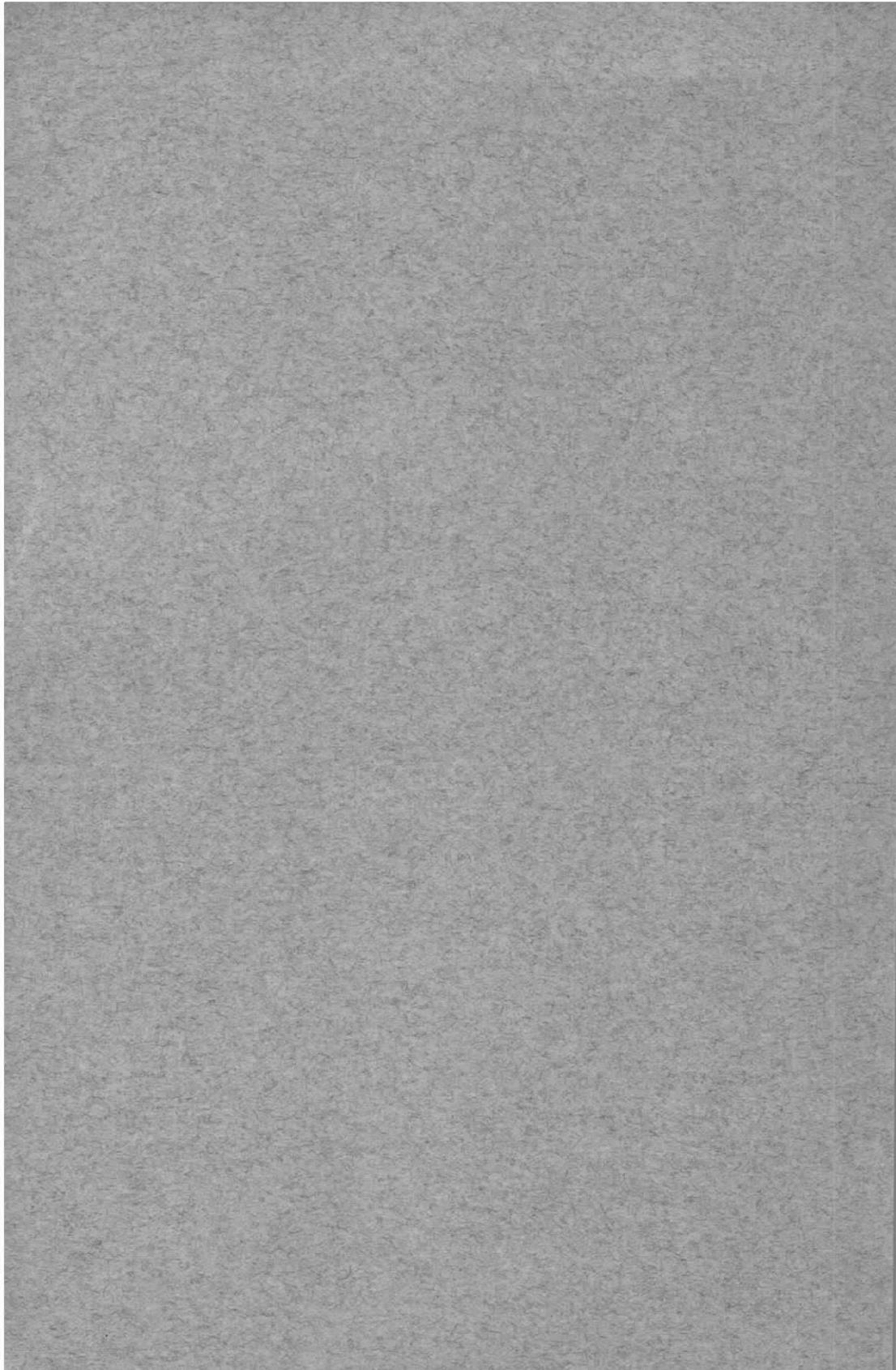


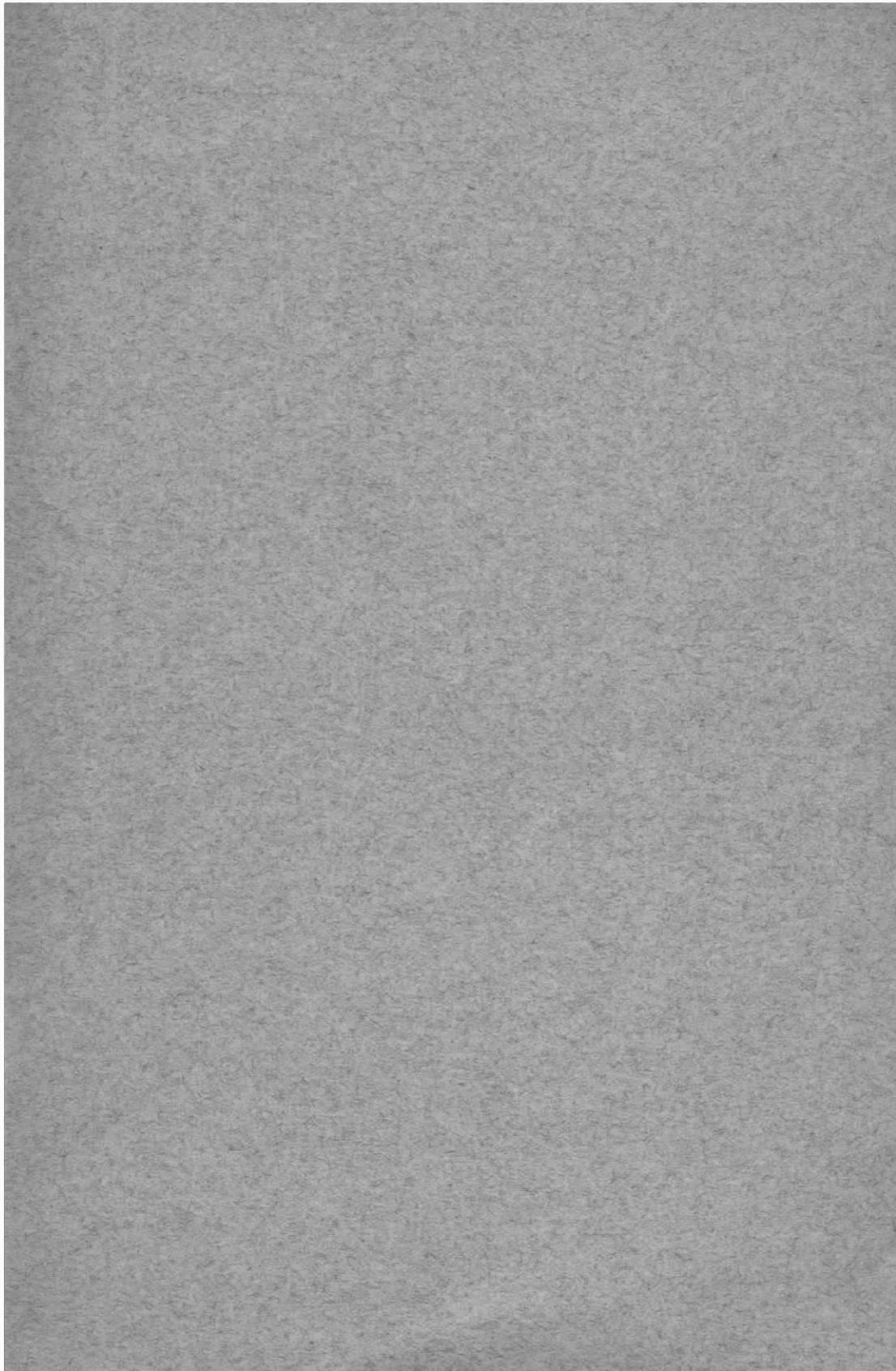
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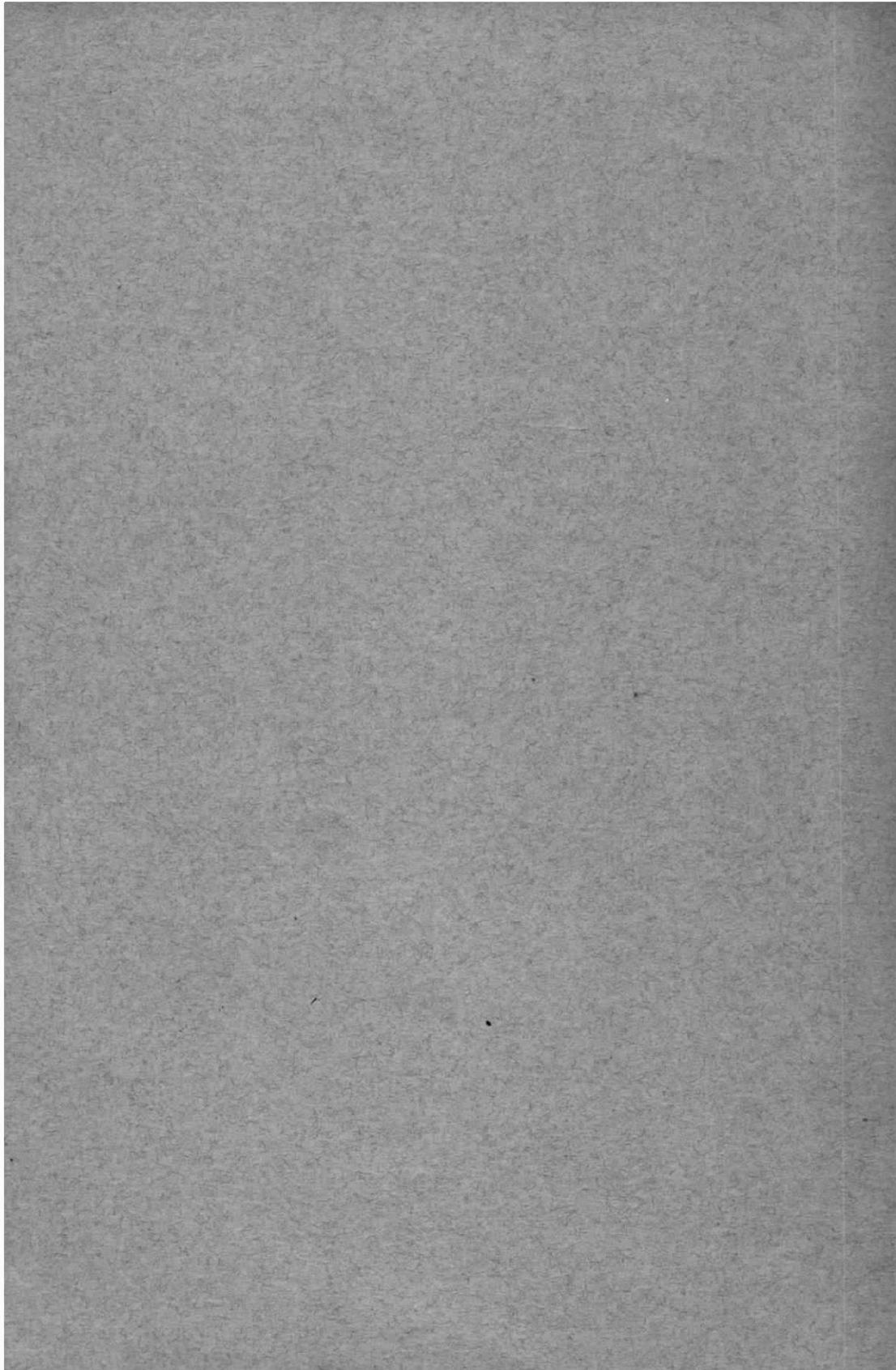
Dutchess County Historical Society

Volume 23

1938







Year Book

Dutchess County Historical Society

Volume 23

1938

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By the Dutchess County Historical Society

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

1938

- 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
Miss Edith Alden	Town of Fishkill
Franklin D. Roosevelt	Town of Hyde Park
Miss Ruth Halstead	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 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

CLASS OF 1942

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

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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., Amrita Club, 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 York.
- 1938—COLLECTIONS, VOL. VI; *Eighteenth Century Records of the portion of Dutchess County, New York, that was included in Rombout Precinct and the original Town of Fishkill*. Collected by William Willis Reese. Edited by Helen Wilkinson Reynolds. For further information address Mrs. Amy P. Vernooy, Adriance Memorial Library, Poughkeepsie, N. Y.
- 1938—In preparation: COLLECTIONS, VOL. VII. *Records of Crum Elbow Precinct, Dutchess County*. Edited by Franklin Delano Roosevelt. Publication to be announced later.

SECRETARY'S MINUTES

MEETING OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES

FEBRUARY 16, 1938

A meeting of the Board of Trustees was held on Wednesday, February 16, at 4. p. m., in the local history room of the Adriance Memorial Library.

Present: Trustees De La Vergne, Elsworth, Guernsey, Husted, Poucher, Reynolds and Van Kleeck and the Secretary and the Treasurer.

Mr. Charles M. De La Vergne, who was elected a trustee at the meeting held October 16, was welcomed as a new member.

In the absence of the President and the Vice-President-at-Large, Mr. De La Vergne was asked to preside.

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

The Secretary reported that he had had no further word from Dr. Flick or Dr. Fox with reference to a state celebration of the 150th anniversary of the adoption of the Constitution by New York State on July 26, 1788. He was asked to communicate with Dr. Fox to inquire if any plans had yet been made and to express to him the desire of this society to cooperate.

With reference to the matter of having the material in the Year Book copyrighted, Miss Reynolds reported that Mr. Hester, of the office of the Rhinebeck Gazette,

was familiar with the procedure and willing to see that a copy of the publication was sent to Washington and each number copyrighted as published.

Dr. Poucher reported that he had had a request from an historical library for back numbers of the Year Book to complete a file. After discussion, it was decided that some of the issues were scarce and that the society could not afford to present back numbers to organizations and libraries. It was voted that the Secretary communicate with the three institutions asking for back numbers, advising them that missing volumes might be supplied at \$2.00 each.

At the same time the matter of the Exchange List was discussed and it was voted that this list be revised and year books be sent only to those societies and libraries which were able to reciprocate.

The Secretary read a communication from Mrs. Eleanor Dunning McLaughlin asking for the loan of any articles of folk industry of Dutchess County which might be used for exhibit at the Museum of Social Science at Vassar College. Since this society has no collection of local handcraft, the matter was left with the Secretary for reply.

The Secretary also reported that he had had a letter from M. W. J. Burke of Charles Scribner's Sons,

requesting a list of the members of this society to be used for circularizing a new book by Professor Thomas Jefferson Wertenbaker, entitled, "The Founding of American Civilization, — the Middle Colonies." The Secretary was instructed to inform Mr. Burke that it is against the policy of this society to furnish a membership list for such a purpose.

The Treasurer reported that more money for dues had been received this year than had been received up to this date a year ago and that there was a balance of more than \$1,000 in the treasury. Miss Reynolds reported that the cost of publishing the Year Book was a little less in 1937 than in 1936.

The matter of the spring meeting was discussed and Miss Reynolds reported that the society had been invited to hold a meeting at Stanfordville. After discussion, it was decided to accept the invitation if suitable arrangements for lunch could be made. Definite arrangements were left with Miss Reynolds and the committee.

At the same time mention was made of the fall pilgrimage and Miss Reynolds reported that the society had been invited to visit two houses in Columbia County. It was decided that the society would accept the invitation if the

necessary arrangements could be made by the Pilgrimage Committee.

The President, Miss Reynolds and Dr. Poucher were appointed a committee to arrange for a speaker for the October meeting.

Dr. Poucher read a communication requesting the endorsement by this society of the proposition for the state to appropriate a sufficient sum of money to purchase "Lindenwald", the home of ex-President Martin Van Buren. After discussion, the secretary was asked to write Governor Lehman soliciting his approval of the proposition.

The following members were proposed and elected:

Life Members: Mrs. Gerald Morgan and Mrs. Johnston L. Redmond.

Annual Members: Miss Louise R. Aldridge, Miss Elizabeth P. Bockee, Mr. Tristram F. Coffin, Mrs. John Dickson, Miss Louise Hardenbrook, Mrs. Frank Mac Mullen, Mr. Rollin H. Masten, Mrs. Harry D. Matteson, Mr. Louis M. Nourse, The Rev. Harold H. R. Thompson, Mrs. Harold H. R. Thompson, Dr. Howard Townsend and Mrs. Elias Vail.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned.

J. WILSON POUCHER,
Secretary.

ANNUAL MEETING

MAY 21, 1938

The annual meeting of the Dutchess County Historical Society was held on Saturday, May 21, at the Grange Hall at Stanfordville.

There was an attendance of sixty-four for the business meeting.

In the absence of the President, Dr. Baldwin, Vice-President-at-Large, presided.

The minutes of the semi-annual meeting, held October 16, 1937, and of the meeting of the Board of Trustees, held February 16, 1938, were read and approved.

The Secretary reported that the following items had been received by gift 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.

The Proceedings of the Ulster County Historical Society.

Utah Genealogical and Historical Magazine.

The Magazine of the Hudson Valley.

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

Mr. Harry Arnold.

Mr. Charles H. Goodsell.

Mr. Thomas Jabine.

Mrs. Lena M. Lasher.

Mr. John Preston.

Mrs. Sanford D. Stockton.

Mrs. William Van Schoonhoven Thorne.

Mr. Joseph H. Van Wyck.

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

Miss Reynolds, for the Year Book Committee, said there was little to report at this meeting, except that the material for the 1938 issue was planned out and was in the course of preparation.

Miss Reynolds also reported, for the Pilgrimage Committee, that it had been suggested by General Delafield that the society should visit two old houses of the Livingston family in Columbia County. It was voted that arrangements for the pilgrimage be left to the Pilgrimage Committee.

The Secretary read a memorial on the death of Mr. Tracy Dows, a member of the society since 1914 and a member of the Board of Trustees since 1919. This was accepted with a rising vote of respect.

Dr. Poucher reported that he had conferred with Dr. Flick and with Mr. Irwin Steingut who has charge of the state funds for the celebrations of the ratification of the Constitution in all parts of the state, and that, although there were no definite plans made, a suitable celebration would be held in Poughkeepsie.

Dr. Poucher announced that the annual meeting of the New York State Historical Association will be held in Poughkeepsie this year. The conference is to be held at Vassar College, in the Main Building, September 15, 16 and 17. The members of the Dutchess County

Historical Society were invited to attend the sessions.

Miss Ruth Halstead was nominated for the office of Vice-President representing the Town of LaGrange, to succeed Mr. Joseph H. Van Wyck who died last December. Miss Edith Alden was nominated for the same office for the Town of Fishkill, succeeding Mrs. Frank Kendall, resigned.

It was moved and seconded that the Secretary cast one ballot for the re-election of the present officers and the trustees whose terms expire in 1938. The Secretary cast this ballot and seconded the nominations of Miss Halstead and Miss Alden and they were then elected.

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

Life Member: Mrs. F. Philip Hoag.

Annual Members:

Miss Florence A. Beeckman.

Miss Marion O. Candee.

Mr. Joel S. W. Carpenter.

Mrs. T. W. Carpenter.

Miss Effie Craig Douglas.

Mr. William B. Duggan.

Mr. Eliot R. Fowle

Mrs. Eliot R. Fowle.

Governor George Clinton School.

Miss Louise M. Hersey.

Mr. Donald Hurlburt.

Mrs. Donald Hurlburt.

Mrs. Eleanor Dunning McLaughlin.

Miss Dorothy Landau.

Mr. Roland Palmer.

Miss Reynolds presented a letter from Mr. Lawrence B. Cum-

mings in which he recommended that this society endorse his suggestion that the State Commission on Historic Sites of the Hudson take charge of the Knickerbocker family burying ground at Tivoli. This suggestion was approved by the society and the Secretary was asked to communicate with the secretary of that organization.

Miss Reynolds exhibited a photograph of a sketch of a scene during the debate preceding the ratification of the Constitution, made by the artist, Mr. Gerald Foster of Westfield, New Jersey, for one of the larger panels to be used as murals in the new post office at Poughkeepsie. She told how details of the sketch had been worked out from very meagre descriptions of the court house of the period.

The Secretary announced that the semi-annual meeting of this society will be held on Friday, October 21, at Poughkeepsie and that Dr. Earl Bates of the State College of Agriculture at Cornell, will speak about the Indians of this locality.

Dr. Baldwin read an invitation from the Historical Society of Newburgh Bay and the Highlands inviting the members of this society to attend a meeting to be held at West Point, June 18. Dr. Baldwin expressed the hope that a number of the members of this organization would be able to attend.

The Secretary announced that the members of this society had been invited to attend a memorial service and the unveiling of a tab-

let to the memory of Daniel Nimham, Chief of the Wappingers tribe and last of the Wappingers, the ceremony to be held at Brinckerhoff on Saturday afternoon, June 4.

A letter from Mr. Fox D. Holden, principal of the Governor George Clinton School of Poughkeepsie, was read inviting the members of this society to attend an historical pageant presenting a cyclorama of five sequential, stage-size pictures taken from the pages of the city's history.

A letter from Mr. Chester Husted was read in which he informed the society that the seventh milestone on the Dutchess Turnpike, located in the village of Pleasant Valley, had been removed by the owner of the property on which it was located. He wrote that he had received permission of the Board of Trustees of the Presbyterian Church, directly opposite the original location of the milestone, to permit the erection of the stone on the church property where it could have a permanent location and it could be preserved for future generations. This action of Mr. Husted was commended by the society, which has always been actively interested in the preservation of the county's milestones.

Miss Reynolds reported that the President of the society, Mr. Reese, had sent his greetings and regretted that he was not able to attend this meeting, that his health was much improved and that he was looking forward to being useful to the society again before long. Miss

Reynolds reported that the committee in charge of the New York State Building at the World's Fair had planned a reproduction of the seal of each of the counties of the state to be incorporated in a frieze within the building. In order that the reproductions of these seals might be of uniform size and execution, the committee had written to Mr. Reese, as President of the Dutchess County Historical Society, stating that the cost of reproducing each seal would be \$60. Mr. Reese had sent his personal check for this contribution. In appreciation of this generosity on the part of the President, it was moved and seconded that a vote of thanks be extended to him.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned for lunch. The members had brought basket lunches which were partaken of either in a heated room in the building or outside on the steps or on the grounds, as the various picnic parties desired.

After lunch an audience of 95 people gathered in the lecture room where they enjoyed a most instructive and interesting address on the history of Stanfordville and its vicinity given by Mr. Joel Carpenter. After the address a rising vote of thanks was given the speaker and the members of the party dispersed.

J. WILSON POUCHER,
Secretary.

MEETING OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES

JUNE 7, 1938

A meeting of the Board of Trustees of the Dutchess County Historical Society was held on Tuesday afternoon, June 7, in the local history room of the Adriance Memorial Library, Poughkeepsie.

Present: President Reese, Vice-President-at-Large Baldwin, Trustees De La Vergne, Elsworth, Guernsey, Mylod, Reynolds and Van Wyck and the Secretary.

Miss Reynolds, for the Pilgrimage Committee, reported that tentative plans had been made for a pilgrimage to Columbia County. Inasmuch as the New York State Historical Association had decided to come to Poughkeepsie for the annual meeting in September, she suggested that this society might combine with the State society in a pilgrimage on that occasion. She reported that the state conference would be September 15, 16 and 17, and that a pilgrimage could be arranged for Friday afternoon, September 16.

After discussion, a motion was made by Mr. De La Vergne and seconded by Miss Elsworth, that this society postpone until next year any plans for a pilgrimage to Columbia County and join with the State association in a pilgrimage to Montgomery Place and

possibly a tour through two or three of the larger estates located to the north of Poughkeepsie. It was voted that the Pilgrimage Committee make plans for this trip in cooperation with the State association.

The Secretary reported that Miss Edith Alden and Miss Ruth Halstead had accepted the office of vice-president of the society representing the townships of Fishkill and LaGrange, respectively.

The President reported that he had received a request from Mr. H. Armour Smith, Active Chairman of the Regional World's Fair Picture Exhibition Committee of the World's Fair, that this society furnish photographs of points of interest in Dutchess County which might be placed on exhibit at the World's Fair. Mr. Mylod was appointed chairman of a committee to act with power.

The following names were presented for membership and were elected:

Mrs. William Keelan.

Mrs. Samuel Lunn.

Mrs. Richmond Meyer.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned.

J. WILSON POUCHER,
Secretary.

SEMI-ANNUAL MEETING

October 21, 1938

The semi-annual meeting of the Dutchess County Historical Soci-

ety was held on Friday, October 21, at 11 o'clock at the Nelson

House, Poughkeepsie. About fifty members were present at the business meeting.

The meeting was called to order by the President.

The minutes of the annual meeting, held May 21, 1938, and of the meeting of the Board of Trustees, held June 7, were read and approved.

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

New York Historical, 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.

Long Island Historical Society year book.

Proceedings of the Ulster County Historical Society.

Inaugural Dissertation by Dr. Alfred Hasbrouck, 1848.

Sir William Johnson Bi-centennial, 1938.

Record book of School District No. 7, Town of Hyde Park, the gift of the trustees of the school.

Annual report, Federal Works Progress Administration.

Annual report, Rockefeller Foundation.

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

Miss Dorothy Hawkins, Dr. John T. Hepworth, Mr. Timothy M. Mahoney, Mr. Charles Clinton Marshall, Mrs. Grover H. Schatz and Miss Mary Sherman.

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

Miss Reynolds, for the Year Book Committee, reported that the material for the 1938 issue was in the hands of the printer and that the volume would be ready for distribution early in December.

Miss Reynolds also reported for the Pilgrimage Committee. She said that the weather had been favorable, that there had been 140 cars in the procession when it left Vassar College and that, perhaps, ten or twenty more cars had joined in the pilgrimage at various points on the way. She thought that, since all the cars seemed to be well filled, it would be safe to estimate there were about five hundred pilgrims.

It was moved that a letter of thanks be sent to General and Mrs. Delafield expressing the appreciation of the society for the gracious hospitality extended on the occasion of the pilgrimage to the members of this society and to the visitors attending the conference of the New York State Historical Association.

It was further moved that letters of thanks be sent to Mr. Herbert C. Shears, superintendent of Hyde Park, the estate of Mr. Frederick W. Vanderbilt, and to Mrs. James Roosevelt, the mother of the President, thanking them for their

kindness in permitting the procession of cars to pass through these two estates.

Dr. Baldwin gave a report of the celebration of the 150th Anniversary of the Ratification of the Constitution, held in Poughkeepsie on September 17. Dr. Baldwin spoke of the efforts of the committee and of Mayor of the city and the President of the United States in obtaining the grant of money from the State which was responsible for the success of the celebration.

It was moved and seconded that a vote of thanks be extended to Dr. Baldwin in appreciation of the time and effort he had given to the plans for the celebration.

