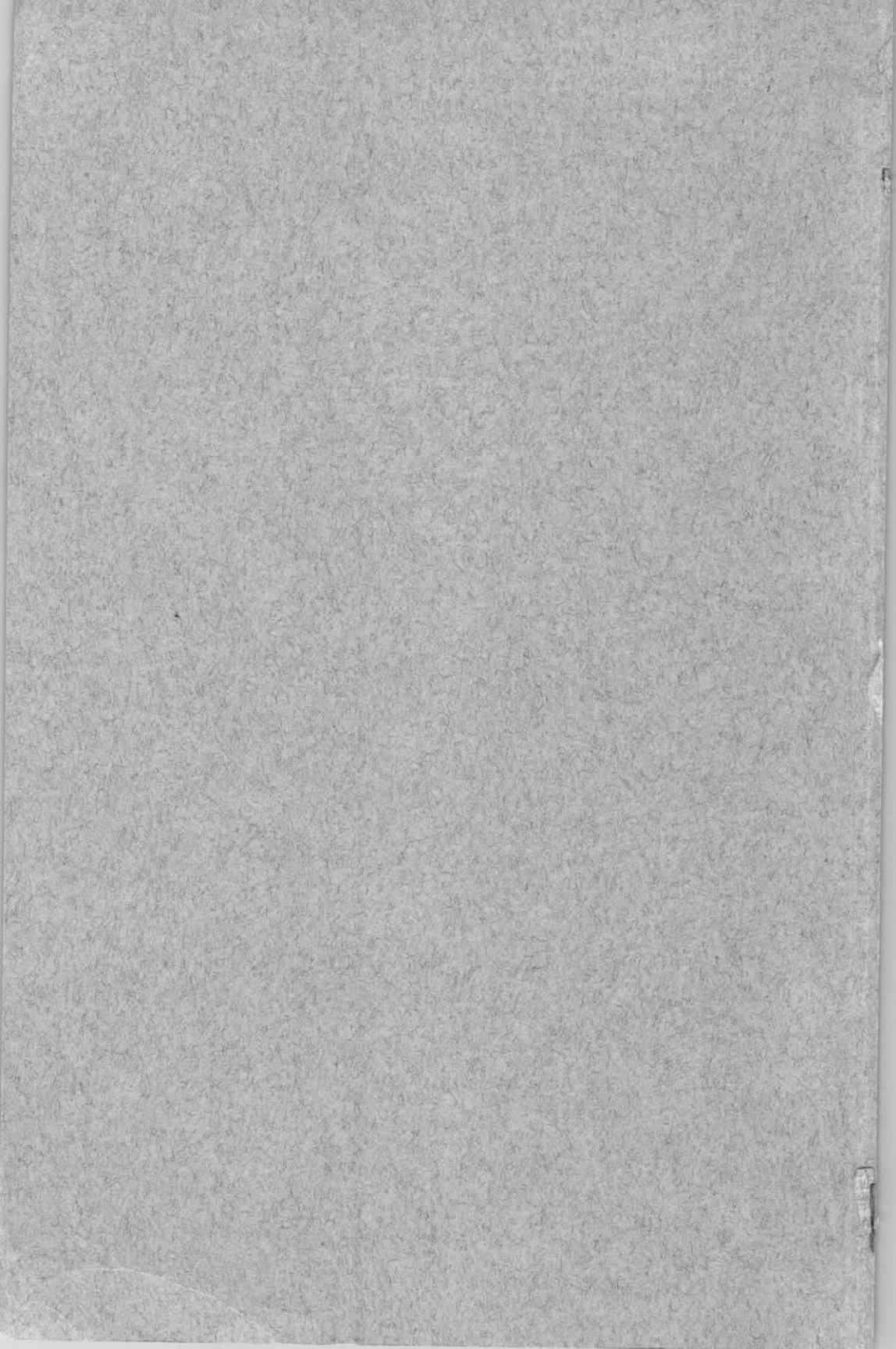


Year Book

Dutchess County Historical Society

Volume 17

1932

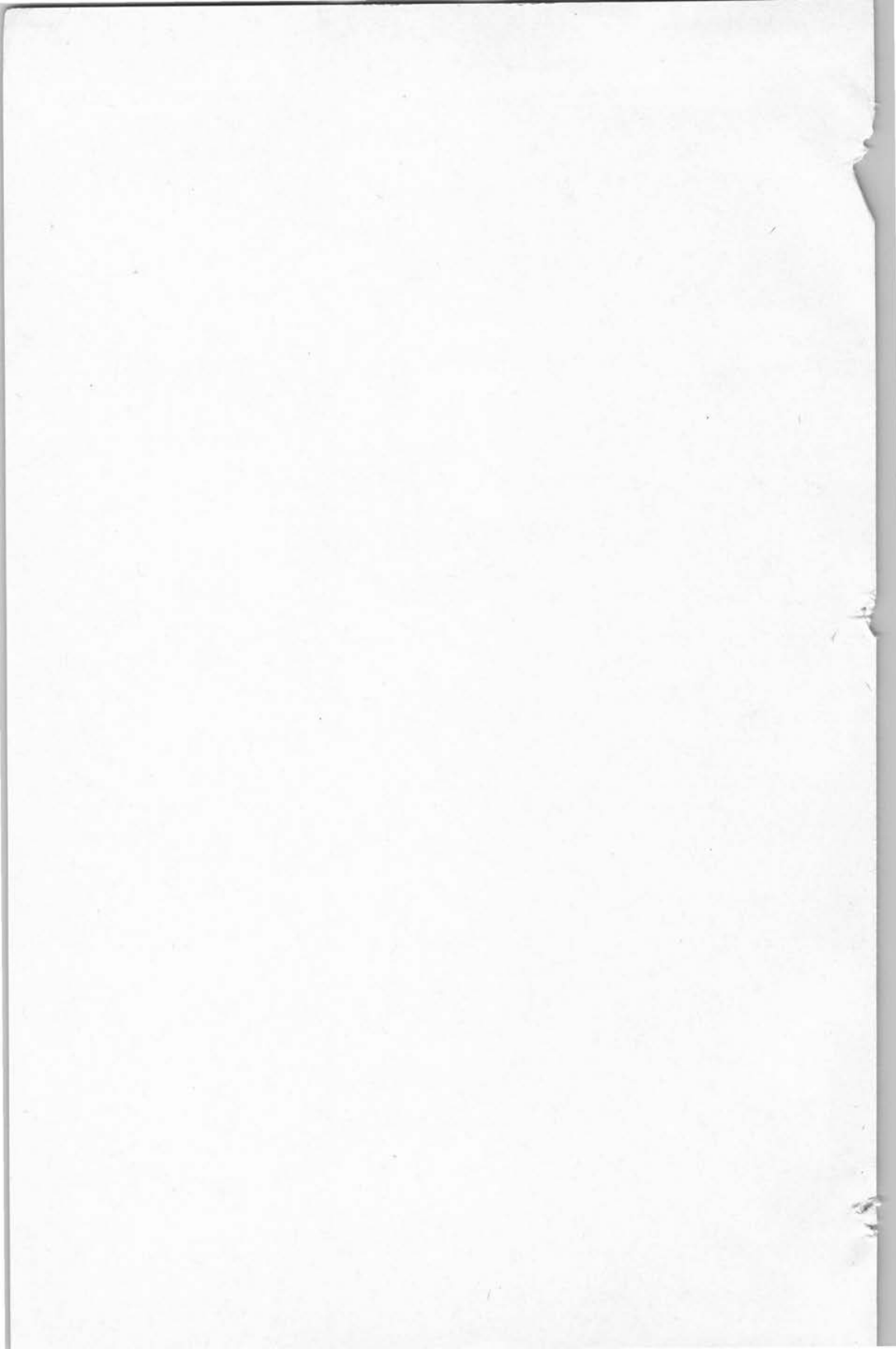


Year Book

Dutchess County Historical Society

Volume 17

1932



DUTCHESS COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

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

1932

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.

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

Curator: ALLEN FROST, Poughkeepsie, N. Y.

VICE-PRESIDENTS FOR TOWNS

J. E. Spingarn	Town of Amenia
Mrs. Samuel Verplanck	City of Beacon
Jacob Brill	Town of Beekman
William J. Browning	Town of Clinton
John A. Hanna	Town of Dover
Mrs. Edward B. Stringham	Town of East Fishkill
Mrs. Frank R. Kendall	Town of Fishkill
Franklin D. Roosevelt	Town of Hyde Park
Joseph H. Van Wyck	Town of LaGrange
Eugene Van Nest	Town of Milan
Darwin Morse	Town of North East
Miss Martha Akin Taber	Town of Pawling
Frank Eno	Town of Pine Plains
J. Adams Brown	Town of Pleasant Valley
Henry Noble MacCracken ¹	Town of Poughkeepsie
John S. Wilson, M.D.	City of Poughkeepsie
William S. Massonneau	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

¹—Resigned, October 21, 1932.

BOARD OF TRUSTEES

The President, ex-officio
The Vice-President at Large, ex-officio
The Secretary, ex-officio
The Treasurer, ex-officio

CLASS OF 1933

John Ross Delafield	Miss Mary Johnston Elsworth
Mrs. Gerald Morgan	Baltus Barentszen Van Kleeck

CLASS OF 1934

George S. Van Vliet	Miss Helen Wilkinson Reynolds
John J. Mylod	Franklin J. Poucher

CLASS OF 1935

Tracy Dows	Edmund Van Wyck
Frederic Barnard	Herbert C. Shears

CLASS OF 1936

Chester Husted	Mrs. Frank H. Van Houten ¹
Ross Hasbrouck	Elizabeth B. Thelberg, M.D.

¹—Died October 24, 1932.

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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. For further information address: Miss Helen W. Reynolds, 150 College Avenue, Poughkeepsie, N. Y.
- 1924—COLLECTIONS, VOL. II; *Old Gravestones of Dutchess County, New York*; collected and edited by J. Wilson Poucher, M. D., and Helen Wilkinson Reynolds. For further information address: J. Wilson Poucher, M. D., 15 Adriaance Avenue, Poughkeepsie, N. Y.
- 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. For further information address: Frank B. Howard, 234 Main street, Poughkeepsie, N. Y.
- 1932—COLLECTIONS, VOL. V; *Register of the Reformed Dutch Church at New Hackensack, Dutchess County, New York*; edited by Maria Bockée Carpenter Tower. Publication announced herein.
- 1931—In preparation; COLLECTIONS, VOL. VI; *Records of the Town of Fishkill, Dutchess County, New York*; edited by William Willis Reese. Publication to be announced later.
- 1931—In preparation; COLLECTIONS, VOL. VII; *Notices of Marriages and Deaths in Newspapers printed at Poughkeepsie, New York, continued*. Publication to be announced later.

SECRETARY'S MINUTES

MEETING OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES

JANUARY 30, 1932

A meeting of the Board of Trustees of the Dutchess County Historical Society was held at the Amrita Club, January 30, at three o'clock.

Present: President Reese, Trustees Barnard, Elsworth, Hasbrouck, Husted, Mylod, Reynolds, Shears, Van Kleeck and Van Wyck, and the Secretary.

The report of the Treasurer was made by Miss Reynolds, in the absence of Mrs. Waterman. Mr. Hasbrouck and Mr. Van Kleeck were appointed a committee to audit the accounts of the Treasurer.

Miss Reynolds, for the Year Book Committee, reported on the cost of the 1931 Year Book. She also reported on the work which she is supervising in compiling a second volume of marriage and death notices from early Dutchess County newspapers. A resolution was passed that the committee go on with this work and authorizing an expenditure of money up to \$300.00.

Dr. Poucher announced the presentation by Governor Roosevelt of a genealogical chart of the Rickettson family. It was voted that a letter of thanks be sent to the Governor for his gift.

Dr. Baldwin, Mr. Mylod and the Secretary were appointed a committee to secure a speaker for the May meeting.

The following new members were proposed and elected:

Life Member, Mr. Edgar V. Anderson,

Annual Members: Mr. George J. Amato, Master Charles Adams Baldwin, Jean Birdsall, Ph.D., Louise Fargo Brown, Ph.D., Mr. Charles G. Douw, Dr. Ralph P. Folsom, Mrs. Ralph P. Folsom, Mr. Gordon Mendelssohn and Miss Louise H. Roberts.

The Secretary announced that the following members had resigned: Robert W. Andrews, M. D.; Miss Rosalie Fellows Bailey, Mr. George Seymour Beckwith, Mrs. Henry Booth, Mrs. John Kerr Branch, Mrs. Edith Seaman Brill, Clarence O. Cheney, M. D.; Mrs. Clarence O. Cheney, Mrs. Louis S. Colwell, Miss S. Louise Conklin, Mr. Henry B. Cornelius, Miss Amy Crary, Miss Cornelia F. Crary, Mr. Frank F. Dickerson, Mrs. Robert N. Doughty, Miss Evaretta Killmer, Mr. William C. Mattern, Mrs. William C. Mattern, Mr. William DeGarmo Smith, Mrs. Frank L. Sweetser, Mrs. Gurden Swift, John B. Todd, M.D.; Mrs. Mary Weber, Mr. Halsey P. Wyckoff.

On motion, the meeting adjourned.

J. WILSON POUCHER,
Secretary.

MEETING OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES

MAY 7, 1932

A meeting of the Board of Trustees of the Dutchess County Historical Society was held at the Amrita Club on May 7.

Present: President Reese, Trustees Baldwin, Barnard, Elsworth, Hasbrouck, Mylod, Reynolds, Van Houten and Van Wyck, and the Secretary and the Treasurer.

The Secretary read a letter from the Greene County Historical Society protesting against the present law relating to city and town and county historians and the Governor's veto of the proposed new law which would make the appointment of paid historians permissible, but not mandatory. No action was taken.

A motion was made and passed that this society help to pay the insurance on the Glebe House. The Treasurer was directed to send to the Junior League check for \$20.00

which would pay half of the insurance, the Junior League to pay the other half.

Miss Reynolds reported progress on the 1932 Year Book and also on the plans for the September pilgrimage.

Mrs. Waterman reported a balance of \$1,680.35 in the treasury.

The following new members were elected: Mrs. Leonard Mc Clintock, The James Roosevelt Memorial Library of Hyde Park, Mrs. James E. C. Rhone, and Mrs. Willard Selfridge.

The Secretary announced that the following members had resigned: Mrs. Robert Guilder, Mrs. David S. Lansden and Miss Mary S. Lamont.

On motion, the meeting adjourned.

J. WILSON POUCHER,
Secretary.

ANNUAL MEETING

MAY 20, 1932

The Annual Meeting of the Dutchess County Historical Society was held on Friday, May 20, at Vassar Brothers Institute. There was an attendance of 36 members. The meeting was called to order at 11 o'clock by the President.

The minutes of the previous meetings and the report of the treasurer were read and approved.

Miss Reynolds, for the Year Book Committee, reported that some material was in hand and she

felt that she could promise an interesting number for 1932.

Miss Reynolds also reported for the Publication Committee. She said that about 6,000 marriage and death notices had been copied from the newspapers in the Adriaenc Memorial Library, that the years 1826 through 1836 had been covered and that there were sufficient funds in the treasury to continue the work for some little time.

She also reported, for the Pil-

grimage Committee, that some of the arrangements for the pilgrimage had been made. As the country this year is celebrating the centennial of the invention of the telegraph by Samuel F. B. Morse, the committee thought it would be appropriate to include Locust Grove, once the home of Professor Morse, in this year's pilgrimage. The present owner, Mrs. William H. Young, has graciously invited the society to visit Locust Grove in the morning. The plans for the rest of the day had not been completed, but some other points of interest in the county will be visited.

The Secretary reported that the following gifts had been made to the library of the society: The Cochran Family, by James H. Callender, Presented by Thomas Cochran; Westchester Historical Society quarterly, Utah Genealogical and Historical Magazine, New York Genealogical and Biographical Record, New York Historical Society Quarterly Bulletin, New York History, the quarterly of the New York Historical Association, Pictorial Field Book of the Revolution, 2v., by Benson J. Lossing. Presented by Mr. H. C. Wintringham; Collection of papers belonging to Mrs. Gilbert Livingston (Catharine Crannell), Presented by Mr. Thomas Buchanan; Record Chart of the mustering out of the 150th Regiment, New York Volunteers, Presented by Mr. Walter O. Lloyd.

The Secretary reported that the following members of the Society had died since the Fall meeting: Mr. Helmus W. Barrett, Mr.

William W. Dawn, Mrs. Morris P. Ferris, Mrs. A. V. V. Haight, Mr. Adna F. Heaton, Mrs. Frank P. Hoag, Mr. William McPherson Roche, Miss Harriet Sawyer, Mrs. Bertram Smith.

The Secretary reported that there have been a considerable number of resignations since the beginning of the year, but not so many as might have been expected from the prevailing depressed conditions. The following have resigned since the last meeting: Mrs. Henry S. Morgan.

The Secretary reported that Dr. LeRoy, the Treasurer, had been an active member of the society since its formation. He said that Dr. LeRoy was now making his home at Utica, N. Y., and, therefore, was unable to attend meetings. Miss Reynolds proposed that in appreciation of his long and valued service, Dr. LeRoy be made an Honorary Member of the society and the Secretary was instructed to communicate to Dr. LeRoy this action of the society.

The President announced that the terms of office of the various officers and the class of 1932 Trustees had expired. Mr. Mylod, of the Nominating Committee, took the chair and asked for nominations. The following officers were re-elected:

President, Mr. W. Willis Reese.
Vice-President at large, James F. Baldwin, Ph.D.
Secretary, J. Wilson Poucher, M. D.
Curator, Mr. Allen Frost.
Mrs. Waterman was elected

Treasurer in the place of Dr. Le Roy.

The Vice-Presidents representing the various towns of the county were all re-elected with the exception of the Town of Fishkill. Mrs. Frank Kendall was elected Vice-President for the Town of Fishkill in the place of Miss Amy Crary, resigned.

The Secretary reported that the following applications for membership had been received: Life Member, Miss Florence Eunice Bulmer; Annual Members, Mrs. George C. DuBois, Mrs. Mary B. Storm, Mr. Samuel Frederick Streit, Miss Annette Young, Mrs. William H. Young, Mrs. Margaret T. Zimmer. These applicants were accordingly elected.

A resolution of appreciation of the work done by Mr. Lewis Carman and the committee of the Chamber of Commerce in preparing a civic program to honor Samuel F. B. Morse was passed by the

society. The Secretary was instructed to convey the sense of this resolution to Mr. Carman and his committee.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned to the Nelson House where 120 members partook of luncheon. During the luncheon Miss Leila Livingston Morse, grand-daughter of Samuel F. B. Morse, who was in Poughkeepsie in connection with the local celebration of the Morse centennial, greeted the members of this society and accepted an invitation to attend the pilgrimage in September. Dr. Dixon Ryan Fox, Professor of History at Columbia University, gave a scholarly address on Washington as the typical American which was listened to with much interest and appreciation.

The meeting closed with a rising vote of thanks to the speaker.

J. WILSON POUCHER,
Secretary.

SEMI-ANNUAL MEETING

OCTOBER 21, 1932

The semi-annual meeting of the Dutchess County Historical Society was held on Friday, October 21, at 11 o'clock at the Nelson House. There was an attendance of 34 members.

The meeting was called to order by the president.

The minutes of the annual meeting, held on May 20, were read and approved.

The secretary reported that the

following gifts had been made to the library of the society: Court minutes of Rensselaerwick, Albany and Schenectady, Vol. 3; Correspondence of Jeremias Van Rensselaer; Package of old newspapers and programs, the gift of Mrs. Laura M. L. Vail; Bulletin of Fort Ticonderoga Museum; Quarterly magazine of the Westchester County Historical Society; New York Historical Society Quarterly

Bulletin, and New York History, the quarterly of the New York Historical Association.

The secretary reported that the following members had resigned since the May meeting:

Mr. George B. Foote, Dr. H. Reed Hawley, Dr. Henry Noble MacCracken and Mrs. William Reagan.

He also reported that the society had lost by death the following members:

Mr. Frederick Bodenstein, Dr. John A. Card, Mrs. Homer A. Coon, Mrs. Thomas Cunningham, Sr., Miss Frances E. DuBois, Mr. Oakley I. Norris, Dr. Robert Simpson, Jr., and Mrs. Lewis Tompkins.

In the absence of the treasurer, Miss Reynolds read her report. This report was accepted and follows these minutes.

Miss Reynolds reported for the Year Book Committee. She said that most of the material was in hand and promised an interesting number.

Miss Reynolds also gave an interesting report of the recent pilgrimage, which will be found elsewhere in this volume. She recommended that a letter expressing the appreciation of the society for hospitality shown on the occasion of the pilgrimage be sent to Mr. George E. Ruppert, Colonel Jacob Ruppert, Mr. J. Ruppert Schalk, Mrs. William Hopkins Young, Mrs. Robert B. Suckley, Mrs. Walter K. Freeman and Mrs. Helen Morton. A motion was made and seconded that the secre-

tary be instructed to send such letters.

Miss Reynolds also reported for the Publication Committee. She said that practically 9,000 notices of marriages and deaths had been copied from the newspapers in the Adriance Memorial Library in preparation for the second volume of these items. She said that the newspapers for the years 1826-1838 had been covered and expressed the hope that sufficient funds would be available to continue the work through the years up to 1850.

The secretary announced that he wished to thank the friends, particularly Mr. and Mrs. Laird of Pleasant Valley, who had assisted him in tracing the location of and photographs of the old covered bridges, well-sweeps, old mills, etc., in this vicinity.

Miss Reynolds announced the publication of the Records of the Reformed Dutch Church of New Hackensack by Mrs. Maria Bockée Carpenter Tower, one of the vice-presidents of this society, and exhibited her copy of the book. The president recommended that a vote of thanks be extended to Mrs. Tower, thanking her in the name of the society for the service she has done Dutchess County in the publication of this book.

The secretary asked if it would not be a desirable thing to add to the existing standing committees a membership committee composed of members in various parts of the county to assist in procuring new members for the society. He reported that there were at present

about 750 names on the mailing list.

He presented the following names for election to membership: Miss Cornelia L. Clarkson, Tivoli-on-Hudson, Mrs. Helen Morton, Ellerslie, Rhinebeck; Mr. George E. Ruppert, Linwood, Rhinebeck; Mr. Royal Shacklette, Poughkeepsie and Miss Albertina Ten Broeck Traver, Rhinebeck.

They were accordingly elected and the secretary instructed to inform them of their election.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned to the dining room where one hundred and two members and friends partook of luncheon and enjoyed a most interesting talk on "The Scientist and Inventor in Electrical Communications", given by Professor Paul A. Northrop of Vassar College.

The meeting concluded with a rising vote of thanks to the speaker.

J. WILSON POUCHER,
Secretary.

SEMI-ANNUAL STATEMENT
OF THE ASSISTANT TREASURER OF THE
DUTCHESS COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

May 20, 1932

RECEIPTS	
1931-1932	
Balance brought forward, October 16, 1932.....	\$1,479.46
Received to date from dues, interest and sale of Year Books	1,306.29
	\$2,785.75

DISBURSEMENTS	
1931	
October 26, Reply postals.....	\$ 4.55
November 9, Engraving plates for Year Book.....	108.87
November 9, Postage	3.00
December 3, Miss Criblez, 96 hours work at 75c ...	72.00
December 4, Pledge to Glebe House.....	100.00
December 10, Rhinebeck Gazette, work on Year Book	316.25
December 10, Insurance on Year Book.....	3.24
December 16, Binding Year Book.....	122.00
December 16, Postage on Year Book.....	26.16
December 18, Postage	2.83
December 18, Envelopes for Year Book, addressing and filling same	20.18
December 28, Miss Criblez, 96 hours work at 75c...	72.00
1932	
January 7, Honorarium, Assistant-Treasurer.....	50.00
January 12, Honorarium, Assistant-Secretary.....	25.00
January 12, Honorarium, Curator.....	25.00
January 12, Rental, Vassar Institute, October meeting	5.00
January 12, Annual dues, N. Y. State Hist. Soc.....	3.00
April 11, Miss Criblez, 96 hours work at 75c.....	72.00
May 7, Postage	2.32
May 11, Miss Criblez, 96 hours work at 75c.....	72.00
	\$1,105.40

Balance on hand in current account, May 20, 1932.....	\$1,680.35
Balance on hand in permanent account, May 20, 1932,	\$402.88.

Respectfully submitted,
KATHERINE B. WATERMAN,
Assistant Treasurer.

SEMI-ANNUAL STATEMENT
of the ASSISTANT TREASURER of the
DUTCHESS COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY
OCTOBER 21, 1932

RECEIPTS

Balance brought forward May 20, 1932.....	\$1,680.00
Rec'd to date from dues, interest and sale of Year Books	185.57
	\$1,865.92

DISBURSEMENTS

1932		
June	3, Margaret DeM. Brown; photograph; Year Book	\$ 5.00
June	3, Anna Hoag; insurance, Glebe House.....	20.00
June	4, Assistant Secretary; postage.....	19.70
June	4, Lansing & Broas; 150 inserts.....	4.50
June	4, Lansing & Broas; reply postals.....	4.70
June	4, F. B. Howard; postage on Coll'ns, Vol. IV..	.36
June	4, Vassar Bros. Inst.; rent; May meeting....	2.00
June	4, Agnes J. Criblez; typing circular letter....	3.82
June	8, Agnes J. Criblez; copying newspaper notices.	72.00
June	9, Dixon R. Fox; lecture; May luncheon....	25.00
June	5, Agnes J. Criblez; copying newspaper notices.	73.00
June	5, Treasurer; postage	3.00
July	9, Assistant Secretary; honorarium.....	25.00
July	9, Curator; honorarium.....	25.00
July	9, Treasurer; honorarium	50.00
July	9, Secretary; postage and tickets May luncheon..	3.00
July	19, Helen W. Reynolds; petty cash; committee expenses	3.00
July	30, Agnes J. Criblez; addressing labels for Year Books	5.00
July	30, F. B. Howard; copying old photograph for Year Book	3.00
July	30, F. B. Howard; expressage on old photograph	.36
Aug.	10, Lansing & Broas; gummed labels for Year Books	1.70
Aug.	29, Helen W. Reynolds; petty cash; committee expenses	5.00
Sept.	26, F. B. Howard; copying photographs.....	6.00
Sept.	26, Vassar Alumnae House; Pilgrimage guest..	6.85

Oct. 18, Assistant Secretary ; postage and notices	26.75
Oct. 18, F. B. Howard ; photograph for Year Book	3.00
Oct. 18, Lansing & Broas ; envelopes and programs	16.50
	\$ 413.24
Total disbursements	
Balance on hand, October 21, 1932	\$1,452.68
Balance in Permanent Account : \$468.47.	

Respectfully submitted,
KATHERINE B. WATERMAN.

