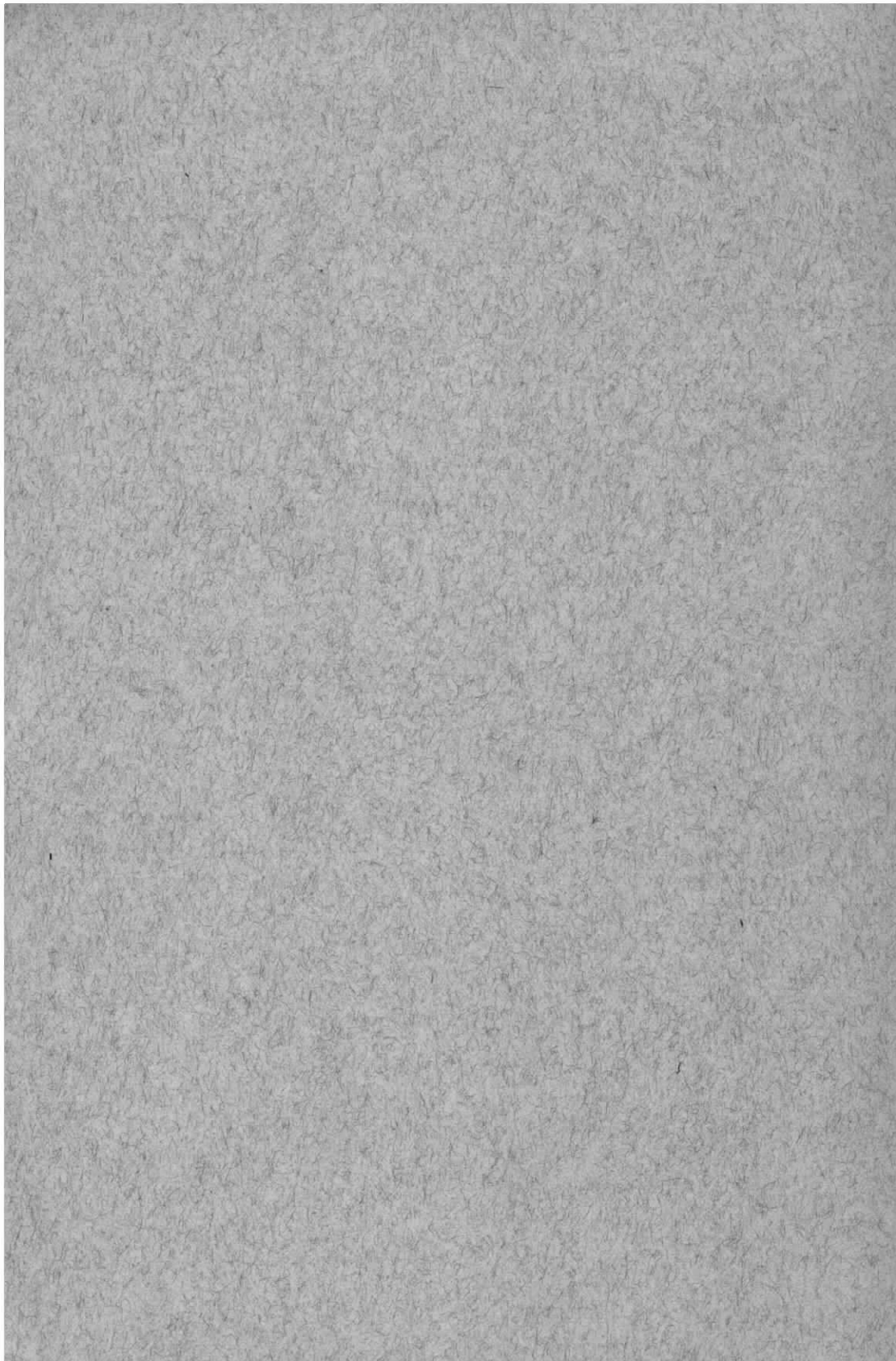


Year Book

Dutchess County Historical Society

Volume 22

1937



Year Book

Dutchess County Historical Society

Volume 22

1937

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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

1 9 3 7

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

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

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

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

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

Curator: ALLEN FROST, Poughkeepsie, N. Y.

VICE- PRESIDENTS FOR TOWNS

J. E. Spingarn	Town of Amenia
Mrs. Samuel Verplanck	City of Beacon
Mrs. Jacob Brill	Town of Beekman
William J. Browning	Town of Clinton
Lawrence Belding Cummings	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
Daniel J. Gleason	Town of North East
Miss Martha Akin Taber	Town of Pawling
Mrs. Burnap Jordan	Town of Pine Plains
J. Adams Brown	Town of Pleasant Valley
Miss Annette Young	Town of Poughkeepsie
John S. Wilson, M.D.	City of Poughkeepsie
Mrs. Stuart R. Anderson	Town of Red Hook
Miss Ethel Douglas Merritt	Town of Rhinebeck
Mrs. Joseph T. Tower	Town of Stanford
Mrs. R. Theodore Coe	Town of Union Vale
Lenox Banks	Town of Wappinger
Oakleigh Thorne	Town of Washington

BOARD OF TRUSTEES

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

CLASS OF 1938

George S. Van Vliet	Miss Helen Wilkinson Reynolds
Frank V. Mylod	Franklyn J. Poucher

CLASS OF 1939

Charles Meredith De Lavergne	Edmund Van Wyck
Frederick Barnard	Herbert C. Shears

CLASS OF 1940

Chester Husted	Henry T. Hackett
Ross Hasbrouck	Ronald Bogle

CLASS OF 1941

John Ross Delafield	Miss Mary Johnston Elsworth
Raymond G. Guernsey	Baltus Barentszen Van Kleeck

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OCCASIONAL PUBLICATIONS
OF THE
DUTCHESS COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

- 1916—PAMPHLET: *Troutbeck, A Dutchess County Homestead*; by Charles E. Benton. Out of print.
- 1924—COLLECTIONS: VOL. I; *Poughkeepsie, The Origin and Meaning of the Word*; by Helen Wilkinson Reynolds. For further information address: Miss Helen W. Reynolds, 56 Grand 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. For further information address Mrs. Joseph T. Tower, Millbrook, Dutchess County, New Yor.
- 1937—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.
- 1937—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 7, 1937

A meeting of the Board of Trustees of the Dutchess County Historical Society was held on Thursday, January 7, 1937, in the local history room of the Adriaance Memorial Library, Poughkeepsie.

Present: President Reese, Trustees Husted, Mylod, F. J. Poucher, Reynolds, Van Kleeck and Van Wyck and the Treasurer and the Secretary.

The matter of the spring meeting was discussed and the trustees felt that a special observance should be made of the 250th anniversary of the first settlement made on the site of Poughkeepsie. The secretary was requested to obtain a speaker for the occasion. After discussion, it was decided that the society hold its meeting on the usual date, that the business meeting be held at 11 o'clock and that the luncheon and the remainder of the meeting be open for the interested public. Mr. Mylod, Mr. Franklyn Poucher and Mr. Van Kleeck were appointed a committee to confer with city officials regarding the celebration of the anniversary.

The Pilgrimage Committee, through Miss Reynolds, suggested that the pilgrimage this year be made to the southern part of the county. It was decided that the pilgrimage be held, if possible, during the week of September 12, and

that arrangements be left to the Pilgrimage Committee.

Miss Reynolds, for the Publication Committee, reported that the year book for 1936 had been distributed. The secretary reported that it had been most favorably received and that complimentary letters had been received from the President of the United States, the State Archivist and others who had been interested in the publication.

The Secretary reported that the society had received a letter from the Hudson River Society with petitions to the Governor of the State, the State Senator and the Assemblyman from this district, in behalf of the preservation of the Highlands. It was requested that signatures be obtained to these petitions. It was voted that the President and the Secretary sign the petitions in the name of the society and that the Secretary forward them.

The Treasurer announced that the society had 631 paid members and recommended that a membership campaign be undertaken. After discussion, certain tentative plans were outlined to be developed and reported upon at a later date.

The following new members were elected: Major Joseph B. Bisbee, Mrs. Joseph B. Bisbee, Mr. Samuel Deuel, Mrs. John I. Lane,

Mrs. Jennie Porter, Mrs. Frank V. Mylod, Mrs. O. S. Tyson, Mrs. Baltus B. Van Kleeck, Major George B. Waterman.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned.

J. WILSON POUCHER,
Secretary.

ANNUAL MEETING

MAY 21, 1937

The annual meeting of the Dutchess County Historical Society was held on May 21, at 11 o'clock at the Nelson House, Poughkeepsie. There was an attendance of fifty-two members.

The meeting was opened by the President.

The minutes of the semi-annual meeting, held October 16, 1936, and the minutes of the meeting of the Board of Trustees, held on January 7, were read and approved.

The Treasurer's report was given by Mrs. Waterman and was accepted as read. It follows these minutes.

The Secretary reported that the society had received the following items by gift and exchange:

New York History, the quarterly of the New York Historical Association; The Quarterly Bulletin of the Westchester County Historical Society, The Proceedings of the Ulster County Historical Society, Bulletin of the Fort Ticonderoga Museum, New York Historical Society quarterly bulletin, Utah Genealogical and Historical Magazine, Publications of the Order of Colonial Lords of America, consisting of 18 pamphlet volumes.

The Secretary reported that the society had lost a few members by

resignation and the following members by death: Mr. William L. Bosworth, Mr. Jacob Brill, vice-president representing the Town of Beekman; Mr. Horace J. Curry, Mrs. Joseph Flagler, Mrs. Richard J. Maloney, Mrs. George Naylor, Jr.; Mr. H. Pendleton Rogers, Miss Anna M. Sewell, Miss Frances E. White.

Miss Reynolds, for the Year Book Committee, reported that the material already in the course of preparation promised an interesting number this year.

Miss Reynolds also reported for the Pilgrimage Committee. She said that some tentative plans had been discussed for a trip to the southern part of the county but that definite arrangements had not yet been made.

The motion was made and seconded that the Secretary cast one ballot for the re-election of the present officers and the trustees whose terms of office expire in 1937. The name of Mr. Raymond Guernsey was proposed to succeed Mrs. Gerald Morgan whose term had expired. Mrs. Jacob S. Brill, of Poughquag, was nominated for the office of vice-president representing the Town of Beekman, to succeed Mr. Jacob S. Brill, who had died March 7, 1937. The

officers were elected with these additions.

The following list of names was presented and elected to membership:

Life Members: Mr. Melbert B. Cary, Jr.; Mrs. Melbert B. Cary, Jr.; Dr. Chester O. Davison, The Rev. William Bancroft Hill, D. D.; Miss Jennie H. Kinkead.

Annual members: Mr. John F. Barringer, Miss Ellen C. Bartlett, Mr. Clifford Buck, Mr. Albert J. Caldwell, Mr. Miles Carroll, Mrs. Miles Carroll, Mrs. Edward F. Cary, Mr. Chester G. Cobb, Mrs. Lewis Coldwell, Miss Georgianna Conrow, Mrs. John W. Courtney, Miss Josephine Duell, Mr. Edwin K. Dusenbury, Mr. David G. Dutton, Mrs. David G. Dutton, Miss Eloise Ellery, Mr. William Exton, Jr.; Mr. Stanley B. Finch, Mrs. G. A. Hadsell, Mr. Paul D. Hasbrouck, Mr. Thomas M. Hills, Miss Edith F. Hitchcock, Mr. E. Stuart Hubbard, Miss Lucy E. Jackson, Mr. Robert F. Knox, Mr. John McAndrew, Miss Alberta F. Matthews, Mrs. H. A. McLaughlin, Mr. Charles A. Meade, Miss Elizabeth Meade, Mr. Samuel A. Moore, Mrs. Carl J. Mund, Mrs. Horatio Nelson, Miss Elizabeth O'Connell, Miss Mary L. Overocker, Miss Jessie P. Pelton, Mr. Henry P. Perry, Miss Ruth Plantinga, Mrs. Howard Platt, Mrs. H. W. Pulver, Mr. John Preston, Miss Rebecca H. Rider, Mrs. Frank Rieser, Mr. Elijah T. Russell, Mrs. H. Landon B. Ryder, Mrs. Grover H. Schatz, Mrs. Leland H. Shaw, Mrs. R. G. Simonds, Mrs. Frank

S. Snyder, Mr. Arthur Stout, Mr. Gilbert Stoutenburgh, Dean C. Mildred Thompson, Dr. James J. Toomey, Major Francis B. Warring, Mrs. Hal R. West, Mr. John Wilkie, Dr. Alice Stone Woolley.

A resolution on the death of Dr. LeRoy, which had been prepared by Mr. De La Vergne and Dr. Ashley, was read by Dr. Ashley. This resolution was adopted and ordered inscribed in the minutes:

WHEREAS: The Dutchess County Historical Society has met with a great loss in the death of Irving Deyo Le Roy, M. D., on May 21, 1936, at the age of seventy-seven years. There be it

RESOLVED: That we his fellow members, place upon the records the following minute, as an expression of our deep appreciation of his services covering a period of twenty-two years. Dr. Le Roy attended the organization meeting held April 28, 1914, at the Pleasant Valley Free Library, Pleasant Valley, New York, and was appointed a member of the committee to draw up by-laws.

May 26, 1914, the name Dutchess County Historical Society was adopted and Dr. Le Roy was elected treasurer.

April 24, 1919, Dr. Le Roy was elected one of six trustees.

October 19, 1928, the old by-laws were rescinded and new by-laws adopted: "The Board of Trustees shall consist of . . . The President, ex-officio, the Vice-President-at-large, the Secretary, the Treasurer and sixteen Trustees." So Dr. Le Roy continued as a trustee.

May 20, 1932, Dr. Le Roy, in appreciation of his long and valued service, was elected an honorary member, and a new treasurer was elected in place of Dr. Le Roy.

Dr. Le Roy was born at Highland, Ulster County, New York, April 18, 1859, and came of an old French family. He established his office in Pleasant Valley, New York, in 1884, practicing out of that office for over forty years, until his retirement. He was a member of the Dutchess County Medical Society, one of the founders of the New York State Medical Association, also the American Medical Association.

RESOLVED: That a page in the minute book of the society be set aside and a copy of this resolution be placed thereon.

DUTCHESS COUNTY HISTORICAL
SOCIETY,

W. Willis Reese,
President.

Dated, May 21, 1937.

Mr. Reese read a communication from the Women's City and County Club recommending a guide to Dutchess County printed by the club and based on the work of the Writers' Project of the W. P. A.

Miss Reynolds took the occasion to explain that June 9, 1937 would mark the 250th anniversary of the first settlement, of which there is authentic record, on land in Poughkeepsie. For that reason the spring meeting was being held in Poughkeepsie this year and in celebration of this anniversary the society was presenting Mr. Edmund Platt, author of *The Eagle's History of Poughkeepsie*, as the speaker at the luncheon which followed the business meeting.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned to the dining room where 172 members enjoyed the address, given by Mr. Platt, on early days in Poughkeepsie.

J. WILSON POUCHER,
Secretary.

MEETING OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES

SEPTEMBER 23, 1937

A meeting of the Board of Trustees of the Dutchess County Historical Society was held on Thursday afternoon, September 23, in the local history room of the Adriance Memorial Library, Poughkeepsie.

Present: President Reese, Trustees Baldwin, Bogle, Guernsey, Mylod and Reynolds and the Secretary and the Treasurer.

Miss Reynolds, for the Pilgrim-

age Committee, reported on the recent successful pilgrimage and read a letter which she had received from Dr. Slocum. It was voted that a letter be sent by the Secretary expressing to Dr. and Mrs. Slocum the society's appreciation of the courtesies and cooperation extended on this occasion.

The Secretary was also instructed to express to Colonel Spingarn the thanks of the society for the

great pains he had taken to prepare his instructive and interesting address.

It was voted that the Secretary write to the Reverend A. O. Tritsch expressing regret that it had not been possible for all of the members of the party to visit St. Luke's Church on that occasion.

It was moved and seconded that letters of thanks be sent to Mr. and Mrs. Stephen W. Blodgett thanking them for their hospitality and to Dr. Ashley and Mr. de la Vergne in appreciation of their thoughtfulness in providing the windshield stickers for the cars in the procession.

The Secretary announced that the society had lost a member of the Board of Trustees in the death of Mr. Tracy Dows. It was moved that a nominating committee be appointed, to report at the next meeting. Mr. Guernsey, Dr. Baldwin and Mrs. Waterman were appointed to serve on this committee.

The matter of copyrighting the material in the year book was discussed and Mr. Guernsey and Mr. Bogle were appointed a committee to look into the matter and report at the next meeting.

Miss Reynolds spoke of the 150th anniversary of the ratification of the Constitution by New York State which took place in Poughkeepsie in July 1788, and which should be celebrated in 1938. It was the opinion of the trustees that this might be a date for a state celebration and it was voted that the Secretary communicate with Dr. Alexander C. Flick, New York State Historian, and with Dr. Dix-

on Ryan Fox, president of the New York State Historical Association, offering the cooperation of the society in any sort of celebration which might be planned by the State of New York.

Miss Reynolds also reported on the plans for the fall meeting. She stated that through the courtesy of Mr. Samuel Deuel the society had been invited to hold its meeting in the auditorium of the Pine Plains Central School building and that lunch could be served in the cafeteria of the school. She also reported that Miss Elizabeth Bockée would prepare and read a paper on the history of Pine Plains and its vicinity and that Mrs. Joseph T. Tower, the present owner of the Bockée homestead at Shekomeko had invited the members to visit that house which was built about 1815.

The following new members were proposed and elected:

Life members: Mr. James Mc Vickar Breed, Dr. Ralph A. Hayt.

Annual members: Mr. W. A. Aurswald, Dr. A. L. Baker, Miss Ruth E. Barlow, Mr. John Donaldson, Mr. Joseph Emsley, Mr. Gifford C. Ewing, Mr. Gerald Foster, Mrs. Julius Haight, Miss Ethel E. Howe, Mr. R. P. Huntington, Mrs. Earl D. Ketcham, Miss Angelica Livingston, Mrs. Edwin K. Losee, Mrs. Andrew G. Mund, Mrs. John H. Poit, Mrs. Frank S. Reveley, Mrs. John E. Richardson, Mr. William Seabrook, Mrs. T. W. Stephens, Miss Ada Thurston, Mrs. Zilpha Todd, Mr. B. C. Tousey, Mrs. Carrie Van Benschoten, Mrs. John Wins-

low, Mr. Orville R. Wright, Mrs. Orville R. Wright.

There being no further business,

the meeting adjourned.

J. WILSON POUCHER,
Secretary.

SEMI-ANNUAL MEETING

OCTOBER 16, 1937

The semi-annual meeting of the Dutchess County Historical Society was held on Saturday, October 16, at 11.30 o'clock at the Pine Plains Central School, Pine Plains, New York. There was a large attendance of members and guests.

The meeting was opened by the President.

The minutes of the annual meeting, held May 21, 1936, and of the meeting of the Board of Trustees, held September 23, were read and approved.

The Secretary reported that the society had received the following items by gifts and exchange:

New York History, the quarterly of the New York State Historical Association

New York Historical Society quarterly bulletin

Bulletin of the Fort Ticonderoga Museum

The quarterly bulletin of the Westchester County Historical Society

Columbia County Historical Society quarterly

Topographical Dictionary of 2885 English Emigrants to New England, 1620-1650, by Charles Edward Banks. Edited, indexed and published by E. E. Brownell, Philadelphia, 1937, The gift of Mr. Elijah E. Brownell.

Augustus Porter, a biography, the gift of Mr. Victor Hugo Paltsits

Twin Forts of the Popolopen, Forts Clinton and Montgomery, New York, 1775-1777, by William H. Carr and Richard J. Koke. (Historical Bulletin, No. 1, of the Bear Mountain Trailside Museums, July, 1937.)

Private and Family Cemeteries in the Borough of Queens, the gift of the Queens Borough Public Library

Far Rockaway in Reminiscence, by Valentine W. Smith, the gift of the Queens Borough Public Library

Two sheets of Continental currency, the gift of Mr. Alexander L. Wyant of Red Hook.

List of Patents of Lands, &c., to be sold in January, 1822, for arrears of Quit Rent. The gift of Elijah E. Brownell.

The Secretary also reported that there had been a few resignations and that the society had lost the following members by death:

Mrs. John Jay Chapman, Mr. Tracy Dows, Mrs. Frank L. Gardner, Mr. Thomas R. Moore, Mr. Henry J. Taylor, Miss Jenny B. Thurston, Mr. Louis DuBois Watson.

The report of the Treasurer was

given by Mrs. Waterman. It was accepted and follows these minutes.

Miss Reynolds, for the Year Book Committee, reported that the material was in the hands of the printer and that the volume would be ready for distribution at the usual time.

Miss Reynolds also reported for the Pilgrimage Committee. She said that there had been a large attendance and that those present had very much enjoyed the hospitality of Dr. and Mrs. Slocum, Mr. Tritsch and Mr. and Mrs. Blodgett, as well as the interesting address given by Colonel Spingarn which appears in this issue of the Year Book.

The committee appointed to secure a register of the persons attending the recent pilgrimage reported that a partial list had been made. Mr. Atkins suggested that the members attending might be asked to send the names of guests to the secretary and that the guests might be invited to join the society.

The committee appointed to obtain information with regard to having the year book copyrighted was not yet ready to report and asked to have this committee continued. Miss Reynolds explained that material from the year book had been reprinted without giving credit to the source and without the consent of the society and that the trustees felt that the year book should be copyrighted.

Dr. Baldwin reported for the Nominating Committee and presented the name of Mr. Charles M. de la Vergne as a trustee to

succeed Mr. Tracy Dows.

Dr. Poucher, as Secretary, reported that he had written to Dr. Alexander C. Flick, New York State Historian, and to Dr. Dixon Ryan Fox, president of the New York State Historical Association, offering the cooperation and assistance of the society in any celebration which the State of New York might plan for the 150th anniversary of the ratification of the Constitution which occurred at Poughkeepsie July 26, 1788. He said that no definite arrangements for such a celebration had yet been made but that a commission was usually appointed by the state to take care of such celebrations and that the cooperation and assistance of the Dutchess County Historical Society would be appreciated. Dr. Baldwin suggested that the history department of Vassar College would also be willing to cooperate.

It was moved and seconded that a committee be appointed to prepare a resolution expressing the sense of loss felt by the society in the death of Mr. Tracy Dows, a member of the Board of Trustees.

The name of Mr. Charles M. de la Vergne was proposed as a member of the Board of Trustees, Class of 1939, to fill the vacancy occasioned by the death of Mr. Dows. There were no other nominations and Mr. de la Vergne was elected.

The election of thirty members at the meeting of the Board of Trustees, held September 23, was confirmed and the following new members were proposed and elected: Mr. Henry Billings, Miss

Catherine W. Bockée, Mrs. Cheseborough Davison, Mrs. Samuel Deuel, Mrs. Thomas J. Ehleide, Professor Emerson D. Fite, Mrs. Frances B. Garrison, Mrs. William J. Godding, Mrs. Clarence Harris, Miss Elizabeth Horsfall, Mrs. Eliot Smith, and Mrs. Myles Standish.

A motion was made and seconded that the society pass a vote of congratulation and thanks to the committee in charge of the recent 250th Anniversary Celebration in Poughkeepsie.

It was also voted that a message of greeting and congratulation be extended to the Presbyterian Church at Pleasant Plains which was planning to celebrate its 100th anniversary on October 17.

Resolutions were passed expressing the thanks of the society to Mr. Samuel Deuel and others at Pine Plains whose efforts and hospitality had contributed to the success of the meeting, and to Mrs. Joseph T. Tower, the present owner of the Bockée homestead at Shekomeko, who had made arrangements for the society to visit the place.

At the conclusion of the business meeting, Mrs. Charlotte Tuttle, representing the county library committee of the Women's Ctiy

and County Club, addressed the audience on the subject of county libraries and the need for a county library in Dutchess County.

The meeting adjourned to the school cafeteria where about 150 people were served with a cafeteria lunch, after which the audience re-assembled in the auditorium and enjoyed an interesting and instructive paper given by Miss Elizabeth Bockée on the history of Pine Plains and its vicinity. Following the reading of the paper a rising vote of thanks to Miss Bockée concluded the meeting.

The members and their guests then departed for the Bockée homestead at Shekomeko, which had been built about 1815 by Abraham Bockée. There were seventy cars in the procession. Before the visitors entered the house Mrs. Kathryn Duryea, a descendant of Judge Bockée, read the description of the home from the book, *Dutchess County Doorways*, (pp. 55-57) by Miss Helen Wilkinson Reynolds. After visiting the house and inspecting the exhibit of silver, furniture and manuscripts which Mrs. Tower had arranged, the company dispersed at their convenience.

J. WILSON POUCHER,
Secretary.

SEMI-ANNUAL REPORT
of the TREASURER of the
DUTCHESS COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

MAY 21, 1937

PERMANENT ACCOUNT

Balance on hand October 16, 1936.....	\$ 542.52
Receipts from interest	17.12
Receipts from Life Memberships	125.00
	\$ 684.64

CHECKING ACCOUNT

Balance on hand October 16, 1936	\$1,559.20
Received in dues	973.00
Received from sale of Year Book.....	5.00
	\$2,537.20

DISBURSEMENTS TO DATE

1936	
Oct. 22—Guests tickets, fall luncheon	\$ 3.00
Oct. 26—Reply-postals, fall luncheon.....	6.50
Oct. 26—Postage, post cards	22.39
Nov. 24—Engraving plates, Year Book	74.27
Dec. 15,—Editorial work on Year Book	200.00
Dec. 21—Postage and express, Year Books.....	31.71
Dec. 21—Printing Year Book.....	383.26
Dec. 21—Binding Year Book	53.90
Dec. 21—Contribution to Glebe House.....	120.00
Dec. 21—1,000 envelopes	33.15
Dec. 24—Addressing Year Books	12.55
1937	
Jan. 7—Honorarium, Treasurer	50.00
Jan. 7—Honorarium, Assistant Secretary	50.00
Jan. 8—Honorarium, Curator	25.00
Mch. 9—Letter-heads and envelopes	25.89
Apr. 9—Dues, Col. Co. Hist. Soc.	2.00
	\$1,093.62
Balance to date	\$1,443.58

Respectfully submitted,
KATHERINE B. WATERMAN,
Treasurer.

SEMI-ANNUAL REPORT
TREASURER
DUTCHESS COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

October 16, 1937

PERMANENT ACCOUNT

Balance on Hand May 21, 1937.....	\$ 684.64
Receipts in interest	6.38
Receipts from life memberships	50.00
	\$ 741.02

Checking Account

Balance on hand May 21, 1937.....	\$1,443.58
Received in dues	210.00
Received from sale of Year Book.....	2.00
Profit from sale <i>Dutchess County Guide</i>	4.65
	\$1,660.23

DISBURSEMENTS

Postage, Spring meeting	\$15.00
Guest Ticket	2.00
Printing postcards, Spring meeting.....	6.55
Helen W. Reynolds (Postage)	5.00
Honorarium, Curator	25.00
Honorarium, Secretary	50.00
Honorarium, Treasurer	50.00
Dues, New York State Historical Association.....	3.00
Photograph, letter heads, and envelopes.....	28.90
	\$ 185.45
Balance to date	\$1,474.78

Respectfully submitted,
KATHERINE B. WATERMAN,
Treasurer.

THE ANNUAL PILGRIMAGE

On Thursday, September 16th, the Dutchess County Historical Society made its Pilgrimage for 1937. The day was one of flawless sunshine, with just a suggestion of autumn in the cool air, and the scene of the pilgrimage provided all that could be desired in natural beauty.

Ninety-odd cars were present by actual count, carrying an estimated average of three pilgrims each, which large group was privileged to enjoy the generous hospitality of several members and friends of the society.

Two houses of the early nineteenth century were open to the pilgrims, one of 1800 and the other of 1821 and both in unspoiled condition. These houses are described in *Dutchess County Doorways* (Reynolds, 1931) at pages 74 and 195 so need not be referred to here in detail.

The address made by Colonel Spingarn at Craig House (formerly the estate of Henry Winthrop Sargent), where Dr. C. J. Slocum was host, is printed in full in this *Year Book* and will be found to be a mine of information in regard to early work in this county in horticulture and landscape architecture.

In the name of the society as a whole the Pilgrimage Committee records an expression of sincere appreciation of the courtesies extended throughout the day by Dr. and Mrs. Slocum, Mr. and Mrs. Blodgett and the Reverend Mr. Tritsch, all of whom contributed greatly to

the pleasure and benefit of those in attendance.

TWENTIETH PILGRIMAGE

Thursday, September 16, 1937
Daylight Saving Time
Basket Lunches

PLAN OF PILGRIMAGE

For a long time those interested in the history of Dutchess County emphasized the military and political aspects of the past. In view of that fact the pilgrimages of the Dutchess County Historical Society have been planned for several years in a way to show, by contrast, something of the cultural life of the people of this vicinity.

