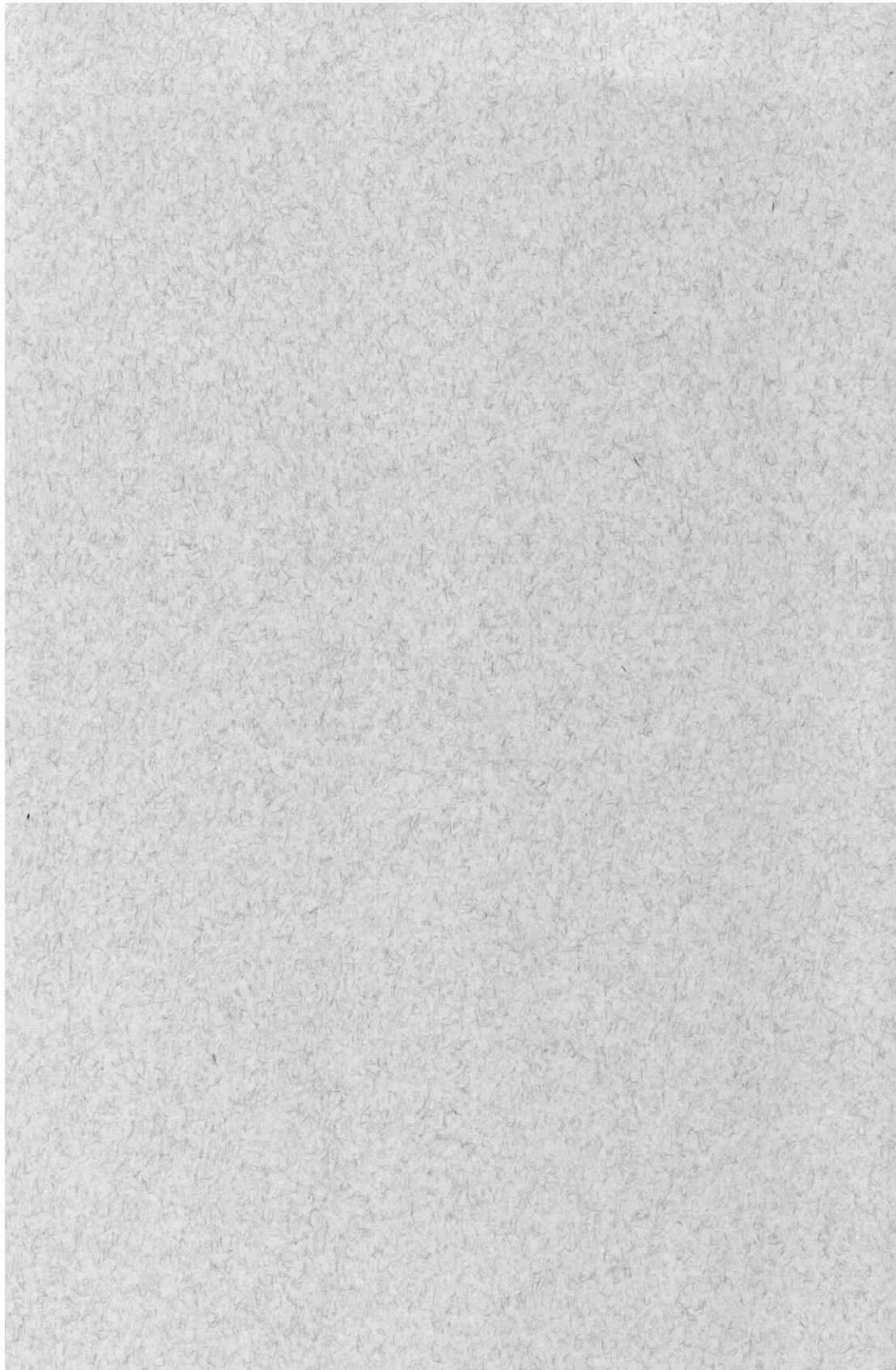


Year Book

Dutchess County Historical Society

Volume 44

1959



Year Book

Dutchess County Historical Society

Volume 44

1959

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by the Dutchess County Historical Society

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

DUTCHESS COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

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 | \$3.00 |
| Joint membership (two members of one family)..... | \$5.00 |
| Life membership | \$25.00 |

Annual dues are payable on January 1 of each year.

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

Payment of three 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 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. Only one copy of the year book is mailed to a joint membership.

FORM OF BEQUEST

I give and bequeath to the

DUTCHESS COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

.....Dollars

OFFICERS

1959

President: HENRY NOBLE MACCRACKEN, PH.D., Poughkeepsie, N. Y.

Vice President at Large: BALTUS B. VAN KLEECK, Poughkeepsie,
N. Y.

Secretary: MRS. AMY PEARCE VER NOOY, Poughkeepsie, N. Y.

Treasurer: MISS ALBERTINA T. B. TRAVER, Rhinebeck, N. Y.

Curator:

VICE-PRESIDENTS FOR TOWNS

| | |
|------------------------------|-------------------------|
| Mrs. J. E. Spingarn | Town of Amenia |
| Robert W. Doughty | City of Beacon |
| Mrs. F. Philip Hoag | Town of Beekman |
| James Budd Rymph | Town of Clinton |
| Thomas J. Boyce | Town of Dover |
| Mrs. Charles Boos | Town of East Fishkill |
| Miss Edith Van Wyck | Town of Fishkill |
| Mrs. John Mulford Hackett | Town of Hyde Park |
| Mrs. F. Jay Skidmore | Town of LaGrange |
| Henry R. Billings | Town of Milan |
| | Town of North East |
| Egbert Green | Town of Pawling |
| George E. Schryver | Town of Pine Plains |
| Miss Agnes K. Bower | Town of Pleasant Valley |
| Miss Annette Young | Town of Poughkeepsie |
| Mrs. A. N. Mahoney | City of Poughkeepsie |
| Mrs. Donald E. Norton | Town of Red Hook |
| Miss Rachel Rynders | Town of Rhinebeck |
| Mrs. Harrie D. Knickerbocker | Town of Stanford |
| Mrs. Theodore Coe | Town of Union Vale |
| Martense H. Cornell | Town of Wappingers |
| John O. Tyldsley | 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

The Curator, ex-officio

CLASS OF 1960

Chester O. Davison, M.D.

Newton D. Deuel

General John Ross Delafield

Olin Dows

CLASS OF 1961

Mrs. John H. Darrow

Miss Ruth A. Halstead

Mrs. Hardy Steeholm

CLASS OF 1962

Joseph W. Emsley

Miss Margaret L. Suckley

R. Watson Pomeroy

George E. Whalen

CLASS OF 1963

Harris N. Cookingham

Frank V. Mylod

Mrs. Harry H. Hill

Edmund Van Wyck

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Edited by AMY PEARCE VER NOOY

The Year Book is published in December. Copies of the Year Book are mailed to those members whose dues are paid for the current year. Single issues are sold for \$3.00 each and may be obtained through the secretary or the treasurer. Address: The Dutchess County Historical Society, Poughkeepsie, New York.

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. 1; *Poughkeepsie, The Origin and Meaning of the Word*; by Helen Wilkinson Reynolds. (Price: \$5.00)
- 1924—COLLECTIONS, VOL. II; *Old Gravestones of Dutchess County, New York*; collected and edited by J. Wilson Poucher, M. D., and Helen Wilkinson Reynolds. (Price: \$20.00)
- 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. (Price: \$5.00)
- 1932—COLLECTIONS, VOL. V; *Records of the Reformed Dutch Church of New Hackensack, Dutchess County, New York*; edited by Maria Bockee Carpenter Tower. (Price: \$10.00)
- 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. (Price: \$10.00)
- 1940—COLLECTIONS, VOL. VII; *Records of Crum Elbow Precinct, Dutchess County*. Edited by Franklin D. Roosevelt. (Price: \$15.00)
- 1958—COLLECTIONS, VOL. VIII; *Family Vista, the Memoirs of Margaret Chanler Aldrich*. (Price: \$4.50)

A few copies of some of the above publications are available at the prices listed. For information address: Mrs. Amy Ver Nooy, Secretary, Dutchess County Historical Society, Poughkeepsie, N. Y.

SECRETARY'S MINUTES

MEETING OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES

February 13, 1959

A meeting of the Board of Trustees of the Dutchess County Historical Society was held on Friday afternoon, February 13, 1959, at the Glebe House, Poughkeepsie.

Present: President Van Wyck, Mr. Buck, Mrs. Daniels, Mr. Deuel, Miss Halstead, Mrs. Hill, the treasurer and the secretary.

Mr. Mylod, the vice-president, was not present and the secretary was asked to write him expressing the sympathy of the trustees in his recent bereavement. It was reported that flowers from the society had been sent to the funeral of Mrs. Mylod.

The minutes of the semi-annual meeting, held November 14, 1958, were read.

The treasurer reported briefly on the funds in the treasury.

The report of the curator was read. It stated that a collection of papers concerning Cornelius Cooper, Benjamin, Mary and Peter B. Cromwell of Dutchess County had been received from the Goshen Public Library and had been accessioned. About fifty

items had been received from Dr. MacCracken. These were papers collected in connection with the research for his books and also included some papers of the late Mr. Harry T. Briggs. It was also reported that some additional items had been received to add to the Van Wyck papers.

Miss Halstead reported, for the Glebe House committee, that the lowboy in the east room and the long bench in the hall had been purchased by the Junior League. She also reported that Mr. Charles Chlanda had read of the effort being made to furnish the Glebe House and had offered to loan, for a period of years, some eighteenth century furniture and hardware. She told that two members of the historical society and two members of the Junior League had met with Mr. Chlanda and had selected some articles which would be most welcome additions to the furnishings of the house. The trustees examined the articles which Mr. Chlanda had brought to the house and expressed themselves as pleased with the arrangement. Miss

Halstead was authorized to represent the historical society in the transaction with Mr. Chlanda.

There was no report on the milestone which had been reported below the surface of the roadway, just south of the city line on Route 9. The president said he would see if he could discover its present condition through the local division of the New York State Department of Public Works.

It was reported that a communication had been received from the office of the State Historian stating that the State Department of Public Works had requested its district engineers to paint all historical markers on the state highways. The letter urged historical organizations to encourage societies and individuals to paint such markers as are located on their property or for which they had assumed responsibility. It was pointed out that most of the markers in Dutchess County had been well cared for. The trustees offered cooperation in this project.

There was some discussion with reference to the requests made for the erection of additional markers in the county. It was decided that the cost of placing new markers was at this time prohibitive.

In a discussion of the participation of the historical society in the plans for celebrating the Hudson-Champlain anniversary, or New York's Year of History, it was explained that practically all of the members were already working on one or more committees and that the society is always pleased to assist in publicizing and encouraging the observance of historical anniversaries. It was agreed that special effort be made to emphasize the 1959 celebrations in the plans for the spring and fall meetings and the annual pilgrimage.

It was suggested that the society plan to sponsor an "open house" and garden party at the Glebe House in June.

There was some discussion of the expiration, on April 1, 1959, of the lease agreement between the City of Poughkeepsie and the Dutchess County Historical Society with the Junior League as joint custodians of the Glebe House. The president appointed Mr. Baltus B. Van Kleeck and Mr. Raymond G. Guernsey to represent the historical society to work with a similar committee of the Junior League in an effort to have the lease renewed.

It was reported that, upon the request of the Glebe House com-

mittee of the Junior League, the city had had the house completely rewired.

The trustees deplored the loss by death during the past year of so many long-time and faithful members and mentioned particularly two former trustees, Mr. J. Hunting Otis and Mr. Ralph T. Waterman.

Mrs. Walter J. Ellis, a former annual member, was elected to life membership and the following annual members were elected: Mr. Emil Johnson, Mr. Clarence

W. Maxwell, Mrs. David Noble and the Pleasant Valley Free Library.

Mr. Buck reported that he had edited the material gathered by the late Miss Anna M. Vincent and that the Vincent family genealogy would be published very shortly.

There was no further business to discuss and the meeting adjourned.

Amy Ver Nooy,
Secretary

MEETING OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES

May 7, 1959

A meeting of the Board of Trustees of the Dutchess County Historical Society was held on Thursday afternoon, May 7, 1959, at the Glebe House, Poughkeepsie.

Present: President Van Wyck, Mr. Buck, Mrs. Daniels, Dr. Davison, Miss Halstead, Mr. Pomeroy, the treasurer, the secretary and Mr. Baltus B. Van Kleeck.

The president stated that the meeting had been called to discuss the terms of an agreement, or long-term lease, offered by the Common Council of the city, under which the Junior League

and the historical society would have joint custody of the Glebe House.

Mr. Van Kleeck explained the conditions of the agreement and it was voted that the society assume the responsibility for its share of the care of the house and the trustees authorized Mr. Van Kleeck to sign the agreement for the society.

The treasurer reported on the state of the treasury and said she would make a more detailed report at the annual meeting.

Miss Halstead reported for the Glebe House committee, stating that some additional pieces of

furniture had been loaned by Mr. Chlanda and that Miss Traver had presented to the society a corner cupboard which had been placed in the "study," and was a most welcome addition to the furnishings of that room. Miss Traver explained that the cupboard had formerly been owned by Domine Quitman, pastor of the Stone Church at Rhinebeck, 1798-1832.

Miss Halstead told of the plans for the open house and garden party to be held June 14. She said that a group, composed of members of the historical society and the Junior League, would act as a welcoming committee, indoors and out.

The secretary was asked to send a letter to the Common Council inviting the City Manager and other city officials to at-

tend the open house on June 14.

The treasurer reported on the sale of copies of *Family Vista*, the memoirs of Margaret Chanler Aldrich.

The secretary read an invitation, extended through the Hudson Valley Council to the historical societies of the Hudson Valley to spend a day, Sept. 10, 1959, at the New-York Historical Society, 170 Central Park West, Manhattan.

Mr. Buck stated that the Vincent genealogy, in the press, would soon be available and he hoped to bring copies to the annual meeting in May.

On motion, the meeting adjourned.

Amy Ver Nooy,
Secretary

ANNUAL MEETING

May 15, 1959

The annual meeting of the Dutchess County Historical Society was held on Friday, May 15, 1959, at the Nelson House, Poughkeepsie. The business meeting was held at 11:30 a.m. and Mr. Van Wyck presided.

The minutes of the semi-annual meeting, held November 14, 1958, and of two meetings

of the Board of Trustees, held February 13 and May 7, 1959, were read and approved.

The treasurer read the semi-annual statement, July through December 1958, and reported on the present state of the treasury. These reports were accepted with thanks.

The curator told of the recent

acquisitions and of the work which she had been doing in sorting, filing and indexing papers.

The secretary reported that the society had lost a few members by resignation and the following members by death: Mr. J. Adams Brown, the last charter member; Mr. Lydig Hoyt, a life member; Miss Mary C. Allen, Captain Vincent Astor, Miss Amelia S. Barratt, Miss Julia N. Bowne, Mr. Clarence J. Drake, Mrs. Esty Foster, Mrs. Frank V. Mylod, Mrs. Jacob H. Strong and Mr. Ralph T. Waterman.

Mr. Van Wyck told that he had appointed Mr. Baltus Van Kleeck and Mr. Raymond G. Guernsey to represent the society in requesting an extension or renewal of the agreement with the City of Poughkeepsie by which this society, with the Junior League, had enjoyed the joint custody of the Glebe House.

Mr. Van Kleeck reported that they had met with representatives of the Junior League and with the city manager and the corporation counsel. He explained some of the provisions and the procedure by which the lease would be renewed.

Dr. MacCracken told of the invitation extended through the Hudson Valley Council to the

several historical societies in the Hudson Valley to spend a day, Thursday, September 10, at the New-York Historical Society. He said that a program would be arranged for morning and afternoon. He pointed out that the Princess Beatrix is due to arrive in New York on September 11, that the fleet is in that day and that the city would be ablaze with color and suggested that some members might like to plan to spend the week-end in the city.