PUBLICATION ANNOUNCEMENT

On October 1st, 1932, announcement was made by the President of the Dutchess County Historical Society, William Willis Reese, and by the Executive Secretary, Dr. J. Wilson Poucher, that the fifth volume of the collections of the society had come from the press and was ready for sale and distribution. The volume is entitled: *The Records of the Reformed Dutch Church at New Hackensack, Dutchess County, New York; Collections of the Dutchess County Historical Society, Volume V.*; its pages number 333; it is bound in cloth with gilt lettering; and is offered at \$10.00 per copy, plus 25c for carton and postage.

Mrs. Joseph T. Tower (Maria Bockè Carpenter Tower) of Millbrook, a Vice-President of this society, has personally sponsored the production of this book and as editor has directed the details of its preparation. The book contains a record of the affairs of the Dutch Church at New Hackensack between 1757 and 1906 and includes a transcript of all entries of baptism and marriage during that period of one-hundred and fifty years. The portion of the church register written in Dutch was translated into English by the Archivist of the State of New York, A. J. F. van Laer, and the part entered in English was transcribed by Mrs. Amy Pearce Vernooy of Poughkeepsie, New York, Assistant Secretary of the Dutchess County Historical Society. The work on the register was done with unqualified ability and care on the part of Mr. van Laer and Mrs. Vernooy and the result of their labors provides material of the first value for all who seek information in the field of genealogy or who are studying social conditions and customs in the eighteenth century in the Hudson Valley.

Those desiring to purchase the book may send their orders to: Committee on Subscriptions, Dutchess County Historical Society, Post Office Box 616, Poughkeepsie, New York.

THE PILGRIMAGE

On Wednesday, September 21st, 1932, the fifteenth pilgrimage of the Dutchess County Historical Society took place and it will long be remembered as a particularly enjoyable occasion. The weather was suited to a long day out of doors and, as 78 cars were present in the morning and 80 in the afternoon by actual count at given times, it is assumed that the total number was really larger, inasmuch as the personnel of the party changed occasionally during the day. The attendance can be estimated as from 250 to 300 persons, representing all parts of Dutchess.

In Dutchess the period of the pioneer, when fields were cleared and roads laid out, was later and shorter than in some other parts of the Hudson Valley and, at a rather early date, there arose in the county a social life that exhibited cultural standards of a high degree of excellence. The visits made on this pilgrimage to Locust Grove (1771), Linwood (1796), Wildercliff (1799) and Ellerslie (1809) served to illustrate the period in which a marked rise in living conditions occurred here and in which a gracious and charming mode of life took form.

A copy of the program for the pilgrimage is recorded here for future reference and it need only be added that the society is grateful to the hostesses, hosts and speakers and to all who cooperated in making this fifteenth pilgrimage so successful.

FIFTEENTH PILGRIMAGE

Wednesday, September 21, 1932

Daylight Saving Time

Basket Lunches

PLAN OF PILGRIMAGE

In the morning the centennial anniversary of the invention of the telegraph by Samuel Finley Breese Morse will be observed at Locust Grove, Poughkeepsie, the former home of Mr. Morse.

Pilgrims will be the guests at Locust Grove of Mrs. William Hopkins Young, the present owner of the estate.

After being received by Mrs. Young, pilgrims will gather on the south lawn. A short program will then take place, when the President, Mr. W. Willis Reese, will preside and introduce the speakers: Miss Leila Livingston Morse of Monterey, Massachusetts; William S. Thomas, M.D., of New York City; and Miss Helen Wilkinson Reynolds of Poughkeepsie. Luncheon will follow the addresses.

In the afternoon three old estates at Rhinebeck—Linwood, Wildercliff and Ellerslie—which are near each other and rich in traditions, will be visited.

Linwood was created as a country-seat about 1796 by Dr. Thomas Tillotson and Margaret Livingston, his wife, and occupies one of the most commanding sites along the Hudson. Pilgrims will be the guests of the Messrs. Ruppert and of Mr. J. Ruppert Schalk.

Wildercliff dates from 1799 and

is associated with the life-story of the Reverend Freeborn Garretson and Catherine Livingston, his wife. The hostesses there will be Mrs. Robert B. Suckley and Mrs. Walter K. Freeman.

Ellerslie was laid out in 1809 by Maturin Livingston and Margaret Lewis, his wife, and from 1886 to 1920 was the home of Levi Parsons Morton, sometime Vice-President of the United States, Governor of New York, Minister to France, etc. Mrs. Helen Morton opens Ellerslie to the pilgrims for this visit.

At each of the three estates at Rhinebeck an address will be given by General John Ross Delafield of Barrytown.

TIME-SCHEDULE

At 10:45 a. m. pilgrims will assemble on the New York Post Road about two and one-half miles

south of the Court House at Poughkeepsie.

The entrance to Locust Grove is on the west side of the road, nearly opposite Beechwood Avenue. The leader's car will park near the gate. A line will form in order of arrival. Cars will move in procession up the avenue.

Please be prompt.

From 11:00 to 12:00 the reception and program. From 12:00 to 1:00 lunch.

At 1:00 leave Locust Grove. Proceed north on Post Road to a point about two miles north of Staatsburg. Turn left on dirt road, leading west to the river-road.

At 2:00 p. m. due at Linwood. Leave Linwood at 2:40.

At 2:45 p. m. due at Wildercliffe. Leave Wildercliffe at 3:30.

At 3:40 p. m. due at Ellerslie.

From Ellerslie pilgrims will disperse at individual convenience.

THE STORY OF LOCUST GROVE*

By

HELEN WILKINSON REYNOLDS

Mr. President, Members and Friends of the Dutchess County
Historical Society:

In 1832, between the 6th of October and the 15th of November, during a voyage across the Atlantic, Samuel Finley Breese Morse conceived and worked out the invention of the telegraph.¹ It is therefore one-hundred years, almost to a day, since he made his great contribution to modern civilization and on this centennial anniversary we are gathered here, through the courtesy of Mrs. Young, to call to mind the fact that the man who did so much to forward scientific means of communication throughout the world was for part of his life our fellow-citizen in Dutchess County and that for twenty-five years (1847-1872) he made his home here at Locust Grove.

As we hope to hear in a few moments from Mr. Morse's son, Mr. William Goodrich Morse, and grand-daughter, Miss Leila Livingston Morse, something of the family-life at Locust Grove, I shall not attempt a reference to the same. To my lot it falls, instead, to speak of Locust Grove itself, as an old estate.

Locust Grove lies on the east bank of Henry Hudson's great river and it is worth noting that the first written reference made by white men to this particular vicinity is found in the *Journal*² that was kept by Robert Juet, the mate of the Half Moon, when that vessel came up the river under the command of Henry Hudson. Eight days from today it will be three hundred and twenty-three years since Robert Juet on September 29, 1609, recorded the passage of the Half Moon through what he called "the Long Reach," by which he meant the straight channel for sailing that lies between our New

*An address delivered on the occasion of the Fifteenth Annual Pilgrimage of the Dutchess County Historical Society, September 21, 1932.

Hamburgh and our Hyde Park. Locust Grove looks out on the waters of "the Long Reach" and the name and the place link us in thought with Henry Hudson and his times.

Of course it goes without saying that the land which constitutes Locust Grove once belonged to the Indians. They were the Wapani Indians, or Men-of-the-East-Land,³ and from them Colonel Peter Schuyler of Albany made a purchase for which, on June 2, 1688, he obtained a patent from the Crown.⁴ The land⁵ that Colonel Schuyler bought extended from the present city of Poughkeepsie southward along the river to what is now called Clinton Point (or Stoneco) and was bounded by the river on the west and by Jan Casper's Kil on the east and south.

Buying this tract on speculation, Colonel Schuyler sold it ultimately in three nearly equal divisions. One of the three divisions he conveyed⁶ on October 11, 1699, to Jochem Staats of Albany, the site of Locust Grove being covered by the deed. Jochem Staats thus acquired from Colonel Schuyler a tract which fronted the river from (approximately) Mine Point to Rudco, its boundaries being two streams,—one at the north, called Apokeepsing (which flows now through the Poughkeepsie Rural Cemetery); and one at the south which we know as the Speckenkill but which originally was "Speck zyn kill."⁷

Five months later (on March 9, 1700) Jochem Staats sold⁸ this land to Dirck Van Der Burgh of New York City, a business man who speculated in real estate both in Dutchess and Orange Counties. Dirck Van Der Burgh did not, himself, come here to live but his only son, Henry Van Der Burgh, removed from New York in early manhood and established himself on this portion of his father's lands. He played a leading part as a pioneer in the development of the local community and brought up a large family of sons and daughters in a house that stood on the east side of the then King's Highway (now the state road), close to the spot where at present there is a house owned by John Van Benschoten.

Henry Van Der Burgh's acres bordered both sides of the King's Highway for some distance north and south of where we stand today at Locust Grove and, after he died, a survey was

made of his homestead in 1752 and the land laid out in lots.⁹ The lots were assigned to the several heirs, who ultimately sold most of them and moved away from this immediate vicinity. As a result, a large part of Henry Van Der Burgh's homestead was acquired by Henry Livingston of Poughkeepsie. Mr. Livingston lived in a house that stood on the bank of the river where the plant of the Phoenix Horseshoe Company was placed in recent times and, between 1751 and 1767 by nine successive purchases from members of the Van Der Burgh family, he protected himself against undesirable neighbors immediately to the south of his own home. Finally, he consolidated a number of his purchases into one large holding and in 1771 made a present¹⁰ of the same to his son, Henry Livingston, Jr., on the occasion of the latter's marriage.

The gift made by Henry Livingston to Henry Livingston, Jr., included the land on which we are now standing and, on the north side of the entrance-drive between this house and the gate, is a spot which is pointed out as the one on which Henry Livingston, Jr., is believed to have built his house about 1771. Henry Livingston, the second, is less well known in Dutchess County than he deserves to be and I am happy to say that we have with us today one of his descendants, Dr. William S. Thomas of New York City, who will tell us something about him. He was a man who not only served the public in civil and military capacities but who stands out conspicuously in other ways. Beside conducting a mill, a store and a landing for sloops on the shore of the river west of this house (near a promontory known, for him, as: Harry's Point), he was by profession a surveyor and he was gifted with artistic talent. He had a facile pencil, which he used to decorate the borders of his maps and in making sketches. We have him to thank for a sketch¹¹ made in 1799 of a river-landing and storehouse,—the only picture I have ever found of one of those wharves for sloops with which the water-front of Dutchess was dotted in the eighteenth century. Another delightful drawing is of his own saw-mill¹² here at Locust Grove. Still another, that ornaments a map dated 1798,¹³ is of a surveyor's chain, through which is entwined a long spray of a climbing rose. And his

fancy was as facile as his pencil for he wrote often and at length genial, merry verses that described family-scenes and current events.

In connection with the ability of Henry Livingston, the second, to write lighthearted, entertaining verse, Dr. Thomas will probably tell you the fascinating story of the literary mystery that centers around him. You are all familiar with the beloved nursery-rhyme entitled: *A Visit from St. Nicholas*, which begins: "T'was the Night before Christmas," and you may have heard that it was written by Clement C. Moore of New York. However, the descendants of Henry Livingston, the second, all believe that he was the author and that he wrote the verses here at Locust Grove in his stone house which stood just down the avenue. I will not enter into the complicated details of the two sides of the story. You can find some of them, if you wish, in a volume entitled: *Famous Single Poems*, published in 1923 by Burton E. Stevenson; as also in the *Year Book* of the Dutchess County Historical Society for 1919; in the *Christian Science Monitor* for August 4, 1920; and elsewhere. But I do wish to say that there is so much offered on both sides of the question that if you lean to one side you are completely unable to account for the other. The whole matter is an intriguing puzzle. How delighted we of Dutchess all would be if incontrovertible evidence were found some day that the dear, familiar lines were really written here at Locust Grove!

Henry Livingston, the second, gave the name Locust Grove to this place and he lived here from 1771 until his death in 1828,—fifty-seven years. In 1830 his executors sold Locust Grove¹⁴ to John B. Montgomery of New York, who left the city and made his home at Locust Grove from 1830 to 1857. Very little is known of Mr. Montgomery. He and his wife, Isabella Williamson, joined the Dutch Church in New York in 1816,¹⁵ which is the earliest mention of him that has been found. From 1847 (when he sold Locust Grove) until 1857 he lived in Poughkeepsie at the northwest corner of Church and South Hamilton streets¹⁶ and the last years of his life were spent at number 56 Noxon street, where he died on November

9th, 1861.¹⁷ He and several of his family were buried in the Poughkeepsie Rural Cemetery and the inscription on the stone at his grave states that he was born June 5th, 1785. The place of his birth has not been learned. An old gardener who worked at Locust Grove referred to Mr. Montgomery in after years as "an Irishman" and pre-fixed the colorful description: "hot-headed" and, as Mr. Montgomery is on record in New York City between 1817 and 1829 as a member, incorporator and officer of the Society of the Friendly Sons of St. Patrick, it is probable he was not only Irish by descent but that he was a native of Ireland.

It was to Samuel Finley Breese Morse that John B. Montgomery sold¹⁸ Locust Grove in 1847 and the property remained in the Morse family until in 1895 it passed into the possession of William Hopkins Young. The thanks of the community are due to our hostess and her family for the fostering care they have given this old estate and its traditions. They have looked upon it as a trust from the past, which feeling has led to the preservation of its early natural features so far as possible. I suppose the woods between the house and the river are now much as they were in the time of Henry Livingston for their growth of trees, ferns and wild flowers has been protected and undisturbed.

If one is interested to know how Locust Grove appeared in the eyes of Samuel F. B. Morse it is only necessary to turn to his own words to find out. From letters he wrote, which have been preserved, his love for the place is evident, as the following excerpts reveal:¹⁹

"Poughkeepsie, North River,

July 30, 1847.

* * * I was informed of a place for sale, south of this village 2 miles, on the bank of the river * * * I have this day concluded a bargain for it. I am almost afraid to tell you of its beauties and advantages. It is just such a place as in England could not be purchased for double the number of pounds sterling. Its 'capabilities', as the landscape gardeners would say, are unequalled. There is every variety of surface, plain, hill, dale, glens, running streams and fine forest, and every variety of different prospect: the Fishkill Mountains towards the south

and the Catskills towards the north; the Hudson, with its varieties of river-craft, steamboats of all kinds, sloops, etc., constantly showing a varied scene.

I will not enlarge. I am congratulated by all in having made an excellent purchase and I find a most delightful neighborhood. Within a few miles around, approached by excellent roads are Mr. Lenox, General Talmadge, Philip Van Rensselaer, etc., on one side; on the other, Harry Livingston, Mrs. Smith Thompson, Mr. Crosby, Mr. Boorman, etc., etc. The new railroad will run at the foot of the grounds (probably) on the river and bring New York within two hours of us. There is every facility for residence,—good markets, churches, schools, * * * Singularly enough this was the very spot where Uncle Arthur²⁰ found his wife. The old trees are pointed out where he and she used to ramble during their courtship."

Locust Grove, October 12, 1847.

"You see by the date where I am. Locust Grove, it seems, was the original name given to this place by Judge Livingston and, without knowing this fact, I had given the same name to it, so that there is a natural appropriateness in the designation of my home."

Letter, dated June 21, 1868

Upon return from a trip abroad.

"Once more I am seated at my table in the half-octagon study under the south veranda. Never did the Grove look more charming. Its general features the same but the growth of the trees and shrubbery greatly increased. Faithful Thomas Devoy has proved himself to be a truly honest and efficient overseer. The whole farm is in fine condition."

Before I close may I add a word or two about the house at Locust Grove?

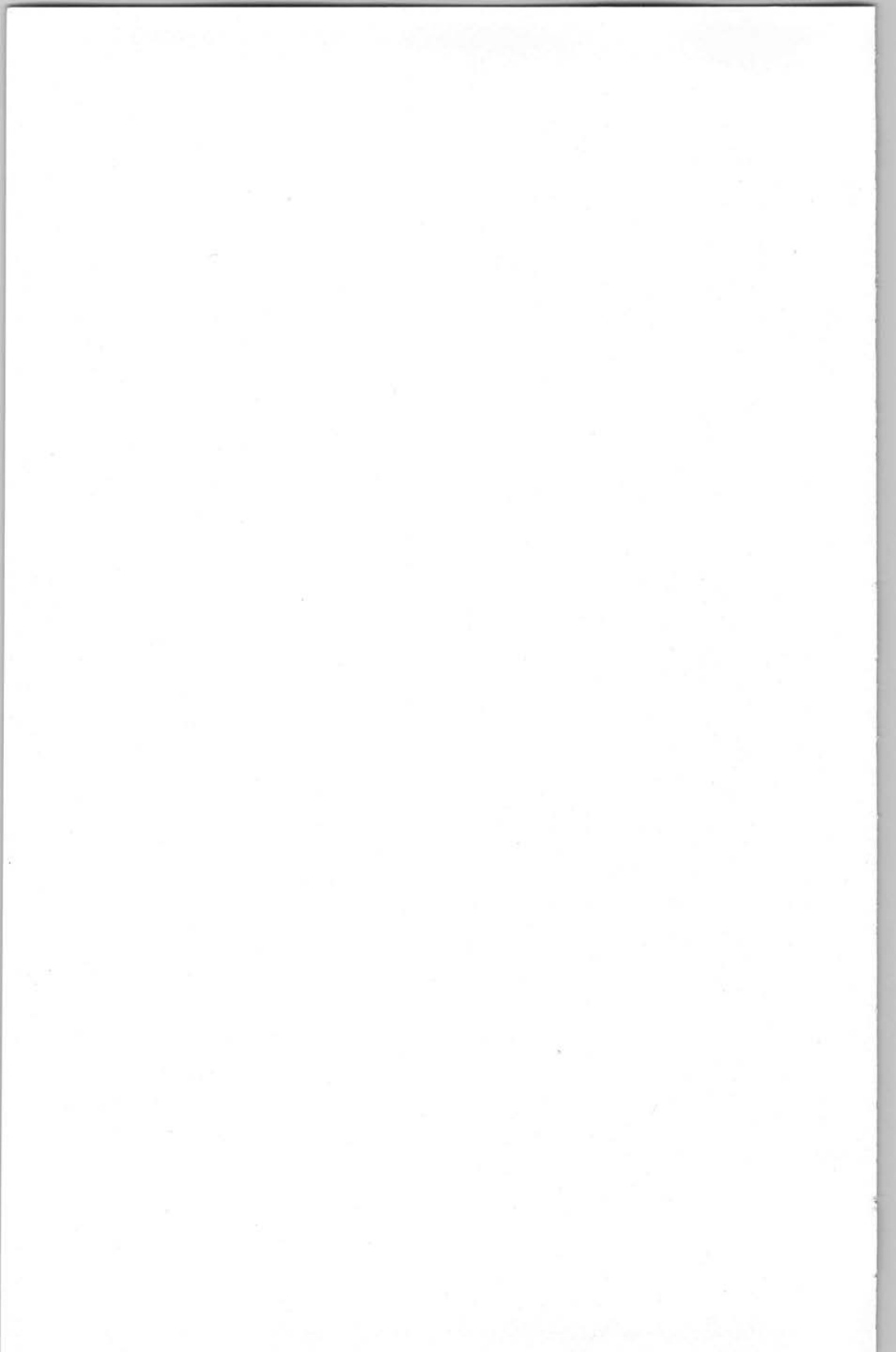
When John B. Montgomery bought the place in 1830 he abandoned the stone house on the north side of the avenue, which had been the home of Henry Livingston, the second, and built farther west a rectangular frame house which forms the nucleus of the present dwelling.²¹ It had a hall through the center of the first floor, with two rooms at the left and at the right one room and a staircase ell. In passing through the house a few moments ago you may have noticed that corners of the doorframes in this part of the house are finished with



Photograph by Margaret DeM. Brown.

The tower added by Samuel F. B. Morse to the house built by John B. Montgomery on the estate at Poughkeepsie called *Locust Grove*.

The plate was made from a photograph taken in 1932 and reproduced by the kind permission of the owner of Locust Grove, Mrs. William Hopkins Young.



a decoration in the form of conventionalized leaves, carved in wood, a design which was new in this vicinity about 1830.

When Mr. Morse came to Locust Grove he enlarged the house by additions at the north and south, which turned the original rectangle into an octagon. The southern end of the octagon, the room which opens on this south veranda, became his study. He also built the *porte cochère*. Later, Mr. Morse extended the house toward the west by adding a large drawing-room and carrying the addition up in a tower of four stories. The tower was a copy of one in Italy of which Mr. Morse was fond.

When Mr. Young bought Locust Grove he made alterations at the north end of the house that provided a large dining room and better service facilities. And so, the house, as it stands, bears the imprint of the successive ownerships of Mr. Montgomery, Mr. Morse and Mr. Young.

In the hope that I have succeeded in giving you an idea of the general trend of the story of Locust Grove, we are now to have the pleasure of hearing from Dr. Thomas and Miss Morse some of its details in connection with the lives of the people who have lived here.

1.—Edward Lind Morse, editor; *Samuel F. B. Morse, His Letters and Journals*, 1914, vol. 2, pp. 5-21.

2.—Robert Juet; *Journal of Hudson's Voyage, 1609*; pub. 1625 in *Hakluytus Posthumous or Purchas his Pilgrims*; reprinted 1811 in *Collections of the New York Historical Society*, vol. I, p. 143.

3.—Helen W. Reynolds; *Poughkeepsie, The Origin and Meaning of the Word*, 1924, p. 4.

4.—Patent to Pieter Schuyler, recorded in the office of the Secretary of State, Albany, N. Y., Book 6 of Patents, p. 325.

5.—Helen W. Reynolds; *Poughkeepsie, The Origin and Meaning of the Word*, 1924; pp. 25, 26, 27.

6.—*Ibid.*, pp. 30, 31 and p. 52 (note 79).

7.—*Ibid.*, p. 31.

8.—*Ibid.*, pp. 30, 31 and p. 52 (note 79).

9.—Dutchess County deeds, liber 4, p. 451.

10.—*Ibid.*, liber 7, p. 127.

11.—Helen W. Reynolds; *Poughkeepsie, The Origin and Meaning of the Word*, 1924, map opp. p. 30.

- 12.—*New York Magazine and Literary Repository* for August, 1792.
- 13.—Helen W. Reynolds; *Poughkeepsie, The Origin and Meaning of the Word*, 1924, map opp. p. 18.
- 14.—Dutchess County deeds, liber 44, p. 35.
- 15.—*New York Genealogical and Biographical Record*, vol. 62, p. 198.
- 16.—Directories for village and city of Poughkeepsie.
- 17.—*Daily Eagle*, Poughkeepsie, N. Y., November 12, 1861.
- 18.—Dutchess County deeds, liber 85, p. 269.
- 19.—Edward Lind Morse, editor; *Samuel F. B. Morse, His Letters and Journals*, 1914, vol. 2, pp. 280, 281, 464.
- 20.—"Uncle Arthur", a brother of Mr. Morse's mother, was Arthur Breese of Utica, N. Y. He married Catharine Livingston, a daughter of Henry Livingston of Locust Grove. His grand-daughter, Sarah E. Griswold of Utica, on August 10, 1848, became the second wife of Samuel F. B. Morse of Locust Grove. Mr. and Mrs. Morse were thus cousins through their Breese ancestors.
- 21.—Edward Lind Morse, editor; *Samuel F. B. Morse, His Letters and Journals*, 1914, vol. 2, ill'n opp. p. 280.

HENRY LIVINGSTON, JR.

By

WILLIAM S. THOMAS, M. D.

The editor regrets to state the address made by Dr. Thomas at Locust Grove, Poughkeepsie, on the occasion of the Fifteenth Annual Pilgrimage, September, 21, 1932, was extemporaneous and that no notes of it are available. The facts forming the substance of the address may however be found in an article written by Dr. Thomas which was published at page 32 of the Year Book of the Dutchess County Historical Society for 1919 under the title: Henry Livingston.



SAMUEL F. B. MORSE*

By

LEILA LIVINGSTON MORSE

Mr. President and members of the Dutchess County Historical Society:

I can't begin to tell you how happy I am to be here today—here at Locust Grove, where I was born fifty-four years ago, and to have with me my father, born here also, eighty years ago, and my cousin, Clara Morse, the daughter of Grandfather's youngest son, Edward Lind Morse (who wrote the *Letters and Journals of S. F. B. Morse*, from which book I shall mostly quote today.)

I am thankful to say that my earliest recollections are placed here—the old springboard, the old well, the wasps in the room over the porte cochère, the two iron dogs by the front steps, the fuschias in the iron urns on the lawn and hundreds of

*An address delivered at Locust Grove, Poughkeepsie, on the occasion of the Fifteenth Annual Pilgrimage of the Dutchess County Historical Society, September 21, 1932.

little incidents—the old *Mary Powell* steamboat at night (my signal for bedtime) the lovely flowers,—all give me a particular thrill in meeting you here today.

My grandfather showed very early in life his love of home when he ran away twice from Andover at the age of seven and his home-life with parents and brothers was a particularly happy one. Soon after leaving Yale College he went to Europe to study painting but he was faithful and constant in writing home. On his return to America he had to spend most of his time away from his family, painting portraits, and, even after his marriage, this work kept him much away from his dearly loved wife and children and his wife's death while these children were still little was a crushing blow.

The want of a place which he could really call home was an ever present grief. It is the dominant note in almost all letters to his brothers and is rather quaintly expressed in a letter to his daughter, Susan, in 1838: "Tell Uncle Sidney to take good care of you and have a snug little room in the upper corner of his new building where a bed can be placed and a table and a chair and let me have it as my own, that there may be one particular little spot which I can call Home. I will there make three wooden stools, one for you, one for Charles and one for Finley and invite you to your father's house." This was in 1838, six years after his inspiration in Paris for an electro-magnetic telegraph and he was still trying to make the world see its advantages. Not until 1846, eight years later, could he consider buying a home. In that year he went up the river "to look in the vicinity of Poughkeepsie." The following year, 1847, he writes to his brother in July: "I have this day concluded a bargain for a part of the old Livingston Manor* two miles south of Poughkeepsie; about one-hundred acres. I am almost afraid to tell you of its beauties and advantages."

It was here in this peaceful retreat that he carefully and

*Locust Grove was never a part of Livingston Manor. The Manor was in Columbia County. Mr. Morse had reference to the estate of Henry Livingston at Poughkeepsie which, however, was not constituted as a manor.

systematically prepared the evidence which should confound his enemies in all future patent litigation and calmly awaited the verdict with faith. He was now fifty-seven years of age—in 1848—when he married his second wife, Sarah Elizabeth Griswold of Utica, New York, and proceeded at once with her to Louisville and Frankfort, Kentucky, to be present at his first suit against O'Reilly. One point only was decided against him and it is worthy of notice that this decision which denied to Morse the *exclusive* use of electro-magnetism for Recording Telegraphs has never been of injury to his instrument because no other inventor has devised an instrument to supersede his. The Court decided that the electro-magnetic telegraph was the sole and exclusive invention of Samuel F. B. Morse and, if better instruments could be made for the same purpose, electro-magnetism could be used.

