and with that he struck John Johnson in the pit of the stomach. The fight was all out of John Johnson for the remainder of that day.

The Crapser slaves were not unlike those of Colonel James Vanderburgh. They refused to accept their freedom. They had a good home, plenty to eat, were kindly treated and why should they want to change, and they wouldn't think of it, so they stayed there for several generations after they were really free. John Calvin Cookingham told of how he remembered attending the funeral of one of the slaves, and he was quite well along as a boy at the time he attended this funeral. She was buried on the south part of the Crapser farm near the Henry Traver farm. This house remains, it is in a splendid state, where the original Crapser lived. It was a stone house, erected in the year 1768, and it is now owned by one of Johannes Crapser's descendants, George Naylor, the third, of Peekskill. He is a descendant of the first Johannes Crapser. He begat a son, Albertus, who succeeded him. His daughter, Anne, married Levi LeRoy; they begat a son, John LeRoy, who married Miss Fulmer and they begat a daughter, who married George Naylor, Jr., and the place is in a splendid state of preservation.

So far as the Teller place is concerned, in the north end of town, after two or three generations they made a lot of money out of the Teller mill up there, and went to Rhinebeck and lived in what is known as the Wells mansion in the west heart of the village. William Teller married a Thorn, of New Hackensack; they begat a daughter, who married Eugene Wells, who begat Carrie Thorne Wells, the last owner of this place.

The way the people lived in those days was entirely different. If you wanted shoes, you went to the local shoemaker. The last one was about 1888, George Briggs, in Clinton Hollow. This little building over here was the William Manning shoe shop. He and his two sons used to work night and day to keep the people in shoes about the neighborhood. All the little places had shoe shops. Mr. Briggs there can

remember when Albert Schryver in Hyde Park yet, had a shoe shop. There was a system before the shoe shop came that was called—I can't conceive why—they called it "whipping the cat". A shoemaker would go around and go into the families where they had shoes to be made, and he stayed there until they were all shod up, and then pass on to another family. That was in the old days of my great-grandfather, Captain Frederick Uhl. Why they called it that I haven't the slightest idea.

There is another thing that is not very historic, not so long ago. That is, in regard to the first generation Irish that came here. They didn't come here until after the building of the Hudson River Railroad. A great many of them came here in this town, and they proved agriculturally a very useful set of men, by ditching out the swamps. The boys, however, didn't take so kindly, they went for something as high as the rest. Old man John Cotter lived in Ruskey Lane, his son, John, was born there. After John got older (I can remember when he worked for Joseph Arnett for eight dollars a month and his board), he finally studied medicine, became a country doctor in Jackson Corners, and then he went to Poughkeepsie and at one time was President of the Dutchess County Medical Society. Old man Cotter has three grandsons who are physicians: Dr. Lawrence Cotter of Red Hook, Dr. John I. Cotter of Poughkeepsie, son of Dr. John H., and Dr. John H. Cotter in Brooklyn, son of his son James. Dr. Eddie Burns was another boy from this town that went to Poughkeepsie and made good as a physician. Patrick Lyons was another one of these first generation Irishmen. He begat two sons, one Martin, who became the best farmer in the Town of Clinton, owned three farms. Another one, John, desired an education, walked every morning and back every night from east of Bull's Head in the Town of Clinton to DeGarmo Institute in Rhinebeck, for his education. At night he would thresh grain with a flail for the farmers, while the sisters held the lantern, so he could earn money to pay his tuition. That's the way he got his education. He went to Nassau County, Long Island; became County Comptroller of the County of Nassau, and when he died he left ten thousand dollars to his native town to build the Memorial Hall at Schultsville, which is now the Town Hall.

This town is not as big as Poughkeepsie, you know. There's only about one thousand people out here. You have forty-five thousand down there. But it has been noted for the number of men that were sent forth in business and professional life. I would like to call your attention to

the physicians, boys, every one of them, who went to the district school in this town and became fairly noted. Dr. Walter Case; Dr. J. Marshall Allen; Dr. Edward W. Carhart; Dr. John C. Otis; Dr. William Smith Williams; Dr. DeWitt Webb; Dr. Thomas Wilson, head of the Hudson Hospital at one time; Dr. Isaac H. Traver; Dr. Harris L. Cookingham, at the time of his death the oldest practicing physician in the county; Dr. Irving Deyo LeRoy; Dr. Frank V. B. Gildersleeve; Dr. Edwin S. Hoyt; Dr. John H. Cotter; Dr. Henry D. Sleight; Dr. Samuel Dodge; Dr. Edwin C. Bennett; Dr. Charles B. Story; Dr. Eugene Coons; Dr. Edward Burns; Dr. David Coleman; Dr. John Dixon; Dr. Eliphalet Platt and Dr. Theodore Nelson. A goodly share of these, five or six, received their early education in that little building you see right over there—Dr. Eugene Coons, Dr. Eliphalet Platt, Dr. Edwin Skidmore Hoyt, Dr. Irving Deyo LeRoy, Dr. Harris L. Cookingham, Dr. Isaac H. Traver, all of them attended the one-room district school.

The ministers that were sent forth: the Rev. Philip E. Bierbauer, the Rev. William E. Traver, the Rev. Chester H. Traver, the Rev. Albert D. Traver, D. D., the Rev. Van Ness Traver, the Rev. Dwight L. Parsons, the Rev. S. Nye Hutchinson, D. D., the Rev. Marshall Budd, the Rev. William R. DeWitt, D. D., the Rev. Henry Williams, the Rev. William Radcliff DeWitt, D. D., and the Rev. William E. Hutchinson.

The lawyers: Peter DeWitt founded the law office in 1808 at 88 Nassau Street, New York City. The office is there today. He was succeeded by his sons, Edward and John C. They were succeeded by Peter DeWitt's grandsons, William G., George G., and Theodore and they have in turn been succeeded by his great-grandson, William DeWitt. Henry A. Gildersleeve, whom I have already mentioned; Uriah W. Tompkins, George R. Carhart, John Lyons, John D. Teller, Edward Crummey, Abraham D. Lent and Mark D. Wilbur. Wilbur and Lent attended the little school over here.

I will say a word regarding the Teller family. John I. Teller, the son of the first John, took the mill up there, and ran it for years, and his son, Tobias, took the stone house farm. He begat two sons, James Monroe and Benjamin Franklin Teller. Benjamin Franklin Teller begat a son, John D. Teller, who was one of the foremost lawyers of the State of New York, Vice-President of the State Bar Association, attorney for Cornell in the great Fisk-McGraw will contest in which millions

were involved, and which he won for Cornell University.

Bankers, cashiers, presidents and vice-presidents were: William B. Platt, he too attended school on this corner; Carl C. Griffin, Roy C. Duke, Mark D. Wilbur, Ira J. Horton, Elmer G. Story, Eugene P. Budd and Foster W. Doty. All came out of the little Town of Clinton, a town of one thousand people. That's our record.

I wish to say a word concerning the two Masonic lodges. I am a very poor one to give Masonic history, for I'm not a Mason. The early lodge was the old Clinton lodge, which had its lodge room in the second house beyond here in the northeast corner. Old Squire Williams resided there and he was Master of the Lodge, and this pitcher has something to do with it, and I shall read you this clipping:

"A pitcher containing Masonic emblems and over one hundred years old is in the possession of John R. Van Vliet, 11 Lawton Avenue, a prominent member of Auburn Lodge of Masons, No. 431. It is one of a pair of pitchers brought from Liverpool, England, about the year 1790 by Captain Reuben Spencer, and presented to Mr. Van Vliet's maternal great-grandfather, Captain Frederick Uhl, of Staatsburg, Dutchess County. The pitcher was brought to this part of the State by Mr. Van Vliet's grandmother, Mrs. Margaret Uhl Gillies, on the death of her father, in 1825. In one of the Masonic histories of the State it is written that at about the same time this pitcher was brought to this country, Captain Spencer brought a similar pair of pitchers and presented them to Robert G. Livingston, who was a neighbor of Captain Uhl. All three of these men were members of Clinton Lodge of Masons, which is now extinct. Clinton Lodge at that time had no lodge number, and was evidently working under a dispensation. Mr. Van Vliet's grandfather, Captain James Gillies, was also a member of Clinton Lodge, and his certificate of membership is dated May 1, in the year of Masonry 5,808. The daughter of Captain James Gilles was Mr. Van Vliet's mother, and she brought the pitcher to Elbridge where it remained for many years. About twelve years ago the pitcher was brought to this city by Mr. Van Vliet. Whenever lodge brethren call at his home they usually ask to see the pitcher and marvel at the fact that it looks as new and perfect in the detail of the outlines of the inscription as it must have looked over a century ago. One of the most enthusiastic admirers of the pitcher is William E. Taylor, who is writing a book on the history of Masonry in

Cayuga County at the direction of his Lodge. Beneath the picture are the following four lines, which carry a beautiful thought:

“To judge with candor and to speak no wrong,  
The feeble to support against the strong  
To soothe the wretched and the poor to feed,  
Will cover many an idle foolish deed.”

This pitcher, as I said, was sent to Captain Frederick Uhl, and it was given to his daughter, Margaret, who married James Gillies, and went to the County of Onondaga. She gave it to her daughter, Mary, who married Henry E. Van Vliet, and when she died it passed to her son, John H. Van Vliet, and he died and gave it to his sister, and before she died she wished the pitcher to go back to where the Clinton Lodge was, and gave it to me. The pitcher is down here today.

The rest of the history of Masonry, is the Warren Lodge, Schultsville. This was organized in 1808 at Pine Plains from members entirely of the Temple Lodge. Temple Lodge was a lodge at Spencer's Corners, Town of Northeast, with a very large jurisdiction. All its members living at Pine Plains organized the Warren Lodge. It stayed there for fifty years, until 1858, when it was removed. It was in the Town of Milan for a few years, and then Theodore A. Schultz gave the land and the money to erect the Temple, and it was brought here to Schultsville. As I said, I am a very poor person to give Masonic history, for I'm not a Mason.

This book is a survey book largely with Captain Spencer's surveys. It has in it the division lines of all the precincts and the various towns of the county, with the exception of Wappingers and East Fishkill, which towns were laid out after his time. You hear them talk so much about the trouble to find the lines. If you look at this old map of the Great Nine Partners, it isn't much trouble to find many of them, because the lines all run on the lot lines. Now, the line between Stanford and Washington, was run right on the lot lines, and a man can walk over that today and he will be on the farm lines, on the town lines and the lot lines. You can go over to Warnken's, between that and Swenson's, you see the line across the road, there's the farm line, there's the lot line and there's the town line. Most of them are laid out that way on the lot lines, although there are some that would make trouble, I know. The line between Pleasant Valley and Hyde Park, the lower part of it, is on

the back line of the nine water lots, right straight on through. I can go down there and walk over it without any trouble at all, although there are some that go from house to house and like that, some that really cause a great deal of trouble, no survey and no marking, but not all of them.

This map was made by Captain Spencer in 1820 or 1821, at the time he divided old Clinton, Hyde Park and Pleasant Valley.

This pitcher and teapot were awarded to Captain Frederick Uhl, my great-grandfather, in the year 1814, by the Society for the Promotion of Useful Arts, State of New York, for the best specimen of woolen cloth the family manufactured that year. The woolen cloth he made was taken from the first importation of Spanish merino sheep brought to this country by Chancellor Robert R. Livingston, to whom he paid \$2.50 a pound for the wool.

This is the famed Masonic pitcher that came over in 1790 and was given to Captain Uhl by Captain Spencer. Regarding Captain Reuben Spencer, you people may not know who he was. He was born on the James G. Rymph farm east of here. His father and mother are buried on that farm in a little four square cemetery, and Captain Reuben Spencer, in his early life, married the daughter of Captain Jesse Ames, of Staatsburgh. I will explain how Captain Ames came to be here. He was a soldier in the Revolutionary Army, and he and Captain Isaac Russell were escorting a portion of Burgoyne's captured army south somewheres to be confined, I think to Virginia, and when they came in sight of this place, they said after the war was over they would come back to Staatsburg and settle, and they did. Some of their descendants are in that little cemetery across the railroad. Captain Spencer became City Surveyor of New York, and was such a great many years. He was my father's and my father's brother's preceptor in surveying.

This silver cup is not so ancient, this was awarded to Levi Van Vliet, my grandfather, by the American Institute in New York, for the best pair of stall fed cattle, calves that my father as a youth brought up. They became oxen, they worked them on the farm, they grew so fine grandfather thought he would send them to New York to exhibit them. They weighed fifty-seven hundred pounds. My uncle, my father's older brother, took them down on the night boat, drove them across to Broadway, and up Broadway to the Crystal Palace. I don't know what they would do with a man who drove a yoke of oxen up Broadway now. They never came back; he sold them for a good price there.

This sword was carried by my grandfather, Levi Van Vliet, who was Adjutant in the Fifth New York Regiment, Second Brigade, in the War of 1812-14. This regiment was raised entirely in Dutchess County. Its Colonel was Martin Heermance of Rhinebeck, who resided in what was afterwards known as the Wells mansion. The quartermaster was Garrett Van Keuren, who was the grandfather of Mrs. Helen de Laporte, whom we all love to think of and remember, and the surgeon was Dr. Federal Vanderburgh, who afterwards came into this region, and the Adjutant, as I said, was Levi Van Vliet. They marched from here to New York. The first night's encampment was between Fishkill Village and Wappingers Falls, and the place of encampment in New York was what is now 123rd Street and Amsterdam Avenue. If you go there you will find a small stone fortification which marks the place where the Fifth New York Regiment, Second Brigade, was encamped. They didn't have anything to do down there, New York seemed to be so well defended. In Washington, the Capitol and the White House were burned. The only thing saved in the White House was that Dolly Madison saved the painting of George Washington.

This sword was carried by my grandfather after he was Colonel of the 141st New York Militia.

This cane may seem like a strange thing, but I will explain how people used to be buried more than a century ago. They didn't have undertakers then. People were carried to their last resting place by their neighbors' teams, and the coffins of the poor people were made by the wagon makers. Russell B. Abbey, of this town, made hundreds of them. The rich people went to the cabinet makers in anticipation of death, which we all anticipate some time. Peter R. Livingston and his wife had locust trees cut and sawed and seasoned, so that when the time came they should be made into coffins. My father's uncle, David Mulford Uhl, made them and there were remnants after sawing them off, which he made into two canes, and one he gave to his brother, George Uhl, and the other to his brother-in-law, Levi Van Vliet. That's one of the canes. The only reason I show that is to show the difference in burying people then and today.

The book on the corner there is the Van Vliet Bible, printed in Amsterdam in 1629. The Holland Society had an exhibit in New York a while ago and they had a very old Bible there, the Stuyvesant Bible, which was printed in 1637. This one here antedates it by eight years.

This book contains one hundred maps, all colored, I think, beautifully. Perhaps you may not agree with me. These maps were made by my uncle, the late George Van Vliet, along in the early '40s, of property here in western Dutchess County. Every time he made a survey he made a duplicate copy to keep in his office. This book has a hundred of them. I have so many loose maps I couldn't think of bringing them here. They would cover up the side of the church.

These other books I am very, very interested in, but perhaps you will think anybody that keeps them is very foolish. Scrap books, and I have many of them at home, and I think if you look at them you will agree they're not so foolish; lawyers, ministers, physicians, men of business, I paste them in there, and I delight to spend an evening with them even now.

I brought a number of photographs here, not many of them. This one was Peter DeWitt who founded the law office at 88 Nassau Street. He was born in 1780. This one is Albert David Traver, D. D., who was born up the road above here and was twenty years Rector of St. Paul's Church in Poughkeepsie, and before that he was Assistant Rector of All Saints' Church in New York. This is a photograph of John LeRoy, who gave twenty-five hundred dollars in 1837 for the erection of this church. This is the old DeWitt Mill erected in 1775. This is Jeanette the wife of Peter DeWitt. This is Colonel Henry Armstrong, who was severely wounded in the War of 1812. He was the son of General John Armstrong, who was Secretary of War under President Madison. His wife was one of the famed Livingston family, of which Margaret Beekman was the mother.

There is one more thing I'd like to mention and that is the farmer as a financial power in the county. The time was when the farmer was the land banker. Every man who had a mortgage on his farm, it was held by some farmer. They were the people that had the money, and I will explain. Even the people from the cities appealed to the farmers to save them in times of trouble. My grandfather had a brother, Henry Hiram Van Vliet, who was one of the firm of Van Vliet & Suydam, wholesale grocers in New York. It was in the panic of 1837. He had obligations that were due him but he couldn't collect them. The firm would have to go under. He had married a daughter of Captain Joseph Harris. In Poughkeepsie his brothers-in-law were John Adriance, Dr.

