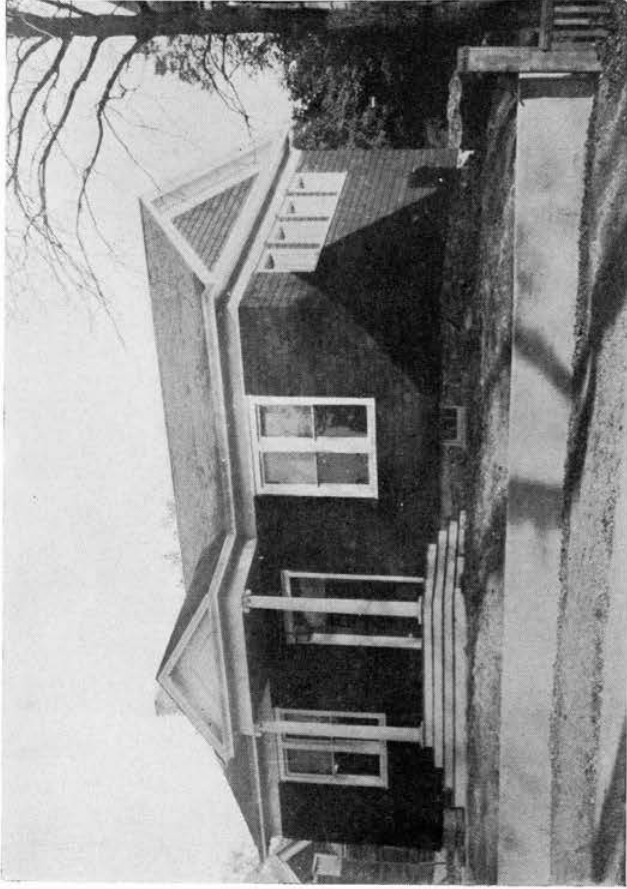


**Year Book of the Dutchess
County Historical Society**



May, 1914—April, 1915



PLEASANT VALLEY FREE LIBRARY
WHERE THE DUTCHESS COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY
WAS ORGANIZED MAY 26th, 1914

YEAR BOOK

OF THE

Dutchess County Historical Society

May, 1914—April, 1915

OFFICERS FOR THE YEAR 1915-1916

PRESIDENT

HARRY N. W. MAGILL Pleasant Valley

SECRETARY

JOHN C. SICKLEY Poughkeepsie

TREASURER

IRVING D. LeROY, M.D. Pleasant Valley

VICE-PRESIDENTS

GEORGE S. VAN VLIET,	Town of	Clinton
SILAS WODELL,	"	Washington
J. WILSON POUCHER, M.D.,	"	Poughkeepsie
HON. THOMAS NEWBOLD,	"	Hyde Park
BENJAMIN HAMMOND,	"	Beacon
J. ADAMS BROWN,	"	Pleasant Valley
ROBERT E. DEAN,	"	Fishkill
DOUGLAS MERRITT,	"	Rhinebeck
PROF. J. E. SPINGARN,	"	Amenia

Annual Meeting Fourth Thursday in April.

Semi-Annual Meeting, First Thursday in October.

MEMBERSHIP

Membership in the Society may be had by the payment of the annual dues and the election of the applicant by the Executive Committee.

There is no entrance fee.

Life membership is.....\$25.00

Annual membership is.....\$1.00

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 or before the Fourth Thursday in April.

FORM OF BEQUEST

I give and bequeath to the
DUTCHESS COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY
.....Dollars

DUTCHESS COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY
YEAR BOOK 1915

In April, 1914, the Trustees of Pleasant Valley Free Library issued a small four-paged Bulletin which contained the following:

"The need of an historical organization for the purpose of preserving for future reference events of importance to the people of the county or township cannot be more eloquently expressed than in the following extract from the pen of Col. W. F. Cody, (Buffalo Bill):

'As we look into the open fire for our fancies, so we are apt to study the dim past for the wonderful and sublime, forgetful of the fact that the present is a constant romance, and the happenings of to-day, which we count of little importance, are sure to startle somebody in the future, and engage the pen of the historian, philosopher and poet.'

"This township has many places of historical interest that have neither written nor printed records; to prevent the loss of such historical incidents and associations steps should at once be taken to collect and preserve them. To that end it is proposed to hold a meeting Tuesday, April 28, 1914, at 7.30 P. M., in the Library, and all interested in the subject of "local history" are especially invited to be present."

The meeting was attended by fifty ladies and gentlemen, Mr. H. N. W. Magill acting as chairman introduced the Hon. Walter Farrington of Poughkeepsie, who, seventy years ago was a resident of the village. He entertained the audience with a delightful reminiscence of his boyhood days.

He was followed by Mr. Geo. S. Van Vliet of Staatsburgh, N. Y., who explained the difference between the "Great Nine Partners" and the "Little Nine Partners", illustrating his remarks with two very old and valuable maps.

On motion of Dr. I. D. LeRoy the Chairman appointed the following gentlemen as a committee on By-Laws: I. D. LeRoy,

M.D., Chester Husted, Wright Devine, Walter Farrington, J. Adams Brown, and H. N. W. Magill to report on Tuesday evening, May 26th, at 7.30 P. M.

Pleasant Valley, May 26th, 1914.

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 time Mr. John C. Sickley and Dr. J. W. Poucher, of Poughkeepsie entered, the meeting was then called to order by H. N. W. Magill, who called for the report of the Committee on By-Laws.

Letters were then read from Mr. Silas Wodell of Millbrook and Mr. Lewis H. Allen, Clinton Corners, each expressed a desire to become members if an organization of an Historical Society was perfected.

Discussion of the By-Laws as submitted, then followed.

NAME

“The Society shall be known as the PLEASANT VALLEY HISTORICAL SOCIETY.”

Dr. Poucher moved to amend so as to read DUTCHESS COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY, was seconded by Mr. Sickley who in the course of his remarks said, that while previous efforts to organize a County Society had failed, he thought that the time now was more propitious; after considerable discussion, pro and con participated in by all those present Dr. Poucher's amendment prevailed.

The By-Laws were then adopted and the following were elected as officers for one year:

President, H. N. W. MAGILL
Secretary, JOHN C. SICKLEY
Treasurer, I. D. LEROY, M.D.

VICE-PRESIDENTS

MR. GEO. S. VAN VLIET, Staatsburgh, N. Y.

MR. SILAS WODELL, Millbrook, N. Y.

MR. THOMAS NEWBOLD, Hyde Park, N. Y.

DR. J. W. POUCHER, Poughkeepsie, N. Y.

MR. BENJ. HAMMOND, Beacon, N. Y.

MR. J. ADAMS BROWN, Pleasant Valley, N. Y.

The meeting then adjourned to meet at Vassar Bros. Institute June 30th, at 3 P. M.

The meeting at Vassar Bros. Institute on June 30th was attended by fifteen members including the officers.

Routine business was transacted, and fifty-three members were elected.

On July 17th there was a meeting of the Executive Committee at Adriance Memorial Library at which there were fifteen members elected.

Vassar Brothers Institute,
Poughkeepsie, N. Y., Jan. 15, 1915.

Twenty-nine members and the officers were present at this meeting, and seven were elected to membership.

After the routine business had been disposed of, the President introduced Prof. Jas. F. Baldwin, of Vassar College, whose topic "The Value of Local Archives," proved very interesting and instructive.

The following extract of Prof. Baldwin's address is taken from the "News-Press", Jan. 16th, 1915:

"VALUE OF LOCAL ARCHIVES"

by

PROF. JAMES F. BALDWIN, PH.D.

"Americans are fonder of making history than preserving records or turning to the past for guidance or information."

They are usually too busy to think of this.

History is preservation, it is the office of a historian to keep the world's memory alive, and he does an everlasting service to humanity by amassing and preserving historical material within reach before it is too late.