In 1868 he writes one of his sons: "I am seated at my table in the half-octagon study under the south veranda. Never did the Grove look more charming. Thomas Devoy has proved a most truly honest and efficient overseer."

Unfortunately for me I was not born until eight years after my grandfather's death and so cannot bring to you any personal reminiscences. He was a wonderful husband and father, kind and understanding and generous beyond words. I am glad to say that he had a wonderful sense of humor and his great faith in God carried him through a life of great struggles and disappointments, even to the time of his death, in fighting for his rights to his invention. His mind was active to the very end and he never ceased to do all in his power for the welfare of mankind. In 1871 he went with his family to New York and it is recorded that, with an apparent premonition that he should never see his beloved Locust Grove again, he ordered the carriage to stop as it drove out of the gate and, standing up, looked long and lovingly at the familiar scene before him before telling the coachman to drive on. As he passed the Poughkeepsie Rural Cemetery on the way to the station he exclaimed: "Beautiful! Beautiful! But I shall not lie there. I have prepared a place elsewhere." He died the following spring in his New York home."

My Father arrived yesterday from California after a long, hot and tedious trip and begs to be excused from more than just a brief greeting to you. But that he would like to give. My father.

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THE STORIES OF
LINWOOD, WILDERCLIFF AND ELLERSLIE*

By

JOHN ROSS DELAFIELD, A.M., L.L.B., D.S.M.

BRIGADIER-GENERAL, ORDNANCE RESERVE, UNITED STATES
ARMY

The land on which the three houses we visit this afternoon are located was part of the first land bought by white men in this neighborhood. Indeed, the deed dated 8 June 1686¹ is the earliest deed of lands for many miles up and down the east side of the Hudson River. The Dutch had settled at Esopus on the west side of the river but not on the east side. The Indians did not buy and sell land among themselves for they had not yet advanced to the stage of civilization in which individual ownership of land is recognized. The men who sold were three Indians named Aran Kee, Kreme Much, and Korra Kee. The purchasers were Hollanders from Esopus, across the river; and were named Gerrit Artsen, Arie Roosa and Jan Elton. The deed was confirmed by royal patent signed by the Governor, Thomas Dongan, on 2 June 1688.²

This land was bounded by the Hudson River on the west, Vanderburgh's Cove on the South, and Landsman's Kill and Rhinebeck Kill on the east. Artsen, Roosa, and Elton about 1702, by deed, divided their patent into six lots and each took two of these. Each of these lots seems to have contained about 160 acres. Roosa was given lot one which was on Vanderburgh's cove and later became Linwood, Roeloff Elton received lot two, the site of Wildercliff, and Artsen took lot three which forms part of the property later known as Ellerslie.³

*An address, made in three parts, on the occasion of the Fifteenth Annual Pilgrimage of the Dutchess County Historical Society, Wednesday, September 21, 1932.

1.—Recorded Ulster County Clerk's Office Book AA.

2.—Recorded Secretary of State's Office Lib. 2, Page 349.

3.—The History of Rhinebeck by Edward M. Smith, p. 34.

LINWOOD

In the partition of 1702 Arie Roosa was given lot 1. He had married Maria Pels, probably a daughter of Evert Pels of Esopus. He was, therefore, brother-in-law to Gerrit Artzen, who had married Clara, another of Evert Pels daughters.¹ Nine years later and on March 11, 1711, Arie Roosa sold this lot to Laurens Osterhout of Hurley for £60.² Laurens Osterhout had married Rebecka Roosa,³ who was doubtless a near relative of Arie Roosa. On November 3, 1741, Laurens Osterhout sold the same property to Jacobus Van Etten for £370 by deed which described the property as containing about 160 acres.⁴ Jacobus Van Etten's wife was also named Rebeka Roosa⁵ but her relationship to Arie Roosa and to Laurens Osterhout's wife is not known. Matthew and Isaac, two of the sons of Jacobus Van Etten, became the owner of lot 1 by devise under their father's will.⁶ Isaac Van Etten mortgaged his share to the Loan Officers of Dutchess County who by deed dated September . . ., 1793, sold it to Dr. Thomas Tillotson.⁷

Dr. Thomas Tillotson then arranged a partition with Matthew Van Etten by which the former took the southerly part, about eighty acres, the partition line being fixed by him by agreement.⁸ On May 30, 1796, he borrowed £6000 from the State of New York on mortgage of this and other properties.⁹ This mortgage was paid off and satisfied October 10, 1804. It may well have been made to get the money used for the building of his mansion. The mortgage covers also the six acres of land near the mill at the mouth of Landsman's Kill bought by Henry Beekman, Jr. from Arie Roosa by deed dated April 1, 1710, and sold by Morgan Lewis and Gertrude Livingston, his wife, to Thomas Tillotson by deed dated April 13, 1780. These two properties and perhaps other land subsequently bought by Dr. Tillotson on the easterly side of Landsman's Kill doubtless made up the 207 acres sold for \$18,000 by his son John C. Tillotson and Matilda his wife to Dr. Federal Beekman Vanderburgh by deed dated August 27, 1835.¹⁰ The name Linwood for this property is not known earlier than

its ownership by Dr. Tillotson and was presumably given by him because of linden trees growing there.

The story of this property and its owners for the next seventy years is so well told by Miss Helen Wilkinson Reynolds in her Dutchess County Doorways that, with her consent, I quote it here:

"In 1776 Thomas Tillotson (1751-1832) then twenty-five years old, was made a lieutenant of militia in Queen Anne County, Maryland. The next that is learned of him is three years later when on February 22, 1779, he was married by the pastor of the Dutch Church of Rhinebeck Flatts, Dutchess County, to Margaret Livingston (1749-1823), one of the six daughters of Robert and Margaret (Beekman) Livingston of Clermont.

"Somewhere, before 1779, Thomas Tillotson had studied medicine for in 1780, the year following his marriage, he was appointed Hospital Physician and Surgeon of the Northern Department of the Continental Army and as such remained until the close of the war.

"When peace came Dr. Tillotson established his permanent home in the town of Rhinebeck, Dutchess County, where he spent the remainder of his life. Apparently he did not practice his profession to any extent after the war for no mention of his doing so is made at Rhinebeck and he was not a member of the Dutchess County Medical Society (organized in 1806) but, soon after he settled at Rhinebeck, he went into politics. He was sent to the Assembly of New York for two sessions, one held in 1788 and one in 1789-1790, and thereafter was elected to the Senate for eight sessions, held in 1791-1798 (inclusive). From 1801 to 1806 Dr. Tillotson filled the office of Secretary of State of New York and again in 1807-1808, but, delicate in constitution, he was obliged in 1808 to retire from public life for reasons of health and from then until his death in his eighty-first year he lived quietly at his home. When he died the Society of the Cincinnati published a minute in reference to him in which it was said that Dr. Tillotson, 'an able and zealous advocate of the American Revolution' was 'gifted by nature and improved by education.'

"Mrs. Tillotson, who died in 1823, nine years before her husband, is said to have been the best known to the people of Rhinebeck of any of the six sisters of the household at Clermont and to have been much loved. Her great-niece, Mrs. Delafield, recorded of her in reminiscences published in 1877 that she excelled in domestic arts and was naturally skillful in the use of her hands,—she could cut a silhouette or do fine needlework with equal facility. This ability is illustrated by an anecdote told of her in connection with Burgoyne's surrender in 1777. Margaret Livingston, as she then was, had wagered that in one day she could knit a long stocking for an old family servant at Clermont. As the stocking neared completion just before mid-night, black Scipio rushed in with the news from Saratoga, excitement prevailed in the house, the stocking was forgotten, and the wager lost. An obituary printed in the Poughkeepsie Journal described Mrs. Tillotson as a Christian and a philanthropist, who died in an 'honored old age, (that was) distinguished for benevolence and piety, and who ministered to the wants of all who required her aid.'

"In 1793 Dr. Tillotson bought the land in the town of Rhinebeck which lies in the angle that is formed by the junction of Landsman's Kill with Hudson's river. On a site bounded west and south by the river and east by the stream, where the views are very lovely, he built a brick house, the year of its erection being said by tradition to have been 1796. The tradition is credible inasmuch as a map of the town of Rhinebeck, for which the survey was begun in December, 1797, shows a house on this site marked Mr. Tillotson; and in general architectural character the house was similar to several other brick houses built in the same vicinity at nearly the same time (the DeVeaux, Lewis, Parsons, Schuyler and Van Ness houses.) It was rectangular, two stories in height, with a gambrel roof and had a central hall with rooms on either side. Over the front door was a triple window, shown here in plate 85, which was the only detail typical of 1796 that remained when a photograph was made of the house in the second half of the nineteenth century. The photograph, reproduced here through the courtesy of Tracy Dows of Rhinebeck, records a mid-nine-

teenth century veranda and front door and additions at each side, but notwithstanding such changes, it provides a clear record of a house which in walls, in roof and in the window mentioned, was characteristic of the period in which it was new.

“Dr. Tillotson’s estate, which he called Linwood, was sold in 1835 (two years after his death) by his son, John C. Tillotson, to Dr. Federal Van Der Burgh (1788-1868), who was one of the best known physicians of that time. Dr. Van Der Burgh was a son of Colonel James Van Der Burgh of the town of Beekman, Dutchess County, and when about seventeen years old began the study of medicine at New Milford, Connecticut. Continuing his study in New York and graduating before he was twenty-one he practised for about twenty years at Geneva, New York, removing thence about 1830 to New York City. In 1825 Dr. Hans Gram (from the Royal Academy of Surgery at Copenhagen) had introduced in New York the principles of homeopathy (enunciated in Germany by Samuel Hahnemann about 1796) and Dr. Van Der Burgh at once became a convert to the new school and one of its best known exponents. He acquired a large and lucrative practice in New York among the best class of people but about 1840 left the city to make his permanent home at Rhinebeck (where he had earlier purchased property as a summer residence.) Dr. Van Der Burgh has been described as benevolent in disposition, very attractive personally and much beloved and he continued his professional career after he retired to Rhinebeck, although chiefly as a consultant. His death at the age of eighty was caused by pneumonia, said to have been induced by visiting a patient in severe winter weather.

“Although Dr. Van Der Burgh bought the brick house called Linwood in August, 1835, he held it for six months only. His daughter, Mary Helen Van Der Burgh (1816-1846) had married in 1834 John Barber James (1816-1856) and in January, 1836,¹¹ Dr. Van Der Burgh sold the house to his son-in-law, and he, himself moved over to the east side of Landsman’s Kill where he maintained a home for over thirty years.

“The arrival at Linwood in 1836 of John Barber James was the beginning of a new tradition for the place. John Bar-

ber James owned the brick house until 1849, when he sold¹² it to his brother, Augustus James (1807-1866), who held it until 1865, so that for a period of about twenty years Linwood was the scene of the comings and goings of a large group of relatives. Augustus and John Barber James were sons of William and Catharine (Barber) James of Albany, the founders of a family that was numerous and distinguished and widely connected. Mrs. James was a niece of Colonel William Barber, whose occupation of the old Crooke estate at Crum Elbow is noted here in the account of the Roosevelt house near Hyde Park. In 1848 Augustus James's daughter, Catharine, was married at Linwood to Robert Emmet, Jr. (grandson of Thomas Addis Emmet of New York City); another daughter, Gertrude, married James M. Pendleton a son of Nathaniel and Susan (Bard) Pendleton of Hyde Park; while a son, William Augustus James (1831-1876) married Julia Lowndes of Staatsburgh, a great-granddaughter of Morgan Lewis of Staatsburgh House and kinswoman of the wife of Dr. Tillotson who built Linwood. To these instances might be added others, all going to show how intricately bound together were many of the old homes of Dutchess.

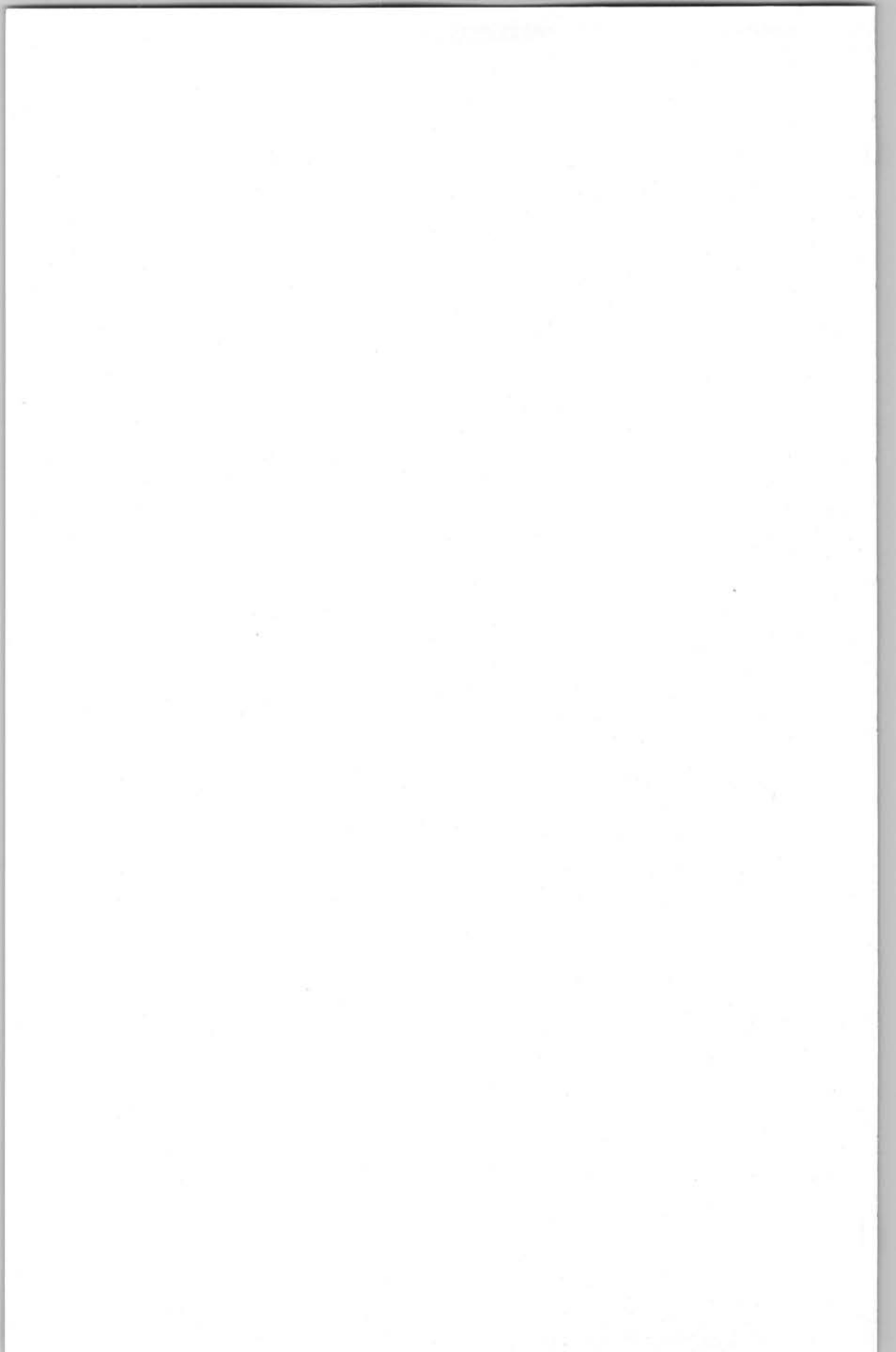
"John B. James and Augustus James, owners of Linwood 1836-1865, had two nephews growing up in those years: William James (1842-1910) and Henry James (1843-1916), who later were distinguished in the fields of science and literature. In a volume entitled: *A Small Boy and Others*, published in 1913, Henry James set down some of the impressions which he as a child received at Linwood. Referring to '. . . the hospitalities of Rhinebeck, the place of abode of the eldest of the Albany uncles,' he said in one place: 'the house at Rhinebeck and all its accessories (which struck our young sense as innumerable)' and 'in especial the great bluff of the Hudson on which it (the house) stood yield me images scarcely dimmed.' And further: 'the house and precincts of Linwood at Rhinebeck harbored our tender years, I surmise, but at few and brief moments; but it hadn't taken many of these to make it the image of an hospitality liberal as I supposed great social situations were liberal. Didn't Linwood bristle with great views



Photograph by Margaret DeM. Brown.

The view from the estate at Rhinebeck called *Linwood*, taken from the edge of "the great bluff of the Hudson," which Henry James refers to in *A Small Boy and Others* among his reminiscences of his boyhood.

The plate was made from a photograph taken in 1932 and reproduced by the kind permission of the owners of Linwood, the Messrs. Ruppert and Mr. J. Ruppert Schalk.



and other glories, with gardens and graperies and black ponies, to say nothing of gardeners and grooms who were notoriously and quotedly droll.' Then ' . . . our Aunt Elizabeth, who had been Miss Bay of Albany, who floats back to me through the Rhinebeck picture, acquiline but easy, with an effect of handsome high browed high-nosed looseness, of dressing gowns or streaming shawls and of claws of bright, benevolent steel, that kept nipping for our charmed advantage: roses and grapes and peaches and currant-clusters, together with turns of phrase and scraps of remark that fell as by quite a like flash of shears.' And finally: ' . . . creeping off to the edge of the Hudson I somehow felt the great bright harmonies of air and space becoming one with my rather proud assurance and confidence, that of my own connection for life, for interest, with such sources of light'.¹³

To this pleasing statement may be added that it is said by Mrs. Russell Hastings that in 1796 General Washington was the guest of Dr. Thomas Tillotson¹⁴ at Linwood.

On December 8, 1865 Augustus James sold Linwood containing eighty-six acres to Alfred Wild of Albany for \$60,000, subject to a mortgage for \$25,000 then on the property.¹⁵ Alfred Wild commenced to tear down the mansion house, intending to build a new house, but having failed in business the work was not carried on. The mortgage for \$25,000 was foreclosed and the land bought in by the executors of the estate of Jacob A. Robertson, the mortgagee, on April 27, 1875.¹⁶ This estate held the property for some years until on November twenty-eighth, 1883, they sold it to John G. Gillig of New York City for \$29,000.¹⁷ This purchase was made for Jacob Ruppert of New York City who took title on the same day.¹⁸

Now at last after eighteen years of neglect Linwood had again an owner who appreciated its beauty. The remains of the old Tillotson and James mansion were cleared away, and Mr. Ruppert built the house now on this beautiful site. He also much improved the grounds and the water front.

Jacob Ruppert had been born in New York City on March 4, 1842, and had acquired a large fortune in business. He

married Anna Gillig there on October fourth 1864. On the completion of his new house in June 1884 Mr. Ruppert and his family moved in, and it has continued in the occupation of the Ruppert family since that date. By his will Mr. Ruppert, who died May 25, 1915, left the property to his wife for life. She lived there until her death on March 16, 1924 when it passed to his children.

To the thousands who travel by the Hudson River Railroad, Linwood is known, not perhaps often by name, but as the country place on the hill that has the beautiful swans in the bay in front of it.

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- 1.—History of Rhinebeck by Edward M. Smith, page 12 and 39.
 - 2.—Ulster County Clerk's Office Deeds Liber and History of Rhinebeck by Edward M. Smith page 14.
 - 3.—History of Rhinebeck by Edward M. Smith, page 40.
 - 4.—Idem.
 - 5.—Idem.
 - 6.—Dutchess County Clerk's Office, Mortgages Liber 7 pg. 155.
 - 7.—Idem.
 - 8.—History of Rhinebeck by Edward M. Smith, page 41.
 - 9.—Dutchess County Clerk's Office Mortgages Liber 7 pg. 155.
 - 10.—Idem Liber 57 pg. 286; and 288.
 - 11.—Deed dated January 18, 1836 from Federal Van Der Burgh of New York City, physician, and Orinda his wife to John B. James of Rhinebeck for \$20,000, being the same property conveyed by Tillotson to Van Der Burgh. Recorded Dutchess County Clerk's office Deeds Liber 65 page 166. Five years later, by deed dated July 6, 1841, John B. James and wife reconveyed to Dr. Van Der Burgh the 207 acres and two roods but excepted out of it all the land westerly of the westerly margin of Landsman's Kill. Recorded Dutchess County Clerk's office Deeds Liber 71, page 180.

Mrs. Van Der Bergh's maiden name was Esther Orinda Boardman.

- 12.—This conveyance was accomplished by three transactions and covered a total of a little less than eighty-six acres being approximately the original estate of Dr. Thomas Tillotson. The total consideration for it amounted to about \$25,468. John B. James of Rhinebeck to Augustus James of Rhinebeck dated January 1, 1849 for \$18,000 fifty-five acres and fifteen perches "a part of the farm on which John B. James now resides". Recorded Dutchess County Clerk's office Deeds Liber 88, page 271. John N. Cramer and wife and John S. Smith and wife to Augustus James dated May 24, 1852 for \$966.87 seven acres one rood

and thirty perches "adjoining Dr. Van Der Burgh's mill pond at the west bank." Recorded Dutchess County Clerk's office Deeds Liber 96, page 494. John B. James of Albany to Augustus James of Rhinebeck dated April 14, 1853 for \$6,500 twenty-three acres five perches "that portion of the Tillotson farm which John B. James reserved at sale of the other portion to Augustus James" also three quarters of an acre.

13.—A Small Boy and Others by Henry James pgs. 181, 183.

14.—New York Genealogical and Biological Record Vol. 55 pg. 111 note.

15.—Dutchess County Clerk's Office Deeds Liber 135 page 43.

16.—Idem Liber 179 pg. 468.

17.—Idem. Liber 215 pg. 379.

18.—Idem. Liber 215 pg. 384.

WILDERCLIFF

On a steep rock or cliff going down into the waters of the Hudson River on lot 2 of the original partition of Aartsen, Roosa, and Elton, was roughly cut in outline the figure of an Indian holding in one hand a tomahawk and in the other a calumet. Hence the name of this property;—the place of the wild man's rock. When the name was given is not now known. It probably grew unconsciously as the best way to identify the locality.

Lot 2 in the partition of 1702 fell to Roeloff, oldest son of John Elton, deceased,¹ who had left it by will to his five children.² In 1721 Gerrit Artsen, also called Van Wagenen, bought this lot from the heirs of John Elton.³

Barent van Wagenen, baptized at Kingston April 18, 1675, the third son of Gerrit Artsen bought from his father and settled on three-fifths of lot number 2. He had by his wife Lea Schapmoes whom he had married Sept. 28, 1703, eleven children.⁴ The other two-fifths of lot 2 went to Goosen Van Wagenen a younger brother of Barent. Goosen had on June 15, 1715, married Geertruyd Swart but they had no children, and he left the property by will to his nephews Johannes and Benjamin, sons of Barent Van Wagenen.⁵ Four of the daughters of Barent conveyed their shares in the three-fifths of lot 2 to three of their brothers by deed dated April 28, 1759, which states that Barent Van Wagenen, late of Rhinebeck, deceased, had by will dated April 28, 1730, left all his lands to his wife for life and then equally to his four sons and six daughters. For £240 consideration the four daughters conveyed to their brothers Gerrit, Johannes and Benjamin, and described the three-fifths as bounded on the south by lands of Laurentz Oosterhout, on the east by the creek, on the west by Hudson's river, and on the north by lands of Goosen Van Wagenen and as being a tract conveyed by Gerret Aertse or Gerret Van Wagenen to Barent Van Wagenen.⁶ One of these brothers, Benjamin Van Wagenen, finally obtained from his brothers all of lot 2, probably by purchase of their shares from his brothers and sisters for in 1795 his four sons, Jacob, Benjamin, Barent B., and

Johannes B. owned the whole of lot 2 containing 160 acres, which by deed dated May 5, 1795 the three former sold to their brother Johannes B. Van Wagenen.⁷

It was this land which John B. Van Wagenen sold for \$2,500 to Rev. Freeborn Garrettson by deed⁸ dated September 23, 1799 which described the property as containing 160 acres and bounded it on the north by lands of the heirs of Jacobus Kip, deceiver;⁹ on the west by Hudson's river, on the south by lands of Matthew Van Etten,¹⁰ and on the east in part by Landsman's Kill.

It is stated that this was not a sale but an exchange and that lands in the vicinity of Schooterhook in the interior of Rhinebeck were given by Mrs. Garrettson to John B. Van Wagenen.¹¹ This would account for the small purchase price which would seem to have been a difference in value paid in cash. Rev. Freeborn Garrettson met his future wife, Catherine Livingston, while he was staying at Linwood as a guest of Dr. Thomas Tillotson, who also came from Maryland. She was already a Methodist, having become such of her own choice without the sanction of her mother or of her brothers and sisters.

The following paragraphs quoted with her consent from Miss Helen Wilkinson Reynold's Dutchess County Doorways, give a pleasing and accurate account of Wildercliff while it remained the home of the Garrettsons.

"One of the most widely known itinerant preachers of the early days of Methodism in America was the Reverend Freeborn Garrettson (1752-1827). Born in Maryland, his forbears members of the Church of England, he chanced when about eighteen to hear the Reverend Robert Strawbridge preach and as a result became interested in matters of a religious sort. Passing through a violent emotional experience in 1775, he decided to enter the Methodist ministry and in 1776 the Baltimore Conference appointed him to the Frederick District. From 1776 until 1817 he continued as a circuit-rider under official appointments; while from 1817 until his death in 1827 he labored in the same way as a volunteer. In this half-century of service Mr. Garrettson travelled extensively in the Atlantic states from Massachusetts to North Carolina; from New York City he worked northward to Lake Champlain; and in 1785-1787 he lived in Nova Scotia as a missionary.