Miss Reynolds explained that the society had, over a period of years, published five volumes of "Collections" of the society. These volumes were valuable as source material on the history of the county. They were underwritten by interested members and published under the auspices of the society. They comprise hitherto unpublished church records, town records, newspaper notices, gravestone inscriptions, etc. Miss Reynolds said that she was much pleased to announce that, through the generosity of Mr. Reese, Volume VI of these "Collections" was now ready for distribution and sale. A copy of the new volume was on display at the meeting. It contained early records of the Rombout Patent, including abstracts of deeds, wills and mortgages, lists of tax-payers, records, etc., with a complete index

of all names of persons and places mentioned in the book. She announced that the book could be examined at the Adriance Memorial Library, Poughkeepsie, and that orders for copies could be given to the Assistant Secretary, Mrs. Ver Nooy, who has charge of the local history department of the library.

Miss Reynolds moved that the society express its appreciation of the interest and generosity displayed by Mr. Reese in producing this book. Before the motion was seconded Mr. Reese explained that the book would never have been published without the cooperation of Miss Reynolds and moved that the society extend a vote of thanks to Miss Reynolds. The motion was finally made and seconded that Mr. Reese and Miss Reynolds be extended a joint vote of thanks, which was unanimously accorded.

The following names were submitted by the Secretary and they were elected to membership: Life member, Mrs. Myles Standish; Annual members, Mr. Eugene J. Cantine, Mrs. Linus Du Rocher, Mrs. Arthur Emrich, Mrs. Frank L. Gardner, Mrs. James E. Gardner, Mr. Henry C. Grube, Mrs. Charles F. Heney, Miss Katherine Herman, Dr. Charles S. Keating, Mrs. Charles S. Keating, Mr. T. Eugene Mahoney, Miss Louise McNair, Dr. Edith Gardner Mead, Dr. Harold Mestre, Mrs. Harold Mestre, Miss Charlotte F. Muckenhaupt, Mr. Kenneth Robinson, Mrs. Kenneth Robinson, Mr. Edwin Rozell, Mr. Albert B. Sherman, Mr. Hardy Steeholm

and Mrs. Hardy Steeholm.

Mr. George S. Van Vliet rose to ask if the society would make certain that the residences, still in existence in the county, of Jacobus Swartwout, Zephaniah Platt and John DeWitt, who were local delegates to the Constitutional Convention in 1788 when the Constitution was ratified, were suitably marked and that mention be made on the markers that each of these men was a delegate. From members present it was determined that all of the residences mentioned

were suitably marked.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned to the dining room where 139 members and guests enjoyed luncheon and had the pleasure of hearing a very able and instructive talk on the Indians of this locality, given by Mr. Earl Bates of the State College of Agriculture at Cornell.

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

J. WILSON POUCHER,
Secretary.

Semi-Annual Report
 TREASURER
 DUTCHESS COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

May 21, 1938

PERMANENT ACCOUNT

Balance on hand October 16, 1937	\$ 741.02
Receipts from interest	7.20
Receipts from life memberships	75.00
	823.22
Balance to date	\$ 823.22

CHECKING ACCOUNT

RECEIPTS

Balance on hand October 16, 1937	\$1,474.78
Received from dues	1,065.50
Received from sale of year books	6.00
	\$2,546.28

DISBURSEMENTS

Printing, programs for Pilgrimage	\$ 15.90
Postage	2.00
Postage, Pilgrimage and fall meeting	23.50
Gummed labels and printing postcards	11.85
Binding, year books	54.95
Printing, programs	15.90
Labeling and enclosing year books	12.00
Photographs and inserts for year book	18.40
Postage and cartage, year books	21.74
Editorial work on year book	200.00
Honorarium, Assistant Secretary	50.00
Honorarium, Curator	25.00
Honorarium, Treasurer	50.00
Dues, New York State Historical Association	3.00
Boxes, for use of Curator	19.80
Envelopes and due bills	24.10
Printing, year book	385.82
Postage	5.00
Postage	5.00
Photograph for year book	5.00
	948.96

Balance to date

\$1,597.32

Respectfully submitted,

KATHERINE B. WATERMAN,
 Treasurer.

SEMI-ANNUAL REPORT
 TREASURER
 DUTCHESS COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY
 October 21, 1938

PERMANENT ACCOUNT

Balance on hand May 21, 1938	\$ 823.22
Interest to July 1, 1938	8.02
	831.24
Balance to date	\$ 831.24

CHECKING ACCOUNT

RECEIPTS

Balance on hand May 21, 1938	\$1,597.32
Received from dues	146.10
	1,743.42

DISBURSEMENTS

Contribution to Glebe House	\$120.00
Rent of Grange Hall, Stanfordville	5.00
Printing, postcards for Spring meeting	2.50
Postage and postcards	21.50
Honorarium, Curator	25.00
Honorarium, Assistant Secretary	50.00
Honorarium, Treasurer	50.00
Envelopes and printing	24.60
	298.60
Balance to date	\$1,444.82

Respectfully submitted,

KATHERINE B. WATERMAN,
 Treasurer.

ANNUAL PILGRIMAGE

The pilgrimage of 1938 was made by the Dutchess County Historical Society in company with the New York State Historical Association. The latter organization held its sessions for 1938 on September 15, 16, 17 at Vassar College and at its request the Dutchess County Historical Society made the arrangements for a motor tour on September 16th, at which the local society acted as hosts to the visitors.

By actual count 140 cars left Vassar campus in procession. As others are known to have been added later, 150-160 is a conservative estimate of the number of cars ultimately in line. The attendance is estimated at 450 persons, which estimate allows for an average of three passengers apiece for 150 cars.

Unusually cool for mid-September the day of the pilgrimage was however in large part sunny and the weather offered no real embarrassment to an otherwise enjoyable occasion. A copy of the printed program is appended below:

TWENTY-FIRST PILGRIMAGE
of the
Dutchess County Historical Society
made in company with the
New York State
Historical Association
Friday, September 16, 1938
Daylight Saving Time

PLAN OF PILGRIMAGE

The twenty-first annual pilgrimage of the Dutchess County His-

torical Society has been planned in a way to offer hospitality and sights of general interest to the members of the New York State Historical Association, during the sessions of the Association at Poughkeepsie in September, 1938.

It is proposed that members of the local society should join in a pilgrimage with members of the state organization and should act as a committee of the whole in an endeavor to explain local landmarks to the visitors.

The places to be visited have been selected because of their significance to the state as well as to the county.

TRANSPORTATION FOR GUESTS

The Pilgrimage Committee requests that members of the Dutchess County Historical Society who can offer seats in their cars to members of the New York State Historical Association will notify Dr. James F. Baldwin, Vassar College, to that effect.

ROUTE OF PILGRIMAGE

At 1.30 P. M. the leader's car will park just inside the main gate at Vassar College, facing Raymond Avenue.

Cars will fall into line behind the leader in the order of arrival.

When the line has formed on the main driveway as far back as to the cross-road in front of the porte cochère, arriving cars will turn right in front of the porte cochère, circle Main Building, and fall into

line behind earlier arrivals.

At 2.00 P. M. promptly the line will move. The line will proceed from Vassar College to the Post Road (originally the "King's Highway").

On the Post Road cars will proceed northward to the home of the President of the United States. There the cars will pass up the entrance drive, circle in front of the house and return down the drive, keeping to the right on the avenue (each way) and, in front of the house, following the leader with care.

Returning to the Post Road, cars will continue northward to Hyde Park, the private estate from which the village of Hyde Park derives its name. Entering the south gate of Hyde Park, cars will cross the estate to the north gate. Very nearly opposite the north gate is St. James's Church which was founded in 1811 by Dr. Samuel Bard and of which the President is now Senior Warden.

Leaving Hyde Park by the north gate cars will continue northward on the Post Road for several miles. Drivers are requested to keep the line in close formation in passing through the village of Rhinebeck and to be prepared to follow the leader at a left turn off the Post Road a mile or two beyond Rhinebeck.

Taking said left turn above the village of Rhinebeck, cars will proceed to Montgomery Place, the home of General and Mrs. John Ross Delafield. Cars will discharge passengers in front of the house and

the guests will be received by General and Mrs. Delafield.

From Montgomery Place pilgrims will disperse at individual convenience. Members of the New York State Historical Association, driving their own cars, who wish guidance in returning to Vassar College, will please notify Dr. James F. Baldwin of Vassar.

GENERAL INFORMATION

The Home of the President of the United States

The land on which stands the house which is the birthplace and home of Franklin Delano Roosevelt, 32nd President of the United States, is part of a tract that was covered by the Great Nine Partners Patent of 1697. It remained in forest for many years after that date. From the middle of the eighteenth century until the first quarter of the nineteenth it was under cultivation as farm-land. In 1826 Ephraim Holbrook, a new owner, built on it a frame dwelling, square, two stories in height, which structure forms the central portion of the present house. In 1845 the house became the home of Josiah W. Wheeler, who enlarged it by adding end wings. In 1867 that dwelling, with extended acreage attached, was purchased by James Roosevelt. At his death in 1900 the place passed to his widow, who in recent years remodelled the house. It is through the courtesy of Mrs. James Roosevelt, the mother of the President, that the place is visited today.

The Estate called Hyde Park

This property is part of a larger tract covered by the Hyde Park Patent of 1705, the patent having been given its name in compliment to Edward Hyde, Viscount Cornbury, then Governor of New York. In 1772 Dr. John Bard (whose wife had inherited a portion of the patent) laid out this residential property and called it: Hyde Park. In the first quarter of the nineteenth century the name spread to a village that was then beginning to be built immediately south of the estate.

Dr. John Bard was succeeded in the ownership of Hyde Park by his son, Dr. Samuel Bard, and he by Dr. David Hosack and from 1772 to 1835 those three men made the place noteworthy for their work in medicine, in forestry, in horticulture, in floriculture and in landscape architecture. At Hyde Park is some of the oldest turf in the northern states. The landscape

work was begun before 1830.

After 1830 the estate was owned by Walter Langdon; Walter Langdon, the second; and by Frederick W. Vanderbilt; who all occupied it as the country-seat of gentlemen of leisure. Mr. Vanderbilt added largely to the original acreage.

The Estate called Montgomery Place

Soon after 1800 this residential property was created from eighteenth century farm and forest land by Mrs. Richard Montgomery, widow of General Richard Montgomery who fell at Quebec in 1775. A square stone house, finished in 1805, is now the same structurally as when erected. The walls have been stuccoed and some enlargements and decorations added. The story of the house and its occupants will be told to visitors in an address by the owner-host, General John Ross Delafield.

TWO NEW BOOKS ABOUT DUTCHESS COUNTY

Two books about Dutchess County came out in 1938, the particulars about which are as follows:

1. Under the title: *Eighteenth Century Records of the portion of Dutchess County, New York, that was included in Rombout Precinct and in the original Town of Fishkill*, there was published the sixth volume of *Collections* of the Dutchess County Historical Society. The book contains a large amount of historical source material, collected by William Willis Reese and edited by Helen Wilkinson Reynolds. It is fully indexed and in it are to be found the names of a large proportion of the people who lived in southern Dutchess between 1700 and 1800. Further details may be obtained from Mrs. Amy P. Vernooy, Assistant Secretary Dutchess County Historical Society, Adriance Memorial Library, Poughkeepsie.

2. Under the title: *The Role of Plant Life in the History of Dutchess County*, a monograph was published by Edith Adelaide Roberts of the Department of Botany, Vassar College, and Helen Wilkinson Reynolds of the Dutchess County Historical Society. The monograph presents in simple, direct text, unburdened by scientific terminology, the story of plant life in Dutchess from geologic times to the present. It is illustrated by photographs, tables and graphs and is accompanied by a map of Dutchess as photographed from an airplane. The map is marked in a way to identify the present vegetation. Publication of this study of Dutchess was made possible by the assistance of the Lucy Maynard Salmon Fund, Vassar College; of the Dutchess County Planning Board; and by gifts from residents of Dutchess County. Further information may be obtained from the Dutchess County Planning Board, Court House, Poughkeepsie.



MONUMENT
TO
CHIEF DANIEL NIMHAM

On June 4 of this year the people of Southern Dutchess performed a fitting and graceful act by dedicating a bronze tablet to the memory of Daniel Nimham, last Sachem of the Wappingers Indians, the tribe which had been the inhabitants of our county when our ancestors first settled here. Nimham became Chief Sachem of his people in 1740 from which time he persisted strenuously in his efforts to regain lands of which his people claimed to have been defrauded when the patent known as Phillipse Manor was granted by the English government, sixty years before. He always maintained that his people had sold to Adolph Phillipse a tract of land extending back from the Hudson River for three miles, but that when the patent was issued it had claimed and taken twenty miles. This left the Indians practically homeless and they were evicted from their homes. Some of them went to live with the Mohawks and others joined the Stockbridge tribe. Chief Nimham even went to England to press his claims with the English government but was sent back to the courts in New York. Here the courts decided that the Land Commissioners had the right and authority to dispose of the lands and he could get no satisfaction.

When the Revolution came Chief Nimham and his warriors volunteered on the side of the Americans under General Washington and did valiant service during the campaign in Pennsylvania and New Jersey in 1777, and again in Westchester County, New York, in 1778. Here a party of about sixty, under Chief Nimham, surrounded in a ravine by a greatly superior force of the enemy, were after a most gallant fight defeated and about forty of their number slain, including their brave old Chief Nimham. When he had realized that there was no hope, he called his warriors to flee, adding "I am an aged tree. I will die here."

The British commander, himself wounded, in his report of this affair, paid a very fine tribute to Chief Nimham and his men. After their services were no longer needed, General Washington wrote a letter to the president of Congress recommending that they be properly rewarded, closing his letter by saying, "The tribe suffered severely in the Campaign of 1778 in a skirmish with the enemy in which they lost their chief and several of their warriors."

The memorial, erected on a triangular road intersection at Brinckerhoff, New York, a bronze tablet on a fine large native boulder, reads:

DANIEL NIMHAM
CHIEF SACHEM
OF THE WAPPINGER INDIANS
BORN IN DUTCHESS COUNTY
WAS KILLED IN ENGAGEMENT AT
CORTLAND'S RIDGE, N. Y., AUGUST 31, 1778
DEFENDING THE AMERICAN CAUSE
Erected by the State of New York, 1937

The erection of this memorial is originally due to the efforts and research made by Mrs. Robert N. Verplanck and her son, William S. Verplanck and our State Historian, Alexander C. Flick, who urged and aided the project. The placing and erecting the monument was done by State Department of Public Works under Colonel Frederick Stuart Greene and his local Divisional Engineer, James S. Bixby.

The public presentation of the tablet was attended by a goodly company of interested Dutchess County people. Due to the unavoidable absence of Dr. A. C. Flick, State Historian, the memorial was presented to the people of Dutchess County by Dr. J. Wilson Poucher, acting for the State of New York. The tablet was unveiled by Master Derick Brinckerhoff, dressed as an Indian boy. It was accepted by Mr. Leonard J. Supple, Supervisor of the Town of Fishkill. Addresses were made by County Judge, J. Gordon Flannery and Mr. William B. Newell, a full-blooded Mohawk Indian.

J. WILSON POUCHER.



SALT POINT*

DUTCHESS COUNTY, NEW YORK

The village of Salt Point, Dutchess County, New York, lies within the boundaries of the Great Nine Partners Patent, which was granted in 1697. In 1734 the area of the patent was laid out in great lots and lesser lots and the lots were assigned in the names of the nine original partners, who made the purchase of the land. By that partition of 1734 the site of the village of Salt Point fell within Great Lot number six.

Great Lot number six was four miles long, east and west, and one and one-half miles wide, north and south. The north boundary line of the lot was the same as the line that now divides the towns of Pleasant Valley and Clinton. The east boundary corresponded to the present boundary between the towns of Pleasant Valley and Washington. A careful study of land records indicates that the south boundary of Great Lot number six approximated the course of a stone wall that now runs east and west at the south end of a farm owned by Casper Vandewater, while the west boundary was about a mile west of the (present) Baptist Church at Netherwood and corresponded to the line of a stone wall that now divides the farms of Frank Van Wagner and Burgess Smith.

In the partition of the patent made in 1734 Great Lot number six was assigned to the right of Henry Filkin of Flatbush, Long Island, one of the nine men who in 1697 acquired the whole tract. Henry Filkin died between September 2, 1713 and April 20, 1714, leaving a will by which he bequeathed his right to land in Dutchess County to his widow and children. Between 1734 and 1738 his widow, Katherine Filkin, laid out Great Lot number six into fourteen parts and gave the same to her children and a grandchild.

Of the fourteen subdivisions into which Great Lot number six was laid out, the one that was numbered four was given to Henry Filkin's son, Abraham Filkin, and within sub-division number four lies most of

*This article is based on notes which were assembled in part by Mr. Clifford M. Buck of Salt Point and in part by Miss Helen Wilkinson Reynolds of Poughkeepsie. Mr. Buck made a thorough search through the records in the office of the Clerk of Dutchess County for material bearing on the history of the title to lands in the vicinity of Salt Point, identified early boundary lines, road courses, etc., and gathered the traditions of old residents. Miss Reynolds acquired supplementary data, correlated Mr. Buck's material and her own and prepared the summary that is here presented.

the land on which the village of Salt Point now stands. A small part of the village lies in the fifth sub-division of Great Lot number six, which fifth sub-division passed to Henry Filkin's daughter, Antie, and her husband, Francis (Franz) Hegeman.

In what manner title to the land on which the village of Salt Point is built passed from the Filkin family to John Gazley has not been learned, but deeds that are on file establish the fact that in course of time a man named John Gazley owned a large acreage that included the land now occupied by the village. John Gazley's title covered a tract which can be described in terms of the present day in two ways:

(1) Land in the town of Pleasant Valley; bounded on the north by the line between the towns of Pleasant Valley and Clinton; bounded on the south by the south line of the land now owned by Mrs. Louis P. Hasbrouck; bounded on the west by the line of a highway that now runs between the land of Mrs. Louis P. Hasbrouck and the land of Frederick Lamoree; bounded on the east by a line not determined exactly but which perhaps corresponded to the east line of the land now owned by Mrs. Hasbrouck.

(2) Land in the town of Pleasant Valley; a tract which included the present village of Salt Point, the mill-pond (which extends into Clinton), the land of Mrs. Louis P. Hasbrouck and the land of Clifford M. Buck.

John Gazley's name is not included on the tax-list for this vicinity in 1748. The lists for 1749, 1750, 1751, 1752 are lost. His name appears on the list for 1753. However, on May 6, 1750, he had a child baptized (by the pastor of the Rombout Presbyterian Church) and on December 6th, 1750, a road was laid out that was recorded as passing his house at a point somewhere near the Little Wappingers Creek. Apparently he settled in the neighborhood in 1749 or 1750. Where he came from is not known. He not only owned a large tract of land but he operated a mill, which stood a short distance west of the place where the bridge now crosses the Little Wappingers in the present village. The map of the town of Clinton, made in 1797, marks the location as: "John Gazley's grist and saw mills and house." A private burial ground (which may still be found, east of the railroad track and in a pasture now owned by Mrs. Louis P. Hasbrouck) was referred to in 1849 in the will of John Marshall as "the Gazley Burying Ground" and the

name: Gazley is on several of the stones although, according to the register of the Presbyterian Church of Pleasant Valley, John Gazley, the pioneer, died at Albany about 1811.

Gradually, pieces of land abutting John Gazley's property were purchased and cleared by incoming settlers and an agricultural community grew up. Wheat was raised in quantity and John Gazley's grist-mill was a useful and important center. After his day the mill was owned from time to time by Haywood Tompkins, John Gager, J. V. Lamoree and Platt Van Vliet and was known by their several names. In the first quarter of the nineteenth century a plaster-mill and a saw-mill were also in operation near the grist-mill.

The site of the present village of Salt Point remained in farms until the middle of the nineteenth century. Then, in the 1840's and 1850's, Platt G. Van Vliet and Gilbert T. Pearsall made several purchases of land, out of which they sold small parcels and, on those parcels, houses were built. In that way a village began to grow.

In 1858 a map was made of Dutchess County which records twenty buildings on the above site. Of the twenty fourteen were dwellings, two were not identified and the rest were: a grist-mill, a school, a store and a hotel. Another map of Dutchess, dated 1867, indicates that in nine years the twenty buildings had increased to twenty-eight, the additions being: four dwellings, the Presbyterian Church, a post office and four sheds. On the map of 1858 no name was attached to the grist-mill and the store but on that of 1867 both were credited to P. G. Van Vliet. It is known that the congregation of the Presbyterian Church was organized in 1860 and the church building erected in 1862 so the maps of 1858 and 1867 accord with those facts. The post office would seem to have been opened between 1858 and 1867.

On the map of 1858 there are the names of eleven householders, on that of 1867 thirteen. The two lists of names, arranged alphabetically, show that the following persons were among the first occupants of house-lots on the site of Salt Point:

1858	1867
A. Doughty	D. S. DeGarmo
J. Filkins	W. Gildersleeve
H. French	William Herrick
S. A. Hicks	S. A. Hicks

J. V. Lamoree
G. T. Pearsall
H. M. Toby
R. Vanderburgh
P. C. Van Vliet
W. Wood
D. Young

J. V. Lamoree
J. H. Marshall
A. Sincerbox
H. M. Toby
Wd. Vanderburgh
P. G. Van Vliet
Dr. D. Webb
G. Wilkinson
D. Young

The little center, thus developed, was spoken of from the first by the name: Salt Point because that name had been in use for some time in the general neighborhood. The first instance of its occurrence that has so far been found is in a mortgage, dated May 5, 1816, when a piece of land was described as being on the road,—“leading from Hibernia Mills to Salt Point.” Spafford’s *Gazetteer of New York*, published in 1824, says: “Salt Point, by which a new post route is soon to pass, is about four miles northerly of Pleasant Valley village and perhaps is to have a post office.” In 1841 Barber and Howe’s *Historical Collections of the State of New York* mentioned Salt Point as “a small village” and in 1842 a *Gazetteer of New York* lists the place as a post office in the town of Pleasant Valley but the map of 1858 fails to record a post office. French’s *Gazetteer of New York* stated in 1860 that: “Salt Point on the Wappingers Creek contains a grist-mill and plaster-mill and seventeen houses.”

The origin of the unusual name, Salt Point, can be guessed but it cannot be stated positively and the exact spot where it was first applied is also uncertain. Several traditions about the name are heard among old residents, which traditions can be listed as follows:

(1) The Great Wappingers Creek, rising in the town of Pine Plains, flows southwestward. The Little Wappingers Creek flows into the Great Wappingers from the northwest near the present village of Salt Point. At the place where the two streams merge there is a V-shaped point of land. Tradition says that deer were salted at this point.

(2) On the southwest side of the Little Wappingers Creek there is a piece of sloping ground on the farm now owned by William Marshall. Tradition says that deer were salted there.

(3) On the northeast shore of the Little Wappingers, about a

quarter of a mile northwest of the village of Salt Point, there is a point of rocks. Tradition says that deer were salted there.

(4) There was a cattle market at Arlington, east of Poughkeepsie. When cattle were being driven to that market they were salted near the present village of Salt Point in order to make them drink much water and so to weigh heavily.

(5) When salted meat was bought in barrels by the storekeeper the refuse from the barrels was thrown out on the bank of the creek, southeast of the village, on land now owned by Mrs. Louis P. Hasbrouck. Tradition says that deer and cattle licked the salt there.

(6) There were sheds where the customers at the store tied their horses. The store was kept in a house now occupied by William J. Devine. The sheds were opposite the place where now is the Standard Oil Company's gas station. Tradition says that salt was thrown out at the sheds for the horses and for unfenced cows.

(7) A man stopped at a tavern and asked for a pint of liquor. Some jokers put salt in the liquor. From that came "salty pint" or Salt Point.

Six of the seven traditions above quoted have to do with a custom followed by the early settlers in the valley of the Hudson,—the custom of giving salt regularly to wild and domestic animals. The seventh tradition is a typical example of the sort of tale that is told at a late date when people wish to account for something that is an accomplished fact but the origin of which they are merely guessing about.

One of the six traditions that refer to the salting of animals mentions a cattle market at Arlington. Such a market was once conducted but inasmuch as it was in its heyday in the early part of the nineteenth century it took time for a tradition to take form in connection with it and so this explanation of the name Salt Point would seem not have been one of the first to arise.

The same comment can be made regarding the two traditions that include mention of a store at Salt Point as it is probable that there was no store there until some time after 1800.

Four of the seven traditions being therefore in all probability of the nineteenth century in date, there remain three stories which testify to the salting of animals, each story citing a different place as the scene of the salting but each place being a natural feature of the landscape,

where the custom could have been carried out at a very early date.

Often the place where cattle are salted is called a salt lick and often a salt lick is an outcropping of native salt. There is no evidence to show that there is or was a natural salt deposit at Salt Point. But there can be no doubt that salt was purchased by the first settlers at the most convenient landing on the river-front and carried to farms in the interior of Dutchess on horseback or by cart.

From the very first days of New Netherland (and later when New Netherland became the Province of New York) the importation of salt was one of the imperative concerns of the authorities. This essential commodity was brought to New Amsterdam (later New York) from Europe, Brazil and the West Indies, and from there was carried up Hudson's river by sloop.

It is worthy of note that one of the first stories told in connection with Dutchess County is that "Peche De Wall", a squatter at the mouth of the Fishkill, went to New York in winter on the ice in the river and brought back on a hand-sled a half-bushel of salt. In 1784 the proprietors of the Frankfort Storehouse on the site of the (present) city of Beacon were handling salt by the bushel as freight from the river-sloops. The *Poughkeepsie Journal* of January 6, 1801, contains an advertisement of the Columbian Store (on the river-front at Poughkeepsie), which offered for sale salt imported from Turk's Island and St. Ubes in the West Indies. These are but three scattered and chance instances but they bear directly upon the matter of the way in which the residents of Dutchess obtained salt in the eighteenth century.

In *Sketches of Eighteenth Century America*, written by St. John de Crèvecoeur and edited by Bourdin, Gabriel and Williams (Yale University Press, 1925), there is a description of the custom of salting animals with which this paper may well be concluded. Crèvecoeur lived in Orange County, New York, (a little southwest of the present city of Newburgh), in the 1760's and 1770's and his account of the custom is one drawn from first hand experience and observation. He wrote as follows.

"We are subjected to a trouble and expense to which, I am informed, you are wholly strangers, and that is to salt our cattle regularly once a week. This is in general done from one end of the continent to the other, but on what principle that necessity is founded none here can tell.

From the horses to the sheep every one must have a handful given them. It seems that all other American wild animals are equally fond of salt. You have heard of licking places which have been so long the resort of deer. I am of the opinion that one of the principal causes which brings every year such multitudes of pigeons is not that they visit us on purpose to eat our grains but only in their progress towards the sea in quest of salt. For during their abode with us two or three times a week they regularly take their flight towards its shores and as regularly return in twelve hours, except they are caught by the inhabitants of these counties.

“So great is the necessity of salting our cattle that they will all become wild, restless and incapable of being kept within the bounds of our farms. They shake their heads, loll out their tongues and plainly ask you for salt. They will not stand in the yard; and hardly give any milk; and even that small quantity will yield no butter. These are facts known to thousands. I relate them to you that I may have the pleasure of hearing some of your philosophical reasons on that subject.