John Barnes, and Dr. Richard Varick. Captain Harris himself was a prominent man. The situation was not one bit better in Poughkeepsie. He was about broken down, and one of them suggested they could go to the country and see what his brother, Levi, could do for them. They arrived here in the night. Grandfather said in the morning he would jump on his horse and see what he could do. The next morning he strapped his satchel to his back and went down to John Lamoree and told him the situation. They were to give grandfather a note endorsed by Captain Harris and John Adriance, and grandfather would give him his note. Mr. Lamoree had about \$1600 in the house, which he gave him. He went from there to Andrew Lamoree's and got some more; to Maurice Smith and got some more; a couple of Cookinghams and got some more; and two of the Craspers; and he went to Henry Marquat and Jeremiah Schultz; and when he left he had more than ten thousand dollars in the satchel. That's the way they did business. If some young man bought a farm in the spring, he wouldn't have enough money, he would go to one of these men and ask for a mortgage. The man wouldn't have enough money and he would go to the other men and borrow money on his note and take the mortgage on the farm. As late as 1875 my father settled an estate in this neighborhood where there was fifteen thousand dollars in promisory notes. There was no trouble collecting any of it. That was the reason they kept the money at home, they hadn't got to banking yet. Then came a time when the banks started. The farmers began to drift into that. The farmers were the bankers quite largely. The old City National Bank on the corner of Main and Market Street, the directors were Samuel Mathews, a farmer from the Town of Poughkeepsie; Benjamin Hopkins, Town of East Fishkill; Wilson B. Sheldon, Beekman; David D. Vincent, Union Vale; Milton Ham, Washington; George Lamoree, Pleasant Valley; James Rymph, Clinton; and so it went. The others didn't have so many, but included the Carpenters from Stanford, Smith Knapp and Peter R. Sleight.

Where has the farmer gone to today? In the Town of Clinton there are eighty-four farms abandoned for agricultural purposes. They are not the poor farms by any means. Some of them are the very garden spots of the town. Clinton is no exception. You can go right down to your own City of Poughkeepsie. I remember when there was a beautiful residence on the North Road on the west side, the F. J. Allen estate. Today it is a vacant lot. Then came the Hume estate. North of that

Tower's, and Ed. Tower told the people down town to tear it down and burn it up, which they did. Across the street, the Rowley estate, now nothing but a vacant lot. Then came the beautiful Beck place, now the Marist Brothers, tax exempt. Go up the road a little further, the Stuyvesant and the Webendorfer places, just the same. Go up to Vanderbilt's, just the same; Mills, just the same. What's the trouble? Too high taxation upon real estate, is the trouble. If you look back a few years you will find where a man paid one dollar then, he is paying ten today. I have an old assessment roll here of 1801, when the largest taxpayer in the old Town of Clinton was Morgan Lewis, and he didn't pay but thirty dollars. Another reason why the farms have been abandoned is due to this W.P.A. It has taken their help away and they cannot run the farms. The result is there are eighty-four farms in this town abandoned, and I guess Milan and the rest of them are worse off still.

GEORGE S. VAN VLIET.



THE FOUNDING  
of the  
DUTCHESS COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

The Dutchess County Historical Society is always interested in and willing to help with the celebration of the anniversaries of other organizations, so it is with profuse apologies to its members that the society is forced to admit that it forgot to celebrate its own birthday. Organized in 1914, the society was twenty-five years old in 1939 and suitable observance might have been made of that occasion. Now that the opportunity to celebrate its quarter-century has passed, the society can smile at the oversight and proceed to note that it is twenty-seven years old.

The present active society of over six hundred members is the outgrowth of a gathering at Pleasant Valley in 1914. In the spring of that year the trustees of the Pleasant Valley Free Library issued a small bulletin suggesting the formation of an historical organization for the collection and preservation of records of historical importance and inviting all persons interested in local history to attend a meeting to be held on Tuesday evening, April 28.

There was an attendance of about fifty persons at this meeting. Mr. H. N. W. Magill, librarian of the Pleasant Valley Free Library, acted as chairman. There were two speakers: Mr. Walter Farrington of Poughkeepsie gave some reminiscences of his boyhood days in Pleasant Valley and Mr. George S. Van Vliet explained the difference between the "Great Nine Partners" and the "Little Nine Partners". The chairman explained the purpose of the meeting and invited those persons who were interested in the formation of an historical society to attend a meeting to be held on May 26. A committee on by-laws was appointed to report on the evening of May 26. This committee was composed of Dr. I. D. LeRoy, Mr. Chester Husted, Mr. Wright Devine, Mr. Walter Farrington, Mr. J. Adams Brown and Mr. Magill.

On the evening of May 26 a small group assembled for the organization of the historical society. There seems to be a difference of opinion as to the identity of those charter members. The record as printed in the first year book of the society, which was printed in the spring of 1915,

does not give the names of all of those present. It states that "at 8.15 P. M. there were present in the Library five gentlemen and two ladies, the ladies retiring as they thought there would be no meeting. Just at that moment Mr. John C. Sickley and Dr. J. W. Poucher of Poughkeepsie entered, the meeting was then called to order by H. N. W. Magill." It would be interesting to learn the identity of the two ladies.

The book of minutes kept by the secretary, Mr. Sickley, lists those present as follows: Mr. Magill, Mr. J. Adams Brown, Mr. Chester Husted, Mr. Wright Devine, Mr. E. B. DuMond and Dr. I. D. LeRoy, all of Pleasant Valley, and Dr. J. Wilson Poucher and Mr. John C. Sickley of Poughkeepsie. Mr. George Van Vliet remembers that he was present and recalls the names of Mr. Magill, Mr. Brown, Mr. Devine, Dr. LeRoy, Dr. Poucher and Mr. Sickley.

According to the recollection of Mr. Chester Husted the group consisted of Mr. Sickley, Dr. Poucher, Dr. LeRoy, Mr. Magill, Mr. Devine and Mr. Husted. He admits, however, that there may have been one or two others and believes there was a clergyman present. Mr. J. Adams Brown who was a member of the group recalls the names of Mr. Devine, Mr. Sickley, Mr. Magill, Dr. Poucher and Mr. Husted.

Based on the account printed in the first year book of the society, the record in the minutes kept by the secretary and the recollection of the four surviving members who attended that organization meeting, it would seem that our group of charter members was composed of Mr. H. N. W. Magill, Mr. J. Adams Brown, Mr. Chester Husted, Mr. Wright Devine, Professor E. B. DuMond, Dr. I. D. LeRoy, Dr. J. Wilson Poucher, Mr. John C. Sickley and Mr. George S. Van Vliet.

At this meeting on May 26, 1914, the motion was made that the society be known as the "Pleasant Valley Historical Society" but Dr. Poucher moved to amend the motion to read that the name "Dutchess County Historical Society" be adopted and that the scope of the organization embrace the whole county. His motion was seconded by Mr. Sickley who remarked that while previous efforts to organize a county historical society had failed, he thought that the time was then more propitious. By-laws were discussed and Mr. Magill, Mr. Sickley and Dr. LeRoy were elected for one year to the offices of president, secretary and treasurer, respectively. Several vice-presidents, representing their respective towns were elected as follows: Mr. George S. Van Vliet, Mr.

Silas Wodell, Mr. Thomas Newbold, Dr. J. Wilson Poucher, Mr. Benjamin Hammond and Mr. J. Adams Brown. The meeting then adjourned to meet again on the afternoon of June 30 at Vassar Brothers Institute, Poughkeepsie.

At the meeting held in Poughkeepsie on June 30 the new society elected fifty-three members, an executive committee was appointed and plans were made for regular meetings to be held twice a year. With such a good start the society has grown and flourished. Meetings have been held in the spring and fall of each year and an annual pilgrimage, instituted in 1917, has been conducted each fall to some place of historic and cultural interest in the county or one of our neighboring counties.

It is interesting to note that the society numbers among its present membership a few of the persons who were elected during the first year of its existence. Included among these members are the following persons: Dr. James F. Baldwin, Mr. J. Adams Brown, Mrs. John H. Darrow, Mrs. Louis P. Hasbrouck, Mr. Frank B. Howard, Mr. Chester Husted, Mr. William H. Judson, Mr. Frederick N. Morgan, the Hon. Henry Morgenthau, Jr.; Miss Julia C. Olmsted, the Hon. George Overocker, Dr. A. L. Peckham, Dr. J. Wilson Poucher, Miss Helen W. Reynolds, President Franklin D. Roosevelt, Mr. William Schickle, Mr. Peter H. Troy, Mr. Charles M. van Kleeck, Mr. George S. Van Vliet and Dr. John S. Wilson.

AMY PEARCE VER NOOY.



BERLIN, VERMONT  
AND ITS CONNECTION WITH DUTCHESS COUNTY

During 1941 the state of Vermont has spread through the year a series of events in celebration of the sesqui-centennial of the admission of Vermont into the Union. Those events have taken form in several ways, one of which was to gather the material for town histories. One of the towns in Vermont is Berlin, immediately south of and adjacent to Montpelier, the capital, and Mrs. Mary G. Nye was appointed to prepare a history of Berlin. In so doing she found that the tract of land that constitutes the town of Berlin (originally a part of the New Hampshire Claims) was purchased in 1763 by residents of Dutchess County, New York. A charter was issued to the purchasers who, from the names listed in it, would seem to have all belonged in the southern part of Dutchess. They were led by the Reverend Chauncey Graham, pastor of the Rombout Presbyterian Church (which stood at the present hamlet of Brinckerhoff) and included in their number members of such well known families as those of Adriance, Brett, Brinckerhoff, Van Wyck, etc.

It does not appear that any of the grantees of the charter of Berlin ever removed from Dutchess to Vermont to live but no record has yet been discovered to show how they disposed of their rights in the land covered by the charter. There is complete lack of information from the date of the charter, June 8, 1763, until a meeting of the proprietors of the town was called to be held March 29, 1785.

Below is appended an abstract of the charter issued in 1763 for Berlin and the names of the grantees as they appear therein. It will interest people in Dutchess to learn of this speculation in real estate, indulged in by some of the early residents of the county, and it is hoped that the publication of the item may also call forth information, traditional or factual, that will fill in the period between 1763 and 1785, about which nothing is known. Any one who can throw light upon this matter is asked to communicate with Mrs. Mary G. Nye, R. D. No. 1, Montpelier, Vermont.

ABSTRACT OF CHARTER

*George the Third to all Persons to whom these Presents shall  
come, Greeting;*

To encourage a New Plantation in the Province of New Hampshire;

With the Advice of Benning Wentworth, Governor of New Hampshire, and of the Council of the same;

Do give in equal shares to those whose names are entered on this Grant, in seventy shares

A Tract of Land in the Province of New Hampshire, six miles square, 23,040 acres, bounded &c.;

The tract to be incorporated into a Township by the Name of Berlin;

When fifty families are settled on the tract they may hold Two Fairs a year and may open a Market;

And Theodore Van Wyck, Esq., is to send out a notice for the first town meeting, to be held July 19th, next, and he is hereby appointed Moderator of said first meeting;

Hereafter an annual meeting to be held for the election of officers; *Conditions of the Grant*

1. Each grantee (or his heirs or assigns) to plant and cultivate five acres within five years for every fifty acres of his share, under penalty of forfeiture of the share;

2. All pine trees fit for the Royal Navy reserved;

3. Land near the center of the town to be reserved for town lots, one for each grantee;

4. Quit-rent, one ear of Indian corn on the 25th day of December, annually, beginning in 1763;

5. Each proprietor, settler or inhabitant to pay annually on December 25th, beginning in 1773, one shilling Proclamation Money for every hundred acres owned.

Signed by B. Wentworth

With Advice of Council, T. Atkinson, Junr, Secry,  
Province of New Hampshire, June 8th, 1763.

#### NAMES OF GRANTEES OF BERLIN

Revd Dr Chauncy Graham	Jacob Griffin	Matthias Horton
Matthew Brett	John Sheerar	David Love
John Sheerar, Jun.	Henry TerBos, Jun.	John Baily, Junr
Cornelius Van Wyck	Gabriel Many	Wines Many
Willm Laurence	John J. Langdon	Mattw Allen
Aaron Brown	Isaac Teller, Jun.	Jereah Teller
Charles Platt	Thos Sheerar	Willm Sheerar
Benja Roe	Theodorus VanWyck, Junr	David Sheerar
Theodorus Van Wyck	Peter Horton	Isaac Adriance
Simeon Smith	Capt Jacobus Swartwo	Robt Sheerarut

Chauncy Graham Junr	Joseph Dorlin	Benja Haasbrook
Francis Way	Danl Lighheart	Willm Van Wyck
John Van Wyck	Benja Southard	Jonas Canniff
Capt Cornelius Swartwout	Jacobus Swartwout, Junr	Jonas Southard
James Wiltsie	John Cooke	Willm Vantine
Andrew Bracestead	Geo: Isaac Brinckerhoff	Nathl Sackett
John Halstead	Cornelius Osburn	Daniel Haasbrook
John Montross	Hendrick Brewoort	Isaac Hodge
Patrick McKey	Collo John Brinckerhoff	Saml Averill
Daniel Sawyer, Junr		

Hon: John Temple	} Esqrs.	Willm Temple	} Esqrs
Theo Atkinson		John Nelson	
Mk Hg Wentworth		Theo: Atkinson Junr	

A tract of five-hundred acres allotted to His Excellency Benning Wentworth, Esqr., accounted as two shares.

One share allotted to the Incorporated Society for the Propagation of the Gospel in Foreign Parts.

One share allotted as a Glebe for the Church of England.

One share allotted to the first settled Minister of the Gospel.

One share to be for the benefit of a school in the town.

Province of New Hampshire, June 8th, 1763.

Recorded from the Back of the original Charter of Berlin under the Prov. Seal.

T. Atkinson, Junr., Secy.

In connection with this charter for Berlin, Vermont, granted to fifty-eight persons in southern Dutchess County, New York, in 1763, it should be noted that in 1761 other residents of Dutchess, living on Nine Partners Patent in the north-central portion of the county, obtained a charter for Danby, Vermont, which latter tract, like that of Berlin, was six miles square. The affairs of the Danby grantees were more or less fully reported upon by the late Mrs. Theodore deLaporte of Rhinebeck in the *Year Book* for 1935 (volume 20, pages 55-59).

HELEN WILKINSON REYNOLDS.

### THREE ARTISTS

JAMES SMILLIE - JAMES DAVID SMILLIE - GEORGE EDWIN BISSELL

In an age when history is made all too rapidly by war and by economic conditions it may be well for this *Year Book* to give space to some records of the cultural life of this community. Wars have come and gone in the past, kingdoms have risen and fallen, but things truly valuable in art have outlived distressing changes in the world. And so, to turn the thoughts of readers of the *Year Book* to achievements in art by men connected with this immediate vicinity, mention is here made of three artists who may be looked upon with interest and pride, James Smillie, James David Smillie and George Edwin Bissell.

#### JAMES SMILLIE

Born in Edinburgh, Scotland, in 1807, James Smillie went to Canada with his parents in 1821, established himself in New York City in 1829, lived in New York until 1874, and then removed to Poughkeepsie, where he made his home at number one, Eastman Terrace, until his death on December 4th, 1885.

Mr. Smillie's great reputation rests upon his work as an engraver. Over a period of years he was outstanding as an engraver of landscapes and had many friends among the painters of the so called Hudson River School. As an example of his work in those years this *Year Book* reproduces his engraving of Asher B. Durand's landscape: *Dover Plains*, a subject interesting to Dutchess County and a picture that illustrates the style of the Hudson River School. After 1841 Mr. Smillie devoted himself to the engraving of banknotes and became famous in that field. When he died at his home in Poughkeepsie the *Daily Eagle* for December 7, 1885, published an obituary, consisting of some twelve inches of text regarding his life and work, and which concludes with a more intimate, personal touch as follows: "In 1874 Mr. Smillie purchased the house where he died, where he had a charming home and was constantly engaged with all the enthusiasm of youth in the work of his loved art. \* \* \* He was a man retiring in his habits and devoted to his family, gentle and always courteous in manner. He was elected an associate of the National Academy of Design in 1832 and an Academician in 1851, one of the only two engravers elected. He leaves a widow, four sons and two daughters."



*View of Dover Plains, Dutchess County, New York. Painted by Asher B. Durand. Engraved by James Smillie.*

Reproduced from a print in the Public Library of the City of New York.