In the latter connection the society has visited many of the older houses in the county in order to see how and where people lived in former times. This year the program for the Pilgrimage presents an illustration of scientific and artistic development in the community in the middle of the nineteenth century.

Beginning in the 1840's the late Henry Winthrop Sargent did notable work in horticulture and landscape architecture on lands which now are within the limits of the city of Beacon. His achievements were so outstanding that they not only conferred distinction upon Dutchess County but inspired the founding of the Arnold Arboretum, that great institution at Boston of worldwide fame.

The plantings of Mr. Sargent, still lovingly cared for, are the property now of Craig House Corporation and Dr. and Mrs. C. J. Slocum will receive the members of the Historical Society at Craig House on the Twentieth Annual Pilgrimage.

The society will also be received on this Pilgrimage by the Reverend A. O. Tritsch at St. Luke's Church, Beacon, and by Mr. and Mrs. Stephen W. Blodgett at the village of Fishkill.

To all these hosts and hostesses grateful acknowledgment is here made for hospitality and cooperation.

ROUTE OF PILGRIMAGE

At 10.00 A. M. pilgrims will assemble in the city of Beacon.

Arriving on Main street, Beacon, turn south on Teller avenue, which is about a mile inland from the river. Proceed a short distance. The leader's car will be parked on Teller avenue at the end of one long block from Main street. Fall into line in order of arrival.

Please be prompt. The program for the day needs to move on schedule.

At 10:15 due at Craig House. Pilgrims will assemble on the lawn at the west side of the house, where an address will be made by Colonel J. E. Spingarn, Vice-President of the Dutchess County Historical Society for the Town of Amenia. Colonel Spingarn, a specialist in horticulture, will interpret the work that was done by Mr. Sargent and which has been continued under Dr. Slocum.

Following Colonel Spingarn's address there will be a conducted tour through the grounds and gardens, led by Mr. Frank Witney, superintendent of the estate of Craig House, assisted by Mr. Henry E. Downer, superintendent of the campus of Vassar College. Mr. Witney and Mr. Downer will point out important features.

On the grounds of Craig House Corporation stands a house, now the home of Dr. and Mrs. Slocum, which was built by Albert Chrystie in 1821. From 1833 to 1924 it was the home of Dr. James Sykes Rumsey and of his family. Structurally the house has suffered few changes and it retains original examples of designs in finish, which are characteristic of 1821, and which are particularly lovely,—such as the front door and its leaded lights, the front façade as a whole, the main stairway and some other interior details. An account of the house may be found in *Dutchess County Doorways* (page 74).

In case some pilgrims are unequal to joining in all of the main program, which calls for a walk about the grounds, Dr. and Mrs. Slocum will kindly open this beautiful old house for their enjoyment. 11:45 signal to return to cars.

12:00 leave Craig House. Follow leader.

12:15 due at the estate that was formerly owned by General Joseph E. Howland and which is now a part of the estate of Craig House.

12:15 to 1:00 a conducted tour of the grounds.

1:00 to 2:00 lunch. Dr. and

Mrs. Slocum have placed the Club House on the estate of Craig House at the disposal of the society for the lunch hour. Kindly leave no litter.

2:00 signal to return to cars.

2:15 leave the Club House. Follow the leader to St. Luke's Church. Cars will be parked along the street and pilgrims will enter the churchyard on foot, to be received by the Reverend Mr. Tritsch and to view some of Mr. Sargent's plantings. Mr. Sargent's grave is in this churchyard, as is also the grave of Chancellor Kent.

3:00 leave St. Luke's. Follow leader.

3:30 due at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Stephen W. Blodgett at the village of Fishkill. This house was built about 1800 by Richard Rapalje. It has always been lived in by owners who have given it good care. Few alterations have been made and the house is a valuable example of architecture in Dutchess of the period of the Early Republic. Mr. and Mrs. Blodgett have kindly consented to show to the society the original doorway, carved mantels and fine stairway that have survived unchanged from 1800.

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



EIGHT ANNIVERSARIES

The year 1937 has brought eight major anniversaries to Dutchess County. Listed chronologically they were:

The centennial of the Congregational Church, Poughkeepsie, celebrated September 26th-October 4th.

The centennial of the establishment of the Pawlingsville Circuit and the 128th anniversary of the incorporation of the Methodist Episcopal Church of Pawling, celebrated September 26th-October 3rd.

The 250th anniversary of the arrival of the first permanent white residents in Dutchess County, on the site of the city of Poughkeepsie, celebrated October 10th-13th.

The centennial of the Presbyterian Church of Pleasant Plains, celebrated October 17th.

The centennial of St. Paul's Protestant Episcopal Church, Pleasant Valley, celebrated October 31st.

The centennial of the Methodist Episcopal Church, Pine Plains, celebrated October 31st.

The centennial of St. Peter's Catholic Church, Poughkeepsie, celebrated November 7th-9th.

The centennial of Zion African Methodist-Episcopal Church, Poughkeepsie, celebrated November 14th-21st,

The Dutchess County Historical Society extends congratulations to all these groups of people and rejoices with them that in this county there are so many organized units, established years ago, that still are serving the community with vitality and with the prospect of long-continued usefulness.



POUGHKEEPSIE*

1687 - 1937

EDMUND PLATT

It has been a pleasure for me to wrench my mind from the tangle of economic and political matters, monetary policies and bank policies, etc., and turn again to the field which was for many years during my residence in Poughkeepsie my favorite subject for study, the early history of Poughkeepsie and Dutchess County. The beginnings of Poughkeepsie were like the sources of a river, exceedingly small. Who the first actual white settlers or squatters were in the territory laid out on the map as "The Dutchess's County" in 1683, we do not positively know, but today we properly celebrate the first actual settlers *of record* on the site of the City of Poughkeepsie. In June of 1687 two men, Baltus Barents Van Kleeck and Hendrick Jans Oostrom leased forty-eight acres of land each from Sanders and Harmense, patentees of a considerable tract of land covering most of the city, under definite contract to build houses and barns, to plant orchards, to grow wheat and to improve the property generally. The transaction is described and the lease as translated is to be found in the Year Book of the Dutchess County Historical Society for 1930. We know something about both of these two men but more about the Van Kleeck family than about the Oostrom family because it is still here and has been prominent in the neighborhood during all of the two hundred and fifty years.

It is interesting to speculate a little as to why the small settlement on the site of Poughkeepsie should have developed first into a hamlet, then into a village and then into a city. Was there anything of particular advantage in the neighborhood that would have led anybody in those early days to so much as dream that there might one day be a city of more than 40,000 people at that particular point? It was to be sure, the first settlement *of record* in the county, but it was not among the first settlements on the Hudson river and was long preceded by Kingston, or Esopus, as it was called by the Dutch. The first settlement at Poughkeepsie was not made until several years after the British had succeeded the Dutch in control of the valley of the Hudson. Esopus or

*An address delivered before the Dutchess County Historical Society at a luncheon at the Nelson House, Poughkeepsie, on May 21, 1937.

Kingston had obvious advantages because of the long valleys that converged into the valley of the Rondout. The Rondout valley itself leads between two ranges of mountains directly to the Delaware and this valley, as you all know, was for many years the site of the Delaware and Hudson Canal. The Wallkill Valley is another long broad valley with ample fertile land, and the Esopus led into the Catskill Mountains. It was natural that a trading post should have been established by the Dutch West Indies Company where these long valleys converged and emptied their waters into the Hudson. Fur trading was regarded as more important than colonizing during much of the Dutch regime, but seems to have been waning in the 1670's, when the Huguenots gave up their homes at Hurley and moved up the Wallkill to found New Paltz.

Whether fur trading with the Indians contributed to the early settlement of Dutchess we do not know, but there must have been an abundance of beavers and otters along the streams of Dutchess County, and inasmuch as the chief Dutchess County streams all run southwestward while the Orange and Ulster County streams all run northwestward it would seem to have been a little awkward to transport furs from, for instance, the mouth of the Wappingers Kill and the Fish Kill to Esopus. The topography of the country, the trend of the ranges of hills northeastward and the direction and volume of streams had something to do with early development but just how much it is hard to say.

Paul Wilstach, author of "Potomac Landings" and of "Hudson River Landings" and similar books, contrasts the Hudson with the Potomac, pointing out that along the Hudson there are no long tidal inlets such as the Rappahannock and the York rivers which extend back into the country from the Potomac. Streams that flow into the Hudson break through a barrier of hills and mountains bordering the river, with no tidal inlets of consequence. The immediate banks of the Hudson are generally not suited to agriculture and the agricultural territory is in the hinterland, in the valleys of the streams. Wilstach names fourteen streams as tributaries to the Hudson on the west side of the river and fifteen on the east side, and says that where these streams empty into the river landings were established from which the agricultural produce of the interior was shipped by sloops and later by steamers to New York. At each of those landings villages developed, some of which became cities. In Dutchess County he names the Fish Kill, Wappingers Kill, Jan Caspar's Kill, the Fall Kill, Crum Elbow Creek, Landsmans Kill, Stony

Creek and the Roeliff Jansen Kill, the last of which was the northern boundary of the county. He might perhaps have added that landings were later established at a good many other points, such as Milton, Marlboro and Highland where the streams were too small to be mentioned, though they did afford grades not too steep for access to the river. The Highland Landing, originally called New Paltz Landing, opposite Poughkeepsie was something of a factor in the development of Poughkeepsie. Certainly the gap through the Ulster hills contributed to later development, being first occupied by the road to New Paltz, which became a turnpike about 1830, and later by the Central New England Railroad, leading to the Poughkeepsie bridge.

We may conclude, therefore, that topography did play a part in the development of the village and city at this point, but politics, or political selection, can build cities as well as topography. Washington, the capital of our country is an outstanding example. When the county of Dutchess was organized, 1715-1717, although Poughkeepsie was still a very small hamlet, it seems to have been the "most convenient place" on account of its central location with relation to the north and south boundaries of the county, and easy access to the interior, for a county seat. The first Court House was built about 1720. The Dutch Church was organized in 1716 and the first church building was finished in 1723. With these organizations well started and with saw mills and flour mills along the streams the future development of the town was perhaps assured. However, growth of the hamlet was very slow for a long time. The population of the county nearly doubled between 1749 and 1756 (when it reached 14,157) but, when Rev. Samuel Seabury, rector of St. George's Church, Hempstead, Long Island, visited Dutchess County in 1756 and subsequent years he found an encouraging number of people who desired the establishment of an English Church, although neither he nor the people could determine where to locate it. Evidently Poughkeepsie was not so outstanding at that time and ten years later, when the Rev. John Beardsley finally organized congregations in Poughkeepsie, Fishkill, Nine Partners and Beekman, the matter of his residence at Poughkeepsie was for some time in dispute and was apparently determined by the fact that some of the most substantial contributors, notably Bartholomew Crannell, lived in or near Poughkeepsie. The Glebe House was erected in 1767, and is still standing. An English School was built soon afterwards, but the Poughkeepsie parish was not able to

build a church until 1772.

When the first settlers came to the site of Poughkeepsie was the whole territory covered with woods and did they have to clear the land before they could do any farming? This has been the general belief and is doubtless substantially true but there is evidence that there was some cleared land along the streams and common meadow land is mentioned in the early leases. The Hudson River Indians, according to the accounts of the early navigators from Hudson on, did considerable cultivating and had stores of corn, beans and pumpkins. Forest fires were not unknown in the early days and I think it is quite possible that some of the easily accessible timber adjacent to the river and larger streams had already been cut—in short that there was not quite so much primeval forest as has generally been supposed.

In December of 1743 a new Court House was authorized and seems to have been finished about 1750. This was the building that stood through the Revolution but was not the building in which the Constitutional Convention was held in 1788. The village itself was built on the hill with a few houses at the landing, and a leading factor was the Post Road, though for many years it was little more than a horseback trail which furnished the means of communication between New York and Albany during the periods when the river was closed with ice. I have seen no record of stage coaches before the Revolution. Rough roads had been developed into the interior of the county by the time the Court House and first churches were built, and before the Revolution there were at least two additional roads built to landings at the river, roads that afterwards became Union Street and Pine Street. The river trade and the landings at Poughkeepsie had become important contributors to the upbuilding of the town.

It was the Revolution, however, that brought the first real period of growth to Poughkeepsie. In 1776 before the British had taken possession of New York City preparations were made to build two frigates in Poughkeepsie, and iron was shipped up from New York and lumber from General Schuyler's mills near Saratoga. Later in the year when the British had occupied New York General Washington ordered fire-rafts to be built which could be floated down to damage the British ships, and Poughkeepsie became the center of plans for defense of the Hudson. The British expedition in the fall of 1777 which resulted in the burning of Kingston left Poughkeepsie practically unscathed, and the newly or-

ganized Legislature having been driven out of Kingston necessarily came to Poughkeepsie, Albany then being regarded as too far away. Legislators, lawyers and business men flocked to the little town and between 1770 and 1790 the number of houses in the central section of Poughkeepsie had almost doubled. George Clinton, the first Governor of the State, lived here for a number of years and there were constant visits from prominent Revolutionary leaders, including John Jay and occasionally General Washington himself.

After the British had evacuated New York, November 25, 1783, the Legislature returned to New York but the state offices remained in Poughkeepsie for several years. Among the prominent lawyers was James Kent, afterwards the noted chancellor of the state and author of Kent's Commentaries. He came here in 1781 to study law in the office of Egbert Benson. From 1785 on Poughkeepsie had its own newspaper and when parties began to be organized toward the end of the century had two newspapers. Apparently the first stages to operate regularly on the Post Road between New York and Albany began about 1785 with trips once a week.

The most notable event that ever took place in Poughkeepsie was, of course, the Constitutional Convention which met in the summer of 1788. The old Court House in which the Legislature had met during the Revolution burned in 1785 and a new one was finished by the end of 1787, and the Legislature met again in Poughkeepsie in January of 1788. I need not rehearse again the interesting and very important incidents of the Constitutional Convention, except perhaps to remind you that a considerable majority of the Delegates had been elected to oppose the ratification of the Constitution under the leadership of Governor George Clinton. The eloquence of Alexander Hamilton, of John Jay, and the logic of events, finally prevailed and after a session of more than a month the Constitution was ratified by the very narrow majority of three votes, several of the Dutchess County delegation changing their opposition to support. The centenary of this great event was celebrated in Poughkeepsie in 1888 and I presume that this society will sponsor a celebration of the 150th anniversary next year.

There is not time to go into much detail of the later history of the city and I can only pick out the high spots. As I have already said, the town was built, first, on the comparatively flat land at the top of the hill in the very neighborhood in which we are now assembled. Most of the

land between Market Street and the river was open until after 1800, in which year Main Street was extended to the river, and soon afterwards several new streets were laid out and the several river landings were further developed. By 1813 we are told that five "serpentine roads" led to the river and eight large sloops were sailing weekly to New York.

Robert Fulton's first steamboat "The Clermont" came up the river to the wonderment of all the people in 1807, and within two years steamboats were running regularly and after 1811 began to land at Poughkeepsie, though for many years later sloops did most of the freighting business. Sizeable store houses were built at the foot of Mill Street, at the foot of Union Street and at the foot of Pine Street and later at the foot of Main Street and there was considerable rivalry between these landings. The Main Street landing did not amount to very much until after the steamboats became important, and the upper and lower landings did the larger part of the freighting business for many years.

Meanwhile mills and small factories of various kinds sprang up along the Fall Kill and became particularly active after the embargo and the cutting off of imports during the War of 1812. There were not only grist mills and flour mills and saw mills but a nail factory or two, a woolen mill and even a cotton mill. The first bank, a branch of the Manhattan Company of New York, was opened in 1809, and the first local bank in 1811.

The history of the waterfront of Poughkeepsie and of the industries that developed along the Fall Kill is an epitome of the industrial history of the United States. What tremendous changes have taken place even within my own memory and the memory of many of you here present! When I was a boy, old enough to explore accessible parts of the city, say in the late 1870s and early 1880s, our family lived in Eastman Terrace within easy walking distance of the river and I used to prowl around the waterfront south of Main Street considerably. Beginning at the south end of the city there was first the rolling mill, later the Phoenix Horse-shoe Works, occupying a point of land across the railroad track from the Rural Cemetery. A little south of that and outside of the city a favorite fishing place was Sun Fish Cove, considerably narrowed by the four tracking of the railroad. On the rolling mill property was standing the old Henry Livingston house which was famous because of the fact that a cannon ball had been fired into it during Vaughn's raid up the river in October, 1777. Northward from the rolling mill there was

nothing until you reached Fox's Point, which in those days was something of a picnic resort and had a summer house on it. Further north and about opposite where Vassar Hospital now stands was Polk's ship yard in which we frequently used to watch the building of boats, some of them of considerable size. In the 1870s the first caissons for the Poughkeepsie Bridge pier were built there. As the company failed, I have been told Mr. Polk never got paid for them. Next to the ship yard going northward was the Collingwood Lumber Yard, long a thriving establishment and connected with it were coal yards. Some of the old store houses of the old Pine Street Landing, or lower landing, were still standing and I think steamboats were still landing there. I remember a barkentine or brigantine with a square rigged foremast at the foot of Pine Street loaded with ice which we were told came from Maine. This was an unusual vessel in Poughkeepsie and lay there a week. We boys were allowed to climb into the rigging and I remember climbing up the shrouds or rope ladder to the foremast and "laying out" on yard arms. It was perhaps a dangerous thing to do and probably would not be allowed in these days but it was fun. Next came the large buildings of Adriance Platt & Company or the Buckeye Mowing Machine Works, and a little further north the Lower Furnace.

The old Union landing at the foot of Union Street had long before given way to the Lower Furnace which had been started about 1848. The furnace was a constant source of delight to the boys of the day. Its outlying structures were somewhat rickety in my day but we were allowed to climb to the top of the stacks and stand in awe of the great blowing engines and even to watch the charging of the stacks, and we often watched the streams of slag and of molten iron flowing into the molds below. It was a delightfully mysterious process and the whole place had an air of mystery about it. I recall distinctly the snorting of the old blowing engines which reverberated through the town at night and how the skies were lighted up when the caps of the stacks were lifted to let off burning gas or to put in the charges of ore, coal and limestone. Great fleets of canal boats lined the wharf in front of the furnace, and the wharves held huge piles of coal in coarse lumps, of ore and of limestone. The canal boats were always interesting and I often watched them unload. Coal came from Pennsylvania through the Delaware and Hudson Canal to Rondout. Limestone came from the neighborhood of Glens Falls through the Champlain Canal, and some of the ore used

came from Port Henry on Lake Champlain. Some of it also came from the Forest of Deane mines in the Highlands nearly opposite West Point, and some came from the neighborhood of Sylvan Lake in Dutchess County. Up to the time I was ten years old I lived on Hamilton Street, corner of Church, and I have some hazy recollection of the big ore teams that came through the Plank Road, now Hooker Avenue, and went down Montgomery Street to the river and to the furnace. Probably some of you will tell me that that was before my day, and it is a fact that I seem to remember some things that certainly happened before I was born. The last iron was made at the lower furnace in 1885 and two generations have grown up who do not remember it. The site is, of course, now occupied by the Poughkeepsie Yacht Club and a little further northward by the Standard Oil Company. We used to climb around over Call Rock and down to the Main Street landing where there was always a steamboat loading to sail for New York early in the evening. There was a big store house there and the old hotel known as the Exchange House which many of you doubtless remember. Steamboats, Mary Powell in the early morning and early evening; the "noon boats;" in the afternoon the Eagle and the Martin of the Newburgh and Albany Line.

The ferry did not land at Main Street in those days but at the Upper Landing where the Electric Light plant now is. I was not so familiar with the territory north of Main Street, but, according to my recollection, the first establishment of any consequence was Foster's coal yard, which occupied the site of the present Day Line landing.

Just to the north of this were the large buildings of the Vassar Brewery, for many years a land mark on the river, and which were at that time still operating though with much reduced business. Oliver H. Booth was the manager of the brewery at that time and in the winter when the river was frozen it was headquarters for ice yachting. I do not need to remind you that this brewery made the fortune of Matthew Vassar who founded Vassar College. The buildings were finally demolished in 1910 and a whole generation of young people has grown up who never saw them. Whether there was anything between the brewery property and the Arnold Lumber yard, I do not remember but just before we came to the mouth of the Fall Kill were the buildings of the Gifford, Sherman and Innis dyewood mills which had been one of the most prosperous industries of the city. George Innis who was three

times Mayor of the city, beginning in 1863, was at the head of this industry and with him was associated his brother, Aaron Innis, who was afterwards to become my father-in-law. The dyewood mills used water power from the Fall Kill when there was enough water. I do not know whether any of them are still standing. The largest building of the group was torn down when the Hudson River Railroad was four tracked. Here again was a source of interest to small boys. The dyewood industry brought in shiploads of logwood from the West Indies. The mills also ground licorice and handled some other products from the West Indies. The mouth of the Fall Kill was called Innis's slip and in my day Dick Knight rented row boats there which we often patronized. The slip was wide enough and deep enough to admit the schooners which brought in the logwood.

This was, of course, the original Poughkeepsie landing neighborhood, the Upper Landing, and there just north of the slip were the store houses which in earlier days had belonged to James Reynolds. The neighborhood had a long history beginning with the event which we celebrate today, supposing that Miss Helen Reynolds is correct in her assumption that Baltus Van Kleeck and Hendrick Oostrom landed on the strand or beach at the mouth of the Fall Kill. A succession of mills and store houses was built in this neighborhood from very early days.

Just beyond the old store houses which were on the site now occupied by the power house of the Central Hudson Gas and Electric Company, was the ferry landing and the club house of the Apokeepings Boat Club. The old store house at the Upper Landing was burned in July 1891 and on its site the first power house was erected in 1894. Northward from the high cliff on which the bridge pier rests was a territory that I was not so familiar with. Here, however, at the foot of Hoffman Street in the early days was the ship yard of the Dutchess Whaling Company from which in the 1840s ships sailed on long voyages, some of them around Cape Horn, bringing back barrels of whale oil and whale bone. In my day that was the site of the glass works and still further north was the Upper Furnace. The Dutton Lumber Company now occupies the site of both these earlier industries. The Upper Furnace was of more modern construction than the Lower Furnace and continued to make iron down well into the present century. Its most modern stack could produce four times as much iron as the old stacks at the Lower Furnace, but it could not compete with Pittsburgh and was

finally in common with most of the other Hudson River iron furnaces abandoned and torn down. The Tower family which owned and managed the furnaces was long prominent in Poughkeepsie but no members of it remain here.

Continuing the review of the old time industries, it may be interesting to proceed up the Fall Kill from the Innis dyewood plant. One of the Innis mills stood on the hill east of the railroad track. A little further along were the Pelton carpet mills and a pin factory and across the street was and still is St. Peter's Church. Beyond the carpet mills was Pelton's Pond which in my early days seemed quite a sizeable body of water. I suppose there are a good many young people who do not remember it as it was finally drained and filled in in 1899, the carpet mills having been abandoned in 1891. Proceeding up stream from Pelton's Pond there was still standing at the time I wrote my history of Poughkeepsie a building which was established about 1811 as a cotton factory by David and Benjamin Arnold. David Arnold was the grandfather of Charles N. Arnold who was for many years proprietor of a lumber yard and was Mayor of the city in 1895. Going on up the Fall Kill at the Washington Street bridge stood Parker's mill, and going further up to the neighborhood of Clinton Street the Red Mills and another mill pond, the Winnikee Pond.

I won't go into more detail, but the rise and fall of these numerous industries is an interesting study of itself. The Hudson River Railroad was built to Poughkeepsie in 1850-51 but the railroad did not destroy the business of the steamboats, and it seems hard to believe that having survived that competition the steamboats finally have given way to the automobile and motor truck. The river has lost most of its importance to Poughkeepsie and even great industries like the De Laval Separator Company which extends nearly a mile along the waterfront make little or no use of the river. It is, however, the leading factor in the Dutton Lumber Company which receives its lumber by steamship from the Pacific Coast.

After the Poughkeepsie Bridge was built in 1888 the coal and lumber yards were mostly moved from the river front to the neighborhood of the Central New England Railroad station at the top of the hill.

The industries that depended upon the Fall Kill for power are all gone and few, if any, of their buildings are left standing. Gone also long since are the old wagon makers and harness makers and also the tanner-

ies, one or two of which notably Southwick's were located near the river front. The old wagon factories were mostly located on Main Street east of Hamilton. They were gone before the days of the automobile, due to the competition of factory made wagons mostly from large factories in the west. One of the notable enterprises in Poughkeepsie long since passed away was the Whitehouse shoe factory which started in Civil War days on upper Main Street at White Street. There were other lesser shoe factories, knitting mills and a variety of other industries most of which have passed away.

A considerable part of the growth of Poughkeepsie I think must be attributed to the enterprise of its inhabitants. The Poughkeepsie Improvement Party of the 1830s built up manufacturing industries, promoted the whaling industry, encouraged the private schools, laid out new streets and started a real estate boom which incurred the criticism of some of the newspapers of New York City, notably the Evening Post. The era of important private schools in Poughkeepsie began before the days of the Improvement Party and lasted almost through the nineteenth century. Some of the old schools were large enough to attract pupils from a good deal of the country. The Grecian building which topped College Hill for so many years was the most notable monument of the private school era and stood long after William W. Smith purchased the hill and gave it to the city for a public park. The building burned in 1917. Riverview, however, was torn down more recently, and Eastman College which had at one time more students than any other educational institution in the country, though it never had any very outstanding buildings, has also disappeared. Harvey G. Eastman, one of the most enterprising of Poughkeepsie's citizens, whose name is perpetuated in Eastman Park, was the leader in the booming days preceding the panic of 1873. He was the leading spirit in obtaining the franchise for the railroad bridge, which, however, got only far enough to build one pier in the river before it was stopped by the panic. The franchise was extended chiefly through the efforts of John I. Platt and the building of the bridge which had been so long interrupted was taken up in the 1880s and finished just before the expiration of the second franchise in December 1888. The highway bridge which is doubtless better known now to most people than the railroad bridge is so recent that I have not undertaken to give its history. Both of these have contributed greatly to the continued growth of the city.

Vassar College was an outgrowth to a considerable extent of the old private school era in Poughkeepsie, as it was the private school people who interested Mathew Vassar and led him to devote his fortune to the founding of this great institution. Poughkeepsie owes a good deal to its men of wealth, notably to Mathew Vassar and to his nephews, Mathew Vassar, Jr., and to John Guy Vassar, who not only added greatly to the Vassar College endowment but built Vassar Brothers Hospital, Vassar Brothers Institute and the Vassar Old Men's Home, and contributed largely to many other charitable organizations. Smith Brothers cough drop factory is an institution which has survived and is still profitable. William W. Smith, one of its original proprietors, was one of Poughkeepsie's great philanthropists. In addition to College Hill Park, the Y. M. C. A. and other institutions were donated or built by him. The children of John P. Adriaance, owner of the Buckeye Works, built the Adriaance Memorial Library and also supported generously many other public institutions. There are others who doubtless should be mentioned if time and memory permitted.

I might say a few words about statesmen and politicians who lived in Poughkeepsie. In Revolutionary days there were the Livingstons, particularly perhaps Gilbert Livingston, and after the Revolution Zephaniah Platt (who left Dutchess County and founded Plattsburgh about 1795), Theodorus Bailey and James Kent. Bailey moved to New York and became United States Senator and he and Dewitt Clinton resigned from the U. S. Senate, one of them to become Mayor of New York City and the other Postmaster, in 1803.

Coming down a little later there were the Talmadges, General James Talmadge and Nathaniel P. Talmadge. The last mentioned was U. S. Senator and might have been President of the United States if he had been willing to take the nomination for Vice-President on the ticket with General William Henry Harrison in 1839. Smith Thompson, whose country place was bought for the Rural Cemetery, was a leading statesman of his day and was a candidate of the Adams party for Governor in 1828 and was later Secretary of the Navy. In early days Poughkeepsie was much more important politically than it is today and the Hudson River valley had more influence than it had after the western part of the state began to grow populous towns.

Coming down to recent times, however, there were several men who held positions of at least statewide influence, among them James W.

Hinckley who was chairman of the Democratic State Committee for a number of years, beginning about the time of the Governorship of David B. Hill, and still more recently my old school friend, Edward E. Perkins, who started Franklin D. Roosevelt's political career by running him for the State Senate in 1910. That brings us down to the present and I think I have touched as many of the high spots as necessary for such an occasion.