“When our hogs are fattening up we must not forget to mix salt with the crude antimony which we frequently give them. My neighbors say that I am very lucky with my bees and that they never leave me. Would you believe it? The truth of the matter is that I give them fine salt. You’d greatly wonder to see each of them carrying away a small grain of it in its proboscis. Often our working horses and cattle refuse to drink and to eat. The quickest and best remedy is to give them a handful of salt. This cools them and inspires them with a desire either to eat or drink.

“Have you never observed near our barnyards logs of twenty or thirty feet long with the bark peeled? A great number of small cavities are dug, twice as big as one’s fist. These are every now and then replenished with salt, which the big cattle greedily eat. The young ones and the sheep soon afterwards follow and with care pick up what has been dropped and spend whole hours in licking these places. If any salt has been given them on the ground their repeated licks will dig small holes in the earth. I have often given it to them in this manner and each would eat at least a peck of the soil on which I had spilled it.

“Nor am I going to complain of this want which you have not. For were it not for the attractive power of the salt, what should we do with the dry cattle which we drive to feed on the mountains every spring?

The man who takes care of them salts them once a week at one and the same place. By this means he can always bring them together and instead of becoming wild they are always glad to see him and assemble all around him whenever he chooses to hold out his hands to them. By this simple means they are kept there as long as the feed is good. By the same expedient each person goes to the mountains and in the fall gathers them together and easily brings them home. It is done only by alluring the belled one with a handful of salt and the rest will follow in hopes of having it in their turn. Such, sir, is the simple mechanism by means of which we keep them healthy. We conduct them sometimes thirty or forty miles from home and bring them back."



EVENTS ON HUDSON'S RIVER IN OCTOBER, 1777

Continued from *Year Books* 1935, 1936

When, in October 1777, the British army came up the Hudson with an overwhelming force and captured Forts Montgomery, Clinton and Constitution and forced their way through the Highlands, they had the whole navigable length of the river before them. The British Commander, Sir Henry Clinton, sent an expedition up the river under General John Vaughn, with three regiments of soldiers, and Sir William Wallace, with his "Flying Squadron", consisting of the brigs, "Vigilant" and "Diligent" and the Galleys, "Dependence", "Spitfire" and "Crane", with at least twenty-two transports for the troops, to do as much damage as they could and to keep the American army, under General Putnam, from joining the army of General Gates in the north. Until quite recently, no complete account of what was Dutchess County's only serious invasion during the Revolution has been given. In 1934, at the suggestion of Mr. Henry Hackett of the Dutchess County Historical Society, President Roosevelt, through the efforts of Ambassador Robert W. Bingham, and with the cooperation of Admiral Gerald C. Dickens of the English Admiralty, obtained copies of the reports of the British officers who took part in the campaign of 1777 on Hudson's River. Those reports were printed in the *Year Books* of the Dutchess County Historical Society for 1935 and 1936.

The British expedition came up the river, destroying all vessels they found. A short distance below Poughkeepsie, the log of the galley *Dependence* "sent our Boats Man'd & Arm'd to Destroy the Reble Vessels that Lay haul'd up in a Creek . . . and some store Houses"¹ These were undoubtedly Van Keuren's mill and forge, where, it is said, links were forged for the chain stretched across the river in the Highlands. This mill and forge were situated at the mouth of the Speckenkill, at the locality which is now called "Rudco." When the British soldiers had burned the mill and forge they went to the house of the then owner, Theophilus Anthony. The family had fled to the woods but a negro slave Dina, gave them a hearty meal with her morning's baking, imploring them not to burn the house, which they spared. It is still standing. Dina spent a long faithful life in the family of Mr. Anthony's daughter, Wilhelmina, who married Robert Gill, and when she died was buried with members of the Gill family in the burial ground on the Gill

farm. A few years ago, when those bodies were moved to the Poughkeepsie Rural Cemetery, Dina's went with those of the family, and a stone to her memory now stands in the family plot.

The log of the *Dependence* continues: Wednesday, October 15, "brought too, to wait for the Transports at 11. at 11 made sail at Pokeepsy Landg." The British do not mention firing any shots at the village but they probably did so, as that was their custom whenever they landed or anchored. One four-inch ball struck the house of Henry Livingston, situated a mile south of the "Heights of Poughkeepsie", (Kaal Rock). Whether this happened when the enemy went up on the 15th or when they came down on the 24th is not known. It was most likely when they were starting up the river as they had other things to occupy them as they came down, practically in retreat.

On the 16th they reached Esopus (Rondout). Here they were fired upon so persistently from the batteries at the mouth of the Rondout Creek that General Vaughn, who did not think it wise to leave so strong a force in their rear, landed all his troops, overcame the batteries and destroyed vessels, magazines and stores. One of the vessels sunk in Rondout Creek was the Galley, "*Lady Washington*",² afterward raised by Governor Clinton's men. At eleven o'clock at night all the troops embarked, "having burnt the Town of Kingston and several Magazines of Proviss." On the 18th, "a Detchmt of the Army Landed to Destroy some stores Fired 3 twenty four lbs to Cover their Landg." This was in Rhinebeck Precinct at Red Hook where they burned Livingston's mills and every house of consequence, one of which was the home of the widow of Brigadier-General Peter Ten Broeck.³ On the 19th, "sent the Boats Mann'd and Arm'd to Destroy some Reble Stores on Livingstons Manner." There they burned Clermont, which was the home of Margaret Livingston, widow of Judge Robert R. Livingston, and also the house of her son, Robert, later the Chancellor. On the 20th, again, "sent the Boats on shore Man'd and Arm'd per Signal to burn 2 Reble Vessels at 5 p.m. fired 5 four lbs. round and Grape to Cover our Boats."

At this time the British had heard that they could do nothing to assist General Burgoyne and, as General Putnam was hovering along the river with a strong force ready to intercept them if they landed, they started on their return trip down the river. On October 20, Governor

Clinton, who was at Hurley, wrote General Putnam, who was at Red Hook: "I very much approve of your intention to annoy the enemy's fleet, & shall cheerfully co-operate with you."⁴

Again, on the 23d, the log of the "*Dependence*" says: "saw the Rebel Army posting themselves Advantageously behind the Heights of Pokeepsy." On the 24th, "at 1 p. m. the Enemy open'd a 5 Gun Battery on the Transports Do brought too with the *Spitfire* and *Crane* Galleys and Cannonaded the battery whilst the Transports were passing fired 14 twenty four lbs at the Reble Battery at 2 p. m. the Fleet pass'd made sail at 11 p. m." This from the log of the "*Diligent*". It is very probable that the other two galleys, "*Spitfire*" and "*Crane*" also cannonaded the battery on the "Heights of Pokeepsy" while the fleet was passing.

None of the accounts of this return of Vaughn's force down the Hudson have anything to say about this attack on the British fleet. On October 18, Governor Clinton had written to General Putnam, who was in the neighborhood of Red Hook, watching the enemy: "I imagine the Enemy will not proceed much higher up the River & that on their Return they will attempt to lay Waste the Places they have passed going up after our Troops are drawn from them. This induces me to think some more Troops ought to be left at Poughkeepsie & Fishkill but of this you can best Judge."⁵

On October 22, Colonel Zephaniah Platt wrote:

Poughkeepsie Oct'r 22d 1777.

To His Excellency George Clinton Esqr. at Hurley.

Sir,

I received your Excellency's favor of the 18th Instant on yesterday. I have heard nothing of any reinforcements coming from Gen Putnam. My Corps at presents consists of about 120 Men. And Col. Fraer's Regiment by the last returns consisted of 108 arms and 63 without arms. I am using my best endeavors to collect all the well affected people who have arms, and are not already out but have no reason to expect any considerable addition to my present Force. You may rest assured I shall exert myself, to protect the Inhabitants & oppose the Enemy's landing at this place, as far as the Force I have with me will enable me. Your Excellency however must be sensible, that with the force here at present, no opposition can be made to purpose should the Enemy Land with their whole Force, I submit it therefore to your Excellency, whether

it would be proper to make any farther application to Gen. Putnam on the subject.

I have the honor to remain Sir Your very humble Servant
Zepha Platt.⁶

This was the situation at Poughkeesie on October 22. On the next day the British "saw the Rebel Army posting themselves Advantageously behind the heights of Pokeepsy." It is very evident, therefore, that General Putnam in the meantime had reinforced Colonel Platt's force with Lieutenant-Colonel Oswald's battery, which was part of Lamb's Artillery Regiment, known to have been with General Putnam. They were able, therefore, to give the enemy when they came along some of its own kind of music.

The report of Lieutenant-Colonel Eleaser Oswald to his commander, Colonel John Lamb, for which the writer is indebted to Mr. Richard J. Koke, Curator of the Stony Point Battlefield Museum, says:

Fishkills, 26th Octr. 1777

Dear Colonel

I received yours from Hurly, by Major Hughes, not till yesterday—I have made two or three Attempts to send him a Horse over to you but in Vain, the Communication being cut off I feel some little Satisfaction in having had a very good Opportunity which I embraced in discharging our Artillery on the Enemy's Vessels as they were coming down the River. The Eminence I was on, being pretty high they could not annoy us with their Guns, all the Shot either striking the Bank beneath us, or passing over our Heads, by Elevation. We pleyed them warmly with about 70 single Shots, 4 Shells & 4 rounds Case Shot from the Howitz. all which I flatter myself did some Execution, as the Vessels were close together, our objects fair, and the Shot well directed. We a few Days before at Poughkeepsie peppered att one of their Express Vessels going down the River with the News I suppose of the Villany they had perpetrated at Esopus. When they came up with two or three of their Vessels which lay at Anchor off Wappingers Creek a few miles below, they were overheard by our Guards on the Shore to call out for help, and ask if they had a Doctor, for they had some wounded on Board. so that I trust in Heaven, in some measure, had made me an Instrument, to Scourge the british blood Hounds for their unparalleled Barbarities

I am Dr. Colonel
yours affectionately

E. Oswald⁷

General Putnam with his army followed the British fleet very closely. Governor Clinton had crossed the river at Kingston hoping to meet him but found he had followed the enemy down the day before. On the 26th, Governor Clinton wrote from Poughkeepsie to General Gates, "I rode till midnight in hopes to have come up with him at this Place but was again disappointed. He had left this about Noon for Fishkill."⁸

It is very evident from this that General Putnam and the rest of his army was close at hand while Colonel Oswald with his battery was engaging the British ships from the eminence at Kaal Rock.

J. WILSON POUCHER.

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DUTCHESS COUNTY MEN OF THE REVOLUTIONARY
PERIOD

HENRY LIVINGSTON

by

J. WILSON POUCHER

Henry Livingston served as County Clerk, or Clerk of the Peace, or Common Pleas, as it was variously called in early times, from 1737 to 1789.¹ And what the residents of Dutchess County and others interested in searching land titles and such information owe to him would be difficult to estimate. Many huge volumes filled with land conveyances, mortgages and deeds, clearly described and recorded by his own hand in a penmanship so plain that it is as easy to read as print! And this over a period of fifty-two years and during the formative period of our county. Much information about county affairs and the personal history and life of Henry Livingston during this long period was lost, destroyed or scattered to the four winds, when the present court house was built in 1906. This is the fifth court house in the history of the county, The second was built in the 1740's and the third in 1785-1786, both during Henry Livingston's term as clerk, and the third burned in 1806, while his son, Gilbert, was County Clerk. Consequently we must blame the builders of the present court house building. The writer has several old warrants, dated 1783, containing the signatures of Henry Livingston, Clerk, and Lewis DuBoys, Sheriff, and Miss Helen W. Reynolds has collected and copied sixty letters written to Henry Livingston while Clerk.² These were rescued from different persons to whom they were given as souvenirs at the demolition of the fourth court house, where much of his private and official correspondence was known to have been stored in an upper room.

Henry Livingston was born at Kingston, New York, September 8, 1714, son of Gilbert and Cornelia (Beekman) Livingston and was a grandson of Robert Livingston, first Lord of Livingston Manor, and Alida Schuyler. He was one of a large family of brothers and sisters. He surely had good educational advantages for that period, especially in English, as his writing and diction were far better than most of his contemporaries. I mention this because, although his ancestry was Scotch,

his grandfather, the first Robert, had lived most of his life in Holland and was educated there. He had come to America as secretary to the Dutch West India Company, had married a Dutch wife, Alida Schuyler, and used the Dutch language, even writing his will in Dutch. Henry was brought up practically in a Dutch family for his mother, Cornelia Beekman, was of pure Dutch ancestry. He was educated as a surveyor and had considerable legal knowledge in the drawing of deeds, mortgages and other legal documents. Many of the deeds recorded by him were made from his own surveys and were accompanied by maps which were filed with the records. Most of these have, however, disappeared with the other old papers. The first record of him to be found in Dutchess County is his signature as County Clerk, August 8, 1737, to the recording of a deed from Barent Van Benthuisen to Nicolas Luycks.³ This record is also signed by Francis Filkin, "Judge." Shortly after this Mr. Livingston went to live at the house of Francis Filkin who was a store-keeper and extensive land-owner, in addition to being Judge of the Court of Common Pleas for the county.

The following excerpts are quoted from a day-book kept by Francis Filkin:

novem 16 day Anoque 1737 this day Henry Levvingston
 Came to my houisie to Live by the weke and we
 have Agried and he is to Give me six shillings
 pr wick with as Good as we have et and no
 otherwise
 the same day he hed 1 schp dreps and wheat
 toGeather for his harse att 1/6 1.6
 and his harse or mare 6 days and nits upon
 Kiepen of hay 1.6

desm 2 he came houm again and then he oud but one
 wick bord and now the time Gous an

desm 31 he was Gaen to his fathers and Came beck
 the 9 day of Janvari

Janvi 23 answer to pay tru the post @ 10

April 19 1738 then Balanst all accountps to this day
 with Henry Levvingston and he payd me in full
 to this day

Fras Filkin

June 25 day Anno 1738 mr Levingston werat for me
 and Abraham and Cort three deeds of Con-
 vaine for three pounds and I have paid him
 two pounds so there is Coming to him @ 20/ £1. 0. 0

 Augst 18 I paid to Liveingston @ 20/ 1. 0. 0

 sept 17 1739 weriting of one bond by Levingston 1. 6

 desm 23 1741 then I and Henry Leveingston made up
 all accounts and the new papers in with it and
 we are Even to this day

As the New York Civil List gives Henry Livingston's commission as County Clerk from Governor George Clark as of September 15, 1742, there is some confusion as he had been acting in that capacity for more than five years, or since August 8, 1737. "It is conceivable that he at first was merely authorized to act in that capacity and that no commission was issued until 1742."⁴ It is easy to understand how he came to be appointed clerk in Dutchess County, as his uncle, Colonel Henry Beekman from Dutchess County, was a member of the Provincial Assembly and another uncle, Philip Livingston of Livingston Manor, was president of the Governor's Council. These uncles represented two of the most important and influential families in the Province at this time and these families continued so until long after the revolution. Then, too, Major Gilbert Livingston, father of Henry, as an attorney was in fairly close touch with Francis Filkin,, Judge of the Court of Common Pleas, and may have had something to do with the appointment of Henry as clerk of this county.

The Commission for Clerk of Dutchess County is dated September 15, 1742, and reads as follows:

George the Second By the Grace of God of Great Britain, France and Ireland King, Defender of the Faith &c To all to whom These Present Shall come Greeting. Know ye That we reposing especial Trust and Confidence in the Loyalty, Fidelity and Ability of our Trusty and well beloved Henry Livingston Esqr have Given and Granted and by these presents do give and Grant unto him the said Henry Livingston the several and respective places and offices of Clerk of the Peace and Clerk of the Court of and for our County of Dutches in the Province of

New York and Clerk of the Court of Common Pleas of and for the said County of Dutches Together with all Fees Salaries Privileges Benefits Rights Perquisites Profits and Advantages to the said several and respective places now belonging or which shall or may belong or in any wise appertain and him the said Henry Livingston Clerk of the Peace and Clerk of the Court of Common Pleas of our County of Dutches aforesaid, we do by these present make ordain authorize constitute and appoint, To have and to hold Exercise and enjoy the Aforesaid several and respective Places and offices of Clerk of the Peace and Clerk of the Court of Common Pleas of and for the County aforesaid to him the said Henry Livingston so long as he the said Henry Livingston shall behave himself well therein, Together with all Fees Salaries Privileges Benefits Rights Perquisites Profits and Advantages to the said several and respective places and Offices now belonging or which Shall or may belong or in any wise appertain to his own proper use and Behoof. In Testimony where of we have Caused those our Letters to be made Patent and the Great Seal of our Province of New York to be here unto affixed Witness our Trusty and Well beloved George Clark Esqr our Lieutenant Governor and Commander in Chief of our Province of New York and the Territories thereon depending in America &c At our City of New York The fifteenth day of September In the year of our Lord 1742 and of our Reign the sixteenth

Geo Joh Moore Deputy-Secy

Entered in the Secretarys Office of New York
in Lib C-34 this 7 December 1752.

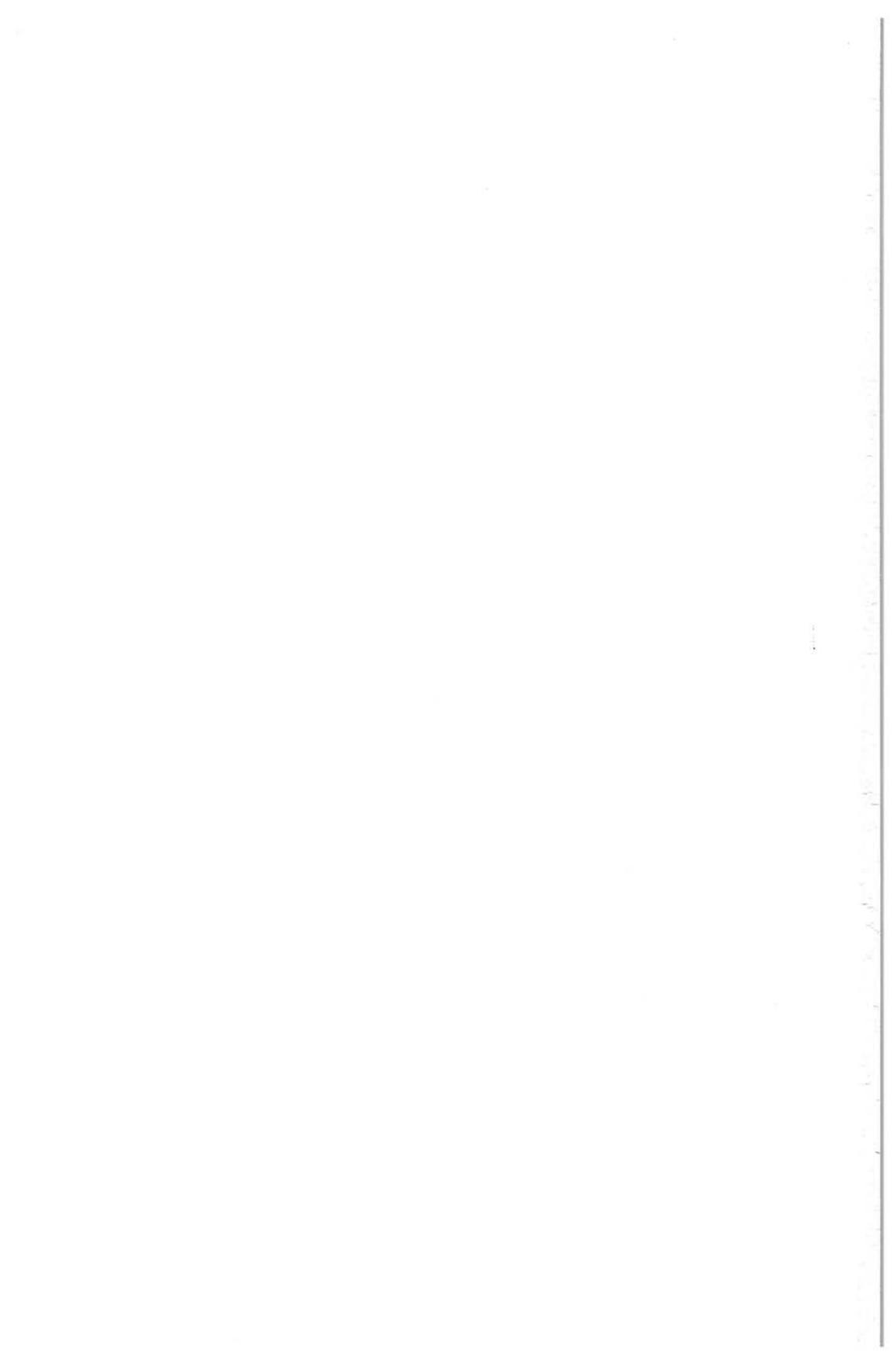
In addition to his work as Clerk of the Court he was making himself useful by doing surveying and even drawing maps. His survey and map of the shore line of Hudson's River from Mine Point (a promontory just below where his home was later located) north to Krom Elbow made in 1738, was the first map or drawing of any part of Dutchess County. His son, Major Henry Livingston, also a surveyor, has left us many maps and drawings which were model for his period.

About this time, 1741 or 1742, he married Susannah, young daughter of John and Johanna (Storm)) Conklin. The story of this romance and marriage is told in the language of Jane Patterson Livingston, a great grand-daughter of Henry and Susannah:

Relatives and friends were hospitable in those times on a broad and generous scale, so there was much visiting and marry-



Silver tray and urn and cream pitcher, owned originally by Henry Livingston of Poughkeepsie and his wife, Susannah; now owned by their descendant, William Willis Reese, through whose courtesy this plate was made. The tray is marked: HL to SL. The urn is marked on one side: To my beloved wife Susan HL 1792; and on the other side: SL. The pitcher is marked on one side: HL; and on the other: SL.



ing too, among the river families and they were all kindred in some degree or another.

And all was well—until it was found that the young Henry dearly loved to mount his horse and gallop off to Poughkeepsie to look after paternal acres and at the same time see that pretty slip of a girl, Susannah Conklin, whose father's farm was bounded on the north and the south by Livingston possessions—his fancy suited not his clan, neither did it the Conklin parents. But what could be done? Vrou Conklin must look after her household and how could she tell when her daughter, scarcely fifteen years old, stepped out on the stoop and spoke with a young man on horseback? They were quite as able as others to employ a governess, so a governess was employed who kept watch and ward and taught her pupil to read and write and paint forget-me-nots and love-knots, therefore if Susannah (by way of practice) wanted to have a little correspondence with a friend and could find a carrier or place of hiding for a bit of paper—why should she not?

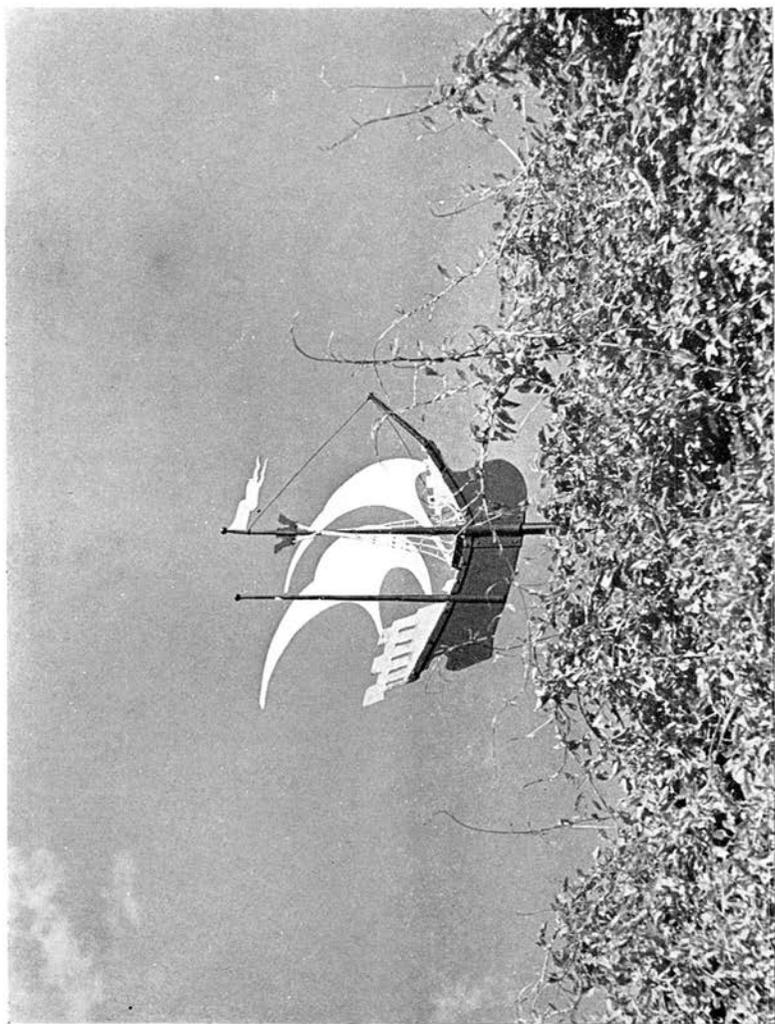
Well—there finally came a Sunday when Henry thought he would not go to church with the family, but thought he *would* take a canter, and quite naturally to Poughkeepsie. Being a fine day farmer Conklin and wife went a few miles away to visit some friends, so Susannah and her governess walked up to church in the village. When the Domine was well under way and the congregation getting comfortably drowsy our young maiden told her companion she wished to go out for a few minutes—which of course was not to be objected to—a few minutes—a good many minutes passed and no return—then Miss Governess, fearing her charge might be ill went out too, but nowhere could she be found. At the close of the service others joined in the search without success. At last, when apprehension was at its height, some loungee who had not been to church, said he saw a young girl lifted up on a horse by young Mr. Henry Livingston and they rode off up the north road. Sure enough—Love laughs at bolts and bars and parents and difficulties and, sly fellow—he helped those young people—a few miles ride and a domine was found who tied the knot and bestowed his blessing, then they demurely ambled home to supper.