It is an interesting fact noticed by those who are familiar with our large museums, that the farther back we go, the more durable are the materials used for inscriptions, of Egyptian and primitive times, though parchment for mediaeval times, and from then on down to our present time materials used for records become more and more perishable.

This is an age of rapid transitions and changes and unless the fugitive material of today is collected at once it will be lost forever.

It is also true that many arts are fast becoming lost, for instance the art of keeping a diary, which constitutes some of the most valuable historical material.

Then letter writing is not what it used to be; picture postal cards are taking the place of these long interesting documents which were often revelations of personal character.

Editorial writing is becoming machine made, it lacks the personal and individual touch that editors of the past used to put into their writings.

One of our biggest dailies has abolished the editorial page altogether.

Oratory and speechmaking are also changing, and are no longer what they used to be.

There is a prevailing carelessness in American life in regard to the matters that count.

It is time we awoke to a realization of what we are losing and to the importance of recording events of the day.

The common places of one generation are the treasured relics of the next.

We have in this country no public record office as in London or Paris, and those records that do exist are rotting in cellars or garrets or exposed to loss from fire.

Let us briefly review the kinds of records we have at hand today.

In the first place there are the public records.

Many of these are in distracting condition, stored away in impossible places and at the risk of being destroyed by fire or decay. It is our duty to see that these records are kept in good condition and also accessible to the public.

The newspapers, most of whom keep files of back numbers are valuable as historical material.

This is why the paper used here should be of excellent quality, instead of becoming as it does, less and less durable.

Some papers use separate material for printing copies to be put on file.

Other public or semi-public materials are available such as programmes and so on, for history consists not merely of events but of continuities and things in their relation to each other.

Then there are private collections and records of notable families. Members of the latter are in duty bound to gather materials of historical interest and put them in a position to be used. Genealogy is one of the most component parts of history. The library should be a repository for such papers.

Other individual records consist of diaries, and any one of these, if true and sincere, no matter how humble, will not lack in historic value. Diaries are not histories but they are valuable for giving personal points of view.

The churches have their own records and histories waiting to be exploited by the adventurous or interested.

This is a valuable field to the historian which he can not afford to overlook. So there are innumerable trails of history around us. Nor are these merely records of paper and parchment, but are material things, monuments, stones and so on.

Our old Court House was a monument of fine character, we made a mistake in tearing it down. If a monument is of interest to general history then it should not be destroyed but renovated and retained as a public building.

All over our town there are buildings erected after a foreign or exotic form of architecture.

An historical society ought to preserve local styles. The Amrita Club house is one of the very few elaborations of a local style, the old Dutch Manor house; the students' building at Eastman College is also a fairly local style of architecture adopted from Virginia. If instead of copying from Italian, French, and Oriental styles in our homes and public buildings, we had preserved local styles, we would have a city to be proud of in its individuality, attracting visitors from all around.

The marking of historical sites is also an important work for the society. Care and discrimination should be exercised in doing this as it is so easy to make mistakes in this matter.

The Massachusetts Historical Society, one of the best in the country, has proved itself most efficient in this line. Every spot in and around Boston that is in the least prominent historically has been marked or designated in some way. It is the duty of an historical society to collect material, letters and documents of public and historical interest, then publish and produce them for public use.

The avidity for this sort of historical material is greater than most men think. Students at the universities for instance are ever glad to avail themselves of material which they often find hard to obtain.

Unfortunately there is a gradual dying out of historical societies, societies of historical significance."

Dr. Baldwin in concluding his talk touched briefly upon museums. "England teaches us something here," he said. "It shows us how to put remains and relics in their right relationships and it teaches us the value of such things as historical material. Our society should not however, be too local in its organization; it should branch out, come in contact with other organizations of like nature and especially with the State Society. Working thus in co-operation, there is no danger of duplicating, of two societies doing the same thing, and in this way more valuable work may be accomplished."

Fishkill, N. Y., April 22, 1915.

The second annual meeting of the society, held in the First Reformed Church, there were present twenty members and the officers.

The question of the society issuing a publication was discussed and finally referred to the Executive Committee.

The election of officers resulted in the re-election of Pres. Magill, Sec. Sickley, and Treas. LeRoy. The meeting then adjourned until 2.30 P. M.

2.30 P. M.

The question of a publication for the society was re-opened after considerable discussion. The Executive Committee was instructed to issue a Year Book.

Mr. Douglas Merritt, Vice-President from Rhinebeck, N. Y., then extended the society an invitation to hold its October meeting in Rhinebeck, which was accepted.

The following program was then rendered:

PROGRAM

Organ Prelude,	Mrs. W. Van Benschoten
Call to Order,	President H. N. W. Magill of Pleasant Valley
Prayer,	Rev. W. H. Mickle, D.D.
Hymn—tune Austria. Composed by the late James E. Dean for 175th anniversary of this church.	

1. Hitherto the Lord hath led us,
 Made us objects of His care,
With His bounteous hand hath fed us,
 Listened to our every prayer;
Laud His goodness, sing His glory,
 Sound His praises everywhere.
2. Here our fathers in their weakness
 Raised this temple to His praise,
Worshipped Him in faith and meekness,
 Sung His name in solemn lays;
He accepted of their offering
 And sustained them all their days.
3. They have all passed on before us,
 Sons and grandsons following sires;
Still is heard the grand old chorus,
 Still here glow the altar fires;
While the self-same loving spirit
 Every loyal heart inspires.
4. May this church remain forever
 Faithful to its covenant King,
Suffering naught on earth to sever
 Ties by which to Him we cling,
Filling up our lives with service,
 While our hearts His praises sing.

Address of Welcome,
The Star Spangled Banner,
Introduction of Speaker,
Address—"Local Events,"

Address—"Local Events,"

Hymn—"Ancient of Days,"
Closing Remarks,
America,
Benediction,

Rev. Cornelius Van Der Mel
Scholars of Public School
President Magill
Hon. Walter C. Anthony,
President of Newburgh Bay
Historical Society
Hon. Edmund Platt, M.C.
Poughkeepsie, N. Y.
Chorus Choir
President Magill
Rev. W. A. Edwards,
Pleasant Valley, N. Y.

(Extract from the "Eagle" of April 23d.)

The Dutchess County Historical Society, which was organized at Pleasant Valley last fall, held its first annual meeting at the old Dutch Reformed Church at Fishkill on Thursday. There was a business meeting in the morning and an interesting program at the afternoon meeting when the old church was well filled. Between the two meetings the Young People's Society of the church served an excellent luncheon in the chapel. The society has evidently made a good start and through the efforts of Mr. Dean received a considerable addition to its membership in Fishkill.

The present officers, including H. N. W. Magill of Pleasant Valley, president; J. C. Sickley, secretary, and Dr. I. D. LeRoy, treasurer, were re-elected; also several additional vice-presidents, including Prof. J. E. Spingarn of Amenia, and Mr. Douglas Merritt of Rhinebeck. It is expected that there will be one vice-president from each town when the society is fully organized. There was considerable discussion over the proposition of starting a publication, either a year book or a quarterly. Rev. W. A. Edwards of Pleasant Valley strongly favored a small magazine as a means of preserving papers on local historical subjects. Mr. Sickley and others thought it would involve too much expense to undertake such a plan at present. Finally the matter was left with the executive committee.

The chief features of the afternoon open meeting were the address by Hon. Walter C. Anthony, president of the Newburgh Bay Historical Society, the address of welcome by Rev. Cornelius Van Der Mel, pastor of the church, and the singing by the school children. There was an organ prelude by Mrs. W. Van Benschoten, a few remarks by President Magill in calling the meeting to order, an opening prayer by Rev. W. H. Mickle and then all joined in singing the hymn composed by the late James E. Dean for the 175th anniversary of the church, which was founded in 1716 and will celebrate with the Poughkeepsie Church its 200th anniversary next year. In the address of welcome Rev. Cornelius Van Der Mel referred to the interesting history of the church, and of the Episcopal Church, one of them used as a prison during the Revolution and the other as a hospital.