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HENRY WINTHROP SARGENT
AND THE EARLY HISTORY OF LANDSCAPE GARDENING
AND ORNAMENTAL HORTICULTURE IN
DUTCHESS COUNTY, NEW YORK*

by J. E. SPINGARN

How many of you know anything of Wodenethe or its former owner Henry Winthrop Sargent, on whose land we are now standing? Yet sixty or seventy years ago these names were known to all lovers of country life throughout the Union, and this place was visited by thousands of horticulturists and home-builders who drew their inspiration from it and carried its influence far and wide. Here Professor Charles Sprague Sargent tells us that he acquired the knowledge and ideals that made it possible for him to create the Arnold Arboretum and his own place, Holm Lea. Here H. H. Hunnewell drew the inspiration that made of his estate at Wellesley, Massachusetts, one of the leading horticultural influences of its time. We shall visit three places to-day that were developed under the guidance of Henry Winthrop Sargent: his own twenty-two acre place, Wodenethe, where we now are; Tioronda, the one-hundred acre estate of his friend and neighbor, General Joseph Howland; and St. Luke's Church, for the landscaping of which he was directly responsible.

I happened to suggest last year that the Dutchess County Historical Society should some day make a pilgrimage to these historic spots; and for no better reason than this, I have been conscripted to give you some account of Wodenethe and Tioronda, and to sketch in outline the early history of landscape gardening and ornamental horticulture in Dutchess County. Henry Winthrop Sargent lived at Wodenethe from 1841 to

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1882. This is the creative period of Wodenethe's existence from the horticultural point of view. I do not wish to make light of the good fortune that has left Wodenethe in the hands of men and women who have preserved its original beauty, and to whom we owe a debt of gratitude. But to-day we must think of the creator and experimenter who brought this thing into being, and ask ourselves how and why he did so.

I

In Dutchess County, as elsewhere in the United States, the word "garden" at first meant merely a vegetable garden, as it still does to most American farmers. Some flowers were of course grown in connection with it or elsewhere, but they did not constitute the "garden". A few flower gardens had always existed in Massachusetts, South Carolina, Virginia, and elsewhere, from the days of Governor Endicott's first flower garden, but they were exceptional, or as it were individual achievements that tell us little of the general custom. The general attitude can be judged from one of the most popular horticultural books of the early nineteenth century, Fessenden's *New American Gardener*, which was published in 1828 and reached a thirtieth edition in 1857. This was a garden dictionary in alphabetical order, devoted almost exclusively to vegetables and fruits, but admitting some account of the flower garden and pleasure grounds in two of its articles. Even this demanded some sort of apology: "Should the agriculturist have no taste for ornamental gardening, yet such is the laudable taste of the fair daughters of America at the present day that there are but comparatively few that do not take an interest in a flower garden; and this alone is a sufficient reason for the publication of these remarks." So that by 1828 the taste for flower-gardens was fairly general among the "fair daughters of America", but the deep-seated prejudice that flowers are the special province of women was an American limitation from the outset.

The oldest surviving flower garden in Dutchess County, if not the first, the Verplanck Garden at Mount Gulian in the town of Fishkill, was laid out in 1804, not by a woman but by a man, Daniel C. Verplanck; but it was his daughter Mary who later took charge of it and

brought it to perfection. From 1829 (and perhaps earlier) to 1864 the gardener of Mount Gulian was James F. Brown, an escaped slave from Maryland, so that the first professional gardener whose name is recorded in Dutchess County was a Negro.* Fortunately a diary which he kept during all those years is still in existence. I have given excerpts from it in the Appendix, and these tell more about the garden than could be learnt from any other source; but wholly apart from this, the diary itself is of extraordinary interest.

Horticulture in the general sense found its first enlightened patrons in Dr. John Bard, Dr. Samuel Bard, and Dr. David Hosack, distinguished New York physicians who successively owned the estate originally known as "Hyde Park", and now owned by Mr. F. W. Vanderbilt. Dr. John Bard acquired the place in 1772, but was soon followed by Dr. Samuel Bard, who helped found the Dutchess County Agricultural Society in 1806 and was its first president. He laid out a garden and made numerous other improvements. It is said that he built a greenhouse, perhaps the first in the county, but A. J. Downing ascribes this to his successor Dr. Hosack. Dr. Hosack was for years professor of botany in Columbia College, and founded a botanic garden in New York City where Rockefeller Centre now is. He afterwards sold it to the State, which allowed it to die,—indicating how little general interest in such things existed at the beginning of the nineteenth century.

How Dr. Hosack remade Hyde Park so that it became one of the finest country places of its time will appear later. But at the beginning the sense of landscape design, in connection with the garden or with the place as a whole, was virtually absent. At that period places simply grew; whether they grew to be beautiful or the reverse depended on the inherent taste of their owners, and not on any expert knowledge of design. Miss Reynolds, in her *Dutchess County Doorways*, has described the park-like character of DeVeaux Park near Annandale, later known as Almont, which was created between 1797 and 1812 by

*Another early gardener was James Downing, a native of Ireland, at The Locusts, Staatsburg. He worked a long time for William C. Emmet, who owned the place from 1835 to 1854, and then for the Dinsmores until 1857. Other gardeners at The Locusts are recorded in James H. Smith's *History of Dutchess County*, 1882, page 311. A. J. Downing, in *The Horticulturist*, June, 1852, says that only 3% of the working gardeners in the United States at that time were native or naturalized citizens; most of them were Irish, a few Scotch, and still fewer English or German.

Colonel Andrew De Veaux, a native of South Carolina, and this seems to have been the only estate designed in the English or so-called natural manner that existed in this region before the advent of André Parmentier in 1824. In fact, so far as I can discover, this was the earliest deliberate planning for merely aesthetic purposes in Dutchess County.

A few foreign architects and engineers had visited this country and laid out public institutions and public grounds and even in a few cases private estates before Parmentier's advent. Joseph-Jacques Ramée (1764-1842) arrived in the United States in 1811 and remained five years. During this period he designed plans for several estates and laid out the grounds of Union College at Schenectady. Still earlier Pierre-Charles L'Enfant (1754-1825), who arrived in 1777 and remained until his death, prepared a plan for the city of Washington which was in general followed, though he took no part in its carrying out after the first year or so because of his "untoward disposition". But these men were essentially engineers, architects, and town planners rather than landscape gardeners in the narrower English sense, and they had no contact with Dutchess County. There had also been a number of amateur landscape gardeners in Virginia, Pennsylvania, and perhaps other states; and Thomas Jefferson in 1806 praised the work of "Mr. Parkins, an English gentleman residing in Virginia, an excellent draftsman and skillful adept in disposing of pleasure grounds." But André Parmentier was the first man in America to call himself a "landscape gardener" by profession, and it is our fortune that he did some of his finest work in our own county.

The career of Parmentier is one of the marvels of American horticulture. He was a member of a famous family of French and Belgian horticulturists; one of them had attracted so much popular attention by his advocacy of the potato as an article of French diet that it was called *parmentière* at one time rather than *pomme de terre* and potato-soup is still known as *Potage Parmentier*. André Parmentier arrived in America in 1824 when he was over forty; he died in 1830; and in those six years he had introduced the English or so-called natural style of landscape gardening into the United States, transformed the estates of Long Island and the Hudson Valley, and left his impress on the rest of the country as well. His fame has faded because more brilliant successors took up the torch where he had laid it down and made it shine more

brightly, but no lover of Dutchess County landscape should forget his name.

He had studied in a large private park at Enghien, Belgium, then a part of Holland, of which his older brother was in charge, and had learnt both plants and landscape design in these noble surroundings. On arriving in America he purchased 25 acres in Brooklyn and started a nursery. Two nurserymen had preceded him in this state (William Prince at Flushing, Long Island, in 1725, and Thomas Hogg in New York City in 1822), but beside the new plant material he brought, he possessed a skill no one else in this country shared: he was, as I have said, our first professional landscape architect. In 1841, Andrew Jackson Downing, whom he profoundly influenced, said: "We consider Mr. Parmentier's labors and examples as having effected, directly, far more for landscape gardening in America than those of any other individual whatever."

I have no time to speak of his nursery which in 1829 contained 396 varieties of ornamental trees and shrubs, over 200 kinds of roses, and numerous greenhouse plants, many of which were quite new to the country at the time. But as a landscape gardener he introduced to America the English or natural style of landscape gardening, and his landscape plans were eagerly sought for, not only in this state, but in the South and even in Canada. I have been able to find only one country place in Dutchess County that can with certainty be said to have been laid out by him, but of this one there is no doubt, for A. J. Downing says definitely that Parmentier furnished the plans for laying out the grounds of Dr. Hosack's estate of "Hyde Park", and this became, in Downing's words, "justly celebrated as one of the finest specimens of the modern style of landscape gardening in America". The estate then contained about 700 acres, and included a superb site and fine views. Parmentier preserved the native woods and undulating grounds in their more or less natural state, but added roads, walks, drives, and new plantations, large greenhouses, a bridge over a stream, and numerous pavilions and seats, all of which aroused the admiration of Downing and became the model for much of his own work.

The English or natural style of landscape gardening had grown up in the park-like estates of England, and had won a European ascendancy, largely as the result of the writings and landscape work of Humphry Repton, the first man to assume professionally the title of "landscape

gardener".* Repton, in his *Sketches and Hints on Landscape Gardening*, published in 1795, had summed up his method in this way: "The perfection of landscape gardening consists in the four following requisites: First, it must display the natural beauties, and hide the natural defects of every situation. Secondly, it should give the appearance of extent and freedom, by carefully disguising or hiding the boundary. Thirdly, it must studiously conceal every interference of art, however expensive, by which the scenery is improved; making the whole appear the production of Nature only; and fourthly, all objects of mere convenience or comfort, if incapable of being made ornamental or of becoming proper parts of the general scenery, must be removed or concealed." Repton somewhat modified the second of these requirements by his principle of "appropriation", by which he meant that an estate could be made to seem larger by merging its boundaries with those of the surrounding country and repeating within the estate the planting found in the adjoining scenery, as in the "vistas" of Wodenethe; and the third requirement was modified by the use of various formal devices, for Repton was not as radical, or as destructive of old garden forms, as some other members of his school. But in general the principles he enunciated were those which Parmentier now attempted to introduce into this country, and all of them will be found represented here at Wodenethe and Tioronda.

Parmentier expresses this ideal in the following words: "Our ancestors gave to every part of the garden all the exactness of geometric forms; they seem to have known of no other way to plant trees except in straight lines; a system totally destructive of beauty . . . Gardens are now treated like landscapes, the charms of which are generally injured by any interference of art." This passage occurs in an article on "Landscape and Picturesque Gardens" which Parmentier wrote for Fessenden's *New American Gardener* in 1828, but the article also appeared, in the form in

*The poet Shenstone, who died in 1763, used the words "landscape or picturesque gardening" and "landscape gardener" in an essay on Gardens, but Repton deserves the credit of having defined them and made them a part of English speech. A. J. Downing's disciple, Frederick Law Olmsted, was the first to call himself a "landscape architect", and he is said to have adopted this term with great reluctance. Professor C. S. Sargent continued to object to this term to the end of his life; shortly after the World War I received a letter from him which began: "I do not know what you mean by a landscape architect, but if you mean a landscape gardener . . ." It has seemed to me appropriate to use the older term when discussing a period in which it was the only one used. I need hardly explain that the term "ornamental horticulture" is intended to exclude those departments of horticulture which deal with fruits and vegetables.

which he originally wrote it, in his own nursery catalogue in the same year. (A copy of this catalogue is now in the Brooklyn Botanic Garden, where a tablet to Parmentier's memory was erected in 1925.) But the ideal expressed in this passage was not interpreted by him in an absolute sense. He permitted the use of "rustic arbors", "rotundas", "obelisks", "columns", and even "niches for statues with drapery or for busts of celebrated personages",—those varied paraphernalia which Downing called by the general term of "embellishments".

II

It was the principles of Repton and some of his disciples, and the theory and practice of Parmentier, that determined the fate of Andrew Jackson Downing, one of the greatest of American horticulturists and the author of the most influential book on landscape gardening ever written in America; and it was Downing who was the master and guide of Henry Winthrop Sargent in the creation of Wodenethe. The facts of Downing's life are well known, but must be repeated here to round out the picture. He was born at Newburgh, N. Y., in 1815, the son of a wheelwright in Lexington, Mass., who had moved to Newburgh in 1801 and had started a nursery there. The father died in 1822, and the nursery was continued by Downing's elder brother Charles, who also became a distinguished horticulturist in his own right. Downing attended school in Montgomery, and then joined his brother in the nursery business; but on marrying a daughter of J. P. De Windt of Fishkill Landing in 1838 he bought out his brother's interest in the firm. He spent much of his time visiting estates in the Hudson Valley and on Long Island, and his tastes were refined and broadened by association with some of the prominent men of the time, including Baron de Linderer, the Austrian Consul General, whose summer home was in Newburgh, and Raphael Hoyle, an English artist who was then living there. In 1841 he published his first book, *Treatise on the Theory and Practice of Landscape Gardening Adapted to North America, with a View to the Improvement of Country Residences*, which was "respectfully and affectionately dedicated by his friend, The Author" to ex-President John Quincy Adams, who was related to Downing's wife. This book made a deep and immediate impression; it was everywhere accepted as authoritative, and received the unanimous praise of English as well as American horticulturists.

Downing says that it had only one American predecessor, Bernard McMahon's *American Gardener's Calendar*, published at Philadelphia in 1806. This work of 666 pages, which reached an eleventh edition in 1857, was the best book on general gardening written in America in the first half of the nineteenth century. It covers every phase of horticulture, vegetable garden, flower garden, nursery, orchard, greenhouse, etc., all arranged month by month according to the calendar. About eighteen pages are devoted to "Ornamental Designs and Planting", under January, and here McMahon, probably for the first time in print in America, enunciates the principles of the new English school: "In designs for pleasure-grounds, according to modern gardening, consult the rural disposition in imitation of nature; all too formal walks being almost abolished, such as long straight walks . . . as in ancient designs; instead of which are now adopted rural open spaces of grass-ground . . . and winding walks, all bounded with plantations of trees, shrubs, and flowers in various clumps."* We must salute this early and excellent garden book, but it is not a special treatise devoted exclusively to landscape gardening like Downing's.

Downing's book went through many editions, and was re-edited in 1859 by H. W. Sargent and in 1921 by F. A. Waugh. During his lifetime Downing revised and augmented the book at least twice. I have been unable to find any trace of an actual third edition, but the second edition of 1844 and the fourth edition of 1849 contain many changes; and it is surprising that no one has made a careful study of these successive revisions and additions, which not only make clear the development of Downing's thought, but give a most interesting picture of the progress of landscape gardening in America in one of its most important periods. Surely a book which Professor C. S. Sargent called "a work

*In the same year Thomas Jefferson expressed his preference for the English style of landscape gardening; whatever side of American culture one happens to study one has to go back to Jefferson. Mr. Richardson Wright has called attention to a passage in the diaries of William Dunlap in which an interview with Jefferson at Washington in 1806 is recorded: "He [Jefferson] talked of the early approach of spring, of gardening French and English, preferring the latter and praising their great taste in laying out their grounds; censuring General Mason, the proprietor of Mason's Island, for the bad taste he had displayed in laying out that charming spot." Jefferson knew McMahon, had doubtless read his book, and in a letter to Madame de Tessé in 1813 says that all the new plants discovered by the Lewis and Clark Expedition (1804-06) "are growing in the garden of Mr. McMahon, a gardener of Philadelphia, to whom I consigned them."

still without a rival in the English language" deserves more searching study than it has yet received. In 1845 he published *Fruits and Fruit Trees of America*, which for many years was the standard work on this subject; it was often reprinted during his lifetime, and after his death was revised and augmented in successive editions by his brother Charles.

In 1846 he became editor of a new periodical, *The Horticulturist*, and retained this post until his death. This paper had an enormous influence on public taste. Through it he waged an incessant battle for a great public park in New York City, and though Central Park was to be created after his death by his disciple Frederick Law Olmsted, the wide-flung system of American parks owes its real impetus to Downing's pioneer work. Olmsted dedicated one of his books to the memory of Downing in terms of the highest respect, and only when studied in connection with Downing's work of preparation does Olmsted's extraordinary achievement seem intelligible and natural. In 1851 Downing went to England and France, where he visited gardens and country places, and was lionized. There he met the young English architect Calvert Vaux whom he took with him as a partner to America, and who later became associated with Olmsted in the laying out of parks and estates. In 1851 Downing was engaged to lay out the grounds of the White House, the Capitol, and the Smithsonian Institute at Washington. He died in a steamer fire on the Hudson in 1852 before this work was started, but the ideas he had advanced were carried out by those who were chosen to undertake the task. In 1853 his editorials in the *Horticulturist* were collected by George William Curtis in a volume of *Rural Essays*, with a Memoir by Curtis which is the best and most intimate account of Downing's life, and "A Letter to his Friends" by the Swedish novelist Fredrika Bremer, who had become deeply attached to Downing during her visit to America.

I have not mentioned his books on architecture, *Cottage Residences* (1842) and *Architecture of Country Houses* (1850), the latter dedicated to H. W. Sargent, but they need not detain us here, for his work as an architect was on a vastly lower plane than his work as horticulturist and landscape gardener. "The Genius of Architecture," said Thomas Jefferson, "has shed its malediction on America"; and Mr. Lewis Mumford has described American architecture from 1820 to the Civil War as "a collection of tags thrown at random against a building". The oddities, gimcracks, and frills, and the fantastic "styles" of the period, Nor-

man, Italian, rural Gothic, pointed, bracketed, and the rest, were best forgotten; they are the analogues of H. W. Sargent's taste for horticultural oddities and freaks, of which I shall speak later. Yet despite Downing's defects as an architect, Miss Suzanne La Follette, in her *Art in America*, admits that his interiors were "somewhat less fantastic than those of his contemporaries and postulate good workmanship." The plans for laying out the grounds, in *Cottage Residences*, have the value of all of Downing's horticultural suggestions; and it is only fair to add that even in architecture his principles are often better than his practice. When one reads such statements as that "in cottages the predominant character is simplicity" and that "the highest taste will lead to the rejection of all elaborate ornament in cottages as not directly truthful and expressive", one cannot fail to be impressed until one examines the actual designs; and even the designs are somewhat simpler than those of Downing's contemporaries.

Downing's influence was exerted both by his writings and by his actual work in landscape gardening. He laid out many country places on both sides of the Hudson, as well as in other parts of the country. Mr. Richard Schermerhorn, Jr., has identified several in or near Newburgh,—Downing's own residence, which is still standing; the Chadwick Place, formerly owned by W. H. Findlay; the old Betts estate; the estate called "Danskammer", built by Edward Armstrong in the late 30's or early 40's; and possibly the David Barclay place. He laid out several places in Dutchess County, but I can find only one place that can be ascribed to him with certainty,—Blithewood, at Barrytown, then owned by Robert Donaldson, and now by Mrs. Andrew C. Zabriskie. He seems to have taken a special pride in the work at this place, for a picture of Blithewood serves as the frontispiece of his *Landscape Gardening*. But no place is a greater monument to his fame than Wodenethe, which was created by his friend and disciple H. W. Sargent.

In all these places there are fairly unmistakable signs of his presence. In most of them we find trees and shrubs massed at the boundaries of the estate, and specimens and clumps of several trees spread out at irregular intervals across and around a sweep of lawn. He gave exaggerated importance to these specimens, and he made an excessive use of structural "embellishments" such as we have seen recommended by Parmentier, but in most respects his work may be called thoroughly sound. He has been criticized by modern landscape architects for his "neglect of

formal design", but this is merely to make light of what was his real achievement, namely, that he helped to introduce into this country the ideals of the so-called natural or English school of landscape gardening. When he says of this school that in it "the spirit of nature, though softened and refined by art, always furnished the essential charm, thus distinguishing it from the French or Italian style, where one sees the effect of art slightly assisted by nature," he is striking the same keynote as was struck by his masters Repton and Parmentier in the passages I have quoted from them. But like them he was by no means one-sided; he admitted the advantage of other styles in particular situations, and borrowed ideas wherever he found them.

Above all he founded an essentially American school of landscape gardening. This nurseryman and son of a nurseryman had lived and worked with trees and shrubs from youth, and had made of himself a great horticulturist, in fact one of the greatest our country has produced, with a knowledge of plant material such as no modern landscape architect possesses. Some of this information he imparted in his *Landscape Gardening*, which contains solid accounts of all the best trees and shrubs known in his time. He was the first great American landscape architect, and by his efforts the whole face of rural America was transformed. Almost every rural home in Dutchess County was influenced by his work,* and it was the good fortune of our county that such a man came to it at such a time.

It was certainly fortunate for a young man in Amenia, at the other end of Dutchess, and he may serve to illustrate how Downing's influence permeated the farms as well as the elaborate country-seats. Myron B. Benton, the former owner of Troutbeck, was descended from a long line of capable farmers. He lived on a farm which had been acquired by his grandfather in 1794, and in a house which had been built by a Captain William Young in 1765. The young Benton was enthralled by Downing's books, and between 1855 and 1863, while he was still in his twenties, he contributed several articles to *The Horticulturist*. He followed Downing's precepts in landscaping Troutbeck to the end of his life, and his friend John Burroughs wrote of him: "Mr. Benton is a poet who

*Early editions of Downing's books are still to be found in many old homes in the county. For example, at Lithgow, the home of Mr. I. S. Wheaton between Millbrook and Amenia, the 1844 edition of the *Landscape Gardening* and the 1857 edition of the *Fruits and Fruit Trees* have been in the family library since the books were published.

writes his poetry in the landscape as well as in books; he is a beautifier of the land". Of Benton's home Burroughs said: "I first made the acquaintance of Troutbeck in 1862. It is the most beautiful farm I have ever seen." These words were an unwitting tribute to the memory of Andrew Jackson Downing.

III

This is not a study of Downing and his work, but we cannot fail to glean from the successive editions of his *Landscape Gardening* some of the information which it contains in regard to the country-seats in Dutchess County. In the first edition, published in 1841, he singles out only a few for special mention,—“Hyde Park”, which was laid out by Parmentier; Blithewood, which he had laid out himself; and “one or two old and celebrated country residences in the possession of the Livingston family near Barrytown” which “owe almost their entire beauty to nature.” Blithewood he regarded as “one of the most tasteful villa residences in the Union”, with its lawn or park studded with groups of fine trees, its walks leading in easy curves to rustic seats and summer-houses, its striking vistas, its Maltese stone vases disposed in such manner as to give a classic air to the grounds, and its entrance lodge built in the English cottage style. But much thought and labor were being expended on the country homes of Dutchess in the few years that followed, for in the second edition of the book, published in 1844, Downing is now able to say that “there is no part of the Union where the taste in landscape gardening is so far advanced as on the middle portion of the Hudson,” and that “Dutchess County, bordering the Hudson, abounds with many beautiful seats.” He mentions Montgomery Place by name, and though he now speaks of its rustic seats and arbors, its stately conservatory and flower-garden (both of which had recently been added), he still feels that the two Livingston places “owe almost their entire beauty to nature.” He adds a few more Dutchess County seats to his roll of honor, but without more than a word of description: Eilerslie, Linwood, and The Locusts, near Rhinebeck, and Netherwood and High Cliff near New Hamburg. Downing identifies these five places by the names of their owners; most of the estate names were adopted later, when this practice became the fashion.

Evidently a great deal had been done to Montgomery Place during

the 1840's, for in the fourth edition of the book, published in 1849, Downing no longer speaks of its entire beauty as due to nature, but devotes two full pages to sounding its praises, summarizing the description in his *Rural Essays*. Its new flower-garden, "one of the most perfect flower gardens in the country, laid out in the arabesque manner", its five miles of private walks and drives, its "wilderness", and other improvements combined to make Montgomery Place a country seat that "is on the whole nowhere surpassed in America in point of location, natural beauty, or the landscape gardening charms which it exhibits." I may add that between 1849 and 1859 an arboretum that H. W. Sargent called the best in the country was built up at Montgomery Place, perhaps largely due to Sargent's own example. But this is anticipating, and we must return to Downing's fourth edition. Ellerslie, then the home of William Kelly, is also given additional attention, for its "high keeping and good management", its finely placed house and park-like foreground studded with beautiful groups of oaks and elms, and its noble view: "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." Only one new place receives mention, and that is H. W. Sargent's Wodenethe, "a bijou full of interest for the lover of rural beauty, abounding in rare trees, shrubs, and plants, as well as vases and objects of rural embellishment of all kinds." By 1849, then, Wodenethe had become a place of real horticultural importance.

In the second edition of the *Landscape Gardening* Downing had added to the Appendix a "Note on Professional Quackery" in which he attacked the methods of an unnamed German landscape gardener who was doing work along the Hudson River. This was retained in all the editions published in Downing's life-time, but was dropped later. "We have seen one or two examples lately," says Downing, "where a foreign *soi-disant* landscape gardener has completely spoiled the simply grand beauty of a fine river residence by cutting up the breadth of a fine lawn with a ridiculous effort at what he considered a very charming arrangement of walks and groups of trees. In this case he only followed a mode sufficiently common and appropriate in a level inland country like that of Germany, from whence he introduced it, but entirely out of keeping with the bold and lake-like features of the landscape which he thus made discordant." This attack was answered by Hans Jacob Ehlers in a curious pamphlet entitled *Defence against Slander and Abuse, with some Stric-*

tures on Mr. Downing's *Book on Landscape Gardening*, printed in New York in 1852. The author of this pamphlet was born in Schleswig-Holstein about 1803, studied at the Forestry Academy at Kiel, and was for a time manager of its arboretum and experimental gardens and a forester in the service of the King of Denmark. He came to America between 1838 and 1842, and it so happened that a forbear of Mrs. Richard Aldrich, Mr. Ward, was travelling on the same ship. Through this contact Ehlers was introduced to Mr. and Mrs. William B. Astor and was employed by them to lay out roads and lawns at Rokeby, their country-seat at Barrytown, now owned by Mrs. Aldrich. Shortly after this he spent fourteen months on an exploring trip in the West for the purpose of studying the American flora. He refers to this journey, as well as to Dutchess County, in another pamphlet of his, *An Essay on Climate*, printed in New York in 1850, which is devoted to a comparison of the climate of America and Europe.

Ehlers was employed to lay out a new plantation at Montgomery Place, and this was the immediate occasion for his pamphlet in reply to Downing. There was some question about the fee for this work, and Thomas Pennant Barton, son of the distinguished Philadelphia naturalist Dr. Benjamin Smith Barton, who had acquired Montgomery Place by marrying the daughter of Edward Livingston, suggested that the whole matter be left to Downing as an arbitrator. But in view of Downing's attack this only added fuel to the flames, and Ehlers used his pamphlet to air his grievances against both Barton and Downing. He denies Downing's competence as a landscape gardener, and objects particularly to Downing's practice of hiding the house by planting,—“hiding it as if it were a privy”. He also says that there were two German landscape gardeners working in the Hudson Valley at this time,* and accuses

*I have been unable to identify the other German; but several German, Alsatian, Austrian, and Swiss landscape gardeners acquired reputations during the 1850's and 1860's, and some of them may have done work in Dutchess County. Perhaps the most prominent were Eugene A. Baumann, who laid out Llewellyn Park, Orange, N. J.; Ignaz A. Pilat, who made the initial botanical survey of Central Park in 1856 and later laid out the residence of Morris K. Jesup at Irvington, N. Y.; and Jacob Weidenmann, superintendent of the Hartford City Park and author of *Beautifying American Homes* (1870), whose competence was attested by Frederick Law Olmsted. Baumann is of special interest to us here because H. W. Sargent, in his supplement to the 1859 edition of Downing's *Landscape Gardening*, refers to “that very clever landscape gardener, Mr. Bauman,” and praises his work at Llewellyn Park. Baumann contributed several articles to the *The Horticulturist*, in 1856 and 1866, and I have seen

Downing of unfairness in not naming the one referred to. When William B. Astor's son, William Astor, purchased Ferncliff at Rhinebeck in 1854, Ehlers was employed to lay out the whole place, and this was by no means the only Dutchess country-seat that owes something to his talents.

He died in Brooklyn in 1858, and was followed in the same career by his son, Louis Augustus Ehlers, who was born in Germany in 1835 and was brought to this country by his father in early youth. Louis Ehlers returned to Europe several times to study and to visit gardens and estates, and became a widely known landscape gardener here. He did work in New York and several neighboring states, and in Dutchess County for the Astors, Delanos, Halls, and other families. But much of his life was spent as the superintendent of Ferncliff, and in 1882 a Dutchess County historian, James H. Smith, said that the whole beauty of Ferncliff was due to Louis A. Ehlers. In 1868 he bought the Garrettson place of 123 acres at Rhinebeck, called Clifton Point, a name he later changed to Marienruh, and he developed it to a high state of perfection before he sold it in 1908; it is now owned by the daughter of Colonel John Jacob Astor. When Louis Ehlers died in 1911, the Ehlers family had earned the right to a place in the history of Dutchess County horticulture.

It will be seen that a good deal of the impetus to landscape gardening in Dutchess had come from outside the county: Parmentier was a Belgian; Downing was born in Orange County and was the son of a Massachusetts father; the Ehlers family was German; and Henry Winthrop Sargent, whom we are to consider next, was born in Boston; but on the soil of Dutchess they found a golden opportunity, and it was partly or wholly their work here that spread their influence throughout the country.