The president read a note from Mrs. Spraker Francke, inviting the members of the historical society to visit her home, "Brick House," Pleasant Valley, on the afternoon of Saturday, June 20. This invitation was enthusiastically received and the secretary was asked to accept the kind invitation for the society.

Miss Halstead told of the plans for the open house to be held at the Glebe House on Sunday afternoon, June 14. The secretary was asked to write a note to the City Manager inviting the officials of the city to attend on that occasion.

Mr. Buck showed the completed Vincent genealogy, the material for which had been gathered by Miss Ann Vincent and had been edited by Mr. Buck. He was

congratulated on the appearance of the book and on the work which he had done in bringing it to print. He explained that the physical costs of producing the book would necessitate charging ten dollars per copy.

A brochure, *The Early Stone Houses of Ulster County, New York*, by Myron S. Teller, produced by the Ulster County Historical Society was shown. It was examined with interest by many of those present. The secretary offered to transmit orders to the Ulster County society or to supply the address of the president.

Mr. Van Wyck told of two events planned by the Hudson-Champlain Festival Committee of the Town of LaGrange. The first was a pilgrimage to be held May 23 to five of the older houses in the township, the Sleigh house, the Hubbard-Hart house, the Halstead house, the home of Mrs. Peter Cornell and the Van Wyck homestead. Tickets for the tour were available and the money received from the sale of tickets would be used to help defray the expenses involved in arranging for the second event. This was an historical pageant to be given at Baird Park on the evening of June 6. Mr. Van Wyck explained that it would be open to the

public and urged those present to attend.

Mr. Buck told of an exhibit in preparation by Mrs. Gearhart and asked if any of the members would let him know if they owned old farm or kitchen utensils which they might be willing to loan for the exhibit in connection with the dairying industry.

The president announced that his term of office, along with that of other officers, had expired. Mr. Buck, for the nominating committee, proposed the name of Dr. MacCracken for president and that of Mr. Baltus Van Kleeck for vice-president. He also presented the following names as trustees for a term of four years: Mr. Harris N. Cookingham, Mrs. Harry H. Hill, Mr. Frank V. Mylod and Mr. Edmund Van Wyck. Mr. Van Wyck, as chairman, asked for any other nominations and, hearing none, the secretary was asked to cast one ballot for the election of those named.

The following persons were proposed as new members and they were unanimously elected: Mrs. George J. Amato, Mr. James D. Benson, Miss Hilda R. Cameron, Mr. Gerald W. Carson, Miss Beatrice Fredriksen, Miss Agnes H. B. Petersen, Mr.

Einar B. Petersen, Mrs. Albert B. Powers, Mr. Peter L. Purdy and Mr. Albert A. Simpson.

There was no further business to be considered and the meeting adjourned for lunch.

Following the luncheon, Dr. MacCracken introduced Mr. Coulton J. Waugh, who showed

some of his own paintings and his pictorial map of the Hudson river. He gave an interesting talk on painting in the Hudson valley.

After the address, the meeting closed with a rising vote of thanks to the speaker.

Amy Ver Nooy,
Secretary

SEMI-ANNUAL MEETING

October 23, 1959

The semi-annual meeting of the Dutchess County Historical Society was held on Friday, October 23, 1959, at the Nelson House, Poughkeepsie. The business meeting was held at 11:30 a.m. and Dr. MacCracken presided.

The minutes of the annual meeting, held May 15, 1959, were read and approved.

The treasurer gave her semi-annual report and a statement of the current state of the treasury, which were accepted as read.

The secretary reported that there had been two resignations and the society had lost three members by death: Mr. Raymond G. Guernsey, a trustee and a former president of the society; Mrs. Harry F. Dessoir and Miss Angelica Livingston.

Mrs. Ver Nooy reported briefly on the recent pilgrimage to the Van Cortlandt Manor Restoration and the visit to Boscobel. She urged that those who had been unable to attend the pilgrimage on October 2, make an effort to visit both of these restorations. It was moved and seconded that a letter of thanks be sent to Colonel Lorini for his kindness to those who visited the Boscobel project on that occasion.

Dr. MacCracken told of the Hudson Valley Day, held at the New-York Historical Society on September 10. He spoke of the great resources of that society and said he hoped the visit might be repeated and perhaps develop into an annual event.

For the Glebe House Committee, Miss Halstead reported that

a chest and a small shaving stand, which had formerly been owned by the DeRiemer family, had been placed in the Glebe House. They were the gift of Mrs. David B. Sleight. She also reported that several additional pieces of furniture had been loaned by Mr. Chlanda and she commented on the general attractive appearance and the pleasant atmosphere at the Glebe House. She told of the very successful "open house" day, held on June 7, and recommended such a day as an annual event. She also recommended that a marker be purchased and placed on the door of the room which this society is furnishing in memory of Miss Helen W. Reynolds. It was moved and seconded that this matter be referred to the board of trustees.

Those present were reminded that Mr. Van Kleeck, representing this society, and a member of the Glebe House committee of the Junior League would combine in a broadcast on Station WKIP on Monday, November 16, at 1:15 p.m.

Mr. Mylod, chairman of the milestone committee, was not present. Some remarks were made about the number and condition of the milestones which still remain along the Post Road (Route

9), the old Sharon Turnpike and the Salt Point Turnpike. Miss Traver showed some pictures which had been taken during the summer and there was some general discussion about the care and preservation of those which remain.

Mrs. Ver Nooy reported that ninety members of the society had accepted the kind invitation of Mrs. Spraker Francke, the present owner, to visit Brick House, Pleasant Valley, on the afternoon of June 20. It was moved and seconded that a note of thanks be sent to Mrs. Francke, expressing the appreciation of the society for her kind hospitality.

Mr. Van Kleeck reported on the completion of the new agreement between the City of Poughkeepsie and the Junior League with the Dutchess County Historical Society for the continued joint custody of the Glebe House. It was moved that a letter, expressing the appreciation of this society, be sent to the City Manager, Mr. John J. Desmond, with the request that he transmit the thanks of the society to the Mayor, the members of the Common Council and Mr. Weisman.

Mr. Van Wyck told of the interest exhibited by the residents of the town of LaGrange in ar-

ranging for its part in the Hudson-Champlain celebration. He stated that between 150 and 200 persons had visited the various houses which were opened to the public on May 23, on the occasion of the tour; that funds received from the tour were used to defray the expenses of the pageant given on June 6. He told that about 2,500 people attended the pageant, given at Baird Park, and that the entire program had been written and portrayed by local residents. Mrs. Hackett asked about the white horses which were unafraid of the bright lights and appeared to enjoy the evening. It was explained that the committee had been most fortunate in being able to borrow a team of white circus horses which had been pensioned and were spending their last days on a farm at Millbrook.

There was considerable discussion of other local celebrations of the Hudson-Champlain anniversary and New York's Year of History and of the several excellent pamphlets prepared and published in the county. It was moved and seconded that the society go on record as appreciating the talent and good hard work which had gone into the preparation of the various publications. The sec-

retary reported that copies of anything that had been printed had been acquired for the society, either by gift or purchase, and would be filed for future reference.

Mr. Van Wyck spoke of the meetings to be held later in the afternoon and in the evening at the Poughkeepsie Grange. He introduced Dr. Albert B. Corey, the State Historian, and Mr. William G. Tyrrell, one of the historians in the Division of Archives and History of the State Education Department. Mr. Tyrrell told of the plan for a series of conferences for local historians and stated that he and Dr. Corey would conduct the sessions at the Grange Hall and would discuss with those who attended the work and activities of appointed Town Historians and those interested in local history. He invited all interested members of the society to attend.

Dr. MacCracken announced that he had received the resignation of Mrs. Aimee Buchanan, who has been curator since January 1, 1956. He spoke of the excellent care and attention which she had given to the possessions of the society and expressed regret over her resignation. It was moved and seconded that the sec-

retary write Mrs. Buchanan, expressing the great regret of the members in accepting her resignation.

Dr. MacCracken read a letter from the Reverend Franklin J. Hinkamp, pastor of the Reformed Church of Poughkeepsie, inviting the members of the Dutchess County Historical Society to attend an historical service, to be held on November 1, 1959, to honor the memory of the Reverend Dr. John H. Livingstone. He explained that Dr. Livingstone was born in Poughkeepsie and was from 1780 to 1783 pastor of the Reformed Church in the village and that later, while pastor of the Collegiate Church in New York, he had been asked to become the first professor of theology and president of the newly formed Theological Seminary of the Reformed Church in America. Dr. MacCracken urged the members of the society to attend the service.

Mr. Francis S. Peterson told of a one-room schoolhouse in the town of Fishkill, just north of Beacon, on Route 9-D. He said that it had been recently abandoned, after 126 years, and recommended it as a possible home for the historical society.

Dr. MacCracken spoke of a

presentation copy sent to Dr. MacCracken is beautifully bound in red morocco and is in a slip case to match. Dr. MacCracken has filed his copy with the society's collection of Hudson-Champlain publications.

The following new members were proposed and elected: Mr. John L. Poucher, a life member, and, as annual members: Mrs. by the Netherlands Institute for International Cultural Relations. This particular issue, the Henry Hudson number, contains an article on Henry Hudson, quotations from the journal of Robert Juet, and an article by Prince Bernhard, in which he speaks of his numerous visits to the United States since 1941 and of his increasing understanding, stating that he feels it is no longer a strange country, although still a different one. Several articles deal with relations between the Netherlands and the United States. The recently published *History of Education in Dutchess County*, the work of Charles D. King, Jr., prepared as a thesis before graduation from Bard College. He recommended it to the members of the society.

Dr. MacCracken showed a copy of the September 1959 issue of *delta*, a quarterly published

Robert W. Asher, Mr. and Mrs. Stephen Becker, Mrs. Irving Bower, Mr. Michael Brick, Mrs. W. Kenneth David, Mr. and Mrs. John White Delafield, Mr. Esty Foster, Mrs. Lawrence Heaton, Mr. Wayne Kalenich, Mr. I. J. Lippman, Mrs. Samuel Moore, Mr. Harold T. Niessen, Mrs. Milton Polhill, Mrs. Allen H. Raymond and Mrs. Allen Webster.

The meeting then adjourned to

the dining room where, after an excellent luncheon, Mr. Francis S. Peterson, Historian of the Town of Fishkill, showed colored slides of scenes and historic spots in the neighborhood and gave a running commentary on his pictures.

The meeting closed with a rising vote of thanks to Mr. Peterson.

Amy Ver Nooy,
Secretary



Accidents on the River. — A herd of seventeen cattle belonging to a Chenango County drover broke through the ice while crossing from Fishkill to Newburgh yesterday morning, but were finally got out by the exertion of men from the shore with ropes, planks, etc.

A few days since, says the *Newburgh Telegraph*, there arrived at Garrisons on the Hudson River Railroad, a carload of baled straw destined for the Government stables at West Point. On Friday several Government teams were put at work drawing the straw across the river on the ice. About five o'clock in the afternoon two of the teams broke through the ice, near the west shore, and were with difficulty gotten out safely.

Poughkeepsie Daily Eagle, January 7, 1873

REPORT OF THE TREASURER

January 1, 1959 - June 30, 1959

PERMANENT ACCOUNT—Poughkeepsie Savings Bank

| | |
|--|------------|
| Balance on hand, January 1, 1959 | \$8,675.76 |
| Interest | 141.54 |
| Balance on hand, June 30, 1959 | \$8,817.30 |

CHECKING ACCOUNT—Dutchess Bank and Trust Company

Receipts

| | |
|--|------------|
| Balance on hand, January 1, 1959 | \$ 330.55 |
| Received from dues | 904.00 |
| Received from sale of books | 20.00 |
| Transferred from | |
| Helen W. Reynolds Memorial Fund | 960.00 |
| | \$2,214.55 |

Disbursements

| | |
|--|------------|
| Curator | \$ 50.00 |
| Secretary | 50.00 |
| Treasurer | 50.00 |
| Envelopes for year book | 39.00 |
| Postage, year book | 31.00 |
| Rhinebeck Gazette, printing year book | 435.00 |
| Lansing-Broas Printing Co., binding year book | 26.95 |
| Editing year book | 200.00 |
| Mailing year book | 15.00 |
| Copyright, year book | 4.15 |
| Postage | 10.00 |
| Memorial flowers | 10.00 |
| Lansing-Broas Printing Co., order blanks, <i>Family Vista</i> | 16.00 |
| Nelson House, guest luncheon | 2.25 |
| Coulton Waugh, guest speaker | 15.00 |
| Office supplies, postage and postcards | 31.21 |
| Hyde Park Historical Association, membership | 1.00 |
| Caretaker, Glebe House (Open House Day) | 5.00 |
| Lansing-Broas Printing Co., printing invitations | 7.60 |
| Mrs. Richard Aldrich, 240 copies, <i>Family Vista</i> | 960.00 |
| | \$1,959.16 |

| | |
|--------------------------------------|-----------|
| Balance on hand, June 30, 1959 | \$ 255.39 |
|--------------------------------------|-----------|

THE HELEN WILKINSON REYNOLDS MEMORIAL FUND

Poughkeepsie Savings Bank

| | |
|--|------------|
| Balance on hand, January 1, 1959 | \$2,954.33 |
| Interest | 42.18 |

| | |
|--|----------------------|
| Gift | 10.00 |
| Received from sale of <i>Family Vista</i> | 217.00 |
| Gift | 15.00 |
| | <hr/> |
| Transferred to checking account for <i>Family Vista</i> .. | \$3,238.51 960.00 |
| | <hr/> |
| Balance on hand, June 30, 1959 | \$2,278.51 |

Respectfully submitted
Albertina T. B. Traver, *Treasurer*

REPORT OF THE TREASURER

July 1, 1959 - December 31, 1959

PERMANENT ACCOUNT—Poughkeepsie Savings Bank

| | |
|-------------------------------------|------------|
| Balance on hand, July 1, 1959 | \$8,817.30 |
| Interest | 149.41 |

Balance on hand, December 31, 1959

\$8,966.71

CHECKING ACCOUNT—Dutchess Bank and Trust Company

Receipts

| | |
|--|-----------|
| Balance on hand, July 1, 1959 | \$ 255.39 |
| Received from dues | 73.00 |
| Received from sale of books | 29.25 |
| Anonymous gift, for printing and postage | 25.00 |

Disbursements \$ 382.64

| | |
|---|----------|
| Curator | \$ 50.00 |
| Secretary | 50.00 |
| Treasurer | 50.00 |
| Office supplies | 42.20 |
| Lansing-Broas Printing Co., envelopes | 26.35 |
| The Nelson House, guest luncheons | 6.75 |

\$ 225.30

Balance on hand, December 31, 1959

\$ 157.34

THE HELEN WILKINSON REYNOLDS MEMORIAL FUND

Poughkeepsie Savings Bank

| | |
|--|------------|
| Balance on hand, July 1, 1959 | \$2,278.51 |
| Received from sale of books, <i>Family Vista</i> | 31.50 |
| Gift | 5.00 |
| Interest | 39.10 |

\$2,354.11

Respectfully submitted
Albertina T. B. Traver, *Treasurer*

OUR PRESIDENT SAYS:

The 1959 state-wide celebration of the exploratory voyages of Henry Hudson and Samuel de Champlain is now history. The officers and the members of the society served as chairmen and working members of committees of various sorts. They attended many of the area celebrations and they spoke to a large number of organizations on the different aspects of the celebration. The several brochures published by the county committee and the individual townships are invaluable. This society has always urged the residents of an area to set down those things which they remember or have heard or have discovered. Now many of them have done just that and the number of attractive and well edited pamphlets have put on record many items of interest which had not heretofore appeared in print. The year, from beginning to end, was crammed with history making and history celebrating.