Mr. Anthony complimented the society on its auspicious start and told briefly the career of the Newburgh Bay Historical Society which has a publication not issued at stated times, but whenever it has accumulated enough interesting local historical matter to justify publishing. Mr. Anthony urged that local newspapers should be saved and indexed and local records carefully preserved. His address contained many useful suggestions for the new organization.

At the close of Mr. Anthony's address President Magill introduced Hon. Edmund Platt as a member of the society who had written a history and published it. Mr. Platt said he would like to have an opportunity to write another book to be entitled "A History of Dutchess County and of the United States." Every event of importance in the history of the country had some connection with local history, and a history of the United States could be written from a local standpoint.

Among those present from Poughkeepsie, besides Mr. Sickley and Mr. Platt were Hon. Martin Heermance, Henry Booth, Dr. and Mrs. Poucher, Alfred N. Peters, Miss Andrus and Mrs. Louis P. Hasbrouck. The next meeting is to be held at Rhinebeck, which will have to do well if it equals Fishkill in new members.

ADDRESS
of the
REV. CORNELIUS VAN DER MEL

Mr. President, members of the Dutchess County Historical Society, and visiting friends—Ladies and Gentlemen:

I desire first of all to express my appreciation of the honor conferred upon me by assigning to me this most pleasant duty of welcoming you here today to what I believe is the oldest Church and most historical section in Dutchess County; than which, in fact, there is scarcely anything more beautifully sacred or more intimately associated with the early Revolutionary history of this county in which you have a special interest.

The one thing I regret most is that my own knowledge of all this interesting history is so limited or fragmentary that it may be said of me as it was of the old Scotch minister of a city Church who once visited and preached in a rural parish and was asked to pray for rain. He did so, and the rain came in torrents and destroyed some of the crops, whereupon one elder remarked to another: "This comes o' entrusting sic a request to a meenister who is-n a acquaintit wi' the business."

It is needless for me to remind you that you will find here in this village and surrounding country a most interesting field for historical research, and I am happy to be privileged to welcome you for this your first anniversary meeting to this old Church as a centre of it. There may be older buildings still standing in the county, but I am sure there is not an older Church, and I am equally sure that there is no other village in the county around which there clusters so much that links us with the county's earliest history and settlement, and with the religious, civic and patriotic spirit of our forefathers.

And so I welcome you first of all in the name of this historic Church of our fathers, which next year celebrates the 200th anniversary of its organization, and the 185th anniversary of the erection of its first building—some of which surrounds us at present.

In this Church, greatly changed of course since its early erection, met the Provincial Convention in 1776. It was also

FIRST REFORMED DUTCH CHURCH OF FISHKILL
 ORGANIZED 1716 * BUILDING ERECTED 1731
 PROVINCIAL CONVENTION MET HERE 1776
 USED AS A MILITARY PRISON DURING THE REVOLUTION
 ENLARGED 1786
 INTERIOR REMODELED 1806 1820 1854 1882

FACSIMILE OF THE MARBLE SLAB OVER THE ORIGINAL
 ENTRANCE TO CHURCH



FIRST REFORMED DUTCH CHURCH, FISHKILL



COAT OF ARMS

used as a military prison during the Revolution, and from one of its windows escaped Enoch Crosby, the imprisoned spy, of whom we read in Cooper's "The Spy."

Around about you on these walls you will find several tablets of historic interest. At my right is one setting forth the names of the organizer of the Church and the ministers who have served as pastors during the two centuries since its organization. On my left is another interesting tablet bearing the following inscription:

In memoriam
Madame Catharyna Brett
widow of
Lieutenant Roger Brett, R. N.
and daughter of
FRANCIS ROMBOUT
A grantee of the Rombout Patent
Born in the City of New York, 1687
Died in Rombout Precinct—Fishkill—1764
To this Church she was a liberal contributor and
underneath its pulpit her body is interred.
This Tablet
was erected by her descendants
and others interested in the
Colonial History of Fishkill
A. D. 1894.

On the wall to my left are two tablets upon which are placed the original brownstone grave markers taken from the adjoining churchyard, in memory of two of the founders and officers of this Church, Abraham Brinckerhoff, and Pieter Du Bois. The inscriptions are in Old Dutch, and are as follows:

Hier lydt het highaam
van Abraham Brinckerhoff
Overleeden Den II van
July-Anno 1738
Oudt Zyndo 38 jaar.

Hier lydt het highaam
van Pieter D'Bois
Overleeden Den 22. van
Januarie-Anno 1737-8
Oudt Zynde 63 jaar.

On the wall to my right are also two tablets, and a large photograph of a Communion tankard and two Communion cups which were used in this Church for 91 years.

The tankard is of peculiar historic interest, and for that reason, as well as for its safe keeping, it has been placed in the Metropolitan Museum of Art in New York City. It was presented to the Church in January, 1820, and bears the following inscription:

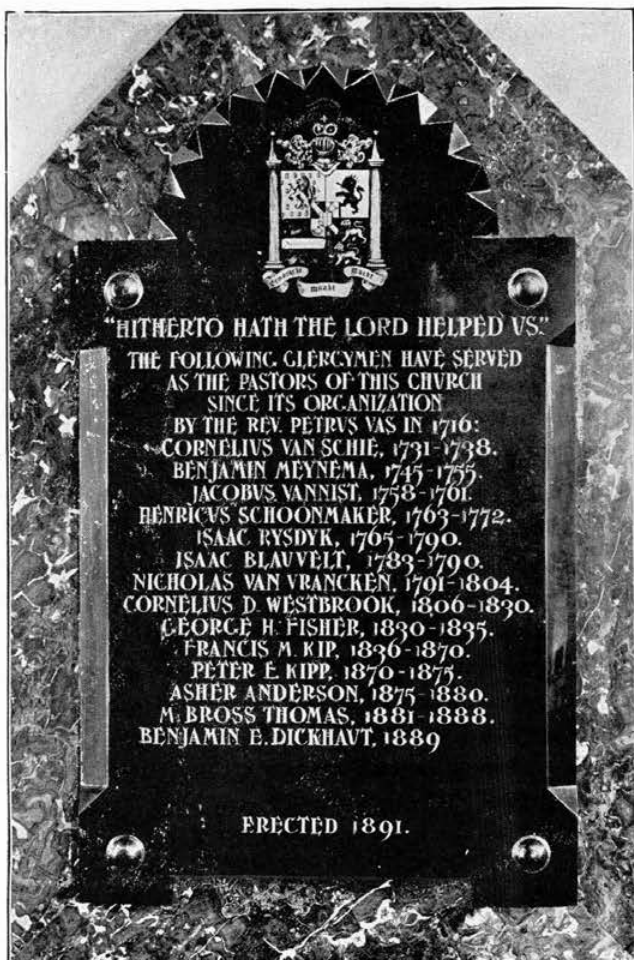
Presented by
Samuel Verplank Esq.
To the First Reformed Dutch Church
In the town of Fishkill
to commemorate
Mr. Englebert Huff
by birth a Norwegian
in his life-time attached to
the Life Guards of the Prince of Orange
(afterward King William III of England)
He resided for a number of years in this country
and died with unblemished reputation
at Fishkill—21st of March, 1765
aged 128 years.

In the second place I welcome you to this old but most beautiful village and vicinity.

Fishkill was one of the first seven Post Offices in the State of New York located on the old Post Road to Albany. It is hallowed not only by the memories of our ancestors, but by the names and lives and graves of early Revolutionary patriots. A few of them lie buried in this adjoining churchyard, and some of them I believe in that of yonder Trinity Episcopal Church. And it is that Church, by the way, that was used as a Hospital during the Revolution, when, it is said, smallpox broke out in the army quartered about a mile further down the road. It is there near the bend in the road—where the soldiers were quartered that you will find the Wharton House which was Washington's headquarters while he was in this section.