In 1793 Mr. Garrettson married Catharine Livingston (1752-

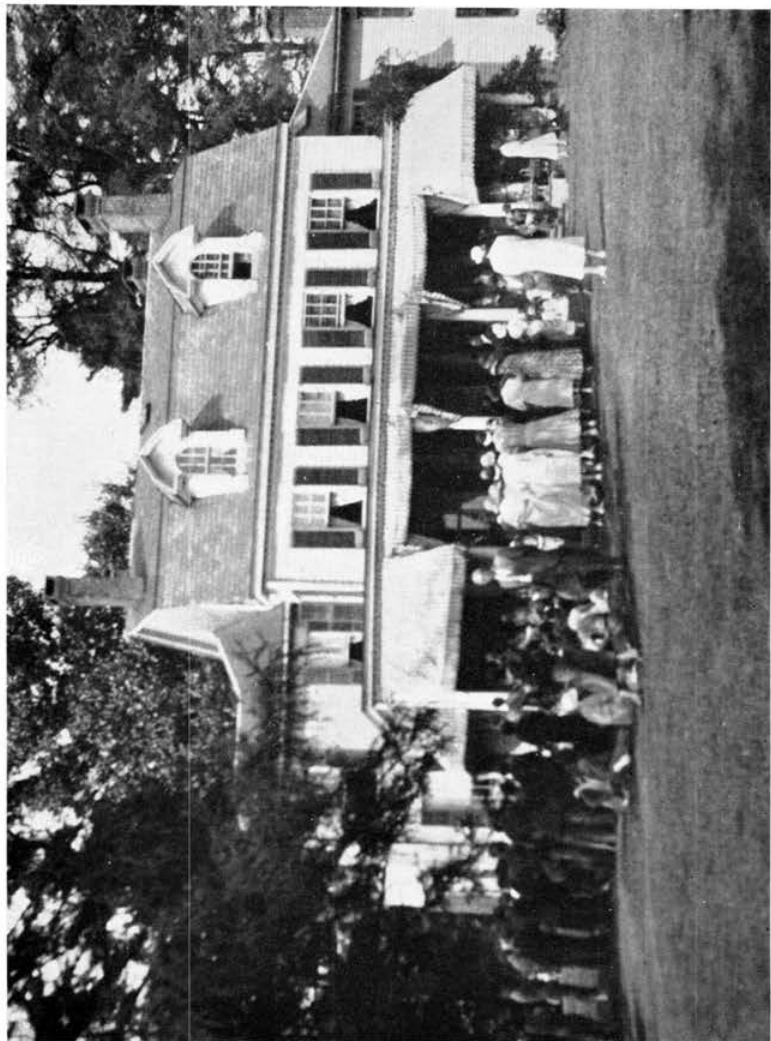
1849), one of the six daughters of Robert and Margaret (Beckman) Livingston of (the present) Columbia County, New York, a woman whose environment and whose contacts with life had been quite unlike her husband's.

Catherine Livingston was within one month of her forty-first birthday when she married Freeborn Garrettson. Her five sisters had all married and gone out from the home of their parents. That home was called Clermont. And it was, presumably, at Clermont that Catherine Livingston lived before her marriage, in companionship with her widowed mother. She has been described as tall and stately in figure, calm and dignified in manner, with hazel eyes and brown hair, and as wearing—in her later years—a close fitting cap with a border of crimped muslin. She grew up midst the scenic beauty surrounding Clermont, in a large house where were the elegancies of that day and under the shelter of the prestige of the well known name of a family whose manners and customs were marked by conservative social standards.

It was in 1799 that Mr. and Mrs. Garrettson bought one hundred and sixty acres of land, southwest of the present village of Rhinebeck, with a long frontage on the Hudson, and built a house on a site that commanded a view of lawn and woods, river and hills. They are said to have moved into their new house in October, 1799, and the house continued as their home until they died and as the home of their only child, Miss Mary Garrettson, until the latter's death in 1879. For eighty years Wildercliff, as the place was named, was the scene of unlimited hospitality, not only to friends and family, but to all who needed temporary shelter. It was a haven, where all sorts and conditions of humanity found aid and comfort.

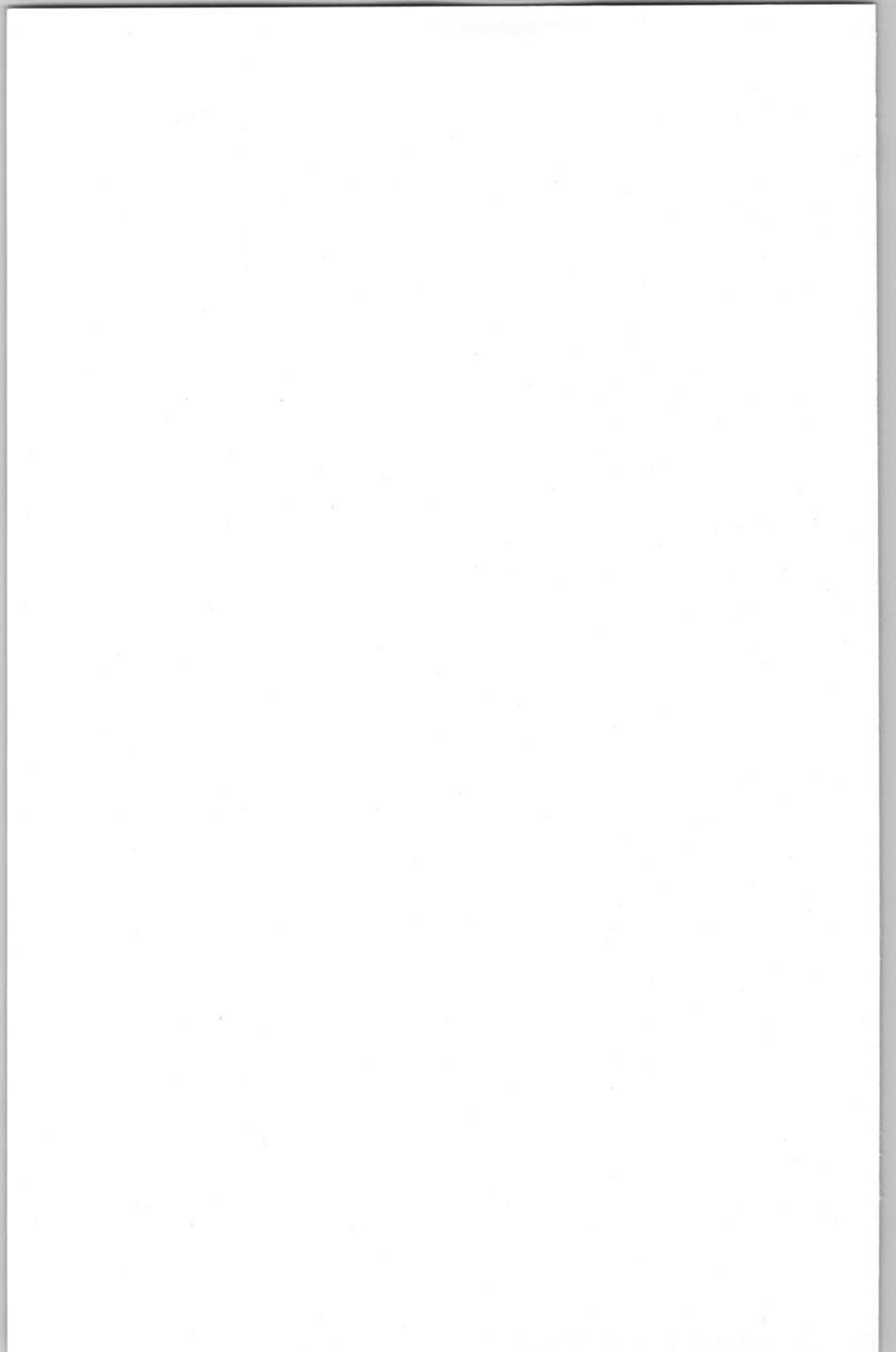
In itself, the house built by Mr. and Mrs. Garrettson consisted of a rectangular frame and gambrel roof. The walls were two full stories in height, clapboarded, and the floor-plan was divided into four rooms of equal size. There were no halls."

The Reverend Freeborn Garrettson died on 25th September, 1827 while on a visit to his friend George Suckley in New York leaving his widow and daughter, Mary Rutherford Garrettson. On the death of her mother, which came suddenly on June 14, 1849 while she was visiting at Montgomery Place, the latter inherited Wildercliff. Her father had on December 3, 1802 sold¹² to Morgan Lewis for \$220 a tract of a little more than eight acres at the north westerly corner of his property. This property came to be known as Morgan Lewis' Landing, which, however, also included a small parcel on the river conveyed by Rev. Freeborn Garrettson to Morgan Lewis on November 27, 1801, for £100 "opposite a flat in said river



The house built in 1799 by the Reverend Freeborn Garretson and Catharine Livingston, his wife, on the estate at Rhinebeck called *Wilderclyffe*. The central portion with its gambrel roof is typical architecture of 1799. The long veranda is of the mid-nineteenth century and the two wings of recent date.

The plate was made from a snap-shot, taken on the occasion of the pilgrimage of the Dutchess County Historical Society on September 21, 1932, which is reproduced by the kind permission of the owner of the house, Mrs. Robert B. Suckley, and the occupant, Mrs. Walter K. Freeman.



called the swan flat".¹³ It was subsequently conveyed by General and Mrs. Lewis to James Thomson and became part of Ellerslie.¹⁴ On June 14, 1853, just four years after her mother's death, Mary R. Garrettson sold an additional thirty-two acres and one rood out of the northwesterly corner of the property.¹⁵ Thomas H. Suckley was the purchaser. He paid \$4,837.50 for it and on this site built himself a country home. There then remained the part of the property easterly of the road that leads northerly from Linwood through the Wildercliff to Rhinebeck. This contained a little more than forty-five acres and Miss Garrettson sold it to Alfred Wild, the then owner of Ellerslie, for \$12,000 by deed dated September 14, 1866.¹⁶ In the disposal of Linwood, on foreclosure of the mortgages placed upon it, this parcel was sold by referee's deed dated December 30, 1874 to Thomas H. Suckley.¹⁷ After Miss Garrettson's death in 1879, Mr. Suckley became the owner of the rest of the original property and of the old house by purchasing from her executors for \$15,000 by deed dated February 28, 1880.¹⁸ In this deed it was described as "All that country seat and farm at Rhinebeck on the easterly bank of Hudson's river, lately the homestead of said Mary Rutherford Garrettson and known as Wildercliffe" and containing fifty-nine acres, one perch and about three-quarters of a perch.

Thomas H. Suckley was one of the sons of George Suckley and Catherine Rutsen his wife. He was born on November 22, 1810 and had his country house, called Wilderstein, on the part of Wildercliff bought by him in 1853. He married Katherine Murray Bowne who died in August 1879. He survived her and died on February 9, 1888, leaving a son Robert Bowne Suckley born June 5, 1856 and died January 3, 1921 leaving his widow Elizabeth P. Montgomery and several children, who continue to own Wildercliff though they reside in the house of Thomas H. Suckley.

1.—History of Rhinebeck by Edward M. Smith pg. 12.

2.—Ditto pg. 43

3.—Ditto pg. 43.

4.—Ditto pg. 34.

- 5.—Ditto, pg. 38.
- 6.—Dutchess County Clerk's Office deeds Liber 5. pg. 159.
- 7.—The History of Rhinebeck by Edward M. Smith, pg. 38.
- 8.—Dutchess County Clerk's Office Deed Liber 19, pg. 280.
- 9.—This subsequently became Ellerslie.
- 10.—Subsequently the residence of Miss Jones.
- 11.—History of Rhinebeck by Edward M. Smith, pg. 39.
- 12.—Dutchess County Clerk's Office, Liber 26 of Deeds, page 46.
- 13.—Idem Liber 17, page 233.
- 14.—Idem Liber 39, page 65.
- 15.—Idem Liber 99, page 547.
- 16.—Idem Liber 141, page 451.
- 17.—Idem Liber 178, page 221.
- 18.—Dutchess County Clerk's Office Deeds Liber 199, pg. 448.



ELLERSLIE

Gerrit Aertsen⁴ married Clara, daughter of Evert Pels. He had received lot three on the partition of the lands bought of the Indians by him and his partners in 1686. In his will dated December 17, 1715 and proved March 9, 1723 he mentioned his eight children and the son of his oldest son Aert, who was then dead, and divided his property among them. His children assumed the family name Van Wagenen, probably adopting it because their grandfather came from Wageningen in Gelderland, Holland. His oldest son, Aart Van Wagenen,⁵ received this property and sold it to Hendrick Heermans⁶ who had married his sister Annetje. He had married Aaltje Elting on October 26, 1695 and died before his father.

Hendrick Heermans in his will⁷ dated March 23, 1750, called it "my Bowery" and left it to his wife for life and then to his son, also named Hendrick Heermans, who had married Sarah, daughter of Evert Van Wagenen^{7a} on October 16, 1736. This will also valued the property as being worth £266. Seven acres had, however, been taken out of it⁸ and acquired by Goosen Van Wagenen.

By 1789 lot three had passed to Jacob Kip,⁹ baptised December 5, 1742, son of Jacob Kip and his wife Claratje, daughter of Evert Van Wagenen and Marytje Van Heyningen his wife; probably because of his marriage with Clartjen, baptised October 27, 1745, daughter of the younger Hendrick Heermance. Jacobus Kip was dead by 1795. Sarah and Clartjen the two daughters and only children of Jacob Kip and Clartjen Heermance, his wife, married the brothers Andrew and Gerrit Kip. Major Andrew Kip¹⁰ and Sarah his wife received the part of lot three afterward known as Ellerslie.

About these successive Van Wagenen, Heermance and Kip owners little is now known. They seem to have lived on the land and had their support from it. To them fell the severe and toilsome task of turning the ground from forest into fields, of building the farm buildings and fences and clearing the stumps and stones enough to cultivate and get a living for

themselves and their many children. With the simple tools of those days this was a slow and laborious work. It was no doubt accomplished by the first three or four owners, and by the end of the eighteenth century was in condition to sell as developed farm property. On September 12th, 1809¹¹ Major Andrew Kip sold 272 acres, his share of lot three, together with part of the Kip inheritance to Maturin Livingston¹² for the price of \$7,550. It had evidently risen very greatly in value since 1750.

The circumstances of this purchase are told by Julia Delafield, oldest daughter of Maturin Livingston, in these words:¹³ "It was very hard for him (General Lewis) and Mrs. Lewis to be separated from their only child (Mrs. Maturin Livingston) and he thought it but right that she should pass the summer months at Staatsburg. According to him, the summer commenced with the fine weather and lasted until November.

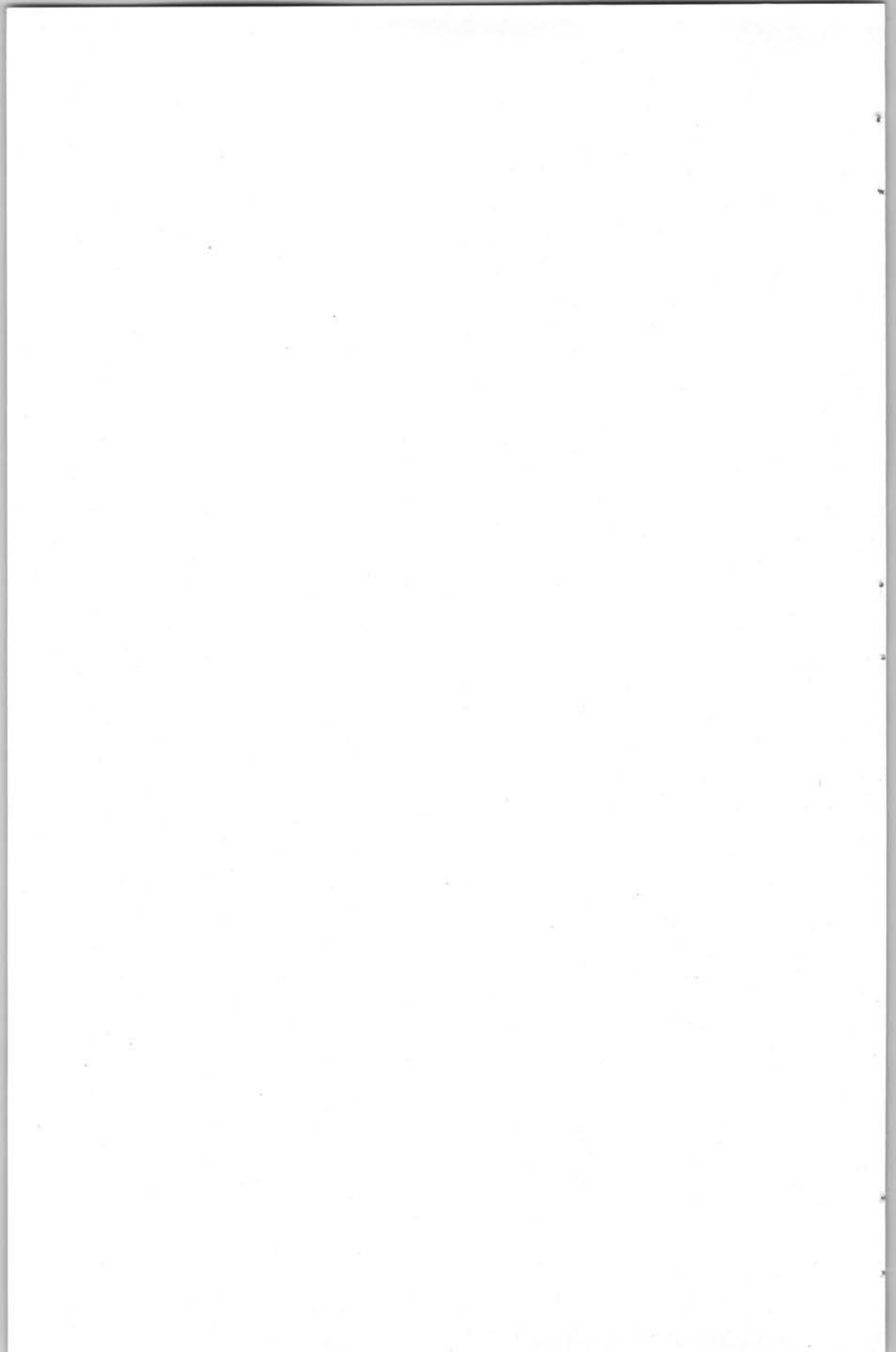
In those days the removal of a family from New York to the country seats of the Livingstons, above the Highlands, was no trifling undertaking. The cabin of a sloop was engaged. The berths were furnished with bedding, provisions were cooked to last for several days. Crockery, knives, forks, and such utensils as are required by people unaccustomed to eat with their fingers were provided. It was almost as much trouble as furnishing a small house. This summer arrangement was excellent for the health of the children, and indeed for the immediate happiness of all parties, but it was incompatible with my father's business as a lawyer. After trying it for some years, he found that he could not live in two places and be successful as a professional man. He sold his New York house in Liberty Street, which he had built for himself, and purchased Ellerslie, an estate on the Hudson near Rhinebeck". Mrs. Delafield also wrote briefly of the location and the house built upon it by her father. "The mansion that my father erected upon the Rhinebeck estate was planned by my mother, and commands a beautiful and extensive southern view of the Hudson. The Hon. William Kelly, who afterward owned the place, and whose family reside there at present, did full justice to its advantages and greatly added to its extent. I saw noth-



Photograph by Margaret DeM. Brown.

The view from *Ellerslie*, embracing the Hudson from Rhinebeck to Poughkeepsie and with the Fishkill Mountains in the background.

The plate was made from a photograph taken in 1932 and reproduced through the kind permission of the owner of *Ellerslie*, Mrs. Helen Morton.



ing in Europe kept in finer order; and it would be difficult to surpass it in scenery". It was Maturin Livingston who thus first called the place Ellerslie.¹⁴

The circumstances that led to the sale of Ellerslie are briefly stated in the same book. "We were preparing to leave Staatsburg for our new home when General Lewis was taken ill. The attack was short but severe. Mrs. Lewis then asked: 'Where is the use of two establishments? How can we do without you?' Ellerslie was sold, wings were added to Staatsburgh house, and the General passed the rest of his life with his daughter and her family".¹⁵ Mrs. Maturin Livingston was Margaret Lewis, the only child of Morgan Lewis and Gertrude Livingston his wife. From the time of her marriage in May 1798, she and her husband and increasing family of children, of whom there were five in 1809, had lived with General and Mrs. Lewis. Mrs. Delafield, the second of these children, who lived in this combined household from her birth in 1801 to her marriage in 1833, wrote that General Lewis loved her father Maturin Livingston as his own son.¹⁶ It was natural, therefore, that General Lewis and his wife would be quite unwilling that their daughter and her family should leave their house even to live as near them as Rhinebeck is to Staatsburg. So on July 27, 1814 Maturin Livingston sold Ellerslie with its new mansion and the 272 acres to Isaac F. Roe,¹⁷ merchant of New York, for \$18,000, who a month later (August 31, 1814) sold the property to James Thomson, or Thomson, also a merchant of New York,¹⁸ for \$20,000.

James Thomson or Thomson married Eliza (?). They made their country home at Ellerslie. Mr. Thomson enlarged the property, adding by purchase to the original 272 acres, lands described soon after his death in 1826, as 104 acres one rood and sixteen perches¹⁹ so that at that date the property consisted of 376 acres one rood and sixteen perches also land under water conveyed to James Thomson by the State of New York by patent dated 7 January 1818.¹⁹ It probably then included not only the whole of lot three of the original partition much or all of lot four and additional land. Shortly after the death of James Thomson his executors, who

were his widow Eliza, Peter Augustus Jay and Peter W. Radcliff, by deed dated June 22nd, 1826,¹⁹ sold the entire property to William Israel, gentleman, of New York for \$25,250.00. This conveyance apparently, as recited in the deed, followed a court action and sale at auction on June 13th, 1826 at the Tontine Coffee House.¹⁹

William Israel had apparently not intended to hold and occupy the estate, for within a year and on January 19th, 1827, he sold it to James Thomson, gentleman, son of the former owner for \$21,000.²⁰ This James Thomson had married Mary, the daughter of Henry Walter Livingston of The Hill and Mary Allen his wife. Thomson having removed to Florence, Italy, before 1835, appointed attorneys to sell the property for him. The first of these was William B. Platt of Rhinebeck and later Charles Sagony of New York City.²¹ The latter on May 1st, 1839, sold Ellerslie to William Sidney Warwick of Rhinebeck for \$37,500.²² In this deed the property is described as those parcels "taken together composing and being the farm or premises called Ellerslie." But he, having become financially embarrassed, assigned it by deed dated August 18th, 1841,²³ to William B. Platt of Rhinebeck, who sold it by deed dated November 27th, 1841, to William Kelly,²⁴ merchant of New York, for \$42,000.²⁵

William Kelly was born in New York City February 4th, 1807. His father, Robert Kelly, a linen merchant in County Cavan in Ireland, had taken part in the political movements led by Robert Emmet, and in consequence fled to New York in 1796. He and his family had been Scotch Presbyterians for some generations. He continued his business in New York City and became a very successful merchant and died there in 1825,²⁶ leaving his business to his sons John, William and Robert, who continued it, being known as the "boy merchants." After the death of John in 1836 the brothers retired. William Kelly was a member of the first board of trustees of Vassar College and served as the president of the Board until his death. Matthew Vassar, Jr., was Treasurer of the Board. Both were members of the Baptist Church and it is thought that this brought them together.²⁷ Mr. Kelly was also for many years on the Board of Trustees of Rochester University

and he was active in charitable enterprises to which he contributed liberally. He took an interest in politics and was State Senator in 1855-1856 and the candidate in 1860 of the Democratic party for the office of Governor of New York. Agriculture and landscape gardening were an especial satisfaction to him. He was President of the New York State Agricultural Society in 1860, a founder of the State Agricultural College at Ovid, New York; and brought Ellerslie, his estate which he had made his home, to a perfection aptly described in Smith's History of Rhinebeck, where it is stated that "Mr. Kelly increased his acres, by additional purchases, to seven or eight hundred. He must thus have become the owner of lots three and four of the original division."²⁸ Mr. Kelly not only multiplied his acres, but he did what money, taste, intelligence and enterprise could do to adorn them and increase their productiveness. The mansion, though of an ancient type, is stately and capacious, and commands a river and mountain view of great extent and beauty. It stands in the borders of a park of five hundred fenceless acres, embracing wood and meadow land, lakelets and rivulets, and every variety of natural and charming scenery. With its avenues, walks, lawns, flower-plots, fruit-houses, orchards, gardens and conservatories, all artistically planned and arranged, and open to the public on weekdays under a few indispensable restrictions, there is nothing of which Rhinebeck may so justly take pride to itself, because there is nothing for which it is so widely and favorably known as the presence within its borders of the Ellerslie Park and gardens."²⁹

The celebrated landscape gardener of the period, A. J. Downing, thus briefly described the estate:

"The house is conspicuously placed on a commanding natural terrace, with a fair foreground of park surface below it, studded with beautiful groups of elms and oaks, and a very fine reach of river and distant hills. This is one of the most celebrated places on the Hudson and there are few that so well pay the lover of improved landscape for a visit."³⁰

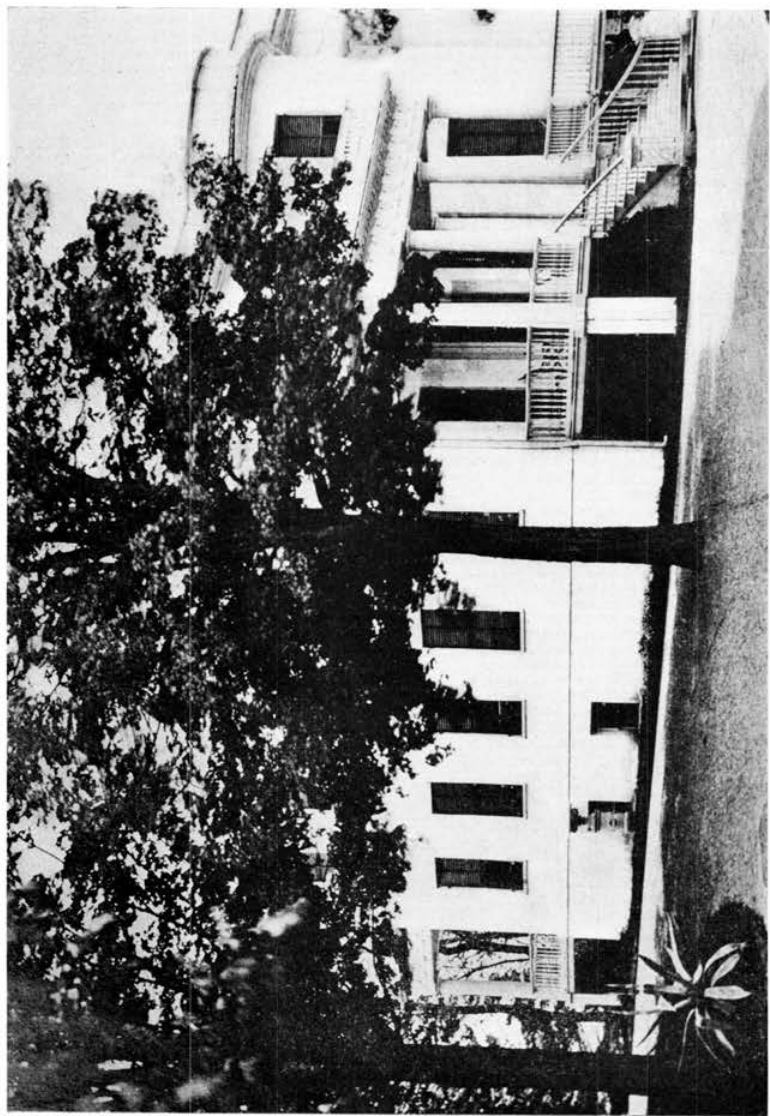
William Kelly died at Torquay, Devonshire, England, January 14th, 1872. He had no children and by his will³¹ pro-

vided that his executors might sell Ellerslie for the benefit of his widow Elizabeth S. Kelly³² and of his sister Mary J. Kelly. The property was, however, held for thirteen years. Then his executors, by deed dated March 25, 1885, sold the estate to Charles D. Newton of New York City³³ for \$149,500.