Miss Reynolds has called my attention to another early landscape gardener, and this one a native of Dutchess County, her great-uncle, John Wilkinson (1813-1883). His advertisement in the *Poughkeepsie Eagle*, April 12, 1856, announces that "John Wilkinson, civil engineer, rural architect, and landscape gardener, has removed from Berkshire, Mass.;" and a news item in the same issue informs us that he was the

the designs of country-seats he laid out from Newport, R. I., to Mamaroneck and Peekskill, N. Y. He died about 1869, for in that year the preface of Peter Henderson's *Practical Floriculture* states that "the plans for laying out grounds are by the late Eugene A. Baumann, landscape gardener, of Rahway, N. J."

founder of the Dutchess Agricultural Institute, former proprietor of Mount Airy Agricultural Institute at Germantown, Pa., and for a few years past "engineer and landscape decorator of Brookside, country-seat of David Leavitt, Berkshire Co., Mass." But very little of his life was apparently spent in this county.

IV

In 1841, the year in which Downing's *Landscape Gardening* was published, H. W. Sargent purchased Wodenethe and started to make of it "the most artistic twenty-acre place in America". What materials did he have to work with? There was then only one important American periodical devoted to horticulture, Hovey's *Magazine of Horticulture*, which was founded in 1835 and survived until 1868, but there were several English and French periodicals and others soon came into being, and Sargent probably read most of them, as he read the books of Loudon* and other English horticulturists. Across the Hudson Sargent could draw on the large stock of Downing's nursery at Newburgh, and it is surprising how much this nursery contained. Downing's 1840 catalogue listed 50 varieties of trees, 96 of shrubs, 17 of vines and climbers, 160 of roses, 235 of perennials and bulbous plants, not to mention 146 kinds of apples, 106 of pears, 47 of peaches, 31 of cherries, etc. But this is as nothing compared with what William Prince's Long Island nursery offered in its 1841 catalogue: 196 varieties of trees, 273 of shrubs, 111 of evergreens, 73 of vines, 680 of roses, 85 of culinary herbs, over 800 of perennials, not to mention 272 kinds of apples, 420 of pears, 109 of cherries, 156 of plums, 116 of grapes, and many other fruits, including 147 varieties of gooseberries. Besides these there were the nurseries of Thomas Hogg in New York City, the recently founded Parson's Nursery on Long Island, Kenrick's near Boston, Ellwanger & Barry's at

*J. C. Loudon's *Arboretum et Fruticetum Britannicum*, 8 volumes, London, 1838 (2nd ed., 1844), which describes all the trees and shrubs cultivated in Great Britain, was Sargent's chief guide. Loudon's earlier books also profoundly influenced A. J. Downing and Sargent: *Treatise on Forming, Improving, and Managing Country Residences*, 2 volumes, 1802; *Hints on the Formation of Gardens and Pleasure Grounds*, 1812; *Encyclopaedia of Gardening*, 1822; *Encyclopaedia of Plants*, 1838; etc. Downing, in his *Landscape Gardening*, acknowledged his indebtedness to Loudon, and called him "the most distinguished gardening author of the age." Later Sargent, in preparing his 1859 supplement to Downing, depended on special monographs such as Gordon's and Carrière's treatises on the conifers.

Rochester, N. Y., which had been started the previous year and from which Sargent was later to purchase many trees and shrubs, and several others, although most of them were chiefly interested in fruit trees. For seeds Sargent could go to Thorburn (founded in 1805) and Bridgeman in New York City, Landreth (oldest of all), Buist, and McMahan in Philadelphia, and Breck in Boston. Most of the seedsmen also maintained nurseries, and there is an interesting account of a visit to those near Philadelphia in the seventh volume of Hazard's *Register of Pennsylvania*, published in 1831. Later Sargent depended largely on the nurseries of Great Britain and the Continent, especially Anthony Waterer's at Woking, Surrey, and he imported trees and shrubs from all over the world; but it will be seen that he had fairly good material to start with nearer home. In an Appendix to this paper I have collected some details in regard to early Dutchess County nurseries, but none of them had any influence on the development of Wodenethe.

Sargent was not the first American to start a private arboretum or botanic garden. We have already encountered Dr. Hosack's, founded in New York City in 1801, and Hosack had been preceded by John Bartram (1728) and Marshall (1773) and followed by Evans (1828), all three in Pennsylvania, and all but the last virtually extinct. Nor was Sargent a pioneer in developing a fine country place in Dutchess County. In Miss Reynolds's valuable chronological list of eighty "Country-Seats on Hudson's River in Dutchess County" in the 1935 *Year Book* of this Society, Wodenethe occupies the fifty-first place. It is true that Downing had considered only four of the first fifty worthy of special mention in 1841, but many of the others had been the scenes of much loving horticultural labor. In a good many cases they had been laid out and developed by the amateur skill of the owners or their wives, and not a few of these show to advantage when compared with the mechanical work of so many modern landscape architects. Some one should collect further material in regard to the planting of these old places, but there is not space for it here. The history of landscape gardening and ornamental horticulture in Dutchess County is of course a much larger theme than the horticultural history of its great estates, yet the creation of a beautiful country place has the same justification as the creation of any monument of culture, and may have a value and usefulness far beyond its owner's personal pleasure.

But it was no mere accident that caused Sargent to limit Wodenethe

to twenty-two acres and made him refuse to add a square yard to it during his forty-one years of residence there. "We have," he wrote in 1859, "a rapidly increasing number of men of fortune whose estates are large enough and whose means and liberality are adequate for the highest results of the art; but our best efforts must fall short of the grand effects attainable under the English system of proprietorship, and the great majority of the practical exponents of American Gardening will always be cultivators of few acres, whose taste, if correctly formed, will lead them to attempt only modest results." This was essentially his master Downing's conception, and in the *Architecture of Country Houses* Downing strongly advises against "the creation of large establishments" in this country: "the whole theory," he says, "is a mistake; it is impossible except for a day; our laws render the attempt folly, and our institutions finally grind it to powder." Downing felt strongly the enervating effect of such places. He says of a beautiful country-seat which he greatly admired: "It is not, we are sure, the spot for a man to plan campaigns of conquest, and we doubt even whether the scholar whose ambition it is 'to scorn delights and live laborious days' would not find something in the air of this demesne so soothing as to dampen the fire of his great purpose, and dispose him to believe that there is more dignity in repose than merit in action."

Many years later, in 1928, Professor Waugh restated the idea, from the vantage ground of a longer period of history, in these words: "In studying the progress of garden art in America, especially whenever any comparison with Europe is implied, one fundamental difference should always be taken into account—namely, that by comparison with Europe, America has never had a large number of great private estates. A certain number were indeed created, but many of them have already been abandoned, and none has ever had a permanent leadership or influence. At most they represent a transitory phase of American culture. On the other hand the American taste in small home grounds represents something permanent, general, and significant; and this may be said to be a natural corollary of the earliest traditions."* In other words, Sargent is important not merely because he developed a beautiful country place,

*Of the eighty country-seats in Dutchess County listed by Miss Reynolds, about thirty percent are no longer used as private residences, others are still residential but unoccupied, and very few indeed are occupied by the direct descendants of the original owners.

but because he built it on a scale that could be directly useful to the average American, and because he made it an experiment station in horticulture for all America.

Henry Winthrop Sargent was born in Franklin Place, Boston, November 26, 1810, the son of Henry Sargent and Hannah Welles, and the descendant of William Sargent, who received a grant of land at Gloucester, Mass., in 1675. His father (1770-1845) was a painter of considerable talent and reputation, a friend of Gilbert Stuart, and a member of the Massachusetts State Senate for several terms, and was long connected with the Massachusetts Militia; and his uncle, Lucius Manlius Sargent (1786-1867) was a writer and antiquary, a man of "harsh prejudices" who was chiefly known for his violent advocacy of temperance reform and his equally violent opposition to the Abolitionists. Sargent was educated at the Boston Latin School and Harvard College, and after his graduation in 1830 and a brief period of legal study in the office of a Boston lawyer, he moved to New York City, and became a partner in the banking house of Gracie and Sargent, the New York agents of his uncle Samuel Welles, a Paris banker. In 1839 he married Caroline Olmsted of New York, who was distantly related to Frederick Law Olmsted.

Two years later he retired, and purchased this estate of twenty-two acres at Fishkill Landing, now part of the still largely rural city of Beacon. He called it Wodenethe, which (as he told a writer in *The Horticulturist* in 1856) "is composed of two Saxon words—*woden*, *ethe*, woody promontary". It was really his summer home, for his winters were for the most part spent in Boston. These twenty-two acres had been sold in 1835 by Robert Donaldson of New York to Alexander Robertson Rodgers, also a New Yorker, who started to build a house on it. Before the house was completed the property was acquired in 1839 by Henry Elliott of New York and his wife Elmira. They finished the house, but on May 31, 1841, they sold the property to Henry W. Sargent, "late of New York now of the Town of Fishkill". That the Elliotts had made extensive improvements would seem to be proved by the fact that they bought the property in 1839 for \$4900 and sold it in 1841 for \$12,000.

Having acquired Wodenethe, Sargent devoted the next few years, in fact the rest of his life, to making it a model of rural perfection. It is impossible to say how active a part his friend and neighbor Downing

took in the laying out of the place. Sargent's son Winthrop always denied to enquirers that Downing had done any actual work. But whether this was true or not, Sargent certainly owed his chief inspiration to the practice and writings of Downing, and was constantly indebted to the latter for friendly advice and suggestions. In fruit-growing no less than in ornamental horticulture and landscape design Sargent followed in Downing's footsteps. Had there been no Downing, there would have been no Wodenethe.

From 1847 to 1849 Sargent travelled in Europe and the Levant, chiefly for the purpose of studying the designs of parks and country estates and of gathering new plant material. He was a frequent contributor to Downing's paper, the *Horticulturist*, and he wrote a few articles for Hovey's *Magazine of Horticulture*; but it was not until 1859 that he made his most important contribution, by supervising the sixth edition of Downing's *Landscape Gardening* and adding to it an extensive supplement. The text reproduced that of the fourth edition, which was the last that had received Downing's revision, but a few footnotes were added and some of the appendices were omitted. In his supplement Sargent described in detail the laying out of Wodenethe and of the estate of his kinsman, Horatio Hollis Hunnewell, at Wellesley, Mass., and gave an account of trees and shrubs that had been introduced since Downing wrote; later Sargent added a second supplement with brief descriptions of trees introduced between 1859 and 1875. In this form, with one or both of Sargent's supplements, the book was reprinted many times almost to our own day, and exerted a great influence on the rising profession of landscape architecture as well as on popular taste.

In 1870 he published a tiny volume of 115 pages entitled *Skeleton Tours*, written in diary form, and giving the details of his travels in the British Isles, Scandinavia, Russia, Poland, Malta, and Spain. It was intended chiefly to call attention to notable country estates and fine plantations of trees, and though a slight work, with much unimportant and ephemeral detail, it still has a certain value as a garden guide. In 1873 he supplied for a new edition of Downing's *Cottage Residences* revised lists of trees, shrubs, and other plants in collaboration with Downing's brother Charles, and Sargent himself contributed two supplementary chapters, "Suggestions concerning Italian Gardens" and "Herbaceous Gardens", to the first of which I shall presently recur.

Sargent died at Wodenethe on November 11, 1882, and was buried

in St. Luke's Church, Matteawan. He was survived by his wife and by one of his three children, Winthrop Henry, who was born April 3, 1840. Sargent had conveyed Wodenethe to his wife in 1878, and on her death in 1887 it passed to their son Winthrop, who occupied and gave devoted care to it until his death on September 7, 1916. It then passed to his wife Aimée, and on her death two years later it was inherited by her niece Aimée Lamb, who sold it the following year to William Crawford of Orange County. In 1921 it was purchased by the Tioronda Company, which still owns it, and is occupied by the Craig House Sanitarium.

Sargent was described by his more famous cousin, Professor Charles Sprague Sargent, as "genial, accomplished, and hospitable"; but Professor Sargent was noted for his gruff manner, Lucius Manlius Sargent (our hero's uncle) was a man of "harsh prejudices", and H. W. Sargent himself was not less temperamental than some of the other members of the family, as irascible as he was genial. That he was what is called a "character", with a keen sense of humor, or at least a fondness for practical jokes, will be seen later. The story is told of his wife that when asked whether her husband was related to John Singer Sargent, then at the height of his fame as a portrait painter, she said gruffly, "Oh, he's not the only Sargent."

V

When Sargent bought Wodenethe it was a plateau largely covered with white oaks, hickories, and flowering dogwood. One of his first tasks was not to plant new trees and shrubs but to thin or cut out the old. There are three stages of aesthetic development in the treatment of trees. The average countryman regards them merely for their practical uses, and has no compunction about cutting down any for timber or fuel except where they shade his house or roadway. The next stage is the sentimental stage; the city dweller moving to the country regards all trees with superstitious reverence and hesitates to cut down any, however much the landscape might be improved by the process. Sargent represents the third stage,—the lover of trees, who does not hesitate to plant or destroy them as the artistic requirements of the landscape demand. So he cut down many trees at strategic points in order to create varying vistas. He did not aim at a broad panorama, which ceases to impress itself on consciousness when seen from day to day, but at a series of sep-

arate pictures framed by the foliage of trees. Wodenethe became famous for its vistas, which looked down at the lake-like expanse of the Hudson River and up at the Fishkill and Catskill ranges.

In fact, Sargent became a connoisseur of vistas. He changed the shape of windows in the house to bring out the full flavor of a particular vista; and three different vistas were visible from the three windows in the bay of the library. One vista was so arranged that from a slight distance the lawn seemed to be overhanging the very brink of the river, which was a mile or so away; and when a lady one day noticed Sargent's young son sitting at the edge, and said she would be nervous about having her children fall into the river, this served as a stimulus to Sargent's love of practical jokes, and thereafter when a stranger arrived young Winthrop would often be ordered to sit at this point with a fishing rod in order to add to the verisimilitude and to the visitor's surprise. Factories, quarries, and other evidences of the growth of industrial civilization have played havoc with most of these vistas, or what remained of them after Sargent's death, but he set an example that all the country-seats of his time, large and small, attempted to emulate.

Later, probably much later, he added a series of formal walks and gardens, but so planted out by trees and shrubs that their formality was never apparent except on the spot. Among these were an Orangerie, with oranges in tubs and clipped beeches; the Monk's Garden, a walk with a clipped hedge of *Plume Retinispora*; a pleached alley of arborvitae; and a Yew Garden, containing various forms of English Yew. The walled Formal Garden, said to have been added by his son Winthrop, consisted of triangular beds filled with bedding-out plants and surrounded by formal beds of a similar sort; it must be remembered that this was before William Robinson's campaign against the bedding-out system that was to transform English flower gardens had ended in victory. The approach to this garden included a clipped beech with a large peep-hole in the centre through which Sargent was wont to keep tab on his friend General Howland, who had become his neighbor in 1859 but did not really settle down permanently until the Civil War was half over. Most of these walks and gardens were undoubtedly laid out toward the end of Sargent's life, for in his essay, "Suggestions concerning Italian Gardens", published in 1873, he indicates that the taste for some of them was new even in England, where, he says, there had been a return to stately terraces with balustrades and vases, gardens with

patterns or figures of architectural design, and straight walks bordered at intervals by tubs or square boxes with Irish Yews, Junipers, or Portugal Laurels cut into round-headed balls; and all these were represented at Wodenethe when Sargent died.

But it was the English or natural style of landscaping as modified by Downing that influenced him at the outset and that stayed with him throughout his life. Even the conservatory, made interesting by brick walls covered with fern and fig, showed Downing's influence, for Downing liked to add exotic types of greenhouses and conservatories to the houses he designed. In the first edition of his *Landscape Gardening* he referred to a type of landscaping that Repton's disciple Loudon had called the "gardenesque style", and which Downing thought "evidently founded rather upon a cultivated taste for botany and horticulture, and a desire to exhibit every variety of rare ornamental tree and plant, than upon any new element of design." This was omitted from later editions of the book, for Downing regarded it as having no bearing on his general discussion of the "modern" as opposed to the "ancient" style of gardening, or of "beautiful" as distinguished from "picturesque" landscapes. Downing in all his work, as we have seen, overemphasized the value of individual specimens. But Loudon's "gardenesque style" (in no way thought of as a mode of the ancient or formal style) became Sargent's ideal, as it became that of the Arnold Arboretum—in other words, an arboretum landscaped like a park-like English estate.

Sargent ransacked the nurseries of America and Europe to find new varieties of trees, especially conifers, and Wodenethe became not only the most complete collection in the United States but also a vast experiment station. He tried everything, hardy and tender, and his place became a veritable graveyard of trees. "At Wodenethe," says Professor C. S. Sargent, "every coniferous plant that could be obtained was tested, and for forty years it remained the most important place in the United States for obtaining information on the value of these plants for cultivation in this country. If the results of Sargent's experiments were largely negative, that is if they were more successful in showing what trees were not suitable for the eastern states than in adding numerous species to the number of conifers that can be permanently grown here, they were of great interest and value to the country."

The strange exotic taste of the American architecture of his time had, as I have already pointed out, its analogue in Sargent's fondness for

horticultural oddities and freaks, for every weeping, cut-leaf, variegated, dwarf or otherwise abnormal form of tree and shrub. He planted hundreds, perhaps thousands, of these, but nature has exerted her usual dislike for the abnormal, and nearly all of them are fortunately dead. Notable exceptions are the weeping and fernleaf forms of the European Beech and the Eagle's Claw Maple, and certainly in the case of the beeches the power of survival chimes with modern taste. This is not the place to speak of his "fruit-garden", which Downing regarded as "the choicest and most complete fruit-garden on the Hudson and one of the best in the Union", and which contained, for example, 106 varieties of pears and 60 of peaches; nor of his apple orchard, equally impressive, nor of his greenhouse (120x20 feet) with its 31 varieties of foreign grapes.

In 1897 Professor C. S. Sargent published an article on Wodenethe in *Garden and Forest* which has been called "the most inspiring and instructive account of any American place ever written." Superlatives aside, it is really a critical account of the trees that have stood the test of survival in the climate of the Hudson Valley, and it would be highly useful if some one else, after forty years, would bring this study down to date. The collection of evergreens had been especially remarkable, but Professor Sargent found that only a few of the foreign kinds had thriven at Wodenethe. Among these exceptions, to disregard botanical distinctions, were the Oriental Spruce, European and Caucasian Fir, Chinese Arborvitae, European Larch, various Yews, Cephalotaxus, Bald Cypress, and Ginkgo, and among western species, the Blue Spruce. Among other types of trees he found the European Beech and its various forms (weeping, fernleaf, copper, and *cristata*), various Magnolias, Honey Locust, Yellowwood, Koelreuteria, and European Linden in excellent condition. The moral of it all, Professor Sargent's favorite moral, was that our planting should be confined to native material, adding only such foreign trees and shrubs as experiment might show to be long-lived in our climate. Certainly, not only at Wodenethe but at Tioronda and St. Luke's Church, H. W. Sargent showed his wisdom in planting English Beeches, for both the type and the weeping form are now superb spectacles. He was also among the first to call American attention to the value of rhododendrons.

Sargent did not plant trees at random. He spent hours and even days and weeks before deciding on where a new specimen should be planted. He would stand one of his men in a certain spot, and wave to

him to move until he was satisfied for the time being with the position selected. It is related that on one occasion he told one of his men to stand in a certain spot until ordered to move. Just then General Howland dropped in to see Sargent, and was invited to a drink and then to lunch; and five or six hours later Sargent was amazed to find the forgotten and exhausted workman still standing on the same spot.

Sargent was also the first American to use a lawn-mower; the first lawn clipped by this machine was a Dutchess County lawn. In the *Horticulturist* in 1855 he first called attention to this new implement, which he had received from his English friend Anthony Waterer, and he added a footnote about it in his edition of Downing's *Landscape Gardening* four years later. What had taken four men and a boy more than a week to do could now be done by one man in five or six hours. A young man, Thomas Coldwell, working for H. N. Swift's machine shop at Fishkill Landing, was called in to repair the machine when it was out of order, and he built a new and improved form of it, which served as the basis of the lawn-mower now in general use in this country. The first ones made in this country were manufactured at Swift's Machine Shop in Fishkill Landing (now Beacon), and by the end of 1856 a considerable demand for them had grown up.

Professor C. S. Sargent described his cousin H. W. Sargent as "the man to whom, more than to any other, Americans owe their knowledge of cultivated trees, and who for nearly half a century devoted himself, with an energy and enthusiasm which no disappointment ever dulled, to experiments in tree culture. The friend and pupil of Downing, he extended the fame of his master, and by his example, his precepts, and his advice inspired what is best in American gardening to-day."

Elsewhere Professor Sargent wrote:

"Personally I was greatly influenced by my cousin Henry Winthrop Sargent. Some of the best horticultural lessons in my life I learned at Wodenethe. Without his help and advice [my own place] Holm Lea [at Brookline, Mass.] would never have amounted to anything, and I am sure that without the knowledge and inspiration which I got at Wodenethe the making of the Arnold Arboretum would never have been entrusted to me. Henry Winthrop Sargent was not a great cultivator and he had little botanical or critical knowledge of plants, but he had enthusiasm and taste and a real love of the beautiful. If Wellesley [H. H. Hunnewell's place at Wellesley, Mass.], Holm Lea, and the

Arnold Arboretum stand for anything in American horticulture, their influence can be traced to the inspiration and help of Henry Winthrop Sargent."

VI

We must now turn our attention to the second object of our pilgrimage, Tioronda, the home of Sargent's friend and neighbor, General Joseph Howland. Howland purchased 65 acres from James Freeland in 1859, and 72 acres from Caroline and Abraham L. Ackerman in 1863, and various other small parcels of land between 1859 and 1871, until he owned over a hundred and twenty acres. After his death the property was owned by his wife, but in 1911 she sold it to the University Settlement Society of New York, which in 1915 sold 97 acres and in 1917 thirty acres to Robert B. Lamb and Clarence J. Slocum. In 1919 it passed into the hands of the Tioronda Company, which still owns it, and it is occupied by the Craig House Sanitarium. The place was first called Glenhurst, but this was later changed to Tioronda, a local Indian word meaning "the meeting of the waters" and given to that portion of the town where the Fishkill enters the Hudson. As early as 1861 members of the Howland family used Tioronda as their address in dating letters, but in Beer's *Atlas of New York and Vicinity* (1867) only the name Glenhurst appears, whereas Tioronda appears in Gray's *New Atlas of Dutchess County* (1876).

Joseph Howland was born in New York City on December 3, 1834, and was therefore twenty-four years younger than Sargent. He was a lineal descendant of John Howland who signed the famous compact on the Mayflower in November, 1620. His father, Samuel Shaw Howland, was a member of the firm of Howland and Aspinwall, shipping merchants, and his mother, Joanna Esther Hone, was a daughter of John Hone and a niece of Philip Hone, former Mayor of New York. In 1856 he married Eliza Newton Woolsey, and after extensive travels in Europe and the Holy Land they returned to America, and Howland purchased Tioronda. But the couple had hardly settled there when the Civil War broke out and Howland's military career began. He became adjutant of the 16th New York Volunteers, then Adjutant General and Chief of Brigade under General Slocum, and finally Colonel of the 16th New York at the Battle of Gaines Mills (June, 1862), where he was

seriously wounded. He was brevetted Brigadier General for gallantry on that occasion, but his career as a soldier was ended.

Sargent had been planting Tioronda during Howland's absence, and it was a changed place to which Howland now returned, enfeebled in health. He served as Treasurer of New York State from 1865 to 1867, and in the more or less official biographical sketches of officials for that term he is described as "easy and affable in manners", but he made no attempt to continue in public life. During the remainder of his life he was active in good works for the benefit of his town and county. He founded the Tioronda School and Church in 1864, and the Howland Public Library in 1872. He was the first president of the Mechanics Savings Bank, and was active in founding the Fishkill National Bank. He helped to organize both Highland Hospital and the Hudson River State Hospital, and was a member of the board of managers of the latter for fifteen years. But his health was failing, and in the hope of recovering it he went to the Riviera, where he died at Mentone on April 1, 1886. It will be seen that General Howland was a solid and admirable type of citizen.

But in the planting of Tioronda he owed much if not everything to his neighbor H. W. Sargent. There, with more than a hundred acres to play with, Sargent had an opportunity to carry out his ideas of landscape gardening on a more extensive scale than at Wodenethe, and the results are perhaps even more harmonious, from the point of view of the English or natural style, than on his own place. The house has more unity and dignity than Sargent's, and is said to have been built by Richard M. Hunt. The lawn slopes down from several sides into a sort of grassy bowl, surrounded by noble trees and opening out into vistas of the sort dear to Sargent. Sargent planted, and encouraged Howland to plant, many rare trees and shrubs. One of the four original specimens of Sargent's Weeping Hemlock (discovered by Howland in the mountains back of Fishkill) is still thriving here, and is now about 35 feet in diameter and 10 feet high. What is probably the oldest specimen in America of the lacebark pine (*Pinus Bungeana*, from N. W. China), with its crazy quilt bark, and other interesting trees and shrubs are also to be found. Tioronda should be considered as another of the places that exhibit Sargent's direct influence, like his cousin's Holm Lea, Hunnewell's Wellesley, and the Arnold Arboretum, not to mention the

thousands of owners of rural homes who had seen or heard of Wodenethe.

A word should also be said of Roseneath, which adjoins Wodenethe and exhibits many of the same characteristics. Sargent gave it high praise in 1859, when it was owned by C. M. Wolcott. The two men cooperated in the importation of trees and shared many tastes in common, and here too we feel that the example of Sargent was not without effect.

St. Luke's Church, which we shall visit after Tioronda, is another of Sargent's spiritual children. Ground for the building was broken in August, 1868, and the church was completed in June, 1870. Hasbrouck tells us that "the architecture of the church and the laying out of the grounds were entrusted to H. W. Sargent, to whose good taste and judgment the parishioners readily deferred." The architect was Frederic C. Withers, but the landscape gardener was H. W. Sargent. The arrangement of the trees and lawn unmistakably shows his hand. A broad park separates the rectory and parish house from the church; it is studded with and surrounded by noble trees, especially some magnificent beeches of the typical and weeping forms, with a beech hedge on one side. A chestnut oak propagated from one of the "Washington Oaks" at Denning's Point still survives on the avenue. In the churchyard Sargent lies buried, with Chancellor Kent and other notables of Dutchess.

APPENDIX

I

A DUTCHESS COUNTY GARDENER'S DIARY

1829-1866

James F. Brown, an escaped slave from Maryland, was in charge of the Verplanck Garden at Mount Gulian for many years, as I have already pointed out. He is said to have been born in 1783 and to have escaped and come north at the age of thirty; but I have been unable to verify these and other traditional statements. He says that he hurt his foot when "a boy in 1809," which would seem to indicate that he was born later than 1783. What is certain is that he kept a diary of his experiences at Mount Gulian from January 1, 1829, to March 26, 1866, and that this extraordinary and in some respects unique document, in seven volumes, is still extant. It is now in the possession of Mrs.

Samuel Verplanck, at Roseneath, and through her kindness I have been enabled to make a somewhat careful study of it.

The diary contains a record of the weather day by day, Brown's work in the garden and elsewhere, the doings of the Verplanck family, and other items of interest. It includes numerous references to the Downing nursery at Newburgh, both before and after A. J. Downing was in charge of it. The diary is of sufficient importance, for the history of gardening as well as for the history of the Negro, to warrant publication in whole or in part. The following excerpts from the entries during 1829 and 1830 will give some idea of how Brown records his work in garden and greenhouse:

Feb. 2, 1829: Made some arrangements in the greenhouse and sowed some flower seeds, &c.—Feb. 8: Took a ride to Mr. Denning's to see his greenhouse.—Feb. 21: Sowed some flowers and vegetables in a hot bed.—Feb. 25: Hauled some tan bark for the garden walks.—Feb. 26: Trimming up in the garden.—March 31: This day began the flower garden.—April 4: Sowed celery seed and received some plants from New York.—April 8: Hauling earth for the flower garden, which keeps me very busily employed.—April 13: To-day in the garden. Made flower beds and sowed some seeds.—April 16: Took a ride to Mrs. Schenck's and got some plants from Page for Miss Mary Verplanck.—April 17: Very busy in the garden; planted out cauliflower plants, &c.—April 20: Brought some plants from Mrs. Knevels and finished digging the flower beds.—April 21: Set out a great many plants, roots, shrubs, &c.—April 22: Set out a parcel of shrubs and flowers in the flower garden.—April 23: Planted out a number of plants in the border for edging.—April 28: The carpenters began the fence round the new garden.—May 2: Hauled tan bark for the garden walks and transplanted rose bushes.—May 3: Took a walk in the woods this day and found a very pretty bunch of water flowers; brought them home and gave them a place in the flower garden among the wild plants of the collection.—May 4: Set out some edging of violets and planted and repotted a number of plants; sowed wall flower, saffron seed, Hisbiscus, &c.—May 8: Set the greenhouse plants out in the grond.—June 2: Cleaned the flower beds of weeds.—June 9: Had a dish of green peas early this morning.—June 11: Put poles to the cypress vines and beans.—June 16: Layed the carnation plants.—June 18: Dug up Hyacinth roots, &c.