Just a little beyond the Wharton House, along the left side of the road is located a small granite monument telling of those who lie buried in the adjoining field—who gave their lives for their country.

A mile or so further into the highlands, on the right side of



BENJAMIN DUKHOUT, 1889-1896
ABEL H. HUIZINGA, 1896-1905
J. RIGINALD DUFFIELD, 1906-1910
CORNELIUS VAN DER MEL, 1910-

the road is a small boulder with a bronze tablet on its face erected by the D. A. R. calling attention to the hills near by on which stood three batteries to protect the pass, 1776-1783.

On the road known as Hopewell Avenue—turning to the left by the Episcopal Church, about a mile and a half up, is the Brinckerhoff Mansion, at which place that great Frenchman Lafayette was entertained by Washington, and where he was so seriously ill. A small granite monument in the adjoining cemetery, and near the road, commemorates the event.

Along yonder mountain range, five miles distant but clearly visible from here is Mount Beacon, where the beacon fires were burned during the Revolution. The D. A. R. have erected there also a tablet to commemorate the place and fact.

I suppose I could continue to weary you with matters of this nature, but this is sufficient to prove to you that you are in a most historic section of Dutchess County, and you need not search far to find fertile ground for historic research.

I also desire to greet you in the name of the brave Dutch who first settled this locality.

I am proud to be a descendant of that sturdy folk who were among the first to come to the shores of our land, and the first to settle in those regions. A people who so valued their civil and religious liberty that they could carry on a war for eighty years to maintain it; and rather than surrender to a cruel and tyrannical enemy, pierced the Dikes and gave their country up to the waters of the sea. They were a people of indomitable courage, fixed determination, deep faith and earnest prayer, whose motto—as is the motto of our Church—was “Nisi Dominus Frustra” (“Without the Lord—Failure) and “Eendracht maakt macht”—“Unity makes strength.”

In the name of that ancestry I greet you today, and I do so in true Dutch style by saying: “Ik bied u hartelyk welkom.”

In closing, friends, I assure you of the real pleasure that is ours in having you with us, and extending to you as an association which has for its special object the careful research and collection and preservation of historical data of this county a most hearty welcome. May you find plenty to do, and may you do it, and may your society live long and prosper.

"BRICK HOUSE FARM"

The Library Bulletin referred to on the first page of this booklet, also contained the following:

BRICK HOUSE FARM

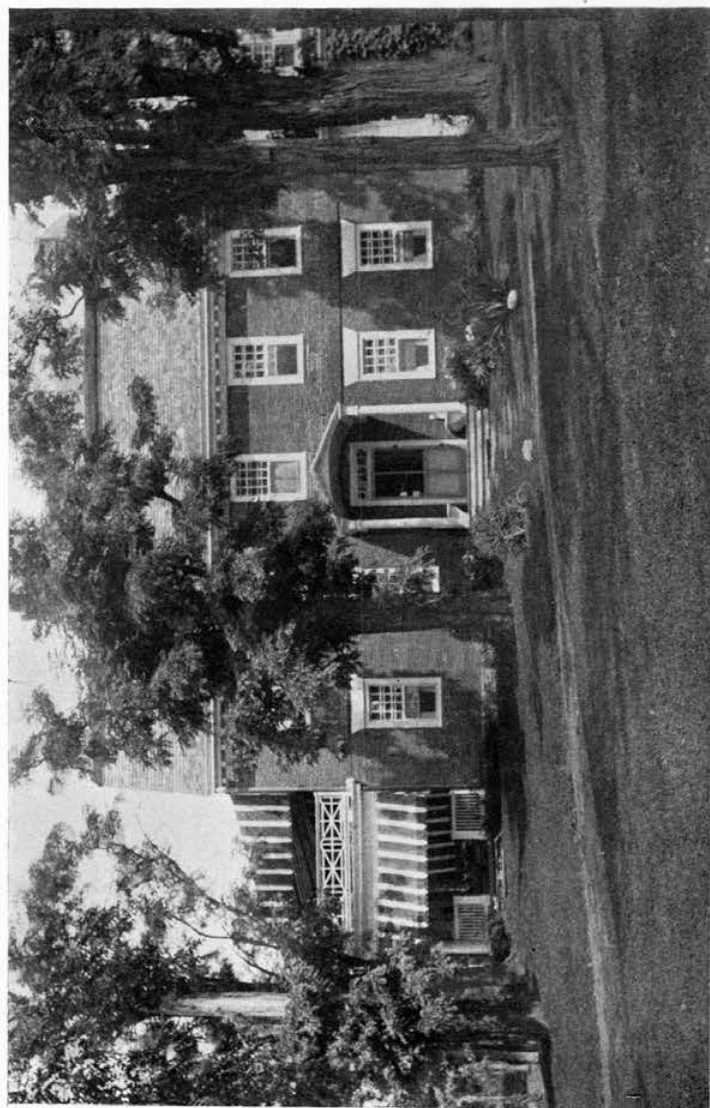
(Extracts from "Newcomb Genealogy")

Zacchaeus Newcomb, a descendant of Captain Andrew Newcomb, who settled in Boston, Mass., prior to 1663, came to "Crumb Elbow Precinct" or "Little Nine Partners" (being the eighth division of the "Great Nine Partners"), now known as Pleasant Valley Township, Dutchess County, N. Y., in 1746. He married Sarah Tobias of "Nine Partners," and settled on a farm of 1250 acres, $2\frac{1}{2}$ miles east of Pleasant Valley, on the "Dutchess Turnpike," now called the State Road. During the Revolution, Zacchaeus was a Loyalist, and served under General Clinton in New York City. His wife, Sarah, whose sympathies were with the Americans, stayed at home, and managed the farm to such good purpose as to be able to build the "Brick House" from its profits. (The bricks were made from clay found on the farm, and the pit from which the clay was taken is now marked by a beautiful lake that lies between the "State Road" and the Homestead.)

At the time General Washington had his headquarters at Newburgh, Mrs. Newcomb sent him a cheese from her dairy, and while discussing its merits at dinner due credit was given for its excellence.

The old Brick House, as it now stands, was erected about 1778, and remained in the Newcomb family for four generations. In 1859 it passed to James Allen, then to Anthony Briggs, afterwards to Homer Briggs, and, in 1911 returned again to the Newcomb heirs in the person of Mrs. J. Adams Brown, nee Newcomb.

The Brick House is in a splendid state of preservation, interior as well as exterior. The quaint open fireplaces in several of the rooms are not the least of its interesting features.



BRICK HOUSE FARM, PLEASANT VALLEY, N. Y.

During the Revolution, when the British started for Albany by way of the Hudson River, Governor Geo. Clinton, who resided in Poughkeepsie, fearing the "Red Coats" might storm the town, had Mrs. Clinton escorted to Pleasant Valley for safety. Query? Was Mrs. Clinton entertained by Mrs. Sarah Newcomb? If not, where was she quartered during that anxious period?

* * * * *

This article elicited the following correction from Mr. Geo. S. Van Vliet, of Staatsburgh, N. Y.:

"The Great Nine Partners Patent was granted on the 27th day of May, 1697, to Caleb Heathcote, John Austin, Jarvis Marshall, Henry Filkins, David Jamison, Augustine Graham, William Creeds Hendrick Ten Eyck, and James Emmet.

"When the second, or Great Division was laid out by Richard Edsall in May, 1734, Great Lot No. 8 consisting of 3626 acres fell to the lot of James Emmet; upon this lot the Newcomb purchase was made (1250 acres), and not the Little Nine Partners."

* * * * *

Some light is thrown on the question of Mrs. Clinton's sojourn in Pleasant Valley by the following correspondence from the public papers of George Clinton, first Governor of New York (vol. No. 2, pp. 409 and 410, Doc. s. 833 and 834).

Plisent Valey about 8 miles Back of Poughkeeps

SIR:

Oct'r 10th 1777.