John Conklin lived about one mile south of the village of Poughkeepsie on the property which is now the Poughkeepsie Rural Cemetery. He sold to Henry Livingston sixty-one acres of land between the King's highway and Hudson's River on the west. The King's highway, later

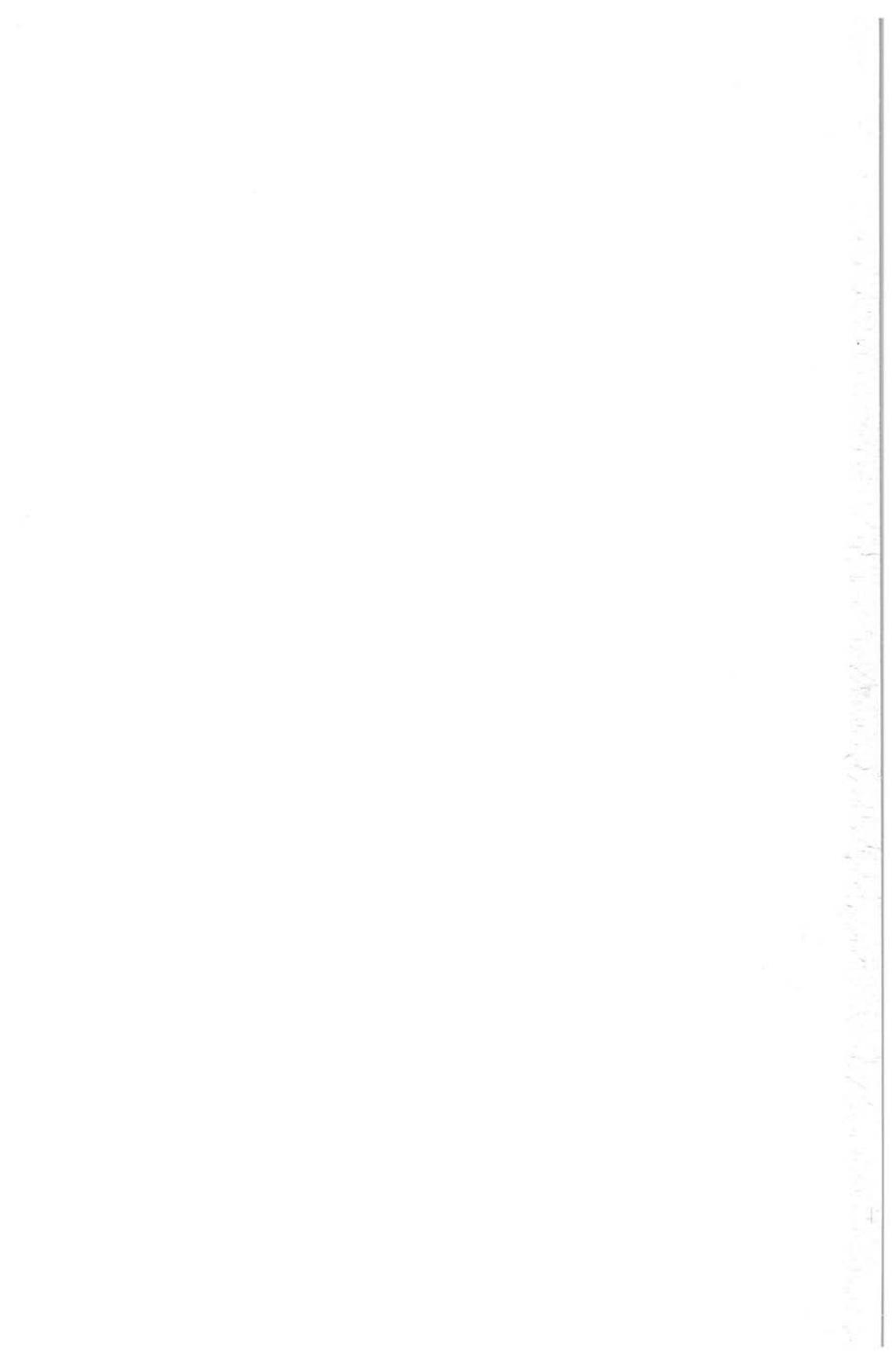
known as the Post Road, ran at that time several rods farther to the west than it does at present. The deed for this purchase was signed December 2, 1742, but was not recorded until June 30, 1756.⁵

Just how long they lived at the home of the bride's parents is not known but very soon Henry and Susannah built their own home near the river. There is considerable confusion among historians as to the date of the building of this house. Benson J. Lossing, in his *Pictorial Field Book of the Revolution*, Vol. 1, page 385, says the mansion was built in 1714 and this is quoted by James H. Smith in his *History of Dutchess County*. This is an error as Henry Livingston was born in 1714. It has been claimed that there was a house there when Henry Livingston drew his map of the river and shore line in 1738, because the site is marked "H.L." on the old map. The writer believes there was no house there until Henry and Susannah built their home in 1742. It would have been very natural for Henry Livingston to mark in later years the site of his home on the map as, it is known, he marked the site of the shipyard of Revolutionary times on the same map.

Here Henry Livingston lived a long, useful life, raising a large family of which ten sons and daughters were living at the time of his death in 1799. Besides his duties as Clerk of the Court and of the County, he served many years as clerk of the town or precinct of Poughkeepsie and as overseer of highways. He also represented Dutchess County as a member of the Provincial Assembly during the troublous period from 1761 to 1768, just before the Revolution. In 1683, while the Province of New York was under the Duke of York as proprietor, at an assembly of delegates elected by the freeholders in different part of the Province, New York was divided into twelve counties and passed laws agreeable to the governor and a council appointed by the Duke. One of the first acts of this assembly had been that "no tax assessment, customs, loans or impositions whatsoever shall be laid, assessed, imposed or levied on any of his Majesty's Subjects, except by the Governor, Council and Representatives of the people met in General Assembly"—our first declaration of independence. In 1684, the Second Assembly passed thirty-one laws which were assented to by Governor Dongan and the Council. In 1685 King Charles died and the Duke of York became king under the title of James the Second, and early in 1686 a new commission was sent to Governor Dongan giving him "full powers and au-

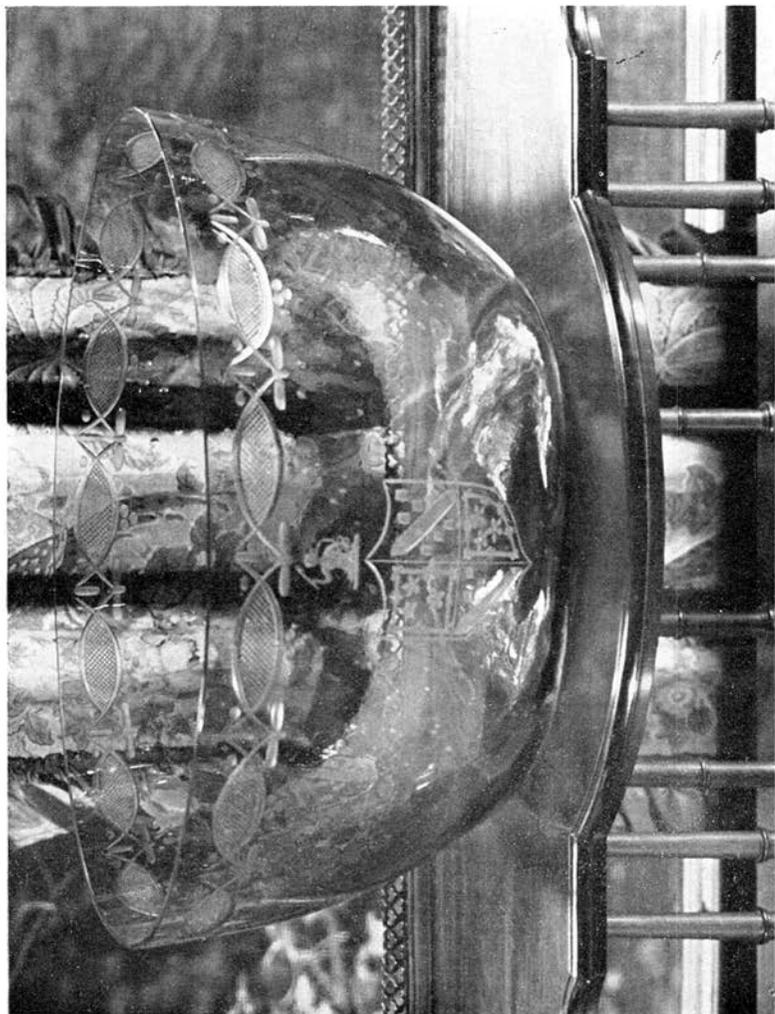


Eighteenth century weather vane, originally on the house of Henry Livingston at Poughkeepsie, now owned by William Willis Reese, a descendant of Henry Livingston. This plate was made through the courtesy of Mr. Reese.

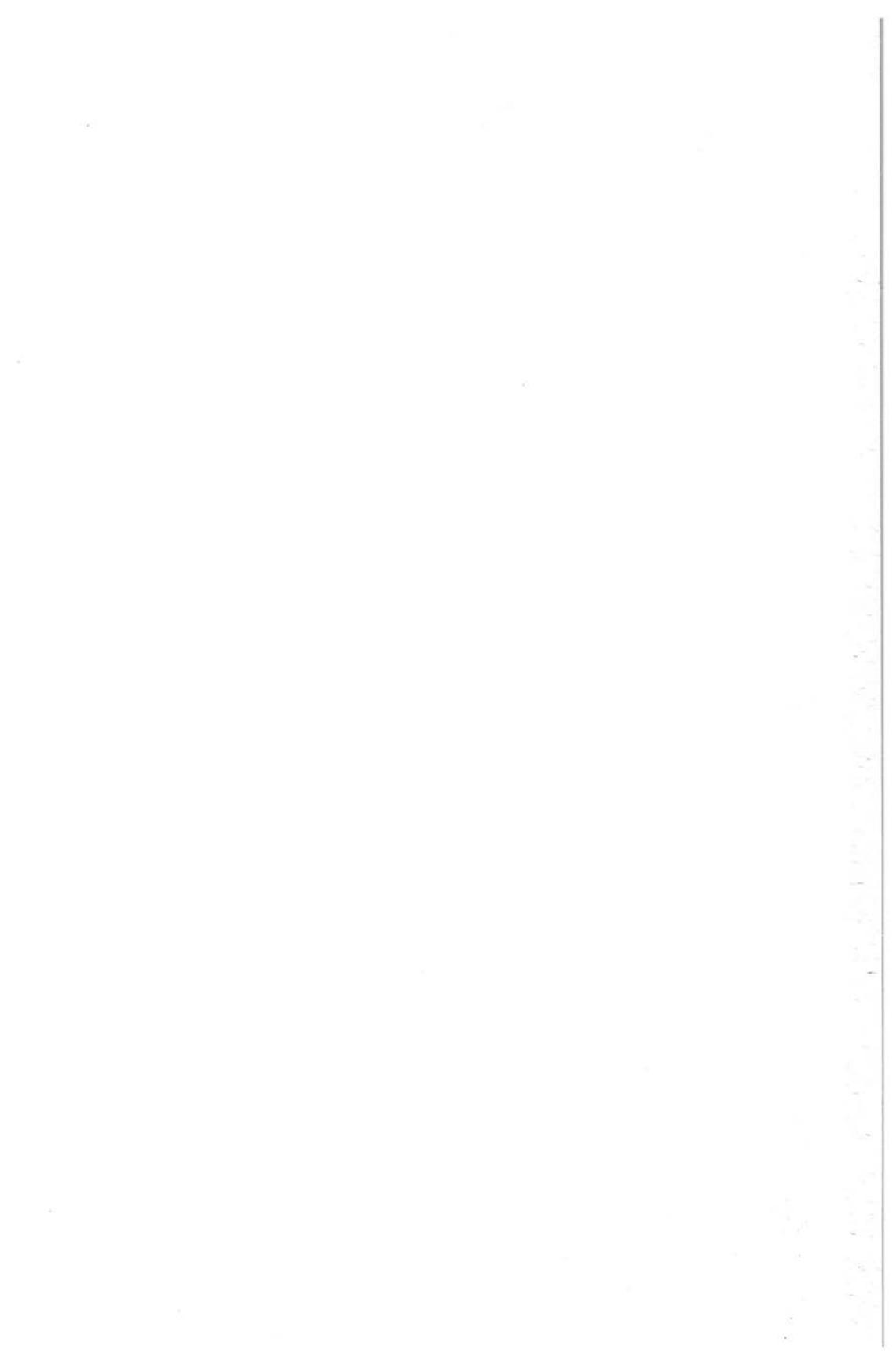


thority with advice and consent of our Council". This abolished the Assembly of the people granted by the Duke in 1683 and this regime lasted for the next five years which were rather stormy times. In 1688 King James united all the colonies in America, except Pennsylvania, under one governor and sent Edmund Andros as Governor General over all "New England" with full powers for making laws. Neither the English colonists of New England and Virginia nor the Dutch in New York were pleased, and Governor Andros's task was not an easy one. Then a revolution in England compelled the abdication of King James in favor of William of Orange and Queen Mary. Governor Andros was seized and put in jail in Boston. Controversies over who should be in authority and an invasion by the French and Indians from Canada made the next two years a very troubled period in our history. Then Governor Sloughter arrived with orders from William and Mary to call together an assembly of delegates elected by the people which with the Governor and Council "shall have full power and authority to make, constitute and ordain laws, statutes and ordinances for the public peace and the welfare and good government of our said province and of the people and inhabitants thereof." The First Assembly met in New York April 9, 1691, to April 13, 1692. Henry Beekman, grandfather of Henry Livingston, was delegate from Ulster County. At the Second Assembly, 1693, Dutchess County, having very few inhabitants, was committed to the care of Ulster County. At a meeting of the Seventh Assembly, August 19, 1701, an act was passed, "that to prevent all disputes relating to the freeholders of Dutchess County about the election of representatives the said [county] is hereby declared to be annexed to the County of Ulster for the term of seven years, next after this present session and that the freeholders of Dutchess County qualified by law, shall and are hereby empowered to give their votes for Representatives in the County of Ulster as if they actually lived in the said County." Again the Fifteenth Assembly, 1714, passed the following: "An act to empower Dutchess County to elect a Superior, a Treasurer, Assessors and Collectors. This County was formerly by reason of its small inhabitants, annexed to another by Act of Assembly, but that Act being expired and the numbers of inhabitants increased it was necessary they should have county officers of their own." The first representatives from Dutchess County in the next Assembly, 1715, were Leonard Lewis and

Baltus Van Kleeck. "An Act for building a County House and Prison in Dutchess County within this Province" was passed. The delegates to the Assembly were not elected for any designated period of time, some served for only a few months and other Assemblies remained in office from three to ten years. The Assembly of 1743 passed a law limiting the continuance of an Assembly to seven years. (This rule remained in force until the revolution in 1775.) From this time to 1760 party lines became stronger in the Assembly and the peoples party, who were in the majority, refused to give up their rights on the question of taxes which had become very severe owing to the wars with France. The colonists were ready to pay large sums for their defence against the French and Indians and even the raising of troops for the several expeditions against Canada, but after the war was ended in 1760 when Canada was surrendered to England, the colony of New York found itself greatly in debt from the enormous war expenses. Governor DeLancey, who was probably one of the best of the English governors, friendly and helpful to the colony, died suddenly and was followed by Dr. Cadwallader Colden who, as president of the Council, became Lieutenant Governor. He was a resident of Ulster County, but instead of carrying out the conciliatory efforts of his predecessor, did everything in his power to oppose the colonists. When the Assembly of 1762 met it was asked to equip the same number of soldiers as before into regiments which were to become a part of the regular English army. This request was flatly refused. Then followed the Stamp Act and the imposition of almost prohibitory duties upon importations. In this Assembly Dutchess County was represented by Judge Robert R. Livingston and his cousin, our Henry Livingston, with such men as Charles DeWitt and George Clinton from Ulster and Philip Schuyler from Albany. Judge Livingston had been so bitterly outspoken and sarcastic in his opposition that Governor Colden had an act passed making it illegal for a Judge of the Supreme Court to hold a seat in the Assembly. He was several times re-elected and sent back but was not allowed to be seated. A letter written by the Governor, trying to vindicate himself, was so bitterly attacked by Judge Livingston that Governor Colden, in his report of the affair, wrote "Judge Livingston, the most violent man in both the Supreme Court and in the Assembly in malicious prosecution of the pamphlet wrote in my vindication had for several years past been elected from



Eighteenth century punch bowl, cut with the Livingston arms. It is not certainly known which member of the Livingston family originally owned this remarkable piece of early American glass, which is now in the possession of William Willis Reese, a descendant of Henry Livingston of Poughkeepsie, and through whose courtesy this plate was made.



the county where his family interest lyes. Some one of the family had been elected for above forty years."

In November, 1765, Sir Henry Moore became Governor and took a hand with this rebellious Assembly frequently dissolving it and calling for a new election. In his message discharging the Assembly January 2, 1769, he said "The extraordinary nature of certain resolves lately entered on your Journals, some flatly repugnant to the laws of Great Britain and others with an aparent tendency to give offence where common prudence would avoid it, have put it out of my power to continue this Assembly any longer." Governor Moore asked for a new election and the Assembly met on May 4, 1769, and the Governor had succeeded in getting a Tory majority. This was the last Assembly. It was adjourned and convened to suit the Governor until early in 1775.

Things had grown so bad in New York that Liberty Poles were raised throughout the city displaying a banner, "No taxation without representation." A bonfire had been made in the street of ten packages of the obnoxious stamps. The people refused to drink tea. Marriages were performed without licenses. Colonial courts ignored the use of stamps. Ships in the harbor had been searched for tea and the tea destroyed. Boston was not the only place that had a "tea-party" in those days. A committee of sixty had been formed in New York which had called a convention of Delegates to a Continental Congress. Nine of the colonies had held a convention in New York and had agreed upon a firm opposition. A Provincial Congress had been held in New York in June, 1775, of which Gilbert Livingston one of the sons of Henry Livingston, was a member and had ordered the raising of four regiments of soldiers. The committee of sixty had been increased to one hundred. A Continental Congress had been called to meet in Philadelphia to which both Chancellor Robert R. Livingston* and his cousin Philip Livingston were delegates. Even then Governor Tryon, advised by his Tory Council, wrote the Earl of Dartmouth, November 11, 1775, "Since last month I have been on board the ship, Dutchess of Gordon. It is certain that within this fortnight the spirit of Rebellion in the Province, especially in the city has greatly abated and we wait now only for five thousand Regulars to open our Commerce and restore our valuable constitution.

*Chancellor Robert R. Livingston was the son of Judge Robert R. Livingston who died this year, 1775.

The Counties of Westchester, Dutchess, King, Queen and Richmond had the bulk of their inhabitants well affected to Government and some friends in all the other Counties." The Committee of one hundred had drawn up a Pledge of Association which had been adopted by the Provincial Congress. In Dutchess County this pledge was signed by two-thirds of the inhabitants. Henry Livingston had been one of the first to sign. His son, Henry, was a major in Colonel James Clinton's regiment of which two companies were raised in this county, one by Captain Andrew Billings. Captain Melancton Smith's company of rangers, raised to suppress the activities of the Tories, was in full force. Mr. Livingston was then in his sixties, but continued as County Clerk throughout the war and for several years after. His oldest son, Gilbert, served as a member of the Military Committee and in almost every other capacity throughout the war, and afterward as Surrogate and was County Clerk at the time of his death in 1806, aged sixty-four.

The second son of Henry, the Rev. Dr. John H. Livingston, was at this time the foremost preacher of the Dutch Reformed Church in America and was pastor of the Collegiate Church in New York City. When the British occupied that city they used this church as a prison. He removed to the country and accepted the pastorate at Poughkeepsie and Fishkill for a part of the Revolutionary period.⁶ In 1783 he returned to New York. He was later the founder and president of the theological seminary at New Brunswick, New Jersey, at that time Queens College, now Rutgers College. His wife was Sarah, daughter of Philip Livingston, Signer of the Declaration of Independence. He died at New Brunswick, January 26, 1825, in his seventy-ninth year.

Major Henry, or Judge Henry, Livingston* as he was in later life for many years Justice of the Peace, was, like his father an accomplished surveyor and had marked artistic and poetic talent. He lived at "Locust Grove," about a mile south of this father's home. "Locust Grove" was later the home of Samuel F. B. Morse and is now the home of Mrs. William H. Young.

When, in October, 1777, Sir William Wallace with the British ships and army went up the Hudson River in their vain attempt to assist General Burgoyne and his army, the home of Henry Livingston was

*An interesting sketch of the life of this Henry Livingston was written by Dr. William S. Thomas, a descendant, and was published in the Year Book of the Dutchess County Historical Society, Vol. V, page 32.

fired upon. One cannon ball struck the house. This four-inch ball remained imbedded in a door casing for many years. It is at present in the museum at Washington's Headquarters at Newburgh. The riddled door casing is preserved by the Mahwenawasigh Chapter of the D. A. R. at its museum in Poughkeepsie. The Livingstons were especially marked, as the home of Margaret Livingston, widow of Judge Robert R. Livingston, at Clermont was fired and burned to the ground as was also the house of her son, the Chancellor. When this armament came up the river and it was not certain what their intention might be, County Clerk Henry Livingston transported all his county records across the county to Amenia for safe keeping and when the danger was past brought them back.⁷ Some of the county records had been stolen about this time and he was anxious about their safety.⁸ After having served as County Clerk for fifty-two years, until 1789, under three different forms of government, Henry Livingston gave up to his son, Robert H. Livingston. He did this perhaps on account of the infirmities of age, although he lived nearly ten years after his retirement.

This son, Robert H. Livingston, only seventeen years old, when the British came up the Hudson had joined the ranks of the defenders and remained in the army of the Revolution until the end of the war, serving most of the time as an officer in the Levies on the frontiers. He was an artillery officer at the siege of Yorktown and the surrender of Cornwallis and "only sheathed his sword when every sword on the continent was returned to the scabbard."⁹ He remained County Clerk from 1789 until his death in 1804.

Henry Livingston died February 10, 1799, and of his death *The Poughkeepsie Journal* of February 12, said:

On Sunday last, the 10th inst. at 1 o'clock, P.M. Henry Livingston, Esq. for about sixty years a much respected inhabitant of this place, closed his eyes in death at the advanced age of 84 years 5 months and 3 days—he ever maintained a character of punctuality and integrity, filled for the most of his life important offices, with the greatest exactness, ability and public confidence—he ever was a republican in principle—and demonstrated till the last that he was no friend to aristocracy or monarchy. He died rejoicing that the Lord reigns—and some of his last words (about an hour before his death) were "Let all creatures and things rejoice in and praise the Lord."

He was buried in the Livingston family burying ground. On his headstone is inscribed: "An affectionate parent and a good Citizen. He lived in Reputation and died in Faith."

The last of the Livingstons to occupy the old mansion was the family of Henry Alexander Livingston (Colonel Harry), son of the Reverend Dr. John H. Livingston and his wife, Sarah. Colonel Harry died June 9, 1849, aged seventy-three years, after a useful life. He was an incorporator and the first president of the Poughkeepsie Savings Bank which was founded in 1831. Shortly after the death of Colonel Harry the railroad was built and passed near the mansion and the place, after several years, was given up by the Livingston family as a residence. About 1870 the Phoenix Horseshoe Company bought the land between the railroad and the river and built a factory and for many years the old residence was used as an office. About 1910 the mansion was torn down and a new office building erected on the site.

Mr. James Robson, one of our oldest citizens, who was familiar with the old Livingston home, tells us that when the railroad was built it ran between the house and four other buildings, one a fine old chapel with a belfry and bell which regularly called the family, slaves and others to a family service. There was also a schoolhouse, stable and hay barn. The land between the railroad and the post road was allowed to revert to the wild and was known as Livingston's woods for perhaps half a century. The Livingston burying ground, containing the graves of four generations of this family overgrown with all kinds of shrubbery, had long been neglected some of the stones fallen and broken and others carried away. In 1911 the writer, with Miss Helen Wilkinson Reynolds, copied the inscriptions of all the stones that could be found for their "*Old Grave-stones of Dutchess County.*" This brought it to the attention of descendants of the Livingston family and they transferred the old burying ground and the intervening section of land to the adjoining Poughkeepsie Rural Cemetery, where it has since been well cared for.

There is a well-founded tradition that this spot along the King's Highway, originally an Indian trail, was a favorite camping ground for the Indians. The writer has several arrow-heads found along the little stream that flows through these grounds. About a half mile north of the site of Mr. Livingston's residence was the shipyard cove where in Revolutionary days the two unfortunate frigates, "Congress" and "Constitu-

tion" were built. The shipyard was on land belonging to James Livingston, brother of Henry, which he had purchased from Thomas Newcomb in 1753. This cove has since been filled in and the site is occupied by the manufacturing plant of the DeLaval Separator Company.

In his will, Henry Livingston gave an exhibition of the fairness that had been a marked characteristic all his life. After providing for his widow, the rest of his estate was to be divided, share and share alike, among his ten children. Also the estate bequeathed to his widow, at her marriage or death, was to be divided in the same manner. His will further provided: "My daughter Helen, if a minor at my death, shall be educated as my other children were and maintained while a minor out of the income of my estate, and no reduction made from her share. 300 pounds to be deducted from Gilbert's share for money advanced after he became of age. To my son Henry 1-10 of estate subject to a deduction of 1,350 pounds for a deed of Gift of a farm [Locust Grove]. To my son John, I give 1-10 after deducting 400 pounds advanced after he became of age." Mr. Livingston lived thirteen years after making his will, which was recorded May 25, 1786, by his son Gilbert who was at that time Surrogate. His executors were, "my beloved wife, Susannah, my sons Gilbert, John, Henry, Robert and Beekman." Witnesses were Laurence Conklin, Jacob Van Benschoten and Matthew Conklin, Jr. His wife, Susannah, had died in 1793 and his daughter Helen had long since grown out of her minority and married Jonas Platt, son of Judge Zephaniah Platt, and who, himself, was later a judge of Dutchess County. Nothing remains where his old home stood to remind us of him but Henry Livingston left a befitting monument in the many huge volumes he so faithfully filled with the records of his time,—“Footprints in the sands of time.”

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FRANCIS FILKIN'S BOOK
A KEY TO PART OF ITS CONTENTS

In 1911 Vassar Brothers' Institute, Poughkeepsie, published a copy of an eighteenth century volume, under the title: *Account Book of a Country Storekeeper in the 18th Century at Poughkeepsie*. The copy was made by the late Henry Booth of Poughkeepsie and it stands today as a monument to the patience and care with which Mr. Booth performed his self-appointed task. For it is only necessary to see the original volume, to observe the crabbed writing and to note the general condition of the pages to realize the difficulties he surmounted. Nothing but genuine love for and interest in the subject-matter of the book could have accomplished transcription of it and the present writer would offer here an enthusiastic tribute to Mr. Booth's achievement.

At the time that Mr. Booth copied it the volume was in the office of the Clerk of Dutchess County. Since then, under the authority of Justice Morschauer of the Supreme Court and with the approval of the County Clerk, it has been placed in the city library of Poughkeepsie for care and safe keeping. This was done because the book was not the property of the county, it was a private record. As Mr. Booth stated in the preface to the printed copy, no one knows how the book reached the Clerk's office nor how long it was there. The contents of the book are, however, such as to be of interest to students and the library was the proper place of deposit for the volume.

Valuable as the published copy of the original is, it must regretfully be stated that it has not been as useful as it might be for lack of an explanation of its contents. Not only is the handwriting of the original hard to read but the writer thought and wrote in a mixture of Dutch and English. Some words are set down correctly in Dutch and in English but, all too often, the spelling is phonetic and English words are generally rendered in letters that represent the values of the alphabet in Dutch. The capitalization and punctuation are erratic, while the average reader of today is unfamiliar with persons and facts and circumstances referred to in the text.