January 4, 1830: Sowed some white Aster seed in the greenhouse and some ten-week stocks on the 23rd of December, also planted some bulbous roots on the same day.—Jan. 9: Went over the River to see Mr. Downing's greenhouse and bought some twine for mats.—Jan. 11: Making mats for the greenhouse.—Jan. 13: Planted some bulbous roots in pots and put them in the greenhouse.—Jan. 14: Planted some roots and covered over the Hyacinth beds. Went to the Landing and paid Hēbron Palmer one dollar and fifty cents for some

garden frames he made for Miss Mary Verplanck.—Jan. 22: A coranelor (*sic*)* in flower and brought in the house.—Feb. 15: Presented Miss Schmaltz with a handsome bouquet of flowers from Miss V.P.'s greenhouse.—Feb. 16: Went over to Mr. Downing's for some radish seed.—Feb. 25: Set one hotbed frame and brought some plants to the house in flower, such as wallflowers, polyanthus, hyacinths, &c.—Feb. 27: Sowed flower seeds, &c., in hotbeds; fine hyacinths in flower in the greenhouse.—March 5: The seeds in the hotbeds well up.—March 10: Bought 4½ dozen flower pots at the Long Dock.—March 22: Began to dig up the flower beds.—March 25: Planted some bulbous roots.—March 27: Made a handsome bunch of flowers in the parlour.—March 29: Planted some shrubs. Put down some edging on the borders, &c.—March 30: Brought some peach trees from Mr. Downing's. Trimming and nailing up rose bushes.—April 1: Put some young foxglove and some edging round the borders, uncovered the multi-floras in the garden, &c.—April 5: Went over to Mr. Downing's and exchanged a greenhouse plant with him.—April 8: Fixing flower borders. Transplanting carnation pinks, and setting out some Hemlock.—April 10: Received some seed and edging from New York.—April 12: Sowed some auriculas and polyanthus seeds.—April 17: Took up and planted a large Pine Tree at the back of the woodpile.—April 19: Sowed some flower seeds and shall continue to-morrow.—April 23: Transplanted some annual flower plants from the hotbeds.—June 11: Went to Mr. Downing's and got a plant of Eupatorium.—June 23: Very busy weeding the flower beds.—June 30: A fine show of carnations and pinks in the garden.

A few typical excerpts from later years may also be of interest:

August 1, 1836: Sowed some wild flower seeds brought from the West by Mr. Knevels.—April 10, 1837: Set out some dogwood trees in the garden and began to dig the ground for seeds.—April 2, 1840: Brought some Lady Apple Trees with many other trees from Mr. Downing's for the garden.—July 30, 1841: Paid Mr. Downing a small bill for grape vines and trees.—Sept. 1, 1841: Reported one fine camellia.—Sept. 3: Sowed rose Larkspur seed.—May 4, 1842: Put out Verbenas in the ground. Went over to Mr. Downing's for some Dahlia roots.

I have limited myself to gardening entries, but these excerpts relating to the summer of 1852 have a wider interest:

July 28, 1852: The steamer Henry Clay burned and many lives were lost. Among these was Mrs. J. P. Dewint, A. J. Downing, Mrs. Wadsworth, &c. Planted peas and beans for late crop.—July 29: Mr. Downing found and brought to Newburgh. Went to see his remains.—July 30: Mr. Downing and Mrs. Wadsworth buried this day. Also sown turnip and radish seeds.

The last garden notes belong to March, 1864, when Brown sowed some seeds in hotbeds and later sowed some peas. He was then an old

**Coronilla glauca*?

man, and there are no entries in the diary in 1865 and only one in 1866. He died in 1868, but his wife Julia survived until 1890.

Miss Matilda Verplanck, of Stonykill, now aged ninety-five but with a mind as clear as a bell, knew Brown, and remembers how she and the other children respected his orders not to pick flowers in the garden or to interfere in any way with its perfect order and neatness. The flower garden of Brown's days seemed to her to be exactly like the garden as it was three or four years ago, but at this writing it is in a very neglected state. In the old days it consisted of six acres, including flowers, fruits, and vegetables. After the death of Miss Mary Anna Verplanck (1793-1856), it was taken care of by her sister-in-law, the wife of Samuel Verplanck, and later by Mrs. William Verplanck, who reduced its area to four acres; her little book, *A Year In My Garden*, was privately printed in 1909. There was originally a low stone wall with a pretty gate on the side facing the house, and a perennial border along the inside of the wall. The portion in formal box-bordered beds intersected by gravel walks remains much as it was, though virtually all the old box has disappeared.

II

EARLY DUTCHESS COUNTY NURSERIES

I cannot find mention of any nursery in Dutchess County in 1841, when Sargent bought Wodenethe, but Boyd's directory of Poughkeepsie and Fishkill Landing for 1864-65, under the heading "nurserymen, seedsmen, and florists", lists four names in Poughkeepsie and six in the appended business directory of the county. It seems fitting that these names should be recorded here: Samuel N. Currie, James Haggerty, Charles Linz, and Edwin Marshall of Poughkeepsie; George Duriet, George Snyder, and Van Wagenen of Rhinebeck; Beckwith of Bangall; Asa A. Arnold of Stanfordville; and George T. Osborne of Quaker Hill. Of these Samuel Currie appears in the Poughkeepsie directories of 1845 to 1848 as "gardener", in 1849 as "nurseryman", and in 1864-65 as "nurseryman and florist"; and he therefore seems to be the first nurseryman in the county. James Haggerty appears in the directory of 1855-56 as "horticulturist", and his business is still in existence, though not in the hands of his descendants. Edwin Marshall appears as early as 1860-61. Most of those I have mentioned seem to have been florists

with greenhouses, or seedsmen, or both; some may have had small nurseries or run them as a side line.

The earliest records I have seen that cast light on this subject are contained in a note-book kept by William H. Willis when he purchased the place later known as Obercreek, at Hughsonville, near New Hamburg, in 1855. This note-book was kindly called to my attention by his grandson, Mr. W. Willis Reese, President of the Dutchess County Historical Society, who now owns this attractive place. Here are the horticultural items in the note-book:

- 1855: Nov. 3, Trees from Brinckerhoff, \$46.70.
 - Dec. 1, Fruit trees from Brinckerhoff, \$20.00.
 - Dec. 7, Downing for 21 trees, \$3.00 each, \$65.00.
- 1856: May 26, 105 trees from Brinckerhoff, \$23.30.
 - May 26, Downing, 15 trees, strawberries, &c., &c., \$44.00.
 - July 7, W. L. Ferris, 90 trees, \$95.25.
- 1857: June 1, John Burrow, trees, \$47.25.
 - June 3, Trees from Downing, \$54.00.
 - July 31: Trees from Ferris, \$46.25.
- 1858: Trees, \$50.00.
- 1859: Trees, \$60.00.

The W. L. Ferris referred to in these notes was the owner of a nursery in Westchester County. His brother, Lindley Murray Ferris, bought land on Ferris Lane, off Hooker Avenue, just outside the Poughkeepsie city limits, in 1861-62, and started a nursery there. Among their forbears were the grammarian Lindley Murray and the distinguished physician-botanist Cadwallader Colden, friend of Benjamin Franklin and correspondent of Linnaeus. Lindley's son William Livingston Ferris 2nd carried on the business later. Both he and his partner Elias G. Minard appear in the Poughkeepsie directory of 1875 as "nurseryman and florist". Charles Brinckerhoff of Fishkill Landing, who is also mentioned in the Willis note-book, was described in an 1867 atlas as "nurseryman, fruit and ornamental trees," and he was doubtless one of the earliest Dutchess nurserymen as distinguished from florists and seedsmen. The third nurseryman in the note-book, John Burrow, was probably the founder of the "Mount Honness Nursery, Burrow Wood & Co." at Fishkill which appears in an atlas published in 1876.

Dutchess County has never been one of the important centres of the nursery trade, but somewhat later in the century it became the most important centre of commercial violet-growing in the United States. This

hardly falls within the period discussed in this paper, for violet-growing was introduced to Poughkeepsie by one Charles Schroeder about 1880, and was started in Rhinebeck nine or ten years later by George Saltford. Rhinebeck soon outstripped all other localities, and in 1918, when the industry was declining, the *American Florist* could still say that "Rhinebeck is the 'heart of the world' for violets." Perhaps it still is.

I am indebted to Miss Reynolds, Dr. Poucher, Mrs. Lindley Ferris Underhill, and Mr. Herbert W. Saltford for help in ascertaining some of the above facts. I have merely sketched in the barest outline the history of the early nurseries. A good deal of their business was limited to fruit trees. This paper is concerned only with "ornamental horticulture", but it may not be inappropriate to point out that at least seven varieties of fruits originated in Dutchess County,—three varieties of apples (Peach-Pond, Gloria Mundi, and Fishkill), two varieties of plums (Orange and Frost Gage), one variety of pear (Comstock), and one variety of cherry (Rumsey's Late Morello); and the future historian of fruit-growing in this county will undoubtedly discover several others that I have overlooked.

III

AUTHORITIES

I have merely scratched the surface of this interesting field, and I subjoin a few references for those who wish to pursue the subject further. There are biographies of Henry Winthrop Sargent and A. J. Downing in the *Dictionary of American Biography* and Bailey's *Standard Cyclopaedia of Horticulture* (under "Horticulturists"); the first of these also contains accounts of Sargent's father and uncle and his cousin Charles Sprague Sargent. Wodenethe and its influence are discussed in Wilhelm Miller's "The Most Artistic Twenty-Acre Place in America" in *Country Life in America*, September 1, 1912; C. S. Sargent's article on "Aboretum" in Bailey's *Standard Cyclopaedia of Horticulture* and his "Wodenethe" in *Garden and Forest*, 1897, page 449; and A. J. Downing's "The Fruit Garden at Wodenethe" in *The Horticulturist*, May, 1847; and with these should be compared H. W. Sargent's own account of the place in his supplement to the 1859 and subsequent editions of Downing's *Theory and Practice of Landscape Gardening*. An anonymous writer in *The Horticulturist*, October and December, 1856, has

described visits to Wodenethe and other Dutchess estates. For General Howland and Tioronda, see Hasbrouck's *History of Dutchess County*, 1909, pages 323 and 733; *In Memoriam, Joseph Howland, 1834-86*, privately printed, 1886; and Bacon and Howland's *Letters of a Family during the War for the Union*, 1899; for the history of Sargent's Weeping Hemlock, still thriving at Tioronda, see Bulletin No. 4 of the Hemlock Arboretum at "Far Country", Germantown, Pa., July 1, 1933.

The influence of A. J. Downing's work in landscape gardening is discussed by Richard Schermerhorn, Jr., in *House and Garden*, August, 1909, and *Architectural Review*, April, 1921; C. S. Sargent in *Garden and Forest*, 1895, page 211; S. L. Pattee in *Landscape Architecture*, January, 1929; and F. A. Waugh in Gothein's *History of Garden Art*, 1928, chapter xviii. Downing's own writings have never been carefully studied, and the important differences between the first, second, and fourth editions of his *Landscape Gardening* have been completely ignored. For André Parmentier, see C. Stuart Gager's article in the Brooklyn Botanic Garden *Record*, January, 1926; T. F. Meehan's in the U. S. Catholic Historical Society *Records and Studies*, December, 1904; H. G. Bayer's *Short Biography of André Parmentier and Adèle Bayer*, 1925; and Downing's eulogy in the first section of his *Landscape Gardening*; for the landscape work at "Hyde Park", see Charles Eliot's account in *Garden and Forest*, 1890, page 222, and Helen W. Reynolds's in the 1928 *Year Book* of this Society. Miss Reynolds has also compiled a list of eighty "Country-Seats on Hudson's River in Dutchess County" for the 1935 *Year Book*; and her *Dutchess County Doorways*, 1931, contains much valuable material about them. The horticultural history of Rose Hill, The Locusts, Ferncliff, and other Dutchess country-seats will be found in James H. Smith's *History of Dutchess County*, 1882; and accounts of Myron B. Benton and his work at Troutbeck are available in Charles E. Benton's *Troutbeck, A Dutchess County Homestead*, published by this Society in 1916, and *John Burroughs at Troutbeck* (Troutbeck Leaflet No. 10), 1926. H. W. Sargent's spiritual grandchild, the Arnold Arboretum, is described in C. S. Sargent's article on "Arboretum" cited above. Dr. Hosack, the owner of "Hyde Park", published a list of the plants growing in his botanic garden in New York City (*Hortus Elginensis*, New York, 1806; 2nd edition, enlarged, 1811), and most of these plants were probably available for use in his Dutchess County home.

I have drawn freely on nearly all these works, and I am also indebted for courteous help to so many people that it is simply impossible to print all their names here. But I cannot fail to record my obligations to some of them, above all to Miss Helen Wilkinson Reynolds, who has most generously placed at my disposal the vast store of her knowledge of Dutchess County history and who has kindly read the proofsheets; to Dr. and Mrs. C. J. Slocum for information about Wodenethe and Tiöronda and for other friendly help; to Judge John E. Mack for summaries of the chain of title of these two places; to Mrs. Richard Aldrich, General John Ross Delafield, Mr. H. E. Downer, Mr. W. Willis Reese, Mr. Richard Schermerhorn, Jr., and Mrs. Samuel Verplanck, as well as to Miss Elizabeth C. Hall of the Horticultural Society of New York, Miss Dorothy S. Manks of the Massachusetts Horticultural Society, and Mr. Free, Mr. Jordan, and Mrs. Chichester of the Brooklyn Botanic Garden.

THREE CHAPTERS IN THE EARLY HISTORY OF PINE PLAINS AND HER NEIGHBORS*

ELIZABETH BOCKEE

Members and Friends of the Dutchess County Historical Society:

Because of great dearth of any material on the early days of this section let me urge that every-one gather together whatever they may have of old maps, documents, letters, etc., and place them where they can be available for study.

Just as was Ancient Gaul, my paper is very conveniently divided into three parts, arranged so that I may leave out any or all of them depending upon the endurance of my audience.

As our state is older than our nation so is our county older than our state. Dutchess is one of the original twelve counties into which the province of New York was divided in 1683. It extended from Westchester to Roeliff Jansen's Kill on the north and from the Hudson some twenty miles east to the Oblong.

The first real step in settling this area was taken by Robert Livingston in establishing his manor. This was followed by the granting of the eight patents of Rombout, Schuyler, Poughkeepsie, Great Nine, Philipse, Rhinebeck, Beekman and Little Nine under Governors Fletcher and Cornbury, respectively.

In 1713 the county was divided into three wards, the population at that time being about 445 people, about half of them under sixteen years of age. In 1737 another division was made into the seven precincts of Beekman, Charlotte, Crum Elbow, North, Poughkeepsie, Rhinebeck and Southeast. Northeast Precinct was formed from North in 1746 and, because of the natural barrier of Stissing Mountain on the west and Winchell Mountain on the east, it was again sub-divided into the three townships of Milan, Northeast and Pine Plains, which embrace practically the same territory as that included in the Little Nine Partners' grant.

In spite of the protests of some of the early governors the early eighteenth century was marked by an era of land grabbing. Since there were few industries and no utilities at that time the acquisition of real

*Paper read at the semi-annual meeting of the Dutchess County Historical Society, held at Pine Plains, October 16, 1937

estate was eagerly sought after for the investment of capital and to secure a better rank and social position. As Governor Colden wrote in 1765, the people of New York are divided into four classes:

1. Proprietors of large tracts from one hundred thousand acres upward
2. Gentlemen of the law
3. Merchants
4. Farmers and mechanics

Some were even spoken of as too poor to be farmers.

As I look about me in Dutchess now I see history repeating itself and wonder a bit if our county can continue to be a region of independent farm homes or will it again become, entirely, large landed estates.

Before the Little Nine Partners' grant was finally achieved there passed a period of litigation and uncertainty about land titles and licenses. This gave Sampson, Broughton & Co.,—being extremely charitably inclined and a very public spirited group wishing to develop any unsettled, waste lands for the good of the people, and quite incidentally of course, for themselves,—an opportunity to obtain a patent from Governor Cornbury which was officially confirmed September 1708. The boundaries of the grant translated in terms of our present map comprise the same area as the three townships of Milan, Northeast and Pine Plains. The descriptive wording of the patent is even more inclusive than that of the second commandment: "all woods, underwoods, trees, timbers, feedings, pastures, meadows, marshes, swamps, ponds, pools, waters, water courses, rivers, rivulets, runs, streams of water, fishing, fowling, hawking, hunting, mines and minerals, standing, growing or lying and being, or to be used, had or enjoyed within ye bounds and limits aforesaid and all other profits, benefits, privileges, liberties, advantages, hereditaments and appurtenances unto said land to be divided into eight equal parts." George Clarke was then Secretary of State. His name did not appear but it seemed to be thoroughly understood that his was the ninth share.

A history to be alive must really be a story of personalities, so let us become better acquainted with these Little Nine Partners. The one of whom we hear most is Rip Van Dam of Dutch descent, a sailor interested in a ship yard on the North River, near Trinity Church, who became known for his influence in the anti-Leisler party. Under Governor Cornbury he became a member of the Council and later, at the

death of Montgomery, became acting governor. Van Dam lived to an advanced age, leaving two sons, Rip and Isaac, and three daughters. Another member of the Council, Thomas Wenham, was a merchant and a highly esteemed warden of Trinity Church.

The law was represented by Roger Mompesson, a judge in the Court of Admiralty. He was for a time Justice of the Province of New Jersey, a position which he had resigned because, as he himself said, he was in "such necessitous circumstances that it wants a virtue more than human to guard against the temptation of corruption." The necessitous circumstances seemed to be a polite way of referring to the fact that he had received no salary for more than two years.

A third nationality was represented by Peter Fauconier, a French naval officer living in New York at the time. He, as well as Wenham, was a patentee of the Westenhook Patent along the Housatonic. He was collector of customs but was later charged with crookedness in management of public funds.

Robert Lurting, a merchant and vendue master, was charged with the unlawful sale of goods although he was a warden of Trinity Church. George Clark, an Englishman, whose name did not appear among the patentees since he was Secretary of the Province and also a relative of the governor, (evidently nepotism had not yet been generally accepted as orthodox) married Ann Hyde, an heiress of the house of Stuart. He is described as a man of decided personality, integrity and a vigorous mind, a scholar and speech-maker of no mean ability. He went to England possessed of an estate valued at £100,000, was taken prisoner by the French but was soon released and indemnified by parliament for his losses. He died at his handsome estate in Cheshire, England. Due to the entailing of the property the Clark interests remained in the family name longer than those of any other patentee.

The name of Graham is also a familiar one hereabouts. Augustine Graham, a patentee of both the Great and the Little Nines was the son of the Attorney General of the time. It is from this family chiefly that Pine Plains received its land since their lot, No. 48, is where most of the village is now built.

The partner who had the best knowledge of the land was Richard Sackett. He had to be included to secure the lands between his tract and Connecticut. Previously he had obtained a grant for the Wassaic tract of 7,500 acres. If he wished to make a call on friends he had his choice

of going to Woodbury or Poughkeepsie, his nearest white neighbors being some thirty miles away in either direction. Sackett was employed by Governor Hunter to superintend the Palatines in their manufacture of tar and turpentine at their camp on the east side of the Hudson. From all the evidence it seems likely that it was Sackett and Graham who were chiefly responsible for fixing the boundaries of the tract. Sackett's name is included in the first tax list of Dutchess County in 1715.

In 1731 the boundaries were much reduced by the establishing of the colony line between Connecticut and New York, i.e., the west boundary of the Oblong became the east boundary of both the Little and the Great Nine Partners and much of the southern part had already been turned over to the Great Niners.

Three years later the Assembly passed an act for the partition and division of the land then vacant, except for squatters, but no action was taken for nearly ten years. Then Charles Clinton divided it into sixty-three lots of approximately 900 acres each and thus the land was brought into the market. His description filed in the County Clerk's office fills seventeen pages, all of which I will spare you. It seems sufficient to say that the deed and division recorded in 1744 is important since it enables land owners to trace their titles back to the King's grant. Because of differences in the surveys there resulted an overlapping of the Little and Great Nine tracts just south of the town of Pine Plains and extending to the Oblong. This was known as the Gore. It was really a scheme to grab land. It was divided into four lots by Jacobus Ter Boss. After many contests all of the owners of these four lots had to give up their land to the owners of adjacent lots.

Except for the native Indians, the earliest settlers in the town were the Palatines. The revocation of the Edict of Nantes drove many protestants from the lower Rhine near Alsace Lorraine to England where they were given transportation to America by the sympathetic government who also hoped to form from them a buffer colony along the Hudson for protection from the French and Indians. Their covenant made before leaving England was somewhat similar to the more familiar patroon system of the Dutch West Indies Company. The settlers were to engage in manufacturing of tar and turpentine and the cost of transportation was to be taken out of their profits. They were to be granted 40 acres of land free of taxes for seven years. They agreed not to leave without permission and not to engage in the manufacture of wool, a

business they had been used to in their own country, but one which England had zealously guarded for centuries.

Estimating that it would cost about \$25.00 per capita to support them until they could get the manufacture of naval stores on a paying basis, Parliament appropriated \$10,000. The turpentine industry did not turn out to be a successful venture. Money ceased to come from England and many of the Palatines went to Schoharie and to Pennsylvania. It is interesting to note that many among them, notably Nicholas Herkimer, became important factors in England's final loss of power in America.

Others of the dissatisfied Palatines drifted east and settled in the valley of the Roeliff Jansen Kill. Up to the time of the Revolution nearly nine-tenths of the inhabitants of this section were descendants of these settlers, who formed a thrifty, prosperous farming population with a very definite religious background which persists to this day.

A third contribution to the settlement of this region and one similar to the Palatines was that of the Moravians. In fact their diaries give us the earliest authentic record of the town and the one which will probably live longest in historical annals. Before we speak of their mission here let us go back and review together quickly something of their early history.

The Moravians are an episcopal, evangelical-protestant church, protestant before the Reformation, and tracing their descent directly from the Apostles and the Church founded by St. Paul in Illyricum. In the ninth century two Greek monks came into Silesia in Eastern Austria and established the Christian Church there. So to this day one can see the influence of the Greek Church in its liturgy which combined with the orchestral music of Haydn, Beethoven and Mozart provides a service of great beauty.

Through the troublous, confused years of the middle ages many people sought refuge in Bohemia and Moravia. By their union with the Hussites and the Waldenses in 1457, an organization known as the *Unitas Fratrum*, or the Moravian Church, was formed. They were the first to print the Holy Scripture. They believed in their divine inspiration, in the Trinity, the total depravity of man and his inability to secure favor from God except through our Saviour. They blended their religion with earthly pleasures and their festivals were picturesque celebrations with several choirs dressed in different colors. They practised the

love feast, or agape, of the early Christians. They elevated the position of manual labor and while subduing somewhat the contrast of society there still existed noble and peasant. They quite strongly encouraged community life in villages.

At various times the Moravians introduced various experimental phases of a communal life such as restriction of occupations, socialized medicine, nursery schools, property held in common, division into choirs or classes, etc. If people of the twentieth century, thinking that their plans for a Utopia are original with them, should search history diligently they would find that many of their ideas had been tried and discarded as unsound and impractical as far back as the early eighteenth century.

From the earliest days the Moravians have had a sad history. Located between the Greek Church on the east and the Roman Church on the west, there was always the opposition of both to be overcome. Many times they had to worship in caves or on the mountain sides. Undoubtedly persecution and poverty only strengthened their faith and made them more zealous to hold fast to the simplicity of the primitive Church. How much we need a little persecution today!

The Reformation helped them a great deal and Martin Luther had great respect for them but after the Peace of Westphalia many of these persecuted peoples fled to Saxony and Upper Lusatia. It was here at Herrnhut in 1722 that the ancient *Unitas Fratrum* was restored to life through the consecrated efforts of two extremes of society, the one Christian David, an humble carpenter, the other Count Zinzendorf, the owner of the estate where the Moravian Church was built.

Count Zinzendorf was brought up by his grandmother, a well educated, religious woman who exerted a splendid influence over him. A whimsical story is told of his early feeling of comradeship for his Saviour. When only five years of age he would throw letters out of the window directed to Him and once, when but six years of age, when soldiers of Charles XII of Sweden, entering to attack the castle, found him at prayer they were so impressed they forgot their purpose and joined with him. As a youth he formed an organization known as the order of the mustard seed whose aim was to follow Christ, love your neighbor and strive for the conversion of the heathen.

In the course of his travels during a period of banishment from Herrnhut he met through Chaplain Jablonsky the King of Prussia who,

liking Zinzendorf's replies to questions, had the episcopal ordination conferred on him in Berlin in 1737.

In the meantime the emigration to America had begun, as a natural sequence of events because of persecution in Europe and the dominating purpose of the Church not to build on others' foundations but always to carry the Gospel to the heathen, they were attracted to the New World much as the Palatines were and, also curiously enough, too by the way of England. The scenes of their early missionary endeavors were in Greenland, the West Indies, and in 1735 receiving land from Oglethorpe reached Georgia on the same vessel with John Wesley with whom they had a great friendship. In Georgia they also came in contact with George Whitefield, the great preacher, who offered them free transportation and a tract of land in Pennsylvania to carry on work among the negroes. This, as well as the venture at Savannah, failed and in 1740 one of their number, Christian Henry Rauch, was sent north to carry on work among the savages in the little settled regions. Arriving in New York he was introduced to several influential people but every-one discouraged him from attempting the work. Nothing daunted, he talked with some Mohican Indians who were in New York for a council with government officials. Rauch found most of the Indians in a terrible state of intoxication but was able to converse in Dutch with two of their number, Tschoop and Shabash. Assuring him they would be willing to be taught, he accompanied them back to their people through the unbroken wilderness to their village of Shekomeko (the Indian term for Little Mountain, the big mountain being the Takanick to the east). This early Indian settlement was about two miles south of Bethel located on the Bethel Farms now owned by Mr. Henry Jackson of New York.

At first the missionary was shown great hospitality and lived among the Indians in their huts. His fearlessness, the great disregard for his own safety and the great change in Tschoop, formerly the most notorious drunkard among them, had its influence in winning the interests of other savages and he was also invited to preach to the white settlers. People flocked some twenty or thirty miles to hear him. However, after a time he noticed his efforts were met with ridicule and scorn. The enemy was getting in its work. People who had profited by the vices of the Indians were losing business because of the conversions and so made all sorts of false accusations against the missionaries, that they were Jesuits, in league with the French, that they were furnishing the Indians with

ammunition, etc. The Indians too became suspicious of them.

At this time John Rau came to the front in their defense and continuously helped Rauch overcome the hindrances placed in his way by his enemies. He was assisted too by Gottlob Buettner, a young man who had come from Pennsylvania with his young wife.

In 1742, on his second great missionary journey in America, Count Zinzendorf and his daughter, Benigna, visited Shekomeko. A baptismal service was held and what is believed to be the first Moravian congregation of believing Indians in North America was formed.

How did the Indian settlement look in those days? Some twenty or more small huts were arranged in a semi-circle around the small birch bark church or mission house, which was about 20 by 30 feet. The cemetery was a bit higher on the hill and the barracks and stables on the flats below, all looking toward the beautiful lake, Stissing Mountain and the setting sun.

When the bishops first visited Shekomeko the congregation had only nine members but by the end of the year it had grown to a membership of sixty-three. In spite of Buettner's earnest work and the bishop's visitation the Moravians were forcibly driven from Shekomeko and Gottlob Buettner died at the age of twenty-nine and was laid to rest in the missionary cemetery, a martyr to his faith.

What became of the converted Indians and their teachers? Some went to Wechquadnach on Gnadensee,, some to Kent and others returned to Pennsylvania whence they had come. And so pathetically ended another chapter in our early history.

Tradition gives us the story of another migration, about 1760, of some twenty-five people from Massachusetts, by way of Egremont and Copake and who settled near Stissing Mountain.

In spite of these various immigrations there were in 1800 only a hotel and four or five houses in Pine Plains. Before the town could be organized as an independent unit various questions had to be settled, namely, the disposition of highway and school money, the poor fund and the matter of quit rents.

Finally in March, 1823, Reuben Bostwick sent to the Comptroller the entire amount due which for all time settled this question and made it possible for the first town election to be held the first day of April of that year.