One of the accompanying illustrations shows the mansion as it was in the lifetime of William Kelly. It was of solid construction built with heavy walls of stone stuccoed on the outside and plaster within. The main part of the building was rectangular and had two rooms on the westerly side and three on the easterly. One of the last was the stair hall and the main entrance was into one of the large westerly rooms.

Charles D. Newton seems to have removed to Rhinebeck, but he retained Ellerslie for only a short time for on November 30, 1886 Charles D. Newton of Rhinebeck sold³⁴ the estate, containing about 912 acres, to the Hon. Levi P. Morton for \$80,000, subject to a \$60,000 mortgage. The reason for this purchase was that Mrs. Morton, whose maiden name was Anna Livingston Reade Street and whom he married on February 12th, 1873, was descended, both on her father's side and on her mother's side from Gilbert Livingston, fourth son of Robert Livingston, first Lord of the Manor of Livingston. Her parents were, therefore, third cousins through their Livingston ancestors, the sons of Gilbert Livingston. This circumstance, and the fact that both her parents' families had lived in Poughkeepsie and the neighborhood, may well have made her wish to live near the country homes of so many of her relatives. While visiting Mrs. Lydig M. Hoyt at Staatsburgh Mrs. Morton learned that Ellerslie was for sale, and, not wishing to make Newport her country home, the purchase soon followed.

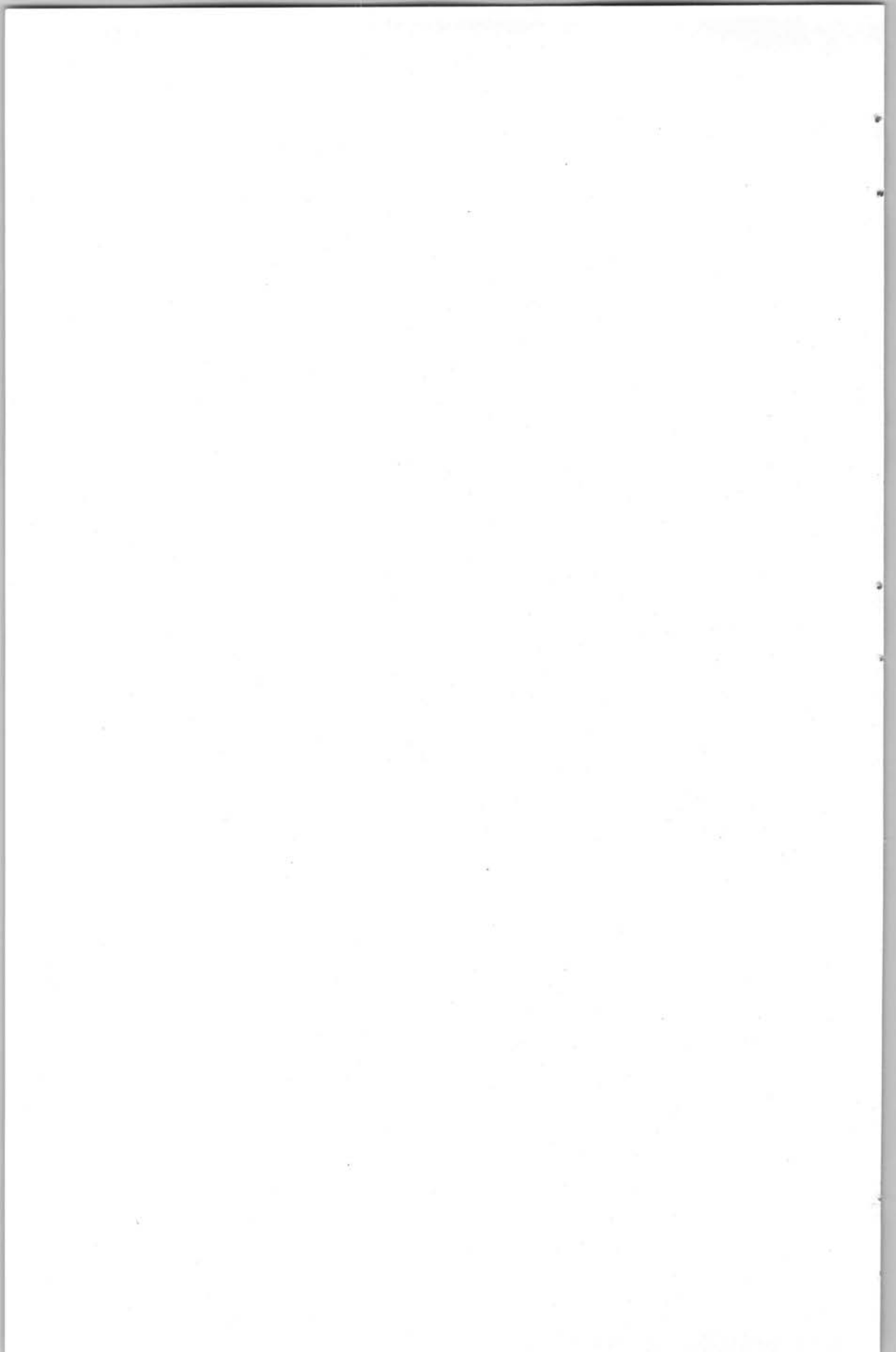
Governor Morton, born in Vermont May 16th, 1824, had been unusually successful in business and accumulated a large fortune. He planned to make Ellerslie even more beautiful than it had been before and to have on it a mansion more spacious than the one built by Maturin Livingston and improved by James Thomson and William Kelly. Having employed the



Photograph copied by Frank B. Howard.

The house formerly on the estate at Rhinebeck called *Ellerslie*. From the northwest. The house was built about 1810 by Maturin Livingston and was enlarged and improved in the middle of the nineteenth century by the Honorable William Kelly. It was torn down about 1887 by the Honorable Levi P. Morton.

The plate was made from an old photograph owned by William Kelly Brown of Rhinebeck and obtained through his courtesy.



then celebrated architect, Richard Hunt of New York, the new house was planned and the first task in building was to demolish the old mansion. The massive stone walls would not yield easily and so the task was accomplished by blasting it down with dynamite.

On the site rose the stately mansion that has since added to the admiration for Ellerslie. In this house and estate Governor Morton took much pleasure, and after 1896, on the expiration of his term as Governor of the State of New York, he devoted even more attention to it than had been possible during the years of his active public career, for he had been member of Congress, 1879-1881, Minister to France, 1881-1885, Vice President of the United States, 1889-1893, and Governor of New York, 1895-1896. I well remember the evident pleasure with which he, when well advanced in years, showed me about his house and asked me to go with him to see his wonderful herd of Guernsey cattle. This herd was lost on the burning of the stables on August 2nd, 1893. Mrs. Morton died at Ellerslie on August 14, 1918, and Governor Morton died there also, on Sunday night, May 16th, 1920, after a happy family celebration of his ninety-sixth birthday.

After Governor Morton's death his third daughter, Helen, acquired Ellerslie and makes it her home.

4.—History of Rhinebeck by Edward M. Smith, pp. 33-34.

5.—Idem.

6.—Idem, pp. 34-36.

7.—Collections of the New York Historical Society, 1895, p. 303.

7a.—Evert Van Wagenen baptized at Kingston April 18, 1675, married June 1, 1701 Marytje Van Heyningen and had ten children all baptized at Kingston.

8.—The History of Rhinebeck by Edward M. Smith, pp. 35-36.

9.—Idem, pp 36-37.

10.—Idem, p. 37.

11.—Dutchess County Clerk's Office Liber 36 of deeds page 328.

12.—Maturin Livingston, tenth child of Robert James Livingston and Susan Smith, his wife, was born April 10th, 1769. Graduated at the College of New Jersey with highest honors in 1786, was a member from New York City of the Constitutional Convention of 1801, was twice Recorder of the City of New York in 1804-8 and became Judge

of the Court of Common Pleas of Dutchess County in 1823. He married May 28th, 1798, Margaret, born February 5th, 1780, only child of General Morgan Lewis and Gertrude Livingston, his wife. They had twelve children of whom the second was Julia Livingston, born September 15, 1801, who was married to Major Joseph Delafield on December twelfth, 1833. She was the author of the Biographies of Francis Lewis and Morgan Lewis.

13.—Biographies of Francis Lewis and Morgan Lewis by Julia Delafield Vol. II, page 62-63.

14.—Idem page 65. It seems probable that the name was taken from the romantic novel "The Scottish Chiefs" written by Miss Jane Porter and published in 1810, just at the time Maturin Livingston was building his house. This, the story of Sir William Wallace, describes the beauty of his ancestral home and birthplace, Ellerslie. The place, often called Elderslie, is in Renfrewshire, Scotland.

15.—Idem page 65, 66.

16.—Idem, page 61.

17.—Dutchess County Clerk's Office Liber 24 of Deeds page 210.

18.—Idem Liber 24 page 216.

19.—Idem Liber 37 page 56.

20.—Idem Liber 37, page 60.

21.—Idem Liber 55, page 589, and Liber 67, page 604.

22.—Idem Liber 67 page 598.

23.—Idem Liber 71 page 317.

24.—Idem Liber 72 page 53.

25.—The property was at this time heavily mortgaged. Robert Kelly, brother of William Kelly took over these mortgages and the master in chancery on the foreclosure sold the land on March 19th, 1846 to William Kelly for an expressed consideration of \$35,000. (Dutchess County Clerk's Office Deeds Liber 82 pg. 30). This amount was no doubt part of the \$42,000 paid by William Kelly.

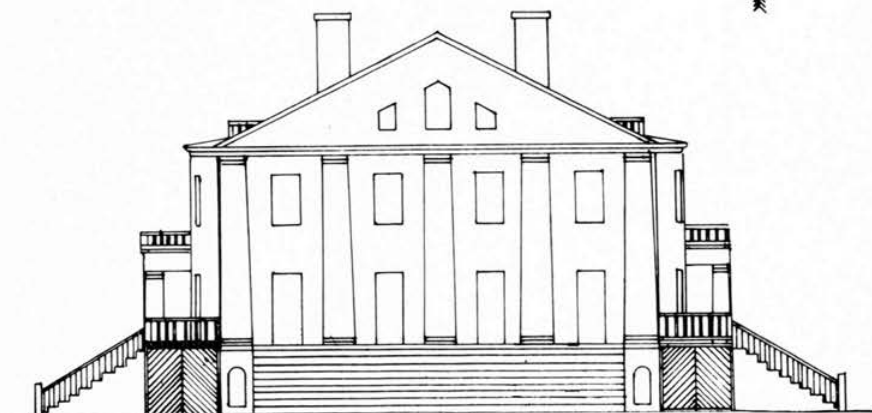
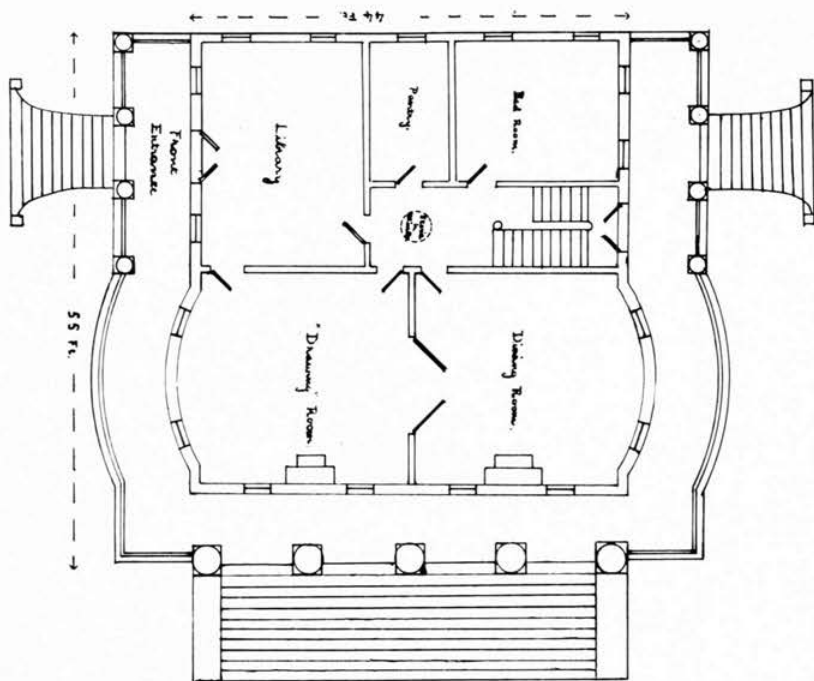
26.—Before coming to America Robert Kelly had planned to form a business partnership with two fellow townsmen, brothers named James. The sudden death of one of these caused the other, William James, to come to America. He settled at Albany and was the father of John B. James and Augustus James who owned Linwood from 1836 to 1865.

27.—Though the Kellys were Presbyterians, the second wife of Robert Kelly, Sr., who had been a Miss Cauldwell, was a Baptist and through her influence her husband and stepson came to join that denomination.

28.—Lot four had on the partition of 1702 become the property of Arie Roosa.

29.—The History of Rhinebeck by Edward M. Smith, page 38.

30.—A Treatise on the Theory and Practice of Landscape Gardening, etc. by A. J. Downing, Fourth Edition pages 49 and 50.

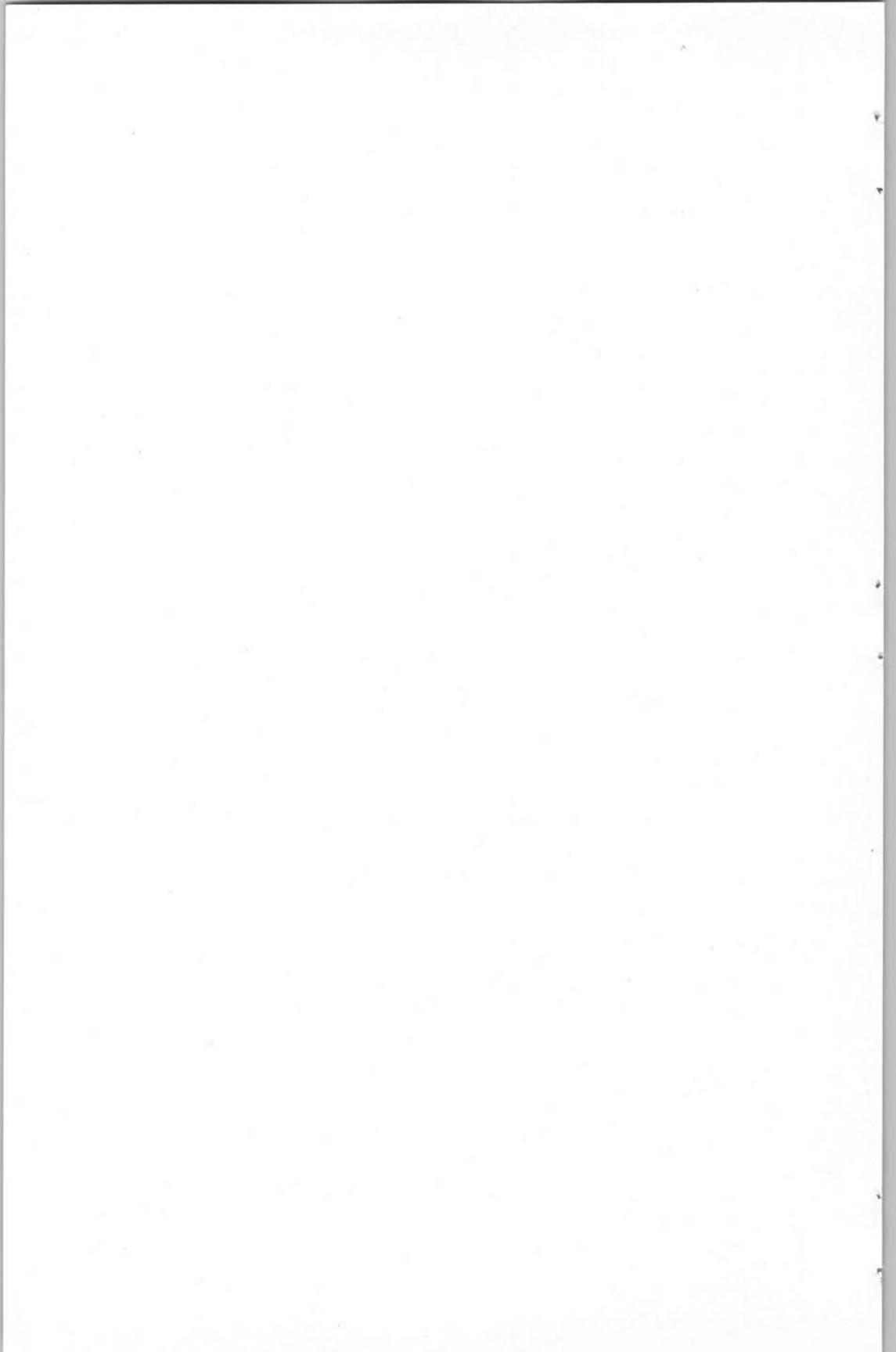


Ellerslie.
 Home of Hon. William Kelly
 Near Rhinebeck, N.Y.
 First Floor Plan and South Façade.

Drawing copied by Frank B. Howard.

Floor-plan and south façade of the house formerly on the estate at Rhinebeck called *Ellerslie*.

The plate was made from a sketch, drawn in 1932 from memory by William Kelly of Iron Mountain, Michigan, and reproduced through his courtesy.



31.—Dutchess County Surrogates records Wills Liber 1 pg. 439.

32.—Mrs. Kelly before her marriage had been Elizabeth S. Parr. She was buried at the Rhinebeck cemetery where the stone gives her birth date as 1800 and death 1886.

33.—Dutchess County Clerk's Office Register of Deeds Liber 220, page 390.

34.—Dutchess County Clerks Office Deeds Liber 227 Pg. 508.

THE SCIENTIST AND INVENTOR IN ELECTRICAL COMMUNICATIONS*

By

PAUL A. NORTHROP

In the age of fable Minerva, the goddess of wisdom, sprang from the brain of her father, Jupiter, fully grown and fully armed. This was an unusual occurrence even amongst the gods and we do not find its counterpart in life on the earth. Each individual, in either the plant or animal kingdom comes into existence with an identity of its own and with a certain inheritance from that which has gone before. It has, however, to acquire much in its own individual contact with its surroundings before it is said to be fully grown. The lowly amoeba divides, to form two new amoebae each of the daughter cells swims off to care for herself. Each, however, must pass through a period of growth before it is a full-grown amoeba. Up through the scale of life we find increasingly longer periods during which the young are cared for by the parents. The more complex the form of life, the greater the amount of care and training the young must receive before being able to carry on the part of an adult. Thus in the more highly civilized parts of the world, we find many youths cared for and guided by adults for a third or a fourth of the probable span of their lives. Neither the individual nor the race springs forth fully grown and completely armed.

In the field of science and invention we find a close parallel to these facts of biology. It is true that in the popular conception many of the inventions and devices which have added so much to the comfort of our lives have been brought forth in a complete state as the result of the mental and physical labor of some one person. It may be that there are instances in which this has been true of some comparatively simple device. If so I am not aware of it, and it certainly is not true for

*A paper read by Paul A. Northrop, professor of physics in the faculty of Vassar College, at the luncheon of the Dutchess County Historical Society, October 21, 1932.

developments involving complicated relations. It is with a realization of this fact that we should consider the advent of the electric telegraph which was due in so large a part to the labors of Samuel F. B. Morse.

Morse graduated from Yale in 1810. There, under the instruction of Jeremiah Day and Benjamin Silliman, he had received some scientific training and a certain impulse toward electrical studies. He was more inclined toward art, however, and the first year after graduation became a pupil of Washington Allston, with whom he went to England remaining four years. His success as a painter was considerable. In 1825 he, with others, founded the National Academy of Design and became its first president from 1826 to 1845. In 1829 he went to Europe for further study of the old masters. It was while returning from this trip in 1832 that the incident occurred which was responsible for the close of the artistic and the opening of the scientific period of his life. I can give no better description of this than is contained in the following extract from a deposition sworn to at Boston, May 21, 1850 by Charles T. Jackson, a fellow passenger and later a practicing physician.

THE DEPOSITION OF CHARLES T. JACKSON

"While on the voyage, one day at table I introduced the subject of electricity and electro-magnetism, describing an experiment by Pouillet of sending electricity a great many times around the Academy of the Sorbonne, without any perceptible loss of time. There being some expressions of incredulity, I endeavored to enforce the fact by alluding to Franklin's experiment of transmitting an electric spark to a great distance, using a wire and water as conductors. Mr. Morse asked in which of Franklin's works it was contained, and said he had never read it. I stated I believed it was in his Autobiography. After some discussion upon the point, one of the passengers said, 'It would be well if we could send news in this rapid manner.' This was a casual remark, in allusion to our earnest desire to hear from home, as there was some apprehension of a war with France. Mr. Morse said, 'Why can't we?' I immediately replied, 'We can; there is no difficulty about it;'—and then proceeded to explain various methods by which I conceived that intelligence might be transmitted by electricity and electro-magnetism. First I proposed to count the sparks in a disjointed wire circuit, counting the sparks in time,—that is counting or noting the sparks, and the intervals between the

sparks. Second, by producing colored marks upon prepared paper, the paper being saturated with an easily decomposable neutral salt, and stained with tumeric, or some other easily stained neutral colors. Third, by saturating the paper with a solution of acetate of lead, or carbonate of lead, the paper being moistened while the electric current was passed through it, or over its surface, between points of platina wire. Fourth, I proposed to make use of the electric magnet, which is formed by coiling copper wire, insulated by being wound with silk, around soft iron, bent in the form of the letter U, the iron being rendered temporarily magnetic by the passage of the galvanic current through the copper wire, a keeper or armature of soft iron being placed across the poles, and attracted firmly against them during the time the galvanic current is passing. I proposed to connect with this keeper the short arm of a lever-beam, and to fix a point of steel in the long arm of the lever, so that, when the keeper was drawn to the electro-magnet, the point should perforate holes in the paper. The paper was to be drawn from one reel to another by clock-work machinery, so that in intervals of space these holes might be punctured, and telegraphic indications be produced thereby.

When I mentioned the subject of electro-magnetism, in the presence of Mr. Morse, during the conversation, he asked me the meaning of the term, saying, 'Electro-magnetism! How does that differ from other magnetism?' I explained it to him, making drawings of electro-magnets and a galvanic battery for that purpose.

"We discussed the subject for some time, and during this conversation I spoke of having an electro-magnet on board, and two galvanic batteries, which were stowed away between decks. I made drawings—rough sketches, as I do not profess to be a draftsman—of the electro-magnet, which I gave to Mr. Morse, who copied them into his note-book in an artistic manner, asking of me explanations as he made the drawings.

"Within a few days after my first conversation above mentioned I think the third day after, I had a conversation with Mr. Morse as to the practicability of devising a system of signs which could be readily interpreted. I proposed an arrangement of punctured points or dots, to represent the ten numerals. Mr. Morse proposed to reduce it to five numerals and a zero, saying that all numbers could be represented thereby. Mr. Morse took a dictionary and numbered the words, and then tried a system of dots against it. We assigned to each word, selected for that purpose, a separate number, and the numbers were indicated by dots and spaces. We took our respective places at opposite sides of a table. He would send me dispatches written in numerals, which I would examine by the aid of a marked dictionary which I held in my hand, and I found no great difficulty in reading them; and then we would change, he taking the dictionary and I sending the words. Mr. Morse took the principal part in arranging the system of signs, and deserves the greatest credit for it. Mr. Morse made notes of the system of signs, so far as

he had completed it, in his note-book, either fully or partially. We had absolutely concluded on no complete system before the termination of the voyage.

"I saw Mr. Morse's note-book, in which he made his plans and observations, from his first entries in it in regard to the telegraph, until the end of the voyage. He would often bring it and show me the notes and plans in it, but I never had it in my possession. I saw nothing in it which I had not explained and given him rough drafts of, except the system of signs, which was the result of our joint action, as before stated.

"We gave the name of Electro-Magnetic Telegraph to the instrument proposed and explained as above, and this was the name by which it was known and called in our conversations.

"After our arrival in New York, he brought to me, in New York, a plate of copper and a plate of zinc, each about two inches square, connected by a strip of copper more than a foot in length, and about half an inch in width, and asked me if that would do for an elementary battery. I told him no; that it would make no battery at all; that the plates must be near each other, and not connected, for an elementary battery, which he proposed to make. His producing a contrivance like that showed me he was not acquainted with the subject of galvanism, not even knowing how to construct a galvanic battery, which is essential to produce the electric current. I explained to him how it could be made."

Morse was so convinced of the possibilities of the telegraph that he thereafter devoted himself to its perfection. Not immediately, however, was he able to accomplish his desire. The field into which he had entered was very new even to the men who had been continuously dealing with electric and magnetic phenomena. It must be realized that the existence of an electric current had been recognized for only 32 years; from the time in 1800 when Volta, a great Italian physicist, had discovered a tendency for an electric charge to pass from one metal to another and different metal when they were placed in contact. This tendency he had increased by placing pieces of paper moistened with acid between pairs of zinc and copper discs. Neither this nor any other battery in existence in 1832, however, was suitable for the service required of it in the form which the telegraph was to take.

In order to evaluate Morse's contribution more accurately it would perhaps be well to examine the essential parts of the telegraph in some detail. In its essentials the Morse telegraph consisted of an electromagnet, which when a current was

passed through it from a battery in the circuit because of the closing of a distant key, attracted to itself a bar of soft iron. This bar of soft iron was in the earliest form attached to a lever which moved a writing pointer into contact with a piece of paper drawn beneath it by a clock work motor. When the distant key was opened the bar of soft iron was drawn back to its first position by a spring. It was thus possible by opening and closing the distant key to make marks of varying lengths on the paper which could be translated in accordance with some prearranged code. Nothing in this would seem particularly difficult to a high school student of the present day who has studied a little about such things. In fact, I have been talking with the 12-years-old son in one of the Vassar families, who this summer successfully constructed a telegraph line about a mile long.

How wonderful such an accomplishment on anyone's part would have been in 1832. For in Morse's day all was not so simple.