I just now Received you' Latter. I got Mrs. Clinton as far as Mrs. Barns, Eight miles from the River where I hope we may be Safe; However if you Should think the Enemy would penetrate Farther into the Country we should be glad for a Couple of Covered weagons. I suppose the Intention of the Enemy is to go up to Albany and if they can do that will not penetrate into the Country as far as this, I sent the sloop with the Governors affects to Esopus, excepting a little Close and some of her Bedding. I have given Directions they might be Carried into the Country there as it was Impossible for me thro the Hurry to git them up from Poughkeepsie.

I will leave the sending of the weagons holely to you; if you think it necessary you will send them to this Place.

If you will see the Governor be kind enough to let him know Mrs. Clinton is as well as Common.

I remain your humble Sre't,

PETER TAPPAN.

P. S. we Will not be desireous to go Farther than this if you think we may be safe here.

Coll. Hughes, Fish Kill.

(Doc. 834)

Letter of Col. Hughes to Gov. Clinton.

Leroy's 5 o'clock Saturday Morning.

(Oct. 11th, 1777)

My dear Governor:

I had a Letter from Doct'r Tappan Yesterday advising of Mrs. Clinton's Health & Situation.

If the Enemy land, I Shall give him the earliest intelligence of it, and advise a Removal into Connecticut, as they will endeavor to do all the Mischief they can, no doubt.

There is a clever baggage Waggon at Fishkill that you can have by sending to Major Keese, if it can be got over.

I order'd him to deliver it to your Order,

Sir.

I am, Dear Governor your most Obdnt

H. HUGUES.

His Excellency Governor Clinton.

ACCESSIONS

The Society has acquired by gift since its organization:

	Number
Volumes	
Manuscripts	
Pamphlets	1
Maps	
Pictures	2

List of Donors

Name	Mms.	Vols.	Pams.	Pic.
Robert E. Dean		1	1	1
Alex. H. Dudley			1	1
H. N. W. Magill				



FIREPLACE WITH OLD DUTCH TILING
THE BRICK HOUSE FARM

EARLY DIVISIONS OF DUTCHESS COUNTY

Dutchess County was organized Nov. 1, 1683. It was provisionally attached to Ulster Co. (because of its few inhabitants), until 1713, when it was represented separately in the General Assembly of the Province. The original act defines its boundaries to be "from the bounds of the County of West Chester, on the south side of the Highlands, along the east side as far as Roeliff Jansen's Kill (now Livingston's Creek), and east into the woods twenty miles. In 1717, Livingston's Manor was taken from its northern part, and in 1812 Putnam County was organized and taken from its southern portion, reducing its area to 765 miles, its present dimensions. (Smith's History, p. 48.)

The first civil divisions of the County were established June 24, 1719. By aid of the Colonial Assembly, it was then separated into three Wards: South Ward, extending from below the Highlands to Wappingers Creek; the Middle Ward, from the latter to Cline Sopas (Little Esopus) Island; and the North Ward, from this point to the northern border of the County. Each Ward elected a Supervisor. (P. H. Smith's His. p. 48.)

At first, while the County was scarcely settled, the territorial limits of the Precincts were quite extensive; but as the population increased, it was found convenient to divide them.

In 1722 the County had only 183 taxpayers, and only one in the Great Nine Partners, in the person of Richard Sackett.

1737 Division of the County of Dutchess into Precincts,

Act passed Dec. 16th, 1737, by the Colonial Legislature. "Be it therefore enacted that from and after the publication of this Act, the said County shall be divided into seven Precincts in the following manner:"

One
South.

The South Precinct to contain all that part of the High Lands which is granted by Patent to Adolph Phillips, Esq.

Two
Rumbout.

The Rumbout Precinct to contain all that part of the Patent, granted to Rumbout and Company, that lyeth to the South and Southwestward of the Wappinger Kill or creek.

Three
Beekman.

Beekman Precinct to contain all that land that was granted to Col. Henry Beekman, deceased, lying in the rear of the patent Granted to Francis Rumbout and Company.

Four
P'keep.

Poughkeepsie Precinct to contain all the Lands to the North West of Wappingers Kill or Creek from the mouth thereof and up along said Kill or Creek and Hudson River until it meets the Patent Granted to Heathcote and Company called the Great or Lower Nine Partners.

Five
Crum
Elbow.

Crumelbow Precinct to contain all of the lands granted to the said Heathcote and Company, called the Lower Nine Partners, and also all the Land Granted to Peter Fanconier and Company and as far to the North ward as a due East line run from the North end of little Esopus Island to the Crum Elbow Kill or Creek.

Six
Rynbeck.

Rynbeck Precinct to contain all the Lands purchased of the widow Pauling and her children, by Dr. Samuel Staats deceased, all the Lands Granted to Adrian Roosa and Company, that land Patented by Col. Henry Beekman deceased, and the lands Granted by Patent to Col. Peter Schuyler commonly called Magdalens Island Purchase.

Seven
North East.

The North East Precinct to contain all the lands granted to Sampson Broughten and Company commonly called Upper Nine Partners.

1743
Extending the
Precincts to
Connecticut
line.

Be it enacted that the East lines of the several Precincts in Dutchess County, which are adjoining the lands of the Oblong, that is to say the South Precinct, Beekman's Precinct, Crum Elbow Precinct, and the North East Precinct, shall and are hereby declared extended as far Eastward as the Colony Line of Connecticut or as this Colony doth extend. Act passed 17th, Dec. 1743.

1762
Division of
Crum Elbow
Precinct.
Act passed
March 20, 1762

An act for dividing Crum Elbow Precinct in Dutchess County into two precincts to be called Charlott and Amenia. Be it therefore enacted,

1762
Division of
Crum Elbow
Precinct.
Act passed
March 20, 1762.
(Continued)

that the said Precinct shall be divided into two Precincts on the following manner the one shall contain all that part of the said Precinct which lies to the Westward of the Easter most tier of lots laid out in the general division heretofore made of the tract of land granted to Heathcote and others called the lower or Great Nine Partners, and shall be called Charlott and the other shall be called Amenia shall contain the said Eastern most tier of lots and so much of the Oblong as before the publication hereof was contained in Crum Elbow Precinct.

1769
Division of
Beekman
Precinct.

An act to divide Beekman Precinct in Dutchess County into two Precincts, passed May, 20, 1769.

Be it enacted that the said Precinct shall be after the first day of Oct. next, divided into two Precincts in the following manner, beginning at the house of Darius Tallman, near the Nine Partners line, from thence a straight line to the house of William Clark, from thence with a straight line to the house of Caleb Lamb, and thence to run South sixteen degrees West to the South Precinct line, the Westernmost part of which division shall be called Beekman Precinct, and the Easternmost part to be called Pauling's Precinct.

1786
Division of
Charlott and
Rhyneck.

An act to divide Charlott and Rhyneck Precincts into Three Precincts passed March 13th, 1786. Be it enacted that all the lands, parcel of Charlott and Rhyneck Precincts in Dutchess County, comprehended within the limits and bounds following, shall be a separate and distinct Precinct, and called and known by the name of Clinton Precinct, that so to say to begin at the East bank of the Hudson River, at the North-west corner of a tract of land called Pauling's purchase, to run thence along the North line of said purchase to the Crum Elbow Kill, thence up along the said Creek to the line of the tract of land called

1786
Division of
Charlott and
Rhyneck.
(Continued)

the Little or upper Nine Partners,' thence Easterly along the said line to the Northeast corner of lot number one, so known and distinguished in the second division of the tract of land, called the Great, or Lower Nine Partners; thence Southerly in the line of that tier of lots to the most Southerly line of the aforesaid Great or Lower Nine Partners; thence westerly along the line last mentioned to the Hudson River, and from thence Northerly, up and along the said River to the place of beginning.

(signed.)

GEO. S. VAN VLIET.