So much for delving into the past. Today after more than a cen-

tury has gone by we find Pine Plains a community of hospitable homes, fertile farms, good roads, well-kept stores, friendly churches, a splendid school,—all serving a wide radius. May the residents continue to build well for the future on what has already been done.



ABRAHAM TOMLINSON
and the
POUGHKEEPSIE MUSEUM

From 1851 to 1856 a certain antiquarian, named Abraham Tomlinson, lived in Dutchess County, New York. Nothing has been learned of his antecedents. The earliest reference to him that has been found is an advertisement, dated February 18th, 1852, which appears on page 3 of *The Eagle*, published at Poughkeepsie on February 21st, 1852, and which runs as follows:

"Poughkeepsie Museum

On Exhibition at 330 Main street, over J. Ransom's crockery store, The Historical Collections of Dutchess County; consisting of highly interesting Indian Relics, Revolutionary Reminiscences and Antiquities, collected in Dutchess County in 1851 and 1852.

Admittances 25 cents, children half price.

Door open from 8 A. M. to 9 P. M., Sundays excepted.

February 18th."

The advertisement was supported by an editorial news-item on the second page which reads:

"Poughkeepsie Museum. This institution has just been opened in this place at no. 330 Main street over the store of Mr. John Ransom by Mr. Tomlinson, who has made much exertion and spent much time in collecting objects of interest for it. It is devoted almost exclusively to revolutionary and other relics and antiquities and curiosities belonging to this county, many of which possess great interest on account of their antiquity and the historical associations connected with them. We know of no place where those fond of relics and curiosities can pass an hour or two more profitably.

As Mr. Tomlinson has taken great pains to get up an establishment that will be worthy of the place and the county we trust he will be liberally patronized and as it is his intention to add to his stock as rapidly as possible we trust that all who have articles which are interesting as relics or curiosities, whether they consist of articles of furniture, pictures, manuscripts, weapons, books, &c., they will be ready to contribute them cheerfully that all proper aids may be given to the enterprise."

A month later *The Eagle* for March 20th, 1852, published an appeal signed by well known citizens for support for the newly opened museum.

"Poughkeepsie Museum, no. 330 Main street, over Mr. Ransom's Crockery Store.

The undersigned have examined the interesting collection of antiques and relics collected by Mr. Abraham Tomlinson, connected with the early history of our county. Our county is rich in historical associations and these memorials of the past unlock the social history of our forefathers and we think an attempt

like the present one of Mr. Tomlinson ought to be encouraged. As communities advance in the arts and refinements of life they manifest a growing desire to secure and treasure up the associations and reminiscences of their territorial history and we think a fair commencement has now been made which, under judicious management, will ultimately prove a source of pleasure and honest pride to every citizen of Dutchess County. We cordially commend Mr. Tomlinson to the fostering care and patronage of our fellow citizens.

Poughkeepsie, March 15, 1852.

J. H. Rutzer
James Emott
John S. Sleight
Geo. Wilkinson
Isaac Platt
J. H. Fonda
Wm. C. Sterling
T. C. Campbell
L. B. Sackett

Robert G. Rankin
C. H. P. McLellan
A. M. Mann
Chas. Whitehead
William Schram
M. Vassar
Wm. H. Tallmadge
J. Ransom
LeGrand Dodge."

Thereafter, the issues of the Poughkeepsie *Eagle** in 1852, 1853 and 1854 frequently contained news of the Museum and of Mr. Tomlinson's activities. The items reveal that Mr. Tomlinson had the confidence of the community and that he was indefatigable in collecting. He was said to be "travelling through the county in pursuit of curiosities;" to be "constantly adding new curiosities to his collection;" to be busy draining a swamp in Dutchess in which had been found bones that were thought to be those of a mammoth; and on one occasion *The Eagle* said: "Tomlinson has come it over Barnum ! and procured a whale, intended for the American Museum. It is 60 feet long, * * * and is now at the Poughkeepsie Museum." The whale and the bones that were recovered from the drained swamp were not peculiar as specimens of the animal kingdom while they reposed in the Museum for other newspaper items disclose that the Museum contained two eagles, two squirrels, a parrot, hawk, owl, woodchuck, cats, rabbits, crows and a rattlesnake as living exhibits. Along other lines the curiosities included a collection of articles brought from abroad by John Guy Vassar and an assortment of Indian things gotten together by Benson J. Lossing. Mr. H. Suydam of New Hamburg presented a powerful magic lantern and several paintings. At one time there was an exhibition of fancy glass-blowing and at another a company of Indians demonstrated their own manners and customs and went through the ceremonies of a wedding; still another day a concert with piano and violin numbers took place.

*See *The Eagle* for: April 10, August 7, September 25, November 13, November 20, December 18, 1852; January 1, February 12, May 7, July 16, August 13, December 17, 1853; and May 6, September 30, December 23, 1854.

On August 13th, 1853, *The Eagle* thus described one of the most unusual relics acquired by Abraham Tomlinson:

"Valuable Relic.—Tomlinson of Poughkeepsie Museum has in his possession a lock of Washington's hair. It came through such a source that there can be no doubt of its genuineness. It was cut from the veteran's head by Randall S. Street, Esq., and on the decease of Mr. Street came in the possession of his son, William I. Street, Esq., and was presented to the present possession by a lady of this city."

Documentary material formed a large part of Mr. Tomlinson's exhibit and on December 23rd, 1854, *The Eagle* said:

"The Military Journals of Two Private Soldiers: 1758-1795.—Mr. Tomlinson of the Museum has just issued a work with the above title. It is well got up, illustrated with engravings under the supervision of Benson J. Lossing, with copious notes explanatory of any thing which is obscure in the text. Mr. Tomlinson deserves praise for his enterprise in publishing this work and our citizens should sustain him. The book is sold in connection with an admission to his Museum so that the buyer cannot fail to be satisfied."

All this enterprise on the part of Mr. Tomlinson evoked much interest locally. Many persons entrusted articles to him for exhibition, either as loans or as gifts, and the attendance at the Museum grew in such a way that *The Eagle* spoke of the institution as "becoming a fashionable place of resort," and as "patronized by the best families." When first opened the Museum was at number 330 Main street, upstairs, but by April, 1852, the space it occupied was so rapidly being filled that the prediction was made in the newspaper that more room would soon be needed. The prediction was realized in the autumn of the same year for in *The Eagle* of November 13th, 1852, announcement was made that the Museum had been removed to "the Library Building, recently erected by r. Pine," which stood at numbers 223-235 Main street a few doors east of Washington.

In 1855 Mr. Tomlinson widened the field of his endeavors from Dutchess County to Ulster and on December 15th, 1855, *The Eagle* published an item which announced as follows:

"Revolutionary Papers.—A number of these, pronounced of much value by those who have examined them, have lately been discovered in Ulster County, where they have lain unnoticed since the Revolution. The *New York Times* says the Historical Society of that city, which has looked into the character of the papers, has by a unanimous vote recommended Benson J. Lossing as a most suitable person to prepare them for the press, should the legislature direct their publication. The Ulster papers are, we believe, in the hands of Mr. Tomlinson, late owner of the museum in this city, to whom the public are indebted for this discovery."

It will be noted that in the above quotation, dated December 15th, 1855, Mr. Tomlinson is spoken of as "late owner" of the Poughkeepsie Museum, which reference dovetails with the fact that in an advertisement of the Museum, published ten months earlier in *The Eagle* of February 17th, 1855, the name of Mrs. D. E. Townsend is given as "manageress." It thus becomes evident that Mr. Tomlinson severed his connection with the Museum shortly before February, 1855, although the directory for Poughkeepsie ascribed to 1855-1856 carries his name. It is probable that he left Poughkeepsie about 1856-1857. When he went, he took with him part of the material that had been on exhibition in the Museum and after his departure a great outcry arose. There were persons who claimed that articles they had only loaned and not given to him were among the things of which he retained possession and the echo of their protest long sounded in this neighborhood. So outspoken was the feeling that it was remembered clearly in 1932 by a resident of Poughkeepsie (now deceased) who was a boy in the 1850's and within late years there were also those living who had heard the story by tradition.

At the present time there is probably no one who knows all that the Poughkeepsie Museum contained or from whom the exhibits were obtained. No one knows what was loaned, what was given, what was returned to the owners nor is there full knowledge of what left Poughkeepsie with Mr. Tomlinson, although information recently accumulated throws light on the fate of at least a part of the collection.

In that connection it is to be noted that the minute-book of the Poughkeepsie Lyceum, on deposit in the Adriance Memorial Library, Poughkeepsie, records under date of March 7th, 1856, that the directors of the Lyceum had purchased from Abraham Tomlinson certain documents and also the following articles: Indian relics (domestic tools and weapons of war), collected in Dutchess County by Mr. Tomlinson; the compass, chain and tripod used by Cadwallader Colden in a survey of the county (accompanied by Colden's written instructions); a wampum belt; and several newspapers. The documents were listed in the minute-book as: the deed for a portion of Dutchess County with autographs of the Indians; the deed for the Great Nine Partners tract; a view of Poughkeepsie in 1736; a view of Poughkeepsie in 1790. These papers were stated to be in one frame and hanging on the wall of the Fallkill Bank, Poughkeepsie. From 1856 to 1882 these things were occasionally

mentioned in the minutes of the Lyceum; apparently they were shifted from place to place for storage and finally they disappeared. An address* delivered by the late Edward Elsworth before the Poughkeepsie Literary Club on October 7th, 1879, records that he was then unable to learn what had become of them. Only four and a half years prior to Mr. Elsworth's unsuccessful search the Indian deed for the Great Nine Partners was still accessible somewhere for Benson J. Lossing copied it (carefully tracing the signatures of the Indians) and his copy, endorsed as being made on February 20th, 1875, is now in the possession of Mr. Harry Harkness Flagler of Millbrook.

The "View of Poughkeepsie in 1736" which in 1856 was hanging on the wall of the Fallkill Bank was reproduced in 1866 in *Historical Sketch of the Town of Fishkill* by T. Van Wyck Brinckerhoff, at which time this small document may (by inference from the minutes of the Lyceum) have been in the Poughkeepsie City Library (housed in 1866 in the Court House). The "View of Poughkeepsie in 1790" may have been a map that is now in the Adriaance Memorial Library, Poughkeepsie (where it was deposited by the late Henry Booth), and which is reproduced at page 49 of the *Year Book* of the Dutchess County Historical Society for 1922.

That Mr. Tomlinson included Ulster County in the range of his activity is shown not only by the quotation, above, which tells of his discovery there of papers of the Revolutionary period, but by another bit of evidence. When he printed late in 1854 *The Military Journals of Two Private Soldiers, 1758-1795*, he appended to the journals a partial list of the relics then on exhibition in the Poughkeepsie Museum. In 1858 a catalogue was issued of the contents of the museum in Washington's Headquarters at Newburgh, New York, and a comparison of the two lists reveals that between twenty-five and thirty things which were at Poughkeepsie in 1854 were at Newburgh in 1858. The writer is indebted to Miss Dorothy Barck of the staff of the library of the New York Historical Society for carefully compiled citations from the two catalogues, which show clearly the transfers made from Poughkeepsie to Newburgh but, lacking space in which to print the same in full, it is possible here only to point out that both catalogues mention a lock of

*The original address is owned by Mr. Elsworth's daughters and a copy of it is in the Adriaance Memorial Library, Poughkeepsie.

Washington's hair,* a fragment of Washington's first coffin; Jane McCrea's tooth; knapsack of Captain David Uhl; sword of Captain Archibald Campbell; English musket brought from White Plains by Colonel A. Humphrey; spontoon of Lieut. Van Wyck; numerous letters, etc. Acknowledgement is further made to Miss Barck for the information that about 1858 a certain Enoch Carter of Newburgh (to whom is credited the gift to the Headquarters' Museum of the lock of Washington's hair and other things) was a collector of curios. Evidently he and Mr. Tomlinson had been in touch with each other.

While the general outline of the story of Tomlinson's Museum has been well known locally, the facts and details have not been on record in chronological and verified form. They are stated here because it is thought desirable to have them easily accessible and also because by stating them light may be thrown on the history of historical material which, in the future, may be recovered from oblivion.

To illustrate the latter possibility it can be pointed out that in the Year Book for 1935 there is an account of an 18th century parchment map of the Great Nine Partners Patent which Mr. Harry Harkness Flagler of Millbrook purchased from the daughter of the late Benson J. Lossing. The map is endorsed as: Presented to the President of the Historical Society by Smith Upton of Stanford. Smith Upton was of the mid-19th century. In 1845-1846 there was a "Dutchess County Historical Society" (see: Year Book for 1934), of which Robert G. Rankin was president. In 1852 Mr. Rankin was one of the signers (above) of an endorsement of Tomlinson's Museum. The museum contained the original deed for the Great Nine Partners Patent. In 1875 the deed was copied by Benson J. Lossing and his copy is now owned by Mr. Flagler. This is a tenuous thread. But it is obvious that there were links between the former D. C. H. S. and Mr. Rankin and the museum; and between the museum and Mr. Lossing; and a ray of

*To enable the reader to compare an item about a lock of Washington's hair, which is quoted above from *The Eagle* of August 13th, 1853, with entries in the catalogues of the two museums the latter are here given in full.

"Lock of Washington's hair—an unquestionable relic—derived from the late Judge Thompson of the supreme court of the United States. Presented by his widow, the present Mrs. Lansing of Poughkeepsie."

Military Journals of Two Private Soldiers, p. 124.

"Lock of Washington's Hair. Obtained from the late Judge Thompson of the Supreme Court of the United States. Presented by E. Carter, Esq."

Catalogue, Washington's Headquarters, Newburgh, No. 475.

light, however faint, is thus, by suggestion, thrown upon Mr. Flagler's map of the Great Nine Partners Patent.

And so the story of Tomlinson's Museum may in the future serve similarly in other connections.

HELEN WILKINSON REYNOLDS.

AGAIN THE PALATINES

When a year ago I asked Mrs. de Laporte to write the story of our Palatine ancestors I hardly realized the magnitude of the task she was to undertake. Her paper, read before the members of the Dutchess County Historical Society, was an admirable one but the story of the Palatines is more than could be covered by such a paper and this article is offered as a supplement to the story told by her. The Palatinate, that most beautiful and fertile part of Germany, situated along the Rhine between France and the rest of Europe, was for many years the battleground where the various allied armies of every country of Europe did their fighting. The thirty years' war which ended in 1648 had reduced the population of the German Empire from 30,000,000 to 12,000,000 inhabitants. From this time the Palatinate became for many years the safe haven for religious refugees from the inquisition in Spain and Huguenot refugees from France.

The Palatinate was governed for many years by Frederick V, an Elector who was both wise and just and gave equal rights to all religious beliefs. He was succeeded in 1685 by Count Neuberg who, although a Catholic, did not disturb the people in the exercise of their faith. These Electors both belonged to the House of Hanover and were relatives of Queen Anne of England. Although Henry of Navarre had in 1598 issued the Edict of Nantes giving religious liberty to the inhabitants of France, there was in many parts of the country almost a continuous condition of religious civil war so that many of the Huguenots fled to the Palatinate.

In 1685 Louis XIV revoked the Edict of Nantes and ordered them "converted by the sword". He sent an army of 100,000 soldiers into the Rhine country with orders to "render the Palatinate to a cinder." More than forty cities, including Mannheim and Heidelberg, and hundreds of villages were pillaged and burned. The vineyards which were the main support of the people were uprooted and destroyed and the inhabitants, rendered homeless and penniless, were driven into exile.

In 1685 it is said that 13,000 families were made homeless. Thousands of them drifted into the Netherlands where they found refuge. The Palatinate remained in this condition until 1714 when the allied armies of England, Holland and Germany won a series of victories under the two great commanders, the Duke of Marlborough and Prince

Eugene. It was early in 1708 that a band of forty-one of these exiles, with their Pastor Joshua Kocherthal, came to London and took the oath of allegiance to England and personally petitioned that he and his flock be sent to America, there to make a new home for themselves. He so impressed the Queen by his sincerity, simplicity and force of character that she became his friend from this time for as long as she lived. Under a guarantee of nine pence a day for twelve months and a tract of land in which to make their homes they started for America.

They arrived at their destination, Quassaic Creek on the Hudson River, early in 1709. They named their settlement Newburg after Newburg, the Elector Palatine.

In the meantime Governor Lovelace, who was to attend to the support of these colonists while they were preparing their new homes on the land that had been granted them, had died leaving them in a very destitute condition. Their pastor, Kocherthal, was obliged to go to England to see what could be done. There he found a larger company of his countrymen waiting to come to America. The newly appointed governor of New York, Colonel Robert Hunter, and the London Board of Trade believed that by sending to America these Palatines who were natives of the Black Forest country in Germany they could extract from the pine forests along the Hudson River great quantities of tar and turpentine very useful in the manufacture of naval supplies. Therefore, early in January, 1710, Pastor Kocherthal once again set out for America with 3,000 more of his homeless people crowded into ten vessels. Governor Hunter also accompanied them. Here they arrived after a tempestuous voyage of six months, 481 of them died on the voyage and one of their vessels was wrecked on the eastern end of Long Island, it is said with no loss of life but of most of their provisions and their working equipment. In such a poor condition were they when they arrived at New York that they were quarantined on Nutter's Island, now Governor's Island, for five months. While here, 250 more of them died. Governor Hunter, between August 31, 1710, and May 15, 1714, apprenticed seventy-four orphan and semi-orphan children whose ages ranged from three to fourteen years. It might be interesting to trace the history of these orphans. The story of one of them, John Peter Zenger, is very well known.

Zenger was bound out to William Bradford, a printer of New York, at the age of thirteen to learn the printer's trade. All the English

governors of New York were not like Governor Hunter, who was very much respected by the people for his sterling character and uprightness, but several of them were needy adventurers who only thought of retrieving their fortunes. One of these was William Cosby who became governor in 1731. William Bradford was publisher of the Gazette and supported the governor in his unjust claim when he had claimed the salary of Rip Van Dam who had acted as governor before Cosby's arrival. When the court decided against him he removed the judges. The friends of popular rights had no paper to defend them so started their organ, *The Weekly Journal*, with young Zenger as publisher. He had developed into a sharp, caustic writer and week after week this paper poured out a stream of invective, sarcasm and bitter charges against the governor and his party. The paper was ordered burned at the pillory by the public hangman. The aldermen who had been won to Zenger's side declared this order illegal and forbade its execution. Zenger was arrested and thrown into jail by the governor and his council for "false and seditious libel". Zenger employed the two ablest lawyers who attempted to get his release on bail, but the chief justice, DeLancey, who was an appointee and tool of the governor, demanded too high a bail and he remained in jail. Zenger and his lawyers then attacked the chief justice as having been appointed illegally upon which they were disbarred from the practice of law, DeLancey declaring: "Either we must go from the bench or you from the bar." The leader of the American bar at this time was an aged Quaker lawyer in Philadelphia, named Andrew Hamilton, and he offered to defend Zenger without fee or reward. In the meantime Zenger continued from the jail his attack upon the governor and his corrupt officials in his paper which was broadcast to the public.

He was finally tried August 4, 1735, before Chief Justice DeLancey, prosecuted by Richard Bailey, attorney general, and defended by Andrew Hamilton. The jury at once returned a verdict of "not guilty." The shouts from the court room were carried through the crowded streets. Lawyer Hamilton was escorted to his lodgings and a public dinner was given him by the mayor and the board of aldermen, with a gold snuff box as a souvenir. Philadelphia later did the same thing. By this trial of a Palatine bound boy was gained the freedom of the American press. Thus rose the saying, quoted ever since: "Get a Philadelphia lawyer."

The three thousand Palatines who had left London early in the

year had dwindled to 2,227 when they were ready for their sail up the Hudson. It was quite late in October when they anchored at their destination. Part of them settled at East Camp, now Germantown, Columbia County, and the rest at West Camp in Ulster County. The East Camp settlement was upon a tract of 6,000 acres of land sold to Governor Hunter by Robert Livingston for £226 sterling. Mr. Livingston also contracted to feed them until they could raise crops from the land allotted them, the ration to be one-third of a loaf of bread and beer per person.

Some very interesting information is contained in a "Register" or journal, kept by one of these immigrants, Ulrich Simmendinger, who after seven years in the colony returned in 1717 to his native country. He says, "About 15 miles south of Mr. Livingston's tract we began to build cabins, which every one fashioned according to his own invention and architecture". These settlements were built in groups which they named according to their own fancy. A list of these camps is given by Simmendinger with the names of the individuals in each group, Queensbury, Wormsdorf, Hunterstown, Hayesbury, Beekmansland, New Stuttgart, New Cassel, New Queensbury, New Heidelberg, New Hayesbery, New Amesbury. Some of these names still exist. They were hardly settled when there was a call for volunteers for the frontier war with French Canada. Simmendinger who was one of the three hundred who enlisted, says: "Equipment, bread and other necessities of life were provided us but, as this campaign did not succeed as expected, after our return march certain work which consisted in the burning of tar was demanded of us which was carried on with much labor for more than two years, yet with no especial profit." Upon the failure to produce tar and turpentine from the forests (altogether about two hundred barrels had been found where twenty thousand barrels had been expected), Simmendinger says: "Each one received his freedom to the extent that he might seek his own piece of bread in his own way within the Province until the Queen should again need his services. I for my part returned to New York and sought sustenance by various labors among honest people."

In May, 1711, when the Palatines found they were not to receive the forty acres of land that had been promised them and that they were to work under strict military orders as simple laborers, "servants of the Queen", there was extreme dissatisfaction among them and three or four hundred of them were in open rebellion, which required a military com-

pany of seventy men from Albany finally to quiet. In June, 1711, Governor Hunter wrote, "Our Tar work goes on as we could wish. God continue it, for we go to work with the knots. I have however sett all hands to work . . . That no hands may be idle, we employed the boys and girls in gathering knots whilst their fathers were barking." It was from these "knots", which were from a previous generation of yellow or pitch pines scattered over the country, that they obtained the only tar they found. Mr. Sackett, Governor Hunter's superintendent and the "fathers" barked more than 100,000 fine trees from which no tar could be obtained because there was none. They were a new growth of white pine, which does not produce the pitch from which tar and turpentine can be extracted. It is true that in all forests one generation of trees is followed by another kind of forest until the climax climatic forest is reached. The yellow, or pitch pine, forest was followed by the white and red pine forest, which will be succeeded by other forests until the beech-maple-hemlock forest (the climax climatic forest of this area) is reached. The forests in the Black Forest section of Germany, from which these Palatines had come, have reached the climax climatic forest stage and the light, temperature, moisture and soil conditions are such that these forests succeed themselves from generation to generation.

There were many of these old pitch pine knots and even large tree trunks to be found on the farm in southern Columbia County where the writer spent his boyhood years. Sometimes they were found half buried in the humus, where they had lain perhaps for centuries. These, cut up into faggots of convenient size, were used by the Indians and early settlers as torches to give them light, as they would burn for a long time and could not be extinguished by the wind. The writer has enjoyed many a fishing trip at night along the stream that flowed through the farm, snaring or spearing eels or other fish by the light of these pine torches.

When this tar burning enterprise finally failed in the fall of 1712 and the Palatines were turned loose to shift for themselves what were they to do not to starve with their families on their hands? About five hundred went to the Schoharie Country, encouraged by the reports of the friendly Indians from whom they obtained the land for settlement on very easy terms. But there they had troubles for they found that their Indian friends had previously disposed of these lands to Nicholas Bayard and others. Others of the Palatines went to the Mohawk Valley where

in later years they became prosperous citizens. Some of them, including many who had gone to the Schoharie Country, later went to the flourishing Palatine colony in Pennsylvania, where they were given great encouragement. They settled several counties in central Pennsylvania and in 1766, it is said, they comprised one-third of the white population of the state. Settling so close together through several adjoining counties they naturally retained their customs and their language, a mixture of German and English, which to the present day is known as Pennsylvania Dutch.

Of those remaining in the Hudson Valley, about one thousand in number, many settled on the surrounding Schuyler, Beekman and Livingston land as tenants and very soon began to prosper so that in a very few years, 1719, a census of Dutchess County gives ninety-seven freeholders of the North Ward, fifty-two of whom were Palatines. Their Dominie John Frederick Haeger who was both schoolmaster and preacher built their first schoolhouse at Queensbury in 1711 and, in 1716, built the first church, in fact the first church built in Dutchess County. It was built on land donated by Colonel Henry Beekman. It was used by both Lutheran and Calvinist, or German Reformed, congregations until 1729, when the Lutherans withdrew and built their own church at Red Hook. The old church was abandoned about 1800. Nothing remains to mark the spot but a few gravestones. Colonel Beekman in his deed first used the name Rhynebeck and Dominie Haeger during his lifetime called it Kingsbury but it was generally known as Kirch Hoeck. For the past century or more it has been known as Pinck's Corners from a family which kept a store there for many years.

Just as soon as these thrifty, industrious people were given a chance to help themselves they prospered and their prosperity assisted in the prosperity of the community where they lived. Benjamin Franklin said of them, "They are a people who brought with them the greatest of all wealth—industry and integrity and characters that have been supervised and developed by years of suffering and persecution." We have frequently heard these Palatine emigrants spoken of as poor religious refugees. This is strictly not true for in the London lists of these emigrants more than one-third are registered as Catholics. When our three thousand Palatines reached Rotterdam they were met by the word that Queen Anne had placed a limit on the number of those to be sent to England and Simmendinger says in his "Register": "After being laid

up five weeks in Rotterdam more than three thousand of the Catholic religion returned home, rather than change their religion at the demands of the Queen. The return of these Catholics opened up to us travellers . . . the passage to England." Queen Anne had made every effort to convert these emigrants to the Church of England. Knittle, in his book, "Early Palatine Emigration", explains the situation. The English populace while willing in a way to assist the poor Protestants, did not extend this generosity to include their Catholic countrymen. They were given the privilege of renouncing their Catholicism and becoming "poor Protestants". Those who refused were sent back to their homes and their return fare paid by the Queen.

J. WILSON POUCHER.

PALATINES IN DUTCHESS COUNTY

On another page of this *Year Book* an article by Dr. J. Wilson Poucher, secretary of the Dutchess County Historical Society, continues the consideration of a subject that was discussed in 1936 by Mrs. Theodore de Laporte (since deceased) in an address which she delivered before the society at Rhinebeck in June of that year. The address was published, later, in the *Year Book* for 1936. The contributions made by Mrs. de Laporte and Dr. Poucher are interesting studies of the great migratory movement of Germans of the Palatinate of the upper Rhine to America (via England) soon after 1700 and they outline the historical causes that brought about the migration.

This present item is offered as a footnote to the foregoing papers. It has been prepared for the purpose of indicating a manner of research which, when applied by those who today try to establish their lines of descent from Palatine ancestors, may be found useful.

The first large groups of Germans which came to America from the Palatinate in the early eighteenth century were led to the valley of Hudson's river. Soon however a dispersal took place. Many of the newcomers removed to the valley of the Mohawk, whence some of them went on to the Province of Pennsylvania. A goodly proportion remained along the Hudson at East Camp and West Camp in Albany and Ulster Counties, and of those a number settled ultimately in Dutchess.

In Dutchess County two tracts of land had been acquired in 1703 by Henry Beekman (the first). One tract was covered by the Rhinebeck Patent and was nearly equivalent to the area of the present town of Rhinebeck. The other tract was covered by the Beekman Patent and included the modern towns of Beekman, Union Vale, Pawling, Dover and the eastern portion of La Grange. Henry Beekman, the patentee, died in 1716 and title to his land passed to his three children: Henry Beekman (the second); Cornelia Beekman, wife of Gilbert Livingston; and Catharine Beekman, who married first Jacob Rutsen and, second, Albert Pawling.

Coming into a large inheritance in 1716, just at the time that the Palatines of East Camp and West Camp were in great need of help, Henry Beekman (the second) extended to those unhappy people an invitation to come into Dutchess County on his land on the leasehold system. The invitation was accepted and, ultimately, the land in the

town of Rhinebeck was largely taken up by Palatines.

The land covered by the Beekman Patent was held in common by Henry Beekman (the second) and his sisters: Mrs. Livingston and Mrs. Pawling, until 1737, when they partitioned the great property. The land was laid out in lots and particular lots were assigned to each of the three owners. Before the partition of 1737 it was not legally possible for either of the three to sell or lease specific parcels to settlers and therefore before 1737 only a few hardy individuals ventured on that forested area and made clearings in the woods. A few men did just that. But they must have placed their trust in fate or good fortune for they could have had nothing in legal form, no lease nor deed, to show for their occupancy of the land.

In Dutchess when a piece of land was sold and a deed in fee simple given for it the deed was—as a rule—recorded with the County Clerk. But when a piece of land was leased the lease was not recorded. And so, as a large part of the land owned by the Beekman family was developed under leases, it now is often difficult, in the absence of a record of the leases, to trace the exact locations occupied by the original leaseholders or by their descendants. One result of the War of the Revolution was that the leasehold system was ultimately done away with in large part and residents of the Rhinebeck and Beekman Patents began to acquire deeds for their homes. From such deeds it is possible to learn now where some of the Palatine families were living at the time the deeds were drawn.