This present paper is therefore an attempt to provide a key to at least a part of the contents of the book and to make those contents throw light on the time and place that formed the setting in which the manu-

scrip was produced. The book was written by Francis Filkin and is made up of material of several kinds but the main portion of it is a record of the personal finances of the author between 1736 and 1746 at Poughkeepsie and this article is confined to a consideration of those accounts. From what Mr. Filkin bought and sold, from what he said and did and from what he incidentally referred to it has been possible to present the following picture of life at Poughkeepsie just prior to 1750, a picture which shows what people then ate and wore, what goods they exported and imported, the current prices of commodities, etc., etc.

In the course of the preparation of this key to Francis Filkin's book problems have arisen for solution due to the use of Dutch and the misuse of English. Many of these obscure entries have been explained by the Archivist of the State of New York, Mr. A. J. F. van Laer, a Dutchman himself and a linguist by profession, who has given invaluable assistance in this highly specialized work and to whom grateful acknowledgement is here made of his sympathetic as well as able cooperation.

Francis Filkin's father, Henry Filkin of Flatbush, Long Island, was in 1697 one of the patentees of the Great Nine Partners Patent, which covered land in Dutchess County, and when he died he bequeathed his rights under the patent to his widow and to a large family of sons and daughters. As a result of this interest in real estate in Dutchess several of Henry Filkin's children removed from Long Island to Dutchess County, among the number being his son, Francis.

According to the tax-lists Francis Filkin was a resident of the Middle Ward of Dutchess from 1730 to 1738. The wards of the county being abolished and precincts created, Poughkeepsie Precinct was carved out of the Middle Ward and, in Poughkeepsie Precinct, Francis Filkin paid taxes from 1739 to 1746. It thus becomes evident that he lived on the site of the city of Poughkeepsie for sixteen years (1730-1746). The date of his departure thence is implied by the tax-lists (on which, after 1746, his name does not appear) and the implication is confirmed by an entry in his manuscript volume which states that he removed to the city of New York in November, 1746.¹

When Francis Filkin arrived at Poughkeepsie he found a T-shaped road-junction, forming a focus for a neighborhood. At one corner of the junction stood a Dutch church and on the other a Court House (on

the same site as the present Court House). Around those two buildings large farms spread out widely. Houses were few and far apart. On the riverfront, at the mouth of the stream known as the Fallkill, was a mill. Much of the area now occupied by the city was thickly forested.

One of the houses standing when Francis Filkin reached Poughkeepsie had been built by Baltus Barents Van Kleeck, he having been one of two men who settled on the site of the city in 1687. The house stood on land now designated as 226-228 Mill street (on the south side of the street, between Washington and Vassar streets). At the death of Baltus Barents Van Kleeck in 1717 the house and the farm attached to it had passed to his son, Peter, who in 1722 had married Catharina Lewis. Mrs. Van Kleeck was a daughter of Leonard Lewis, who in his lifetime owned the mill on the Fallkill above referred to.

Shortly after Francis Filkin established himself at Poughkeepsie Peter Van Kleeck died, leaving his widow and their six children in the Van Kleeck homestead. The six children,—Catharine, Baltus, Leonard, Elizabeth, Sarah and Peter Van Kleeck,—were all under ten years of age when they lost their father.²

And what happened? Well,—in 1733³ Francis Filkin married Peter Van Kleeck's widow, took on the fatherly care of a ready-made family and became the head of the household in the Van Kleeck homestead. That house must have been made of India rubber for, between 1733 and 1746, seven little Filkins were added to the family group.⁴ Two of the seven died in infancy but six Van Kleecks and five Filkins formed a flock sufficiently large to tax the capacity of the house, which was described⁵ in 1789 as consisting of five rooms and a cellar-kitchen.

As if such a growing family were not enough, Mr. and Mrs. Filkin took lodgers⁶ occasionally and there are some items in Mr. Filkin's accounts which suggest the possibility that Mrs. Filkin kept on hand for sale odds and ends of merchandise.⁷ Furthermore she received pay for making a cloak⁸ so her needle was active. Think of that woman's life! Bearing thirteen children and housing, feeding and dressing them; sewing; taking lodgers; and selling small goods. Let us hope that she had assistance in her cares from the Negro women owned by her husband. He mentions in his accounts⁹ Dina, Josina, "betie", Molly, Kit and an un-named "negro wench."

The children of this household went to school;¹⁰ ran errands;¹¹ did

minor tasks;¹² wore clothes made¹³ for them by Maritie Ten Broeck (a spinster of the community);¹⁴ and (as happens the world over) some of the clothes were handed down, the younger children getting made-over things;¹⁵ they had new shoes and mended shoes;¹⁶ probably some of them occupied the *slaapbank*, which in 1739—as the family began to increase—Mr. Filkin paid for having made,¹⁷ and also the “bedstad” purchased in 1744.¹⁸

Other things beside the *slaapbank* and “bedstad” are learned of about the house by study of Mr. Filkin’s accounts. For example, it cost him a shilling to have an “oiven” set “in the wale of the chimbeli”¹⁹ (undoubtedly an iron oven, built into the chimney). Tiles were purchased for the hearth.²⁰ Also for the hearth there was gotten an iron hook, shaped like the letter S, to hang on a chain and hold a pot over the fire²¹ and twice a gridiron (Gread Iron and Grediron) had to be mended.²² In the kitchen there was use for “strikeisers”²³ (*strijkijzers*) or flatirons and an “evenar”²⁴ (*evenaar*) or pair of scales. Five yards of “druget”²⁵ (carpeting) cost 16/3 and a “Grin Rug”²⁵ was acquired. Several yards of “Calco chins”²⁷ (calico chints) were probably used for curtains. A cover was made for a “flas cellar,”²⁸ meaning a *flesch* (bottle) cellaret. Six chairs and a table came up the river as freight.²⁹ Mention is made of a “puter bason”³⁰ and of candles.³¹

When the Filkin family, parents and children, moved from Poughkeepsie to New York some of the household goods were sold³² to Baltus and Leonard Van Kleeck; some were not sold but were left at the farm.³³ The fact is that in the autumn of 1746, when this removal to New York took place, Baltus Van Kleeck, oldest son of Peter Van Kleeck, had just attained his majority and it may be assumed that possession of his father’s house and farm was made over to him—the first born—at that time by his mother and stepfather. He occupied the property all his life.

From the time that he married Peter Van Kleeck’s widow Francis Filkin seems to have managed the affairs of the Van Kleeck farm. From the dwelling-house the farm extended westward to the river and it ran eastward from the house for about an equal distance and Mr. Filkin’s accounts show that he engaged in all ordinary farm occupations. On the farm were horses, cattle, sheep, pigs and poultry and he sold livestock as well as beef, veal, hides, lamb, mutton, pork, bacon, hog’s fat, milk,

cream, butter and eggs. He kept bees and sold honey. The farm produced grain and vegetables. Wood was an important source of income and Francis Filkin sold it by the "lode." He also carted wood, grain, etc., in his "wagon" and "slay" for his neighbors and he rented pasturage and hired out the use of his "horsis" and "wagon."³⁴

In October, 1734, Francis Filkin was made a Judge of the Court of Common Pleas of Dutchess County and a Judge of the Court of General Sessions.³⁵ The Judges were primarily Justices of the Peace and the title of Esquire went with their office. They were laymen, not professional lawyers, chosen from among the responsible citizens of the county. In the Court of Common Pleas one Justice was the Presiding Judge, others were Assistant Justices. Civil cases were tried in the Court of Common Pleas, criminal in General Sessions. Together, the two courts formed the County Court.

Mr. Filkin soon became prominent as a Justice, occasionally serving in the Common Pleas as Presiding Judge, and continued on the bench until his departure for New York in 1746. During his connection with the Court his accounts make frequent mention of his services to friends as amanuensis in the drawing up of legal documents. He was evidently a man of intelligence and initiative, to whom people turned when they sought a good executive, and so, while to the present generation the peculiarities of his writing and spelling stand out conspicuously, many of his contemporaries were glad to have him make out for them such papers as court summonses, court recognizances, liquor licenses, wills, deeds, bonds, apprentices' indentures, etc. He speaks³⁶ of working one day from two in the afternoon until midnight, making up the accounts standing between two of his clients and another day he made a "Gorny" (journey) to a friend's house "to make spece" (peace) "between him and his wife."³⁷

Under an Act of the Provincial Legislature the Governor of the Province of New York had power to appoint a Clerk for the County Court, who should hold office for life or during the pleasure of the appointing power. To this position in Dutchess was appointed in 1737 Henry Livingston. The Clerk who preceded him, Henry Van Der Burgh, resigned³⁸ in May, 1737, and in the following August Henry Livingston certified³⁹ to the recording of two deeds in his capacity as County Clerk so his appointment by the Governor must have taken place

between May and August, 1737. In November, 1737, Henry Livingston went to live in the Van Kleeck homestead as a boarder with Mr. and Mrs. Filkin.⁴⁰ He was to pay six shillings a week with, said Mr. Filkin, "as good as we have et and no otherwise." In other words the boarder was to accept the home-fare of the family.

Henry Livingston's father, Major Gilbert Livingston of Kingston, frequently appeared in the County Court⁴¹ at Poughkeepsie as attorney for litigants and his name occurs in Mr. Filkin's accounts⁴² as one who paid Mr. Filkin for hospitality. Other guests in the Filkin household were Colonel Henry Beekman⁴³ of Rhinebeck (one of the Justices of the Court) and John Alsop⁴⁴ of New York, who (like Gilbert Livingston) often acted as attorney in cases before the Court.

So far as now is known there was no lawyer resident at Poughkeepsie until Bartholomew Crannell, a young man, arrived to begin practise there. His name is first listed on the tax-roll in February, 1743-1744. On June 25th, 1744, he married⁴⁵ Trintie Van Kleeck, Francis Filkin's oldest step-daughter, and for five months⁴⁶ the young couple remained in the house of India rubber while a dwelling for their own use was being built. The site selected for that new dwelling was the one now designated as 448 Main street, Poughkeepsie, and Francis Filkin was closely concerned with the erection of the house in furnishing materials and labor.⁴⁷ In later years, when Bartholomew Crannell went to New Brunswick as an exiled Loyalist, his house was occupied from 1778 to 1783 by George Clinton, then Governor of the new State of New York. Meanwhile, between 1744 and the Revolution, Bartholomew Crannell became the outstanding lawyer in Dutchess.

Throughout the eighteenth century medical and surgical knowledge was far behind the legal in development. But the medical profession did have representatives at Poughkeepsie in the time of Francis Filkin for he refers in his accounts to two doctors. One of the two, Dr. Peter Van Buren,⁴⁸ was a tax-payer at Poughkeepsie for four years, 1736-1739, but whence he came or whither he went has not been learned. The other, Dr. Cornelius Osborn,⁴⁹ an Englishman, was in Rombout Precinct⁵⁰ in 1745 and 1746 when he first came to Dutchess County and then came to Poughkeepsie in the second half⁵¹ of 1746.

In the city library, Poughkeepsie, is a memorandum book of his,⁵² vest-pocket size, which contains a list of prescriptions, etc. Dr. Osborn

agreed with Francis Filkin to treat the Filkin family by the year⁵³ for the sum of twenty shillings,—imagine that numerous household treated for a year for one pound! Perhaps Mr. Filkin was a good bargainer. Certainly Dr. Osborn was then but a youth in his twenties!

In connection with law and medicine it should be noted that in the first half of the eighteenth century there was but one church at Poughkeepsie, a congregation of the Reformed Dutch Communion. The first church building stood from 1723 to 1760 on the southeast corner of the junction of two roads that now are known as Market and Main streets and was a small stone structure. It was a social as well as a religious center for all the population within a wide radius and Mr. Filkin was prominent in its affairs. He tells us in his account-book⁵⁴ of his proceedings as collector for the congregation in 1741, 1742, 1743.

In his business activities Mr. Filkin had much to do with the building of a new Court House at Poughkeepsie. He says in his book⁵⁵ that on September 10, 1745, "I an Henry Levingston was apinted mannesors of the County house," (by which he meant that he and Henry Livingston were asked to serve as managers or as a committee to oversee the work done on the new building) and he then proceeded to record⁵⁶ what was done under their direction.

One of Francis Filkin's neighbors, Anthony Yelverton (whose name appears in Mr. Filkin's book as "Jelverton," J having in Dutch the sound of Y in English), operated the mill at the mouth of the Fallkill from 1740 to 1755⁵⁷ and in 1743-1744 the two men were in partnership⁵⁸ in handling seven-hundred and thirty-three bushels of wheat. They bought the grain together, bolted it (presumably in Yelverton's mill) valued it at £116 . 16 . 3 and, as they paid £3 . 13 . 6 "to Capt noxon for frat,"⁵⁹ it may be assumed that the flour went down the river by sloop to an outside market. On another page of his account-book, under date of August 1, 1744, Mr. Filkin spoke of: "the account what I have shipt to sea and with who shipt, on bord of Rechar dora ms sloop with Cap thomas vardil to Jamaica thirty two Barrels flower marked F. F."⁶⁰ And on December 29, 1746, he sold in New York⁶¹ pork and beef which had been shipped down from Poughkeepsie by John Ten Broeck. It is thus clearly to be seen that at Poughkeepsie in the 1740's the river-trade by sloop to New York and to the West Indies had begun, a trade that was destined to grow and prosper in succeeding years.

That trade was carried on between Poughkeepsie and New England (as well as with New York and the West Indies) is shown by a reference⁶² Mr. Filkin made to a barrel of "Cod feach" for thirty shillings and another to nine pounds of "Cod feas" for two shillings, three pence.⁶³ Codfish was the great export of New England.

As has been stated above, Henry Filkin of Flatbush was one of the patentees of the Great Nine Partners Patent in Dutchess County and the account-book of his son, Francis, contains several mentions of the rights held under the patent by members of the family.⁶⁴ In April, 1738, Francis Filkin was indebted to Baudouin le Comte for "Going with me to Acertain the wite ock tree,"⁶⁵—an interesting bit for there was a white oak tree that was famous as a boundary monument and which was cited in boundary disputes at the locality where three patents (the Great Nine Partners, the Beekman and the Sanders and Harmense) came together. It stood north of the present Rochdale in a meadow (now under water) adjoining the Wappingers Creek.

Another instance of concern with real estate that appears in these pages had to do with "the plains," a large tract of level table-land, still open to view at the south and west of the first lake at Vassar College. It lies athwart the present Raymond and Southeast avenues. A portion of this tract was purchased by Peter Van Kleeck and, after his death, his widow on September 8, 1733, sold⁶⁶ the "faram calle de Vlackte" (the farm called the plain) to Francis Filkin. Two weeks after that sale, on September 21, 1733, the widow married⁶⁷ Mr. Filkin as her second husband. The farm called the plain was rented to tenants, who did not always pay their rent, and Mr. Filkin's book records those difficulties and also some confusion that existed regarding the title-deeds to the property.⁶⁸

It is a fact well known that there were very few hired white laborers on the farms in the Province of New York in the eighteenth century and it is therefore to be noted that only once does Mr. Filkin tell of paying a man to work for him.⁶⁹ On the other hand he was not without help in the conduct of his farm for he owned two Negro men, "will" and "jorge," and references to them are numerous and informing. It is evident that Will and George worked not only on the Van Kleeck acreage under Francis Filkin but that their master received pay for their services from some of his neighbors.⁷⁰ And inasmuch as he records mak-

ing payments for shoes⁷¹ and for a greatcoat⁷² for his slaves it is to be assumed that he accepted responsibility for providing them with clothing.

Apparently the near-by woods and the great ever-rolling river yielded toll to the residents of Poughkeepsie for Mr. Filkin's accounts contain items that reflect hunting and fishing. He had a "Gone" (gun) and "poeder and shoet" (powder and shot) and "2 cordos boxis" (two *kardoes*, i. e. cardboard boxes) "with sum catheresis"⁷⁵ (with some cartridges.) A "dier skan" (deer skin) is mentioned.⁷⁶ And one wonders whether "2 dogs skins"⁷⁷ (pronounced with the long Dutch o), secured by Will, the Negro, may not have been does' skins for deer were plentiful and the skin of a dog lacked commercial value. In Mr. Filkin's day wild pigeons traversed the valley of Hudson's river in flocks so large that the sky was darkened when they passed and so, when twelve dozen pigeons⁷⁸ were sold at six pence per dozen and twenty-four birds⁷⁹ at one shilling, it would seem as if some one had been out shooting during a migration. Finally, "feas hoks"⁸⁰ (fish hooks) sold at six pence and "tap the malettue fallo"⁸¹ brought in a "Bas" (bass), while twelve "shed"⁸² (shad) cost 1/6.

In the second quarter of the eighteenth century, when Francis Filkin removed from Long Island to Poughkeepsie, very few Indians were left in Dutchess County and the fact that he seldom mentions⁸³ Indians in his accounts is understandable. Once he obtained "2 pound Catten" "tru an ingen"⁸⁴ (two pounds of cotton through an Indian); once he paid "an hingan skwa"⁸⁵ (an Indian squaw) for "1 schp hangen caren" (one *schepel* of Indian corn; a *schepel* being a Dutch unit of measure, equivalent to a bushel); once he had "one ps Calco an sareck de wilden"⁸⁶ (calico from Sareck, the Indian); and once⁸⁷ he received nine pence "tru an hangan."

Mention is made in Mr. Filkin's pages of several trades and occupations carried on at Poughkeepsie in his day.

Undoubtedly most of the families grew flax and raised sheep and spun their own linen and wool thread. Mr. Filkin records the sale of a "spinan wile" for 12/.⁸⁸ But not all had looms for weaving and it appears from these accounts that weaving was done for pay⁸⁹ by Marcus Van Bommel, Hendrick Pells and Myndert Rynders; by Henry Van Der Burgh and "his son;" and by John Van Der Burgh and Gerardus Lewis. These men wove linen, dimity linen,⁹⁰ "toe linen,"⁹¹ linsey

woolsey and "wollelenen."⁹² The weaving was charged for by the yard and also by the *ell* (a Dutch unit of measure, equivalent to three-quarters of a yard). Redwood and indigo, tropical dyes, were on sale⁹³ at Poughkeepsie at the time and were probably used to color home-made fabrics.

Iron used at Poughkeepsie was obtained both from the iron mines on the Manor of Livingston and from New York, the latter being called "Sweeds iron."⁹⁴ The smiths did not merely shoe horses. They made and mended a great assortment of farm tools and household utensils of which iron formed a part and they produced small articles like locks.⁹⁵ Francis Filkin refers to Jacob Low, Bartholomew Noxon, John Gay, Richard Van Der Burgh and Francis Hegeman as doing such work.

Carpenters are mentioned collectively by Mr. Filkin in connection with the building of the Court House⁹⁶ and he speaks of work in wood done by Abraham Freer, Jun. ⁹⁷ Also, Barent Lewis "singald our citing" (shingled our siding?)⁹⁸

In a community where most of the houses were built of stone masons were needed and masons were employed in the erection of the Court House and of the dwelling of Bartholomew Crannell,⁹⁹ but their names are not mentioned.

Workers in leather, in other words: shoemakers, are referred to by Mr. Filkin by name as: Jacobus Van Steenbergen,¹⁰⁰ Robert Kidney,¹⁰¹ Johannes Van Benthuisen,¹⁰² Moses De Graeff,¹⁰³ and William Smith. He said he owed William Smith twelve shillings for "making 6 par shoess in my house,"¹⁰⁴ which suggests that William Smith might have been an itinerant workman, such as are known to have travelled from house to house in early days.

One brewer there was, Johannes Swartwout,¹⁰⁵ whose brew-house was on (the present) Raymond avenue, near (the present) chapel on Vassar campus, and Mr. Filkin tells of barrels and beer that went back and forth between the brew-house and the hamlet at the river.

The services of a surveyor are always important in a new neighborhood and it is to be noted that at Poughkeepsie Henry Van Der Burgh was paid¹⁰⁶ for surveying and that Abraham Freer's son "draud the Chain one day,"¹⁰⁷ as did also Bartholomew Noxon.¹⁰⁸

Those mentioned as teaching school were: Barent Kip,¹⁰⁹ Bartholomew Noxon,¹¹⁰ Elizabeth Kip,¹¹¹ (who was also "Libe" Kip), Thomas Noxon,¹¹² and "Gerbrandts."¹¹³ The home of Elizabeth Kip (widow

of John Kip) was on the Post Road, north of the Fallkill and near (the present) railroad bridge. She was a sister of Peter Van Kleeck, whose widow married Francis Filkin, and she was the mother of Barent Kip, who "Lerent trintie" (his cousin) "one quarter scolen." Bartholomew Noxon built in 1741 a stone house¹¹⁴ on the Post Road, part of the walls of which are still standing at (the present) 81 Market street. He was a son of Thomas Noxon, a Scotchman and a schoolmaster, who after being at Poughkeepsie went to New York City and there became headmaster of Trinity School. "Gerbrandts," who for four days had "piter and treni" as pupils, was Lawrence Gerbrandts. He had married John De Graeff's widow, Mary, and lived in John De Graeff's house on (the present) Mill street,—on the north side, west of (the present) Bridge street.

Of mills at Poughkeepsie Francis Filkin makes mention of two,—Anthony Yelverton's at the mouth of the Fallkill and "tapen's mills", the location of which latter is not known. John Allen, who is known to have lived in the vicinity of (the present) Pleasant Valley, seems to have had a fulling mill in 1746.¹¹⁵

According to Mr. Filkin's accounts payment of two shillings, sixpence was made in 1737 to "padlar."¹¹⁶ Does that indicate that a peddler with his pack was canvassing the neighborhood at that time?

And did a postman traverse the woods on the east side of the river in the time of Francis Filkin? The sum of £2 . 6 . 0 was paid in January, 1741-1742 to "Alstin jnr the post,"¹¹⁷ and in 1745 Francis Filkin took care of "the post Brats hars"¹¹⁸ for eight days. Van Alstyne is a name identified with Kinderhook and Bradt with the vicinity of Schenectady. Both names are foreign to Poughkeepsie.

Reading played but a small part in pioneer life, if it is fair to infer that from Mr. Filkin's failure to mention many books. In 1738-1739 he bought "one book Caled Salter"¹¹⁹ (one book called Psalter) and in 1742 he twice made a payment of 9 p for a "bock."¹²⁰ While he sold to Bartholomew Noxon "1 bock Caled Jongmens Compenyn @2/"¹²¹ (one book called Young Men's Companion).

Of social pleasure for the feminine portion of the community there is but one hint in these pages. The wardrobes of the women at Poughkeepsie included such things as silk, lace, ribbon and beads, while in 1746 a "Reilif" (*rijglyf*, or laced bodice) was purchased¹²² for "Elizabeth"

(then seventeen years old) at the high cost of £1 . 5 . 0. All these things would have been acquired to use on special occasions, they were not suited to daily domestic routine. Those possible special occasions are also indicated by the "par of pomps"¹²³ Mr. Filkin had made for himself at a cost of 7/6; by his buying a "biver hat",¹²⁴ the price of which was £1 . 8 . 0; and by his purchase of a "par ni bockls"¹²⁵ (pair of knee buckles).

Conviviality among the men is clearly shown by the indulgence in "biar" (beer) and brandy at "pingster"¹²⁶ (*pinkster* being Dutch for Whitsuntide); and by the items: "Licqur with tapin in Compani"¹²⁷ and "wine with Beckman"¹²⁸ (when Francis Filkin drank with Johannes Tappen and Henry Beekman and paid John Ten Broeck for the beverages consumed); as well as when he said that: "I spent in Court in mettigalom."¹²⁹ Metheglen was a drink of domestic manufacture, made of water, honey, malt and yeast. It was somewhat sweet and very heady and seems to have flowed freely at the sessions of the County Court. A drink that Mr. Filkin called "sengari" is mentioned by him several times but has not been identified. Punch and brandy punch are frequently referred to and the "pons" was served by the "boll" (bowl).¹³⁰

The diet of the residents of Poughkeepsie (as reflected in the accounts kept by Francis Filkin) was abundant in quantity. It included many staple foods but few luxuries; a limited number of vegetables; and two fruits,—cherries ("chiris")¹³¹ and "spetan bergen apples,"¹³² unless "water millins"¹³³ should be reckoned as a third. As luxuries could be classed clams¹³⁴ (which had to be brought up the river from the coast) and chocolate¹³⁵ ("shakolet", "shakelet"), a Mexican product, which also was obtained via New York and the river. In connection with these items it might be added that tobacco¹³⁶ and snuff¹³⁷ ("snofe;" pulverized tobacco) were in use, which if not foods were luxuries of a sort.

The only vegetables learned of were potatoes ("patadus"), peas ("pies"), turnips ("tornips"), cabbage ("cebach", "cabach") and pumpkins. In grain, wheat and rye, buckwheat and Indian corn were grown. There was variety in meat and fish, game and poultry and the farms provided milk, butter, eggs and honey. From the woods came "chisonuts"¹³⁸ (chestnuts).

Salt and pepper, sugar and molasses, ginger,¹³⁹ allspice,¹⁴⁰ and tea¹⁴¹ came into the port of New York and from New York the sloops carried those imports to Poughkeepsie.

One of the most interesting features of Francis Filkin's book is the light that it throws upon the merchandise that was handled at Poughkeepsie between 1736 and 1746. There were several men in the little hamlet who dealt in wares of many kinds. Among them Francis Filkin had accounts with John Ten Broeck, Johannes Tappen, John Constable, William Low, Timothy Low, Augustinus Turck and Moses Benjamin Franks.

Mr. Filkin's longest account was with John Ten Broeck, who lived in a stone house on the site now occupied by the Fallkill National Bank and Trust Company on Market street, Poughkeepsie.

The most individual of the men dealt with by Mr. Filkin was Moses Benjamin Franks, a Jew,¹⁴² who came to Poughkeepsie from New York, paid taxes from February, 1743-1744, through June, 1748, and owned a stone house¹⁴³ on the lot which now is known as 103 Market street. In the 1740's the number of Jews in the city of New York was small and it is therefore noteworthy that one of the race went up the river so early, even though he soon returned to town. Moses Benjamin Franks comes to life again for this generation when it is known that he had a dog for which he bought bread by the loaf.¹⁴⁷ Furthermore, when he on two occasions went to New York to stay for some time his house was guarded by "will," the Negro, and fourteen-year-old "piter" (Van Kleeck), who slept in it in his absence.¹⁴⁵

The men who dealt in varied merchandise were referred to sometimes in deeds and other contemporary documents as shopkeepers and sometimes as traders. Trader was a particularly applicable designation inasmuch as most of the transactions entered into were carried out by exchange or barter, that is by "trading." Very little "Cas" (cash) circulated. There is mention made of gold¹⁴⁶ and of seawant¹⁴⁷ (Indian wampum); "newingaland mony"¹⁴⁸ and "stivers"¹⁴ (*stuiver*; a Dutch coin) were referred to; once a "half pestol"¹⁵⁰ was paid out (a pistole being a European coin); but usually goods were traded for goods or else a bill was paid in labor. Illustrations of such occurrences may be noted as: "Baltus his Grat Cote and wills Grat Cote is paid with one winters whoed"¹⁵¹ (wood); "I paid the turky and peters hat with caren"¹⁵² (corn); "to will swipan his Chimble for I stik moher"¹⁵³ (to Will sweeping his chimney for one *stuk*, i. e. piece, of mohair); and "paid in spinan."¹⁵⁴ Perhaps the sharpest bargaining recorded¹⁵⁵ was when in

1745 Mr. Filkin received from Moses Benjamin Franks "11½ yds por Calco" (poor calico) "in swap for the 1½ yrd of Carcy—and we Give him in mony tebout @9/ Redy mony—he had the Calco Beck again for other goods."