It was not till 1820 that it was known definitely that an electric current had associated with it a magnetic effect, a discovery made by the Danish scientist Oersted. He discovered that a magnetized needle such as a compass needle, was caused to deflect when it was placed near a wire through which an electric current was flowing. The further fact that a piece of soft iron could be temporarily magnetized by sending a current through a wire wrapped around it, and that it would lose its magnetic properties when the current was stopped, was not known until 1825 when it was discovered by William Sturgeon of England. Because there was a certain fear in my mind that I would feel a form of lonesomeness without some apparatus near me I have brought along an iron nail about which I have wrapped a wire, and a dry cell to send a current through the wire. You will notice that when the current is flowing the iron nail becomes temporarily magnetized and will support another similar nail but that when I detach the battery from the circuit the other nail falls. Further important discoveries about electromagnets were made by Joseph Henry, who was born in Albany and taught in the Albany Academy from 1828

to 1831. In fact the horse-shoe form of the electro-magnet used mostly at the present time and used in the Morse telegraph is due to him. This would be obtained if I were able to take the wire wound nail and bend it into the shape of a horse shoe. It would then be found the forces which could be exerted by it would be considerably increased. This essential part of the telegraph then, was brand-new and not well known.

We have already alluded to the lack of a suitable battery. This need was not satisfied till 1837 when Daniell developed a cell which would supply a constant current over long periods of time. This cell still finds a variety of uses in our physical laboratories. In addition to electro-magnets and batteries, insulated wires are needed, that is wires supported by a material which would not conduct the current off to the ground. These were quite well known having been in use by various workers since 1747. The key or switch was also an obvious and well known device. The clockwork motor drawing a piece of paper under a movable pen had been used in a number of cases previously. There is little then, in this early form of the telegraph for which Morse finally filed papers in 1837, five years after his conception of the idea, which had not been developed by other workers.

This, however, does not tell the whole story. In 1837 it was obvious to the informed that the telegraph was coming soon. Upwards of 60 persons were striving to produce a practicable and patentable device. In England, Cooke and Wheatstone did secure a patent on June 12, 1837 and for many years afterward their telegraph was used in England. Nevertheless Morse had, by perseverance which had not been without hardships, combined and improved upon the discoveries of others to such a degree that out of all these competitors he had reached the most desirable result for public and private use. Between 1837 and 1844 when the first public line between Baltimore and Washington was built from funds appropriated by Congress, Morse continued to improve upon his telegraph and adapted to it other discoveries practically all of which had been developed by others but the desirability of which he was quick to recognize. Because of its superiority the Morse tele-

graph had by 1866 superseded all others in France, Germany, Denmark, Sweden, Turkey, Russia, Australia, India, South America, Canada and the British provinces and to a large extent in England.

It seems then that in this particular invention the products of the labors of many men were involved. The basic discoveries were made by scientists learned in the phenomena of nature and constantly working with them. So far as I know none of the men making these discoveries profited directly from them. How has it been with later inventions and developments in this same field which has to do with the transmission of intelligence from one person to another?

The telephone or as it was earlier called, the "speaking telephone" was a rather direct outgrowth of the telegraph both technically and psychologically. For no sooner was long distance communication by code an accomplishment than men's imaginations were fired by the thought of sending the voice itself to speak its own message. There was, however, a lapse of some 30 years before dreams were realized. We associate the name of Alexander Graham Bell with the telephone. As a matter of fact the first transmission of the human voice by electrical methods seems to have been carried on by Elisha Gray of Chicago in 1874. And this transmission was by a method virtually the same as the one in use today. In the summer of 1876 Bell of Boston University exhibited an apparatus differing in some details from that of Gray, particularly as regards the method of changing the air pulsations of the voice into electrical pulses. Almost simultaneously with these men, Dolbear of Tuft's College had developed an instrument which closely resembled Bell's, differing only in that he used permanent magnets whereas Bell had used electromagnets. And within a year Edison had applied to the transmitter, which is the part of the telephone into which we speak, a discovery which he had made some years earlier. This was that when two discs of carbon are pressed firmly together a larger current can be made to flow through the connection than if they are loosely in contact. This gave us the telephone in practically

its present form. Can we then say that any one person really invented the telephone?

The talking phonograph which perhaps should be included in this list, seems to be due entirely to the work of Edison, at least in so far as its new and fundamental principle is concerned.

The most recent developments in this branch of human endeavor are of course the wireless telegraph and the wireless telephone. In 1864 Clerk Maxwell, one of the world's most gifted mathematicians, showed that upon the latest theories concerning electricity and magnetism it should be possible to create waves in the ether. The ether in those days was just coming to have the importance in the world of physics which it held up until recent years when it was reduced to a mere shadow of its former self by the theory of relativity. It was thought of as some kind of a new substance which filled all space even those parts which before had been supposed to be a vacuum and devoid of all matter as we know it. The existence of such a substance seemed necessary to explain the fact that light, which had been shown to be a form of wave motion, passed readily through the great empty spaces between the stars or sun and the earth. It was difficult to see how disturbances of this sort could pass through space unless there was something to be disturbed. Water waves are transmitted from one particle of water to another; sound is a wave motion which takes place in the air and cannot pass through a vacuum. How could light if a wave motion, exist without a medium to carry the motion from point to point? Maxwell showed that if a medium which was capable of carrying light waves existed, it should also be possible to set up in it longer waves by means of electrical disturbances; for light was for the first time being thought of as due to very short waves of an electromagnetic nature, even as we think of it today. This was in 1864. It was not till 1888 that electrical waves were actually produced and studied as a result of the brilliant work of Hertz, a German physicist. The waves which he produced were only a few feet long. This is short compared even to the so-called short waves used for long distance communication at the present

time. His work did completely verify Maxwell's predictions and seemed to disclose a new medium through which intelligence might be transmitted without wires. Many persons worked at the problem, but it was only Marconi who discovered a really successful method of generating the waves and sending them out with sufficient energy so they could be detected at a distance. His apparatus of course used much which had been discovered by others, but in one respect it was different. This was that he connected one end of his apparatus to the ground, much as we use a ground connection for our radios. Others had tried a similar connection but under quite different conditions. At any rate, Marconi was highly successful, demonstrating and patenting his discovery in England in 1896. By December 1901 he had so improved his apparatus that he was able to receive a signal sent across the Atlantic. Further improvements which make radio what it is today were largely a consequence of the development of the vacuum tube. The fact that a fine wire, such as we have in our electric lamps, if hot enough, boils out electrons just as water boils away from a pot over a flame was first noticed by Edison and is known as the Edison effect. It is particularly pronounced if the wire is placed inside an evacuated glass bulb. Fleming first used this effect in connection with the detection of signals of the type sent out by Marconi. His efforts were later improved upon largely, though not solely, by de Forest and became the vacuum tube as we know it today.

Thus it is seen that none of these inventions sprang forth from the mind or hands of any one person, full grown and fully armed, but were rather the culmination of the work of many. I believe this will be found to be true of most inventions. Many persons labor for years discovering facts some of which may seem to be of no particular use. Their purpose is to discover the secrets of nature and with each new puzzle solved comes a satisfaction which is of itself a reward. Of such is the scientist. Sooner or later some other person with a keen appreciation of a need to be filled finds these facts discovered by the earlier scientists just suited to his purpose, and skillfully shapes them to his ends, often persevering in the face

of great hardships, privations and discouragements. Of such is the inventor. Sometimes they are found happily combined in the same person.

OUR OLD COVERED BRIDGES

By

J. WILSON POUCHER

Usually, when we think of history, we consider the events that have transpired and the men whose activities have influenced the political development of our country, our state, or our town. One of the most interesting studies to us, as historians, is to follow the trend of development from the time our forefathers first braved the trackless and almost unknown country some three hundred years ago. They built their houses from the material they had at hand, wood and stone. Then it was not long before they found it necessary to lay out roads of communication over which they could drive their teams of horses and oxen from one place to another. Doubtless they followed the lines of least resistance around rocky hills, swamps and densely wooded sections, which accounts for the crooked, winding roads throughout our county. Then they came to the streams which must be crossed. In the earliest times they sought places for their crossing where the streams could be forded, but in many places it was necessary to build bridges. Here again they had plenty of wood and stone.

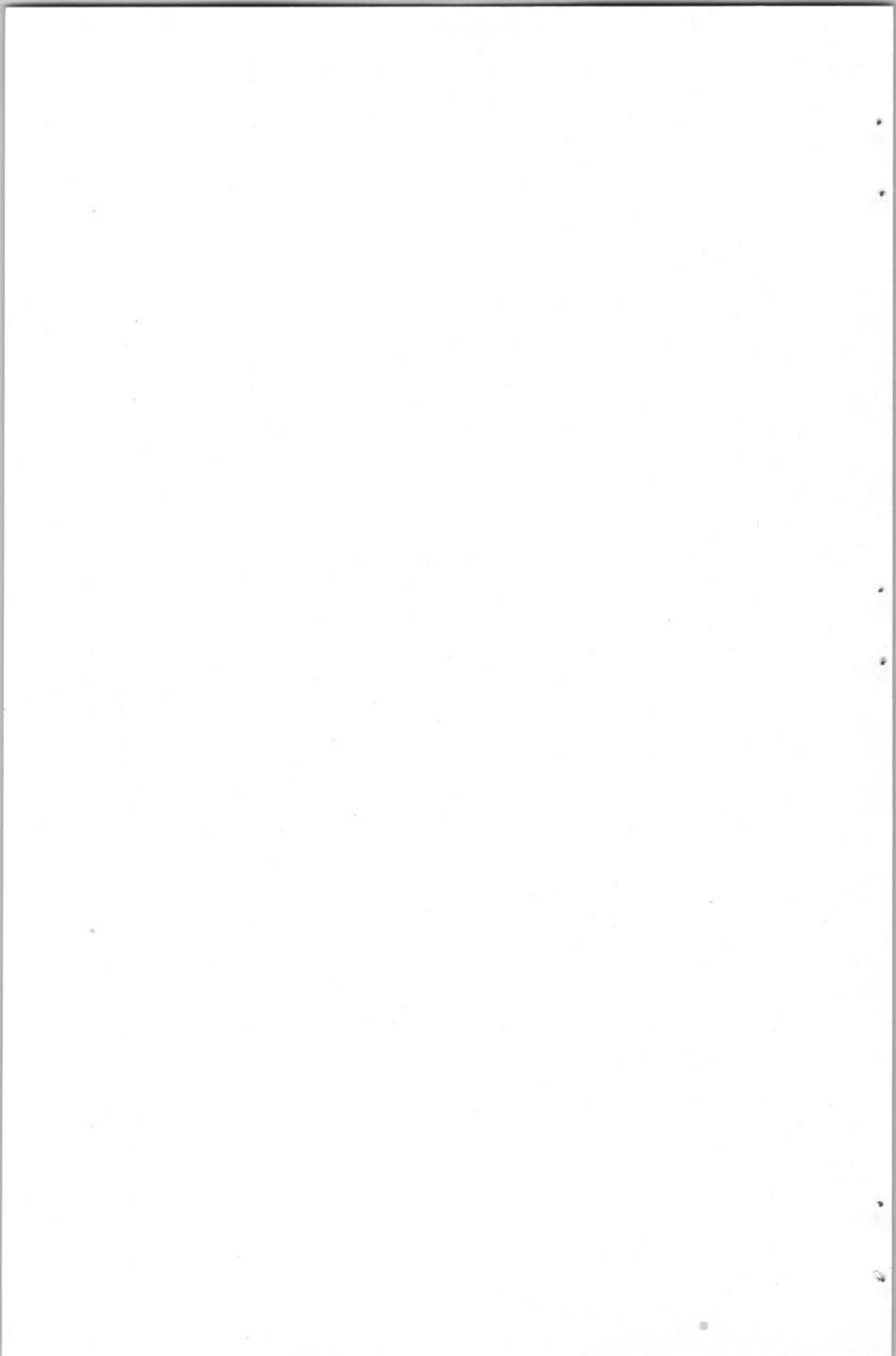
Their first bridges were rather crude affairs, with huge logs stretched across from pillars and walls of stone. Then, when the stream was not too broad, they built stone arches and many of these old arch bridges are still to be found, notably in our vicinity the old, stone arch bridge, on the Sharon Turnpike, over the east branch of the Wappingers, near Millbrook, and known as Hart's Bridge. The old bridge, after withstanding traffic and floods for more than a hundred years, was for some reason condemned and the present iron bridge built over it. As the road-way was raised at the same time there is a space of four or five feet between the iron bridge and the old, stone arch underneath which is still apparently as staunch as ever and bids fair to outlast the iron span above it.

Then over the large streams came, what has always seemed to me, the master-pieces in the art of bridge building, the



Photograph by Margaret DeM. Brown.
The covered bridge over the Wappingers Creek at Manchester. The camera was placed north of the bridge, looking down the stream to the south.

The plate was made from a photograph, taken just before the bridge was torn down to make way for the present concrete structure, which was obtained through the courtesy of J. W. Poucher, M.D., of Poughkeepsie.



large, covered, wooden bridges; strong heavy abutments of stone with heavy beams crossing on which a plank flooring was laid, the whole enclosed by strong side walls and roof. These side walls and roofs were made of very strong timbers mortised together and held by strong, wooden pins. The long spans were supported in the center, on either side, by a series of strong beams so arranged that most of the weight was taken from the long, horizontal floor beams thereby, not only protecting it from rain and snow, but adding greatly to its strength.

There used to be several of these fine, picturesque old bridges in Dutchess County, crossing the Wappingers Kill and the Fishkill, but they are all gone. I believe the last one was that over the Wappingers at Manchester, about three miles east of the Court House at Poughkeepsie. This old bridge, with one over the Wappingers at Pleasant Valley, had been familiar landmarks for many years and are still fresh in the minds of many of the present generation, but in a few years more will only be past history. Both of these bridges were torn down a few years ago and replaced by modern concrete ones, marking a new era and, with the passing of our generation, will be forgotten. Driving over these old bridges, as I did almost daily for so many years, it somehow seemed like losing old friends when they were taken away. I started out some time ago to look up the history of these bridges but soon found that there were no records. There they had been standing while generation succeeded generation. A romance between her young school teacher and one of the men building the Manchester bridge so impressed itself upon the mind of a little girl that she used to tell the story when she became an old lady, and the romance fixed the year of the building of this bridge as 1848. It was built by Warner Hatch, a well known engineer and contractor of that period. This year was long remembered by the older inhabitants as the year of the great flood which carried away most, if not all, of the bridges over the Wappingers in this vicinity. It was sturdy enough to withstand flood and traffic until the advent of the huge automobile trucks with their heavy loads. Then, with the building of the

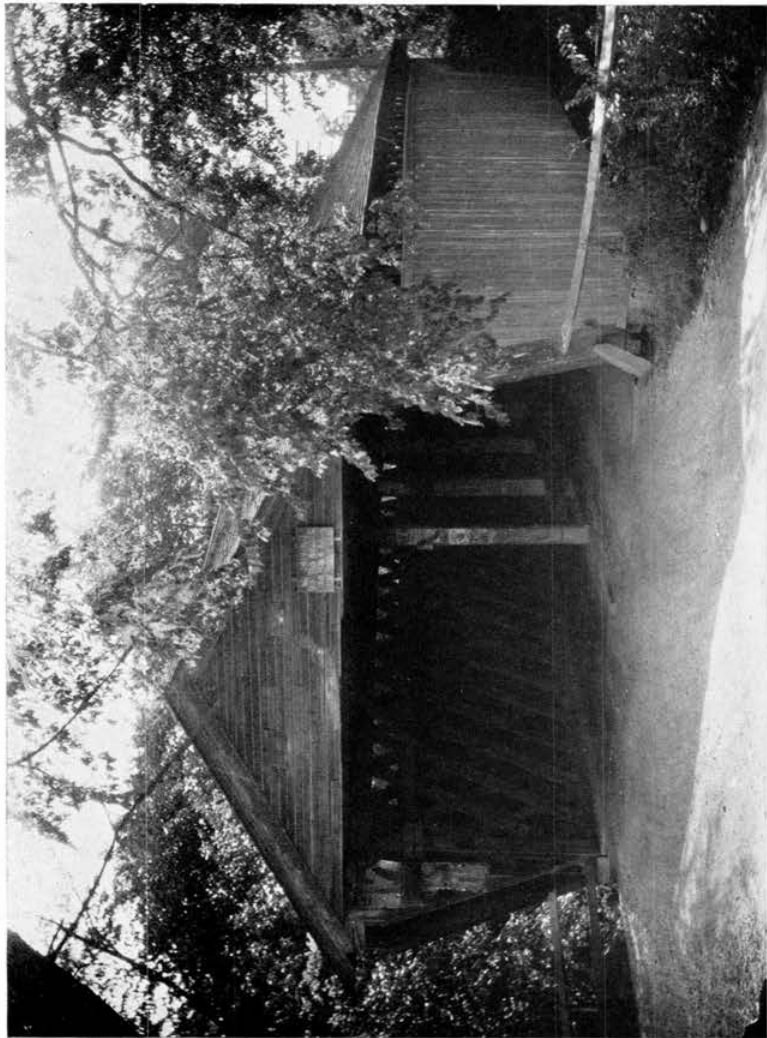
new state road in 1923, it was torn down and the new concrete bridge was built.

The covered bridge at Pleasant Valley was built in 1841. It was torn down in March, 1911, with the building of the state road, having been a familiar landmark there for seventy years and having during all that time required very little repair except to roof and flooring, as they wore out from weather and continuous traffic. It was then removed to accommodate the greatly increased requirements of automobiles and trucks. The old, covered bridge was probably the third bridge crossing the Wappingers at this point. Earliest land records, March 19, 1762, show that there was a bridge here known as the Great Bridge. Again, when the Filkintown road, which crossed the stream here, was taken over by the Dutchess Turnpike Company the company built a new bridge, as is shown by a recorded deed*, dated April 16, 1805, in which there is mention of "the old bridge" and of "the new bridge" and which indicates that there was a difference in location between the old and the new of several feet.

In my search for the date when the covered bridge was built I found in the Poughkeepsie Sunday Courier of May 7, 1911, an article quoting Mr. Wright Devine, then one of Pleasant Valley's oldest inhabitants. Mr. Devine was confident that it was built in 1842. In the next issue of the Courier, May 14, 1911, Mr. Walter Farrington wrote: "This covered bridge was built in 1841. I rode over it in the Winter of 1841-42, a few months after it was completed. The old bridge was carried away by a freshet in the Spring of 1841. This bridge was built by the Dutchess Turnpike Company which owned the road and bridge. The trouble with the old bridge had been a pier in mid-stream which dammed up the ice, flooding the village and finally carrying away the bridge. The new, covered bridge was a single span."

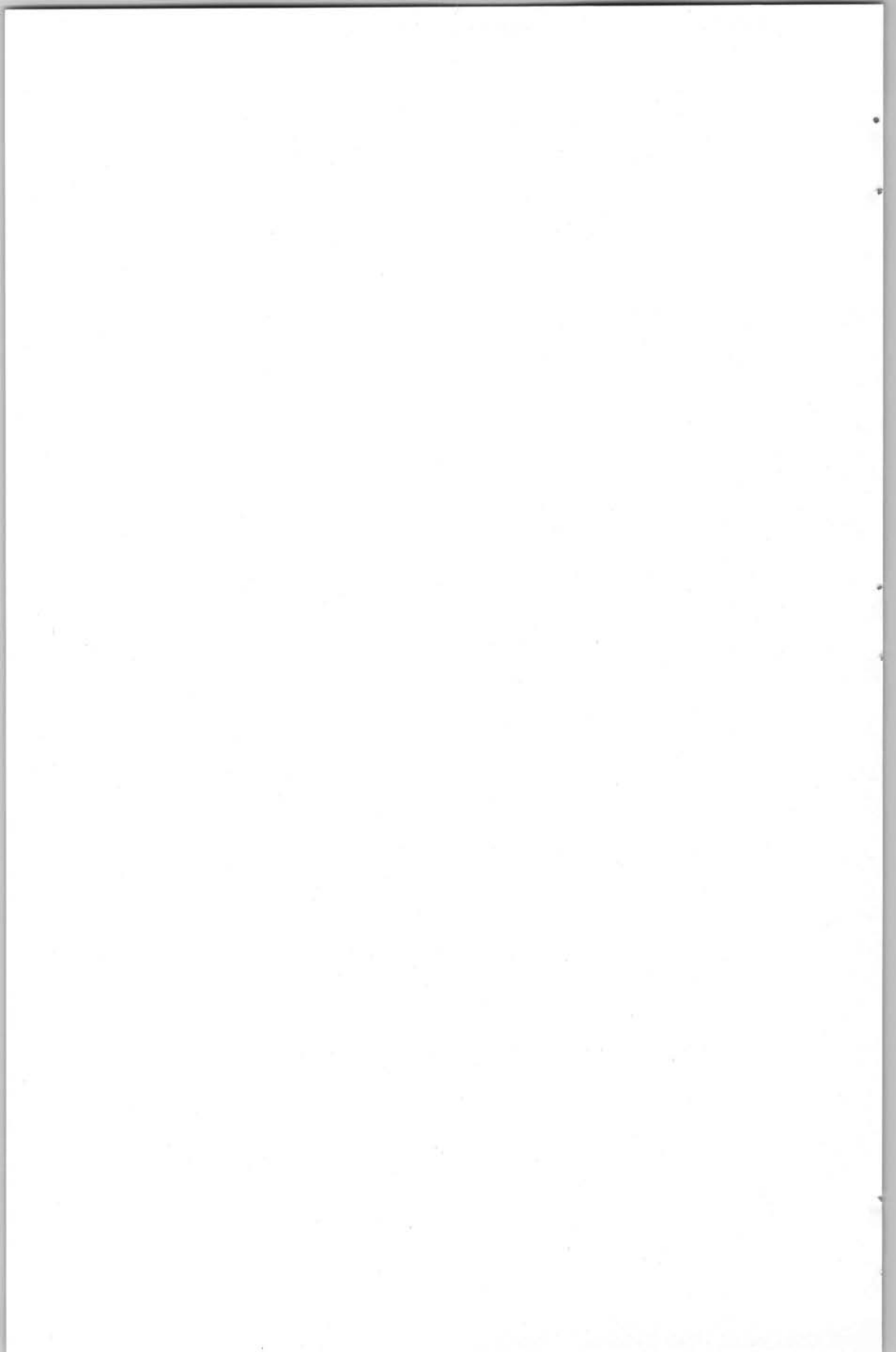
I have heard a tradition, somewhat current in the village of Pleasant Valley, that, instead of this bridge being carried

*See the article, by Miss Reynolds, "The Mill-Site by the Bridge at Pleasant Valley", in this issue of the Year Book.



Photograph by Margaret DeM. Brown.

Approach to the east end of the covered bridge over the Wappingers Creek at Manchester. The plate was made from a photograph, taken just before the bridge was torn down to make way for the present concrete structure, which was obtained through the courtesy of J. W. Poucher, M.D., of Poughkeepsie.



away by the freshet of 1841, it was torn down because a drover, driving a flock of sheep over it, lost all of his sheep when one of them, spying an opening on one side of the bridge, ran through it into the stream, followed pell-mell by the whole drove, in consequence of which the enclosed covered bridge was built. This tale has been related by generations of grandmothers in many countries and deserves a place with the story of the Pied Piper of Hamelin.

This must have been the second bridge built by the Dutchess Turnpike Company at this point. The present new bridge was built over the site of the old covered bridge. The illustrations of the Pleasant Valley bridge presented here were made from highly prized photographs borrowed from some of the residents of the village.

A few miles south of Manchester, where the New Hackensack road crosses the Wappingers Kill, stood at what was then known as East Mills, later Pudney's Mills and at present as Red Oaks Mill, another covered bridge, said to have been older than the others. An excellent photograph of this covered bridge at Red Oak Mill, taken about 1891, was lately presented by Clarence Drake to the Adriance Memorial Library, Poughkeepsie. After 1891 this bridge was torn down and replaced by another which, in turn, has been demolished and replaced by the present concrete bridge.

Many years ago there was another bridge at Titusville, between Manchester and Red Oaks Mill, of which very few traces remain. This bridge was on the great Oswego road, running from the New Hackensack road past the house now the residence of the Honorable Augustus B. Gray, through Titusville which was then a prosperous manufacturing village, to Oswego, a prominent Quaker settlement at present known as Moore's Mills. This road was long ago abandoned.

THE MILL-SITE BY THE BRIDGE AT PLEASANT
VALLEY AND THE VISIT THERE
OF MRS. CLINTON

By

HELEN WILKINSON REYNOLDS

In Dutchess County in the eighteenth century a mill was an important factor in the life of the people and it soon came about that mill-sites on streams were valuable as property and were focal points in social and business affairs. One of the good locations for a mill was on the Wappingers Creek where the village of Pleasant Valley now is and the opportunity there was taken advantage of in the middle of the century. Title to land in the vicinity is derived from the Nine Partners Patent, granted in 1697, but the great tract that the patent covered was held in common at first, unoccupied, and it was not until after 1734 (when it was partitioned and laid out in specific lots) that the land was placed on the market for sale in farms to individual settlers.

As the patented land was mapped in 1734, the boundary line between great lot, number-eight, and great lot, number-nine, ran east and west where the village of Pleasant Valley afterward grew up. Part of the land of the Presbyterian Church of Pleasant Valley is probably in number-nine, immediately south of the lot-line, and the bridge that spans the Wappingers Creek is in number-eight, north of the boundary. Great lot, number-eight, was set off in 1734 in the name of James Emott, one of the original Nine Partners of 1697, who however sold (deeds, liber 4, page 397, recital) his one-ninth right soon after 1697. The right was several times re-sold but always to non-residents of Dutchess until in 1739 a one-half right in great lot, number-eight, was purchased (deeds, liber 3, page 429) by four men on Long Island, who removed to Dutchess to live. Those men were: William Welling, cooper; John Hegeman, weaver; Hendricus Hegeman, sadler (all three of Jamaica); and Henrick Lott, weaver, of New Town.

The other one-half right in great lot, number-eight, was acquired by Joseph Causeton of Westchester County (deeds, liber 2, page 64, recital) and a partition of the lot (which was not recorded) must have taken place for the Hegemans, Lotts and Wellings ultimately appear in the land-records in possession of particular parcels.

Under the assumed partition Henry (Hendricus) Hegeman took title to land on the west side of the Wappingers where the main road from Poughkeepsie, New York, to Sharon, Connecticut, crossed the stream. He died in possession of a small lot south "of the great bridge" over "the great Wappingers Creek" and of a larger tract north of the bridge and on March 19, 1762, his son, Joseph Hegeman sold (deeds, liber 5, page 416) the small lot and thirty-one and three-quarters acres of the larger to Henry Lott, a mill being mentioned in the deed as then standing south of the bridge. In a few months Henry Lott died and on December 1, 1763, the executors of his will conveyed (deeds, liber 5, page 402) the two parcels and the mill to Abraham Schenck of Bushwick, Kings County. Mr. Schenck added to his holding by the purchase (deeds, liber 5, page 405) of thirty acres from Sarah Hegeman, "spinster," which had belonged to her father, Henry Hegeman, and which adjoined the parcel north of the bridge which her brother, Joseph, had conveyed to Henry Lott.