* * *

The several events planned by the society were well attended and proved interesting and enjoyable. Mr. Coulton J. Waugh, artist, of Newburgh, brought his recently completed pictorial map of the Hudson River and a number of his paintings to the spring meeting. He told of his pleasure in painting the river scenes and of his surprise and delight in discovering the luminosity which prevails over its waters.

On the occasion of the fall meeting, Mr. Francis S. Peterson, historian of the town of Fishkill, showed some of his many colored slides. During his residence in the county Mr. Peterson has made many photographs of beauty spots and scenes of historic interest in the neighborhood. We regret that Mr. Peterson is leaving the county. Our congratulations, thanks and good wishes follow him in his removal to Virginia, where he will have a wider and an entirely different field for his avocation.

* * *

On June 14, this society in cooperation with the Junior League held a most successful open-house day at the Glebe House, which presented a most attractive appearance. It has been nicely furnished

with many pieces of antique furniture loaned by Mr. Charles Chlanda and several pieces which have been presented to the house. Since that date, Mrs. David B. Sleight has given a bureau and a shaving stand, formerly owned by the DeRiemer family when they lived in the house. A corner cupboard, given to this society by Miss Albertina T. B. Traver and formerly owned and used by Domine Quitman when he was pastor of the old Stone Church at Rhinebeck, 1798-1832, has been placed in the room dedicated to Miss Helen W. Reynolds.

Special cause for rejoicing was the extension of the agreement made by the City of Poughkeepsie with the Junior League and the Dutchess County Historical Society as joint custodians of the Glebe House. Mr. Van Kleeck and Mr. Guernsey represented the historical society in the new agreement.

* * *

Ninety members of the society were happy to avail themselves of the kind invitation of Mrs. Spraker Francke to visit Brick House, Pleasant Valley, on June 20. The house was built about 1777 by an ancestor of Mrs. Francke, Sarah Tobias Newcomb, while her husband, Zacheus Newcomb, was away on military service. It was several years since the society had visited the house and it was especially kind of Mrs. Francke to give the opportunity.

* * *

A number of our members were among those who welcomed to the Hudson Valley the Princess Beatrix of the Netherlands, when she visited here as the representative of her country in September.

* * *

We were pleased to have as our guests at our fall meeting the State Historian, Dr. Albert B. Corey, and a member of his staff, Mr. William G. Tyrrell, historian in the Division of Archives and History. They were in Poughkeepsie to confer with town historians and county residents interested in local history. They held two meetings at the Poughkeepsie Grange hall, at 3:30 in the afternoon and at 7:30 in the evening.

Representatives of the Dutchess County Historical Society attended a successful Hudson Valley Day, arranged by the Hudson Valley Council, at the New-York Historical Society on September 10. In spite of a disagreeably hot and humid day, a number of members of the various historical societies of the Hudson Valley gathered at the New-York Historical Society, 170 Central Park West. They much enjoyed the exhibits of Hudson and Champlain mementoes and an interesting program.

* * *

The annual pilgrimage of the society was made to the Van Cortlandt Manor Restoration at Croton-on-Hudson on October 2. The visit was of especial interest to Dutchess County members because of the close connections of both Pierre Van Cortlandt and his wife, Joanna Livingston, with the county. A number of the pilgrims stopped to visit the beautiful house, Boscobel, in process of reconstruction on Route 9-D, between Cold Spring and Garrison, on a site unexcelled for Hudson vistas.

* * *

The society suffered a severe loss in the death of Mr. Raymond G. Guernsey on May 19. He had been a member of the society since 1922 and had served as a trustee five terms of four years each and was president of the society from 1942 through 1945. He will be sincerely missed by those who had always found him cooperative and dependable.

Henry Noble MacCracken

Se

THE ANNUAL PILGRIMAGE

The annual trip arranged for the society was held on Saturday, October 2, 1959, to the Van Cortlandt Manor Restoration at Croton-on-Hudson. Hurricane "Gracie" had spent itself with much rain and high winds on Friday. However, Saturday morning was pleasant, although the world was very moist.

The manor house has been restored and refurnished with seventeenth and eighteenth century furnishings by a group of specialists, after its purchase in 1953 by John D. Rockefeller, Jr., and it was opened, with appropriate ceremonies on June 13, 1959.

It is of interest to Dutchess County people because of the close connection of the families who lived there with residents of this county. Pierre Van Cortlandt married Joanna Livingston on May 28, 1748, and went there to live. He enlarged an existing stone house which had been built in the late seventeenth century by Stephanus Van Cortlandt on the manor, which then comprised more than 85,000 acres, extending from the Hudson River to the Connecticut line.

Pierre Van Cortlandt was the son of Philip Van Cortlandt and Catharine de Peyster. Joanna was the daughter of Gilbert Livingston and Cornelia Beekman and was the niece of Colonel Henry Beekman of Rhinebeck. Pierre was the nephew of Gertrude Van Cortlandt, the second wife of Colonel Beekman. It was to "Kipsbergen," the home of Colonel Beekman, that Pierre and Joanna, with their family, removed temporarily to Dutchess County at the time of the Revolution.

On the way north from Van Cortlandt Manor many of the pilgrims stopped to visit another restoration which is rapidly going forward at "Boscobel." This house had been removed from the site of a present veterans' hospital near Yonkers. Colonel Lorini, who has given of his time to constantly supervise the reconstruction of the house, is to be congratulated on the success of the undertaking.

The program for the day was as follows:

DUTCHESS COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

THIRTY-NINTH ANNUAL PILGRIMAGE

October 2, 1959

Basket lunches

A visit to the Van Cortlandt Manor has been planned for the 1959 pilgrimage. The restoration has been recently completed and, because of the close connections of the Van Cortlandt family with Dutchess County, should be of interest to the members of the Dutchess County Historical Society.

The Manor is on Route 9, at Croton-on-Hudson, and can easily be reached by driving straight down Route 9 or by traveling by the Taconic Parkway, south 35 miles from Freedom Plains to Route 129, which leads to Route 9 at Croton-on-Hudson.

Pilgrims will gather at the Manor at 11 o'clock. Escorted tours will visit the several buildings. Group charge for each person, \$1.00.

A picnic grove is on the property. Or, a snack bar is located on Route 9, a short distance south of the Restoration.

Following the visit to Cortlandt Manor, the pilgrims will stop at another restoration in progress. This is the mansion, "Boscobel," which has been removed from a former location to a site on Route 9-D, between Garrison and Cold Spring. It will be most interesting to see what is being done in restoring this fine Federal-style mansion.



Blew Down — The old flag pole in front of the Forbus House blew down during the gale on Thursday night. It has been out of use of late on account of its wreck-less condition. It probably served its time out as flag bearer in happier days of the Republic than these.

The Daily Press, March 18, 1865

THE POUGHKEEPSIE TENNIS CLUB

ITS FIRST FIFTY YEARS

The first record of organized tennis in Poughkeepsie is in 1879, when the Outdoor Club was started. This club consisted of from ten to fifteen prominent young men and women of the city and surrounding neighborhood. Charlotte Wood, the daughter of James J. Wood, was the leading spirit of the Outdoor Club, and others whose names appear frequently in the newspaper accounts of the club's activities include William and Edward Morse, the sons of the inventor Samuel F. B. Morse, Nina Carpenter, Kate Innis, Eliza Platt, and the daughters of Harvey G. Eastman, Lottie and Cora Eastman. The land which is now Eastman Park was owned by Mr. Eastman and on this property a tennis court was laid out for the Outdoor Club members. It was a grass court and was situated within an oval drive at the southern end of the estate. The date of the establishment of this court is not remembered, but it was probably built a few years previous to the formation of the Outdoor Club, in 1879, and first used by the Eastman girls. About this time Vassar College built a tennis court and others are known to have been in existence on several estates in Dutchess County.

It may be said that the Outdoor Club was the forerunner of the Poughkeepsie Tennis Club, although but two of its members, Kate Innis and Eliza Platt, are listed among the first members of the Poughkeepsie Tennis Club in 1890.

In 1881, John I. Platt, the owner and publisher of the *Poughkeepsie Daily Eagle* and one of Poughkeepsie's most prominent citizens, was living at 10 Eastman Terrace. His children were greatly interested in tennis, so, in the rear of the residence, Mr. Platt built a tennis court so that they and their friends might learn the game. It was on this grass court that many who later became Poughkeepsie's leading players and figured in organizing the Tennis Club, first saw tennis played and first played the game themselves. Mr. Platt's daughter Eliza, the leader of the group for several years, crocheted the first net that was used on this court and, with the help of her brother Edmund, organized and arranged most of the tournaments and in-

formal matches. It was a very wide-awake and active crowd of young men and women which met at the court during the summer months and hotly contested tournaments were staged there. Mixed doubles usually featured the play in those days.

A few years after the establishment of the court at Eastman Terrace, another group of younger boys and girls were playing tennis on a court on Garfield Place owned by Norman Wright, who was one of Poughkeepsie's leading sportsmen. The court was on the east side of the street, directly opposite Captain's Wright's residence. He played there himself and he allowed the boys and girls of the Agassiz Association to play tennis there also. The Agassiz Association had recently been organized and the members were engaged in nature study under the direction of John C. Sickley, who later was to become the first president of the Poughkeepsie Tennis Club. Mr. Sickley was librarian of the public library, an authority on birds, flowers and trees, and for several years took the boys and girls on field walks, picnics and skating trips. Tennis became part of the Agassiz Association's activities and before long almost all of the association members were greatly interested in the game.

After playing on Captain Wright's court for several years, the leaders of the Agassiz Association decided a location affording the opportunity of having more courts was needed. In 1887, Mr. Sickley, aided by Frederick N. Morgan, his sister Isabel and Sara Platt, negotiated a lease of a vacant lot at the northeast corner of Market and Montgomery Streets, at a rental of \$3.00 per year. The difficulty experienced in occupying the lot was remembered by some of the members of the association, because a cow was pastured there. Although a lease had been signed, the owner claimed nothing had been said about the necessity of removing his cow and he did not deem her presence would in any way interfere with tennis. The work of laying out the courts progressed and the argument about the tenancy of the cow continued until, finally, Isabel Morgan found a nearby lot that was suitable for the cow. The owner then agreed that perhaps the cow might prove a nuisance to the tennis players and one afternoon Miss Morgan was seen leading the cow to her new pasture.

It was not long before three grass courts were ready for play. All the work of conditioning the property for tennis courts had been done by the members. No backstops were erected and the low wooden fence, on the Market Street side especially, was climbed many times to retrieve balls driven in that direction. In addition to Frederick and Isabel Morgan and Sara Platt, prominent in the organization were Peter Tappen Bowne, who is remembered for his great agility on the court, Frederick Boyd, Mabel Cooley, Louise Scofield, Margaret Mandeville, Dora Taylor, Henry Sanford and Harry Van Cleef. The entire burden of keeping the courts in condition fell on those who wished to play. The grass had to be cut often and, especially in the spring, it was a big piece of work to get the not too well drained courts ready for play. There were many excellent players developed in this group of boys and girls. The most outstanding, those who later figured very prominently in tennis throughout the Hudson Valley, were two of the girls, Louise Scofield and Isabel Morgan.

Saturday afternoons were often devoted to a tournament of progressive mixed doubles. Teams were chosen from among those who were on hand and the winners of a set received a gold star on their score cards. At the end of each set teams were again chosen by lot and the tournament went on in this fashion throughout the afternoon. At the end of play, the man and the woman possessing the greatest number of stars received a prize. This type of match play was very popular and the entire club usually participated. An interesting picture of a tournament on these courts clearly shows the dress of the players in the 1880's. Dora Taylor is in the foreground, enveloped in a voluminous dress with a bustle, long, tight-fitting sleeves and high neck. She also wears a broad-brim felt hat. In the background is Margaret Mandeville about to send an underhand serve. She is arrayed in a dress that sweeps the ground, a tight shirt waist and a very jaunty cap. Frederick Morgan, the umpire, stands erect and alert, fitted out in a black suit and derby.

After a year or two of tennis at Market and Montgomery Streets, the members of the group were approached by the players of the Eastman Terrace court and a merger was suggested. The offer included the addition to the Platt court of three additional courts, one more of

grass and two of dirt construction. A meeting of the association which, by this time had ceased to be a nature study club, was called by Mr. Sickley who favored the merger of the two groups. Many of the boys and girls feared the Eastman Terrace players, all of whom were older, would completely dominate the organization. Mr. Sickley pointed out the fact that the Agassiz Association members were growing older all the time and also the weight of numbers and superior tennis would counterbalance the difference in age. The plans were considered at great length. Finally, early in 1890, a vote was taken and by a small majority the plan was accepted.

The first meeting of the two groups was held at the Platt home in April of 1890 and those attending numbered about twenty-five. The business of the meeting was the naming of the new club and the election of officers and directors. The "Poughkeepsie Tennis Club" came into being at this meeting. Mr. Sickley was elected president, Arthur B. Rudd vice-president, Eliza S. Platt secretary, and Frederick N. Morgan treasurer. The first board of directors included the officers and also Adele Innis, Mabel L. Cooley and Louis P. Hasbrouck. Unfortunately no record of the others who attended the first meeting of the Poughkeepsie Tennis Club is to be found, and therefore the charter members cannot be named.

Four years later, in reporting the merger of the two groups and the formation of the club, the *Sunday Courier* states: "As near as can be learned the credit for the organization of the Poughkeepsie club belongs to Mrs. George Hubbell, formerly Miss Eliza Platt, who first proposed it and was active in getting it on a practical basis. Grounds were selected in the rear of Eastman Terrace, courts laid out and enclosed, and during the first season this location afforded all the advantages that were needed by the limited membership of the club."

Club meetings were held at frequent intervals and the meeting place was usually the Platt home or the public library. Those who played took care of the courts and kept them in condition. It is remembered that George Hubbell, who married Eliza Platt, was delegated to purchase enough wire to enclose the four courts and the members erected the backstops. The younger Platt boys, Isaac and Frank, are

said to have been the principal groundkeepers. Too young to be accepted as regular members, they were given the privilege of playing in return for their work of cutting the grass and keeping the clay smooth. Mr. Sickley's remark about the tennis superiority of his charges caused a great deal of discussion on all sides and, after several years of competition, the argument was still unsettled. Miss Morgan and Miss Scofield, however, soon proved that among the women players the younger girls had the decided edge when they forged to the front in almost every tournament.

One year after the formation of the club, tennis had taken a great forward stride in Poughkeepsie, for more and more young people in the city wanted a place to play. It was evident that the Eastman Terrace property, which faced Franklin Street, might soon be used for building purposes and that those courts would have to be abandoned. A location on the outskirts of the city seemed the logical move. In March, of 1891, a meeting of the club was held and the result of the meeting was the decision to find a new location for the club and to incorporate. Two committees were appointed, one to find the new location, one to draw up the petition to the Supreme Court asking for the right to incorporate.

On April 24, 1891, Judge Joseph F. Barnard approved and signed the petition for incorporation. The Articles of Incorporation are as follows:

Articles of Incorporation

State of New York ss
County of Dutchess

We, the undersigned, all of full age and citizens of the United States and of the State of New York, being desirous to associate ourselves for athletic and social purposes, do hereby, pursuant to the statute in such case made and provided, certify that the name by which the club or corporation shall be known in law is

THE POUGHKEEPSIE TENNIS CLUB

That the object and business of said club is the promotion of healthful recreation and social intercourse among the members, of playing tennis and other athletic and social exercises. That the directors or executive committee of the club are seven in number, and the names of the Directors and Executive Committee for the first year of existence of the club are Eliza S. Platt, Adele Innis, Georgiana W. Miles, Norman Wright, Eugene Adriaance, Louis P. Hasbrouck, John C. Sickley. The location of the said club shall be in the CITY OF Poughkeepsie, Dutchess County, New York.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, We have hereunto set our hands and seals this 24th day of April, 1891.