Photographed for  
reproduction by  
Margaret DeM. Brown



### JAMES DAVID SMILLIE

One of the four sons of James Smillie, the great engraver, was James David Smillie, who was born in New York City in 1833 and died there in 1909. James David Smillie began his career early in life as an engraver, collaborating in later years with his father in the latter's bank-note work, but he soon added painting to engraving and, after 1864, was widely known also for his etchings. The example of his work which is shown in this *Year Book* is an etching which he made of one of his own paintings, the subject of which is Jefferson street, Poughkeepsie. The etching bears the date: 1878 and the picture from which the etching was made was presumably painted during one of the numerous visits made to Poughkeepsie by the artist while his father was living there. A copy of this picture in the print room of the New York Public Library, New York City, is accompanied by a few lines of printed descriptive matter, believed to have been clipped from a book or magazine. These printed lines say in part: "The view is one familiar to many of our subscribers; a part of one of those long, unpaved streets with no houses, to be met with upon the outskirts of the city of Poughkeepsie, on the Hudson, a street embowered by overhanging trees, which make pleasant walks for loving couples as well as the promenading goat or straying cow."

James David Smillie's sketch of Jefferson street was apparently made looking north toward what was presumably the German Catholic Church of the Nativity on Union street. That the sketch shows a lane of rural appearance, with no houses in sight, seems remarkable when the date of the sketch (1878) is considered. But it is reproduced here because of its local interest and as a link between the artist and this neighborhood.

### GEORGE EDWIN BISSELL

The third artist of whom this *Year Book* makes record was George Edwin Bissell, sculptor, who was born in New Preston, Connecticut, in 1839, lived from 1866 to 1898 in Poughkeepsie, moved thence to Mt. Vernon, N. Y., and died in 1920.

Mr. Bissell's first important public work was a monument, done in 1871, for the plot in the Poughkeepsie Rural Cemetery owned by the Poughkeepsie Fire Department. The life-size marble figure of a fireman (standing on a high pedestal-base) is considered to be exceedingly good. Thereafter Mr. Bissell produced a large number of figures and busts,

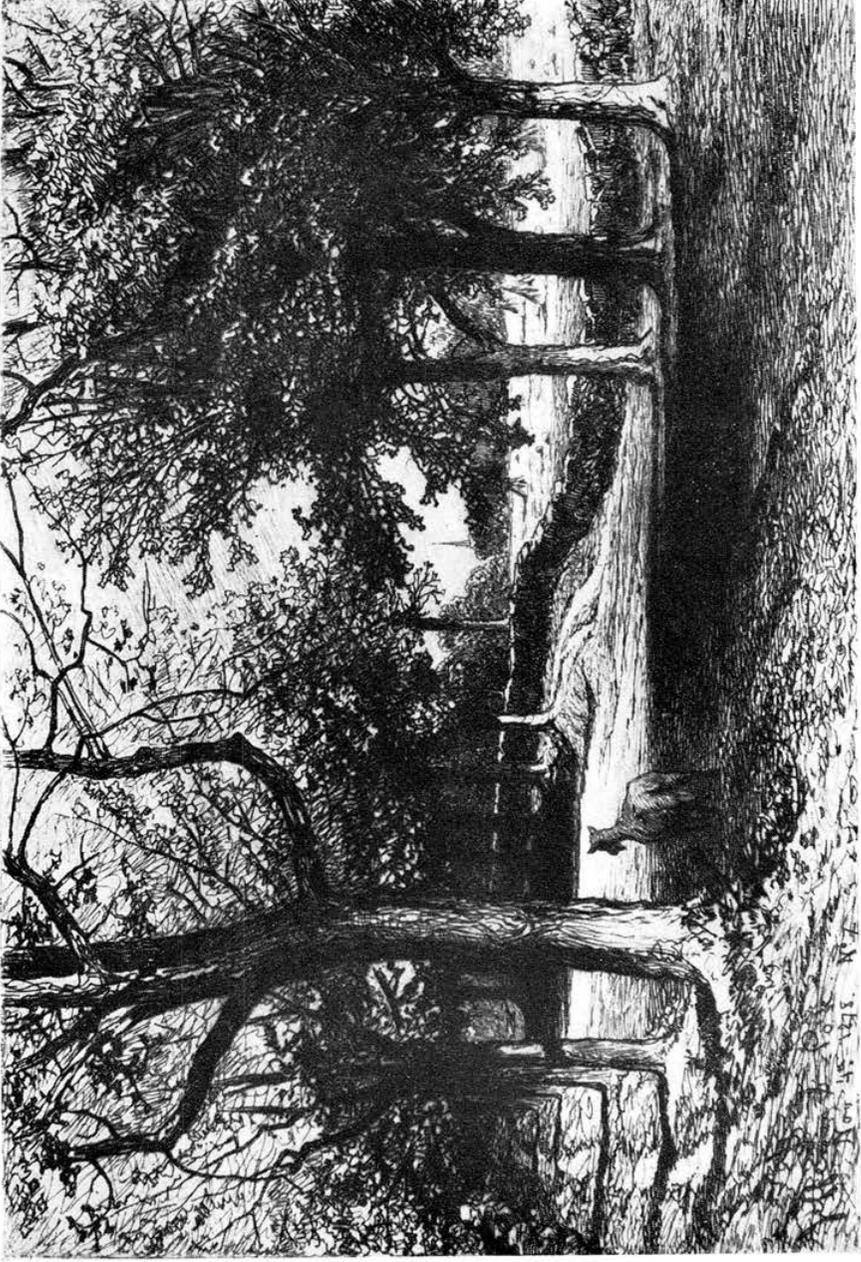
the excellence of which steadily added to his reputation. Among his many creations some that are of particular interest locally are the busts of Matthew Vassar, Jr., and John Guy Vassar in Vassar Institute, Poughkeepsie; the seated figure of Abraham de Peyster (Mayor of New York 1691-1694) at Bowling Green, New York; a statue of John Watts (last Royal Recorder of New York) in Trinity Churchyard, New York; a statue of President Arthur in Madison Square; and in the Library of Congress, Washington, a statue of Chancellor Kent.

Wallace Bruce, lecturer and poet (who lived at number eleven, Franklin street, Poughkeepsie, 1872-1893), was United States Consul at Edinburgh, Scotland, 1889-1893. In those years Mr. Bruce raised a fund by popular subscription and commissioned Mr. Bissell to make a statue of Abraham Lincoln, which was presented to the city of Edinburgh. The statue was placed in the old Calton Burying Ground, east of Waterloo Place in Edinburgh, and was unveiled August 21, 1893. It stands upon a base and on the steps of the base kneels a slave, his arm upraised. Beneath are the words: *In Memory of Scottish-American Soldiers*. The figure of Lincoln was so admirable that General John Watts dePeyster of Tivoli, Dutchess County, commissioned Mr. Bissell to make a replica of it in miniature in bronze. The bronze passed to General de Peyster's granddaughter, Mrs. Estelle de Peyster Hosmer, who in 1941 presented it to the Adriaance Memorial Library, Poughkeepsie, and a photograph of it is reproduced in this *Year Book*.

In 1866-1867 Mr. Bissell lived at 3 High street, Poughkeepsie; in 1867-1868 at 56 Main street; from 1868 to 1890 at 61 Mansion street (in a house that stood on the site of the present post office); from 1891 to 1898 at 25 Balding Avenue. Numerous trips to France and Italy marked those years. In the course of the thirty-two years in which Mr. Bissell had his home at Poughkeepsie he was a friend of the late Charles N. Arnold and of Mr. Arnold's son, the Reverend Frederick Sherman Arnold, now rector of St. John's Church, Auburn, N. Y. In a letter of April 2, 1941, to the editor of the *Year Book* the Reverend Mr. Arnold recalls his visits in his youth to Mr. Bissell's studio and adds that Mr. Bissell "was an interesting man and it was always stimulating to talk with him."

J. WILSON POUCHER, M. D.  
HELEN WILKINSON REYNOLDS.

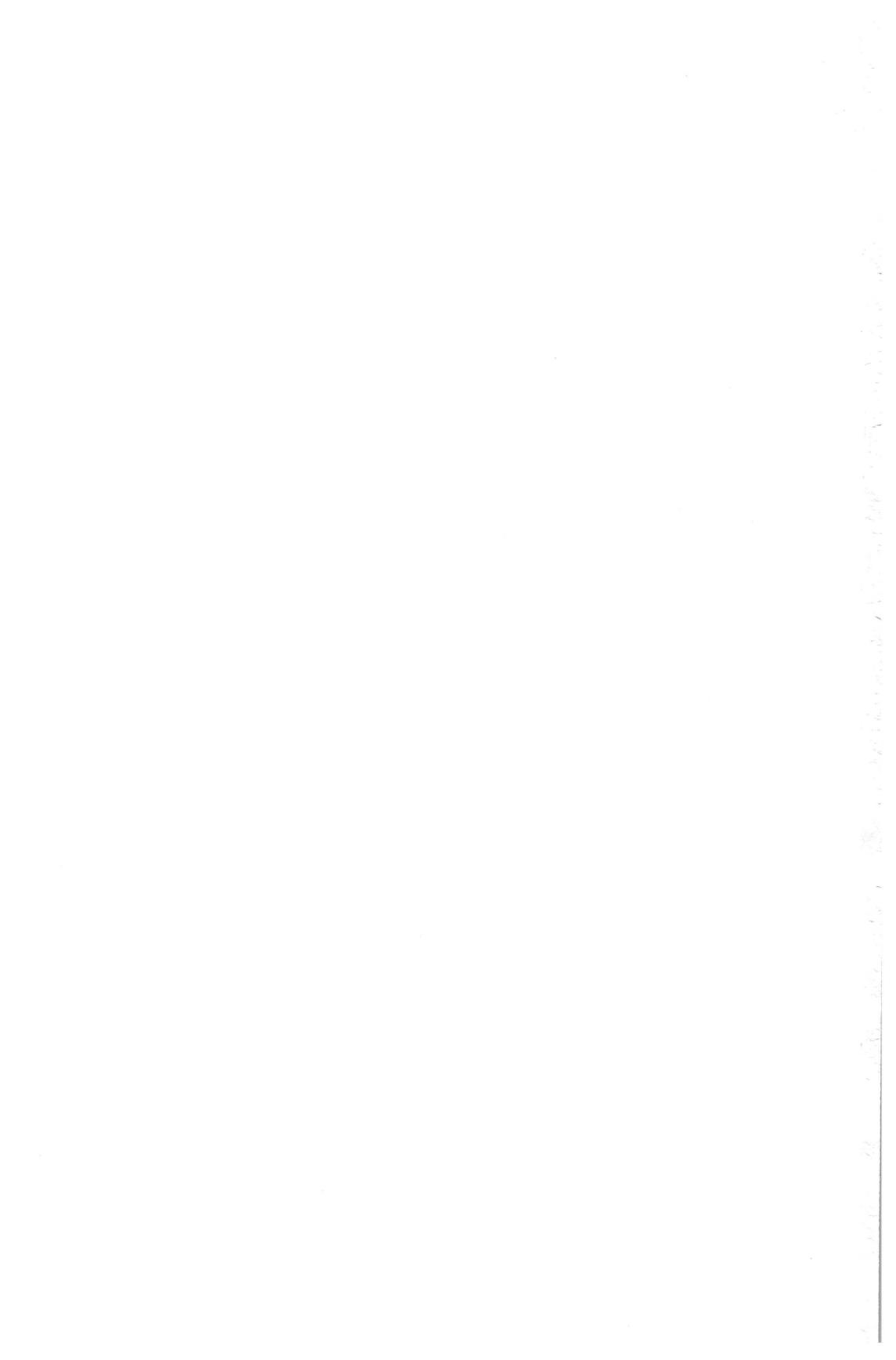
In Collaboration.



*View of Jefferson street, Poughkeepsie, New York, in 1878, by James D. Smillie*

*The etching reproduced in this plate is owned by Miss Carrie Ingle Swift of Poughkeepsie and is shown through her courtesy.*

Photographed for  
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Margaret DeM. Brown



## SHEEP-RAISING IN DUTCHESS COUNTY

On the first farms of Dutchess the raising of sheep was an important part of the work of the owner. This was because each farm of the period of the pioneers was an economic unit, which produced almost everything that the family living on it ate or wore, and the wool from the sheep was one of the principal materials used for clothing. As the population increased and the county became prosperous flocks of sheep became larger, until in the early nineteenth century sheep-raising in Dutchess advanced beyond the point of merely meeting the needs of home-consumption and came to be an important export-business. The export of wool from Dutchess continued on a large scale until the middle 1840's when, sad to relate, the amount of wool produced began to dwindle and the export business finally died out.

Today, when enquiry is made among older residents of the county, asking the reason why the sheep-raising industry disappeared from Dutchess, men like Isaac Smith Wheaton of Lithgow and George S. Van Vliet of Pleasant Plains tell of the local tradition that the decline was due to losses suffered by the attacks made on the flocks by roving dogs; it used to be said that so many sheep were killed that profits were wiped out and owners discouraged. The losses from this cause were certainly large and testimony to them is borne not only by tradition but by such contemporary items in the newspaper as the one which may be read in the *Dutchess Intelligencer* for November 18, 1829, page 2, column 6, which says:

"Dogs among Sheep.—We understand that much injury has been done in the east part of the town of Poughkeepsie during the last week by dogs attacking several flocks of sheep. One farmer alone lost about thirty. Some time last winter a cow, belonging to the Methodist clergyman in this village, was attacked by dogs and nearly killed. We think some efficient measures should be taken, if practicable, to protect our farmers from injury from the great number of vicious dogs which are kept in this village and about the country by persons who have no use for them and who are unable to pay for the injury they may do."

Great as was the loss of sheep from the depredations of vicious dogs, the dogs were not however the sole cause of the decline of sheep-raising in Dutchess. Originally a home-industry, sheep-raising assumed a commercial character when, as stated above, the export of wool to outside markets began. Export was induced by the fact that many mills were established early in the nineteenth century in the states along the Atlantic

seaboard for the manufacture of woolen cloth. Statistics show that the mills drew their stocks of wool very largely from an area of which Dutchess County was an important portion and the business thus created prospered over a period of years. In 1837 about twenty-five per cent of all the sheep in the United States were in the state of New York. In 1840 thirty-five per cent were in New York and Vermont. But the commercial sheep-raising in the East began to feel the competition of sheep-raising in the West in the middle 1840's and ultimately the West eclipsed the East in the industry and eastern sheep pastures began to be utilized for dairy-farming. Thus dogs locally and economic conditions in the country as a whole combined to put an end to the wool business in Dutchess.

Some idea of the size and value of a good flock in Dutchess in the prosperous 1820's is obtainable from items in the inventory of the estate of Judge Isaac Smith of Lithgow, furnished the writer by Judge Smith's great-grandson, Isaac Smith Wheaton. Under date: January 5, 1826, the inventory lists—

6,195 sheep; bucks, ewes, wethers, lambs	\$22,574.25
2 Saxony bucks and one ewe at cost	770.00
250 lbs. pulled wool at 30c	75.00
100 lbs. sacks of wool at 18c	18.00
488 lbs. of wool with the manufacturers at 30c	146.40
84 wool sacks at Boston	31.50

That Dutchess County was one of the chief centers of the production of wool at the peak of the prosperity of the industry in the East in 1840 is shown by a map of the areas in the United States in which in 1840 wool was being raised. The map may be consulted at page 181 of *A Brief History of the Sheep Industry in the United States*, written by L. G. Connor and printed in the *Annual Report of the American Historical Association for 1918* (vol. I, pp. 89-197).. Mr. Connor's monograph is an exhaustive treatment of his subject, filled with detail, and is recommended to those interested in the economic history of Dutchess County as good background for that history.

HELEN WILKINSON REYNOLDS.



*Replica in bronze in miniature of the statue of Abraham Lincoln in Edinburgh, Scotland, by George E. Bissell. The replica was executed by the sculptor for General John Watts de Peyster, late of Tivoli, Dutchess County, New York, and was presented in 1940 to the Adriance Memorial Library, Poughkeepsie, by General de Peyster's grand-daughter, Mrs. Estelle de Peyster Hosmer.*

Photographed by  
Margaret DeM. Brown



## THE CAIRE POTTERY AT POUGHKEEPSIE

In 1939 Dr. J. Wilson Poucher, secretary of the Dutchess County Historical Society, prepared an article on the Caire pottery, an industry which was operated in Poughkeepsie for many years during the nineteenth century. The article was printed in the *Hudson River Magazine* for November, 1939, but as that paper, then being published at Hudson, New York, was seen by a few only of the members of Dutchess County Historical Society, it has seemed desirable to reprint the article in the *Year Book* of the society. With the permission of Mr. Carroll E. Osborn, editor of the *Hudson River Magazine*, Dr. Poucher's paper is now offered below.