BY-LAWS
DUTCHESS COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

NAME

The name of this Society is the **DUTCHESS COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY**.

OBJECT

The object shall be to discover, procure and preserve whatever may relate to the natural, civil, literary and ecclesiastical history of the State of New York, and particularly of the County of Dutchess.

To encourage the writing of papers and the delivering of lectures and addresses on subjects of literary and historical interest.

To collect objects of historical interest and arrange for their preservation and exhibition.

MEMBERS

There shall be three classes of members, Annual, Honorary, and Life.

Annual Members shall pay one dollar dues. Any person who in the judgment of the Executive Committee has attained distinction in historical work may be elected an Honorary Member. Any person approved by the Executive Committee may be elected a Life Member on payment of at least twenty-five dollars. Honorary and Life Members shall be exempt from annual dues.

OFFICERS

The officers of the Society shall consist of a President, one Vice President from each Town of the County, one from the City of Poughkeepsie and one from the City of Beacon, twenty-two in all; a Secretary, a Treasurer and an Executive Committee, which shall consist of the President, the Secretary and the

Treasurer and two other members to be chosen by them. There shall also be the office of Historiographer, which officer shall also be chosen by the Executive Committee.

MEETINGS

There shall be two meetings of the Society in each year, one on the fourth Thursday of April and one on the first Thursday of October. Other meetings may be called by the President or on request in writing of three members. At the April meeting officers shall be elected for the year. At the meeting when officers are elected, twelve members shall constitute a quorum.

DUTIES OF OFFICERS

President. The President shall preside at all meetings of the Society and of the Executive Committee, and in his absence one of the Vice-Presidents. The President may call special meetings as he may deem necessary.

Secretary. The Secretary shall keep a record of all meetings of the Society and of the Executive Committee; shall notify all persons who may be elected members; shall notify members of the time and place of meetings and perform all the duties of Secretary of such Society.

Treasurer. The Treasurer shall collect and disburse all money of the Society under the direction of the Executive Committee. No bills shall be paid by the Treasurer without the approval of the Executive Committee.

Executive Committee. The Executive Committee shall transact all business of the Society and have general management of its affairs including the election of members.

All officers shall hold office until the April meeting, or until their successors are elected.

DUES

The annual dues shall be one dollar, payable on or before the annual meeting in April. Any person joining the Society after November first of any year shall be exempt from dues for that year. Dues shall be computed for the calendar year only. Neglect to pay annual dues for two months after notification by the Treasurer shall be regarded as a withdrawal from the Society.

REPORTS

The officers shall report to the Society at its annual meeting such matters as shall be pertinent to the office, and inform members of the condition of the Society.

ORDER OF BUSINESS

The order of business at any meeting of the Society or the Executive Committee shall be as follows:

1. Reading minutes of previous meeting.
2. Reports of officers.
3. Reports of committees.
4. Election of members.
5. Unfinished business.
6. New business.

AMENDMENTS

These By-laws may be amended at any regular or special meeting by a majority vote of those present, provided a notice of the proposed amendment shall have accompanied the notice of the meeting at which they shall be acted upon.

MEMBERS OF
DUTCHESS COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

HONORARY MEMBERS

MR. WALTER C. ANTHONY	Newburgh
JAMES F. BALDWIN, PH.D.	Poughkeepsie

ANNUAL MEMBERS

A

ADAMS, WILLIAM P.	Red Hook
ADRIANCE, JAMES	Fishkill
ARNOLD, CHARLES N.	Poughkeepsie
ARNOLD, HON. C. W. H.	Poughkeepsie
ARNOLD, REV. F. S.	Poughkeepsie
ANDRUS, HELEN J.	Poughkeepsie

B

BADEAU, JOSEPH N.	Beacon
BAIN, HORATIO N.	Poughkeepsie
BECKWITH, ELIZABETH R.	Stissing
BENJAMIN, F. R.	Fishkill
BENJAMIN, S. GARDNER	Fishkill
BISBEE, JOSEPH B., Jr.	Poughkeepsie
BOOTH, HENRY	Poughkeepsie
BRIGGS, EDGAR	Pleasant Valley
BRINKERHOFF, FRANK	Brinkerhoff
BROCKWAY, FRANK A.	Brockway
BROWN, J. ADAMS	Pleasant Valley
BURROWS, CHARLES W.	Fishkill

C

CARROLL, W. R.	Rhinebeck
Case, Rev. C. P.	Poughkeepsie
CHAPMAN, JOHN J.	Barrytown
COETHAL, CATHARINE	Fishkill

CRARY, AMY
CROSBY, M. S.

Beacon
Rhinebeck

D

DAYLEY, ANNA G. W.
DEAN, ANNA
DEAN, HERMAN
DEAN, ROBERT E.
DEEL, GEORGE A.
DELAPERTE, SHODON
DELAPERTE, MRS. SHODON
DEVINE, WRIGHT
DOWS, TRACEY
DUBOIS, FRANCES E.
DUDLEY, ALEXANDER H.
DUDLEY, GUILFORD
DUGAN, JOHN P.
DUMOND, E. B.
DUTCHER, MARION F.

Poughkeepsie
Fishkill
Fishkill
Fishkill
Poughkeepsie
Rhinebeck
Rhinebeck
Pleasant Valley
N. Y. City
Port Orange, Fla.
Fishkill
Rhinebeck
Fishkill
Pleasant Valley
Poughkeepsie

E

EDWARDS, REV. WALTER A.
ELTING, IRVING

Pleasant Valley
Brookline, Mass.

F

FELLOWES, JENNIE
FERRIS, CHARLES
FOQUET, LOUIS D.
FOSTER, W. W.
FOWLER, BENJAMIN M.
FREAR, MERRIT H.

Rhinebeck
Rhinebeck
Fishkill
Rhinebeck
Poughkeepsie
Rhinebeck

G

GOODELL, DR. JAMES F.
GRUBE, HENRY C.

Rhinebeck
Rhinebeck

H

HAIGHT, A. V.
HASBROUCK, MRS. LOUIS
HEERMANCE, MARTIN
HERRICK, THADDEUS J.

Poughkeepsie
Poughkeepsie
Poughkeepsie
Poughkeepsie

HILL, ALICE	Rhinebeck
HOWARD, FRANK B.	Poughkeepsie
HUSTED, CHESTER	Pleasant Valley
HUYLER, PETER E.	Rhinebeck
J	
JOHNSON, MRS. ROBERT	Rhinebeck
JUDSON, WILLIAM H.	Rhinebeck
K	
KETCHAM, EZRA	Fishkill
KIP, GARRETT B.	Barrytown
KIP, W. RULOFF	Rhinebeck
L	
LATSON, DR. FRANK	Rhinebeck
LEROY, DR. IRVING D.	Pleasant Valley
LOVELACE, GEORGE E.	Pleasant Valley
LOWN, FRANK B.	Poughkeepsie
LOWN, JOHN D.	Rhinebeck
M	
MCCARTHY, C. E.	Rhinebeck
McMASTERS, R. J.	Fishkill
MAGILL, H. N. W.	Pleasant Valley
MAGILL, MRS. H. N. W.	Pleasant Valley
MALVEN, REV. FRANK	Pleasant Valley
MARSHALL, CHARLES C.	Millbrook
MERRITT, DOUGLAS	Rhinebeck
MERRITT, STEPHEN H.	Millbrook
MILLER, DR. GEORGE N.	Rhinebeck
MILROY, LAFAYETTE	Rhinebeck
MOORE, EVANGELENE	Poughkeepsie
MOORE, PROF. J. LEVERETT	Poughkeepsie
MORGAN, FREDERICK N.	Poughkeepsie
MORGANTHAU, HENRY, Jr.	Hopewell Junction
MYERS, REV. F. ROY	Fishkill
MYLOD, JOHN J.	Poughkeepsie