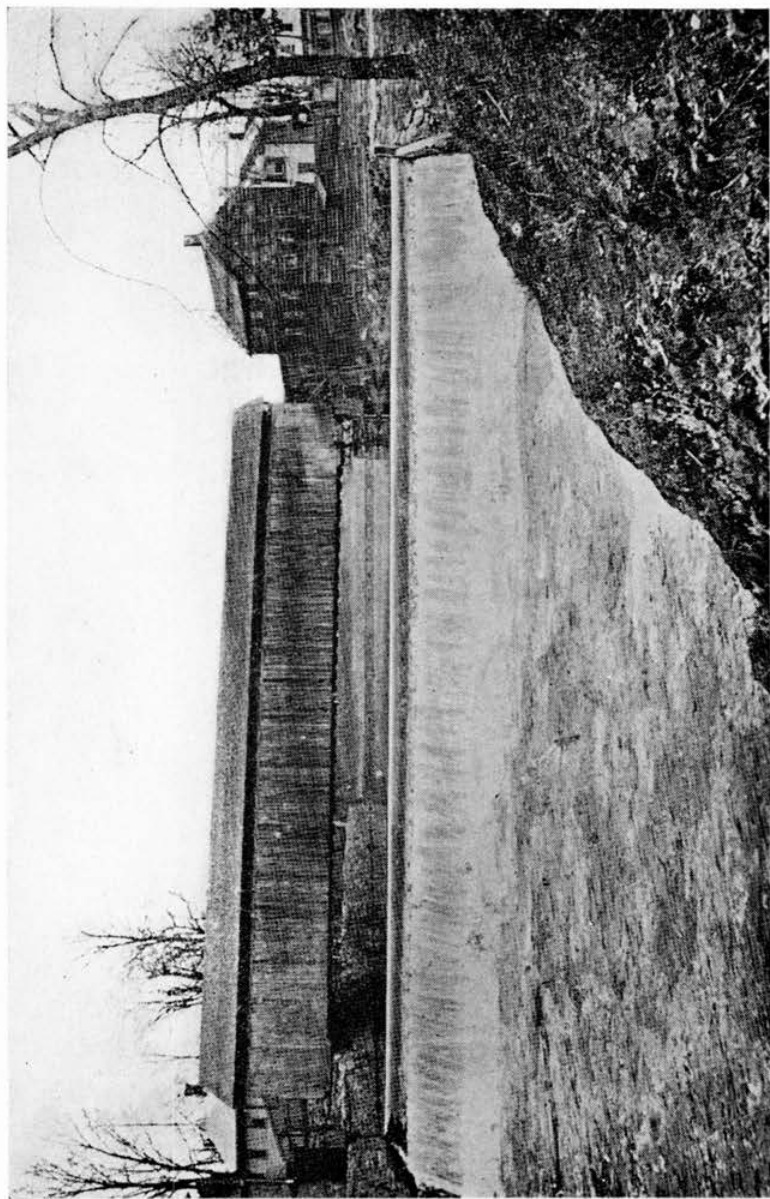
Abraham Schenck is not known to have left Long Island and he probably bought the mill and attached farm as a speculation in real estate for by 1770 they had passed to Samuel Verplanck, merchant, of New York City, who on May 25, 1770, sold them (deeds, liber 5, page 408) to two other New York men,—Peter Corne and John Barnes. This series of transfers indicates the opinion that men of capital outside of Dutchess were coming to hold in regard to business opportunities in the county.

Peter Corne did not come to Dutchess and his interest in this mill and farm was soon acquired (mortgages, liber 3, page 121) by his partner, John Barnes. John Barnes, a native of Somerset County, England, who had emigrated to America, removed from New York City to Pleasant Valley and lived

there from about 1771 to about 1785. He operated the mill on the Wappingers and it is to be supposed that he also conducted a general store for he described himself in 1772 (mortgages, liber 4, page 87) as a merchant and in 1796 an advertisement in the *Poughkeepsie Journal*, offering the mill and farm for sale, states that near the mill was a store for dry goods and groceries at which business had been done "for many years." In October, 1785, John Barnes conveyed (deeds, liber 13, page 286, recital) his real estate in Dutchess to Melancthon Smith, Peter Keteltas and Jacobus Van Zandt as trustees, with power to sell, and he seems to have moved away at that time.

Four years later, on September 15, 1789, a mortgage (liber 5, page 440) was given on the mill, the farm and several additional pieces of adjoining land by John Duryee of Dutchess County and his son, Jacob K. Duryee, to Abraham Duryee, merchant, of New York City. No deed out of John Barnes or to the Duryees is on record but the premises covered by the mortgage were the same as those described in John Barnes' title-papers, plus some adjoining land that the Duryees acquired otherwise.

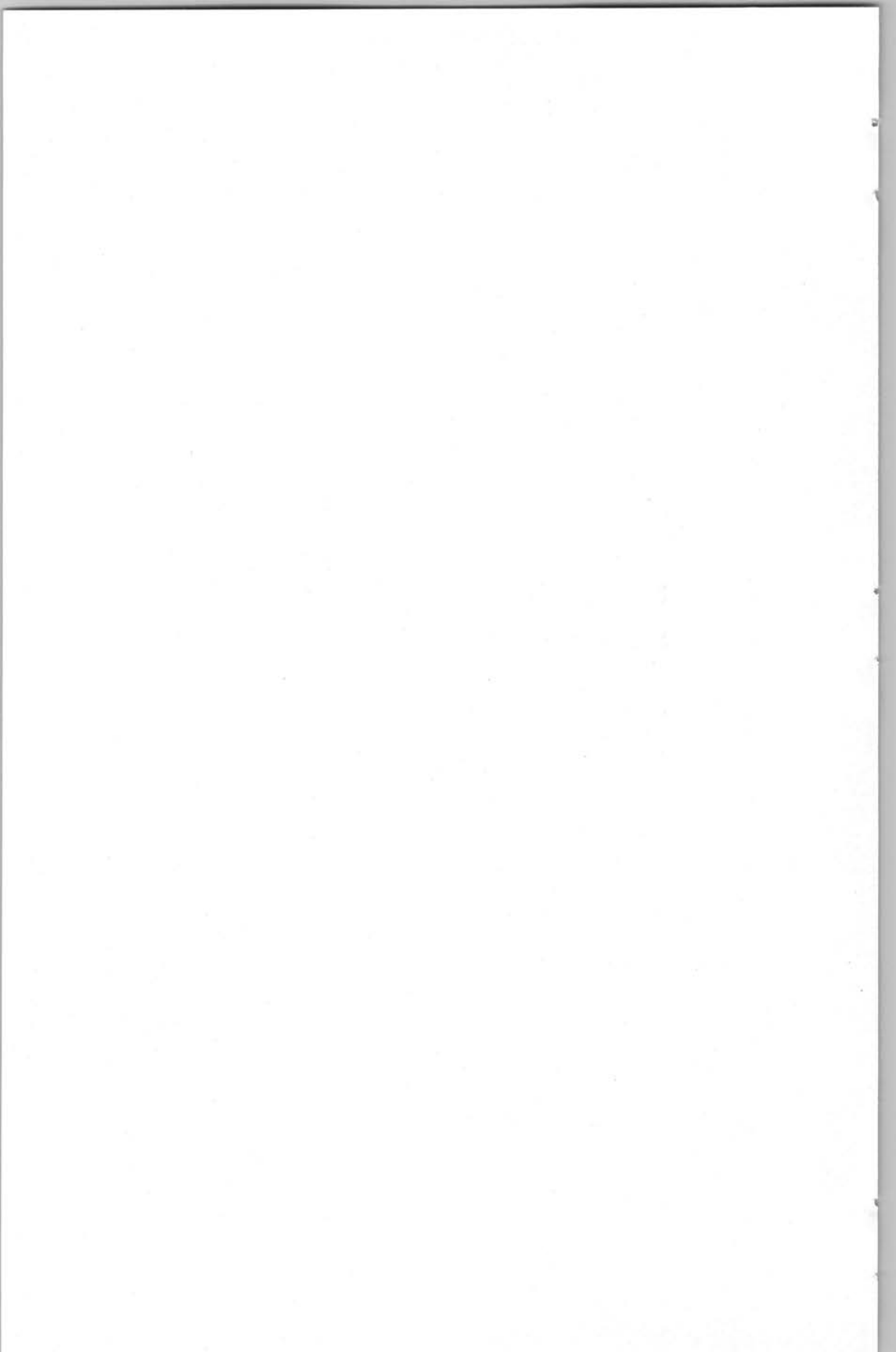
Within the next few years Jacob Evertson, who had been a resident of Amenia, removed to Pleasant Valley to live and, by 1794, he had laid claim to a portion of the premises near the bridge. This fact is learned from three original letters, on file in the manuscript division of the New York Public Library, which were written in 1794 by Melancthon Smith to Gilbert Livingston. Mr. Smith was one of the trustees appointed by John Barnes in 1785 and Gilbert Livingston was a lawyer at Poughkeepsie. The letters disclose that there was a dispute between Jacob Evertson and "the assigns of John Barnes" regarding "the mills and mill lots," which dispute was to be arbitrated in September, 1794. Mr. Smith expressed the opinion that the matter hinged on inducing the arbitrators to allow satisfaction for the buildings and improvements made by John Barnes, which leads to the inference that an encroachment on a boundary line had been made. Proceeding from that inference, it is easy to offer the explanation that the line between



Photograph copied by Frank B. Howard.

The covered bridge at Pleasant Valley. The picture was taken from the east bank of the Wappingers Creek, looking north.

The plate was made from a photograph taken many years ago, which was obtained through the courtesy of Francis B. Drake of Pleasant Valley.



Lot 8 and Lot 9 was probably the boundary that had been overstepped. As pointed out above, the lot-line ran east and west, south of the present bridge over the Wappingers Creek, and the portion of Lot 9 adjoining Lot 8 near the bridge belonged to Jacob Evertson at an early date.

No mention has been found of the result of the arbitration but the mill continued in the possession of the Duryees. In 1795 John Duryee died and the executors of his will advertised the mill and farm in the *Poughkeepsie Journal* of February 17, 1796, as follows:

“For Sale

The Farm and

Mills at Pleasant Valley, situate eight miles east of Poughkeepsie on the main Nine-partner road to Sharon, Dover, &c.

The farm contains 110 acres of land, about 25 acres woodland, 30 acres the best meadow, a good orchard and large garden with a variety of fruit trees, asparagus bed, &c., a good dwelling-house, and well of water near the kitchen, a large new Dutch barn, barracks, &c., with convenient outhouses.

The mill stands on the Wappingers Creek (a never failing stream of water), is large and strong, three stories high, 75 feet long by 30 wide, calculated for the Flouring business on a large scale, two run of stones, the one burr and the other Esopus; the bolts and other works made on the best and easiest construction for expediting work; a great share of country work, &c., the place well situated for the purchase of grain, a fine wheat country, a public road.

On the premises is a good stone house and potash works; adjoining the mill is a large and commodious store for dry goods and groceries, at which place business has been done for many years.

Should it better suit the purchaser the one-half and undivided moiety of the above estate will be sold; the mill separate from the farm; or the whole together.

In case the above are not sold by the 11th of April next will on that day be sold at public auction at the Tontine Coffee-House in New York.

Jacob K. Duryea

John M. Thursten executors of estate of

John Duryea, Jun. John Duryea

Jacob Smith dec'd

December 10th, 1795.”

No purchaser appearing, the records show that Jacob K. Duryea bought (deeds, liber 15, page 279) the interests of his father's other heirs and a map of the town of Clinton made in

1797 is marked: "Jacob K. Duryee's house and mill" at the place where the main road from Poughkeepsie crossed the Wappingers Creek (*Year Book*, Dutchess County Historical Society, 1926, vol. XI, pages 22 and 40). In 1798 Jacob K. Duryee sold (deeds, liber 15, page 296) the mill and six acres of land to John Woods, printer, formerly of Newark, New Jersey, who gave a mortgage, presumably in part payment (mortgages, liber 7, page 382). Mr. Woods had come to Dutchess and was printing and editing at Poughkeepsie the *American Farmer and Dutchess County Advertiser* but his stay was a transient one and the mill at Pleasant Valley reverted to the possession of Jacob K. Duryee. The latter then on July 13, 1799, sold the mill and the farm (deeds, liber 16, page 50) to Daniel S. Dean, merchant, of the town of Beekman, who at once took partners in his new enterprise by conveying a one-third right in the property to Robert Abbatt of New York City and a second one-third right to the executors of the will of Maurice Shipley of New York (deeds, liber 15, pages 520, 522). Many complicated transactions took place between Mr. Dean, Mr. Abbatt and the heirs of Maurice Shipley, some of which are recorded in the office of the Clerk of Dutchess and some not. Out of the confusion the fact emerges that in 1803 Robert Abbatt held sole title to the mill south of the bridge (mortgages, liber 9, page 360), while in 1805 Ann, widow of Maurice Shipley, conveyed sole title to seventy-four acres north of the bridge to Israel Dean (deeds, liber 19, page 163). This means that soon after 1800 the mill-lot south of the bridge and the farm north of it were detached from each other.

Before 1800 title to the mill-lot and the farm had passed at the same time and the title-papers mention a dwelling-house, grist-mill, milldam and millhouse as conveyed with the land; the description of the property published in the Poughkeepsie newspaper in 1796 tells of a store (old then) that went with it; while in 1798 a potash-house and in 1799 a saw-mill are also referred to. These improvements were all typical of the eighteenth century. It was typical of the nineteenth century that Robert Abbatt built a cotton-factory near the bridge, his action reflecting a tendency then in evidence along the Atlantic

seaboard to utilize water-power for the manufacture of textiles. The cotton factory soon burned down but it was succeeded by a stone building that is standing today and which has been used for manufacturing purposes ever since its erection. In the course of the nineteenth century title to this stone building passed through several names, that of Garner being associated with the property from 1859 to 1912. In 1932 James A. Thompson and Company own the building.

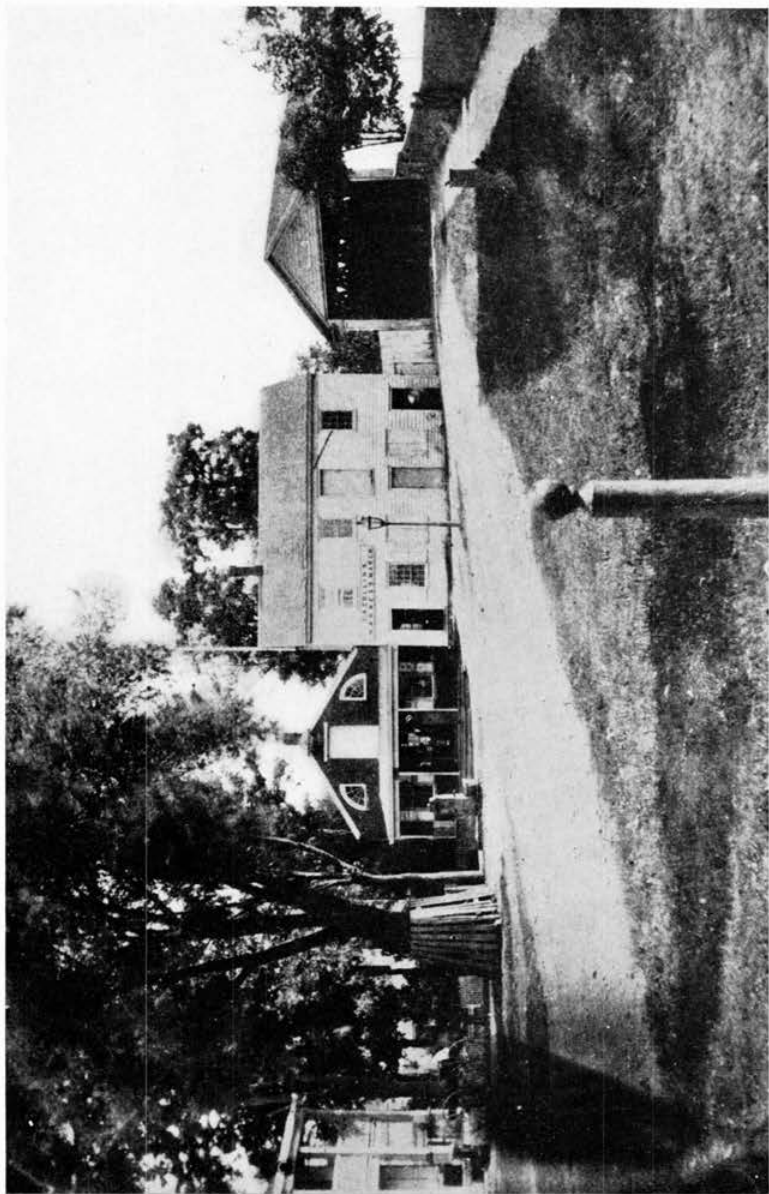
Until the nineteenth century land in the general vicinity of the great bridge over the Wappingers was held in farms and in the advertisement of 1796, quoted above, the neighborhood was called "a fine wheat country." But one after another a fulling mill, a woolen factory, a factory for cotton goods and one for printing calico were established, some on the Wappingers and some on a small stream tributary to the Wappingers from the eastward. As the population grew, it followed that house-lots were sold from the farms, that the long country-road that crossed the Wappingers became a street and that in 1815 the community was incorporated as a village.

At the beginning of the new century the original Filkintown Road was surveyed by the Dutchess Turnpike Company and re-named the Dutchess Turnpike. The turnpike, as laid out by the company, occasionally departed from the exact course of the Filkintown Road and one such departure occurred at Pleasant Valley where the turnpike was carried over the Wappingers at a point slightly different from that where the first road crossed the stream. Tradition and scattered bits of evidence indicate that the Filkintown Road followed an east-west course south of the present Presbyterian Church and that at first it crossed the creek at a dugway or fording-place. A deed of 1762 (cited above) shows that in that year there was a "great bridge" in existence. In 1805 another deed (liber 19, page 163), by which land on the west side of the creek was conveyed, refers to "the old bridge" and "the new bridge" in such a way as to show that a new bridge had then just been built on a new road-course. In the 1840's the bridge that was new in 1805 was (according to tradition) destroyed by a flood and succeeded by a third bridge. Pictures of the third bridge

(which was replaced in 1911 by a modern structure of concrete) will be found at other pages of this *Year Book*. The sites of the several bridges, just listed, varied from each other and it would require exhaustive search to determine each with accuracy but it goes without saying that the locations differed only slightly.

Of all the buildings which, in 1795, were to be seen clustered near the bridge it is probable that only one still stands. The stone structure on the south side of the highway, west of the large factory, is believed to be the store, of which it was said in 1795 that business had then been carried on in it "for many years." The eighteenth century grist-mill is gone. The stone factory now standing south of the bridge was erected (tradition says) in 1815. Tradition also says that the stone store (with brick front), which is north of the bridge, dates from the same time as the factory.

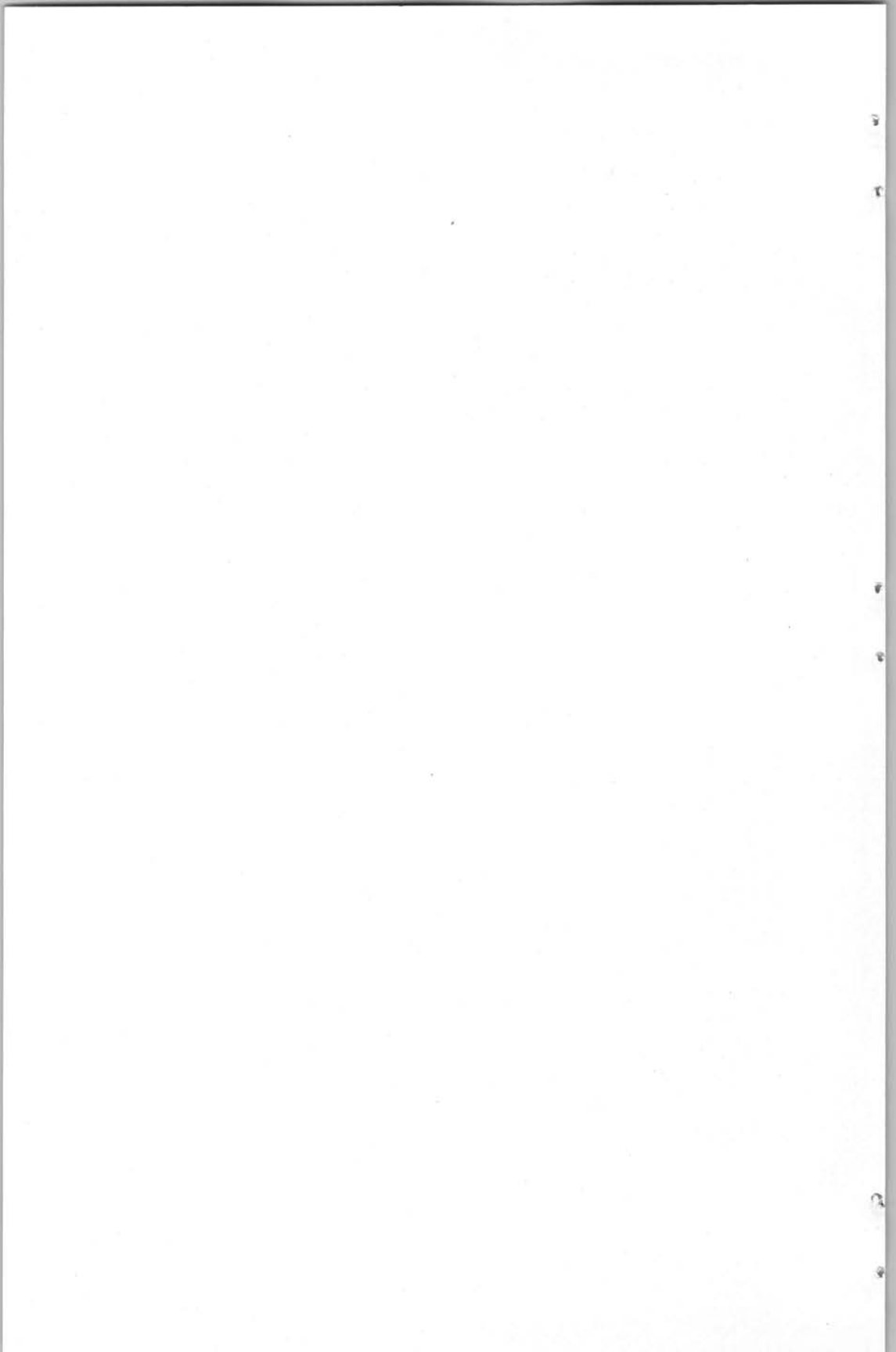
There was a dwelling north of the bridge before 1770 which must have been the home of Mr. and Mrs. John Barnes (1771-1785) and of the Duryea family (1789-1799), who were resident-owners of the mill and the mill-farm, but no trace of that eighteenth century house has been found. North of the bridge there is now a house, owned and occupied by Francis Fesser, which in former years was the home of Edward C. Drake and family and, still earlier, of Dr. Isaac H. Traver. The late Edward Farrington, long a resident of Pleasant Valley, once told Edward C. Drake that the house was built in 1828 by Dr. Traver but as Dr. Traver (born 1814, died 1892) was only fourteen years old in 1828 and as he bought the land in 1839 Mr. Farrington must have been in error as to the date. It is possible that Dr. Traver was the builder of the house and that he erected it immediately after his purchase of the land. Against this assumption is the fact that the doctor bought a very small amount of land and paid \$4,500.00 for it, a price which for the time and place implies improvements, and the further fact that the finish of the main part of the house is in a style of trim current about 1800-1815. The present writer therefore offers as a tentative theory the suggestion that the house may have been built about 1800-1804



Photograph copied by Frank B. Howard.

Approach to the west end of the covered bridge at Pleasant Valley.

The plate was made from a photograph taken in the latter part of the nineteenth century which was obtained through the courtesy of Herbert Oakley of Pleasant Valley.



by Mrs. Maurice Shipley, inasmuch as the map of the Dutchess Turnpike, made in 1804, shows a house of good size north of the bridge, marked: A. Shipley. Removing from New York City to Pleasant Valley about 1800 members of the Shipley family and Robert Abbatt introduced new business enterprises at the mill-site and seem to have had some capital and the erection of a new dwelling would have been in line with their general activity.

While John Barnes owned and occupied the mill-farm an event occurred which now is of more than local interest. Briefly stated, the story of that happening runs as follows.

In October, 1777, the British fleet started up the Hudson on its memorable raid. Governor Clinton was on the west side of the river, marching his troops from New Windsor to Kingston. His wife was in Poughkeepsie. That village was thrown into confusion by the approach of the enemy and Mrs. Clinton fled to the interior of the county for safety, taking refuge with Mr. and Mrs. John Barnes at Pleasant Valley. She was conducted thither by her brother, Dr. Peter Tappen of Poughkeepsie, and was accompanied by her brother's wife (the former Elizabeth Crannell) and by Mrs. Tappen's sister, Mrs. Gilbert Livingston (the former Catharine Crannell). In the group there was also a friend, referred to as "Mr. Machien."

Meanwhile, Governor Clinton, anxious about his wife, had requested an army officer stationed at Fishkill, Colonel Hugh Hughes, to send a messenger to Dr. Tappen, asking information. In reply, Dr. Tappen wrote two letters, one to Colonel Hughes and one to Governor Clinton, and Colonel Hughes also wrote one to the governor, all of which correspondence may be found in the *Public Papers of George Clinton* (volume 8, pages 409, 416, 417). The letters disclose that Dr. Tappen wished a covered army wagon in which to move his little party still farther if need arose and that Colonel Hughes was of the opinion that the ladies, while at the house of Mr. Barnes, were too near the army stores and that it would be well for them to go to Sharon, Connecticut.

It is also learned from the letters that Mrs. Tappen was

about to become a mother and naturally the anxiety of the refugees must have been greatly increased by their concern for her. As matters finally turned out, Dr. and Mrs. Tappen's daughter, Sarah Crannell Tappen, was not born until November 1, 1777, by which time the British had retired to New York and Mrs. Tappen must have returned safely to her home in Poughkeepsie.

Whether there had been any acquaintance before 1777 between John Barnes on the one hand and George Clinton and Peter Tappen on the other is not known but the stress of the exceptional circumstances which they bore together in October, 1777, either began a friendship or cemented one for in 1781 Dr. Tappen and "Mr. Barnes" visited Philadelphia in company and in 1782 Governor Clinton mentioned in a letter: "our friend, Mr. Barnes" (*Public Papers of George Clinton*, vol. 7, pages 413, 587).

The letters written from Pleasant Valley by Dr. Tappen are appended here, giving as they do the atmosphere created by the excitement in 1777.