### "AN OLD POUGHKEEPSIE POTTERY

A manufacturing concern, that prospered for a long term of years in Poughkeepsie, was a pottery of a unique character which turned out jugs, crocks, mugs, bottles and other articles made of earthenware.

A map of Poughkeepsie, in 1780, shows there was a pottery situated on the river front near, what is now, the foot of Union Street, then known as Union Store Road, as it lead to a store and shipping dock, kept by Dr. Peter Tappen and Captain Israel Smith and known as the Union Store. Just who the potter was, or when the pottery was moved further uptown to the site it occupied in 1840, or just what kind of jugs or other wares were made, can only be left to conjecture. But there is evidence there was a kiln burning all these years. The first known potter was John B. Caire. Mr. Caire, born in Straasburg, on the Rhine, served as a boy and young man, in Napoleon's army. He emigrated, with his family, to America in 1839. In 1840, he purchased the pottery at 151 Main Street which, in after years, occupied the whole block between Bayeaux (now North Perry) and North Bridge Streets. Here the business was conducted by John B. Caire until 1852, when he was succeeded by his son, Jacob Caire who, with Gideon L. Crisman, conducted the pottery for a year or two. In 1854, we find the pottery in the possession of Louis Lehman, who was joined in 1855 by Philip Riedinger. Then, in 1856, along came Adam Caire, another son of John B. Caire, who purchased the Lehman interest. The partnership for the next

twenty years was Riedinger and Caire and was only dissolved by the death of Riedinger, in 1878.

Adam Caire had learned the potter's trade in his father's pottery but, about 1851, left Poughkeepsie and spent the next six years working in potteries in Amboy, New Jersey and Hartford, Connecticut.

This firm was a consistent advertiser in the Poughkeepsie Eagle, then a weekly newspaper. The following is copied from the issue of February 26, 1857:—

RIEDINGER & CAIRE, Manufacturers of stone earthenware, fire bricks, drain pipes, flower pots, etc. etc.; 151 Main Street, at Poughkeepsie. The subscribers continue at the well known establishment, 151 Main Street, where they are manufacturing all kinds of earthen and stone ware to suit the wants of the public. But in addition to the usual wares, they are paying particular attention to the article of drain pipes which they are manufacturing upon a large scale and of all sizes and in any quantity, furnished at the shortest notice and at the most reasonable terms.

Many of these crocks, mugs and jugs, were stamped with the name of the firm, during a long term of years. The writer has found many of these old pieces preserved in the cellars and attics of his friends, not only in Poughkeepsie but in the county, where the farmers' wives used them for butter, pickles, cider jugs and all kinds of uses. What country boy doesn't remember his grandmother's cookie jar? Some are stamped with the name John B. Caire, others, Riedinger & Caire and later, Adam Caire. Among those preserved in two collections, photographed for this article, appear the names, D. H. Barnes & Co., Poughkeepsie and R. Reeves. Mr. Reeves lived on a large, beautiful estate at New Hamburgh, on the Hudson. One two gallon jug is ornamented with the picture of a large flower. A medium size crock has the name John Schwartz upon it. Mr. Schwartz was a well known tobacconist, contemporary of Adam Caire and used these crocks for tobacco, to keep it fresh for his customers. Besides the various flower ornamentation, were bluebirds, eagles, roosters and emblems. Many were marked with the names of private customers who had them made for their own private use. A great quantity of these articles were disposed of by peddlers, who carried loads of them out through the county and sold them to farmers.

For many years this pottery made thousands of stone bottles, which

held a pint of ale, for the Vassar Brewery and also for another Poughkeepsie product, Post's Root Beer, which was for many years a favorite beverage and sold in great quantities in Caire's bottles, not only in Poughkeepsie but throughout the country. The Vassar bottles had no distinguishing mark but the root beer bottles have Post's stamped upon them. Although these bottles were made and sold with their contents in such great quantities for many years they have become very rare. I know of only one pair, owned by a friend of mine, who lives in Dutchess County, a few miles from Poughkeepsie.

During the early years of his life, Mr. Caire is said to have turned to making small articles of his earthenware for the Woolworth five- and ten-cent stores, which were then getting under way. I am told by descendants of Adam Caire that he had many New York customers and these articles were usually marked with the names of the customers or the articles which they were to contain for marketing. Mr. T. H. Ormsbee, in a sketch, several years ago, in the *American Collector*, found in an antique shop several of the Caire articles which had been made for merchants in other cities—Rondout and Troy, New York, which had given rise to the suggestion that they must have been made in those places but were traced to the Caire pottery in Poughkeepsie.

Flower pots were also made in great quantities as were fire bricks, which were used in the building of fireplaces and bakeovens, for heating and baking in the houses in early times. The writer lived many years in a house where a fine old fireplace and a large bakeoven, in the kitchen, were built of these bricks.

Then, when plumbing in houses began, they turned their attention to making drain and sewer pipes, as they say in their advertisement, ". . . upon a large scale and of all sizes and in any quantity." In a biographical sketch of Adam Caire, in a souvenir number of the *Poughkeepsie Eagle*, October 1889, it states, "His pottery produced the pipes that were used in the new Capitol at Albany and the Hudson River State Hospital, at Poughkeepsie and other important public buildings."

Most of the articles manufactured in the Caire pottery were made from a clay which was brought from the neighborhood of Amboy and Woodbridge, New Jersey, of which they used thousands of tons. Mr. James Robson, one of our oldest citizens and who was a neighbor of Adam Caire, tells me that when pushed, by urgent demands, for their

products, they frequently procured a very good quality of clay from a brick yard, just east of Poughkeepsie. Mr. Robson estimated that the pottery used about six hundred cords of wood, in the early days and later, between three and four hundred tons of coal, yearly and employed about forty men. As I was thanking him for his information, he said, "Wait a minute!" and stepped out of the room, returning a minute later with a fine three gallon jug, ornamented with flowers and stamped Riedinger & Caire.

I have made every effort to find one of the mugs made by Caire's pottery for the members of the Vassar Class of 1895 but have been unable to do so. The story of these mugs has been told with several variations. One story I have heard is that it was used, during class festivities, with beer and the class song, "If it wasn't for beer, we wouldn't be here." This is denied, however, by members of the Class of Vassar, 1895. I will quote from a letter just received from a class member who, at the time, lived near the pottery in Poughkeepsie:

"... a party of us visited the pottery and some one thought it would be a bright idea to have mugs for Commencement souvenirs but it was not a class movement. Perhaps twenty-five, or more, had them. Some had them carefully marked with the '95 class insignia and some had just a careless VC. We had our Commencement guests, friends in the class, some of the faculty and staff, write on them. Then, I believe, the words were drawn or cut in, slightly, with a sharp pointed instrument, the owner's name inscribed and the mugs were then sent back to the pottery to be fired. As I said before, it was not a class movement and we did not use the mugs in any class festivities. I hope you will manage to find one of the mugs . . . You may use any quotation from my letter but would prefer not to have my name appear."

(Signed) Member Class of Vassar '95."

The death of Adam Caire, in 1896, ended the career of the old pottery. Nothing remains that would recall even the memory of it.

J. WILSON POUCHER."

\* \* \*

#### POST SCRIPT

After the publication of Dr. Poucher's article in the *Hudson River Magazine* there came to light a little more information regarding the



*Examples of the products of the Caire pottery at Poughkeepsie, New York*

Photographed by  
Margaret DeM. Brown



mugs from the Caire pottery that were owned by members of the class of 1895 at Vassar College. One of those mugs is now on deposit in the Adriance Memorial Library, Poughkeepsie, and is marked on one side with a shield that encloses within its outline the figures: 95. Scattered on the sides of the mug are the following autographs, each signature accompanied by the figures: 95,—Abbie F. Learned, Julia Swift Orvis, Julia Emery Turner, Mabel I. Jones, Gertrude Witschief, Bess Updegraff, Christie Hamilton Poppenheim, Frances Albee Smith, Ida H. Poppenheim. Of this group of Vassar alumnae Miss Updegraff has answered an enquiry by stating that the names on the mug are those of students who in their senior year formed Professor Salmon's seminar in history. The class met once or twice a week from seven to nine in the evening in Miss Salmon's parlor in Main Building, third south transverse, and were enthusiastic in their work. Apparently the inscribed mug passed from the students to Professor Salmon, who in turn must have given it to her close friend Miss Adelaide Underhill (librarian of the college library) for it was given by Miss Underhill to the Adriance Memorial Library. At the time she made this gift Miss Underhill was a trustee of the Adriance Memorial Library and was presumably prompted by the fact that the library had just been presented with a piece of Caire pottery by Mr. Thomas Ransom of Poughkeepsie.

Another inscribed mug connected with the class of 1895 at Vassar is in the possession of Dr. Frances Cohen of 340 West 57th street, New York City. Dr. Cohen, a member of the class of '95, owned one of the mugs herself originally but lost it. The one she now has belonged at first to her classmate, Rose Gruening, since deceased. It is the doctor's understanding that the mugs were not official class souvenirs but that they were acquired by girls associated with each other in small intimate groups.

THE EDITOR.



## PHYSICIANS AND MEDICINE

### IN DUTCHESS COUNTY IN THE EIGHTEENTH CENTURY

On the tenth of January, 1906, the Dutchess County Medical Society celebrated the one-hundredth anniversary of its organization and, in connection with that observance, Dr. Guy Carleton Bailey read an historical paper before the society in Vassar Institute, Poughkeepsie. Later in the same year that paper was printed in pamphlet form and in 1909 it was reprinted in the *History of Dutchess County* edited by Frank Hasbrouck. The paper embodied an account of the status of the profession of medicine in Dutchess in the eighteenth century and to it was appended a list of doctors known to have practised in the county from early times to 1906.

Dr. Bayley's list of names of the members of the local medical profession is a wonderfully full one but since 1906 some sources of information have become available which he either did not have access to or which he failed to make use of and which have passed under observation subsequently. And so it has come about that notes have accumulated in the hands of the present writer which supplement and add to Dr. Bayley's material. Those notes are now offered here as a postscript to the work done by him.

At page 29 of Dr. Bayley's pamphlet the statement is made that the first evidence of the presence in Dutchess County of a doctor occurs in 1740, in which year the records of the Board of Supervisors mention "the doctor of Rhinebeck." But it is now possible to push back the date for the profession from 1740 to 1736, inasmuch as a certain Pieter Van Buren, a physician, was a resident at Poughkeepsie in 1736-1737-1738-1739. The tax lists for those years spell his name variously: Van Burree, Van Buerre, Van Burren and Van Buerren and refer to him as "Dakter," while the *Commonplace Book* of Francis Filkin (the contents of which were reviewed in detail in the *Year Book* for 1938) shows that "docter pieter van Bueren" treated the Filkin family. Dr. Van Buren is said<sup>1</sup> to have been the son of Dr. Johannes Van Buren (educated at the University of Leyden), who was of New York City about 1700. Pieter Van Buren was baptized in New York in 1713 and was thus in his early manhood when he was at Poughkeepsie. From Poughkeepsie he removed to Claverack, where he presumably spent the remainder of his life.

The record of Dr. Pieter Van Buren is the only instance so far found which ante-dates 1740, the year set by Dr. Bayley as the earliest for a practising physician in Dutchess, but the names of several doctors have been found in contemporary records which were not included by Dr. Bayley in his list of the members of the profession and those additional names are now given below in chronological order.

1741, March 6, John Sackett of Dover, "Cherurgeon," bought land in "Upper Nine Partners" (deeds, liber A, p. 372) and May 4, 1749, John Sackett of Crum Elbow Precinct, "Chirurgion," sold land (deeds, liber 2, p. 166).

1743, May 9, the field-book of Charles Clinton, surveyor, mentioned a German doctor, Hendrick Hoespell, living in the northern part of Little Nine Partners Patent (Hunting, *History of Little Nine Partners*, pp. 26, 29). Dr. Bayley lists a Dr. Hendrick Hoespells as of the Oblong in 1793 but, with fifty years between 1743 and 1793, there may have been two men of the same name.

1743, October 20, the Court of General Sessions ordered payment made "to Noah Rockwell for Doctoring a sick man at Justice Calkins. Two pounds, five shillings in full."

1743/1744, February 7, to June 2, 1747, the name: Picket Potts is on the tax-list of Beekman Precinct. On February 2, 1747/1748, the tax-list bears the entry: Picket Potts Widow. In an ancient burial ground in the town of Beekman, north of Gardner Hollow, is (or was in 1923) a stone marked: Pigott Potts, aged 30 years, 1747 (*Old Gravestones of Dutchess County, p. II*). Under date October 22, 1937, Mr. Benjamin Haviland of Hyde Park, New York, wrote as follows: "Dear Miss Reynolds; My father's native place and mine also is on the adjoining farm to where Picket Potts is buried and I often heard my father speak about the old gravestone and (he) always referred to it as (for) Dr. Picket Potts and (said) that he came from Philadelphia."

1745, October 16, the Court of General Sessions ordered payment made for care of the poor, among the items being one in Rombout Precinct: "to Doctor Marks 12/." This item is supplemented by the entry on the tax-list for Rombout from 1743 through 1748 of the name: Isaac Marks. On April 10, 1747, a piece of land in Rombout Precinct changed hands (deeds, vol. 9, p. 81) and the description of the boundaries of the parcel mentions "the Jew Doctor's house." In October, 1756, the Court ordered payment made "to Marks and Osborn for attendance and drugs" for John Lane, a soldier. Dr. Cornelius Osborn was of Poughkeepsie in 1756 and perhaps Dr. Marks had removed there from Rombout. At all events it is worthy of note that a Hebrew practised medicine for a time in Dutchess in the eighteenth century, in view of the comparatively small number of Jews then in the Province of New York and in view of the many well known physicians among Jews of recent years.

1746, April 14, an entry in Francis Filkin's *Commonplace Book* is of "signing over one bond of docter ducoloh."

1754, February 20, John Adams of the Oblong in Crom Elbow Precinct, physician, sold land (deeds, liber 5, p. 224). Dr. Bayley cites Dr. John Adams of Amenia Precinct in 1765, who was probably the same man.

1757-1760 the tax-lists for Crom Elbow Precinct and 1763-1773 those for Charlotte Precinct show "Doctor Tobias." The *Crum Elbow Precinct Record*, pp. 89, 112, mentions Dr. Christian Tobias. Dr. Bayley cites: "Tobias, Crum Elbow, 1758."

1760, the tax-list for Crum Elbow Precinct names: Doctr Stonesbury.

1760, the tax-list for Crum Elbow Precinct names: Doctr Young. In 1765 the tax-list for Amenia Precinct mentions: "Doctor Young's farm." Dr. Bayley cites "Young, Amenia, 1765."

1760, 1761, 1762, the tax-list for Rombout Precinct mentions "the Doctor at Outwater's."

1762, the tax-list for Rombout Precinct mentions (Doct ?) Newberger.

1763, February, the Board of Supervisors ordered paid the bill of Doctor Sprague for care of the poor. Dr. Bayley cites "Sprague, Beckman, 1768."

1765, April 1, Doctor William Forman of Poughkeepsie bought land in what is now the southwest angle of Main street and Raymond Avenue, Poughkeepsie (deeds, liber 5, p. 117) and in 1770 he mortgaged the same (mortgages, liber 3, p. 62). Probably Dr. William Furman, who was taxed in Rombout Precinct in 1799, was the same man.

1766, 1767, 1768, the tax-lists of Rombout Precinct name: Dr. Ferdinand DeBroner.

1768, 1769, the Board of Supervisors and the Court of General Sessions ordered payment made to Dr. Samuel Cooke of Poughkeepsie for care of the poor. Dr. Bayley cites "Cook, Samuel, Poughkeepsie, 1767."

1772-1775 the tax lists for Charlotte Precinct name: Doctor Miller.

1779, the tax-list for Clinton Precinct names: Doctor John Lee.

1786, the assessment-list for Clinton Precinct names: Doctor Hinckman. This list is in manuscript form and is in the possession of the President of the United States.