An attempt has been made by the writer to classify some of the merchandise traded in and below is appended a list¹⁵⁶ which shows clothing materials, notions, etc., used by the residents of Poughkeepsie.

Long as it has grown to be, it is hoped that this interpretation of the pamphlet entitled: *The Account Book of a Country Storekeeper* will be of interest to those who are descended from early residents of Dutchess County, New York, for as people lived at Poughkeepsie so, more or less nearly the same, did they live elsewhere in the county. Perhaps it will also be of use to the historian or economist interested in general conditions in the eighteenth century.

HELEN WILKINSON REYNOLDS.

NUMBERED REFERENCES FOR TEXT*

1.—P. 10. November 11, 1746. "I haired John and Cobus for six pounds to mouf my femmely to york." P. 85. "novr 1746 I mofd to new york." (Editor's note. John De Graeff owned and sailed a sloop. "Cobus" refers to Jacobus Van Kleeck. There is some reason to think that Francis Filkin returned to Poughkeepsie when the British took possession of the city of New York in the Revolution. On p. 100 is recorded the burial of his wife in December, 1781, "at poghkepsy in the burian place in the orchered of van kleeck." The Van Kleeck family burying ground was west of the present Vassar street and south of Mill.)

2.—*The Van Kleeck Family*, p. 30.

3.—P. 100. "September den 21 dagh anoqdomini 1733 ben ick Francis Filkin Ghetrouit met Catharina Lewis wedow van pieter van kleeck."

4.—*New York Gen. Biog. Record*, vol. 35 (1904), pp. 15, 16, entries in Francis Filkin's Bible.

5.—*Poughkeepsie Journal*, October 27, 1789.

6.—P. 18. 1735. "Gilbort Levingston" dr to "intertanment in videls and drinck @ 18/;" 1736, dr to "intertanments in videls and drinck @ 10/;" 1737, "3 mils vidls @ 2/3" and "bier fach by boudowins" (i. e. beer fetched by Baudouin Le Count); 1737, "the Cort hild this time and majr Levingston was intertened hier in my house four days and nits hed 11 mils videls 8/3 + nits logings @ 1/8" and "Licquer att boudewins @ 3/11."

P. 18. 1735. Account with John Alsop, attorney, in attendance at the County Court. "in pons he haid to trit the Lawrirs @ 5/" (punch

*Unless otherwise stated, the page-numbers cited on this list refer to *The Account Book of a Country Storekeeper*.

he had to treat the lawyers); "in videls, 2 mils @ 1/6 and Logging @ 6;" 1736, "videls" and drink.

P. 18. 1737. Account with Henry Beekman. To "videls" @ 3/3 and to "one Court time" 4/.

P. 28. Account with Henry Livingston, with editorial punctuation. November 16, 1737. "this day Henry Levfingston Came to my house to live by the weke—and we have Agried—and he is to Give me six schillings pr wick—with as Good as we have et and no otherwise—the same day he hed 1 schp dreps and wheat together for his harse att 1/6—and his harse or mare 6 days and nits upon Kiepen of hay 1/6—desm 2 he came houm again and then he oud but one wick bord—and now the time Gous on—desm 31 he was Gaen to his fathers—and Came back the 9th day of Januari—April 19 1738 then Balanst all accounts to this day with Henry Livingston and he payd me in full to this day."

P. 2. 1740 Jacob, Peter and Shibboleth Bogardus were charged for "intertenment."

P. 14. 1736, 1741, 1744. John Sackett (probably of Dover) was charged for "vidles" and for stabling his horses.

7.—PP. 14, 16, 22, 30, 36. Goods bought of "my wife."

8.—P. 28. "to trintie making a short clok @ 3/6." It is possible this entry refers to the daughter, not to the mother.

9.—PP. 5, 6, 7, 10, 25, 84. (Editor's note. On page 6 of the printed pamphlet is the name "malby." This is a typographical error. The original record reads plainly: mally, which was obviously phonetic for Molly. On page 10 of the pamphlet, last line, "mal" is referred to, meaning undoubtedly Moll.)

10.—P. 10. 1736. "barent Kep Lerent trintie one quarter scolen. 10/." P. 50. 1741-1742. Bartholomew Noxon creditor for: "my Childrens skoling @ 20/." P. 62. 1742. Bartholomew Noxon creditor for: 2 monts scoling or there abots 16/." P. 10. 1742. "my three Children begon to go scoll by Elizabeth Keps att 6/ pr qur ps van de eerste dagh van July tuis Ghebleven tot de 18 @ 1/6 and I paid Libe Kip besids @ 2/0 for mal @ 1/6." P. 62. 1744-1745. "then my daughter Cathrina is begon to Go schol by noxons and piter begon before upon Crennels account they ben Eich one quarter." "Cathrina Begon another quarter scholing lift of thomas noxon Errent of me @ 2/6." P. 86. 1745-1746. "piter and treni whent skoul by Gerbrandts they bin 4 days then he zent them hum again." "for my Children Choling @ 1/6."

11.—P. 18. 1736. A note "sant to beekman with my boy baltis." P. 7. 1744. "my boy going to his hous with a writ."

12.—P. 20. 1738. "to my bois Riding one Lode of whoed." P. 59. 1743-1744. "Baltus begon his time att the mill." P. 75. 1743-1744. On January 29 Baltus began to work for John Ten Broeck at 35/ a month "and Left of the 11 day of feber and Lost 3 day and ten brock sent him 3 mils vidls in that time that made baltus sta hum." P. 78. 1745-1746. Peter earned pay from Abraham Freer for "binding" (field work?). PP. 94, 95, 107. 1745. Baltus and Leonard helped in the work of building a new Court House. P. 103. 1745, 1746. Peter slept in the house of Moses Benjamin Franks as watchman in the absence of the owner.

13.—PP. 110, 111. 1745, 1746. "Yeckets" and "brichas" and vests.

14.—Maritie Ten Broeck was married in 1748 at Poughkeepsie to Abraham Poel. The register of the Dutch Church says she was born in New York. It is to be supposed that she was related to John Ten Broeck, merchant, of Poughkeepsie, with whom Francis Filkin had business dealings. John Ten Broeck and Henry Filkin (brother to Francis) married sisters so there were close personal ties between the members of this little group of people.

15.—P. 110. 1746. "to one yeget and brichas out of old things for piet."

16.—PP. 5, 6, 7, 8, 12, 13, 29, 31, 40, 43, 46, 53.

17.—PP. 36, 42. Account with Abraham Freer. December 29, 1739, Francis Filkin debtor to "mecking one slabanck." A *slaapbank* was a bed that looked like a chest and which could be opened out as a cot or bed.

18.—P. 69. Account with Hendrick Hegeman. November 10, 1744, Francis Filkin debtor to "one bedstad of Henry hegeman @ 12/." The Dutch word *bedstede* refers to a built-in bunk, possibly to an enclosure resembling a wardrobe in which a bed was hidden. Such an enclosed bunk was often used in the valley of the Hudson. It is to be noted that when Francis Filkin went to New York he left at the farm a "bedsted," probably for the reason that it would have been a difficult thing to move.

19.—P. 21.

20.—P. 42. Account with Lawrens Gerbrants. August 3, 1743, Francis Filkin debtor to "53 tils for a hart @ 3p ps and 6 briks @ 2p."

21.—P. 62. "*** to I S in schorkiting" (*schoorsteen ketting*, i. e. fireplace chain). In the eighteenth century houses a long iron chain was often hung in the kitchen chimney. An S-shaped pothook was attached to the chain and could be adjusted to the height desired for the pot.

22.—PP. 21, 67. 23.—P. 21. 24.—P. 21. 25.—P. 38. 26.—P. 53. 27.—P. 70. 28.—P. 42. 29.—P. 62. 30.—P. 7. 31.—PP. 27, 36. 32.—P. 85.

33.—P. 85. November, 1746. "I mofd to new york and Left at the farm at poghkepsie . . . besids what was sold to Baltus and Leonard . . . 1 bedsted, bed cisings, Rugs and blankits and chets, what was belonging to a bed . . . 6 chars . . . 1 par hand Irons . . . 4 Irons to make Rops with . . . an Iron toth harrow . . . a plow shere . . . a Grad iron . . . a bason . . . 12 Iron bolts . . . sum old Iron work . . . 1 Iron pot . . . an old wagon . . . 1 sits fouls . . . 1 sheep . . . 2 beas hives with beas . . . 1 table . . . 1 how . . . 1 Ex . . . 2 sids . . . and sum Cattle . . . for piter and sara . . . but they did not Give it to them sara and piter . . . nither has baltus payd the rent . . . all the children of my wif baltus lenord piter trintie Elesabeth sara promised to pay my wife . . . to pay her three pound a year pr ps as long as she lives . . . if she whold signe the farm of to them . . . and we did signe it of . . . 26 years rent due at 3 pd pr novem 1779 £78. 0. 0."

(Editor's note. Editorial license was invoked to punctuate the above. At the close Mr. Filkin referred to his wife's rights in the farm of her first husband, Peter Van Kleek. He said that she signed her rights over to her children in consideration of their promise that each of them would pay her £3 a year. In 1779 they owed her a large amount on this agreement. The word "cisings", above, probably stands for *kussens*, the Dutch word for pillows. "Chets" indicates sheets.)

34.—Beside a wagon and a sleigh the accounts of Francis Filkin mention in connection with the farm such articles as: a plough, harrow, scythe, an axe, a hatchel, shovel and hoe, an auger, nails, an iron chain, a rope, a flour cask and a lye cask, barrels, a tub, pail and pot and a cider mill.

35.—Records of the Court of Common Pleas and Court of General Sessions on deposit in the Adriance Memorial Library, Poughkeepsie.

36.—P. 12. March 13, 1736. "making up accounts between marey de Graef and willyam smith from two a'clock til twelve at nite."

37.—P. 108. 1739. "in the fall Rechar'd ward dr to me for one Gorny to his house to make spece between him and his wife @ 6/."

38.—Records of the Court of General Sessions, liber A, p. 58, May 17, 1737.

39.—Records of the Clerk of Dutchess County, deeds, liber 1, pp. 238, 240.

40, 41, 42, 43, 44, all quoted above under reference No. 6.

45.—P. 100. "June 25, 1744 don is trintie van Kleek Getrout met Bortholomewis Crennel by domini wise."

- 46.—P. 89. 1744. Account with Bartholomew Crannell. "vidling he and his wife 5 monts."
- 47.—P. 89. Account with Bartholomew Crannell. "I Carted all what Belongs to his building of his house" "and vidling all his workman of his house and my people workt several wecks at said house," etc.
- 48.—P. 32. 1738, 1739. Account with "doctor pieter van Buren."
- 49.—For Dr. Cornelius Osborn see: James H. Smith, *History of Dutchess County*, pp. 513, 514; Hasbrouck, *History of Dutchess County*, pp. 548, 549.
- 50.—Tax-lists for Rombout Precinct.
- 51.—Dr. Osborn was a tax-payer at Poughkeepsie from 1747 to 1763.
- 52.—For Dr. Osborn's memorandum book see: *Year Book*, Dutchess County Historical Society, vol. 4 (1918), p. 39.
- 53.—P. 104. "sept 1 1745 Cornelus Rasbun agreed with me for twenty shills: pr year for to docter my famely."
- 54.—PP. 54, 55. 55.—P. 106. 56.—PP. 106, 107.
- 57.—Reynolds, *Dutch Houses in the Hudson Valley before 1776*, p. 374.
- 58.—PP. 72, 73. 59.—P. 73. 60.—P. 78. 61.—P. 96. 62.—P. 105. 63.—P. 71. 64.—PP. 29, 66, 67, 115. 65.—P. 31.
- 66.—P. 100. "Sept 8: 1733 then Cathrene van Kleck widow sould me Francis Filkin the faram calle de vlackte for ninty pounds as by the deed will appear."
- 67.—P. 100. "September den 21 dagh Anoqdomini 1733 Ben ick Francis Filkin Ghetrouit met Catharine Lewis wedow van pieter van kleck."
- 68.—PP. 15, 46, 84, 92, 93, 100.
- 69.—P. 71. "acto 16 1746 hannis brat workt for me to 5 days 3 quarters work @ 2/6 pr day." "to 2 days 1 quarter @ 2/6 pr day."
- 70.—PP. 36, 37, 39, 49, 51, 63, 73, 75, 76, 78, 80, 86, 88, 94, 96, 97, 99, 103, 107.
- 71.—PP. 6, 7. 72.—P. 77. 73.—PP. 21, 62. 74.—PP. 30, 52, 56. 75.—P. 96. 76.—P. 37.
- 77.—P. 43. December 20, 1742. "Cidny" (i. e. Robert Kidney) "hed of will 2 dogs skins @ 2/6."
- 78.—P. 92. 79.—P. 42. 80.—P. 95. 81.—P. 58. 82.—P. 12.
- 83.—P. 56. December 26, 1741, Francis Filkin bought "1 quart Rum for quam @ 1/6." This entry may refer to an Indian, named Quam. In 1719 an Indian named Aquamus is referred to in the records of the Supervisors of Dutchess County.
- 84.—P. 48. 85.—P. 12. 86.—P. 52. 87.—P. 41. 88.—P. 26. 89.—PP. 1, 17, 27, 32, 33, 36, 93. 90.—P. 17. 91.—P. 33. 92.—P. 36. 93.—PP. 8, 52.
- 94.—Records of the Court of General Sessions for May, 1744.
- 95.—PP. 19, 21, 62, 67, 87, 98. 96.—P. 107. 97.—PP. 36, 37. 98.—P. 39. 99.—PP. 76, 80. 100.—P. 5. 101.—PP. 6, 7. 102.—P. 8. 103.—P. 29. 104.—P. 31. 105.—P. 71. 106.—P. 33. 107.—P. 42. 108.—P. 50. 109.—P. 10. 110.—PP. 50, 62. 111.—P. 10. 112.—P. 62. 113.—P. 86.
- 114.—Reynolds, *Dutch Houses in the Hudson Valley before 1776*, p. 370.
- 115.—P. 112. Account with John Allen. May 29, 1746, "I Received but 20 yards of Cloth from the fullen mill out of 29½ which Cant be onnist and I will not allow this creded before I have my Remender Cloth."
- 116.—P. 8. Account with William Low. April 15, 1737, Low seems to have advanced cash for Francis Filkin:—"payd for me to bogardus @ 3/ and to padlar @ 2/6."
- 117.—P. 43. 118.—P. 107. 119.—P. 30. 120.—P. 52. 121.—P. 2. 122.—P. 89. 123.—P. 46. 124.—P. 44. 125.—P. 59. 126.—P. 60. 127.—PP. 74, 75. 128.—PP. 58, 59. 129.—P. 96. 130.—PP. 3 18, 21, 57, 60, 74, 96. 131.—P. 2. 132.—P. 2. 133.—P. 34. 134.—P. 75. 135.—PP. 44, 48.
- 136.—PP. 52, 56, 60. On p. 14 "moroco tabecko" is mentioned.

- 137.—P. 21. 138.—P. 2. 139.—P. 95. 140.—P. 14. 141.—PP. 44, 47, 58.
 142.—P. 72. January, 1743-1744, "franks the jue."
 143.—Reynolds, *Dutch Houses in the Hudson Valley before 1776*, p. 370.
 144.—P. 103. 145.—P. 103.
 146.—P. 54. August 6, 1742, "Geldt in Cas."
 147.—P. 54. 148.—P. 18. 149.—P. 2. 150.—P. 33. 151.—P. 77. 152.—P.
 89. 153.—P. 56. 154.—P. 41. 155.—P. 102.

156.—Classified Lists of Merchandise.

GOODS AND SERVICES DEALT IN BY FRANCIS FILKIN

AT POUGHKEEPSIE, 1736-1746

Yard Goods—Broadcloth (brod Clot, Brad Clat); . . . calico (calco); . . . linen; . . . linsey woolsey (linci wolsi, linsi wolsi); . . . muslin (muselin); . . . shalloon (shalon, etc); . . . stuffs (stofs).

Leather Goods:—Shoes (shoss, shoess); . . . Par opper Leders for one par shoss; . . . 1 hied and 2 smal skins for on per shoess; . . . leather breeches (leder brichis); . . . calf skins (cafe skins); . . . I cow's hiad (hide); . . . leather for moccasins (ledder for maxkeson); . . . soles for moccasins (putting sols under his maxesions).

Miscellany:—Straw cap (stra cap); . . . buttons for his breeches (botans for his briches); . . . silk stockings (stokan); . . . handkerchiefs (hankerhefs); . . . candles; . . . lime by the bushel; . . . starch; . . . "brad ex" (broad axe?); . . . "doble winder case"; . . . knife; . . . pins by the paper (peper); . . . thread by the spool (Clos Garen); . . . "werke Garen" by the pound (coarse thread, of hemp or flax; for mending rope?); . . . spinning wheel (spinan wile); . . . tape (tepe); . . . pipes by the dozen; . . . tobacco (tabeck, tabecko, tabecke); . . . a book "caled Jongmens Compnyen."

Imported Items:—Salt, pepper, sugar (shoker, etc) by the pound and "brot suiker" (*broodsuiker*, i. e. loaf-sugar), molasses (mulasu, etc), allspice, ginger, rum, wine.

Livestock, Meats, etc.:—bull, oxen, cow, heifer, calf; . . . horses, mare, stallion, colts; . . . sheep; . . . hogs, pigs, sow; . . . chickens, turkeys (torkys), ducks (doks), pigeons; . . . bees' hives; . . . beef (boul bife), half quarter of beef, veal (vild), half quarter of lamb (lambe), mutton (motan), pork (porik), bacon, hog's fat (haghs fat by the pound), venison (vinnison); . . . milk, cream (p. 13: *een emmer soete milk de meste magt rom*; i. e. one pail sweet milk the largest part cream), butter (boter); . . . eggs (egs, ags, aghs); . . . honey ("hony" by the gallon).

Vegetables, Fruits, Grains, Nuts, etc.:—Cabbages (kebach, cabach, cabagh); . . . potatoes (patadus, etc.); . . . turnips (tornips); . . . peas (pies); . . . apples (by the tree, barrel and bushel); . . . cider (seiter, sheiter, shiter, chider); . . . vinegar; . . . wheat; . . . buckwheat (bockwit); . . . Indian corn (hangen caren); . . . Indian meal (hangan mile); . . . rye (ray); . . . chestnuts (chisonuts by the bushel and *schepel*); . . . hops; . . . beer (biere); . . . flaxseed; . . . flax; . . . hay (by the "lode"); . . . good clover hay; . . . *mohar* ("moher," by the "bouns"), i. e., millet, coarse grass for forage.

Entertainment, etc.:—Victuals (vidles); . . . meals (mils); . . . bread (brad) by the loaf (lofe).

FRANCIS FILKIN ALSO RECEIVED PAY FOR THE FOLLOWING ITEMS

Board and lodging furnished at his house.

Writing documents and taking acknowledgements of the same: liquor licenses, court recognizances, bonds, deeds, wills, accounts, summonses, bail

pieces, "weriting indenters for his printis" (i. e. writing an indenture for his apprentice).

Materials and services furnished in the course of the erection of the Court House and of the house of Bartholomew Crannell.

Rental of "horsis and wegon" and of "slay" to "ride" "whoed."

Cartage of "Lods of whoed."

Cartage ("riding wheat to the Rever")

Wood ("whoed") sold by the load ("lode").

Cartloads of "nutwhoed."

Stabling horses (halsis stable).

Hopsticks.

Posts (for fencing ? "8 post for her Garding").

Weaving.

Bleaching ("blighan") linen.

Storing wheat.

Work done by George (jorge), the Negro.

Work done by Will (will), the Negro.

The services of the Negroes "to kill," i. e. butchering livestock.

COMBINED LIST OF GOODS CARRIED BY SEVERAL MERCHANTS AT
POUGHKEEPSIE 1736-1746

Imported Yard Goods:—Silk by the yard; . . . black silk ("swarte sei," i. e. *swarte zy*); . . . crape ("crap", "crep", "cos trap"; the last being perhaps coarse crape); . . . broadcloth ("brad clat", "brod clot"); . . . "blue cloth" (sixteen shillings a yard, expensive material); . . . flannel ("flanel"); . . . shalloon ("London shalon"), a thin, loosely woven twilled worsted stuff, originally made at Chalons, France; . . . calamanco ("collomino", "callominco"), a glossy woolen stuff, plain or striped or checked; . . . Kersey (carcy); a coarse woolen cloth, usually ribbed, named from Kersey in Suffolk, England; . . . white baize ("withe baey"), coarse woolen goods; . . . calico ("Calco"), white cloth made from cotton, named from Calicut, India, from which seaport it was first exported; . . . striped cotton? ("catin stript"); . . . muslin ("musalin"), thin cotton goods, named from Mosul, Mesopotamia, where it was first made; . . . fustian ("furchan", "forthan"), coarse twilled cotton or cotton and linen, including corduroy and velveteen, named from Fustat (i. e. Cairo), Egypt, where it was first made; . . . Osnaburghs ("osanbrigs", "osanbrighs"), a linen fabric, made originally in Osnaburgh, Germany; . . . buckram ("buckerom", "bockeron", "bucrom"), a coarse cloth of linen or hemp, stiffened with size or glue; . . . *Camerdocks* ("Cammerdocks"), Dutch for cambric made at Cambrai, France; also called "Camerriigs" (*Kamerijk*) being the Dutch name for the French city, Cambrai; . . . *Rosel* ("Rusal"), the Dutch name for linen made at La Rochelle, France; . . . camelet ("cambelet", "cambelot", "camblet stofs"), a fabric made originally of camel's hair, later made of goat's hair and silk or of wool and cotton; . . . mohair ("moher"), by the "stik", i. e. Dutch *stuk*, meaning piece), a fabric made of goat's hair or an imitation of such.

Domestic Yard Goods:—linen; . . . linsey woolsey; . . . strouds (coarse blanket, used by the Indians).

Imported Articles to Wear:—gloves; . . . felt hats; beaver hats (hats of beaver were probably made either in New England or New York); "yacke cap" (jockey cap? jacket cape?); . . . knee buckles; buckles by the pair; . . . silk stockings; . . . steel buttons, pewter buttons, vest buttons; . . . beads by the string; . . . ribbon ("reban"); . . . lace ("lase", "les"); . . . "one Reilif for Elizabeth @ £ 1. 5. 0" (*rijglyf*; a laced bodice).

Imported Miscellanys:—handkerchiefs ("handkerhefs") of silk, "crepe," and "cattan"; . . . silk by the skein; . . . white thread ("wite treed") by the skein

and by the bunch ("buns"); . . . tape ("tap"); . . . *fleuret* ("flore"), French for a narrow tape, usually woolen, sometimes of cotton or of silk, known in English as ferret; . . . a book; . . . paper ("peper") by the "quarter" and by the "book"; . . . pins by the paper; . . . combs, coarse and fine; . . . powder and shot; . . . redwood and indigo; . . . pipes by the gross; . . . tobacco and snuff.

Local Miscellany:—boards and shingles; . . . tar by the gallon; . . . deer skins; . . . brooms ("broms", "brum"); . . . flax; . . . yarn ("jeran"); . . . shoes; . . . baskets.

Imported Foodstuffs:—chocolate; . . . rice ("Rist" for *ryst*); . . . molasses; . . . sugar; . . . tea; . . . salt; . . . spices; . . . wine; . . . rum; . . . , brandy.

Local Foodstuffs:—beef; . . . pork; . . . cheese; . . . pumpkins; . . . water melons; . . . beer; . . . cider; . . . metheglin; . . . mint water. (Other local foods are included on the list of goods handled by Francis Filkin.)

Imported Tools, Utensils, etc.:—knives; . . . forks; . . . spoons; . . . earthenware; . . . ladle; . . . pot; . . . pail; . . . shovel; . . . gimlet; . . . Boston axe; . . . nails.

LETTER WRITTEN BY TRINTIE VAN KLEECK CRANNELL

In the Public Library of the City of New York there is on file in the manuscript department in a collection of papers that once belonged to Gilbert Livingston of Poughkeepsie an original letter, written by Trintie Van Kleeck, wife of Bartholomew Crannell. The letter was dated at St. John, New Brunswick (where the Crannells were living in exile as Loyalists) and was addressed to her daughter, the wife of Gilbert Livingston. Its contents are unimportant in themselves but a copy of the letter is subjoined here to the article on Francis Filkin's book because Mrs. Crannell is referred to in that and because her letter is a good example of the Dutch spoken at Poughkeepsie in her time. The translation of the original into English was made by A. J. F. van Laer, State Archivist, of Albany.

"Sin jone nubronswick
September 03 1785

myn lieve kint

ick stuer (stuur) by abel Sands 6 gesmote (gesmookte) * salme(n)
3 voor (u) en 3 voor bese de vier onderste heb ick gesmookt ick hoop sy
zalle (zullen) wel uit valle(n) mense (menschen) hebbe(n) hier nog
so veel andre (andere) besigheden dat daar wort nog niet veel gesookt
(gesmookt) en ook zynder (zyn er) nog niet veel die geeye (goeye,
goede) plaese (plaatsen) hebbe(n) om te smoke(n) so Tyse (zyn ze?)
nog wat scaers (schaers) hier aende wniog (anders zou) ick er mee
(meer) gestuert hebbe(n) mensen (menschen) ware(n) hier bang dat
de mayers (maïs) sou hier niet ryp worde(n) nu heb ick van daag
gehoo(r)t dat it (het) hoog is so hebbe(n) we rede(n) om te denke(n)
dat alle grane(n) hier heel wel done (doen) zal (zullen) so niet meer
als wensen (wenschen) (u) en (uwe) familie (familie) de (des) heren
(Heeren) segen.

Trintie Crannell

To Catharine Livingston
This."

St. John, New Brunswick
September (30?), 1785

My dear Child

I am sending by Abel Sands 6 smoked salmon, 3 for (you) and 3

for Bessie.** The lower four I smoked (myself). I hope that they will turn out well. People here have so many other things to do that not much smoking is done. Besides, there are not many persons yet who have good places for smoking. Therefore, they are still somewhat scarce here, otherwise I might have sent more.

People here were afraid that the corn here would not get ripe. Now I heard today that it is high, so that we have reason to think that all the grain will do very well here.

So, no more, except wishing you and your family the Lord's blessing.

Trintie Crannell.

To Catharine Livingston This.

*Errors in the original letter are indicated as corrections within parentheses.