"Plisent Valey about 8 miles
Back of Poughkeepsie Oct'r 10th, 1777

Sir,

I just now Received you' letter. I have 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 County we should be glad of 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 Eusopus Excepting a little Close and Some of her Bedding. I have given Directions they might be Caried 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 Weagons holely to you; if you think it necessary you will Send them to this Place. If you see the Governor be kind Enough to let him know Mrs. Clinton is as well as Common.

I Remain you humble Ser't

Peter Tappen

P. S. we Will not be Desirous to go farther than this if you think we may be safe here.
Coll. Hughes Fish Kills."

"Plisent Valy Oct'r 11th, 1777

Dear Brother,

Yesterday morning We Received Intaligance that the Enemy had landed on both sides of the River and where marching up; all the town was in Confusion Immediately; we had got a Couple loads of your goods up to my house and in the hurry we got one load more out; I ordered the Sloop up to Eusopus Kreek; I thout it Safer there then if she had gone to Albany. This morning I Sent Polly McKesson and Polly Tappen to Eusopus, Requested them to acquaint Mr. Wynkoop and Dumond and let them do with you(r) good(s) as they thought best. We have got into a good place at Mrs. Barns About Eight miles from Poughkeepsie. Caty is as well as common; she is well Satisfied with her Situation. I hope from what we hear we Shall in a few Days go back to Poughkeepsie. I just Received a line from Gilbert Informing that His Father was Robed of the Reacords of this County; I Fear more from the Tories here than from the Rigulars; however I mean to Defend the woman here; Mr. Machien is with us he is Bravaly; Betsy I Expect every minute will be taken in labour. It makes me very unhappy that I cannot be with you at this time but I Cannot leave my wife. I Congratulate you on the good News from the Suthard; all the woman join in love

from your Loving Brother

Peter Tappen

P. S. Caty Rec'd your letter of the Ninth Instent

To his Excellency George Clinton Esqur
Governor & Commander in Chief of the
State of New York."

A BROADSIDE OF 1768 ABOUT HYDE PARK

Contributed by

FRANKLIN D. ROOSEVELT

While this Year Book was in preparation Governor Roosevelt contributed to it a photostatic copy of an original broadside about Hyde Park, Dutchess County, printed in 1768. The original is owned by the New York Historical Society. The photostatic copy is reproduced below with an editorial introduction.

As the Year Book went to press Mr. Roosevelt was elected President of the United States.

In 1705 a patent for a tract of land in Dutchess County was granted to Peter Fauconier. The land fronted the Hudson between the present villages of Hyde Park and Staatsburg, being bounded on the south by Crum Elbow Creek, which flows into the river just above the railroad-station at Hyde Park, and on the north by a small stream that reaches the river just below Staatsburg.

For a period of years no effort was made to develop the tract but ultimately title to it was acquired by Dr. John Bard of New York, who had married Susanne Vallean, a granddaughter of Peter Fauconier, and in 1772 Dr. Bard came to Dutchess and made his home on his land. Previously he had considered selling the property and in 1768 he caused a broadside or handbill to be printed and circulated in New York City describing the estate and offering it for sale. One of the original broadsides is in the library of the New York Historical Society and a copy of it is recorded here through the courtesy of Governor Roosevelt.

The name: Hyde Park is used in the broadside of 1768 to designate the whole area of 3,600 acres covered by the patent of 1705. When the patent was granted the patentee, Peter Fauconier, is said to have been acting as private secretary to the then Governor of New York, Edward Hyde,¹ Viscount

1.—Hyde Park in London was originally part of the manor that belonged to the Hyde family and was enclosed in 1670.

Cornbury, and it has been inferred that the name given the property in Dutchess was in compliment to the Governor but as yet it has not been learned whether Peter Fauconier selected and used the name or whether it is attributable to Dr. Bard. At all events it occurs in this broadside of 1768, which is the earliest instance of it so far found.

The wording of the broadside implies that in 1768 the tract called Hyde Park was, as a whole, undeveloped. Its value was potential and lay in the timber obtainable from it for commercial purposes and in the sites it provided for river-commerce. Back of the tract was a prosperous grain-country which needed sloop-landings from which to export farm produce and, with the residents of the grain-country desiring the import of manufactured goods, it was obvious that a good business could be created by the establishment on this waterfront of a landing for sloops and a storehouse for grain and commodities.

One good farm had been laid out before 1768 at the south end of the tract called Hyde Park and it was on that farm that Dr. Bard lived from 1772 to 1782 and from 1797 to 1799. Probably owing to his personal occupation of this portion of his property the name: Hyde Park soon ceased to be given to the remainder of the patented land, its use being restricted to his home-acres, where it is still applied by the present owner, Frederick W. Vanderbilt. Later, when a village grew up at the four corners formed by a road-junction just south of Dr. Bard's estate the name of the estate was used to indicate the new community.

A verbatim transcript of the broadside of 1768 is here appended.

“New York, May 12, 1768.

ARVERTISEMENT¹

TO be sold by the subscriber, living in *New York*, either all together, or in distinct farms, a tract of land in the county of *Dutchess*, and province of *New York*, called *Hyde Park*, or

1.—Misspelled in the original.

Paulin's Purchase,¹ bounded to the northward by Staatsburgh; to the westward by *Hudson's River*, along which it extends three Miles and a Quarter; and to the southward and eastward by the *Fish Creek*;—containing 3600 acres. The tract in general is filled with exceeding good timber, fit for staves, ship-timber, and lumber of all kinds, and abounds in rich swamps; a great part of the up-land exceeding good for grain or grass, and has on it some valuable improvements:—particularly to the southward, A LARGE WELL IMPROVED FARM, with a good house, a large new barn, a young orchard of between 5 or 600 apple trees, mostly grafted fruit, and in bearing order; between 30 and 40 acres of rich meadow ground, fit for the scythe; and about 150 acres of up-land cleared and in tilling order. There is belonging to the said tract, three good landing-places, (particularly one on the above farm) where the largest *Albany* sloop can lay close to a large flat rock, which forms a natural wharff; and which is an exceedingly fit place for a store, as a good road may easily be made from it through the tract into the *Nine-Partners*, which is now a fine wheat country. The title warranted to the purchaser.

John Bard.”



1.—“Paulin’s Purchase” refers to a purchase made before 1700 by Henry Pawling for which a Crown Patent was obtained in 1701. The land lay immediately north of Hyde Park and included in its area the site of the present village of Staatsburgh. Dr. Bard was guilty of an inaccuracy when he cited Pawling’s Purchase as an alternative name for Hyde Park, the two patented tracts being quite distinct, one from the other.

THE POUGHKEEPSIE JOURNAL
for Tuesday, December 31, 1799,
and
THE ULSTER COUNTY GAZETTE
for Saturday, January 4, 1800.

George Washington died on December 14th, 1799, and on December 18th funeral services were held. Two weeks later an account of the funeral was printed in *The Poughkeepsie Journal* of Tuesday, December 31, 1799, and on Saturday, January 4, 1800, *The Ulster County Gazette* of Kingston reported the ceremonies.

A copy of the issue of *The Poughkeepsie Journal* for December 31, 1799, is now owned by Baltus Barentszen Van Kleeck of Poughkeepsie, New York, a trustee of the Dutchess County Historical Society, and a copy of *The Ulster County Gazette* for January 4, 1800, is in the Library of Congress, Washington, D. C., and a comparison of the two papers reveals that in several details they are exactly alike. Each contains its individual local material (chiefly commercial and legal advertisements) but they present identical foreign news-letters and identical accounts of Washington's funeral. Both papers printed also the address on the death of Washington that was delivered before the House of Representatives by John Marshall and which Marshall concluded by offering to the House a set of resolutions (drawn up by General Henry Lee) in which Washington was referred to in the phrase, since so often quoted: "first in war, first in peace and first in the hearts of his countrymen."

These two issues of the *Journal* and the *Gazette* are typical of all their numbers in 1799-1800. The fact that they duplicated each other to such a large extent indicates that they drew upon some central source of news and, if so, the question arises: how many local sheets of New England and the middle Atlantic states contained these same articles on approximately corresponding dates of publication?

Thus far the story of the two cited issues of *The Poughkeepsie Journal* and *The Ulster County Gazette* is the same as the story of any other two issues at the turn of the century but later the story divides into two parts. The issue of *The Poughkeepsie Journal* sank into obscurity, was forgotten and the copy of it now owned by Mr. Van Kleeck is a very rare thing. Years passed in which *The Ulster County Gazette* for January 4, 1800, was also forgotten. Then a reprint was made of it. It has never transpired when or where or why or by whom that reprint was made but it was followed by a succession of others until at the Centennial Exposition at Philadelphia in 1876 an edition was put out of which thousands of copies were sold as souvenirs and now, in 1932, still another has appeared in connection with the celebration of the bi-centennial of Washington's birth. This last was printed in New York City (fortunately it bears the printer's imprint) and many copies of it were distributed in Dutchess County by Luckey, Platt & Company of Poughkeepsie.

Of the successive reprints made in the nineteenth century a great many copies have been preserved. When carefully compared, they are found to differ one from another in the kind of paper used, in the type selected and in some minor arrangements of the contents, as well as in minor errors in the setting of the type. Several of the larger libraries in the United States have collections of them, that which is owned by the Library of Congress exhibiting twenty-six different versions. The Adriance Memorial Library of Poughkeepsie has examples of five kinds. The Thompson Memorial Library, Vassar College, has a collection and the Public Library of the City of New York has so many of the reprints in its files that in 1930 the library issued a *Bulletin*, describing not only its own issues but listing a known total of sixty-four varieties.

The reprints now deposited in libraries have usually been received from private individuals, who have found the supposedly rare paper among household treasures and have reported the find as of an article of value. These copies have come from such widely separated points on the Atlantic seaboard and in the interior states that it is evident the distribu-

tion of the reprints took place over a wide area. They were not peculiar to the vicinity of the Hudson River.

It remains a mystery what the occasion was for the making of the first reprint and why so many varying editions were afterward produced. Could the first have been made in 1832, the centennial of Washington's birth? And what anniversaries of eighteenth century events were celebrated in the nineteenth century? Perhaps some day a student of American journalism, scanning the files of nineteenth century newspapers, will come upon some item that will serve as a key to an explanation of this whole matter.

Before 1931 not a single *original* copy of *The Ulster County Gazette* of January 4, 1800, was known of. Naturally, intensive search had been made for one and, as reprint after reprint was discovered, experts carefully examined them only to be disappointed. At last, in 1931, Mrs. James Lydon, Jr., of Suffern, New York, found among family effects three copies of the *Gazette* and sent them to the Library of Congress. One bore the all important date—January 4, 1800,—and the others were of the issues next before and after January 4. They were subjected to every test as to the manufacture of the paper and its watermark, for hand-presswork, type, arrangement, &c., and announcement was made that they were genuine originals beyond any question.

In the bi-centennial year, when so much connected with Washington is being printed, it seemed appropriate to present here this summary of the facts regarding the reprints of *The Ulster County Gazette* and to point out the relation of the *Gazette* to journalism in general in 1800.

THE EDITOR.

"I WILL LIFT UP MINE EYES UNTO THE HILLS"

To the north of "the Dutchess's County," on the opposite side of Henry Hudson's great river, lies a range of mountains which this generation knows only as "the Catskills." Between some of those mountains a stream winds down a deep valley to the river and, once upon a time, many wildcats roamed and howled along its course. When white men first settled on the shore of the river near the mouth of the stream they heard those fearsome sounds in the forest-depths beyond them and they called the stream (in their native Dutch) *Kaats' Kill* (Cats' Stream) and also the *Kaaders' Kill*, *Kaader* meaning the male of the animals referred to. From *Kaats' Kill* and *Kaaders' Kill* have come the names: Catskill and Kaaterskill, which later spellings present the phonetic renderings of the Dutch words given by English-speaking settlers, who arrived on the scene after the Dutch.

For a long time now the fact has been forgotten that the English-speaking settlers also had a name for the mountain-range and that the English name was in use all through the eighteenth century, interchangeably with the Dutch. It was: "the Blue Hills." This descriptive term is found continuously and consistently in documents of 1700-1800 as, for example, in the following instances:

1708. Land "lying under the Blew Hills" sold by the Indians to William Beekman. (Vedder's Historic Catskill, p. 91)

1717. Land "lying under the great mountains, commonly called the Blew hills." (Cal. of Land Papers, p. 123)

1719. Petition of Henry Beekman and Gilbert Livingston for a grant of land "under the Blew hills, commonly called the Katts Kill hills." (Ibid., p. 129)

1719. Land "lying under ye Blew hills or Katts Kill hills." (Ibid., p. 130)

1727. A marsh "under the Blew Mountains." (Ibid., p. 186)

1738. Letter from Cadwallader Colden to George Clarke, Lt.-Gov. of New York: "About ninety miles northward from

New York another body of Mountains rise on the west side of Hudson's river at about ten miles from the river and are commonly called the (H)atts (H)ill mountains or Blow Hills." (Doc. rel, to the Col. Hist. of New York, 6: 121)

1749. "The Blue Mountains, which reared their towering tops above all the other mountains, were now seen before us towards the north but at a great distance. . . Still further off the Blue Mountains rose up From Strasburg (Staatsburgh) the Blue Mountains plainly to be seen." (Travels into North America, vol. 2, pp. 78, 81, by Peter Kalm, Swedish naturalist)

1762. A boundary line ran "to the Blue Mountains." (Cal. Hist. Mss., Eng., pp. 728, 737)

1766. Memorial from the inhabitants "on the Beaverkill, Blue Mountains and parts adjacent." (Ibid., p. 766)

1768. Land "at the foot of the Blew Mountains." (Ibid., p. 457)

1769-1770. Land on the west side of Hudson's river "under the Blue Mountains." (Cal. Maps and Surveys, p. 243)

1772. Petition from a resident "under the Blue Mountain, Cader's creek, Albany County." (Cal. Hist. Mss., Eng., p. 807)

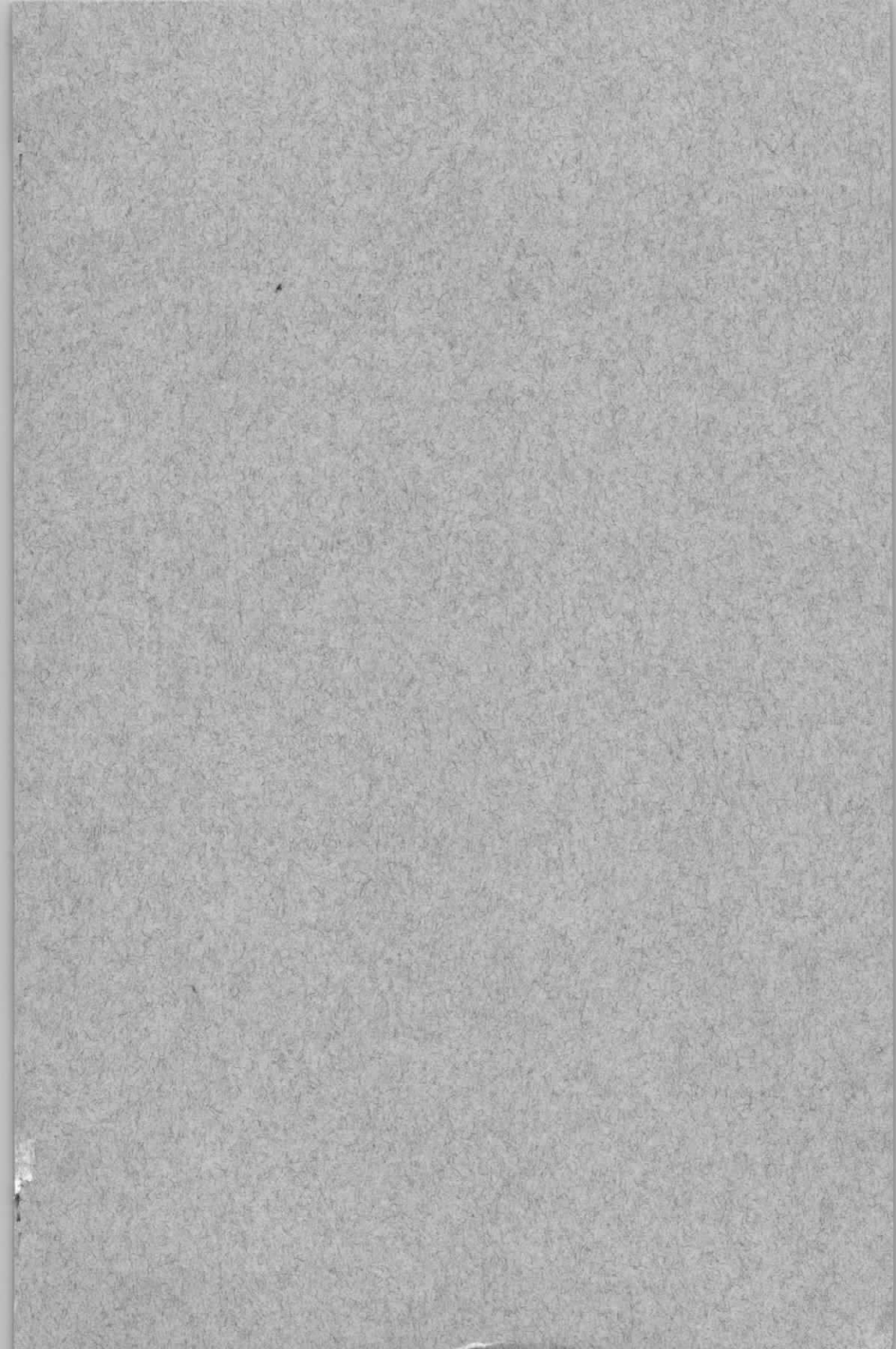
1797. Advertisement, dated Dec. 25, pub. in the *Poughkeepsie Journal* of Jan. 30, 1798, signed by Henry G. Livingston, offering for sale a country-seat on the bank of the Hudson in the vicinity of Tivoli, which "commands a beautiful view of the Blue Mountains."

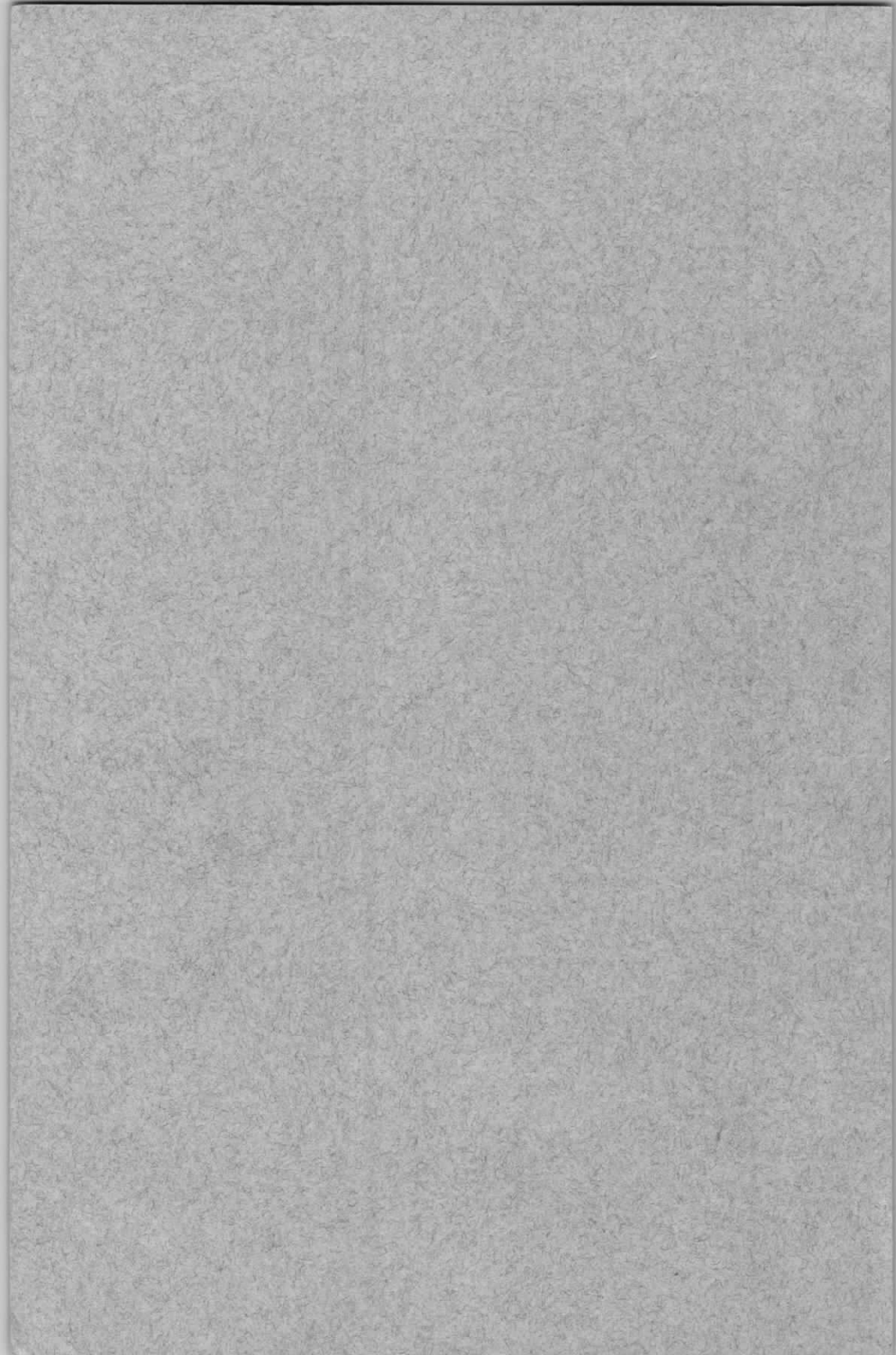
To a native of Dutchess County the name: Blue Hills is one that tugs upon the heart-strings. For, living in Dutchess and looking northward, old residents know that those peaks above us are ever blue! In the morning, suffused in brilliant eastern light, they are the shade of the sky in summer or of the forget-me-not; later in the day they tone to richest sapphire; flooded with golden sunset glow they deepen almost to purple, as silhouettes against the west; even in the gray atmosphere of rain or fog or snow the gray takes on a blue quality. And so, the *color* of those hills up the river, many varying shades but always blue, is registered in the writer's mind

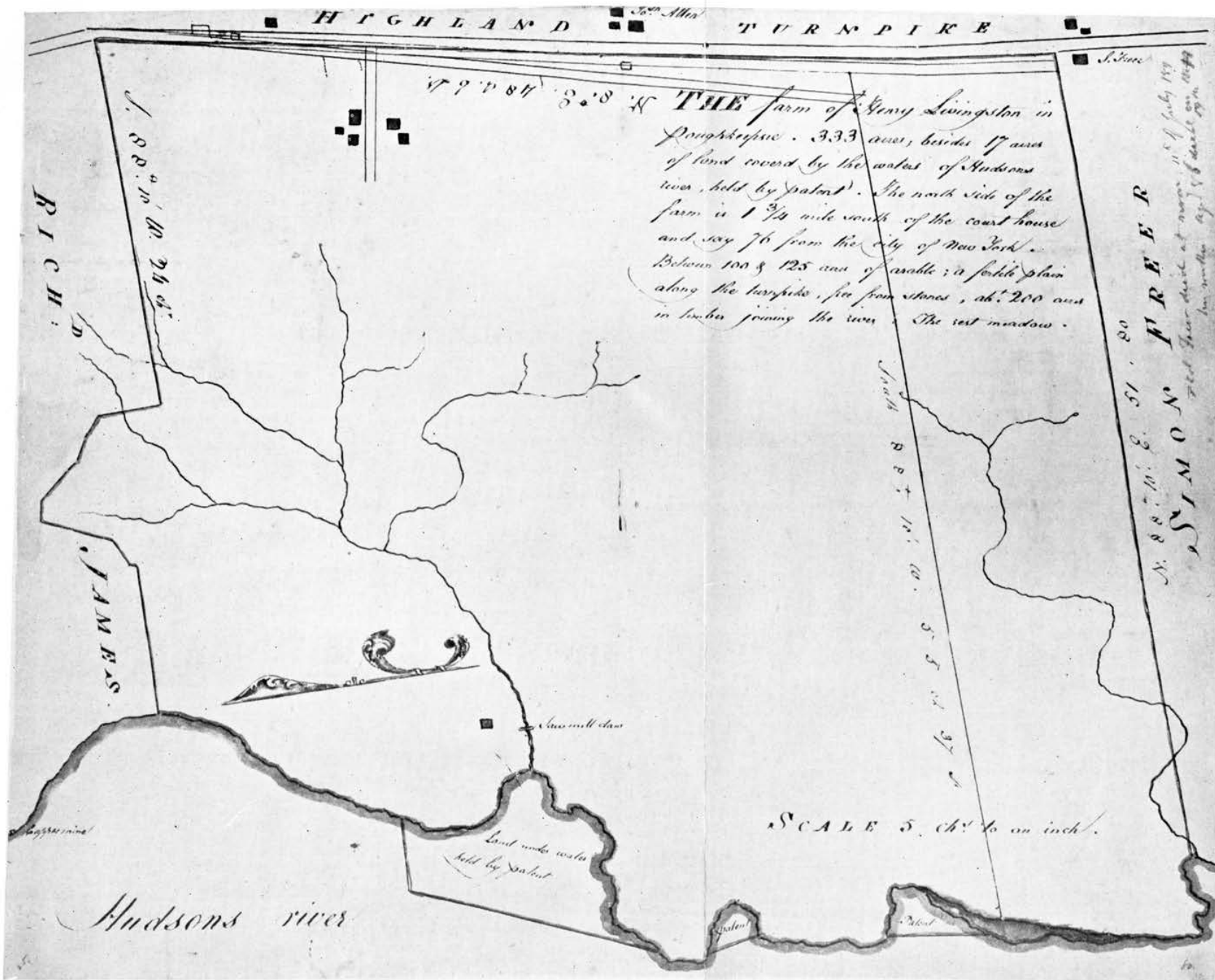
as a feature of our local landscape having lifelong associations and affording a lifelong delight, something that is always present in the consciousness of our immediate surroundings and which serves as the background of all mental pictures of the natural setting of the Dutchess's County.

It is therefore with peculiar pleasure that the fact is recorded in this *Year Book* that over a long span of years our neighbor-mountains were called "the Blue Hills." And, because the name is so beautifully fit and true and because it has for such a long time been disused and forgotten the writer hopes that hereafter lovers of nature will observe more closely the color of our mountains. Those who do so will surely feel that never again can they limit their thought of the mountains to an association with the wild creatures of the forest for, lying spread out on our horizon and bathed in the veritable hue of Heaven, "the Catskills" inevitably become, for us, our own much loved "Blue Hills."

H. W. R.







Map of the farm of Henry Livingston (the second) at Poughkeepsie, called *Locust Grove*. The year in which the map was drawn is not known. Internal evidence shows the survey on which the map is based was made early in the nineteenth century.

The plate was made from the original map, owned by William Willis Reese and reproduced through his courtesy.