In the eighteenth century the science of medicine was backward everywhere,—in Europe, in the British Isles and of course in the thirteen American colonies. In the colonies the degree<sup>2</sup> of doctor of medicine was nowhere obtainable and in a few instances only did students go abroad to earn it. Young men desirous of practising medicine apprenticed themselves to older men and learned what they could in that way. A variety of plants was used in prescriptions but in addition there were many so-called remedies which revealed ignorance and sometimes bordered on superstition. There is in the Adriance Memorial Library, Poughkeepsie, a small leather-bound book, originally the property of Dr. Cornelius Osborn (born 1723, died 1782) of Poughkeepsie and Fishkill, which amply illustrates the truth of the statements just made. Dr. Osborn used<sup>3</sup> for his patients fifty-one native and twenty imported plants in compounding his prescriptions. He also prescribed bleedings and purges and a great deal of rum. But beside these his notebook mentions the use of "the powder of a ratil Snak" and "the blood of a cat" and says to:

“Take a beehive with the bees comes and honey all in it put the hive in water so that you drown the bees” and then to boil the whole, &c, &c.

During the War of the Revolution two printers, John Holt and Samuel Loudon, removed their presses from New York City and took refuge in Dutchess County, Holt at Poughkeepsie and Loudon at Fishkill, and for a time issued newspapers from their new locations. After they returned to New York Nicholas Power took up the publication of a newspaper at Poughkeepsie so there were few appreciable breaks in newspaper production locally from the time of Holt and Loudon onward.

As early as 1779 there began to be advertisements of medicines in the papers that were printed in Dutchess and the advertisements afford what is probably a fairly complete record of what was used for patients by the physicians who were in this county in the last quarter of the eighteenth century. The medicines were sold by storekeepers at scattered points, who seem to have imported their supplies from England and to have catered to doctors within a wide radius of the stores.

It will be noted that advertisements (quoted below) emphasize “patent medicines in 1779 but as the United States Patent Office<sup>4</sup> began to function in 1802 (under an Act passed in 1790) the term evidently did not mean just what is now understood by it. Early in the eighteenth century there seem to have been remedies in use in the American colonies that were called patent medicines<sup>5</sup> but which were put out by individuals privately, without government authorization or protection. The *Poughkeepsie Journal and Constitutional Republican* for July 9, 1805, contains an advertisement by Nicholas Power of Poughkeepsie of patent medicines. The advertisement is a column and a half in length and lists ailments and remedies and also (which should serve as a reminder to readers of today that there is “no new thing under the sun”) gives testimonial letters written by users of the medicines.

Interesting it is to see that by 1802 electricity is mentioned as a curative. Just what “medical electricity” was, the advertisement published by Caleb Child and quoted below fails to disclose.

In 1767 mineral springs were discovered in what is now Saratoga County, New York, and a village grew up about the springs that was called Ballston Spa. The name came from that of the township in which the springs were located (Ballston), which was founded by the Reverend Eliphalet Ball. And so it came about that when “mineral springs” were

said to have been discovered at Poughkeepsie in 1807 a house was opened near them that was called *New Ball-Town Hotel*. Mention of this would-be spa was made for a short time, its site being near the junction of Pine and Tulip streets; then it faded out of the records and no more is learned about it. Perhaps the spring or springs, discovered in 1807 had medicinal properties, perhaps not. On the high ground on which most of the city of Poughkeepsie is built springs gave rise originally to several small streams which ran down grade to the river. Some of the streams are now covered over but may be accounted for by the surveys of the city engineer. Possibly a live spring of ordinary water gushed up in 1807 near the foot of Pine street. There is nothing known now to explain satisfactorily the advertisements appended below but, as an instance of the local belief in water as a cure for illness they are included here.<sup>6</sup>

The first mention of a dentist in Dutchess County, so far found, occurs in the *Poughkeepsie Journal* of October 1, 1805, when Dr. J. B. Porter announced that he was about to be at "Mr. Cunningham's Hotel" in Poughkeepsie *for a week!* This service was little like that which is available today in dentistry.

#### ADVERTISEMENTS OF MEDICINES 1779-1806

*New York Journal and General Advertiser*, Poughkeepsie John Holt, no. 1809, January 25, 1779, p. 2.

"Epsom Salts

To be sold by Doct. Tappen Poughkeepsie."

*Ibid.*, no. 1811, February 8, 1779, p. 2.

Advertisement by G. Duyckinck at Morristown, New Jersey, of "a complete assortment" of "drugs and medicines," viz.,—rhubarb, Jesuits bark, jalap, opium, aloes, borax, salts, manna, antimonial preparations, mercurial ditto, quicksilver, tartar emetic, aquas, camphor, Spanish flies, calomel, cochineal, saffron, castor, senna, icing glass, sago, magnesia alba, balsams, causticks, conserves, essences, extracts, electuaries, elixirs, tinctures, spirits, emplastra, gums, oils, powders, roots, raisins, tartars, ointments, pills, caraway and anniseed, pink-root, mercurial or itch ointment, Patent Medicines, Anderson's pills, Bateman's drops, liquid shell, balsam of health, Daffy's elixir, Francis's female elixir, essence of Burgamot, ambergrise, lavender, lemons, valerian, waterdock, elixir bardana, Godfrey's cordial, Hooper's pills, James's fever powders, Jesuits drops, King's honey water, Locker's pills, Keyser's pills, Fryer's balsam, tincture of golden rod."

*New York Packet and the American Advertiser*, Fishkill, Samuel Loudon, no. 126, May 20, 1779, p. 4.

Arthur Langharne, "druggist and apothecary" at New Windsor, Orange County, has "lately received from the Southward an Assortment

of Medicines as follows" (the list largely duplicates the one just quoted above).

*Ibid.*, no. 230, June 12, 1783, p. 1.

"Drugs and Medicines Wholesale and Retail by Eff. Lawrence, New York, no. 227 Queen-street, facing the Fly Market and next door west of the corner of Maiden Lane. \* \* \* Practitioners and others living in the country, by sending their orders to the above store, may depend upon benign supplied with genuine medicines, patent medicines, perfumeries, &c."

*Country Journal and Poughkeepsie Advertiser*, no 75, January 10, 1787, p. 4.

"To be Sold

At Colonel Hopkins's in Amenia a complete assortment of Drugs and Medicines, Amongst which are quicksilver, Peruvian bark, cinnamon, cloves, &c, Carolina pink, orange peel, &c., Oils, balsams, Hooper's and Anderson's pills, Godfrey's cordials, Stoughten's bitters, empty vials, &c., Lancets, syringes, dissecting instruments, pocket ditto, and other articles too numerous to mention, to be sold cheap;—gentlemen of the faculty and others may depend on the best usage and attendance by their humble servant

Cyrenius Crosby."

*Country Journal and Dutchess and Ulster Counties Farmers' Register*, Nicholas Power, Poughkeepsie, no. 200, June 2, 1789, p. 4.

"Benjamin Anthony

Has lately received a fresh and general assortment of Drugs and Medicines, which will be sold for cash or country produce as cheap as can be purchased in New York.

Nine Partners, near the Friends Brick Meeting-House,  
5th mo., 15th, 1789."

*Poughkeepsie Journal*, Nicholas Power, Poughkeepsie, no. 570, June 29, 1796, p. 4.

"Drugs and Medicines

Robert Thorn & Co. have just received a fresh supply of Drugs and Medicine which they are selling at their store in Poughkeepsie.  
\* \* \* April 27."

*Ibid.*

"Cheap Medicinal Store  
Dr. James L. Van Kleeck  
and Company

Have received an universal and genuine assortment of Drugs and Medicine. It is suited to ancient and modern prescription and will be disposed of at the New York prices only. The following are a part of their assortment.

Red Peruvian bark	Liquor. Hoff. anod.
Yellow ditto	Cuprum. ammon.
Ras. guaiac	Hepar. sulph.
Digital. putpur.	Unguent. citrin.
Scil. siccat.	Mosch. Chin. ver.
Rad. sarsaparil.	Pearl barley
Gum. Kino.	Sago in grain
Cort. simaroub.	Ditto in cannisters
AEther. vitriol.	Oat meal

Patent Articles

James' fever powder, Anderson's pills, Hooper's ditto, Bateman's drops, British oil, Godfrey's cordial, Issue-plaisters and peas for issues, Stoughton's elixir, Steer's opodeldoc.

They have too a stock of  
Groceries and Crockery  
Poughkeepsie, May 3, 1796."

*Ibid.*, no. 806 (no. 16 of vol. 16), January 6, 1801, p. 4.

"Relief for the Afflicted

Peter Van Bommel, Agent for Richard Lee and Co. has just received a large quantity of the most celebrated Patent and Family Medicine among which are Dr. Hamilton's Worm Destroying Lozenges, Dr. Hamilton's grand Restorative, Essence of Mustard, Dr. Hamilton's Elixir, Dr. Hahn's Anti-Bilious Pills, The Sovereign Ointment for the Itch, Infallible Ague and Fever Drops, Dr. Hahn's genuine Eye-Water, Tooth-ach Drops, Church's Drops, Pectoral Pills, Anderson's Pills, Mustard Pills, Indian Vegetable Specific, Corn-Plaster, &c."

*Ibid.*, April 27, 1802, p. 2

"James L. Van Kleeck

Has received by the ship *Fame*, arrived at New York from London, a general assortment of Drugs and Medicines of the first quality.

Paints, Oils, &c., as usual.  
Poughkeepsie, April 26, 1802."

*Poughkeepsie Journal and Constitutional Republican*, November 9, 1802, p. 3.

"New Store of  
Drugs and Medicine.

Caleb Child  
Physician, Druggist and Medical  
Electrician

Respectfully informs the public that he has commenced Business in Main-street, Poughkeepsie, at the Store lately occupied by Dr. Thorn and Mr. Bramble, where genuine

DRUGS & CHYMICAL GALENICAL  
and PATENT MEDICINES

may be had on the best terms. Orders and Recipes from Physicians, and such as cannot personally apply will be duly attended to.

Medical electricity in all its various branches, which has proved very beneficial (when judiciously managed) in various diseases, particularly in those arising from obstructions and nervous affections, and which has perfectly cured many Chronical distempers, performed with caution and skill, acquired by long experience.

N. B. Doctor Child offers his medical services in particular to such persons as are afflicted with Rheumatic disorders, Diseases of the eyes, Deafness, Nervous Headaches, Cutaneous Eruptions and Epileptic Fits; and begs leave to observe that, from his past success in practise, he has reason to think they may oftentimes by application to him be relieved from their complaints.

Miscellaneous articles, too many to enumerate, and a few choice second hand BOOKS for sale.  
November 9, 1802."

*Ibid.*, October 4, 1803, p. 3.

"Fresh Drugs  
 Drugs and Fullers' Articles  
 Received by the J N PITER arrived at  
 New York last week from LONDON  
 and for sale on low terms by  
 James L. Van Kleeck  
 Also for sale as above  
 English White Lead  
 Holland Linseed Oil by the  
 barrel or smaller quantity  
 PAINT BRUSHES  
 WINDOW GLASS, &c

Poughkeepsie, October 3, 1803."

*Ibid.*, July 9, 1805, p. 4.

"Drugs and Medicines

Dr. Child,

Respectfully informs the Public that he has removed to the stand lately occupied by John Hobson, Hatter, in Main street, a few rods east of the Market, and nearly opposite the Printing-Office of N. Power and Co. where he offers for sale a large and general assortment of

Drugs and Medicines

Just received by the ships Joseph and Flora from London—the Charles from Amsterdam—the Frau from Margretta and different arrivals from Hamburgh, Leghorn, &c. &c.,

His assortment has been carefully selected and will be sold on as low terms as good Medicines can be afforded. All officinal compositions will be faithfully prepared and Physicians recipes carefully attended to.

He has also a fresh supply of the most valuable PATENT MEDICINES, both European and American, and a variety of Miscellaneous Articles—Muriatic of Tin for Dyers, &c.

Dr. Child respectfully informs the public that he still continues his services in the line of his profession, in MIDWIFERY and the various branches of Medical Practice.

June 25, 1805.

N. B. Merchants, Tavern-keepers and private families can be supplied with Stoughton's Bitters of an excellent quality."

*Ibid.*, July 1, 1806, p. 2.

"The Subscriber

is about publishing a Work entitled<sup>7</sup>

MEANS

of

Preserving Health

and

Preventing Diseases

found principally on an attention to

Air and Climate — Drink — Food —

Sleep — Exercise — Clothing —

Passions of the Mind — and Retentions

and Excretions.

With an appendix containing Observations on Bathing, Cleanliness, Ventilation and Medical Electricity; and on the Abuse of Medicine. Enriched with apposite Extracts from the best Authors, Designed not merely for Physicians but for the information of others.

The subject of the above work is too interesting to all to need any

comment or recommendation.

The cure of diseases is the province for Physicians but the prevention of them and the preservation of health are in great measure in the power of every person who will attend to the means, which it is the object of the work to point out.

Shadrach Ricketson  
Physician in New York.

June 23, 1806."

The chaotic state of the medical profession in the eighteenth century led the state of New York to legislate in 1797 in an endeavor to regulate conditions. An Act was passed March 23, 1797, which attempted to deal with the situation, but which proved ineffective as it failed to set up sufficient controls. It must have afforded a slight stimulus however as a medical society was voluntarily organized in Dutchess in November, 1797, of which three mentions have been found in the local newspapers, as follow:

*Poughkeepsie Journal*, September 26, 1797, p. 3.

"The Members of the Medical Society of the County of Dutchess are notified that a stated meeting of said society will be holden at Timothy Beadle's the second Monday of November next.

By order

J. Livingston Van Kleeck

Poughkeepsie, September 23, 1797.

For the Poughkeepsie Journal

The Physicians of Dutchess who are not incorporated into the above society\* are invited to associate with its members at their ensuing meeting. The invitation is extended to those Physicians who reside on the western limit of Connecticut.

It is believed that the object of this society has been sufficiently explained. No remarks are necessary to prove that the gentlemen who compose it are influenced chiefly by a motive of public good. They have united in an instructive and a friendly research into the principles of their profession. To restore the bloom of health to the faded cheek of disease—to re(l)ume the languid eye of sickness—to afford at least an unstable prop to sinking humanity—these incitements have been esteemed essential to the exercise of a few of those relative duties which obligate them as men and as citizens. *Shall their exertions be solitary in a cause so praise-worthy?* Fellow-practitioners, you will do well to emulate their example. And they solicit you to join them in the good work in which they are engaged. The expence of time which will accrue to you will be trifling. The stated meetings of the society are only *twice a year*.

The members of the Medical Society of the County of Dutchess confide the purity of their intention to the foregoing considerations, when they tender a request in which some of the most important concerns of mankind are materially interested. And as they present it with much cordiality, they conceive that it will be reciprocated with a partial compliance.

A Physician.

\*The society consists of 25 members.  
Poughkeepsie, September, 1797."

*Ibid.*, November 28, 1797, p. 3.

"At a meeting of the Medical Society of the County of Dutchess on the 13th instant, the following persons were elected officers of said society,

Benjamin Delavergne,	<i>President</i>
James L. Van Kleeck,	<i>V. Presi'dt</i>
Thomas Saffon,	<i>Secretary</i>
Abraham Halsey,	<i>Librarian</i>

*Ibid.*, May 1, 1798, p. 3.

"The semi-annual meeting of the Medical Society of the County of Dutchess will be holden at Timothy Beadle's on the second Tuesday in May. The members are requested to convene at 11 o'clock A. M.

Thomas Saffon, Sec'y.

April 21, 1798."

Whether this society continued in existence after May, 1798, does not appear but in 1806 the state of New York passed a new and stricter Act, which proved useful. Under its provisions county medical societies were authorized, which societies were to regulate the requirements for membership and to raise and protect professional standards. Dr. Bayley's historical article proceeds from this point in more or less detail and so this present paper offers data relating only to the unorganized period of medicine prior to 1806.

HELEN WILKINSON REYNOLDS.