In presence of

Safford A. Crummev
Eliza S. Platt (L.S.)
Adele Innis (L.S.)
Georgiana W. Miles (L.S.)
Norman Wright (L.S.)
Eugene Adriance (L.S.)
Louis P. Hasbrouck (L.S.)
John C. Sickley (L.S.)

County of Dutchess
State of New York ss

On this 24th day of April, 1891, before me personally came Eliza S. Platt, Adele Innis, Georgiana W. Miles, Norman Wright, Eugene Adriance, Louis P. Hasbrouck, and John C. Sickley, to be known and known to me to be the individuals described in and who executed the foregoing instrument, and severally acknowledged the execution thereof.

Safford A. Crummev
Notary Public

I approve of the form and sufficiency of the within certificate and consent that the same be filed in the proper office.

Dated, Poughkeepsie, N. Y., April 24th, 1891.

J. F. Barnard
Justice of Supreme Court.

About this same date, the committee whose duty it was to find a new location for the club reported that Mr. E. N. Howell, who owned the Whitehouse property on the east side of South Hamilton Street, south of Dwight Street, had agreed to lease a portion of his land to the Tennis Club for \$1.00 per year and had granted permission for the construction of a club house. This was indeed the edge of the city. In fact, there were no houses on South Hamilton Street, south of Dwight Street and Dwight Street had but recently been opened. The members of the club agreed to accept Mr. Howell's offer, a lease was drawn up and signed by Mr. Howell and the officers of the club. At the corner of Dwight and South Hamilton Streets there was a knoll, surrounded by cedar trees, and to the south the land was level. On the knoll, the club members decided to erect the club house and to build the courts to the south, on the land where now are residences. Mr. Walter Scofield, a member of the club, was asked to design a house and work was started immediately to turn the field into tennis courts. While the courts were being constructed the players still continued to use the Eastman Terrace courts but, during the summer of

1891, tennis had quite a setback, for most of the players were engaged in getting the new courts in shape.

Meanwhile, ways and means of building a club house were thoroughly discussed by the members. The location had been selected and Mr. Scofield's plans approved, but there was no money available for construction. It was decided to devote the winter to fund-raising by means of entertainments. The final effort, which brought enough to assure the construction of a club house, was a *Spielkartenfest*, held at the Collingwood Opera House on February 22 and 24, 1892, with an added matinee on February 22. In the program, the purpose of the *Spielkartenfest* was announced as follows:

The Poughkeepsie Tennis Club was organized in the month of April, 1890, and during that summer occupied grounds in the rear of Eastman Terrace. In April, 1891, the Club was incorporated, and through the kindness of Mr. E. N. Howell, was enabled to secure new grounds at the corner of South Hamilton and Dwight Streets, where it is now established. There are four dirt courts, with stop-nets, etc. The Club numbers one hundred and fifty members and is constantly growing. It is proposed to erect a Club house on the knoll at the north of the Club courts, and this entertainment is given to raise funds for that purpose.

It is reported that every member of the club took some part in the production and in addition many others interested in the club also helped. Mr. Sickley was president of the club, Louis P. Hasbrouck vice-president, Mrs. William A. Miles secretary, and Frederick N. Morgan, the treasurer. In addition to the officers, Norman Wright, Mrs. E. N. Howell and Adele Innis composed the Board of Directors. The Club House Fund Committee was led by Carrie B. Weeks, with a committee consisting of Rossa B. Cooley, May L. Reynolds, Anna Ward, Safford Crummey, Harris S. Reynolds and Isaac M. Sutton.

The *Spielkartenfest* was arranged and conducted by Margaret McL. Eager of Newburgh and the production consisted of a prologue and eight parts. The prologue depicted a garden fete at the Royal Palace, Berlin, in the time of Queen Louise. Twenty-eight ladies of the court and twenty-eight hussars performed an elaborate court dance which ended in a beautiful tableau. The costumes were very colorful and this first scene was long remembered by those who attended. Then followed a dance by eight boys and girls dressed as pages. The remain-

der of the performance consisted of a game of cards played by Frederick I. Chichester, Elmer Eastmead, George Seaman and Alonzo Vail. Their cards were fifty-two men and women of the cast, dressed to represent the "Aces," the "Court Cards" and the "Spot Cards." Taking the leading parts, were the joker, Lewis Adams, and the four aces, Mollie Carpenter, Elsie Hampton, Anna Haight and Alethea F. Putnam. The program lists the following scenes: Dance of the Pages, Military Dance of the Spot Cards, Dance of the Aces, Minuet and Entrance of the Court Cards, Shuffle and Deal, The Play, and, last of all, A Tableau—The Ace that Triumphed.

The list of patronesses included: Mrs. John P. Ambler, Mrs. Elmer Eastmead, Mrs. Clement C. Gaines, Mrs. Horace Hofcut, Mrs. Aaron Innis, Mrs. S. N. Morgan, Mrs. Howard B. Putnam, Mrs. John C. Sickley, Mrs. Frederick B. Usher, Mrs. Frank Van Kleeck, Mrs. James W. Wood, Mrs. John I. Beggs, Mrs. Edward Elsworth, Mrs. P. C. Hampton, Mrs. Eugene N. Howell, Mrs. William R. Innis, Mrs. William Miles, Mrs. John I. Platt, Mrs. William T. Reynolds, Mrs. Robert K. Tuthill, Mrs. Alonzo H. Vail and Mrs. Ezra White.

The *Spielkartenfest* was a huge success, for the Collingwood was filled at each of the three performances. The Club House Fund Committee had done a fine piece of work and, when the receipts were counted, the building of a club house was assured. Added revenue for the fund came from a host of advertisements in the attractive program. John Van Benschoten announced the new Victor bicycle with cushion tires, Doty & Humphrey advertised a reduction from forty cents to thirty cents per ounce for "All the latest odors of Handkerchief Extract." "They are elegant, Try Them," reads the copy. John Peterkin stated that he had just received a "Line of Novelties in Jet Edges, Jet Fringes, Ribbon Fringes and Demi Laces." Bisbee and Amen, principals of Riverview Academy, boasted of passing twenty-four boys successfully at last June's examinations. The Merchants National Bank announced newly constructed vaults for the storage of silverware, claiming their vault the only "Safe Deposit Vault on the Hudson River." And the Fallkill National Bank argued for its vault, as follows: "A new and separate vault has recently been con-

structed, Suitable and commodious, retiring rooms and a parlor for ladies, all within the Safe Deposit enclosure." On the back cover of the program, the Murray Hill Hotel, 40th Street, New York, displayed a picture of the hostelry and, as an inducement to guests, claimed, "The water and ice used is vaporized and free from disease germs."

Early that spring, the construction of the club house was commenced and, by mid-summer, it was occupied and in great demand almost every evening as well as throughout the days.

The little house, built at a cost of \$1,600, was of clapboard, painted white, and had a shingled roof. An uncovered veranda on the south side overlooked the courts and a long flight of steep, wooden steps led up to the knoll from South Hamilton Street. The building contained one large room with a fireplace and a fine floor for dancing, a dressing room for the players and a small kitchen.

The four dirt courts were in constant use and many fine players fought bitter battles in the Saturday tournaments, with mixed doubles play the most popular. The club had among its members several excellent women players, and playing so much with the men no doubt had a great deal to do with the development of their game. Isabel Morgan, who won the first women's championship of the Poughkeepsie Tennis Club, Mabel L. Ferris, Josephine Baker and Louise Scofield were known up and down the Hudson valley for their tennis. Also, included among the club members, were two girls who were recognized as the greatest players in the country, Ellen C. Roosevelt and her sister Grace Roosevelt. Ellen Roosevelt was champion of America in 1890 and, with her sister, won the championship in ladies' doubles that year. That same year, Ellen Roosevelt defeated the champion of Ireland, Miss M. E. Cahill, at Wissahickon Heights, Philadelphia. The Roosevelt girls were the best, without peers, and within the years of Tennis Club history they are the only members of the club who have been nationally prominent in the tennis world. They did not play in the club championship tournaments, but practiced at the club courts and played often in the informal tournaments. When it was known that they were to be at the South Hamilton Street courts a large gallery was always on hand to see them play.

The first men's championship tournament had been held in 1890 at the Eastman Terrace court and Jerome R. Allen was the first champion of the club. The next year, 1891, the tournament was held on the South Hamilton Street courts and Arthur Hume gained the distinction of winning. In 1892, the Poughkeepsie Tennis Club sent its first representatives to the Hudson River League tournament, held at Yonkers. The Poughkeepsie women players outclassed all others. Miss Scofield and Miss Morgan were crowned doubles champions, Miss Scofield singles champion and Miss Morgan runner-up. From that year, the Hudson River Association, as it was later named, always counted on the Poughkeepsie club to send many outstanding players to its tournaments. The *Sunday Courier*, commenting on the league tournaments of 1893, notes with pride:

. . . in the Hudson River Tennis League and the Poughkeepsie Tennis Club tournaments, Miss Mabel Ferris, Miss Isabel Morgan, Miss Louise Scofield and Miss Josephine Baker carried off every ladies' prize. Miss Ferris plays a persistent game, Miss Morgan a clever game in backhand strokes, Miss Scofield a good net game and Miss Baker a strong all around game.

And, in the *Eagle* of that same year, is found the following item:

The Tennis Club is especially strong in lady players. With the Ferris sisters, the Roosevelt sisters and the Misses Morgan and Scofield, it need not fear any champions that can be put against them by any club in the country.

And, to show that the Poughkeepsie papers were not alone in their praise of the Poughkeepsie Tennis Club girls, there once appeared the following article in the *Newburgh Register*:

But now comes the hardest part of this chronicler's duty. The natural gallantry and overwhelming preference of the *Register's* editor for Newburgh girls is too well known to be attacked, but after watching yesterday's games he must confess that his heart strings gave a little pull Poughkeepsie-ward. The Poughkeepsie club is represented by the Misses Scofield, Morgan, Baker and Ferris. Newburgh girls are about perfect but their education has been neglected in one thing, they can't play Poughkeepsie lawn tennis. Miss Morgan and Miss Baker demonstrated that lawn tennis is not distinctly a man's game and showed decidedly that either one would be no mean match for a good share of the male members of the Powelton Club.

The social activities of the club in these years were quite informal. Dances were held after important tournaments, candy pulls were popular and many evening entertainments took the form of a one-act

play or music by a group of mandolin and guitar players. Well remembered for their musical talent were Miss Scofield, Miss Baker, Miss Morgan, Miss Jane Thurston and Miss Elsie Hampton.

September 28, 1893, is a memorable date in Tennis Club history. During the afternoon of September 27, the finals of the men's championship singles were played and Robert M. Ferris, Jr., was crowned the new champion. Late in the afternoon, tea was served in front of the fireplace in the club house and that evening the young people gathered at the house again for a candy pull. It was a cool day and a large fire blazed in the fireplace throughout the afternoon and evening. In the early morning hours the club house was discovered in flames and before the fire department reached the scene the entire house was beyond help. An account of the fire is found in the *Eagle* of September 28, as follows:

The alarm at a quarter before two o'clock this morning was caused by the burning of the lawn tennis club at South Hamilton Street. It was a frail structure and was about consumed before the firemen reached the spot. We were unable to learn the amount of loss or insurance.

All the furniture in the building, including a handsome piano, was destroyed. There was a party in the building on Wednesday evening.

The fire was discovered by Nate Wasson, the operator at the telephone office, who at once notified Officer Shelley and promptly gave the alarm.

It cannot be conceived that Mr. Wasson himself discovered the fire at his post in the telephone office; probably the news was telephoned to him and he reported it to the fire and police departments. Evidently it was suggested that those who had used the club for the candy pull had neglected to put out the fire in the fireplace and a spark had started the conflagration. There followed hot denials and no little controversy about the cause of the fire. The *Eagle* of September 29 tells more about the fire:

More particulars in regard to the club house fire were obtained on Thursday. Many of the members are strongly convinced that it was the work of tramps, or an incendiary, as they say a kerosene can was found near the fireplace and a door was found open by the first man who reached the place. This may be so, or the can may have been kicked there by the boys who early investigated the affair in the morning.

Many members lost little things, shoes, suits and rackets. The loss in rackets in the total must be quite large. The piano belonged to Mrs. Hampton and was not insured. She expected to remove it on the first of October, but the fire has saved her that trouble. Mr. Sickley lost a new Columbia bicycle. It was the first night he had left it there. It was a total wreck.

There was insurance of \$1,000 on the house, but none on the furniture, most of which has been put there lately. The house cost \$1,600 and was nearly paid for, there being, if we are correctly informed, less than \$100 due. It is proposed by the members to take steps at once to obtain funds to rebuild the house, though it is likely nothing in way of a new building will be put up this fall.

The club house was a social center which will be greatly missed by all the young people and we hope the early spring will see a new one up in the place of the one so unfortunately destroyed.

The loss of the club house called for immediate action of the members for they realized that unless another house was built and the social activities of the club continued many of the non-playing members would resign. Mr. Howell was not willing to sell any portion of his land to the club, since he was planning a development for building purposes. A renewal of the lease would be but a temporary home for the club and many of the leaders felt the time had come for a permanent home. A committee, with Robert M. Ferris as chairman and including William A. Adriance, James S. Reynolds and Charles S. Douw, was appointed by the directors to consider the situation and report to the club at a meeting to be held early in the spring.

That committee brought in a report that it did not approve of renewing the lease of the Howell property and recommended leasing the property directly across South Hamilton Street, starting 150 feet south of Holmes Street and extending to Livingston Street, with a depth of about 388 feet.

An examination of the title of the premises shows that, in 1877, a group of men had acquired the property and owned it jointly, their several interests being divided in tenths. The ownership is described as "joint tenants and not tenants in common." The interests in the land were divided as follows: Jacob Corlies, one-tenth part; Andrew King, one-tenth part; James Emott, two-tenths part; J. O. Whitehouse, two-tenths part; Henry L. Young, three-tenths part; John P. Adriance, one-tenth part.

By 1893, the interests of several had changed hands, but a joint ownership continued. The land was for sale and, although the section suited for courts, along the north boundary, was low and would have to be filled, it was judged the best available site for the club. There was but one building on the property, a small brick-lined, clapboard house, standing on the high knoll and facing South Hamilton Street.

The club had no funds to purchase the property but, after several months of discussion and many meetings of the members, Mr. Ferris finally persuaded them to lease the land with the privilege of purchasing it at the expiration of the lease, or during the term of the lease which was finally settled at six years. The purchase price was set at \$8,000.

Mr. Scofield was again asked to act as architect and he started work on designing a club house to be placed on the high ground facing South Hamilton Street. While the many loads of fill were being brought to make a foundation for the new courts, Mr. Howell continued to allow the members of the club to use the courts on the east side of the street; in fact, even after the three new courts were completed, the old courts were used for several years. Mr. Scofield's design was soon presented and approved and the little house standing on the site chosen for the club house was moved to the rear of the lot and for many years served as the caretaker's cottage.

The *Sunday Courier*, of May 8, 1894, announced the opening of the new house and described it in the following paragraph:

It is erected in the old colonial style and on the first floor has a large dancing hall. Adjoining it on the east is a parlor which is elevated three steps so as to be useful as a stage when needed. The hall contains a large open fireplace and a chimney of rock-faced brick, the men's dressing room, shower baths, toilet rooms and a kitchen. On the second floor is a ladies' dressing room, balcony, sitting room, hallway, and an additional balcony on the north side, overlooking the tennis courts. A broad piazza extends around the east and north sides, and on the south is a porte cochere. The house is lighted throughout with gas and is supplied with water.

Although not mentioned in the *Courier's* article, the house also contained a small heating plant, for winter activities were to be a large part of the new club. At the time the new house was opened,

the Board of Directors was composed of Mrs. I. Reynolds Adriance, May L. Reynolds, Josephine Tuthill, John C. Sickley, Frederick N. Morgan, Edmund Platt and Robert M. Ferris.