**Mrs. Crannell's daughter, Elizabeth, wife of Peter Tappen.

THE COURT HOUSE OF DUTCHESS COUNTY

FIRST, SECOND, THIRD AND FOURTH BUILDINGS

1717 — 1810

EXTRACTS FROM CONTEMPORARY RECORDS

COMPILED AND EDITED

BY

HELEN WILKINSON REYNOLDS

In 1788 from June 17 to July 26 the Court House of Dutchess County at Poughkeepsie was the scene of the sessions of a convention representing the state of New York. The convention finally ratified for the state the proposed Federal Constitution and in 1938 the 150th anniversary of that action has been given due observance.

The celebration of this anniversary having focussed public attention upon the site in Poughkeepsie where the convention met in 1788 it seemed suitable that in the *Year Book* of the Dutchess County Historical Society for the anniversary year there should be presented an account of the several buildings which, in former times, were built on this bit of land by the County of Dutchess as a place for court sessions and supervisors' meetings and for the jailing of prisoners. No connected statement of this sort is provided in any of the printed histories of Dutchess and so the writer made a search of official and other contemporary source-material and assembled a list of items referring to the successive Court Houses, the list being appended herewith below. The items are arranged chronologically and the authority for each stated so that any future student of local history may have easy access to the originals. Here, however, a few words of explanation may be of interest to the general reader.

From the items collected it appears that a proposal to build a Court House for Dutchess County was agitated in 1715, when on July 21 an Act of the Legislature provided for raising the necessary funds by taxation within two years time. That no progress was made in 1715 and 1716 is evident from the fact that on May 27, 1717, another Act was passed, calling for a building within three years—that is, by 1720. The second Act authorized the raising of £250 in taxes and, on June 22d, a month after the passage of the Act, the Board of Supervisors of Dutchess appointed Barent Van Kleeck and Jacobus Van Den Bogert (both

conveniently resident at Poughkeepsie) to take charge of the erection of the building.

It is fair to assume that the first Court House of Dutchess County was begun in 1717 or 1718 inasmuch as on February 3, 1718-1719, there were arrears to be met in the cost of construction and that it was ready for occupancy in or before 1721, because in October, 1721, a meeting of the Court of Common Pleas was actually held "at ye Court House at Poghkeepsink."

The land on which the Court House was placed was part of a large tract owned by Jacobus Van Den Bogert, a tract which lay south of (the present) Main street and ran from the river inland for a long distance. Jacobus Van Den Bogert lived in a house that stood on the spot now occupied by the Nelson House and from out of his real estate he gave two pieces of land to be used for public purposes. To the Dutch Reformed congregation he presented a lot, which now forms the south-east corner of Market and Main streets, as a site for a church building and the deed for this gift is on record. It is unfortunate that there is no record of how the county acquired the land on which the first Court House was erected in 1717-1721 but there can be no doubt that in those years it was taken over and built upon by the county with the consent and approval of Jacobus Van Den Bogert, even if a deed of conveyance was not actually made out for it.

By 1735 the Court House of 1717-1721 began to need repair but not until October 21, 1741, did the Court of General Sessions take action in the matter. On that date the Court declared that the "County House and Goal" were "very much decayed and out of Repair" and it was decided to sell the property and buy a new lot and erect a new building. But it took until December 17, 1743, to secure an Act of the Provincial Legislature enabling the county authorities to proceed. The Act gave permission either to repair and enlarge the original building or to construct a new one and to purchase more ground if so desired.

As a result of the Act the Justices of the Court of General Sessions made an agreement on May 17, 1744, with Jacobus Van Den Bogert, whereby Van Den Bogert pledged himself to convey, for £15, a piece of land that included the site occupied by the original Court House. The entry of the agreement is worded obscurely and does not clearly show whether the Justices had decided to repair the first building or to erect a second.

Why there should have been a delay of three years and a half before this agreement was carried out does not appear but the deed, by which Jacobus Van Den Bogert made conveyance to the Justices of the Peace of Dutchess County, was dated November 13, 1747. The deed gave title to thirty-five perches of land for a consideration of £15 and is on record in the office of the County Clerk. It describes the land as bounded northeast and southeast by the King's road, that is by (the present) Main and Market streets, "with the Court House and Goals already built on the same." Conveyance was made to the Justices and their successors in commission, in trust for the county.

The clause in the deed which refers to the Court House and Goal as already built in 1747 agrees with the fact that there are items on record for 1744 and 1745 which show that a new Court House was undergoing construction in those years. Anthony Yelverton of Poughkeepsie was the first "manager" appointed to superintend the work. He engaged Francis Filkin, also of Poughkeepsie, to procure materials and labor. Francis Filkin kept an account book which is on deposit in the Adriance Memorial Library, Poughkeepsie, and which contains references to the stone and lumber he furnished for the Court House, to the pay he gave a mason, to services rendered by his step-sons, Baltus and Leonard Van Kleeck, and to work done by his negro, Will.

Some of the timber used in the Court House was drawn to Poughkeepsie (as Francis Filkin states) from the "crane vly" (*kraane vly*, in Dutch), that is: from the "crane marsh" or marsh of the crane, a wet section still to be seen north of St. Peter's cemetery on the Salt Point Road, although today all timber has been cut from it and the marsh flames in summer with purple loosestrife. Colonel Henry Beekman of Rhinebeck furnished for the Court House fifteen-hundred feet of two-inch oak boards, which may have been used for flooring. Presumably the foundations and walls of the building were of stone, the interior frame of wood.

One item recorded by Francis Filkin tells of the loss of a rope "att the Rasing." A "raising" was a great event in rural neighborhoods in the eighteenth century and was joined in by whole communities. The frame for a building would be prepared and assembled and joined and then, when ready, many willing hands would pull it into position by the aid of ropes. Evidently the raising of the frame of the Court House of

Dutchess in 1744 was looked forward to in advance as an important happening for the Court of General Sessions voted on October 18, 1744 (as if the raising were close at hand), that "Victualls" and "licquor" should be provided for those who assisted in the work. Doubtless a rustic jollification took place at the corner of the King's Road in Poughkeepsie on the day that the huge timbers were swung into position for the interior of the new county building.

In November, 1745, the Legislature passed still another Act, by which it was declared that the Court House for Dutchess County had been built but that more money was needed to finish it. Taxation in 1746, 1747 and 1748 was authorized for that purpose by the Act and Francis Filkin and Henry Livingston were appointed to superintend the remaining work.

There are numerous references throughout the appended list of items to the iron-work needed for the Court House. In 1744 Bartholomew Noxon (who lived in a house, the walls of which are still standing at 81 Market street) was asked to provide what was wanted and it is of interest to note that he was expected to obtain iron either from the Manor of Livingston (in the present Columbia County) or from New York, where it was imported from abroad. Iron was used for locks, "manacles", "handcuffs", "shackles", chain and staples, all of which are mentioned and which must have secured prisoners in the "dungeon" that was ordered to be built "under ground", "fifteen foot square within the walls."

No sooner was the new Court House built but a murder trial took place in it. James Johnson, who had murdered George Hilton, was tried, condemned and executed. Doubtless he was confined in the "dungeon" and heavily bound with irons. The Justice who presided at the trial, Colonel Philipse (a resident of the present Putnam County), was paid £10 for his services but turned his fee over to the "Managers" of the Court House (Francis Filkin and Henry Livingston) to be used to buy a bell for the building.

The appearance of the "dungeon" of 1745 may be imagined from a photograph, reproduced with this article, of a place in the basement of the Court House that was built in 1809-1810. It is entirely possible that the dungeon of 1745 held over as part of subsequent buildings erected on the foundations of that time and the photograph may record very

closely the conditions of 1745. Certainly the care of prisoners could have been no better than in 1809-1810 and it is not surprising that almost every year from 1739 to 1784 there is record that the successive Sheriffs of Dutchess protested to the Court of General Sessions against the insufficiency of the Common Goals. In 1757 it was decided to alter "one of the Jury Rooms" in the Court House "into a Goal for Debtors," which action indicates an effort to discriminate between prisoners held under civil and criminal charges.

In 1750 and 1753 there were again arrears in the building fund for the Court House and Acts were passed in those years authorizing taxation to meet the deficits. Francis Filkin had, by then, removed from Poughkeepsie and Henry Livingston was the sole "manager" for Court House affairs.

For making a well on the Court House lot in 1757 Leonard Van Kleeck was paid £4. 9. 4 and the well apparently served until 1790, when a new one was dug.

In 1762 "stocks" were built and in 1774 a prisoner was sentenced to stand in a "pillory" as punishment. Query: was this framework—stocks or pillory—in the yard of the Court House in full view of passers-by?

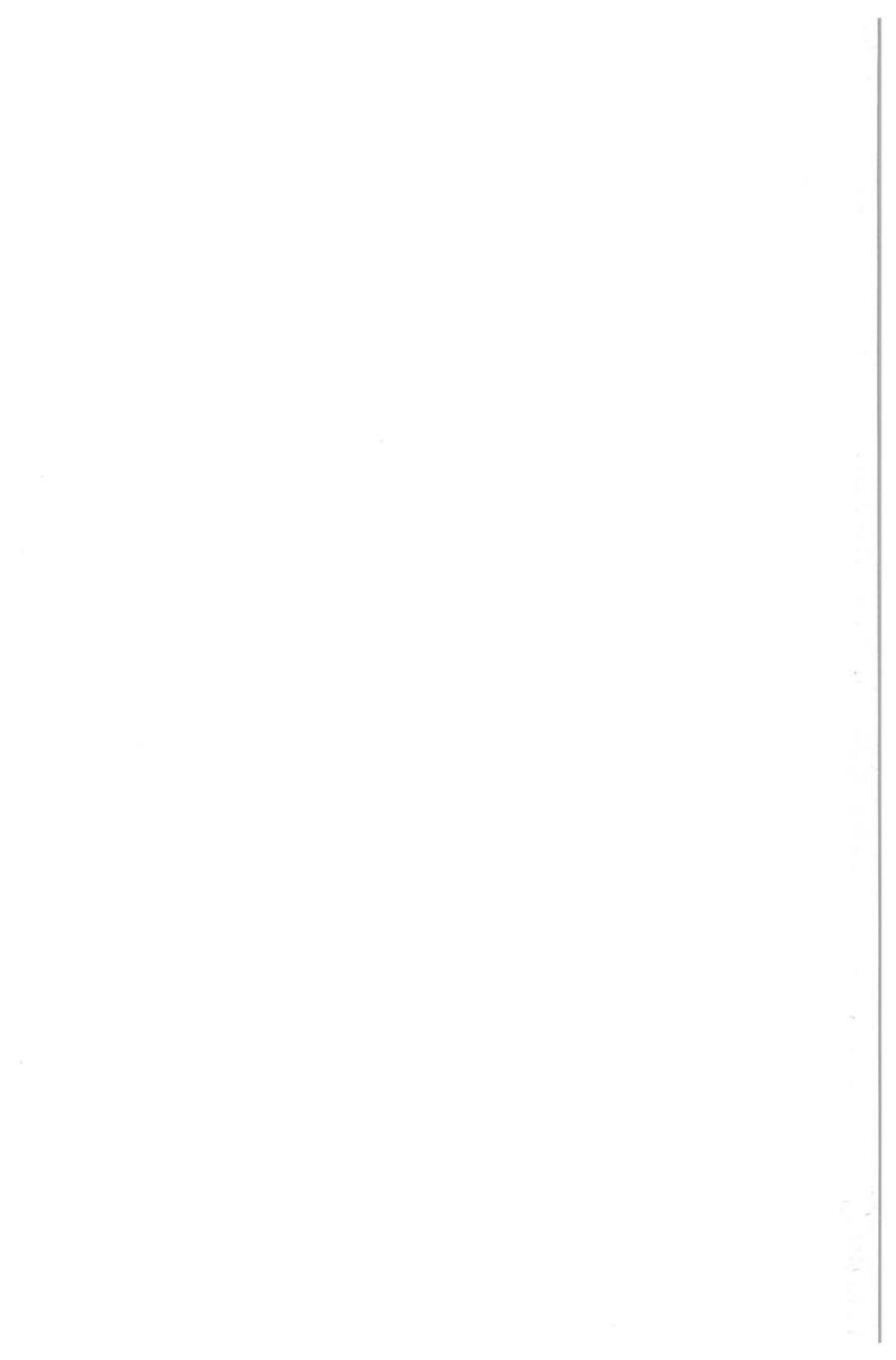
That heavy drinking was not uncommon in the eighteenth century is well known and so the conviviality that marked Court sessions and the meeting of the Board of Supervisors can be inferred from an item in 1761 which refers to Richard Van Der Burgh as "now dwelling in the Court House" and as being ordered by the Supervisors not to retail any strong liquors in the building during the sitting of the Court of General Sessions. The minutes of the Board state that "great Inconvenience" attended such retailing. On another page of this *Year Book*, in an article on the account-book of Francis Filkin, there may be seen record of the liquids consumed by members of the Court and so it is not difficult to believe that "great Inconvenience" was caused.

It is learned that the Court Room was furnished with benches from the fact that in 1770 the Sheriff was directed to "new model" the same, whatever that may mean.

At an unknown date, prior to April, 1785, the Court House of 1745 was burned. Nothing has been learned of the cause or extent of the fire but the fact that it occurred is recorded by two Acts of the Legis-



The "dungeon" in the basement of the Dutchess County Court House of 1809—1901. If that building stood on the foundations of the Court House of 1787—1806, it is possible and also probable that this picture shows a place of imprisonment of the eighteenth century. The plate reproduces an old photograph owned by Baltus B. Van Kleeck, through whose courtesy the plate was made.



lature, which stated that the building had "lately" been consumed by fire. One of the two Acts, passed April 4, 1784, directed that prisoners held by Dutchess should be confined in the goal of Ulster County and the other Act, passed April 11, 1785, authorized taxation to raise a given sum before November 1, 1785, in order to build a new Court House. This Act appointed Cornelius Humphrey, Peter Tappen and Gilbert Livingston to take charge of the work. A third Act, passed April 6, 1786, provided for further taxation for money to complete the Court House.

On June 5, 1787, the Board of Supervisors ordered payment to be made to Peter Tappen for his services on the Court House committee from May 2, 1785, to November 25 of the same year, so it is probable that in the summer of 1785 much of the work on the new building was accomplished. It was not all done then, however, for on May 2, 1786, Peter Tappen was appointed to take charge of the finishing of the building and was directed to make "all imaginable dispatch", in order that it might be done by January, 1787. This desire for haste may have been due to the fact that it was customary to hold the annual meeting of the Board of Supervisors in January and the members probably wished to assemble in the new Court House rather than in temporary, rented quarters. Under an Act of the Legislature of February 2, 1787, the Sheriff of Dutchess County was required to move all prisoners in his custody back from the Ulster County goal to that of Dutchess on or before April 1, 1787, which sufficiently indicates the completion of the Court House by that time.

The Act of April 6, 1786, gave permission to the Supervisors of Dutchess to acquire additional land to enlarge the yard of the Court House but the permission was not acted upon until five years later when on May 29, 1792, a deed was given by Ebenezer Badger for a strip of ground adjoining the west side of the Court House lot and having a frontage of thirteen feet on the present Main street (then the Post Road) and of thirteen feet on the present Union street.

The Court House built in 1785-1786 was the scene of the convention held in 1788 at which the Federal Constitution was ratified by the State of New York. Like the Court House of 1745 the Court House of 1785-1786 was lost by fire. It burned on the evening of September 25, 1806, and the memoranda appended below include excerpts from the

Poughkeepsie Journal of September 30th in regard to its destruction. Those newspaper paragraphs indicated that the fire started from within and burned only the interior. The walls were said to be "uninjured" and "fully competent" for rebuilding. If the walls were, indeed, so utilized, then the Court House for which taxes were levied in 1809 and 1810, which was the building that many persons now living remember and upon which the architectural design for the new Post office at Poughkeepsie was based, may well have incorporated much of the structure that housed the convention of 1788.

There can be no doubt but that the walls of the Court House of 1785-1786, which were uninjured in 1806 by fire, were of stone. It is known that the building of 1809-1810 was of stone and the solidity of its construction may be noted in an extant photograph of the Court Room taken about 1900, in which picture the depth of the window-openings reveals the thickness of the walls.

At a date not known the exterior of the Court House of 1809-1810 was covered with stucco. Inasmuch as stucco was in fashion in the first quarter of the nineteenth century it is quite possible that it was used in 1809-1810 not only because it was then fashionable but because it served to hide any defacement of the walls caused by the fire of 1806 or because, in case the building of 1785-1786 were enlarged in 1809-1810, it covered seams between old and new stonework.

The first Court House (1717-1721) was probably small and crude and characteristic of the period of the pioneer in Dutchess. The second (1744-1745) was, supposedly, larger and more substantial than the first. It was built of stone and heavy oak timbers and some brick (which last may have been used in the gable ends, as was the custom in dwellings of that day). Of the third Court House (1785-1786) a rough sketch is on record on a map in the office of the County Clerk, which shows a rectangular building, longer than broad and two stories in height, surmounted by a cupola. One wonders whether the bell presented by Colonel Philipse in 1745 hung in the cupola.

Each time that the county undertook the erection of a Court House it was necessary to secure an Act of the Legislature which should authorize special taxation to raise money for the cost of construction. From the several Acts, so passed, it is learned that £250 was called for in behalf of the building of 1717-1721; £780 for that of 1744-1745;

£4800 for that of 1785-1786; and \$25,000.00 for that of 1809-1810. These rising costs in a period of approximately a century point to the progressive change in Dutchess from a sparsely inhabited wilderness to a community marked by much higher social development.

EXCERPTS FROM ORIGINAL RECORDS

1715, July 21, Act of; *Laws of the Colony of New York*, vol. I, p. 868. Abstract. Within forty days the Justices of the Peace of Dutchess County to meet and to issue warrants to constables; constables to warn freeholders to meet and to elect two freeholders who shall be supervisors and directors for building a County House and Prison in said county within two years . . . a sum of money to be raised, not exceeding 250 oz Mexico Pillar or Savill Plate.

1715, November 23. Letter from Leonard Lewis, Dutchess County, to "Mr. Bradforth." *Year Book*, Dutchess County Historical Society, vol. 12 (1927), p. 30. The letter asks that the Governor be petitioned to issue to the writer a commission to "kiep a Coort of Common pl()" and that two justices of the peace be appointed assistant judges; also that Captain Richard Sackett "may be Clarck of the Coert & County."

1717, May 27, Act of; *Laws of the Colony of New York*, vol. I, p. 914. Abstract. Within forty days the Justices of the Peace of Dutchess County to meet and to issue warrants to constables; constables to warn freeholders to meet at or near the most convenient place at Poghkepse, to arrange for building said Court House and Preson within three years and to be paid for in a sum not exceeding 250 oz Mexico Pillar or Seville Plate.

1717, June 11. Supervisors' Records, vol. 1718-1722, p. 6. In accordance with an Act of the Assembly Judge and Justices met at pochkepsen . . . called a meeting of free holders for 22 day instant to appoint two persons to superintend the building of a county house and presen at pochkepsen.

1717, June 22. *Ibid.*, p. 7. Appointment of Barent Van Kleeck and Jacobes Van Den Bogert to supervise building and finishing of County house and presin.

1718-1719, February 3. *Ibid.*, p. 18. Taxes to be levied to meet arrears in cost of building a county house.

1720, March 18 and March 23. *Ibid.*, pp. 23, 29. Taxes levied

for the costs of building County House and Presen.

1721, July 6, "seventh year of King George." *Ibid.*, p. 44. Establishment by Governor Burnet of a Court of Common Pleas and a Court of General Sessions for Dutchess County, the Court to meet in May and in October at Poughkeepsie, "neare the Center of the said County."

1721, October 19. Records of the Court of Common Pleas, vol. for 1721, p. I. Court held "at ye Court house at Poghkeepsink."

1722, April 17. Supervisors Records, vol. 1718-1722, p. 51. Mention made of a road that ran "from the County house, by Jacobus Van Den Bogart's," &c.

(1731?), May 18, "fourth year of reign." *Miscellaneous Records*, vol. 1722-1747, p. 153. A meeting of the Justices of the Peace of Dutchess County held "in the Court House at Pochgkeepsinck."

1733, March 7. Supervisors' Records, vol. C, 1729-1748, p. 51. Payment of 3 shillings to be made to William Sqr "for a lock for the presen."

1734-1735, January 31. *Ibid.*, p. 90. Payment of 6 shillings to be made to Thomas Evens for "riepeating the County houis."

1736-1737, February 16. *Ibid.*, p. 127. Payment of 16 shillings to be made to Bartholomew Noxon "for Iron work for the Goull of our County."

1737-1738, February 8. *Ibid.*, p. 147. Payment of 4 shillings to be made to John (Gembel) "for repiring the County houys."

1739, May 15. Records of the Court of General Sessions, liber A (no page number). The Sheriff protests against the Comon Goal of this County for being Insufficient.

1740-1741, February. Supervisors' Records, vol. C, p. 214. Payments to be made as follows: To James Willson for a door to the Comon Goal and Materialls found, £2. 14. 0; and to Bartholomew Noxon for Sundry works by him made to ye Comon Goal and County House and menacles, £1. 17. 6.

1741, May 19. Records of the Court of General Sessions, liber A (no page number). The Sheriff protests against the Comon Goal of this County for being Insufficient.

1741, October 21. Records of the Court of General Sessions, liber A (no page number). "The County House and Goal being very much

decayed and out of Repair and the Ground very small the Justices being of Opinion that it will be more convenient to build a new County house and Goal, Ordered that the Members of this County be desired to Apply to the General Assembly for leave to bring in a Bill to Enable the Justices of this County to Sell the Old County house and Goal and the Ground it Stands on and to buy a Lott of Ground and to raise money on the freeholders and Inhabitants of this County to build a new County house and Goal not exceeding four Hundred pounds over and above the money arising by such Sale and that the Clerk of the Court Send a Copy of this Rule to the Members aforesaid."

.. 1741-1742, February. Supervisors' Records, vol. C, pp. 233, 234. Payments to be made as follows: To John Constable for Cleaning ye Goal and Dietting a presoner, £1. 8. 1; To Bartholomew Noxon for mending the Lock of the Goal and handcuffs, 9 shillings; and to John Tappen for a Lock and Key to ye Record Chest, 7 shillings.

1742, October 19. Records of the Court of General Sessions, liber A (no page number). The Sheriff protests against the Comon Goal for this County for being not Sufficient.

1742-1743, February. Supervisors' Records, vol. C, p. 257. Payments to be made as follows: to John Ten Brook for cash advanced for carpenter work and several other services done to the Court House and Goal and Dieting prisoners, £3. 14. 9; to Bartholomew Noxon for Iron Work for ye Goal and shackells, 10/ 3d; and to Francis Hagaman, Jun., for Iron Work for the Goal, 6/.

1743, December 17, Act of; *Laws of the Colony of New York*, vol. 3, p. 336. Abstract. Whereas: Representatives of Dutchess County have informed General Assembly that their County House and Goal is very much out of repair . . . they ask to be enabled to raise money on it, either to repair and enlarge said House and Goal or to build new ones and to purchase some more ground for that purpose; therefore enacted for said purpose; Justices of the Peace to meet the second Tuesday in January next and to levy on freeholders a sum not exceeding £300 (£150 before May 1 next and £150 before May 1, 1745).

1743-1744, February. Supervisors' Records, vol. C, p. 281. Payments to be made as follows: to Augustinus Turk for victualing prisoners, £1. 6. 3; to John Gay for a Lock to ye Goal Door, 4/; and to John Ten Brook for Victualing a prisoner and Mending the Goal Door, £1. 17. 0.

1744, May 17. Records of the Court of General Sessions, liber A (no page number). "The Justices of the Peace have Agreed with Mr. Jacobus Van Den Bogert for a piece of Land Including the present Court house for the sum of fifteen pounds and the said Jacobus to give a conveyance for the same for the Use of the County of Dutchess with the privilege of a Jaylor to cut and carry away firewood for the use of him and prisoners On the Land of said Jacobus where he himself his heirs and assigns cutts his or their firewood forever. Ordered that Mr. Anthony Yalverton be the Manager to provide Materialls for the said Work. Agreed with Mr. Bartholomew Noxon to make the Iron Work for thirty two shillings for every Neat Hundred big and small he to be allowed for Wastage if Sweeds Iron 18 p Hundred and he to be Allowed for going to the Mannor of Livingston to look out the Iron if he goes to York to be allowed what the Justices shall think reasonable. Ordered that the Dungeon be made under Ground fifteen foot square within the walls."

1744, May 17. Ibid. "Ordered that the Justices of this County Meet at the house of Mr. John Ten Broeck on the 27th of June next One of the Clock in the Afternoon to consult further abt. the new Court house affaire."

1744, September 6. *Account Book of a Country Storekeeper* (Francis Filkin), p. 73. I have Raed thirty seven Lode of stone for the Court house att 1/3 pr Lode—1/9 and I have had for the Riding of said stone of antony Jelverton oversier 3 yrds of brad clot @ 16/ pr yrd —£2. 8. 0.

1744, September . . . Ibid., p. 80. Antony Jelverton dr to me for the County of Dutchis to Carting two Lodes of Lime @ 2/ and 4 Lods of timber @ 1/3 and 3 Lods of stone 1/3.

1744, October 8. Ibid. To Riding 5 doble biams @ 2/6; to will attending the masan one day @ 3/; to one days vidles @ 1/; he paid me besids this account @ 48- for Riding of stone; to one Rope att the Raising Lost, 4/.

1744, October 18. Records of the Court of General Sessions, liber A (no page number). Ordered that Yelverton be allowed to give to the people that Raise the Court house a Meal of Victualls and some Licquor as he shall think Sufficient.

1744-1745, February. Supervisors' Records, vol. C. p. 308. Pay-

ments to be made as follows: for cleaning the Court House 1/6 and nails for sd House 1/ also 1/6 for mending the Lock of the Goal 4/; to John Gay for Mending ye Lock of ye Goal 4/; to Barent Bond for a Tub for the Goal and Boxes for the Court for Jurys 4/.

1744-1745, February 5. *Account Book of a Country Storekeeper* (Francis Filkin), p. 80. The supervisors allowed me 16/.

1745, May 9. *Ibid.* Antony Jelverton dr to me to Riding 2 Lods of Lath from the high hill @ 4/ 5 lods 5/.

1745, June 10. *Ibid.*, p. 95. Jelverton most have out of the County mony of my four pods: six shs: and three pence @ 51/3.

1745, June 12. *Ibid.*, p. 94. The Justices allowed me my account agt. the County £4. 6. 3; the County paid me in full and I paid Jelverton his due @ 51/3. £2. 11. 3.

1745, August 21. *Ibid.* Jelverton put me at work for the County to Riding 22 Lods por stone @ 9p pr 16.6.

1745, August 26. *Ibid.* to 4 Lods good stone @ 1/3 pr—5.; to 8 Lods do. @ 1/3 pr.; 2 Lods bricks.

1745, August 27. *Ibid.* to ½ days work of me and my nigro Laing biams 4. 0.; 1 days work of Lendert @ 3/9, 1 days do @ 3/9 7.6; to 2 days do of Lendert @ 7/6 to ½ days do @ 1/10 ½ 9. 4½; to ½ days do of Lendert @ 1/10. ½ to ½ das: do of me in will @ 3/9 5. 7.½; to 1.½ do of Lendert @ 3/9 pr day 5.6.