#### REFERENCES

1. *New York Genealogical, Biographical Record*, vol. 63, 1932, pp. 23, 24.
2. So far as now is known, Dr. Samuel Bard (born 1742, died 1821) of Hyde Park, in Dutchess County, New York, a graduate of the University of Edinburgh, was the only physician resident in Dutchess in the eighteenth century who held the degree of doctor of medicine.  
In connection with Dr. Bard mention should however be made of Dr. William Wilson, a native of Scotland and a graduate in 1775 of the University of Glasgow, who came to America in 1784 and who practised medicine for approximately forty years at Clermont, Columbia County, just north of the boundary line of Dutchess. Dr. Wilson told his son, William H. Wilson, that he held the degree of M. D. and William H. Wilson left a written (and printed) statement to that effect. Dr. Wilson's professional notebook for 1790-1792 (a record of calls, prescriptions and charges) is now owned by his great-granddaughters, Miss Anne Hulme Wilson and Miss Jane Livingston Wilson of Clermont. Dr. Wilson died at Clermont in 1828 in his seventy-third year.
3. *Year Book*, Dutchess County Historical Society, vol. IV (1918), pp. 39-44.
4. Kane, *Famous First Facts*, pp. 380,381.
5. Adams, *Provincial Society 1690-1763*, vol. 3 of *History of American Life*, p. 126.
6. The *Daily Eagle*, Poughkeepsie, for May 21, 1877, contains an account of a spring in the city to which some people attributed medicinal qualities. The spring was discovered, some years before 1877, in the rear of the house numbered 57 on South Clinton street. From 1869 to 1878 the house was the home

of Thomas S. Lloyd, variously referred to in the city directories as an importer of hardware, as a sea-captain and as the Vice-President of the Hudson River Iron Company. The newspaper article about the spring says it was called Crystal Spring, that the water had been analysed by Professor Chandler of Columbia College, and that Captain Lloyd gave the public free access to it. After Captain Lloyd's death (which occurred about 1879) the spring seems to have been disregarded. During the occupancy of number 57, South Clinton street, by James Dutcher and family (following Captain Lloyd's residence there), its existence was known of but the water was not used.

7. A copy of this book is on file in the local history room of the Adriaance Memorial Library, Poughkeepsie. The author of it, Dr. Shadrach Ricketson (born 1768, died 1839), joined the Dutchess County Medical Society in 1815 and practised medicine in the town of Beekman for a quarter of a century.

## THE NEGRO IN DUTCHESS COUNTY IN THE EIGHTEENTH CENTURY

In 1937 Zion African Methodist Episcopal Church of Poughkeepsie celebrated the centennial of its founding. When announcement was made of the approach of the anniversary the present writer was not only interested but surprised. The surprise was occasioned by the fact that, inasmuch as slavery was finally abolished in the state of New York in 1827 and that only ten years elapsed until the organization of Zion Church, it was noteworthy that in the course of one decade the number of negroes in Poughkeepsie possessed of a degree of material prosperity was sufficiently large to form a congregation. Consideration of that accomplishment led to the preparation of this article, which is offered as a contribution,—however limited and inadequate,—to the early portion of the history of the negro in Dutchess County. Presented below are local notes which, it is hoped, may be useful in the future to some general historian.

The importation of negroes into New Netherland was begun early in the seventeenth century by the Dutch West India Company, for the reason that it was expensive to send white laborers from Europe to do the agricultural work that was needed here and because the white laborer soon after arrival deserted agriculture and applied himself to a trade.<sup>1</sup> The negro was therefore brought in from Brazil, the West Indies and from Africa.

No permanent settlers established themselves in Dutchess County until 1687, when two white men took up land on the site of the city of Poughkeepsie. How soon after 1687 negroes were brought into the county there has nothing been found to show but in 1714 (twenty-seven years later) a census of Dutchess<sup>2</sup> was taken which recorded a total population of 417 whites and 30 blacks. It is to be supposed that the 30 negroes of 1714 had not all arrived here that year and so it is a fair statement to make that the negro has been a resident of Dutchess very nearly as long as the white man.

The 30 negroes of 1714, all slaves, were listed in the census with the households of the owners as follows:

1 with Jacob Kip, who lived at the present Rhinecliff.

1 with Evert Van Wagenen, who lived at the present Rhinecliff.

- 2 with Maghill Parmentier, who lived at Poughkeepsie.
- 1 with Leonard Lewis, who lived at Poughkeepsie.
- 5 with Baltus Van Kleeck, who lived at Poughkeepsie.
- 3 with Frans Le Roy, who lived at Poughkeepsie.
- 4 with Henry Van Der Burgh, who lived at Poughkeepsie.
- 1 with (Mellen) Springsteen, who lived at the present Beacon.
- 3 with Roger Brett, who lived at the present Beacon.
- 1 with Johannis Dyckman, Sr., who lived at ( ? ).
- 5 with Dirck Wesselse, who lived at ( ? ).
- 1 with Jacob Vosburgh, who lived at ( ? ).
- 1 with Roeliff Duijtser, who lived at the present Dover.
- 1 with Pick De Witt, who lived at ( ? ).

Subsequently, during the eighteenth century, the negro in Dutchess was recorded by census five times,<sup>3</sup>—in 1731, 1737, 1746, 1749 and 1790,—and the figures in those successive returns are illuminating in more ways than one. A comparison of the four returns that were made 1731-1749 leads to the conclusion that there were some typographical errors in the printed record and that in 1746 some round figures that were given must have been estimates, not exact counts. But, taking the four returns together and allowing for inaccuracies, it is possible to see that in the second quarter of the eighteenth century the negro population of Dutchess did not exceed a total of about five hundred persons. There were many more adult males than adult females recorded by each of the four returns, which undoubtedly indicates that detached men were employed out of doors in what was then a region thickly forested and sparsely occupied by settlers. Gradually the number of women and children increased, which of course shows the growth of family relationships and, in consequence, a greater stability and permanence in the community.

Between the census of 1749 and that of 1790,—a period of over forty years,—no figures are available. The return from 1790 lists a total of 1,714 slaves in Dutchess, which amounts to about four times the total of 1749. In 1790 the negroes in Dutchess were distributed in the county as follows: 52 in Amenia; 106 in Beekman; 166 in Clinton; 559 in Fishkill; 80 in Northeast; 42 in Pawling; 207 in Poughkeepsie; 421 in Rhinebeck; 81 in Washington.

The census of 1790 can be taken as the peak of slavery in Dutchess for on March 29, 1799, the legislature of New York passed an Act<sup>4</sup> that

outlined measures for freeing the negroes in the state. In abstract form the Act provided that: after July 4, 1799, any child born of a slave was to be free, such a child to be the servant of the legal owner of the mother until it reached the age of 28 (if male) or 25 (if female); and: such a child to be the same as though bound to service by the overseers of the poor; and: the births of such children were to be recorded, with penalties for failure to record; and: if the person entitled to the service of such a child abandoned the right to the child, the child might be bound out by the overseers of the poor; and: all children, thus abandoned, should be cared for by the overseers of the poor at the expense of the state; and: after the passage of the Act the owner of any slave might manumit such slave by certificate. The Act became completely effective in 1827, in which year all negroes in the State of New York automatically became free.

In the Bockée family of Dutchess County there is a tradition<sup>5</sup> that Jacob Bockée (born 1757, died 1819), who lived at Shekomeko in the town of Northeast and who was a member of assembly 1794-1797, sponsored a movement at Albany to abolish slavery in the state of New York. The minutes of the proceedings of the assembly in the years in which he was a member contain no mention of this. And the Act by which the slaves were made free was passed after Jacob Bockée's term had expired. But the family tradition is a positive one and so it may be that Jacob Bockée during his term of office agitated for action which took place later.

It can hardly be questioned that the negro was first brought to Dutchess County by the white settlers to help clear the forests. This belief would agree with the fact that there were in the beginning so many adult males and so few females. But, as time went on, cultivated farms increased in number and the need to fell trees decreased. With that change in conditions the colored men worked in the open fields and in the vegetable gardens and tended stock, while their wives helped in the work inside the houses of the white owners.

The houses of the eighteenth century in Dutchess were none too comfortable for the owners as regarded light and heat and ventilation and the slaves suffered in those respects to an even greater degree, although there was probably no intention of cruelty in this connection on the part of the whites toward the blacks, for the knowledge of hygiene and sani-

tation was limited then. The white families lived and ate and slept in the rooms on the main floor of houses that were a story and a half high; the blacks were sometimes quartered in the half-story, sometimes in the cellar, sometimes in out-buildings.

In the main the relation between the races was amicable and often it was one of devotion and attachment between individuals. Occasionally there were instances unpleasant to tell of, as they reveal each race at its worst (the negro in under-development, the white in brutality of behaviour). The eighteenth century written records mention happenings so dreadful they are shocking to this generation to learn of. In 1735 Quacko,<sup>6</sup> a negro, was sentenced to many lashes for the attempted rape of a white woman and as significant additional severity the punishment was ordered administered by other negroes. In 1775 a negro set fire to the house and barn of Jacob Van Benschoten of Poughkeepsie. The buildings burned to the ground and for his act the negro, himself (who had confessed his guilt), was—horrible to state!—burned to death by order of county authorities.<sup>7</sup>

In 1751 Harry, a slave of Arie Hendrickse, committed some breach of peace and the Court of General Sessions<sup>8</sup> ordered the owner to give a bond for £100 for Harry's future good behaviour. In 1755 Jack Kingstreet, a negro, threatened to kill or hurt Cornelius Swartwout, a white man, and was put in jail until he could give bond for good behaviour.<sup>9</sup> There is nothing to show whether Jack Kingstreet were a slave or a free negro but it is to be noted that he had a surname, which at the time was unusual.

That owners were responsible to the civil authorities for the good conduct of their slaves is evident from the foregoing item that Arie Hendrickse had to give bond for Harry but the obligation of owners was still further defined in 1773 by an Act<sup>10</sup> of the provincial legislature, the purpose of which was stated as being "to prevent aged and decrepit slaves from becoming burthensome within this colony." The Act cited "repeated instances" where owners of aged and decrepit slaves (had) obliged the same to go about begging for the common necessaries of life; such owners were liable under the Act to a fine, as were also owners who sold a slave to a person unable to maintain the slave. On the same date it was enacted<sup>11</sup> further that keepers of inns or taverns were forbidden to sell liquor to any "apprentice servant, or negro, or other slave" without the consent of the master or mistress.

That there was occasionally a free negro in Dutchess County in the eighteenth century is learned incidentally from the proceedings of the board of supervisors<sup>12</sup> and of the court of general sessions.<sup>13</sup> It was the duty of the board of supervisors to take care of indigent poor in the county out of monies raised by taxation and, from 1754 through 1759, expense was incurred for one who was variously described as: "a free negro", "a lame negro", "the old lame negro" and "an old crippled negro". The lame negro and the free negro were one and the same man, as is shown by details stated in the records. The entries run for about six years, during which time the old freeman was boarded by the supervisors with Jonathan Strickland for four months, with Peter Low. Lassing for a year and eight months and with Abraham Lassing for four years.

The fact that there were some negroes who were free is still further witnessed to by a certain item in the county records.<sup>14</sup> At a sitting of the court of General Sessions Cornelis Jansen, "a mulatto negro man, appeared in court and produced a manumission in writing under the hand and seal of his father, Francis Jansen, bearing date the 21st day of August, 1756." After proper procedure the court ordered "that the said Cornelis Jansen be manumitted accordingly."

This instance of Cornelis Jansen, a mulatto, the son of Francis Jansen, can hardly be other than that of the child of a white father (a Dutchman, from his name) and a negro mother. Such mixture of race is common in the southern states. How frequently it occurred in Dutchess in the eighteenth century nothing has been found to show.

One of the most detailed stories of a slave in Dutchess county in the eighteenth century is found in the history of Christ Church, Poughkeepsie, although it must regretfully be added that the story is that of a slave who was troublesome and of whites who failed to recognize the evil of the system of slavery. Briefly stated<sup>15</sup> the story runs that in 1780-1783 the Glebe House of Christ Church (still standing in 1941 on Main street, Poughkeepsie) was rented to Colonel Andrew Bostwick. The colonel's payments of rent fell into arrears and, to offset his debt, he gave the vestry of the church his negro, Jack. The vestry turned Jack over to Richard Davis of Poughkeepsie. In 1784 Jack ran away, stole a horse at Red Hook, went to Connecticut and was there taken up by the local authorities. He was followed by Richard Davis and, having apparently eluded the Connecticut officials, was apprehended at "Bennington in the

new Clames." From there he was taken to New York and sent to "Carrolina", where he was sold.

That slaves ran away more or less frequently is witnessed to by the advertisements in contemporary newspapers, although it is probable that truancy was occasioned by more than one motive. While in some cases it may have been prompted by harsh treatment of the slave by the white owner, in others it was presumably due to a "wanderlust", a desire to get abroad and see something new, to have amusement and to do as he or she pleased. The advertisements are informing, less for the fact of the running away than for details they provide regarding the personal appearance and disposition of the runaway, the clothing worn and so on. A few examples are listed below.

September 1, 1779, David Waldron of New Hackensack announced that there had run away from him "a Likely Negro Boy, about sixteen years of age, a small scar by his right eye; had on a brown linsey woolsey jacket, a black and white striped under jacket, two shirts, two pair of tow trousers, blue ribbed stockings, one pair new shoes, one pair turned pumps, an old beaver hat with white binding."

*New York Packet & American Advertiser*, September 2, 1779.

Also on September 1, 1779, Comfort Sands, "living at Poughkeepsie" (he was the Auditor-General of the newly organized state government, his home being on Long Island), reported that there had run away from him on August 29th "a Negro Man named Pomp, about 30 years old, Guinea born, about six feet high, (who) speaks good English. (He) had on when he went away a new brown short coat, lined with green baize, a scarlet vest, a pair of striped linen breeches, a pair of tow trousers; he has been seen in Hanover Precinct, Ulster County; is harboured by some disaffected people and it is expected he means to go to the enemy."

*New York Packet & American Advertiser*, September 2, 1779.

Godfrey Wolven of Oswego, Beekman-Town, advertised on October 29, 1791, that there had run away from him "a Negro Man, named Robert, 23 years old, about five feet, ten inches high; (he) speaks good English, is a fidler and took his fiddle with him. He also took with him a considerable quantity of clothing, among which is a blue coat, snuff-colored Velvet breeches, Velvet white jacket, &c—had also considerable money."

*Poughkeepsie Journal*, November 24, 1791.

An advertisement dated October 17, 1795, published by Samuel Augustus Barker (then living in Franklin, a part of Dutchess county part of Putnam County) states that there had run away from him "a Negro Man, named Zack, about 20 years of age, 5 feet, 7 or 8 inches high, slender built, sprightly walk, has lost the sight of his left eye, born in Connecticut, speaks good English, plays on the fife and German flute, had a fife with him; had on a coat, waistcoat and overalls of light-colored home-made bearskin, round hat, and shoes; carried with him a new green broadcloth coat, striped cotton waistcoat, fustian overalls, namkeen do., white cotton stockings, thread do., several shirts and other clothing."

*Poughkeepsie Journal*, January 6, 1796.

Henry B. Livingston of Rhinebeck announced on November 30, 1801, that "a black boy, named Solomon," had run away from him. Solomon, he said, had "a remarkable scar between his eyes, is slim built, and aged 17 or 18; had on when he went away a good hat, a green over and under waistcoat made of sarg, faced with red cloth, and considerably worn, a stout green cloth overalls and a good pair of shoes; over his other clothes wears an old drab-colored greatcoat, the bottom of which he had torn off to facilitate his walking. It is supposed he will apply for a passage to some foreign country as his inclination tends that way."

*Poughkeepsie Journal*, January 5, 1802.

"A Negro Man named Abraham" ran away in May, 1803, from Ares Vanderbilt, who lived near New Hackensack. The owner described Abraham as "about 20 years old, about 5 feet 5 inches high, (and said he) had on a light-colored bearskin coat, swansdown jacket, fustian overalls, black rorum hat (and) took with him a brown fear-nought greatcoat; (he) talks good English and some Dutch."

*Poughkeepsie Journal*, July 5, 1803.

And finally William Davies of Poughkeepsie in October, 1809, wanted to get back a spirited black girl of 21, named Caroline, who, he said, was "very likely." She was dressed in a striped tow cloth short gown, striped linsey woolsey petticoat, tow apron (and was) without any bonnet. He added that Caroline was "inclined to go to New York" and that captains of vessels and all ferrymen were desired not to take her on board.

*Poughkeepsie Journal*, October 18, 1809.