During the next few years, several members of the club began acquiring the various interests of the owners. I. Reynolds Adriance and John E. Adriance, as executors of their father's estate, sold William A. Adriance the two-tenths part they controlled. Charles and Mary Emott and Walter C. Fonda sold to Frederick N. Morgan the two-tenths part of the James Emott estate; Mary Josephine Howell relinquished the two-tenths part formerly owned by J. O. Whitehouse and Jacob Corlies and his wife sold their one-tenth part to Robert M. Ferris. William A. Adriance also purchased the three-tenths part from Henry L. Young. In 1896, Robert M. Ferris bought out the interests then owned by Mr. Morgan and William A. Adriance and thereby assumed sole ownership of the entire tract of land. In November of that year, he sold to the Poughkeepsie Tennis Club most of the property, including the club house and the courts for \$6,000, but transferred to his son, William T. Ferris, the land south of the club house extending to Livingston Street, a frontage of 175 feet on South Hamilton Street and 441 feet on Livingston Street. Evidently the club was not able to raise \$2,000 which was needed to buy this part of the property, for it entered into an agreement with Mr. Ferris to lease the South Hamilton and Livingston Street corner for a period of three years at a rent "equivalent to the interest at 6% on \$2,000. and taxes." In this same agreement, Mr. Ferris agreed to sell the property to the Tennis Club at any time during the three-year lease for \$2,000.

The financing of the purchase of the property created a problem for the directors of the club. When the new house was built and the courts constructed, all available funds had been used and a great many donations had been given by the members, so that the directors felt the members should not be asked to make further gifts to the club.

It was decided to sell first mortgage bonds, amounting to \$6,000, and on October 24, 1896, the club petitioned the Supreme Court for permission to mortgage the property they proposed to buy. Leave was given the club by Justice Joseph F. Barnard, and Edward S. Atwater,

William A. Adriance and John C. Sickley were named as trustees for the bond holders. It was on November 2, 1896, that the deed was given the Poughkeepsie Tennis Club by Robert Ferris, and for the first time the club owned its own home. Practically the entire issue of the mortgage bonds was sold to members or former members of the club.

At the expiration of the three-year lease on the corner property, the club was able to raise the \$2,000 necessary for the purchase of this portion of the original tract. Some years later it seemed that this particular part of the property would never be needed for the club's use and it was sold.

The move to new courts and a fine new club house marked the beginning of a period of activity and prosperity for the Poughkeepsie Tennis Club that had not been known before. Starting at the South Hamilton Street edge of the property and north of the club house, three courts had been constructed with great care and skill. The land had been swampy and low, and tons of heavy stones, then dirt and last clay were used to make the courts. Those in charge of the construction gave the club as fine courts as could be found anywhere. They were properly drained, quick to dry and their superb surface made play on them a great pleasure to all. Two more courts were added some years later and, today, so many years after the courts were built, the engineering skill of the court committee of 1896 is still deeply appreciated by tennis club players and the visitors who use them. From the time the new courts were put in use, until about 1899, the old courts on the east side of the street were used in conjunction with the three new ones.

In 1894, Safford A. Crummey and Mabel L. Ferris were champions. The *Eagle* of that time described the championship match between Mr. Crummey and William L. Ferris, in part, as follows:

Mr. Ferris plays a peculiar game. He almost always sends the ball high in the air, sometimes with a cut that makes it difficult to get on the bound. Mr. Crummey, instead of standing back at the end of the court as most players do, took his position close by the net and, being quite tall, with a long reach, caught most of the balls as they went up and sent them back swiftly.

In several other accounts of Mr. Crummey's style of play great stress was laid to his position near the net and his ability to "strike the ball back before it touched the ground." And, again, another item said, "He caught his opponent off guard many times by swiftly returning the ball before it hardly crossed the net." Evidently, Mr. Crummey brought an entirely new style of tennis to Poughkeepsie and his opponents were baffled by this unusual procedure.

Ewing Taylor and Josephine Baker won the tennis laurels in 1895; Robert M. Ferris, Jr., and his sister Mabel, in 1896; and Wylie Brown and Miss Morgan in 1897. Mr. Ferris came to the fore again in 1898 and 1899, and in the ladies' division May E. Cooley held the crown.

Mr. Sickley relinquished the presidency of the club to Robert M. Ferris, Sr., in 1895. A history of the Poughkeepsie Tennis Club would not be complete without special mention of its first president, Mr. Sickley. He was a leader in the early days of tennis in the city, one of the organizers of the club in 1890, and a mainstay of the group during the first years of its existence. Mr. Sickley worked hard to start the club and to put it on a firm foundation.

Following the move to the west side of South Hamilton Street, the club experienced an era of remarkable growth and prosperity, due not only to the ever-increasing popularity of tennis, but also to a development of social activity. In fact, if the newspapers of those years are read and the members recall the doings at the Tennis Club, the conclusion is soon reached that the social side of the organization was equal to the tennis side. The newspapers are full of glowing accounts of the stage productions and it is amazing to find how many programs have been carefully preserved by the actors, actresses and members of the audiences. The dues of the club were comparatively small and it was by means of the many plays given each year that a large part of the financing was accomplished. Those who took part in the theatrical productions did so not only for their own thorough enjoyment, but also to help the club along over a difficult period and, had it not been for their efforts on the stage, one wonders if the club in its new home could have survived.

One of the earliest and best plays given at the club was "Sunset," by Jerome K. Jerome. This took place in November of 1894, with a cast consisting of Melvina Van Kleeck, Cornelia Crary, Julia Bowne, Harry Van Cleef, L. W. Marshall and Frederick N. Morgan. The next morning's paper stated that

. . . the audience was sorry when the last curtain fell. They left their seats as one should leave the dinner table, with an appetite for more. The lines were well adapted to bright, refined girls and intelligent men. The play was simply a chapter from life . . . Mr. Morgan was so completely absorbed in his part that it still remains an open question whether it was Mr. Morgan or the pompous old gentleman of large estates and two beautiful daughters . . . He scored a decided success.

Again, in 1896, two one-act plays were reported as very successful. Margaret Buck, Margaret Mandeville and Mr. Morgan made up the cast of "As Strangers," and Edmund Platt, May L. Reynolds, B. H. Barnes, Helen Sanford and Percival Lloyd offered to a very appreciative audience the farce, "The Obstinate Family." From all the press notices and all the memories of those who attended early Tennis Club plays, one actor stands out at the brightest star of all. That actor was Frederick N. Morgan. He usually took the leading part and was coach and director as well of most of the productions. His genial personality, his thorough knowledge of stage work and his great ability as an actor drew around him a large group of people who thoroughly enjoyed the work. Led by Mr. Morgan, these members of the club gave plays of all sorts. Usually the house was packed and the "Standing Room Only" sign was hung out a score of times.

The well-planned and long-rehearsed plays were by no means the only form of entertainment at the club during the last years of the nineteenth and the early years of the new century. In fact, many of the members of those days have enjoyed reminiscing with the members of today and have recalled very vividly the many dances, the tea parties held during tournaments or on winter afternoons. "Club Nights" were held regularly during the winter and were always well attended. At many of these informal evenings there were no regular programs planned in advance, but it was not long before a pianist was persuaded to accompany a quartet of singers or a group of mandolin players. Perhaps Silas Hinkley offered a song or two, or

Will Hinkley sang something he had recently written for a West Point production. Jim Wood was generous with his famous songs and there were several girls in the club who could perform creditably with their mandolins and guitars. Often, some of the Thespians produced an impromptu "drammer," developing a hair-raising story after the curtain was raised, to the delight of a somewhat critical and sometimes unruly audience.

Many have recalled a minstrel show, given to raise funds so that the club house might acquire some furniture. Sara Platt wrote the lines, composed the music and acted as interlocutor. Charles Gilbert Spross was the accompanist and the following musicians took part: Julia Bowne, Louise Scofield, Margaret Mandeville, Marion Candee, Florence Van Vliet, Nina Frost and Isabel Morgan. The girls played guitars and mandolins, sang solos and told jokes a-plenty. From the enthusiastic reports of this entertainment, still given years later, it must have been a splendid affair, long remembered and ranked as one of the club's great efforts.

Much can be written about the plays and other forms of entertainment at the Tennis Club. New names appear in the casts of characters as the years unrolled, but the notices continue to be extremely flattering in almost every instance. By 1910, we find the players included Edgar V. Anderson, Earle D. Tobey, Florence Dudley, Margaret Wood, James W. Wood, Herrman Vail, Harold W. Sherrill, Alletta Platt, Helen Dudley and, of course, Frederick N. Morgan.

There is a consensus of opinion that from 1894 until the war years of 1917 the gathering of the members at the club house, at dances, at teas, Club Nights and for the theatricals was to a large measure responsible for the success of the club. An opportunity was given to the members, young and old, to know each other very well. Members became part of the organization immediately, for everyone had a part, either large or small, in the club functions. Above all, it made the club house an habitual meeting place for the members, where fun was awaiting them, where club problems were freely discussed and where club plans were formulated. The organization gained strength in these meetings.

The year, 1901, marked the advent of the name of Guernsey to Tennis Club championship records, a name that has been repeated many, many times. Raymond G. Guernsey, a student at Yale, entered the 1901 tournament and soon demonstrated that his game was vastly superior to any seen at the club up to that time. After holding the title in 1902, his brother, Homer W. Guernsey, took command of tennis in Poughkeepsie and held the throne for six years in a row. Eugene C. Kelley won in 1909 and Arthur R. Downing in 1910, but Homer Guernsey returned to win in 1911. Raymond Guernsey won in 1912, Mr. Kelley in 1913, Homer Guernsey in 1914 and 1915, Mr. Kelley again in 1916 and, in the last tournament before World War I stopped the tournaments, Raymond Guernsey again held the crown. Both 1919 and 1920 were also winning years for Raymond Guernsey. While the Guernsey brothers were winning consistently at the Poughkeepsie Tennis Club, they also were figuring very prominently in the Hudson River Association. Homer was singles champion of the association in 1907, 1908, 1909, 1911, 1912, 1913, 1914, 1916 and 1917, a record never approached by any other player.

Raymond and Homer Guernsey brought to Poughkeepsie a brand of tennis faster, more accurate and harder than had ever been demonstrated before on the local courts. They were the backbone of the Poughkeepsie team for thirty years. From 1901, and for many years thereafter, seldom was there a tournament at the club in which one or both the brothers did not figure prominently. In addition to his leadership on the courts, Raymond Guernsey held the office of president of the club in 1915 and 1916, and again from 1922 to 1929. He also served one term as vice-president and was the treasurer for three years. No one did more for tennis in Poughkeepsie and for the Tennis Club than Raymond Guernsey.

While the Guernsey brothers were holding sway in the men's tournaments, Elizabeth C. Bunce was winning almost at will in the ladies' matches. Champion of the club in 1900, she held the crown for six years and was the outstanding player not only of her time, but one of the best ever to have played on the local courts. Hilda V. K. Swift won the title in 1906 but, continued and exhaustive search fails to uncover the woman champions of 1907 and 1908.

Several persons remember distinctly that there were tournaments both years, several remember playing in the matches, yet none can recall the winners.

Robert M. Ferris remained as president of the club until 1903 and was succeeded by Edmund Platt, who served for three years. Mr. Platt had been one of the founders of the club, always a strong supporter and active in the management, he was the logical choice to follow Mr. Ferris. It is interesting to note that from the start of the Tennis Club in 1890, the name of Platt has always appeared, usually several times, in the membership list. Mr. and Mrs. Edmund Platt, Mrs. Eliza Platt Hubbell, Mrs. Sara Platt Hadsell, Mr. and Mrs. Isaac Platt, Mr. and Mrs. Francis W. Platt, Mrs. Edith Platt Dalzell, Mr. and Mrs. Howard Platt, Miss Louise Platt, Miss Anna Platt, Mrs. Alletta Platt Holden, Mrs. Miriam Platt Cary, Edmund P. Platt, have at one time or another been very active in the Tennis Club and many of them were among the charter members.

When Edmund Platt refused to serve again as president, Herbert R. Gurney was elected in 1906. He gave the club a splendid administration and was especially interested and influential in the Hudson River Tennis Association as well as in developing matches with the tennis teams of neighboring tennis clubs. The Hudson River Tennis Association was started in 1890 and, by 1906, consisted of twelve clubs: The New York Athletic Club, The New York Country Club, The Powelton Club of Newburgh, The Bronxville Club of Yonkers, The Dunwoodie Club of Yonkers, The Amacassin Club of Tarrytown, The New Rochelle Club, The West Point Club, The Saegkin Club of Ardsley, The Ardsley Club of Ardsley, The Park Hill Club of Yonkers and The Poughkeepsie Tennis Club. As already mentioned, Poughkeepsie was very prominent in the annual tournaments of the association and more championships were held locally than by any other club in the group. Homer Guernsey was president of the association from 1912 to 1914, and many other Poughkeepsians served on various committees from time to time. It was a fine group of clubs and had not the World War stopped its activities abruptly, perhaps the Hudson River clubs might still be enjoying today the fine tournaments which were held for so many years.

After the 1895 Constitution and Membership List, none is available until that of 1911. Frederick N. Morgan had succeeded Mr. Guernsey as president of the club. The Guernsey brothers and Eugene C. Kelley were winning the men's championship crowns and Emily A. Taylor, in the ladies' division, won her first title in 1909. She repeated her triumph in 1910, but Marguerite P. Adriance came to the fore in 1911. Kathleen Bain triumphed in 1912, but the years of 1913 and 1914 found Miss Adriance again at the top. Mrs. Donald L. Bartlett held the crown for one year, 1915, but gave way to Mrs. Kathleen Bain Atwater who was the winner the next two years.

The World War years found the activities of the Tennis Club greatly curtailed. Many of the members were in service and the service flag, filled with stars, hung from the east balcony. It is very unfortunate that no record of the war service of the members of the club was preserved, for many branches were augmented by both men and women from the club. There were no tournaments held in 1918 and only the men's tournament was revived in 1919.

Four members of the Tennis Club lost their lives in World War I, Captain Herrman H. Vail, Captain Samuel Crump, Jr., Lieutenant R. Stanley Young and Lieutenant Storrs W. Butler. To their memory, a bronze drinking fountain was placed on the grounds of the club in 1919.

A year later, when she returned from a trip to the battle fields of France, M. May Reynolds (Mrs. O. K. Sherwin) brought a shell casing which she presented to the club in memory of Captain Vail. The shell was used for many years as a trophy and presented to the winners of the progressive mixed doubles tournament, held each Memorial Day.

In the post-war years, tennis and the social activities of the Tennis Club slowly revived and the Assembly Dances, which had not been held for some time, were started again. For many years, the club had sponsored a winter series of dances, events which were among the leading social activities in Poughkeepsie. Sometimes the dancers used Kirchner Hall, on Main Street, and it is remembered that the assemblies were also held at one time on the top floor of the

old Savings Bank Building on Market Street; and the Masonic Temple was the scene of several. One or two successful assembly dances were also staged at the Vassar Inn. But, wherever they were held, the assemblies were well attended and, in sponsoring these parties, the Tennis Club made an important contribution to the social life of Poughkeepsie.

On the courts at the Poughkeepsie Tennis Club one saw many new faces in the 1920's and new champions were crowned. Dr. Walter R. Bedell developed into one of the club's leaders and, in addition to winning the men's title in 1921, 1929 and 1931, he was one of those counted upon to win many a match for the team when the men's team met those of other clubs. Moore Gates, another fine player, won the fall tournaments in 1922 and 1923; E. Sterling Carter won in 1924 and 1925; and in 1926, 1927 and 1928, Edmund P. Platt played brilliant tennis to win. The brand of tennis played during the 1920's was of high caliber and there were more good players and more closely contested tournaments in this decade than at any time in the history of the club.