	N	
NEWBOLD, HON. THOMAS		Hyde Park
NAYLOR, GEORGE, Jr.		Peekskill
NAYLOR, MRS. GEORGE, Jr.		Peekskill
NEWTON, REV. E. P.		Hyde Park
	O	
OLIN, STEPHEN H.		Rhinebeck
OLMSTED, JULIA C.		Rhinebeck
OLMSTED, MARY A.		Rhinebeck
OVEROCKER, GEORGE		Poughkeepsie
	P.	
PECKHAM, DR. A. L.		Poughkeepsie
PELTON, HENRY V.		Poughkeepsie
PETERS, ALFRED H.		Poughkeepsie
PETERS, FREDERICK		Fishkill
PHILLIPS, HON. SAMUEL K.		Beacon
PIERCE, CLARENCE W.		Poughkeepsie
PLATT, HON. EDMUND		Poughkeepsie
POST, MISS PHEBE		Pawling
POUCHER, DR. J. WILSON		Poughkeepsie
POUCHER, MRS. CATHERINE, D. S.		Poughkeepsie
	Q	
QUICK, AUGUSTUS		Rhinebeck
	R	
RAPALJE, JOHN		Hopewell Junction
REED, MISS		Rhinebeck
REED, MISS JULIA		Rhinebeck
REYNOLDS, HELEN W.		Poughkeepsie
RIKERT, R. RAY		Rhinebeck
RINGWOOD, J. F.		Poughkeepsie
ROOSA, LAURA		Fishkill
ROOSEVELT, HON. FRANKLIN D.		Hyde Park
ROSE, ABRAM J.		315 Broadway, N. Y. C.
ROSENKRANZ, LEWIS		Rhinebeck

S

SCHAAD, HENRY
 SCHLOSSER, HON. JOHN F.
 SCHICKLE, WILLIAM
 SCHRYVER, M. V. B.
 SEAMAN, GEORGE
 SHAW, FRANK C.
 SHERMAN, GEORGE H.
 SHERWOOD, CHARLES D.
 SHERWOOD, MRS. CHARLES D.
 SICKLEY, JOHN C.
 SNOOK, R. RICHARD
 SPINGARN, PROF. J. E.
 SPRATT, GEORGE V. L.
 STOUGHTENBURGH, ELIZABETH
 SUCKLEY, R. B.
 SUTCLIFFE, MRS. A. C.

Rhinebeck
 Beacon
 Poughkeepsie
 Rhinebeck
 Poughkeepsie
 Fishkill
 Poughkeepsie
 Brinkerhoff
 Brinkerhoff
 Poughkeepsie
 Fishkill
 Amenia
 Poughkeepsie
 Poughkeepsie
 Rhinebeck
 New York City

T

TRAVER, MERRITT H.
 TRAVER, THADDEUS A.
 TREMPER, BENJAMIN
 TROY, PETER H.

Rhinebeck
 Rhinebeck
 Rhinebeck
 Poughkeepsie

V

VANDEVOORT, ANNA
 VANDEVOORT, J. B.
 VAN HOUTEN, FRANCES H.
 VAN KLEECK, CHARLES M.
 VAN KLEECK, FRANK
 VAN VLIET, GEORGE S.
 VAN VREDENBURGH, L.

Fishkill
 Fishkill
 Beacon
 New York City
 Poughkeepsie
 Staatsburgh
 Rhinebeck

W

WAGER, A. LEE
 WARD, WILLIAM T.
 WHEELER,, EVERETT P.
 WELLS, EUGENE
 WHITE, MRS. ELIZABETH M.
 WHITE, HELENA

Rhinebeck
 Poughkeepsie
 New Hamburg
 Rhinebeck
 Fishkill
 Fishkill

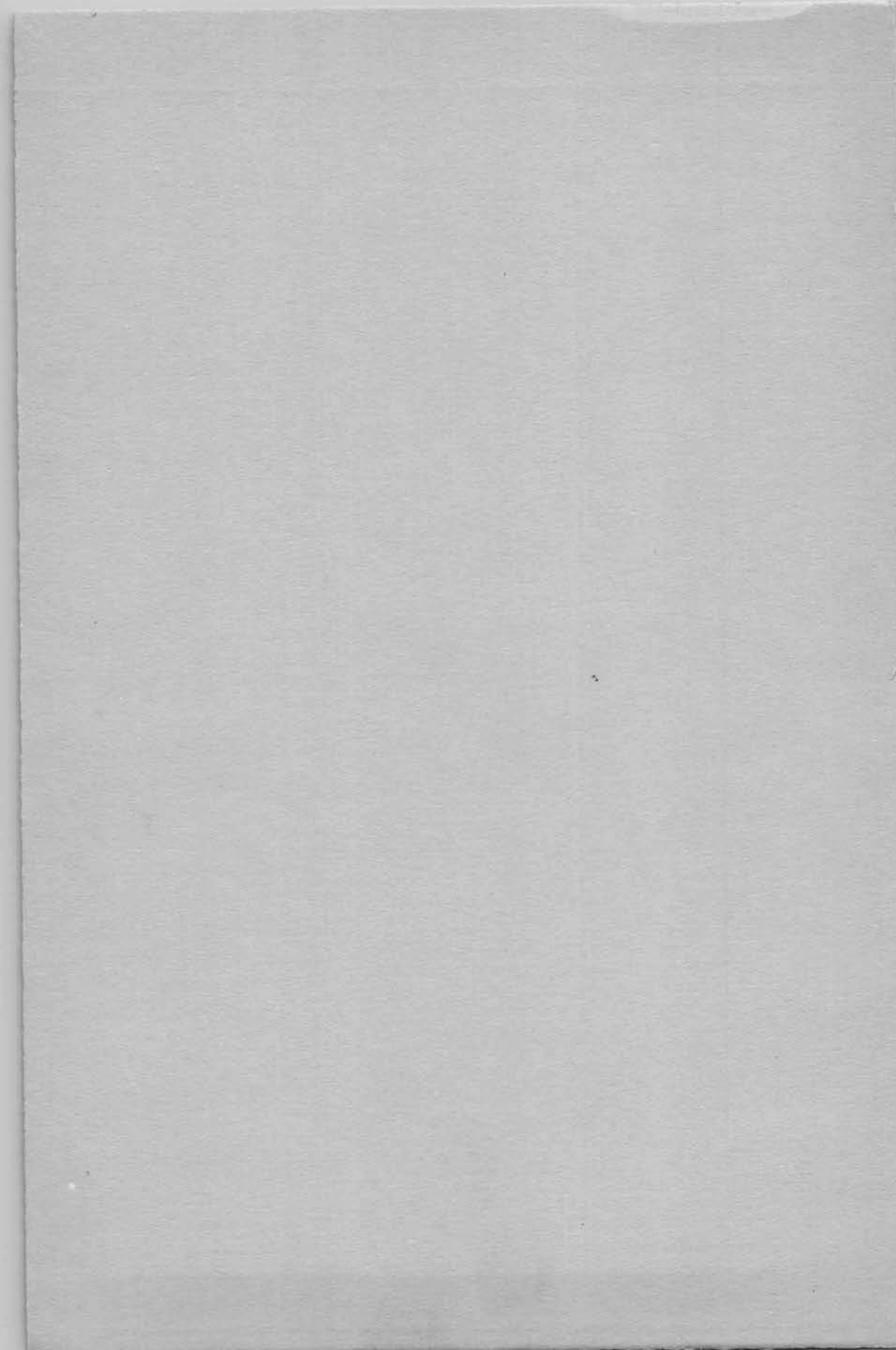
WILLIAMS, JOHN J.
WILSON, DR. JOHN S.
WODELL, SILAS
WODELL, MRS. SILAS
WODELL, KATHARINE
WOOD, ISAAC J.
WOOD, LEWIS