Now that some of the unfortunate aspects of the lot of the negro in Dutchess County in the eighteenth century have been touched upon, it is possible to turn to happier parts of the story. And here, fortunately, a bit of contemporary testimony is available. In the 1760's there lived in Orange County, a few miles southwest of Newburgh, a Frenchman, St. John de Crèvecoeur, a man of letters. In the course of his writings he had much to say of his own and other farms in Orange County, which of course were similar to farms of the same day in Dutchess. Of the negroes in Orange County Crèvecoeur gave an account that may safely be taken as applicable to the negroes of the same date here. He said:<sup>16</sup>

"The few negroes we have are at best but our friends and companions. Their original cost is very high. Their clothing and their victuals amount to a great sum, besides the risk of losing them. \* \* \* If we have not the gorgeous balls, the harmonious concerts, the shrill horn of Europe, yet we dilate our hearts as well with the simple negro fiddle." \* \* \* (Speaking of ovens). "Mine is in the chimney of my negro kitchen. \* \* \* Our negro kitchens are always built adjacent to our dwelling houses, with a door of communication into the room where we eat, in order that we may inspect whatever passes there; and indeed it is the room which is often the most useful for all housework is done in it." \* \* \* (Speaking of winter). "Nor are the joys and pleasures of the season confined to the whites alone; as our blacks divide with us the toils of our farm, they partake also of the mirth and good cheer of the

season. They have their own meetings and are often indulged with their masters' sleighs and horses. You may see them at particular places as happy and merry as if they were freemen and freeholders. The sight of their happiness always increases mine, provided it does not degenerate into licentiousness; and this is sometimes the case, though we have laws enough to prevent it."

This description by Crèvecoeur, testifying to generally good relations between whites and blacks, is supplemented by an account<sup>17</sup> of the status of the slaves held by the Van Benschoten family at New Hackensack, Dutchess County, which, summarized, relates that: the births of slaves were recorded in the Dutch Bible of the family from 1749 to 1810. In 1827, slavery having been abolished in New York State, the slaves owned by the Van Benschotens were provided for. To heads of families were given farms of from ten to thirty acres; to younger ones sums of money; to some boys a horse; all were well clothed. "Most of them returned to their old home at intervals; once a year at least they came to receive their Christmas dole. And some of them returned there sick,—to die and to be buried on the place, in the graveyard appropriated to their race."

The account book<sup>18</sup> of Francis Filkin of Poughkeepsie contains items of 1736-1746 about his negroes: Will, George, Dina, Josina, Betie, Molly and Kit. He bought clothing for them and Will and George served him and his neighbors in field-work, carting, butchering livestock, sweeping chimneys, &c. They also went out hunting and fishing. A previous *Year Book* of this society (1930, vol. 15, pp. 36-44) has already given in some detail a record of the slaves held by the Van Der Burgh family and of the attachment felt by each race for the other. Mr. William V. Coe of Clove Valley has definite traditions of the slaves who in the early nineteenth century were on the Emigh farm at the north end of the valley. The negroes there occupied a small structure that stood due east of the stone house (still standing) that the family lived in but which was torn down before 1850.

Several wills<sup>19</sup> recorded in Dutchess County contain provisions for the family slaves, some of whom were freed and some of whom were made a charge upon the testator's estate for support and good care. On the farms burial grounds were set aside for use by the negroes; in the churches seats were reserved for them and the ministers baptized and married them. No instance has been noted of the association of negroes with Friends' Meetings. But with the Dutch Church and with the

“English Church” (i.e. the Episcopal) they were closely affiliated. Not only were the Friends opposed to slavery at an early date, for which reason they and the negroes probably had fewer personal contacts, but the austerity of the meetings made no appeal to the more emotional, volatile elements in the make-up of the negro race. In that connection it is to be observed that when, in the early nineteenth century, congregations of Methodists and Baptists were organized by the whites, the negro gravitated naturally to those churches, where there is freer individual expression than in the Dutch and Episcopal communions.

The natural tendency of the negro race toward a joyous, care-free spirit shows itself in a love for music and it is interesting that some of the earliest items in the history of Dutchess County concerning musical instruments are connected with the negro. Crèvecoeur of Orange County told of “frolics” in the 1760’s that were enlivened by the fiddle of the negro,—occasions that beyond question found a counterpart in Dutchess. Robert, slave to Godfrey Wolven of Beekman, Dutchess, in 1791 was “a fiddler” and took his fiddle with him when he ran away. Zack, owned by Samuel A. Barker in 1795, played on the fife and the German flute.

But, above and beyond a light heart and a gift for music, the negro race exhibited in Dutchess a capacity for loyalty to friends that is witnessed to by tradition. And, sometimes, the loyalty rose to heights of courage and self-sacrifice under trial. There are two stories that have been handed down, reliably and intelligently, in two of the older white families of the county that are worth including here to illustrate this point. They are the stories of two slave women, Nanna and Dina, and have to do with the War of the Revolution.

Nanna was owned originally in the Van Voorhis family and the house occupied by the family stood about a mile north of Fishkill Landing (now Beacon). At Fishkill Landing in 1874 Henry Du Bois Bailey published a small book entitled: *Local Tales and Historical Sketches*, in which at pages 376-379 he paid a feeling tribute to Nanna, whom he had known in his youth. When the British fleet came up the Hudson in 1777 the members of the Van Voorhis household fled to the interior of Dutchess, all but the head of the family, who said he would not leave his house, and Nanna, who said she would not leave him. When the house was fired upon from the ships Nanna and her master went to the cellar

kitchen, where they stayed until the ships had passed. At the time of the British raid Nanna was a woman over thirty years of age. In 1805, when a granddaughter of her first owner married John N. Bailey, Nanna went to live in the new household. There, in his childhood, she held little Henry Du Bois Bailey on her lap and told him stories, including the story of her experience in 1777. He recorded that she could speak both Dutch and English. In 1828, freedom having come in 1827, she left the Baileys and made her home with her own children but the change was too great, she soon sickened and in 1830 she died. She must then have been nearly ninety years old as she was known to have been born before a member of the Van Voorhis family, the year of whose birth was 1744.

On the shore of the Hudson in the town of Poughkeepsie, on the site occupied recently by R. U. Delapenha and Company, there stood in the eighteenth century a mill and a dwelling. When the British ships came up the river in October, 1777, the owner of the mill and the dwelling was Theophilus Anthony and, in his family, was a slave named Dina. Dina is said to have been born in Africa and to have been purchased in New York City by Theophilus Anthony to serve as a nurse for his infant daughter, Wilhelmina Anthony (born 1761, died 1800), who later became the wife of Robert Gill (born 1759, died 1836). The Anthony family came to Dutchess County early in 1777,<sup>20</sup> bringing Dina with them, and she continued first with the Anthonys and then with the Gills until she died, except for a short interval when she was first made free. At her death she was buried on the Gill farm but in late years her body was removed thence to the Gill plot in the Poughkeepsie Rural Cemetery, where her resting place is marked by a stone inscribed with the one word: Dina.<sup>21</sup>

Traditional knowledge of Dina was still clear and positive in the Gill family early in the twentieth century and members of the family then shared with the writer the story of Dina's courage during the War of the Revolution. The story as the writer received it was to the effect that in October, 1777, when it became known that the British fleet was on its way up the river, the members of the Anthony family fled from their home on the bank of the river to the woods farther inland. Dina, however, refused to leave the house. When the ships were opposite the house and mill, soldiers were sent ashore to burn the buildings. They fired the

mill, which was completely destroyed, but spared the dwelling. In explanation of this leniency it is said that Dina had just finished a baking of bread (baked in the large bulbous oven which, within the recollection of the writer, protruded from the south wall of the cellar-kitchen) and that, with the bread, she bribed the redcoats not to burn the house. Of course fresh baked bread was a treat to men who, probably, were at the moment limited tohardtack but, equally of course, those same men could easily have seized the bread and have done what they chose to the house. Obviously, there was something about Dina that altered their purpose. Courage she had, it is evident. Presumably in addition there was the mysterious something called personality, a magnetism that won the aggressors and induced them to modify their plans. At all events Dina is one of the heroines of the Revolution in Dutchess County.

In the stories of Nanna and Dina it is to be noted that when freedom came to those women they both left the homes where they had lived as slaves but that the removal was not advantageous in either case. Nanna is said by Mr. Bailey to have been made ill, the inference from his account being that she had fewer comforts than when she lived with the white family and she died before the Baileys could get her back to take care of her. Dina lived by herself a short time but then voluntarily returned to the Gills and ended her days with them.

The discomforts known to have been experienced by Nanna and Dina in living independently reflect circumstances that were more or less general locally among the negroes when the Act for the abolition of slavery in the state of New York became fully operative; great poverty must at first have been prevalent among them. That consideration was the one with which this article began, namely that it was remarkable that, ten years after freedom was established, there should have been a group of colored people in Poughkeepsie sufficiently well off to organize a church of their own.

The progress made by the negro in the century following emancipation in New York is another story and one better known than the account here offered, the present pages having to do with the period of slavery in Dutchess and not with what has been accomplished by the colored race in the period of freedom.

HELEN WILKINSON REYNOLDS.

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## AGRICULTURE IN THE TOWN OF RED HOOK, DUTCHESS COUNTY\*

The study of a minor civil division, such as a town, although it may be hindered by numerous limitations, can result in a better understanding not only of the people living within the particular town but also of those living within the general region in which the town is located. The civil division to be dealt with, Red Hook Town, is primarily an agricultural community. Throughout its entire history agriculture has been its principal occupation. By studying the agricultural development of the town, although not limiting this work solely to that one aspect, it should be possible to gain an understanding of the people, the development of the town itself, and the way in which the agricultural development has affected these factors.

Red Hook is located in the north-western corner of Dutchess County, approximately one hundred miles from New York City. It is bounded on the north by Clermont, in Columbia County, on the east by the Town of Milan, on the south by the Town of Rhinebeck, and on the west by the Hudson River. In physical size it is approximately forty-five square miles. The nearest cities of any importance are Poughkeepsie, which is about twenty miles to the south, and Hudson, which is about seventeen miles to the north.

Both the eastern and western borders of Red Hook are dotted with ranges of hills, none of which are much over five hundred feet in altitude. The central portion of the town is fairly flat running north and south. The surface generally might be called uneven with the exception already mentioned. The unevenness of the surface is supposed to cause much beneficial drainage in the form of small brooks and streams. The Saw Kill, running through the eastern and southern region, is an outstanding example of this.

The northern part of Red Hook, that section around Tivoli and Madalin, is covered with Hudson Clay Loam, while the central and southwestern parts are covered with Dutchess Slate Loam, or Dutchess Stony Loam, as it is sometimes called.<sup>1</sup>

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\*Abridgment of a Senior Project prepared by Benedict S. Seidman, Class of 1940, Bard College, Annandale, N. Y.

On February 26th, 1812, the following entry appeared in the New York State Senate Journal:

"Mr. Lewis (a representative from the district in which Rhinebeck is located) asked for leave to bring in a bill entitled 'an act for dividing the town of Rhinebeck, in the County of Dutchess . . .'

"Leave being given, Mr. Lewis brought in the said bill, which was read the first time, and by unanimous consent was also read a second time, and committed to a committee of the whole."

Three days later this bill, marking the formation of the Town of Red Hook, was passed by the New York State Senate.<sup>2</sup> At the time Rhinebeck, of which Red Hook had been a part, had a population of some 4,425 persons.

Before dealing with the development of the town of Red Hook a short discussion of the general region before the founding of the town should be presented as a background for further study. The method of settlement of Dutchess County and of the entire Hudson River Valley, for that matter, had much to do with the problems which later arose in connection with land ownership. Under Dutch sovereignty, which lasted until 1663, there were trading posts set up on the site of the city of Albany and on the site of the city of Kingston, in addition to which there was a settlement on Manhattan Island and the beginnings of the Colony of Rensselaerwyck, located near Albany. This latter colony was started by a company in Holland, among the members of which was Kilian Van Rensselaer. The Van Rensselaers ultimately bought out the other partners. The colony was developed by a system of tenant farming. On the whole, it can be said that there was little interest taken in farming during the period of the Dutch sovereignty; the primary interest was trading.

When the English took possession, a body of law known as the Duke's law was set up. In 1683 the land along the river was laid out into counties on the English shire plan. Manors were granted in Albany and Westchester Counties and the Colony of Rensselaerwyck was made over into the Manor of Rensselaer.

In Dutchess, Ulster and Orange Counties, the land was taken up by speculators under "Crown Patents". Some of the land held under patents was sold outright to settlers by deeds in fee simple. Some of it was leased under the tenant leasehold system. The tenants or lease-

holders on the manors and on the patents were handicapped by the land system, and a number of anti-rent wars resulted from the long term contracts which were originally made by the land owners. After the American Revolution anti-rent disturbances became serious and it was necessary for state troops to intervene on the part of the landlords. It eventually became necessary for many of the large land owners to sell at nominal rates small portions of their estates, but much of their lands continued to remain in their possession.

By an act passed on June 24th, 1719, Dutchess County was divided into three divisions or wards, as they were called at that time. The South Ward extended from the south side of the Highlands to Wappingers Creek; the Middle Ward from Wappingers Creek to Little Esopus Island; and the North Ward from the north side of the Middle Ward to the northerly bounds of the county. In 1714 the first census of the county recorded 445 persons, of whom thirty were negroes.<sup>3</sup>

In the following month, on July 6th, an act was passed establishing the first Court of Common Pleas and Court of General Sessions in the county. A year later the first Poor Law was passed by the county, stating that once a year the "free holders, Inhabetance Residents and Sojourners" were to be rated and assessed in order to defray the necessary costs for maintaining the poor and preventing vagabonds. It is to be noted that during the first five or six years after this act was passed the North Ward was repeatedly assessed the highest.<sup>4</sup>

Rhinebeck, part of which later became Red Hook, was one of the seven precincts created by an act of December 16th, 1737, eighteen years after the division of the county. By this act it was to contain all the lands purchased of the Widow Pawling and her children by Dr. Samuel Staats, deceased, all the land granted to Adrian Roosa and Company, the land patented by Colls. Henry Beekman, deceased, and the lands granted by patent to Colls. Peter Schuyler, commonly called the Magdalen Island Purchase.<sup>5</sup>

All of this was presented merely to supply a background for the development of the Town of Red Hook itself. This material is exceedingly sketchy because little is known of that particular part of the county before 1812. It is known, however, that farming was the principal occupation. Wheat in particular was raised all over Dutchess County and was considered a very lucrative product. There were two important

shipping centers on the Hudson River in northern Dutchess County at this time, one on the Livingston estate and another near what is now Barrytown. From these points the crops were shipped down the Hudson to New York City. This method of shipping crops was to continue well into the 19th century.

In April, 1813, the following entry appeared in the Town Record Book of Red Hook:

“Resolved, by a majority of free holders and inhabitants of the Town of Redhook at this first annual town meeting, held at Henry Walter’s inn, on the First Tuesday in April 1813 . . .

“1st That all swine running at large shall be sufficiently rung and yoked and if any are found trespassing without being rung and yoked as aforesaid the owners shall be subjected to the extraordinary penalty of two shillings for each swine exclusive of the real damages sustained, and the person or persons, on whose lands the swine may be trespassing, shall have the right either to put the hogs into the pound belonging to this Town and obtain his damages and the penalties in that made, or directly by suit in any court having cognisance here.

2nd Resolved, that no boar or male swine shall be permitted to run at large between the 1st day of April and the 1st day of December, inclusive, and if any boar or male swine be found running at large during the above mentioned prohibited period, any person shall have the right to castrate the same at the risk of the owner, or to put such boar into the publick pound subject to the expence of the owner.

“3rd Resolved, that no Ram or male sheep, shall be permitted to run at large between the 15th day of July and the 1st of November inclusive, and if any Ram be found running at large during the above mentioned period, any person have the right to castrate the same at the risk of the owner, or to put such Ram into the publick pound subject to the expence of the owner.

“4th Resolved that the pound near to or adjoining the house now occupied by Jacob Signor on the south west corner of Nicholas Hoffman’s farm, is hereby declared to be the publick pound for the use of this Town.

“5th Resolved that all fences, either circular or partition shall be four feet and a half high, to be deemed lawful fence; and garden and orchard fence must be five feet.

6th Resolved that fence viewers shall be allowed and paid six shillings a day for their services.

7th Resolved that all penalties incurred under the pre-

ceding regulations, or bylaws, shall be recovered in the manner directed in and by an act 'entitled an act relative to the privileges and duties of towns, passed the 27th of March, 1801,' which penalties, whenever recovered, shall be paid to the overseers of the poor, for the use of the poor of said Town.

"8th Resolved that no cattle or horses shall be suffered to run on the highway in the winter season, and the owner of such cattle or horses, which may be found thus running at large shall pay a penalty of five dollars for every creature or horse thus running trespassing on the highway.

"9th Resolved that the above rules, regulations or bylaws shall be and remain in force until they are repealed.