Alice Gribbon, Mildred Freeman and Jean Boyce were the new faces in the women's tennis field. Miss Gribbon and Miss Freeman each held the title one year, 1920 and 1921, respectively, and then Miss Boyce began her long reign as queen of the local courts. Her first win was in 1922. Miss Adriance, after an absence of nine years, returned to win in 1923, but then Miss Boyce reigned supreme until she retired from competition after winning for the eighth time in 1930. She outclassed all her competitors in those years and failed by one year of equalling Homer Guernsey's long record of championships. A hard-hitting, tireless player, Miss Boyce takes her place with the club's other great women players, Miss Roosevelt, Miss Ferris, Miss Morgan, Miss Scofield, Miss Bunce and Miss Baker.

During the 1920's, the membership of the club remained at about the same level, year after year. The tennis courts were as popular as ever, but the social activities were not as numerous as in the years prior to the war. It was unfortunate that the plays, which had been such an important part of the winter life of the club, were

not revived. Many of the members of the Tennis Club, who were interested in productions of the kind formerly given at the club, turned their attention to plays given by community groups and the more informal type no longer attracted them. Many dances were held at the club house and the popularity of these gatherings and the fact that the house was too small to accommodate the Assembly Dances started the directors planning an addition to the small structure.

At the annual meeting, held in April in 1929, the matter of an addition to the club house was discussed and those present were all in agreement with the directors that additional hall space and locker rooms were desirable. At this meeting, Raymond Guernsey refused to accept another term as president of the club, and William E. Seely was elected to fill the post. Mr. Seely appointed William M. Hadden to head a committee to investigate the cost of an addition. At a special meeting of the club, called a few months later, Mr. Hadden presented plans which had been carefully prepared. His suggestions and recommendations were accepted and the work of building was started during the summer of 1929. The Tennis Club was indeed fortunate to have had Mr. Hadden in charge of the project. His long association with the club made him particularly well qualified to know the needs of the organization, and he gave willingly a great deal of his time to supervising the construction of the new wing. The work was finished during the winter of 1930 and formally opened at the Third Assembly Dance that year. The addition consisted of a fine new ballroom, built on the north side of the old club house and opening from the former dance floor. A wide porch, overlooking the courts, afforded a fine gallery for those wishing to watch tennis. Beneath the ballroom a boiler room and men's locker and shower room were included. The old part of the house was renovated and redecorated and new furnishings of excellent taste gave the entire plant a fine appearance, much to the delight of all who were present on the opening night.

The little house, built so many years ago, had served several generations of Tennis Club members well and many good times and excellent parties had been held there. With the enlargement of the club house, a new era came and once more the Tennis Club became

a very busy place. Tennis attracted many new members, but the increased winter activities allowed by the new facilities brought even more new members to the club.

While Jean Boyce Courtney was winning her final crown, in 1930, Donald Frost, a new member of the club, took the men's title. In 1931, Dr. Bedell and Janet Lumb shared the championship honors.

Baltus B. Van Kleeck was chosen president of the club at the annual meeting, in the spring of 1932, and served in that capacity for four years. Willis L. M. Reese proved to be the best of a fine group of players in the 1932 tournament and he retained his title for two more years. Miss Lumb won again in her division in 1932, but Barbara Morgan came to the front in 1933. Hannah R. Folsom was the winner of the women's tournament in the two following years, and Robert G. Husted, a former Dartmouth College player, had little difficulty in winning the men's championship in 1935.

During the years, 1932-1936, the club did a great deal to foster and develop tennis among the junior members and, as a result, the courts became a meeting place for a host of the children of the members. A special committee supervised the junior affairs, arranged tournaments, created a tennis ladder, and organized a boys' tennis team which played several matches each year. In the winter, the juniors held a dance and one or two "Game Nights." To assist the special committee, the juniors elected their own committee, which, in a short time, managed the junior activities and needed very little help from the senior group. From time to time, delegates from the junior ranks met with an officer of the club to discuss plans and to review the season's tennis and social activity. The results of the work with the juniors of those days was noticeable in a few years, not only in tennis but also in the helpful cooperation of many of the younger seniors who were so active but a few years before, as juniors. Several of the juniors rose to senior championships and the all-round excellent play of the younger members reflected the help they received in learning the game as juniors.

Starting about 1930, the Poughkeepsie Tennis teams experienced many years of great success in their matches with neighboring clubs. The club always managed to produce a well-balanced team and each year many matches were enjoyed, always including at least one meeting with its old rival the Powelton Club of Newburgh. Several years the Poughkeepsie team went through the season without a defeat but, win or lose, the players enjoyed the competition and made many friends from among the tennis players of other clubs.

Not in years had the Tennis Club seen such social activity as was witnessed in the 1930's. The usual club dances and winter assemblies went on as usual, attracting larger attendance each year. But the greatest activity centered around an old idea, the "Club Nights," or "Game Nights," as they were termed in 1935. Twice each month, during the winter, the Entertainment Committee served a supper at the club and, afterwards, those attending played bridge, backgammon, ping-pong and other games. At first, twenty or twenty-five members came, but it was not long before the club house was taxed to capacity whenever a "Game Night" was announced.

For a number of years, the tennis players longed for some form of winter exercise. Squash and handball courts had been suggested, but the cost of construction had made it impossible to add them to the club equipment. A few of the members had the opportunity to play badminton at another club and, when it was found the ballroom was of proper size, a court was laid out. At first, there were but a few who tried the game, but before long the court was filled every afternoon and evening throughout the winter months, and many excellent players, too numerous to mention, had exciting matches, especially during the spring tournament days.

William M. Hadden succeeded Mr. Van Kleeck as president of the club in 1936 and that fall Robert A. Peelor fought his way through one of the best championship tournaments in years, to emerge the winner. Elinor Jaminet won the right to have her name inscribed on the ladies' cup that year. During the summer of 1936, the club was represented by a formidable men's team. Robert Peelor, Lawrence

Krieger, both former junior stars, E. Sterling Carter, Raymond and Homer Guernsey, Dr. Walter R. Bedell, Robert Husted and Spencer W. Ingersoll were the leading players, losing but one match.

Donald G. Tongue was president in 1937. Lawrence Krieger and Margaret Peelor were champions. That year showed an increase again in the membership and the organization continued a very active course. Mr. Krieger retained his crown in 1938 and, in 1939, retired the handsome silver cup which had been placed in competition by Mrs. Willis L. M. Reese several years before. Margaret Peelor won in 1938, but Miss Jaminet again was in front in 1939.

From 1890 to 1940 is but a short span of years, to be sure, a span of years in which the Poughkeepsie Tennis Club got its start, grew, and became an important part of the community. Countless numbers have gained a great deal of pleasure from membership in the Tennis Club and their happy recollections tell better than anything else the worth of the club to them. From those early days, when the club was small, and for fifty years, simplicity and informality marked its progress, — progress always linked with a spirit of goodfellowship. Those who were chosen to guide the destinies of the club always avoided over-expansion and insisted on a sound financial program. They gave the tennis players courts which could not be surpassed and they did not forget that the Constitution clearly states that the club was also organized to “promote social intercourse among its members by social exercises.”

To review the tennis players of the first fifty years of the club and to decide who was the greatest of the great is a hazardous task. It is but idle conjecture to decide who was the best of the Tennis Club champions. Each was great in his day. Jerome Allen, Robert Ferris, Raymond and Homer Guernsey, Lawrence Krieger, Mabel Ferris, Louise Scofield, Jean Boyce, Elizabeth Bunce, each one was at the top in Poughkeepsie and each one was honored and surely felt honored for having achieved the crown of champion.

The club was commenced by a group of men and women who had vision and who were willing to work hard to give tennis permanency in Poughkeepsie. Those early directors and those first

members of the Tennis Club established an organization which has gone through the years with many of the purposes and ideas they had when the first meeting was held at 10 Eastman Terrace. John Sickley, Eliza Platt, Adele Innis, Robert Ferris, Edmund Platt, Herbert Gurney, Raymond G. Guernsey, Frederick N. Morgan and many, many others are names that will go down in the history of tennis in Poughkeepsie as the leaders who in their time played their parts so well.

Baltus B. Van Kleeck



On motion it was Resolved that Eight Tavern licenses for the Village is all that ought to be granted to supply the wants of the Village and the Board of Excise is directed not to license more than that number, and the Clerk is directed to serve the Board of Excise with a copy of the above resolution.

*Minutes of a Meeting of the Trustees of the Village
of Poughkeepsie, May 8th, 1833*

OUR CREATIVE RIVER*

My friend, Mrs. Dorothy Canfield Fisher, once put her children in a Poughkeepsie school and then tried to find the Hudson. Up and down the shore she toured; everywhere she met the signs "Private; keep out." "What have you done with your river?" the exasperated woman asked her audience, and gave us a good Vermont scolding for neglecting our proudest inheritance.

You can find the Hudson, if you know where to look for it. From the grounds of a hundred charitable institutions monks and nuns, orphans and deaf-mutes, convalescents and fresh-air children, schoolboys and old folks, look out upon the river as it sparkles in the blue sunshine. Who would begrudge them these front seats at the pageant of spring and autumn?

You can park at either end of ten great bridges and enjoy the broad reaches of the great silver ribbon. You can stroll in the riverside woods of state and national monuments and lunch at the river's restaurant marinas, where hundreds of little yachts and motorboats tie up. There are stretches of the Thruway and the Albany Post Road where the shy river stays in full view for a mile or two. Here and there, as at Cold Spring, you can sit of a summer and listen to the village orchestra, while the long tows slip by.

The public has fallen heir to a goodly number of the old river places, with their magnificent vistas of the Tors, the High Lands, the Catskills and the Helderbergs of this famed River of the Mountains. We have begun to give this creative river back to the people, Dorothy Fisher, and more will be done in good time. Our river is in no hurry.

What an exciting river it is for the children in the camps at Bear Mountain Park and the college students in their field trips! At Vassar College the geology field trippers have so much fun with their little hammers and eat at such gigantic barbecues that they are known to their fellow-collegians as "the idle rich." And what a lot

* An article based on a talk given at the New-York Historical Society on June 8, 1959, by Dr. Henry Noble MacCracken, President Emeritus of Vassar College and president of the Dutchess County Historical Society.

they learn! They have excitedly informed me that the St. Lawrence River once flowed down the Hudson valley; that the Hudson once turned aside to make a new mouth for itself in the Wallkill valley; that Alps ten thousand feet in height once frowned down in disapproval upon our fair stream as it carried off their soil. They told me there were two Hudsons, one below the other, and so deep down that to get to bedrock the Delaware River aqueduct crosses seven hundred feet below the surface, while the Esopus and Schoharie waters tunneled eleven hundred feet before crossing the Hudson bed. What other river has four rivers passing beneath it? For the Croton must be added to these.

They showed me the rock-climbers on the Minnewaska ledges, where one young college Alpinist fell to his death the other day. They pointed out the rocky spine of the "Taconic order" in geology, the bitterest bone of geological contention in our history. When Ebenezer Emmons, the explorer and namer of the Adirondack hills where our river rises, wrote a geology of the state, the whole publication disappeared beneath the Hudson waters while on the way to New York from Albany. A most unbrotherly geologist, Dr. James Hall, walked off the same night boat. Let the rock chips fall where they may!

As for the biologists: I once accosted a young scientist in the balcony of the Vassar Students Building as she watched contentedly the junior prom below her. She looked like a sewer engineer herself, in her high boots and dungarees and rough reefer. When I asked her why she was not dancing, her answer was: "Prexy, the most gloriously beautiful spot on earth is a river swamp in early spring." She is now the president of Radcliffe College.

On another day I ordered some foul ponds oiled, only to be denounced as an untutored barbarian for destroying the richest half-mile in the county, of laboratory living material, from bacteriophage to salamander. It is the same story in botany; a Vassar professor wrote a book on the role of plant life in Hudson history, and planted an ecological grouping of some three thousand native species to

prove her point. *American Plants for American Gardens* was the title of her book, written for the landscape enthusiasts on this river - where the art flourished in America, according to Dr. U. P. Hedrick.

John Burroughs used to tell of the passage of pigeons that darkened the sky for miles above the river; and his neighbor, John Bigelow, used to tell of seeing hundreds of sails of yawls, yachts and sloops upon the old Dutch highway. These have passed; but last week a band of bird-watchers counted a hundred and twenty-three species seen in a single walk by the riverside; and twenty-five thousand motorboats ply the Hudson waves. Great tankers, carrying six million gallons at a time, unload at the old landings, while lumber freighters from Oregon by way of Panama push far upstream. The canal-tows of crused stone replace the old Erie tows with even heavier tonnage. Only the same blue Catskill haze still hovers over the quiet waterway of trade, commerce and opportunity.

The Indians are gone, too, but their place-names still abide where the good-natured Dutch folk left them. Tappan, Ossining and Nyack; Kitchawan and Amawalk; Wappingers and Poughkeepsie, mingle with Dutch Haverstraw, Fishkill and Kinderhook in the same friendly fashion in which the two peoples once dwelt side by side.

And not only the Dutch, but all the other polypeoples that have been acculturated on these busy shores. You may still hear sermons in twelve languages of a weekend in the modest town of Poughkeepsie.

The Dutch hailed with satisfaction the sight of the numberless streams tumbling into the river. They built a mill upon each of them; and thus the Hudson created the industry of a great region. Everywhere that there was the smallest fall of water, a mill would stand. A single county could boast of a hundred and more. Steam-power ended most of them, but the Creative River survived the crises, and after many vicissitudes the wheels keep running.

It is a warning to historians that so late as twenty-five years ago, in Dr. Flick's semi-official history of the state, the historian writes of the river towns, that they survive only as depots of the fruit orchards behind them, but "the day of their glory is past."

Shades of IBM, Texaco, and the rest! The Hudson is one of the hundred leading buying-markets of the entire country, and well up in the hundred, too. These are boom days of full employment.

The historians, too, have had a fine time with the shortcomings of the valley as colony, landlord and pleasure-ground. I must crave your patience for a few words about each of the thorny topics.

The early division of the colony into patroonwycks, and later into manors, is blamed as the sole cause of the slow growth of the colony. We are dealing here with the century between 1609 and 1710, for after that date the colony increased more rapidly.

Now 1609 is a famous date for other reasons than Hudson and Champlain. The great theologian Arminius (Harmanzoon) died that year at Leyden, and his followers became involved in persecution by Prince Maurice of Nassau and his party. For fifteen years Holland was split wide open by the quarrel. The leading Arminians, van Oldenbarneveldt and Grotius, opposed the forming of a West India Company. Thus New Netherland languished for want of a patron at home. After John van Oldenbarneveldt was executed in 1619, Prince Maurice went ahead with the plan for the West India Company. But who were to be the colonists? Obviously the Remonstrants were unfit, for they were heretics in the eyes of Maurice. But neither were the Counter-Remonstrants suitable, for Maurice needed them to keep his somewhat shaky military position. So the West India Company turned to the Pilgrims, offering them free transportation and even cattle to start them. But they had learned something from their life in Holland. They politely declined, thus "losing the fairest river in the whole of Virginia." Next they thought of the Belgian exiles. These poor folk accepted, and thus it came about that the Netherlands settled their colony with Flemings and Walloons in the shiploads of 1623 and 1625. The trouble with the Remonstrants did not die down until after the death of Prince Maurice, and not until the 'fifties was there a real advance, for Kieft's war in 1642 had cut back all previous gains.

The English colony fared little better. The English governors were too busy standing off the French and the Yankees, and too poor also, to undertake any large plan for colonizing. The Yankees

could get to the Jerseys where they were not under the direction of a Catholic duke, or foreign Dutch influence.

When, in 1731, the Connecticut boundary dispute was settled, there was no trouble in getting settlers from New England, but the governors were too poor to seek other fields. The manors made no hindrance. It was rather their size than their "feudal" nature that kept their owners land-poor.