1745, August 28. *Ibid.*, p. 95. "I and my two Bois whacht Eich one nith 4. 6; to one nith whaching of Balt @ 2/ (and?) Riding 2 Lods ston 1.6."

1745, August 29. *Ibid.* "To Riding 15 Lods of stone @ 9p pr, 11. 3; to one nith waching of lendert @ 2/ — 1. 6; to Riding 2 Lods of Briks @ 2/; 2 niths whaching @ 3/; 1 nith do @ 2/; to @ 1/6 more for waching."

1745, August ... *Ibid.*, p. 106. "dutchis County dr. to me by the which stands upon Anthony Jelvertons account when he was oversear in foly 77 the sum of £3. 9. 3."

1745, September 10. *Ibid.* "this day I and Henry Leveingston was apinted mannesors of the County house to be put in the act by Corl: Beckmen and mr. tappin and upon that I an Leveingston preceded." "Bought of Cap Rutssen 30 pod: nals @ 1. pr. 1. 10. 0."

1745, September 14. *Ibid.* "to 1 Lode whoed by the Cort hoise @

2/2. 0; to 1 Lode do @ 2/; 4. 0.”

1745, September 19, Ibid., p. 107. “my Going in the wods to shew the carpenters to cut timber @ 1. 1 qur of a day @ 9p 1. 9.”

1745, September 20. Ibid. “to Carting 2 Lods of timber with 2 hands 3. 0.”

1745, September 21. Ibid. “to 2 Lods of stone @ 1/6; 3 Lods Good do. @ 3/9; 5. 3.”

1745, September 22. Ibid., p. 106. “I and Leveingston Give an order to Anthony Jelverton to buy one Barrell of nails duple tens one Barrel of Shingle nails and 6 or 7 Hundred wt of Iron.”

1745, September 24. Ibid. “to 2 sider Bolts of Jelverton. Jelverton hes delivered the two Barals of nails the wt.: Coms to ... and he also delivered 700 wt. of Iron @ and 9 pounds of Iran.” “to 1 pel of Baret Lewis @ 2/.”

1745, September 24. Ibid., p. 107. “Billy Bertan had 300 shingles @ 55/ pr thu: 16. 6.”

1745, October ... Ibid. “in foly 77 stands what I did in Jelvertons tim and with the waching coms in all @ 85/3 4. 5. 3.”

1745, October 3. Ibid. “to Riding up 2 caskes of nals @ 1/ 1. 0.”

1745, October 9. Ibid. “to Riding 2 Lods of timber from the crane vly 4. 0.”

1745, October 10. Ibid. “to Riding 3 Lods of Bords to the house @ 6p 1. 6.”

1745, October 12. Ibid. “to Riding 2 Lods of timber ½ day from the cra'i 5. 0; to 1 quarter of a day waiing the Iran at the w sd .9.”

1745, October 17. Records of the Court of General Sessions, liber A (no page number). The Sheriff protests against the Comon Goal for Insufficiency thereof.

1745, October 22. *Account Book of a Country Storekeeper* (Francis Filkin), p. 107. “to 1 qur of a day @ 9. 1½ day for 1 hars to draw water 1. 10.”

1745, October 23. Ibid. “to 1 days vidling of Cler @ 1/3; ½ day for my hars Riding water @ 9p pr 2. 9; to 5 day work of Lendert @ 3/9 pr 18. 9; to 1 day for me to Lock for metirials 4. 0.”

1745, October 27. Ibid., p. 106. “of Cornelus veelen 800 briks; of Col. Beckman about 1500 fout of ock 2 inch Bords or thereabouts.”

1745, October 29. Ibid., p. 107. “to my wegan and harsis to Rid

2 Lods w'd & sa'd 2. 6."

1745, October 31. Ibid. "to 6 days work at 3/9 pr di 1. 2. 6; to 1 hars 6 days for draing water @ 4/ 4. 0."

1745, November 4. Ibid. "to Riding 4 Lods of timber fr: the cra 8. 0; to 1 smal Lode of studs @ 2/ 2. 0."

1745, November 14, Ibid. "to Riding 2 Lods timber ½ day @ 5/ 5. 0."

1745, November 16. Ibid. "to Riding 1 Lode timber @ 2/6 (and) to Riding 3 Lods @ (?) 10. 0."

1745, November 22. Ibid. "to me and my negro helpen to Git Bords out of the water 500 feat ock Bords 5. 0."

1745, November 26. Ibid. "to Riding 2 Lods of ock Bords 2. 0." "for me and Leveingston Going to Beckmens 1 day Eich @ 6/ pr day for the Co't house."

1745, November 28. Ibid. "to 2 Lods of ock Bords @ 2/; 1 do. tru Laroy @ 1/ 3. 0.; 1 Lode do. tru m v d Bogert @ 1/ 1. 0."

1745, November 29, Act of; *Laws of the Colony of New York*, vol. 3, p. 503. Abstract. Whereas: Under Act of 15th year of His Majesty's Reign there has been built a Court House and Goal in Poughkeepsie Precinct and the money raised is insufficient to finish same; Now: A sum not exceeding £300 may be raised for finishing said Court House and Goal and Francis Filkin and Henry Livingston are hereby appointed Managers; £ 140 to be raised by May next, £ 100 by May, 1747, and £60 by May, 1748.

1745, December 12. *Account Book of a Country Storekeeper* (Francis Filkin), p. 107. "to 4 hands 1 qur of a day; Bring shingal bords in her 3. 0."

1745-1746, February ... Supervisors' Records, vol. C, p. 336, 337. Payments to be made as follows: "To Bartho Noxon for mending ye Goal lock and taking the Irons of James Johnson and altering them, in all 4/ 6d; to Jacob Low for making Manacles and Shackles, Chain and Staples, £ 1. 7. 6; to John Ten Broeck for Victualing prisoners 'and other charges' £ 2. 6. 10; to Anthony Yelverton for carrying to Bergen Goal a criminal £ 1. 4. 0."

1745-1746, February ... Ibid., p. 337. "To Jacob Drom for pursuing James Johnson 2 days 11/; to Jacob Rutsen as p his account vs James Johnson executed £ 1. 3. 6; to Henry Filkin, Sheriff, for all his

charges in executing James Johnson £ 17. 19. 0; to Coll Philipse, Justice, £ 10 for his services in Condemning James Johnson, which sum he made a present of to the County to Buy a Bell for the County House and the Money to be paid to the Managers thereof to but said Bell £ 10; to Coll. Lewis Morris of the Assize for his fee vs Js Johnson £ 7. 12. 0; to Abram Freer, Jun., for making ye prison door and lock 4/; to Peter Van Der Burgh, Constable, of Poghkeepsie, services summoning watchers for James Johnson £ 3. 17. 0."

1745-1746, February 6. *Account Book of a Country Storekeeper* (Francis Filkin), p. 95. "the supervizers allowed for 7 nits whaching 12/."

1746, May 7. *Ibid.*, p. 109. "the Chest I must pay to the County @ 4/6 1.½."

1746, May 23. *Ibid.*, "the 300 shingals bill Barton paid to us managers."

1746-1747, February . . . Supervisors' Records, vol. C, p. 400. To John Ten Brook for services as Coroner and for Jury on the View of the body of George Hilton, murdered by James Johnson £ 2. 5. 7.

1747, November 13. Records of the Clerk of Dutchess County, deeds, liber 2, p. 320. Abstract. Jacobus Van Denbogert of Poghkeepsie Precinct and Margrit, his wife, to Jacobus Terbos, Anthony Yelverton, Lewis Debois, John Tenbruck, Esquires, four of his Majesties Justices of the Peace for Dutchess County, and their successors in commission; in consideration of £ 15; 35 perches of land, described as follows: beginning at stones on the south side of the Road that leads from the Minister's House to the Church . . . thence south 49 degrees and 30 minutes east, 1 chain, 2 links . . . thence south 23 degrees west, 2 chains 20 links to a stone . . . thence north 69 degrees 45 minutes west, 94 links to a stone . . . thence north 22 degrees east, 2 chains 51 links to the beginning . . . bounded northeast and southeast by the King's Road and southwest and northwest by other land belonging to ye said Jacobus Van Denbogert . . . together with the Court House and Goals already built on the same . . . in trust for the use of Dutchess County for a Court House Goals and Goal Keeper and all other uses the county may have occasion to make of the said Court House and Goal . . . with privileges in the unimproved lands of Jacobus Van Den Bogert or Commons for cutting and carrying away wood and timber for compleating and repair-

ing said Court House and Goals on the hereby granted premises . . . always reserving that Dutchess County shall make and mend the fence between the lot hereby granted and the land of the said Jacobus Van Den Bogert." (Editor's Note: A reproduction of this deed may be seen in the *Year Book* of the Dutchess County Historical Society for 1924 (volume 9), opposite page 10.)

1748, May 20. Records of the Court of General Sessions, liber A (no page number). The Sheriff Protests Against the Insufficiency of the Comon Goals.

1750, May 18. Ibid. Ordered that the Members of This County be Desired to apply to the General Assembly for Leave to Bring in a Bill to Enable the Justices of the Peace of this County to Raise not Exceeding the Sum of One Hundred and Thirty Pounds for Compleat-ing the Court House and Goals.

1750, November 24, Act of; *Laws of the Colony of New York*, vol. 3, p. 770. Abstract. Whereas: As per Acts of 17th and 19th years of His Majesty's Reign, sums were raised for Court House and Goal for Dutchess County and were insufficient; Now: A sum not exceeding £ 130 may be raised for finishing said Court House and Goal and Henry Livingston is appointed Manager.

1752, October . . . Records of the Court of General Sessions, liber B, p. 24. The Sheriff protests against the Common Goals of this County for their Insufficiency.

1753, February . . . Supervisors' Records, vol. E, p. 1. Payment to be made as follows: To the Sheriff for Repairing Goals, £ 2. 11. 2; and for the Goal Door 8/.

1753, October . . . Records of the Court of General Sessions liber B, p. 34. Condensed. The money raised under the last Act of Assembly for completing the Court House and Goals is insufficient . . . £ 50 more needed . . . another Act to be asked for in order "for the Compleat-ing and finishing the said Court House and Goals."

1753, December 12, Act of; *Laws of the Colony of New York*, vol. 3, p. 941. Abstract. Whereas: Several sums already have been raised for finishing said Court House and Goal in Dutchess County; Now: A sum not exceeding £ 50 may be raised for finishing said Court House and Goal and defraying charges already expended on same and Henry Livingston to be Manager.

1754, February ... Supervisors' Records, vol E, p. 112. Payment to be made as follows: To Isaac Brinckerhoff Esq for Repairing Goals, making pillory, etc, £ 14. 15. 2.

1755, February ... Ibid., p. 227. Payment to be made as follows: To Henry Livingston for 100 boards for the Goal @ 1/.

1756, February ... Supervisors' Records, vol. E, pp. 347, 348. Payments to be made as follows: To Barent Bond for Boarding Mr. Everitt one month at work in ye Goals £ 1. 10. 0; To Isaac Fitchit for making 6 p of Manacles & Shackles @ 4/6 £ 1. 7. 0.

1756, May ... Records of the Court of General Sessions, liber B, p. 55. Clare Everitt Esq high Sheriff of Dutchess County protests against the Common Goals of this County for their being Insufficient.

1756, October 19. Ibid., p. 58. Same item as the preceding.

1757, February ... Supervisors' Records, vol. E, pp. 476, 477.. Payments to be made as follows: To Barent Bond, Goal Keeper, £ 5. 3. 11; To Leonard Van Kleeck for making a Well for the Court House, Including Materials, Workmen and all other Cost at £ 4. 9. 4; To John Sackett for Driving Nails in the Goals, 5/ 3d.

1757, October ... Records of the Court of General Sessions, liber B, p. 68. Clear Evritt Esq High Sheriff asked money to repair the Goals and to Alter one of the Jury Rooms to be converted into a Goal for Debtors. The Court considers the plan reasonable and necessary. The Supervisors to raise £ 50 for the cost.

1759, February ... Supervisors' Records, vol F, p. 207. Payment to be made as follows: To Clear Everitt Esq for his Trouble & Expence in apprehending Debtors; as also in the execution of Hugh Galasby, a Criminal; and for Blankets bought for Prisoners, for Bords bought and work done in Repairing the Goal & preparing some timber for a yard, &c, £ 27. 5. 8.

1760, February ... Ibid., p. 355. Payment to be made as follows: To Clear Everitt for 20 panes of Glass, putty & putty in £ 1. 17. 2; for 3 pr. of Hand Cuffs and for Iron work Done by William Gay £ 1. 5. 0.

1760, March 22. Act of; *Laws of the Colony of New York*, vol. 4, p. 420. Abstract. The Supervisors of Dutchess County authorized to raise £ 70 to defray the expense of converting one of the Jury Rooms in the County house into a Jail.

1760, June ... Supervisors' Records, vol. F, p. 452. Payment of

£ 70 authorized for the purpose of converting a Jury Room into a Goal.

1760, October ... Records of the Court of General Sessions, liber C, p. 26. Clear Everitt Esq High Sheriff of this County protests against the Common Goals as Insufficient.

1761, May 20. Ibid., p. 29. Whereas there is great Inconvenience attending the retailing of Strong Liquors in the Court House (during the?) Sitting the Court; Ordered that Richard Vanderburgh, now dwelling in the Court House, do not retail any strong liquors in sd Court House during the sitting of the Court, under penalty of Twenty pounds.

1761, May ... Records of the Court of General Sessions, liber C, p. 32. Clear Everitt Esq High Sheriff of the County protests against the Common Goals as Insufficient.

1761, October ... Ibid., p. 37. James G. Livingston Esq High Sheriff of the County protests against the Common Goals as Insufficient.

1762, February ... Supervisors' Records, vol. G, p. 164. Payments to be made as follows: To Joseph Green for making a Stocks 15/; To John Bailey Jun for the Iron work 1/ 6d.

1762, February ... Ibid., p. 166. Henry Livingston made an account of funds he had handled from 1746 to 1758. Items: 1749, June, Balance £ 10. 8. 5¾; 1749, October, Balance remaining of ye old Court House £ 6. 1. 2; Total do., £ 16. 9. 7¾.

1762, October ... Records of the Court of General Sessions, liber C, p. 52. Ordered that the Sheriff forthwith finish the New Goal and that the Late Sheriff Deliver to the present Sheriff the monies remaining in his hands which hath been collected and paid him for finishing the same.

1763, February ... Supervisors' Records, vol. G, p. 327. Payments to be made as follows: To James G. Livingston, Esq, for Sundries done to Goal, £ 18. 1. 10; To Henry Ellis for smith's work done at the Goal, £ 9. 5. 2.

1763, May ... Records of the Court of General Sessions, liber C, p. 55. The Sheriff protests against the Common Goals as Insufficient.

1763, October ... Ibid., p. 63. James Livingston, High Sheriff, protests, &c.

1764, May ... Ibid., p. 69. James Livingston, High Sheriff, protests, &c.

1764, October 20, Act of; *Laws of the Colony of New York*, vol. 4, p. 829. Abstract. Whereas: The sum of £ 70 raised under Act of 1760 is greatly deficient; Now: A sum not exceeding £200 may be raised for compleating the Jail.

1765, May ... Records of the Court of General Sessions, liber C, p. 84. James Livingston, High Sheriff, protests against the Common Goals as Insufficient.

1765, June ... Supervisors Records, vol. H, p. 86. Payments to be made as follows: To James Livingston Esq for Sundry Repairs for the Court House, Goals, &c, and providing for criminals, £ 70. 11. 9; To said James Livingston for Compleating New Goal £ 153. 2. 4.

1765, June ... Ibid. . . . being the money left in Clear Evritts hands "for converting one of the Jury rooms into a Goal."

1765, October ... Records of the Court of General Sessions, liber C, p. 91. The Sheriff protests against the Common Goals as Insufficient.

1766, May ... Ibid., p. 99. The Sheriff protests against the Insufficiency of the Common Goals Both in Deficiency of Room and Strength.

1767, January and May. Ibid., liber D (no page number). The Sheriff protests against the Common Goals as Insufficient.

1768, June ... Supervisors' Records, vol. H, p. 347. Payment to be made to Thorne Pudney for work done at the Court House, 8/.

1769, January ... Records of the Court of General Sessions, liber D (no page number). "The Sheriff protests against the Common Goals on account of their Insufficiency and acquainted the Court of the great decay and weakness of the same and the real necessity of more apartments for the confinement of prisoners."

1769, June ... Supervisors' Records, vol. H, p. 439. Payment to be made to James Livingston, Esq, for sundry Necessarys and Materials for the Court House and Goals £ 1. 7. 4.

1770, January and May. Records of the Court of General Sessions liber D (no page number). The Sheriff protests against the Common Goals as Insufficient.

1770, May ... Ibid. "Ordered that the Sheriff new Model the Benches and Seats in the Court room of the Court House in Poughkeepsie and that he take his Directions in the plan from Henry V D Burgh, Bartholomew Crannell, James Livingston and Richard Snediker."

1771 through 1784 regular protests by the Sheriff against the Insufficiency of the Common Goals made to the Court of General Sessions.

1774, October 14. Records of the Court of General Sessions, liber F (no page number). The Court ordered that a prisoner should stand in a pillory for half an hour as punishment for attempted rape.

1785, April 4, Act of; *Laws of New York*, vol. 1785-1788, p. 98, Chapter 51. Abstract. Whereas: the Goal of the County of Dutchess was lately destroyed by fire . . . the legislature must make provision for criminals . . . therefore, prisoners of Dutchess County shall be confined in the goal of Ulster County.

1785, April 11, Act of; *Ibid.*, p. 119, Chapter 67. Abstract. Whereas: the court house and goal of Dutchess County have been lately consumed by fire . . . enacted that the Supervisors are authorized and required to levy, tax and raise £ 1500 for building a court house and goal in said county, the tax to be collected on or before November 1 next . . . said court house and goal to be built at the town of Poughkeepsie . . . Cornelius Humfrey, Peter Tappen and Gilbert Livingston to superintend the work of building.

1785, June 7. Supervisors' Records, vol. for 1771-1785 (no page number). Ordered that the sum of £ 1500 be raised, plus 9d in the pound for collecting said sum, for the purpose of Building a Court House and Goal.

1786, April 6, Act of; *Laws of New York*, vol. 1785-1788, p. 238, Chapter 31. Abstract. Whereas: monies raised to build court house and goal in Dutchess County are insufficient . . . therefore: Supervisors of Dutchess are authorized and required to levy a tax and raise a further sum, not exceeding £ 2000, for compleating said court house and goal . . . the Supervisors to appoint one or more persons to superintend the work of building . . . and further the Supervisors may take a deed for a small piece of ground adjoining the said court house and goal and now in the possession of Ebenezer Badger, "for the purpose of enlarging the yard to the said court house and goal."

1786, May 2. Supervisors' Records, vol. for 1786-1794, p. 1. Meeting of the Board held at the house of Stephen Hendricksen. Ordered that £ 2000 be raised for Compleating Court House and Gaol; Peter Tappen Esq appointed Superintendent to finish same "with all

imaginable dispatch" so as to have the building done by January 1st, next.

1786, October 11. *Ibid.*, p. 22. Meeting of the Board held for the purpose of examining the accounts of Commissioners for Building the Court House and Goal at Poughkeepsie; Peter Tappen submitted an account for £ 2984. 16. 10; Cornelius Humfrey submitted an account for £ 23. 5. 6. Approved.

1787, February 14, Act of; *Laws of New York*, vol. for 1785-1788, p. 385. Chapter 17. Abstract. On or before Arpil 1, 1787, the Sheriff of Dutchess County shall remove all his prisoners from the gaol in Ulster County to the gaol in Dutchess County . . . the Act of April 4, 1785, hereby repealed.

1787, March 14, Act of; *Ibid.*, p. 467. Chapter 55. Abstract. Whereas: The Supervisors of Dutchess County have requested the legislature to enable them to raise a further sum to complete the court house and gaol in said county . . . therefore, the Supervisors are authorized and required to levy a tax to raise £ 1300 on or before the first Tuesday in September next.

1787, May . . . Supervisors' Records, vol. for 1786-1794, p. 23. Meeting of the Board; £ 1300 to be raised to compleat Court House and Goal.

1787, June 5. Supervisors' Records, *Ibid.*, p. 25. Meeting of the Board; payments to be made as follows: to Peter Tappen for superintending the Building of the Court House from the 2d day of May, 1785, until the 25th day of November then next, 177 days @ 10/ £ 88. 10. 0; to Cornelius Humfrey for do. 9 days @ 10/ £ 4. 10. 0.

1788, March 15, Act of; *Laws of New York*, vol. for 1785-1788, p. 801. Chapter 78. Abstract. Whereas: there are arrears in taxes as levied for building and compleating court house and gaol in County of Dutchess and so a sum is still owing Peter Tappen, one of the Superintendents of the work of building . . . therefore the Supervisors are required to audit the accounts of Peter Tappen, & ascertain the amount due him January 1, 1787, said sum to bear interest at 7% from January 1, 1787, until paid.

1788, June 3. Supervisors' Records, vol. for 1786-1794, p. 51. Payments to be made as follows: to Zachariah Price for work done at the Court House yard, £ 4. 16. 6; to Isaac Brooks for Blacksmith's

work done for the Court House and Goals £ 5. 1. 10; to Herman Hoffman for Cleaning the Court House £ 4.

1788, June 3. Ibid., p. 58. Payment to be made to Stephen Hendricksen for making steps at the South Door of the Court House and furnishing materials £ 4. 12. 6.

1789, June . . . Ibid., p. 85. Meeting of the Board. Complaint made that the Court House and Goal is not finished sufficient to answer the purposes for which it was intended; upon Impartial Examination of said House and Goal find said complaint to be true; voted to raise £250; John De Witt to superintend the completion of the Court House and Goal.

1790, May 24. Ibid., p. 100. The further sum of £100 to be raised for compleating the Court House and for digging a new well on the Court House Lott.

1790, May 24. Ibid., p. 110. An account filed of the use made of £250 raised for the Court House. The items (not listed) totalled £ 243. 18. 5.

1792, May 29. Records of the Clerk of Dutchess County, deeds, liber 11, p. 428. Abstract. Ebenezer Badger of the town of Poughkeepsie and Abigail, his wife, to the Supervisors of Dutchess County; as per the Act of April 6, 1786; and in consideration of £ 42; a piece of land in the town of Poughkeepsie; beginning at the northwest corner of the Court House lot . . . south, along the Court House Lot to the southwest corner of said lot to the street leading to the Union Store . . . west along said street 13 English feet . . . north along Ebenezer Badger's land (always keeping 13 feet distant from the first line above mentioned) to the street called the post road . . . east along said road 13 feet to beginning; bounded: north by the post road, east by the old Court house lot, south by the road leading to the Union Store, west by Ebenezer Badger.

1806, Tuesday, September 30. *Poughkeepsie Journal*, p. 2, col. 3. "Fire . . . On Thursday night last, between the hours of ten and eleven, the inhabitants of this village were alarmed by the cry of fire, which proved to be in the Court-House. It originated in one of the lower apartments of the jail, from which, notwithstanding the great exertions that were made to stop its progress, it extended between the ceiling and the floor in the second story to the court-room and in a little time the

whole building was enveloped in flames. Several of the adjacent buildings were much exposed to the fire, particularly Mr. Morgan's two houses, which were the buildings nearest to the Court-House. But owing to the perfect calmness of the evening and the dampness of the houses in consequence of the rain which fell the preceding afternoon, Mr. Morgan's buildings, by the continued and active exertions of the citizens, were preserved and the fire extinguished without doing farther injury than the destroying of the Court-House.

Much credit is due to the citizens in general for their activity on this calamitous occasion.

It is not positively ascertained how the fire originated; but it is generally supposed that it was designedly communicated by some person confined in jail.

The difficulty which was experienced on Thursday evening in procuring water, we think ought to suggest to our corporation the necessity of making such further arrangements in this respect as will prevent a future recurrence of the evil."

1806, Tuesday, September 30. *Ibid.*, p. 3, col. 2. "To the Public. The Sheriff of the County of Dutchess tenders his most sincere thanks to the Firemen and Citizens of this village and county for their exertions in his absence in assisting Mr. Forbus to secure the criminals; and their exertions to extinguish the fire at the late destruction of the Jail and Court-House in this village.

He informs the public that the criminals are now temporarily confined and safely guarded in the house occupied by Amaziah Blakesly, nearly opposite the Academy in Cannon street, where if occasion should demand prisoners will be received and secured.

He further gives notice that his office is now kept by Mr. Forbus as usual in the house lately occupied by George B. Evertson, Esq, a few doors west of the Academy in Cannon street; where all public business relative to his office will be attended to as heretofore.

Joseph Thorn, Sheriff.

Poughkeepsie, September 29th, 1806."

1806, Tuesday, September 30. *Ibid.*, p. 3, col's. 2, 3. "To the Public. The Subscriber, with the greatest feelings of gratitude, presents his most cordial thanks to the Firemen and Citizens of this village and county for their active exertions in assisting him at the late fire in re-

moving and securing the criminals and the public property, as well as his own personal effects, the greater part of which was thereby saved from destruction, though his loss, as far as it can be ascertained at present will amount to from three to five hundred dollars. Never will the Remembrance of those favors be erased from his heart.

He is happy to give information that the Public Documents as well as his private papers are preserved entire and that now all the criminals are in a place of security.

John Forbus
Deputy Sheriff and Gaoler

Poughkeepsie 29th September, 1806."

1806, Tuesday, September 30. *Ibid.*, p. 3, col. 2. "Yesterday a number of respectable gentlemen among whom were several eminent mechanics took a view of the ruins of the late Court House in this village and gave it as their decided opinion that the walls being uninjured will be fully competent to rebuild upon. This will save to the county at least from five to six thousand dollars.

It is also found that much of the iron work and several of the windows are preserved in so perfect a state as to answer for the second building. This will be an additional saving.

A plan is contemplated in rebuilding the jail, whereby the walls will be preserved from injury by the weather."

1809, March 14, Act of. *Laws of New York*, vol. for 32d Session, p. 52. Abstract. The Supervisors of Dutchess County to raise by taxation \$12000.00 to be applied toward the building of a court house and gaol on the public lot in the village of Poughkeepsie whereon the former court house and gaol were erected . . . James Talmadge of the town of Poughkeepsie, John B. Van Wyck of the town of Fishkill and John Van Benthuisen of the town of Poughkeepsie to be commissioners to superintend the work of building."

1810, April 5, Act of: *Ibid.*, vol. for 33rd Session, p. 94. Abstract. The Supervisors of Dutchess County to raise by taxation \$13000.00 to be applied towards completing the court house and gaol in said county, the tax to be collected on or before November 1, 1810; William Bard of the town of Clinton is hereby appointed a committee to superintend the work of building said court house and gaol.

1811, April 3, Act of. Ibid., p. 200. Abstract. To provide for completing the court house and gaol in the county of Dutchess . . . accounts to be audited; any further sum needed to be raised by taxation.

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