"The above bye Laws on Record 10th of May one thousand Eight hundred and thirteen by me

Matthias Rowe Town Clerk"<sup>6</sup>

A mere reading of this document indicates very clearly that the inhabitants of Red Hook were mainly occupied with agriculture. It is only in the 7th bylaw that mention is made of anything not pertaining to agricultural pursuits. One would expect that some mention be made of town institutions, officers or district boundaries. These things are omitted from the bylaws, but they are mentioned in the Town Record Book on later dates. In 1813 there were elected one supervisor, one clerk, five assessors, two overseers of the poor, one collector, three commissioners of highways, three constables, one pound master, six fence viewers, twenty-four overseers of highways and roads, three inspectors of schools and one commissioner of schools. A short time after the bylaws were passed, the town was divided into eight school districts with an allotment of anywhere from thirty to fifty families to each district. In this year, 1813, there were approximately three hundred families living in the entire town; by the following year there was a population of 2,395 persons.<sup>7</sup>

The 1822 agricultural statistics, which give us the earliest statistical agricultural information, are confined almost entirely to livestock. There were at that time 2,329 neat cattle, 752 horses and 6,406 sheep. The only other inkling of the agricultural situation that can be gained from this early census was the total number of improved lands which amounted to 17,730 acres.<sup>8</sup> The total number of acres in the town being almost 28,000, much of the land was not put to useful service. There were still large portions occupied by estates and woodlands.

Although not much can be learned from the agricultural figures

themselves during this period, by studying the so-called industrial statistics of the time a better understanding can be had concerning the agricultural situation. Of course, manufacturing was limited to a very small scale and was done mostly by hand in the home. The three most important items produced were fulled cloth, flannel and other woolen cloths not fulled, linen, cotton and other thin cloths. Of the first, 3,107 yards were produced. Three thousand, six hundred yards of flannel and woolen cloths, and 10,942 yards of linen and cotton were made, all of these in the home. How many people were occupied in the manufacture of these goods is not known, although it is safe to assume that sheep raising and its allied industries were among the most important occupations of the townspeople. For, added to this domestic manufacture, there were also three fulling mills, three carding machines and two cotton and wool factories.

Throughout the 1820's there was a general increase in the population and an expansion of farming and industry. By 1825 almost three thousand more acres of improved land were occupied, over a thousand more sheep were raised, and the breeding of hogs became an important factor in the general agricultural situation. The number of horses and the number of neat cattle increased but slightly by the 1830's. The following table, which includes figures for the three census years of 1822, 1825 and 1835, indicates the agricultural trends of this period:

TABLE 1—Agricultural Statistics—1822, 1825, 1835.<sup>10</sup>

Year	No. Acres Improved Land	No. Neat Cattle	No. Horses	No. Sheep	No. Hogs
1822	17,730	2,329	752	6,405	*
1825	20,580	2,307	795	7,414	4,004
1835	18,857	2,313	705	7,986	3,697

\*No figure appeared for this year.

The decidedly noticeable increase in the number of sheep raised may have been due to two or three important factors. In the first place, sheep raising had been carried on in this vicinity from almost the time of its first settlement, and one or two of the wealthier raisers, living on the large estates along the Hudson River, had done much experimental work in the scientific breeding of sheep. Another important factor was that of the grazing lands, which were considered very fine in this region. The demand for sheep and cattle products in and around New York City was probably great at this time, and Red Hook and the general region in

which it was located was just close enough to this excellent market to be a very practical supplier.

By the 1840's two of the major agricultural pursuits had already begun to decrease in importance. In 1845, although there were more acres of improved lands occupied—19,955, or almost as many as in 1825, as against 18,857 acres in 1835—the wheat crop had declined considerably. In this year only 698 acres, yielding 4,491 bushels, were harvested. In all probability this decline had started prior to 1845, but this figure alone is some indication of how serious the decline was. The reasons for it were probably two-fold. As early as 1838 the following appeared as a part of an article in *The Cultivator*:

“The culture of this grain (wheat) . . . is like rolling a stone uphill, except that it be on a limited scale, while the great secondary formation of the west is a competitor on the grain market.”<sup>11</sup>

While it was possible at one time for New York to supply itself with grain, after the erection of the Erie Canal, a strong competition was created in the West, where conditions were more suitable for the cultivation of this crop.

The other important factor—and this too had something to do with the shift of grain crops to the West—was that numerous crop diseases appeared, which made the cultivation of wheat unprofitable. The Hessian fly became prominent after the Revolutionary War, from which it received its name, and spread so rapidly that by 1800 it was to be found in all the wheat fields of New York. In the 1820's a new pest, known as the midge, began taking its toll of the wheat crops. The blight started in the northern part of the state, but soon spread all over New York. The two insects mentioned here were probably the most damaging and contributed in no small measure to the abandonment of wheat raising in the eastern states.<sup>12</sup>

If there was a decline in the wheat crop and in sheep raising, this was certainly compensated for by an increase in other crops. Moreover, the raising of neat cattle increased, and dairy products became increasingly important. In 1844 there were 2,120 neat cattle, and 1,022 cows were milked, from which 97,904 pounds of butter and 6,180 pounds of cheese were made. On the other hand, the number of sheep raised dropped to 6,595, from which only 13,962 pounds of wool were shorn. In spite of this, however, whereas there was only one woolen factory producing

products valued at \$500 per year in 1835, by 1845 there were three woolen factories producing \$17,250 worth of goods. What caused this flurry in wool manufacturing is not known, although it can be assumed that much of it represented work formerly done in the home.

The largest crop sown in the 1840's was one which was a necessity in a community raising livestock—oats. In 1844, 2,644 acres of oats were sown and 74,203 bushels harvested. The second largest crop was corn, 2,199 acres having been sown and 44,501 bushels harvested. The fact that 4,145 hogs were raised in this year explains the importance of this crop. Rye was another important crop. In 1844, 1,837 acres were sown and 19,764 bushels harvested. The other crops sown during this period were barley, peas, beans, buckwheat, turnips, potatoes, flax and wheat, but none of these could be considered very important.<sup>13</sup>

Although the population in 1845 numbered 2,829, only 121 of these were farmers or agriculturists in the census of that year. Since the census may very well have been referring to farm owners, it is possible that many more were engaged in agriculture than were here mentioned. The next largest occupational group were the mechanics who numbered 73. To complete the picture of the industrial life of the community it should be mentioned that there were listed 16 merchants, 9 manufacturers, 4 attorneys, 6 physicians and surgeons, 5 grocerymen, 10 retail stores and no less than 6 taverns and inns.<sup>14</sup>

By the year 1855 the population of the town had increased to 3,750 persons, an increase of over one thousand since 1840. Of this later population there were 110 negroes, 399 aliens and 54 naturalized foreigners. In the entire population there were but 292 land owners. This means that the bulk of the people, although they were occupied with agricultural pursuits, did not work their own lands.<sup>15</sup>

In the 1855 census first indication is given of the importance of fruit farming in Red Hook. In all probability this kind of farming was begun at this time, or possibly during the preceding ten years. In any case, it was beginning to take the place of grain production as the most important type of agriculture in the community. Whereas only 1,261 bushels of wheat were harvested in this year, 14,837 bushels of apples were harvested and 503 barrels of cider were manufactured. Even as early as this Red Hook ranked fifth in the county in apple production.

The other important crops of this year were oats and hay, 36,195 bushels of oats and 5,729 tons of hay having been harvested. Corn also

maintained its position as one of the leading crops, 2,126 acres having been sown and 15,458 bushels harvested. All other crops were sown on a very small scale and were of no particular importance. In the entire town there were 19,423 acres of improved land and only 2,725 acres of unimproved land.<sup>16</sup>

Eighteen fifty-five was the first year for which assessment values were available. In this year the value of real property was assessed at \$2,030,616 and the value of personal property at \$384,798. During the following years there was a steady decrease in the value of real property and an increase in the value of personal property until 1862, as is shown by the following table.

TABLE 2—Values of Real and Personal Property, 1855-1862.<sup>17</sup>

Year	Value Real Property	Value Personal Property
1855	\$2,030,616	\$384,798
1856	\$1,973,638	\$390,750
1857	\$1,968,074	\$432,400
1858	\$1,913,974	\$409,500
1859	\$1,903,652	\$422,700
1860*	.....	.....
1861	\$1,754,675	\$452,170
1862	\$1,737,442	\$443,150

\*Assessment figures for this year are missing.

The cash value of all stock for the year 1855 was fixed at \$137,562, and the tools and implements were valued at \$33,918.<sup>18</sup> These values were to rise steadily during the next three decades. A possible explanation for the steady drop in the values of real property during the years 1855-1862 was that this was during the middle of the transition period from grain and dairy production to apple production, and that many of the land holdings were found unsuited at that time for apple growing.

The change in the industrial life of the town was very much comparable to agricultural changes which took place during this period. The four tin and sheet iron factories in 1855 employed a total of sixteen persons, which was also true of the four coach and wagon factories. Although there were only two woolen and yarn factories, these employed a total of seventeen persons, and three grist mills employed fifty-nine persons and produced products valued at \$105,000. Aside from these there were two blacksmith shops, three harness, saddle and trunk fac-

tories, one pail factory, and one boot and shoe factory, employing a total of eighteen persons.

While this factory production was done there continued to be some home production, although it did not compare to the amount done during the preceding decades. There were only 37 yards of fulled cloth, 44 yards of flannel and 68 yards of linen made in 1855. This amounts to a mere fraction of what was produced in the twenties and thirties.<sup>19</sup>

A glance at the advertisements in the local newspapers of the fifties supplies a partial answer to the question as to how commerce was carried. The railroad station at Barrytown was not built until 1875, and although there were many roads running through the county, it would seem that shipping on the Hudson River was the most important means of transportation. In 1857 issues of the Rhinebeck Gazette-Dutchess County Advertiser there appear advertisements of steamship companies which had boats leaving from and arriving at the Barrytown dock about once a week. A few years later these same advertisements, and frequently others for different steamboat lines, began to appear in the Red Hook Journal. Unfortunately there are no definite figures available which would indicate the exact amount of shipping done from this region by these companies.

In the October 14th, 1859, issue of the Red Hook Journal there appeared the following advertisement, which gives a crude indication of one of the ways in which the town was policed:

**HORSE THIEVES BEWARE!!**

“Notice is hereby given that the undersigned members of  
the

**RED HOOK ASSOCIATION**

for detecting and apprehending Horse Thieves have appointed an efficient corps of Riders, who are ready at a moment's warning to start in pursuit of any person stealing a horse or horses from any member of said organization.”<sup>20</sup>

How effective this organization was or how many horse thieves it apprehended is not known. Nor is any mention made in the Town Record Book of any similar kind of organization officially set up by the town itself.

The state census of 1855 gives us an idea of the kind of houses the people of Red Hook lived in at this time, and thus helps to complete the picture of this agricultural community. Most of the buildings, 554

in number, were framed, and these were valued at \$588,355. There were only 24 stone houses, valued at \$37,950, and 18 brick buildings valued at \$129,500.<sup>21</sup>

The 1860's brought about great changes in Red Hook and was a period during which both agriculture and industry were very much stabilized. The population of the town, according to the 1865 census, was 3,471. The largest immigrant group of this number were the 232 Irish, the next largest the Germans, numbering 56, and the third largest the English, numbering 47.<sup>22</sup> The number of land owners listed in this census dropped considerably to 193, but the value of real property began rising and steadily rose until 1868, as is shown in the following table:

TABLE 3—Values of Real and Personal Property, 1862-1868.<sup>23</sup>

Year	Value Real Property	Value Personal Property
1862	\$1,737,442	\$443,150
1863	\$1,748,534	\$424,000
1864	\$1,784,194	\$462,600
1865	\$1,779,019	\$441,233
1866	\$1,818,053	\$421,000
1867*	.....	.....
1868	\$1,810,538	\$547,350

\*Assessment figures for this year are missing.

According to the census of 1865 there were 273 farmers, 142 laborers, 15 shoe makers, 43 carpenters, 15 masons, 22 blacksmiths, 9 millers, 10 merchants and 27 persons engaged in boating and fishing. It is very possible that many of those who were listed as laborers were farm laborers and thus derived their incomes from agriculture. Of the 142 persons listed as laborers, approximately 30 worked for the railroad company, which had recently opened yards in Tivoli.<sup>24</sup> In 1865 two important additions were made to the increasing number of business enterprises in Red Hook. The Red Hook Advertiser, a four-page weekly newspaper, took the place of the Red Hook Journal, which had been founded in 1858. The First National Bank of Red Hook was also founded in this year by a committee composed of William Chamberlain, Jacob W. Elsefer and Robert L. Massonneau. Prior to this the nearest bank was eight or ten miles away in Rhinebeck. Part of a letter sent by the committee to Hugh McCullough, Comptroller of the Currency in Washington, D. C., throws an interesting light on both the agricultural and industrial development of the town. The communication stated in part that:

"in it (Red Hook) there are three large freighting establishments, two at Barrytown, one at Tivoli Landing, four large flouring mills in operation and a steam flouring and paper mill nearly completed, also a large tobacco factory and considerable mercantile, manufacturing and mechanical interests."<sup>25</sup>

The most important increase in agricultural production took place in the apple orchards. In 1855 only 14,873 bushels of apples were harvested. In 1865 more than twice as many, or 38,230 bushels, were harvested. At this time Red Hook ranked second in the entire county in apple production. The oat crop which ordinarily would have been one of the largest fell short in 1865 because of a severe drought. By the 1860's, however, the agricultural trend of the community was quite apparent. There were three principal types of agriculture, one of which was gradually taking the place of the other two combined. The following table indicates this trend toward orchard production and away from wheat production and the raising of livestock:

TABLE 4—Principal Agricultural Products, 1845, 1855, 1865:<sup>26</sup>

Product	1845	1855	1865
Apples	..... bu.	14,837 bu.	38,230 bu.
Buckwheat	3,123 bu.	2,068 bu.	4,177 bu.
Corn	44,501 bu.	15,458 bu.	22,122 bu.
Oats	74,203½ bu.	36,195 bu.	19,290 bu.
Rye	19,764 bu.	24,041 bu.	15,898 bu.
Wheat	4,491½ bu.	1,261 bu.	670 bu.
Sheep	6,595	3,151	3,232
Wool	13,962½ lbs.	8,823 lbs.	4,701 lbs.
Hogs	4,145	2,204	1,637

\*No apple figures appeared in the census of 1845.

It might be of some interest to discuss briefly the status of agricultural laborers at the close of this period. According to the census of 1865, the average monthly pay, including board, of farm laborers through the summer months was \$48. By the year this pay was supposed to be \$280, an increase of \$100 over the preceding five year period. The general social conditions of the town were supposed to have been much improved, as was attested to by the census enumerator who remarked that "... Many laborers that had hard work to get a living have now money out at interest and are doing well."<sup>27</sup>

A discussion of the development of Red Hook would hardly be complete without some reference to the development of Dutchess County

as a whole. Prior to 1835 wheat was the most profitable crop for all Dutchess County farmers. More than one-third of all the grain shipped from New York State came from this county. The opening of the Erie Canal and the practice of continuous cropping of wheat, coupled with the many insect blights, were the main causes for the decline of wheat raising. Because in most parts of the county there was plenty of land to be had, in the early days farmers tended to neglect to fertilize their soils, and the rotation of crops was infrequently practiced. By 1840 wheat ranked fifth instead of first among staple crops. In the eastern part of the county, where wheat could never be raised in great abundance, farmers turned to raising sheep and cattle. This trend appeared in many of the western towns as well. There was also a trend toward raising grains other than wheat and rotating the crops, raising corn one year, oats or rye one or two years, grass for hay two or three years, followed by a year or two of pasturing. Before 1850 there was very little specializing on the part of most farmers. Farms were usually almost entirely self-sufficient, raising their own food and clothes. There were but a few crops which were sold outside of the community, usually in New York City.

With the coming of the railroads the self-sufficient economy of the early 19th century was revolutionized. Whole communities began to specialize in that crop, or group of crops, which was best suited to their soils. This brought about a great variety in the types of agriculture in the county. Due to the flooding of the East by western meat and grain products, cattle and wheat farms were changed into dairy farms, particularly in the eastern part of the county. In the northwestern part of the county fruit growing became the most profitable enterprise. Because of the quicker and more practical method of transporting products by rail, large markets were found for these. It can be said, in conclusion, that until the middle of the 19th century, agriculture in all parts of Dutchess County was carried on in much the same manner—the same products were produced in all sections. After this time there was much more diversification in the county as a whole, but each community or section began to specialize in its own particular crop.

BENEDICT S. SEIDMAN.

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