The anti-rent wars, which did not depend on feudal tenures, but on the factor of rent alone, were restricted to two Hudson counties. The others had little trouble. Poor crops, stupid heirs of the landlords, and delay in administration were chiefly to blame. Neither the Constitution of 1846 nor the laws passed at the time really changed matters. The renters wanted the old titles abolished, and lost their case. The landlords wanted back rents paid up, and lost. The old lands were still unprofitable. But the conclusion was very far from a victory for anti-rent, and agriculture came back only with education, not with "tin horns and calico."

My third issue is the "River-Places." In these the Hudson was and is deeply concerned. But the story is very incomplete if we are to leave it with Henry James and Edith Wharton. How do they explain Franklin Roosevelt?

The truth is that in every branch of county life, the river-places played a helpful part. They took on the unemployed Irish laborers after the railroad right-of-way had been completed. They furnished the capital for improvement of towns and villages. They built churches and schools. They ran farms and worked for better agriculture. Fairs prospered with their encouragement. They went into politics and brought in a wider experience. They started county boys on the way to success by employment in New York City. And they are still doing these things.

While the sons for the most part went to live in cities, many of the young women married respectable folks of the county. Thus scores of families in Dutchess today have a share in Livingston heredity.

Meanwhile the "Places," while preserving large blocks of real estate intact, have been a godsend in the present era of rapid residential and industrial building. Other blocks have gone to deserving institutions and public parks. And the remaining places, still in the hands of the heirs, are very different from the picture of Carl Carmer in "the dark shadows of the hills." But we all love to be a bit melancholy over forsaken mansions. Read that lively sheet, the *Barrytown Explorer*, now in its second year, and edited by an heir of the old families, if you want a brighter picture.

In one field, and that a delightful one, the "Places" did much for the counties. Sports of every kind were fostered: the second oldest golf course, the development of ice-yachting, the improvement of the trotter, the ball-teams, hiking and mountain-climbing, nature-study and bird lore. Today, bowling has been helped by a Livingston heir.

When the Great Expansion began, at the turn of the nineteenth century, it was men of the river that led it. No wonder, either, for they had fought along the Mohawk in its defense. So Zephaniah Platt of Poughkeepsie founded Plattsburgh; Abraham Wing of Quaker Hill founded Glens Falls; James Prendergast of Patterson founded Jamestown; Joshua Forman of Pleasant Valley founded Syracuse; and John Selkreg became the first citizen of Ithaca.

To and from the Hudson ferries streamed the pikes and planked roads. Wagon-making became a major industry of the river. The Erie became an extension of the Hudson, as the Mohawk had always been; and Champlain, the Delaware and Ontario were linked by waterways.

Nor did the outgoers march one way. Jonathan Thorn captured the *Tonquin* when he took his cargo of colonists to Astoria in Oregon. Lieutenant Worden of Quaker Hill led the *Monitor* against the *Merrimac*. Commodore Hiram Paulding captured the filibusterer Walker and ended the dream of slave states in the Caribbean. Most famous of all, Alfred T. Mahan grew up at West Point, and reasoned to himself how the Revolution might have failed if the English had known as much about river power as they did about sea power. A chain of frigates stationed in the deep river, he wrote, supplied by

lighter craft, could have bastioned the Hudson from any assault, and broken the back of any Congress armies. Mahan watched the Hudson whalers put to sea and, like so many river men, followed them into marine service.

Our river bore its most creative aspect when its valley was known as the breadbasket of the nation, and its horses, cattle and sheep were the prize of the farmer. *Messenger* and *Hambletonian*, *Mambrino* and *George Wilkes*, *Flora Temple* and *Goldsmith Maid* were names to conjure with. Robert Livingston's sheep-shearings led to the creation of the county fair and Jesse Buel of Albany created agricultural journalism.

In two fields of creative art our river contributed to the national heritage. The first was that of the Shakers of Niskayuna and New Lebanon. With them arose the concept of honest functional tools and machines for alleviating the hard work of the American laborer. New skills for common tasks were created. Who can estimate how much labor was saved by the circular saw, alone? A whole art of interior architecture, decoration and fabrics followed the power tools of superb design.

The second gift of the river was the Hudson River School of art. This art, too, was functional in that it opened the eyes of the American tourist to the beauty of his own land. Its concentration on the gentler aspects of the warmer seasons beguiled him to "loaf and invite his soul." Walt Whitman once wrote a poem upon one of Inness' imaginative canvases, in which a deep Catskill clove with Avernian gloom is lighted only by a distant and heaven-shining cross. Whitman preferred the brighter Hudson tones for the sunset of life. "Come, lovely and pleasing death," he wrote.

While Tanglewood and Peterboro bring renown to New England, the Hudson is not far behind with Woodstock and Ellenville and the Trask colony. While Connecticut lures the author who fears for his royalties, the bolder souls dwell at Pawling, Cornwall and Rhinebeck. Art printing, little theatres, historic restorations, and even brotherhoods like Ripton, maintain the tradition of art which Nathaniel Willis sought to foster.

The Hudson has a rich folklore, which Harold Thompson, in *Body, Boots and Britches*, and Louis C. Jones, in *Things that go Bump in the Night*, have excitingly exploited, and Carl Carmer has sketched in many books. The river has created its own color in its dialect, its stone houses and its bracketed mansions.

Place-names are haphazard on the Hudson. The ubiquitous Yankees left almost no nostalgic recollections of New England when they escaped from Calvinism. The ten original counties still respond to the royal rubber stamps first impressed upon them. Two new counties, Greene and Putnam, generously bear the names of Revolutionary heroes of other states. Westchester still marks the spot where the Yankees made their boldest bid to capture the port of New York, and Columbia symbolized the exultant hopes of freedom from the river nabobs.

To match this easy and tolerant approach to history, our creative river has given its accolade to different sorts and conditions of men. I have consulted some friends of different historical societies, and now come up with a Hudson River Hall of Fame, one name for each county. Here is my vote:

Saratoga, Charles Evans Hughes; Albany, Joseph Henry; Rensselaer, Amos Eaton; Greene, Thurlow Weed; Columbia, Samuel J. Tilden; Dutchess, Franklin D. Roosevelt; Ulster, DeWitt Clinton; Putnam, James Kent; Orange, William H. Seward; Westchester, John Jay; Rockland, Anthony Wayne; New York, Alfred E. Smith.

I know that no other list would agree with my own, and that names like George Clinton, Robert R. Livingston and the host of "essential New Yorkers" might have equal claim to a place on it. Most of them came from upriver, by the way: Chauncey Depew from Peekskill; Samuel Ruggles from Poughkeepsie; Gulian Verplanck from Fishkill; the urbane Martin Van Buren; the humanist, Washington Irving. The list could drag out to the crack of doom. So I do not proliferate.

It was because Franklin Roosevelt realized the remarkable opportunities afforded by the close relation between the county folk

and the estates, and the complete break he made between the traditional and the rational use of his opportunities, that brought him into politics and gave him his close touch with humanity.

He was not the first to realize it. One early evening, on my way south on the river's side, I drove onto the cable ferry in Rondout creek. Another car followed me onto the little ferry and out of it jumped Alfred E. Smith. The Governor pulled out a cigar and offered it to the engineer. The two settled down to a quick discussion of conditions in Ulster County and the future of the Democratic Party there. It was not confidential; others joined in. Within fifteen minutes, the Governor had obtained a picture of the local scene. He often said that his real education had been at Albany, but I think the river folks added to it.

Our "Creative River," I conclude, has been a pretty good school of democracy. It has withstood crises, kept its head above water and grown steadily, if slowly, at times. So much the better! As a reservoir of good labor, it has entered into the present era of automation with full speed ahead. What the next phase will be — of absorption into a metropolitan complex or the growth of its own independent way of life — no one can tell. To one observer, at least, the old roots seem to run so deep and strong that it will take more than one atom to topple them.



Paintings in an Omnibus. — Several celebrated paintings by the best masters, such as Belshazzar's Feast, &c. have been put in an omnibus in New York and are moved about in different parts of the city for exhibition. This is the contrivance of some Yankee to save rent. The omnibus is thirty feet long.

Poughkeepsie Telegraph, February 10, 1836

JOHN FORBUS AND HIS FAMILY

In 1959, a new junior high school was opened in Poughkeepsie. It was located beside the high school on Forbus Street and was named the John Forbus Junior High School. This brought forth inquiries regarding the Forbus family for whom the street and the school had been named. By coincidence, during the year a Bible which had formerly belonged to John B. Forbus and which contained some of the family records, was presented to the Dutchess County Historical Society. It has helped to answer some questions concerning a family prominent in the first half of the nineteenth century in Poughkeepsie.

A genealogy of a different branch of the family states that the name Forbes, Forbus or Forbush, regardless of its spelling, was always pronounced in Scotland with two syllables. The genealogist had traced his family back to the sixteenth century in Scotland, long before any persons of that name had emigrated to America. The name appears in the Massachusetts Bay Colony records in the early 1600's and the church records of New York show there were families bearing the name in New York in 1662. In both of these settlements the names of John, Alexander and William predominate.

In 1757, a John Forbus married Hannah Winslow in the town of Fishkill and the next year his name was listed among the taxpayers there. In 1769, a William Forbush was listed there as a taxpayer. What connection these men may have been to the family of John Forbus, born in 1758 and prominent in the nineteenth century in Poughkeepsie, does not appear.

John Forbus, "of New York," married, December 14, 1782, Martha Van de Water at Hopewell. He was an enlisted man in the Fifth Regiment of the Dutchess County Militia and, in 1789, was listed as captain. He continued to live in the town of Fishkill until after the 1790 census had been taken, at which time he had four sons and one daughter. In 1793, he was living in Poughkeepsie and had been authorized by Nicholas Power, publisher of the *Poughkeepsie Journal*, to collect for him sums which were due the printer. A few years later he was listed among the contributors to the steeple fund of

the Episcopal Church. In 1796, he was appointed by William Radcliffe, Jr., as under sheriff and continued in this office until 1813. When the court house burned, in 1806, while he was deputy sheriff, he was credited with having saved many of the county records. He had been appointed the first "bread inspector," when that office was created in 1803 and the next year was one of the trustees of the village.

At the time of the 1800 census, John Forbus and his wife and family of three sons, three daughters, two slaves and two male adults over forty-five years of age, were living in Poughkeepsie. The three sons were Benjamin, John B. and Alexander and the three daughters, Mary, Sarah and Martha.

In 1807, he purchased of the owner the inn on the west side of Market Street which had been owned and operated by Stephen Hendrickson from 1777. He paid \$4,000 for the inn with less than an acre of ground. In 1810, he bought an additional ten acres in the rear which extended north to Union Street. And, in 1813, he advertised that he had thoroughly repaired and greatly enlarged the hotel and that it was completely fitted up for the entertainment of guests. He mentioned his stables and large shed and offered for hire horses, carriages and drivers. He continued to operate the hotel until the year of his death, with occasional advertisements in the newspapers, recommending it as a quiet and healthful resort. By this time the residents of New York were beginning to come to the village in the summer for a change that in this day would be called a vacation.

It was a big day for John Forbus and probably the most important during his ownership of the hotel when General LaFayette visited the city in 1824. The procession escorted the General to the Forbus House, which was lavishly decorated with festoons of evergreens and flowers and a sign over the entrance, WELCOME LA FAYETTE. The guest of honor was received by the trustees of the village and taken to the second floor porch. Here the throng in the street heard the welcoming address given by Colonel Livingston and the gracious reply made by General LaFayette. The newspaper reported that the guest was also introduced "to a great number of ladies (attired in the most appropriate manner for the occasion), who had assembled in such

numbers early in the morning, as literally to fill Mr. Forbus' house to overflowing." Mention was also made of the old sign before the hotel, a likeness of General Montgomery, which had "been fanned by the breezes and bleached by the snows of forty-seven summers and winters," a relic of the days of the Revolutionary War which John Forbus had apparently retained.

In 1825, on September 30, his daughter Mary, born December 30, 1787, died and his son Benjamin died about a month later, on October 29. Neither had married. In the short obituary Benjamin was referred to as Captain Benjamin Forbus, aged 40, "a good son and brother." He had served as trustee of the village in 1815 and 1817 and was president of the village board in 1820; and he owned considerable real estate.

In 1826, John Forbus transferred to his two sons and two daughters the hotel property which included the "ten acre lot called the Hill Lot, bounded north by Union Street," and other parcels of land including a "small" lot on the north side of Union Street, five acres on Academy, Montgomery and Hamilton Streets, with other property listed as building lots or just acreage.

John Forbus died October 24, 1827, at the age of sixty-nine. An obituary, much longer than was usual in those days, was published in the *Poughkeepsie Journal*. It stated that he was one of the firmest pillars of the Baptist Church and that his loss would be deeply felt by the suffering poor "who often from his liberal hand have received timely benefactions." He owned one of the larger plots in the Baptist burying ground, then located in the rear of the houses on the east side of Garden Street, and he was probably interred there.

The ten-acre lot called the "Hill Lot," purchased by John Forbus in 1810, was long known as Forbus Hill. It was the large field in the rear of the hotel, before the sharp drop to Jefferson Street. (Grand Street and South Bridge Street had not yet been cut through and Church Street did not extend west of Market Street). It was on this field that in the early days of the nineteenth century the militia paraded on training days and hangings, circus performances, agricultural exhibits, political caucuses, in fact all sorts of "attractions" drew

a crowd of people to the lot. An annual July Fourth celebration was held here, with fireworks and sometimes a balloon ascension. It was in this field that John Arden, in 1806, staged his "Grand Bait" between a "Lion, six bears and twelve bull dogs" and exhibited ". . . . his beautiful Lyon in the said field, loose and at liberty." Over the years, Forbus Hill was the scene of any large outdoor gathering in the village, and even after it became a city. The largest political gatherings to be held there were said to have been in 1856 and 1860. After that the encroaching buildings left a limited space and many exhibitions had to be held further from the heart of the city. It was said to be the custom to station a lad on the hill to watch for the coming of the steamboats. When a boat came into sight he could notify the management in time for the hotel omnibus to get to the landing by the time the boat docked. After the death of John Forbus, the heirs continued to operate the hotel. In 1829, they advertised that it had undergone a thorough repair and had been furnished throughout in the most approved modern style. They employed Thomas Swift to manage the house and, in 1836, sold the property to Philip S. Croke who continued to call it the Forbus House.

John B. Forbus, the son of John Forbus, was born March 5, 1787. His baptism is listed in the records of the Fishkill Reformed Dutch Church and his name given there as John Brown Forbus, although the middle name was early replaced by the initial and did not appear in any of the records thereafter. John B. was a trustee of the village in 1829 and again in 1831 and 1832. In 1831, he was a member of the committee appointed to purchase a lot for the purpose of building a powder house for the village. The lot selected was on the northwest corner of Forbus and Cherry Streets and was purchased from A. G. Storm for \$100. A contract was made with James J. Ranous to find the material and to erect a suitable building for \$180. The old building stood for many years and the lot, until well along in the present century, was referred to as the "powder house lot." John B. was a member of the committee appointed to erect a village hall, the same building which is still used as the city hall. He was a trustee of the Poughkeepsie Savings Bank from 1833 and, at the time of his death, was president of the board.

In 1830, he was one of those business men who leased land from the Reformed Dutch Church when the officers decided to offer some of the church property at long-term leases. Gilbert Brewster leased the parcel on the southeast corner of Main and Market Streets for one hundred years at an annual rental of \$550. He erected the Brewster Block, which was long considered the finest business building in the town. At the same time, John B. Forbus entered into an agreement with the Minister, Elders and Deacons of the Corporation whereby he leased a lot on the south side of Main Street, eighteen feet in width and ninety-two feet deep, "for and during and until the full end and term of one hundred years and paying therefor yearly, \$108, in four equal payments" He agreed, in the course of two years, to erect and completely inclose and thereafter for ninety years maintain a substantial brick building, at least two stories high above the cellar or basement. The building would be uniform in appearance with the other buildings about to be put on the church land as far as practicable. Forbus was to pay all taxes, assessments and impositions of any kind or nature and remove the buildings then on the lot and "dig up and remove the bones of the Corpses in the premises to be deposited in the vault prepared for that purpose on the said Church lands." The church officials agreed that the lessee, his executors, administrators and assigns, could at any time within the last quarter of the term of the lease dispose of the building that he may have erected on the property. It is within the memory of older residents of the city that the buildings erected in 1830 were demolished and the modern building was placed on that corner by the church officials and called the Church Building.