The next question is: Who were the men who, beginning soon after 1716, took up residence in (the present) town of Rhinebeck and who, later, appeared in the section covered by the Beekman Patent? An answer to the question is to be found in certain documentary records contemporary with those men themselves.

Recently two books have been published which contain official lists of the names of individual Germans who were included in the migration from the Palatinate. One volume is a careful scientific work by Walter Allen Knittle, entitled: *Early Eighteenth Century Palatine Emigration*, and published in 1937 by Dorrance and Company, Philadelphia. The other is titled: *The Book of Names*, and is a compilation made by L. D. MacWethy and printed in 1933 by The Enterprise and News, St. Johnsville, New York. Some of the lists were made in England, while

the Palatines were encamped near London, and some after they had arrived in America.

As a supplement to these lists of persons who left Germany the tax-lists of Dutchess County may be studied for the names of the tax-payers show clearly the arrival in the county from time to time either of the head of a household who was mentioned on the original lists or of one of the immediate relatives of the original emigrant.

When a comparison is made of these two documentary sources the fact is at once evident that the arrival of the Germans in Dutchess intensified the language-problem that existed there already. Dutchmen and Englishmen had come before the Germans and when a Dutchman or Englishman had occasion to write the name of a German tax-payer they spelled the name as it sounded to them when the German owner spoke it. But the sound-value of the letters of the alphabet differs in Dutch, English and German and so the written records of Dutchess preserve the German names in spellings which often show an effort to transmit German sounds by Dutch or English letter-values. The spellings therefore offer great variety. And not only did the German names go through a process of evolution on paper, they were affected by the same process in common speech and so there are today in the county families bearing names that are derived from a Palatine German ancestor but which differ in spelling and pronunciation from the name as originally borne.

On the lists of the Palatines of the great migration, which are given in the two books referred to above, certain names have been noted and gathered here into a small independent list to illustrate the fact that a number of the families of Dutchess today are traceable to this source.

Andrus
Bakus; Bauer; Bauman; Becker; Bender-Baender; Bitzer; Blass;
Boesharr; Borst; Brill; Buch-Buck;
Craemer-Kraemer
Dietrich; Dietz, Durbecker
Emich-Oemich; Eyler-Isler
Feller; Flegler; Forster; Frey; Froelich
Hagedorn; Hamm; Harter; Hass; Haupt; Hayd; Hepman; Hoff,
Hoffman
Jung
Kayser-Keyser; Kilmer; Kirschner; Klein; Kolb; Kuehn-Kuhn

Mattern; Maul; Mauser; Merckel; Meyer; Moor; Mullen; Muller

Nacher-Neher; Noll

Pfeiffer; Polffer

Rau-Rauh; Reichard; Reiffenberg; Reiser; Rider; Roth

Schaffer; Schantz; Scherer; Schneider; Schreiber; Schultz; Segendorf-Seegendorf; Signer; Streit

Treber-Traver

Uhl

Velton-Felton

Weber; Weigand; Wiederwachs-Widerwax; Winniger; Wolleber

Comparing the past and present still further it may be noted that the local telephone book for 1936 records that the exchanges for Rhinebeck and Red Hook served subscribers that year who bore the names:

Coon (Kuehn-Kuhn, above)	Pitcher (Bitzer, above)
Cramer	Plass (Blass, above)
Dedrick (Dietrich, above)	Pulver (Polffer, above)
Eilers (Eyler-Isler, above)	Rider
Feller	Rifenburgh (Reiffenberg, above)
Fraleigh (Froehlich)	Rikert (Reichard, above)
Ham	Schryver (Schreiber, above)
Hapeman (Hepman, above)	Schultz
Harder (Harter, above)	Seckendorf (Segendorf, above)
Kilmer	Snyder (Schneider, above)
Meyer	Traver
Moul (Maul, above)	Weaver (Weber, above)

It will be seen from this comparison that some of the names on the original lists have survived to the present day in their original form, while others have undergone the process of evolution described above. Instances of evolution are: Boeshaar, now Boshart; Hayd, now Hayt; Mauser, now Mosher; Rau, now Row and Rowe.

The movement of Germans from Albany and Ulster Counties through northern Dutchess down to the wild land of the Beekman Patent can be illustrated by records that pertain to the names: Emigh, Uhl, Brill and Buck.

From 1714 to 1719 the name: Niclaus Oemich-Ohmich occurs on the register of the German church at West Camp; from 1718 to 1727

Necolas-Nicolas Emegh (etc) was a tax-payer in the North Ward,* Dutchess County; from 1728 to 1738 in the South Ward; and from 1739 to February, 1761, in Beekman Precinct. In the years 1718-1761 this name is given the following spellings on the tax-lists: Eemeig, Eemogh, Emagh, Emeg, Emegh, Emigh.

Henrich Uhl is named on original lists of Palatines at East Camp 1710-1714. He was a tax-payer in the North Ward of Dutchess 1718-1727; in the South Ward 1728-1738; and in Beekman Precinct 1739-1755. His name is spelled on the tax-lists: Oellee, Ohle, Ooule, Ooulie, Oul, Oule, Oulle, Owle and Ule.

On the lists for East Camp 1710-1714 Anna Margretha Brill appears as the head of a household. David Brill, possibly her son, paid taxes in the South Ward of Dutchess in 1724-1738 and in 1739-1761 in Beekman Precinct. His name is spelled Brill and Brill.

Also on the lists for East Camp 1710-1714 was Martin Buch or Buck, who was a tax-payer in the North Ward 1718-1729; in the Middle Ward 1730-1735; in the South Ward 1736-1738; and in Beekman Precinct 1739-1743. His name is spelled on the tax-lists: Bock, Book, Bock, Buck.

The register of the German church at West Camp, Ulster County, kept by the pastor, the Reverend Joshua Kocherthal, reveals some of the places in the Palatinate from which came several of the families that still are represented in Dutchess. The student of Palatine families can learn the general locality which those families left to come to America by noting on a map the region drained by the upper Rhine and its tributaries: the Main and Neckar rivers. Within that area were:

The earldom of Neuwied, home of the Dietrichs

Guntersblom in the earldom of Leinig-Hartenburg, home of the Fellers

Wertheim, Franconia, home of the Flaglers

Unter-Oetisheim, Wurtemberg, home of the Keyzers

Altzheim, on the lower Rhine, home of the Kraemer-Cramers

Brickenfeld, commune of Trarbach, home of the Nehers

Oppenheim, in the Palatinate, home of the Rauh-Raus

*The North Ward and the Middle Ward, Dutchess County, were divided by a line which began at the river, opposite Esopus Island, and ran east to Connecticut; the Middle Ward and the South Ward were divided by a line that began at the river, at the mouth of the Wappingers Creek, and ran east to Connecticut.

Kirchberg, Wurtemberg, home of the Reicharts
The earldom of Hachenburg, home of the Schneider-Snyders
Hermansdorf, commune of Neuwied, home of the Seegendorfs
Westhofen, commune of Alzey, home of the Streits
Woellstein, Kreuznach, home of the Treber-Travers

An analysis of the lists made in England of the Palatines encamped near London discloses a diversity of occupations represented among them. The great majority of the men were "husbandmen and vine-dressers", that is to say, peasant farmers, workers on the land. But representatives of all the necessary trades and crafts of the smaller cities and towns of the Palatinate were also present. Included were:

Workers in wood (carpenters, coopers, wheelwrights, joiners, turners).

Workers in wool, etc. (weavers of cloth, linen and stockings; tailors).

Workers in leather (shoemakers, sadlers, tanners).

Workers in metal (smiths, locksmiths, silversmiths).

Builders, etc. (masons, brickmakers, bricklayers).

Miscellaneous: millers, bakers, butchers, brewers, hunters, miners, potters, glazers, hatters, schoolmasters.

Of the Palatines who came to America the greater number were registered as "Reformed" in their church membership, meaning Calvinists, with Lutherans almost as numerous. There were a few Baptists and Menonites.

Out of these materials a mental picture can be conjured up of some of the outstanding circumstances that conditioned the lives of those Germans who came to America from the Palatinate in the eighteenth century, a picture both of the homeland they left and the new and untried world in which they settled. The Palatinate was the poorer for the loss of so many citizens, who were known for moral character, industry and frugality, while America gained correspondingly.

HELEN WILKINSON REYNOLDS.



COLLEGE HILL

AN ACCOUNT OF POUGHKEEPSIE COLLEGIATE SCHOOL WITH NOTES ON COLLEGE HILL PARK

When I came to live in Poughkeepsie fifty years ago, the one object that interested me more than any other was the fine old Grecian temple that stood on the top of College Hill, a magnificent building surrounded on all four sides with its broad porches and stately Doric columns. What was it? And, why was it there? What was its history? As I learned this, piece by piece, my interest increased and when on the morning of February 11, 1917, it was announced that it had burned to the ground, I doubt if anyone felt its loss more than I.

In the 1830's an association of leading citizens, calling themselves the Improvement Party, had interested themselves in founding a first class collegiate school. They began casting about to find the right man to become its manager, and they found him. Charles Bartlett, who had made his reputation in Utica, New York, where he had been principal of a very successful school of this character and which had been burned out, had come to Dutchess County and was about to interest himself at Fishkill. He was invited by the Improvement Party to come to Poughkeepsie and he approved their plans. After visiting various sites he was taken to the top of what was then known as McKeen's Hill*. He is said to have exclaimed at once, "This is the very spot!" When shown the plans for a school building, which was to be a replica of the Parthenon, (a Grecian temple dedicated to Athene, the Goddess of Wisdom in Greek mythology, which was situated on the Acropolis*, overlooking the city of Athens), he was asked if he would take charge of a school if they would erect such a building on this spot, and he replied at once: "Yes, if I can arrange the inside plans." This was assented to and the work was immediately begun. The members of the Improvement Association

*Levi McKeen, a prominent citizen of the village of Poughkeepsie, Postmaster from 1802 to 1819, lived north of Main Street on what has since been called Cottage Hill. The lane leading to his house and garden gate is said to have given the name to Garden Street. For some years he lived on Oakley Street where he had a farm which included McKeen's Hill, since known as College Hill.

*Acropolis was not simply a name given to this particular eminence in Athens but a term applied by the Greeks to any high point giving a commanding view. Our College Hill may properly be called the Acropolis of Poughkeepsie.

arranged themselves into a stock concern issuing one thousand shares of stock of one hundred dollars each, for which they subscribed: Peter P. Hayes, 91 shares; John Delafield, 182 shares; Walter Cunningham, 91 shares; George P. Oakley, 91 shares; Elias Trivett, 91 shares; N. P. Tallmadge, 91 shares; Gideon P. Hewitt, 182 shares; Jacob Van Benthuisen, 91 shares; John M. Ryer, 45 shares; Paraclete Potter, 45 shares. This body of men became the Board of Trustees of the school.

Just how much of the money for the stock was paid into their treasury, I can find no record. A mortgage was given to the New York Life Insurance and Trust Company by George P. Oakley and Ruth, his wife, dated November 30, 1835. It was recorded December 9 of the same year and the consideration was \$30,000. The guarantors included: George P. Oakley, Nathaniel P. Tallmadge, Walter Cunningham, Elias Trivett, Paraclete Potter, Peter P. Hayes, Gideon P. Hewitt, Jacob Van Benthuisen, Gamaliel Gay, John Delafield and Stephen Hendrickson.¹

Work upon the building was begun at once. It was a large quadrangle, one hundred and fifteen feet long and fifty-five feet wide, two stories high, entirely surrounded by a colonnade, eleven feet wide, with stately columns, thirty-two in number, a perfect replica of the Parthenon. No pains or expense was spared in workmanship or material. The cost of the buildings and grounds was \$75,000, a goodly sum in those days.

The Poughkeepsie Collegiate School was incorporated May 22, 1836. The building was declared finished in October.² I can find no record that tells who was the architect or builder. Dr. Bartlett, himself, planned the inside arrangements. Each pupil had a separate sleeping apartment. A wash room, or dressing-room, was furnished for every two pupils. The study room was very spacious and well ventilated. There were four large class rooms and a library, also extra apartments for property and extra clothing of the students, which were under the care of the matron.³

The school was opened November 2, 1836. At the closing exercises of the first term public examinations were held on College Hill and public speaking by pupils at Christ Church in the village. Many compliments were paid to Dr. Bartlett, Mr. McGeorge, Dr. Meunier and the students. "Our village is indeed proud of this noble establishment".⁴

The school was a success from the very start. The school year was divided into two terms of twenty-two weeks each and two vacations of

four weeks each. The terms began the first Wednesday in November and the first Wednesday in May. "The domestic arrangements and the modes of instruction will be adapted to youth of every age . . . to prepare them for a collegiate course and the attainment of a liberal education according to the wishes of their parents or guardians."⁵

Mr. Bartlett was not only a very successful manager of boys but he had a judicious faculty of surrounding himself with a body of competent teachers, ten or twelve in number. The institution was strictly a boarding school. No day scholars were received although many of them lived in the village and vicinity of Poughkeepsie. Part of Mr. Bartlett's arrangement of the interior was the large schoolroom where every student gathered on Saturday morning for a review of his week's work and the Saturday afternoon holiday depended upon this report. If he were a local boy his week-end visit to his home and family also depended on it. Dr. Charles B. Warring, who entered College Hill School in 1839 as a student for four years, and was afterward a teacher and still later principal of the school, has left some very interesting reminiscences of these years. He says: "There was William McGeorge*, a little blue-eyed Scotchman with a head covered with short curly hair, a man with rare teaching ability, a terror to the lazy but liked by the industrious. In those days corporal punishment had not gone out of fashion and Mr. McGeorge used it pretty freely. His boys were noted in the colleges for the thoroughness and accuracy of their preparation."⁶

At this time, in the late 1830's, a great financial panic swept over the country and almost all the members of the Improvement Association were wiped out and were not able to meet their obligations in this and several other great enterprises which they had undertaken. The school, however, was very prosperous. When the New York Life Insurance and Trust Company foreclosed its mortgage the school and grounds were bought by Mr. Bartlett. There is a deed, dated May 1, 1846, given by the New York Life Insurance and Trust Company to Charles Bartlett for a consideration of \$22,500.⁷ There is also a mortgage recorded May 1, 1846, given by Charles Bartlett to the New York Life Insurance and Trust Company for \$18,500.⁸ Thus he became owner as well as principal of this celebrated school, "the best school of its kind in America."⁹

*Mr. McGeorge remained at the Poughkeepsie Collegiate School until 1850 when he became principal of the Dutchess County Academy where he served until 1864, when he was succeeded by his son-in-law, Stewart Pelham.

The school and surrounding land became the property of Mr. Bartlett early in April, 1846, and continued under his wise management for the next eleven years, until his death, April 24, 1857, at the age of sixty.

During these years Mr. Bartlett ranked as a leading educator of his time and the Collegiate School attracted boys from all parts of the country. He never missed an opportunity for the enhancement of the school's facilities. For the physical training of his boys he had built one of the finest and best equipped gymnasiums in the country. This little article, copied from *The College Hill Mercury* of 1850, the school magazine, from the pen of one of the students in praise of Mrs. Hall, the school matron, shows plainly how this department was taken care of:

Messrs. Editors,—There is one department which especially deserves commendation, a lady widely known for the amiableness of her disposition and her always obliging kindness. Mr. Bartlett's lucky star was in the ascendant when he succeeded in obtaining her to fill the position she now occupies . . . This letter, Messrs. Editors, I am certain speaks the sentiments of the whole school.

Signed, Justicia.

It is not difficult to estimate what effect this school with its fine collection of young men and boys in their pre-college days had upon the social life of the village. Commencement parties and the other school events to which the young ladies and girls were invited were the events of the year in their young lives. Just a few days ago I was discussing this subject with one of those young ladies, my friend, Mrs. John R. Reynolds who, although in her eighty-seventh year, still enjoys these reminiscences and believes that no finer boys ever lived than those who were her first College Hill beaux.

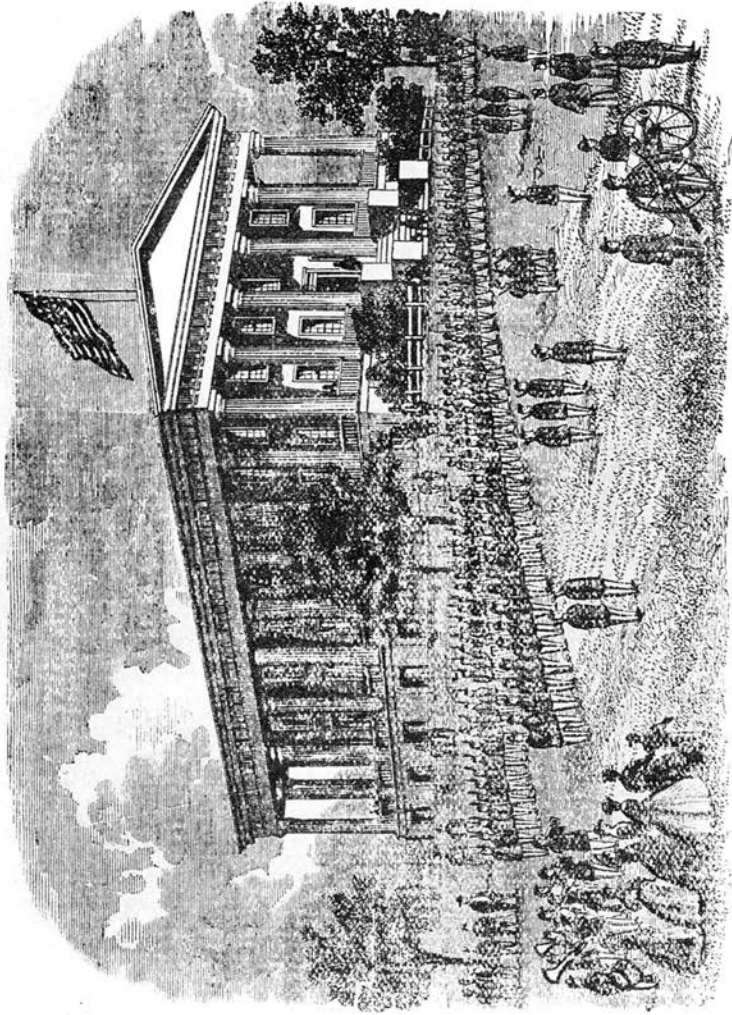
Charles Bartlett was born at Charlton, Saratoga County, the son of Otis Bartlett and Bertha Kellog, his wife. He was descended from New England ancestry, two of his ancestors, Robert Bartlett and Elder Brewster, having come to America in the Mayflower. He was married twice, first to Emily Vedder who was drowned when the steamboat: Henry Clay, was burned on the Hudson River July 28, 1852, leaving several children. He afterward married her cousin Celia Clizbe by whom he had two daughters. The youngest, Miss Ellen Clizbe Bartlett, born on College Hill the same year her father died, is now living in

Poughkeepsie and is widely known as principal of Putnam Hall School for Girls for many years. Another daughter married Edmund Pendleton Platt of Poughkeepsie, to whose daughter, Mrs. Edward F. Cary, I am indebted for much of this information. Upon the death of Mr. Bartlett, in 1857, the management of the school was taken over by Dr. Charles B. Warring, a member of the teaching staff, and Dr. Otis Bisbee who had also served there as a teacher. Both were related to Mr. Bartlett. Dr. Warring was a son of Dr. Bartlett's sister, Sarah, who had married Jeremiah M. Warring. Dr. Bisbee married a daughter of Mr. Bartlett's brother, Joseph Bartlett. This partnership of Warring and Bisbee kept up the high standard of the Poughkeepsie Collegiate School through the ensuing years.

Military instruction was added to the school curriculum in 1862 as it had become very much in vogue owing to the Civil War excitement of the time. In 1863 Dr. Warring withdrew from the partnership and founded the Poughkeepsie Military Institute which he conducted until his death, July 4, 1907. His son, Major Francis Burdette Warring, born in the school building on College Hill, was later prominent as his assistant, earning his title of Major as the able military instructor. Major Warring died at his home in Poughkeepsie, June 10, 1937.

The Collegiate School was conducted by Dr. Otis Bisbee until the spring of 1867. It had become necessary to sell the College Hill property to settle the estate of Charles Bartlett. The school building and grounds were sold by the executors of Dr. Bartlett's estate November 24, 1865. The auction was a notable event. The auctioneer was Henry W. Shaw (Josh Billings),¹⁰ who was then in business in Poughkeepsie. Dr. Bisbee was anxious to buy the school but George Morgan, a prominent citizen, at one time mayor of the city, outbid him, as he wanted the building and site for hotel purposes. Celia Bartlett, Joseph Bartlett, Henry Bartlett and John Thompson, executors of the estate of Charles Bartlett, gave a deed to George Morgan, recorded June 16, 1866. The consideration was \$30,200.¹¹

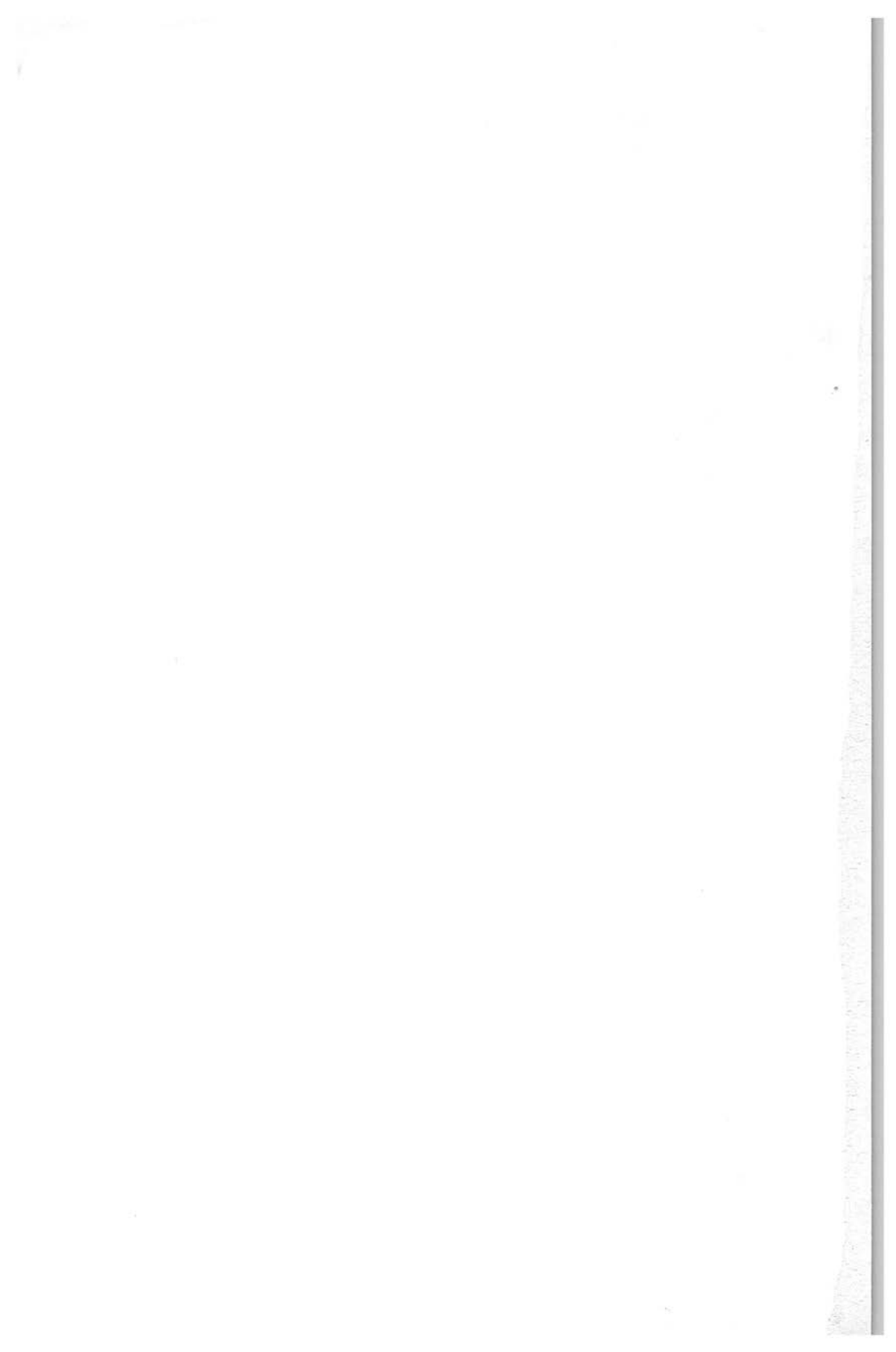
Mr. Bisbee, sold out of his school on College Hill, immediately began the erection of a new building in the lower part of the city which he named Riverview Military Academy. In the spring of 1867 the entire personnel of the Poughkeepsie Collegiate School marched in a body from College Hill to take possession of the new school home. Mr.



1836 POUGHKEEPSIE COLLEGIATE SCHOOL 1867

Removal of the student-body of the Poughkeepsie Collegiate School, College Hill, Poughkeepsie, to the new buildings of Riverview Military Academy.
 At the time of the removal a drawing was made that was later re-

produced in *The Riverview Student*, a school-paper of Riverview Military Academy. This plate was made from the cut in a copy of *The Riverview Student* from which copy the date was torn off. The issue is thought to have been printed in 1896.



Morgan then conducted a hotel in the College Hill buildings but the enterprise was not successful.

George Morgan and his wife, Fanny L., gave a mortgage on the premises to the New York Mutual Life Insurance Company for \$25,000. which was recorded April 9, 1873. On September 2, 1876, this mortgage, then amounting to \$30,381.94, was foreclosed by Homer A. Nelson, as referee.¹² The Mutual Life Insurance Company seems to have held title until October 27, 1886, when it was purchased by John Guy Vassar for \$20,000.¹³ It was Mr. Vassar's intention to found an orphan asylum to be known as the John Guy Vassar Orphan Asylum and which he richly endowed in his will, but upon his death in 1888 it was found he had failed to incorporate and the endowment fund was inherited by his heirs. When the property was sold by the estate for Mr. Vassar, in October 1892, it was bought by Mr. William W. Smith for \$11,600 and presented to the city of Poughkeepsie to be used as a public park.

Here was this beautiful hill, with an area of ninety-seven acres, with the magnificent monument-like Parthenon on its summit, easy of ascent on all sides, overlooking the city. It had, however, been practically deserted for over twenty years and allowed to revert to the wild. Great was the task ahead for the city and slow was the progress for many years. In 1916, a young boy, a florist's apprentice, was appointed assistant to the superintendent of parks, in which capacity he served twelve years. During these years he saw what might be done to make this hill the thing of beauty it now is. In 1928, this young man, Mr. Frank M. Berry, was appointed superintendent of parks which position he now holds. From that time College Hill Park has improved every year until it has become indeed a beautiful spot. Mr. Berry has chosen the best and most skillful helpers, one of them John Miller, an able and obliging florist, who manages the greenhouses from which College Hill and the other parks of the city are bountifully supplied with flowering plants.

Upon the death of Mr. Clarence Lown, in 1931, who was one of the pioneers of American rock gardeners, and whose garden for years had been one of the attractions for garden lovers from all parts of the country, his family presented its contents to College Hill park. Since this time the Clarence Lown Memorial Rock Garden has been one of the chief attractions of College Hill park where its courteous attendant,

Clarence Sutcliffe, is always willing and anxious to explain its many attractions to visitors. On the eastern slope of the hill has been established in the past few years another attraction for many of our citizens, a very fine municipal golf course.

As was stated early in this article, the beautiful old building on the summit was destroyed by fire in 1917. One of our public spirited citizens who missed it, Mr. Guilford Dudley, who died in 1934, bequeathed a sum of money to this park for the construction of a beautiful one-story building, surrounded by a broad sun porch where visitors may be protected from showers and also enjoy the surrounding view.

It may be asked by some of my readers, why this story of the park, as well as the history of the Collegiate School in connection with the Hill? But who can say that Mr. Smith, Mr. Lown, Mr. Dudley or Mr. Berry have not been carrying along the ideas conceived one hundred years ago by the men of the Improvement Association when they founded a great institution and dedicated it to the dissemination of wisdom?

J. WILSON POUCHER.

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5. The Poughkeepsie Journal, January 11, 1837.
6. Letters of Dr. C. B. Warring, filed in the Adriance Memorial Library.
7. Liber 82, p. 330.
8. Liber 62, p. 339.
9. New York Daily Press, May 15, 1852.
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11. Liber 136, p. 418.
12. Liber 184, p. 440.
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BOOKS AND READING IN DUTCHESS COUNTY
IN EARLY DAYS
WITH A SHORT ACCOUNT OF THE CITY LIBRARY OF
POUGHKEEPSIE

"Of making many books there is no end" said the writer of Ecclesiastes long, long ago and his observation is true here and now for, in the twentieth Christian century, there is of the making and the distribution of reading matter—books, newspapers, magazines—apparently "no end."