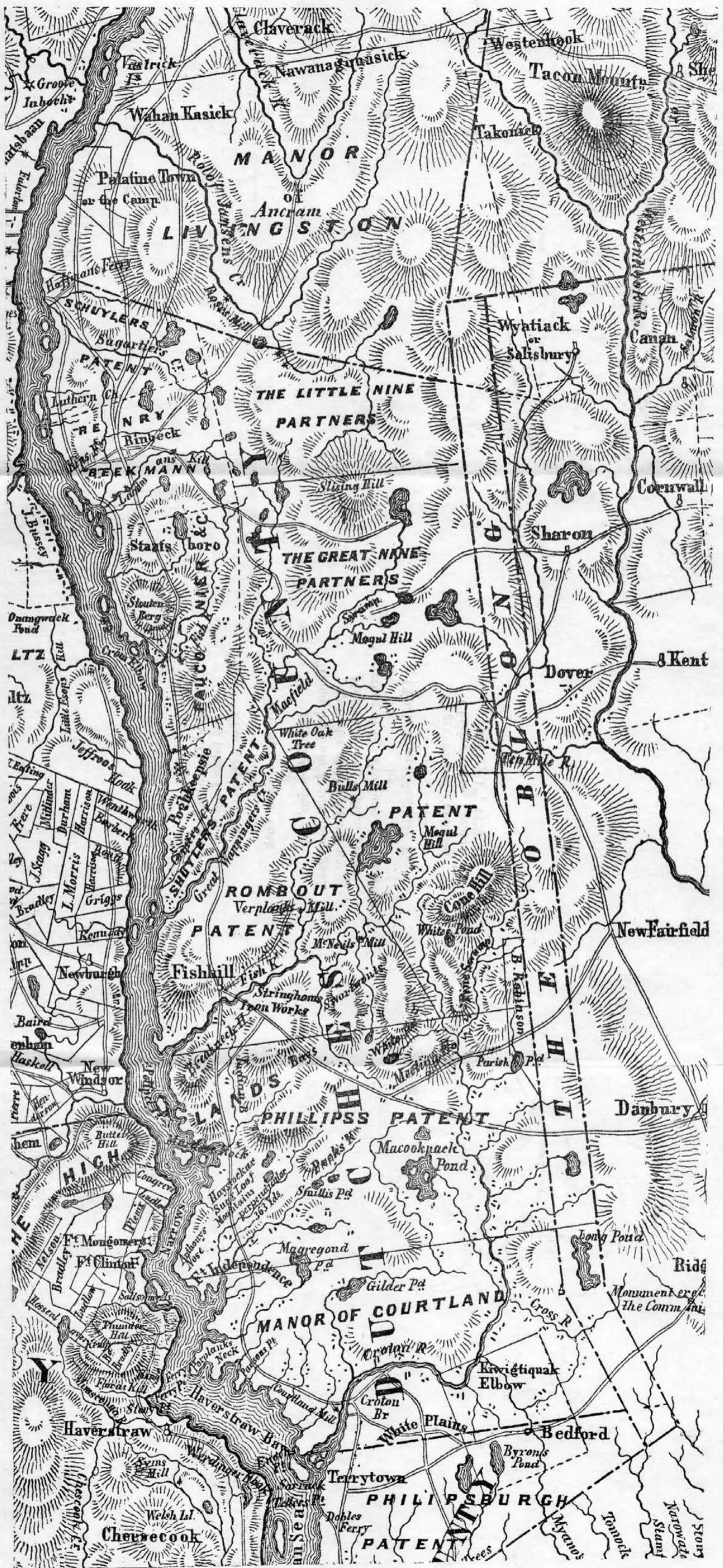
Rhinebeck
Poughkeepsie
Millbrook
Millbrook
Millbrook
Fishkill
Fishkill

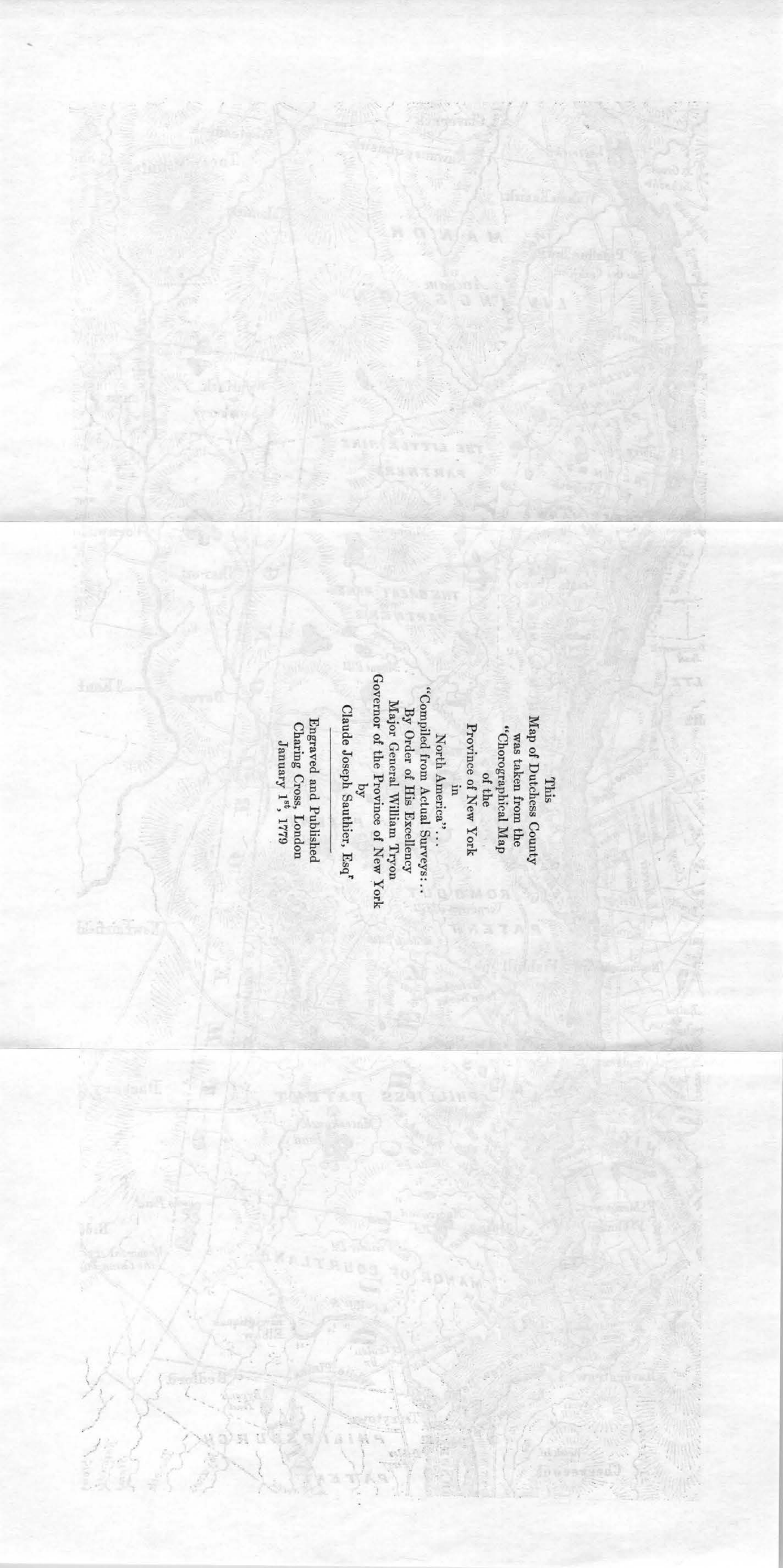
Z

ZABRISKIE, CAPT. A. C.

New York City







This
Map of Dutchess County
was taken from the
"Chorographical Map
of the
Province of New York
in
North America" . . .
"Compiled from Actual Surveys: . . .
By Order of His Excellency
Major General William Tryon
Governor of the Province of New York
by
Claude Joseph Sauthier, Esq^r
Engraved and Published
Charing Cross, London
January 1st, 1779