While he was a member of the village board, at the time of the cholera epidemic in 1832, which raged in New York, John B. Forbus was a member of the committee appointed to make arrangements with the superintendent of the poor and with the town supervisor to ascertain what measures might be necessary to adopt in providing a suitable house and other accommodations if they should be needed. Their fears were fully justified for, by the end of August eighty persons had died in the village. When the epidemic subsided and the bills were audited, John D. Robinson was paid \$48.39 and Alexander Forbus

was reimbursed \$896.97 which he had advanced to pay extra expenses incurred during the siege.

In the 1830's John B. was a member of the Improvement Party, a group of business men who were interested in many projects for the advancement of the village. He had purchased the property at 62 Market Street, where he made his home for the rest of his life. He had an office at 21 Market Street and, in the village directories, was listed as a manufacturer. A map of the county showed the cotton factory of Taylor & Forbus at Whippleville, the present Rochdale. When the new building for the Dutchess Academy was completed in 1837, John B. Forbus purchased the old school which had been located at the southwest corner of Cannon and Academy Streets. He removed the building to the northeast corner of Thompson and North Clinton Streets, where it still rests, although greatly altered in appearance. The academy had been opened in 1792, having been removed here from Fishkill. The presence of the academy may have been an inducement which brought the John Forbus family to Poughkeepsie.

As will be noted in the Bible records (printed in another part of this year book), John B. Forbus married Mary (or Maria) Frear in 1812. They had two sons, William and Alexander, the latter of whom died in infancy. Mary died in 1859 and John B. died in 1865. The Poughkeepsie Rural Cemetery had been dedicated in 1853 and they are both buried there. After the interment of John B., the bodies of the other members of the Forbus family who had predeceased him were brought to that cemetery, in November of 1865, and buried in the same plot. The son William lived at his father's home and did not marry. He had probably been an invalid for some years; he died "of consumption" in 1870 and, over the years, was listed in the village and city directories as residing at 62 Market Street, with no indication of a business. Catharine Frear, a sister to Mary, was another resident in that household. She continued to live there after the deaths of her sister, her brother-in-law and her nephew William. In his will, dated, October 15, 1865, John B. left his entire estate to his sister-in-law and made her the sole executor of his will.

Alexander Forbus was born February 23, 1790. With his father and brother, he was prominent in the business affairs of the village. He was an attorney, in partnership with Leonard Maison, and was a master in chancery and was a member of the Improvement Party of the 1830's. He was a trustee of the village and was chosen its president in 1834; his partner, Leonard Maison, was counsel and attorney for the board. Alexander was a director and treasurer of the Poughkeepsie Whaling Company and was appointed receiver of the company when it went out of business. He was a director and vice-president of the Merchants Bank, a director of the Mutual Insurance Company and a trustee of the Dutchess Academy. While he was president of the village board of trustees, it was decided to revise the charter of the village to fit the requirements of a growing community. It was at this time that a number of the streets were "paved" and in many instances the members of the Forbus family owned the largest frontage on certain streets and paid the largest assessments for the improvements. One of the projects accomplished while he was in office was the building of the reservoir on Cannon Street hill, to which water was pumped from the Fallkill and piped to several locations in the village to be used for fire fighting. Liberty Street was widened and the hill on Garden Street was reduced. And, it was at this time that the trustees voted to improve Academy Street from Cannon to Montgomery Street by paving the sidewalks with brick and setting of curb and gutter stones. Alexander was the owner of the largest frontage on this street and his brother-in-law, John D. Robinson, owned a considerable bit there, too.

It was in 1833 that the trustees of the village decided to employ Henry Whinfield and William Dewey to survey and make a complete map of the village. Mr. Whinfield would be paid \$4.00 per day and Mr. Dewey \$2.50, with their expenses. The map was completed in 1834 and copies were offered for sale to the public. On it was located the rather small building which was then the Forbus House, with larger buildings immediately behind it, which comprised the stables and horse sheds, and near the buildings an orchard. The hill, itself, was nearer to the present Grand Street, although neither that street nor South Bridge Street had been opened.

The map showed the locations of most of the buildings then in the village. Of course, most of the buildings were not too far from the center of the town. It was a day when most business men, unless they were very well off, lived at their places of business. The Forbus brothers were different in this respect, in that they maintained homes, perhaps two blocks away from the noise and bustle of the center of activity at Main and Market Streets. Many streets, east of Academy and south of Church Street had been laid out and named, but had no buildings as yet. The business men, those interested in all of the many projects undertaken in the 1830's and known as the Improvement Party, owned much of this land and the streets were named for the "improvers." Some of these were later relocated and the names assigned in 1834 were lost. Today, we have no Emott, First, Second or Third Street. However, Forbus Street was there, running from the "Back Road to Fishkill" to Cherry Street and it remains in the same location today. At that time, and for many years thereafter, it had a slight bend (probably to avoid the old "Crow Hill") near Cherry Street.

The map was apparently well received by the residents. It was about 24' by 30". It was revised a bit and reprinted two years later and a small reproduction was made for sale.

Alexander Forbus was president of the village in 1834 when General La Fayette died at his home in France. In Poughkeepsie, as in many other communities where the General had been entertained in 1824, the trustees arranged ceremonies to render funeral honors to his memory on July 3. All the bells in the village were tolled at sunrise and a salute of twenty-four guns was fired from Pine Hall (a building on the northeast corner of Main and Washington Streets). One gun was fired every half hour until sunset. General Leonard Maison was the marshal of the day and he headed the procession which included Captain Slater's company of artillery, a band of music and representatives from the various business groups of the village. The bells were tolled again as the procession moved through the streets to the Episcopal Church, where Robert Wilkinson made a suitable address. The trustees requested Mr. Gideon Moseley, president of the Poughkeepsie Musical Association, to attend with his

associates "to aid in the exercises of the church by singing some appropriate music, suited to the occasion." The masters of vessels in the river and the proprietors of public houses were asked to have their colors hoisted half-mast during the day. While this observance did not approximate in importance the visit of the General in 1824, many residents of the area had seen and had been greeted by the hero in person and they were again willing to come out to show him respect in 1834.

Alexander Forbus did not marry; he made his home with his sister Martha at 29 Academy Street. He died June 19, 1856, and left a large estate which included the many parcels of real property which he had accumulated. He bequeathed \$1,000 each to his brother and his two sisters and to his nephew William. He gave \$500 to his namesake, Alexander Forbus Maison, son of his law partner, and made other specific bequests to his brother and to his brother-in-law, John D. Robinson, husband of his sister Sarah. John B. and his sister Martha were named executors and to this sister he left, in addition to the \$1,000, one-half of his real estate and one-half of the residue of his estate after debts and bequests were care for.

He was a member of Christ Church, where he was a pewholder and a generous contributor, and his funeral was held at the church. His obituary referred to him as one of the most prominent citizens and members of the bar of the county and stated that "from a love of quiet and dislike of controversy, he seldom appeared before juries, but as a business attorney and counsellor, he was long celebrated and had not perhaps, his superior in the state."

Sarah Forbus was born in 1791 and was married April 30, 1828, at Christ Church, to John D. Robinson. They had no children and they made their home, after the death of Alexander Forbus, with Miss Martha, at 29 Academy Street. Robinson was a merchant, with a business two doors west of the Dutchess County Bank and he dealt in pork, lard, hams, butter, flour, wheat, rye, corn, oats, etc., etc. He and his wife were long-time members of Christ Church, interested "visitors" for the Sunday School, pewholders and generous contributors. Mrs. Robinson, at her death, left the sum of \$4,000 to the Sunday School. John D. had purchased a plot in the English Burying

Ground but had no occasion to use it before the Poughkeepsie Rural Cemetery was opened, so they also are interred in that burial place. John D. Robinson was listed as one of the "boomers," during the real estate boom in the 1830's; he owned considerable property on the north side of the town.

The spinster sister, Martha Forbus, outlived the rest of her family. After the death of her brother Alexander, she continued to reside in the home at 29 Academy Street. She died January 27, 1877 at the age of 82, and at that time owned a great many pieces of property in the city. The very short obituary reported the death of Miss Martha Forbus "whose life was identified with the history of Poughkeepsie" and that she was widely known and respected. In her will she bequeathed \$5,000 to the Baptist Church, \$5,000 to the Baptist Home Missionary Society, \$4,000 to the Home for the Friendless and \$1,000 each to the Hudson River Central Baptist Association and to St. Barnabas Hospital. Miss Martha Forbus was the last of her name to be listed in the city directories and she left no near relatives.

A list of village streets, published in the local newspaper in 1836, included Forbus Street and, in the same neighborhood Clinton, Warren, Cedar and Cherry Streets. The street ended at Cherry Street and another street, described as beginning at Worrall Avenue and extending eastward to the city line, was listed in the city directories from 1875 until 1909, as East Forbus Street. The balance of that street, extending beyond the city line to Raymond Avenue, was called Fulton Avenue. By 1910, it appeared that Forbus Street might never be cut through and the street, east of Worrall Avenue both within and outside the city, was called Fulton Avenue and numbered from Worrall Avenue. After 1927, the street on which the school is located, was cut through east of Cherry Street and numbered as an extension of the existing Forbus Street.

Although Forbus Street was laid out and named in the 1830's there were no houses on the street until John C. McNeil built the brick house near Cherry Street in 1869. He was followed shortly after by Helmus and John Barratt who built the house next west, and then by Lewis H. Vail, at Number 23, all on the south side of

the street. The first house on the north side was that on the northwest corner of Forbus Street and Virginia Avenue, which was moved there from the site of Trinity Methodist Church, when that organization planned to erect the present edifice at Trinity Square.

After the death of Miss Martha Forbus the family name died out in Poughkeepsie. The hotel, although it had long since passed into other hands, retained the name of the Forbus House until 1874, when much of the older part of the building was torn down and rebuilt and opened in 1876 as the Nelson House. Thus, in the naming of its new school The John Forbus Junior High School, the city has fittingly honored a family of prominent and public spirited citizens, long resident in the village and city.

Amy Ver Nooy

References

- In addition to the file of newspapers and the file of village and city directories in the Adriaance Memorial Library, Poughkeepsie, the following works of reference have been consulted:
- Records in the office of the County Clerk, Court House, Poughkeepsie
Records in the office of the Surrogate, Court House, Poughkeepsie
Book of records of the Corporation of the Village of Poughkeepsie
Federal Census records of Dutchess County, 1790; 1800
Manuscript registers of the Reformed Dutch Church of Fishkill and of the Reformed Dutch Church of Hopewell, on file in the Adriaance Memorial Library, Poughkeepsie.
- Platt, Edmund. *The Eagle's History of Poughkeepsie, 1683-1905.* Poughkeepsie, Platt & Platt. 1905
- Reynolds, Helen W. *The Records of Christ Church, Poughkeepsie, New York.* Poughkeepsie, Frank B. Howard. 1911, 1916
- Tower, Maria Bockee Carpenter. *The Records of the Reformed Dutch Church of New Hackensack, Dutchess County, New York.* Privately printed. 1932
- Bible records of the John B. Forbus family



BIBLE RECORDS OF DUTCHESS COUNTY FAMILIES

FORBUS FAMILY BIBLE

The Holy Bible; Containing the Old and New Testaments:
New-York. Printed and sold by Collins and Co., 1814.

The Bible was presented to the Dutchess County Historical Society
by Miss Edith Austin.

MARRIAGE

John B. Forbus, and Mary Frear, his wife, married on Saturday evening,
March 21, 1812.

BIRTHS

John B. Forbus, born
Mary Frear, his wife, born June 15, 1791
Son, William Forbus, born on Sunday afternoon, January 24, 1813
Son, Alexander Forbus, born on Monday morning, August 27, 1815

DEATHS

Alexander Forbus, died April 22, 1816; aged 7 mos., 26 d.
Maria Frear, wife of John B. Forbus, died August 17, 1859;
aged 68 y., 2 m., 2 d.
John B. Forbus, died October 28, 1865; aged 78 y., 7 m., 23 d.
William Forbus, died July 10, 1870; aged 57 y., 7 m.

* * *

FAMILY RECORD OF PETER DE RIEMER

A one-page record of the De Riemer family kept by Peter De Riemer,
(1739-1814) who owned and lived in the Glebe House, Poughkeepsie, from
1796 until 1812. The record has been framed and placed in the Glebe House,
in 1959, by Baltus B. Van Kleeck, great, great grandson of Peter De Riemer.

PETER DE RIEMER HIS BOOK

October the 28, 1765

| | |
|---|------|
| Peter De Riemer Born The 23 January in the Year of our Lord | 1739 |
| Else De Riemer Born the 5 Day of August Between Ten and eleven oclock on Sunday morning in the year of our Lord | 1744 |
| Peter De Riemer married The 10 Day of may in the Year of our Lord 1763 By Dominy Jacson | |
| Peter Steenwyck De Riemer Born The 30 th of January Between seven & eight oclock on Wednesday morning in the Year of our Lord | 1765 |
| Mary De Riemer born 11th of October between eight & nine oclock on Satyrday Night in the year of our Lord - - - - - | 1766 |
| Samuel De Riemer Born 7th of July Between seven & eight oclock on Thursday Afternoon in the year of our Lord - - - - - | 1768 |
| Catharine De Riemer Born 6th of January between 4 & Five Oclock on Satyrday Afternoon in the year of our Lord - - - - - | 1770 |
| Ann De Riemer Born 18th of March at two oclock on thursday morning in the year of our Lord - - - - - | 1773 |
| Deseased February 7, - - - - - | 1774 |
| Else De Riemer Born January 25 on Wednesday Morning Between twelve & one Oclock in the Year of our Lord | 1775 |
| Deceas't July 26, - - - - - | 1776 |

Else De Riemer Born the 3 of May, in the Year of our Lord, Satyrday
 night - - - - - 1777
 Sarah De Riemer Born 16th of August in the Year of our Lord, on
 Thursday morning at 10 Oclock - - - - - 1781
 Martha De Riemer Born on Munday Eving at 6 Oclock, the 23 of May
 in the year of our Lord - - - - - 1785

* * *

RANSOM FAMILY RECORD

Copied from a sampler, framed and hanging in the Glebe House, Poughkeepsie, 1959; the gift of Thomas H. Ransom (1854-1939), son of Jonathan Ransom and Jane Tallmadge.

| | | | |
|-----------------------|------|----------------|----------------------|
| Smith Ransom | born | May 7, 1793) | |
| Maria Le Fever | born | June 6, 1796) | married Feb. 2, 1815 |
| Jonathan L.F. Ransom, | born | Jan. 16, 1816; | died June 23, 1817 |
| Joseph Ransom | | April 23, 1818 | |
| Jonathan Ransom | | Oct. 15, 1820 | |
| Catharine Ransom | | June 13, 1824 | |
| Phebe E. Ransom | | Dec. 14, 1826 | |
| Newton Ransom | | Aug. 20, 1831 | |

Wrought by Phebe E. Ransom in the 11th year of her age, New Paltz, Ulster Co., N.Y., 1838.



A Tobacco Train

A long string of wagons were noticed passing down Church street about noon on Tuesday, loaded with heavy boxes. Enquiry showed that they had come from Clove Valley and that the boxes contained tobacco for Mr. John Schwartz of this city. In all there were thirty-one cases. The tobacco was raised in that section.

Poughkeepsie Daily Eagle, September 1, 1886



RHINEBECK
GAZETTE