It was however otherwise in Dutchess County in the eighteenth century. The county was then a newly occupied, isolated region, where means of communication were limited and transportation slow and, due to those conditions, the people of Dutchess owned very few books. Probably every family had a Bible, perhaps also an almanac, an occasional primer or other school book and perhaps a religious treatise of some sort. But it is unlikely that the classics, history, essays, poetry or fiction were represented beyond a chance copy or two.

During the war of the Revolution, when the British occupied New York, two printers retired from the city, moved their presses up the river and established themselves in Dutchess, where they published newspapers,—Samuel Loudon at Fishkill and John Holt at Poughkeepsie. While so engaged they kept books on hand for sale and, so far as now is known, that was the first opportunity the residents of Dutchess had had to buy books within the boundaries of the county.

In 1785, when the war was over and Loudon and Holt had gone back to New York, a newspaper was founded at Poughkeepsie and the editor, Nicholas Power, continued the practice begun by Loudon and Holt. From that time on, until well along in the nineteenth century, books were sold at Poughkeepsie by newspaper editors and those newspaper offices must have been resorted to by the book-buying public of the county in general inasmuch as the facilities at Poughkeepsie for procuring books were long the chief dependence of the county in that connection. Facts stated in this article pertaining nominally to Poughkeepsie really indicate the story of all Dutchess in relation to books until such times as bookstores were opened at other points in the county.

Following the introduction of the sale of books at newspaper offices there became discernible at Poughkeepsie a trend toward the creation of

collections of books, held in common by groups of residents of the village. First there appeared in the 1790's "a library" at the Dutchess County Academy.¹ The school building stood at that time on the southwest corner of the present Academy and Cannon streets and the "librarian" was Jacob Radcliffe, a young man who later became Mayor of New York and a Justice of the Supreme Court of the State. How long the library of the Dutchess County Academy was in existence does not appear but, by inference from mentions of it in the newspapers, it was a privately owned collection from which volumes were loaned to the public.

On March 29, 1804, a group of residents of Poughkeepsie met to plan for the opening of a "library" and in 1804-1805-1806-1807 there were successive references to this institution.² There were trustees; Philo Ruggles was president; and Peter R. Maison was librarian. Apparently it was a subscription library. It was in need of funds when last mentioned and may be presumed to have come to an untimely end for lack of financial support.

In 1805 two bookstores were opened³ at Poughkeepsie, one by Chester Parsons (who was also a bookbinder) and the other by Bernard Dornin. Mr. Dornin was a bookseller at 136 Pearl street, New York, who during an epidemic of yellow fever moved his stock up the river and conducted his business at Poughkeepsie while danger of contagion lasted in the city. While at Poughkeepsie he advertised⁴ that on November 1, 1805, he would start a circulating library. Perhaps the sale of books was slow in the little village and he thought to offset that fact by renting the books he had brought from New York. His action was the first of its kind locally, so far as is now known.

After Bernard Dornin left Poughkeepsie his plan of renting books was taken up by Paraclete Potter, who on August 23, 1809, advertised⁵ that he had opened a circulating library at his store in Main street. In 1815 Davis Johnson announced⁶ the opening of a circulating library but no more is heard of that venture and it remained for Paraclete Potter to continue renting books until his removal to Wisconsin about 1840. At that time his business was acquired by William Wilson, who continued it for many years. While Mr. Potter conducted his bookstore he also printed and edited a newspaper. His bookstore contained a "Reading Room" which in his day and subsequently in Mr. Wilson's was the gathering place of those interested in books and affairs. It was truly a local forum for over half a century. Contemporary with Paraclete

Potter and William Wilson there were occasionally other men who had bookstores at Poughkeepsie and whose stores had "Reading Rooms"⁷ but apparently none of those enterprises was as long lived or influential as theirs.

At this point in the story it should be emphasized that, if the supply of reading matter has increased enormously in the early years of the twentieth century, the increase in Dutchess in the early years of the nineteenth was relatively quite as impressive. In proportion to the population of that day and in proportion to the means of distribution the increase in the number and variety of books available (through the agencies just described) was nearly as marked an occurrence then as are the floods of printed matter put out today.

As has been said above, the people of this county had almost no books before the Revolution. During the war and immediately after it there was a slight improvement. Then, from approximately 1800, they were suddenly able to obtain reading matter of many kinds if they cared to do so. To illustrate the course of this development it is only necessary to quote the names of books that were advertised for sale at different dates.

In 1779⁸ the only titles mentioned were: Buchan's *Family Physician*; Croxall's *AEsop's Fables*; *Art of Speaking*; *New Testament*; pamphlet, *An Address to the People called Quakers*; Dilworth's *Spelling Book*.

Printed in the *Poughkeepsie Journal* in 1798 and 1800 are two lists⁹ of titles, offered for sale at the *Journal* office by Nicholas Power, which, taken together, show clearly the character of the books procurable at Poughkeepsie as of "approximately 1800." Without attempting to present those long lists in full it may be said that they include not only many religious works but a variety of general literature, as for example: Washington's *Letters during the War*; Paine's *Writings during the War*; Gordon's *American Revolution*; Rabout's *French Revolution*; Cook's *Voyages*; *Life of Franklin*; Milton's *Paradise Lost and Regained*; Young's *Night Thoughts*; *The Spectator* (8 vols.); *Evelina* (2 vols.); *Children of the Abbey*; *Caroline of Litchfield*; *Alphonso and Delinda*; *New Robinson Crusoe*; *Rights of Women*; Blackstone's *Commentaries*; *Young Clerk's Vade Mecum*; Wyche's *Practise*; Buller on *Trials at Nisi Prisius*; *Conductor Generalis*; Bell's *System of Surgery*; Wallis on *Diseases*; *System of Anatomy from Lectures delivered in the University*

of *Edinburgh*. Of schoolbooks there were: *Schoolmaster's Assistant*; Moore's *Surveying*; Pike's and Lee's *Arithmetic*; Morse's and Dwight's *Geography*; Perry's and Entick's *Dictionaries*; *Columbian Orator*; Webster's *American Preceptor*; Lowth's *English Grammar*; Webster's and Dilworth's *Spelling Books*; &c., &c.

When the six books for sale in 1779 are compared with those of 1798 and 1802, the range of which latter included Milton's poetry, Addison's essays and Fanny Burney's popular novel, *Evelina*, it is obvious that something was happening in the cultural life of Dutchess County as of 1800.

Using the lists of 1798 and 1802 as a starting point it would be easy to go on and show from excerpts from the newspapers the great expansion that took place in Dutchess in the next twenty-five or thirty years in the literary outlook of the local public. There are in those newspapers many advertisements naming the books and magazines which could be purchased or rented. At some time during this period two organizations¹⁹ were formed that presumably were the result of the increased use of books by the community. One was the Mechanics' Association of Poughkeepsie and the other was the Poughkeepsie Lyceum of Natural Science. How long the two groups existed side by side is not known but in 1838 they joined forces and were incorporated as the Poughkeepsie Lyceum of Literature, Science and Mechanic Arts. At the date of incorporation the Mechanics' Association owned a "Library" of several hundred books and the Lyceum of Natural Science "a few" volumes. The aim of the unit incorporated in 1838 was stated as being the maintenance of a library, a cabinet, philosophical apparatus, a reading room and the provision of courses of literary and scientific lectures. As the Poughkeepsie Lyceum the corporation had a useful and honorable life of more than fifty years.

It is interesting to note that the organization at Poughkeepsie of literary and scientific associations was due not only to local causes but that it was really part of a wider and somewhat general movement taking place at the time. Van Wyck Brooks in *The Flowering of New England* (1936), describes at some length (page 173) the spread throughout New England of the system of lyceum lectures and of the establishment there of local societies for reading and for scientific study at dates contemporaneous with such events at Poughkeepsie. He makes no mention of such a cultural movement elsewhere than in New England but that such

a trend showed itself in the valley of Hudson's river at almost exactly the same time as in New England is demonstrable not only at Poughkeepsie but at Newburgh. In the latter village there were activities similar to those at Poughkeepsie and at dates very much the same.

Prior to 1840 all the local sources for supplying reading matter were created under private auspices and financed either privately or commercially. But a change came. In 1835 an Act was passed by the legislature of the state of New York, which had to do with public instruction and which provided that money raised by taxation might be expended in the district schools for school libraries,—books, bookcases, librarians' salaries. Three years later, on April 17, 1838, another Act was passed under which funds of the United States, deposited with the state of New York, were made available for aiding education and appropriations were authorized for common schools and for district school libraries.

Under the Act of 1838 \$1,315.00 was in 1839 allocated from such state monies to the Lancaster School, Poughkeepsie.¹¹ Founded in 1814, that school was in 1839 much run down and with the above sum it was to some extent rehabilitated. Included among the improvements was the purchase of books and the creation of a "library" under the provisions of the Act of 1835.

The library of the Lancaster School seems to have come into being in 1840 because, from 1859 to 1880, the directories for the city of Poughkeepsie speak of the city library (as the Lancaster School library had then become) as "established 1840" and the *History of Dutchess County*, published in 1882 by James H. Smith, also gives (pages 406-407) 1840 as the year when the city library was founded. It is therefore probable that with monies received in 1839 books were purchased by the trustees of the Lancaster School during the course of 1840.

On February 3, 1841, *The Telegraph* printed an advertisement announcing that the library was open for the use of residents of the village and, in the same issue of the paper, there was a news paragraph which called attention to the advertisement and commented thereon, recommending the use of the library by the public. The advertisement reads thus:

"The trustees of the Lancaster School give notice that their Library, consisting of 680 volumes, will be opened for the use of the inhabitants of the Village of Poughkeepsie, subject to the Regulations concerning the use

of Books in District Libraries, prescribed by the Superintendent of Common Schools, at the store of the Librarian, Stephen H. Bogardus, south side of Main street, on Tuesdays, Thursdays and Saturdays from 1 o'clock to 8 o'clock P. M.

January 19th, 1841."

Two years later, in January 1843, a proposal was made to found a system of public schools at Poughkeepsie and, after discussion of the subject, a bill was put through the legislature in April, 1843, under which a Board of Education was created for Poughkeepsie and several free schools opened.¹² Under the Act, the Lancaster School lost its independence and became a unit in the new system. In absorbing the Lancaster School its library was taken over with it by the Board of Education and from 1843 to 1854 the books were referred to in contemporary newspapers as: the library; the School Library; the District Library; the Public Library; and the Public School Library. In 1854 the village of Poughkeepsie was incorporated as a city and the charter of the city recognized the infant library. Title Ten of the charter covered schools and the Board of Education and it provided that the board should have charge of the district school library, saying that the same "shall be hereafter known as the city library."

The City Library of Poughkeepsie remained in the care of the Board of Education until 1900, in which year the city charter was amended¹³ and a separate board of trustees created to take charge of the institution. At the same time the library was designated as: Adriaance Memorial Library (The City Library of Poughkeepsie, N. Y.), due to the fact that a building to house the city's book-collection had been presented to the community by the children of Mr. and Mrs. John P. Adriaance in memory of their parents.

When the books that were purchased in 1840 for the Lancaster School were placed at the disposal of the village of Poughkeepsie they were shelved in the store of Stephen H. Bogardus, a sadler, on the south side of Main street. On August 16, 1843, *The Telegraph* published an account of a meeting of the Board of Education held on August 2nd, which shows that they were about to be moved from the store of Mr. Bogardus to the room of the Poughkeepsie Lyceum "near the village market." That room is understood¹⁴ to have been in a building that stood on the northwest corner of the present Union and Little Washington streets, opposite the present city hall (which latter building was in use in 1843 as a village market).

For nine years the books remained on the corner where now is the firehouse of Phoenix Hose Company. Then for a second time they were moved. In *The Eagle* of December 4, 1852, there appeared the following item:

"The Library.—The Public Library has been removed to the 'Library Building'. The room is about 35 by 40 feet and is fitted up in a manner commensurate with the growing population and increasing importance of our city. There are nearly 4,000 books on the shelves, besides a large number of magazines and pamphlets. The room has been leased by the Trustees for ten years at an annual rent of \$150.00, with the privilege of a renewal of the lease for ten years longer at a rent of \$200.00."

The "Library Building" referred to in the foregoing notice, was at 233-235 Main street, opposite the present banking house of the Poughkeepsie Trust Company and for a period of years it was a cultural center for it accomodated not only the growing library but also for a time Tomlinson's Museum and, after the Museum, the Poughkeepsie Law School. In 1937 the writer's mother (born in 1850) remembers visiting the library when it was on the north side of Main street and recalls the librarian as: "a Mr. Van Kleeck, who was tall and heavy and lame."

The books were at 233-235 Main street from 1852 to 1862, when a third change was made. On January 8, 1862, the *Daily Eagle* printed an announcement to the effect that the Board of Education had leased "the two south rooms on the first floor of the Court House for the use of the Public Library." These rooms had previously been used as a county jail but in 1856 the jail had been condemned and in 1861 a separate building was erected for prisoners and in 1862—presumably after renovation and rearrangement—the Board of Education took possession. The *Daily Eagle* said on April 17, 1862, that "yesterday the Board of Education commenced moving the Public Library in the new rooms in the Court House" and added that the new location provided space for about twelve additional bookcases and that the Board expected to be ready to give out books again after the first of May. A picture of the Court House on page 76 of the *History of Poughkeepsie* by Edmund Platt shows the small doorway cut in the east wall of the building, south of the large main entrance, to give direct entrance to the library. In October, 1932, Mr. Guilford Dudley of Poughkeepsie (since deceased) bore testimony to the present writer to his memory of the library while housed in the Court House of that day.

After ten years in the Court House the library was given its fourth

home. In 1872 a new building was erected by the city on the northwest corner of Washington street and LaFayette place in which the first floor was assigned to the City Library and the second to the High School. Removal of the books from the Court House took place in April, 1872.¹⁵ The main entrance of the building opened into a central hall; at the right was the office of the Superintendent of Schools; in a room at the left was the library desk; beyond the hall, across the width of the building from north to south, was a large room with tables for readers in the center (four, seating eight persons each). Alcoves, formed by bookshelves, were along the west and south walls. The west wall was dark. Windows at the north and south extended almost to the ceiling. At the north end of the west wall, back of the shelves, a door opened into a small rear room, which was the office of the librarian. The tables provided for readers were massive and cumbersome and the chairs large and heavy.¹⁶ Many modern library standards and methods were then unknown. But that room was marked by a leisurely quiet, impregnated with a love of books and study, and its frequenters (the present writer among them) found wells of joy within it. Modern libraries with the most approved equipment could achieve no more!

Established in 1840 as a collection of 680 books and housed from 1840 to 1898 in five locations, the library in 1898,—consisting of 23,037 books,—was moved to its present abiding place. It now numbers over 85,000 volumes.

There is record of a succession of twelve librarians who have had administrative charge of the institution: Stephen H. Bogardus,¹⁷ 1841-1843; James Howell,¹⁸ 1843-1846; Gilbert Brewster,¹⁹ 1847-1850; James Van Kleeck,²⁰ 1851-1865; Isaac Smith²¹ (in 1865?); Charles A. Keeler,²² 1865-1866; D. W. B. Marsh,²³ 1866-1869; Russell P. Osborne,²⁴ 1869-1882; John C. Sickley,²⁵ 1882-1920; Marian F. Dutcher,²⁶ 1920-1928; Mary Corliss,²⁷ 1928-1937; Louis M. Nourse,²⁸ 1937-

The original Board of Education,²⁹ which in 1843 took over the library of the Lancaster School, was composed of: David L. Starr, Ira Armstrong, Thomas Austin, Benjamin Giles, Isaac Platt, Egbert B. Killey, George C. Marshall, Barnet Hawkins, James Reynolds, Jr., William P. Gibbons, Christopher Appleton and Henry Angevine.

Since the creation of an independent board the trustees of the library have been:³⁰ I. Reynolds Adriance, 1900-died 1923; Frank Van Kleeck,

1900--died 1917; Edmund Platt, 1900-resigned 1913; William H. Frank, 1900-resigned 1912; John P. Ambler, 1900-died 1901; David K. Jackman, 1901-resigned 1929; Henry Booth, 1913-died 1929; William T. Ward, 1913-resigned 1917; Charles W. Moulton, 1917-died 1924; William H. Frank, 1917-resigned 1918; William B. Hamill, 1919-resigned 1925; John E. Adriance, 1923-died 1926; Helen W. Reynolds, 1924-to date; Raymond G. Guernsey, 1925-to date; John P. Adriance, 1926-to date; George Worrall, 1929-died 1931; Adelaide Underhill, 1929-died 1936; Clifford F. Cook, 1932-to date; Barbara Swain, 1936-to date.

HELEN WILKINSON REYNOLDS.

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4. *Poughkeepsie Journal*, December 10, 1805.
5. *Ibid.*, October 4, 1809.
6. *Republican Herald*, May 17, 1815.
7. For example: Rudd & Stockholm, as per *Republican Herald*, June 1, 1814; Stockholm & Brownejohn, as per *Republican Herald*, May 17, 1815; Killey & Lossing; Jackson & Schram; as per *The Telegraph*, December 28, 1836.
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11. *The Telegraph*, March 17, 1841.
12. *Ibid.*, February 8, 22; March 29; April 5, 26; May 10, 24; June 21, 28, 1843.
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16. A few of those chairs are in use in 1937 in the lobby of the Adriance Memorial Library.
17. *The Telegraph*, February 3, 1841; June 28, 1843.
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22. *Poughkeepsie Directory*, 1865-1866, p. 71.
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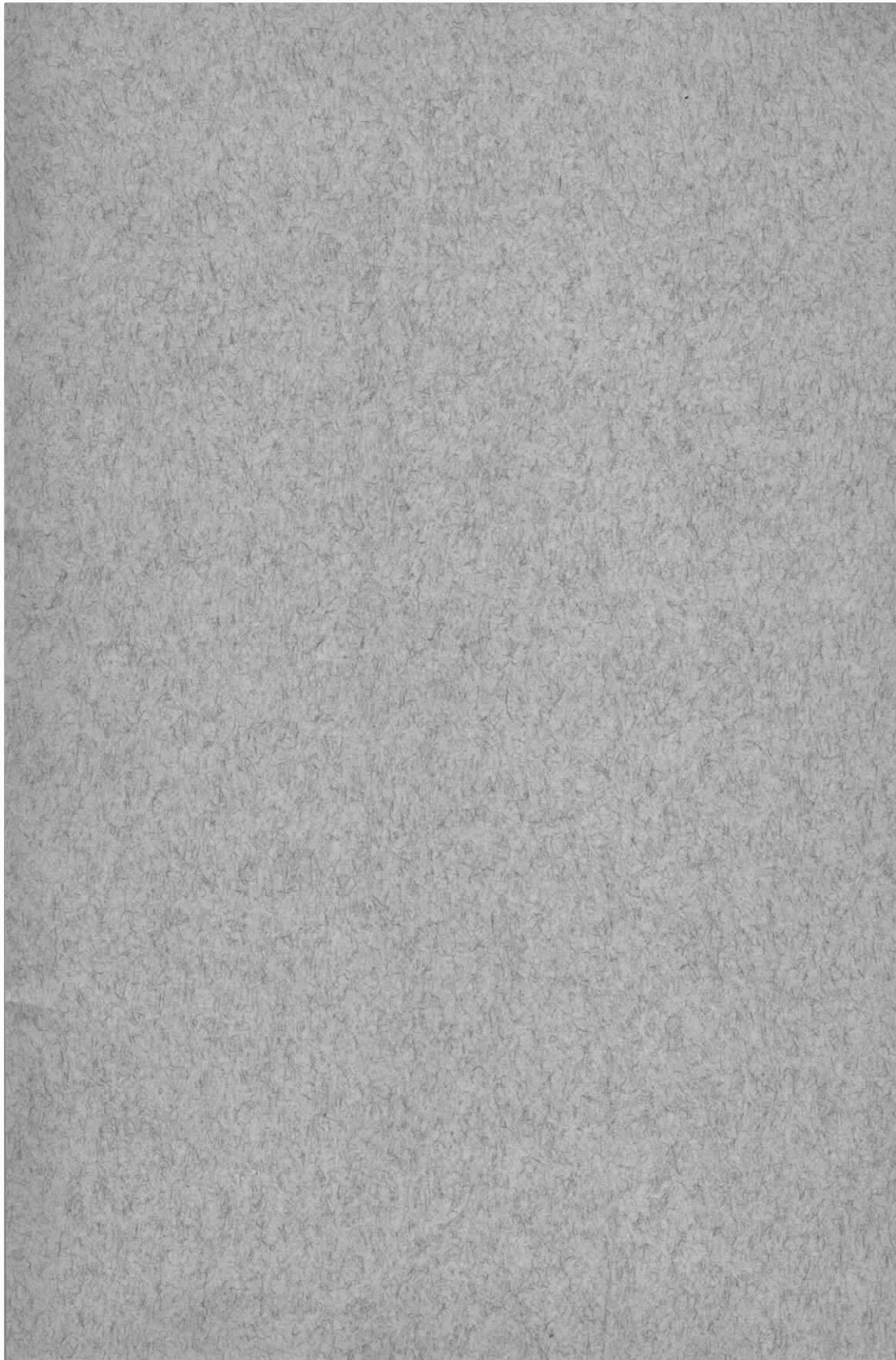
H. I. MacGlasson, Miss Margaret McIntyre, Mr. John E. Mack, Mrs. David Hugh MacKenzie, Mrs. William J. McKeown, Miss Ayls McLane, Mrs. Henry R. McLane, Mrs. H. A. McLaughlin, Mrs. W. J. McLaughlin, Mr. Alfred B. Maclay, Mr. Mark W. Maclay, Mrs. Mark W. Maclay, Mrs. Reginald L. M. McVitty, Mr. Timothy Mahoney, Mrs. Timothy Mahoney, Miss Helen M. Mahony, Mr. W. W. Maloney, Mrs. Lewis H. Marks, Mrs. Howard Townsend Martin, Miss Carolyn Mase, Mrs. G. Edward Masten, Miss Alberta F. Matthews, Mrs. D. C. Matthews, Mrs. Mark S. Matthews, Mr. Charles A. Meade, Miss Elizabeth Meade, Mr. Gordon Mendelssohn, Miss Ethel Douglas Merritt, The Millbrook Free Library, Mrs. Roswell Miller, Sr.; Mrs. Elias G. Minard, Mr. Charles S. Mitchell, Mrs. Mary C. Moore, Mr. Samuel A. Moore, Mr. Thomas R. Moore, Mr. Frederick North Morgan, Mrs. Gerald Morgan, Mr. Henry Morgenthau, Jr.; Mrs. Henry Morgenthau, Jr.; Mr. Joseph Morschauser, Mrs. Joseph Morschauser, Mrs. Helen Morton, Mrs. Elizabeth M. Mount, Miss Kathleen Mulrein, Mrs. Andrew G. Mund, Mrs. Andrew L. Mund, Mrs. Carl J. Mund, Mr. Henry Myers, Mr. Frank V. Mylod, Mrs. Frank V. Mylod, Miss Mary V. Mylod, Mr. Philip A. Mylod, Thomas F. Mylod, M. D.; Mrs. Horatio Neilson, Theodore W. Neumann, M. D.; Mrs. Theodore W. Neumann, Mrs. George L. Nickerson, Miss Elizabeth O'Connell, Mr. Charles O'Connell, Miss Florence W. Olivett, Miss Julia C. Olmsted, Miss Mary A. Olmsted, Mr. George Overocker, Miss Mary L. Overocker, Mr. Henry Pierrepoint Perry, Mrs. Cecil Parker, Mrs. Felix K. Parker, Mrs. Arthur A. Parks, Miss Edith Paulding, Mrs. John G. Pearse, Alva L. Peckham, M. D.; Mrs. Alva L. Peckham, Miss Jessie P. Pelton, Mr. Edward E. Perkins, Miss Agnes B. Petersen, Mrs. S. V. Phillips, Mr. O. C. Pinckney, Mrs. O. C. Pickney, Mr. Herbert Pinkham, Mr. Conrad N. Pitcher, Mrs. Herman G. Place, Mrs. Ruth Plantinga, Miss Anna M. Platt, Mr. Edmund Platt, Mrs. Howard

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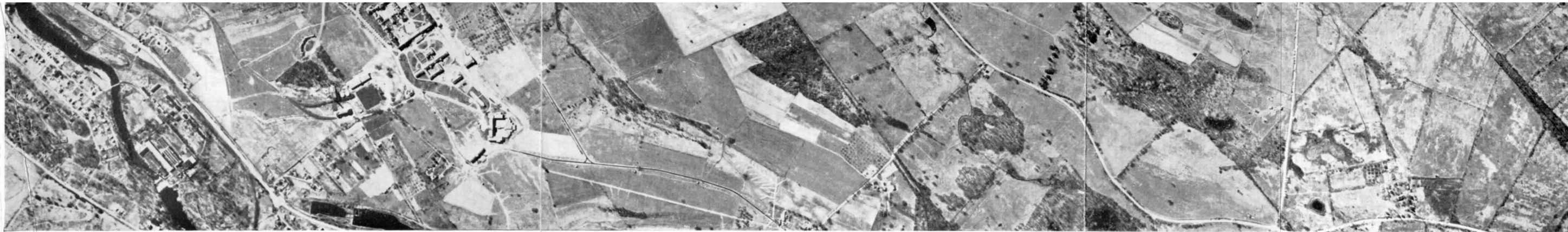
Jennie W. Southard, Miss Nellie Southard, Mr. Arthur B. Spingarn, Mr. G. V. L. Spratt, Mrs. William C. Sproul, Mr. Sumner Nash Spurling, Mrs. Sumner Nash Spurling, Mrs. Myles Standish, Mr. Ernest Steenburgh, Mrs. T. W. Stephens, Mr. Frederick S. Stevenson, Mr. Lea La Rue Stewart, Mrs. William H. Stewart, Mrs. Sanford D. Stockton, Mr. Elton G. Storm, Mrs. Mary B. Storm, Mr. Arthur Stout, Mr. Gilbert Stoutenburgh, Mrs. Edward Barnes Stringham, Mrs. George L. Stringham, Mr. Jacob H. Strong, Mrs. Jacob H. Strong, S. M. Strong, M. D.; Miss Margaret L. Suckley, Mrs. Robert B. Suckley, Mrs. Leonard J. Supple, Miss Barbara Swain, Mrs. Albert A. Swift, Mrs. Theodore Van Kleeck Swift, Miss Alicia H. Taber, Miss Martha Akin Taber, Mr. John Tartaro, Donald G. Tewksbury, Ph.D.; William Sturgis Thomas, M. D.; Dean C. Mildred Thompson, Mr. George M. Thompson, Mr. Oakleigh Thorne, Mrs. Oakleigh Thorne, Mrs. William Van Schoonhoven Thorne, Miss Ada Thurston, Miss Florence Titus, Mrs. Earl Tobey, Mrs. Zilpha Todd, Miss Reta I. Tompkins, James J. Toomey, M. D.; Mr. B. C. Tousey, Mrs. Joseph T. Tower, Mr. Edward B. Towne, Irving Townsend, M. D.; Miss Albertina T. B. Traver, Mrs. A. Wesley Triller, Mr. Charles Triller, Mr. Peter H. Troy, Mrs. Charles Tucker, Mrs. Alfred F. Tuttle, Mrs. O. S. Tyson, Mrs. E. A. Underhill, Miss Eleanor S. Upton, Miss Lucy Upton, Mrs. Carrie Van Benschoten, Miss Alma Rogers Van Hoesenburg, Mr. Baltus B. Van Kleeck, Mrs. Baltus B. Van Kleeck, Mrs. Bernard D. Van Kleeck, Mr. Charles M. van Kleeck, Mrs. Frank Van Kleeck, Mr. George S. Van Vliet, Miss Edith Van Wyck, Mr. Joseph H. Van Wyck, Mrs. K. S. Van Wyck, Vassar College Library, Mrs. Amy Ver Nooy, Mr. Bayard Verplanck, Mrs. Samuel Verplanck, Mrs. Ralph Vincent, Mr. Thomas O. Vincent, Mrs. Thomas O. Vincent, Miss Helen Waldo, Major George B. Waterman, Mrs. George B. Waterman, Mr. Ralph Ten Eyck Waterman, Mrs. J. J. Weber,

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Section of the aerial map of Dutchess County made for the Dutchess County Planning Board. The photograph reveals two lines laid out in 1708 in the major partition of the Rombout Patent (indicated by the letters A and D) and two lines laid out in 1722 in a sub-division (indicated by the letters B and C).

The plate was made from a photograph presented to the Year Book by Mr. Charles S. Mitchell, Chairman of the Dutchess County Planning Board.